THE wire

The Royal Signals Magazine

February 1994

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The Wire

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NEW YEAR HONOURS

MBE

Maj A. Hickling, Royal Signals
Maj D. M. Steele, Royal Signals
SSgt J. A. Gurney (V)

We warmly congratulate **Mrs Sylvia Rogers** on being made MBE for her services to families of 8th Signal Regiment.

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OUR COVER PICTURE

Front Cover: Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal GCVO with the families of 24 Airmob Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210) during her visit to the Squadron.

Back Cover: Drum Major Stephen Ward wearing the Drum Major's sash presented to the Regiment to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the granting of the Freedom of Middlesbrough. The sash was presented by the Mayor, Cllr Irene Berryman at the Retreat ceremony held after the Parade at the Brambles Farm TA centre. It incorporates the Coat of Arms of Middlesbrough and is a symbol of the close ties and affection that bind Borough and Regiment together.

13 Sig Regt BAOR Ladies Cross Country Champions, 1933.

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn Caving Team–*L to R:* SSgt D. Crockett, Cpl Graham, LCpl Reid, Sig Herrington and LCpl Glendinning.

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VISIT OF THE COLONEL IN CHIEF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL GCVO TO 24 AIRMOBILE BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (210) 23 NOVEMBER 1993

1993 ended on a high note for 24 Airmobile Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (210). The year had seen us move from Catterick and complete our 'Options' expansion. On top of that we had taken part in a demanding series of Brigade exercises, culminating in a multinational FTX on Salisbury Plain, and had, for the second year running, acquitted ourselves well in a number of military skills competitions and on the sports field. The climax to the year was the visit of **The Princess Royal** to the Squadron on Tuesday 23 November. Despite the cold November weather the Squadron had an excellent and thoroughly enjoyable day.

Her Royal Highness was able to meet many members of the Squadron and their families, the aim of the day was to give The Colonel in Chief a flavour of some of the unique skills required for airmobility, and the unique challenge of an airmobile deployment and of working within a multinational division.

The Princess Royal arrived in Goojerat Barracks by Wessex from the Queen's Flight at 1145 hrs to be welcomed by the Master of Signals **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL**. The Master then presented the Officer Commanding the Squadron, **Major Graham Leach** who escorted **The Princess Royal** throughout her visit, and the Regimental Sergeant Major, **WO1 (RSM) Dave Wilson**. Her Royal Highness also met **Brigadier Nigel Wood**, the Commander Communications UKLF, and **Colonel (Retired) Alastair de Bretton Gordon**, the Regimental Secretary.

Cpl Tony Wringe and his Recce Team await the arrival of the Colonel in Chief

During the morning, **The Princess Royal** was briefed on the role and organisation of the Squadron and watched a number of demonstrations. **Staff Sergeant Neil Coatsworth** and soldiers from Alpha Troop demonstrated the Brigade Tactical Headquarters being rigged for an airmove and of the Squadron Reconnaissance Team preparing to deploy by Lynx helicopter. **Sergeant** 'Taff' **Baughan** also described the preparation needed to deploy one of the Brigade's forward air operations teams by abseil from a Lynx. The demonstrations were brought to life by Lynx helicopters from 3 Regiment AAC.

The Master of Signals introduces Her Royal Highness to members of the Squadron

What did the RSM say to Her Royal Highness?

After receiving a posy from **Miss Amy Kidd**, the four year old daughter of **Sergeant Chris Kidd** and **Jane**, **The Princess Royal** moved to the Sergeants' Mess where she presented seven Long Service and Good Conduct Medals and three General Service Medals to members of the Squadron and Brigade Headquarters. The Royal Marquee provided the setting for a buffet lunch and gave Her Royal Highness the opportunity to meet more members of the Squadron and their wives.

After lunch **The Princess Royal** moved to the local training area, Friday Wood, to watch an airmobility display and see elements of the Squadron deployed in a tactical setting. After having the intricacies of the logistic communications explained by **Corporal Tony Jenner**, Her Royal Highness saw a half hour display of elements of the Squadron taking part in an airmobile deployment. The display had been organised by **Lieutenant Rich Deans**, who also provided the commentary. The highlight of the display was **Sergeant** 'Taff' **Baughan**'s team abseiling from a Lynx. Underslung loads were flown in by Royal Air Force Puma Helicopter and Her Royal Highness also saw the deployment of the Squadron Reconnaissance Team and soldiers from the 1st Battalion The Light Infantry clearing a Brigade location using Light Strike Vehicles. At the end of the display our Colonel-in-Chief took time to speak to all Squadron personnel involved in the demonstrations and static displays.

After the display Her Royal Highness was photographed with the Squadron. The last event of the day was to present the 'Cadman Cup' inter-Troop sports trophy which was won this year by Support Troop and was received by **Signaller Gavin Storey**. **The Princess Royal** was then given three cheers before thanking everybody for a most enjoyable visit.

Maj Gill Jones TD (V) 37 Sig Regt (V) pictured outside Buckingham Palace after receiving the MBE. Many readers will be pleased to know that Maj Jones received the MBE for her services to military charities and welfare organisations and after 37 year's service, regular and TA

CAMBRIAN PATROL COMPETITION

By Lt K. Mannings

249 Sqn entered a team into the competition this year taking something of a step into the unknown. It had been decided that we would try the four day competition for the first time. Needless to say, all the volunteer participants were really pleased to be given this new opportunity! The week's beat-up training in the Brecons started on 8 October through to the 14 October and for those seven days the chosen eleven men were to be seen training hard, both in the hills and down in the sunny Brecon. After much headscratching and thought the final team composition was chosen–it was to be **Lt Mannings**, **Cpls Kev Huffington**, 'Yafs' **Yafai**, **Sigs Redstone**, **Stevie Whitford**, **Kenny Marlow**, **Chris Bound** and 'Gash' **Drudge-Coates** (DC). The 'oh so essential-not-to-be forgotten' admin party included **SSgt Elliot**, **Sigs Swayne** and **Doyle**. All in all a very instructive first week, with many lessons being learnt and many nicknames earned.

After participating in the Commander's Cup on the weekend of 16/17 October **Lt Mannings** then deployed with the patrol to Sennybridge for the Cambrian. We left on Sunday 24 October, 24 hours before the competition was due to start. It was thought a good idea by all to relax fully before it. Pre-competition jitters were evident and it was only frequent visits to the cafe outside the camp perimeter which kept everyone sane . . . and full of creamy coffee! The competition itself, now that we are actually looking back on it, seems to have gone by very swiftly–at the time however . . .

The Winning Team from 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))

We started on the Monday at 1800 hrs and entered the 'Twilight Zone' through an initial checkpoint run by some RMPs. It was here that **Lt Mannings** received the initial brief and the team were given a kit check (it was commented . . . 'Crikey, did you give your boss all the extra kit?'). After being dropped off the team had to patrol through the night on a long tab on to the range area itself. In all, this took approximately 12 hours solid, the 70lb bergens did 'bite' slightly during this phase. By the time we had completed this task there were some very tired patrol members–**Cpl Yafai** had very sore feet and he had to march on tip-toes for the rest of the competition! There was no rest for the wicked, however, for the patrol came almost immediately upon an 'accident' involving a Brigadier and his driver–high marks were gained for the suitable patching-up that followed.

Surprise, surprise, we then tabbed further through the Welsh countryside to a RV point to be met by friendly agents. Upon reaching this point we were advised to 'speed march' to a convoy incident 'just a few kilometres up the road!' The patrol duly reached the incident in super-quick time, jumped in the trenches and beat off the enemy, to be taken to the FIBUA afterwards in time for tea, cake and medals . . . or tea, chocolates and brown biscuits at least. Overall it was a good shoot and some of the patrols aggressiveness went winging down the range with the bullets, I'm sure.

After the quick ride to the FIBUA village (Ceilini), the patrol was able to relax for a few hours prior to receiving orders for the next phase. Initially on arrival, however, the patrol encountered some journalists, or to put it more finely **Lt Mannings** did. Being expert in handling journalists and their tendency to ask embarrassing questions, **Lt Mannings** gave an exceptional brief to them and whilst being truthful was careful not to give too much away (apart from future intentions, frequencies, formations etc.) The photo shows the patrol relaxing during this phase. **Sigs** (now LCpls) **Redstone** and **Whitford** were both lucky enough to have their life-stories taken for their local rags as well.

LCpl Redstone

LCpl Whitford

Whilst the patrol was relaxing **Lt Mannings** received and prepped his orders, fed and rested (thanks for the all-in DC!), orders were given and the patrol then moved out to the DOP. On arriving at the DOP **Sig Chris Bound** decided that he hadn't appreciated such a bumpy ride. Notwithstanding this mild drama the patrol crossed the FEBA and put its tabbing head, once again, firmly in place. That evening proved to be especially tiring with some very difficult walking over the 'sheeps' heads'–those damned tufts of grass! The weight of the bergen combined with the difficult terrain served to keep the patrol amused throughout the night. At 0400 hrs the following morning the patrol grabbed a few hours sleep due to 'slight' fatigue. It was on that sunny morning that **Lt Mannings** decided that he would join the Bound Club, and so was ill, twice. However the patrol went on splitting into two to carry out the two set tasks, a CTR and an OP.

Meeting at 1800 hrs that evening it was confirmed that both tasks had been successfully achieved. After a quick debrief the patrol started its tab back towards a helicopter pick-up point. Seven hours later, after a fight through a forest with no path on a hill (interesting), and after crossing a freezing plateau on top of a Welsh mountain with yet more sheeps' heads, the pick-up point was reached. However, the weather was 'too inclement' for the helicopters to fly and so we tabbed the final two miles to a vehicle pick-up point. Surprise, surprise, those last two miles lasted an awfully long time and seemed a long, long way. Meeting **SSgt Elliot** with his pocketful of mints and the admin boys with the Coca Cola was a real pleasure. The team moved back to Sennybridge and by 0600 hrs the debrief had been completed.

Congratulations to all the team members on a really fine performance which gained them the silver award. The team would also like to congratulate 216 (Para) Sig Sqn, 210 Sig Sqn and 3 (UK) Div on gaining bronze, a very good set of results for the Corps. The competition was extremely hard, but very rewarding. After the event the familiar cry was heard to echo through the Welsh valleys (not is it? or whose coat is this jacket?) but . . . 'never again!'

EX YORKSHIRE FINN
By LCpl Glendinning (3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn)

Team Members: **SSgt** 'Hoppy' **Hopkins** Team Leader, **CSgt** 'Davey' **Crockett, Sgt** 'Craig' **Blake** Team 2IC, **Cpl** 'Wee Man' **Graham, LCpl** 'Ding Ding' **Glendinning, LCpl** 'John' **Reid, Sig** 'H' **Herrington.**

A team of 7 Sqn personnel set off for Ex Yorkshire Finn (Caving Expedition in the Yorkshire Dales) on Friday 12 November 1993. After a calm crossing on the ferry, we arrived at Warcop Training Camp all tired but none the worse for the long journey.

Saturday was spent learning about the equipment and the safety aspects of caving (and is there a lot to learn).

0700 hrs Sunday morning brought the cry we learned to dread by the end of the week 'out of your beds'. So the sleepy team and equipment were packed into the minibus and heading for our first cave (via Inglesport cafe for the biggest breakfast you could imagine). The first cave came into view after a 4km tab across the moors and there it was Country Pot (a small crack in the ground). So it was kit on, test all the equipment. I can't describe much about this cave as my bottle went at the first pitch (abseil) and I was out of there as fast as my legs could carry me. The rest of the team seemed to have enjoyed themselves as they were down there for six hours and emerged with stories of fast flowing waterfalls and underground rivers . Well that was it for the day we all thought, but 'Hoppy' had different ideas, 4kms back to the bus (it was now dark) 'there's a good cave up here' said 'Hoppy'. So off the boys went, without me, it was back to the bus for me. Four hours later the team returned with more stories of waterfalls, apart from the 'Wee Man' whose legs were a bit shorter than the rest and was helped off the rope. A long, tiresome, but good day. We arrived back at Warcop at 2200 hrs, all the kit was placed in the drying rooms ready for the next day's caving; then it was shower and bed.

0700 hrs Monday came the familiar cry again, on went the lights and up we got, all aches and pains from the previous day (not me–I thought–wrong!). We set off for what we believed would be a fun one today Lancaster Pot (100ft abseil and 72km of caverns below the ground). We arrived at the pot and, after 'Hoppy' had set up the pitch, he went first (but not before I was warned 'if you don't do this abseil you are on the next ferry back'–not a cheery thought). So off I went and after the initial squeeze through the entrance it was a straightforward abseil to the bottom which was quite wet, 'Down and Rope Clear' I shouted back up to the next one (caving expressions), then it was off to explore the dark and narrow passageways. We were down this pot for a good seven hours but even though it was wet, it was fun, until 'Hoppy' dropped the bombshell 'right lads it will take 20 mins each to get back up', (7 x 20 mins = 2 hrs 20 mins–oh no). Another tab across the moors back to the bus, kit packed away and off to find some nosebags as everyone was famished–(to the man who invented Fish and Chip shops–thank you).

On Tuesday it was Tatham's Wife's hole (who thinks of these names?). Well, this is a grade 3 cave with three pitches and very very wet with quite a few underground waterfalls which 'Hoppy' decided would be fun to set the abseils through! This cave was excellent for exploring but we still could not go right to the bottom as in the final section a narrow tight passage was flooded, so we went as far as we could then replenished our carbide generators for our helmets and brought out the flasks of tea. We took three hours to reach this point and 'Hoppy' decided we should head back as it always takes novice cavers longer to get out of a cave than it does to get in–wrong! Two and a half hours later we were on the freezing moors on a path on the Pennine Way, then 3km down the path, back in the bus and off to the chippy again.

Wednesday was spent cleaning and checking the equipment.

Thursday's caving was going to be harder as it was a grade 4 more pitches and we would have to learn how to re-belay. So we arrived at Little Hull Pot after having a look at Hunt Pot which apparently fills up with water in the rainy season and was one big hole. We started to descend Little Hull Pot and had gone about 30 yards when we came across our first obstacle, a 100ft crawl from hands and knees to leopard crawl and, yes, it was wet. Then followed tight and twisting passages to the first pitch.

It didn't seem a very long abseil till we got round the first bend and then it came into view, the first re-belay (coming off one rope and getting onto another whilst hanging only on your cowtails) the team had seen, the bottom was a waterfall and pool as **Sgt Blake** discovered when he abseiled into it, unlucky. Then it was a traverse to the next pitch moving along the wall on a rope as there was no floor beneath. We passed this obstacle and on to the next abseil of approximately another 100ft. This is when I decided I was only a grade 3 caver but the rest of the team were off. I waited in the first chamber for three hours hoping my light would keep functioning. Getting out of this cave proved to be the hardest exercise. 'Hoppy' found out just how hard rock is when he was knocked off the ledge as he was taking photos of the team as they came back up. All in all we were down this cave for nine hours and very wet, tired and hungry. We arrived back at Warcop at 2330 hrs all the kit was placed in the drying room and we went off to bed.

On Friday 'Hoppy' decided to go back to Lancaster Pot. So we thought that we were in for an easy day, one abseil and some leisurely exploring but, far from it, there are 72kms of passages down this pot and I think 'Hoppy' must have been born down there as he seems to know every inch of it. So after the initial abseil it was down some muddy passages through some tight dark holes and there was an even bigger abseil with another re-belay included just for fun. After seven hours we called it a day **Sgt Craig Blake** was left at the bottom of the pitch without a light; he then had to walk across the moors on his own.

Cpl Graham belaying on Second Pitch, Lancaster/Fall Pot

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CHAMPAGNE CHARLIE–
THE FIRST FIFTY DAYS
By Capt (Retd) Deborah Jones and Lt Lousie Tomkins

After the official departure in a landau carriage pulled by two horses, we returned to the Travellers' Club to change, record a TV interview and set off for real.

Our first destination was to be Dublin and we arrived late that night courtesy of British Rail and Stena Sealink ferries. The route planned meant that Europe would be completed first and then we would travel east around the globe. Europe was relatively easy and trouble free. The worst thing that could go wrong would be to miss a train connection and even then, there was likely to be another one in a few hours' time or at worst the next day. We managed to keep exactly to schedule despite turning up at the wrong station in Barcelona to depart for Milan and therefore having to make a mad last minute dash across the city to get to the correct station. Murphy's law states that in such situations there will be no trolleys available, the train you want is on the furthest platform and the carriage you are booked into is the last down the platform!

We had caught up with our Russian visas in Amsterdam as they had not been ready prior to our departure. We boarded the train in Berlin which was to take us to Moscow. It was a Russian train and reasonably comfortable. The train gradually filled up with both Russians and Poles along the way. We settled down to sleep for the night, prepared to be woken at some stage as we would be crossing the border.

Sure enough, a loud knock on the door signalled the arrival of the border police. Passports were demanded and then our visas. We were asked our names and the guard intimated something was wrong, the only word we could understand was 'problemo'. We were told to leave the cabin for it to be searched, the guard simply looked under the beds and allowed us to return. He then gesticulated at the passports, the visas and then ourselves. We realised the problem. The Russian embassy had stapled the wrong photograph to each visa! All the writing was in Cyrillic which was why we had not picked up the mistake.

The guard called for his boss, a **Capt Dimitri** who spoke a smattering of English. He confirmed our suspicions and told us to leave the train immediately, return to Warsaw and get some new visas. We refused, explaining the mistake was not of our making. Besides, we had to continue to Moscow and were prepared to go straight to our Embassy to rectify the problem. The subject of leaving the train was not mentioned further but now money was being discussed. Sixty dollars per person was required to smooth our passage. Again we refused, claiming to have no dollars. We were then asked for alcohol, whisky or vodka. It was evident that we were going to have to part with something if we wanted their cooperation. We offered a bottle of Charles Heidsieck champagne and this was deemed acceptable. What we had not anticipated was the guard's decision to open it there and then, pour it into coffee mugs with dregs still in them and share it with us. **Victor** sat himself down next to **Louise** and **Dimitri** next to **Deborah** and we had to toast each other in warm champagne.

For security reasons we had to pay an office call to the Military Attaches (MAs) in certain countries. We had some problems with staying an extra night in our original accommodation and were most generously invited to stay with the MA and his wife who even offered us the use of a washing machine–how could we refuse? The next thirty six hours were a whirlwind as we visited the Kremlin, marvelling at the beautiful icons in the chapels, attended a Battle of Britain cocktail party and went to lunch at the Dacha, a large wooden country residence owned by the Embassy and situated on the outskirts of the city in a wood.

Our first epic journey was soon to begin. Seven days on the Trans-Manchurian train from Moscow to Beijing. We left Moscow in the early hours of the morning and had the four berth compartment to ourselves; this surely could not last.

The first night was extremely hot and stuffy. The MA had warned us to keep our door locked at night and had lent us a special lock which the Embassy staff had commissioned for this purpose. The windows in the individual compartments could not be opened and so we were at the mercy of the heating system which had been on all night.

At one of the many stops that day, we were joined in our carriage by a little old lady (babouschka) and her grandson. Our mutual lack of knowledge of each other's language did not stop us from getting along pleasantly enough. We had heard horror stories about the restaurant cars on such trains and one trip through it ensured that we would never dine there. It was festering. Food laying uncovered, flies and filth everywhere and a resident puppy just to ensure hygiene standards! Thankfully we had stocked up in Germany at a supermarket and had more than enough to feed us for the seven days. At the end of each carriage was a samovar (water boiler). Cups of soup and pot noodles could add to the diet of tuna, crackers, crisps, etc that we had brought.

The Trans-Manchurian train, like the Trans-Siberian, has always had a romantic image. The reality was more of an endurance test. There were so many suspicious looking and acting people that one of us had to remain in the carriage at all times. The train only ever stopped at a station for fifteen minutes maximum and therefore exercise was limited. The conditions inside the train were basic as we had expected but the lack of fresh air meant the nostrils were constantly bombarded with unpleasant smells. The scenery was monotonously boring. We had expected quite a number of foreign tourists on the train with which to converse and exchange travel adventures but even by the end of the journey when more had joined the train, they could almost be counted on one hand. Conversation was limited although a few Chinese befriended us and we developed our own form of communication.

Crossing the border into China was an interesting episode. The train pulled into a Russian station where we all had to disembark for four hours while the undercarriages were changed to meet the change of gauge. There were no facilities to speak of, despite the fact that nearly six hundred people stopped here three times a week. Then we reboarded the train, went a few miles down the track and stopped at a Chinese station. We had been asked to take $2000 across the border by one Chinese man and were witness to large amounts of cash and goods being secreted. The Chinese customs made a thorough search of the carriages and unearthed everything from Pekinese puppies to spare parts for engines. Once the search was complete, we were on our way and everyone seemed relaxed. It transpired that the authorities had only uncovered a small percentage of goods being smuggled across and the travellers had made their profits. Our Chinese man who had wanted us to take the money across for him had been thrown off the train with a fake visa. Pekinese puppies appeared from everywhere and as most of them were not house trained, they did their business anywhere. This soaked nicely into the carpets to add to the general aroma.

We decided to disembark at Tianjin, one stop before Beijing, as it was closer to our port. We were so relieved to get off the train. We were not able to catch the ferry we had intended but another one two days' later took us directly to Japan and not via South Korea as the other one would have done.

Our stop in Japan was for us a PR stop which meant that we were to take part in any PR activity organised by the local Champagne distributors to promote their champagne and we also had to stay in the city for a minimum of 48 hours. The Japanese had organised nothing, but the British Embassy, with whom we had also been in contact, came up trumps. One of the subsidiary challenges of the race is to use unusual forms of transport. The Embassy had arranged for us to take a flight in a British made airship, one of only six in the world, and be filmed for TV Tokyo. Sadly the weather was not in our favour and so the planned two hour trip dodging the Tokyo skyscrapers turned into a ten minute trip around the airfield. At least we had experienced our maiden flight.

The whole operation was fascinating. A ground crew of about a dozen men were holding the craft down whilst the ballast was constantly checked and readjusted. The passengers were allowed on a few at a time and the process repeated. Eventually when we took off, it was at a very steep angle and with a great noise. Not the quiet gliding amongst the clouds one might have anticipated.

The *Newport Bay*, a ten month old P&O container ship, 290m in length, was to take us from Tokyo via Hong Kong to Singapore. An all British crew of just twenty manned the ship, the largest in the British merchant fleet. Having been cooped up in trains for so long, it was a welcome relief to have some space and enjoy some fabulous cooking. We volunteered to assist the Bosun with any tasks. We discovered the maritime equivalent of leaf sweeping; painting. By the end of the third day, we thought we must be exhausting the supplies but were told there were two hundred litres left! We also tried our hand at scrubbing the decks (literally) which is quite a feat on a ship that size. Although some of the tasks were tedious, it was clear that our assistance was useful and it was good to enjoy all the fresh air.

We arrived in Singapore on day 39, Saturday 9 October, right on schedule. This next leg, to Australia, was the only one not able to be planned from England. Despite contacting numerous companies, offers of assistance were not forthcoming. Nevertheless, it was the world's busiest port and we were optimistic. The Captain of the *Newport Bay* had asked his agent to do some research on our behalf, but his efforts had been fruitless. We had to start from scratch.

On the way to our accommodation from the ship, we noticed a sign announcing an international cricket sixes competition. Another of our many challenges was to drink champagne with famous people. There must be some household names there that even we would know. Sure enough **Deborah** spotted **Joel Garner, Dennis Lillee** and **Derek Pringle** and they took little persuading to assist us in our challenge. Whilst drinking champagne, we got talking to some local expatriates, who on hearing of our plight, introduced us to some of the most influential shipping people in Singapore. We also met the MA who almost managed to get us onto an American naval ship but it was diverted to Somalia at the last moment.

Singapore was also a PR stop and the company had organised for us to race up the 73 storeys of the world's tallest hotel (the Westin Stamford) against the current Singapore champion. An annual race takes place up the hotel each year in March. Having done precious little exercise for nearly seven weeks, we were hardly going to do ourselves justice, but we accepted the challenge. There was to be no contest as the athletic figure of the current champion appeared on the morning of the race. A triathlete, in good physical shape was not going to be beaten by us. Nevertheless he was most sporting and ran with us most of the way, offering encouragement. We were relieved when it was over. The event was well covered by local media and Charles Heidsieck Champagne got its publicity.

The task of finding a ship led us to uncover some of the intricacies of the workings of the shipping industries. Some companies are governed by unions who will not entertain anyone non-union on board.There are also consortiums who are dependent on the company in charge of a particular voyage as to the policy at the time. We fell foul of both of these. We could have caught a number of ships two weeks previously or we could catch one of a number of ships in two weeks time, but we had hit the sequence at the wrong time. We almost got on two ships only to have our hopes dashed at the last moment by some objection. Finally our only hope lay with a Dutch company called Nedlloyd. Working through a local contact as well as a contact with their head office in Rotterdam we managed to close the loop and secure a passage on the Nedlloyd *Rosario*. We had spent six days in trying to obtain a ship, but we were still well in the race. We had onward shipping from Australia to America in hand and should only suffer a couple of days further delay waiting for that in Sydney. It was unlikely that we would complete the race within our hundred days, but a few days over was a strong possibility and could still mean a British victory.

We boarded the ship the week after the England versus Holland football match where once again the English fans had disgraced themselves. We suffered the expected leg pulling. The ship was fifteen years old, 190m long and a ro/ro and container ship. This meant that it could take a wider range of cargo and the large ramp at the back of the ship facilitated easy loading of vehicles etc. The ship was manned by Dutch Officers and Indonesian crew, a total of 36 people. This was slightly above the normal number as it was also being used as a training vessel.

Our trip to Brisbane was to take ten days, going via the port of Surabaya in Indonesia on our fiftieth day. We were still justifiably confident that we had a good chance in the competition. What would the next fifty days have in store for us?

SOLO IN NEW ZEALAND

By Sig Jaibikram Rai (QG Sigs)

For many years the thought of piloting an aircraft had captured my imagination and, whilst based in the UK with 7 GR Rear Link Detachment, I decided to read up the subject from books borrowed from the Hampshire County Library. Not long afterwards, I was posted back to Hong Kong and undertook flying lessons with the Hong Kong Aviation Club under the watchful eye of my instructor, **Maj Bill Hamilton** from Headquarters British Forces Hong Kong.

Take off and landing at Kai Tak International Airport was exciting to say the least but the airport's regulations would not allow me to do this solo. Unfortunately, Sek Kong airfield, where the regulations do allow solo take off and landing, was at that time serving as a Vietnamese refugee camp. I therefore decided to go outside Hong Kong for my solo 'ticket', to New Zealand, during my forthcoming long leave back in Nepal.

After using about a month of my leave to visit family and friends in Nepal I flew from Kathmandu to New Zealand via Singapore on 19 May 1993. I soon settled into life 'down under' and found the Kiwis very friendly people with a liking for Gurkhas. I passed my New Zealand aviation medical and early in the morning on 25 May taxied out at Hastings airport on North Island in a Piper Tomahawk PA38 for my first flight in the southern hemisphere.

The sky was crystal clear and gave a splendid view over Hawks Bay. As well as demonstrating the controls, my instructor, **William**, also took time to point out various landmarks and familiarise me with the country below. Over the next few days I practised drills and procedures and even (so I'm told) picked up a Kiwi accent! In the evenings I took tuition to help me pass the written examinations which cover aviation law, meteorology, flight navigation, aircraft technology and (the easy bit) radio telephony. I eventually took off for my first solo flight at 0920 hrs 12 June.

That was not the end of the training. I trained on a simulator to perfect instrument flying and then I was to prove my competence in engine failure drills, radar controlled zones, stall recovery, compass turns, low flying, cross country, forced landings, mayday procedures . . . and much else.

Before being examined I set out with my instructor on a long cross country flight on 23 June. From Hastings we flew to Rotarua via Taupo. A night stop at Rotarua gave an opportunity to photograph Maori dancing and socialise, although the 'bottle to throttle' time was kept firmly in mind as we had an early start planned for the next morning. The morning dawned with a thunderstorm which delayed our departure and, by the time we left, visibility was still not that good. Having completed my cross country stage we headed for the coast, which we followed back to Auckland via Opotiki, Hicks Bay, Tikitiki, Whangara, Gisborne and Napier.

On 1 July I took my final practical examination–the flying worlds equivalent of a driving test. The hour long test with **Mr Kidd**, the examiner, seemed to go well and I was relieved as I taxied to a halt outside the Club and heard him say 'congratulations' over the intercom. My Private Pilot's Licence at last!

My thanks go to the Hampshire County Library (UK), **Maj B. Hamilton** my flying instructor in Hong Kong, **Capt P. J. Holliday** (who helped arrange things from the Nepal end) and all at the Hastings Air Academy in New Zealand for their help and encouragement.

Sig Jaibikram Rai at the controls

NEW MUSEUM PROJECT–ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1993

FUND RAISING

During the past 12 months progress has been made on two fronts:

Donations. During the course of 1993, the amount of money in the bank has increased by some £100,000. A total of 31 Units, both Regular and Territorial, have made 38 contributions totalling £49,615. Furthermore, 152 serving members of the Corps have pledged £9,360 using the payroll giving scheme this year.

Lottery. The first lottery made £10,300 profit and the second, drawn on Friday, 10 December, made a further £11,870 after payment of prizes, agency fees and other outgoings. The first prize winner, Mrs Jones of Builth Wells, bought her ticket from her grandson, serving at Tidworth. The next lottery will probably be drawn at Catterick during the reunion weekend 25/26 June 1994.

BUILDING PLANNING

A number of firms of Museum Designers and Architects were approached in June and visited the museum for a briefing. On 20 August, eight teams made presentations to the members of the Heritage Committee and three teams were invited to take their proposals a little further. As a result of this competition, the Corps Committee agreed that Messrs Haley Sharpe, of Leicester, is the firm that should be engaged to design and construct the museum extension. This firm is very well known in the Museum Design world and we are now happy that they can create a museum extension that we will all be proud of.

Provided the fund raising targets are met, we are on course for the foundation stone to be laid in November 1994 and the museum opened in July 1995.

FUND RAISING INITIATIVES

A number of fund raising initiatives are planned for 1994. These include:

General Appeal. An appeal to the general public will start almost immediately. We will ask the editors of national newspapers, a limited number of periodicals and some 145 local newspaper groups, to carry a message signed by Dame Vera Lynn, The Bishop of Oxford and Brian Close, OBE.

Appeal to Industry. The General Appeal will be followed by appeal letters to a number of firms, particularly those firms who do business with us, those who have recently won orders for the supply of equipment to us and those who supported us last time they were asked. Copies of a Christmas Card showing Haley Sharps artist's impression of the extension will be sent to support our request.

Le Walk. Le Walk is a unique and un-repeatable event. On 12 February 1994, 100 walkers will walk the 31 miles through the service tunnel of the Channel Tunnel. Members of the serving and retired Corps will be invited to sponsor Mr Nick Bailey, a well known BFBS and Classic FM broadcaster, who is walking on behalf of SSAFA. The money pledged by members of the Corps will be split equally between SSAFA and the New Museum fund. Members of the Corps should be able to identify with the engineering excellence of the Channel Tunnel, with SSAFA as the premier service charity, with the physical effort needed to walk continuously for up to 13 hours, with a walker who has spent 12 years of his life working for BFBS as well as with the New Museum Project.

Appeal to Charitable Trusts. Negotiations have taken place with the Museums and Galleries Commission and the Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund. Both have indicated that they would expect to look favourably upon applications from us and applications will be submitted at the appropriate time. The fact that we have engaged a recognised Museum Designer, and that we have already raised a significant portion of the money needed, will greatly help our case.

Commemorative Postal Covers. Sales of Commemorative Covers have gone well this year and we are now selling to many countries on the continent and in the Commonwealth. The balance of the first 10 covers–covering the period up to the end of World War I–are expected to be on sale before the end of January. The next four covers are exceptionally good. Dates for the issue of the five covers due to be issued in 1994 have been agreed.

PAST MEMBERS OF THE CORPS

A succession of announcements in 'reunion' and 'lost trail' type of column in magazines and on television have attracted replies from several hundred past members of the Corps who were not members of Association Branches. Many of these have sent us donations – most small but some very generous. The mail shot of lottery tickets to individuals has also attracted a number of donations in addition to payment for lottery tickets. This work has had an unplanned bonus in putting these people in touch with nearby Association Branches and reunion clubs.

BRIEFING TEAM

A small team of one officer and two JNCOs has been assembled to visit units to give briefings on Blandford Camp and the surrounding area–as the future home of the Corps–and about the New Museum Project. I must stress that this team operates in support of unit commanders and at their request. It has made its first visit with encouraging results. Unit Commanders who would like the team to visit may discuss the matter by ringing the New Museum Project Office on Blandford Military 2258.

CONCLUSION

This has been a long report but much has happened in the past 12 months and much will happen during the coming year. We are now at the stage where we can see the light at the end of the tunnel and where a concerted 18 month push could well see us through.

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TRAINING IS MEANT TO BE HARD

THOUGHTS ON THE ROYAL SIGNALS SERGEANTS AND DETACHMENT COMMANDERS COURSES

BY COLONEL J. R. B. COOK

Colonel Cook assumed command of 8 Sig Regt in September 1992. His Regiment assumed responsibility for the Royal Signals Sergeants' Course and the Royal Signals Detachment Commanders' Course on the demise of 11 Sig Regt in Catterick in March 1993.

INTRODUCTION

There can be few courses undertaken by Royal Signals soldiers that attract as much attention and comment as the Royal Signals Detachment Commanders' Course (RSDCC) and the Royal Signals Sergeants' Course (RSSC). Those who fail to make the grade on either of these courses sometimes claim that the training was unbelievably physically demanding; those who have passed, being rightly proud of their achievement, reinforce this view. Whatever the reasons, these two courses seem to be cloaked with a certain mystique–and misconceptions continue to abound.

Sgt Phillips, one of the first women in the Corps to pass the RSSC, went some way to dispelling such rumours in an article published in the Summer 1993 edition of the Royal Signals Institution Journal. This article builds on her work. It is written in an attempt to educate both officers and soldiers of the Corps, particularly female soldiers, about the RSSC and the RSDCC; two career courses that all NCOs in the Corps, male and female, have to pass if they wish to progress up the career ladder.

COURSE CONTENT

Details of what to expect on these courses are given in the Course Instructions, TDT 4005 and 4006; documents that are held by every unit in the Corps. They were republished in July 1993 by TDT and yet it is distressing to note how many NCOs are unaware of their existence and report for courses at 8 Sig Regt never having seen, or been briefed, on them. For them, their knowledge of what training lies ahead is based on rumour rather than facts. But there is nothing to fear. All the intake tests are set at the trained soldier level. The standard is that required to be achieved by every soldier once or twice a year in accordance with Army Training Directives. There should be no mystique here.

One of the most frequently proffered criticisms against the RSSC and the RSDCC is that they are too physically demanding. The guidance given is that those attending should be able to pass the BFT "easily". The intake test, however, is the normal BFT. Once that has been successfully negotiated, and it continues to be surprising the number of soldiers who struggle with this "basic" test, then an NCO will not be RTU'd or deemed to fail on physical ability alone.

To put this in perspective, the two pie-charts in Figure 1 give a breakdown of the course content. Only 10% of the programme is given over to physical training and there is a clear progression within these 17 sessions. The sequence is as follows:

BFT
Run One–Pt Kit
APFA
Assault Course Training
Gym Work
Webbing run
Log Race
Assault Course Competition
Cross Country Race
Final APFA

The aim of this physical training is threefold:

- It helps to engender team spirit and competitiveness.
- It teaches students techniques and skills so that they can assist in unit training.
- It prepares students for the physical demands of the final exercise.

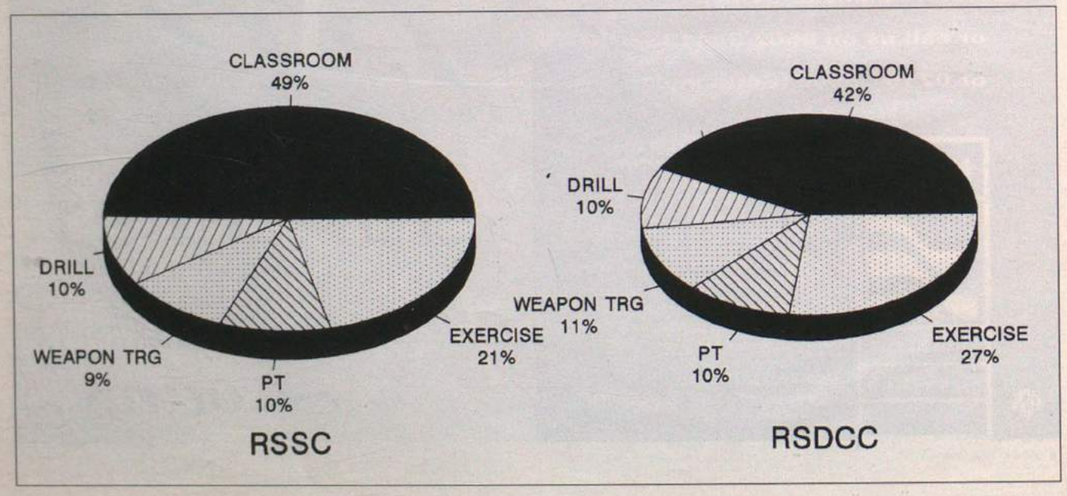
The final exercise pulls together all the various topics covered during the course: students have the opportunity to practise them under simulated operational conditions in the field and the Cadre are able to assess ability and character. Students are rightly placed under pressure, and whilst this is mostly mental, there is an element of physical pressure as well. One has to be honest, it is physically demanding to spend a number of days on operations with little sleep and full fighting order–but this is what the NCOs of the Corps must be trained for.

FAILURES AND REMEDIES

A number of soldiers continue to fail both the RSDCC and the RSSC. The reasons are many and varied, but the primary areas of weakness are as follows;

- **Intake Tests**. Soldiers are not able to pass the trained soldier tests, be it the BFT or Live TOETs on Day One. All who fail are given the opportunity to resit the tests but some still do not make the grade. The solution lies at unit level. Soldiers must be brought up to speed with their basic military skills prior to the start of their course.

Figure 1–COURSE CONTENT–RSSC & RSDCC



- **Medical.** Despite having Fit for Course medicals, a number of soldiers arrive carrying injuries–they are inevitably found out and have to be RTU'd. Soldiers have to be fit, both in the medical sense and physically as well, to attend this course. Remember that the guidance given is that soldiers must be able to pass the BFT "easily". In addition, injuries do occur during the course of the training necessitating RTU action.
- **Ability and willpower.** Regrettably, when a standard is set, there will be some people who simply lack the ability and/or the willpower to make the grade. However, with relevant training and encouragement, the vast majority of the Corps' soldiers have the ability to pass these two courses, but it does call for a certain amount of willpower on behalf of the individual.

As an aside, it is worth remembering that in the days of the Royal Signals Staff Sergeants Course (RSSSC), soldiers could achieve SNCO status simply by passing the RSDCC. They could then remain as sergeants for the remainder of their careers and never attempt, the RSSSC. With the advent of the RSSC and the cessation of the RSSSC, a number of NCOs are being caught out. Failure on the RSSC means that, instead of soldiering out their careers as sergeants, they are now destined to do so as corporals.

FEMALE SOLDIERS

With the demise of the WRAC on 1 January 1992, a number of female soldiers re-badged to Royal Signals. However, not only did their capbadge change, so did their career qualifications. Yes, WRAC NCOs used to have to pass both a JNCO and an SNCO course as part of their promotion process, but the content of these courses was markedly different to that of the four week RSDCC and the five week RSSC which they must now attend and pass along with their male counterparts.

Understandably, shock levels have been high for both sexes. It is the former WRAC NCO attending the RSSC who has perhaps faced the greatest challenge. She would have joined the WRAC under a totally different set of rules and her previous training and employment are unlikely to have prepared her for this course. However, success is quite achieveable as Sergeant Phillips explained. At the JNCO level, the transition might not have been quite so severe. The female soldier is younger, is more able to remember her basic training and is not so set in her ways.

The situation is not helped by the fact that there will probably only be one or two female NCOs on a course along with up to 40 men. As they are currently accommodated in a separate block from the men, it is almost impossible for them to have the "mutual support" of their colleagues. Steps are now being taken to try and overcome these problems. The Royal Signals Manning and Records Office are endeavouring to ensure that there are either none or more than one female NCOs loaded onto a course, and within 8 Sig Regt, steps are being taken to accommodate male and female NCOs attending these military courses in the same block, if not corridor.

The bare statistics for female soldiers attempting the RSSC and RSDCC are shown at Table 1. As ever, though, statistics do not reveal the whole story. It has been 8 Sig Regt's experience that those female soldiers who have prepared for, and tried during, the course have succeeded. Indeed, female JNCOs have twice finished second on the RSDCC and a female SNCO has finished second on the RSSC.

	RSSC	RSDCC
Attended	24	64
RTU	8	15
Fail	6	8
Pass	10	41

Table 1: Female Training Statistics–as at December 1993

THE FUTURE

The 1993 Statement on Defence Estimates reported that:

> "The Army is developing plans for the introduction of gender-free testing so that in future physical capacity rather than sex will determine an individual's eligibility for a particular specialisation."

In fact, Royal Signals are well advanced down this particular road. Since April 1993, the Corps has been training female recruits alongside males at the Army Training Regiment Bassingbourn. There is full integration, namely mixed platoons and, with the exception of the BFT, all do exactly the same training.

At present, some 8 per cent, of the Corps' strength is female and all trades within the Corps are now open to women, although women have still to be enlisted into the Soldier Career Employment Group (Driver Linemen, Driver Electricians and Stores Accountants). Within 8 Sig Regt, females attend courses on exactly the same basis as males. To argue that some trades are unsuited to females is to mis-state the case. The truth is that some trades are unsuited to the less physically robust, irrespective of sex. The advent of gender-free physical testing in April 1995 must be a positive move.

AND SO . . .

In time, we will have female NCOs attending the RSDCC and the RSSC who have trained and worked alongside their male counterparts right from the day they first joined the Army. They will not find these courses in any way unusual. However, as now, they will still need to train for their course. But there is no mystique. The standards required are clearly stated and the programme is there for all to study. Yes, the training will be hard . . . but then, training is meant to be hard.

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED SIX WEEKS BEFORE THE PUBLICATION DATE

ECHOES FROM THE PAST

I'M TELLING YOU

Some very candid observations published by special request of the writer:–

I finished my Army service in January 1934, and I am not one of those fortunate individuals often heard of as going out to certain and well paid employment. I had no prospects at all when I accepted my discharge, and if my views on the outside situation are of any value to those of my pals who care to read this article, here they are.

Why did I leave? you may ask. Why did I? I wish I knew; and I wish I hadn't. Given any chance in the matter I would go back tomorrow; but they don't do things like that nowadays, unfortunately. Believe me, you fellows, 'THE DOLE' is not the funny story some folks think it is. I once thought it was no end of a joke, but as the weeks rolled by I somehow lost my sense of humour in that respect.

Everywhere I went to try for a job, I received the same answer–'nothing doing'–until it became very obvious that unless I got some kind of assistance from somewhere, my name was MUD. I therefore wrote to the Signals Association, and my luck was in. Through their agency and endeavour I got the chance I wanted within a matter of days, and I am now able to look back on the last few weeks as something of a horrid nightmare. I daresay I moaned a lot when I paid my life membership subscription to the Association, but it was just a little bit very well invested and it has taken me a long time to realise it!

Just one other point. I had a vocational training course, which I treated as a holiday instead of learning something as I had every opportunity of doing. A vocational course provides a fine chance for anybody, but the instructors at those Centres haven't any time to waste on mutts like myself who treat their efforts as another of those funny jokes I have already referred to. They just get about their various jobs with fellows who do want to learn something, and simply let the others get away with it which is something else I found out when it was too late!

I daresay these sentiments sound strange, coming from me but I should like to 'rub home' to my pals, if I can:–

If you are not members of the Corps Association, get busy straight away, because they DO things without talking about it.

If you are fortunate enough to obtain a course of vocational training, make the most of your opportunity and LEARN something.

If you think of leaving the Army for civvy street, think again and stay where you are.

That's all but I've had some and I know, so I'm TELLING YOU. Cheerio, fellows, and the best of luck to all of you.

Dutchy Hollands
17 February 1934

Some things have changed since 1934 particularly the fact that many signallers have to leave because of redundancy. However there are some important points that are still relevant. First, if you do not have to leave think very carefully before you put in your notice. Many regret it. Second, do make full use of the resettlement package. The courses you can get for free cost hundreds of pounds outside. And most important, if you are leaving, do keep in close contact with the Corps Resettlement Cell at RHQ Royal Signals. Let us know what kind of job you are looking for and do send us a copy of your CV. When you are seriously job hunting, ring us up from time to time to find out what is on offer.

ADVERTISING

We are always pleased to include small announcements in *The Wire*, i.e. births, marriages, deaths or items for sale for serving members of the Corps and for retired members who subscribe to *The Wire* (and, for officers who pay the annual flat rate subscription to Corps Funds). All matters of a business interest are handled by our Advertising Agents, Combined Services Publications Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR. Please support your Corps magazine by advertising with us. The Editor reserves the right to refuse matter, at his discretion.

CHANGES AT F.A.N.Y.

The WTS (F.A.N.Y.) is pleased to announce that Colonel Commandant of the Royal Corps of Signals **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook** has become its Honorary Colonel.

This follows the retirement as Hon Col of **Maj Gen C. E. Page CB, MBE, DL**. **Maj Gen Page** becomes Chairman of the F.A.N.Y. Advisory Council.

Maj Gen Sir John Anderson KBE retires as Chairman. He has held both positions during his long years of association with the Corps. The F.A.N.Y. wish **Sir John** a long and happy retirement and look forward to his continued interest in the Corps.

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– Movements –

OFFICERS
DECEMBER 1993

Rank and Name	*Units to which posted*
Lt Col C. P. Conlon	RSA Larkhill
Lt Col A. Davies	11 Sig Regt (HS)
Lt Col G. N. Donaldson	HQ Wales and Western District
Lt Col N. C. Jackson	MOD (A)
Lt Col W. A. Locke	NATO Comms School Latina
Lt Col R. G. Vale	11 Sig Regt
Maj L. Cameron-Mowat	Staff College
Maj R. N. Clapp	DRA Military Manpower
Maj K. E. Clark	16 Sig Regt
Maj E. A. Davis	HQ 48 Gurkha Inf Bde and LF HK
Maj A. J. H. Harrison	DRA Military Manpower
Maj J. W. Hornby	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj B. M. Hudson	AA Coll Harrogate
Maj D. A. H. Jones	ACDS (OR) Land Systems
Maj D. W. Larkham	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj T. P. Mountford	Army Pers Selection GP
Maj G. T. Nelson	19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209)
Maj C. R. Owen	ACDS (OR) Land Systems
Maj M. J. Perry	DRA Military Manpower
Maj D. G. Proctor	2 Sig Regt
Maj G. M. Smith	ACDS (CIS)
Maj R. M. Thurston	8 Sig Regt
Maj C. Wakerley	HQ 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde
Maj T. J. P. Watts	MGO SEC
Maj J. P. Wilson	7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207)
Capt W. E. H. Adsett	264 Sig Sqn
Capt C. Dowie	11 Sig Regt
Capt I. Hooper	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para)
Capt E. Marsh	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Capt A. W. McMahon	2 Sig Regt
Capt A. S. Saddington	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt J. R. Tod	11 Sig Regt
Capt D. B. Warne	HQ Brignepal
Capt S. M. Williamson	16 Sig Regt
Lt R. Deans	8 Sig Regt

JANUARY 1994

Rank and Name	*Units to which posted*
Lt Col M. J. P. Collins	British Liaison Team Kuwait
Lt Col R. T. Hoole	Joint Planning Staff
Lt Col C. D. Kemp	The Royal School of Signals
Lt Col A. T. B. Kimber	AUS (Policy)
Lt Col J. MacDonald	Unicom
Lt Col G. Meakin	DGGWLS
Lt Col N. C. Muir	32 Sig Regt (V)
Lt Col P. A. Pratley	Staff College
Lt Col J. M. Ross	ACDS (CIS)
Lt Col D. M. Steele	MS
Lt Col M. C. Wilkinson	ACDS (OR) Land Systems
Maj R. D. Barfoot	7 Sig Regt
Maj J. E. Body	DGGWLS
Maj T. W. Canham	Queen's Gurkha Signals
Maj C. M. Clark	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj I. A. J. Condie	ACDS (OR) Land Systems
Maj M. Cost	MOD
Maj S. Croft	DGCIS (A)
Maj N. C. Fairley	DGES (A)
Maj P. J. Filby	HQ ARRC
Maj J. M. Gale	HQ ARRC
Maj R. J. Good	The Royal School of Signals
Maj I. R. Grant	13 Sig Regt (R)
Maj A. A. S. Harwell	Staff College
Maj G. L. Hegarty	AA Coll Harrogate
Maj A. Helm	Depot Tp 11 Sig Regt
Maj S. D. Hodges	218 Sig Sqn
Maj R. A. James	DGES (A)
Maj K. A. Jones	HQ BAOR/BRSC
Maj N. Keen	Staff College
Maj G. R. Leach	DGCIS (A)
Maj S. A. Leigh	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj D. G. Macaulay	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Maj D. P. Meyer	24 Airmob Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210)
Maj P. A. Osment	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Maj T. W. Pender-Johns	ACDS (CIS)
Maj S. J. Richardson	30 Sig Regt
Maj M. A. Rough	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj D. E. Rowlinson	British Liaison Team Kuwait
Maj G. Smith	DGGWLS
Maj A. J. Wood	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt C. Davey	11 Log Bn (EOD)
Capt M. Davis	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt M. A. Eaton	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt N. D. Fraser	7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207)
Capt P. A. Harlow	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt I. G. Lawrence	DCSA
Capt S. A. May	33 Sig Regt (V)
Capt C. J. McIntosh	2 Sig Regt
Capt G. H. A. Odling	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt M. Ramshaw	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt C. Redman	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Capt D. G. Robson	16 Sig Regt
Capt A. G. Ross	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt F. J. Say	30 Sig Regt
Capt M. F. Staples	15 Sig Regt
Capt S. J. Turnbull	Staff College
Capt M. A. Walker	DGES (A)
Capt M. D. Wood	30 Sig Regt
Capt S. R. Workman	DGCIS (A)
Lt P. R. Barron	JCUFI (AE)
Lt S. L. Copley	ATR Bassingbourn
Lt W. J. Kirby	8 Sig Regt
Lt K. M. Levins	24 Airmob Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210)
Lt D. M. Sharkey	2 Sig Regt
Lt D. T. Wilson	7 Sig Regt
2Lt R. J. Craig	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

WOs AND SNCOs
DECEMBER 1993

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (FofS) M. J. Flaherty	Depot Tp 11 Sig Regt
WO1 (FofS) T. P. Waites	8 Sig Regt
A/WO1 (YofS) S. C. Wayman	8 Sig Regt
WO2 R. E. Boulton	9 Sig Regt (R)
WO2 P. J. Charles	28 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) S. E. Hatfield	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 (YofS) C. Heeles	8 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) P. J. M. Jarvis	HQ RAO
WO2 (FofS) T. M. Witts	8 Sig Regt
A/WO2 (FofS) L. G. Bowlby	7 Sig Regt
SSgt M. A. J. Inman	JCUFI
SSgt G. Lee	24 Airmob Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210)
SSgt J. O. Paterson	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt R. L. Woodfine	AA Coll Harrogate
A/SSgt S. F. Brealey	220 Sig Sqn, 21 Sig Regt
A/SSgt G. J. Chapman	8 Sig Regt
A/SSgt A. N. Eley	633 Sig Tp
A/SSgt I. E. Evans	14 Sig Regt (EW)
A/SSgt S. G. Metherell	11 Sig Regt
A/SSgt C. L. Ward	662 Sig Tp
Sgt P. M. Bartlett	243 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. M. Bowles	ARRC Sp Bn
Sgt D. J. Coffey	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt P. A. Dunn	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt P. A. Gardener	15 Sig Regt
Sgt P. R. Garside	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt A. P. Gregory	123 Army Youth Team
Sgt J. Holt	HQ LANDCENT
Sgt G. T. Kendall	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Sgt C. I. Larrad	8 Sig Regt
Sgt S. C. Lazenby	9 Sig Regt
Sgt D. J. Marchment	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt C. D. McNulty	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
Sgt B. A. Mee	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt S. Moore	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt M. O. Murphy	JCUFI
Sgt A. J. P. Perkins	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Sgt J. Richmond	243 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. Smith	35 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. C. White	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
A/Sgt B. A. Clark	7 Sig Regt
A/Sgt S. Dewhurst	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
A/Sgt S. D. Harrison	NITW School of Infantry
A/Sgt A. M. Thompson	33 Sig Regt (V)
A/Sgt E. C. Williams	15 Regt RA

JANUARY 1994

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (FofS) N. E. Baugh	9 Sig Regt (R)
A/WO1 G. J. Baldry	21 Sig Regt (AS)
A/WO1 J. Riley	37 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 P. J. O'Connor	7 Sig Regt
WO2 D. Payne	55 Sig Sqn (V)
WO2 (FofS) P. Richardson	11 Sig Regt
WO2 P. G. Stevenson	16 Sig Regt
A/WO2 S. J. Barnes	8 Sig Regt
A/WO2 (FofS) M. J. Hardy	30 Sig Regt
A/WO2 S. J. Johnson	19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209)
A/WO2 (YofS) C. D. R. Nutt	38 Sig Regt (V)
A/WO2 (FofS) S. A. Overton	8 Sig Regt
A/WO2 M. A. Schofield	20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200)
A/WO2 M. J. Stringer	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/WO2 S. R. Talbot	1 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/WO2 N. White	Tayforth UOTC
SSgt (FofS) G. E. Annetto	The Royal School of Signals
SSgt (FofS) R. J. Baldwin	359 SU (Army Element)
SSgt J. M. M. Brebner	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt D. Campbell	Depot Tp 11 Sig Regt
SSgt M. Cook	1 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) P. A. J. Cox	15 Sig Regt
SSgt P. A. Fluck	21 Sig Regt (AS)
SSgt D. R. Harris	259 Sig Sqn
SSgt A. G. W. Howarth	14 Sig Regt (EW)
SSgt M. J. Kelly	Depot Tp 11 Sig Regt
SSgt P. M. Madeleso	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt A. B. Marchant	9 Sig Regt (R)
SSgt S. K. Maycock	9 Sig Regt (R)
SSgt T. R. Murrell	280 Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) A. F. Soward	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
SSgt (FofS) P. T. Sweeney	37 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt M. W. Tanser	1 UK Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt S. R. Tatman	8 Sig Regt
SSgt L. M. Thornton-Granville	35 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt C. M. Ward	225 Sig Sqn
SSgt M. Williams	2 Sig Regt
A/SSgt (FofS) R. H. Bateley	600 Sig Tp
A/SSgt K. E. Bolton	JACIG (AE)
A/SSgt (FofS) d. Briers	HQ (NC) 2 Sig Bde
A/SSgt A. T. Broadbank	15 Sig Regt
A/SSgt (FofS) R. G. Edge	662 Sig Tp
A/SSgt (FofS) A. Forbes	237 Sig Sqn
A/SSgt (FofS) A. K. Garrett	14 Sig Regt (EW)
A/SSgt (FofS) B. R. Holmes	242 Sig Sqn
A/SSgt (FofS) D. J. Hubble	15 Sig Regt
A/SSgt (FofS) W. B. Johnson	The Royal School of Signals
A/SSgt (FofS) G. A. Lewenden	The Royal School of Signals
A/SSgt (FofS) P. L. Lewis	IARRCIS System Support Team
A/SSgt (FofS) D. Middleton	34 Sig Regt (V)
A/SSgt V. W. Smith	9 Sig Regt (R)
A/SSgt E. T. Strefford	16 Sig Regt

A/SSgt (FofS) K. Sturman	...	...	8 Sig Regt
A/SSgt (FofS) N. L. Taylor	...	...	The Royal School of Signals
A/SSgt K. M. Turley	...	...	19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209)
A/SSgt J. R. Warren	...	...	37 Sig Regt (V)
A/SSgt (FofS) S. Young	...	...	The Royal School of Signals
A/SSgt (FofS) W. Young	...	...	16 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Bailey	...	...	2 Sig Regt
Sgt A. S. Baird	...	...	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt J. Barr	...	...	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. B. Cooper	...	...	602 Sig Tp
Sgt G. D. Currie	...	...	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt S. Ferris	...	...	7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207)
Sgt M. J. Gill	...	...	EWOSU
Sgt K. P. Greenwood	...	...	ATR Bassingbourn
Sgt N. M. Hampton	...	...	15 Sig Regt
Sgt C. Hindson	...	...	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt D. Hukin	...	...	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt G. Johnston	...	...	JARRCIS System Support Team
Sgt G. Johnston	...	...	11 Sig Regt
Sgt J. W. Kelly	...	...	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
Sgt D. A. Lloyd	...	...	2 Sig Regt
Sgt P. M. Lord	...	...	1 Bn REME
Sgt C. G. Loughlin	...	...	REME Tech SYCS BAOR
Sgt C. N. Nelson	...	...	JCUFI (AE)
Sgt S. M. Nicholls	...	...	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt R. Parr	...	...	Combined Arms Trg Centre
Sgt T. Pickersgill	...	...	16 Sig Regt
Sgt R. L. Plummer	...	...	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt J. Ramsdale	...	...	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt M. J. Richards	...	...	633 Sig Tp
Sgt C. G. Rigg	...	...	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt W. Riley	...	...	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt N. Roberts	...	...	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt P. A. Roper	...	...	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt P. R. Sandford	...	...	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. R. Sear	...	...	3 Cdo Bde Sig Sqn
Sgt S. L. Smith	...	...	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt P. B. Taylor	...	...	7 Sig Regt
Sgt K. Y. Turner	...	...	16 Sig Regt
Sgt N. J. Turner	...	...	12 AD Regt RA
Sgt C. Whawell	...	...	237 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. D. Young	...	...	5 (AB) Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (216 Para)
A/Sgt V. H. Body	...	...	AA Coll Harrogate
A/Sgt P. Boughey	...	...	39 HY Regt RA
A/Sgt D. R. P. Dagnall	...	...	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
A/Sgt K. McIntosh	...	...	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
A/Sgt S. J. Roberts	...	...	14 Sig Regt (EW)
A/Sgt M. Sala	...	...	225 Sig Sqn
A/Sgt S. Taylor	...	...	237 Sig Sqn

DEATHS

Ball–WO2 R. S. Ball–died 27 October 1993.
Barker–Mrs C. H. Barker, widow of **Col C. H. Barker**–died November 1993.
Benson–Maj D. J. Benson–served 1939-61–died 7 January 1994.
Clarkson–Mrs F. L. Clarkson, wife of **Brig F. L. Clarkson MBE**–died 6 January 1994.
Close–Capt D. V. Close–died 5 August, 1993.
Collins–Col J. H. Collins–served 1939-64–died 7 January 1994.
Currie–WO1 I. D. C. Currie–died 26 September 1993.
Fletcher–LCpl R. Fletcher–served 1969-80–died 4 December 1993.
Gambier–Lt Col P. G. Gambier OBE–served 1927-52–died 21 November 1993.
Gorman–H. A. Gorman–died 10 October 1993.
Godfrey–A. S. Godfrey–died 19 November 1993.
Harvey–D. K. Harvey–died 25 September 1993.
Hastings–Maj J. Hastings–served 1931-76–died 16 November 1993.
Heilbron–Capt D. G. Heilbron TD–died 13 March 1993.
Holman–J. L. Holman–died 15 September 1993.
Houston–Lt Col R. N. Houston MBE K StJ TD–served 1925-57–died 1 October 1993.
Linder–SSgt J. Linder–died 12 November 1993.
Mallock–Maj A. M. R. Mallock–served 1938-58–died 2 December 1993.
Markland–WO2 T. Markland–died 27 November 1993.
Mason–WO1 Mason–served 1949-75–died 3 January 1994.
Miller–Lt Col T de B Miller MBE–served 1932-65–died 18 October 1993.
Purser–Lt Col W. A. Purser–served 1929-55–died 26 December 1993.
Rice–Maj J. E. V. Rice–served 1938-58–died 27 December 1993.
Saunders–Maj T. P. Saunders–served 1924-60–died 4 October 1993.
Shorrock–R. T. Shorrock–died 13 December 1993.
Thornton–Lt Col J. D. B. Thornton OBE–served 1941-63–died 8 December 1993.
Wilford–Capt R. F. Wilford–served 1939-73–died January 1994.
Woods–Maj W. A. Woods–died 6 September 1993.

OBITUARIES

Alexander–LCpl B. A. Alexander. It is with regret that we publish the death of **Bryan Alexander** on 16 December 1993, aged 27 years. He served in the Corps from 1983-1991 and in Germany with 16 Sig Regt and 21 Sig Regt. We send our sincere condolences to his family who would be very pleased to hear from **Bryan**'s former colleagues. Please write to them at Westward House, Londonderry, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL9 9LY.

Bell–Mr (ex Sig) **George Bell.** It is with regret that we record the death of **George Bell** who died suddenly on 26 November 1993. He served in the Corps from 1940–1946. A very active member of the Middlesbrough Branch, he was to have been presented with his 50 year Badge and Certificate during a social evening at the Branch that day. He leaves a widow, **Kathy**, and a daughter to whom we send our condolences.

Caldicott–Maj L. H. Caldicott MBE TD. It is with deep regret that Brighton Branch inform you of the death of our founder Chairman and Vice-President **Maj Leo Hugh Caldicott MBE TD (Retd)** on 23 December. **Leo** was born on 5 March 1908, joined the Royal Corps of Signals in 1937. Presented to **King George VI** at St James's Palace in 1938. Served throughout the war and retired the service in 1957. During his latter service he was 2I/C and training officer of 44 Sig Regt TA, which a number of us will remember. His MBE was awarded in 1945 and was also awarded his TD and Bar. **Jan Powell** has arranged for flowers to be sent on behalf of the Branch and our commiserations go to his family. It was only on 12 December that **David Bartlett** presented his 50 year badge and certificate to **Leo** and his family up in Oxfordshire and Leo sent his regards to all his friends in Brighton.

Dos Martyres–LCpl V. A. Dos Martyres died on 4 November 1993, aged 37 years. Vincent joined the Corps in 1978 as an RTG and later trade reallocated to TE Tech. **Vincent** leaves behind his wife **Juliet** and daughter **Noela**. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Emmett–Mr Eric Emmett served in the Corps from 1957–81 leaving in the rank of Corporal. He was a well respected member of Cardiff Branch who will be much missed by Branch members and by his widow **Iris** and two sons and two daughters. He died in hospital on 11 November 1993.

Holmes–Maj (Retd) A. Holmes. Tony Holmes joined the Corps as a boy in April 1945, became a Foreman of Signals and was commissioned as a TOT in 1966. He retired in 1979. He then joined RACAL Antennas and remained with them until his death on 16 November 1993, following a long illness. He will be sadly missed by his widow **Molly**, his daughter and his grandchildren: also by his many colleagues in the Corps and in RACAL

Lambert–ex **WO2 Maurice Lambert** died on 23 November 1993, aged 83 years. He was a great sportsman and a highly popular soldier, able to get things done without having to raise his voice. He leaves a daughter to whom we send our condolences.

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

Are you being made redundant under 'Options for Change' or leaving the Services at the end of your contract? In either case, RFEA are ready 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, in conjunction with the Officers' Association and the Services Employment Network, are part of the over-all network of Forces Resettlement 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.

Thompson–Sgt John Clive Thompson passed away, at home with his family, on 2 October 1993. He served in the Corps for 28 years as a radio technician and during his career served in the UK, British Guiana, Cyprus and BAOR. He was a devoted family man who, despite army commitments, looked after his wife, who was far from well, with much care. He will be sorely missed by his widow and four daughters who will remember his zest for life, sense of humour and honour, with love.

Wilford–Capt R. F. Wilford. It is with regret that the Hull Branch report the death of **Capt (Ron) Wilford** on 3 January 1994. **Ron** served with the Corps from 1939-1973 serving in Norway, Iceland and in NW Europe with 49 (WR) Div Sigs Regt. He was a popular and much respected member of the Branch and will be sadly missed. Our condolences go to his widow **Sylvia** and family in their sad bereavement.

Wombwell–WO1 Raymond John Wombwell, who served in the Corps from 1948-1970 and in the appointment of RSM died on 13 December 1993, following illness. A life member of the Association he kept an active interest in the Corps. He saw service in Korea. He will be much missed by his family.

NOTICES

CORPS DATES 1994

	9 April	Branch Representatives' Meeting, Chelsea
*	10 May	Corps Dinner in The Royal Lancaster Hotel, London
	15 May	Association Reunion, Blandford
*	18 June	Corps Luncheon, Blandford
	25/26 June	Association Reunion and AGM Catterick
*	26 June	Corps Luncheon North, Catterick
	28 June	Princess Royal Day
*	4 November	Corps Scottish Dinner, Glasgow
	10 November	Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey
*	24 November	Royal Signals Institution London Lecture
	13 December	Corps Carol Service, London

Application Forms for those events marked with an * are to be found at the back of The White List and The Retired Supplement.

CORPS DINNER IN LONDON 1994

The Corps dinner will be held this year in the Royal Lancaster Hotel on 10 May 1994, 1900 hrs for 1930 hrs. Dress: Dinner Jacket, decorations and medals are not worn. The subsidised cost is £22.50 which includes pre dinner drinks from 1900 hrs and wine at the table. Application forms to attend are to be found at the back of The White List and the Retired List.

HARROGATE–PENNY POT CAMP
ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL 1947–1966
ARMY APPRENTICES COLLEGE 1966–1993

Do any of these, or Uniacke Barracks, ring a bell? If you were an Apprentice, Junior Leader or member of Permanent Staff, then they surely will.

As part of 'Options for Change' the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate is scheduled to move to Blandford in mid-1995. To mark the occasion there is to be a final Reunion Weekend at Harrogate on 2/3 July 1994. Saturday will be an Open Day with, displays barbecue, Revue and side-shows. Sunday will be a short Church Service and parade. This may be the last time to visit your old 'stomping ground'.

Anyone who wishes to be invited to the Reunion should register as soon as possible. Details will be issued by the College by 1 April 1994. Anyone who has already written need not re-register. SO2 Coord, Army Apprentices College, Uniacke Barracks, Harrogate HG3 2SE.

LETTERS

From Maj (Retd) R. Hamilton
Dear Sir,

I retire from active service in the Corps in January 1994, after a career of over 30 years, and wish to use *The Wire* to let my old comrades-in-arms know what has happened to my wife and I after 'options' part 2.

I was one of the 'chosen many'. Two years short of my ROD I felt a wee bit ticked-off, however, I gritted my teeth, girded my loins with Resettlement and sought a future. My Comdt and my colleagues were most supportive, and the Officers' Association (especially the Glasgow office) became my best friend. I had applied for only three jobs when they came up with an offer I could not refuse. Before my Commission in 1986 I was the RSM (NATO FSS Mossy Hill) at 'Maybury', on the Shetland Is lands. Having enjoyed that tour so much I was more than happy to relocate.

The good news is that I am now gainfully employed as the General Manager of a traditional knitwear company in Shetland. I have not really returned to my roots, for I originally came from Musselburgh (a Royal & Ancient Burgh near Edinburgh), but both **June** and I find the Shetland way of life so happy, simple and secure, that we are pleased to be back. Also, in my new job I get to wear as many woolly jumpers as I want, which helps to combat the occasional(?) high wind.

Our daughter, Sarah, is completing her A levels in Harrogate, where we are most fortunate in having **Maj (Retd) John Kirkman** and his wife **Diane** to act in loco parentis.

To those in the Corps with whom we had the honour to serve, we bid a fond 'Adieu'. Should you ever visit the Shetland Islands you are assured of a hearty (and liquid) welcome.

yours faithfully
Richard Hamilton
Temporarily of 'Solheimr', Virkie, Shetland ZE3 9JL.
Tel: 0950 60330

Postscript: What I did not know is that there are more than a few who have also returned and settled with their families, and a few who still visit Shetland every year to keep in touch, viz. **Maj (TOT) David Collins (Retd), Maj (TOT) Bill Graham (Retd), WO1 (FoFS) David Edwards, Cpl Tony Bracken, SSgt Howard Loates, Sgt Jeff Lawrence, (WO RD) Ron Bragg, Jim Baird (REME), Brian Southern (ACC), SSgt Bob Porter, Sgt Sean McHale-Smith, Sgt David Mason , Clive Wadley** and **Cedric Auty**, who both retired in the early 1970s.

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WE TRAIN THE PROFESSIONALS

REPORT FROM ULSTER

XV HQNI and 15 Sig Regt BFPO 801

CO — **Lt Col C. L. Le Gallais**
2IC — **Maj G. J. Cary**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) R. C . Cory.**

COMMS OPS

We say goodbye to **Sgt (DPSN) Thornton**–off to the blunt end and welcome to **Sgts Al Churchward** and **Craig Bruce** both from Germany.

QM DEPT

We congratulate the RQMS, **WO2 Stew Mullen** on the 'A' grading he achieved on his recent RQMS course. However, as an old storeman and definitely not a 'retread', it was disappointing to learn that he had dropped a whole two points! **Sgt Trev Henry** too, has successfully passed his RSSC and **Cpl Sean Hyland** assures us EPC is no longer a problem–we await confirmation! The departments sporting prowess continues as does its diversification. It is true that the QM has succumbed to play golf–is this an admission of old age? **Sgt Spike Haynes** is the department's fly fisher and is very good at supplying fresh trout. **SSgt John Carpanini** and **Cpl Martin Wright** continue to represent the Regiment at cross country and both recently completed the Snowdon Marathon.

225 SIGNAL SOUADRON

The new Tech Adjt, **Capt Paul Bosher**, and his wife **Susan** joined the Sqn on 13 September and he did not take long to find his travelling leg–he left on the 14th to play golf for a week saying he would return to fill **Capt Warne's** empty chair but not his airline bag! We say a fond farewell to **Duncan** and **Liz** wishing them all the best.

Following the first ever Squadron officers and SNCO's Mess function to say goodbye to **SSgt Helen Howarth** a bike stand in the Corps colours was presented to the 2IC, **Capt Mike Burke**, who said it was the nicest present anyone had ever given him (as it was the only present anyone had ever given him). Now a 'PAD' we wish both him and **Diana** an enjoyable remaining time with the Squadron.

We had a good run at the annual tickle test BFT on 7 Oct and, oh, how we laughed as 300 people tried to hand in a finishing disc in 15 seconds.

LS & GC PRESENTATION

On Tuesday 12 October the COS, **Brig D. Strudley CBE** presented the LS & GC Medal to **WO2 Robert McGinley RLC** (Pioneer) and **SSgt Keith Wilkinson**. The presentation took place in the Sergeants' Mess and was followed by a superb buffet lunch.

LS & GC Presentation
Standing: Lt Col C. L. Le Gallais, WO2 McGinley, SSgt Wilkinson, WO1 (RSM) R. Cory
Sitting: Mrs McGinley, Brig D. Strudley CBE and Mrs Wilkinson

CO'S CUP BASKETBALL COMPETITION

The annual scrum-down took place in the Leisure Centre on 21 October 1993. The HQNI team dropped out at the last minute again as they had an important knitting match, so it was left to the remaining Squadrons to do battle for the honours. 225 started as clear favourites however HQ proved to be the dark horse and played exceptionally well on the day. Some notable feats of athleticism and coordination were achieved on behalf of 225 by **Capt Bosher**, and **Cpl Turton**.

The final placings were: 1st–225 Sig Sqn, 2nd–HQ Sqn, 3rd–233 Sig Sqn.

233 SIGNAL SOUADRON

Firstly we say fond farewell to **Pte Ware** as she moves to RHQ and welcome **Pte Jason Williams** in her place.

The Squadron managed three creditable performances in the CO's Cup competitions. Our team was 2nd overall in the March and Shoot, winning the all-important March and Shoot itself but falling down on the minor stands. In the Military Skills competition we came fourth overall and were the only team with a female member–well done to **Sgt Caroline Lightfoot**. In the indoor shooting, we put in a strong team and came a close second. Well done to all who participated and supported.

COMMCEN TROOP
Tp Comd — **WO1 Jeffrey**

Welcome to **WO1 Milli Jeffrey**, her husband **Jeff** and baby **Andrew**. **Cpl Nikki Maughan**, husband **Stu** and baby **Aaron**. **Cpl Julie Stroudley** and husband **Phil**, **Sigs Kierran Jukes**, **John Chillies** and last but, not least, **Elsie Sutton** and husband **John**. Fond farewells go to **Sgt** 'Cosy' **Calabrese**, **Cpls Lynn Hewings**, **Michelle Ironside** and **Cpl** 'Taff' **Salter** and **LCpl Debbie Evans** who will be topping up their tans with 633 Sig Tp in Belize. Finally **Sig** 'Scouse' **Larkin** who has already left the Army for Civilian Life !

Congratulations are in order for **Sgt** 'Cosy' **Calabrese** and **Sig Michelle Clegg** who were recently selected to play Corps hockey. More congratulations to **LCpl** now **Cpl Mandy Eardley** and **Sig Sam Bremner** for coming off their resepective promotion boards. **LCpl Alex Cunningham** for successfully completing his RSDCC and finally **LCpl Hayley Ward** for completing her re-trade to Tele Op Data–welcome to the Commcen.

INDIA TROOP
Tp Comd — **Capt Chris Wood**

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES/PROMOTIONS

Firstly we congratulate **Lt Chris Wood** on his promotion to Captain. We welcome **Cpl Danny** (Instructor) **Tebay** , **LCpl** 'Paddy' **Irwin** and **Sig Stan Holt**. In addition we say Bon Voyage to **Sig** 'Daz' **Almey** who is posted to 28 Sig Regt on promotion to LCpl, **LCpl Ian Rutland** who is now on his way to 280 Sig Sqn, **Sig** 'Jonah' **Jones** who goes to 19 Mech Bde after his A1, and finally to **Sig** 'Moff' **Moffett** who, although he has not left the Troop, has moved all of 100m over to the SSG. Congratulations to **LCpl Rob Smith** for being selected for promotion to Cpl, and also **Cpl Si Graham** for being selected for promotion to Sgt and a future in ADP. We also congratulate **LCpl Den Thompson** on his recent marriage to **Elaine** and wish them well for the future.

EXERCISE MOLE FINN 93

Ex Mole Finn was a Regimental Caving Expedition to Whernside Manor. Led by our now high flying leader **Capt Chris Wood** the intrepid 16 set off. Group A to conquer the heights of the Dales under the supervision of **SSgt Roger Coleman**. Group B established themselves as the "hardened cavers", whilst Group C had the most varied week by climbing, abseiling, caving and walking. Most had little or no previous caving experience and despite many inhibitions all successfully conquered (some with size 9 boot assistance) these and good fun was had by all.

III 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn BFPO 809

Sqn Comd — **Maj Peter J. Grogan**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) Stan Wise**

SHQ

With the SHQ members of Ex Yorkshire Finn returning from a week's caving in Yorkshire, the workload has increased! **SSgt** 'Hoppy' **Hopkins** and **LCpl** 'Minging' **Glendinning** have not stopped talking about it. Whilst on their 'skive' **Cpl** 'Skelachy' **Martin** and **Pte** 'Divis' **Flatley**, whom we welcome from AGC Depot, were holding the fort and burning the midnight candle. On the military training side, **Sgt Tony Lee** is maintaining a smile even though the departments are giving him every and any excuse to escape from the participation of BFTs and CFTs. Downstairs in the Admin Office we say farewell to **Sgt Mark Bryson** and **Alison** who have decided to experience Germany and departed to 1 GS Regt Guthersloh, replaced by **Sgt** 'Geordie' **Shields** and **Fiona** who have come from Warminster. All the best for the future to you all.

OPS PORTADOWN

Sqn Ops is headed by **Capt Richard Lapslie**, the Sqn 2IC, who has an unfounded reputation for being on leave more often than most.

The manpower in the BTLO's office has recently doubled after **SSgt Andy Phillips** has almost sorted out the Level Nines in the Bde. Records has posted an assistant to aid him; welcome to **Sgt Simon Hodgson** all the way from 8 Bde.

The Sites Manager, **SSgt Little** was one of a number from the Squadron who completed the Berlin Marathon. By all accounts the journey to and from Berlin was more traumatic than the actual marathon.

LCpl John Wooding, the Ops Clerk, has settled in well after life in the Docs office, so much so that he claims to have forgotten what a PAMPAS terminal looks like.

PDN TROOP
Tp Comd — **Lt R. Gibson**
Tp Sgt — **Sgt G. Robinson**

Despite the upheaval of the Troop split life, work has gone on as vigorously and industriously as ever, with several comms trials, Cougar briefs to new Battalions coming into the province and the normal busy province routine.

We have said goodbye to several members of the Troop: **Cpl Phil Hopwell** on redundancy to civvy street; best of luck to you and your family. **LCpl Theresa James** and **Sig** 'Daz' **Mark** both posted to 633 Sig Tp.

Posted in we have had **LCpl Si Bradley**, and **Cpl Andy Corder** and his wife **Sam** who both came over by ferry and Andy has trouble staying conscious on planes.

Several congratulations are in order: **Cpl Bill Haley** for successfully completing his A1, **LCpl Si Bradley** for coming up top student on his RSDCC, and **Sig Gav McCann** on his recent marriage to **Claire** and for being selected on the Sig to LCpl board. And finally to **Sgt Sally Oldridge** for successfully completing her RSSC, well done to you all.

Sgt Oldridge and **LCpl Tina Whalen** have become the Troop marathon reps both having gone to Berlin to take part in the Berlin Marathon. Several members have confirmed their insanity by completing a sponsored parachute jump organised by **Sig** 'Butch' **Twedell** (who isn't), they hope to have collected £150. The Squadron March and Shoot team, led by **Lt Gibson**, went to battle in the Mercury Cup and came third.

COMMCEN–PDN HELLOS

We say hello to **Sig Claire Allsop** from 28 Sig Regt and to **LCpl Viv Holloway** from JCUFI. Also to **Sig Carolyn Murray** who is also coming to us from JCUFI. We hope you enjoy your tour with us as much as we all do.

FAREWELLS

We bid a fond farewell to **Sig Gava McCann** who is leaving us with his tape; congratulations. We also have to say farewell to **Sig Joey Maguire**, thanks for all your hard work.

SYSCON PDN

Hello to **Sig Jimmy Marshall**, who has arrived from 3 (UK) Div in Bulford and to **LCpl Si Nicholson** on his promotion.

Cpl 'Bill' **Haley** is still trying to turn himself from a two stone weakling into Rambo by doing 4 CFT's a week and **Cpl Andy Corder** and **LCpl Si Bradley** are happy to spend all their spare time doing patrols with the Gren Guards.

Sig 'Butch' **Twedell** has gone on a leadership course as he thinks it will improve his chances of promotion while **Sig** 'Taff' **Rees** is happy with his achievements as a squash player.

AMA TROOP
Tp Comd — **WO2 (FofS) Bob Hamilton**

Since the split of the Squadron, the newly formed Troop in Drumadd Barracks has well and truly found its feet. Headed by the FofS, **WO2 Bob Hamilton**, it is beginning to operate as a normal Regimental Technical Maintenance Troop with manpower consisting of technicians, telemechs and riggers. (Does TM stand for Tech Maint or Techs and Mechs?) Our spies in Ops at Portadown, **SSgt** 'Tiny' **Phillips** and **SSgt Dave Little** keep us abreast of the operation comings and goings and enable the Troop to plan and prepare for many (well some) of the communication requirements.

We give a hearty welcome to **Sgts** 'Dutch' **Holland**, **Eric O'Halloran**, **Si Hodgson**, **LCpls Nick Blake**, **Tony Weaver** and **Steve Hart** and wish them every success in the Troop.

Tp Comd –How is AMA Troop panning out FofS?
FofS –Don't you mean TM Troop?
Tp Comd –There is no such thing.
FofS –But Sir, it's historic and we already have a sign for the workshop.
RSM –You heard the Tp Comd, it is AMA Troop.

Question: Should the Installation,Maintenance and Repair Tp within 3 Bde Sig Sqn be called TM Tp.
If your answer is yes, phone PDN Mil 47565.
If your anwer is no, phone AMA Mil 46252.

ARMAGH TROOP
TECH, TELE MECH DEPT

A new Troop, a few new faces. Welcome to **Sgt Eric O'Halloran**, **LCpls Thomas Thomson**, **Tony Weaver** and **Sig Eddy Edwards**. Also a few farewells to **Cpl Neil Inman** and **LCpl Jase Werner** leave us for civvy street whilst **SSgt Danny O'Brien** and family, **Cpl Mark Haworth** and **LCpl** 'Mel' **Melhuish** are off to pastures new. Best of luck to you all.

On the work front things have been so quiet that **Cpl Steve Smith** and **LCpl Mick Rhodes** have taken to leaving test kits, keys, etc behind when they go on jobs so that have to return the following day.

On the social front **Sigs Galloway** and **Manc Singleton** have both taken up rugby. I'm sure there couldn't be an ulterior motive! **Sgt Shaun McBride** and the Berlin marathon team had an enjoyable time across in Germany. And finally congratulations to **Cpl Ian Kingsbury** on his recent promotion.

QM DEPT
QM — **Capt John E. Mullender**

Life is definitely on the up after a successful Ord Ancillary inspection, which caught everyone by surprise.

The Troop has recently been reinforced with the arrival of **Sgt Eddy Gajny**, joining us from 'the' Squadron and its farewell to **Cpl** 'Ginge' **Jennings** RLC.

THE MERCURY CUP MIL SKILLS COMPETITION

Five members of the Squadron, under the watchful eye of **Lt Rob Gibson**, took part in the military skills competition as part of the Mercury Cup. After an extensive training programme **Cpls Bill Haley** and 'Gaz' **Walsh** and **LCpls Si Bradley** and **Paul Geddes** along with **Lt Gibson** powered their way to winning three out of the six stands which tested their shooting skills, physical fitness and assault course and stretcher race and search awareness. Coming second in the first aid stand and third in the VP and BATCO test with a fourth in the command task was enough to clinch first place in the competition. However, a poor result early on in the year at the March and Shoot gave us third place.

MT

Sgt Blake and **LCpl Reid** are back from a caving expedition in York which they completed with flying colours. **LCpl McDonnell** has just returned from a canoeing trip which he said was great.

It is time to say the hellos and goodbyes. Goodbye **Cpl Chris Sorensen** posted to Belize and hello to **Cpl Paul Bowman**, hope you have an enjoyable and safe tour.

RECENT EVENTS

The past few weeks saw PDN Tp beat AMA Tp in an inter-Troop bowling night which was fun for all who took part.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

Sqn Comd — **Maj P. A. Pratley MBE**
2IC/Ops Offr — **Capt M. W. G. Adams**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) D. A. Wright**.

Although the Squadron's notes may seem lighthearted, and even flippant, we have recently had a number of reminders of the tragedy of Northern Ireland. The atrocity in Greysteel occurred very close to our two main bases. The Sqn Comd paid our respects to the local communities. On the day of the largest series of peace rallies for 20 years, the Sqn Comd and a group from MT Tp presented the family of the late **LCpl** 'Jock' **Duncan** with his NI medal. Jock was murdered by PIRA in Londonderry while serving with the Squadron in 1989. In the same month, the Regimental Sergeant Major commanded the largest Remembrance Day commemoration held in Londonderry's City Centre since the troubles began. Elsewhere in the Brigade area, the service at Enniskillen was a further reminder of the depth of suffering which terrorism has brought to this divided community. The Squadron was represented there alongside 1 1WG, 1 RWF and 2 PWRR, at a ceremony attended by HRH The Princess of Wales.

SHQ TROOP

Two good reasons for farewell lunches. First **Maj** 'Uncle Lew' **Godfrey LD**, the Admin Officer, leaves us and the Army, and rides off into the sunset with all guns blazing on the long journey home to his ranch near a decent river and distillery taking with him our best wishes for the future. Second, **WO2 (FofS) Paul** 'Chuddy' **Richardson** sets off on his Harley Davidson for The Royal School of Signals. We wish him, too, all the best in the future. Both will be sorely missed. The Foreman is replaced by **WO2 (FofS) Steve Hatfield** who joins the scattered 30 Sig Regt personnel in the Squadron.

The inter-Troop winter sports competition is now well under way, and SHQ, the current holders of the competition trophy got off to a flying start by coming last in the football. In the absence of our star player, **WO1 (RSM) Wright** who was helping others play soldiers at Magilligan Ranges, **Pte** 'Chappy' **Chapman** and **LCpl Gary Coupe** called on the services of our ringer, **LCpl Angie Kelly**. Unfortunately not even her spectacular skills could save the day. We warmly welcome our new Admin Officer to the Squadron. **Capt Percy Broad** has already turned his office into an RWF/R Irish display case, and at the same time has exhausted the expense account budget with the amount of picture hooks he has used. Over 50 sat down to dine at the Wives' Club Christmas Dinner and having let **Sig Greg Cunningham** complete his Santa impersonation were left wondering why the Squadron's officers all baled out in such a hurry. Self-preservation probably.

TM TROOP

The many talents of the departing Foreman include talking to the animals. Quite how the devious minds of **SSgts Keith Merrie** and **Nick Preston** managed to fool anyone that their scribblings amounted to a comms plan isn't known, but it is clear that **WO2** 'Chuddy' **Richardson** failed to spot the inclusion of Belfast Zoo in time.

Cpl Bob Barker's secure orders cards have a few new entries. **LCpl Steve Reeves** is known entirely inappropriately as Louise; **Sgt Pete Howson**, the Site Manager has become Howza, and we have still to discover who 'Ernie Skillen' is. Complete copies can be purchased from **Sig Dandy**, or as we all know him **Sig Andy Dennis**, in the car fits bay for a small consideration which will go towards a speak better English tape for the Line Section.

To celebrate the illumination of Derry City's Christmas lights, the local council let off a vast number of Europe-subsidised fireworks from a (very) nearby river boat. **Cpl Mick** 'Tina' **Turner** after completing his ablutions and returning to his room heard the tumultuous start to the display and screamed 'Take cover!' New arrivals, **LCpl Barry Kightley** and **Sig Pat Barber** and **Steve Harness**, not sure of the form, reached for their helmets and dived for the lockers. A rather cheerful **Sig Paul McKeown**, seemed surprised to walk into the resulting tableaux, and still wonders why asking the merry trio if they had seen the fireworks didn't go down too well.

The Troop now have an excellent chance of winning the inter-Troop sports competition with the departure of **Cpl Mark Brundle** who leaves us for 237 Sig Sqn. In addition **Sgts Si Hodgson** and 'Brad' **Bradley** leave the Squadron; **Si** moving all the way to 3 Inf Bde and **Brad** leaving the Army to join a northern constabulary, rather too near to his Troop Comd's home for comfort.

COMMS TROOP

Thoughts of leaving the Infantry behind disappeared when **Sgt** 'Scouse' **Hale** found himself back out on the streets of Northern Ireland within a week of arrival. Tasked with his first comms trials along with old hands **Cpl** 'Dickie' **Dyer**, guiding the way, and **LCpl Ian Hughes** acting as chauffeur, he found out all the things the PBI never learn. Our next arrival, RLD **Sgt Clive Smith** jumped at the opportunity for a chance to view his new empire of Fermanagh. He quickly learned the form; extracting him from the RUC canteen was almost impossible. **LCpl Colin Stewart** claimed that they were only trying to compete with TM Tp in the cuisine tasting stakes. Elsewhere in the Troop, and trying to improve their NI Search Awareness, **LCpls Pat Shalley** and **Paul Bradley** unfortunately betrayed their Glaswegian upbringings by trying to rip out a car radio/cassette, insisting something was hidden behind it. They are now undergoing a rigorous introduction to the more technical approach.

A familiar face rejoins us in SYSCON; **Cpl Andy Lane** returned from his stint with the Welsh Guards and **Cpl** 'Jez' **Hornsby** stepped into his shoes in the vain attempt to discover how to handle a message by numbers. Perhaps there is a latent Guards CSgt in him somewhere. The other returning wanderer, **LCpl Nadine Newton** (now Maggi) arrived from her honeymoon claiming that although she'd been at the church on time, a motley group of guests hadn't, and wondered which particular operational deployment had delayed them in Lancashire.

Sadly we have to say farewell to **Cpl** 'Gaz' **Longson** who leaves the Cypher cell and several broken Irish hearts to join HQ ARRC, and finally **LCpl Samantha** 'Blisters' **Bremner** and **Sig Dave Briscoe** both arrived in the Squadron just in time for a thorough beasting on the Magilligan Training Week from the RSM. All part of the welcome package.

MT TROOP

It doesn't take long to discover the double entendres scattered across our voice procedure. Fortunately for **Sig** 'Daz' **Humphreys, LCpl Dave Harman** appears to be an operator in disguise, which means that **Sgt Paul Hughes** need have no more sleepless nights on their account.

The Troop have held the biggest inquiry since the Asil Nadir scandal after the MTWO, **WO2 Steve Appleby** and **Sgt** 'Curly' **Maguire**, from the LAD, managed to be awarded their LS & GC medals. They even kept a straight face. Nevertheless congratulations are still very much in order.

Pte 'Budgie' **Burgess** has finally seen the light and has become a fully paid up member of the RLC, with a little bit of prompting from **Cpl Carl Brewer**, who has finally renounced his RCT cap badge in favour of the RLC with only a few tears shed.

Sig Jason 'Romeo' **Whitehead** has continued to keep the morale high in the Troop providing impressions of stars of the silent screen to order! When asked, he is a dab hand also at keeping parties going well into the small hours.

QM TROOP

The large number of surge ops within the Brigade TAOR over the past few weeks has had the RQMS, **WO2 Mark Toner** pressurising **Sgts Richard Clatworthy, Paul Culley** and **Cpl Dave Fitton** to become totally conversant with juggling odd pieces of technology which bleep, blurt and flash, plus loads of climbing kit. The RQMS has now promised, since being such a tyrant, that if anyone sees him with his hand in his pocket he will buy them a drink. **Pte** 'Geordie' **Hindmarsh** couldn't believe his ears, having spent several months trying to circumvent the RQ's security devices. **Sgt Mick Boehm** turned down the offer of a free drink because despite passing the Squadron's intermediate driving course, he felt that he still had to practise his evasive driving techniques and learn the most effective way to get around aggressive hedges. **Cpl Martin Jefferies**, the new 2IC of the training wing under **Sgt Rab Horne**, has just received a well deserved promotion for his long hours looking after the armoury. We wave farewell to **Sig Garth Dale** who leaves us for civvy street and a return to relative normality, taking with him our best wishes, and welcome **LCpl Ken Harris** and **Pte Tim Simpson**.

– News from Headquarters –

Army Apprentices' College
Harrogate

DAYS OF YORE
RSM S. LONSBROUGH COLDSTREAM GUARDS

The clocks were turned back some 45 years when ex Coldstream Guards **RSM Stan Lonsbrough** visited the Army Apprentices College. He was RSM of the School from 1948 to 1955 and, during his seven year tenure, he set the high standards of military discipline, bearing and character building which persist to this present day.

During his trip down memory lane, many stories were unfurled, some good, some bad and some quite amusing, but all of them relevant and very interesting as the Sergeant's Mess members can testify.

Stan is looking forward to his next visit on the 2/3 July 1994 when he hopes to meet some of his colleagues from the Penny Pot days at a Reunion Weekend.

L to R: RSM Stan Lonsbrough and RSM Keith Roberts with Col C. J. Walters

On Friday 13 August 1993 intake 91B graduated from the College. Within this group were the first female Apprentices to graduate from the Army Apprentices' College and as a result local film crews were present to record the historic event.

The reviewing officer for the parade was **Maj Gen P. R. Davies CB.** Accompanying **Maj Gen Davies** on the parade were **Col C. J. Walters**, Commandant of the College (first on right) and **Lt H. C. Campbell** AGC (ETS) (second on right).

The parade was marked by the presentation of medals by **Maj Gen Davies** to three members of permanent staff **SSgt Liggins** RAMC was presented the British Empire Medal for his role during the Gulf War. **Sgt Brikell** was presented the General Service Medal, Northern Iraq and Southern Turkey, for his part in Op Haven. **Sgt Gough** APTC was awarded the LS&GC medal after fifteen years in the Army.

Presentation of Medals
SSgt Liggins RAMC (BEM), Sgt Brikell (GSM), Sgt Gough APTC (LS & GC) received their medals from Maj Gen P. R. Davies

SCOTT SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj R. Wilson**
SSM — **WO2 T. Oakes**

Capt K. Huggins and **Sgt** 'Taff' **Alden**–'Carry on that blanket stacking!' have escaped to Germany. Meanwhile, thank you to **Capt A. Frost** for standing in as 2IC and hello to the newly arrived **Capt Palmer** who has come as a more permanent fixture. Also welcome to **Sgt Mellett** who has redirecting phone calls down to a fine art now and **Lt Cornell** and **Sgt Holland** who have been thrown straight into BRT.

Some things never change: the Sqn Comd still runs us into the ground first thing Monday and Friday and the SSM is still after bigger and better fish having reached Army Fishing Standard. **SQMS Gallagher** continues to be stressed which is not doing his hairstyle much good, whilst **Sgt Ryan** and **Cpl** 'Lissemoose' continue to survive without sleep.

EXERCISE BENBREAK
By ATs Firth and Hadfield 92B

On 13 August four ATs and four members of the staff left for a week long diving exercise on the island of Benbecula.

After almost 24 hours in a 4 tonner we eventually arrived. The first day saw us doing two short dives to test our equipment. With the equipment double checked we spent the next few days on various dives around the island, such as Loch Carn and Glass Island. The brilliant weather made the diving all the more enjoyable, consequently driving **Sgt Alex Carmichael**'s 'Head to a point'. Everyone enjoyed the weekend and some valuable lessons were learnt. The diving was certainly some of the best that we had dived in England.

The members of Mercury Divers wish to thank Royal Artillery Range Hebrides for their help on the expedition.

ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS
By AT Williams

The 1993 Corps Orienteering Championships were held in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire over the weekend of 4/5 September. With little training prior to the event I remained optimistic of a high placing.

The Individuals Course, this was disastrous for me; I made too many errors.

The Relays concluded the team event. With a 3.30 hrs lead we were under very little pressure from the next placed team.

As well as winning the individual prize we managed to win the team prize, which now takes its place in the College HQ Cabinet. I would like to say many thanks to the planner, controller and organiser and look forward to orienteering for the Corps in the future.

AN EXPERIENCE
By AT SSgt Hill

The best word to describe my time at the College is as an 'Experience'. My thoughts about the Army were totally shattered almost as soon as I walked through the gates. Yes, I expected a rough time through BRT but after that what I expected and what actually happened were two entirely different things.

Having first joined the College in Intake 91B I had an enjoyable three weeks being put through my paces as a Recruit. Unfortunately after breaking my collar bone whilst playing Inter-Troop Rugby (Cheers **Mr Bate**) I was backsquadded to the next intake, 91C.

To start off with there were 32 girls and 36 lads and as BRT dragged on the numbers quickly diminished. The best part of 'Rook' Tp had to be the Badging Parade in which we had to show our skills and drills in Corps knowledge and personal foot drill. Being awarded my Cap Badge had to be the best feeling I've had since being at the College, it even beat the Pass Off Parade.

After Recruit Tp the intake began trade training in earnest. To break up the routine, exercises were planned which ranged from Comms Exercises, caving and skiing, to digging trenches on Catterick Moor.

After being an AT for about a year I was finally promoted. This came as quite a surprise as I hadn't actually done anything outstanding, but somebody obviously liked me as during the next 21 weeks I achieved the rank of SSgt. At Christmas '92' we (Alpha Tp) said our goodbye to **Sgt Davidson**, our Troopy, and hello to **Sgt Newton**, posted in from Bradley Sqn (Junior Leaders). It was a shock for us, and definitely a shock for him, bull nights OK, to his standard. Try again lads!

At Easter 1993 the College organised a skiing trip to Austria. Having already proved to be something of a skier, I signed up for a week in the Hinteruex Valley. After taking my test and passing the Combined Services Silver, myself, **Chris Painter**. **Andy Butterfield** and **Leishman** tried our hand at snow-boarding which was brilliant, so, after a hard week's skiing we all came back to England with happy faces and pretty decent sun tans.

After that I started to finish off my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. I'd already been doing my service at Harrogate Fire Station which was interesting but in August I went down to Sennybridge Camp to do my Expedition 74 miles in three and a half days through the Black Mountains and Brecon Beacons. It was a tremendous feeling completing the expedition but perhaps even better was the week away from the College to do it.

Graduation was fast approaching and just two more obstacles to overcome, Tradeboard and Ex Final Warrior. Both are testing and stressful events, but I was not going to be beaten now.

These first two years of my Army life have passed very quickly, and I've been kept very busy. But now, it's time to move on and meet a new challenge. I'm sure my time at Harrogate will have prepared me for what lies ahead.

BRAVO TROOP
By AT LCpl Ford

I'm going to start off by giving a brief insight into the Troop and its Permanent Staff.

Until last term Bravo Tp consisted of the intake 93A, this term they have been amalgamated with the crème of Charlie Tp (Tech's and Spec's) of the intake 92B.

Getting back to the Permanent Staff, we have welcomed **Lt Campbell** who replaced the radiant **Lt Hulm**. **Sgt** 'Stan' **Matthews** has been here from the start, guiding his up and coming signallers in the ways of Army life.

The Troop excels in many sports as you are about to read.

Firstly I'd like to tell you of the excellent performance of **AT LCpl Lance Barr**. **Lance** entered the Regional Biathlon, and won by a landslide, blazing a trail home in the run and setting a pace in the pool that Campbell's Bluebird would have been proud of. These two outstanding performances created a winning lead of 600+ points, gaining him entry into the National Biathlon, 'Good luck Tommy'.

Another of the Troop's sports is Rugby in which Bravo Tp provides key players in the form of **AT Cpl Neil Dick, AT** 'Randy' **Randerson** and **AT LCpl Gary Ford**.

The Inter-Squadron Boxing team consists mainly of Bravo Tp. A few of the up and coming fighters include **AT** 'Wee Burnie' **Scanlan, AT Danny Pincott, AT Andy Carnegie** and **AT Jamie Brown**.

We also have in our midst the UKLF Junior Surf Champion **AT Cpl Dean Rudd** who displayed his waterborne talents in Devon earlier this term.

Finally, but by no means least of all, the excellent performance in the Army Swimming Championships by **AT Andy Carnegie.** He has been selected for the Combined Services Squad.

Bravo Tp also has a vacancy for one qualified AT Tp Sgt with residential bunk and an excellent view of the perimeter fence.

RAWSON SQUADRON
CHARLIE TROOP

As the first year draws to a close for Charlie Tp a look back over the past 12 months seems in order. When the Troop first formed up there were 46 members, since then some have left and others have TRA which left us with a nucleus of 30. However further change was inevitable when **Sgt Sheppard** decided that the Techs and Specs who were starting to outwit him had to go. So finally we have a Troop of 35 fine, upstanding TGs and Sys Ops.

The Troop has been quite busy over the past year not only adjusting to military life but on the sporting front as well.

It entered the Kineton Dragon Boat Race and proved to be very good. Although the Troop did not come back with the cup it certainly showed the other punters that it is a force to be reckoned with!

Several individuals have shown their true colours in the field of sport. **AT Doughty** won the Junior Individual Slalom Ski Championship. **AT Coker** also teamed up with **Doughty** to help the college team win the Junior Army Ski Championship.

Canoeing also seems to be another of the Troop's fortés. **AT Cpl Smith, AT LCpl Shaw, AT Smith**, and **AT Cpl Wragg** all entered the Junior Army Surfing Championships and did extremely well bringing home a few titles.

Other members represented the Squadron in the Blackpool to Scarborough Charity Race. **ATs Hall, Milton, Richards, Smith** 214 and **AT LCpl Wilson**. Well done to all those involved.

All in all a busy year for Charlie Tp, so goodbye to our first year and here's to the next!

QM (TECH) DEPARTMENT

The QM (Tech), **Capt Gerry Whelan**, is the wearer of many hats, QM (Tech), MTO, and Trg Sp Wksps Comd. Despite these responsibilities he did not escape the axe of redundancy and regrettably must leave us early in 1994.

The Technical Stores Section is still as busy as ever with additional worries of preparing for the 'move'. The RQMS (**George Firth**) is still in post after 10 years and managing to continue to fit in the odd bit of work between hill walking sessions. The Accounts staff (**Sgt** 'Kip' **Westwood** and **Mrs Trish Jackson**) and the Clerical Support staff (**Mrs Brenda Cundall** and **Miss Caroline Binns**) are still moving mountains of paper from A to B and back again. The stores, known as the 'Light Emporium' (**Mr Ron Light** and his daughter **Sandra**) manage to get the odd useful item out of the 'system'. **LCpl Steve Barker** and **Sig Phil Wright** complete the crew. Our Unit Armourer **SSgt Terry Mullen** REME keeps our 'guns' in good order and gained an excellent PRE report–well done, Guns.

The Motor Transport Section under the leadership of **WO1 (MTWO) Dave Brown** RE, has had a large change-over of staff in the last year which has resulted in a lot of work to get the necessary licences into the right hands. **LCpl Keith Kilby**, one of the four instructors, has been 'hard at it' instructing PCV and LGV1 candidates. **Sgt Ray Iddles**, fresh from his MT SNCO's course, has the MT Yard firmly under his control while **Cpl Billy Atwell** performs miracles on the Details Desks. **Sgt Shaun Murray** is managing to keep the majority of generators 'on the road' for Commex Tp while **Sig** 'Jock' **Taylor** does the same for their vehicles. With our small fleet of vehicles the MT do very well to 'keep most of the customers happy most of the time', and have just gained an 'excellent' report from the PRE Team. We say a sad farewell to **LCpl Neil Fraser** on his posting to 216 (Para) Sig Sqn.

In the Training Support Workshops, under the leadership of the one 'Green' member, **WO2 (FofS) Martyn Case**, our mainly ex-service crew manage to repair most of the equipments given to them. The 'civvy' staff consists of two ex ATs (**John Pennington** 61B and **Steve Boast** 65B) one 'Catterick Commando' (**Roger Stanton**) and our adopted 'Blue Job' **Maurice Liddle**. The Training Aids Workshop staff (**Dave Daykin** and **Eddie Armstrong**) are kept busy not only making training aids but adapting and repairing existing items to enable them to 'last' for the remainder of the life of the College.

The Management

HQ AFCENT
AWCS
BFPO18

MAASTRICHT TREATY OR MAASTRICHT TREAT
UNIT RESUMÉ

After the ratification of the Maastricht Treaty, we stayed on! The 'we' being AWCS–the Alternate War Headquarters Communication Squadron.

AWCS dates back to 1947 when we were based in Fontainbleau and the Unit consisted of some 200 plus British personnel. This number has since been reduced to a figure of 33 British personnel from a now international Unit total of 180. The unit is represented by American, Belgian, Dutch, German, Canadian and British nationalities; male and female, Army and Air Force personnel. Unit personalities are:

Comd AWCS **Maj Colin Lawrence**
YofS **WO1 (YofS) Jason Wood**, FofS **WO2 (FofS) Ben Nelson**, Alpha Tp Comd **Capt Mick Boxall.**

The Incognito crypto office crowd who incidentally would have submitted some wire notes but you know NATO 'Need to know'
Back row: YofS Wood (again), Sgts Carl Smales, 'Taff' Rumble, Andy Coughlan
Front row: MCpls Mario Poulin, Mark St Louis, LCpl Wayne Dunbar, Cpl Vinnie Tipple

UNIT ROLE

The Squadron's role is to provide communications support in the form of voice, data, telegraph and facsimile to the Deployable Command Post (DCP) of HQ AFCENT. The DCP was previously known as the AFCENT/AAFCE Alternate War Headquarters, hence the title AWCS. Six Troops make up the Sqn (Alpha to Foxtrot) who are organised to provide the following: Alpha and Bravo–engineering, traffic and crypto sections. Charlie and Delta–Radio Relay dets for the overall system bearer medium. Echo Tp–the Unit HF det capability bringing in point to point TG circuits or working a totally separate TG conference net. Finally Foxtrot who provide all the necessary in-barracks support and first line support when deployed to the field. The overall name given to our unit comms package is the '85 BUY'. Those of you who imagined AWCS was some kind of sleepy hollow, might be surprised to hear we deploy to the field on 7-14 day exercises approximately eight times a year.

UNIQUE ASPECTS OF NATO AND THE JOB

Within the Squadron, British posts exists in all of the Troops with full international integration right down to det level. The neat laying of line cables, with correctly spaced line labels, is second to none. In addition to learning foreign languages the Unit presents itself as the ideal place of contact for international friendships.

SMALL WORLD, BIG PLACE

The main HQ for AFCENT is in Hendrik Camp located 30km to the north of Maastricht at Brunssum in an old Dutch mining colliery. Whilst carrying out my handover to my Dutch successor, **Adj Theo Bonants** told me that his father was a miner in Hendrik Camp. Other Unit coincidences being that the British RSM post (ex **WO1 Mick Bohanon** now commissioned Capt) has just been handed over to a Belgian, **Adj Rick Binje** who is well known to a lot of Royal Signals personnel from his 28 Sig Regt days. We also welcome to the Squadron **Hptm Torsten Ehlers** (Sqn 2IC) and **Capt Mick Boxall** who know each other of old from their 1 Armd Div days when **Hptm Ehlers** worked as a liaison officer for the Bundeswehr. The location of AWCS is in Tapijn Kaserne situated almost in the very centre of the city. Maastricht itself has a truly cosmopolitan flavour with a lifestyle and quality of living within the local community that seems to be a pull with personnel leaving the forces, in particular ex Corps who have settled down locally. The AWCS member just married into the local community is **Sig Denzell Rolph**, who was privileged to have an international Guard of Honour from within the Squadron at his wedding.

UNIT SPORT

An ongoing Unit sporting event is the AWCS Commander's Sports Cup. This is a friendly all sports competition, initiated by **Maj Lawrence**. One stipulation is that all teams include a representative from each nation. British Rugby Sevens' was looked forward to with eager anticipation.

Sgt Carl Smales was given the task or producing rules which were understood by all nationalities participating. Although the game started out as a 'who cares who wins game', with a medal in the offing the team got to grips with the rules; **Sgt** 'Taff' **Rumble** allowed elements of real rugby to creep in. The result was Bravo first, no injuries, Charlie second, one dislocated shoulder, Alpha third, sprained wrist, bitten ear and broken heart. Man of the series? Who else but **LCpl Wayne Dunbar**, because he provided the only rugby ball available!

UNIT FAREWELLS

There is no Sergeants' Mess here as such. However, in order to give the SNCO's of AWCS some sort of club, an association was formed called the British SNCO's Association South Limburg (more commonly known as BASAL). The BASAL consists of British Army and RAF personnel and has a good membership of like-minded people. The opportunity for a long awaited get together presented itself in the form of a Regimental Dinner in honour of **SSgt Dave Ross, Sgt Ken Hughes** and **WO1 Jason Wood**, as sadly we had all reached the end of our 22 years' service. **WO2 Ben Nelson** volunteered to be the dinner presiding member.

As the function gathered momentum and the word spread around the Corps, we now found ex and others of AWCS expressing a wish to attend which resulted in some coming from the UK, Germany and even as far as Cyprus. Among those who attended were **WO2 Colin Thompson** and **WO2 Rod Oakley**, ex **WO2 Archibald Arbuckle** and **SSgt Tom Brand** from 7 Sig Regt. The occasion was a resounding success and our thanks go to **Sgt Jimmy Park** and **SSgt Dave Harris** for all their efforts in this direction.

A final footnote, I have been requested by **Sgt Ken Hughes** to place on record that he completed his 22 years as a 'scalyback' and did not defect to the AG Corps.

The British SNCOs' Association South Limburg
An all too rare occasion of a grand 'Gathering of the Clans'

HQ 2 (NC)Sig Bde and Cotswold Garrison

HQ 2nd (NC) Sig Bde is located in the heart of the Cotswolds in Basil Hill Barracks near Corsham. Options for Change saw the Ordnance, the previous landlords, leave and hand over the real estate for the Royal Signals to manage. Then the important work started in earnest. With the blessing of the GSO, **Capt** (Retd) **Charles Simmons**, first the lake was cleaned out under the guidance of **Gus Hartley**, (Ex WO1 (YofS)), then stocked with rainbow trout offering a relaxing pastime for all would-be fly fishermen, at very reasonable rates!

Secondly, the ball was put into motion again, with the re-organisation of the sports fields and a nine hole golf course has been developed within the grounds. This now offers, along with the gymnasium, further recreational facilities. It also gives the fly fishermen something extra to think about when golfers are on the sixth tee!

On 25 September 1993 the SOinC(A), **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle**, was

Trout Lake inspected by Mr Ken Watts (Civ Man), Mr Tony Cox (Finance) and Mr Gus Hartley (Fisherman)

invited to hit the first ball down the fairway, which he accomplished with ease.

It's not all play at Corsham; the Brigade HQ is responsible for six volunteer Signal Regiments, six regular Signal Squadrons and one volunteer Signal Squadron. The role of the volunteer units is to provide national communications support to the civil and military authorities in peace and war, using MOULD, CLANSMAN HF and the newly authorised but, not yet issued, HF Radio System (NCRS). The role of the six regular squadrons is to man, operate and manage the Army Fixed Telecommunications System (AFTS) within the UK mainland including its interfaces with overseas systems. Controller AFTS and his staff form part of the headquarters under the Bde Comd, **Brig John Neeve**.

The SOinC (A) with his Supporters' Club looking on in admiration

EXERCISE WYVERN RETURN

The aim of Ex Wyvern Return was to take a party from HQ 2nd (NC) Sig Bde on an expedition to the Josterdalsbreen (Josterdals Glacier) in Norway. The team comprised:

SSgt 'Hoppy' **Hopkins** (Expedition Leader (JSMEL(W)), **Maj Brian Billsberry** (Expedition 2IC (JSMEL(S)), **Lt Col Ian Thomson** (TA), **Maj John Bosley** (TA), **Maj Paul Whittle** (TA), **Maj Alan Hutt** (Guide), **Capt Vanda Leary** (TA) (Photographer), **SSgt Ken Jones** (Admin), **Cpl Jason Goldsworthy** (MT), **Cpl Neil Gow** (Admin Sp) and **Pte Mark Wilby** (First Aider).

The Team from HQ 2 (NC) Sig Bde on Ex Wyvern Return

The following account by **Cpl Jason Goldsworthy** gives a personal view of his experiences.

Friday evening, 18 June, the majority of the team assembled at Corsham in preparation for an early (0500 hrs!) start the next morning, and the long minibus journey to Newcastle where we were to pick up our ferry.

Once at Newcastle we were joined by the two remaining members of the team, **SSgt** 'Hoppy' **Hopkins** and **Cpl Neil Gow**.

Thirty-nine hours after leaving Corsham we arrived at Fabergstolen, our base camp for the expedition. This was equipped with all the mod cons; a choice of cold or freezing cold running mountain water and air conditioned toilets with lovely scenic views!

Phase 1 our first experience. Off we set with bungalows for bergens and equipped to tackle Everest.

We made our way up, up and up through the valley, aiming for the Styggevasshyte (Ugly Water Hut) dam, in conditions of extreme heat and deep snow, with our 'Hoppy' **Hopkins** leading and **Maj Brian** (sponsored by Lord Antony) **Billsberry** bringing up the rear, making sure that no one fell too far behind over the distance of 14km.

After resting for the night at the dam and taking in some snow craft training, we set off the next morning, the 22nd, to contour around two frozen lakes and to the foot of our first Glacier–the Ausdalbbreen. Another hard, hard day's trek!

After 10km we arrived at a small hut at the base of the Ausdalbbreen glacier which was to be our camp for the night. To save time in the morning we used bivvi bags rather than setting up our tents. We had learned our lesson about walking in the midday sun!

Wed 23rd 0400 hrs, our first day on the glacier–Squaddie meets ice with some very good impressions of Mr Blobby!

Before venturing any further onto the ice we had to practice crevasse rescue techniques. This was done using a convenient 70ft crevasse which provided excellent photos with **Pte Mark** (The bodyguard) **Wilby** hanging helplessly on to his rope. I should not have laughed, I was soon to follow!

We moved on across the snow field pausing briefly for some placki bagging and ice axe arrest training before moving to our overnight camp on top of the Stegholsbreen. By now most of us were feeling quite tired and were glad to rest our weary limbs.

Thursday 24th, 0430 hrs. We started down the Stegholsbbreen which saw us jumping crevasses of all shapes and sizes.

At the base of the breen we thought the hardest part of the day's trek was over but a fast running river soon changed that! I never knew that river crossings could be so interesting!

Back at base camp (some of us!) grabbed the chance of a shower at a local camp site and set about shedding kit we found to be useless, like a torch as it never got dark and 20 tins of undesirable food for obvious reasons.

The next day the 25th, we visited the Niggardsbbreen, a local spectacular glacier. So with ice axe at the ready we set off to explore to our heart's delight, with any fear of heights fading fast. What a great day!!!

The Fabergstolbbreen was next to be conquered and conquer it we did with grace and ease, and only a few Mr Blobby's from **Maj Paul** (Crevasse Finder) **Whittle** and his assistant **Maj John** (Potholder) **Bosley**.

After some rock climbing and abseiling we voted **Cpl Neil Gow** winner of the best beard contest and **Maj Alan Hutt** best knobbly knees.

The Niggardsbbreen called us once again, only this time we split into two groups, fast and not so fast. The fast group **Cpl Neil** (The Mexican) **Gow**, **Capt Vanda** (got any food) **Leary** and myself. Armed with twin ice axes we attacked ice walls and anything else that dare stand in our way.

Group 2 led by **Maj Brian Billsberry** and made up of **SSgt Ken** (The Vicar) **Jones**, **Lt Col Ian Thompson, Maj Paul Whittle, Maj John Bosley** and **Pte Mark Wilby** explored the delights of deep crevasses and ice holes. Another really good day was had by all!

Finally, we packed our lives back into the minibus and set off on our way back to the ferry, pausing at where some members travelled by boat then train through the mountains, meeting up again in Voss where we spent our last Norwegian night.

The ferry journey back was much the same except the beds were like seventh heaven.

We arrived back at Corsham in the early hours of Thursday morning, very tired but with all our expectations fulfilled!

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– News from Regiments –

219 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Capt S. J. McConnell**
2IC — **Lt J. Merritt**

THE BIG TURNAROUND

The Squadron warmly welcomes **Capt Stewart McConnell** and **Karen** who join us from the Apprentices College in Harrogate. We also welcome **Lt John Merritt** from 19 Bde, **WO2 Dave Showell** and **Lynne** from Bradford UOTC, **Sgt Clive Smith**, **Cpl** 'Barty' **Bartliff,** who comes to fit in some rugby training, **Cpl** 'Shifty' **Bennett**, **LCpls** 'Roly' **Rowson**, 'Smudge' **Smith**, **Sigs** 'Horse' **Cartwright**, 'Harrison' **Ford**, 'Dusty' **Miller** and 'Specs' **Livingstone**.

Sadly we say goodbye to **Maj David** 'has anyone seen my webbing?' **Larkam** and **Fiona** who join 1 (UK) Div CIS branch, **Capt Les Wood** to HQ Sqn, **Cpl Marlow** to the RP Staff, **LCpl** 'Albert' **Tatlock** to 16 Sig Regt and finally to **Sig Truslove** who has never been seen!

Maj David Larkam handing over to Capt Stewart McConnell

EAGLE TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Dan Tomlinson**

October was Ex Northern Hawk. The TA taught us a thing or two but Eagle Tp proved that it is still the best when it comes to bogging in! We may not have many vehicles but when they get stuck they really get stuck. **Cpl Steve Ellis** and **Cpl Steve Burk** spent a couple of happy days camping with lots of compo, a 16/24, a couple of camp beds and a telly in the pouring rain whilst the rest of the Troop was safely tucked up at home in York.

November was Ex Flying Falcon. Welcome back to **Cpl Karl Richardson**, in at the deep end. Germany smiled upon us and the weather was good, Flying Falcon, without snow, was a relief. **Cpl Ian** 'Daddy Comms' **Burt** became 'Daddy Food' displaying talent behind a No 5 cookset with his assistant **Sgt Jim Newell**. **Cpl Steve Ellis** refrained from putting anything in a ditch, while **LCpl Lex Williams** and **Sig Willy** 'See You' **Wilson** broke down attracting the attention of several recovery units as well as everything else on the autobahn. **Sigs Nicholas Miller** and **Stephan Ford**, newly arrived, did not take long to get into the swing of things along with **Cpl Ev Bennett** joining the Troop from HQ Sqn. **LCpl Sid James** had a good exercise as did **YofS Kev Fowler** in the high pressure environment of Radcon, only the tough survive!

QUARTER FINAL–ARMY RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP
8 DECEMBER 1993

Royal Regiment of Wales v 2 Signal Regiment
played at Ternhill Barracks, Shropshire.

Having overcome the aggressive challenge of 22 (AD) Regt RA in the 3rd round 2 Sig Regt faced the daunting prospect of travelling to the RRW for this quarter final draw.

The inclement weather conditions of high winds and pouring rain suited the strong Welsh pack rather than the talented Signals' back-row and backs. The weather conditions, allied with losing the toss ensured a backs-to-the-wall attitude from all 15 players. With the first half aim being to

2 Sig Regt
York

score points and the second half's being to defend that score, the nine points advantage at the turnaround didn't shorten the odds.

A return to goal-kicking form by **Cpl Kev Bowling** followed his excellent tactical kicking for position. The Signals' pack lost its combined services' flank forward, **Capt Gareth James**, through a rib injury as well as the mental awareness of second-row **Sig Lee Francis** who suffered severe concussion but managed to stay on for the 80 minutes.

The second-half started with an onslaught of driving play from the RRW pack, notably their loose-head prop and No 8 forwards. After some ten minutes continued effort the Signals conceded a penalty which was kicked, bringing the scores to 9-3. The Signals dug in and defended their line magnificently, with some superb tackling from all eight in the pack, **SSgt** 'Chalkie' **Atkins** and **Lt Pete Drew**, in particular.

The Signals' pack provided sufficient quality ball in the set-piece to enable its half-backs to gain much needed territory. With the clock running down the indiscipline in the RRW ranks led to much needed respite and well-earned yardage to ease the pressure. With some ten minutes remaining the RRW kicked a splendid penalty which ensured a climactic conclusion. Some fine running play by the Signals three-quarters in counter attack ensured continued possession as well as territorial gain. With the RRW half-backs unable to pin-point their kicks and their driving forwards losing steam the game finished on the RRW line with the Signals' first scoring opportunity of the second-half!

The emotive reaction by **Maj** 'Geordie' **Gainsford** summed up the elation of all involved, and with similar efforts on the training park it may be a 2 v 7 Sig Regt final this season!

EASTERN DISTRICT SQUASH LEAGUE

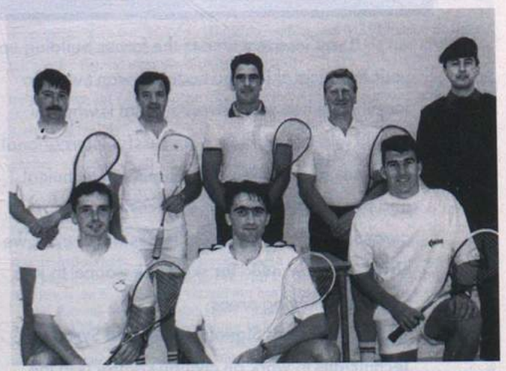
The season began with a 3-2 defeat by 1 DERR. It was at this point, that standards started to improve as a result of more training and the arrival of two new team members **Capt Steve Watson** and **Cpl Dave Gallagher**.

The match against 38 Engr Regt paid off and **Sgt Martin Richards** gained the victory that had eluded him for the past 18 months. With this taste of victory the team never look back.

Resounding wins over 9 Regt AAC, AAC Harrogate, 8 Sig Regt, 38 Engr Regt and 1 DERR in the return leg followed.

The Regiment won the Northern Section by eight points with a game in hand and subsequently looked forward to the District final against 1PWRR but they were unable to field a side so the match was a walk over and we became the District Champions for 1992/93.

The team worked very hard throughout the season and look forward to successfully defending their title this season with a relatively unchanged side and the unrelenting training sessions **Cpl Dave Gallagher** conjures up.



Rear L to R: Sgt Martin Richards, Maj Stan Graham RLC, Cpl Dave Gallagher, Capt Steve Watson and Lt Col Andy Forster
Front L to R: Cpls George Crawford, Dave Colman and 'Stegsie' Storey

3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Bulford Camp

REGIMENTAL OPEN DAY
By Author and Organiser WO2 (SSM) Griffiths

It was back in April and I was sitting in my office wondering why it was that young signallers are always declared unfit to travel once they arrive home and never before they leave barracks, when the RSM walked in, 'Good morning Griff. I've been having a chat with the CO and,' I thought wait for it, 'you've been nominated from a cast of thousands to organise this year's Regimental Open Day. It's to be held on 18 September in conjunction with the old comrades' reunion weekend.' Yippee! I thought to myself, I was soon to learn just what a good stitch this really was. I was to spend many months and a lot of sleepless nights trying to finalise displays and stalls for the day. Finally the day arrived, it has rained all week and I would like to thank all the fatigues men who braved the elements to ensure that all the tentage was up in time. The day started at 1200 hrs, the sun was shining everything was in place and I thought what could go wrong now, part of the day was to consist of a helicopter abseiling demonstration by the RSM and soldiers from the unit, the Lynx arrived picked up the team

Thelma Barlow opens the Open Day–seen here with Lt Col R. Baxter

for a practice and flew in low and fast to the centre of the arena, hovered up to 200ft and out piled the lads, however the down draft from the lynx flattened half the stalls even though the area was 75m by 75m. The helicopter was waved off and the display was cancelled, the time was now 1140 hrs and with 20 minutes to the off the place looked like an artillery impact area on Salisbury Plain. However with much grovelling to a number of civilian stall holders and shouting at the military ones everything was back in place by 1200 hrs and the day was officially opened by **Thelma Barlow** (alias Mavis from Coronation Street) who kindly donated her expenses to the day and signed numerous photos of herself for donations to charity. The rest of the day went very well with displays by the Red Devils, the Pipes and Drums of 1 RTR, the Royal Marine Commandos Display Team and an inter Squadron tug of war competition, won by 222 Sqn. There were numerous other side displays by RMP, Royal Navy Helicopters, 321 EOD, Royal Marines climbing wall and death slide, the fire service and Salisbury Road Safety display vehicle. I would like to thank all the Squadrons for their efforts and make a special mention of the following, both RQMS (T) and (A) for their assistance with kit, **Sgt Dave Iverson** for arranging for his wife's auntie (**Thelma Barlow**) to open the day, **Sgt Pat Lewis** for his work with the fatigue party and most of all my wife **Trish** who kept me on the straight and narrow when I was ready to quit.

202 SQUADRON
WATERLOO TROOP

It's 0300 hrs Monday 1 November, Waterloo Tp of 202 Sqn (the professionals!) are called in for 'Ex Iron Temper' (tempers were high I can tell you). By 0530 hrs the Troop was on the distant cabby up North. Finally, at around 1600 hrs the Troop arrives at the F.R.V. and disperse to their rebroadcasting locations.

A few hours later the net is up and working. 70% of C/S are bogged in; one 'lonely' rebro bogged in to the belly, 'slightly out' on his grid reference. First light comes . . . the realisation hits home; . . .C/S 24D where the haggis and kilts roam!–say no more.

Sgt Laffey was not impressed. **Cpl Matthew** and **Sig Mitchell** finally got to send the official message 'We've rolled the Rover, Over, Over!' and received the best 'stunt' award of the M6.

222 SQUADRON
OSC 143

Ops Cell: **Maj McGrory, Capt Swindells, SSgt (YofS) Rose, SSgt (FofS) Davies, SSgt McGowan.**

Admin Cell: **WO2 (SSM) Baldry, SSgt (SQMS) Huzzey, Sgt Barker, Cpl Vernon, LCpl Busby, Sig Watson, Sig Slaughter.**

Ex Iron Temper was 3 Div's annual CPX which took place during the period 1-12 November 1993 over a large exercise area.

Initial deployment took the Regiment to the north of England, followed by phases centred in the Midlands, and the South West of England.

OSC 143 from 22 Sqn initially deployed to the Midlands with TN 083 and set about its Ops planning and resupply/administration tasks with vigour, professionalism, dedication, diligence–guess where the writer's from?

Long distance moves and large operating areas tested everyone's skills, not least of all in the Ops Cell. This was **SSgt** (YofS) **Steve Rose**'s last exercise before being reprogrammed as an ADP specialist and being posted.

Steve has been a permanent fixture of OSC 143 and OSC139 before it, for some three and a half years but he still requires prizing out of the back of 'his' vehicle at the end of a shift. Obviously the Yeoman is at the hub of the OSC as is **Capt Julian** 'The Megabyte Kid' **Swindells**, another constant feature of the OSC Ops Cell. Between the two of them they have managed to mould the seats and subsets to their own physical dimensions!

Sqn Comd **Maj Colin McGrory** directs operations, ably assisted by the planning of the red eyed night shift of **SSgt (FofS) Martin Davies** and **SSgt Gordon McGowan**. Their only interruption comes in the form of the **SSM WO2 Geoff Baldry** who 'pops in' now and again for the odd biscuit and mug of tea.

Unusually perhaps, but the OSC Admin Cell enjoy a close relationship with the Ops Cell. Ably led by **SSgt (SQMS) Huzzey**, the Admin Cell had a few headaches resupplying detachment over such a large exercise area. These problems were overcome by teamwork and humour from a crew consisting of: **SSgt Tony Barker, Cpl John Vernon, LCpl Bus Busby, Sigs John Watson** and **Stig Slaughter**.

Cpl Vernon kept us all on our toes with his practical jokes and by **Sig Watson** doing what he does best! **Sig Slaughter** seemed to keep himself amused by forming an unnaturally close relationship with his POL suit and rubber gloves, there were even rumours of tears when they were 'divorced' at endex.

Attached to the OSC were the following worthy individuals: From the LAD–**Sgt Roy Hawke, Sig Giles** (Giles?) **Drury**. From HQ MT–**LCpl Albert Turner** who was driven to near madness by **Sig Paul Turner**'s (no relation!) antics with the packed fuel truck.

Exercise postscripts: Wanted 1 x camp cot for the SSM, must be of durable construction and capable of up to 18 hrs continuous use!

Thank you! **Sig Turner** for organising the REME Recovery Mechanics Convention at Endex and rewriting SOP's when driving the packed fuel vehicle as follows:

- When your vehicle has a full load of packed fuel, ensure your vehicle tank is empty.
- When your vehicle tank is full, ensure there is no packed fuel.
- Upon ditching vehicle, ensure the total write off of 1 x Foden Recovery vehicle and detail a further three Fodens over a 14 hour period to aid your recovery.

SSgt (YofS) Rose (seated) deep in planning.
On left SSgt McGowan and right SSM Baldry

OMAN TROOP–TN 083

Tp Comd **SSgt Cheslett**

After the trunk node defeated the Redlanders on Ex Iron Temper, with a little help from a few friends, we continued with our attempt to set a new world record for covering as much of an area as possible in the shortest time, making Phineas Fogg and his 80 day trip look like a holiday outing.

The next formation to receive our undivided attention was the Royal Marines on the Bovington tank training area during Ex Mauve Marauder. We arrived at the land that time has forgotten, on a cold crisp November afternoon. After a short discussion we positioned the vehicles so as to afford the best protection from the arctic winds the Marines had brought with them. Light was good so all hands were tasked with setting up the area as quickly as possible and with the limited comms to be established things soon became quiet with the exception of **Sig Woody Woodall** who was already enquiring as to when the first shower run would be.

The morning of Tuesday 23 November. Jimmy Saville or Jeremy Beadle brought arctic conditions to the training area so the Marines could start their arctic warfare training early this year. The landscape looked like a Christmas Card. Whimpers from all around the location could be heard, for it was now that we would find out if the heaters would work. Alas, the comforts of the heaters were short lived as the Troop SSgt had other ideas on how to keep warm. **Sig** 'Road Runner' **Blades** was sent to find out two things. First, are there other forms of life in this land? Second, how far was the tank driver training circuit away and would it make a good run? He came back soon with the answers, on point 1 No, on point 2 not far enough–this indeed was a sad place. The remainder of the exercise went without any problems, the heaters were used and **Sig** 'Sav' **Savage**, old sweat lineman (two months out of Trg) continued to show a willingness to annoy the Tp SSgt by waking him at 0500 hrs and asking questions like 'What time should I wake the node?', or 'Should I wake the chef?' Needless to say he soon learnt to recognise a dirty pan and find his way to the guard post in the early hours of the morning. So until the next exercise season…

257 SQUADRON

BALACLAVA TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Glynn Buxton**

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

A fond farewell to **Cpl** (Johnny B) **Good** who leaves us to go on his T1 Upgrading in Catterick. The Troop all wish him well and look forward to his return.

Hello to **2Lt Glynn Buxton, Sgt Russ Dodd** and **Sgt Paul Downie** who have arrived to join **SSgt** 'Ozzy' **Lindon**. The Troop has also been boosted with the arrival of **LCpl Nick O'Mahoney** and **LCpl Mark Yuill** who have brought questionable expertise into the Troop prior to the Regiment's RSIT inspection.

SALAMANCA TROOP

Welcomes to **LCpl Gore**, posted across from Balaclava Tp, and to **Sigs Sands** and **James** both from 8 Sig Regt. Farewells to **Cpl Knight**; congratulations on your recent promotion, **LCpl Eades**, who leaves for 8 Sig Regt early next year and **Sig Potts** on his volunteer posting to Northern Ireland. The Troop wishes you all the best in your future careers.

THE CAMBRIAN PATROL COMPETITION

After four weeks of arduous training on Sennybridge and Salisbury Plain training areas it was finally time for the predominantly Salamanca Tp team to represent the Regiment at the Cambrian Patrol Competition.

The team was made up of **Lt Phil Deans, Cpl Jones, LCpl Eades, Sigs Acklam, Heart, Jordie, Lock** and **Potts** with a support team of **SSgt Marshall, Cpl McNiel** and **Sig Furniss**.

The first day of the competition started with an incursion by Landrover behind enemy lines to meet with a friendly agent. This was followed by a 30km march over the Black Mountains that started at 200ft and rose to around 1800ft. All during the night and in gale force winds and fog and included one first aid stand.

This was followed by a 6km march to the section in defence range, then to the FIBUA stand for Orders. After this there was another march, 20km this time, to an FUP where the team was split into an OP group and a close target Recce group. By this stage of course everybody was exhausted and the close target recce commander **Lt Deans** was even thought to have spotted some jelly fish whilst moving to the HLS where they were extracted for the de-brief.

Next came a much needed period of sleep followed by the certificate presentation.

The team did incredibly well, everybody putting in 100% effort all the time and came away with a much coveted Bronze Certificate. Well done!

SWORD TROOP

EXERCISE BLADERUNNER 1993

Ex Bladerunner took place from 17 to 22 October 1993. It was an initiative test in which teams of two men, without prior warning had to achieve up to 40 tasks that would take them the length and breadth of the UK. The tasks were designed to push back the boundaries of modern neckiness and ranged from milking a cow, sitting in a submarine or wearing a barristers' wig to driving a Ferrari, staying overnight in a five star hotel, meeting a page three girl or appearing on national television. The participants had 72 hours, no money and only a letter of introduction to help them on their way. 27 men were under the impression that they had a role as civpop for a week and dressed accordingly, clutching warm hats, sleeping bags and cameras.

They were then unceremoniously strip-searched, their kit was ransacked with all unnecessary items withdrawn, they were split into twos and one three man team, driven to separate motorway junctions and were heartlessly thrown on to the mercy of a world that didn't care.

Each team carried a list of the same 40 tasks, which all had a points value, and needed photographic proof of everything they claimed to have achieved. Judging by **2Lt Buxton**, **Staff** 'Chippy' **Chapman** and **Staff Marty Webb** was strictly on these photos as they wouldn't trust such as **Sigs Stevie Wells** or **Davy Sawyers**.

Teams abounded with sorrowful looks and cheesey grins, and consequently most stayed overnight in a five star hotel. Most drove a British Rail train and did the same with a fire engine. We all took pleasure in locking a policeman in a cell, a great number met town mayors and premier division footballers. A few scrounged a lift in forces helicopters to fly over the UK mainland while special credit goes to **LCpl Phil Cooper** and **Sig Earl** who were dropped off on the Regimental Square in a Puma.

LCpl 'Butts' **Butterfield** and **Sig** 'Jonah' **Jones** were smooth enough to meet a page three girl while **LCpl** 'Faz' **Farrow** and **Sig** 'Wak' **Walker** appeared on stage with Sooty. **Cpl Bennett** and **Sig Woodhead** made it to Edinburgh within four hours of being released and **LCpl** 'Taff' **Sherwood** and **Sig** 'KP' **Kilpatrick** secured a seat on Welsh national TV. **LCpl Gutteridge** and **Sig Clark** not only met Right Said Fred but got onto MTV's Most Wanted, while **2Lt Jake Chambers** and **Sig Stevie Lynn** got on to the Big Breakfast and backed **Phil Collins** to One More Night.

The resulting dream team was **Cpl** 'Robbo' **Robson, Sigs Lynn** and **Webber** who achieved over 30 tasks, and although cheating was not prevalent they won an award for audacity with a claim that the photo of an Aberdeen Steak House in Westminster was actually in Scotland, and this is only beaten by **Cpl Dav Alderson** and **LCpl** 'Daz' **Cattles**' receipt of a night in the Gleneagles Hotel in Scotland. The fact that it had been faxed to a service station in Yorkshire may have given it away.

Ex Bladerunner was not easy but then it was not supposed to be. We may have all been lying, cheating cowboys on the road but, hard work and quick thinking, made an idea into a host of outstanding achievements, and every man did himself proud. We must thank the CO for his green light and when the photos have faded the memories will remain.

L to R: Cpl Robson, Sigs Lynn and Webster at Sir Edward Heath's house

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

MINI BUS PUSH

The mini bus push was a charity event to raise money for Save The Children. The Regiment was unable to compete in the main competition due to Regimental commitments so organised their own event. Led by **Cpl John Hart**, two eager teams from 1 Sqn raced around a 10 mile course at RAF Catterick. B Tp finished the course first with a time of one hour, 30 minutes and A Tp finished seven minutes later. The Squadron raised £371.25 for the charity and **Cpl John Hart** was presented to **Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal GCVO** at the Barbican Centre in recognition of the money raised for Save The Children Fund.

Cpl John Hart being presented to HRH, The Princess Royal at the Annual Public Meeting of the Save the Children Fund

THE GREAT NORTH RIDE

By Cpl Snowdon

The Great North Ride takes place annually a week before the Great North Run in the Gateshead district. It has a junior course of nine miles, a senior course of 30 miles and attracts approximately 6,000 riders each year.

Sig Jones standing between the Olympic coxed pairs gold medallists, Jonny and Greg Searle

Alpha Section were tasked under the watchful eye of **Sgt Nick Turner**, to provide a number of FFR's and Radio Operators to man a Control Safety Net, to assist the race organisers, police and medical services around the course.

Our long day started with breakfast and the collection of death packs, followed by a visit to the local newsagent. A locked door informed us that newspapers were not printed so early in the day. So onwards and northwards to Gateshead and our individual locations to set up communications, of which some stations had more than others … I was going to TRA anyway YofS, sorry!'

The race got underway around 0830 hrs and soon lead cyclists were filtering through my location at the seven mile marker, closely followed by cycles and riders of all shapes and sizes. Lessons were learnt on route, mainly that a car cannot overtake a car that is overtaking five cyclists abreast in the path of an oncoming truck. The Red Cross and a dozen elastoplasts soon had things running smoothly again. It also doesn't matter if your Connondale GTI, carbon fibre bike 'It's fitted with 28 gears you know!' did cost £2,000, if you're fat, unfit and 40 it's still very embarrassing being overtaken uphill by a Penny Farthing.

GREAT NORTH RUN 93

By Cpl Bob Giffard

The Regiment was asked to provide communications and admin support for the annual Great North Run, which incorporates the World Half Marathon Championship to be held on 19 September 1993.

The event takes place through the streets of Newcastle along a 13 mile course to South Shields.

The day started rather cloudy, and the forecast for the rest of the day was not good but, as usual, the forecasters got it wrong and the skies cleared to make the weather perfect for the runners and spectators alike.

All the FFR vehicles were in position and Comms tested by 1000 hrs ready for the 1300 hrs start. Our mission was to provide a hospital/emergency net to assist the various medical staff and the race organisers to locate and recover any casualties that occurred along the course. We also provided a safety/admin net to cover the race progress and locate personnel and equipment.

The race commenced smoothly and there were few casualties among the 33,000 competitors. This kept our involvement to a minimum, enabling us to see some of the race and its more famous competitors, ie, **Zola Petersee** (nee **Budd**), and **Daley Thompson** who, when asked at the 10 mile point how he was feeling by **Cpls Bob Giffard** and **Keith Kimberley**, mumbled words to the effect that he was 'a little bit tired'.

Several members of the Regiment took part in the race including the CO **Col J. R. B. Cook, Mrs Cook** and most of the gym staff.

The whole of the event was covered by TV and Press which gave our YofS/OC **WO1 Martin Fielding** the ideal opportunity to promote the Troop and indeed the Corps to a very large audience by displaying several large hoardings of the Corps Insignia at intervals along the route. The event was a great success and a free official Tee-shirt was had by all.

Daley Thompson signing a 1033 for his own personal Radio Op, Cpl Dave 'Snowie' Snowden to run the course with him

9 Sig Regt
BFPO 58

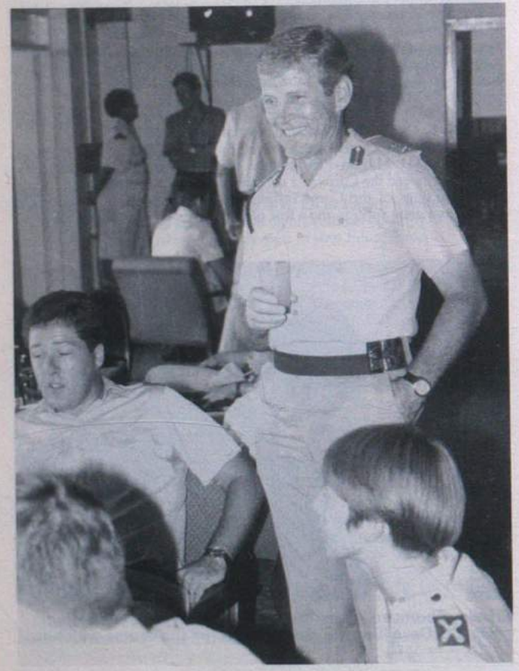
CO — **Lt Col P. B. Neale**
2IC — **Maj P. Robertshaw**
Adjt **Capt A. D. Burgin,** AO **Capt M. W. Baddeley AGC (SPS).**

Lt Col N. C. Jackson MBE, departed Cyprus for the MOD after banding over command to **Lt Col P. B. Neale** on Wednesday 10 November 1993. Welcome to **Lt Col Neale** and **Mrs Neale**.

SOINC's VISIT

During the SOinC's visit last year he was warmly welcomed by local employees, some with many years service to the Regiment, who had served under him when he was CO of the Regiment.

The SOinC meets Mr Muzzafer Hassan and others accompanied by Lt Col N. C. Jackson



The SOinC visits the JRC

ANNUAL FORMAL INSPECTION BY CBF

Attacked by guard dogs, in a high speed chase and witnessing a miracle, the Comd British Forces, Maj Gen A. Harley CB OBE might easily be forgiven for thinking he had walked onto the set of Hollywood's latest action film. Slightly less glamorous than it might first seem however, the great event was in fact the Annual Formal Inspection of the Regiment.

The first port of call was the Outdoor Range to inspect the training facilities. CBF took part in the LSW Shoot, run by **Sgt Dave Bousfield**. The arrest and restraint technique training, organised by **SSgt Pete Tasker** proved popular with the CBF. After a quick demonstration the lessons were put to test.

The day was going according to plan until upon invitation the CBF donned a 'protective sleeve' and decided to go a few rounds with Bruno the guard dog who, not known for his reserve on occasions like these, went straight for the CBF. The CO cringed as Bruno leapt and the CBF extended his arm towards the oncoming animal who fortunately seized it in preference to anything else. The CO breathed a sigh of relief and after a short while the dog handler, **Pte** 'Scouse' **Davies** shouted the command to retreat. Unfortunately Bruno, encouraged by the reception he had received from the crowd was slightly less well behaved than normal and chose to ignore him. The time seemed to fly by until Bruno, probably having noticed the crowd had stopped smiling, and **Pte Davies'** rather insistant verging on manic screams dropped the CBF's arm to a round of applause. It could easily have been worse.

The tour of 9 Signal Regiment (Radio) continued with various activities in the swimming pool. Sub Aqua with **SSgt Dave Leyland**, canoeing with **SSgt Steve Penn** and survival swimming with **LCpl Andy Powell**.

The Commander fends off Bruno

The LSW Shoot

Having left the swimming pool, the CBF visited the MMG staff; St Michael's Church; the Clay Pigeon and Archery Clubs run by **Lt Shannon Leek**, **WO Tam Keay** and **WO1 Geoff Williams**; the Ayios Nikolaos Primary School and finally arrived at the Sergeants' Mess for the LS & GC award presentation. The recipients **Flt/Sgt John Jackson**, **WO2 (FofS) Reg Whitehead**, **CPO Martyn Banner** and **CPO Pete Hefford** enjoyed celebratory drinks with the CBF before he left for lunch in the Officers' Mess.

The day was concluded with a brief visit to the Kart Club organised by **Flt Lt Dave Griffiths** before flying to G Tp in Troodos.

The Commander talks to 2Lt Mark Wadsley

THE DHEKELIA DASH

Alpha Tp, were one of over 50 teams who competed in last year's Dhekelia Dash. Each team consisted of 15 runners with an overall team age of over 400 years. It was decided that the team would enter on a fun run basis, so discarding the Ron Hills and Nike Air trainers, Alpha Tp donned fancy dress, the theme being down and outs. **Sgt Andy Roberts**, the team captain gave the pre race brief before all the competitors were transported to their start points. The race got under way with **WO2 Steve Shannon**, looking very much like the genuine tramp, taking on the first leg. As the race came to an end, the team had excelled themselves, despite the lack of running kit, by finishing 15th. Thanks go to the whole team for making the event such a success.

HORSE RACING NIGHT

Sgt Andy Roberts and **Cpl Vinnie Shepherd** were tasked to come up with money spinning ideas. So the Troop gathered in the Ay Nik UKBC for a horse racing night. The BFT Racing Stakes had more than its fair share of entrants, ranging from Rocket Richie Canale to Linford Govier, the horses proved to be thoroughbreds on the night (if only **LCpl Govier** could convert this form when he does the real BFT). The bookies took a bashing in the first two races with the favourites romping in. The third race was sponsored by the Tp WO, **WO2 Steve Shannon**, the horses were named directly from his book of cliches, from Catcha Grip to If the Cap Fits. At last the bookies got it right with the complete outsider, For Your Perusal Gents storming home at 5–1. The Troop Grand National was the final event of the night, with all six horses being auctioned off. After a nailbiting race the winner was the rank outsider Black Bess. Whoops of delight could be heard from the Tp Comd, **Lt Jason Kennedy**, who was the only one to bet on the lucky nag.

BRAVO TROOP

Tp Comd — **2Lt Mark Wadsley**

Cpl Gary King and **LCpl Jamie Holmes** challenged **WO2 Dave Smy** and **Flt Sgt Jim Edwards** to a thrashing at golf. The terms of the game were laid down and the draw was made, which saw the seasoned **Edwards** heading for the first tee. The end of the first nine holes saw **Smy** and **Edwards** seven holes to the better (**Edwards** had failed to mention that he was a well versed RAF player and Captain of the Joint Services Golf Club!). Undaunted by this fact, the merry band set off for the second nine holes, not realising that it would be a marathon six hour epic struggle in blistering conditions. Despite clawing back the next four holes the stalwarts **Smy** and **Edwards** putted out the 18th hole to win. Lunch was kindly donated by **King** and **Holmes**.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Bravo Tp bade farewell to its Tp WO, **WO2 Dave Smy** who leaves for a six month attachment on Op Grapple. The Troop also said goodbye to **Sgt** 'Lucky' **Fuller** who, having returned from detachment had his house struck by lightening, his television blown up and was then struck down himself with appendicitis; we believe he was pleased to go. Finally we said bon voyage to **LCpl Lee Mitchell** posted to Germany.

We welcome our new Tp WO, **WO2 Billy Chestnut**, we wish him and his family a happy and successful tour.

CHARLIE TROOP

Tp Comd — **2Lt N Stokoe**

November saw the start of the Inter Troop Football League. The Troop team, currently league champions, got off to a poor start, having lost three and drawn one match, so far. The Troop entered a mixed team for the annual Dhekelia Dash 15 mile road race between Ayios Nikolaos and Dhekelia. Well done to all who took part; as we were only beaten by one school team this year!

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

The Troop says a fond farewell to **Sgt Martyn Boston** and his wife **Coral** on posting to Germany. We wish them all the best for the future. We welcome **LCpl** 'Boris' **Wade** and wish him an enjoyable tour in Cyprus. Also welcome back to **LCpl** 'Miffy' **Smith** who has just returned from detachment on Op Grapple. Finally congratulations to **LCpls John Pankhurst, Steve Lyne** and **Ade Russell** on selection for promotion to Corporal. Well done!

DELTA TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Jason Kennedy**

TEN PIN BOWLING COMPETITION

In November Delta Tp headed off to Nicosia for their Troop Ten Pin Bowling Competition. The competition was the brainchild of **LCpl Tim McCardle**, who organised the whole event. The competition soon got underway, with teams being picked (apparently) at random. It soon became evident who had bowled before and who had not. **Lt Kennedy** got off to a flying start scoring two strikes with his first two bowls; however his beginners luck ran out quickly and his scoring went rapidly downhill. So it was left to the true bowling professionals to continue the tournament. After three hours of fierce competition, the eventual winners were **Sgts John McConnon, Lesley McConnon, Cpls Lee Brewer** and **Justine Brewer**. **Sgt McConnon** also won the individual high score competition.

ALL ISLAND SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

Congratulations go to **LCpl Paul Todd**, who recently became the All Island Squash Champion. **LCpl Todd** is the first Army player to win the competition in over four years. He went through the first round with ease, and seemed to go from strength to strength as he progressed through the remaining rounds. In the quarter finals he was the only remaining Army player. His natural ability and flair got him through to the final where he played an outstanding game and took the Championships.

SUMMER FETE

The 1993 fete was hosted by 3 Sqn. It was co-ordinated by **Maj Bullivant** assisted by **WO2 (SSM) Hill** and others. **SSgt Clive Ward** and his team entered the main arena at the completion of a marathon bike ride around the coast in which they covered 480 miles and raised C£1,000 for charity in the process.

3 SQUADRON

Apart from the Summer fete, this has been a quiet period for the Squadron. We have continued to play a key role in the Squadron's, and the Regiment's sporting life. On the cricket field, **Sgt Mark Wallace** distinguished himself with his running between the wickets, whilst **LCpl** 'Taff' **Yorke,** after an impressive season in the middle, was selected to play for the Army (Cyprus) in the annual inter-services fixture against the RAF. With a bristling, combatitive innings of 35 runs, he narrowly failed to bring victory to the unlucky Army side.

On the athletics track, **SSgt Clive Ward**, 3 Sqn's very own Daley Thompson, captained the Regimental Athletics team to another success at the Major Unit Championships. The championships were a personal triumph for **Staff Ward**, who managed to retain the title of All Island Pole Vaulting Champion: an excited crowd watched as he cleared 2.20 metres with his third jump. That is 10cms higher than Dick Fosbury cleared in the high jump in the 1964 Olympics. **Staff Ward** went on to captain the Army (Cyprus) team to another convincing victory over the RAF in the Inter Services Athletics meet.

With the rugby season now in full flight the Squadron has high hopes for its sporting gladiators. In particular **LCpl Mark Hopkins** has got off to a good start to the season scoring four tries on his debut for the Regiment.

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

DETACHMENT COMMANDERS COURSE (BAOR) TRAINING WING

OC — **Lt D. Chrystal BEM**
SSM — **WO2 M. Smithurst**

A change of management this Autumn saw **Capt Phil Welch** head to 40 Sig Regt on appointment as QM. The Training Wing wishes him and his family the best for the future. He is succeeded by **Lt Dave Chrystal BEM**, and **Susie**, who arrived from 9 Sig Regt.

Three courses have taken place since the August break. The first of these 6/93, had an original 44 students. A record breaking September of high rainfall hardly dampened their enthusiasm, even in the waterlogged trenches of Haltern training area. This course coincided with the visit to 13 Sig Regt of the Adjutant General who observed a selection of command tasks and was very impressed with the standard of initiative shown by the detachment commanders. The CO, **Lt Col P. A. R. Rouse** was the inspecting officer on the final parade.

The best student was **Cpl Duffy** of 7 Sig Regt who was awarded a copy of 'The Vital Link' for his excellent efforts. The Physical Training award went to **LCpl Whitty** for her tremendous determination, which impressed students and DS alike.

Finally **Dennis**, our course mascot, sends his regards to all past students.

EXERCISE SOURE CHALLENGE

At 0800 hrs on the 4 November 1993 eight brave teams from the Regiment and their intrepid leaders **Sgts Sue King,** 'Squirrel' **Jordan, Carl Friskney, Pete Farrant, Chris Gibbins, Hamish Ewans, Di Gee** and 'Charlie' **Brown**, were ready to take on the challenge of the Colonel's Cup. Their aim was to unravel cryptic clues, complete dangerous missions, meet mysterious partisans who would lead them to their final task and achieve all this within a 48 hour period.

Under the directions of **Lt Andrea Sharman**, all the teams set about solving the first quiz and within 30 minutes were seen sprinting out of the camp gates towards Arsbeck Training Area, **Sgt Di Gee**'s team however, were going in the wrong direction.

By 1600 hrs the first teams arrived in the Eiffel Training Area having already completed a lake crossing, transported hazardous chemicals to a reactor plant and many other complex tasks. With guidance from **Lt** 'Partisan' **Sharkey** teams then had to retrieve information from an NBC contaminated area and push a stranded Landrover around a course whilst blindfolded.

With arms full of more mysterious clues the teams then headed for Mulheim Camp. The smarter teams had by now concluded that the components collected were very similar to that of a bomb. More tasks awaited them at Mulheim Camp and by early morning they were off once again, this time to Leuth.

Teams were greeted by an Orienteering event followed by a Law Of Armed Conflict Stand then on to a shoot at Arsbeck Ranges.

At 1500 hrs the first team arrived at 13 Sig Regt Camp to complete their final mission: Overcome the complicated defences of General Ided's Headquarters (the Assault Course with Command Tasks) and plant a bomb in General Ided's Headquarters (the Range hut).

LCpl Jenkins tucks in.

All teams completed their mission and it was only towards the end of the exercise that a winning team became obvious. Congratulations go to **Sgt Carl Friskney** and his 2 Sqn team of **Cpls Frank McCann, Ted Whichelo** and **LCpls Ian Robinson, Karl Jones** and **Kev Thompson**.

EXERCISE CROSSBOW 27 SEPTEMBER-1 NOVEMBER 1993

Crossbow is an annual important event in the RCZ designed to test military skills and leadership–this year at junior NCO level.

The 13 Sig Regt team under the leadership of **LCpl Kev Thompson** attacked every stand of the competition with complete professionalism and determination. Unfortunately, the final result did not accurately reflect the preparation and total commitment of both the team itself and their support team who were all volunteers.

Prior to the competition, 15 members of the Regiment were short-listed to undertake a demanding training schedule. This training was broken down into two main phases, both of which entailed a number of instructional periods and the testing of practical military skills.

Phase 1 training culminated in a short exercise within the confines of the Regiment. During the exercise, the techniques of patrolling and routine in an OP were taught by our resident expert **Cpl Tam Ewart** (no relation). Tam's Top Tips were mostly limited to two catch words 'silence' and 'violence'.

The second major phase of training, was an exercise on Arsbeck training area which was to test the skills learned and practised over the preceding two weeks, and to ensure that the chosen team was now 'gelling'. By the end of the exercise, everyone was used to carrying their bergens by Shank's pony–not a competition requirement, but good for character building!

A welcome weekend's R & R was put to good use by all of the team, before the real event started.

After a VIP breakfast, the competition got underway. Any early morning lethargy was literally 'washed' away by a forced river crossing. At this critical moment, **LCpl Eric Herron** had a relapse and very nearly forgot how to swim–he still denies that the cold water had anything to do with it. Unfortunately, **LCpl** 'Bomber' **Lancaster** was at hand, though I'm still not convinced that he didn't just walk across the river bed. The next stand proved to be extremely difficult without divine intervention . . . Yes it was the Padres stand! He claimed that 'it was in the right (Twilight?) zone'.

The exercise briefing emphasised the need to be tactical at each stand: Imagine our surprise then, when we hit the dirt in all-round defence at the recce task and were told: 'Get up, we don't even do that, and we're in the Infantry!'

Command tasks, as part of the exercise, proved to be our forté. **LCpl Kev Thompson** exercising good command and control, and the performances by all team members being exceptional. **LCpl** 'Nobby' **Clarke** provided a display of acrobatics making a significant contribution to our effort and taking the DS completely by surprise. The final stand on Day 1 was a First Aid stand, where the team dealt with a number of simulated casualties; unfortunately an unknown female medic did not know when to stop play-acting: She has now been rewarded with a part in the next 'Casualty' series.

At this stage we had achieved top scores on a large number of stands whilst some teams had already missed stands out. The second day proved to be very good with our performance comparing strongly with other teams. We were the only team to successfully complete another command task while map-reading and AFV recognition we took in our stride. The only major problem encountered during the first two days, was on the NBC stand.

The range day proved to be our down-fall. Despite acquitting ourselves well on the background activities, and achieving high marks on the practical tasks, the results on the live-fire section attack ranges were a great disappointment; although this could have been better, each member of the section gained from the experience.

The last night of the exercise was the setting up of an OP in an area not recced by us on foot, and where most of the forest and track features had changed since the maps had been produced. This left **LCpl Eric Herron** and **Cpl Ted Whichelo** the odious task of having to re-site the OP. A task which took somewhat longer and was a lot less tactical than had been planned.

The competition finished with a march and shoot. A few blisters did not hinder our progress over the 8km course and we managed to overtake two rival teams. Most of the targets were quickly despatched on the range by some excellent shooting using the SA80.

A final mention must go to **LCpl Andy** 'SQMS' **Miller** for being the smallest in the section, but still managing to carry on as LSW. Congratulations to the team for an excellent and hard won fifth place.

WIENERWALD INTERNATIONAL PATROL COMPETITION–AUSTRIA 20/21 NOVEMBER 1993

The Wienerwald International Patrol Competition took place just south of Vienna on 20/21 November 1993 in conditions of blizzards and snow. The competition involved seven different countries sending four man patrol teams to carry out a Recce patrol task over five hours on the night of 20/21 November. There were 80 teams competing in the competition. The Regiment's team included **Cpl Tam Ewart** (Commander), **Cpls Brian Hands, Frank McCann** and **LCpl Ed Dickson**, and were accompanied by **LCpl Eric Herron** and **Lt Dominic Sharkey** (Team Manager). Other UK teams were entered by 3 R Irish; 16 Sig Regt and 28 Sig Regt.

The teams were tested on tactics, AFV recognition and navigation. However, due to heavy snow the going became extremely difficult, considering a minimum distance of 10km had to be covered over rough country in five hours.

The team did well achieving 38th place out of 80; it was a good competition in interesting conditions and we would recommend it to other units for next year.

BAOR CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The morning of Wednesday 8 December 1993 could not have started worse, two more of the womens Cross Country team had fallen victim of the 'flu epidemic. Since there were only two surviving members, it was going to be a hard race.

The mass start was impressive; over a muddy field and then up and up and up a mountain side. The rest of the course was a steady down hill until just before the finish where a heartbreaking ridge had to be negotiated. One kilometre to go and the cross country runners raced to the finish. **Pte Lorraine Gardener** could be seen battling to be amongst the first to cross the line, the rest of the 13 Sig Regt team were not far behind and finished within a few places of each other. The placing discs were handed in 5th, 12th, 14th and 19th, the team were definitely in with a chance to win the trophy.

13 Sig Regt Womens Team were announced as the winners of the BAOR Cross Country Championships. **Lt Andrea Sharman, WO1 Nancy Pearson, LCpls Nicki Jefferson,** 'Fred' **Muchowski** and **Pte Lorraine Gardener** will be representing the Regiment in the Army Championships in February 1994.

Congratulations also to the mens team who had to run up both hills twice and came sixth against some very strong competition.

MARATHON

Team: **WO2 Paul Meadows, SSgt Steve Prowse, Sgt** 'Charlie' **Brown, LCpl Mark Burns, Dave Unsworth, Kev Dingsdale,** 'Scotty' **Hoffman, Andy Knowles, Sean Gurney and Alan Elderbrant.**

On 17 October, 10 men of B Tp 1 Sqn ran the Frankfurt Marathon in aid of the Save the Children Fund. Training for the event started as far back as March in order to give the runners the best chance possible of completing the course and a number of shorter distance runs were attempted as a build up to the main event. HQ 5 Corps (US Army) kindly allowed the team to stay in their accommodation for the weekend of the event. All runners completed the marathon successfully, raising in excess of £600 for the Save the Children Fund.

REGIMENTAL SOCCER

With Regimental strength now well below 300, the soccer team entered, for the first time ever, the BAOR section of the Minor Units Challenge Trophy. With our early season form putting us at the top of our league after victories over major unit teams such as 16 Sig Regt and RAF Bruggen we were hoping for a good cup run.

In the first two rounds we defeated 8 Arty Sp Regt RLC and an experienced team from SHAPE. As we go to print we can report a quarter final victory over fellow signallers 7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn by three goals to nil courtesy of strikes from **LCpl** 'Richie' **Richardson, SSgt Dave Randle** and old timer **WO2 (SSM) Mark Smithurst.**

We now have a long mid season break before resuming a so far successful season in what could well turn out to be the last season ever for 13 Sig Regt (R).

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16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

SPORTSMAN'S DINNER

The Regiment's 3rd Sportsman's Dinner was held at Bradbury Barracks on 6 November 1993 to congratulate all the sportsmen and women in the Regiment on their individual and team achievements over the summer season. The organisation this time round was left to **WO2 (SSM) Ritchie**, ably assisted by **Sgt** 'Bunny' **Hutchinson** and **Cpl Bryant**. The guest of honour was **Mr Chris Hassell**, the Chief executive of Yorkshire County Cricket Club.

Among this year's achievers were the ladies' swimming team which won the Rhine Garrison Championships, BAOR and Army Championships. The men reached the BAOR Waterpolo semi-finals and BAOR Swimming finals. In tennis the ladies again triumphed, winning the BAOR and Army Championship. In sailing we were again victorious winning the Corps Offshore Baltic Regatta, the Copenhagen Cup, the Round the Cans Trophy and the Dickson Telescope. Another watersport we dominated was Windsurfing, winning the Rhine Garrison League and the Corps Championship. In Triathlon the ladies won the BAOR Championship and in cricket the team won the Rhine Garrison League and Cup and reached the semi-finals of the BAOR Cup.

In all it has been an excellent season for the Regimental Sports teams. The individual prize for the Sportsperson of the season went deservedly to **Sig Tracey Wheatley** who has represented the Regiment and the Corps at every level of competition. She helped the Regiment to win the Army Team Championship and went on to break records at Inter-service and Combined Service level. **Sig Wheatley** is a specialist Breaststroke swimmer who represented the Corps at the inter-Corps Championship in UK and is competing equally with the men–I've no doubt she will beat them all!

Sig Tracey Wheatley–Sportsperson of the season

Regimental, Corps BAOR and Army Colours were then awarded to various service personnel for their contribution to particular sports. Some notable awards included **Capt Callow** for tennis, **Maj Lewis-Taylor** for sailing, **Sig Hooper** for cricket, **Sgt Humphries** for squash, **WO2 (YofS) Patterson** for waterpolo and **WO2 (AQMS) Kirkham** for windsurfing.

230 SIGNAL SQUADRON
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

During the last few months we have said goodbye to **Sgt Graham Preece** and his wife **Anita**, to civvy street in Lippstadt. **Cpl Peacock** and his wife **Lorraine** and **LCpls Francis** who depart for 7 Sig Regt. We welcome **Sigs Boyce, Monetta** and **Pettinger** who all arrived from 8 Sig Regt.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **LCpl Liam Kerr** and his wife **Wendy** on the birth of their baby boy **Andrew William**; also congratulations to **Sig McLeod** and **Leanette** and **Sig Fearns** and **Adelle** on their recent marriages. Also congratulations to **Sigs Janet McTurk** and 'Didder' **Rigg** on their engagement. Finally to **Cpl Pinnock** on his promotion and to **LCpl** 'Willie' **Rushton** on coming 2nd on his RSDCC.

SHQ SNIPPETS

This period has had RSIT interrupted by exercise or is it the other way round? Either way it has been extremely busy with preparations for March/April 1994 underway. A number of events have occurred that are worthy of mention, with **Sgt Rupricht Bouchaert** still maintaining his efforts at Australian/German/Canine relationships whilst here on Ex Long Look. 230 Sqn SHQ/K team played brilliantly in the Comd Comms Sports Day Hockey Competition with **Maj** 'knuckles' **Lewis-Taylor** competing in the Regimental Boxing.

TN 016 SNIPPETS

First of all it's goodbyes to: **2Lt Colin Vaudin** who has now left us to go back to school and **LCpl Paul Leech** who has finally got his UK posting. We wish them both well in the future. Incoming we have **2Lt Fred Hargreaves** from Sandhurst and **Sigs Pelling** and **Bateman** from 8 Sig Regt–welcome to the Troop!

Congratulations are also in order for the recent promotions of **Cpl** 'Chalky' **White** and **LCpl** (to be) 'Tine' **Tinsell**–well done!

Other events include coming first in the March and Shoot Competition held during Ex Second Sip in southern Germany. The Troop has also competed in the Leicester Trophy Cricket finishing second under the expert captaincy of **SSgt Cox** and first in the hockey. Well done to all the team members.

KILO TROOP

After many months of hard work and chopping and changing Kilo Tp has become a force to be reckoned with, after showing some hope on the Regimental Battlecamp as Rent-a-Det. Most Troop members were attached to other Trunk Nodes and scattered around the Squadron like a TN 016 'convoy'.

EXERCISE LONG LOOK 1993
By Sgt Logan

This year I was lucky enough to be selected for Ex Long Look, an exchange between the British and the Australian/New Zealand defence forces. So in July about a 100 British servicemen and women flew to Kuala Lampur and then 'down under'. On arrival in Australia I went to 1 Sig Regt which is based in Brisbane, the capital city of Queensland, home of the Broncos rugby league club, the current world champions. I was not the only Corps soldier attached to 1 Sig Regt, there were two other 'poms' attached, **Lt Sally Rees** and **Cpl Ian Eddlestone**. After a few months the 'Aussies' finally understood that I am a Scot, not a 'pom'.

We spent most of the first two months on exercise, mainly at Shoalwater Bay where 1 Sig Regt deployed, firstly to prepare for, and then as part of a major exercise held by the 1st Division. I was attached to Bearer Tp, which provides trunk comms using Radio and Relay equipments, but during the exercise I went to Townsville to see a trial involving a combined radio and teletype detachment (CRATT) which took over the work of the local comcen. This was to see how it would work in the event of a tropical storm or other such emergency situation arising which affected the local communications. As it was the middle of the Australian winter the locals were feeling the cold, one night it dropped to about +10°C, the coldest temperature I experienced in all my time in Australia. After the exercise was over we were given the chance to go to Cairns, where I went snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef, a rare opportunity to see the multi-coloured fish and amazing coral formations.

Amongst the native animals I saw were the possum, the koala and the kangaroo; I kept my distance from the salt water crocodiles though. As I was based in Brisbane I saw a large part of the south-east of Queensland, one of the nicest places in Australia with its sub-tropical climate. I went to the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast where they have Dreamworld, Seaworld and Movieworld, as well as the famous resort of Surfers Paradise. Just before the end of my tour I left the state of Queensland for the first time when I took an 18 hour bus trip to Sydney, where I did my tourist impression and saw the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge.

I then had to say goodbye to all the people who had helped make my stay such an enjoyable one, it did not seem as if I had been there four months when I said goodbye to catch the Royal Australian Air Force flight home after one of the most enjoyable times in my Army life.

253 SIGNAL SQUADRON
EXERCISE STONE WARRIOR 3

Ex Stone Warrior is the Squadron's pre-cadre course and took place from the 26 September to 8 October. It started with 16 students, by the end of the course there were eight left. During the field phase the art of self defence (or was it jiving) taken by **QMSI WO2 Harper** and **WO1 (YofS) Marshall, Sig Rawlings** came into her own and gained superhuman strength against her opponent **Sig Waterworth**. **Sig Maxwell** took on the enemy single handed as she crossed the close quarter battle zone to take

out the tanks at the end. **Cpl Terry** employed a different method of killing her figure 11 targets, instead of going up the main alley using a rifle, she drove over the targets. This completely killed them off much to the disgust of **SSgt Shirley**. The evening drew in and the mist descended on the training area and down came the rain, as predicted by the SSM, perfect conditions to carry out a night navigational exercise. The battle was on for top student on the course, eventually after a lot of discussion by the DS, **Sig Kelson** was awarded top student.

Sig Rawlings proving that women can control men

EXERCISE SURE LOOK 2

Ex Sure Look is an exercise run for LCpls and Cpls to give them an insight into the RSDCC and RSSC. The course ran from 31 October to the 9 November. **LCpl Jo Telford** led a short recce in order to gain information for **LCpl John Hinsley** to lead a fighting patrol on a rather jovial enemy camp. The fighting patrol was a vicious affair, due to the horrendous singing of the enemy led by the very off-key **Cpl Sid Siddane**. The highlight of the exercise was a prisoner-handling stand which was run by the **WO2 SSM Ramsey** and his friendly helpers. **LCpl Malcolm** was the longest to survive the ordeal, even after special treatment, which had been specifically designed for him. Oh and well done to **Cpl** 'Rambo' **Whyman** for being the only person to bring her map out of the training area.

REFORMATION OF 4 SQUADRON

On 1 October 1993, 4 Sqn disbanded and phoenix-like transformed into 253 Sig Sqn. The occasion was marked by a Squadron parade with the salute taken by the CO **Lt Col N. F. Fisher**. 40 members of the Squadron were on parade including representatives from all detachments. The new Pennant was presented and the top student trophy for the pre-cadre course was also presented.

Maj Bill Ritchie leads the new Squadron–253 Sig Sqn on its reformation parade in Bielefeld

From Battlecamp we progressed to more exercises. The time had come 'Ex Second Sip', it was time to take the Regiment by storm.

At the end of the day with Kilo Tp in second its clear to see that we're a force to be reckoned.

After exercise Second Sip came bad news that **SSgt Ray Counley** was leaving Kilo Tp for TN 014. In his place **SSgt Ian Davies**, another capable Troop staffy has arrived.

255 SIGNAL SQUADRON
ECHO TROOP

Echo Tp, more commonly known as 'The Linies' has now been in existence for almost a year and its strength has increased to 34. The chain-of-command changes nearly as often as we have said goodbye to **Sgt** 'Scouse' **Walsh** off to 216 (Para) Sig Sqn and **2Lt Andy Greenfield** to Golf Tp. October saw a 'first' for the all-male Troop–a female Commander and not even a Royal Signals Officer at that. **Lt Amanda Hassell** AGC (SPS) was moved over to try and control the enthusiastic, if somewhat disorganised, rabble. To help her, Corps windsurfing 'Ace' **SSgt Maw** has arrived and the Troop is now building on its undisputed qualities of loyalty and energy, to form an effective fighting force!

Cpl 'Gaz' **Sullivan** and **Cpl Mick North** have been holding the fort during all the changes though **Cpl Sullivan** is currently taking a bit of time off to help look after his new baby daughter–congratulations **Gary** and **Sybille**.

Several more goodbyes to mention. **Sig Turner** off to try his luck in the world of comedy and **LCpl** 'Jas' **Crowe** who plans to travel the world before settling down to a new job in civvy street–best of luck in your new careers.

As for the rest of us, having just won the inter-Troop Orienteering Competition we are off to put it into practice as Ex Winter Wheels, a winter driving course which includes a night navigation exercise and cross

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28 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

EXERCISE FRAN AVANT

Ex Fran Avant is an exercise unique to 28 Sig Regt and takes place annually at the Para Cdo Trg Centre in Marche-les-Dames, Belgium. This years' exercise took place in two one week courses, from 4-15 October 1993 and 50 members of the Regiment attended each course.

The exercise condenses the basic training for the Belgium Para Cdo recruits and incorporates rock climbing, abseiling and the dreaded confidence tasks.

After arriving at the campsite all members of the Regiment were issued their climbing equipment, shown many various knots and introduced to the chief instructor, the now infamous **ISM Potie**.

The first days' training involved rock climbing, abseiling, ladder-work and watermanship. Many people learned very quickly that there is a definite technique in climbing the ladders and if that technique is not used your arms are destroyed. The rock face to be climbed was not vast, but large, and high enough for most with **LCpl Billy Cuthbertson** attesting to the nerve of the average British squaddie. Only a few had ever climbed before and most people achieved it; five members, under the guidance of **Lt Guy Bennett**, completed a much more difficult climb on the same rock face. As **2Lt Steve Goodwin**, had climbed many times before an instructor took him on a grade 6 climb but without practice it proved too much for him. That evening a night climb proved easier for some than the day climb.

The next day introduced confidence tasks. Many people questioned the percentage of the instructors as they were tackling the high vertical parallel wire, 200ft of nothing below. It was difficult to accept that a nylon loop would hold a person's weight in the case of a fall, but it did. One confidence task lasted approximately two hours and had high beams, burma bridges, climbs, monkey climbs etc. Both were well worthwhile because of the death slides at the end. Although by now tired, Agadir loomed. Agadir is an old fortress which has many tunnels and once entered, nothing is seen until the end. Here you learn the meaning of the the expression 'you cannot see your hand in front of your face'. The evening's activity culminated in an 8km march back to the campsite.

The third day had the unarmed combat high on the agenda. **Cpl Andy Craig** an AIPT who had learnt Akido on that course was set up but nothing could have prepared him or the course members for the agonies that were to follow. The Belgian instructors know that they can really test disciplined forces. After two hours of unarmed combat and a quick change, a Para Cdo fitness test followed an 8km battle run, which incorporated everything that had been taught.

The last activity was the chateau confidence task and probably the most difficult. As in previous years a large number of spectators turned up to watch the 'walk the plank', an iron girder suspended by an anchorage point between the vee of a tree over a river. The spectators knew that when someone got the dreaded 'disco legs', the girder moved and swayed. They also knew that the British are quite used to being in the wet!

Overall a very successful exercise with everyone meeting the required basic standard and being awarded the 'initiation Para Cdo' certificate. Our thanks go to all the instructors and to **SSgt Al Eley** who ran the stores side of life and kept everyone supplied.

WIENERWALD PATROL COMPETITION

The Regiment's two four man teams set off to Wienerwald, Austria, on a cold Friday morning. After a long and dull 11 hour journey we arrived at the bleak and snowy Austrian Army Barracks.

Team A consisted of **2Lt Steve Goodwin**, **Cpl Stevie Newman**, **LCpls Ray Crossan** and **Bri Sheard** whilst Team B contained **Sgt** 'Taff' **Burdge**, **Cpl Paul Elgenia**, **LCpl Nick Nicholas** and **Sig Paul Hounsell**. Saturday morning started with weapon training on the Austrian weapon, the STG 77. Our two teams then split as the team captains went for the 0 group leaving the rest to consider the problem of camouflage. Unfortunately we had not expected snow so early in the year, arriving in our standard issue combats as did the other nations with the exception of the Austrians who turned up in full arctic warfare gear! Various teams tried to improvise but with little time they ended up looking like ornamental lamp shades. We decided to remain and learn from the experience.

The patrol was split into several stages, the first being an advance to contact on the local ranges with the STG 77 followed immediately by a tactical withdrawal, casevac and first aid.

The next stage was to test our stealth in the dark. It was a pitch black corridor about 30m long with obstacles in the path which we were tasked to breach in silence. As there was no light whatsoever the IWSs that we had were totally useless forcing us to resort to basics by feeling our way through. Following that was a camouflage and kit inspection and a test for the team members on their knowledge of the mission and the route we were taking.

As time passed the temperature rapidly dropped into minus figures as the wind and snow fall became stronger. We arrived at the drop off point at about 2200 hrs. Ahead of us we had a good 15km tab and a close target recce in extremely arduous conditions. We reached our objective which was an Austrian position complete with artillery pieces, various equipment, sentries and patrols. The recce was difficult enough due to the freezing conditions and poor visibility not to mention the enemy guards who were more than capable of finding and following our tracks in the snow. Despite this we managed to get through with minimum interference. Then came a rapid move to the pick up point under a tight time schedule. The patrol finished at about 0430 hrs on Sunday with a couple of the team members summoning up the energy for a beer and a couple of tall stories at the bar!

The Regiment did very well on its first attempt. Well done to both teams.

Wienerwald Patrol Competition Teams
L to R: Team A: Cpl Stevie Newman, LCpl Ray Crossan, LCpl Bri Sheard, 2Lt Steve Goodwin
Team B: Sgt 'Taff' Burdge, LCpl Nick Nicholas, Sig Paul Hounsell, Cpl Paul Elgenia

BAOR GRADE 3 NOVICE BOXING COMPETITION
280 (UK) SIGNAL SQUADRON v 220 SIGNAL SQUADRON

The semi-final of the BAOR Grade 3 Novice Boxing Competition between 280 Sig Sqn v 220 Sig Sqn was held at Francisca Barracks, St Tonis, Krefeld on 30 November 1993 .

The competition had not started well for the away team travelling down from Laarbruch, with them being unable to find a boxer at Light Weight, which meant that before the boxing commenced, 280 Sig Sqn were up by one bout. The competition started at 1930 hrs with both teams putting up an exceptional performance for Grade 3 Novices, although the score does not reflect that, at 6-1 to 280 Sig Sqn.

The final of the minor units is being held at St Tonis between 280 (UK) Sig Sqn and 207 Sig Sqn from Hohne on 10 February 1994.

LCpl John Gill 28 Sig Regt

RESETTLEMENT PREPARATION

It should be emphasised that 'Resettlement' should not be confused with 'Redundancy'. It is important that units identify all in the 'Resettlement Category' to ensure that they get the proper advice in time for them to take advantage of it.

Now that Phase 3 redundancies are almost upon us, I felt that it might be useful if I outlined in *The Wire* a check list of what those who have put in for redundancy or who are in their **last two years of service** should be concentrating on if they are to make a successful transition to civilian life. It is important to get it right otherwise, rather like an actress leaving a party you could become 'the good time that was had by all'.

• **Visit Unit Resettlement Officer.** This is essential as the Unit Resettlement Officer is the 'Key' to the whole resettlement process. If things go wrong at this level, then usually everyone in the unit misses out, no matter how good the resettlement provision further up the line. This is where all unit personnel receive initial counselling, formulate an action plan and begin the whole resettlement process.

• **Book Courses.** During your visit to your Unit Resettlement Officer, sort out your courses. This is done on Army Forms 363. If you are in the redundancy bracket you must get yourself on a 'Coutts' Job Search course. If you are coming to the end of your Service you should apply for two briefings which cover the same ground: 'Second Career briefing' and 'Applying for a Job'. You must get both these briefings or you will miss out. **Now look through the SRBs and the 'Briefing and Training Supplements'.** Your URO may also be able to advise you where other courses are publicised. Decide on what will suit you and put in for them. Do not forget **you can go** on an unlimited number of resettlement advice briefings. However, a SSgt wrote to the Service Leavers news stating: 'I have applied for 18 resettlement briefings and have only been allocated for two'. Therefore it is probably worth applying for a number and giving alternative dates whenever possible. You must get on one of the financial briefings.

• **ETS Briefing.** Ask your Unit Resettlement Officer to book you on to a SETS briefing if you are an officer, a Resettlement Panel Interview if you are a Warrant Officer and a Career Advice Board Interview for the remainder. **Do not forget that if you have had one of these you still need a 'Final Resettlement Board Interview'.**

• **Pay Office.** Now go to the pay office and get a 'forecast of non effective benefits'. This tells you how much money you will get. You need to go on the briefings which advise you on what to do with it. For an 'End of Service Leaver', you need to go on a briefing entitled 'Financial Aspects of Resettlement'. A 'Redundee' should attend a financial counselling seminar run by AGC SPS (What we used to call Commander Finance). These are the only official briefings and if you go on others (such as an AFFAS briefing) remember that you should adopt the same attitude as you would in a car showroom. If you like the car, and can afford it, fair enough. However in the financial world the salesman who is trying to sell the product gets more commission on some deals than on others and it should not surprise you which one he would prefer you to have.

• **PS Roadshow.** Get your URO to book you a place on the PS roadshow and take your spouse.

• **Housing.** Get your URO to give you a Joint Service Housing Advice Office Information Proforma and send it off. The telephone number of the JSHAO is: (Civil) 0722 336222 Ext 8350/8351/8355 or (GPTN) Salisbury Mil Ext 8350/8351/8355. They will be pleased to discuss your individual problem.

• **Final Tour of Duty.** Read AGAI Vol 2 para 60.091. Get your Unit Resettlement Officer to brief you on 'The get well package'. **Normal leavers qualify after 16 years reckonable service if officers and 22 years reckonable service if soldiers. Redundees are eligible if they have 12 years qualifying service for officers and 12 years reckonable service for soldiers.**

• **Schools.** You may wish to bring this up at interviews and briefings. Contact your local AEC for a list of schools in your area. Inform your local education authority of date of arrival. Write to school of your choice to reserve place. Talk to Headmaster. See RAO to find out situation on Boarding School Allowance.

• **Write a CV.** It takes ages to write a good CV. Get advice and get one together now. Once you have sorted it out, send it to me. (Note: There are two separate pieces of advice on this subject. The first advocated by the 'Second Career briefing' which advocates a one page functional style and the second advocated by the Coutts 'Job Search' course which favours setting out your career in reverse chronological order by appointment. I have the feeling that the latter is better. Do not forget that a CV is useless without a good covering letter explaining why you are the person for the job).

• **District Action Support Teams.** Find out from your URO the telephone number of the Action and Support Team in the area where you intend to settle down. They may have some valuable suggestions about possible jobs and could have some contacts.

• **Regular Forces Employment Association.** Find out from your URO the name and address and telephone number of the RFEA employment officer in the area in which you intend to live. Go and see him when you are next on leave. (Only for LE Officers and soldiers). The Headquarters is: 25 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1 2LN. Tel: 071-637 3918. There are 40 branches nationwide.

• **Officers Association.** Make contact early. They have branches in London, Edinburgh and Glasgow. Addresses: 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY. Tel: 071-930 0125. 1 Fitzroy Place, Glasgow G3 7RJ. Tel: 041-221 8141.

• **Job Centre.** This is a very underrated avenue controlled by the Employment Services. You should touch base with the one in the area in which you intend to settle down before you leave and ask to see **'The New Client Adviser.'** They have a number of schemes not least of which is the Job Club. If you join this you are made to apply for eight jobs a day. You also get free telephone calls, you can claim for travel to interviews, you get free stationery, use of the computer for CVs and constant advice from a counsellor. Note that Job Centres have the blue SRB job vacancy sheets that you find hanging up in units but you have to ask for them.

• **Service Employment Network.** From 1 October 1993 the eligibility rules for those who can join have been extended. It now includes: All officers. Anyone who has completed five or more years' service and those who leave under invalidity discharge. You can register six months before you leave the Services, and you stay on their database for one year afterwards. Each job sent in by employers is matched against your details. You are sent details of jobs which meet your preferences. You can join by obtaining a copy of the 1993 (edition 1) SEN booklet 'How to Register' and an SEN Registration Form (version 4) which you complete. If you need more information see your URO. The address of the Services Employment Network is: St George's Court, 14 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1EJ. Telephone Prospect Military (Civil 071-305) 3592/3591) if you get stuck.

• **Retired Officer Posts.** Officers thinking of going down this route should read AGAIs, Vol 2, Chapter 40 and register using Annex C.

• **Recruiting posts.** Anyone thinking of going down this route should read AGAIs, Vol 2, Chapter 41 and obtain advice from **Maj Rowe** at RHQ R Signals, London District Mil 8444.

• **Long Service List.** The relevant reference is AGAIs, Vol 2, Chapter 46, paras 057-087.

• **Corps of Commissionaires.** Could be an option. The address is: Corps Headquarters, Market House, 85 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6BP.

• **Training.** It may be worthwhile discussing this subject with your local AEC. Do not forget that everyone is entitled to £207 per year towards their education and in your last year of Service you are entitled to £534. However do clear this with the AEC before you spend it.

• **Wives/Spouses.** Do not forget that Resettlement is a family affair and affects everyone. If your wife is working think about the following: Reference from current employer, apply for transfer if in Civil Service, register with Federation of Army Wives (FAW) computerised job register (FRED). If in UK consider applying for an office skills course on the FOCUS scheme run by FAW. Contact DSS to establish eligibility for unemployment benefit. Do keep the whole family informed as to your intentions, they are as worried as you are.

• **Recruitment Agencies.** These come in two types. The first are firms or individuals who are either retained, or target companies to fill their posts. These are 'safe' and get their money from the organisation which employs you. The second charge you, and the amount depends on their training package. You should contact as many of the first category as possible and you can get a list which specialises in your area of interest from: Federation of Recruitment and Employment Services, 36-38 Mortimer Street, London W1N 7RB (Tel: 071-323 4300). Another avenue is to ask your local library for the Yearbook of Recruitment and Employment Services.

• **Institutes.** You may consider joining an 'Institute' such as the Institute of Management or the Institute of Electrical Engineers. See your URO to find out how you go about this. (Also in Newsletter 11). If you do join, go to the meetings as the main aim is 'networking'.

• **Dentist.** Try to get as much fixed as possible before you leave. It costs an arm and a leg outside.

• **Newspapers.** Look at the job adverts and apply for any that interest you. Even if you cannot be released, it is amazing what they might come up with if they like the look of you. Anyhow it is all good practice.

• **Visiting Cards.** You can get these made cheaply at Railway Stations and almost anywhere. All they need to have on them is your name and contact address and telephone number. I cannot tell you how many times I am rung up by employers stating that they met someone on an interview and if they could only make contact again they would have the job. **Make sure that when you go for a job you take with you at least three CVs and a slack handful of cards.**

•Finally if you wish to contact me, my address is: **Lt Col A. W. de V. Hunt**, Corps Resettlement Officer, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel. London District (763) 8427. Std 071-414 8427. The Corps Resettlement Warrant Officer is **WO1 C. A. Clark-Darby** on the same number.

30 Sig Regt
Bramcote

CO **Lt Col J. E. Thomas MBE**
2IC **Maj C. P. Donaghy**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) M. V. Doherty**.

FAREWELL TO BLANDFORD

In July 1993, as part of 'Options for Change' the Regiment vacated its lines in Blandford to occupy its own barracks in Bramcote near Nuneaton. After much work the move finally took place in late November 1993. To mark the Regiment's departure from Blandford a number of events took place.

FAREWELL PARADE

On 18 November 1993 the Regiment marked its departure from Blandford with a brief parade on Hawke Square. The Regiment was inspected by the Master of Signals, **Maj A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL.** This was followed by a small ceremony conducted by the Padre and the Ghurkha Pandit. 2IC **Maj Chris Donaghy**, then asked for permission to march the Regiment 'To Bramcote', at which point the Regiment's flag was lowered and a fly past of two Tornados from RAF Cottesmore passed overhead. The Regiment then marched off 'to Bramcote' as the Master took the salute.

256 Sig Sqn march past the Master

COMMEMORATIVE STONE

Many readers will be familiar with the large stone that has stood outside the Regiment's lines in Blandford since 1981. This stone was presented to the Regiment by the States of Alderney to commemorate the link between us. As the stone was going to Bramcote with the Regiment it was decided that a replacement would be left in its place to commemorate the Regiment's presence in Blandford. To this end a suitable stone was procured and was unveiled by the Comd Blandford Garrison, **Brig J. H. Griffin** on 10 November 1993.

Brig J. H. Griffin, Lt Col J. E. Thomas and the Officers of 30 Sig Regt with the Commemorative stone.

PRESENTATION OF BEM TO CPL PAUL CHESTERS

Cpl Paul Chesters was awarded the BEM in 1993 for his service in the Regiment and in particular for his work as the Regiment's Cadet Liaison JNCO. He was presented with his medal by the Master of Signals on 18 November, prior to departing for training as a Yeoman of Signals. We congratulate him and wish him all the best for the future.

Cpl Paul Chesters BEM and his wife Marie flanked by (*L to R*) CO, The Master of Signals and the RSM

OPERATION GRAPPLE TROOP HQ

Tp Comd **Capt Gordon Duncan**
YofS **WO2 (YofS) Chris Rogan**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Al Balsdon**, Tp Snr Tech **Sgt Neil Trengrove**, SNCO CDA **SSgt Pete Madeloso** (attached from Lower Saxony Sig Regt).

The Troop provides all UK national communications both in and out of theatre. It has satellite detachments in Split, Tomislavgrad, Gorni Vakuf, Vitez and Kiseljak.

A fond farewell to **Capt Shelagh Macleod** and good luck in Belize.

October saw the main roulement changeover for 70 per cent of the Troop and a fond farewell to them. The Tp Comd welcomed **WO2 (YofS) Rab McCombe, SSgt (FofS) Bill McCreath** and **SSgt Al Yeoman**..

Inside Vitez Detachment's five star ISO.
L to R: LCpl Poole, Cpl Monks (Det Comd), Cpl Nevens, Sigs Strong and Tej

256 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Farewell to **LCpl Andy Perkins** and his wife **Marie** who are moving to 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt; we wish them all the best for the future.

A warm welcome is extended to all the new arrivals, many of whom deployed on Ex Tungsten Mercury.

KUWAIT DETACHMENT

On touching down at Kuwait airport on 1 October, we were met by the OC **Maj Dick Strawbridge** and the SQMS **SSgt Bill Laurie** who proceeded to impress us with what a busy time they had as the advance party!

After a 20 minute journey we reached our accommodation for the exercise period; it wasn't exactly what we expected. The Kuwait Military Sports Centre was more like a hotel than an exercise location. We soon made ourselves at home and took full advantage of the facilities available, in particular the swimming pool. Forty-eight hours later the freight arrived and the main element of the exercise began.

The majority of the physical work was undertaken during the night when temperatures were less dramatic leaving only the 'small' task of erecting the Clark 73 for daylight hours. Apart from this rather timeconsuming side job the remainder of the detachments were set up with the minimum of bother. The Commcen and radio room were housed in a squash court complex (air conditioned, of course) which made shift work more bearable in the heat of the day.

Once the dets were up and running the acting YofS, **Cpl Pete Van Den Broek** put together a comprehensive training programme encompassing all the equipment deployed on the exercise, from TSC 502 through to 521 and the TCW 678 Radio Set. The training proved extremely beneficial and allowed operators to get far more hands-on experience to make the three way shift work more challenging.

Possibly the biggest challenge was taken on by **SSgt Ian Flooks** and **Sgt Mick Batley** who had the task of teaching Kuwaiti officers basic communications principles and management, more difficult still due to language problems. The training was a success and the culmination of the 'intense' course was a two day exercise covering both VHF and HF communications.

The success of the communications throughout the exercise was highlighted by the running of two JOCOMMEXs each of 24 hour duration. Both HMS *Liverpool* and USS *Ingraham* were involved on separate occasions.

Even with the hectic comms requirement throughout the exercise there were opportunities for visits to local areas of interest. **Sgt Mick Batey** took several groups to see what was left of the Basra Road . . . not a lot!

A notable trip was a visit to the last defensive stand of the Kuwaiti Resistance–an eye opener for everyone! Others included a local camel farm, riding stables and a stud farm and finally the ever popular trips to downtown Kuwait City to the Pizza Hut!. . . anything to escape the chicken which was on offer every day in the Mess! Was the story any different in Bahrain?

EXERCISE TUNGSTEN MERCURY

Ex Tungsten Mercury was a contingency communications exercise practising the Unit and Tactical Communications Wing RAF (TCW) in the procedures for setting up and providing communications for an out-of-area operation. Two communication detachments were established, one in Kuwait and one in Bahrain. Both locations were manned by a tri-service detachment, the majority of personnel being provided by 30 Sig Regt.

Due to the duration of the exercise it was considered an ideal opportunity for all trades to undertake training on the wide cross-spectrum of equipments deployed. A secondary level of cross-training was also planned which encompassed training of Kuwaiti officers on our equipment and an introduction to some of the radio equipment used by their Armed Forces; at least that was the plan . . .

'So Bahrain's in that direction is it?'

BAHRAIN DETACHMENT

Twelve members of the Squadron were detached to Bahrain where we came under the command of RAF Tactical Communication Wing (TCW). Like Kuwait, we were involved in training the Bahraini Defence Force in HF techniques. The culmination of this training was Ex Wandering Swan, the brainchild of **Sgt Bob Clubb** and **Cpl** 'Daz' **Sheerin MBE** and it involved a two day route march with signal stands along the way. This was a new experience for the Bahrainis where the word 'tabbing is not yet part of their military vocabulary.

At work we were busy manning the Commcen and our 522 Det but during time-off we made full use of what Bahrain night life had to offer. In short, it was a good exercise (both for work and R&R) which was enjoyed by everyone and we all look forward to next year's exercise.

'Where is that satellite?'

WO2 (SSM) Darrel Skimming 'Do they really rear these?'

30 SIG REGT DET INCIRLIK, BFPO 598

Since the last det report many changes have happened which have kept members of the det busy. These include the 501 affectionately known as 'Amber' being changed for the modified 'Dunnock' which to our surprise came fitted with an ACU. This would not have been a problem but for the fact it was situated on the roof of the vehicle. Subsequently the ACU had to be removed in order to get the 501 in the shack. This was where **Cpl Paul Chesters BEM** and **Sgt** 'Bod' **McDonald** exhibited a skill previously unknown to the det, and to themselves, of being ACU engineers.

Other det activities have included satellite trials where **Sgt** 'Ned' **Needham** displayed his ability with a satellite dish.

Arrivals to the det include **Capt** 'Baywatch' **Stocker**. Other arrivals include **LCpls Whyte, Lovely, Moffat** and **Sigs Daniels** and **Barrs**.

Recent departures are **LCpl Malin** and **Sigs Alexander** and **Annetts**, best wishes.

If responding to any advertisements in *The Wire* please mention that you saw it in your Corps magazine

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V) Middlesbrough

CO — **Lt Col M. K. Stretch**
2IC — **Maj A. Maude**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) M. Ara.**

The autumn of 1993 has been a red letter quarter for the achievers of the Northern Sig Regt. Aggressively pushing training to the limit with the final goal of becoming 'Ptarmigan' by Ex Flying Falcon 1994.

On 18 September 1993 the Regiment exercised its privilege of marching through the streets of Middlesbrough with drums beating and bayonets fixed. A crowd of several thousand turned out to watch the Parade march proudly behind the Regiment's band. The Salute was taken by the Mayor of Middlesbrough, Councillor Irene Berryman.

THE RETREAT CEREMONY

That evening the Regimental Band played Retreat at Brambles Farm. Highlight of the event was a presentation to the Unit of a Drum Major's Sash by the town of Middlesbrough.

With all the hard work completed during Ex Northern Hawk and all the ceremonial finished, it might have been reasonable to think that the Regiment could rest on its laurels. This was not to be.

From the beginning of November, the Regiment pitched itself headlong into trade training with renewed vigour. The constant battle to keep up-to-date remains a high priority, and it is something that the Regiment relishes.

High points in November included the visit to Middlesbrough of the town's newly adopted ship of the Royal Navy, HMS *Marlborough*. The vessel is a new ASW warship, replaces HMS *Jupiter* which, sadly, is to be turned into razor blades. The visit provided an excellent opportunity for members of the Regiment to board the ship and to discover for themselves exactly what it is that the Navy does. The *Marlborough*'s visit ended with a massive hoe down at the Mayor's Charity Ball where some demonstrated that life does truly begin at forty!

Visiting HMS *Marlborough*
L to R: Sgt Dave Currie, Capt Paul Kelly, SSgt (FofS) Pete Hobson, WO2 (RQMS) Ken Sykes, Capt Tim Cooper, Sgt Andy Butler and old salty SSgt Steve Greaves. *Marlborough* was, at the time docked, at Middlesbrough

The end of the month witnessed another special gathering of the '345 Club' whose members range from veterans of the 1930s India up to present day. The Club is an association of serving and retired officers and dates from the 1967 amalgamation of 49 and 50 Divisional and 90 Signal Regiments. It was a fine opportunity for veterans of the Corps to meet the next generation and for the young ones to gain an understanding of their heritage.

The Regiment would like to welcome into the Corps the graduates of Recruit Course 9303 who passed out in late November. Course Officer **Capt Alan Watts** has given the Commanding Officer his assurance of their high quality.

Alas, we must bid farewell to **Lt Col John Elliott** who was lunched out of the Regiment after over forty years of service in the Corps. It simply will not be the same without him. The CO also said goodbye to his first RSM, **WO1 Paul Reynolds**. However, it is more like au revoir as they will both be braving the elements dog sledding in Colorado over Christmas. Finally we say goodbye to **Maj Tim Mountford** who for the past three years, has been a bulwark of strength in these changing times of 'Ptarmiganisation'. He was responsible in no small part for its successful introduction and deployment in the field. The Regiment owes **Maj Mountford** a great debt and is grateful for the work he put in.

Remembrance Sunday saw the Regiment providing the lion's share of formed bodies in Middlesbrough, Leeds and Darlington. Although a blustery day, the Regiment succeeded in demonstrating that their stoic stance was a result of good training and fierce discipline as they remembered their war dead.

Bdsm Steve Goodwin playing Last Post at Darlington War Memorial on Saturday 6 November 1993. Steve is a Housing Officer with Darlington Council

Members of 90 Sig Sqn (V) proudly march past the Mayor of Middlesbrough on Remembrance Sunday. The contingent is led by Maj Mike Holman

EXERCISE NORTHERN HAWK

With the final panic of borrowing tents, subsets, cooksets, PPA computer software, computers and vodaphones over, the Regiment deployed on its first full scale Ptarmigan exercise as part of 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde. The exercise area was the Galloway Forest and surrounding countryside.

Deployment began at 1030 hrs on 25 September 1993 and all assets had arrived under their own steam on Castle Kennedy Airfield by 0600 hrs on 26 September 1993. We were treated to three days of sunshine while the Regiment undertook individual and team training around the airfield. As 'Bricks' were declared operatively competent, they were released to field locations in the hills and valleys around the airfield. The move coincided with the onset of the normal weather for the region (rain). By 1 November 1993 regimental assets, less two access and one node home had been deployed into field locations. A minor problem with FAME delayed several sub units.

After a week of hard work, the Regiment had a day off! This entailed all assets concentrating on the airfield and soldiers getting on coaches to Edinburgh, Glasgow and Butlins in Ayr.

The Brigade then underwent a move into the exercise area proper. Not all drivers felt the need to use roads for this move out, and the recovery mechanics from all the LADs were kept working constantly from then on. Congratulations go to the Regiment for the least number of recovery tasks needed. The second week of the exercise gave the TA Regiments a chance to show people how well they could do things. Ptarmigan in the TA does work, and works well.

The move home began at 2100 hrs on 8 November and was complete by 0900 hrs 9 November, with no major incidents except a good clean for both vehicles and men/women at Catterick tank washdown. All the hard work of the last 10 months paid off with the Regiment turning in an excellent performance.

WELCOME

After bidding goodbye to so many it is time to welcome our new Adjt **Capt Paul Kelly** fresh from the King's Own Border Regiment in Londonderry. **WO1 (RSM) Mick Ara** from the much travelled 30. Also we put our hand out to **FofS McNeice** and **YofS Perks** from Harrogate and Catterick respectively.

WO1 (RSM) Paul Reynolds (standing left) receives a print from WO1 (SVWO) Graham Jennings on his dining out from the Sergeants' Mess. Seated on left is WO1 (MTWO) David McGurk and seated on right is WO1 (RSM) Mike Ara

The CO, Lt Col Martin Stretch congratulating Maj Alan Grindrod on winning the Greenhill Trophy. The award is presented annually to the officer in 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde who typifies the aims and objectives of the Corps. Maj Grindrod as Ops officer has worked hard to ensure a successful change to Ptarmigan. *Standing behind L to R:* Capt Rosie Timms, Lts Dave Sixsmith, Andy Gordon, Majs Paul Nicholson-Taylor, Angus Maude and John Newman

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 dependents) who find themselves in difficult circumstances.
- To assist, where possible, resettlement in civilian life.

The Association endeavours to achieve these aims by:-

- Sponsoring branches which often meet for social occasions. There is generally an annual Branch 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, to remember the fallen.
- Running a welfare section at Association HQ, which is at the service of all members.
- Publishing the Corps magazine, *The Wire*. Taking out a subscription will help you to keep in touch with Corps and Association affairs.

MEMBERSHIP

Nearly all members of the Corps have, whilst serving, contributed under the Day's Pay Scheme. By virtue of these contributions, they are Life Members of our Association. If you have not contributed at all you can become a Life Member for £10.00.

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) 414 8422). 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.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

CHAIN LINK

The last couple of months have been dominated by preparations for the Grand Ptarmigan Garage Opening Ceremony. Although they had been in use since annual camp the formal opening could not take place until a breezy and cold November morning. The plan was to have a synchronised opening of all garages by the local Mayors initiated by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham from Sparkbrook TA Centre on Saturday 27 November. To achieve this a limited number of our Ptarmigan assets were deployed in order to establish a link-up between strategically placed SCRATs to allow a conference call to be made from 48 Sqn. The plan was splendidly executed when the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, **Cllr Paul Tilsley** initiated a conference call at 1200 hrs to the Major of Newcastle Under Lyme, **Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Ashley**, the Mayor of Rugby, **Cllr Mrs Carolyn Lane** and finally to the Major of Shrewsbury, **Cllr Len Morris** who incidentally made a spectacular entrance at 95 Sqn's TA Centre in a Gazelle helicopter courtesy of 6 Flt AAC. The opening ceremonies at each TA Centre were a huge success and attracted a great deal of valuable recruiting publicity–although the amusing revelation in Rugby's local press that members of 89 Sqn (V) built their own garages was somewhat less than accurate. Special guests at this propitious occasion included the Master of Signals, GOC Wales and Western District, Comd 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde and his Deputy Comd **Col B. N. T. Foxon OBE**, Comd 143 West Midland Bde, **Brig R. G. Silk CBE**, the architects, representative from the buildings and many supportive local employers who were also presented with a National Employer Liaison Committee (NELC) Certificate in recognition of their continued and much valued support for the Reserve Forces.

The Lord Mayor of Birmingham cutting the ribbon at 48 Sqn garages viewed by the Master of Signals and the Deputy Comd 11 Sig Bde

COUNCIL HOUSE DINNER

Festive celebrations once again started a little early in the Regiment with the customary Officers' Mess Dinner which was held in the exquisite but traditional surroundings of the Birmingham Council House on Saturday 27 November 1993. Principal guests, who were welcomed by our Hon Col **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE** included the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL**, the GOC Wales & Western District, **Maj Gen M. D. Regan OBE**, and Comd 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde, **Brig W. H. Backhouse**. The evening was extra special as it closely followed the Garage Opening ceremonies which took place on the same day, and it also marked the end of an eventful, extraordinary and extremely busy year for the Regiment. Judging by the mood of the evening everyone appeared more relaxed than usual and it was plain to see all mess members were clearly pleased with the opportunity it presented in helping to recharge those depleted batteries. Also thankful no doubt that one of the busiest and most successful years in the Regiment's long history was safely behind us. Special thanks must be extended to **Capt George Cairns** for once again organising an excellent evening and to the staff of the Council House for their most professional service.

AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE DINNER

The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Maj Gen P. D. Alexander with Mrs Birtwistle

From *L to R:* Angela Burrell, Capt Ian Barnes and Miss Lydia Clarke with the Master of Signals

HANDOVER/TAKEOVER

During the last few months we have said goodbye to a number of permanent staff and TA members and welcomed many others. First we said a particularly sad goodbye to our tenacious but highly regarded Quartermaster **Capt (QM) Rod Gladwin** on posting to 13 Sig Regt and also to **WO2 John Mizen** who retired from the TA having served as SSM in both HQ and 89 Sig Sqn.

In the meantime a special welcome was extended to **Capt (QM) Barry Williams**, **SSgt Jeff Clarke**, **Sgts** 'JD' **Hogg**, **Angie Smith**, **Paul McCauley**, **Cpls Paul Kay** and **Steve Saunders**. We wish them and their families a happy and rewarding tour of duty.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Closely followed by the Officers' Mess Council House Dinner was the Sergeants' Mess Christmas Draw which took place at 58 Sqn's TA Centre in Newcastle-under-Lyne on Saturday 4 December this extravagantly entertaining evening was superbly organised by a committee headed by **WO2 Karen Baugh**. **Karen** was ably assisted by all of 58 Sqn's permanent and civilian staff. This function was followed by the Civilian and Permanent Staff Christmas Party and traditional Christmas Dinner which was held a few days' later on Wednesday 8 December at Cateswell House; Master of Ceremonies was **WO2 (FofS) Tony Jacklin** who once again organised a most excellent and enjoyable dinner. In hot pursuit was the first of the Squadron Christmas Parties held in Rugby by 89 Sig Sqn on Friday 10 December. 89 Sqn are renowned for adopting unusual but festive themes for their functions and this year was no exception; with their usual flair they transformed their drill hall into a Victorian Christmas street scene with artistic direction provided by **SSgt** 'Santa' **Charlie Walker** and **Sgt Chris Gleadow** with more than a little help from **Sue Harley** and some interference from the PSAO. To set the theme, but not necessarily the mood of the evening, their reception area was also transformed into a scene from a 'Christmas Carol'. This time of togetherness, goodwill and cheer and the feel-good factor promotes the belief in Christmas miracles–we were not to be disappointed–on the morning after the function **LCpl** 'Oz' **Gilroy** against all odds actually turned up to assist with the big clean up operation!

Special thanks must also be extended to all of Santas little helpers and in particular to **Anne Sharman** the wife of **WO2 Derek Sharman** for her superb flower arranging and to **Andy Coles** the husband of our Admin Officer, **Samantha**, for donating 120 mince pies courtesy of Mr Kipling and to the cooks from 30 Sig Regt at Bramcote for providing the Squadron with such a tremendous buffet once again and, finally, to **Ian McSheery** of Drayton Manor Park for the loan of one or two ghoulish props. Guests at this most excellent evening included the CO **Lt Col John Ewbank** and his wife **Denise**, **Lt Claire Waterworth** who sadly leaves us shortly for Sandhurst to pursue a regular army career and our recently retired caretaker **Mr Harry McGowan** and his wife **Mary**. A day later HQ, 58 and 95 Sqns kept up the Christmas Festivity momentum by holding lavish functions in the TA Centres in Sutton Coldfield, Newcastle under Lyne and Shrewsbury.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Regimental Headquarters

London District Military or STD 071-930 4466 and ask for extension as below
or
by direct dialling as shown

Appt	Name	Extension	(STD Direct Dial)
Regt Col	**Col M Mcl Ayrton**	8420	(071-414 8420)
Regt Sec	**Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon**	8421	(071-414 8421)
Ass Regt Sec	**Maj G. Schofield MBE**	8422	(071-414 8422)
Wel Sec	**Mrs P. J. Haw**	8423	(071-414 8423)
Assn AO	**Mr R. Whittle**	8424	(071-414-8424)
Corps Acct	**Mr A. Wilkinson**	8425	(071-414 8425)
Accts	**Mr D. Wiles**	8426	(071-414 8426)
Ed *Wire*/Journal	**Lt Col M. Q. M. Greaves**	8428	(071-414 8428)
Asst Ed *Wire*	**Mrs M. A. Riggs**	8433	(071-414 8433)
FAX	–	8429	(071-414 8429)
Ord Room	–	8430	(071-414 8430)
Ret Offrs	**Lt Col Beattie/Capt Dugdale**	8431	(071-414 8431)
Chief Clerk	**Miss S. A. Jackson**	8432	(071-414 8432)
Clerk, Regt Col	**Mrs D. Young**	8433	(071-414 8443)
SO2 (Sldr Rec)	**Maj B. H. Rowe**	8444	(071-414 8444)
Corps Resettlement Offr	**Lt Col A. de V. Hunt**	8427	(071-414 8427)

37 Sig Regt (V)
Redditch

CO — **Lt Col John Macfarlane**
2IC — **Maj Stamford Cartwright**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) Phil Abbott.**

BRIGADE EXERCISE

After the frenetic activity of Camp in September, the main event was 2 (NC) Sig Bde Ex Red Duster at the end of October. We were delighted to welcome elements of 31 Sig Regt (V) to our base at Long Marston and hope they enjoyed deploying with 37's RCP and HQ Sqn. **Trg Maj Tom Pengelley** passed his driving test and RSM **WO1 (RSM) Phil Abbot** persuaded Ops Offr **Maj Ted Widgery** to take one of the Regiment's SDS bikes for a ride in the opposite direction to celebrate another Master Event List successfully executed.

STAFF SERGEANTS' COURSE

Six hopeful Sergeants packed their bags on 2 October for Catterick and set off from 67 Sqn (V) in the West Midlands and 93 Sqn (V) in Lancashire for an exhausting fortnight. The first week in barracks saw a few casualties from other Regiments but **Sgts Hilary Berncastle** (67), **Mick Elwell-Sutton** (67), **Adrian Moran** (93), **Dave Rigby** (93), 'Buzz' **Small** (93) and **Monty Walker** (67) made it through to the five day exercise and staggered back hoping they'd never have to do it again. Indeed, they all came away with the requisite scores and **Sgt** (now SSgt) **Dave Rigby** was a popular choice as best student.

Potential Staff Sergeants?
L to R: Sgts 'Buzz' Small, Monty Walker, Hilary Berncastle, Dave Rigby, Mick Elwell-Sutton and Adrian Moran at Catterick

53 (WELSH) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd — **Maj Tony Reah**
2IC — **Capt John Duggan**

A CASE OF MISLOCATION

The Squadron started off splendidly on Ex Red Duster in October, with a grand plan which required SHQ to deploy into the field for the first time for many years. Instead of the home comforts of Brecon, the meadows where Vauxhall Camp once stood in Monmouth provided a reasonable field location. More complex was the scheme for the TAOR detachments, which deployed initially to Castlemartin and Wrexham. Castlemartin would then also test comms from Chepstow and Swansea; the Wrexham crew visited RAF Valley on Anglesey. Unfortunately all the rations for the TAOR dets ended up in Monmouth and both groups had to return to base for other bits they 'forgot'. Fortunately we managed to hide most of the mess from the CO, 2IC and Adjt when they flew in and by the end of the exercise all was well.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations on their promotion go to **Lt Peter Tyldesley**, **SSgt Shirley Parker**, **Cpl James** at Cardiff and **LCpl Davies** at Brecon. Also to **LCpl Healy** who is now an A3 tradesman having finally passed his typing test. He always said his fingers were only fit for moving bricks but is delighted to have been proven wrong.

67 (QOWWY) SIGNAL SQUADRON
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
Sqn Comd — **Maj Ian Morris**
2IC — **Capt Roy Naylor**

RESHUFFLE

At the end of August **Lt Paul Amer** took over the Stourbridge Tp from **Capt Alan Macleod**, who returned to Stratford to head a new 'super-Troop' combining the Mobile Sig Tp with two of the CO's latest comms suites or refitted ex-Ptarmigan wagons. We welcomed **Lt Jo Dellamuro** from the gunners after Camp.

Congratulations go to **2Lt Elaine Firth** (nee Budd), on taking over the AFHQ Tp and very best wishes to her on her marriage.

93 (EAST LANCASHIRE) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd — **Maj Alan Whittle**
2IC — **Capt Ross Parsell**

CROSS-COUNTRY COMPETITION

93 Squadron's news is our victory in the Regimental Cross-Country Competition. Held at RAF Cosford, **WO2** (QMSI) **Jeff Dolan** planned the course. **LCpl Tracey Ireland** of 93 Sig Sqn was the first girl home and as the competition was based on the first ten personnel from each Squadron, 93 took the Regimental shield.

LCpl Tracey Ireland walks the last yard to become the first female finisher in the Regimental Cross Country, applauded by the CO, Lt Col John Macfarlane, Cpl Keren Brocklebank (67 Sqn) and Capt Alan Unwin (93 Sqn)

LORD LIEUTENANT'S CERTIFICATE

At a ceremony held at Canterbury Street Barracks in November, The Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire, **Mr Simon Towneley**, presented a long serving member of 93 Sqn (V), **Cpl Yvonne Pinder**, with a Lord Lieutenant's Certificate. The ceremony would normally have taken place at County Hall in Preston but as **Cpl Pinder** was the sole recipient, **Mr Towneley** asked that she receive her certificate at her home barracks. As the Squadron looked on **Brig Ian Shapter**, Chief Executive of the North West of England and Isle of Man TAVR Association, read the citation and **Mr Towneley** made the presentation. **Cpl Pinder** has over sixteen years' service and is an enthusiastic communicator and instructor. She has been the mainstay of the Squadron Junior Ranks Committee, raising funds for local charities.

96 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd — **Maj Stan Grimmitt**
2IC — **Capt Steve Holder**

PARTY

December was an exceptionally festive month for the Corps' newest Squadron with a first anniversary celebration of our formation and Christmas parties.

FAREWELL

Last but, by no means, least, the Squadron is saying goodbye to the Sqn Comd **Maj Stan** 'the man' **Grimmitt**. Duty calls and **Stan** is posted to a new job at Ashchurch. It is unusual for a TA Squadron to be commanded by a regular. However, the special circumstances of starting a Squadron from scratch required a special man. **Stan**'s sense of humour and good nature have carried the Squadron through a few storms. He has adapted well to the ways of the weekend warrior and hopefully some of his professionalism has rubbed off. We will miss him nearly as much as he will miss his sports afternoons on the golf course; we wish him and **Ruth** all the best for the future.

39 Sig Regt (SC) (V)
Chelsea

CO — **Lt Col Chris Laurence**
2IC — **Maj Malcolm Touchin**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) Ray Bray**

EXERCISE RUNNEL STONE

The Regiment deployed an advance party to Denmark some three days before the arrival of the main body. The advance party led by the QM, **Capt Don Holmes** and **WO2** 'Robbo' **Robinson** prepared the ground for what was to be a hectic 48 hour exercise. On Friday the main body departed RAF Northolt safely in the first class section of a C130 aircraft, the Paras of course travelled second class in the back, and we headed North for RAF Leuchars to pick up our Dundee Squadron personnel. We then headed Eastish for Denmark. When P hour came and the side door opened, **Sgts Rick Buxton** and **Ian Carter**, two of our PSI's had to be re-assured by our very own APJI, **WO2 (SSM) Andy Douglas**. Their worries were soon over when the decision not to jump was made, something to do with windy conditions, whether these conditions were on the ground or up in the aircraft is not known. Everybody was air-landed at Odense and with some jiggery pokery the patrolling and reporting exercise started. The patrols completed their initial recces of targets, passed their reports over low power Kaynard Radios to our base in the UK. Our UK base was controlling HF communications for two unconnected exercises with limited circuit capacity, this provided a challenge for **Maj Heather Collins** and the team of ladies from FANY. We managed to carry out a Para drop on the Saturday, I am reliably informed that there were some wonderful Aerobatics. The Danish Home Guard are a formidable Force, the detailed knowledge they have of their areas enabled them to spring a few surprises and as a result some of our chaps were captured. Undeterred, we carried out a series of classic dawn attacks on Sunday and of course won. Back to directing Staff Headquarters for light refreshments, warstories and medals, we then said farewell to our Danish hosts and flew back to the UK.

The Regiment in its normal style threw the 'Jock' Paras out of the side door at Barry Budden, Air landed at Leuchars, flew south to Hankley Common and discharged the remaining Paras and finally landed at RAF Lyneham where the sensible among us walked off the aircraft. Good planning, attention to detail and flexibility enabled the Regiment to carry out some valuable military and trade training.

PRESENTATIONS

We were delighted to receive a visit from The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL** at camp. During the visit he presented medals to members of the Regiment.

L to R: WO1 (RSM) Ray Bray, WO2 (SSM) Willy Strachan, WO2 (SSM) Andy Douglas, Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle, WO2 (YofS) Terry Burbidge, Lt Col Chris Laurence

71 Sig Regt (V)
Bexleyheath

57 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd — **Maj John Cracket**
2IC — **Capt Glyn Nash**

CAMP 1993

This was the Squadron's first Annual Camp with the Regiment. We travelled to Scotland via Nesscliffe and Warcop, finally reaching Strone Battle Camp near Loch Long for our Squadron exercise.

Maj John Cracket wanted a varied and challenging three days adventure training. Ex Bristol Dram provided all this and more. The exercise comprised five stands; abseiling, canoeing, rafting, hill walking and CQBR. The abseiling run by **Sgt Terry Frankel** and **Capt Steve Graham** and **SSgt Phil Martin** encouraged everyone to launch themselves on to a 180ft drop which is no mean feat for those who had never done this sort of activity before.

The canoeing was run by **Sgt** 'Col' **Clays** (Black Watch) on loan from 36 CTT with **Lt Paul Fowler-Smith** and ex PSI **Sgt Dave Ashley**. Every one who took part had a refreshing water dip, some obviously earlier than others.

The rafting was organised by our PSAO **Capt John Cullen** (ex RE) and his henchmen **Sgt Derek Young** and **SSgt Derek Noon**; between them they managed to sink the entire Squadron in their valiant efforts to cross the Loch.

The attractive area of the Arrochan Alps lent itself to the next activity which was hill walking with **Lt Steve Smith** and **Lt Diane Pope**, ably advised by **Sgt Chris Spencer**. Last, but not least, were the staff who ran the CBQ **Capt Ian Strachan** and **Lt Jon Loveys** with **Sgt Paul Smith**. Here the attractions of stumbling through a water-logged valley facing hostile Fig 11 targets, were in competition with impromptu fairground rides, by the range warden in his 6-wheeled Argocat.

On completion of an enjoyable three days it was back to the Regiment for the four day patrol competition, the Squadron proudly holds the prize for the most personnel in the MRS at any one time. (Our ploy to keep our MRO **Maj Barry Fearn** in a job) . . . but that is another story.

265 (KCLY) SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd — **Maj Simon Malik**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Micky Mustoe**

Our first major exercise since summer camp was Ex Red Duster held at the end of October. The Squadron deployed its TAOR detachments in support of 'Staff' provided by London University OTC. This was also our first deployment since **Lt Col S. P. Foakes** took command of the Regiment, one of his first tasks was to promote **Lts Sarah Shelton** and **Keith Duffy-Penny**.

Our football team has started the season well, winning the first two matches in the London District Cup which we have held for seven of the past eight years. Our next match is against the only team to beat the Squadron in eight years 'Beat that then Arsenal'. Defeat could mean that the PSAO **Capt Jim Esson** and his team manager puts his threat of dishonourable discharges into effect!

Bexleyheath's annual wreath laying ceremony was attended by our Old Comrades' Association.

Brig Gooch presented the TE medal to **Mr Mark Penny** formerly the Sqn SM who left the TA last April. **Mr Penny** joined the Squadron in 1980 and his consistent professionalism and enthusiasm made him a key member of our management team. Sadly the demands of his City job were too great for him to continue. We wish **Mark** and his family all the very best for the future.

We also welcome back **Sgt Keith Wrate** who has just returned from Namibia with Op Raleigh. On 5 October, 27 parents and friends attended the Recruits Pass Off parade held in Bexleyheath TAC. Two traditional awards for our new members were presented for Best Overall Recruit **Sig Sandra Smith** and Most Improved Student **Sig Daniel Powell**. Well done both of you.

- News from Squadrons -

HQ BRITFOR Sig Sqn
Op Grapple
BFPO 544

FSO **Maj Jim McKee**
SO3 Comms **Capt Matt Hanson**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) M. A. Wright-Jones**

THE ARRIVAL OF 4th ARMD BDE HQ AND SIG SQN (204)

After months of 'will we or won't we', the majority of the Squadron left Osnabruck and became the Force Signal Squadron for Op Grapple 3.

The first flight was greeted by a tremendous welcome from the outgoing Squadron with SSVC, some tuneful Christmas carols and an impressive banner!

Now that we have settled in, rearranged and built upon the reputation left by 2 Sqn, 1 Armd Div (or is it LS Sig Regt?) we have found time for our *Wire* notes. News from around the Troops . . .

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt J. E. Sutton**

Under the inspired leadership of **Lt Sutton** and his resourceful sidekick Staff Sergeant, the MT, Power and Line Sections set about the mammoth task of establishing order, this was achieved by everyone volunteering for a 12 hour day, and a seven day week and of course lots of hard work. The Squadron motto 'Improvise Adapt and Overcome' has been well practised by characters such as **Sig** 'Well' **Keen**, in his refurbished stores. With a bit of sticky back plastic, a few old cartons and a lick of blue paint. He was glad that he watched Blue Peter! Let us not forget **LCpl** 'Geordie' **Cullen**, and his corner shop. Residing within a purposely converted ISO container, it has proved an invaluable service to everyone, we do hear that he is opening up branches in Vitez and Gornji Vakuf. **Cpl Kitchen** has kept his cool throughout and finally . . . the Troop is very pleased to congratulate **LCpls Howie, Chappell** and **Makings** after selection for promotion to Cpl ... Dobrai!

TECH SECTION

While other members of the Troop have ensured their presence has been felt in the car park, the intrepid members of the Technical Maintenance Section have quietly been getting stuck into the tasks in hand, our many commitments include the provision and support of all BFBS and SSVC equipments, exchange and line work not undertaken by the lads from the 30 Sigs Dets and of course the usual complement of work associated with the Green Army. The handover/takeover was relatively intense and the outgoing boss **SSgt (FofS) Andy Soward** arranged a whistle stop tour of 74 places, including practice of the well known phrase 'take cover!' The new man **SSgt (FofS) Ian Rutherford** managed to take some of it in during a couple of 23 hour days, until the YofS said he could have more time to himself. Working days are now only 18 hours, but not when the Ops Room needs rewiring, no sir! We do not want a contract to rewire all the Ops Rooms in Bosnia!! **Cpl Lee Clark** recently had to be physically removed from his position in the junior ranks bar and was forced to endure a four day trip up north with **Sgt Ken McGirr**, in order to complete a job which took about 22 minutes! On days when **Ken** has not been travelling up and down the countryside he is often spotted installing SSVC in the Navy Bar with the help of our first honorary Tech **LCpl Al Pearson**, we are more than happy to welcome **Cpl Ben Mates** who today joined us from the LAD on the condition that we keep the MT Staff Sergeant and the MT Details Clerk a long way from the ERV! In the background **SSgt Frank Roberts** has been kept busy, being tasked by Radio Tp on missions which they start, and then run away from. During the odd minute off, there has also been time to create 'Thomas the Tank' trivia, **LCpl Mark Makins** is one of the many linemen from the Squadron who has helped to rewire the HQ Ops Room during a very long weekend.

So, it has been a good start to our tour, outside of the ERV **Sgt Ken McGirr** has been able to complete some undercover work for the wives newsletter, watch that space! **SSgt Frank Roberts** has spent a lot of time trying to stop the rain getting to some of the 15 or so Swanage train spotters currently serving in Bosnia/Croatia. In a wary photo, **Cpl Lee Clark** has promised to get downtown for a beer as soon as possible. Needless to say we are all looking forward to Easter . . . and of course next May!

RADIO TROOP By Cpl Dave Bennett

Tp Comd **Lt P. E. J. Rennie**

Day one was quite an eye opener for everybody, including **LCpl** (now Cpl) **Tony Ward**, who decided to play a quick round of French balls . . . apparently CES checks did not interest him (I wonder why not?) By midday **Cpl Si Oldman, LCpl Steve Young** and **Sig Steph Baber** could hack the workload no more, and were flown up to Kiseljack. They now live in a four star hotel, well 'Slipper City' has now proven to be correct, however, the phrase 'sunny Split' has not. Rain, rain go away! After five days **Cpl** 'Jas Bully Boy' **Smithhurst** had everything under control down in the garages, including **Cpl Day Bennett** and **LCpl Spike Irving** who were pickling away in the Ops Room, Radio Tp had its priorities in order yet again a glorious mural was designed and painted by **Cpl Tony Ward** and **Sig Hardy**. Then the unthinkable happened, **SSgt Paul Skinner** managed to get off his office chair and he came outside (blinking in the light of the day). He amazed us all when he announced that a request for an FFR had been received! The Tp Comd **Lt** 'Rick Astley' **Rennie**, has been relegated to the Ops Room, obviously the YofS has realised it is not taxing enough for the operators!

Our congratulations and commiserations are to **LCpl** 'Scotty' **Scott** who married **Sue** . . . never mind **Sue**! Also to **LCpls Ward, Young** and **Scott**, who were selected for promotion to Cpl. Last but, by no means least, congratulations to **Tim** and **Jan Parkins** on the birth of **Courtney-Louise**.

STRATCOMM TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Gordon Duncan**

Strategic Communications Troop provides satellite and COMMCEN cover throughout the Op Grapple theatre, the Troop is made up from members of 30 Sig Regt, 4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204) and 7 Sig Regt (attached). November saw the arrival of 204 Sig Sqn, who man the COMMCEN at Split. They all got over the initial disappointment of not being tasked as warrior crews on convoy escorts and quickly settled into what is known as routine in the former Yugoslavia, the first chuff chart appeared within the COMMCEN after they had been here only a few days! This came from **Sgt Ark Barrass**, who was lucky enough to complete Op Grapple 1 . . . as well!

Cpl Dougie Douglas is keeping everyone's morale high by organising Squadron PT, and taking pleasure in everyone elses' pain! Never mind, only 73 PT sessions until the end of the tour!

THE SQUADRON PROJECT

The Squadron has inherited a local institute on the outskirts of Split. We intend to continue the fine work done by 2 Squadron, and have identified three projects that we aim to complete before we leave. The most ambitious of these is to raise enough money to purchase an industrial washing machine. All ranks of the Squadron contribute personally to the institute, by helping on our projects at weekends. We had a visit from the real Santa Claus, who gave out presents on St Nicholas Day.

Some of BRITFOR the Signal Squadron
Rear row (*L to R*) Sig Pilkington, Cfn Stephen, Cpl Pope, Sig Drummond, Pte Hughes, Sig Womble, Sgt Donovan, SSgt Skinner, Sgts Moran and Newns.
Front row (*L to R*) SSgt MacDonald, Cpl Dudley, SSgt Davidson, Cpl Lewis, Cfn Cole, Cpl Thelwell and Lt Sutton.

19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209)
Catterick

Sqn Comd **Maj D. A. Hargreaves**
2IC **Capt A. D. J. Picknell**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) P. A. Woodward**.

SHQ

SHQ has been enlivened by the arrival of **Capt David Kinnaird**, who has taken over on a temporary basis from **Capt Dave Hornsby** who has sadly been made redundant. We wish **Dave** all the very best in his new life, and thank him for the application of his administrative genius! **Capt Kinnaird** is now permanently in sports kit, arrives late and leaves early, and thus seems to have the job sorted out.

ALPHA TROOP

The Troop has had an enormous turn around of the junior ranks. **Sig Morrison** has moved to take charge of the clothing store, and we bid her farewell and wish her a speedy recovery from the injury she sustained on the last exercise. **Sig Ryan** and **LCpl Jones** have been detached to a commcen (sounds painful!) **Sig Owen** finally received his long awaited transfer to the cavalry and has tally-ho'd off into the sunset. **Sgt** 'save the baby' **Anderson** has successfully completed his potential YofS course and sadly will not be returning to Catterick.

Other departures include the newly promoted **LCpl Tony King** to JCUNI, who leaves with the advice to go back to being in goal. He looks too much like Mr Bean when he plays outfield! Most notable departure is that of **Lt John Merritt**, posted to 2 Div Sig Regt. Duration of Tour: two seasons (that's what the posting order says!). Good luck in the rugby we all hope that Newcastle Gosforth win at least one game this season! Why not come and play us if you're struggling?

The Troop continues to receive yet more radio relay operators, and we struggle to find a suitable collective noun with which to describe them. A 'slouch' was suggested but a 'waste' of RROPS seems more appropriate. Welcome anyway to **Sigs Smith** and **Nat Turney**, you may have 1/6th of a vehicle each. A welcome sighting of a Radio Op comes in the shape of **LCpl Wilkinson**, and a big Catterick Hello to him.

It is probably time to stop mentioning that we're still settling down as an armoured Troop, but in so many ways it still feels as if we're just moving in. The temporary shelters are just being constructed on the main square that should protect us from the worst of the elements until the new build is completed. Without these, vehicle maintenance has been exceedingly tricky to say the least, and it is to the Troop's credit that the recent RSIT report was so favourable. (Bravo Tp's was pretty good too, and grudging thanks to the techs!).

Finally congratulations to **LCpl** 'Ricketts' **Randles** and **Sig Tom Bailey**, who have both recently married (though not, it should be said, each other!)

BRAVO TROOP

Ex Iron Temper, well, it came and went, the hyped up final exercise of the year that was to be move, move and move again. It all went rather well actually, and rather slowly. We started off with a short track to Warcop and thence to RAF Spade-Adam. This is a truly eerie place: derelict buildings and acres of peat bogs littered with the detritus. We parked next to a convenient radar thing that didn't seem to affect the comms, but cooked our food, kept us warm and ensured none of us will have healthy families (just kidding!). The cheerful men of 19 Tank Transporter Sqn then took us to our next port of call, RAF Shawbury, just down the road from **Sig Beaman**'s house (as he told us all just a few times!) . Here, the police banned all track movement, obviously fearing that **Sig Sinclair** was driving. This allowed Bravo Tp to mellow out just ever so slightly with a proper Sunday lunch (Coq au Vin and pie with custard). All Corporals and above shared the Tp Comd's company on a candlelit top table, whilst **SSgt Miller** ripped the tent down and generally 'ran around Troodos' (this is of course a private joke that does deserve to be printed!). Meanwhile the valiant rebroadcast stations were making a name for themselves. **Cpl** 'Turtle' **Mallaney**'s trusty one tonny broke down again. (You can always rely on it to do that.) **Cpl** 'Ollie' **McGrail** displayed his learner plates on a motorway much to the chagrin of the West Midlands police. **Cpl Mac** also added a new SOP for lost comms after changes, if the frequency includes an eight, then substitute a three instead, or vice-versa.

Sigs Harding, Wyllie, Stewart, Cpl Robinson, LCpl Booker, Pickford and James

Bravo Tp moved on again, this time to Taunton.

The Comms Ops 'getting out of bed in the morning' competition was won by **Capt Kinnaird** over **Cpl Robinson**. Their vacant places were filled by **Sigs** 'many hands' **Clarke, Dickinson** and **Sgt** 'many war stories' **Tollington**. Alpha Tp at last managed to become airmobile (something that ex Tp Comd **Lt Dan Taylor** could do quite easily) with a short flight around an airfield.

Farewell then to **Capt David Kinnaird**, gone to the Admin Office and thence to Alpha Tp. A proper farewell to **Sgt Eric Williams** on promotion and posting to the RA as a rear link. Hellos to **Lt Gavin Williams**, who has a tough act to follow but apparently has a better scriptwriter anyway! More hellos to **Sigs Guest, Dargie, Beaman** and **Evans**.

Congratulations to **Cpl** 'Mac' **McNeil** on his second tape–very well deserved, and to **LCpl Steph Milner** on his marriage to **Rachel**, and **Sig Mark Wyllie** on his marriage to **Lisa**.

SUPPORT TROOP

A little re-shuffling has taken place. The Troop **SSgt Alwyn Edminson** now has his office located within the Quartermaster's department, so now there really is no escape from **Capt Lumb**'s grasp.

Meanwhile, up at the MT section, **Sgt Derek Sowerby** now has sole control and ultimate power. The Tech Workshop are losing **SSgt Aidie Broadbank** and his travelling Squash Ladder to the ADP (Automatic Data Processing) roster, and we wish him the best of luck in his new byte-crunching role. **Sgt Keith Williams** is posted to 8 Sig Regt; our best wishes will be ringing in his ears as he departs as we are losing a particularly fit and competitive SNCO. **Sgt Steve Holloway** takes over the running of the Tech Wksp until the arrival of the new tech SSgt. **Sig Danny Nice** is to be congratulated on his recent marriage and **Sgt Pete** and **Lorraine Crosbie** (RLC) and **Cpl Dougie** and **Agnes Coid** on the recent births of their baby son and daughter respectively. **Sgt** 'Dusty' **Binns** has now left us for the Falkland Islands and we are looking forward to the return of **LCpl Lee Minett** who will be taking over the running of the unit Power Section on a temporary basis. The RQMS, **Clive Young** has plunged deep into his resettlement programme and is looking forward to handing over his responsibilities to **Steve Johnson** who arrives from Germany in late December.

If you are serving and have a standing order for *THE WIRE* please keep us well informed in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders and your *'Wire'* will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.

20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200)
BFPO 16

Sqn Comd **Maj Paul Eaton**
2IC **Capt Simon Parry**

SQUADRON NEWS

If a cushy life was what you were looking for, 200 Sig Sqn this autumn was not the place to be! The Sqn Comd had set the Squadron the objective of proving itself operationally ready on the Divisional CFX, Rhino Charge, in November. Following the maxim 'train hard, fight easy', the Squadron held its own trial by fire on Ex Seven Pines in October. Covering a phenomenal mileage, almost outrunning Echelon's valiant attempts to resupply us, communicating over impossible distances and crossing rivers in the fog at night, the lads proved equal to everything thrown at them, including the Sergeant Major's teddy!

To prevent the Squadron relaxing too much over the middle weekend of the exercise, the annual inter-Troop Sword and Flag competition was held. Every angle of military and trade training was tested during the course of an arduous and hilly 30km march with full kit. Bravo Tp were the clear winners, with **SSgt** 'Grizzly' **Anderson**'s boys taking the section prize.

Another highlight of the exercise were the crews of the LOCON dets. Told to behave like battle group HQs, they swanned around the battlefield, moving without notice, siting themselves in town centres and river beds and generally making the Yeoman tear his hair out. **Sig** 'Billy' **Bremner** did a particularly good job as CO 1 D and D, and even negotiated farm locations despite his lack of German and barn money. What he was offering them we can only conjecture . . .

After Seven Pines, Rhino Charge was more like a stroll for us all except the QM and his A Echelon boys who spent most of their time fixing and resupplying the gunners, medics and other well-prepared Units (situation normal). The exercise was a great success for the Squadron, after all our hard work during the year and we were declared operationally 'fit for role' on our return. More importantly, some would argue, we had an extra long weekend as a reward!

Since then the Squadron has returned to normality, with sports afternoons and winning at football a regular feature.

The end of the year saw the Bde Comd, **Brig Arthur Denaro OBE**, honouring 'his' Squadron with a farewell visit. He received a 'Jimmy' and plaque of the old 202 Sig Sqn to remind him of his time in the 'Bull Brigade'.

The Commander addresses the Squadron for the last time

ALPHA TROOP
WELCOMES

We welcome **SSgt Danny O'Brien** and his family, and we hope that they enjoy their time in the Squadron. Other new arrivals since October include **Cpl Culleton** and **Sigs McIlroy** and **Evans**. The Troop are hoping against hope that the survival training and PT will feature less in the programme in the future.

FAREWELLS

Firstly, farewell to **SSgt**, now WO2, **(SSM) Chris McGinley** who left for Blandford. Secondly, we say farewell to **Lt Eric Baker** our Tp Comd and **Sig Kev McLean** who leave for civilian life and wish them the best of luck, stay in touch!

For the Troop Ex Rhino Charge was not only the major deployment of the year, but also **SSgt Danny O'Brien**'s first exercise and a gentle introduction to Squadron exercises. This was due to the fact that Bravo Tp had to do some work for a change, by holding Bde Main for most of the exercise. Watch out next time, Alpha Tp!

BRAVO TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Paul Smith**

WELCOMES

A warm welcome is extended to **LCpl Bartlett**, the new Troop PTI, **LCpl Maclaren** and **Sigs Bury, Cheshire, Maxwell** and **Miller**. Not to be forgotten are **Cpl** 'Gaz' **Rawlinson** and **Sig Tom Bremner** all the way from Alpha Tp having successfully passed off.

FAREWELL

The Troop say farewell and good luck to **LCpl Minorczyk** who is off to 204 Sig Sqn, **LCpl Law** to 8 Inf Bde and Sig Sqn and **Sig Hollyoake** to 21 Sig Regt (AS) complete with his new hairstyle.

SUPPORT TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Mick Pawlak**

Despite the many exercises and social events and occasional military training day-week-month as well as day to day running of the Troop, there was time to take part in a Squadron parachute jump at JSPC (L).

WELCOMES

A big hello to **WO2 (RQMS) Mark Schofield, SSgt Barney Patel, Cpl Mark Cuddy, Sigs John Lewis** and **Richard Watson**.

We hope they and their families have an enjoyable tour with the Squadron.

FAREWELL

A farewell to **SSgt (RQMS) Sammy Cook** to 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. We wish him well in Slipper City!

SQUADRON PARACHUTE JUMP

SSgt Sammy Cook, the Squadron's tame member of RAPA organised a one-jump parachute course for 20 members of the Squadron at JSPC (L). Despite all the hard ground training, the weather on the day of the jump was against them. However, in the end their patience paid off, when 10 days later, the weather cleared and a very enthusiastic, if slightly apprehensive, 20 members of the Squadron made their way to Bad Lippspringe for their introduction to gravity.

The parachute jump went well and they landed safely (some safer than others). The stories in the bar after the jump didn't quite match up to what happened in the aircraft (I know, I videoed it!), but all did well and a special mention must go to the following: **Sig** 'Boz' **Boswell**–top student, **Cfn** 'Scouse' **Mullin**–take up snooker and 2IC Squadron, **Capt Simon Parry** for looking cool throughout then 1000, 2000 Aaahhhh! Ring any bells Boss?

FOOTBALL

The Squadron football team began the new season full of optimism and under the new management team of **Lt Paul Smith** and team captain **Sgt John Laverick**. The team began the season's campaign with friendly's against the QDG and RDG LAD winning 5-0 and 5-1 respectively. The next opponents were 110 Pro Coy RMP in the Divisional Cup who were soundly thrashed 8-0. The team kept a low profile after the game to avoid being nicked. This success was followed by a 13-0 demolition of 2LI LAD in the League and 11-2 defeat of 1 AFA. To date, the team have played five games and have scored 42 goals and conceded only 3. The future looks promising!

24 Airmob Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210)
Colchester

ROYAL VISIT

The Royal Visit is fully reported on page 2.

On arrival and after the initial introductions, The Colonel in Chief was briefed by **Lt Tom Sandman**, **Lt Rich Deans** and **YofS** 'Kenny' **Kendrick. SSgt Neil Coatsworth** headed up the next stand covering a Squadron Reconnaissance Group and rigging demonstration in preparation for an airmove.

Sgt 'Taff' **Baughan** along with **LCpl** 'Giddy' **Giddens**, **Sig Steve Pysden** and **Sig** 'Johno' **Johnson** explained the process of deployment from the Lynx helicopter and subsequent follow up actions.

In the Sergeants' Mess, Her Royal Highness presented LS & GC Medals to **Sgt Bob Baker**, **Sgt Barny Phillips**, **Cpl Kev Johnson** and **Cpl Tony Annall**. General Service Medals Kuwait were presented to **Capt Jim Forrest** and **Cpl Tim Shears**. **Sgt Rob Warren** was presented with General Service Medal Northern Ireland. On completion of the Medal Ceremony The Colonel in Chief shared a buffet lunch with some of the Squadron personnel and their wives. **Annette Boslem**,wife of **LCpl Boslem**, is commended for entertaining the Princess with stories of her husband's lack of ability in a domestic environment.

In the afternoon **Sgt Chris Kidd** and **Cpl Tony Jenner** showed **The Princess Royal** the HQ Forward Brigade Support Group. According to **LCpl** 'Kev' **Blake** and **Sig** 'Doc' **Holiday** Her Royal Highness was suitably impressed! The airmobility demonstration that followed was a display of varying types of vehicles and helicopters carrying out certain Squadron SOP procedures. The day was a success for the Squadron and everybody showed enthusiasm and professionalism throughout, and, more importantly, thoroughly enjoyed meeting our Colonel in Chief.

FAREWELLS

We say farewell to two of the Squadron old hands, **Lt Rich Deans** leaves us to become OC of the White Helmets display team. We also say farewell to the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Dave Wilson**, and his wife **Christine**, who move to 3 (UK) Division, Good luck and thank you for all the work ... and the battlecamps!

The Squadron has had a busy end to 1993. After the hectic summer leading up to the multi-national FTX, Ex Gryphons Flight, we all looked forward to a relaxing few months, However, it was not to be! Life continued with the Squadron deploying to Dartmoor for the annual battlecamp, entering teams in the UKLF Commander's Cup and the Cambrian Patrol and providing the EXCON communications for the 3 (UK) Division FTX.

BATTLE CAMP

The buses arrived on the main square and the rain began to fall, is this the weather for the next ten days? The gloom and dismay had officially arrived, Okehampton Camp here we come!

The first few days on the ranges lived up to the Dartmoor reputation and provided us with some weather that became a real hinderance to training. Once that wave of conditions had passed a break in the weather allowed us to launch a patrol competition and everyone enjoyed the very best of sunshine and warmth the area had to offer for four days. Throughout the whole Battle Camp performances were constantly taken for evaluation in preparation for the final evening when a best soldier and section would be announced. **Sig** 'Jez' **Anderson** was considered to be the best soldier throughout the camp and **Cpl Tony Jenner**'s section won their respective prize. Although these people came top there was many notable performances from a number of Squadron personnel, especially the Chefs.

CAMBRIAN PATROL 1993

Once again eight members of the Squadron accepted the formidable challenge presented by the Cambrian Patrol competition held in Brecon and gave an excellent account of themselves. Led by **Lt Rich Deans** and **Cpl Tim Shears** their first task was to complete a 30km infiltration across the Black Mountain within 12 hours at night. The team made the deadline following some notable displays of endurance and stamina given by **Sig** 'Taff' **Hodgson** and **Sig Shelldrake**. Without any time to rest or eat the team then completed a series of skills tests including shooting and first aid. The next phase involved the mounting of an OP and conducting a CTR 10km behind enemy lines across some very arduous terrain. On foot across country the team moved swiftly and attempted to avoid the hostile enemy and local farm dogs, **Sig Paul Grundy** doing a sterling job as lead scout. With the OP established **Lt Rich Deans** and **LCpl** 'Mick' **Tennent** completed two close target recces of an enemy location during the remaining hours of darkness. The extraction was by helicopter although the pick up point had to be reached on foot, so it was back into 'tab mode' and thoughts of the finish. The team gained a tremendous amount and the satisfaction of knowing they have completed one of the toughest tests of military skills.

A special mention goes to **Sgt Pete Brooker** who at late notice competed with the team representing II (NL) Airmobile Battalion. He gave an outstanding contribution and gained a silver award as well as many new friends in our neighbouring airmobile brigade.

24 Airmob Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Cambrian Patrol Team 1993
Bronze Award Three-Day Event 26 October 1993
Team: *Seated L to R:* Cpl Shears, Lt Rich Dears, Sig 'Taff' Hodgson
Standing L to R: Sig Sheldrake, Richards, LCpl Tennent, Sigs Munroe and Grundy

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?
HAVE YOU INFORMED RHQ?
TELEPHONE 071-414 8432

242 Sig Sqn
Edinburgh

Sqn Comd — **Maj G. A. Carmichael**
Comms Tp Comd — **Capt G. C. McAvoy**

NEWS FROM SHQ

Our long suffering Admin Assistant, **Louise Cameron**, has departed on promotion to Admin Officer, however she hasn't gone far, merely across the road to HQ Scotland. Congratulations **Louise** and good luck in your new post. In her place is **Alex Robertson**, all 6ft 3ins of him. Welcome **Alex**, and may you enjoy your time in the Squadron. **Jean Livingstone**, our Chief Clerk, is still running the office with efficiency and **Christine**, our typist, is still managing to get to work each day in her ageing car, just!

COMMS TROOP
HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

Our only recent arrival is **LCpl Angie Campbell** who has joined the Squadron from COMCEN Dortmund. A few farewells have been said recently with the departure of **Sig Claire True**, hope civvy street is going well. **Sig Sharon Tidd** has also departed for civvy street with the news that she won't have her feet up for too long, hope the new addition to the family does not keep you too busy to write. All the best **Sharon**. **LCpl Lynn Sergant** has also left us for sunnier climates in the Falklands, see you in six months **Lynn**.

BATTLE CAMP

Yet again, the day dawned to go on a week's Battle Camp–half going one week with the remainder going the next. First thing Monday morning, laden down with large packs, (**Sig Amanda Blackburn** was smaller than her pack!), the 4-tonner set off with everyone on board a bit worried about what to expect over the course of the exercise. The thoughts of warm quilts, running water and a pint of lager were things of the past!

On arrival, it was obvious that the location had been chosen with some care, as it was in the middle of nowhere with the only life-forms around being flocks of sheep. And not a 'Portaloo' in sight! 'So, that's what the spades are for?' asks **LCpl Julie Pullen** who was seen to carry one around with her on most occasions!

During the course of the week, the instructors **Sgt Phil Mackenzie** and **Sgt Martin Keith** were able to demonstrate to everyone the use of pyrotechnics, weapon handling, field craft, tactics, patrolling and survival in the field. Definitely new information for many but after the first day, confidence grew and tasks were carried out much more competently and enthusiastically.

Sgt 'Andy' **Anderson** greatly enjoyed the First Aid Scenario when he was able to produce 'masterpieces' as very realistic injuries–not a character you'd like to meet in the dark!

The last night consisted of continual attacks from the DS staff on the Troop's camp–in fact on Week One, **WO2 (SSM) Stan Holden** was leading the attack, and being such a keen soldier started leopard-crawling towards the camp 500m too early! Needless to say, due to the exhaustion of the DS staff, the battle was only a short one! **Sig Sue Stallwood** found the week so exhausting that on the last night she slept right through it all as well as three mortar attacks. Maybe next year **Sue**!

Surprisingly enough, the weather was good for that time of year until again, the last night, when the heavens opened up and everyone found themselves floating in water. Congratulations must go to **Sig Janine Franklin** for having more water in her sleeping bag than outside it! (I don't know how she managed it!).

LCpl John Hoskins briefs his section while Sgt Martin Keith looks on

At the end of the day, it was back into the 4-tonners for the two hour drive back to Edinburgh, tired, wet and relieved that it was all over. It certainly wasn't the Costa del Sol but I'm sure that everyone learnt a lot more than they had expected to and it was definitely a worthwhile camp.

SWS TROOPARRIVALS

The Troop extend the warmest of welcomes to **Sgt Clive Quantick**, his wife **Sally** and family and hope that they find Craigiehall just as sunny as Cyprus. We also greet **Sgt Ian Sutton** who arrived from Benbecula on promotion, but alas leaves his better half **Dawn** there as she is presently serving at the RAF Station. However to keep him company, he has brought down his Boxer 'Winston' affectionately known in the Troop as the 'MSM'.

FAREWELLS

After serving 25 years in the Army, seven with the Troop, we say goodbye to **Sgt John Findlay** who leaves us for civvy street. An active member, his depth of knowledge and wealth of experience will surely be missed, especially during next year's Edinburgh Military Tattoo. We wish **John** and **Jeannette** all the best for the future.

BATTLE CAMP

This year's Battle Camp was held during the last two weeks of September, at Barry Buddon Training Area. Some of the more memorable events were: **LCpl** 'Scouse' **Bradley**'s night time activities, which included getting four bodies and four weapons to fit into a bivvy bag and only one sleeping bag, and an exceptional performance of an unconscious casualty by **Cpl Donny MacInnes**, although this was not fully appreciated by **Sig Sue Stallwood**, who had to drag him from the minefield!

BAD TASTE NIGHT

When 242 party they party! The theme for this particular evening was bad taste fancy dress. A good night was had by all. The beer was fast flowing and towards the end of the night even Elvis got people grooving on down. Good news was that we managed to raise £31 towards the charity for the new Children's Hospice in Scotland (CHAS). Pictured are the Squadron's representatives–**Nora, Beryl, Dot** and **Ethel**.

Nora, Beryl, Dot and Ethel in their 'pick up a fella, any fella' pose

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Being 11 November, 242 attended the service at Edinburgh Castle, **LCpl Angie Campbell** and **Sig Amanda Blackburn** representing the Squadron. **Lt Murray** led the female Army detachment on the Parade at the Stone of Remembrance on the Royal Mile. **LCpl Pullen**, **Sigs Hunt**, **Crawley**, **Butler** and **Stallwood** all faced the very cold weather along with representatives from HQ Scotland and 2/52 Lowland Volunteers. Their turn out was a credit to the Squadron.

MT SECTION

Squadron Battle Camp caused a few headaches coordinating the extra stores, equipment, weapons, vehicles and drivers needed for such an occasion but inevitably, the section pulled through and provided the goods. In the meantime, **Cpl Keith Brodie** managed to fit in an EPC course and a further driving course, while **Pte Michelle Bryant** RLC found time to attend a class two course and a fork lift rough terrain course at Leconfield.

243 Sig Sqn
Bulford Camp

Sqn Comd — **Maj I. N. Greig**
2IC — **Capt M. A. Eaton**

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The Squadron bids farewell to **Capt Mark Eaton** and his wife **Sarah** who leave us for Shrivenham. **LCpl Donna Nevens** leaves us to join her husband at 30 Sig Regt and **Cpl Ken Resoun** and his wife **Ruth** leave us for Ireland.

Welcome to **Sgts Andy Rimmel**, **Paul Bartlett**, **Gavin Henderson** and **Jo Richmond**. The Squadron also welcomes **Cpls Mark Wigmore** and **Andrea Hindley**, **LCpls Gerry Edwards** and **LCpl Sarah Hall** who returns to us on promotion.

EXERCISE FIRST FORAY

The Squadron deployed to Salisbury plain for one week in October for Ex First Foray, the first battlecamp to be held for a number of years. Being a static Squadron, from an organisers point of view it was not an easy task. **W02 (SSM) Linda Cooper** and **SSgt (SQMS) Brian Reid** spent weeks running around ordering and collecting everything from weapons and webbing to vehicles and radios. Phase one consisted of revising basic skills and phase two placed the Platoon in Bosnia (actually it was Tidworth!) hunting down fundamentalists. The weather although bitterly cold was dry which kept smiles on most faces throughout the period.

The first group deployed on 19 October. After the first night the DS woke the sleeping troops with a dawn attack. **LCpl Amanda Duffy** led an attack on a small group of DS hiding in a water tower. The section initially ran off after accidentally setting off a trip flare but a bit of 'gentle persuasion' by **Sgts Andy Lewis** and **Geoff Croudace** set them on the right path. **Sgt Geoff Croudace** then proceeded to blow up the SSM, **Linda Cooper**, by misplacing a thunder flash. She was seen wandering around, looking somewhat shaken by the experience.

The second group out on exercise thought they would be clever as they had been tipped off that the DS would awaken them with thunderflashes at 0600 hrs. At 0500 hrs they awoke, packed their kit and waited in the cold. At 0700 hrs the DS turned up and were surprised at their speed. They had the last laugh though when they heard they had been lying in wait for two hours!

The final word must go to **Cpl Steve Witty** who not only won the night navigation competition but also managed to completely surprise the DS on the final attack by approaching from the rear. All round defence had gone out of the window and as the platoon ran through the position cries 'but that's not fair, you were meant to come from the front' were heard.

All is fair in love and war!

The Night Nav Competition winning section
L to R: LCpl Donna Nevens (2IC), Sigs Michael Jolley, Paul Crocker, LCpl Sandy Dixon, Cpl Steve Witty (Comd), Sigs Wendy Moore and Rachel Duff

What is WO2 (SSM) Linda Cooper up to?

BRUNO

The original Fitzbruno statue stood outside the Deutsche Fernkable Kompanie in Berlin. In 1945 it was 'adopted' as the Regimental Mascot. The statue passed to 10 Sig Regt and was located in Herford and Essen. On 28 November 1957 Bruno was returned to the Deutsche Fernkable Kompanie who then presented a replica of it to the Regiment in gratitude for its safe keeping and for its return.

10 Sig Regt and Bruno were brought to UK and erected in Hounslow and then Wilton until the disbandment of the Regiment on 31 May 1987. Bruno then passed on to 243 Sig Sqn formed from 1 Sqn 10 Sig Regt.

One of the Sqn Comd's ambitions during his tour was to revamp Bruno to his original condition. On 18 November **SSgt Brian Reid** fixed the plaque on Bruno detailing the statue's history. He now stands proudly in UKLF Wilton outside the last RHQ of 10 Sig Regt.

Lt Deb Sunderland and SSgt (SQMS) Brian Reid with Fitzbruno

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

BATTLE CAMP 1993

One of the most memorable events of the year was the Squadron's two weeks' Battle Camp in November at Sennybridge. Needless to say plenty of use was made of the many ranges that Sennybridge has to offer.

Certain members of the Squadron were tested to their limits, this reflected in their performances, and brought out the soldier in most of us. A few members from within the ranks emerged from their shells, **LCpl** 'over the top' **Bickerstaff** comes to mind along with **LCpl Russ Marston** whose navigation techniques were pushed to the absolute limit along with his section's sense of humour.

The Battle Camp ended with a patrol competition and exercise, unfortunately the only enemy encountered was the rain and flu!

COMMANDER'S CUP 1993

On a cold and bitter October morning the Sqn Comd's Cup team prepared to do battle in a two day patrol competition. The team was selected at random from some 100 Squadron personnel (all ranks) by Comd Comms UKLF. In all 12 teams were to take part.

The Squadron team was commanded by **Lt Keith Mannings** and **SSgt Crane**. On the first day there were performances of note on the obstacle course, night navigation exercise and in particular a first place on the First Aid stand.

The second day started by the team chipping the ice off their bivvy bags and then into the first event which was a timed run with full CEMO. In typical '249' tradition the team won the event with over two minutes to spare.

Our success in the timed run meant that the competition would be decided on the last event, the shoot. Unfortunately, once the overall scores were totalled the Squadron were eased out of first place by 3 Div's patrol team.

CONGRATULATIONS

All members of the Squadron would like to congratulate **Sgt** 'Jonno' **Blood** and his wife **April** on the birth of their son **Kieran**.

251 Sig Sqn
Aldershot

Sqn Comd — **Maj J. J. Gerrard**
2IC — **Capt A. Platt AGC (SPS)**

CONGRATULATIONS

The Squadron congratulates **Cpl Pamela Lee, LCpl Lorraine Davies-Morris, Sigs Tab Luke, Annette McChesney** and **Colette Murphy** on being selected to represent the Corps Hockey Team. **LCpl Chris Dickinson** on her well deserved promotion selection to Cpl.

ARRIVALS

Capt A. Platt AGC (SPS), **Sigs Bell, John** and **Loughran**.

DEPARTURES

Capt K. Munnoch AGC (SPS), **Sgt Allen, LCpl Davies-Morris** and **Sigs Luke** and **Murphy**.

SERGEANTS' MESS AMALGAMATION

251 Sig Sqn has its majority status within the Duchess of Kent Sergeants' Mess with the amalgamation of the Cambridge Military Hospital and 22 Field Hospital messes. This move increases the membership tenfold.

Pictured is the **WO2 (SSM) Frank Vaughan**, presenting farewell gifts to **WO1 June Skelton** who is to relinquish the post of presiding members and **Sgt Keith Allen** who is leaving the Army after 22 years service. All in the Squadron wish this popular SQMS the very best for the future.

RUN FOR ADEN

On a cold Saturday morning in November, two Indian squaws, three dominoes and three sports personalities took part in a 100 mile fancy dress sponsored run.

It was in aid of Aden Dickinson, aged three years, who died from a heart condition earlier in the year. The run raised £220 which will be sent to Aldemey Hospital, Liverpool for heart research. Those who took part were: **Sgt Mackay, Cpls Batey, Wright, LCpls Bassett, Davies-Morris, Sigs Mason, McChesney** and **Lynn Taylor**.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

The Squadron has recently competed in two main sporting events, cross country relays and the SDIST (E) Squash Championships.

251 entered two ladies' teams and one male team in the cross country relays. All team members competed well and achieved good times for their runs.

The ladies' squash team, consisting of **Sgt Perkins, Cpl Batey** and **LCpl Davies-Morris** earned a 'well worked for' 2nd place in the SDIST (E) Squash Championships. **Sgt Perkins** also walked away with the Individual's Cup, with **Cpl Batey** coming runner-up in the plate competition. Yet another successful month for Squadron sport.

WO1 June Skelton

Sgt Keith Allen

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

VISIT OF AMSO

Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Alcock, Air Member for Supply and Organisation (AMSO), visited 259 Sig Sqn as part of his visit to the Communicators on the Island.

This was a first for **Sir Michael**, as despite numerous other visits to the Island, he had never visited a BFC Army unit before.

After being met by **Capt** 'Butch' **Maycock** and **SSM Gary Waters**, the Air Chief Marshal was given a short brief on the role of the Army Communicators in Cyprus and went on to meet the soldiers.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Alcock poses for the arrival photograph with WO2 (SSM) Gary Waters, Capt 'Butch' Maycock and Gp Capt Roger Gault, ACOS Ops

Sgt Paul Webster, on shift in the Main Network Control Point in Episkopi, explained the processor controlled management system of the Cyprus Fixed Telecommunications System (CFTS) and demonstrated the Hi-Tech control features.

Sir Michael then moved on to a demonstration of the Squadron's Fibre Optic capabilities given by the recently promoted **Cpl Kelvin Dale** and **Sig Tony Hall**.

Later in the afternoon Airfield Tp laid on a Bomb Damage Repair Demonstration, ably and expertly assisted by a Tornado of No 56 Sqn, CVRTs of No 1 Sqn RAF Regiment and some impressive explosions by **SSgt Stag** of the EOD team of the CLU.

Sir Michael saw the Troop repair the bomb damage on both copper and fibre optic cables and was so impressed with **LCpl** "Josie" **Wales** efforts that he leapt into the bomb crater and promoted him to full Cpl on the spot!

Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Alcock promotes LCpl Wales and hands him his two stripes. Cpl Lilburn applauds them both!

After a bumpy cross country ride commanding a No 1 Sqn CVRT, **Sir Michael** was presented with the fibre optic fusion splice he had completed that morning, suitably mounted, by the Squadron.

Cpl Kelvin Dale looks on in anticipation as Sir Michael makes a fusion splice on a fibre

HEADQUARTER TROOP

Welcome to **Cpl Jason Goldsworthy, Tina** and family, also **LCpl** 'Gibbo' **Gibson, Lorna** and family. Congratulations to **LCpl** 'Fads' **Fadzilah** on his successful completion of EOD aptitude and best wishes on his forthcoming posting.

AIRFIELD TROOP

Station Commanders Cup–Cross Country. The team, this year, consisted of six of the fittest lads in the Troop, they got off to a good start and managed to keep up some good lap times. **LCpl** 'Mac' **MacDonald** got lost, better luck next year. The team finished 7th overall.

HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

Welcomes to **Sig** 'Stretch' **Setchfield, Sgt** 'Rick' **Hannah** and **Cpl** 'Si' **Taylor**. Farewell to **LCpl Allistair Munro** (promoted on posting) and **Tanya**, hope you enjoy sunny 8.

EPSIKOPI TROOP

Congratulations to **LCpl Calum Smith** and **Catherine** on the birth of their daughter **Elsie**.

FAREWELLS

Farewell to **Sig Andy Powell** to 220 Sig Sqn, **Sigs** 'Molly' **Mollon** and **Lee Street** to the UK. **Sgt** 'Taff' **Morgan** to UNICOM. Finally to **LCpl Bob Menzies** and family who go over the water.

If you are serving and have a standing order for *THE WIRE* please keep us well informed in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders and your *'Wire'* will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.

56 Sig Sqn (V)
Eastbourne

RADIO TROOP WEEKEND

For this year's Troop Commander's Weekend, Radio Tp decided to go down to the woods where they were certainly in for a few surprises!

The Troop spent the first day completing a round-robin of activities.

The first of these was **SSgt** 'Jock' **Dyer**'s driving course, practising cross-country driving techniques. Everyone got a taste of how it felt to be a passenger as well as a driver. It was pretty demanding, great fun, and produced several sore behinds!

Sgt Paul Gruncell put together a task building an appropriate frame and pulley construction to transport teams across a 100 metre wide ravine with rapids 50 metres below (this task called for a spot of imagination!). A certain amount of agility and faith in the team was needed.

Sgt Tony Potter's stand involved a series of practical tasks, military questions and cunning forfeits. **LCpl Steve Hannan** was particularly grateful to his team when a slip-up resulted in his balancing precariously from the top of a spindly tree.

CAMP 93

Ex Sagebrush Roller was a combination of communications, military skills and adventure training. The Squadron deployed to a concentration area at Colerne. After an active night, particularly for **Sgt Al Baker**, detachments deployed to their initial locations, as far afield as Doncaster and Nottingham.

The Comms phase was completed without incident and the detachments were called into Sennybridge to form a composite infantry unit. Redeployment began with a tactical move, on foot, to the platoon defence position. The move went well but **LCpl Tracy Reed** was a little concerned she was getting wet, The Sqn Comd confided it could only get worse.

The Platoon was quickly into its routine. The first sighting of the enemy led to an informal lesson on judging distances for **Cpl Martin Cooper** and **LCpl Chris Maginnis**. Patrolling continued through the night but the first contact didn't come until the following day. With a bit of coordination, and a lot of luck an orange recce patrol, led by **Cpl Stu Douglas**, were hit from one side by **LCpl Chris Maginnis**.. In evading they ran straight into the blue defence position, their final evasive action led them right into a second patrol. By the evening, both sides had a better idea of the others dispositions. Hopefully the RV with a local agent, on the night movement area, would reveal all.

Each section was taken through the obstacles ranging from rope bridges, tunnel mazes, dead ends and dead drops. If that wasn't enough an enemy added a bit more spice. After the Sqn Comd's first encounter with a section he was wary about getting too close, and **Capt Brian Howe** is eternally grateful that **LCpl Chris Maginnis** is either blind as a bat, or just a bad shot. On completion sections were transported back to their respective positions. Blue forces prepared themselves for final recces of the organge force farm. Little did they realise orange forces were already in a final RV for the inevitable dawn attack on blue. Immediately after dawn and as the smoke lifted, blue had won the day. The Squadron regrouped over a hearty breakfast before being subjected to 48 hours in the hands of **Sgts Bernie Wooller** and **Tony Potter**, the NBC DS. The Squadron, redeployed in detachments, established communications and awaited all the devilish plans the DS could conjure up. The variety certainly tested the knowledge of those under fire. For good measure **Sgt Tony Potter** moved around each location with a CS generator which to the amusement of most caused more harm to the DS. **Sgt Al Baker** and **SSgt Hattemore** were both caught in the down wind hazard. He did however catch out **Cpl Mick Dowds** and his detachment who thought they were relatively safe and immune inside one of the range huts. **Sgt Bernie Wooller**, who was taking no chances, finally got through on the radio to end this phase.

Once decontamination was complete an air of confidence settled over the Squadron. They knew the tactical phase was complete but as they removed their NBC suits the final pocket of orange forces opened up. A lack of command and control was made up for by determined aggression and the enemy position was destroyed. **Sig** (now Corporal) **Gavin Dodwell** took great delight in dropping on and searching the bodies before the Squadron moved into Sennybridge Camp.

The adventure training included rock climbing and abseiling, caving, canoeing and we were able to include some conservation work on dry stone walls in the national park. Despite the cold, and occasional rain, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

The ranges included moving target ranges and a daylight section in defence night shoot. Whilst on the ranges we were visited by Comd 2 (INC) Sig Bde **Brig J. E. Neeve**, and treated him to a Bhart, courtesy of the Ghurka chefs at the Brecon Support Unit.

Sgt Paul Gruncell's Ravine
Sig Eric Gardyne and LCpl Gary Crick watch the anonymous hero whilst Sgt Gruncell looks away in disbelief

INSTRUCTORS/LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

Our first weekend of the new training cycle was an instructors/ leadership training weekend, primarily aimed at training instructors for the coming year but also used to carry out some intensive leadership training. It included a regimental dinner, an event for the junior NCO's to experience and something for them to aspire to. The evening culminated with a smoker, involving all ranks. There wasn't a dry eye to be seen after **LCpl Andy Harding**'s singing. The senior NCO's 'Four Ronnies' had a go at most and **LCpl Terry Gell** and **Sgt Rolly Godden**'s sketch of the Sqn Comd/Ops Officer discussing command and control touched a nerve amongst some, but was too quiet for the Sqn Comd to understand.

LORD LIEUTENANT'S PRESENTATIONS

This year three members of the Squadron were awarded the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex Meritorious Service Certificate. In addition to our three members, **Sgts Ernie Wooller, Tim Odam** and **Sgt Bob Shevels** AGC receiving their awards, **SSgt Paul Hattemore** was given his clasp to his TEM. The Lord Lieutenant, **Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson KCB** also made presentations to other members of the Cadets and Reserve Forces from around East Sussex.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Capt Brian Howe** on his commission. Also to **Lt Karen Evans, SSgt Philip Waterhouse, LCpls Steve Hatton, Gavin Dodwell** and **Terry Gell** on their promotion.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

A belated farewell to **SSgt Ian Flooks** and his wife **Tena** who have moved on to 30 Sig Regt.

We welcome **SSgt Tony Doherty** and his wife **Sue**. We hope that the sea air does the trick. Welcome also to **Sgt Mick Lambert** and **Lee**, and to **Sgt Les Parsons** and **Jacqueline**.

25th ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND Please see Page 56 for details.

- News from Troops -

662 Sig Tp
BFPO 58

Tp Comd — **Capt Dick Gamble**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Nuge Varley**

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

The Troop says sad farewells to: **Lt Suzie Empson** the AO, **WO2 Benny Bennett** the SSM, **SSgt Si Tatman, Cpls Kev Galloway, Bob McCormick, John Bedborough, LCpls Garrie Dixon, Derek John, Kev Pitcher** and **Sig Dolly Parton**. We welcome to the fold **SSgt Chris Ward**, on promotion, **Cpls John Jenkins, Barry Paul, Kev Wood, LCpl Gibbo Gibson, LCpl Ant Tranter** and **Sig Jase Allen**. We hope our new flock enjoy Cyprus as much as those they have replaced who had to be dragged to the aircraft steps on departure.

VISIT OF THE SOinC (A)

On 24 August 1993 **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle** and **Mrs Boyle** visited the Troop. The visit commenced with a Unit Brief.

Having heard how the Troop is supposed to go about its business, the General then went to see for himself and moved to the heart of the Unit's operation, the Dhekelia Operations Centre, from where the Island Wide Telephone Network is managed.

Following a quick visit to Army COMMCEN Dhekelia, the party moved to the Troop Club, the Bitsa, to join **Mrs Boyle** and the ladies for lunch. A splendid buffet lunch was served

The SOinC talks to Sgt Smith, Sgt Dawson shares the joke

The SOinC and Sgt Glean focus on the round window whilst Sgt Tatman pays attention in the background

The SOinC talks to Sig Westerman, in the middle, Sig Phillips

EXERCISE BEACH REAR 3

Ex Beach Rear 3 was a unit adventure training exercise which took place at the end of September and, as the name suggests, located at a beach in Western Cyprus.

A two week camp, all unit members were able to get well away from work and spend a week having fun in the sun.It was organised and managed by **Sgt Nick Hawkins**, and catered for by **Mrs Jackie Hawkins**

With a 26 mile Mountain Bike navigation exercise around the Troodos, (which seemed to some more like 20 miles uphill and 6 down), thrown in for good measure, all who took part agreed on one thing–the true meaning of saddle sores.

With a weekend in the middle of it where the families joined us, it was a good time and plans are afoot to improve (not least on navigation) next year.

Sgt Si Owen shows us how to windsurf

If responding to any advertisements in *The Wire* please mention that you saw it in your Corps magazine

THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Admiral	Maj Gen J.O.C. Alexander CB MBE
Commodore	Col P. J. Pritchard
Vice Commodore	Col J. E. F. Kirby

Rear Commodores: Offshore, Maj B. H. Rowe; Windsurfing, Lt Col C. D. McK Kemp; BAOR, Lt Col N. K. P. Hope MBE.

CONTACTS

Yachtmasters:	UK: Capt J. F. Calvert, Blandford Mil 2459
	BAOR: Capt R. K. Orr, Birgelen Mil 243
Secretaries:	General: Maj J. P. McD Coulthard, Corsham Mil 4457
	Dinghy Racing BAOR: Capt G. R. Norton, Herford Mil 2349
	UK Windsurfing: Capt. P.G. Cross, Blandford Mil 2464
	BAOR Windsurfing: Maj W. N. White, Celle Mil 273/300
Soldier Reps:	Sgt D. Maw: Loughborough Mil 4425 Sgt C. Cowell: Blandford Mil 2265

The Royal Signals Yacht Club communicates with its members through the medium of The Wire, *which regularly prints a forecast of events, accounts of activities and contains details for club officials.*

Any member of the Corps who subscribes to Corps funds is automatically a member of the Yacht Club: this membership is activated simply by registering with one of the Club secretaries.

OFFSHORE SAILING

The 1994 programme has something for everyone.

TRAINING

THE ROYAL SIGNALS OFFSHORE COURSE 6-13 JUNE 1994

To qualify day skippers and competent crew. Newcomers to the sport are welcome. Instructors are required and there are usually places for experienced sailors who are a little rusty to do continuation training.

RACING

ARMY SAILING ASSOCIATION REGATTA 24-27 JUNE 1994 AND SERVICES OFFSHORE RACE 30 JUNE-2 JULY 1994

We are looking for racing sailors to represent the Corps in these events. We particularly require skippers willing to skipper the Corps entries.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS OFFSHORE REGATTA 12-19 SEPT 1994

Six Victoria 34s have been booked for this event. Unit entries are required on a first come basis. Lack of racing experience does not matter. The Regatta is run as a course as well as providing some healthy competition.

SOCIAL

THE ROYAL SIGNALS RALLY 3-6 JUNE 1994

Meet up in Cowes Friday night, sail into Newtown for lunch on Saturday. Dinner on Saturday evening in Lymington. If you have no boat we will try and find you one. If you have a boat and no crew we can also help.

FOR INFORMATION

Contact your Unit Sailing Officer or the Rear Commodore Offshore, **Maj B. H. Rowe** at RHQ Royal Signals on London Military Extension 8444.

BAOR INTER CORPS DINGHY SAILING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The last major dinghy regatta of the year in BAOR, the Inter-Corps Championships was held at the Dummersee Yacht Club over the period 27/28 October 1993. Formerly the Quadrangular Regatta involving the Royal Engineers, Royal Signals, Royal Artillery and REME, it is now the Pentangular Regatta with the inclusion of the Royal Logistic Corps which presented the new trophy. Many of the sailors competing were members of the BAOR A and B teams which had both beaten the respective RAF (G) teams over the previous two days. It promised to be a hotly contested regatta.

A flat calm greet competitors on the first day and not a breath of wind was felt all morning. Despite growing anticipation, the wind failed to materialise all day and racing was cancelled by mid afternoon. A draft blowing through the front door of the Dummersee Yacht Club on the second morning immediately raised hopes, and eventually the first race was held at 1030 hrs. By this stage it was evident that each team would only have time to race the other teams once, making every race result critical to the overall competition.

Races were keenly contested throughout the morning, with good team racing tactics from all teams. Where there were infringements of the rules, these were mainly settled on the water with the acceptance of 2½ points by the infringing boat which displayed a green flag. Despite valiant efforts by the RLC and REME, the RE and R Sigs teams with three wins apiece and the RA with two wins were proving strongest. What appeared to be the deciding race between the RE and R Sigs was a real cliffhanger. The RE gained the initiative from the start, but the three boats in each team entered into sustained tacking and covering duels on up and downwind legs of the Olympic course. The race was still in the balance right up to the last 100m, when there was a collision and resulting confusion over whether the RE boat had accepted penalty points. Following much discussion the Race Committee decided the evidence was inconclusive and the race should be re-sailed.

Again the RE were fastest away securing positions 1, 3 and 6, a winning combination, after the first round. With the commencement of the last beat the RE team was in a strong position with first, third and fifth places. However, the R Sigs mounted a strong late challenge with **Sgt Mark Pounsett** helping to get **Sgt John Driver** through from fourth place to third. Even that would not have been enough to win overall. **Maj Graham Lewis-Taylor** who had had a dog fight with **WO2 John Reynolds** throughout the race, needed a well executed dummy tack in the last 50m to wrong step his rival and narrowly snatch fifth place. There was a protest on the finish line between second and fourth placed boats and this was resolved by the protest committee in favour of R Sigs. It had been a very exciting final race and a fine display of team racing by both Corps.

Having won all its races, the R Sigs team was presented with the Pentangular, Quadrangular and Triangular Trophies.

Results: 1st, R Sigs 4 wins. 2nd, RE 3 wins. 3rd, RA 2 wins. 4th, REME 1 win. 5th, RLC 0 wins.

Members of the winning team were:

Sgt Mark Pounsett (Captain)	1 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt Phil Tait	16 Sig Regt
Maj Graham Lewis-Taylor	16 Sig Regt
Capt Scott Workman	16 Sig Regt
Sgt John Driver	1 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Cpl Alan Darracott	1 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt

CRICKET

THE ROYAL SIGNALS CRICKET CLUB

OFFICIALS	Chairman:	**Col M. K. Carson**
	Secretary:	**Capt M. S. Coleman**
	Captain:	**Maj D. Luckett**

The 1993 season proved to be one of rebuilding and restructuring. The side was a good mixture of youthful exuberance and wise experience led by the positively ancient **Maj Dave Luckett**. The quality of the youngsters was shown by **Lt Colin Russell** and **Sig Ross Thubron** both gaining Army U25 honours, whilst **LCpl Mark Chapman** also showed that he has the class to join them next season.

The team suffered throughout the season from a lack of quality opening bowlers as careful scrutiny of the results will show. The batting was always strong and consistent and we always expected to make runs. Playing within the rules of the Merit Table most of the drawn matches came about as a result of the opposition 'shutting up shop' and our inability to finish off the tail. A change of tactics by inviting the opposition to bat first, brought us closest to a win in a thrilling finish to the RLC match, which in the end saw us hanging on for the draw. The RLC went on to win the Famous Grouse Merit Table. Although we did not lose a match in the Merit Table we finished next to bottom of the league. Rain prevented further experimentation and it was a disappointing way to finish a season that had started with such good intention.

The real highlight of the season was the enthusiasm and team spirit shown by all those selected. The batting achieved a quality that has rarely been equalled, with **Lt Colin Russell**'s cavalier, nay Caribbean, attitude to batting contrasting well with the solid correct style of **SSgt Terry Gigg**. There were many memorable performances by players who approached the task with a sense of purpose and good humour.

I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to all the Commanding Officers and Officers Commanding who supported the Corps team and released key players in these difficult times. Those selected responded very well and made the job of organisation and administration smooth and panic free. The cricketing reputation of the Corps was enhanced by this seasons performances and this bodes well for the future.

We would like to say farewell and express our appreciation to **Col Mike Carson** for all that he has contributed to Corps Cricket throughout his career. He has been the driving force in the resurgence of excellence in Corps cricket and will be very much missed. I am delighted to say that he has promised to pay more than a passing interest in our fortunes over the coming seasons. We wish him well in his new job.

For next year **Capt Phil Harlow** of 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt has been appointed team captain and he will be supported by **Capt Murray Coleman** as Secretary with **Maj Dave Luckett** filling the new role of team manager. With the continued support of Corps Units, we hope to build on the restructuring that has taken place this season and are confident that we will make a strong challenge for the Famous Grouse Merit Table Title next year.

Congratulations are extended to **SSgt Terry Gigg** and **Capt Phil Harlow** who are awarded their Corps colours.

Maj D. J. Luckett (Captain)

RESULTS

v RMAS, 19.05.93 at Sandhurst

RMAS–170 for 5 (dec)		R Signals–171 for 6	
Luckett	4-34	**Chapman**	78 n/o
		Haynes	61
		MATCH WON	

v REME, 21.06.93 at Arborfield (Merit Table)

REME–248 for 6 (dec)		R Signals–146 for 3	
Haynes	3–43	**Gigg**	47
		Harlow	49
		MATCH DRAWN	

v RMCS, 23.06.93 at Shrivenham (Friendly)

R Signals–200 all out		RMCS–151 for 6	
Thompson	64	**Haynes**	3–39
		MATCH DRAWN	

v RAC, 24.06.93 at Bovington (Merit Table)

R Signals–247 for 6 (dec)		RAC–171 for 5	
Harlow	69	**O'Dare**	3–56
Gigg	87		
		MATCH DRAWN	

v RE, 28.06.93 at Chatham (Merit Table)

R Signals–288 for 5 (dec)		RE–128 for 7	
Gigg	93	**O'Dare**	3–17
Russell	71		
Chapman	47	MATCH DRAWN	

v RAF Signals, 29.06.93 at RAF Henlow (55 Overs)

RAF Signals–274 for 5		R. Signals–248 all out	
Harlow	3–54	**Russell**	86
		Whitehead	33
		Haynes	32
		MATCH LOST	

v AMS, 30.06.93 at Woolwich (Merit Table)

R Signals–248 for 6 (dec)		AMS–177 for 7	
Harlow	92	**Luckett**	2–18
Russell	71	MATCH DRAWN	

v RLC, 14.07.93 at Aldershot (Merit Table)

RLC–234 for 5 (dec)		R Signals–209 for 9	
Thubron	2–51	**Gardner**	80
		Gigg	54
		Thompson	41
		MATCH DRAWN	

Abandoned Fixtures (Bad Weather)

v Welbeck College,	12.06.93 at Welbeck
v RA,	09.07.93 at Woolwich
v Infantry,	13.07.93 at Tidworth
v AGC,	15/16.07.93 at Worthy Down

GOLF

ROYAL SIGNALS GOLFING SOCIETY
1993 SEASON'S PERFORMANCE

In the depths of the winter we cast our minds back to the summer and prepare a report on the seasons golfing activities for reading by the fireside. Following the 1992 exceptionally successful season it was unlikely that the 1993 results would be able to keep pace and so it proved. However, measured by any other season, 1993 rates most highly. We retained one of the four prestigious inter-Corps trophies in a season which saw the introduction of competition from teams from the newly expanded RLC and AGC.

INTER-CORPS COMPETITIONS

We entered teams in all the major inter-Corps Competitions. The first was played at Royal Lytham St Annes in May where we defended the Royal Irish Rangers Cup won in 1992. Unfortunately our experienced team captain **Lt Col Willie Brewin** had to withdraw due to illness, and we missed his guiding hand. The A team comprised **SSgt (FofS) Simon Boyd**, **Cpl Rob Hare**, **WO2 Andy Marshall** and **Capt Steve Watson**. In the first round we had an excellent win against the RLC but were unable to match it in the afternoon and lost in a lacklustre performance against the REME. Looking on the positive side, however, during the various rounds we were able to blood some of our younger players and, sound performances by **Sgt Andy Harriott** and **Cpl Ian Stallard**, were particularly noteworthy.

The next event for our Corps' teams was at the AOGS meeting at Muirfield and Luffness Golf Courses where we entered teams in the Ordnance, Sunningdale and Egypt Cup Competitions. The A team retained the Ordnance Cup which was an excellent performance in the face of some very stiff competition from the other Corps' sides present. The team comprised **Lt Col Willie Brewin**, **Majs Harry Meekings**, **Brian Young**, **Len Yates** and **Capt Steve Watson**. They played some tremendous golf in a highly competitive, yet sporting atmosphere and, won through four rounds to retain the title so deservedly clinched the year before. The accompanying photograph shows the winning team with the cup after the event.

The other two teams also acquitted themselves very well, both losing in the semi-finals of their respective competitions. The meeting was doubly satisfying in that not only were we successful but we had the additional benefit of a number of new players attending which bodes well for the future.

In the Army Cup Competition 8 Sig Regt won the Eastern District eliminator competition to gain a place in the finals held at Tidworth on 8/9 September 1993. Despite playing some very good golf they were unable to progress beyond the quarter-final stage in the main competition which was resolved between the winners from each district. It was never-the-less a commendable performance to have progressed so far in a very competitive event.

Winners of the Ordnance Cup
L to R: Majs Len Yates, Brian Young, Lt Col Willie Brewin, Maj Harry Meekings and Capt Steve Watson

RSGS SPRING AND AUTUMN MEETINGS

Both Spring and Autumn Meetings were held at Catterick Golf Course, on 28/29 April and 15/16 September 1993 respectively. The popularity of the sport in the Corps was once again proven since we had a maximum entry of 90 players for each of the events. It is encouraging to see increasingly more of our junior ranks attending these meetings, in a number of cases with considerable success.

The weather at Catterick is always a strong influencing factor on the golf played; 1993 was no exception. Whilst the Spring meeting was played in reasonable, if taxing, conditions the cold spell which continued up to tee off time resulted in little growth on the course. Despite this some excellent golf was played.

If it was cold in the Spring that caught the attention that proved nothing in comparison to the wet experienced in the Autumn. The first day of the meeting was cancelled due to a large part of the course being under water. On the second day play was possible but with pin placings in some unusual positions! The committee decided to play the Stableford event in the morning, to reduce the medal to an 18 hole competition to be played in the afternoon and to cancel the Greensomes. This proved to be a most satisfactory compromise and a competitive, enjoyable day's golf ensued.

If there was a positive side-effect to the miserable weather on the first day it was that it allowed longer for the Annual General Meeting than normal. Minutes of the resultant useful discussions have been produced separately and will be displayed at next year's competition.

The trophy winners of the two meetings are as shown below.

WINNERS OF RSGS TROPHIES IN 1993

Spring Meeting	
Open Championship Cup (18 Hole Stableford)	**Mr P. Shepherd**
Championship Challenge Cup Officers Scratch	**Capt Watson**
The Vulliamy Handicap Challenge Cup	**Cpl Coleman**
Foursomes Challenge Cup	**Capt Campbell** **Cpl Stallard**
The Falloway Cup Soldiers Scratch	**Sgt Harriott**
Junior Soldier's Tankard	**LCpl Oakes**
The Shardlow Cup Inter-Unit Challege Cup	**11 Sig Regt** (RSS Blandford)
Autumn Meeting	
The Putter–Scratch Open	**Sgt Harriott**
Officers Scratch Cup	**Maj Birchall**
The Signaller's Cup Handicap Challenge Cup	**Sgt Cole**
Individual Challenge Bowl Stableford Cup	**Maj Yates**
The Roberts' Putter Soldiers Handicap Cup	**Sgt Cole**
R Signals Rabbit's Cup	**Sgt Cole**
Retired Member's Tray	**Mr Jones**
Veteran's Trophy	**Mr Graham**
Inter-Unit Trophy	**8 Sig Regt** (C Team)

SOCIETY MATCHES

The healthy state of the Corps Golfing Society was again reflected this year in the number of members vying for the opportunity to play in representative matches. We were able to select over 80 different players of suitable handicaps, which were drawn from across the spectrum of our rank structure.

Unfortunately we cannot report unqualified success in these Society matches against other Corps. Of the 11 matches played we won 4 and lost 7.

It will be noted that only 11 of the 13 scheduled matches were played. This in part was due to reorganisation of other Corps' Golfing Societies. We are, however, pleased to report that we will have a full fixture list of 13 matches in 1994, with the notable inclusion of an AAC side to replace the Ironsides who have sadly finally become extinct.

CONCLUSION

The 1993 season was another successful year for the Royal Signals Golfing Society. We retained the Ordnance Cup, one of the four prestigious inter-Corps events. 8 Sig Regt reached the final stages of the Army Cup Event. Our Corps' teams and competitions are well supported with invariably more wishing to play than is possible. We have a number of young soldiers ready to compete for honours in the near future and we have the potential to do very well in 1994, a season to which all players look forward, I am sure, with eager anticipation.

ORIENTEERING

INTER-CORPS CHAMPIONSHIPS 1993

The Inter-Corps championships are arranged by each Corps in turn; in 1993 it was our turn. **Maj Rumford** took on this task which was made more onerous by the choice of Penhale Sands in Cornwall as the venue. The lack of nearby units meant that the event was organised with very limited resources and a good deal of assistance from the competitors. However, it is to **Maj Rumford's** credit that the event ran smoothly over the weekend 30/31October 1993 and that the results were published within three days. Unfortunately the same could not be said about the 1993 Army Championships the results of which are still awaited some two months after the event.

For the seniors, the inter-Corps Championships is run over two races–one at night on the Saturday evening and then a second during the Sunday morning. Both events were held on the training area attached to Penhale Camp which is a small but very testing area. The juniors competed only in the day event.

On paper the Corps had reasonably strong teams. Individuals had been running well and the previous few weeks had seen much orienteering activity. In particular a training camp had been held at Harrogate and most of the team had competed at the Army Championships in Berlin. On the other hand, team selection had also been affected by injuries, notably to **Sgt Sharp**, 264 Sig Sqn, and **SSgt Preston**, 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

After the night event the senior A team was in fourth place due to particularly strong runs by **SSgt (YofS) Rose**, 3 UK Div HQ and Sig Regt, and **SSgt Backhouse**, 36 Sig Regt (V). However, in the day event it was the turn of two runners from ATR Bassingbourn, **Maj Bateson** and **Cpl Emmerson** to produce fast times and help the team into third place behind the RA and REME.

The senior B team was led by **W02 (FofS) Case**, AAColl Harrogate, who was running down due to injury. However, even with his injury, he still ran faster at night than any of the A team which just shows how good steady navigation is more important than pure running speed. The remainder of the team also did well and our strength in depth was demonstrated by the team beating the B teams of both the RA and REME.

The female team was drawn from 14 and 15 Sig Regts. They were inexperienced at racing at night and found this testing area particularly daunting. However, they should be congratulated in successfully competing in the competition even if they were beaten on this occasion by the more experienced AGC and REME teams. A somewhat depleted junior team also competed. Their perseverance paid off and they won the junior competition.

Overall a reasonably successful championships. Next year we will of course beat both the Gunners and REME.

INTER-SERVICES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Maj Bateson, ATR Bassingbourn, was selected at the last minute to compete for the Army in the Inter-Services Championships. He finished third behind **Capt Rye RM** and ex-Welsh Junior International **2Lt Barrett RA** and hence played a significant part in the Army's victory.

FUTURE FIXTURES

February/March 1994	District/Divisional Championships
13/14/15 May 1994	Royal Signals Chanpionships, West Midlands
28/29 May 1994	UKLF/Army Chanpionships, Swynnerton.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

President: The Master of Signals

Chairman and Treasurer: Major General P. D. Alexander CB MBE

General Secretary: Colonel A. N. de Bretton-Gordon — **Assistant General Secretary: Major G. Schofield MBE**
Welfare Secretary: Mrs P. J. Haw — **Administrative Officer: Mr. R. H. Whittle**

Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel Military System: London District 8424. STD 071 414 8424 Welfare Secretary (direct line) 071 630 0801. All contributions for *The Wire* should be addressed to the Editor and any queries referred to him on extensions 8428 or 8433.

The Association communicates with its branches and individual members through the pages of **The Wire**, *which contains accounts of Branch affairs as well as a forecast of Association events.*

Branch Secretaries are asked to check that their Branch members receive sufficient copies of **The Wire**. *Association HQ can arrange for copies to be delivered in bulk to Branch Secretaries for further distribution if this is convenient: it helps us save on postage.*

Dates of Branch events can always be published in The Wire and should be submitted to the Editor. We also welcome letters, requests to contact old comrades and announcements of births, marriages and deaths. We hope that each Branch will contribute a short account of its activities, preferably with photographs, at least once a year.

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

The Spring Luncheon will be a Curry Tiffen at the Army Golf Club, Aldershot on Sunday 17 April 1994. 1230 for 1300 hrs. The cost per head will be £9 excluding drinks. Past and serving menbers of the Corps and their spouses are welcome. Names and cheques please to **Lt Col (Retd) D. Crookes OBE**, 110 Field Way, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 4UL.

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

The Bournemouth Branch recently held one of its regular Sunday lunches at a leading Bournemouth hotel which was attended by 34 members and guests.

During the lunch the Hon Secretary **Mr Harry Hawke** presented the Chairman **Mr Aubrey Flooks** with his Honour Membership Certificate. **Mr Flooks** was awarded his Honour Membership in February 1972.

The Assistant Regimental Secretary **Maj Schofield** had kindly arranged for the Certificate to be signed by **Maj Gen M. D. Price**, who was Chairman of the Assocation at that time.

L to R: Hon Sec Mr Harry Hawke, Chairman Mr Aubrey Fooks

BRIGHTON BRANCH

Sunday 14 November saw fourteen members attending the Remembrance parade at the memorial, very cold but dry. **Derek Swann** laid our branch wreath and **John Chinchen** carried our Standard in spite of the wind. We all met for a drink after the parade.

On the 18th, **Alan Rudd** took five of our members along to St Mary's Church, Kemp Town to see the Institution and Induction of the **Rev John Lloyd-James** to his new parish. The **Rev John** is an ex Army Chaplain and Branch Padre to The Burma Star in Worthing; your committee hope to gain his services for our branch.

On 20th November, we held our annual dinner with 83 sitting down to an excellent meal. It was a chance for the branch to say welcome to **Brig Colin Brown** as our President along with his wife **Heather** and we look forward to seeing them both at future functions. During the dinner **Brig Colin** presented **Alan Foot** with his 50 year badge and certificate and **Derek Swann** with his certificate (**Derek** received his 50 year badge two years ago). **Alan** of course was one of our founder members, as he was with his own branch in Reading, some 21 years ago, of which he is now Chairman. The reply on behalf of the guests was by **RSM Steve Buxton** who gave us some interesting information on the present and future setup with the TA. I think everyone enjoyed the evening with the band playing a pleasant mixture of dance music.

Maj Leo Caldicott, one of our Vice Presidents, has also been awarded his 50 year badge but, unfortunately, could not make the dinner.

On Sunday a number of members who attended the dinner were invited to a buffet lunch and what a surprise! It was almost an 884/887 Sig Tp cum Regimental reunion, **Brian** had found various ex members of the Troop and Regiment and secretly invited them along, to name but a few, **Capt Margery Lucas**, **Capt David Bartlett**, **WO2 Chris Constantine**, **SSgt Ken** 'just in case' **Flint**, **WO2 Tony Allibone**, **Sgt Pete Phillips**, **Cpl John Carney** (he hasn't changed a bit) and a number of others who we see fairly frequently at our meetings. Well done **Brian**. What next?

New arrivals starting on 3 November with **Paul** and **Wendy Beard** who have had a little boy, **Kristian Sven**. On 12 November **Capt Huw** and **Jane Jones** who produced a little girl, **Beatrice Emily**. On 17 November **Gail** and **Mark** had a little girl, **Charlotte Rose** and last, but not least, on 23 November **Alec** and **Ann Jeffries**, a little boy, **Stuart**. Well done to you all.

BRISTOL

Events in 1993 were sad, adventurous, and also, it is hoped, enjoyable.

Mr William Slinger, the oldest member of the Branch, and the oldest recorded member of the Association, died on 25 September, aged 102 years. Not a year had elapsed since my first meeting with him. (Last February issue of *The Wire*). The Branch Secretary, and former Secretary, attended the crematorium service in Bristol, as did the Royal Engineers Association, Bristol Branch Secretary. **William**, an ex RE Signaller, was joint Life member of both Associations. **Mr Slinger** had outlived most of his family.

The PS *Waverley* evening cruise was both adventurous and eventful, attended by a hardy few. It can be rough out there in the Channel but, in fact, it proved to be totally calm. The event organised by **Col Dowse-Brennan**, on behalf of the Somerset RSPCA, raised over £1,500. The photograph shows the Branch Secretary, his wife **Jean**, with **Beryl** and **Jim Chamberlain**, on the 'Poop' deck.

Mr B. Clarke gave a vintage Royal Signals presentation to the Weston-super-Mare Amateur Radio Society meeting in September, which was well received.

He acquired several 'training aids' from **Maj Pickard** of the Corps' Blandford Museum, which included items from **Mr Clarke**'s former years in the Corps, one such item being a heliograph.

The Christmas Social was a sit down traditional Christmas meal. Thus the dinner was a first, and an adventurous first 'away from home'.

There is an increasing number of younger serving, mainly SNCOs (Volunteers) joining the Branch.

COLCHESTER BRANCH

We meet every 3rd Monday of each month at the TA Centre, Circular Road, Colchester (courtesy of 45 Sqn, 36 Sig Regt (V)), at 2000 hrs (the bar opens earlier). Head at the helm is **Lt Col Willie Allen** ably assisted by **Maj Roger Buston**, our scribbler is **Jim Preston** and the financial adviser(?) is **Bert Connon**. Other members who may strike a chord are **Pat Gallacher** (hospital rep) and **Trevor Saint** head of fun and of the evening games, not forgetting the most important person–our hostess **Jenny Power**.

What we are looking for is enthusiastic new blood to join our small, but keen, fraternity of ex Signallers, so if you are out there and within striking distance of our meeting place why not come along and join in the activities.

Should you require any further information please contact **Jim Preston** on 0376 563985.

DORSET BRANCH

The AGM held on 16 November 1993 at the Sergeants' Mess, The Royal School of Signals, Blandford Camp was attended by 35 members. Not many you might think, considering the large number of both retired and serving members in the area, but a record on past attendance. Our monthly meetings held on the third Tuesday of the month has also attracted new members, but we would welcome more.

Amongst those who attended were **Maj Gen R. J. Moberly CB OBE KstJ**, as many of you will remember as the SOinC from 1957 to 1960. Also **Brig C. H. Stoneley OBE** who represented Great Britain in the 1932 Olympics and gained a Silver Medal in a team relay event, both in good health. Another of our very regular attenders, and our Standard Bearer, **Jimmy Wilds**, has just completed 50 years representing the Corps at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey, well done **Jimmy**.

Maj Gen A. Yeoman presented our chairman **Maj Pat Lafferty** with his 50 Years' Badge for service to the Corps and the Association.

If we lack quantity I think we can record quality. Our Annual Dinner is to take place on 18 March 1994, anyone who wishes to attend should contact **Jess Weir** our Secretary on 0202 572690.

EAST KENT BRANCH

The branch is still very active and the following events have taken place since our last report.

Catterick Reunion 1993: 17 members attended the weekend Reunion and although there were heavy hearts at the impending closure of Catterick as a centre for the Corps, it did not seem to dampen everyone's enjoyment. There were nearly 30 Standards on Church Parade including ours borne by **Roy Andrews**.

About 63 members gathered in Slatters for lunch on 12 July to hear **Trevor Allison** give a fascinating and most amusing talk on tracking down what might broadly be termed 'radio interference'. **Trevor** had brought with him a whole range of ancient and modern equipment. He showed a copy of one of the earliest 'Ham' Radio licences and by chance **Ronald Growns** happened to know the person whose name was on it. Thank you **Trevor**. Our thanks also to **Edith Thomas** who very kindly ran the raffle and **Hazel Haynes** for the floral decorations for the tables.

The barbecue lunch, 15 August: thanks to the tremendous efforts by **Dickie Dyer** and his family also the forebearance of **WO1 (RSM) Farquarson** whose Mess was purloined for the day, about 75 members and their friends gathered for an inspection of the Intelligence Corps Museum, outside which **Jack Dienst** displayed his collection of WW2 MCs which brought back memories to the older members. He was even wearing a WW2 bush shirt which looked as good as new. Then down to the Sergeants' Mess for drinks and an excellent raffle run by **Edith Thomas**. The weather turned out to be lovely as the chicken legs, Army size sausages and hamburgers sizzled on the terrace. Lashings of salad and gateau to follow all washed down with a glass of wine was generally acknowledged to be wonderful value for £3.50. The Chairman, **Lt Col Bert Sawyer** thanked all those concerned with making it such a happy day 'and so say all of us!'

GLASGOW BRANCH

The attendance at the Remembrance Ceremony in George Square Glasgow on Sunday 14 November was depleted by the 'flu' bug but 21 members attended with berets and others with glengarry's.

The CO of 32 Sig Reg (V) **Lt Col W. Brewin** congratulated members on their smart turnout. The Regiment provided lunch at HQ which was much appreciated especially the choice of curries as the weather was very cold but dry with bright sunshine.

The St Andrews' Ball was held on Saturday 27 November attended by 82 members and guests. An excellent meal was served followed by dancing into the small hours; this was enjoyed by everyone and even most of the old 'uns' managed to stay the Course.

The CO had given permission for the use of the officers' mess for pre-dinner drinks and allowed the use of the Regiment's silver candlesticks, its 'Jimmy' and table mats with the Corps crest to decorate the tables which were set out in the shape of the St Andrew's Cross.

The toast to the Queen was given by **Mr Ian Wood** a member of the Association.

Capt A. McBain (QM) represented the CO and gave the toast to the Royal Signals Association (Glasgow Branch). **RSM (WO1) C. Patrickson** represented the Senior NCOs, **Capt B. E. Bolam AGC** also attended.

Glasgow Branch Chairman Bill Taylor with committe members and guests

L to R: 1st Ivana Hamilton Secretary, 2nd Eric McWaters Treasurer, 6th front Mrs Betty Taylor, 7th Back Bill Taylor Branch Chairman, 10th Back Capt A. McBain and 11th front Cathie Leahy Social Convener

GUERNSEY BRANCH

At December's Army Benevolent Fund's Happy Hour many members of the Branch were present to witness the award of the 50 Year Badge to Chairman **John Rudkin**.

John saw service during World War Two and has worked unceasingly since that time to further the aims of the Association, first in Jersey and, since taking up residence here, as Chairman of Guernsey Branch. In that capacity his unstinting efforts have ensured the success of the Branch over many years.

Our Christmas dinner was again held at La Favorita Hotel and Social Secretary **Alf Laine** is complimented upon ensuring a very enjoyable function once again. Member **Jim Remfrey** kindly arranged transport for some members, with **Sidney** and **Edith Jones**, along with **Alvaro** and **Betty Salazar** attending to the administrative details. And, once again, **Judy Cobb** produced a superb Christmas cake.

It was a matter of some regret that member **Len Barbe** and his wife **Dot** missed the event, owing to his recent discharge from hospital. None-the-less, they were much in our thoughts–particularly as, despite his illness, had arranged the traditional exchange of Christmas cards with Lincoln Branch.

HARROGATE BRANCH

We are pleased to be able to report that the Harrogate Branch is in fine fettle. Our monthly social get-togethers are normally well attended with 25 to 30 members enjoying themselves and each others' company.

A barbecue and disco was held in July which was well supported by about 80 members and their guests.

The highlight of the year was when, by kind permission of the Commandant, we held our annual dinner at the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, on Friday 12 November. The Principal guests were the Master of Signals and **Mrs Birtwistle**, **Col C. J. Walters** and **Mrs Walters**, **Col N. R. Bigland TD**, and the Mayor of Harrogate.

We are most grateful that, during a busy week, the Master and **Mrs Birtwistle** found time to join us for the evening.

During dinner, members of the College Corps of Drums, all apprentices gave a talented performance.

After dinner the Master spoke to most branch members. He was also quick to spot the absence of ex Corps rugby player **Alex Kubu**. Unfortunately the Master and **Mrs Birtwistle** had to leave early for an engagement in Scotland the following day.

Our thanks are due to **WO1 K. Roberts**, Welsh Guards, and the mess staff, our indefatigable secretary 'Chippy' **Wood** and entertainment's member **Jack Kendle** for organising such a splendid evening.

On the sporting side, the Branch Golfing Society, ably run by **Pete Sheppard**, **Bruce Graham** and **Dave Aldous**, have had a couple of matches. The highlight being the day held at Aldwark Manor which ended with a dinner and prize giving. The Christmas Stableford will culminate with a prize giving and dinner.

With an excess of 70 members on our books, there is no doubt that we in Harrogate can boast of an active and happy branch which strives to meet the aims of the Association.

L to R: Mr Ken Purnell, Harrogate Branch President, The Master of Signals, The Mayor of Harrogate and Col C. J. Walters, Comdt AA Coll Harrogate

PROPOSED LAUNCH OF A SOUTH LONDON BRANCH

Subject to number of potential members, it is proposed to establish a branch of the RSA to cover the South London Area. The new branch will be based at Phoenix House, HQ 71 Sig Regt (V), Bexleyheath, Kent.

Serving and ex-members of the Corps who are interested in joining the new branch are asked to contact **Capt Jim Esson** on Crayford (0322) 525552.

Should the response of potential members be deemed sufficient, it is intended to meet for a lunch, in order to discuss the formation of the new branch.

DO YOU LIVE IN CUMBRIA?

Mr Harry Bishop would like to form a branch in Cumbria. Anyone in the area who may be interested in joining is asked to get in touch with him on Tel: 0946 822839.

HIGH-SPEED WIRELESS OPERATORS (OWKs)

Ex-4th Wireless Group, Egham 1943/45. If you are not on **Ron Weldon**'s list, please contact **Alan E. Foot**, 96 Chiltern Crescent, Earley, Reading, Berks RG6 1AN. Reunion planned for 17 June 1994.

225 SIGNAL SQUADRON–LANGELEBEN

Ex **Cpl Bill Fry** who served in 225 Sig Sqn at Langeleben in 1969 would like to get in contact with two former friends–**Eddie Bellerby** and **Curly Moore**. Please write to him at 223 Bankhead Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL6 1JB

REUNIONS

LANGELEBEN REUNION

The first reunion will be held on 4 June 1994 at Garats Hay, Loughborough. The AGM will take place at 1200 hrs and will be followed by a social evening and buffet commencing at 2000 hrs in the Garats Hay Cadre Club. Membership now stands at over 70. Further information available from: **Frank Mitchell**, 6 Derwent House, Timber Street, Elland, Halifax HX5 0HD. Tel:0422 376915.

ANNIVERSARY OF ROYAL SIGNALS TA IN EASTBOURNE ANNUAL REUNION DINNER

To celebrate the 25th Anniversary of The Royal Signals TA being formed in Eastbourne, formerly 858 and 859 (Corps Reinforcement Troops) now 56 Sig Sqn (V), an All Ranks Annual Reunion Dinner will be held in Eastbourne on Saturday 26 March 1994, 1930 hrs for 2000 hrs.

All past members of the Squadron are cordially invited. Applications from PSA0, 56 Sig Sqn (V), TA Centre, Seaside, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN22 7NL.

56th (LONDON) DIV SIG DESPATCH RIDERS DINNER DANCE LANDSDOWNE HOTEL, EASTBOURNE, 26 MARCH 1994

The above event will take place almost 50 years to the day when the 56th London Division was evacuated from the Anzio beachhead to return to the Middle East via Naples for a refit and rest before returning to the final battles in Italy. All ex members of the Division will be welcome and should contact **J. Law**, 1 Vincent Close, Langney Point, Eastbourne BN23 6ET.

NORMANDY VETERANS ASSOCIATION
50th Anniversary Celebrations

A celbration of the above event will take place in the RoyalAlbert Hall on Saturday 25 June 1994 in the presence of members of the Royal Family. A limited number of non-member arena seats at £7 each and balcony seats at £4 each are available. Send correct remittance and TWO stamped addressed envelopes to **Mr D. J. Tysoe**, NVA Ticket Sales Admin, 9 Ferry Lane, Laleham, Staines TW18 1SW

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during November 1993

Mr J.T. Williams	£808.73
In memory of Lt Col P. G. Gambier	£145 00
Mr A. E. Roberts	£50. 00
Anonymous	£50. 00
Glossop and District Branch	£25. 00
In memory of Maj A.F.Goat MBE	£20. 00
56 Div OCA Motor Cycle Display Team	£20. 00
Mrs G. Power	£15. 00
Mr T. J. Powell	£12. 00
Mr J. Cumming	£10. 00
Indian Signals Association	£3.00
	£1158 . 93

The following donations were gratefully received during December 1993

Bequeathed by Mrs Lilan Ada Goodwright MBE	£1000.00
In memory of Lt Col Gambier	195.00
42 Sig Regt (Officers' Club)	175.00
44 Cinque Ports Sig Sqn (V)	70.00
Reading Branch	65.00
Anonymous	50.00
In memory of Sgt William Harries	30.00
Mr P. R. Covell	25.00
Mrs E. M. Way	25.00
Mrs J. Greenstreet	15.00
In memory of WO2 Maurice Lambert	15.00
Mrs F. E. Stagg	10.00
Mr D. O'Leary	10.00
Mr G. A. Jenkins	6.00
	£1691 . 00

THE 254 CLUB

The fourth reunion of the wartime boy soldiers of Boys Training Company, known as the 254 Club, took place at the Brandon Hall Hotel near Coventry over the weekend 29/31 October 1993. A total of 160, including wives, attended. This is a further increase from last year. There were a few firsts, such as: 'Mac' **McKay** (better known as Mac O'nions) **Jack Batham, Stan Barratt, Mike Bayliss, Jimmy Blake, Eddie** and **Gerry Brewer, Jim Ireland, Jock Miller, Frank Lumbard, Jim Braid** and last, but not least, the furthest travelled **John** 'Buck' **Angell** who fitted the weekend into his holiday from Australia. Of course, all their ladies came as well. **George Severs** had organised a weekend that had something for everyone. The Friday arrival, drinking and nattering and generally getting re-acquainted. Saturday golfing, archery, clay pigeon shooting and, of course, shopping buses for Warwick, Leamington Spa and Stratford followed by the evening dinner and dance.

During the dance the Annual Prize Draw was held, this was expertly organised by **Janet** and **Dave Ross** who had canvassed and collected all the prizes donated by members, outstanding of which was the lovely cake made and decorated by **Miranda Hewitt** whose husband **Sid** was taken from us only weeks before after a short cancer illness. The cash raised from the draw forms the Club's income for the year and it brings a smile to **George Severs**' face to be solvent once again. Our 'In Memoriam' list grows ever longer with a total of 52 being mentioned in **Peter McNaughton**'s after dinner tribute and it is with great regret that another has been added to the list by the death of **Tony** 'Enoch' **Holmes** on Armistice Sunday.

Stewart Dunlop on our behalf, thanked **Margaret** and **George Severs** for their efforts during the year and presented **Margaret** with a large bouquet of flowers and **George** with a bottle of his favourite tipple. Keep up the good work **George**.

Velia and **Peter Dixon** organised and presented the prizes for the Golf Competition. They donated and presented a cup to be played for annually and the first winner was **Gerry Brewer**. All ten who entered 'won' a prize and the following is the order of precedence. Best handicap **Ernie Webb**, best 1st 9 holes **Jeff Baker**, best 2nd 9 holes **Brian MacDonnell**, then came **Dennis Gittins, Mike Bayliss, Jock Miller, Geoff Oakley, Cliff Wood** and **Dai Rees** who of course was playing a game that for him had the wrong shape ball.

The archery attracted five stalwarts who were all 'pulling strings' for the first time. **Claire Brown** did well as did 'Buster' **Slade** whilst **Ann Fox-Roberts, Charles Timson** and **Ken Brown** tried hard. They all said that they enjoyed it and will have a go again next year.

Clay pigeon shooting provided more misses than hits although **George Severs, Lou Munday** and **Dave Ross** did well enough to merit a tie and a shoot-off which **George** won. These three were followed by **Roy Hunter** and **Bill Ramsay**, then came **Wally Brown** and **Johnny Walker** and last, but not least, **Nat Preece** who organised the event, presented the prizes and remarked that he just can't shoot!

LADIES BADGE

A ladies badge, similar to the men's lapel badge, is available from the Museum Shop, in Blandford Camp. Price £4.50 plus 23p, p&p.

WAR GRAVES

Edward 'Buck' **Taylor**, formerly of 1 Cdo Bde Sig Tp, has recently visited the War Graves section of the cemetery in Willenberg, some 12 km from Marienburg. He has sent us photographs of two headstones.

2580531 **Sig J. S. L. Redpath**–September 1940.

6084503 **Cpl R. Wallace**–16 July 1941.

Anyone who may like these photographs should apply to the Assistant Regimental Secretary at RHQ.

ARMY TRAINING REGIMENT–BASSINGBOURN

Members already know that since 11 Sig Regt was disbanded in Catterick, all of our recruit training has been carried out at the Army Training Regiment in Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire. The Regiment is composed of three squadrons–one for each of Royal Signals, Royal Engineers and the Queen's Division recruits.

Several members have expressed a wish to visit our Recruits in their new environment, and the Commanding Officer has agreed to this. He has recommended that the best time for such visits would be at Pass Off Parades, which are forecast as follows: 25 February, 11 March, 17 June and 1 July 1994.

The invitation would be to no more than eight members per visit, and would cover attendance at the Parade, a buffet lunch and a brief look at other recruits in training.

Individual members, or local branches who would like to visit the Army Training Regiment should make their bids to the Assistant General Secretary at RHQ.

THE 5th (LONDON) CORPS SIGNALS 1939-1945

Dennis E. Roberts CBE is Chairman of the 5th (London) Corps Signals Old Comrades Association and is the author of a short history of the unit, which includes maps, photographs, line circuit diagrams and a wireless diagram, and covers the unit's life in UK, North Africa, Italy and Austria. For those who are interested copies can be obtained from the author at a cost of £10.00 each including postage and packing from the following address: **D. E. Roberts**, 302 Gilbert House Barbican, London EC2Y 8BD.

LIBERATION OF THE NETHERLANDS

We have been asked by the Military History Section of The Royal Netherlands Army if we can help towards the publication of a major work on the military operations on Dutch Territory between September 1944 and May 1945.

The questions of specific interest to them are:

What knowledge did Allied soldiers have of The Netherlands before they arrived there?

What was combat like in The Netherlands?

What impression did the German troops in The Netherlands make?

Readers who may wish to contribute towards this research should write to: Military History Section RNLA, Oude Waalsdorperweg 25-35 (gebouw 240), PO Box 90701, 2509 LS The Hague, The Netherlands.

LETTERS

Dear Sir,

With some 69 'Turns on the coil' one tends to look back on the past more than perhaps the future.

In late 1942, early 1943 there was a large call up into HM Forces, including volunteers, of which I was one. After the initial infantry training and transfer to Royal Signals we were mustered out as Don Rs, OWLs, OKLs, Line men, Radio Mechs, and sent to various units, in my case the 15th Air Formation Signal Regiment, formed up in Crumlin, Northern Ireland, in 1943.

In 1985 after much research, **Malwyn Evans**, Gwynedd, has located those who were with him in 80 Wing Signal Section. During the last nine years **Malwyn** has organised nine reunions, the last on 26/27 May 1993 at the Crewe Arms Hotel, Crewe when 19 old soldiers met for the 50th Anniversary of our first meeting in Crumlin.

Since 1985 things have 'snowballed' other sections of the 15th AFS have come to light, 84 WSS, 97 Tele Op, 87 WSS, 82 WSS, 88 WSS, 81 WSS, 145 DR, 147 DR, 148 DR to name a few. 18th Air Formation Signal Regiment was now involved and we went off to the Middle East.

At our last meeting in May the decision was made to discontinue the meetings. However other ex signallers have come to light and the number has now increased to 50 known ex 15th &18th AFS Regiment soldiers.

At the last meeting **Gerry Evans** and I were sorry to see it end here. However, since that meeting other members have been located. Therefore, anyone interested in attending a reunion in 1994 is asked to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Dennis K. Egan

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THE LAST GREAT CATTERICK REUNION

It has recently become clear that the move from Catterick to Blandford of 8 Sig Regt, our only remaining Regiment in Catterick, is due to be completed well before July 1995, when the 75th Anniversary Catterick Reunion is scheduled to be held. The Corps Committee has reluctantly decided that it will not now be possible to hold a Reunion in Catterick in 1995. The Reunion in Catterick on 25/26 June 1994 will be:

THE LAST CATTERICK REUNION

in its present form. The *only* Association Reunion in 1995 will be held in July 1995 at Blandford and *this* will be the 75th Anniversary Reunion.

The 1994 Catterick Reunion will follow traditional lines, and Association Branches will receive the usual bidding instructions in due course. However, it is anticipated that there will be a much higher attendance than usual and this will put a severe strain on already very limited resources. In particular, accommodation will be in short supply. Those who can make their own accommodation arrangements are asked to do so: *now is not too soon*.

Pass the word on: the June 1994 Reunion will be

THE LAST GREAT CATTERICK REUNION

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THE wire

The Royal Signals Magazine

April 1994

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 April 1994:

	PRICE £
Blazer Badge	12.50
Blazer Button– Set: 6 Large, 6 Small–presentation boxed	22.20
Set: 4 Large, 6 Small–presentation boxed	18.40
Belt, Italian leather, reversible Black/Brown engraved with Corps Badge	14.50
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The Wire

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OUR COVER PICTURE

Our front cover picture shows Princess Marina Cup Champions 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt 1994. *Standing L to R:* Maj Brown (Team Manager), SSgt Scott, Cpl Crawford, Brig Schuler (President of Corps Skiing), Brig Radcliffe (Chairman of Army Nordic Skiing), SSgt Philemon, and Sig Steve Massey. *Kneeling L to R:* Pte Finch, Sigs Drew, Blears, SSgt Brown, LCpl Brass, Capt Metcalfe and Lt Evans.

Our back cover pictures show 30 Sig Regt Regimental Information Team 1993 out and about in Southern England. Top picture shows LCpl Naylor retrading to primary school teacher. LCpl Gantum believes in recruiting them young whilst Cpl Barsley impressed his visitors with his face painting skills.

The opinions expressed in The Wire are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of the Corps or the MOD. This publication contains official information. It should be treated with discretion by the recipient.

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PRINCESS MARINA CUP CHAMPIONS 1994

1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt is the champion ski unit of the British Army winning the prestigious Princess Marina Trophy. It is only the second time that a Corps unit has achieved this honour, the last time being in 1986 when 22 Sig Regt won it. The competition is decided on the outcome of four races in each of the alpine and nordic disciplines, on a least points scored basis. This year, 12 units qualified as Marina contenders including old rivals 35 Engr Regt, and 1 GS Regt RLC, formerly 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt, and last year's holders of the cup. The alpine team comprises four racers from which the best three times are taken for the team races. The nordic team are allowed six soldiers, one of whom must be a novice and the team must be able to field an officer, a Cpl or above and two LCpls or below for the patrol race. The final efforts of both teams is the culmination of a long build up period of training in the summer and on the Corps winter camps.

ALPINE

The alpine team had its most successful year since 'Marina' year in 1986, by winning the Army Alpine Championships in their own right. Following a summer camp in Zermatt over the block leave period, a winter camp was organised in Kaprun, Austria, by **SSgt Phil Philemon** of 208 Sig Sqn. The camp, open to all Corps units, provided instructors for all levels of competitors preparing for the various competitions, including the Corps Championships at the end of the camp in mid December. Thanks to the generous sponsorship from SONIC Communications Ltd, the Corps level skiers were coached by a former Yugoslav junior national team trainer, **Risto Mekic**.

The Divisional Championships in Les Contamines, 8-18 January, proved to be the first real test. The team now comprised just four racers: **Capt Adrian Metcalfe, SSgt Andy Brown, Cpl** 'Geordie' **Crawford** and **Sig Steve Massey**. The overall results were disappointing and bad luck had played its part, however, the competition had enabled the team to judge the strength of the opposition. 1 GS Regt RLC was going to be the team to beat at the Army Championships that followed, in Serre Chevalier.

The residue of the SONIC sponsorship money and a contribution from the Corps, enabled the team to take along the trainer, **Risto**, to provide the right psyche at the Army competition. It was a decision that later became fully justified in light of the results. The team came second by only 2 tenths of a second in the Team Giant Slalom event, and won the Team Slalom, the Super Giant Slalom and the nerve wrecking Downhill race, all by the narrowest of margins over 1 GS Regt. **Cpl Crawford** was the second overall individual in the Army, and with **SSgt Brown** was selected to represent the Army again. **Sig Steve Massey** improved dramatically and recorded a string of very fine individual and team results, including an 8th place in the Army Individual Slalom event. Although a late arrival, **Capt Metcalfe** provided a staunch supporting act, having missed much of the expert training advice available in Kaprun. He should have won a prize for the most heart rendering wipe out at the last gate of the Downhill race. He has been allowed to keep the warped ski as the boss of this year's Army Alpine Champions.

NORDIC

The nordic team has the advantage of much easier means of talent spotting by assessing an individual on the basis of general fitness. The cost of nordic skiing is much cheaper than alpine skiing, and yet recruiting the stars for the future is still proving difficult. This year's Regimental nordic ski team comprised old campaigners: **SSgt** 'Scotty' **Scott** and **SSgt Bob Anderson**; the team captain and novice **Lt John Evans**; and youngsters **LCpl** 'Dicky' **Brass, Sig Graham Drew** and **Pte** 'Chaff' **Finch** (AGC). All but one of the nordic competitors came from 208 Sig Sqn. It is perhaps coincidental that the Sqn Comd of 208 Sig Sqn, **Maj Phil Brown**, was not only a former nordic team captain at 22 Sig Regt, but is the Regimental Race Team Manager for both disciplines and the current Corps Ski Secretary.

Preparations started at the end of the athletics season. A programme of endurance training, roller skiing and shooting was conducted in the Herford area. This was inevitably disrupted by the exercise season, however, with that over it was full time training on snow from late November onwards starting with the Corps Nordic Training Camp in Norway. This year, as in previous years, the camp was organised by **SSgt Scott** of 208 Sig Sqn, in Skei. This camp is now recognised as the biggest and best run camp of any Corps and is open to all Royal Signals units. Indeed other units such as the QDG, 3AFA and teams from the RAF also join in, helping to offset the cost of the locally hired instructors to the Corps team. As with the alpine camp, the nordic camp ends with the Corps Championships. For many skiers this is often their first exposure to racing. For the Regimental team it provides an indication of progress, especially as the RM and RE also participate for extra competition practice.

After a short break for Christmas, the team travelled to France prior to the Divisional Championships. The results were mixed, but the team finished in 5th place in the nordic combination of the 15km, 4 x 10km, 4 x 7.5km biathlon race and the dreaded patrol race. They then moved to Les Saisies, the site of the 1992 Winter Olympic nordic events, for the British Army and National Championships.

The team started well picking up only 2 Marina points in the 4 x 10km race, thanks to an explosive last leg finish by **LCpl Brass**. This time its form held out and despite the lack of real experience throughout the squad, the team managed to stay in touch with its near rival Marina team, 1 GS Regt. Prior to the start of the last Marina event, both teams were level on points. Whichever did better in the patrol race would win the competition and, on paper, the Regimental team was the underdog. 1 GS Regt skied the 30km course slightly faster and shot better, but was actually disqualified after completing the course during the Technical Delegate's final inspection.

Competing successfully in the Princess Marina is not just about skiing hard and fast, or shooting well, it's about maintaining the highest standards of discipline and administration by all the team members. And so it proved. A new unit title has now been added to the most prestigious skiing honour in the British Army, that of 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

Army Alpine Ski Champions 1994:(1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt) *L to R:* SSgt Brown, Cpl Crawford, Risto Mekic (Trainer), Capt Metcalfe, Sig Steve Massey

(1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt) Patrol Team:
L to R: Lt Evans, SSgt Scott, LCpl Brass and Pte Finch (AGC)

BEIJING OR BUST
HONG KONG TO BEIJING 555 MOTOR RALLY 1993
A personal account by LCpl Sue Neate QG Signals

Seventeen Chinese and Gurkhas provided the communications expertise for the five marshal teams involved in the Beijing Rally. The rally started from Ocean Terminal Hong Kong at 0800 hrs on Saturday 23 October and finished in Tiannamen Square, Beijing at 1030 hrs on Friday 29 October after covering approximately 3,800km.

That might sound quite a casual trip, in reality it was incredibly tiring and arduous, especially when taking into account that half the roads were dirt tracks winding through mountains and valleys.

There were five teams of officials all of which had a special stage to cover each day. This consisted of a time control, a start point, flying finish and the stop. They were responsible for ensuring that all of the competitors started correctly and that the results were properly correlated before being transmitted by satellite to Beijing. A true mix of military and civilians working side by side to ensure the smooth running of the rally.

The start officials were able to communicate with the Rebros who in turn, either by manual or automatic rebroadcast, were in communication with the stop officials. This was achieved by using commercial VHF equipment supplied by the Hong Kong Automobile Association. The radios are made by Shinwa and had only four frequencies available, two of which were the rebro frequencies. This caused quite a few problems during some of the stages as the marshal teams were sometimes so close to each other that transmissions were often broken. In many instances it was necessary to manually rebroadcast to alleviate the problem. QG Signals personnel were manning the stop vehicles which had a VHF radio and a MDT 6000 satellite terminal. The satellite terminal was used after every special stage to transmit the results back to the official time keepers in Beijing who were using another type of satellite terminal called a Datalite. A third type of satellite terminal used was called an Ultralite. This provided the only voice communications between the special stages and Beijing and was provided for the Clerk of the Course, **Mr Jim Porter**. The satellite communications equipment was provided by Hong Kong Telecom as part of their sponsorship of the Rally.

SSgt (FofS) Paul Cooper and Lt James Anderson talking to Beijing on the Ultralite Satellite terminal

Lt James Anderson and **SSgt (FofS) Paul Cooper** went to China in July to do the initial communications recce. This proved very difficult as most of the special stages were in mountainous or hilly areas and all the communications checks were done in isolation. Any interference, between stages therefore, did not show up hence our problems during the actual rally.

Lt James Anderson and **SSgt (FofS) Paul Cooper** drove the '00' car which was the first official car through the closed stage of the rally and had to keep ahead of the rally competitors on each special stage. This was to ensure that the stage was clear and check that all communications were in and working. This proved to be yet another problem as by the end of some of the stages, they were only just ahead of the competitors and were having to rally down the course themselves. On one particular stage, they were driving at 120km per hour through a village when a police van decided to do a U-turn in front of them. Quick reactions by the Foreman prevented a serious accident.

Most teams had to cover approximately 500km a day with the rally and then cover additional mileage to get to the overnight stop and accommodation. The accommodation was usually in Government owned guest houses which were spartan to say the least. The menu normally consisted of fish, rice and more fish (not too much fun for me as I am allergic to fish), and that was if you made it in time. Many people didn't, due to the road conditions and, the length of some stages. Driving was hazardous at the best of times but even more so at night. We came across vehicles just parked in the middle of the road with no lights, unlit cyclists wearing all black so that we had no hope of seeing them. Lorries had just one light on main beam until they saw you, then they would turn it off completely and just as they got level with us, turn it back on. 10km plus tail backs were everywhere and often looked more like lorry parks than traffic jams.

On the second day, **Sig Anne-Marie Ambury** was involved in a traffic accident. Whilst driving up a mountain route, she lost control of the van around a sharp bend and drove off the edge of the road, turning her Mazda van on its side. It righted itself and came to rest on a tree, which fortunately prevented it from going over a 100ft drop. A near miss!

We finally all made it to Tiannamen Square, tired, cold and hungry but, safe and sound. Everyone involved met again for the first time since the start, a spectacular sight, one which Tiannamen Square hasn't seen since the last rally in 1987.

It wasn't all hard work, thank goodness. Saturday 30 October was a well earned day off. We all went on a tour to the Great Wall of China, a formidable sight, and hard work to climb. We also went on to the Ming Tombs and we finished the day with a banquet held at the Great Hall of The People. We considered this a great honour as this hall is normally only used for state banquets or formal state functions.

On Sunday 31 October we flew back to Hong Kong after nine gruelling, never to be forgotten, days.

The Group at Tiannamen Square

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THE SWANAGE RAILWAY

This year will see the tenth anniversary of a unique relationship which has been developed since 1984 between the Swanage Railway and the Corps. Based at Swanage, in Dorset, the railway has been re-building an ex British Rail branch line which was closed and removed in 1972. Next year the railway hopes to open a further extension of the line to Corfe Castle and Norden.

The association began after the railway had been offered 30 miles of telephone cable by the Mid Hants Railway near Winchester. The newly formed Telecom Department, of the Swanage Railway, was unable to recover the dropwire without assistance so, railway member **SSgt Frank Roberts** approached the Ops Room at 30 Sig Regt for help. In March 1984, around 20 Linemen and Telemechs were released and spent four weeks installing telecom facilities over the first mile of the railway between Swanage and Herston. The teams were led by **Cpls Pat Violet, Ian Thompson, Bob Witherstone** and **Jeff Chadwick**. The CO of the Regt **Lt Col** (now Brig) **W. D. Backhouse** visited Ex Cygnet Train 1 and agreed to extend the trade training exercise by a further week. Plans were also set in motion for a 'thank you' dinner for all members of the Unit who had recently returned from the UN operation in Beirut. During an excellent occasion, held in the summer of that year, soldiers and their wives enjoyed a full meal in an historic Pullman car. The events generated a considerable amount of interest in the local media, and also the BBC, who compiled a full news report for BBC South Today.

Ex Cygnet Train 2 was held later in 1984, and provided telephone facilities for a major town gala involving many displays from the Armed Forces. Following that there was a break for a number of years until 1989 when Ex Topham Hatt 1 was mounted from Northern Ireland. Incidentally, much thought went into the choice of the title Topham Hatt; the Fat Controller in the Thomas The Tank Engine books being called Sir Topham Hatt! The choice had nothing to do with a certain RSM in office at the time. Under **Capt Matt Fensom** and **SSgt Frank Roberts** a dozen personnel visited Swanage to instal lineside telephones, telephone poles and more dropwire. Since then a further 10 exercises have been organised on the railway involving nearly 400 tradesmen from the Corps. Most of the work has concentrated on providing assistance for the Telecom Dept for the railway, and over the years, as the rail line has been extended outward from Swanage, different types of telecom facilities have been installed. The venture has proved to be an excellent training facility for the Corps, not only on the technical side, but participants have worked alongside civilian railway workers using a whole host of different equipments, including railway cranes, heavy building tools and, of course, many forms of telephone equipment.

The exercises have varied in size and nature depending upon the tasks set by the railway. Some have involved only half a dozen people, but others, like Ex Topham Hatt 5 held in April 1992, involved 35 Junior Soldiers from Kohima Tp at 11 Sig Regt, 12 NCOs from 244 Sig Sqn (AS) and up to 20 members of staff from the railway. Since the initial support from 30 Sig Regt, other supporting Units have been 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (213), additional NI Units, 640 Sig Tp (EW), 217 Sig Sqn and currently 4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204). Whilst visiting Swanage the Corps has been extremely well received by both the railway and all its volunteers and also the people of Swanage. In 1989 we started playing the town under 16 football team. Most exercises have played them since, however, they are not quite the same U16 team! The Royal British Legion, has played host on a number of occasions, together with a number of other venues, including The Purbeck Hotel with our friends **Bryan** and **Margaret Gibson**. Whilst enjoying this special relationship our reputation has grown and we have been able to rely on the continued assistance of the local police, Swanage Town Council and Dorset County Council. In return, we have played an active part in a number of fund raising schemes, and in 1992 Ex Topham Hatt 5 raised £1,200 for local charities.

On the technical side, the railway telephone system relies on two Private Automatic Branch Exchange PABX no 1's, purchased from British Telecom. The second exchange was installed at Corfe Castle by **Sgt Dave Ryan** and **Cpl Frank Nevens**, in 1990, during Ex Topham Hatt 2. This had been made possible following the installation of 3,000m of 20 pair cable which had been buried along the track by teams led by **Cpl Ian Wells, SSgt Vince McNaught BEM** and **Cpl** 'Ginge' **Woodworth**. The work went so well during the week that an opportunity arose to instal a pole run through the station at Corfe Castle. Instrumental in this job were **Maj Stuart Hodges, Sig** 'Stig' **Richards** and **Cpl** 'Nobby' **Noble**.

During Ex Topham Hatt 4, in November 1991, the railway was extremely pleased to host the Master of Signals **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL**. Also in attendance were the Sqn Comds of 244 Sig Sqn (AS) and 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (213), the participating units for the ten day period. The Master was able to meet all of the soldiers present including **Capt Chris Patterson, Sgt** 'Rab' **Rabbets, Sgt** 'Fossy' **Foreman, Cpl Sean Curry, LCpl** 'Rab' **Brooks** and **LCpl Steve Stoker**. As a result of that visit the Swanage Railway offered a Corporate Membership to the Royal Signals. During the current period of Options for Change it took some time for the arrangements to be confirmed. However, following the visit of **Lt Col V. G. Strivens**, CO 11 Sig Regt, in August of last year, the invitation was accepted on behalf of the Corps. With the Regiment now located at Blandford there could be a promising future for this link, once the units at the camp settle in. It is also possible that some link could be established with the Royal Signals Museum as has already happened between the Bovington Tank Museum and the railway.

The Swanage Railway has motivated many members of the Corps to become Premier Life Members. Sixty-eight have now paid £250 to join the ranks of the railway membership. This commitment was officially recognised in 1992 when the Mercury Group was formed to bring together all members of the Armed Forces who are supporting the railway project. In addition to providing support for the exercises, the group produces regular newsletters and organises reunions at Swanage.

The tenth anniversary will be marked by a special reunion at the Swanage Railway on Saturday 4 June when it is hoped that many of those who have played a part in this much valued contribution will be in attendance. This date falls in the middle of the D-Day 50 anniversary events which will see a number of functions in and around Swanage, including SSAFA who will be in attendance at the railway for a ten day period. Any member of the Corps who wishes to attend will be made most welcome and should contact the Group Secretary **SSgt Frank Roberts**, 4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204), BFPO 36, who will be pleased to forward further information. A small booklet has been written recording the history of this special association, and it also names all of the exercise participants; copies are available on request from **SSgt Roberts**.

Exercise Topham Hatt VIII (March 1993)
Exercise participants photographed at Swanage in front of former Yugoslavian locomotive 30075 which was purchased for Swanage Railway in 1991 from Slovenia

Exercise Topham Hatt IX (June 1993)
A dozen members of 640 Sig Tp (EW) seen here unloading 2,000m of multi-core cable prior to installation between Swanage and Herston

SSgt Frank Roberts is a past deputy chairman of the Railway, and has been head of its telecom department for the last 11 years.
Many of the team have been together again recently, serving in Croatia.

ON SAFARI, KENYA 1993

Report by Capt 'Jack' Frost

On Sunday, 5th December 1993, a party of eight TA soldiers arrived in Kenya for three week's adventurous training.

Preparations for this trip of a lifetime had begun eighteen months before when the Squadron 2IC suggested it would help develop character, initiative and leadership qualities if selected members of the TA undertook a climbing expedition to ascend the main peaks of the second highest mountain in Africa, Mount Kenya. With over twenty years' experience of climbing on Mt Kenya he 'volunteered', albeit reluctantly, to lead the expedition, assisted by **Sgts Paul Davies** and **Steve Gorton**, both regular PSIs in the Unit.

We arrived at Nairobi International Airport to be greeted by a tropical thunderstorm which had turned the airport into a lake, an omen perhaps for what was to come! After collecting our luggage we boarded the waiting transport to take us to Kahawa Barracks just north of Nairobi. Kahawa is the home of the British Army Training Liaison Staff Kenya (BATLSK) whose primary reason for existence is to support the Grand Prix Battle Group exercises which take place every year between the months of October and March; their secondary role is to assist the numerous adventurous training expeditions in Kenya which become more and more popular.

The following day, after a briefing by the Commanding Officer, we were soon our our way northwards approximately 180km to Naro Moru, a small township just south of the equator and normally used as the base camp for most climbing expeditions on the Mt Kenya Massif. The next few days were spent acclimatising to the heat and altitude, both considerably higher than we are accustomed to in the UK. At over 5,500ft the Naro Moru River Lodge, our base, is considerably higher than Ben Nevis and, even a short three mile run, leaves you noticeably short of breath due to lack of oxygen. It's therefore vital to spend as much time as possible getting used to both the heat and altitude .

Friday 10 December dawned beautifully clear, with a superb view of the Mountain; our objective for the next few days was to climb in stages to the Meteorological Station, thereby slowly acclimatising as we ascended, and reducing the risk of acute altitude sickness or the much more serious pulmonary oedema. Setting off from the Park Gates at 8,000ft we climbed slowly and steadily for some three hours, arriving at the Met Station at 10,000ft early in the afternoon. The track from the gate passes through lush woodland and bamboo thicket teeming with wildlife, and although it's rare to see big game such as elephants and rhinos we did see Cape Buffalo and both Sykes and Colobus monkeys with a huge variety of birdlife, butterflies and insects.

After spending the night at the Met Station we were up early next morning for the climb to Mackinder Camp at 14,320ft. Initially the track runs through high altitude rain forest, but this soon petered out at about 11,000ft and we entered a giant heather zone which in turn gave way to coarse tussock grassland and an area known as the vertical bog, which is very aptly named. We arrived at Mackinder Camp in Teleki Valley early in the afternoon, extremely tired but in high spirits. Unfortunately from here on, conditions on the mountain deteriorated, and after almost a week waiting for a break in the weather we were forced to abandon all thoughts of climbing the main peaks of Batian (17,058ft) and Nelion (17,022ft). We did, however, get five members of the team to the summit of Point Lenana (16,355ft) the third highest peak, in itself a very creditable achievement given the conditions. Although not a difficult peak to climb care must always be taken when crossing the Lewis Glacier for the last few hundred metres to the summit. It is well worth the effort involved as the views are quite spectacular, providing of course you've beaten the cloud. With no foreseeable improvement in the weather we decided to cut our losses, and expenses, and head for Hell's Gate which is an excellent rock climbing area in the rift valley near Lake Naivasha.

Here the contrast could not have been greater, instead of near arctic conditions we were soon climbing the many quality rock climbs with temperatures in the 90s and glorious sunshine. We spent three superb days at Hell's Gate before departing for a game safari to the Masai Mara Game Reserve. This was an incredible experience and to see the animals in their natural environment is an unforgetable sight. The party then headed for the coast and the luxury of the Nyali Beach Hotel just north of Mombasa situated on a beautiful stretch of coast facing the Indian Ocean. Here, we made full use of the excellent facilities, swimming, snorkelling, sub-aqua diving and even golfing for two days. All too soon the time had gone and we had to drive back to Nairobi for the flight to UK after a truly memorable three weeks.

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30TH SIGNAL REGIMENT
REGIMENTAL INFORMATION TEAM (RIT)

By Lt S. J. Billingham

OK, everyone know the convoy drills, breakdown procedures, actions on the RV's–any questions? No? right–load up the vehicles–let's move out. . .

A bright summer's day, early May, and as the line of white Rovers with trailers and a minibus pulled out of Blandford Garrison so 30 Sig Regt Information Team (RIT) set out to face the challenge of the RIT 1993 season; a fearless team consisting of **Lt Billingham, Sgt Krishna Abahadur, Cpl Barsley, LCpls Guatam Gurung, Lovely, Naylor, Matthew, Sigs Taylor, Walsh** and **Worsley** ready to do battle with the general public, recruit some unsuspecting individuals into the clutches of the Army and, with twisted arms, sample the nightlife of every major town between Winchester and Lands End–a tough job but someone had to do it!

The aim of the RIT was to promote the Army and the Corps to the public providing information, advice and guidance on recruitment and trade options. We soon appreciated how ignorant the majority of the public are of the diverse careers available within the Army and that so many youngsters are blinkered to the trade opportunities open to them. A bit of gentle persuasion, enthusiasm and glorification of the training, qualifications and pay and those would be Rambo infantiers were swayed to the globe trotting appeal of the Royal Signals! The team also used its contact with the public to promote the Royal Signals Museum Project and under tight control of **Sig Piers Worsley** raised funds through display boards, first day covers and polaroid snap shots of children in mini uniforms and cam cream–popular with the kids but loathed by the mothers!

The season ran from May to September with events all over the South of England. The start of the season was a schools open day in Plymouth and having opened with vivacious enthusiasm, by 1100 hrs the team was beginning to fade fast and longed for the patience of school teachers. Despite the heavy downpour the children were streaming through and as **LCpl Linda Naylor** went into Phase 1 of nursery school teacher training, being overrun by 20 five year olds, **Cpl Jase Barsley** was attempting to set a new world record for how many four year olds could be fitted into the back of an FFR. As the last bus pulled away the team visibly collapsed in relief and as we headed back to our accommodation to nurse away the early symptoms of pneumonia I made a mental note to put straight all those who had commented on the RIT . . . what a swan!

The subsequent shows ranged from large commercial events such as the Yeovil Festival of Transport with over 40,000 paying to visits to small community shows like the village fair in the sleepy seaside town of Branscombe where we were the star attraction being involved in everything from the 'pulling the tractor' competition to drawing the tombola. The team also attended several military events being at the Arms and Services Display at Warminster, RSA day at Blandford and being the Royal Signals representatives at the RMAS open day. As the miles clocked by we must have achieved a first by introducing our two Ghurka team members to the remoteness of Lands End and then venturing over to the Isle of Wight for the Garlic Festival–their first trip on a ferry and for most, the first time on the Island–never has there been such well travelled Gurkhas who could shame a native with their new found knowledge of the South of England!

As a summary for the season the team voted Plymouth to be first class, Cirencester and the Isle of Wight definitely worth a visit, whilst Winchester and Redruth received the thumbs down–but enough about the nightlife experiences! In all the season was full of variety, amusement, kids, kids and more kids.

It was an excellent chance to work with the public and recruit for the Regiment, Corps and Army; to the next RIT Comd, I wish you the patience of a saint, the tolerance of a school teacher and, above all, a sympathetic bank manager.

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ECHOES FROM THE PAST . . .

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSIST IN THE CONQUEST OF EVEREST

From: *The Wire*, **April 1954**

Radio communications for the successful Mount Everest Expedition of 1953 were very much in the hands of the Corps from the earliest planning stages. **Brig W. R. Smijth-Windham**, Wireless Officer on the 1933 and 1936 Everest expeditions, acted as radio adviser to (then) **Col John Hunt**, the expedition leader. When **Brig Smijth-Windham** was posted overseas in November, 1952, he handed over his responsibilities to **Brig E. J. H. Moppett**, who had recently retired voluntarily to join Pye Ltd at Cambridge. The expedition member who actually handled the radio communications on Everest was **Mr George Band**, the expedition's youngest member, who had recently completed his National Service as an officer in the Corps.

In discussion with **Col Hunt**, **Brig Smijth-Windham** worked out the basic signal plan. After careful evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages they decided to do without radio sets capable of radio contact with the outside world. Once committed to their task, discussion with people remote from the actual conditions would, they thought, have been of small assistance. The delay in getting news back of success or failure was considered unimportant. It would have been futile to carry much heavy equipment just for that purpose; it was far better to devote the weight to equipment that would contribute to the main task of reaching the summit.

It was decided, therefore, only to take equipment for internal communication within the expedition's sphere of operations, for keeping the various parties in touch and receiving the vital special monsoon forecasts from All-India Radio and the BBC. Radio was considered to be of maximum use during the initial build up period. At the greatest heights it was thought better to devote all possible weight carrying capacity to oxygen.

Incidentally, **Mr T. D. Bourdillon**, who looked after the oxygen equipment on the expedition and who, in reaching the South Summit of Everest 28,700ft paved the way for the successful assault, was also a former officer in the Corps.

When **Brig Moppett** took over the task of fulfilling equipment details of this plan, on **Brig Smijth-Windham**'s departure to Europe, **Mr C. O. Stanley**, Chairman of Pye Ltd and an old friend of many in the Corps, placed the full resources of the firm at his disposal to design and produce all radio equipment required for the expedition, as a free contribution. Just a little over two months was available, which was stretched to three months by the firm shipping the equipment out by air. This also minimised handling and the possibility of transit damage, as well as ensuring the batteries would arrive in the pink of condition. It was fortunate that **Mr George Band**, the expedition member selected for radio duties, was at Cambridge as a post graduate student, so that his advice, based on considerable mountaineering experience, was always available as work on the equipment progressed.

For communication between parties up and down the mountain it was clear a dry battery operated VHF Walkie Talkie set was required. The Pye commercial walkie-phone was considerably modified for this role. The set was made small enough to go on the chest, without impeding the climber, by removing the lower half of the case, which normally contains the batteries. These were carried instead in a special waistcoat under the climber's clothes, to use body heat to keep them at working temperature, because for much of the time the temperature at high altitudes is sufficiently low to reduce battery output below the level needed to make the sets work. This arrangement also distributed the weight more evenly. It was possible for one climber to wear the batteries and the other to wear the radio, plugging together to use the equipment. The weight of the walkie-phone was 5lbs.

The sets, arranged for single frequency simplex, were fixed tune at 72 Mc/s, with crystal control both for transmitters and receivers. This ensured that sets would never go off tune and made netting absolutely accurate without any adjustment. In fact the press-to-talk switch was the only control. There was not even a volume control, so that the climbers never needed to take off their gloves to use the radio. The microphone was mounted on top of the chest mounted set, near the user's lips, and a single light Ardente headphone was worn on one ear, under the head dress, leaving the other ear free.

To enable the climbers to use their sets to talk from camp to camp when tucked up in their sleeping bags, a rod aerial on a folding tripod was designed for erection outside the tent, with lightweight co-axial feeders 12 or 30ft long to plug into the walkie-phone. The legs of the tripod could be stacked round with rocks or pieces of ice to hold the aerial against the wind. Under severe wind conditions the tripod legs could be opened out horizontally, to increase stability.

For short wave broadcast reception the Pye PE 70B export receiver was modified by fitting it in a stout wooden case containing the batteries as well. This set is a conventional all-dry battery receiver covering the normal broadcast bands up to 18 Mc/s. These receivers were painted bright red to enable them to be picked out from other stores.

Mr R. P. Richardson, Managing Director of Burndept-Vidor, another old friend of the Corps, was equally generous in producing and supplying the dry batteries. These had to stand up to transportation through the tropics and then in Arctic, low pressure, conditions to give a useful life at the roof of the world.

For the HT batteries a form of the Vidor Kalium cell, which employs a potassium hydroxide electrolyte and a mercuric oxide depolariser, was used. This type of cell gives much greater capacity for weight and bulk than normal cells. The batteries were sealed into solid blocks in polyester, cold setting, resin. Standard Vidor batteries were found suitable for LT after wax treatment of their containers.

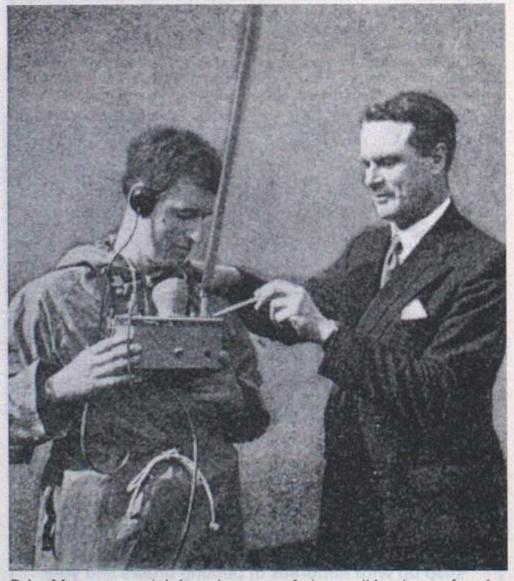
The 90V HT battery, weighing 3¾lb gave 90 hrs' service at 20°C, 66 hrs at 0°C and 41.5 hrs at –10°C. The 1½VLT, weighing 8oz, have 18 hrs at 20°C, 11.5 hrs at 0°C and 8.5 hrs at –10°C. The same HT was used for both the walkie-phone and the broadcast receivers, while a larger Vidor commercial battery was used as LT in the broadcast receivers.

Ten walkie-phones were taken by the expedition. This was not the first use of VHF radio equipment on Everest, for **Brig Smijth-Windham** had made successful use of Eddystone sets, built by Stratton and Co. in 1936, but it was the largest scale employment of radio so far used for the purpose, and through technical progress in the interim, the sets used this time were nearly ⅓ the weight.

Mr George Band reported that all sets worked satisfactorily except for occasional minor faults and gave valuable service, particularly in assisting the build-up of stores over the icefall. The following camps were in communication with each other at various times: I to II, II to III, I to III, III to IV, IV to VI, IV to VII. III to IV was poor and I to IV did not work (blocked by the curve of the icefall and the mass of Nuptse). Best of all were I to VI and I to Lobuje, which was six miles away down the Khumbu Glacier. Most of these camps did not have visual contact. All batteries gave very good service provided they were kept from being too cold. It took 20 minutes in the waistcoat under the clothes for batteries to reach operating temperature when the air temperature was below zero.

The highest that a walkie-phone was used was Camp VII (24,000ft). One was taken to 26,000ft on the South Col but it sustained a broken battery plug and could not be used. Discarded as useless weight for the descent, it remains there, the highest piece of radio equipment on earth!

Sir John Hunt spoke very highly of the service rendered by radio communication, which he stated had made significant contribution to the success of the expedition. The Corps may well be proud of their part in this magnificent British achievement.



Brig Moppett explaining the use of the walkie-phone for the Mount Everest Expedition to John Morris, The Times Correspondent, who went out with the Expedition

Photo by courtesy of 'The Times'

ROYAL SIGNALS DISPLAY TEAM

R. Signals Display Team Comd **Lt Col L. Tilson**
White Helmets Team Comd **Capt R. Deans**
White Helmets Team Sgt **Sgt Don Brebner**

The team welcomes: **Sigs** 'Rolly' **Brennan**, 'Ivor' **Downer**, 'T' **Gaffney**, **Steve** 'Interesting' **Davies**, 'Mossop' **Riddler Keatley**, 'Dan' **Maskell**, 'Si' **Quinn**, 'Nobby' **Summons**, 'Rab' **Taylor**, 'Mongy II' **Williams**, and a special warm welcome to our new civilian staff: Ch Clk **Mrs Jo Buckley**, Stores Mgr **Mr Lee Rimmer** and Mech **Mr Lance Johnson**.

January 1994 witnessed the end of an era in the history of The White Helmets. The team held its first working parade in its new home at Blandford Camp, this break from Catterick has been a significant 'break from the old routine'.

The team spent three weeks unloading and establishing our new working facilities, a major investment in some new equipment and a lot of effort has transformed the empty compound into our new home. Our fleet of Triumph 750 Tigers has received its annual winter overhaul at the traditional home of all Triumphs at Meriden in Coventry. Now under the watchful eye of **Mr Lance Johnson**, our new mechanic and resident Ducati expert, the fleet is keeping all the mechanics busy. New projects include the restoration of some team assets such as the Matchless G80s and a Triumph Saint 750. **LCpl** 'Tonka' **Richardson**'s bike requiring a miracle rather than restoration.

Team training is now starting prior to the annual External Training Phase at Bassingbourn in mid March. Operations are being directed by the new Team Sgt **Sgt Don Brebner** at the training area in nearby Bovington. This has proved an immediate success with the Tank Museum and ground staff alike. As a result of training **Sig** 'Ivor' **Downer** spends every day in bed, having his every need catered for by the staff at Poole Hospital. Some team members hope they may break a leg too.

The 1994 tour is taking shape and we are bracing ourselves for a monster mileage season as we 'yo-yo' north to south across the UK.

The team's newest member, **Capt Rich Deans** sails his desk and fights the never ending paper warfare. Nevertheless, he has stepped out of the closet and revealed that he is a BMW owner and rider!

The word 'new' features very prominently throughout this article and it very much reflects the current fresh outloook from the whole team–the New 1994 Royal Signals Motorcycle Display Team–the White Helmets.

New team members training at Bovington under the tuition of Cpl Elson and LCpl Jenkins

Photo: courtesy of The Tank Museum, Bovington Camp

ARMY RUGBY–UK FINAL–7 RHA V 2 SIGNAL REGIMENT

Excellent conditions of both weather and playing surface gave our young side every opportunity of causing a major upset.

The Gunners rely heavily on a 'win ball-keep it' tactic of grinding tight play followed by tactical kicking from their Army half-backs. The lineouts were an area where 2 Sig Regt had hoped to obtain a fair share of possession, through **Sigs Mark Parr** and **Lee Francis**, along with **Cpl Pete Curtis** at the tail. However, the perennially present triumverate of **Coghlan**, **Woods** and **Fowers** in the 7 RHA front row caused mayhem in both the scrums and lineouts. **Woods** found Army second row **Lt Dave Dahinton** at most of their lineouts thus continuing their cycle of win ball–kick ball–win ball. 2 Sig Regt meanwhile struggled through lack of physical presence in both areas of tight play, and although their front row of **Sigs** 'Dixie' **Dixon** and **Jason Lawer**, along with **Lt Pete Drew** gave 100% effort, the sheer weight difference between opposing front fives proved decisive.

With some 10 Army players in the 7 RHA side facing 7 Army and 3 Army U-21, players on the 2 Sig Regt side the match drew a hefty crowd. Although the 7 RHA play was fairly tedious, they witnessed some ferocious tackling from the 2 Sig Regt back row, notably from **SSgt** 'Chalkie' **Atkins**, however the biggest hit of the day went to **Lt Drew** and **Sig Dixon** who stopped **Sgt Fowers** quite literally head-on. The tough Combined Services prop displayed his side's keenness to keep hold of the cup by rejoining the fray with 12 stitches for his pains.

With possession running at 70/30 in the Gunners' favour the talented 2 Sig Regt threequarters didn't really have much opportunity to impose themselves on the game. Some fine counter attacks by **Cpl Steve Bartliff** from full-back kept hopes alive, though with **Cpl Dai Bowling** missing five kicks at goal and **Lt John Merritt** missing his two chances the game was unfortunately handed to 7 RHA. The Gunners scored an early drop goal through **SSgt Steve Commander**, and a penalty from **Lt Howie Graham** in the first half, and a try by **Commander** early in the second half. Final Score: 7 RHA 13–0 2 Sig Regt.

2 Sig Regt Team:

1. **Sig Dixon**, 2. **Sig Lawer**, 3. **Lt Drew**, 4. **Sig Parr**, 5. **Sig Francis**, 6. **SSgt Atkins**, 7. **Capt Gareth James**, 8. **Cpl Curtis**, 9. **Lt Merritt**, 10. **Cpl Bowling**, 11. **Cpl Vince Key**, 12. **Cpl** 'Cass' **Cassidy**, 13. **Cpl Lee Douglas**, 14. **Cpl Carl Richardson**, 15. **Cpl Steve Bartliff**. Replacement: **Sig Steff Gibbs**, **Sig** 'Hoss' **Cartwright**. Match played 27 January 1994.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF M62 BOMB DISASTER

The 20th Anniversary of the M62 bomb that killed members of the Corps on 3 February 1974 was commemorated by the laying of a wreath in Corps Colours by **Mr D. D. Broughton**, a survivor of the blast who works in 8 Sig Regt. We shall remember them.

Mr Broughton laying a wreath on the 20th Anniversary of the M62 bomb

ONE MAN'S EXPERIENCE

(The following letter, from ex **SSgt (FofS) R. Isbell**, to **WO1 C. Clark-Darby**, Corps Resettlement Warrant Officer, will be of interest to all those leaving the corps and seeking a second career.)

Dear Carl,

Having applied and been accepted for phase 2 redundancy put me into an area that was totally new. Not long after the euphoria of having been accepted had disappeared I really started to think about what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

My main concern was the fact that I still had a wife and two children to support and could not afford to be out of work for long. I started to get into resettlement with little or no help; this I found out later was not uncommon and is partly due to the job being given to an officer who is already wearing too many hats and is poorly trained in resettlement.

I was accepted for the NEBOSH course at Plymouth CFE and spent a pleasant six weeks there training as a health and safety advisor. I also attended many briefings most of which I found boring. However, it was from one of these briefings that I got the idea for what I eventually ended up doing.

Time seemed to be marching on and the discharge date was getting nearer with no sign of a job on the horizon. I was fortunate in that housing had been taken care of a few years earlier (1981 to be precise) and the family was established in the home and school.

I still had not decided what I was going to do, but with the FofS qualifications and the NEBOSH certificate I did not think I would be out of work long. What I really wanted to do was work for myself, but having discussed this with various people I was persuaded against this as I did not have enough commercial experience to be an independent consultant.

It was at this time that the SEN job notifications started coming through. I decided to phone and follow up on a few but nothing came of it. This started to change once I had attended the Coutts course and got my CV in order. I decided that I would write a 5/6 page CV that could be amended to suit the job being applied for and reduced to the number of pages I thought required, 2/3 pages for a personnel department and maximum pages and information for an agency.

The point of no return was getting ever closer and I was starting to get worried as I was receiving a lot of positive responses but not many interviews and potential job offers.

One SEN notification I decided to follow up on was for a Contract Comms Project Manager for a City Law Firm. This was, initially, for six weeks, with possible extensions. After an interview and a wait I was offered the position and duly started on 26 August, four days before discharge.

This then gave me the breathing space to carry on searching for more work. I decided to follow the advice given by Coutts but went one stage further and created a database of Agencies (currently 142) from which I would keep about forty live at any one time.

I had by now decided that I would stay self employed and look for contract appointments only; this was a wise decision and I have not looked back. I started by working as a Sole Trader and I have just put into effect the paperwork that will start a limited company on 31 March 1994. It is now February and the contracts to date have put me on a wage that is at least three times the salary that I was receiving per month from the Army.

Whilst I now look back on the leaving of the services as the most nerve racking part of my whole career I am glad of the result. This, however, was only possible due to the positive activities that I carried out in searching for a job. I am still, on average, getting three telephone calls a week from the agencies offering me positions that have come on to their books. I am not able to accept these. However, I can pass people, who are leaving or left the services, on to them if they have the right skill set. So if you are a FofS, TOT, Senior Technician or YofS and have not yet obtained employment, get my address from Regimental HQ and drop me a line. I would like to pass these offers on to RHQ so that they can go into the newsletters but they need responding to as a matter of urgency and the time it takes via the newsletters is too great.

I suppose the message that I am really trying to get across is 'If you want it, you have to go and get it; the world will not come to you. Use the resettlement service as much as possible and get the courses, push them, if needs be, to get what you want. Ensure you register with the SEN and RHQ so that any notifications that come in can be sent to you. Most of all have faith in your own ability and ensure that your CV says what you are really capable of.'

To those that have been selected for the next phase I wish you all luck in your endeavours.

R. A. Isbell IEng, FIEIE,MISM

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?
HAVE YOU INFORMED RHQ?
TELEPHONE 071-414 8432

THE ROYAL SIGNALS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Due to the changing scene at Catterick Garrison, the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society HQ and Radio Station G4RS moved to The Royal School of Signals Blandford at the end of December 1993.

To mark the 16 years that the Society HQ Station G4RS has been operational at 8 Sig Regt, the R Signals Scarborough Amateur Radio Club was invited to put on a special radio event by Society Vice-President **Maj (Retd) R. Webb** G3EKL. This historic occasion was highlighted by club members operating GX4RS on 17, 18, 19 December 1993 at Scarborough College CCF HQ. The object of the operation was to contact as many Society members, worldwide, as possible.

Four stations were set up, two HF, a VHF and UHF, employing voice, FM, radio teleprinter and morse codes.

Communications were difficult on high frequencies due to low sun spot activity. However, members were contacted in Cyprus, Australia, America and Canada by morse code. The majority of contacts being made with members in the UK and Europe on lower frequencies. In all 271 contacts were made, 75% with society members. Our thanks go to the Society for its support, **Lt Col Keith Rowe** and **Capt Gail Rowe** CCF Scarborough College and Headmaster **Dr D. Hempsall MA, PhD** for the venue, and to all operators and members.

Left, Tony G3CWW on the teleprinter RTTY, Jack G3CAA on the Key, *Right*

ROYAL SIGNALS SUSSEX ARMY CADET FORCE
10 EASTBOURNE CADET TROOP

'A' Band started its life in the early months of 1993 with three drums, of which only one was any good, two bugles, and one trumpet which needed repairing. Most of the drummers learnt their first drumming tune by banging on table tops.

Realising we were desperate for help, it was decided to launch an appeal for donations from different Companies, Organisations and certain Charities.

Eventually, after much letter writing we had money coming in from all sides, which enabled us to purchase the much needed instruments and equipment.

Today, the Band which is based at Eastbourne, under the direction of Band Master **U/O F. Pollitt** and Assistant Band Master **WSI C. Brooks**, boasts 21 Cadet members, looking resplendent in Band Uniform. Following its debut to the public, in August 1993, the Band performed at Eastbourne's 'Annual Cadet Tattoo' in September, and participated in the town's Remembrance Parade, in November 1993.

Bookings for the Band are coming in quite fast since our displays and, with the help of two civilian instructors who are helping us with new music and display routines, we are all hoping that this is just the beginning of something big.

ROYAL SIGNALS RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY EVENTS 1994

April		
17	Bicentennial of the Yeomanry	71 Sig Regt (V)
	Great Windsor Park	& 95 Sig Sqn (V)
22	Commanders Opening Show Blandford	White Helmets, Quicksilver, Para Display Team
23	Freedom of Windsor–Windsor	71 Sig Regt (V)
24	Teesdale Show	Quicksilver
27-30	229 Sig Sqn Berlin (Farewell to Berlin)	Royal Signals Band
May		
2	Swansea Show	Quicksilver
	Wakefield Rotary	Para Display Team
	Blandford Georgian Day	Royal Signals Band
9-11	Open Day Plymouth	Quicksilver
13-15	Lord Mayors Show Chester	Quicksilver
15	Blandford Reunion	White Helmets, Para Display Team and Royal Signals Band
19	RMCS Shrivenham	White Helmets
21	Royal Grammar School High Wycombe	White Helmets
22	Manchester Air Show	Quicksilver
	Newman School Carlisle	White Helmets
25-26	Stafford County Show	White Helmets
28-29	Leeds Steam Rally	White Helmets
28-29	Herts County Show	Para Display Team
27-31	Military Vehicle Show Southsea	Quicksilver
30	Surrey County Show	White Helmets
June		
5	Bovington Museum	White Helmets
8-9	Kingston Lacy/Blandford Retreat	Royal Signals Band
11	Addlestone	White Helmets
	Blue Coat School Durham	Para Display Team
11-12	Bury Lions Carnival	Quicksilver
12	Bristol Car Show	White Helmets
17	Blandford Garrison Fete	RSS
18	Garrison Fete/Corps Lunch	Royal Signals Band
18-19	Essex Show	White Helmets
18-19	Biggin Hill	Quicksilver
19	Grantham	Para Display Team
22	Army Benevolent Fund Sherborne	Royal Signals Band
25	Old Comrades Reunion	White Helmets, Para Display Team and Royal Signals Band
25-26	Middlesex Show	Quicksilver
27	Army Benevolent Fund Sheffield	White Helmets, Para Display Team and Royal Signals Band
July		
2	13 Sig Regt Birgelen	White Helmets and Para Display Team
	Preston (Lostock Hall)	Quicksilver
2-3	AA College Harrogate Reunion weekend	AA Coll Harrogate
3	Colchester Co-op	White Helmets and Para Display Team
4	Altrincham Festival	Quicksilver
6	Army Benevolent Fund Kingston Lacey	Royal Signals Band
8	Gurkha/Benevolent Fund Harlow	White Helmets
9-10	Dagenham Show	Quicksilver
	21 Sig Regt Colerne Air Formation Open Day	Royal Signals Band
	Haywards Heath Carnival	Royal Signals Band
10	Glamis Castle	White Helmets
	Parks Concert Darlington	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
12-14	Great Yorkshire Show	Quicksilver
14-16	Kent County Show	White Helmets
16-17	Save The Children Gala Pontefract	Quicksilver
17	Belmongate Festival Guisborough	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
19-21	East of England Show	Quicksilver
23	Cleveland County Show	Quicksilver
	Playing Retreat Middlesbrough	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
27	Nantwich & South Cheshire	White Helmets
30	Border Union Agricultural Show Kelso	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
29-31	Pickering Steam Rally	White Helmets
30-31	Snetterton Race Norwich	Quicksilver
August		
1-2	Turrif Show	White Helmets
2-3	International Scout Jamboree Tatton Park	Quicksilver
3	Guest Band RMSM Kneller Hall	Royal Signals Band
4	Black Isle Show	White Helmets
	Burwarton Show	Para Display Team
5-7	Portsmouth and Southsea	Para Display Team
6	Perth Scotland	White Helmets
6-7	Standish Carnival	Quicksilver
7	Bristol	White Helmets
9-12	Wales & West Show	Quicksilver
13-14	Adlington Carnival	Quicksilver
14	Norfolk Police	White Helmets
	Veterans Parade York	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
16-17	Cromer Carnival	Quicksilver
18	Denby and Flint Show	White Helmets
20-21	Bolton Show	White Helmets
	Derby City Show	Para Display Team
21	3 Nines Romford	Quicksilver
	Bandstand Concert Bournemouth	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
23	Hull Show	Quicksilver
	Hull Tax Drivers	Para Display Team
27	Bandstand Concert Bournemouth	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
27-28	Blackburn Lions	37 Sig Regt (V)
27-29	Town & Country Festival Stonleigh Warks	37 Sig Regt (V)
28-29	Eye Show	Quicksilver
September		
3	Enham County Show	White Helmets
	Stockton Show	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
3-4	Chatsworth Country Fair	Quicksilver
4	First World War Tattoo Leeds	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
10-11	Duxford Air Show	Quicksilver
11	Darlington Railway Museum	White Helmets
17-18	Peterlee Carnival	Quicksilver
18	Brentwood Working Dogs	White Helmets
	Hexagon Theatre Reading	Royal Signals Band
19	Nidderdale	White Helmets
October		
14-15	Farewell to Catterick	White Helmets
		Royal Signals Band
November		
5	Linton on Ouse	White Helmets
10	Ferndown Rotary Club Concert	Royal Signals Band
December		
3	Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children	Royal Signals Band
1995		
July		
28	Final Graduation Parade AA Coll Harrogate	Royal Signals Band

WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

We come from two World Wars, Korea, Kenya, Malaya, Aden, Cyprus, Ulster, The Falklands and all those areas of turmoil where peace must be restored.

Now, disabled and mainly aged, we must look to you for help. Please help by helping our Association.

BLESMA looks after the limbless from all the Services. It helps to overcome the shock of losing arms, or legs or an eye. And, for the severely handicapped, it provides Residential Homes where they can live in peace and dignity.

Help the disabled by helping BLESMA with a donation now or a legacy in the future. We promise you that not one penny will be wasted.

THE FIRST STEP
by a recent, young double amputee

PLEASE GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE

Give to those who gave – please

Donations and information: The Chairman, National Appeal Committee, BLESMA, Midland Bank PLC, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9DX

BLESMA
BRITISH LIMBLESS EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION

– Movements –

OFFICERS
FEBRUARY 1994

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj A. J. Allman	Staff College
Maj P. R. Ford	HQ Doctrine & Trg
Maj T. J. Friend	8 Sig Regt
Maj J. M. Gale	JCUFI (AE)
Maj S. Grimmitt	DGES (A)
Maj J. A. Harris	238 Sig Sqn
Maj N. P. Harrison	DGCIS (A)
Maj T. G. Inshaw	ACDS (OR) Land Systems
Maj S. A. Leigh	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj S. K. Macrostie	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj G. J. T. Rafferty	203 Sig Sqn 3 Inf Bde
Maj H. A. Ross	2 Inf Bde & Dover/Shorncliffe Gar
Maj R. J. Steed	ACDS (Overseas)
Maj R. P. Wilson	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj M. P. Wise	HQ Multinational Div (BAE)
Capt N. J. Borrill	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt A. P. Bristow	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt J. R. C. Bunce	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt G. J. Complin	HQ UKLF
Capt M. Griffiths	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt I. Hooper	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt E. A. Hyde	Depot Tp 11 Sig Regt
Capt R. A. Mulholland	HQ RM
Capt C. J. Thackray	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt J. Appleby	11 Sig Regt
Lt D. A. Brown	11 Sig Regt
Lt A. L. Hayden	13 Sig Regt (R)
Lt I. Heath	11 Sig Regt
Lt A. Sharman	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt C. J. Kell	11 Sig Regt

MARCH 1994

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col L. G. French	HQ Wales & Western District
Lt Col R. S. Hewitt	Tayforth UOTC
Lt Col C. D. Melhuish	The Royal School of Signals
Lt Col I. M. G. Strong	The Royal School of Signals
Lt Col R. W. Batho	40 Sig Regt (V)
Lt Col A. J. Hutt	RAC Centre Sig School
Lt Col G. R. Leach	MGO Sec
Maj B. P. Avison	2 Sig Regt
Maj N. J. Bateson	16 Sig Regt
Maj T. Bushell	HQ 54 (EA) Bde
Maj R. J. Carter	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj R. B. Davis	HQ 2 (NC) Sig Bde
Maj P. Gillespie	Staff College
Maj P. J. Grogan	HQ UKLF
Maj A. J. Johnstone	71 Sig Regt (V)
Maj G. M. Lewis-Taylor	HQ 15 (NE) Bde
Maj R. G. Mather	ATR Bassingbourn
Maj C. C. Richards	Staff College
Maj F. P. Roberts	Staff College
Maj R. G. C. Sparshatt	Staff College
Maj R. J. Williamson	21 Sig Regt
Capt K. Atkinson	5 AB Bde CBT SVC Sp Bn
Capt P. J. Davies	Staff College
Capt P. W. Glibbery	Staff College
Capt D. G. Halstead	Staff College
Capt N. P. Metcalfe	Staff College
Capt N. A. W. Pope	Staff College
Capt J. E. Swindells	21 Sig Regt (Air Sp)
Capt K. Whitehead	Staff College
Lt R. M. Artley	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Lt R. E. Chamberlain	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt R. J. Edwards	237 Sig Sqn
Lt B. A. Forster	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Lt M. J. Hanby	1 PWRR
Lt A. R. Harrison	16 Sig Regt
Lt T. Hill	209 Sig Sqn
Lt P. R. Jones	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Lt S. N. Meadowcroft	13 Sig Regt (R)
Lt A. J. Mould	215 Sig Sqn
Lt R. A. Scott	602 Sig Tp (SC)
Lt J. A. White	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (213)
2Lt A. B. Arthurton	7 Sig Regt
2Lt D. A. Cooper	7 Sig Regt
2Lt A. H. T. Garrett	20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200)
2Lt M. J. Grierson	7 Sig Regt

WOs AND SNCOs
FEBRUARY 1994

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 P. R. Abbott	11 Sig Regt
WO1 (FofS) W. Dott	16 Sig Regt
A/WO1 (FofS) N. B. Cullen	16 Sig Regt
A/WO1 J. J. Fairburn	5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para)
A/WO1 N. B. George	8 Sig Regt
A/WO1 D. McCluskey	NATO Comms School Latina
A/WO1 (YofS) W. P. Ruthven	600 Sig Tp
A/WO1 (YofS) W. P. Bingham	HQ DSF
A/WO2 (FofS) J. J. Newsome	16 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) G. E. Stratton	633 Sig Tp
A/WO2 D. H. Fraser	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
A/WO2 J. Gibson	40 Sig Regt (V)
A/TWO2 G. A. Hitchen	30 Sig Regt
SSgt D. W. Craig	5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para)
SSgt (YofS) A. E. Dobson	14 Sig Regt (EW)
SSgt M. Finch	Depot Regt (AAC)
SSgt R. W. Forshaw	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt D. J. Harman	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt R. K. Hughes	11 Sig Regt
SSgt G. A. J. Renshaw	11 Sig Regt
SSgt M. A. Shirley	7 Sig Regt
SSgt P. M. Tait	16 Sig Regt
A/SSgt A. P. Cheeseman	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
A/SSgt J. Crabb	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218)
A/SSgt S. G. J. Newton	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt A. S. Allan	19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209)
Sgt R. P. Atkinson	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt K. M. Belam	30 Sig Regt
Sgt M. R. Bennett	11 Sig Regt
Sgt R. A. Clubb	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt B. P. Croxford	SHAPE NICSOA
Sgt P. J. Dapprich	2 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Dick	7 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Foster	16 Sig Regt
Sgt B. T. Gillies	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt S. D. Johnson	1 Staffords
Sgt P. M. Lamont	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. A. Lewis	2 (NC) Sig Bde
Sgt S. Littlewood	30 Sig Regt
Sgt S. P. McIntyre	SHAPE Sig Gp
Sgt G. Moore	39 Sig Regt
Sgt A. G. Nodwell	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt E. A. Pearson	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt C. A. Reynolds	JCUFI
Sgt N. Riach	11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Sgt S. J. Ryder	56 Sig Sqn (V)
Sgt N. Stewart	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. Walters	Defence ADP Trg Centre
Sgt S. R. White	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt J. M. Williams	14 Sig Regt (EW)
A/Sgt C. Calabrese	30 Sig Regt
A/Sgt S. Cherry	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/Sgt L. D. Goodall	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
A/Sgt S. N. F. Graham	3 (UK) Div Sig Regt
A/Sgt N. M. Humphries	7 Sig Regt
A/Sgt D. W. Peters	14 Sig Regt
A/Sgt J. B. Smith	7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207)

MARCH 1994

WO1 (FofS) M. G. E. Howells	11 Sig Regt Depot
WO1 J. G. O'Donnell	2 (NC) Sig Bde
A/WO1 M. G. Chapman	38 CTT
A/WO1 D. E. Hall	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (203)
A/WO2 D. A. Davidson	JCUFI
A/WO2 (FofS) P. J. Day	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/WO2 W. C. E. Grattidge	Glasgow UOTC
SSgt I. Davies	7 Sig Regt
SSgt D. Exley	Comms & Sy Gp UK
SSgt M. Hawkins	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt S. Armstrong	633 Sig Tp
Sgt A. J. Frost	16 Sig Regt
Sgt A. R. Jones	ATR Bassingbourn
Sgt P. Jade	1 WFR
Sgt P. S. Latimer	RAF Mt Pleasant
Sgt S. F. M. Lawes	7 Sig Regt
Sgt R. F. Lawrence	11 Sig Regt
Sgt J. K. P. Logan	7 Sig Regt
Sgt N. R. Parkinson	633 Sig Tp
Sgt I. R. Patterson	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt J. D. Richardson	28 Sig Regt
Sgt S. D. Slaney	220 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. Smith	238 Sig Sqn
A/Sgt R. Everest	7 Sig Regt
A/Sgt S. A. Humphreys	7 Sig Regt
A/Sgt A. P. May	7 Sig Regt
A/Sgt S. Taylor	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

DEATHS

Bell–Brig G. B. Bell CBE–served 1926-57–died 22 February, 1994.
Berry–WO1 C. A. Berry–died 29 December 1993.
Bond–Sgt R. C. Bond–died 28 October 1993.
Brown–In-Pensioner **(WO2) T. B. Brown**–served 1948-68–died 10 February 1994.
Crockett–WO2 C. R. Crockett–died 16 January 1994.
Crowe–Sgt P. J. Crowe–died 7 October 1993.
Donald–Mrs A. J. Donald, wife of **Lt Col G. B. Donald**–died 16 January 1994.
Donnelly–WO2 A. B. Donnelly–died 24 November 1993.
Downing–Sig A. E. Downing–served 1954-57–died 24 December 1993.
Edwards–Maj W. Edwards–died 21 January 1994.
Galbraith–Maj D. Galbraith–served 1939-62–died 3 March 1994.
Giles–WSgt J. M. Giles–served 1962-1977–died 1 March 1994.
Howells–WSig (TA) G. M. Howells–served 1970-93–died 19 December 1993.
Humby–WO2 V. H. Humby–died 12 December 1993.
Humphries–Lt Col D. M. Humphries–served 1939-75–died 9 March 1994.
Jones–Cpl D. Jones–served 1939-45–died 28 February 1994.
Jones–Sig D. R. Jones–served 1948-49–died 27 January 1994.
Kelly–Cpl S. K. Kelly–served 1983-94–died 14 January 1994.
Lambert–WO2 M. Lambert–died 22 November 1993.
Lofty–LCpl P. A. Lofty–served 1950-55–died 26 January 1994.
McIver–Sgt J. R. McIver–served 1950-73–died 19 January 1994.
Pawley–Sgt W. G. Pawley–died 12 January 1994.
Robertson–In-Pensioner **(SSgt) R. A. Robertson BEM**–served 1942-79–died 30 January 1994.
Sheehan–Sig S. V. Sheehan–served 1938-46–died 30 January 1994.
Smith–Maj A. T. Smith MBE–died 10 January 1994.
Smith–Sig J. G. Smith–served 1940-46–died 2 December 1993.
Spafford–Maj J. Spafford–died 22 November 1993.
Stockham–Sgt G. F. Stockham BEM–served 1948-73–died 14 January 1994.
Stokoe–Mrs J. A. G. Stokoe, widow of the late **Maj J. A. G. Stokoe**–died 4 March 1994.
Timson–SSgt J. E. Timson–died 12 December 1993.
Tyler–WO1 F. W. Tyler–died 2 February 1994.
Walker–Maj J. R. G. Walker–served 1928-53–died 3 January 1994.
Young–Sgt A. M. Young–died 11 December 1993.

OBITUARIES

Benson–Maj D. J. Benson. Dennis was born in Birmingham where he was educated at King Edward VI High School. In 1938 he enlisted in the Royal Signals (TA) and shortly after the outbreak of war he was commissioned into the Corps. He served in India and with the BAOR in North West Europe where he met and married his wife, **Carin**, who was then an officer serving with the Dutch Resistance. After the war, he obtained a regular commission and served in the Middle East, Khartoum and Germany. He retired prematurely in 1961 and emigrated to Australia where he worked for a time in charge of the electronic recording facilities in the High Court in Perth. For family reasons, he returned to the UK and took up an appointment as a Comsec Officer with LCSA which was later absorbed into GCHQ. He served as a liaison officer in the United States and later became the UK Member of the NATO Allied Communications–Electronics Committee until retirement when he went to live in Goring-by-the-Sea, in Sussex, where he died of heart failure on the 7 January 1994. **Dennis** will be remembered as a conscientious, meticulous officer with a very nice sense of humour. He will be sadly missed by his wife **Carin**, daughter **Monica**, son **Michael** and his many friends.

Elwood–Frank Elwood joined the Royal Signals in 1935, serving in India and North Africa until being invalided out in 1943. He worked for the DSS, becoming Home Visits Officer and Welfare Officer. He was a member of Sheffield Branch RSA until it foundered, rejoined upon its reformation and became Treasurer and Welfare Officer. He also worked on behalf of War Pensioners. In his later years his health suffered greatly. Several years ago he collapsed at Catterick Annual Reunion and spent some time in hospital. Despite his continuing health problems, he carried on as Branch Treasurer and Welfare Officer until forced to give up. He was a keen supporter of the Association and noted for his clear, concise reports to the Branch.

Sadly, **Frank** died on 22 December 1993. He leaves a widow, **Jessie**, a son, daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Houston–Lt Col R. Houston MBE KStJ TD died in November 1993, aged 88 years. Commissioned in the TA in 1925, **Robert** completed six years' War Service in the Royal Signals, holding the rank of Major. He was awarded the MBE in 1946, and after settling back into civilian life, he resumed his activity in the Territorial Army, and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in 1954. Feeling the need for something to do after retiring from the Army in 1957, he became involved in the work of the St John Ambulance Association, rising to War Commander for Birmingham from 1970 to 1974, and for the West Midlands from 1974 to 1978. His progress in the Order of St John of Jerusalem was impressive–Officer 1970, Commander 1975, and attaining the highest honour of Knight of St John in 1986. He took great pleasure in his Association with the Order, and maintained an active interest in it until two days before he died.

A member of the Royal Signals Association he was for many years Vice President of the Birmingham Branch. Born in Glasgow, **Robert Houston** settled in Birmingham. A BSc in electrical engineering, he bought a printing firm and became President of the Birmingham Master Printers and, later, President of the Midland Alliance of Master Printers. He served on Birmingham District Council for 16 years. He was a very active member of his church where he served as an Elder. **Robert Houston** was a purposeful and cheerful Christian who will be very greatly missed by all those privileged to know him and to work with him.

Hethrington–It is with much regret that we announce the death of **Sgt Harry Hethrington BEM**. He served in the Corps from 1959-1984 as an Apprentice Radio Technician at Harrogate, and thereafter as a Radio Technician in the Far East, UK and Germany. He will be remembered for his resolute and courageous fight against multiple sclerosis which was diagnosed when he was 25 years old, but he continued to serve in 7 Sig Regt until his retirement. He died peacefully in the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle on 8 February 1994. He leaves a widow **Anne**, a son **Paul** and a daughter **Joanne**, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

Moss–SSgt John Moss. John Moss served in the Corps from 1945 to 1970 and died on 15 January 1994 just before his 71st birthday. After training in Scarborough he went to India with 73 British Brigade. Later on he served in Kenya and SEATO Bangkok. After he left the Corps he joined the Foreign Office where he was employed for 14 years. We send our condolences to his family and friends.

Purser–Lt Col W. A. Purser (Bill) died on 26 December 1993 aged 84 years. He was commissioned in 1929 from RMA Woolwich into the Royal Corps of Signals and attended his Q course in Catterick. Sent to India in 1931 he served in Peshawar District and Landi Kotal. In 1933 he was the Bde Sig Tp Comd to Brig (later Field Marshal) Auchinleck during the Mohmand operations on the North West Frontier. He returned to England in 1935 and while at Aldershot in 1937, together with three friends built the racing yacht *'Prelude to Adventure'* which was raced most successfully in the years leading up to the war. Following the outbreak of war he served with 4 Div Sigs in France and was evacuated from Dunkirk. After service in West Africa he commanded 78th Div Sigs during their campaign through Italy in 1944 and was Mentioned in Dispatches. He married on VJ Day in 1945 and in the immediate post war years commanded 52 Lowland Div Sigs in Glasgow. He served two tours in Egypt, the second from 1951-1953 commanding 1st Div Sigs during an emergency deployment to the Canal Zone from Libya. He retired from the Corps in 1955 and spent the next 22 years as a full time yacht skipper with the Island Cruising Club in Salcombe, Devon where he taught literally hundreds of club members to sail. He will be sadly missed by his wife, **Diana** and his five sons, **Richard, Tony, Michael, Jim** and **Simon**.

Rice–Maj J. E. V. Rice who served in the Corps from 1938-1958 died on 27 December 1993, aged 75 years. Commissioned into the Corps from RMA Woolwich he quickly established a reputation as an exceptionally talented athlete and sportsman, gaining 'blues' at rugby, cricket, athletics and a top ride at equitation. He saw service with the BEF in France and Belgium and was evacuated from Dunkirk. He was appointed to the British Army Staff in Washington and later was attached to the US Army at the Pentagon. Prior to the D Day landings he was responsible for the frequency assignment for the amphibious landing operations, a task requiring considerable coordination. He later served in Holland, Belgium and Germany and in the Middle East before retiring after twenty years' service. **Jack Rice** then went on to establish a reputation as a very successful entrepreneur. He also worked with the Fraud Squad and on changes to the Companies' Act. His wife predeceased him and he leaves a daughter **Anne**, a son-in-law and three grandchildren.

NOTICES

CORPS DATES

*10 May	Corps Dinner in The Royal Lancaster Hotel, London
15 May	Association Reunion, Blandford
*18 June	Corps Luncheon, Blandford
25/26 June	Association Reunion and AGM Catterick
*26 June	Corps Luncheon North, Catterick
28 June	Princess Royal Day
*4 November	Corps Scottish Dinner, Glasgow
10 November	Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey
*24 November	Royal Signals Institution London Lecture
13 December	Corps Carol Service, London

Application Forms for those events marked with an * are to be found at the back of The White List and The Retired Supplement.

HM THE QUEEN'S GARDEN PARTY AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Our Colonel in Chief, **HRH The Princess Royal GCVO**, is expected to attend The Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday, 19 July 1994. Any members of the Corps who receive invitations to attend on this date are asked to notify the Regimental Secretary at RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London, SW1P 4AD, in order that they may be included in the Corps organised party and presented to The Colonel in Chief.

ROYAL SIGNALS COMMEMORATION–NORMANDY

The official RSA Commemoration, when poppy wreaths will be laid on behalf of the Master and all Ranks, serving and retired; and Reading and Southampton Branches, is planned to be held in the Bayeux Military Cemetery on 7 June 1994 at about 10.45am.

Any Corps member in the area is cordially invited to join in this event. Other Branch and personal tributes may also be laid as part of the Commemoration.

OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S DINNER–14 MAY 1994

The next President's Dinner will be held at Welbeck College on Saturday 14 May 1994. Dress is Mess Kit for serving officers and Black Tie for retired officers. The cost will be £14.00. Timings are 1930 for 2000 hours. 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, Tel: 0909 476326.

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

CAVALRY MEMORIAL PARADE AND SERVICE

The Combined Cavalry Old Comrades' Parade and Service will take place on Sunday 8 May from Hyde Park at 1100 hrs. The Salute will be taken by **HRH The Duke of Kent KG, GCMG, GCVO, ADC**. The following Bands will be on parade.

The Life Guards, The Queen's Dragoon Guards, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, The Queen's Royal Hussars, The Light Dragoons, The Royal Yeomanry and the Middlesex Yeomanry Assocation.

600 SIGNAL TROOP

Did you serve in 1 HQ Tp, formed in 1959 and disbanded 1964 when it joined 10 Sig Regt? If so, you will be interested to read the article on page 114 on the reformation of this Troop. Please write to the Tp Comd if you are able to contribute any information about the Troop's history.

GARDEN–OPEN DAYS

Harvey and **Sue Blizard** will be opening their garden at Sea Close, Hythe, Kent, under the National Garden Scheme, again this year, on Sunday afternoons. The dates are 22 May, 17 July, 28 August and 2 October. As in previous years, 25% of the gate money will be donated to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund (£150 in 1993).

CORPS GUEST NIGHT AT CATTERICK–13 OCTOBER 1994

Corps Guest Nights are normally held twice a year in March and October in Blandford. The aim of such occasions is for the Corps to entertain guests of distinction and friends from all walks of life and of all nationalities. Corps Guest Nights are also used, when appropriate, to dine newly commissioned Officers into the Corps and to dine out Officers leaving the Corps on retirement from active service.

The Corps Committee has decided that the October Guest Night this year will be held in the old Headquarters' Mess in Catterick to mark the departure of Royal Signals Training from Catterick after a period of almost 70 years. There will be a minimum of guests and the aim will be to hold a nostalgic celebration of our own. There will be other closing events when we can take leave of our friends in the North and have them as our guests.

Bearing in mind that training will have effectively ceased at Catterick by October, a major problem will be the provision of overnight accommodation for an expected attendance of 140. Priority will be given to Officers who have had a close association with Catterick. All Members of The Corps, serving and retired, who attend the Dinner will be required to pay the current rates for their status and for any accommodation that is provided.

Any Royal Signals Officer, serving or retired, who wishes to be considered for a place at the last Corps Guest Night in Catterick should apply to RHQ Royal Signals (56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD) stating his or her connection with Catterick. If more than a full complement of applications is received, every attempt will be made to allocate places as equitably as possible. Applications should be submitted as soon as possible and not later then 1 June 1994. They should state whether or not overnight accommodation is requested. It is hoped that successful applicants will be advised by the end of June.

FOR SALE

Service Dress, Mess Jacket, Royal Signals Officer Pattern.

S. D. Hat–7¼, Blues Hat–7¼, Shoes–9, Beret with badge–7¼, Shirts, Overalls, Shirt 15½,Waistcoat, George Boots (Boxed)–9, Spurs. Chest 42, Waist 34, Height 6ft. Contact: **T. Jones** 0302 536604 (evenings).

R. Signals Sergeant's Mess Dress. Chest 38″–40″, Waist 34″, inside leg 29″, Price £150. Apply: **Bryan Smith**, Cardiff (0222) 668771.

LETTERS

From: Lt Col J. Blake

Dear Sir,

I learned, with some pleasure, that it was intended to start a letters page in *The Wire*. In recent years the letters published in the Institution Journal have been of a high standard and provoked useful further discussion and correspondence. I should like to offer, therefore, some brief points for further consideration by fellow readers.

In general we are well served by *The Wire*; regrettably, in my opinion, much of the news is out of date well before it reaches its target audience. Articles and some of the reports are not as badly affected by this phenomenon, but reports of skiing and rugger and soccer in Summer are a little incongruous. There are too, fairly rigid formats for most of the Unit reports which makes them less enjoyable to read.

I offer the suggestion that, providing there was sufficient currency in the information, details of promotions, more on postings and opportunities as well as up to date information on sports results and projects could usefully be included in *The Wire*. I am aware that it is subsidised by Corps Funds; surely it should be our aim to make it self sufficient? The best way to achieve that would be to increase the size of the readership, a difficult task in a reducing Army. Essentially we need to see *The Wire* purchased by each member of the serving Corps and by as many as possible of the Retired Corps. I trust that your recent initiative with the Letters' Page will foreshadow the achievement of that necessity and I look forward to reading provocative comment and to seeing that beneficial change can be brought about.

Yours faithfully,
Jim Blake

HQ Southern District,
Aldershot GU11 2DP.

It is gratifying to know that it is not only the editorial staff who hold strong views on how *The Wire* could be improved, and I feel sure that many of our readers would support **Col Blake**'s suggestions. However, we rely on the interest and goodwill of our readers and contributors for the material that we publish.–*Ed.*

Don't be disappointed!

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Tel: 06221/869980 u 861102
Telefax: 06221/869989

Vacancies will shortly arise for:

A Communications Officer Grade 4 at 238 Signal Squadron, Hounslow

A Communications Officer Grade 4 at 238 Signal Squadron, Mill Hill

2 x Communications Officers Grade 4 at Chelsea

General Duties

Acceptance, scrutiny, registration and processing of formal messages, information and data, its reception and transmission by courier, fax, telephone, telegraph or electronic mail.

Operate electronic teleprinters, computer work stations, VDU's including associated security equipment.

Checking of computer, word processors or manual traffic files and records, to verify individual message transactions have been correctly actioned and archived.

Investigate and report all claims of non-delivery, inordinate delay and practices dangerous to security.

Be able to conduct mandatory testing and keying of telegraphic equipment and circuits and diagnose faults.

Control the daily destruction of classified waste. Maintain classified document registers, compile accurate statistics from logs databases or manual files and render statistical returns. Incorporate amendments in publications and amend and back up data from computer systems.

Potential officers are required to operate a keyboard at a minimum speed of 30wpm.

Please telephone 081-7813227 for application forms.

5 AIRBORNE BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (216 PARACHUTE)
ARNHEM BKS, ALDERSHOT
HANTS, GU11 2AU
TEL: ALD MIL 4549

PRE PARACHUTE BUILD UP COURSES		ALL ARMS P COMPANY
COURSE	DATES	DATES
C/94	24 April–13 May	15 May–3 June
D/94	5–23 September	25 September–14 October
E/94	**3–21 October**	**23 October–11 November**

VOLUNTEERS ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED
5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para)

CONTACT THE TRAINING WING AT
216 SIG SQN (PARA)

600 SIGNAL TROOP

Are you interested in a varied and exciting tour? Yes! 660 Signal Troop (EOD) could be the place for you. Volunteers are always needed to fill posts for signals support to the EOD effort. Vacancies exist for Sig–Cpl Tele Op (Trg) and Tele Op (Rad).

To Apply, simply forward your name, via your Unit Orderly Room, to RSM & RO. The system will do the rest.

THE BLANDFORD TOWER HALF MARATHON

INCORPORATING
THE ROYAL SIGNALS CHAMPIONSHIPS
09 OCT 1994 at 1330hrs
Plus a 3 Mile Road Race and Fun Run

A run through the beautiful Dorset countryside starting and finishing at the foot of the Radio Tower in Blandford Camp

IN AID OF
THE ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM
AND LOCAL BLANDFORD CHARITIES
FOR DETAILS CONTACT
RACE SECRETARY
1 SQN (TS), 11 SIG REGT
BLANDFORD CAMP
DORSET DT11 8RH
Tel: Blandford 0258 48 2279

REPORT FROM ULSTER

XV

HQNI and
15 Sig Regt
BFPO 801

CO **Lt Col C. L. Le Gallais**
2IC **Maj G. J. Cary**

Congratulations to **WO1 (RSM) Cory** on being selected for com-missioning. We wish **Ray** and **Jenny** all the best for the new future.

VISIT OF THE SIGNAL OFFICER IN CHIEF

Maj Gen A. H. Boyle visited the Regiment from 25 to 27 January 1994. On his first day he presented LS & GC medals to **WO2 Rick Warne AGC, SSgt Tim Ainsworth** and **Sgt Steve Clark**. This was followed by a celebratory lunch in the Sergeants' Mess. After lunch the SOinC accompanied by **Mrs Boyle** visited Omagh by helicopter, it was **Mrs Boyle**'s first experience of flying in a helicopter.

Visits to other Regiments and Squadrons took place during Tuesday and on Wednesday. On Wednesday evening the Officers hosted a dinner night. The guest speaker was **Mr Terence McKeag**, Joint Master of the North Down Harriers. A splendid night was had by all, with the after dinner entertainment provided by **Capt Paul Bosher** and **2Lt Andy Knott**. **Maj Geoff Cary** provided a new Regimental tradition which is piping the Cat. Thanks to **Maj Paul Connors** for a memorable evening.

There were more visits to other Regiments and Squadrons on Thursday.

Following presentations of LS & GC
Mrs Ainsworth and Master Ainsworth with the SOinC
L to R: WO1 (RSM) R. C. Cory, SSgt T. Ainsworth, WO2 R. Warne AGC, SSgt S. Clark and the CO

COMMS OPS
Ops Offr **Maj C. B. Keegan**

Sgt Pete Hatton is away on courses–good luck on all of them. **LCpl** 'Jono' **Johnson** has gone to Catterick for his Class 1 course. We also say good luck and farewell to **Maj Stuart Macrostie** on posting to Shrivenham and then to Staff College. We welcome **Sgt Craig Bruce**. A big well done to **Capt Chris Ford** whose hard work has been rewarded with a regular commission.

STOP PRESS–**Sgt Stan Kelly** and the Comms Ops syndicate have just come up on the Littlewoods Pools but will be remaining in their posts: the grand total of £47.10 was received!

QM DEPARTMENT
QM **Maj Gus Boag**

The New Year started with departmental deficiencies–**Cpl Dave Chapman** in hospital and **Cpl Rob Bayliss** with a broken arm as a result of playing in an inter-Troop football match. The QM has returned from his Health and Safety at Work Course. The RQMS tried a different approach–working from Florida, courtesy of the Christmas Draw! Whereas **Sgt** 'Stig' **Henry** continues uninjured despite the Officers v SNCOs friendly at rugby. A narrow victory was achieved by the WOs and SNCOs, despite a short play by the RSM. We say farewell to **Cpl Shaun Hyland** off to sunny Cyprus and wish him, **Adele** and the family all the very best for the future. Finally we greet **Cpl Tony Foat** and his family from 1 Armd Div.

233 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj A. W. James**

ROMEO TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Alan Stringer**

We would like to congratulate **Sgt Andy Hartley** and **Pauline** on the birth of their daughter **Danielle**. We say goodbye and good luck to **Sgt Steve Moore** posted to Cyprus, and **Sgt Dave Brown** RLC on his posting to HQ UKLF (Bosnia!). The Troop extends a warm welcome to **SSgt (FofS) Paul Hubble, Sgt Paul Gardiner, Cpl Craig Brankin** and **LCpl** 'Titch' **McGiffen.** We hope they have an enjoyable tour in the Province.

COMMCEN TROOP
Tp Comd **WO1 Jeffrey**

We would like to take this opportunity to say hello to **Cpl Paul Gunn, LCpls Gill Wakerly, Paula Matheson** and **Sig Wendy Goodall** (back from the Falklands!). Good luck and best wishes to **Sig Sharon Dix** and **LCpl Debbie Tate** off to civvy street. **LCpl Michelle Larmour** to 30 Sig Regt and **LCpl Kev Walker** on his short move to 225 Sig Sqn. Special mention to **Sig Melanie Brown** who competed in the 100m freestyle and gained 2nd place, by a few seconds.

INDIA TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Chris Wood**

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES/PROMOTIONS

We welcome the following: **SSgt Ade Broadbank** from 19 Mech Bde, **SSgt (FofS) Phil Cox** from Blandford and **Sigs** 'Tags' **Parsons** from Lower Saxony, **Bob Shaw-Rolands** from 16 Sig Regt and 'Woody' **Wood** from 3 (UK) Div, we wish them well in the Province. No farewells but we have managed to pack **Sgt Si Graham** off into the SSG.

THE McKELVIE TROPHY

The McKelvie Trophy swimming competition took place on 12 January and was won convincingly by the Troop. **WO2 Chris Mountain** won the Butterfly, **SSgt (FofS) Phil Cox** the 100m Freestyle and **Cpl Steve Turner** the 50m Freestyle. Congratulations to all those who took part.

225 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Stewart Sharman**

The CO's Cup competition drew to a close in December with the annual CO's cross country run–225 finished in style by winning the competition 'by miles'. Special thanks go to the ladies, namely, **Cpl Birch** and **LCpl Matheson**. So for the second year running the Cup stays in 225's trophy cabinet! The JNCOs hatched a cunning plan to take on the Officers and SNCOs in a rugby match. The match was probably the most physical but the Management ran out winners 10–5.

CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

As the short season came to a close, the ladies team completed the season as Northern Ireland Women's Services Champions and Inter Unit Champions, with consistent performances from **Cpls Amanda Strawn, Ruth Birch, LCpls Andrea Mills** and **Paula Matheson, Sigs Mel Brown** and **Gibson, Sgts Mel Crowther** and **Caroline Lightfoot**. In addition **LCpl Paula Matheson** achieved 1st place in the Women's Services League and **Cpl Sue McCall** won at the inter-Unit championships–running for HQ Sqn.

The male team finished in 5th place but this result did not, in any way reflect upon the commitment of the team. There were some notable performances, in particular **LCpl Craig Sloan** who won at the inter-Unit Championships; nice to see him going in the right direction for a change! **LCpl Brian Flynn** achieved the distinction of finishing the season as one of the two top juniors!

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 809

Sqn Comd **Maj R. Rafferty**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. Hall**

WELCOMES/FAREWELLS

We say a fond farewell to the Sqn Comd, **Maj Pete Grogan**, **Alison** and family who have left for HQ UKLF and **WO1 (RSM) Stan Wise**, **Janice** and family who have gone to 34 Sig Regt (V). We wish both you and your families all the best for the future.

We welcome **Maj Gordon Rafferty** and **WO1 (RSM) Duncan Hall** and wish them and their families a happy and safe tour with the Squadron.

ARMAGH TROOP

Tp Comd **WO2 (FofS) B. Hamilton**

Well we've all read Bravo Two Zero now we present Delta Three Zero Charlie! Well that's our callsign when we're let loose on the ground. The Troop is made up of techs, mechs and riggers. From the top our Team Leader **WO2 Bob Hamilton**, now in his last year, he's doing his fair share of resettlement for the Bde. 2IC's of the sections read as follows: **Sgt Sean McBride**, **Sean** has left his mark in his own particular way. On a recent cross country meeting **Sean** was sweeping the route (in last place) as he reached the one and a half mile point the course marker encouraged him to 'jack' as he was already half a mile behind everyone–he did! More PT less beer. **Sgt Nige Roberts** is the sportsman within the Troop, **Nige** can be seen regularly representing the Corps at Rugby, if he's not there he'll be found in the FRT hut on call. **Sgt** 'Taff' **Bryant** heads up the rigging section and we believe is the only Troop member able to climb a mast in gale force conditions and still have a perfect head of hair when he comes down. **Sgt Eric O'Halloran** is our resident weatherman who doubles up as a tech as well. We welcome comments on his forecasting ability, Province wide! New members are plentiful; **Cpl** 'Cookie' **Cook** recently arrived from his T3 able to speak more languages than the rest of the Troop put together; **Cpl** 'Mick' **King**, who thought he had a hidden talent of being able to pick vehicle locks, left the keys in a van and then proceeded to lock all the doors; it takes the pressure off the rest of us. **Cpl Steve Hart** recently joined us from BAOR as a mech, we look forward to the day he shows us the skills he's learnt, although now that he has passed his 'safe to climb' course, we'll be looking for the monkey instinct in him. **Sig** 'Molly' **Mollon** has said farewell to sunshine and hello to misery, welcome. Our most recent arrival is **LCpl** 'Harry' **Harris** fresh from the airfields in BAOR, we've high expectations of him as he's just provided The Troop with a new beer fridge.

A quick 'hello' to the honorary Troop members **SSgt Andy Phillips**, **Sgt Si Hodgson** (BTLO & A/BTLO) and **SSgt Dave Little** (Sites), they can all be found in the kennels (Ops Room) at Portadown. At this point we would like to make it clear there will be no bounty for anyone who runs over the 2IC's dog again.

Visits have again been at the forefront of our activities, the SOinC, the GOC and the Bde Comd have all recently visited. **Sig Sedgwick** was pleased with **Sig Galloway** who was feeding the rope when he was demonstrating a rapid descent off the mast! Five days light duties later . . .

A fond farewell to **Sgt Sean McBride**, **LCpl** 'Geordie' **Robson**, **Sig** 'Taff' **Beazley** and **Sig** 'Manc' **Singleton**, good luck.

OK so there are no stories of heroic deeds, outrageous shootouts and long marches. I wonder why not?

PORTADOWN TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt R. Gibson**

Lt Rob Gibson, fresh from skiing in Canada (he must be paid too much), and **Cpl Andy Corder** 'not paid enough' ventured out on a comms trial and were promptly despatched out on the ground with an infantry patrol (a bit of a shock). However, after about 12 hours in the 'cuds', up to their knees in the proverbial cow pat, they finally got back to camp. So now the phrase 'when I was on patrol' is heard at least five times a day.

We say a sad farewell to **Cpls Leonard** and **McKenna** and good luck on the board. A warm welcome is extended to **Cpl Sean Fardy**, **Sigs Mounsey**, 'Woolly' **O'Leary** and **Jimmy Marshall**.

QM DEPARTMENT

Capt **Capt J. E. Mullender**

With the department almost back to full strength we are building up a good head of steam. Welcome on board to **Cpl** 'Chalky' **White** from somewhere in Germany. Also welcome to **LCpl Dave Wakelin** RLC, who turned up eventually after several extended long weekends in Basingstoke where the weather was absolutely awful and nothing could move and . . .

Sad news for the RQMS, **WO2 Angus Reid**, for he has now to cope with the disturbing thought of spending the next two years in Hong Kong, our sympathy is with you.

SOinC meeting LCpl Weaver, the car fit technician

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8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

Sqn Comd **Maj S. D. Hodges**
2IC/Ops Offr: **Capt M. W. G. Adams**

CHANGE OF COMMAND

At 1200 hrs on Friday 14 January, **Maj Stuart Hodges** assumed command of the Squadron from **Maj Philip Pratley MBE**. After a hectic handover, **Maj Pratley** departed the Province having been dined out by the Sergeants' Mess, and headed straight off to Camberley to deliver a lecture. **Maj Pratley** leaves the Squadron on promotion and takes with him our best wishes for the future. **Maj Stuart Hodges** is extended a hearty welcome to the Squadron. He joins us from HQ ARRC.

L to R: Maj P. A. Pratley handing over command of 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn to Maj S. D. Hodges

LIFE IN LONDONDERRY
By Cpl G. Mathieson

After three and a half years of long hours in Cyprus I was looking forward to lots of days off, lots of socialising and lots of rain. Well the rain has proved plentiful and the socialising good, but what's a day off? My first week was spent on the far side of the Province on an introductory course, watching videos and meeting lots of other people. Then back to Londonderry and work, with a familiarisation tour of the Brigade area with my boss man, **SSgt Keith Merrie**. Having met several years previously, a good working relationship was soon formed and now I do as I'm told. Starting off slowly, we headed for the border country to meet those at the sharp end and then cruised on to the bright lights of slipper city, sorry, Lisburn. After several more days the whirlwind tour was over; we'd visited all locations, seen all the battalions, met all the Ops Staff and forgotton most of their names. My first proper working week was a blurr of very long days, very short nights and very bad jokes supplied by **SSgt Keith Merrie** and the last Foreman, **WO2 (FofS)** 'Chuddy' **Richardson**, adding the encore. The week ended with an extended operation at a patrol base above Derry City where, in a rare burst of all-arms tactics, a rogue JCB diverted our cables and gave us a firework display, or was it a power line being ripped down? So life in Londonderry and the far environs goes on, and with it the battle of wits with MT for transport so that we can travel the Province. The infinite variations in operational, admin, welfare and domestic static comms for the Brigade are really quite amazing. Any 'wannabe' BTNILO'S out there should know one thing: it doesn't stand for bickies and tea in the Londonderry Office.

SHQ TROOP

Cpl Norman 'Trekkie' **Wright** has boldly gone where no self respecting Star Trek fan would dare to go; the Regimental Admin Office Finance Course. Last seen pushing his car down the Limavady road, heading for the Glenshane Pass, **Cpl Wright** couldn't wait to get there. Rumour has it that he'll soon be back as the pay man! Another farewell is that of the movements clerk, **LCpl** 'Gaz' **Coupe**, who leaves us for 602 Sig Tp with a well deserved GOC's Commendation. Congratulations. Over the last year the Squadron has been honoured with six Mention in Despatches and five GOC's Commendations, in a rank range from Signaller to Major.

Cpl Wright has been replaced by someone very strange to us. **Cpl Andy Robb** has spent more than ten years with the Scots Guards as a Guardsman marching up and down parade squares, somewhere in London, except for six months as an Orderly Room Corporal. Consequently the culture shock of arriving into the world of bleeps and blips and strange titles such a Yeoman and Foreman were all too much for him. One particularly embarrassing occasion was when **WO2 Margot Foreman** walked into the orderly room and was mistakenly identified as **WO2 (FofS) Steve Hatfield**'s wife. Life is settling down now.

LCpl Steve Ash, a proud Welshman, has taken over from **LCpl Coupe** and will only produce flight tickets to those who acknowledge that the Welsh rugby team is the best in the world. Unfortunately, this includes the Scots as well!

TM TROOP

A slightly different submission this time from TM Tp. With the recent influx of new arrivals to the Squadron we felt that it might be useful for any future 'fortunates' to see what life is really like in Londonderry. First impressions count, so we asked **Cpl Gary Mathieson** to give us his, from the sanctity of the fixed telecomms office.

COMMS TROOP

The advent of a new year brought with it many changes. **Cpl Dicky Dyer** moved into the job of 'Mr Admin' and has started to drink large amounts of strong black coffee followed by several aspirins to help him cope with the stresses and strains of administering half the Troop. **Cpl Pete Clements** has finally been called to Comms Trials. He has taken over from **Cpl Ian Hughes** who follows his former boss, **Sgt** 'Charlie' **Brown** into the Cypher office.

Finally, sad farewells to **Cpl Andy Lane** who departs us for the Royal School of Signals, **LCpl Jack Hawkins** off to 16 Sig Regt and **LCpl** 'Noddy' **Maggi** who leaves not only the Troop, but also the Army to join her husband in Cyprus. Out with the old and in with the new. Warm welcomes are extended to **LCpl Lorraine Davies-Morris** who takes over as the 'chief whip' in the Commcen, and **LCpl Mike Law**, **Sigs Stu Kelly** and **Dave Butchart** who all join the Syscon team.

MT TROOP

Congratulations are in order for **Cpl Karl Brewer** on his promotion to Sgt and posting to Colchester, and to **LCpl John Kielty** on his marriage to **Elizabeth**. **Cpl Wayne Prescott**, **LCpl Ralph Boswell** and **Pte** 'Budgie' **Burgess** are wished all the best in their new postings, and welcomed into the fold are **LCpl** 'Crock' **Crocker** and **Ptes** 'Jock' **Bain** and **Andy Armstrong** and **Sig** 'Amos' **Brierley.**

QM TROOP

The prestigious 'Tradesman of the Year' was awarded to **LCpl** 'Griff' **Griffiths** for his extremely hard work and professionalism in the Squadron over the past year.

Since the last notes from the Troop we have all been wondering whether the rest of the Province has been on holiday. Things have been so quiet, until now with the recent spate of terrorist incidents, that we felt as though we were missing out on something. The only thing for it was to go on leave and recharge our batteries as well. Consequently all our efforts have been put into the inter-Troop sports competition where we have been coming a creditable last in everything! Oh, we did come third in the basketball but could someone remind MT Tp that it's not a contact sport.

Congratulations go to **Cpl John** 'Fluffy' **Hack** on his promotion to Sgt and posting to Hong Kong, and to **Pte Del** 'Hasta La Vista' **Hindmarsh** on his promotion to LCpl. Finally it is with great sadness that we say farewell to **Cpl Smith RLC** on his posting to SEME Bordon and wish him all the best in the future.

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

Sqn Comd — **Maj Jerry Bradshaw**
2IC — **Capt Chris Whitehead**

TELS SECTION

We at Tels would like to extend a warm welcome to **SSgt Phil Newman** who assumes his post as BTLO. Welcome to **Sig Lee Street** who has joined us from the warmer climate of Cyprus.

Congratulations to **Sig Ufton** and **Sig Jamie Crooks** on completing and passing their B3-B2 upgrading. A little more work might be done now!

RIGGING SECTION

The Section would like to say goodbye to two of its characters. Firstly, **Sgt** 'Thommo' **Thompson** who is off to 3 UK Div as the new Provost Sgt. Also **Sig Jimmy Stonestreet** who is off to Cyprus, we wish them both the best of luck in their new jobs.

A warm welcome is extended to our two 'new boys' **Sgt Dave Laverie** who joins us from the easy life at 15 Sig Regt and **LCpl Tony Artigan** who now makes a grand slam of all the Brigades in the Province.

Congratulations are extended to **LCpl Dave** 'Tucker' **Scragg** on coming off the board for promotion to Cpl.

The Section would like to thank **Cpl** 'Ginge' **McNeilly** for standing in as IC Section.

ROVER GROUP
HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Big cheery hellos to all the new members of Rover Gp. The new faces are: **LCpl Andy** 'Shakin Stevens' **Eley**, and **LCpl** 'Ezzy' **Heslip**. Farewell to **LCpl** 'Scotty' **Sherrett**, posted to London, **LCpl Geordie Leonard**, made redundant, so he's happy, and last but not least, **Pte** 'Sorry Dvr, Taff' **Rees** who has also gone to civ div. Good luck to all of you in your respective new careers.

RECENT EVENTS

If we are not out with the Bde Comd or Dep Comd or any of the Bde staff, then we're probably at Ballykinler on the ranges, or playing football in the Gym. When we do find ourselves 'in', most of the time is spent arguing about whose turn it is to make the coffee. With that we must mention **Pte Colin Iddenden** who spends most of the day with a teaspoon in his hand.

Two incidents show that wing mirrors have been coming in for a hard time. The first involved **Pte Tony** 'Gusher' Hinchliffe who managed to break the wing mirror in the Dept Comd's car, whilst manoeuvring it from the garage. He was heard to say, 'It's not my fault, I didn't put the car away, it was at a funny angle.' The second involved **LCpl** 'Ezzy' **Heslip** who cracked the glass in the wing mirror when he clipped another car–unfortunately the Comd was in the car as well. 'Don't worry, Sir,' said **LCpl Heslip**, 'I don't need mirrors, I like to see where I'm going, not where I've been.'

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd — **Maj Graham Mills**

The Troop says farewell to **Sgt Ray Pickering**. **Ray** has now left the Army after serving for 24 years. 'Rocky' **Pickering** was employed within 39 Inf Bde as the Trg Sgt and served 10 years with the Brigade. The Squadron would like to wish **Ray** and his family all the very best in civvy street.

Cpl Rab Rennie has served in the Squadron admin office since August 1988. He will always be remembered for his accent, his extensive collection of educational videos and his presence in the Horseshoe Club. The Squadron wishes him every success in civvy street.

MT SECTION

We've had quite a change round of people and would like to welcome **Ptes Dave Downes, Shaun Harrison** and **LCpl** 'Scouse' **Jones, LCpl** 'Edge' **Edginton** and **LCpl Tony Rudd**. We additionally wish **Pte Kev McGarry** all the best in Belize. Where's our postcard?

24 HOURS DARTS MARATHON

A team of 12 players took up the task of the 24 hr sponsored darts marathon to raise money for the Corps Museum. The bar was open throughout, with all the profits during the period also going to the museum fund; a total of £374.56 was raised. The team showed great willpower and strong throwing/drinking endurance with four players staying on the 'ockey' at all times.

The team was: **Sgt George Roper, Sgt** 'Thommo' **Thompson, Sgt Ken Phillips, Cpl** 'Taff' **Skey, Cpl Paul Coonie, Cpl Paul Wilcock, LCpl** 'Smudge' **Smith (RLC), LCpl** 'Jellyhead' **Smith, Sigs** 'Rats' **Ratcliffe,** 'Eddie' **Wareing, Jimmy Stonestreet** and **Sgt** 'Shuggie' **Hughes.**

Special thanks to **LCpl Billy Share**, the barman.

EXERCISE FINN SNOWPLOUGH/SPARTAN HIKE

The Brigade's Alpine Team set off from Lisburn on the long journey to Serre Chevalier in the South of France to take part in the UKLF Ski Championships. The team consisted of **WO2 Phil Cutforth, Cpls Paul Cooney, Martin Turbitt** and **Sig Lee** 'Ronnie' **Street.**

The first leg of the journey saw our vehicle (a Renault Espace affectionally named Jill) break down at Carlisle. With the help of a very nice man, Jill was soon back on the road. After a long and somewhat hazardous journey, we arrived in Vilkneuve–the winter driving skills of **Cpl Turbitt** proving invaluable.

The accommodation, though slightly dated, was ideal for for our needs and once settled it was not long before we were out on the slopes trying to find our ski-legs and in **Cpl Turbitt**'s case, learning to snow plough!

After six days intensive training, the competition began. It soon became apparent that the standard of skiing was very high and not to be outdone the team's star racer 'Turbo Tubbs' flew down the Giant Slalom. **Cpl Turbitt** managed to scream down the course in a time of 5½ minutes to pick up a bottle of wine–well done 'Tubbs'!

A few days into the competition it had become apparent that the only Corps representatives present would not be competing for the major honours! This did not dampen spirits and 'Tubbs' duly obliged with a second bottle of wine!

To the quartet of racing newcomers the series of Slalom, Giant Slalom, Super Giant Slalom, and Downhill races provided a very challenging and enjoyable experience and as Arnie would say 'We'll be back!'

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn Ski Team
Sig 'Ronnie' Street, Cpl 'Turbo' Turbitt, Cpl Paul Cooney, WO2 (FofS) Phil Cutforth

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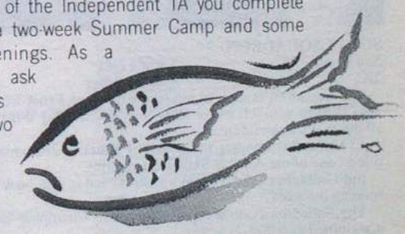

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– News from Headquarters –

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

TECHNICIAN WING

OC	**Maj Bryan Maltby**
HIO Programming	**Mr Colin Smith**
HIO Trg Supervisor	**Mr Bob Huxtable**

We have said goodbye to **Sgt Mark Appleby** who shortly leaves the Army. We welcome **SSgt Dick Woodfine** back to the Wing after an extensive heart 'replumbing' job. We can tell he is much better because he ambushes far more Op Wing ATs who use Tech Wing as a short cut than he used to!

OC Wing, **Maj Bryan Maltby** and his wife **Sue** have arrived from HQ BAOR. **Bryan**, who is a keen 'hunting, shooting, fishing' man is already OIC Shooting and will soon be after the trout. In between times, we see him occasionally in the Wing harassing ATs about the need for more "E' and about the evils of smoking. In January **Sgt Carl Hindson** joined us from Bosnia and he is settling down well both in the classroom and on the rugby field.

We heard recently that **Peter Shepherd**, our IO in Quality Control, was about to reach 50. Our first reaction was to congratulate him on at last coming to grips with his golf handicap–wrong! It was birthday time, so we recorded the event on the photo below along with some of the staff from Tech Wing and friends.

SCOTT SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Capt Frost**
2IC	**Capt Palmer**

The Squadron is now in the hands of **Capt Frost** who took over from **Maj Wilson** who left us for RMCS. We wish **Maj Wilson** and his family all the best for the future.

Lt Cornell is standing in for **Capt Palmer** as 2IC while she defends her title as one of the Army's Skiing Champions.

Sgt Gallagher is back from his RSSC and is well back into the swing of running the stores.

The Squadron is on a high having won Champion Sqn which we are determined to retain.

BRAVO TROOP
By AT Cpl Struthers

It was a cold, damp day when the ATs of 93A joined Bravo Tp Scott Sqn, scared and wondering what was going to happen next. Luckily we were led into the capable hands of Intake 91C and 92A that went about their job of teaching us the ways of the Squadron. They have now graduated and gone to **Sgt Willy Ryan** and Bravo Tp, ex Military Trg Wing. We welcome our Tp Comd **Lt Roberts** back and hope she is now quite fit again.

The inter-Squadron Boxing took place on 19 December 1993 with Bravo Tp contributing a lot of volunteers. We had a few winners such as **ATs** 'Alv' **Rodway**, 'CCQ' **Stanbury** and 'Knobby' **Knobbs** and runners-up were **ATCpls** 'Jock' **Struthers** and **Roughneen**, well done!

Earlier this month the TGs and Spec Ops tackled the harsh and windswept terrain of the Highlands of Scotland to take part in Ex Snow and Ice. This consisted of two days' langlaufing and two days' ice climbing. The boys had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

CHARLIE TROOP–WINTER TERM 1993
By ATs Nash and Gallagher 93B

Tp Comd	**Lt M. C. Cornell**

Intake 93B had just finished recruit training and had moved into Scott Sqn. We were now about to start our trade training. We had something else new, AT NCOs in charge of us. Charlie Tp had **ATSgt** 'Robbo' **Robinson** as its AT Tp Sgt.

During the term 93B had their first APWT which quite a few of us failed miserably, but some of us got marksman. Another major event during the term was our recruit pass off parade which was a great success; approximately 700 parents attended. On the parade, **AT Rhodes** received "Best Recruit' award.

Towards the end of term, the next major event was inter-Squadron Boxing. The ATs from Charlie Tp who represented the Squadron in the Juniors were **ATs Burge, Rhodes, Jerman, Snow** and **Sheppard** and **AT Rimmer** represented the Seniors. The Squadron was successfully coached by **LCpl** 'Hammy' **Hamilton**.

The last morning of term arrived and Charlie Tp were given reveille by all the Scott Sqn Permanent Staff, we were all persuaded to drink coffee with a 'strange taste', it tasted a bit like Brasso, but at that time in the morning we could not be sure.

RAWSON SQUADRON
ALPHA TROOP

Firstly, welcome back to **Lt Clare Halligan** AGC (SPS) after a short det as Adjt, she is back at the helm. No more early knock-offs now ma'am!

Now that the Troop has Passed Off and become fully fledged Apprentices, they have been thrown into the chaos, confusion and turmoil that is known as Rawson Sqn. For some this was too much and they made their decision to leave and return to civilian life. We wish them all the best and hope you made the right move.

With the Troop trimmed down to 82 Apprentices, including 11 girls, **ATSgts Rudd** and **Wragg**, assisted by **ATCpls Lang** and **Renwick** set about preparing for the Champion Squadron Day. When the day arrived and no more could be done, **Sgts Gregg Terry** and 'Steff' **Newton** took a step back and let the Apprentices go for it and show what they were made of. Quite good stuff it would seem, as overall, Rawson Sqn won every event of the day. A very good effort as Rawson had already lost the overall competition, due to losing the Sports Competition, which had run throughout the term.

The Troop would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye to **Sgt** 'Steff' **Newton**, who is leaving the College after a successful three year tour. Posted to 14 Sig Regt (EW) on promotion, we wish him and his family all the very best for the future.

CHARLIE TROOP

This term brought the cold fronts of EL Scotland and a most enjoyable week on the ranges. Charlie Tp took up their LSWs and brought a whole new meaning to the words 'rapid fire' (even the usually placid **AT Chris Trundley** enjoyed it!).

EL Scotland was an excellent week, and with the careful guidance of EL Tp, we were taught how to fall over, get back up again and then find yourself heading for the floor again. The snow was dispersing fast but the boys from 92B made the most of things. **ATLCpls John Doughty** and **Coker** showed us who the real skiers were and **ATLCpl Harry Worth** showed us how not to do it! (At present he is recovering from his wounds–get well soon Harry.)

Charlie Tp are still proving to be a strong force in the sporting field, **AT Trundley** has fenced his way to the Army Championships, **ATLCpls Doughty** and **Coker** have skied the piste in Scotland for the Downhill Championships, **ATCpl Shaw** is still paddling on and **AT Liddle** has dribbled his way to Corps Football team. Not forgetting **AT Clark** who is still running strong and of course **AT Milton** who endeavours in whichever sport you choose to give him (basketball, athletics, sprinting–need I go on?).

On a final note, 'What are we going to do now with the recent closure of the YMCA?' That remains to be seen, but thanks all the same **Eileen** for making our Saturday mornings a little more bearable.

MILITARY TRAINING 3–92B
By ATLCpl Nicholson

The third military training module is for Apprentices on their second year at Harrogate. This year 92B attended the ranges at Catterick for their live firing exercise.

This was 92Bs first introduction to the new Tp Comd of Military Trg Tp, **Capt Edwards**. The introduction was a pleasure.

We spent the first day revising weapon handling and marksmanship principles, something everyone had forgotten, straight out of Basic Recruit Training. Then we were introduced to the LSW (Light Support Weapon) which we discovered is 90% the same as our individual weapons. The day was spent with our section commanders. **Sgt Hargreaves** of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment came to my section.

On our first visit to the ranges we visited the MTTR (Moving Target Trainer Range). For the first time firing live rounds from other positions unlike before when we had only fired from the prone position. We now fired standing and kneeling. We discovered how difficult it is to actually hit a moving target even at the slowest speed; most ATs hitting only two or three times out of a possible fourteen shots. This shoot was the hardest thing I had done since being at the College.

Another early start at 0700 hrs. The group was split into two groups and one group did the APWT in the morning and the other group practised sustained fire from trenches with LSW's. At lunch time we swapped over. My group did the sustained fire in the morning, we split into groups of eight man/women, and patrolled from a troop shelter down to the trenches where we took up our positions. We then received fire control orders from our appointed Section Comd/2IC (ATs). In all everyone enjoyed firing the LSW for the first time. In the afternoon the group zeroed rifles, grouped and shot the APWT at Wathgill ETR (Electronic Target Range). A new experience for the apprentices of intake 92B.

Our final day, a day of real military training. I believe this is the favourite day of the PS attending the ranges, especially **Capt Edwards** and **Sgt Hargreaves**. We did a tab just under four miles long, from a position to the range, where we did a shoot. This was a competition between the four sections, timing the march and then scoring the shoot. **Capt Edwards** led a section, **Sgt Hargreaves** led my section, **Sgt Sharpe** led another section and finally **Cpl Adams** led a section. The tab was an amazing part of the week and we learned a lot about moving into location then carrying on to fight. The best time was made by **Sgt Hargreaves'** section, being quickest by forty seconds. Overall **Capt Edwards'** section won with an excellent shoot. Then with a pre-arranged goodbye to **Sgt Hargreaves**, that ended it for 92Bs Module Three Military Training.

HQBF Cyprus BFPO 53

For those who have not served on the island there is a small team from the Corps serving with the British Forces (Cyprus) Headquarters in Episkopi. We are part of the Communications Informations Systems Branch and manage all on-island systems.

CIS BRANCH

The Branch is commanded by DACOS CIS **Wg Cdr Ian Kane**. Within the HQ, the CIS Branch has undergone a recent rationalisation. We have reduced down into one truly joint organisation with 3 Grade Two staff officers, a HEO Budget Planner and 26 other staff. In addition, we have responsibilities towards the Cyprus CDA which comprises four men, this small team is actually on the establishment of MOD. We also have two RAFSEE and one CDP Blandford liaison staff on permanent detachment to us. This is a total of 35 souls (approximately half RAF and half Army, plus a small civilian element). There are four sub branches:

The Budget Manager and his staff (all civilian) who manage the CIS Budget. This budget controls the expenditure attributable to the Cyprus Signal Units, including 259 Sig Sqn and 662 Sig Tp

CIS 1 (Royal Signals) which manages the on-island comms, including the Cyprus Fixed Telecommunications System (CFTS), Tactical and Commercial Radio, the on-island Telephone System, military frequency management and is the focal point within the HQ for all Corps matters.

CIS 2 (RAF) who look after RAF CIS Engineering activities on island which includes Special Signals, Strategic Communications facilities, Air Traffic Control Systems and the Air Defence System.

CIS 3 (Royal Signals/RAF) who are responsible for the development and maintenance of the non operational IS strategy and all staff matters relating to the procurement, control and development of computer support for BF Cyprus. CIS 3 also includes the Command Small Systems Group (SSG).

CIS 1 PERSONALITIES

SO2 (W) CIS 1	**Maj Miles Stockdale**
SO Comms TFC	**Maj (TFC) Phil Daniels**
SO Comms EMAN	**Capt (TOT) Drew Robertson**
FofS Engr	**WO2 (FofS) Gaz Wilson**
CPD LO	**SSgt (FofS) Andy Rickman**
Tels Asst	**Cpl Dave Parkes**

CIS 3 PERSONALITIES

SO2 (W) CIS 3	**Maj Ian Bucklow**
SO3 (W) (SSG)	**Capt Richard Quinlan**
SSG Prog	**Sgt Andrew Purdy**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The branch have said goodbye to **Maj David Powell**, who left us for 7 Sig Regt, we wish him good luck. He may need it after the DACOS's farewell dinner speech!

Maj Ian Bucklow took over the reins of CIS 3 and we wish him as much success.

HQ UKLF Wilton

Comms Branch is primarily responsible for the planning and mounting of all contingency operations involving Royal Signals units. The Corps presence in the former Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) on Op Grapple is one example of an operation currently being run from the Joint HQ in Wilton.

Additionally, Comms Branch is also responsible for coordinating all UK based operations as well as leading on subjects such as Training, Equipment Management and Establishments.

The current Comd Comms/CIS UKLF is **Brig N. F. Wood** who is supported by a Royal Signals staff. The key personalities follow (now you know where they are!).

Chief G3 Comms	**Lt Col R. M. J. Hussey**
SO2 G3 Plans	**Maj P. Oldfield**
SO2 G3 UK Ops	**Maj A. A. Ewell**
SO2 G3 Pers/Log/TA	**Maj R. Hill**
SO2 G3 Tels	**Maj R. N. Howes**
SO2 G3 COMSEC	**Maj J. T. Nichols**
SO2 G3 E Man	**Maj M. Banks**
SO3 G3 Ops/Trg	**Capt G. J. Complin**
Chief Clk	**SSgt Clements**
Baldrick	**Cpl Denny**
PS to Comd Comms	**Mrs C. Pickering**
AO Ops	**Mrs S. Hibdige/Mrs E. Stokes**
AO Gen	**Miss N. Dennis**
AA Ops	**Mr C. Adams**
AA Gen	**Mr A. Davies**

A fond farewell to **Capt Julian Bunce** who has left us for the rigours of Staff College and a welcome to **Capt Graham Complin** who has recently joined the branch after turning the lights out at 1 Armd Div in Verden.

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?
HAVE YOU INFORMED RHQ?
TELEPHONE 071-414 8432

The Royal School of Signals
Blandford Camp

CIS ENGINEERING WING
UK/US COMBAT DEVELOPMENT TALKS
By Lt Col R. W. Sinclair US Army

Col Phil Whitemore, Lt Col Chris Spencer and **Lt Col Bob Sinclair** (US Army Exchange Officer) from CIS Engineering Wing visited The Directorate of Combat Developments, US Army Signal Centre, Fort Gordon, Georgia during the period 5-8 October 1993 to participate in the UK/US Combat Development talks. The annual talks alternate between Fort Gordon and Blandford Camp. The purpose of the talks is to provide a forum for the informal exchange of ideas and information between the US and UK on signal doctrine, tactics and equipment and to identify and support commonality of signal doctrines and long-term equipment requirements. In addition, the UK team visited the US Army Computer Science School (located at Fort Gordon) as well as the Mobile Subscribed Equipment (MSE), SATCOM and Combat Net Radio training facilities. **Col Whitemore** also presented a lecture to approximately 150 members of the Fort Gordon AFCEA Chapter on 'Roles and Responsibilities of Royal Signals' at their October luncheon.

On his return to Blandford, members of the CIS Engineering Wing said goodbye to **Col Phil Whitemore**, on posting, and welcomed **Col Peter Pritchard** in his place.

11 SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regiment said farewell to **WO1 (RSM) Gus Hales** at a 'Handing over' parade on Friday, 11 February. 'Gus' leaves the Army on completion of 22 years service. During the parade **RSM Hales** was presented with a plaque by **Lt Col Bob Sinclair** US Army, in recognition of the help and friendship that **Gus** has shown to British/American relations throughout **Lt Col Sinclair**'s time at The Royal School. We also take this opportunity of thanking **Jill Hales** for all the hard work and time she had devoted to the Wives' Club. Our best wishes go to **Gus, Jill** and family for the future, wherever that may be. A warm welcome, and congratulations on selection for a commission, is extended to **WO1 (RSM) Phil Abbott** who arrived from 37 Sig Regt (V).

We apologise to **Maj (Retd) S. Evans** who in the December issue of *The Wire* was reported to have enlisted in 1968. In fact 'Taff' enlisted in November 1963 and was already a Cpl in 1968. Sorry 'Taff'!

1 SQUADRON (TRAINING SUPPORT)
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

During the last few months the Squadron has said goodbye to a number of its characters, **SSgt Dave Walker** retired from the Army and has taken up residence in the museum (not as one of the displays fortunately!). We also said farewell to (recently promoted) **Cpl Dave Thomas** who left us to take up a post at 8 Sig Regt. **Cpl Lee Warren** departed for 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. **LCpl John Slade** left on discharge and plans to join his father-in-law's business near Detmold. **Sig** 'Gordie' **Cowan** successfully completed his course in Herford and left us for greater things. **Sig Jas Allen** left on discharge and started his new job in London the following week. We wish all our leavers the very best of luck for the future.

We welcomed **SSgt Paul Fowkes** who arrived to replace **SSgt Dave Walker**, **Sgt Pete Garside** from 9 Sig Regt (R), who was with us for two weeks before he departed for another sunny tour in Belize. **Sgt Les Chapman** arrived from 662 Sig Tp, **Cpl John Reid** from 2 Sig Regt and **LCpl Ian Thomas** arrived from 633 Sig Tp. **LCpl Ian Elson** did an 'internal' move from TM Tp for just three months. We hope that all our new arrivals have a happy and successful tour with the Squadron.

THE BLANDFORD TOWER HALF MARATHON 1993

The annual Blandford Tower run took place on Sunday 3 October 1993 and was organised by **WO2 (SSM) John Smith**. The course was an interesting if undulating (!) one and the weather was very kind to all the competitors. The Griffin Memorial Trophy was presented to the first military runner–**Maj Nick Bateson** of ATR Bassingbourn, who was second overall in a time of 1 hr 15 mins 40 secs.

EXERCISE COLD COMFORT

As well as all the normal exercise commitments, the Squadron held a Battle Camp from 15-19 November on Bovington Training Area. The aim was to give the junior members of the Squadron an opportunity to develop leadership skills. Different phases of the exercise included escape and evasion drills, command tasks, endurance and military skills. The Comd, **Brig John Griffin**, visited the exercise during the command task phase. Stars of the exercise were undoubtedly **Sig Andy Newton** whose map reading skills led him into the town of Wareham 8kms in the wrong direction and **Sig** 'Taff' **Francis** who refused to try and escape after capture because the DS tent offered better creature-comforts than his basha! Much credit should go to **WO1 (YofS) Bob Pemberton** and **Sgt Mick Main** for all their hard work and preparation. It was an experience much appreciated and enjoyed by all.

Sig Debbie Lowther just cannot be persuaded by LCpl Brian Millarvie, Sig Nicki Monger, Cpl Eric Head, LCpl Trev Legg and Cpl 'Sharky' Williams to go for a dip!

CONGRATULATIONS

The Squadron congratulates **LCpl Robert Cruickshank** on his well-deserved selection for promotion and **LCpl** 'Chippy' **Wood** on being selected for the Corps soccer team.

TRIALS SQUADRON (2 SQUADRON)
DEVELOPMENT TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt A. C. Sarginson**

We woke up one morning to find a fresh faced newcomer standing on our porch and it is with real pleasure that we welcome to our brotherhood **Cpl Dean Oldfield** from 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para) who decided that he could get more excitement with Development Tp that leaping head first out of aircraft. Can he possibly be right?

We also welcome **Cpl Graham Willock** who immediately made his presence felt and greetings also to **Graham**'s wife **Amanda**, we hope that you both enjoy your stay with us.

Finally our leader **Capt Sarginson** has now returned from learning how to play squash. I wonder if the rest of us will now be able to play him without being hit by the ball or his racquet at every point!

STOP PRESS. Welcome, and congratulations on selection for promotion to WO1, to **WO2 (FofS)** 'Chuddy' **Richardson**. Also to **Cpl Chris Benson** and his wife **Rosemary** who join us from Verden.

TRIALS TROOP
Tp Comd **WO2 (YofS) P. Barrett**

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

A warm welcome is extended to **Cpl Paul Chesters** and his wife **Marie**, and to **Cpl** 'Shadey' **Ruddock**, both here in trials for a brief time while awaiting potential Yeomans' courses. Also welcoming **LCpl Steve Simpson** and his wife **Tanya**. We hope that all enjoy their tours here in Blandford. On a sadder note we said farewell to **LCpl** 'Archie' **Archibald** who has left the Troop to become the Provost Sgts right-hand man.

TROOP LIFE

The Troop has been very busy. It started in early January in Portsmouth with what **Sig** 'Woody' **Wood** could only describe as the most expensive weekend trial he had ever been on, we then swiftly moved on to a week long trial involving hand-held mobile telephones. These enabled the Troop to walk around the garrison looking like high powered executives. Needless to say the trial was a resounding success, mainly due to the planning and preparation and decisive decision making of **Sgt Paul Irwin**.

Cpl Shaun Jackson and **Cpl** 'Twix' **Tweddle** are now going to look after all our military training and **Cpl Paul Chester** and **Cpl** 'Shadey' **Ruddock** are assigned to trade training; the Troop waits with bated breath.

– News from Headquarters –

1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

FAREWELL TO THE CO

Mid October saw the sad farewell to the CO, **Lt Col** (now Col) **C. J. Burton OBE**, and **Mrs Burton**, after two and a half years at the helm. The Regiment assembled in the gymnasium to listen to his final speech and witness the first presentation of the Commanding Officer's Trophy to the top soldier in the Regiment; a magnificent brass plate, a farewell gift from **Lt Col Burton**. The recipient was **Cpl** 'Robbo' **Robinson** of HQ Sqn for his all-round achievements in sport and outstanding contribution to the Regiment. Our sincere thanks go to the Colonel and **Mrs Burton** for all they have done for the Regiment during their tour. We welcome **Lt Col Dennis Mills** and **Anne** to the fray and hope they have an enjoyable and rewarding time in Herford.

GOC'S VISIT

On 16 November 1993 the GOC, **Maj Gen Dennison-Smith MBE**, addressed the Regiment. He talked to the soldiers about their successful deployment on the latest Div CPX, Ex Rhino Charge, and stressed the importance of communications to the Headquarters of his high intensity Division. Later, he presented LS & GC medals to several members of the Regiment and a bar to **Sgt Alex Mair**. He also presented **Sgt Lovelock** AGC (SPS) with the CinC UKLF's Commendation for services on Op Grapple. **Capt David Cathro** then received the Embassy Rose Bowl on behalf of the Regiment. The award is given annually to a BAOR based Unit that has contributed the most to Adventurous Training. The GOC listened to a briefing on training and other current issues by the RHQ team.

The GOC with the award recipients
L to R: Capt Cathro, SSgt Roskelly, Sgt Stapleton, WO2 (RQMS) Munnelly, SSgt Burns, WO2 (SSM) Winkles, Sgts Mair, Collins, and Lovelock

REGIMENTAL CADRE COURSE
By Sig Mace

What a start! After a beasting in PT, which all 43 members of the course survived, we faced the daunting intake tests and the even more daunting Cadre Course Staff. At the end of a rigorous day when everyone was screaming for some sleep, we moved into our accommodation with great relief. Each day of the first week had a similar routine with the odd 'show parade' to keep the smiles on our faces.

During the second week, we started to put into practice all the theory we had been taught. It comprised a few short exercises in which everyone found out how much more is learned from doing practical work. The weather was reliable, with ample downpours just to make things enjoyable.

The biggest test came in the third week when everything came together–well that was the idea anyway! The four day exercise was hard, tiring and very cold. Among the many memorable moments was the river crossing which was more a case of, 'Let's walk up this freezing river for a few hundred metres.' Towards the finish we did the dreaded 'quarry run', which starts at the bottom of a quarry and ends at the top. The only trouble is that there are 1.5 miles of obstacles to climb over to get there.

It wasn't all serious. There was an excellent social evening towards the end of the course where everyone could laugh and joke and tell 'war stories' to the staff. The final event was an excellent Pass Off Parade, in front of the Regiment. Awards were presented to **Sig Williams** of 212 Sig Sqn, for Top Student, and **Sig Jones** of 208 Sig Sqn, for the Most Improved Student.

Lt Col D. M. Mills presenting Sig Williams with the Top Student award at the end of the 1993 Regt Cadre Course

THE BERLIN MARATHON

Six members of the MT raised over two thousand pounds for the Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association by running in the Berlin marathon last year.

LCpl 'Para' **Walker** of the Regt MT has a four year old daughter, **Vanessa**, who suffers from spina bifida. To help **Vanessa** and other sufferers like her, **LCpl Walker** decided to run the Berlin marathon last year. Eventually, five other members of the MT joined him in the venture, and they travelled to Berlin for the marathon, which was held on Sunday 26 September. Only one of them, **Sgt Stu Ramsay**, had ever run a marathon before.

All the runners managed to complete the course in times ranging from 3 hrs 22 mins (**Sgt Stu Ramsay**) to 4 hrs and 52 mins. The total donation came to nearly five thousand, four hundred Marks. The CO, **Lt Col D. M. Mills**, was presented with the cheque by **LCpl Paul Maguire** for the Association which was delighted with the efforts made to support them.

The photograph shows, from left to right, **LCpl Phil Cann, SSgt John Roskelly, Sgt Stu Ramsay** and **LCpl Paul Maguire**, who all ran the marathon, **Lt Col Mills** and the MTO, **Capt Cornet**. Not present are the other two runners, **LCpl** 'Para' **Walker** and **Pte Colin Manser**.

LCpl Paul Maguire hands the cheque to the CO

THE CUTTY SARK TALL SHIPS RACE

A number of members of Panther Tp of 201 Sig Sqn are still trying to come to terms with all the hard work after competing in the Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race on board '*The Krenick*'. It was an event which, although hard, turned out to be tremendous fun in the end. The team, led by **2Lt Lee Hawkes**, sailed from Kiel to Den Helder and then raced to Newcastle, between 2 and 17 May 1993.

We started the trip from Kiel and spent five days sailing down to Bremerhafen for the first of many festivals. We then continued the trip to Den Helder with thirty or so other vessels. '*The Krenick*' was doing well at this stage, so it looked as if we might also do well in the race which was to follow.

The Sail 1993 Festival at Den Helder is second only to the Tall Ships Festival. The final race from Den Helder to Newcastle got off to a grand start with a two hour long parade of sail. It was a long race and very hard work for all the crew. The battle for first place was touch and go until the final few hours of the 40 hour race. We had to wait until the following day to get the confirmed result–'*The Krenick*' had won! We collected the prize for the fastest boat in our class and the prize for overall fastest boat in the race.

The Tall Ships Race Team in a relaxed mood

EXERCISE LATIN DIAMOND

'How would you like to spend two weeks of October in Spain?' This was the question posed to 201 Sig Sqn, and many volunteered. 'We'll be rock climbing every day.' Urgent appointments were suddenly remembered. Eventually seven brave souls decided that they would be safe with **Capt Dave Cathro** and **2Lt Mike Grierson** instructing them. So off we went in a spacious Mercedes minibus which performed well through Germany and into France, then disaster struck as night began to fall . . . **Sig** (now LCpl) 'Shakey' **Beard** took over the driving, and the entire electrical system failed. An emergency call by **2Lt Grierson**, our only French speaker, and use of **Capt Cathro**'s flexible friend, soon got us mobile. We carried on to Spain without incident and began climbing. We started 1000m up in the mountains of Monserrat, and continued to the remote wilderness of Siruana. **Sigs Tony Benson** and 'Shakey' **Beard** camped under a cliff face unaware of the sheer drop inches away. We had a brief stop near civilisation (there was a telephone and a pub) in Chuilla where **Sig Kev Ingram** decided he really quite liked abseiling after all.

The group looks on rather nervously as Capt Cathro takes this photo, while balancing on a tricky bit on 'El Choro'

Everyone was then let loose in Calpe, near Benidorm, a 'quiet' resort town which just happens to have some of the best climbing in Spain. The highlight was the double ascent of the Penon de Ifach (1000ft) by **Capt** 'the higher the better' **Cathro**, **Sig** 'very shakey' **Beard** and **Sig** 'Webby' **Webb**. The final phase of the expedition took place in the Gorge near Malaga, the site of the best sport climbing that we encountered. Grades up to and including 'E1 5b' took a hammering with **Sig** 'Brad' **Bradley** giving it a good go. Our nerve was tested to the full when we walked the 'Calmino del Rey', a catwalk in a bad state of repair anchored to the rock, 200m above the Gorge. Long legs, a head for heights and a total disregard for personal safety were required, as **Sig** 'Buck' **Rogers** discovered.

R&R was spent in a little backwater called Torremolinos, then we eventually arrived in a cold Herford, tired but satisfied after two weeks of sun and rock. We are now looking forward to next year, climbing in Wyoming, USA.

211 SIGNAL SQUADRON PATROL COMPETITION

By Sgt Vince Tibbs

In October, I was deciding how best to test the Squadron on the military skills they had been taught since Bosnia, some six months previously. The variety of training and the desire for a comprehensive test led me to devise a Patrol Competition.

With an excellent Training Area at Minden North, the possibility existed for a 14km speed march, visiting stands that would test NBC, first aid, recognition, initiative and general military knowledge.

There were some surprised faces when the pace was set by the Paper Patrollers, Sqn Clk **Cpl** 'Chaz' **Gregory** and the Orderly Room Posse. The challenge was taken up by the pre-race favourites, **LCpl Steve Francis** and his Hares, with the Patrol led by C Tp's **Cpl McNamara** providing further competition.

The final push to the finish line by the Hares was enough to oust the Paper Patrollers by a mere eight minutes, and as the results from the stands were collated, the Paper Patrollers were shuffled into third place overall, with **Cpl McNamara**'s patrol coming second in front of them. Congratulations to all who took part and particularly the Hares: **LCpl Steve Francis**, **Sigs Jase Stone**, 'Fish' **Salmon** and **Mark Rumble**.

The immortal words, 'You know it makes sense' were still ringing in the lads' ears as the patrols set off home.

SILVER MINDEN MAN STATUETTE PRESENTATION TO 211 SIGNAL SQUADRON

The GOC visited Kingsley Barracks in Minden less than two months before its closure. He presented a number of awards and gifts to the Units, and departments, which still remained in Minden. To 211 Sig Sqn he presented a Silver 'Minden Man' which had been donated by the now disbanded Garrison Officers' Mess.

The Minden Man derives from the Battle of Minden in 1759. The allied armies of Great Britain, Prussia and Hanover defeated a much larger French force outside the town of Minden. Kingsley Barracks, in fact, stands on part of the battlefield. In all, the allies lost 1800 men as against 8000 French. The British battalions included the 37th Foot which became the Royal Hampshire Regiment, and the 'Minden Man' is modelled on an officer of the 37th.

The GOC hands the Silver Plated 'Minden Man' to Capt Neil Makepeace of 211 Sig Sqn

2 Sig Regt
York

214 SIGNAL SQUADRON

SAXON TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt P. E. J. Drew**

Sadly the finely honed Tp will be exercising without **Sigs Billy Wharton** and **Gregg Anderson** who have both traded their green suits for civvies, and **Sigs Steve Riley** and **Jim James** who have been transferred to Viking Tp.

Welcome to **Sig Frost** who got stuck into Regimental life by taking part in the boxing night, and **LCpl Matthewson** and **Cpl Jones** both of whom have taken an upwards step by being transferred into Saxon Tp.

Despite the busy maintenance schedule Saxon Tp have still managed to get out into the field. Ex Panthers Parting proved that in the 80mph winds we can fly admin tents with the best of them. **Sgt Fleming** is learning that although he may be commando and para trained, nothing prepares you for a ten hour shift in node command.

Saxon Tp looks set for yet another good year and with the imminent arrival of **Capt Gareth James** off his Tp Comd's Course it will definitely be an interesting one.

VIKING TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Lindsay Cullen**

Congratulations to **Sig John Elliot** on his marriage and to **Sig Steve Peters** on an addition to the family.

Cheerio to **Sgt Dean Nichols** who, on his return from 'down under', stayed with the Troop for two days before moving to Z Tp. **Cpl Ian Jones** and **LCpl Thomas Matthewson** disappear to Saxon Tp and **Cpl David Moore** takes his wife and family to 280 Sig Sqn on promotion. **Cpl Phil Shawcross** back from Belize gets his well deserved promotion along with **LCpl Stephan Hillier** and **LCpl Dave Dorking**.

There are some new faces. A warm welcome to **Sig Chris Deaken** who joins us from training; he quickly made his mark. Not on the Troop but on a number of cars during his first exercise, one of them just happened to be a Ford Cosworth. **Sig David Vakalala** joins us from Aldershot while **Sigs James** and **Steve Riley** decided to take a step up in the world and came to us from Saxon Tp.

217 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Jim Clark**
2IC **Capt Debbie Douglas**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

To start on a sad note the Squadron has said farewell to a number of its stalwarts, **Sgts Colin Jones**, 'Chalky' **White** and 'Benny' **Bennet**, who are all off to try their luck in civvy street. **Sgt Pete Taylor** to 7 Sig Regt, **Cpl Willie Young** off to the Falklands for six months and, finally, **LCpl Booth** who went to HQ Sqn.

On a happier note the Squadron would like to congratulate **LCpl Lee Irvine** and his wife **Karen** on the birth of their son **Josh** and to extend a warm welcome to the following: **Sgt John Bailey** and **Elaine**, **Cpl Jason Budding** and the husband and wife team of **Sigs Healey** and **Healey**.

TORNADO TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Ashley Hayden**

After a prolonged period on exercise the Troop arrived back at Colerne to be greeted by the dreaded words of PRE and RSIT. Thankfully, and with a bit of good luck and a lot of hard work, the Troop managed to survive both inspections unscathed.

The Troop bids a fond farewell to **Lt Ashley Hayden** and wishes him every success at 13 Sig Regt.

GET WELL MESSAGE

All members of 217 Sig Sqn would like to wish **Cpl Brian Young** a speedy recovery; we hope to see you back at work as soon as possible.

219 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Capt Stewart McConnell**
2IC **Lt John Merritt**

FALCON TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Hill**

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

A hearty hello to **Lt Hill, Cpl Lassetter, LCpl Carmichael, Sgt Smith, Sig** 'AWOL' **Truslove** and **Cpl** 'Mack' **Hutchinson**.

Farewell to **Lt** 'Dusty' **Scott**, **Cpl** 'Freddy' **Flintoff** to M Tp and **Cpl** 'Chippy' **Dobson** to QM Dept.

PHOENIX TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Robbie King**

The Troop was sorry to lose **Cpl Jay Budding** who has left us for 217 Sig Sqn. He will no doubt be pleased to find out that his former crewman **Sig Craig Jones** is following him down there. **Cpl Steve Munro** has stocked up on suntan lotion as he is detached to Belize for 10 months, just in time for the first Cricket Test Match. **Cpl Ted Hodgson** takes his snakes to 214 Sig Sqn along with **Sig Wayne Musson** in the great lineman reshuffle. In return we have the services of **LCpl Mark Jarvis** who joins us from the HQ MT. The latest addition to the Troop is **Sig Sam Avis** who comes from 214.

Several sporting congratulations are in order within the Troop. **Cpls Pete Curtis** and **Steve Bartliff** both gained representative honours in Army Rugby with **Cpl Bartliff** also playing on the wing for the Combined Services side in its fine performance against the All Blacks.

INTER-SQUADRON BOXING FINALS

Boxing was again championed by 2 Sig Regt on Friday 21 January 1994.

As with most boxing competitions there were a number of preliminary bouts. Not all the Squadrons were able to field the full nine boxers so only five bouts took place with some lucky competitors gaining a bye into the finals.

All five bouts took the same course with both boxers coming out from their corners like rabid dogs, eventually finding all their energy sapped away by the final round. **Sig Simon Bambrook** completely destroyed **Sig Lawrence Clegg** who was fighting with a 5kg deficit (David did not beat Goliath this time!).

The finals were fought three days later. A tremendous atmosphere welcomed each boxer to the ring accompanied with the inevitable Rocky theme. Most seemed untroubled by the glaring eyes and the pursuing cheering as opponents entered the ring. **Cpl Glenn Cooper** in a show of calm technical boxing was quite rightly awarded the best boxer of the night.

Sig Bambrook on his second showing again made easy work of his opponent **Sig McNicholas**. **LCpl Tony Booth** and **Sig Rob Brodie** gave us an excellent heavy weight bout with **LCpl Tony Booth** taking the heavyweight title for the second time. **Cpl Andy McWilliam** made easy work of **Sig King** who was undoubtedly put off by his physical presence. The final fight of the night was between **Cpl** 'Wally' **Woolston** and **LCpl Tom Heaney** who proved a very well matched pair, both fought well, giving everyone an excellent final bout, with **Cpl Paul Woolston** coming out on top.

The prizes were awarded by **Brig W. H. Backhouse** with 214 Sig Sqn winning the title comfortably. All boxers, winners and losers produced a brilliant night of sport which reflected the amount of work they had put in for eight minutes of pure hell! Well done to all the boxers and trainers.

Regimental Boxing Finals
Sig Simon Bambrook passing on gentle persuasion to Sig Lawrence Clegg that he does not like being called names

3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Bulford Camp

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Welcome to the new CO, **Lt Col I. Foxley** and his right hand man **WO1 (RSM) Wilson**.

HQ SQUADRON
MT TROOP

MT Tp is, once again, a hive of activity, 1994 having brought the 'Likely Lads' in with a bang. Normally working hard on vehicle maintenance, they have decided to ensure that all their drivers are advanced, safe and, of the highest possible standards. Could someone please let **Sig** 'Evil Kneival' **Murray** know that this is now the policy.

Congratulations to **Cpl Batson** and wife **Vicky** on the birth of your daughter.

TM TROOP

Ex Foreman's Folly, recently shed light on those technicians who may otherwise have continued to live in some dark recess of TM Tp. The primary aim of the exercise was to ensure that the Troop was itself 'technically' up to speed. Thanks must go to the Regtl FofS, **Dave Boxhall**, and **Sgt** 'Taff' **Lewis**, without whose patience little would have been achieved.!

Congratulations from the Troop go to **Cpl Mick Duggan** who became 1993 Troop Sumo Wrestling Champion. Commiserations to his opponent **Cpl** 'Taff' **Jones** who found himself in 1994 rather quickly!

More congratulations go to newly weds **LCpls Jane** and **Simon King**, **Sig Andy Langan** and **LCpl** 'Del' **Jones**. May all your troubles be little ones! Finally, a welcome to **Lewis Woodland**, born to **Cpl Woody** and his wife **Deborah**. Happy 1994, young man.

LCpl Hanson–Stand back, I will show you how to start it

202 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj M. Rough**
2IC — **Capt A. S. Saddington**

B TROOP

Having distributed a picture of himself at the end of 1993, the Tp Comd left the office saying he may be some time! Six weeks later he returned from skiing! Some things never change! Except that is for new arrivals–welcome **SSgt Brebner** and family and **Sig** 'Scouse' **Humphreys**. Farewell to **LCpl** 'Jaz' **Curley** and **Cpl Rob Barnes**.

EXERCISE FROZEN SNOWBALL/SPARTAN HIKE 1994
OIC Expedition/Training–Lt P. McCarter

Ex Frozen Snowball was the 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt's ski training exercise prior to the Corps Championships and consisted of **Capts Pete Thompson** and **Liz Hyde**, **Lt Paul McCarter** and **Cpls Charles Souter** and **Frank Battison**. After three weeks intensive training and, posing, the students were ready for anything. The competitors showed an amazing standard of guts, determination and, together with the basic skill of staying on one's skis, led the team to a decisive victory in the Corps Slalom. The Divisional Championships proved to be slightly harder with the team eventually placed 11th out of 23. Thanks must go to our team instructors, **SSgt Phil Philemon** and **LCpl** "no fat' **Dobson** for their patience, understanding and lack of fear. Don't worry–we will be back

206 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj M. F. Tucker**
2IC — **Capt P. Harlow**

The Squadron welcomes **Capt Phil Harlow** to the 2IC position following the end of his extended holiday in Riyadh!

November 1993 saw the Squadron deploy on Ex Iron Temper, the major CPX for the Division in 1993. An eventful exercise with Mons and Inkerman Tps keeping up their friendly rivalry with **Sig** 'Clair' **Lewis** of Mons Tp carrying out a 'fix and destroy' operation on one of Inkerman's Panzers during low loading practice. The exercise produced only a few mishaps; **Sgt Russell** tried, single handedly, to take out the DSG Fwd HQ by puncturing their 'bouncy castle' whilst **LCpl Mullins**, accompanied by **Sig Lee**, got geographically embarrassed. Thankfully the large distances covered during the exercise were punctuated with our national tour of motorway service stations for long halts. This must be a good book title–Motorway Cafés I have visited.

Finally, congratulations to Mons Tp for winning the Regimental Road Safety Quiz–they didn't cheat.

222 SIGNAL SQUADRON
INTER SQUADRON CROSS COUNTRY

Despite days of torrential rain and much changing of the course, the cunning plan of the Squadron was to be put into action. It was a bright cold day, but the members having trained hard could now flex their muscles and show the rest of the Regiment that, not only are we good at boxing and tug of war, but we could also run a bit as well. The Sqn Comd **Maj McGrory**, had decided to ignore his doctor's advice and run. **WO2 (SSM) Baldry** had trained hard to get back to that Seb Coe fitness level we all knew he was capable of. At the start line, **Sig Blades** went round wishing the opposition well and **SSgt Cheslett** gave last minute advice like 'take it easy' and 'don't go off too fast'. Despite a few minor detours, all runners found their way to the finish. The final positions were announced and 222 Sqn started to feel that they had done enough to clinch victory. After all, our first five runners came in the first 11, but better still, our 45th runner was 185th. Surely no other Squadron could boast such a good performance; sure enough we won.

SHQ TROOP

We have said farewell to the SSM, **WO2 Geoff Baldry**, on promotion and posting to 21 Sig Regt as its new RSM. We also have said farewell to **SSgt (YofS) Steve Rose** who is not only posted, but has changed trade to AD Spec, we wish them both well in their new jobs.

We would like to welcome the following: our new SSM, **WO2** 'Strings' **Stringer**, who joins us on promotion from 216 Sig Sqn (Para) and our new YofS, **SSgt Andy McKie** who joins us from HQ Sqn.

SHARJAH TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Marsh**

Troop sporting achievements and congratulations go to **Sgt Flo Jarvis**, **Cpls Billy Burton**, **Ash Wood**, **Sigs** 'Taff' **Ames** and **Sean Sweeney** for their efforts which enabled the Squadron to win the Regimental Boxing Competition.

Finally, it's hello to **Sgt** 'Gaz' **Currie** and **Sig Beacher** and goodbye to **Sig Jay Phillips** and **Sig Steve Taylor**. Oh, and not forgetting a mention to **Cpl Pete Finnigan** and his Drive Safely Campaign.

ADEN TROOP

Congratulations go to **Cpl Phil Heron** on his promotion, **Sig Neil** and **Mrs Neil** on the birth of their twins and **Sig O'Brien** and **Mrs O'Brien** proud parents of a daughter. Good luck to all!

Farewell to **SSgt Shenton** who leaves the Troop for Training Wing . . . enjoy the rest!

Welcome to **LCpl Davies** and family, recent arrivals from 16 Sig Regt, and **Sgt** 'JP' **Partridge** who, having escaped from the Ops Office, must now escape from his bed to arrive at work on time!

INTER SQUADRON BOXING

The promise of two weeks off work was enough to ensure a healthy response of volunteers. The reality of two weeks intensive boxing training was that it left the Squadron with a squad of 10.

The first week left the squad with a feeling of déjà vu as hill work on the Kiwi Hill (mountain) and upper body work in the Gym was the order of the day every morning. The afternoons were set aside for skills (how to put gloves on, mainly).

The sparring was fun to watch if anything with **Cpl** 'Baz' **Heanes** demonstrating a unique, but refreshing, technique and **Sig Ames** reducing the squad to eight after inflicting cracked ribs on two.

The second week concentrated on skills and weight loss, no Slimfast here! The competition proved eventful with **Sig Sean Sweeney** drawing blood. His answer to critics, 'Well, he hit me first.' The rest of the team fought the next day, with some exceptional performances ensuring that by the finals the Squadron had already won the competition! Congratulations to **Cpl Wood** and **Sig Cleghorn** on winning their bouts. Commiserations to **Sgt Jarvis**, **LCpl Hessian**, **Sig Ames** and especially to **LCpl Evans** whose shoulder was dislocated in the first round of his fight in the final.

The victorious 222 Sig Sqn Boxing Team

257 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj S. Leigh**
2IC — **Capt A. Angus**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Welcome back **SSgt McKenna** from Op Warden and welcome to **Cpl McCormick**, **LCpls West**, **Foord** and a host of others. Sadly departing these shores are **SSgt Chapman**, **LCpl Knight** (posted on promotion) and **Sig Clark**.

Congratulations go to **Sig Acklam** on passing the 'P' Coy, and a big well done to **Sigs Summons** and **Maskell** for passing White Helmet selection.

257 THOUGHT

'Arietare'–new Squadron motto–means 'to butt or strike like a ram', or, as affectionately known to the lads, 'just ram it!'

SSgt McKenna 'flying' in the VC10 air-to-air refuelling tanker during Op Warden over Northern Iraq, December 1993

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8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

ALL CHANGE AT THE TOP

Well–almost! **Col J. R. B. Cook** (sometime Sqn Comd 249 Sig Sqn) remains in command but just below him **Lt Col M. C. Wilkinson** handed over the reins of the Trade Training School immediately before Christmas to **Lt Col R. M. Thurston**. Then in the New Year **WO1 (RSM) George** (ex SSM 249 Sig Sqn) took over from **WO1 (RSM) Haslam** who is shortly to start his second career. **WO2 (RQMS) Barnes** (ex 249 Sig Sqn) took over from **WO2 (RQMS) Smith**. Any rumours that 8 Sig Regt are taking to the hills in Norway next winter are hotly contested. Congratulations to **SSgt Dave Fraser** who left the Regiment to be the new SSM 249 Sig Sqn.

ALL SYSTEMS GO

On 28 January the closure of 8 Sig Regt in Catterick was brought forward with the release of a Ministerial announcement. Training will stop in October 1994, three months earlier than planned. Less time to do more; the Commanding Officer's New Year's resolution 'keep stress-free, keep smiling' may be difficult not to break.

PLANNING

Planning continues apace. The road to Blandford and back is well worn with the travel to and from conferences, meetings and liaisons. But in the meantime, Fax machines seem to be on permanent send and those personnel not on the road are working hard.

CERTIFICATES IN EDUCATION

A unique occasion took place in the Trade Training School on Wednesday 15 December 1993 when ten instructors from the Regiment received certificates, on successfully completing a part time course leading to Certificates in Education, qualifying them as teachers in further education.

The certificates were presented by **Prof Cedric Cullingford**, a professor of education at Huddersfield University in the presence of the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL** and the sector manager **Barry Williamson**.

The ceremony was unique in that it is believed to be the first time a military establishment has successfully achieved in-house, part time training in cooperation with both the University of Huddersfield and York College of Further and Higher Education. **Prof Cullingford** commended this major achievement in his opening address and congratulated all who had worked so hard to produce excellent results.

The ten instructors who received the award are: **Sgt Glyn Marsh, Mr Carl Butler, Mr Peter Rossall, Mr Jim Rodger, Mr Kevin East, Mr Kevin Wake, Mr Cliff Turner, Mr Sandy Patience, Mr Tony Jewell** and **Mr David Taylor**.

Three of the tutors who worked tirelessly to make the course a success were **Mrs Jayne Moore, Mr Paul Guilfoyle** and **Mr Roland Procter**, all from York College of Further Education. **Mr Procter** also received a presentation from the students of a 'Jimmy'. This presentation was in recognition of his services and on the occasion of his retirement.

Certificate in Education Presentation

SPORT

The Regiment has recently won the Eastern District Netball and Men's Hockey and has competed in the finals of Army Cross Country and Badminton. The Soccer team were through to the last stages of the Army Cup until they met the red hot favourites: 2 Sig Regt. At least the Corps side is in the next round–although the team manager WO2 (SSM) McLachlan didn't quite see it that way. The Men's Hockey team, the sole surviving Corps representatives, have a date with 7 RHA in the quarter finals of the Army Cup.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT

Sig Diane Winfield, currently serving with 251 Sig Sqn has just attended a Tele Op (Data) conversion course. She received an A Grading for 'outstanding performance' on her course.

Presentation of outstanding student award to Sig Diane Winfield by Maj R. M. R. Grahams, OC Op Wing

CHARITY WORK
HELP TO CLEVELAND WILDLIFE TRUST

Members of DE390 headed by **SSgt Hughes** and **Cpl Beardall** helped the Cleveland Wildlife Trust (CWT) to renovate a gravel path at the Butterfly World Garden in Preston Park, Stockton. Continued support to CWT has seen the building of two compost waste disposal units with the help of **Cpl Hart** and **Sigs Corber, Hodginson** and **Mulheran**. At the moment, 200 bat boxes are being constructed by Bravo Tp with the help of **SSgt Bob Lewis** and his workshops.

MOWBRAY SCHOOL AND HEARTS OF GOLD

On 7 February 1994 Crypto Equipment Group played host to children from the Mowbray Special School, Bedale, who joined the Army for the day. Each child had a soldier from 1 Sqn assigned to them as a minder. Then 'Bedale Section' started on a very busy day, which began with drill on the Square, followed by the Gym for the indoor assault course. Next a visit to an AFV436 (courtesy 19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209)) and some work with manpack radios ended the morning.

Following lunch, served under canvas and out of mess tins, the children spent the afternoon stripping and assembling weapons, .22 shooting, connecting up telephones and finished with a ride in a Saxon personnel carrier over the Gandale Training area. The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit and the Regiment managed to raise £607 for charity by selling golden heart badges. Special thanks to **Sgts Tony Ducker** and 'Tel' **Fleet** who organised it all and to everyone else in the group who assisted.

Capt Kev Doyle presenting the 'best soldier award' with Sgt Terry Fleet in the background

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

CO — **Lt Col P. A. R. Rouse**
2IC — **Maj I. R. Grant**

RHQ
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We say farewell to **Maj** (now Lt Col) **R. M. Thurston** and his wife **Angela** on posting to 8 Sig Regt; to **Capt Martin Ramshaw** and **Cathy** to RMCS, and to **WO2 Paul Duffy** to civilian life. Our best wishes go to all.

Welcome to our new 2IC, **Maj I. R. Grant**, Adjt **Capt Z. J. S. Almonds** and RAOWO **WO2 Trask** who joins RHQ from Ops 'B'.

CONGRATULATIONS

The CO and all ranks of 13 Sig Regt (R) extend their congratulations to **WO1 (YofS) W. Riding** and **WO1 J. J. Smith** who have been selected for commissioning.

Congratulations also go to **WO2 (SSM) M. Smithurst** on being selected for promotion to WO1.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CO

As many readers of *The Wire* will now know, 1994 marks 13 Sig Regt's final full year in BAOR. Already the drawdown has begun, and by December 1994 the Regiment's operations will have been transferred to RAF Digby in Lincolnshire.

A 200 strong Army element, including a Royal Signals complement of five officers and 141 other ranks, will join 399 Signals Unit RAF, taking our role into a highly technical operational environment geared to meet the future demands of this decade and beyond.

In March 1995, after 40 years in Mercury Barracks, Birgelen, the remaining elements of the Regiment will disband.

Our plans for the transfer of manpower and equipment to RAF Digby in the latter half of this year are on track. The integration process has already begun. 16 RAF personnel arrived recently from Digby and will remain with us until the Regiment closes. They have all settled in well, and some of them will feature later in these notes.

I am delighted that so many ex-members of the Regiment have indicated their intention to attend the Farewell Regimental Weekend over 1–3 July 1994. If you are intending to come, please ensure that you contact the Project Officer on Birgelen Mil ext 286 (or 010 49 2432 47 286 on the civil network), if you have not already done so.

By coincidence, 1994 also marks the 60th Anniversary of the formation of the Regiment's antecedent, No 4 Wireless Company, in Aldershot, in 1934. A further reason to get together and commemorate the occasion. To those of you will will be attending, we look forward to seeing you in July.

HQ SQUADRON
Sqn Comd — **Maj I. L. Dudding**

In December 1993 TM Tp bade a fond farewell to one of our longest serving members: **Mr Colin Rowntree** (of SERCo Government Services). **Colin** had traversed the whole spectrum of Regimental life during his 22 years here, both as soldier and civvy, (having arrived here as a Royal Signals Corporal, way back in the murky depths of time). **Colin** said his final goodbye at a TM Tp 'Happy Hour' and the occasion was well supported by members of the Regiment's hierarchy. The TOT **Capt** 'Brian of Brunei' **Gardner** presented **Colin** with the traditional TM Tp offering for such an occasion: A 'Nut and Bolt' man; faithfully reproducing **Colin** in a pose familiar to his subordinates at work. We wish **Colin** and his wife **Edith** all the best for the future.

Colin Rowntree with his SERCo colleagues (some of whom are also ex members of the Corps) just before he left the Unit

1 SQUADRON
Sqn Comd — **Maj J. A. B. Floyd**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We welcome **WO2 Eddie Small, JTs Greg Milne, Mark Proctor, Jon Surtees, Rich Weeks, JTW Louisa Weeks, JT Nick Smith, JTWs Rebecca Screech, Anya Moul, Trudie Buxton, Paula Mansell, Chris Morton, Cpls Andrew Clarke, 'Mac' McBain, LCpl Stringer** and wife **Vanessa, LCpls Al Roscoe** and **Ian Potton**.

Goodbye and good luck to **Cpls Jimmy Byrne, Rob Hare** and his wife **Louise, SSgt Steve Prowse** and his wife **Vanessa, WO2 Billy Chestnut** and his wife **Tanya, Cpl Richie Fox** and his wife **Jeanette, Sgt Dave Devine** and his wife **Julie, Cpl Steve West** and his wife **Kathy, Sgt Dave White** and his wife **Anita** and **LCpl Paul Warren**.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **SSgt P. A. Trethewey** for a very good pass on his recent course.

LS & GC PRESENTATIONS

On Wednesday 12 January, **Brig H. H. Kerr OBE** (Commander Rhine Garrison) presented the following Squadron personnel with their LS & GC Medals: **WO2 Paul Meadows, SSgts Dave Randle**, 'Taff' **Gillespie, Sgts Adrian Sutherland** and **Nigel Bullimore**.

The presentation took place in the Sergeants' Mess and was attended by families of the recipients as well as Mess Members. In response to the Brigadier's remark that **SSgt Randle** had been around a bit, **SSgt Randle** replied 'only in the military sense!'

The presentation was followed with the traditional ceremony of wetting the medals.

L to R: SSgt Randle, WO2 Meadows, SSgt Gillespie, Sgt Bullimore, Sgt Sutherland

DETACHMENT COMMANDERS RAISE CASH

The Royal Signals BAOR Det Comd's Courses in the Regiment were assigned an additional task at the beginning of their course. It was to produce a money raising idea, then convert the idea into reality, as an exercise in their final week. Course 8/93 did this with flying colours raising DM903 for the Corps Museum. The course produced over a dozen ideas for raising money and the OC, **Lt Dave Chrystal**, chose the best one. It was to do a BFT Circuit without touching the ground. It came from **LCpl Walsh** of 20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200). Impossible though it sounds, it was achieved, by the complete course as well! How did they do it? The easy answer could have possibly been by helicopter; the course had its own helicopter pilot **Cpl Hicks** currently with 4 Regt AAC, but, no, that wasn't their answer. They used the gymnasium equipment, (with which they became very familiar during the course!). The kit was beams and mats, used in various ways, either tied to their feet or, relayed forward. Some interesting techniques developed: **Cpl Bond** of 7 Sig Regt imitated a severely injured bullfrog in his efforts to cover ground on a gym mat and other members of the course shuffled along on planks for almost an hour.

The course had a small surprise for the OC on completion of their task and in return for his great idea. Orchestrated by **Sgt Mick Roe** (the course drill instructor the OC was thrown in with **Satan**, a particularly vicious guard dog. Although the OC was suitably attired he still insists on showing everybody the bite marks on his legs! The complete episode, no doubt, cheered up the whole course who all chanted 'kill, kill, kill' under the direction of **WO2 (SSM) Mark Smithurst** and **Sgt Robertson**. Meanwhile **Sgt Den Morris** (NBC Instructor and Wing SQMS) was collecting broken equipment to keep his books straight, while muttering something about 42 rations diffy!

At the end of it all the CO, **Lt Col Phillip Rouse**, was presented with a cheque by **LCpl Robson**, who personally raised the most cash. The proceeds go to the new Corps Museum in Blandford.

The Det Comds' Course raised over DM900 to see this Battle: The result was **Satan** 6 **Lt Chrystal** 0. Shame it was such an evenly matched contest!

ORIENTEERING

The Orienteering scene was fairly quiet at the start of the season. However, it has picked up since then. The first event of the year was a night event held in Leuth, for which we managed to find six runners. It was good to see **SSgt Phil Matthews** on his first run since getting injured at the Corps Championships. **LCpls Brian Peach** and 'Nobby' **Clarke** also competed in the A Course, all three coming within a few minutes of each other. On the B Course our two novices, **Cpls** 'Taff' **Stewart** and **Steve Christopher**, were doing particularly well, coming within 15 minutes of the winner. All in all, a good night's work!

The second event was once again a night event, hosted this time by the Regiment. **LCpl Brian Peach** planned the event and **Cpl Ted Whichelo** was controller. The courses were well received by all runners and thanks go to them both. Although helping out, a number of people were also able to run. **LCpl** 'Nobby' **Clarke** did very well on the A Course coming third (within 10 minutes of the winner). A few minutes behind was **LCpl** 'Robbo' **Robinson** who had had to retire the week before. Excuse of the week goes to **SSgt Phil Matthews**, whose lamp 'failed on him' in the middle of a particularly dark night. It was only later that he discovered how it switched on! **Cpl Christopher** on the 'B' Course did very well again, coming within 10 minutes of the winning time. We only hope he can do as well in the daylight! Altogether a good all-round performance from both competitors and organisers. Well done!

RUGBY

The Regimental Rugby Team has enjoyed a very successful season losing only once, to date.

Due to Drawdown it has been difficult at times to raise a team. This was not helped by the departure of **Sgt Chris Kitchin**, famous for his storming runs up the blind side (in our own 22). He has since left the Army to play the game of life, in civvy street. **Sgt Bill Innes** is posted to 7 Sig Regt. Both will be sorely missed for the third half entertainment.

In the build up to our American tour, organised by **Lt Burton** and **CW2** 'Pilgim' **Tirk**, the Team was playing regularly twice a week, thanks to our Fixtures Secretary, **Sgt Rev** 'Oh, come on lads' **Harding** and **Cpl Frank McCann**.

Off we went on our third American Tour (well Weisbaden anyway!) and a good time was had by all beating the 'Yanks' 42–0. The Tour highlighted some real personalities, in particular **LCpl Mark Burns** and the unforgettable **LCpl Roy Venables**.

We have said goodbye to our Trainer and Coach, **CSgt Dave Tyce**, who has left us on commissioning into the Royal Marines.

Despite the fact that the Rugby Team are entitled to play as a Minor Unit, they have continued to battle on against Major Unit sides with considerable success.

New stars were found this year in **Cpl** 'Willie' **Rushton**, the kicking prop-forward–who has gained some valuable points and **Cpl Bryan Hands**–who managed to build an excellent relationship with the referees. Also congratulations **Bryan** on your selection for the BAOR squad.

With the welcome return from Dets of **Cpl** 'Loz' **Hill** and **LCpl Sean Doherty**, whose unique talents were missed during the early part of the season–the rest of the season looks very promising.

In conclusion it has been an excellent final year for the Rugby Team, both on and off the park, and hopefully this will continue up until the disbandment of the Regiment early next year.

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14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 36

226 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj D. Macaulay**
2IC — **Capt G. Addley**

Welcome to **Maj Don Macaulay** and his wife **Alison** and daughter **Catherine** who join us from DRA Defford. Farewell and good luck to **Maj Vyv Thatcher**, his wife **Sue** and daughter **Jenny**. Also welcome to **Sgt Steve Roberts** and family as the Squadron MT Sgt and a farewell and good luck to **Cpl** 'Chalky **White** and his wife **Lynn**.

COMMS TROOP

Tp Comd — **2Lt K. Mosby**

With both the Tp Comd and Tp SSgt away it fell to **Sgt Gareth Hicks** to take elements of the Troop down to 13 Sig Regt with Romeo Tp and Hotel Tp.

The demonstrations all went according to plan, including one for **Brig Kerr** and one for the CO of 13 Sig Regt, **Lt Col Rouse**. 13 Sig Regt were the perfect hosts, as ever. We allowed their Regimental football team to beat our Squadron team 4 goals to 2 and they reciprocated by allowing us to win their Regimental paintball competition. No visit to 13 Sig Regt would ever be complete without a disco in the Rugby club; it's just a shame that **LCpl** 'Billy' **Bremner** couldn't score quite as easily on the football field!

Friday saw the OIC visit **Lt Sharon Moffat** present the hosts with a Regimental plaque and then the return to Osnabruck after an arduous but very rewarding week.

ROMEO TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt S. P. Moffat**

EXERCISE DEVIL'S HORIZON

Representatives: **Sgts** 'Wodge' **Howard, Steve Skelton, Cpls Harry Harrison, Tel Parr** and **LCpl Ben Lines**.

The question was posed innocently enough as the Troop Ops **WO Eric Clee** 'matter of factly' stated, '640 Tp are going on exercise to Cyprus in the New Year, and have offered us some places, does anyone want to go?' Following a few scuffles, heated arguments, a command decision was made and five Troop members gleefully went off to pack sunshades, bermuda shorts and flip-flops, amid oaths and unconvincing statements from the remainder of the Troop that 'they didn't want to go anyway'.

And so the five tumbled off to 640 Sig Tp at Blandford.

Following briefings and familiarity demonstrations of the 640 Tp equipment and awe inspiring methods of operation, all exercise personnel embarked on Phase 1 of Ex Devil's Horizon. This was the deployment firstly to South Cerney trooping centre, for an overnight PR visit, and ultimately on to Cyprus.

On Startex, elements of 640 Tp, plus R Tp deployed to their initial locations, namely Akrotiri and Dhekelia, with the command element being located at Ayios Nikolaos. Operations began. Over the next ten days the dets were re-deployed around the island, giving the operators the opportunity to view some of the island's geography along with the welcome opportunity to practise their operating skills.

Following 10 productive days operations, where both the operators and the command, analysis and reporting system were all put through their paces, the R and R phase began in earnest. First of all with a 'friendly' hockey match versus B Tp, resulting in a victory for the visitors, then a laid on barbecue by **WO2 Billy Chesnut**. It was here that 640 Tp personalities really came to the fore, with exemplary displays of culinary skills by **Sgt Denver Owens**, and an impromptu traditional dancing display by the Tp Ops WO, **WO2 Pete Farmer**.

On our return journey, the aircraft became unserviceable which forced us to remain in Bari at the Sheraton hotel, no complaints here.

237 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Rick Evans**
Sqn 2IC — **Capt Mark Roberts**

PLEASE NOTE! For all of you reading this who think that 237 Sig Sqn is located in Osnabruck we are, in fact, in Hullavington, Wiltshire, and have been here for several months. This is a temporary location.

SPONSORED RUN

Last year a band of runners from Support Tp set off from Hullavington Barracks to run to Gloucester and back in aid of Children in Need and the local hospital in Malmesbury.

The event was organised by **Maj** (now Lt Col) **Bob Vale** and **SSgt** (now WO2) **John Gibson** and involved the whole Troop. Whilst some ran others persuaded people along the way to donate their money to these worthy charities.

The day started with a surprise in the form of the CO, **Lt Col N. K. P. Hope MBE**, who arrived from Germany to see everyone off at 0600 hrs.

The run had a dual purpose. It also provided the opportunity to re-affirm the Regiments links with the City of Gloucester, where we enjoy Freedom rights.

On arrival in Gloucester the runners were met by the Mayor and the Sqn Comd. The Sqn Comd presented the Squadron plaque to the Mayor and the runners were invited to the Mayor's chambers for drinks. It was then time to run back, finishing at the Radnor Arms just outside the Camp for refreshments which, after 64 miles, were much needed. Congratulations to all who helped raise the £1,541.00.

Photo shows runners, *L to R:* Cpls Howlett, Walsh, Harper, Scaife, ready for the run back to Hullavington from Gloucester

TANGO TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt C. M. Morcom**
Tp 2IC — **WO2 Dave Stapleton**

Half of Kilo Tp and several of its vehicles have now joined us. The first of many changes to come.

In its original form, with a little help from SHQ Tp, the Troop won the inter-Troop sports competition. Well done to all the budding sportsmen, and women.

Several members of the Troop have managed to escape for periods of time; skiing been the hot (or should it be cold) favourite.

There have been many comings and goings recently, so a big welcome to **Lt** 'Eric' **Morcom**, **SSgt** 'Tigger' **Howarth**, **LCpl** 'Ritchie' **Richmond**, **Sig Carol Duffy** and, last but not least, **Sig Chey Hook**. Have a good tour. Finally, fond farewells to **Lt Russell** who has only tunnelled as far as Kilo Tp, **Cpl Martin Cox** to JCUNI, **LCpls Rab Grice** and **Si Upcraft** to BAOR and **LCpl** 'Frankie' **Vaughan** to 30 Sig Regt.

VICTOR TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Annabel Basker**
2IC — **WO2** 'Mac' **McCreedy**

Faces change and we would like to welcome **Cpl Lee Brewer**, **LCpls** 'Mac' **McKechnie** and **Mallinson** to the fold and bid farewell to **Sgt Sean Thickett** who is posted to Comms and Sy Gp (UK), newly promoted **Cpl Jim Whitehead** to 9 Sig Regt (R), **Cpl John Ambler** to Comms and Sy Gp (UK), and **LCpl Neil Merritt** who starts his upgrading course at Loughborough.

Congratulations are in order to **Sig Dent** on the birth of a son **Liam John**. Hearty pats on the back are afforded to **WO2** 'Mac' **McCreedy** who is pre-selected for promotion to WO1 and to **SSgt Andy Campbell** who is promoted on posting in May.

The Troop is currently preparing for Ex Foxhunt, in Wales, Sweaty Palm and the annual Battle Camp.

Lt Basker took some members of the Troop skiing in Andorra in February.

KILO TROOP

Tp Comd — **SSgt Mark Brunning**
Tp Sgt — **Sgt Andy Crawford**

The New Year brought turbulence when half the Troop and its vehicles were moved over to Tango Tp in preparation for troop and squadron exercises. We wish a very warm welcome to all those who have joined us and best of luck to all those who have left.

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

PRESENTATION OF LS & GC MEDALS AND CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Brig H. H. Kerr OBE, Comd Rhine Garrison visited the Regiment on 8 December 1993 to present members with awards for service. The first award was a Certificate of Appreciation to **Artur Schletz**, the German Civil Police Liaison Officer, in recognition of his outstanding support to the Regiment for nearly twenty years.

To mark his appreciation of the Award, **Artur** presented the Sergeants' Mess with a framed picture of Krefeld as it was in 1758. The Brigadier presented LS & GC medals to **WO2 (FofS) Ted Edwards**, **SSgt Phil Tait** and **Sgt Steve Mitchell** in the presence of their wives and families.

The Brigadier then joined the recipients and families at lunch in the Sergeants' Mess where he was able to meet the Chief Constable, Krefeld, the medal recipients and Squadron Commanders.

The photo shows Artur Schletz receiving his Certificate of Appreciation from Comd Rhine Garrison

Comd Rhine Garrison with the award recipients and their families

PRESENTATION OF LS & GC

At the beginning of December, **SSgt Steve Nickless** was presented with the LS & GC medal by Sqn Comd **Maj A. P. Lomax** with the Squadron on parade. **Maj R. C. Offord MBE** read the citation.

'BONE OF CONTENTION' RUGBY

The 'Bone of Contention' rugby match is an annual event between the Officers/SNCOs and other ranks. It is very often a tough game, but an enjoyable one and fairly fought. This one was no exception.

With the CO and RSM both in the starting line-outs for the Officers/SNCO's team, competition for the ball in both line-outs and the loose was fierce. What the 'old and bold' lacked in speed they made up for in knowledge and experience. Throughout the first half, they certainly had the better chances. The Corporals and below, led by **Cpl Stu Ness**, kept plugging away and were rewarded by a dubious try scored by **Sig** 'Scotty' **Szaranek**, just on the stroke of half time. The teams are made up of any number of players who rotate at any time. With fresh legs-on for the Officers/SNCOs side in the second half, it was not long before the first half

'Bone of Contention' winners–the ORs

domination was re-asserted. A late second half try by **WO2 (AQMS) Russ Kirkham** levelled the score and it stayed that way until the final whistle.

Traditionally, in the event of a draw, the team that holds the trophy retains it for another year. The 'Bone' was presented to **Cpl Stu Ness** and his team by the CO who congratulated them on a hard fought contest.

TRAFFIC OFFICERS AND YEOMAN OF SIGNALS CONVENTION

The 1993 BAOR Traffic Officers and Yeoman of Signals Convention was hosted by 16 Sig Regt on 1-2 December 1993.

It was a great success, largely due to excellent planning by **Maj Dave Wright** and **WO2 (YofS) Bill Jackson** and, of course, a great deal of behind-the-scenes effort too.

Among topics discussed were the SATCOM lecture by **Maj Eddy Jones** who brought us all up-to-date on a complicated subject and the dull topic of the new TDED was amusingly brought to life with a 'Morecambe and Wise' type presentation by **WO2 (YofS) Bob Pemberton** and **WO2 (YofS) Shaun Sutton**. The CO gave a presentation on 'Women in the Regular Army', which generated much discussion.

The dinner evening was greatly enjoyed and allowed young and old to put the world to rights.

252 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj A. P. Lomax**
2IC — **Capt S. M. Williamson**

4 October 1993 marked the formation of 252 Sig Sqn and the demise of 1 Sqn. At the same time Oscar Tp changed to Comms Tp which includes what was Oscar Tp and Telephone House.

COMMS TROOP

We welcome the following to the Troop: **Maj A. P. Lomax, Capt Parry** and his wife **Sue**, **WO2 (YofS) Brendan Kelly** and his wife **Jennifer**, **Sgts Karen Turner** and **Keith Walters**, **Cpls Dave Betts**, **Kim Castledine**, **Michelle Ironside** and **Al Harris**, **LCpl** 'Fitz' **Fitzgerald** and **Craig McDermid**, **Sigs Iris Hambidge**, **Emma Westwood**, **Kevin Taylor**, **Paul Floyd** and **Leslie Kennedy**.

We have said farewell to **WO2 Chris Heeles** and his wife **Val** off to sunny TDT at Catterick. Congratulations to **Sgts Richie Brown** and **George McGuire** on their recent promotions and postings to the Regiment. **Cpl Babs Jobling** to civvy street; all the best. **Julie Stroudley** to NI and **Michelle Potter** to the Regiment, then onto her PTI 2 course and, hopefully, all the way into the PT Corps. **LCpls** 'Scouse' **Welham** and **Sheena Motson** to Hong Kong, **Lisa Brightman** and **Carys Jones** to Belize. **Sigs Lynne Cunningham** to Hong Kong, **Elaine Gerry**, **Caroline Murray** and **Sally Patrick** to the Falklands, **Jane Phillips** to sunny Cyprus, **Donna Jones** to 30 Sig Regt, **John McKindland** and **Angela Prentis** to civvy street.

Finally congratulations to **LCpl Donna Scaife** on her recent promotion.

SYSTEMS TROOP

BOXING

LCpl 'Taff' **Nicholls** and **Sig Lance Swarbrick** participated at the BAOR Boxing Championship, Semi-final Grade 3 Novice Boxing Competition in November last, hosted by the Regiment. After displaying both courage and determination, they were disappointed when the decision was awarded against them. Well done for a brave display.

EUROPEAN KARATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 1993

SSgt Gus Murray and **LCpl Vicky Hardisty** were members of the German Team which won the 1993 International Karate Union and Martial Association European Karate Championships on 20 November 1993. **LCpl Hardisty** gained 2nd place in the Women's Team Event and **SSgt Murray** gained 4th place in the Men's Team Kata. Both competed in the Ryoshin BAOR Karate Championships on 27 November 1993. **SSgt Murray** came 2nd in the Kata event and **LCpl Hardisty** achieved 2nd place in the Women's Kumite, she also won the award for the best Female Technical Fighter of the Competition.

LCpl Vicky Hardisty on her way to victory against her Italian opponent in the European Championships

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Sgt Dave Covey** on successfully completing the Leadership Course at Catterick.

FAREWELLS, ARRIVALS

We have said farewell to **Sgt Neil Blair** and **Nicola**, **Cpl Paul Barr** and **Nancy** and **Cpl Andy Freeman** to the newly formed ARRC Support Battalion. **Sgt Colin Larrad** on posting to 8 Sig Regt (Cadre) and **Cpl Kenny McRae** to embark on his T1. **Sgt Paul Bartlett** on posting to HQ UKLF, and **Sgt Bob Carter** to civilian life in America. Our best wishes for the future is extended to them all.

We welcome **Cpl John Taylor** and **Rachael** and hope that they enjoy their time with us.

253 SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Leicester Trophy Competition was completed in December 1993. The Badminton competition organised by SQMS, **SSgt Mick Shirley**, the Basketball competition was managed by **LCpl Lee Johns** and the Assault course competition was managed by **SSgt (FofS) Gary Haslam**. The Squadron team gained a place in the semi-final, but not in the final which was won by Hotel Tp 255 Sig Sqn. However, the Squadron had enough points to win the trophy. The trophy was brought back to Bielefeld and put on show for a few days before being sent back to Krefeld for display outside the Leicester Room.

The new year started off in a swift manner with a military training week from 10-14 January. It included all mandatory ATD subjects along with a chat from the local RMP on security and crime prevention. To finish off the week a very arduous sports afternoon of assault courses and mini competitions were held. 253 Sig Sqn definitely knows that the new year has started!

21 Sig Regt (AS)
Colerne

244 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Bob Holt**
2IC — **Capt John Norris**

Support Tp was formed to bring together the Technicians, Dvr Electricians and Dvr Lineman. On the plus side we now have 35 from whom to select a football team instead of just 10!

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

WO2 (SSM) Steve 'Trips' **Morgan** leaves us on a well earned promotion. Standby 210 Sig Sqn! Congratulations and thank you from us all. Into the breach steps **WO2 (SSM)** 'Brummie' **Cox**. Welcome to him and **Wendy**, and the family.

NEWS FROM THE TROOPS

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Graham Fletcher**

A Tp has been in Norway battling the elements and wondering why falling off skis is easier than staying on them. In the recent past the Troop has taken part in staging the Commander's Cup, Ex Iron Temper and pre-Norway Trg. There is also an open invite from **LCpls** 'Jasper' **Marritt** and 'Scotty' **Scott** to anyone who wants a sound thrashing at football or volleyball. In addition some Troop members have been promoted. Well done to **Cpl Harry Harrison**, **LCpls Clint Barker** and **Si Jenner**.

INDIA TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Geoff Pullen**

Ex Green Blade in Bavaria is an annual Support Helicopter Force exercise modelled on the situation in former Yugoslavia. The exercise was a great success and brought out the actor in quite a few. Notable achievements on the exercise came from many areas. First prize goes to **Sig** 'Sparks' **Lee** for inventing a novel way of dismantling jury rigged lighting. Second prize goes to **Sig** 'Eric' **Clapperton** for finding the true use of his helmet whilst flying in a Chinook. Third prize goes by a whisker to **Cpl Stu Ross** who suffered sun blindness after finally emerging from the tunnel between his sleeping bag and the back of the relay vehicle.

The Troop says a sad farewell to **SSgt Neil White** and **Norma** as they move to Dundee and congratulations on his promotion. Also the Troop congratulates **LCpls Kilburn** and **Toes** on their promotions.

JULIET TROOP

Tp Comd — **2Lt Duncan Parkinson**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Roy Holcombe and Debs**

The most notable Tp exercise was Sanctuary Training for 33 Sqn RAF. The ground crew tabbed, the air crew tried to evade fast jets and the RAF Regt guys shot an imaginary enemy.

Members continued to contribute to charity. They took part in a wheelchair push organised by our adopted charity PHAB (Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied), from Devizes. Those who took part included **Sigs Dave Aitken**, 'Knocker' **Dore**, 'Scouse' **Hodson**, **Treena Taylor**, **Ned Fraine** and **LCpl Williams**. The day was a great success and **Dave Aitken** won the fancy dress competition. The event was opened by **George Baker** of the Ruth Rendell programmes fame.

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30 Sig Regt
Bramcote

CO — **Lt Col J. E. Thomas MBE**
2IC — **Maj C. P. Donaghy**
Adjt — **Capt I. G. Standen**

A 30 Sig Regt 521 in UN role

L to R: Sigs Lee Lomax, Lynn Bell and Cpl Rudraprasad Gaha

SUPPORT SQUADRON
Sqn Comd — **Maj P. Cain**

Despite a very busy period and the Regiment's move from Blandford to Bramcote, the Squadron competed in the Commander's Cup with a team of R Signals, RLC, REME and was placed 4th out of eleven teams. If that wasn't enough the Squadron organised and took the Young Officers Exercise held at Bovington over a two day period. If there was one thing the young officers learnt it was to trust the sketch maps and button compasses and the word of an honest SSM.

The Squadron formed up for its first parade at Bramcote on Monday 24 November 1993 to be greeted by the Trg Offr **Capt Jim Sykes** with a request that all hands assist with the Regimental Cadre Course which was held over the period 28 November-10 December.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

A belated farewell to **Maj Pete Telford**, off to Sandhurst to become a Coy Comd, and to **WO2 (SSM) Mick Ara**, off to Middlesbrough on promotion to WO1 (RSM). New arrivals are **Maj Pete Cain** from 28 Sig Regt and **WO2 (SSM) Chris McGinley** from 200 Sig Sqn.

REGIMENTAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Yes, we know none of us is Royal Signals but some of us were (I've got the scars to prove it), and as we look after the Corps' 'Firefighters' administration we ask for a mention.

The new office title of 'RAO' was assumed when the Regiment moved to Bramcote and means both the old Pay Office and Docs Clerks are now co-located (which in a nutshell means we are bombarded with MMA, NRSA etc and enquiries and the Pay Sergeants consider themselves experts on Confidential Reports!).

Some of us have rather 'nifty' titles as well, **Cpl Steve Upsall** from ORC to Documents Supervisor (more jobs, no more money) and **Sgt Stu Lowe** went from a humble Pay Sergeant to Systems Co-ordinator (more time on the football pitch), leaving **Sgt Dave Hannon** as well, a Pay Sergeant. We have inherited two civilian clerks from the Artillery, **Sue Manley** and **Sue Cobden**, not forgetting **Sue Vickers**, the Movements Clerk–yes, right, it's very confusing.

And so we plod along quite merrily as 'lean, mean documentation machines' whose motto is 'Speed is of the essence' (as long as it's between 0900 and 1200 hrs).

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT
QM — **Capt P. Doherty**

Even our 'Gulf Vets' have had to admit that those far flung days of sun, scuds, and sand, pale into insignificance in comparison with our hectic life these days. We have had the lot: a change of Quartermasters, a change of Commanding Officers, a change of both Regimental Quartermaster Sergeants, two Stocktaking Boards, an Ord Ancillary Inspection, a PRE and, just to round it off, the move to Nuneaton.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

QM, **Maj Bob Fortune** decided to cut and run and allow a more youthful **Capt Pete Doherty** to return to the Regiment after his brief sojourn with the TA. **Bob Fortune** however continues on as PRI/Families Officer enjoying his new status as a Retired Officer and can often be seen cycling around Bramcote drumming up support for his greasy spoon snack bar. Exit also both **RQMSs Steve Simpson** to The Royal School of Signals and **Bill Dyson** to civilian life, best wishes to them both. A warm welcome to their replacements **John Duckworth** from 2 Sig Regt and **John Howell-Walmsley** from the old 1 ADSR. Farewell also to **Cpl Raj** who has done sterling work as the Armourer these past two years and returns to sunnier climes and a warm welcome to our two new Gurkhas, **Cpls Dalbir** and **Ajit**, recent arrivals from Hong Kong. Of course with the move from Blandford it was with heavy heart we bade a sad farewell to all the civilian staff that had served the department so well over the years, to the very end, as they gave their time freely to come up to Bramcote and hand over their responsibilities personally to their counterparts there. We are delighted to report that their loyalty over the years has been rewarded and they all have been found other employment within Blandford Garrison and it's welcome aboard to all our new staff.

Out of sight, out of mind or absence makes the heart grow fonder? Well in the case of **Sgt Angus MacPherson** it was the latter and his tour in Croatia was rewarded by the acceptance of his proposal of marriage by his long term sweetheart **Sharon**. Another winner in the matrimonial stakes was **Cpl John Hynes**, they do say third time lucky, we certainly hope so!

WO2 (RQMS) Howell-Walmsley and his wife **Julie** are delighted to announce the arrival of baby **Rhys**.

256 SIGNAL SQUADRON

24 November marked the end of our Squadron's commitment at Blandford and the main body of 1 Sqn moved to Bramcote and assumed its new title of 256 Sig Sqn.

The move completed the Squadron set the wheels in motion for deployment on Ex Nimble Finger One. The aim of the exercise was primarily trade training, with a basic level of military skills, providing the foundation from which to work.

With many new arrivals in the Squadron, the majority straight from trade training, the run up for the exercise had to be taken at a methodical rather than dynamic rate.

With all preparation complete, and on time! the Squadron deployed on Monday morning to three locations, working point to point links and to a base station at Cyprus. Two of the HF detachments were involved in comms trials of a new antenna which was on operation with the Jamaican Defence Force; unfortunately for the crews they were working from sunny Bramcote rather than the cold Caribbean!

All in all the exercise, even though only a four day one, achieved a considerable amount and gave the Squadron the basis on which to build this year's exercises. It should be said however, that some people saw the exercise in a very different light as can be seen in **Cpl Simone Rouse**'s colourful account below:

'All ready for the Squadron exercise, we left a cold and wet Bramcote and arrived at an even colder and wetter Nesscliff Training Camp.

'After setting up masts and trying to sort out comms, to no avail. I suppose it would be a surprise if we got comms, I mean, this is a Squadron exercise, but Super Ted, sorry I mean **Tech Cpl Rob Soulsby** repaired both the 522 yellow and 521 blue dets single handedly; even so we still could not establish comms.

'Surprise, surprise!

'Then came a miracle; we finally managed to get through, and it was only day two. It is amazing how suddenly people appear from nowhere to claim that they managed it!

'We all survived the week due to good food skilfully prepared by **Sig Lisa Field**.

'We nearly lost a Rover and a couple of operators. **Sigs** 'Harry' **Harris** and **Richie Payne**, didn't know that Rovers have two tanks and a switch under the driver's seat. So having pushed the Rover uphill, run five miles to the nearest garage and spent £7.00 on fuel, they did learn something. So the exercise wasn't a total waste of time after all'.

SKYDIVING ADVENTURES IN FLORIDA
By LCpl 'M' Emblin 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn

This winter saw several training camps at Skydive Deland. There were two AFF (accelerated freefall) exercises being run by the Royal Engineers and the Army 8-way team squad, preparing for the coming season in the UK.

I was lucky enough to have been offered a place on the CNFP flights from Brize Norton to Dulles, Washington DC. This gave me three weeks in which to achieve as many jumps as possible.

We arrived in Dulles on the 17 December 1993 and then set out on the long journey South in our rental cars. We got to Deland late the next day. Deland is just North of Orlando, close to Daytona. Skydive Deland is one of the premier training centres in the world, home to many of the sports finest.

The next day we got stuck into the jumping. At Deland, altitude means 13,500ft, which gives you 60 seconds freefall time. Some days it was pretty cold up there and, after landing your fingers were burning with the cold. After only a few days most of the AFF students were passing their qualifying level jumps and the 8-way team continued their training. You need to take advantage of the good weather while you can, because as we were to find out later, even the weather in Florida isn't guaranteed.

The last week saw **Pete Allum** from the leading team 'Mind Games' run a coaching camp for the 8-way team and a lesser experienced 4-way squad as well, of which I was a member. The coaching was excellent and the skydiving improved in leaps and bounds.

By the end of our stay I had done 58 jumps and all the students had passed their AFF, qualified category 8. They are now licensed to jump without an instructor. Good luck to them all.

The 8-way team had much improved under **Pete Allum**'s excellent coaching, as had our 4-way. Many thanks to **Pete**. I would also like to thank **Maj Andy Allman** for inviting me on the expedition, and **Maj Ian Rosenvince** RE for rationing me on his exercise.

With what was learned in Florida I feel confident about joining a 4-way team here in the UK, finding one is another problem!

Blue skies and soft landings.

LCpl Emblin *(L)* and WO1 Brian Dias CCI of JSPC Hong Kong

30 SIGNAL REGIMENT DETACHMENT, TURKEY
OC — **Capt Ashley Stocker**
Det SNCO: — **Sgt Richard Needham**

Tech Sgt **Sgt 'Daz' Brown**, CDA **Cpl Chris Arthurs**, Commcen Supervisor **LCpl Alan Moffat**, Shift Supervisors **LCpls Stu Lovely** and **Trina Whyte**, **Sig Daz Daniels**, Shift Ops **Sigs Kev Barrs**, **Ayshea Bowers** and **Joe Collins**, Techs **LCpl Michelle Drew** and **JTechs Ian Whittaker** and **Tom Evans**.

We have said goodbye to **Sgt** 'Bod' **McDonald**, **Cpl Chesters** (who is now following the Yeomans' trail), **LCpl Knight**, **Sigs Duffton** and **Alexander**, and our two long suffering JTechs from TCW **McGuckin** and **Short**. We wish them all well.

Recent arrivals are **Sgt Brown, Cpl Arthurs, LCpl Drew, Sig Bowers** and **JTechs Evans and Whittaker**. Welcome aboard and we hope they enjoy the rigours of Op Warden!

The detachment has been a hive of activity with the odd social and sports occasions being mixed in with the hard work. **Sgt Needham** displayed his prowess at drill when he represented British Forces on Veterans' Day. His soldier-like parading of the Union flag, among all the coalition flags was moving. **SSgt (SQMS) McKenna**, of 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt, read a poignant poem. Congratulations to **Capt Kerr** on being selected for a regular commission.

Sgt Needham on Honour Guard Duty whilst on Op Warden

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BFPO 1

CO	**Lt Col R. M. Crombie**
2IC	**Major M. P. Wise**
Gurkha Maj	**Maj (QGO) Gambahadur Buduja**

VISITS TO THE REGIMENT

Whilst members were busy preparing for the Bde FTX, the Adjt, **Capt Alastair Gordon** was equally busy organising the visits by the Colonel of the Regiment **Maj Gen S. Cowan CBE** and the SOinC **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle**.

It was a privilege to welcome two such senior officers to our Regiment and we greatly enjoyed the visits.

246 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON (GURKHA INF BDE)

Sqn Comd	**Capt A. J. Parsons**
SQGO	**Capt (QGO) Dorje Tamang**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Sqn Comd, **Maj I. A. J. Condie**, left Hong Kong on 2 December 1993 after a second two year tour. We wish him, his wife **Kerry** and the children every success in London. On 2 January, **Lt K. M. Levins** left to join 24 (Airmobile) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210) and he was replaced by **Capt (QGO) Kishore Gurung**. From the whole Squadron a big SHYBASH to **Lt Levins** on his engagement to **Sharon**–who has done that?

The real transfer of power took place on 7 January when **Capt (QGO) Mekhman Gurung** handed over as SQGO to **Capt (QGO) Dorje Tamang**, recently returned from Nepal leave. **Mekhman** will be with the Squadron for a little longer until he begins his resettlement course. Finally, welcome back from Chile to **Lt R. E. Chamberlain,** if only for a brief while prior to leave, a trek in Nepal and posting.

EXERCISE TRAILWALKER 1993

Ex Trailwalker is a fund raising event for local charities, Oxfam Hong Kong and the Gurkha Welfare Fund. Its history dates back to the early '80s when it was held within the British Forces Hong Kong as a military training exercise. Since then its popularity has grown and now it is an international event and certainly the biggest fund raising event in Hong Kong's calendar. Trailwalker is a 100km race across the New Territories area involving the several substantial peaks along the way.

Every year the Regiment organises the occasion, assisted by Oxfam Hong Kong and sponsored by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. This year it took place over 29-31 October and a total of 650 teams participated (the largest number to date), each team consisting of four members. The walkers assembled at the start point in the Sai Kung country park in the East of the Territory, and from there they followed the Maclehose trail up and down and up and up and up . . . all the way across the colony finally finishing at Perowne Barracks on the West side of the Territory.

This year the key figure in the Regiment's monumental effort to coordinate the weekend was **Maj Sean Dexter**, Sqn Comd 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn. The target set this year for funds raised was HK$9 million (about £1 mil) and at the time of going to press the amount collected already exceeds this figure. Once all the money is in it will be split evenly between the three charities.

Sgt Mark Wareing supplies much needed refreshments to the QG Signals team at Checkpoint 1

Those at the finish, who were still awake so early in the morning, saw the 10th Gurkha Rifles team break the existing record by completing the course in 13 hrs 18 mins, closely followed by the QG Sigs Team with a time of 13 hrs 26 mins. At the end of the 48 hrs allowed to complete the course it was deemed to be a great success. Now, as for the Regimental Team we would just like to speak to you about the Lanyard Trophy . . .

OPERATION MERCURY 1993

Every year since 1970 the Queen's Gurkha Signals in conjunction with the Swiss Rifle Association (Hong Kong) hold a shoot, the main event being the Swiss Ausland Fern Wettshiessen! Otherwise known as a Non Central Rifle Match.

So, on a sunny Saturday morning last year the competition took place at Lo Wu Ranges in the New Territories. The day included a variety of events, such as The Cowbell Trophy, a Crossbow competition, Poolbull, the ubiquitous cheese cutting (involving a particularly large cheese) and a .22 shoot for the ladies (which had some interesting results). So that was the adults taken care of for the day just leaving the considerable problem of what to do with a Regiments worth of kids! The Range Officer was apparently not too happy to let the kids loose on the range–can't think why not! The solution was to pen all the youngsters into a corner.

Mrs Crombie *(right)* and the GM struggle to cut the largest cheese in Hong Kong

Towards the end of the afternoon the draw for the raffle began but it all became very suspicious when SSM 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn, **WO2 (SSM) Kindarman Rai** won the first prize of six thousand dollars worth of watch! In total, the day was a resounding success–we managed to raise HK$40,000 for the Regimental Trust which benefits members of the Regiment, past and present, who are in need.

OPERATION RIVERS

During last year's monsoon season in Nepal the rains reached unprecedented levels killing hundreds and causing vast amounts of damage to roads, property and livestock. The Government of Nepal was unable to cope with the problems due to the degree of devastation and so asked other nations if they could assist. The MOD then tasked Queen's Gurkha Engineers to provide assistance in the form of repairing bridges on the main road into Kathmandu–though in reality it was more a case of building bridges from scratch as most of them had been completely washed away.

It was at this stage that the Regiment tasked **Sgt Dilbahadur Thapa** and **Cpl Chambahadur Rai** to accompany Queen's Gurkha Engineers and provide comms support. With 18 hrs between being given the Warning Order and getting on the plane bound for Nepal, **Dil** and **Cham** were very excited!

On arrival at Kathmandu the chaos caused became apparent with much of the city being flooded and all the services, water, electricity and gas being utterly disrupted. Over the next month the men from Queen's Gurkha Sigs were in charge of maintaining the communications required to oversee the transportation and building of the four Bailey Bridges. Due to the distances involved and due to the terrain of Nepal, HF proved to be the most reliable way of passing information. At the end of their time there **Sgt Dil** and **Cpl Cham** returned to Hong Kong justifiably pleased with themselves for a job well done.

VISIT OF THE SOINC

The Group was honoured with a visit from the SOinC **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle**, on 3 December 1993. On arrival at the Unit, **Maj Gen Boyle** was met by the CO, **Lt Col J. P. Morrison**, the 2IC, **Maj W. J. L. Fiskel MBE**, the Adjt **Capt R. J. Parkinson** and the RSM **WO1 (RSM) J. M. Standen**. After the requisite photo call at Gp HQ the SOinC was given a Unit presentation and a tour of Unit lines enabling him to meet a number of permanent staff and civilian employees. Prior to lunch in the Sergeants' Mess **Maj Gen Boyle** 'officiated' at a medal ceremony where the following were presented with their LS & GC awards: **WO2 (CSM) Evans, SSgts Cape, Carr, WSSgt Lilley, SSgts (FofS) Baldwin, Martin** and MID **Sgt Armstrong**.

Maj Gen A. H. Boyle with the Medal recipients and their families

Following lunch with the recipients and their families and Mess members **Gen Boyle** toured 3 Coy (Trg) meeting members of No 24 Specialist Management Course and a number of soldiers undergoing basic trade training. Operations Platoon was next on the agenda and this included an 'impromptu' reminder for the SOinC of his time as CO 9 Sig Regt (R). Since the Ops Offr, **Capt Art Weaver**, still has a job we can only conclude that this little diversion was appreciated. The afternoon programme concluded with a visit to the Special Projects Agency where **Maj Gen Boyle** was briefed by **Lt Col Jim Storr** and met a number of the Group technical staff. The SOinC joined the Officers at a Regimental Dinner the same evening and this proved to be an ideal finale to a successful and enjoyable visit.

The Unit congratulates **Mrs Barbara Peel** on being awarded the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland's Commendation for her outstanding service in support of the Army families in and around the province.

Mrs Peel receiving her award from Brig D. A. K. Biggart, Comd 49 (East Midlands) Bde

3 COMPANY OPERATIONS PLATOON

Pl Comd **Capt A. Weaver**

Ops Platoon personnel continue to 'boldly go where no man' etc, etc. We have encountered yet another period with a high number of people coming and going (more of the latter if the truth be known). Recent departures include **Sgts Nick Roberts, Bill Riley, Cpl Eddie** 'Howay the Lads' **Fisher**, and **Sgt Helen Trewartha** to name but a few. Arriving has been **SSgt** 'Jock' **Dengate**, who has made it his mission in life to have a larger collection of Royal Signals memorabilia than the museum. (Corps Secretary please note.) Recent promotions within the Platoon include **WO2 Billy Corner** and **Sgt Laura Moore**, congratulations to both.

RADIO PLATOON

SI **Capt Art Weaver**

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Welcome to **SSgts** 'BJ' **Barclay, Armstrong** and **Sgt Dave White**.

Congratulations to **SSgts Barclay** and **Armstrong** on their promotion after the successful completion of the Specialist Management Course.

Farewell to **SSgt Phil Sandford** on his posting to 15 Sig Regt.

NO 24 SPECIALIST MANAGEMENT COURSE

Specialist Management Course No 24 was conducted at CSG (UK) between September–December 1993 and consisted of nine students. The course which is run annually is designed to train selected Sergeants in management and supervisory skills and familiarise them with operational and technical developments. Although relatively short the course is very demanding and students are required to pass three formal written examinations and several assessments. All nine students successfully completed the course and are congratulated on their promotion to SSgt. Special mention must be made of **Sgt** 'Troy' **Phillips** who achieved a B+ grade and was awarded Top Student.

BASKETBALL

The Unit has gone through a state of flux regarding the continuity of players, which has sadly meant the moving on of some of the stalwarts of the team namely '**big John Mortimer**' and **Steve** 'Shaggy' **Shaw** the previous manager. We wish them well in their future teams.

After a delayed start to the season it was found that we could not commit ourselves to the local civilian league and sadly had to withdraw, next season's another day. This left us with both the men and the womens' teams with only the District Championships to flex our muscles in.

Firstly the women who travelled to Catterick Garrison ably led by **Cpl Jo** 'I can run forever' **Boardman**, successfully defended the trophy and were once again the Scottish & North Eastern District Champions. Four games in all were played, some notable performances from all the team especially **LCpl** 'I don't play' **Yapp**. With success ringing in their ears it's now down to some hard training for the forthcoming Army Championships at Aldershot; we wish them well.

The men hurriedly got together two days before the Eastern District Championships and discussed vital team tactics, 'How many men are there in a team?' was heard in the changing room. Suitably trained and with a couple of senior veterans they set off for Waterbeach Barracks in Cambridge.

Sadly the Minor Unit matches were, for a variety of reasons, not on the fixtures list and the Championships were decided on the match versus MCTC Colchester. We we feeling quite confident until a team of giants stepped on to the court. Undaunted we had an exciting match with the score close all the way but we were second in the end. The majority of the team felt guilty about receiving the runners-up medals, but well done for their efforts, there's always next season.

SQUASH

The Group squash team of **Capt Art Weaver, SSgts Dave Hall, Paul Yeoman, Sgt John Blackadder, Cpl Arthur Paxton** and **Sig Dean Stewart**, started exceptionally well in the Army Minor Unit Championships, beating the strongly fancied Electronics Branch REME by three rubbers to two, in the first round. Regrettably the Unit had to field a weaker side in the quarter finals against BOD Donnington and lost 3–2. The ladies managed to bring some silver back to the Group however, by retaining the Eastern District Ladies Team Championship Trophy. Well done to **Lt Allison Dunn, Cpl Julie Parks** and **LCpl Jo Boardman** on a fine performance.

FOOTBALL TEAM

The team currently in third place in the Lincs Inter-Service League Division 2 is enjoying a resurgence of form. After an uncertain start to the season the team has become more settled and is now getting a string of results together. The team is presently managed by **SSgt Terry Gigg**; his current team sports a veteran midfield quartet, all below 5 feet 8 inches. Currently topping the scoring tables is our very own roving gypsy **LCpl** 'Griff' **Griffiths**. Things bode well for a strong finish to the season.

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

COMMANDING OFFICER FOR THE DAY

At this year's Annual Camp it became apparent that a big push was to be made by each Regiment in the Corps to raise money for the Corps museum.

The CO, **Lt Col Parfitt**, decided to raffle away his appointment for one day. After much fundraising and selling of tickets the draw was made. The results were awaited with bated breath. A huge cheer went up as it was announced that **LCpl Gerry Ayreetey,** HQ Sqn, was the successful winner.

On the day:

LCpl Ayreetey was picked up at home by the CO's Dvr, **Cpl Roy Sharp**, and taken to the TA Centre to be briefed by the Adjt, **Capt Neil Stevens**, and the Trg Maj, **Maj Bob Dobson**.

At precisely 1000 hrs 'Lt Col' **Ayreetey** took command of the Regiment. The first task in hand was to promote **Lt Jackie McGrellis** to the rank of Captain.

Then 'Lt Col' **Ayreetey** departed to have drinks with the Mayor and Mayoress of Knowsley. They retired to the parlour to discuss the TA over light refreshments. It was then back to Regimental business with the inspection of HQ and 59 Squadrons and their unit lines.

'Lt Col' **Gerry Ayreetey** then decided it was time for him and his fellow officers to take lunch at the Officers' Mess at Deysbrook Barracks. The meal was excellent except for a rather incompetent waiter, who looked remarkably like **Lt Col Parfitt**!

Before 'Lt Col' **Ayreetey** handed back command of the Regiment his last task was to promote **LCpl Andy Kermode** to Cpl. **Lt Col Parfitt** then presented **LCpl Ayreetey** with a framed souvenir letter from the SOinC to remind him of his day in command.

The day was ended by **LCpl Ayreetey** crooning to the Squadron; he doubles as a nightclub singer.

All in all the CO for the day scheme raised over £1,000 for the Corps Museum Appeal. Rumour has it that PB11 is considering raffling all future command appointments!

Lt Col Parfitt presenting LCpl Gerry Ayreetey with a letter from the SOinC congratulating him on his appointment as Commanding Officer for the day

HQ SQUADRON

This year sees the retirement of one of the Regiment's longest serving members, **Maj George Tinker**.

George enlisted into the Territorial Army on 2 March 1969. He served with 80 Sig Sqn (V) as a Combat Lineman and rose to the rank of SSM.

After serving his time as SSM he was then transferred to HQ Sqn as the RQMS.

It was here that **George** was commissioned on 31 October 1985 in the rank of Captain and served as the Volunteer Regimental Quartermaster.

George has assumed other various posts in his time with HQ Sqn; Motor Transport Officer, Messing Officer and also 2IC of the Squadron.

In a career that will be hard to match, it is with great sadness that **George** will be retiring in the rank of Major.

Good luck to you and your family and we hope you take with you many happy memories of us.

42 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

A ranges weekend at Strensall has taken place, providing a more in-depth chance of weapon handling than the centralised military training offers. Other personnel have participated in the Potential Officer Selection day and Executive Stretch in March.

OCdt Bill Dixon found a set of pips and a new job awaiting him after his successful two weeks at Sandhurst. **Sigs Kelly, Quigley, Murray** and **Anderson** found it was drinks all round as promotion had come their way. Congratulations to all concerned.

80 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

The most taxing weekend at 80 Sig Sqn (V) has been Ex Moving Forward (5/6 February). Seen from outside it may have appeared that we weren't moving forward at all but there are two sides to every story. This was a training exercise and a lot of problems were resolved in preparation for the Brigade exercise. Fortunately, everything came together in time.

Those worthy of mention on this exercise are **Sgt C. T. Jones**; **Cpl Tushingham** who was disgusted because there was no urn of tea and we had to wear CEFO; **Sgt Foster** and **Staff Jones** who did an excellent job in exercise control–most of the time without any communications!

I am sure **Sgt Seaward Birchall** wasn't the only one to suffer a headache 30 minutes into the exercise!

THE REGIMENT'S BIG BREAKFAST

A whispered call to the Training Major from a producer of the Big Breakfast show, a shadowy meeting in a quiet pub on the Wirral and the

Sig 'Elvis' Jones and LCpl Andy Hillock of 42 Sig Sqn trying to agree which direction is North

deal was arranged. Our task was to help setup a 'hit' on **Peter Edwards**, an ex-TA member of the Regiment, on his retirement from the bank, after a considerable number of years service.

His staff had contacted the 'Big Breakfast' and asked if they could help. They in turn called us after finding that **Peter Edwards** had once been the Paymaster here in Huyton. The plan was simple. After bursting in on him at the bank he would then be asked to attempt an assault course, constructed on the local park. The sting in the tail would be that his staff would also have to do the assault course!

Keith Chegwin and his cameraman arrived and we duly 'hit' **Peter Edwards** with some success. To his credit and to the credit of his staff they all managed to do the assault course. Our efforts resulted in a £50 donation from Planet 254, the Big Breakfast production company, for the Corps Museum appeal!

Peter Edwards *(left)* is put through his paces for Channel Four's the 'Big Breakfast'. Cpl Tony Burton demonstrates the scramble nets as Keith Chegwin and the camera-man film the programme

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

CO — **Lt Col M. K. Stretch**
Adjt — **Capt P. M. Kelly**

VISIT OF GOC EDIST

On 5 February, **Maj Gen P. A. J. Cordingley DSO** visited the Regiment at Deverell Bks, Ripon. Old desert hand, **Lt Col M. K. Stretch** welcomed the GOC to the Regiment.

Gen Cordingley had a good look at the training and talked informally with many of the soldiers. The GOC was impressed by the soldiers' commitment to the Regiment.

At the end of the morning the GOC made twenty presentations. LS & GC medals were awarded to **WO2 (FofS) McNeice** and **SSgts Greaves** and **Burton**. Efficiency medals were presented to **WO2 Mulligan, SSgts Tinkler** and **Turrington, Sgt Watson, Cpls Williamson** and **Thompson, LCpls Hemblade** and **Warner**. 1st clasp to the efficiency medal was given to **SSgts Rowe** and **Buss, Cpl Hemsley** and **Bandsman Warren**. An incredible 3rd clasp was awarded to **SSgt Follin** and **Sgt Bassett**. **WO2s Mulligan, Smith, Pollard** and **Myers** received their Royal Warrants.

The Regimental Band gave a peerless performance, as usual, **WO1 (BM) Dodd** proving, once again, that the Band is second to none. All on parade seemed impervious to the biting cold on the square and the soldiers' immense pride was demonstrated by their excellent bearing.

Gen Cordingley spoke encouragingly of 34's role and how pleased he was by all those he had met. He confirmed the view that volunteer units of the Corps would play an increasingly important and demanding role in the future and that the Regiment must be ready to meet the challenge.

GOC EDIST Maj Gen P. A. J. Cordingley presents the LS & GC medal to WO2 (FofS) Tom McNeice. On FofS McNeice's left, waiting to receive his LS & GC is SSgt Steve Greaves

Maj Gen P. A. J. Cordingley listens to SSgt Kevin Turrington as he explains how he apportions the training budget

LORD LIEUTENANT CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

In January, the Lord Lieutenant Cleveland, Tyne and Wear, **Lord Gisborough** presented coveted certificates to **WO2 (SSM) Hugh Mulligan** and **Sgt Ian Lockwood**. The certificates were awarded in recognition of a long period of dedicated service to the community and are greatly prized.

WO2 (SSM) Hugh Mulligan receives a Lord Lieutenant's certificate from Lord Gisborough

Sgt Ian Lockwood receives a Lord Lieutenant's certificate from Lord Gisborough

TRAINING

That old war dog **Capt Alan Watts** and **WO2 Ena Jordan** put 40 prospective recruits through their paces at a selection weekend in Catterick.

SPORT

Capt Tim Cooper, RSM **Mick Ara**, and YofS **Sid Perks** continue to achieve fame in the realm of orienteering, leaving many EDIST competitors in their tracks.

Members from 49 Sig Sqn (V), from Leeds, were on the piste in France in the second week of February, no doubt taught a thing or two by the CO. Look out Corps Ski Team, 49 is coming through!

SOCIAL

The year began with the January Wives' Club Dinner. Attended by over 60 wives of the Regiment and waited on by **Lt Col Martin Stretch, Capts Paul Kelly, Tim Cooper, WO1 (RSM) Mick Ara, WO2 (FofS) Tom McNeice, SSgt Steve Greaves** and **Sgt John Hughes**. The RSM's wife, **Mrs Theresa Ara** volunteered to be the object of **Sgt Kevin Shelmerdine**'s renowned knife-throwing act. The CO feels that the PRI can meet the costs of dress repair!

The Officers' Mess held a mixed dinner night in Darlington in January. Guests of Honour were the Hon Col **Brig D. H. Hodge DL** and **Mrs Hodge**. The night was a huge success.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

VISIT OF COMMANDER 143 BRIGADE

On Tuesday 8 February, Comd 143 West Midland Bde, **Brig R. G. Silk CBE**, visited 89 Sig Sqn (V) in Rugby. This was the Comd's first visit to Rugby TA Centre since the Squadron's conversion to Ptarmigan, and the Bde Comd was clearly impressed with the changes that had taken place since his last visit a year ago. The Bde Comd was met by the CO, **Lt Col John Ewbank**, and the Sqn Comd of 89 Sqn, **Maj Colin Meikle**, and was introduced to the Squadron's newly arrived SPSI, **SSgt Lance Thornton-Granville–Lance** however seems (mysteriously) to have given the Bde Comd the distinct impression that he was recruited in Lower Saxony! Following briefing on the unique and demanding new role, **Brig Silk** was given a conducted tour of the TA Centre and observed a variety of training being conducted including Central Trg in the new garages. Here he spoke to a number of newly qualified or converted tradesmen and their permanent staff instructors who included **Cpl Steve Saunders** who, incidently, is celebrating his fifth month of marriage, explained how he was coping with maintaining Central generators without the aid of a fork-lift truck and to **Sgt Kevin Prince** who was conducting Mast maintenance–at this point the Brigadier jokingly quipped to **Sig Simon Claydon** who was busy greasing a 12m mast, that it looked more like a Super Gun–the joke was lost on **Simon** who with a bemused look had just covered his chin with PX7! The Brigadier then visited the Squadron Security Staff at the Main Gate. Here he was given a briefing on our high-tech security system by the Duty MGS Officer, **Mr Gavin Plodnob**, and also talked for some time to **Sigs Mark Gowdy** and **David Wright**. The Bde Comd then moved on to view Rifle 5.56 training in the Drill Hall where he was introduced to two of our recent junior soldier arrivals in the shapes of **JSigs Ben Lucas** and **Paul Jones**. This enjoyable visit was concluded with the presentation of the LS & GC Medal to **SSgt (FofS) John Whitmore** in the Sergeants' Mess. The Brigadier then joined all members of the Squadron at a Curry Supper provided by our resident Master Chef and master of all things culinary **SSgt Charlie Walker** ably assisted by **LCpl Nick Harvey**.

Comd 143 (WM) Bde talking to SSgt Lance Thornton-Granville

REGIMENTAL ROUND-UP

The winds of change continue to blow through the Regiment and a belated welcome is extended to **Capt Barry Williams** and **Capt Chris Patterson** our new Adjt, who, it has to be said, would be less than forgiving if his name didn't appear in *The Wire*. We have also welcomed **WO2 Ricky Logan** as NRPS MTWO and extended a particularly special welcome to our new Ch Clk, **WO2 Richard Wilson**. **Richard** deserves a special mention as he is the first of our AGC (SPS) members; formerly with the RAOC. **Richard** found the world of the Royal Signals Orderly Room a little strange, but happily he has risen to the challenge–a word of caution though, never suggest to him that AGC means 'All Girls Corps' he may get a little touchy! As usual, we wish all our new arrivals a busy, happy and rewarding tour! On a more sombre note we almost said goodbye to our beloved Trg Maj, **Maj Ian Brown**. On a day he and his wife would rather forget, **Ian**, we are led to believe, was engaged in a spot of tree surgery when, suddenly and without warning, he lost his footing and raced the last autumnal leaves to the ground. **Ian**, unfortunately, got there first and broke his right arm. The exact circumstances surrounding the accident are fortunately but a blur on his memory but happily he is now well on the road to recovery. It is, however, believed that **Ian** fell out of the tree in sympathy with the CO who is presently recovering from round one of an operation on his calf muscles.

RHQ now has two temporary invalids, both of whom, surprisingly, have not yet lost their sense of humour despite extreme intimidation from many quarters–a word of warning though do not ask either of them if it hurts! Finally, we end the regimental round-up on a humous recruiting note; the response to the national TA recruiting drive came as a bit of a surprise to the RRTT when an eagle eyed recruiter noted that the address of one particular enquirer was c/o The High Security Wing of the Young Offenders' Centre at Onley. The cheeky inmate even expressed an interest in becoming a Territorial Army Officer–he was invited to re-apply after a suitable period of re-habilitation in about ten years!

WHOOPS APACKETALYPSE

The post Christmas blues were still apparent on our first shakedown exercise of the new year, and a special effort was needed to restore the enthusiasm captured and retained during our long period of conversion training. Fortunately the shock of deploying into the field on Ex Silver Dart during a wintry Friday evening in January soon gave way to the usual displays of good humour and team spirit, and the Regiment was soon on its way to its field locations spread throughout Notts and Lincs. The one army concept was also very much apparent with some welcome SCRAT assistance being provided by 2 Sig Regt including crews–it was also a pleasure to see and welcome back an ex TA member, in the shape of **Sig Smudge Smith**, who says he jumped at the opportunity of exercising with the Regiment once again and readily volunteered. Whether or not he was happy with the weather on Saturday night which saw torrential rain, gale to storm force winds, streams running through tents that had not been blown away and wet sleeping bags, remains unreported.

However, the TA and Regular spirit was indomitable as ever and remained intact even when presented with dubious route cards which, amongst other mistakes, forgot to highlight exercise locations situated ten miles apart with the same name, failed to point out those new by-passes suddenly confronted by packet commanders and included motorway junctions with the wrong access and exit number. The guilty Squadron will not be named here but the PSI terminated who carried out the route recce (we believe asleep) knows who he is, and all we can say to those who failed to follow their instincts is–put it down to experience! However, all was not lost the NRPS SQMS of the same Squadron failed to get the message that the exercise was 100% compo, consequently unlike other Squadrons they were compensated with fresh rations throughout the exercise compliments of the Squadron account–what the PSAO had to say to a sheepish SQMS when he found out cannot be printed here. Only five questions now remain unanswered; who turned the tables on the QM, **Capt Barry Williams**? has **Lt Martin Pulwer** found his Jimmy? can the CO's driver **Cpl John Miles** explain how those mysterious two inch circles appeared in the mud at regular intervals in every exercise location? why does the man with the camera never know the password and, finally, (with apologies to the 'Fugitive') does anyone out there know the identity of the one armed man?

An HF Det from HQ Sqn–before the storm!

CONGRATULATIONS

The Regimental Cross Country Team once again acquitted itself well during the Wales and Western District TA Championships held at Nesscliffe during the weekend 15/16 January.

A strong-willed performance against much more powerful teams secured a creditable final team place but, regrettably, not good enough to qualify for the UKLF Championships. However, the elusive team victory was compensated for by magnificent individual performances by **Sig Nicola Hawkins** of 48 Sqn (V) and **Cpl Maxine Hughes** of 95 Sqn (V). **Nicola** is singled out for special congratulations because, by virtue of her individual and adrenalin raising performance, fought off all competition, sunk the opposition and achieved first place in the female race; **Maxine Hughes** gained a creditable 5th position. Both are to be congratulated on qualifying for the UKLF Championships as individuals.

37 Sig Regt (V)
Redditch

CO	**Lt Col John Macfarlane**
2IC	**Maj Stamford Cartwright (V)**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) John Riley**

FAREWELLS AND HELLOS

WO1 (RSM) Phil Abbott handed over the Regiment to **WO1 (RSM) John Riley** at RAF Cosford in January. **Phil** has been an excellent RSM and we wish him and **Jayne** well at Blandford and for his future career. **SSgt (FofS) Shane Overton** has also moved on, to 8 Sig Regt, and we shall miss his dedication and good humour. He is succeeded by **SSgt (FofS) Paul Sweeney** and we also welcome **Cpl Colin Bentley** to the technicians' department, where congratulations go to **Cpl Des Brown** on his promotion to Sgt. Elsewhere in RHQ, **SSgt Phil Rosslee** has hung up his boots as Ch Clk after 22 years' service. We wish him and **Lynne** every success in the greengrocery trade in Devon and welcome **WO2 Dave Stotan** in his place. Finally, congratulations go to Adjt **Capt Andy Duncan** and especially to **Claire** on the arrival of their firstborn, **Fraser**.

Departing WO1 (RSM) Phil Abbott presents two Lances to CO Lt Col John Macfarlane; Sgt Rob Cameron (67 Sqn) prepares to take charge of them

MORE COMINGS AND GOINGS

The regional Squadrons have also had their fair share of changes of personnel. **WO2** 'Chick' **Cheetham** served a full career as a regular and enjoyed his time with the Regiment so much that he carried on in an NRPS post in the Training Office. Over the years he has masterminded the training of hundreds of Data Telegraphists but completed his service as PSI at Cardiff. We wish 'Chick' and **Joyce** every happiness and hope that new PSI **SSgt Rob Warren** will enoy his tour in 53 (Welsh) Sig Sqn (V). PSI **SSgt Terry German** leaves 67 (QOWWY) Sig Sqn after 22 years' regular service and is joining the newspaper industry in Stratford-upon-Avon. The CO will miss a golfing partner and the Squadron will miss both the 'Gerbil' and **Angie**. **SSgt Geoff Frazer** moves across from RHQ to succeed **Terry**. Finally, congratulations go to acting **Maj Steve Holder** (V) on taking over 96 Sig Sqn (V) from **Maj Stan Grimmitt**, and to **SSgt Les Griffiths** on his promotion and appointment as WO2 (SSM) at HQ Sqn.

TOTAL CONCEPT WEEKENDS

For many years the old 37 (Wessex and Welsh) Sig Regt (V) have rarely come together in its entirety outside annual camps. Although weekend trade training has been centralised, it has not involved the whole Regiment. After a few attempts elsewhere, Trg Maj, **Maj Tom Pengelley** has established an excellent working relationship with RAF Cosford, near Wolverhampton, which is reasonably central to our area. Another successful series of Total Concept Weekends has been held there this winter. The usual programme is for a full day's training on Saturday, followed by sport on Sunday morning. Some of the main activities are illustrated below.

L to R: Lts Alan Jacobs (96 Sqn) and Jo Dellamuro (67 Sqn) show clear to SSgt Geoff Frazer; 2Lt Elaine Firth (67 Sqn) and Capt Les Atkins (OC LAD) wait their turn

L to R: LCpls Steven Round (HQ), Marie Smith (HQ), Sigs Lydia Iregbu (96 Sqn), and Daniel Buckley (HQ) are guided by Cpl Paddy Keogh (HQ) on the workings of the 16/24kva generator

Instructor Cpl Catrina Zukowec (67 Sqn) checks Cpl Keren Brocklebank (67 Sqn)'s typing practice on the Trend

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HAVE YOU INFORMED RHQ?
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38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

CO **Lt Col R. J. R. West**
Trg Maj **Maj Pete Baron**

TRAINING OFFICE

The Total Concept Weekends (TCWs) are now well underway, but not without some minor headaches. It is, therefore, with great pleasure that we announce the acquisition of a new fully functioning photocopier, a fully automated Man Training Day (MTD) software package and Disk Fax machine, although you shouldn't get the impression we are easily pleased! It just makes life easier for the two new arrivals: **Maj Pete Baron** and **WO2 (YofS) Chris Nutt**, whom we welcome, together with **Lynn Baron** and **Jackie Nutt**.

Replacements for the long serving pair **Maj** (now Lt Col) **Andy Locke** and his wife **Sandra**, now in Latina, and **WO2 (YofS) Jeff Hattersley**, soon to be **Mr Hattersley**. We wish them all the best of fortune in their new appointments. It is also with great pleasure that we offer our congratulations to **WO1 (RSM) Pete Grainger** on his recent selection for commissioning. His recent exploits on the golf course probably swung the decision for him, I only hope he has time to pass on a few tips before he and **Jayne** move on to Herford in July.

46 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V), DERBY

Sqn Comd **Maj Rod Lingard** (V)
2IC **Capt Roy Szulakowski** (V)

By Lt Kay Sheriston

I had the pleasure to be posted to 46 Sig Sqn (V) at the end of November 1993 as the Regiment was entering the winter training period and the trade training team headed by **SSgt Thelma Ward** were working very hard preparing for the forthcoming TCWs.

1994 started with Ex Kick Start, a Range/Radio exercise organised with usual professionalism and enthusiasm by **SSgt Phil Mellor** and his military team. The weekend was a great success and all members of the Squadron are now competent in the handling of the recently issued L85A (or is it the 5.56 or SA80 or Rifle!).

January saw the first TCW of 1994 and a very brave officer training coordinator, who shall not be named, allowed the officers to drive its 110s and Bedfords, complete with trailers, into a green location so we could see how difficult it actually is to 'just squeeze it in between those trees'. The officers were also treated to a lap of the 'Trim Trail' (circuit training outdoors) after which there were many sore muscles and aching limbs. Meanwhile operator training continued at the Training Centre in Catterick where the recruits were undergoing their first lessons of Voice Procedure and experience of the Trends.

Our first comms exercise in February tested the skills learned at Catterick. **Sgt Darren Snow** and **LCpl Vicky Coley** departed on an expedition to Mexico in February.

64 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V), SHEFFIELD

Sqn Comd **Maj Mike Green** (V)
2IC **Capt Kevan Flannagan** (V)

ANNUAL CAMP

Camp 1993 was held at Penhale, Cornwall and our first impression on arrival, due in the main to a howling gale and horizontal rain, was that the photographs of countless shipwrecks adorning the walls of all camp buildings were authentic. Opinions changed as the days progressed, as, apart from that first day, we were blessed with glorious sunshine for the majority of camp.

Despite our numbers being less than in previous years due, in the main, to providing **Lt Andy Smith** and 14 soldiers to support a concurrent Brigade exercise, those who did attend found the training and the camp to be a good blend of old and new experiences.

Having played our part in a full blown Bde comms exercise in 1992, in 1993 the emphasis was on military skills and adventure training. Amongst the highlights of the camp were the re-emergence of our PSAO **Capt Dave Poole** as a canoe instructor, resplendent in wet suit and helmet, and the very first appearance of **Capt Kathy Wilson** in a combat suit.

Camp ended with the traditional combined HQ/64 Squadron Disco and buffet in Forsters Nite Spot, Newquay, where the proprietor complimented the organiser on our good behaviour. All in all a thoroughly enjoyable and well balanced camp–but oh, what a long drive home to Sheffield!

ARRIVALS AND FAREWELLS

On 31 March 1994 we bade a fond farewell to Sqn Comd **Maj Mike Green**. After 12 years service in the TA and 64 Sqn, **Mike** has decided it is time to hang up his combats and assume the role of weekend gardener. He has been a great servant to the Squadron which he joined as a recruit and progressing eventually to command 64 Sqn. We wish him and **Sue** all the very best in their 'retirement'.

Welcome to **Capt Stan Fitzgerald** who rejoins the Regiment from 93 Sig Sqn (V) in Blackburn. **Stan** assumes command of 64 Sig Sqn (V) on 1 April on promotion to Maj and we wish him a long and happy stay.

70 (ESSEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON , CHELMSFORD

Sqn Comd **Maj David Swann** (V)
2IC **Capt Jonathan Pyman** (V)

SOLDIERS SHOW HEART

This was a headline in the *Essex Chronicle* which highlighted the efforts of members of 881 and 907 Sig Tps, in Chelmsford, who assisted the staff of Mothercare, whose manager is **Sig Sandra Mutch** of 907 Tp, in a Charity drive for the Variety Club of Great Britain's Gold Hearts award for needy children. In one day the Troops helped to raise £1,300 for the appeal.

The Team
L to R: Sig Sandra Mutch, LCpl Colin Cavanagh, Sigs Mark Essam, Tony Bickford, David Green, Edward Elliston and Robert Gratze

Sig David Green collecting in Chelmsford town centre

39 Sig Regt (SC) (V)
Chelsea

CO **Lt Col C. J. Laurence TD (V)**
2IC **Maj M. G. Touchin TD (V)**

Each Squadron undertook training weekends during 7-9 January and, despite the post New Year headaches, (from various sources), a great deal of useful training was achieved.

A range/bounty testing weekend took place 21-23 January with all Regiment personnel catching up on various training periods missed throughout the year (with personnel taking part in various courses etc). In addition those still requiring to take their APWT did so.

AROUND THE SQUADRONS

1 Sqn in Bletchley is still looking very much like a Wimpey site with its major TAC rebuild due to be finished on the 'quote' '19 August 1994' 'unquote' (quote courtesy of the Commanding Officer). We shall see!

2 Sqn Dundee is threatened again with a possible move, seen by some as a good one but, not by others, again we shall see.

5 Sqn in Banbury has welcomed yet another PSAO, one having retired, the other only standing in as a short term arrangement. Hopefully, **Capt Sheldon**, will decide to stay for a while.

HQ Sqn, still ticking away nicely thankyou, in a very wet and cold capital and managing to support the Regiment in their inimitable way.

2 SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Sandy Monks TD (V)**
2IC **Capt Eric Blyth (V)**

After a successful camp based in Shrewsbury in September 1993, the first major event in the diary was the completion of a Detachment Commanders' Course by four members of the Squadron. **LCpls** (in no particular order) **Lesley Johnson, Mary Taylor, Ronnie Thomson** and **Bob Murray** attended and, although the going was a bit tough at times, (you have to say that) they all successfully completed the course, made some new friends and had a good time (you have to say that as well).

Also towards the end of October 1993 the majority of the Squadron took part in Ex Runnel Stone in Denmark. This has become one of the major events in the Regimental calendar and involves some soldiers in communications work while the majority take part in patrols against elements of the Danish Home Guard. The main party travelled to Denmark in a Hercules transport aircraft and this was the first time for many members of the Squadron, including yours truly, to fly in one of these aircraft (and before you ask, no, I'm not too sure how I've managed to avoid them for this length of time either). The parachuting element of the Squadron (well, three of them, anyway) **Capt Eric Blyth** (Sqn 2IC), **Capt Willie Barron** (D Tp Comd) and **Sgt Rick Buxton** (revered and respected PSI), took the opportunity to do a 'night drop' into the exercise location. Unfortunately it was not to be and although **Capt Blyth** froze his bits off standing 'in the door' for about half an hour the jump was cancelled. (Too windy eh, guys?). (I'd better say, at this stage, that the aforementioned did manage to get quite a bit of parachuting in, including night jumps, over the exercise period.) The rest of the exercise went well, with about 80 TA personnel carrying out various recce and fighting patrols, against, what seemed like, 800 Danish Home Guard aided and abetted by about half of the civilian population and their dogs. Despite the odds we achieved most of the objectives, although I'll leave it to your imagination as to why the 2IC ended up with the nickname 'Captain Captured', and we all regrouped with the Danes for the customary debrief and the 'Bun Fight' before heading off for the airport and the awaiting Hercules (managing to find a bit of room in the webbing to squeeze in the duty frees on the way of course). Some final comment on the flight–well noisy, cramped, uncomfortable, too cold (or too hot depending on where you sit), catering that left a bit to be desired (and you can't see out). In a word–great! although I don't think British Airways have anything to fear.

Sgt Bruce Singers missed all this by virtue of being on a 'Stores Accountant–Advanced' course at 8 Sig Regt. **Bruce** slogged and sweated through two weeks of hard work and was rewarded by coming first. His obvious success is only tempered by the fact that he was the only one on it (sorry **Bruce**, couldn't resist it).

January brought two new members to the Squadron, **Pte Nicola Elder** and **Sig Paul Bowers**; both survived the regimental recruit selection process. Welcome to you both and we wish you well in your time with us.

The Squadron was without a PSI for most of January (how did we manage?) as **Sgt Rick Buxton** went off to Catterick where he completed a Leadership course. His return, with a host of new ideas, has brought a number of changes and innovations to the Squadron training programme.

The Sqn Comd, **Maj Sandy Monks**, presented the Meekins trophy in December 1993. This is an annual award to the soldier in the Squadron who has achieved most over the past 12 months. **LCpl Dave Adam** was this year's recipient, in acknowledgement of his commitment to the Squadron over the year, and we congratulate him on this achievement.

The first training weekend of the New Year was held in early January when we were treated to a comms exercise organised by the PSI. Saturday was spent brushing up on our skills in the classroom (say again all before 'over', over) and (I spell SXPJOFJNB) and one or two hardy souls (don't know when they've had enough) remained behind for a social evening in the bar–a few diet colas, you understand. The next morning and the respective dets were briefed and sent off to Barry Budden in their respective Land Rovers with **LCpl Billy Morris** managing to get the one with the flashing amber beacon. The day was spent successfully (well mostly, anyway) communicating with each other and other dets within the UK.

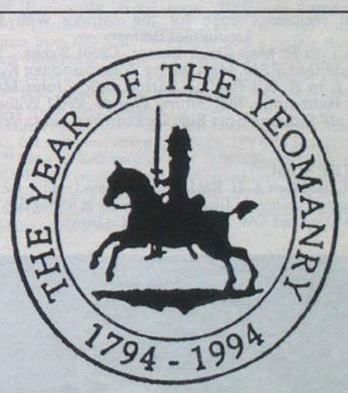
The Squadron takes part in the Regimental Comms Ex Farne Deep in March and in April. **Sgt Rick Buxton**, together with his opposite numbers from the other Squadrons, is taking part in a sponsored cycle from Lands End to John o'Groats. We wish him good luck.

WINDSURFING

1994 has brought changes in the organisation of Corps Windsurfing. **Maj Dave Gilchrist** has handed over the secretary's task to **Capt Paul Cross** after five years of superb effort promoting our sport. The position of Royal Signals Windsurfers as Army Team Champions, Army Inter-Corps Knockout Champions, Army Lightweight Champion, Army Heavyweight runner up and lightweight third place is in no small way due to **Dave**'s organisational ability and commitment. We have not lost his services as he has taken over from **Lt Col Charles Kemp** as Rear Commodore (Windsurfing).

1994 also sees the replacement of the ageing BIC Bamba fleet with a smaller fleet of very much faster Mistral Equipe II boards with Demon race sails. These hi-tech racing machines will be available for use by qualified Royal Signals windsurfers on the old daily hire system. Some of them will, however, be available for long term charter for a fixed annual fee and deposit. Contact the Secretary for details.

The 1994 programme of known competitions is listed in the Newsletter which you should have seen. Racing is the best way to improve your standards and we are not going to be able to rely forever on the same old(!) stalwarts to produce results. So get your board out, get a decent wetsuit and start racing!



ROYAL REVIEW IN
WINDSOR GREAT PARK

17 April 1994

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

CONGRATULATIONS

During a special parade held on Sunday 16 January, HM's Lord Lieutenant for the City of Belfast, **Col J. E. Wilson OBE JP** presented medals to the following members and ex members of the Regiment. **Majs Jenny Wilson** (Retd), **Ian Kyle**, **Carol Sykes** and **Dave Baxter** received the Territorial Decoration.

SSgt John MacFarlane, **Sgt Morris Moates**, ex **Sgt Billy Dickson** and **Sgt Linda Whitley** received the Territorial Efficiency Medal. **Maj Jimmy Woods** received a clasp to the Territorial Decoration.

WO1 (MTWO) Willie Ireland and **Sgt Pauline Barron** received the GSM.

WO2 (RQMS) Chris Hardwidge and **SSgt** 'Taff' **Rideout** received the LS & GC. Hearty congratulations are extended to all.

Congratulations also ex members of the Regiment, **Hilary** and **Ernie Cahoon** on the birth of their second son **Matthew** on 11 January 1994 and to **Karen** and **Kieran Lavery** on the birth of their son **Alistair** on 5 February 1994.

The medal recipients pose for the camera with the Lord Lieutenant Belfast
Front Row L to R: Majs Dave Baxter, Carol Sykes, CO, Lord Lieutenant, RSM, Majs Jenny Wilson and Ian Kyle
Back Row L to R: Sgt Pauline Barron, SSgt John McFarlane, WO2 Chris Hardwidge, Maj Jimmy Woods, WO1 Willie Ireland, SSgt 'Taff' Rideout, Sgts Billy Dickson and Linda Whitley

VISIT OF THE SOinC

The SOinC **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle** paid his second visit to the Regiment during a training evening on Tuesday 25 January at 85 Sig Sqn's location at Crawfordsburn Road TAC, Newtownards, Co Down.

The SOinC speaks to LCpl Paul Curry during his tour of the TAC

The General arrived at 1945 hrs and was met by the CO **Lt Col I. M. G. Strong MBE**, the Adjt **Capt Matt Fensom** and the RSM **WO1 (RSM) I. J. W. Little**.

The SOinC, accompanied by the CO toured the various evening training activities which included vehicle equipment preparation for RSIT, LAD, Recruit Training and kitchens.

During his tour, 206 (AD) Bty RA (V) who share the Centre with 85 Sqn displayed their ceremonial guns for the General. Their Trg Offr **Capt Roger Metcalfe** and BSM, **WO2 McCutcheon** were in attendance.

The tour ended with a visit to the Sergeants' Mess and the General left the Centre after having supper with the Regimental Officers.

OFFICERS' STUDY DAY (WITH A TOUCH OF TARTAN)

Stoneykirk in Ayreshire was a breath of fresh air and a perfect setting for an interesting and enjoyable Study Day. The scene was set, the guest speakers from 30 Sig Regt were **Maj Nick Naylor** and **Capt Fiona Say**. All we have been taught was set to the tune of the 'Wild Rover' with **Nick** strumming it out on his guitar and **Fiona** singing tunefully at his side. **Maj Nigel Beacom** gave an update from UKLF and **Capt Mike Fraser-Brenchley**, just returned from High Wycombe, UK Strike Command, completed the line up and ended an interesting day of lectures.

The gathering of the clan Maj Ian Kyle, Lt Andy Woods and Maj Jimmy Woods pose for the camera during the Irish Burns Night

The CO recites the Immortal Memory while Maj Nick Naylor, and Maj Nigel Beacom 'Take Nay Notice'

Although it was only the 22 January, Burns' Night had come slightly earlier to Stoneykirk, the Irish Burns night with everyone dressed in Tartan, Kilts, bowties and sashes and all.

The 'Haggis' was piped in with **Maj Joe Haldane** addressing it or undressing it then stabbing it to death.

The traditional Bill of Fare or 'Farin' began with Cock 'o' Leekie Soup followed by haggis, neeps an tatties, then traditional steak pie, ending with bannocks and cheese, who could ask for more?

The cultural side of the evening began with the CO reading the Immortal Memory and toasting the man of the night–Robbie Burns. I must admit that if I had to have anyone speak of 'remorse' it would be **Capt Joe Fallows** especially with a Nigerian accent! Well done, Joe.

The toast to the lassies was given by our eternal batchelor Adj, **Capt Matt Fensom**, with **Maj Carol Sykes** slagging off the men and telling them how to behave when in company.

A new member of the Mess, **Lt Di Burke** spoke in her best English accent to recite 'I'm gaying (going) to be a sodger (soldier)', which brought tears of laughter to everyone's eyes.

To end the evening a piper played a few Scottish tunes and then toasted 'Robbie' with milk–he was only 15 but played the pipes well.

We also celebrated another event, the PMC, **Maj Jimmy Woods** celebrated his 23rd anniversary of his 21st birthday complete with a kissogram in the shape of **2Lt Fiona Lysk**. Cake and champagne was piped in by **2Lt Claire Tyler**.

We finished off 'Climbing up Sunshine Mountain' and a singalong with **Maj Nick Naylor** accompanying on the guitar.

It was unfortunate that we all couldn't have shared the amazing 'sunken bath' in that fabulous bathroom, roll on next year and may the Immortal Memory never die.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

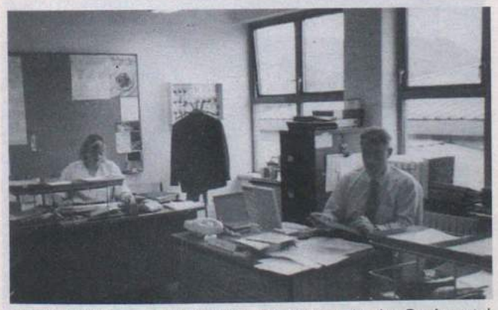
Farewells and best wishes to our QM **Capt Brian Peel**, **WO1 (RSM) George Cook** and **Sgt Lennie Parker** on posting. A warm welcome to newcomers **Capt (QM) Phil Welch**, **WO1 (RSM) Ian Little** and **SSgt** 'Paddy' **Morrow**.

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Having survived the social events leading up to Christmas, during which our MTWO **WO1 Terry Curtis** demonstrated why he is in the Army and not earning a fortune in the entertainments industry, we sadly have to say farewell to two of our merry band.

First away is our Training PSI **SSgt Phil Dixon**, who having completed 22 years service is settling in the local area, we wish him and his wife **Babs** all the very best in civilian life. **Phil**'s sense of humour will be missed by all. Our second farewell is to **WO2 (RQMS) Les Allen** again on completion of 22 years service. **Les** will return to the Herford area with his wife **Chris** and family. His daily health checks on the MT will be missed particularly by the MTWO.

We welcome **SSgt Rod Cowan** from AA Coll Harrogate and wish him a successful tour with the Regiment.



SSgt Phil Dixon and WO2 Cheryl Jackson in the Regimental Training Office

68 (ICCY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj James Cartwright (V)**
PSAO — **Capt John Rigby (V)**

The Squadron recently held its annual all ranks party at Lincoln's Inn where the following were presented with awards for their achievements throughout the past year:

Jack Sleven Prize	**Sgt Pete Marsh**	Outstanding service to the Squadron
Fern Prize	**Sig Viv Genovese**	Technical Achievement
Cartwright Cup	**LCpl Paul Bunch**	Miliary Achievement
Best Recruit	**Sig** 'Monty' **Jervis**	

During the dinner the Sqn Comd **Maj James Cartwright** promoted **Cpl Lol Evans** to Sgt. Congratulations to all for their hard work and efforts through 1993.

71 Sig Regt (V)
Bexleyheath

After the Squadron Memorial Service which incidentally follows the Lord Mayor of London's Show in which we provide a mounted detachment for the parade **WO2 (SSM) Pete Thornton** handed over to **WO2 (SSM) Bill Murphy** whose immediate task is to teach **Cpl Canderton** the importance of being a right hand man. **WO2 Thornton** takes over as OC Recruit Training Team.

Recent promotions in the Squadron to LCpls are **Sigs Halesworth, Semple, Simpson, Skinner** and **Whalebone**.

265 (KCLY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Simon Malik (V)**
PSAO — **Capt Jim Esson (V)**

Our winter training programme is now in full swing with the annual trade training keeping everyone busy in our TAC's and at what has become the Regiment's second home, Longmoor Camp. The annual Mobex and Christmas dinner weekend gave two days with our fellow Sharpshooters from HQ Sqn. 1994 began with a bounty weekend on the frozen (well very cold) wastes of Lydd ranges. Temperatures apart, the weather was perfect for firing our first APWS with the L85. Spirits and scores were high and for those who felt cold there was always **Sgt Jeff Masters** nice warm NBC chamber.

The Squadron soccer team reached the London District final for the thirteenth time, but sadly lost to our old rivals, 289 Cdo Bty RA. Our twelfth victory will have to wait another year. The Squadron also entered three teams in the district cross country championships, with our girls taking a creditable third place. 1994 is the bicentenary of the Yeomanry and we look forward to joining the Corps' other ten Yeomanry Squadrons at the forefront of the celebrations in April.

Sharpshooters Majs Brenda Traylen and Simon Malik with potential recruits during a selection weekend

– News from Squadrons –

HQ BRITFOR Sig Sqn
Op Grapple
BFPO 544

FSO	**Maj Jim McKee**
SO3 Comms	**Capt Matt Hanson**
Comd Stratcomm	**Capt Steve French**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) M. A. Wright-Jones**

FAREWELL AND WELCOMES

Goodbye to Stratcomm Tp Comd, **Capt Gordon Duncan**, of 30 Sig Regt and welcome to his replacement **Capt Steve French** of 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn. A sad farewell to **SSgts Nige Thomas** and **Frank Roberts** both had to leave the fold due to injuries. Welcome to **Cpl Cheatle** from the workshops in Osnabruck!

'It's all right–I think he will live'

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt J. E. Sutton**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt S. Jackson**

MT SECTION

The MT have provided transport and drivers for all visitors. The **Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP** and the **Rt Hon Douglas Hurd MP** among them. **Sig** 'Stoaty' **Evans** particularly enjoyed meeting **Natalie** 'BFBS' **Haughton.**

The small fleet of Rovers and drivers have completed more than 120,000kms. We expect a few more 'around the world trips' yet!

'Just like that' (with apologies to the late Tommy Cooper)

RADIO TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt P. E. J. Rennie**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt P. Skinner**

After several weeks of planning, the tactical HQ Armd Vehicles deployed alongside the Light Dragoons en route picketing and escort duties. We all had a great time, in 3ft of snow, in 16 tonne sledges!

COMMS OPERATIONS

STRATEGIC COMMS

YofS	**WO2 (YofS) R. McCombe**
FofS	**SSgt W. McCreath**

TACTICAL COMMS

YofS	**WO2 (YofS) R. Perry**
FofS	**SSgt I. Rutherford**

RECENT PROJECTS

Two of the most notable projects completed recently are the installation of the BT system at Vitez and the replacement of a Belgium Commcen in Sarajevo with a British TSC 502 det. The former was successfully completed and FofS (T) became a TV celebrity during the publicity attached to it.

The Coldstream Guards location at Vitez is being rewired to improve internal communications. The project started on 10 February.

Another project is to improve VHF coverage of routes diamond, circle and pacman by procuring large VHF masts for each site and by using RRB at the critical points.

VRLINKA INSTITUTE

Our work at the orphanage continues. The shelving project has been completed and repainting continues. The Rat Fund has received enormous help from the Wives' Club, the Osnabruck community and our own fund raising. It has now reached an incredible DM17,000! The **RSM, Lt Sutton, Sgt Morgan** and **Sig Ellis** featured on Central TV.

WO2 Dave Smy, Cpl Lee Hopkins and WO2 'Jock' Robertson distribute sweets to Bosnian and Croatian children at the Vrlika Institute Orphanage for Homeless and Handicapped Children in Split and Children's homes in Sarajevo. The sweets were sent from the Wives' Club in Osnabruk and were a gift from the Unit who had raised the necessary funds

ANGLO-FRENCH RUGBY MATCH

A combined Squadron and HQ team led by **Lt Paul Rennie** played a French Air Force team at a stadium in Split in December. After fine play by **Cpl Jas Smithurst** and **Sig Hardy** we emerged as victors.

7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207)
BFPO 30

Sqn Comd	**Maj J. P. Wilson**
2IC	**Capt N. D. Fraser**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

A major change in the Squadron is the departure of the Sqn Comd **Maj Chris Wakerley** and his wife **Jackie** on posting to Liverpool! A warm welcome to the new Sqn Comd **Maj Jeremy Wilson** and his wife **Sue**. Also farewell to the 2IC **Capt Chris McIntosh** on posting to 2 Sig Regt as Adjt, replaced by **Capt Neil Fraser**.

Also welcome to **Cpls Neil Braisdel, Dave Clarke, LCpls Kevin Tharby, Simon Upcraft** and **Sigs David Wheeler, Jack Regan, Alan Cahill, Mark Plunkett**, 'Snapper' **Snape, Dean Lightbody** and **Lee McKone**. The Squadron says a sad farewell to **LCpls Les Dawson**, 'Milly' **Milsom, John Lewis, Adam Hall, Karl Rayner** and **Andy Stoker**.

EXERCISE QUADRIGA GALLOP II

This was to be an exercise with a difference. It was held on the Bergen-Hohne and Soltau-Luneberg training areas with the aim of practising the Squadron in rapid movement of the Bde HQ. The off-road movement gave everyone the opportunity to drive through the largest of puddles pushing the 'panzers' to the limit of their abilities. **LCpl Si Riley** and **Sig Lee Benson** pushed theirs just a bit too far getting all 15 tons of it stuck in 3ft of mud and water. Fearing nothing the LAD led by **Sgt John Berry** and **LCpl Rainey** quickly bogged the 434 in the same puddle. With two panzers now stuck and movement times now missed the whole of B Tp set about joining tow chains so that a further two panzers could drag the two stuck in the mud out one at a time. The mission was quickly completed and the exercise continued without further problems.

MY FIRST WORKING UNIT

By Sig Dean Thompson

Some recruits look forward to it, some don't. I was a bit apprehensive about going to my first working unit. Where is it? Will I know anyone? What shall I do? There was no need to worry as within a few weeks I had got to know most of the people there, like big **Jim Gwinnell** and **Pete** 'younger than he looks' **Gibbons**. It is a very big change coming from a training Unit. The thing you notice most of all is that people treat you like a person, not a thing! In the three months I have been here I have had some good times, such as when I shot my new Tp Comd, even if it was only when paintballing.

Bravo Tp Paintballing

I have also had the chance to put all those skills I learned in training to proper use and realise how little I had learned, and how much more I have to learn. My first exercise was Ex Rhino Charge a divisional command post exercise. This was the first time that I had met and worked with the Staff Officers. It was then that I realised how important my job was as the Staff want all the facilities ready and working at their disposal, and they want it now! At the end there is a sense of achievement and the knowledge that there is a lot more to learn.

BOXING

For the third consecutive year the 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207) Boxers are BAOR minor units Novice Grade III Champions. In what was an extremely close fought competition, with some high quality boxing, the Squadron won four bouts to three against 280 (UK) Sig Sqn, in this all Royal Signals final. To the sound of pipes and the band of the King's Royal Hussars, the contestants for all seven fights walked on to go the full three rounds.

The first fight was between **Sigs Dukes** and **Brown** and, after a very close fight, the decision went to **Sig Brown** and 7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn. An extremely fit and lean **Sig Pond** then beat **Sig Garner** to put the Squadron 2–0 up. **LCpl Girling** then lost in a spectacular fight with **Sig Raby**. A relaxed **LCpl Cook** then stepped into the ring and, without ruffling his hair, beat **LCpl Gill** who put up a strong fight, 3–1. **SSgt Murray** had a particularly hard fight against the talented **Sig Lancet**, who won, making it 3–2. **Sig Proctor** then beat **Sig Bain** to a chorus of 'Giros' so assuring Victory. But **Cpl Celerier** was not letting it all go 7 Bde's way; he beat **LCpl Daly**, after a tough fight.

Brig R. C. Walker, Chairman of the BAOR Sports Board, presented the prizes; the culmination of weeks of intensive training. Hundreds of miles of running to lose weight, daily circuit training, workouts on the multigym, aerobics and afternoon's of continuous sparring made for an utmost test of toughness and character. All this would not have been possible without the dedication of the team manager and coaches **SSgt Skelland, Sgt Jones** and **Cpl Raybould**. Floreat Jerboa!

SSgt Si Murray before the fight. Coach, SSgt Rik Skelland

19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209)
Catterick

Sqn Comd — **Maj D. A. Hargreaves**
2IC — **Capt A. D. J. Picknell**

SHQ

Welcome to the new AO, **Maj Geoff Nelson**.

At last, the day that all 436 crews have been waiting for has arrived, and we've been able to move into the new Rubb Shelter. This temporary concrete, steel and plastic construction is much like a large tent–but will certainly keep the worst of the Catterick weather at bay. All credit to the construction company, who worked with amazing speed to complete the erection. The opening ceremony was performed by the Sqn Comd, **Maj David Hargreaves**.

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd — **Capt David Kinnaird**

Just a few hellos: welcome to **Sigs Kiff** and 'Reggie' **Perrin**. Sad farewells to yesterday's men: **Sig Francis** to civvy street and **Cpl Smith** to Cyprus (it's only temporary 'Smudge'–don't get used to the heat!).

In a quiet week, the Troop off of its own bat, without any form of prompting at all, decided to clean up the garrison and raise some money for the Corps Museum, the ABF and a local charity. It was decided that the best way to raise the money, was to sell 'squares' that related to the weight of rubbish that might be collected by the 'womble'. The person who purchased the square with the nearest weight to that collected would become the lucky recipient of a Hamper, and the charities would all benefit from the squares sales money. Squares were sold from 25-800kg of rubbish, though being 'green' soldiers we all hoped that the amount collected would be at the upper end of the weight scale.

The Troop assembled, ready to tackle the dirtiest areas in the Garrison. Four 'sectors' were identified, the first of which was the 'Vimy' area, which included all the nearby married quarters, the NAFFI, the chippy, and the equestrian centre (loadsamuck there!). The second area was the ski school, hospital and the 'White Shops'–all residents here take a pat on the back as this was by far the cleanest area we found. The third area should have been clean, but wasn't. Opposite the Golf Course were tyres, old bikes, car parts and a collection of very old, very broken, furniture. The last area by Hipswell is populated by many municipal bins, and short of emptying them, we could only find a little litter. The Troop took advantage of the convenient watering hole that we just happened to find within each sector. Thirsty work this litter collecting!

Armed with gloves, black bags and two DAFs the teams left Gaza Barracks at 1100 hrs, for a full day's 'womble'. However, by 1300 hrs one DAF was full and by 1400 hrs the other had been filled as well, and we called a halt to our wombling activities. In three hours, the team had collected 14 tyres, 4 bikes, 1 pram, a car seat, an old fridge, car parts various and 28 bags of litter. The total weight exceeded 1700kgs, far exceeding our predictions, and ensuring that nobody actually won the prize! The event raised £150 for the charities, cleaned up the garrison, and gave us all a day out. We really are the rubbish dump of Europe, and it's our fault . . .

LCpl Pettenuzzo and Sig Tom Bailey look suitably pleased with their new garage

BRAVO TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Gavin Williams**

The Troop deployed on a Squadron training exercise–Ex Silver Charge, between 10 and 12 January. On this exercise **SSgt** 'Dusty' **Miller** took the opportunity to demonstrate his superior sense of direction and map reading skills. The route from Ripon to Topcliffe has never seemed so long and scenic before (and probably never will again!). Between 25-27 January the Squadron deployed in support of the staff for the first time in 1994 on Ex Panthers Parting 2. **Cpls** 'Robbo' **Robinson**, **Stan Howarth** and **Russ Shield** have just finished swotting for their EPC qualifications, and **LCpl Al Stewart** has finally made it back to Gaza Barracks after completing his Body Management and TR and A courses (it's all right for some!). We have had one addition to the Troop–**Sig** 'Haircut' **Binks** who has arrived from 7 Sig Regt. Welcome! Everyone else has been busy preparing for our next exercise, Ex Panthers Pursuit, on Dartmoor. We can't wait.

ASSAULT COURSE COMPETITION

The Squadron Assault Course Competition took place on Friday 21 January. It proved to be a testing course involving a long sprint, obstacle course through waist high mud, another longer sprint and finally an assault course. The fight for first place was ferocious, with A Tp managing to win by seconds from Support Tp. B Tp's magnificent A team ably led by **Sig** 'Monty' **Guest**, managed to uphold the Troop's well-renowned standards by finishing 12th (even the Sqn Comd's team beat us!). **Cpl Ray Pendrich**'s team 'somehow' finished in last position, winning a crate in the process. On behalf of the Troop, I would like to thank **Sgt** 'Mo' **Howarth** and **Sig Dougie Icke** for producing such an enjoyable course. A particularly favourite obstacle was the death slide (that was rumoured to have been destroyed by **Sig** 'Dicko' **Dickinson**). A number of participants had very long arms when they got off the other end.

THE JNCOs CADRE
By Sig 'Taff' Thomas

Despite the weather, cadre course 1/93 got under way on Sunday 22 November 1993 under the watchful eye of **WO1 (RSM) P. A. Woodward**.

The course was designed to be physically and mentally demanding, but the main emphasis was on enjoyment. The course certainly achieved the first two aims, but the fulfilment of the latter is open to some doubt!

Every morning spent in camp started with a spot of drill. It was more like ice-skating lessons due to the weather, with **Sigs Badger** and 'Lee' **Harper** spending more time than most on the seat of their pants. This did not impress our bawling front-man, **CSgt Vickers**, who did well to keep his feet throughout the week.

The course contained a lot of command tasks dreamed up by **Cpls Stan Howarth**, and 'Bear' **Convery**. While other mere mortals would cringe at the very sight of a barrel and a toggle rope, **Cfn** 'Pod' **Pearson** would immediately brighten, and throw himself into whatever weird task had been concocted. He proved to be a bit of a wizard at tackling these, and quite rightly got an 'A' for this bit of the course.

The day and night navigation exercise proved to be demanding too. The day navigation was an individual effort which proved to be bad news for **Sig Dave** 'pathfinder' **Dowson** who became geographically confused and muddled his North and South! The night navigation was a team event, though only one team managed to complete the course in the allotted time, congratulations go to **Sigs Al Stewart**, **Dave Harding** and to me!

We then made our way to Bishop Monkton near Ripon. Here the students performed their lectures, but the real reason for the trip to Ripon was the swollen, freezing and wet river!

After a morning jog with **CSgt Vickers**, we found ourselves on the left bank, contemplating its murky greyness. It was snowing, it was windy, it was horrible; surely we weren't going in there! We should have been, and would have done, if the RSM could have had his way, but cowardice, for once was allowed to prevail and thankfully we all stayed dry.

The course finished with a two day exercise, consisting of an OP, tactical march and finally a 24 hour escape and evasion. Here OC 'hunter force' **Sgt** 'Geordie' **Raine** thankfully proved easy to evade, and no-one was captured. Food over, this phase was, well live!

Now it's all over, I'll agree that it was fun, and that a good time was had by all. Congratulations to **Sig Lee Harper** for the best endeavour award, to **Sig Dave Harding** for finishing Course Runner-up, and to me for coming top. My prize was to write these *Wire* Notes! Many thanks to **WO1 (RSM) Woodward** for organising such an excellent cadre course.

24 Airmob Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210)
Colchester

Sqn Comd — **Maj David Meyer**
2IC — **Capt Jim Forrest**

ARRIVALS

A warm welcome to our new Sqn Comd, **Maj David Meyer**, who joins us after being stuck behind a desk in MOD. The joys of commanding men and the Airmob Sig Sqn will make up for the loss of London lodging allowance. Also, **Lt Kerry Levins** has recently joined us from Hong Kong and has taken post as Alpha Tp Comd. Finally, welcome to **WO1 (RSM) Steve Morgan** and his wife **Alison** who have arrived from 244 Sig Sqn (AS). This has been a turbulent time but we have found our feet.

SQUADRON NEWS

1994 began with military, trade and specialist training being given every emphasis. Our aim was to refresh and train everybody for the year ahead with all the necessary airmobility procedures and skills.

The Squadron's first venture into the field in 1994 is Ex Rising Phoenix, which takes place in February and leads into exercise Parthian Shot, a Bde HQ Staff CPX. The aims of Ex Rising Phoenix are to test our com-munications equipment, clear the cobwebs since our last exercise and, most importantly, introduce all the new Squadron personnel to the different HQs. The exercise will allow the Squadron to be fully functional in the field and be fully prepared to support the Bde HQ.

A TROOP

Lt Kerry Levins is the new Tp Comd. On arrival and after initial introductions he was off on various courses lasting six weeks. **SSgt Neil Coatsworth** thinks this is the best way of introducing real work to a new Tp Comd who has just spent two years in Hong Kong.

January was taken up with continuous communication equipment maintenance which has kept the technicians extremely happy. Meanwhile the Signallers of the Troop were eagerly awaiting the second of a series of exercises called Brunskill's Revenge.

Ex Brunskill's Revenge is a competition run within the Troop for the Signallers. However, not only does it test the Signallers but it also allows the JNCOs to display a little flair and style in their organisational skills. The exercise was in and around Friday Woods Training Area and consisted of five stands: NBC, map reading, fieldcraft, weapon handling and a command task. The eventual winner of the competition was **Sig Bob Shelldrake** with **Sig Paul Grundy** in second place. **Sig Grundy** is receiving extra tuition after becoming lost en route to the map reading stand.

B TROOP

Bravo Tp has, like Alpha, been heavily involved in what seems like an endless stream of technical inspections. Our thanks to the FofS and his team of technicians, it was fun! We will have to do it again some time!

The military training week was successful for the majority of the Troop with most people passing all of the mandatory tests first time. Those who failed the physical tests are now taking part in remedial training at 0700 hrs, what an incentive!

Sigs John Kilner and **Myles Edmond Measey** have recently taken part in Ex Winter Warrior which was a skiing holiday in the French Alps. The Troop would like to thank the pair for the glossy postcard that arrived on our doorstep describing the highlights and added extras that were not mentioned in the initial instruction. However, the Troop was not too disheartened when they saw the amendments to the duties roster!

To relieve the tensions of work it has been decided amongst the Troop that an evening's entertainment would be in order. **Cpl** 'Tubbs' **Arthurs** and **LCpl Boslem** kindly took on the responsibility and arranged an evening's bowling.

The Troop says goodbye to **LCpl** 'Stocky' **Blake** who is leaving the Army for greener pastures. If he is successful in finding the promised land we hope he remembers his humble beginnings.

The Troop would like to pass on their best wishes for the future to **Sig Dave Weatherstone** and his wife **Helen** after their recent marriage.

SUPPORT TROOP

The Troop, split into many departments, continues to provide the Squadron with support. Its organisation is mainly unchanged apart from the appearance of the Caduceus Centre (shopping mall). This addition is for the benefit of all the personnel and their families at Goojerat Barracks, and has a host of features.

The Centre contains a PRI shop which, since opening, has gone from strength to strength, thanks to **SSgt Paul Watson**, and now contains a comprehensive range of goods. The tailoress, **Mrs Margaret Watson**, has worked hard to entice more people to the Centre. The Families Centre, commanded by **Cpl Bill Edwards**, is well organised and can provide a selection of useful information on housing, welfare, quartering, MFO, schooling, playgroups and crèches.

Welcome to **SSgt Lee** who has come from Verden to take over as Tp SSgt. We wish him every success in his new post. The Troop and Squadron said goodbye recently to **Cpl** 'Shorty' **Green** from the QM's Dept, and wish him good luck with his course at the MCTC. The Troop would like to pass on its best wishes for the future to **Sig John Dunwoody** and his wife **Emma** who were recently married.

SQUADRON AIRMOBILITY TRAINING

The Squadron recently laid on a revalidation course for the Rigger Marshals (RM) and Landing Point Commanders (LPC). Revalidation for these qualifications has to be completed every 12 months. The training was to be carried out over two days but because of the weather on day 1 the helicopters were unable to fly. However, the second day was a complete success with an early fly out from RED 1 (the Squadron's departing LS), by Puma, and drop off at RED 4 (receiving LS) on Stanford training area. The remainder of the day was spent working with a Lynx which picked up and dropped off small netted loads in order to test the RM and LPCs' skills. All of this work was carried out under the direction of **SSgt Neil Coatsworth** who is a Helicopter Handling Instructor. **Cpl Tony Taylor** kept himself busy looking after the freelance photographer and as the dispatcher in the Lynx. **Cpl** 'Tubbs' **Arthurs** gained excessive Nieder points at the end of the days training by asking **Lt Tom Sandman** for a lift back to camp in his hire car.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Squadron would like to pass on their best wishes to **FofS Iain McNelly** after gaining promotion to WO2 and a posting to Saudi Arabia. The only disappointment, the family may have to share their swimming pool. Also, to **Sgt Dean North** and his wife **Sheena** on the birth of their baby daughter **Kirsty**.

LCpl 'Slinky' Link directs the Lynx helicopter on to the landing site

229 Sig Sqn
BFPO 45

Sqn Comd — **Maj A. K. Trimble**
2IC — **Capt J. M. P. Leggate**

ALLIED SIGNALS OFFICERS' MEETING 16 DECEMBER 1993

On Thursday 16 December the Squadron hosted the Allied Signals Officers' Meeting in the British Officers' Club. These meetings are held once every three months to discuss and debate about all the Signals Communications matters concerning the allied units in Berlin. Since unification the meetings are open to the German services. Their main interest is in the communications infra-structure which may remain once the allied units depart.

Allied Signals Officers, Berlin

The main topics were the disposal and dismantling of the com-munication equipments and making plans for Ex Rondo. This exercise brings together the soldiers from each of the units for a low keyed integrated training period and is popular both for its interest element and socially.

This meeting was the last to be hosted by the British Signals Unit and a token of appreciation, friendship and goodwill was presented by the Chairman **Maj A. K. Trimble** to all the allied members present. It was a set of gold plated Royal Signals cuff links to each person.

The next meeting will be hosted by the German Military/Air Force officers in Strausberg in March, and the final meeting in May 1994 will be hosted by the American Officers and bring an end to another event in Berlin's special way of military life.

BERLIN SIGNALLERS ENTERTAIN LOCAL CHILDREN

Every year for the past 10 or more years, the Royal Signals Soldiers of 229 (Berlin) Sig Sqn have entertained local children from the Borough of Wilmersdorf to a combined Anglo-German Children's party. This year, party organiser, **SSgt** 'Chalky' **White** and his helpers from the Radio Tp entertained 20 children from the Forckenbeck Strasse kindergarten and about the same number of children from the families of the soldiers of their Unit. **Herr Kleist**, Deputy Mayor of Wilmersdorf was on hand to see the distribution of the presents. Afterwards **Maj Trimble** presented a cheque to Bezirk Wilmersdorf for DM1,000 for the playgroup. This money represented half of the profit made by the Squadron during Wilmersdorf Friendship Day 1993. The balance of the profit has been donated to the Royal Signals New Museum Appeal.

DEPARTURES

We bade farewell to **Sig Stanway** to 237 Sig Sqn and **Cpl Townsend** to 8 Sig Regt for his T1 Course.

243 Sig Sqn
Bulford Camp

Sqn Comd — **Maj I. N. Greig**

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The Squadron welcomes **Sgt Paul Bartlett, Cpl Julie Buckle and LCpls John Beaton** and **Jo Turner**. A belated welcome to **Sig Sharon Mulholland** who joined us from Hong Kong.

Farewells go to **Sigs Wendy Moore, Karen Okeeffe**, 'Woody' **Oakman** and **Mark Lane**. Best wishes to **Cpl Bob Mason** on his retirement after 22 years' service, and **Sigs Joy Evans** and **Rachel Duff** who both leave us for NI.

Finally, many congratulations to both **LCpl Rod Hood** and his wife, **Karen**, on the birth of their son **Andrew**, and **Sig Simon Dennison** on his recent marriage to **Karen**.

RETIREMENT OF MR STEPHEN MORRIN

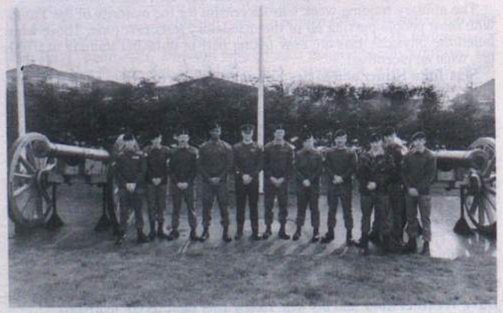
Mr Morrin joined the Ministry of Defence in 1961 and worked at Bovington for 29 years during which time he became a member of 243 Sig Sqn. He was promoted to exchange supervisor at Blandford in 1990. On retirement from the Squadron, after 33 years' service, he was presented with a statuette of 'Jimmy' from the Commander of The Royal School of Signals, **Brig Griffin**.

TECHNICAL LIFE IN THE SQUADRON 1984-1994

(From oily rag to silver tongue)

Tech support for HQ UKLF in 1984 rested in the hands of 1 Sqn 10 Sig Regt, 243 Sig Sqn, in those heady days was a mere twinkle in the eye of 2 Sig Bde. A SSgt FofS and four techs forming a sub division of SWS Tp looked after not only the HQ but the whole of South West District. Many hours were spent in transit between our satellite Commcens, as far apart as Andover in the east to Exeter in the west, north to Ashchurch and south as far as the sea. We repaired rather than replaced, and maintained a store of resistors and capacitors rather than a list of civilian agencies to contact 'in the event of failure'. However, in those days you could actually hear the BIDS working!

A visit to Commcen Salisbury was a deafening experience with a score of BT T15 teleprinters hammering out paper signals, and sufficient paper tape for a thousand Christmases, all accompanied by the merry ringing of alarm bells from the ancient BID equipment, described to me as 'shortly obsolete' and that was in the seventies!



Tech Tp Members
L to R: Cpls Justin March, Robyn Smart, Sgt Ian Bannigan, SSgt Kirwin Daniel, WO1 (FofS) Tim Prince, Sgts Paul Bartlett, Jo Richmond, Bob Archer, 'Scouse' Morland, LCpl 'Polly' Poulson, Cpl Steve Witty

In May 1987 the Regiment disbanded. We moved out of our Bruin block and started life anew as 243 Sig Sqn. The Foreman post was disestablished and we became a Tech SSgt plus three with our first lady tech posted in shortly afterwards. She impressed us with her determination to fit in, which she did remarkably well; and also introduced us to the practice of washing out coffee cups after use, an activity previously unknown in the workshops. About the same time subtle changes in working practices began to emerge as the Comms were systematically updated.

Initially the teleprinters were replaced with Trends and the noisy bustle of the Commcen was transformed almost overnight into a relative haven of tranquility only lately disturbed by the constant whirr of the electric fans required to keep them cool.

We started running more fibres than cables, and were introduced to LANs, Fibre drivers and other exotic devices. Communications which were once centred in the 'Communications Centre' now began to proliferate in all of the various departments as more and more special 'one offs' began to arrive. Each had to be installed and then 'first lined' by an increasingly bewildered tech force. Some desks upstairs in the HQ now have more comms on them than the whole of Salisbury Commcen before the Regiment disbanded.

The whole HQ began an extensive rebuild, requiring Tech Workshops to up stumps once again and begin a nomadic existence moving from building to building, room to room, corner to corner until, at last, we have settled into a two room suite within the Commcen that is 'purpose built for techs' ie, no carpet, windows or decent furniture.

Our antiquated BID equipment was allowed to creak to a halt and was replaced with modern machines whose reliability has made visits to the outstations, once a daily occurrence, now a comparative rarity and relished as a welcome day out.

Work no longer centres around the district, but now consists to a large part of user problems with systems installed within the HQ. The technician with the toolbox and oily hands has transformed, by necessity, into a silver-tongued diplomat, who can explain in placatory terms to an irate and often very senior user that the breakdown in communications lies not with their sophisticated computer-based systems, but with the unsophisticated way they were trying to use it!

We have assumed responsibility for video conference systems, video broadcasting systems and numerous computer main frame systems, all with the minimum of training so the learning curve has had to be somewhat sharp. Steps are in hand to rewire/refibre the entire cabling system and then this too becomes ours . . . Oh, Joy!

However, with the growth of the HQ and increasing complexity of equipment came an eventual increase in manning, to the extent that a Foreman was re-established to the Squadron, a new Troop was formed, a System Control Point was created, and an anticipated cast of thousands, or perhaps a couple of dozen, is eagerly looked forward to.

The last ten years has seen the technician presence within the Squadron evolve from a bare handful providing a roving cover for the district into a full Troop. The original workshops now form just one part of a far larger organisation, embracing the SCP and various attached staff, all under the central control of a WO1 FofS.

Although now somewhat peripheral to our main sphere of activities, work in the district continues unabated with an ever growing plethora of new systems, while the SCP at Wilton provides operational comms in direct support of Op Hamden. Between us we now manage and control the majority of comms within the HQ and district, with our responsibilities looking set to grow rather than diminish. Any technicians posted into the Squadron now can expect a challenging and highly informative tour at the Army's leading edge of communication technology.

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

ALL-ISLAND MARCH AND SHOOT COMPETITION

An all-island March and Shoot competition between Episkopi and Akrotiri was held on 16 December 1993 with Units from all over the island taking part. The Squadron entered a team of ten men, led by our resident pathfinder **Capt Tim Jones**. The event started with a timed team effort over the assault course, then a timed march from the assault course to checkpoint 1. At checkpoint 1, an observation stand, 40% of the team were disqualified because of time; the rest were placed 5th overall. Another timed march to checkpoint 2, water crossing on a six-man dinghy, with Herculean effort from **Sig Shimmans**. Another timed march to checkpoint 3, a distance/navigation exercise. Good performances from **Cpl** 'Titch' **Griffiths** and **LCpl** 'Del' **Wilkens** ensured a creditable result and then came the cry, 'On, On.' Off to checkpoint 4 sited in Akrotiri, where teams were greeted by a Piper on arrival. On to the range for a weapon check, followed by a shoot from 300m. Some fine shooting from **Sigs Little** and **Cooper** boosted the overall score. The Squadron came 13th out of 21 teams.

HEADQUARTER TROOP

Congratulations to **Andy** and **Sheena Carver** on the birth of their daughter **Aimee** on 27 January.

Farewell to **LCpl Fadzilah** who has gone to an EOD post in the UK. Welcome to **LCpl Simpson** and his family and hope you all enjoy your new jobs.

EPISKOPI TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt J. N. Tomkins**
Tp 2IC — **2Lt L. C. Traves**

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

SSgt Steve Dobson leaves us on promotion to WO2 and a posting to CPD at Blandford. **Sgt** 'Taff' **Morgan** is also off to the UK with a job at Unicom. Farewell also to **LCpl Bob Menzies** and **Sig Mark McLean**, both off to colder wetter climes.

On a more cheerful note, welcome to **2Lt Laura Traves, SSgt Dave Harris, Sgt Charlie Rigg, LCpls Mark Ebdon** and **Don Halliday**. **2Lt Laura Traces** has started the way she means to go on; she was soon skiing on the piste at Mount Olympus. Oh, it's a hard life in Cyprus!

Within the Squadron the Troops continue to evolve. As Systems Tp bites the dust **FofS Hank Potts** has brought his gaggle of technicians to Epi Tp. It seems like only yesterday that they left!

Finally all best wishes from the Troop are sent to **Sig Stuart** 'Jonah' **Jones** who is recovering in St Thomas's Hospital after a nasty accident at Christmas. Get well soon.

If responding to any advertisements in *The Wire* please mention that you saw it in your Corps magazine

280 (UK) Sig Sqn
BFPO 35

CHANGE OF COMMAND PARADE
28 (BR) SIGNAL REGIMENT (NORTHAG)
280 (UK) SIGNAL SQUADRON

A formal parade was held in Francisca Barracks on 10 December 1993 to mark the Change of Command, disbandment of 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) and the formation of 280 (UK) Sig Sqn. The outgoing CO, **Lt Col R. T. Hoole**, took the salute from 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) and the incoming Sqn Comd, **Maj R. T. Weston**, took the salute from 280 (UK) Sig Sqn.

The Change of Command included the issue of a Squadron pennant which was presented by **Brig A. J. Schuler**, Comd Comms BAOR. Other headquarters in the chain of command were represented by **Brig H. H. Kerr**, Comd Rhine Garrison, **Col M. A. Thorne**, CISD LANDCENT and **Lt Col S. Becker**, Comd LANDCENT Sig Gp. A number of former COs were in attendance including the first CO, **Col (Retd) J. R. West MBE**.

280 (UK) Sig Sqn was formed officially on 1 January 1994. All readers are requested to note this fact.

Lt Col R. T. Hoole hands over command to Maj R. T. Weston

WINDSURFING

Windsurfing in the Unit has gone from strength to strength over recent years and the 1993 season was our most successful yet. The team achieved the following results:

R Signals (BAOR) Championships	2nd major unit (as 28 Sig Regt)
BAOR Championships	1st major unit (as 28 Sig Regt)
BFG Championships	1st major unit (as 28 Sig Regt)
R Signals Championships in UK	1st minor unit (as 280 Sig Sqn)

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 Jobcentres. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers; Jobcentres and local telephone directories.

During the period 1 April 1992 to 31 March 1993 the Association assisted 12,179 men and women with their resettlement and placed 4,495 in employment. Of those placed 2,358 were men and women from the Army and 216 were from your Corps.

Photograph shows WO2 Chris Martin, WO1 Jeff Williams and Sgt Ian Munford, winners of R Signals Championships in UK, with their trophies

The main stalwarts of the team are **WO2 Chris Martin** (OIC Windsurfing), **WO1 (RSM) Jeff Williams**, **Sgt Ian Munford** and **Sgt Burt Curtin**. The team has been ably supported and supplemented at different events by **Capt Bob Morley**, **Lt Brian Elliott**, **SSgt Stu Hartshorne**, **Cpls Stu Sanderson**, **Dougie Celerier** and **Kev Lewton**.

Sgt Ian Munford also did well as an individual coming 2nd in the BFG Super League, sailing for the Corps and being awarded his Corps colours for windsurfing. Rumour has it that he is also the hot favourite for the overall award as the 'Biggest Whinger on the Water'. If you have sailed near him you will know what we mean!

ARMY (BAOR) MINOR UNITS BOXING FINAL
280 (UK) SIGNAL SQUADRON v 207 SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Army (BAOR) Minor Units Boxing Final was held on 10 February 1994 in Francisca Barracks between 280 (UK) Sig Sqn and the holders, 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207).

The weigh-in indicated that every fight would be fiercely contested as all 14 boxers were in excellent physical condition and this proved to be the case. The opening bout at featherweight between **Sig Dukes** (280) and **Sig Brown** (207) was fast and furious with little between the boxers. **Dukes** was given the verdict only for it to be overturned 15 minutes later due to an incorrect score card. At lightweight, **Sig Pond** (207) proved too strong for **Sig Garner** (280) to make the score 2–0. **Sig Raby** (280), the evening's outstanding boxer, made it 2–1 against **LCpl Girling** (207) who earned the respect of the audience for his grit and determination. At light middle, **Cpl Cook** (207) overcame **LCpl Gill** (208) to give the holders a 3–1 lead at the interval. The home crowd's favourite boxer, **Sig** 'Chewy' **Lancett** gave a classy display against **SSgt Murray** to make the score 3–2. Light heavy saw the holders clinch the title on a controversial decision with **Sig Bain** (280) being warned, costing him a point, against **Sig Proctor** (207). The final bout at welterweight saw both boxers punch themselves to a standstill with **Cpl Celerier** (280) being given the verdict over **LCpl Daly**. The final score read 4 bouts to 3 in favour of worthy winners, 207 Sig Sqn. The prizes were presented by COS BAOR, **Brig R. C. Walker**.

Both teams and their trainers are to be congratulated for an excellent evening's sport during which the highest qualities of sportsmanship were displayed.

The Teams

56 Sig Sqn (V)
Eastbourne

Sqn Comd — **Maj Mike Gilyeat**
2IC — **Capt Sandra Wilkosz (V)**

Squadron life continues at a pace. The last few months have seen a variety of training combined with a series of PR events, topped off by the recruitment of our 95th member taking us up to our full establishment. Our future looks bright in this, our 25th year in Eastbourne.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS IN EASTBOURNE

We can trace the history of our TA Centre back to 1802, when the land on which it stands was leased by the Board of Ordnance from the three Lords of the Manors of Eastbourne. The land was eventually bought by the Secretary of State, in 1865, for the princely sum of £1,604 12s 6p.

In these early years 'The Ordnance Yard', as it is still sometimes referred to today, was used to accommodate the troops manning the Martello Tower sea defences, but it was subsequently developed into a military hospital. On formation of the Territorial Army, in 1908, it was occupied by 490 Field Company RE who saw service in the South African Wars. Their occupation marked the start of a long Engineer association with the TA Centre, and even today the RE Club occupies some of the accommodation.

The formation of a Royal Signals unit in Eastbourne, however, was more recent. In March 1969, twenty five years ago, 858 (Corps) Sig Tp, 44 (Cinque Ports) Sig Sqn, 36 (Eastern) Sig Regt (Volunteers) was formed, under the command of **Capt Trevor Boocock**. It occupied purpose-built accommodation which had cost £60,000 to build. Recruiting went so well that 859 (Corps) Sig Tp (V) originally formed in Ilford, was relocated to Eastbourne the following year. The role of the Corps Tps was to provide reinforcement manpower to 1 (BR) Corps, primarily 22 Sig Regt in Lippstadt.

On 30 November 1977, the Troops were combined to form 56 Sig Sqn (V), under the command of **Maj Peter Upton**. It remained a part of 36 (Eastern) Sig Regt (V). An SHQ was established in Eastbourne, and 858 Tp was relocated to Sandgate, Folkestone. The Squadron continued to provide reinforcements to 22 Sig Regt in its BRUIN role, and was equipped with C41/R222 radios and TEV Bs mounted in Bedford RLs. The TEV B equipment included CST 1+4, TTVF 4/12 and BID 610. No doubt members of the Squadron at that time will recall the TEVs had boys' names and the radio vehicles had girls' names.

In 1982 the Squadron's role was expanded to include the reinforcement of 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt. 859 Tp was tasked to provide the necessary equipment and manpower to upgrade Commcen Foxtrot. 858 Tp continued to support 4 Sqn, 22 Sig Regt, providing six TEV dets and two radio dets. It was in 1982 that the Squadron was re-equipped with UK TRC 471 TRIFFID and TEV As. However, the radios and BID 200 were withdrawn in April 1982 for Op Corporate and were unfortunately lost when the *Atlantic Conveyor* was sunk on 25 May 1982. We were re-equipped with radios later that year but there were no BID 200 available. This severely limited our capabilities, so as an interim, **SSgt Barry Chuter** devised an interface box which enabled us to exercise using the CST 1+4. Some 100 Chuter boxes were eventually taken into service.

In January 1987, as a result of the introduction of Ptarmigan, the Squadron was re-roled to become Comd Comms BAOR HFG Theatre Reserve Sqn. The Squadron took over the tasks previously undertaken by 16 Sig Regt, covering BR RCZ and BR Comm Z. It was established for 16 HF Radio dets. The UK VRC 321 and BID 860 equipment started to arrive in December that year, but at that time FFR landrovers were in short supply and, for 18 months, the Squadron relied completely on loaned vehicle, something other Units are no doubt experiencing today. The dets were to be upgraded to UK VRC 322 Z, but this was delayed pending the receipt of 250W power amps which were diverted to 30 Sig Regt deployed to Namibia. The power amps, complete with African sand, started to arrive in May 1990.

With the new HF role, there were clear indications that the Squadron should become independent. A proposal had already been staffed to have alternating TA and regular Sqn Comds, and the first regular Comd, **Maj Bob Williamson**, took over the Squadron in July 1990. Options for Change brought about a further reorganisation, re-role and a new establishment, and the Squadron became a National Comms Squadron, under OPCON 2 (NC) Sig Bde, on 31 October 1992. We retained the UK VRC 322 Z, pending an ongoing study into our future requirements. Other changes included an increase in permanent staff to five regulars, three NRPS and four civilian staff. The TA establishment became five Officers and 90 Other Ranks. Additionally the TA Centre at Sandgate was closed and the Squadron centralised at Eastbourne. To accommodate this move a fairly major works service, costing £150,000, was carried out in early 1993, which not only expanded the size of the accommodation but incorporated a total redecoration.

The Squadron is now fully recruited and has a full complement of permanent staff which bodes well for celebrating the 25th Birthday of the Corps in Eastbourne, in style, by the time this article is published. We will have hosted a visit from the SOinC (A). On 25 March we will have held a Retreat Ceremony by the Corps band, followed by a cocktail party, attended by, amongst others, local dignitaries and former Comds of Units to which we have belonged, or had an affiliation with, and former Sqn Comds and SSMs of the Squadron. On 26 March we will have held our annual reunion dinner for all past and present members of Corps who have served in Eastbourne. The Corps band will be in attendance for this function and we will be honoured to have the Master of Signals as our guest. The festivities will be concluded with a fun day for the Squadron, followed by a curry lunch.

We are confident of our long term future and who knows, as **SSgt Barry Chuter** has lasted the first 25 years, perhaps one of today's recruits may still be serving to report on the next twenty five?

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Some time ago, the Squadron was approached by ex **Sig Viv Green** to help one of the local Brownie packs pass their Communications Badges. (Some readers may recall that in 1986, whilst at 30 Sig Regt, **Viv** had a tragic accident playing Rugby.) Following on from that task we were asked to host a visit from the Brownies, and give them the opportunity to put their skills into practice. The plan was to run a static voice and Tg exercise, controlled at the TA Centre by **SSgt Paul Hattemore**. The girls tackled the exercise with great enthusiam. The two with **Cpl Martin Cooper** and **Sig Clare Hollebon** were obviously in training to 'Talk for Britain', and once they started all control was lost. **Sig Harry Harris** thought it was his night when the Sqn Comd called him over and reached into his pocket, only to find that he was being given an inhaler for one of his pair of Brownies. The evening was a great success and hopefully, in ten years or more, we may even see the first of the visitors join the Squadron.

More recently we were also asked to help out a charity function in Brighton in aid of the Leukaemia fund. It was held at HMS *Sussex*, closing shortly as part of the reorganisation of the RNR, and was attended by amongst others, **Julie Walters**, **Dora Bryan** and the cast of The Bill. The theme was 'Hello Soldier, Goodbye Sailor'. Eight members of the Squadron including **Cpls Stu Douglas**, **Mick Dowds** and **Sig Karl Buckingham** kindly volunteered their services to help at the function, and in doing so met some of the celebrities.

The Brownies with Cpl Mick Dowds after the exercise

– News from Troops –

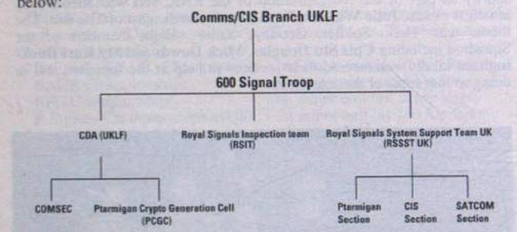
600 Sig Tp
Corsham

FORMATION OF 600 SIGNAL TROOP

600 Sig Tp located at Building 163, Basil Hill Barracks, Corsham was formally opened by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL** on 13 December 1993. It was the culmination of many months hard work by both Comms/CIS Branch UKLF and the civilian contractors to meet the deadline. All departments were present and, following the unveiling of a plaque donated by the Contractors, Taylor Woodrow (Southern), the Master of Signals met Troop personnel and their families over a buffet lunch.

The Master inspects the Troop, Capt F. C. Running in attendance

What is 600 Sig Tp and what do we do? The Corps has traditionally employed many small specialist organisations that carry out a vital role supporting the Corps. Previously these organisations have found themselves scattered throughout numerous units, with many different Commanders: 600 Sig Tp brings this specialist support under one roof shown below:



CDA UKLF previously at Wilton moved to a purpose built area within Building 163 and incorporated the Ptarmigan CGC which returned from JHQ Rheindahlen.

RSSST UK, was newly formed in October 1993 and is the UKLF equivalent RSSST Fwd based at Krefeld. However, RSSST UK has a larger manpower complement and much wider variety of support roles including SATCOM, EUROMUX and SLIM.

RSIT returned from Moenchengladbach in July 1993 and continues its never ending schedule of inspecting Royal Signals Units throughout UKLF and BAOR.

One other small department that has found a home in Corsham is the UKLF Freq Man in the shape of **WO1 (YofS) Paul Forryan**.

History has been made in that as a result of 'Options for Change' Units have been amalgamated and disbanded. 600 Sig Tp has been resurrected to support Comms/CIS UKLF and is commanded by **Capt F. Running**, R Sigs.

What of the future? 600 Sig Tp is a growth industry supporting current and future communication systems and networks.

If you consider yourself a specialist in any of the above fields, then you should make this Troop your next posting!

Any reader who is able to provide information on the past history of 600 Sig Tp is asked to write to the Tp Comd, 600 Sig Tp, Basil Hill Barracks, Park Lane, Corsham, Wilts SN13 9NR.

University of London OTC

ADVANCED WING TRAINING

Autumn and a new term, a new year and it starts all over again.

The arrival of **Lt Col Richardson** has meant changes to the running of the ULOTC, with training now split over two nights. The Advanced Wing still meets on Tuesdays, whilst the new recruits receive basic training on Thursday nights.

The changes have suited the Signals sub-unit, which has been very well supported during the last term. Unlike some years, the sub-unit is no longer the smallest on parade, and the enthusiasm of the members is clear and appreciated.

The officer cadets have now recovered from annual camp, which was held at Redesdale Camp, Otterburn. The Signals sub-unit provided a command net for the entire camp, with field detachments deployed for safety and control during the second week of field training. Our thanks must go to all of the soldiers and officers from 71 Sig Regt (V) who contributed such an important part of this deployment.

This term has seen the beginning of MTQ2 training for most of the officer cadets, which forms the basis of entry into TA Sandhurst. Numbers have been high, and weekends well attended, despite rain and strong winds on so many weekends.

Next year sees sub-unit training forming a larger part of evening hours, and it intends to begin skill-at-arms training as well. Evening and weekend programmes are planned.

BASIC TRAINING

And now a word from Athlone basic training. As far as Signals goes–virtually nothing! A brief introduction to Clansman was given at Rollestone Camp by **JUO Burge** and **JUO Symmons**, however no lectures on Signals have yet been given, and are not timetabled for a while yet... the recruits await their initiation!

SOCIAL

The sub-unit dinner is planned for the 11 March this year. We plan to invite past members of the ULOTC Signals Sub-unit, so if you fall into this category and, would like to attend, then write to **Capt Manley** c/o ULOTC Handel Street, London WC2 and hopefully interest will be high enough to allow this to take place.

Finally, congratulations to **2Lt Chisholm** on his commissioning into the Corps. It's just a pity that he's ended up in charge of the Infantry Sub-unit.

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

HAVE YOU INFORMED RHQ?

TELEPHONE 071-414 8432

660 Sig Tp (EOD)
11 EOD Regt RLC
Didcot

660 SIGNAL TROOP (EOD)

Located with 11 EOD Regiment RLC, with its Headquarters at Didcot, the Troop provide specialist Signals support to the RLC EOD teams.

Tp Comd — **Capt Cliff Davey MBE**
Tp WO — **WO2 S. York**

Following a submission to the Corps Historical Committee, through the guidance of **Lt Col Bob Hussey** at UKLF, the R Sigs Tp of 11 EOD Regt RLC has now been granted the title of 660 Sig Tp (EOD). To mark this occasion, a small ceremony was held at Vauxhall Barracks, Didcot on 25 November, at which the Troop Pennant was formally presented by Comd Comms/CIS UKLF, **Brig N. F. Wood**.

TROOP HQ

Due to redundancies and postings, there has been a major change of personnel. **Sgt John Chapman** has replaced **Sgt Karl Weaver**, **Sgt Joe Crowe** has replaced **Sgt** (Mr) **Bod Eddleston**, **Cpl John Guy** has replaced **Sgt Paul Woods**, and we also welcome **Cpl Mac McGibbon**.

A most pleasing event took place on 23 December 1993, when the Director DLSA, **Brig R. N. Lennox CBE** presented **Capt Bob White** with the Clasp to his LS & GC Medal. This was a fitting climax to some 33 years' service, as **Capt Bob White** leaves the Army in January 1994, having secured civilian employment. His replacement, **Capt Cliff Davey MBE** and wife **Marie**, are most warmly welcomed. Hope they can adjust to life in this cold climate after Belize!

The Director DLSA, Brig R. N. Lennox presenting Capt Bob White with the Clasp to his LS & GC

521 EOD SQUADRON RLC–CATTERICK AND EDINBURGH

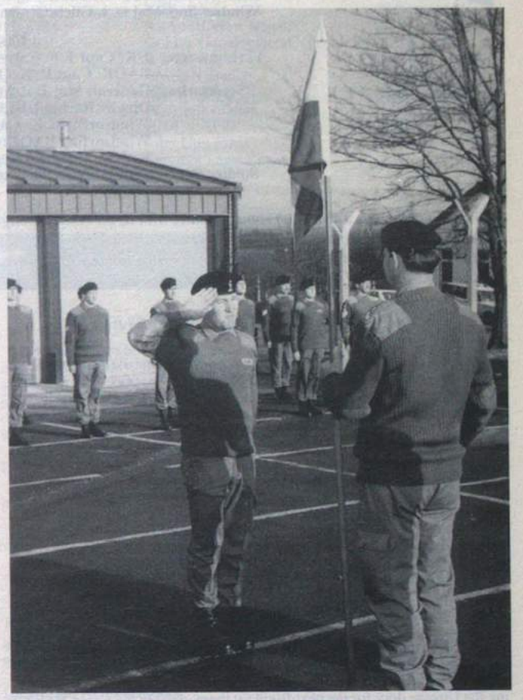
In true rugby parlance, **SSgt Dick Tredwell** has now firmly grasped the 'scrum' and the reins from **Sgt John Chapman**. Also welcomed are **Cpl Marsh** and **Sig Ramsay**, along with **LCpl Green** from the Tidworth Tp.

621 EOD SQUADRON RLC–NORTHOLT

Some major changes took effect with the move of 621 Sqn from Hounslow to Northolt, and the arrival of 'T' Det from 238 Sig Sqn. **SSgt Nigel Sloane** still continues to exert his 'fatherly' influence over the new arrivals, namely **Sgt Dewar**, **Cpls Wood** and **Holman** from 238 Sig Sqn, and new operators in **LCpl Milne** and **Sigs Shortland, Garner, Cumming, Metcalfe, Edwards** and **Richardson**.

721 EOD SQUADRON RLC–HEREFORD AND TIDWORTH

The guiding hand of **SSgt Steve Barrington** still influences the operators, in particular new arrivals **Cpls Calderwood**, **Kent** and **Sims**, along with **LCpls Mahy**, **McKee** and **Sig O'Toole**.



Comd Comms/CIS, Brig N. F. Wood presents the Troop Pennant to WO2 Stuart York

Sgt Jeff Crowe and WO2 Stuart York brief Brig Wood on the updated equipment located in the new vehicle

THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Admiral	Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander CB OBE
Commodore	Col P. J. Pritchard
Vice Commodore	Col J. E. F. Kirby

Rear Commodores: Offshore, Maj B. H. Rowe; Dinghies, Lt Col M. J. McKinlay; Windsurfing, Maj D. I. Gilchrist; BAOR, Lt Col N. K. P. Hope MBE.

CONTACTS

Yachtmasters:	**UK: Capt J. F. Calvert, Blandford Mil 2459**
	BAOR: Capt R. K. Orr, Birgelen Mil 286
Secretaries:	**General: Maj J. P. McD Coulthard, Corsham Mil 4457**
	Dinghy Racing UK: Capt D. C. A. Ellis, Blandford Mil 2340
	Windsurfing UK: Capt P. G. Cross, Blandford Mil 2464
	Windsurfing BAOR: Capt W. N. White, Celle Mil 273/300
	Retired Members Rep: Lt Col (Retd) C. K. Powell, Blandford Mil 2437
Soldier Reps:	**Sgt Finnigan: Thorney Island 8263 Sgt P. Downie: Bulford Mil 2837**

The Royal Signals Yacht Club communicates with its members through the medium of* The Wire, *which regularly prints a forecast of events, accounts of activities and contains details for club officials.

Any member of the Corps who subscribes to Corps funds is automatically a member of the Yacht Club: this membership is activated simply by registering with one of the Club secretaries.

J24 NOTES

18 February 1994, and here I am late with my first *Wire* notes of the year for the Royal Signals YC page. Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose. *Hitch-Hiker* is already in the water, sailing at Queen Mary Reservoice just outside London. The series started mid January, and finishes at the end of February. We have entered this series because we not only get a normal fleet race on the Sunday morning, but also get the benefit Match Racing practice on the Sunday afternoon.

Last year our J24 team entered the RYA/BT National Match Racing event, and qualified for the Finals, where we got knocked out of the competition. This year the RYA are laying on an RYA Qualifier specifically for the Services, and so we are taking every opportunity to get some practice in prior to this.

Winter sailing can often be epitomised by breathless, freezing cold drifting matches, but so far we have been extremely lucky, having reasonable wind every weekend and only one really cold day.

The match racing was enlivened two weeks ago when one of the competitors against whom we were sailing at the time, **Ted Maclean**, got 'involved' with one of the Umpire boats in the pre-start manoeuvres. Involved is rather an understatement; we were on **Ted**'s tail, chasing him on starboard tack when he bore away without looking ahead, thus not seeing the Umpire dory for the next flight sat there, dead in the water. He hit it amidships, so hard that the dory went right underneath his J24 up to the keel, and jammed there with the bow of the dory sticking out of the water on his port side, and the engine of the dory jammed under water on his starboard side. The Umpire and his assistant climbed out of their submerged boat onto the J24. Another win to *Hitch-Hiker*!

The season ahead is certainly looking interesting for us. Although we missed going to the 1994 J24 World's in Australia in January because of crew non-availability, the International Yacht Racing Union are holding a new event this year, the IYRU World Championships. This will involve all disciplines, from Boards through Dinghies to Keel boats, and the Keelboat that they have chosen is the J24. Thus it transpires that the first two Open meetings for 1994 will also act as qualifiers for the IYRU Worlds, with three places available to the British. The actual event will held in La Rochelle in July/August, and it would certainly be nice to qualify for this one. The format of the event will be different to anything that we normally do in the J24, in as much as all the boats will be provided and be rigged identically, and competitors will be jumping from boat to boat as directed. This of course is a format which we in the Services are well used to, and so could work to our advantage. But first we have to qualify . . .

To that end we are going to France at Easter, to compete in the Spi Oueste regatta at La Trinite, and then try and defend our French Open title the following weekend at Port Crouesty. As the saying goes, watch this space.

OFFSHORE NOTES

The three previous major events in the UK offshore calendar that have attracted the most attention and drawn the greatest number of entrants are to be repeated again during 1994. The first of these will be the offshore training course for both skippers and competent crews. This will be run out of Gosport in the JSASTC sponsored Victoria 34 fleet. The Rear Commodore Offshore will be pleased to hear from both potential students and instructors (London District 8444). The Club Rally in the Solent this year will be over the weekend of 2/3 July. Members should note that this is a change from the previously published date. The third event is the UK Regatta. Run on similar lines to the BAOR Regatta this event is now in its third successful year. Unit sailing officers are advised to bid early for a yacht on the premier event in our offshore calendar to avoid disappointment. Finally, this year sees the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings. Both of the UK yachts will be taking part and intend to be off the beaches on the morning of 6 June. It is hoped that as many Club members as possible will attempt to join them in their own or chartered yachts. The point of contact is the Secretary, **Maj John Coulthard** (Corsham 4457).

OFFSHORE PROGRAMME 1994

Date	Event
June 6-12	Training Cruise
June 25-27	ASA Offshore Regatta
June 29	Princess Elizabeth Cup
June 30-July 2	SOR
July 2-3	UK Offshore Rally
September 12-18	UK Offshore Regatta

WINDSURFING NOTES

The start of 1994 has seen changes in the organisation of Corps Windsurfing. **Maj Dave Gilchrist** has handed over the secretary's task to **Capt Paul Cross** after five years of superb effort promoting our sport. The position of Royal Signals Windsurfers as Army Team Champions, Army Inter-Corps knockout Champions, Army Lightweight Champion, Army Heavyweight runner up and lightweight third place is in no small way due to **Dave**'s organisational ability and commitment. We have not lost his services as he has taken over from **Lt Col Charles Kemp** as Rear Commodore (Windsurfing).

1994 also sees the replacement of the ageing BIC BAMBA fleet with a smaller fleet of very much faster MISTRAL EQUIPE II boards with DEMON race sails. These hi-tech racing machines will be available for use by qualified Royal Signals windsurfers on the old daily hire system. Some of them will, however, be available for long term charter for a fixed annual fee and deposit. Contact the Secretary for details.

The 1994 programme of known competitions is listed in the Newsletter which you should have seen. Racing is the best way to improve your standards and we are not going to be able to rely forever on the same old (!) stalwarts to produce results. So get your board out, get a decent wetsuit and start racing.

WINDSURFING PROGRAMME 1994

Date	Event	Venue
March 9-10	UKBSA 1	Grafham Water
April 30-2 May	UKBSA 2	Weymouth
May 3-4	RSYC Germany	Dummersee
May 21-22	UKBSA 3	Pevensey
June 1-4	RSYC UK	Weymouth
June 11-12	UKBSA 4	Felixstowe
June 29-30	RAF	(tbc)
July 9-10	UKBSA 5	Abersoch
July 30-31	JS Ind Championships	Rutland
August 27-28	UKBSA 6	Pentewan
October 1-2	UKBSA 7	Bridlington
October 5-8	RSYC Championships	Weymouth

DINGHY NOTES

The Corps Enterprise Dinghies are going to stay at Catterick for the remainder of this season, and then move down South next winter. When they come South they will be located at the Spinnaker Sailing Club, which is a gravel pit just outside Ringwood. The intention is that they will get at least as much usage there as they did at Catterick, and probably more than if we tried to base them on semi-open water such as Poole Harbour. 9 Sig Regt are also bringing their Topper dinghies with them, so we shall have an excellent opportunity to foster Corps sailing from our new centre.

We now have a full calendar for the 1994 season, which I reproduce below for your diaries. Please note that we are the hosts this year for the Triangular Regatta at Sea View, and we are also defending the Trophy this year, so do please make an effort to get a boat entered in the Corps Sea View Regatta so that we get the best possible field from which to select our team.

DINGHY RACING PROGRAMME 1994

Date	Event	Venue
March 9-11	Team Race Coaching for Corps	Hawley Lake
April 20-22	RSYC Dinghy Regatta/Race Trg	Catterick
May 4	ICDL* v RA	Netley
May 18	ICDL v REME	Netley
May 31	RSYC Sea View Regatta	Sea View
June 1	RSYC Sea View Regatta	Sea View
June 2/3	Triangular Regatta	Sea View
June 15	ICDL v AMS	Upnor
June 22	ICDL v RE	Upnor
June 29	ICDL v Inf	Netley (away)
July 7/8	ASA Sea View Regatta	Sea View
July 9/10	Gold & Conningham Cups	Sea View
July 13	ICDL v RLC	Netley
July 23/24	Bosun Nationals	Portsmouth
July 27	ICDL v RAC	Netley (away)
September 10/11	ASA Individuals	Netley
September 28	ICDL v AGC	Netley
October 6/7	Inter Unit Final	Netley
October 8/9	Services Laser Regatta	Netley

* ICDL – Inter Corps Dinghy League

– Sport –

GOLF

ROYAL SIGNALS GOLFING SOCIETY FIXTURES 1994

MATCHES

DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE
4 May	AGC	Tyrells Wood
18 May	REGS	Catterick Garrison
26 May	RN (Comms)	Isle of Purbeck
9 June	RAOC GS	Catterick Garrison
22 June	Army Staff College	Wentworth
30 June	RAF (Comms)	Catterick Garrison
6 July	RMAS	Aldershot
29 Jul	RAGS	The Berkshire
5 Aug	REME GA	Blackdown
5 Sept	Infantry	Catterick Garrison
19 Sept	AAC	Salisbury & South Wilts

MEETINGS

27-28 Apr	RSGS Championships	Catterick Garrison
6-13 May	AGA Matchplay	Royal Porthcawl
6-10 June	AOGS Championships	Royal St Georges
14-15 Sept	RSGS Autumn	Catterick Garrison
27-28 Sept	AGA Strokeplay (Scratch)	Little Aston
27-28 Sept	AGA Strokeplay (Scratch)	Whittington Barracks

Any member, not serving with a Royal Signals Unit, who requires an individual entry form for the Corps Championships, should request one from the Secretary **Maj (Retd) L. Yates**, 93 Sig Sqn (V), The Barracks, Canterbury Street, Blackburn, Lancs BB2 2HS. ATN 754 8027 or PSTN 0254 262444.

ORIENTEERING

FIXTURES 1994/1955

13/14/15 May 1994	Royal Signals Championships, West Midlands (including Inter Corps challenge match)
tbc May 1994	AA Coll+RAC+RA Championships (Inter Corps challenge match?)
28/29 May 1994	UKLF/Army Championships, Swynnerton
12 October 1994	AGC Championships (Inter Corps challenge match?)
5/6 November 1994	Inter Corps Championships (RE arranging)
20/21 May 1995	Army Championships, Catterick

CORPS CONTACTS

For more information on R Signals orienteering please contact as appropriate:

President: Lt Col P. Richards, Chief Instructor, AA Coll Harrogate (Harrogate Mil 4293).

Captain: Maj N. W. Gill, SO2 (W) C31 Studies, DOAC (Byfleet Mil 4921).

Secretary: SSgt Smart, Comms & Sy Gp (Loughborough Mil 4470).

BAOR Secretary: Capt K. P. H. Wheeler, Tech Adjt, 14 Sig Reg (EW) (Osnabruck Mil 5234)

SWIMMING AND WATERPOLO

1993 proved to be the most successful year for some considerable time in Swimming and Waterpolo. Successes were achieved at Individual, Unit and Corps level and the first Corps Championships were held. These were judged to be a complete success and had a significant impact on the outcome of the inter-Corps championships which took place at Arborfield on 9 December 1993.

Unit Achievements

The AA Coll Harrogate, after a couple of barren years, reclaimed their position as Army Junior Swimming Champions. Results were:

Swimming	AA Coll Harrogate	30 pts
	AA Coll Chepstow	29 pts
	PMC Arborfield	16 pts
Waterpolo	AA Coll Chepstow	6 goals
	AA Coll Harrogate	5 goals

At adult level The Royal School of Signals were Runners Up in the Army Inter Unit Waterpolo whilst 7 Sig Regt was placed 3rd. 7 Sig Regt also came 4th in the Army inter-Unit Swimming Finals, having been Runners-Up in both Swimming and Waterpolo in the BAOR Championships.

Individual Achievements

WO2 (FofS) S. Roberts, The Royal School of Signals, and **WO2 (SSM) P. Griffiths**, 3 Div Sig Regt, were both selected to represent Combined Services at Waterpolo.

Corps v RAF Signals

Swimming and Waterpolo form part of this annual multi-sport fixture. The Corps has been in the ascendancy for some time now and this year was no exception. The results were:

Swimming	The Royal Signals	25 pts
	RAF Signals	17 pts
Waterpolo	The Royal Signals	16
	RAF Signals	2

CORPS CHAMPIONSHIPS 1993

It is not known how long it is since a Corps Championships was last held or indeed if one ever was, but the Games Committee gave approval in 1992 for such an event. 21 Sig Regt was chosen as the venue, not least because it possesses a swimming pool! The format was that three teams took part. All competitors had to be cap-badged Royal Signals. Teams represented:

Royal Signals Germany
Royal Signals UK (less training units)
Royal Signals Training Units.

The swimming contest was keenly contested and the result was in doubt up to the last race:

Results

200m Freestyle: 1st **2Lt Clare**, 2 min 44.75 secs; 2nd **Capt Makepeace**, 2 min 47.91 secs; 3rd **Cpl Eldridge**, 2 min 56.43 secs.

100m Breastroke: 1st **Sig Thomson**, 1 min 22.43 secs; 2nd **LCpl Williams**, 1 min 22.52 secs; 3rd **Sig Wheatley**, 1 min 24.00 secs.

100m Backstroke: 1st **2Lt Hargreaves**, 1 min 15.90 secs; 2nd **Cpl Smart**, 1 min 22.23 secs; 3rd **Sig Evans**, 1 min 30.58 secs.

100m Fly: 1st **Sig Barnes**, 1 min 26.55 secs, **Sig Lee** disqualified; **Sgt Shrives** disqualified.

100m Freestyle: 1st **LCpl Cox**, 1 min 03.28 secs; 2nd **AT Teasdale**, 1 min 05.03 secs; 3rd **Cpl Meek**, 1 min 14.02 secs.

200m Individual Medley: 1st **AT Barr**, 2 min 35.14 secs; 2nd **Cpl Christie**, 2 min 42.57 secs; 3rd **Sgt Taylor**, 2 min 52.87 secs.

4 x 50m Freestyle Relay: 1st R. Signals UK, 2 min 01.79 secs; 2nd R. Signals Germany, 2 min 06.45 secs; 3rd R. Signals ITO, 2 min 10.16 secs.

4 x 50m Breastroke Relay: 1st R. Signals UK, 2 min 32.88 secs; 2nd R. Signals Germany, 2 min 34.37 secs; 3rd R. Signals ITO, 3 min 07.48 secs.

4 x 50m Medley Relay: 1st R. Signals ITO, 2 min 13.84 secs; 2nd R Signals UK, 2 min 17.06 secs; 3rd R. Signals Germany, 2 min 28.98 secs.

4 x 100m Freestyle Relay: 1st R. Signals UK, 4 min 33.78 secs; 2nd R. Signals ITO, 4 min 38.73 secs; 3rd R. Signals Germany, 5 min 10.10 secs.

Final Scores: 1st R. Signals UK, 31 Points; 2nd R. Signals ITO 28 Points; 3rd R. Signals Germany 22 Points.

The Waterpolo was a most interesting competition each team playing each other and the final between the two teams emerging the best placed of the three.

R. Signals ITO beat R. Signals UK by 6 goals to 1 in the preliminary rounds and these two met again in the Final. This time the result was R. Signals UK 6; R. Signals ITO 5.

The three teams are to be congratulated on their performances. R. Signals ITO had the best individual swimmers available but were denied strength in depth by the unavailability of several key team swimmers. The R. Signals BAOR team deserve special mention. Their six out of seven first choice team members were not available but the team still performed creditably. R. Signals UK, whilst lacking 'stars', won three out of four relays and this clinched the Swimming Trophy whilst a change in tactics in the Waterpolo secured a reversal of the result of the preliminary round.

Trophies were presented to the winning competitors in each race and the winning Waterpolo Team Members, as well as the Team Trophies for both Swimming and Waterpolo, and are held at RHQ 21 Sig Regt.

A pleasing feature of the Corps Championships was the participation of several female competitors. There were insufficient numbers to hold a separate competition but this did not matter too much as the girls wanted to compete against the men. Not only did they prove they could contribute in the relay events but some excellent performances were notched up in the individual events where the male 'stars' had to pull out all the stops to hang on to their medals.

INTER-CORPS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 5th Inter-Corps Championships took place at Arborfield on 9 December 1993. The Corps is a founder member of these championships and along with RE, REME and APTC have taken part each year since the founding of the event.

The Royal Signals Championships proved to be instrumental in bringing together sufficiently good players to give the Corps a chance of doing better than had previously been the case. Indeed one of the prime reasons for the inception of the Royal Signals Championships was to achieve just that aim.

An intensive training programme followed and games were arranged against Civilian Clubs.

This year, for the first time, Team Relay swimming events took place in addition to the Waterpolo Competition. The Royal Signals was cautiously optimistic but the opposition proved to be of an exceptionally high standard, practically all of the best swimmers in the Army being present. Nevertheless, despite the absence of several key swimmers a creditable performance was put in and the 4 x 50m Free Style Relay Team came away with Runners-up Medals.

INTER-CORPS SWIMMING AND WATERPOLO CHAMPIONSHIPS 1993

Results

4 x 100m Freestyle Relay: 1st R. Engineers, 3 min 56.59 secs; 2nd R. Marines, 4 min 00.83 secs; 3rd R. Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, 4 min 04.81 secs; 4th R. Signals, 4 min 05.77 secs.

4 x 50m Breastroke Relay: 1st R. Marines, 2 min 23.43 secs; 2nd R. Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, 2 min 24.28 secs; 3rd R. Signals, 2 min 26.28 secs; 4th R. Engineers, 2 min 30.89 secs.

4 x 50m Freestyle Relay: 1st R. Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, 1 min 51.91 secs; 2nd R. Signals, 1 min 52.49 secs; 3rd R. Marines, 1 min 53.36 secs; 4th R. Engineers, 1 min 53.73 secs.

4 x 50m Medley Relay: 1st R. Engineers, 2 min 03.06 secs; 2nd R. Marines, 2 min 03.06 secs; 3rd R. Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, 2 min 04.16 secs; 4th R. Signals, 2 min 06.16 secs; 5th Army Physical Trg Corps, 2 min 10.44 secs.

Final Scores: 1st R. Marines, 13 points, 2nd R. Electrical and Mechanical Engineers 12 points, 3rd R. Engineers 11 points, 4th R. Signals 8 points, 5th Army Physical Trg Corps 1 point.

ROYAL SIGNALS TEAM COMPETITORS FOR INTER-CORPS RELAY CHAMPIONSHIPS 1993

Swimming

4 x 50m Freestyle Relay: **LCpl Williams** 264 Sig Sqn, **Cpl Beattie** 8 Sig Regt, **AT Teasdale** AA Coll Harrogate and **LCpl Cox** JCUNI.

4 x 50m Breastroke: **Cpl Christie** 1 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt, **LCpl Williams** 264 Sig Sqn, **Cpl Beattie** 8 Sig Regt and **LCpl Douglas** 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt.

4 x 50m Medley: **2Lt Hargreaves** RMCS Shrivenham, **Cpl Christie** 1 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt, **AT Carnegie** AA Coll Harrogate and **AT Barr** AA Coll Harrogate.

4 x 100m Freestyle **LCpl Cox** JCUNI, **AT Carnegie** AA Coll Harrogate, **AT Barr** AA Coll Harrogate and **Sgt Taylor** 21 Sig Regt (AS).

In the Waterpolo Competition the six competing teams were split into two groups comprising: Group 1 R. Signals, APTC, RM and Group 2 REME, RE and RLC.

R. Signals qualified for the semi-finals where REME was the opposition. The result of this game was a win for the Corps by 7 goals to 6. In the other semi-final APTC beat RE by 13 goals to 8.

R. Signals had met APTC in the preliminary round where a 5–1 lead had been relinquished to finish at 9 goals each. However, in the final the Corps overcame APTC finishing strongly by virtue of superior technique and squad depth to triumph by a margin of 13 goals to 8.

INTER-CORPS WATERPOLO CHAMPIONSHIPS 1993

Ser		Result	
1	R. Signals	9 v 5	RM
2	REME	6 v 6	RE
3	R. Signals	9 v 9	APTC
4	REME	26 v 0	RLC
5	RM	6 v 13	APTC
6	RLC	1 v 19	RE
	Semi Final		
7	R. Signals	7 v 6	REME
	Semi Final		
8	RE	8 v 13	APTC
9	RLC	3 v 7	RM
	Final		
10	R. Signals	13 v 8	APTC

RESULTS TABLES

League 1

	Team	A	B	C	Points	For	Against	Diff
A	R. Signals	X	9–5	9–9	3	18	14	+4
B	R. Marines	5–9	X	6–13	0	11	22	-11
C	APTC	9–9	13–6	X	3	22	15	+6

League 2

	Team	A	B	C	Points	For	Against	Diff
D	REME	X	6–6	26–0	3	32	6	+26
E	RE	6–6	X	19–1	3	25	7	+18
F	RLC	0–26	1–19	X	0	1	45	-45

PERSONNEL REPRESENTING R. SIGNALS IN INTER-CORPS WATERPOLO

WO2 (SSM) P. Griffiths 3 Div, **WO2 (FofS) Roberts** RSS, **Sgt M. Shrives** 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, **Sgt P. Taylor** 21 Sig Regt, **Cpl P. Beattie** 8 Sig Regt, **Cpl K. Christie** 1 (UK) Div, **LCpl T. Williams** 264 Sig Sqn, **LCpl S. White** 1 (UK) Div, **Sig S. Thomson** RSS, **LCpl M. Paul** 1 Mech Bde, **LCpl R. Gutteridge** 3 Div and **Cpl B. Ward** 28 Sig Regt.

Whilst it is invidious to highlight individuals in what is very much a 'team sport', special mention must be made of the outstanding contribution to our success made by **WO2 (SSM) Pete Griffiths** and **WO2 (FofS) Steve Roberts**. Also worthy of note was the steadily emerging talent of **LCpl Tim Williams** and **LCpl** 'Chalky' **White**. It is hoped that both these young players may be future Army Representatives.

Unit Teams

It is hoped that the Corps can now build on this success to strengthen teams to achieve success at Army Inter-Unit Team Level.

Primarily because of the availability of swimming pools, 7 Sig Regt in Krefeld and 21 Sig Regt in Colerne will be the places where it is hoped to consolidate.

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 General Secretary: Major G. Schofield MBE**
Welfare Secretary: Mrs P. J. Haw — **Administrative Officer: Mr. R. H. Whittle**

Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel Military System: London District 8424. STD 071 414 8424 Welfare Secretary (direct line) 071 630 0801. All contributions for *The Wire* should be addressed to the Editor and any queries referred to him on extensions 8428 or 8433.

The Association communicates with its branches and individual members through the pages of The Wire, *which contains accounts of Branch affairs as well as a forecast of Association events.*

Branch Secretaries are asked to check that their Branch members receive sufficient copies of The Wire. *Association HQ can arrange for copies to be delivered in bulk to Branch Secretaries for further distribution if this is convenient: it helps us save on postage.*

Dates of Branch events can always be published in The Wire *and should be submitted to the Editor. We also welcome letters, requests to contact old comrades and announcements of births, marriages and deaths. We hope that each Branch will contribute a short account of its acivities, preferably with photographs, at least once a year.*

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

We have to thank the ladies for a successful Mince Pie Night which represented our celebration of the festive season. Although a few longing glances were trained on the President's gift bottle of Malt, none of the members had arrived at the meeting on foot so it was deemed prudent to raffle it. However, it's an ill wind, as they say!

Now we are looking forward to our Spring Luncheon. We remind our friends that this will be a Curry Tiffen on Sunday 17 April 1994 at the Army Golf Club, Aldershot 1230 hrs for 1300 hrs, £9 excluding drinks. We hope we will be joined by serving and past members of the Corps and their spouses. Our AGM will be held following luncheon.

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

A Community Awards evening, which included a cabaret and a buffet supper, was held in Poole and attended by the Lord Lieutenant Dorset, **Lord Digby** JP and the Mayors of Bournemouth and Christchurch and the Deputy Mayor of Poole. **Lord Digby** presented awards to several organisations, including the Bournemouth Branch of the Association. Chairman **Mr A. Flooks**, and Hon Sec **Mr H. Hawke** were present at the occasion.

We recently hosted a tri-Branch Sunday lunch with members of Dorset and Poole Branches attending. During the lunch, Chairman **Mr Aubrey Flooks** presented 50 year Badges and Certificates to **Maj John Heard** and **Mr Harry Hawke**. It is hoped that this lunch is but the first event to be hosted by the Branches.

Mr A. Flooks receiving his award from Lord Digby

COTSWOLDS BRANCH

One of our older members–**Bill Andrews**, 80 years old–set a new motor racing record on his recent birthday when he drove a small racing car on the race track at Donnington Park at over 100mph. The instructors commented that they had never seen anyone of **Bill**'s age drive so well. **Bill** was a DR during the Second World War and was chauffeur for some 15 years after. He still drives regularly from his home in Cirencester to our monthly meetings.

At our February meeting those present were very disappointed to hear of the change of arrangements for the 1994 and 1995 reunions. Several members have already made firm arrangements for holidays this year with a view to going to Catterick for the 1995 reunion and 75th Anniversary celebrations but unfortunately will now 'miss out' on the final reunion at Catterick.

With so many serving and ex-members of the Corps living and working in our area we would be pleased to welcome them to our regular monthly meetings held at the Victory Club, Cheltenham on the second Tuesday in every month at 7.30pm or 1930 hrs if you prefer.

EAST KENT BRANCH

Maj Gen and **Gill Badcock** opened their home for a 'Bring Your Own Picnic'. Although the forecast for the day was not promising it did not deter more than 40 members from attending. On arrival all were presented with a list of unusual objects or 'treasure' which had been concealed around the garden. After this absorbing occupation it was time for the hampers to be opened. The nourishment was impressive in its variety.

Edith Thomas kindly ran a raffle with some lovely prizes. The results of the treasure hunt confirmed that the most observant were **Doreen Allison** and her daughter who received first prize. 'We are all still looking for the waste paper basket, **John**.'

Despite a shower or two several gladiators disported their techniques on the three croquet lawns, with a spirited Boules competition taking place on the drive. This was won by **Mrs Pat Calladine**. Thank you **Pat** for donating your prize to Branch funds. Our Chairman **Lt Col Bert Sawyer** exploited his skill by running and by winning the Darts competition.

With reference to the Boules competition, our Chairman's wife **Meta Sawyer** was heard to remark, 'This is the first time I've appeared in the semi-final of anything.' Well done, **Meta**.

Other events since were a successful visit to the Marlowe Theatre to see Roy Marsden in 'The Master Forger', preceded by afternoon tea attended by 35 members.

Remembrance Day saw a record turnout. 50 attended the Service in Canterbury Cathedral, 20 of whom marched behind the Branch Standard.

Our final event of 1993 was the Christmas lunch, over 80 members sat down to a Carvery Luncheon for £10 per head which was judged to be really good value. There was an excellent raffle with wonderful prizes. The Chairman presented **Peter Foulkes** with his 50 year badge at this occasion.

The 1994 Annual General Meeting was **Lt Col Bert Sawyer**'s last function as Chairman and the Chairman elect **Col John Francis** paid tribute to him for all he had done for the Branch since its inception. **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle**, the SOinC accompanied by **Mrs Boyle**, addressed the meeting and gave an insight into the latest studies in the MOD which threaten to outclass even 'Options for Change' in their severity. There were several questions with great good humour ranging from the possibility of reintroducing pigeons, to the greater use of satellite communications. **Mrs Boyle** was presented with a bouquet and members settled down to a buffet and raffle.

JERSEY BRANCH

1992 and 1993 were inauspicious for the Branch. Our meeting place, The United Services Club was destroyed by fire which made it difficult to find a new venue.

Like many other service organisations in Jersey, we are reducing in numbers. We did, however, manage to hold a dinner in the Savoy Hotel when 16 sat down to an excellent meal.

Before Christmas a luncheon was held to present the 50 year Gold badge to **Harry Bell**. The presentation was the first to be made in the Channel Islands; the certificate being presented by **Ken Tasker** on behalf of the President. Members then proceeded to 'wet it' in traditional fashion.

We look forward to a brighter 1994 and hopefully an increase in membership.

L to R: Mr H. Bell and Mr K. Tasker

LINCOLN BRANCH

On Saturday 12 February, **Bill** and **Joy West** celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary at Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln, to which they were kind enough to invite many of the branch members.

The occasion was also marked by the presentation of a 50 year Badge and Certificate to **Lt Col Peter McNaughton OBE**, our former branch chairman, who had made the journey from Derbyshire. The photograph shows **Frank Robinson**, who has recently been made an honorary member of the Association, presenting the Badge and Certificate.

The branch continues to thrive under the chairmanship of **Fred Patman**, ably assisted by the vice-chairman, **Bob Townsend**, who has recently returned after being very ill for some while.

Outings and visits are planned along with various speakers who attend branch meetings to talk on a variety of subjects.

Members are looking forward to the final Catterick Reunion although they are very sorry that it is to be the last especially with their having such happy memories of Catterick Reunions past.

LIVERPOOL BRANCH

At the Branch monthly meeting, held in Deysbrook Barracks, on 6 January, the 50 Year Badge was presented to **Mr Ces Liennard**, in recognition of his long association with the Corps and the Association. The presentation was made by **Maj A. R. Payne** (V) Sqn Comd 59 Sig Sqn (V), followed by a buffet supper.

50 Year Badge holders
L to R: Mr Alan Powell, Mr Ces Liennard and Mr Len Stanley

MANCHESTER BRANCH

Blackpool training weekend paid dividends! No sooner had we got back than we were involved in Remembrance Sunday, the Christmas dinner dance and presentation evening at Broughton House.

Remembrance Day was a cold day in Manchester. At this occasion we met the Lord Mayor, **Cllr William T. Risby** who had served in the Corps as a national serviceman. We are grateful to the Sqn Comd of 42 Sig Sqn (V) for hospitality on that day.

Following the success of our 1992 Christmas dinner at Manchester University, this was our venue for the 1993 dinner. We were sorry that **Maj Gordon Schofield** was unable to be present owing to illness but we were pleased to welcome **Mr** and **Mrs John Slamon** from 42 Sig Sqn (V) and our secretary's niece from Blackpool. Our President gave a resumé of the year's activities, recalling the names of many absent friends. Our Chairman **Ron Taylor** kept us amused during the evening. A presentation to the Junior Ranks Club, 42 Sig Sqn (V) was made.

Our visit to Broughton House was the occasion for the presentation of the framed print of 'Smith, George Cross'. **Bill Rattray** donated several items to their museum. The chef at the House is the son of member **Peter Bamford**. Residents in Broughton House include two Corps members, **W. Grundy** and **A. McKinnon**.

Our monthly meetings include lunch and are held at 1300 hrs on the first Sunday in each month. New members are always welcome. Details from **Ron Taylor**, Tel: 061-486-6772 or from **Maj Chris Reynolds-Jones TD** Tel: 0244-740439.

MIDDLESBROUGH BRANCH

On Sunday 24 October 1993, members and their guests attended Saint Thomas the Apostle Church in Brambles Farm, Middlesbrough for the blessing and dedication of their new standard. The Church was filled to capacity for the occasion and the service was conducted by the **Rev Canon W. A. J. Wells**. Following the ceremony the members of the Branch, together with members of other service associations, joined in an impressive march past, led by the band of 34 Sig Regt (V) following a fine display of visiting standards. The March Past was led by ex **WO1 Johnny Robinson**. The salute was taken by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL**, accompanied on the rostrum by **The Worshipful the Mayor Irene Berryman**. Unfortunately the Church is situated on the other side of a very busy dual carriageway and accordingly the parade had to be called to a halt opposite the TA Centre.

On arrival we beheld the splendid sight of an excellent buffet, which had been prepared by **Audrey Grainge** and the ladies with the very professional assistance of one of the Regiment's cooks. Obviously they had been extremely busy whilst we were attending the dedication ceremony.

After the very necessary liquid refreshments in the JRC, speeches were made by the Chairman **Colin Dadson**, the **Mayor Irene Berryman** and the Master of Signals. The 50 year badge was presented to **Arthur Johnson** by the Master of Signals at this function.

We are most appreciative of the support we were shown by other Signal Branches and Associations and Organisations. In particular to their Standard Bearers who honoured us with their attendance, 18 standards altogether. Other honoured guests included the **Mayor** and **Mayoress of Langbaurgh, Col Illingworth, Col Mitchell, Col Stewart**, the Honorary Col **Brig Hodge**, and **Brig Fairweather** to name a few.

Last, but not least, we appreciate the assistance and co-operation afforded us by the CO of 34 Sig Regt (V) **Lt Col M. K. Stretch** and his officers and men.

Colin and **Margaret Dadson** were, as usual, responsible for the excellent organisation assisted by **Dick** and **Audrey Grainge** and, of course, **Billy Watson** who got the Standards to 'strut their stuff'!

The ever so new and highly colourful Standard now replaces our old time-worn 'flag' (with apologies to **Margaret**) and will be carried and displayed, with pride by our regular Standard Bearer **Albert Carter**.

Three members of the Branch were awarded 50 year Badges, **Vince Gibson**, **Ted Hewitson** (ex PSI, 34 Sig Regt (V)) and **George Bell** who, sadly died before the presentations were made. Honorary membership was awarded to **Desi Dixon** (a former cook at 34 Sig Regt (V)). The presentations were made by **Col A. W. Illingsworth TD, JP**, Vice Chairman, Area I and a former Hon Col of 34 Sig Regt (V).

READING BRANCH

We were saddened to hear of the death on 21 February of our senior member **Brig C. B. Bell CBE**. **Alan Foot**, **Pauline Tennant** and **Graham Robinson** represented Reading Branch at the funeral at Stanford Dingley. Our Standard and that of the Burma Star Association were paraded, the latter by **Bill Yates** our Welfare Officer who also does invaluable work in the Newbury Branch of the Burma Star Association of which **Brig Bell** was President.

Although the Brigadier had been unable to attend any of our events in recent years, we had kept in touch. We shall miss him and our deep sympathy goes to **Mrs Bell** and her family.

SCARBOROUGH BRANCH

A coin collection started in 1990 by **Lt Col G. Wallace** the Commandant of Signal Training Centre, Burniston Barracks, Scarborough continues to flourish. Since the closure of the barracks, Scarborough Branch RSA hold its meeting on the second Monday in each month and some social functions at A Coy Scarborough 4th/5th Bn The Green Howards, at Coldyhill Lane, Scarborough.

During 1993 the collection continued and funds were enough to enable the Branch to purchase a much needed multi-slice toaster for the Children's Ward, Scarborough Hospital.

Vice President Peter Bateman presenting the toaster to Sister Carol Lamb, sister in charge, Duke of Kent Ward, Scarborough Hospital

ADVERTISING

Notices and advertisements, other than those related to a business interest, will be published free of charge to serving members of the Corps, and to those retired members who subscribe to *The Wire*. All other advertisements should be forwarded to our advertising managers, Combined Service Publications Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 0252 515891) who will advise charges.

SHEFFIELD BRANCH

Over the past three years changes have taken place within the Branch. Founder members **Ernie Taylor**, **Frank Stockdale**, Sec **Frank Elwood** and **Fred Powell** handed over their appointments to younger members. Our new Chairman is **Moss Eliott** (an ex RQMS with 30 years' service in the TA in 38 Sig Regt (V)). **Bill Verity** who served as Secretary also had many years' service with 38 Sig Regt (V). Our present secretary is **Chris Wragg** and **Ron Simmons** has taken over as Treasurer. We now have a President, **Col Toby Seymour** who also has long service in the TA.

We, in Sheffield, are very grateful and privileged to be able to use the facilities of 38 Sig Regt (V). The Branch boasts a membership of 60, but usually about 25 members put in an appearance. In the summer months we organise an outing, usually to the coast; we also hold a Christmas social and buffet and an annual dinner which takes place in the Spring.

We are sad to record the death of **Frank Elwood** whose obituary is recorded in this issue of *The Wire*. He was much valued at this Branch and will be most sadly missed.

BOLTON

ARE YOU A RESIDENT OF BOLTON?

Interested in forming a Branch of the Association? If you are, please get in touch with **R. Geelan**, Tel: 0204 650493.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during January 1994.

Catterick Garrison Church	
(RSA) Reunion Service 27 June 1993	£385.00
In memory of Frank E. Elwood	£276.55
50 (N) Sig Sqn (V)	£ 70.00
Mr N. H. Chadwick	£ 50.00
Mr J. H. Thom	£ 50.00
Mrs Mary Kennedy	£ 28.28
In memory of Mr John Moss	£ 15.00
Mr G. S. Dawson	£ 12.20
Mrs M. H. Lea	£ 10.00
Mr J. Williams	£ 10.00
Mr R. N. Briggs	£ 2.20
Mr H. Lilley	£ 2.20
Mr C. Nelson	£ 2.20
	£913.63

The following donations were gratefully received during February 1994.

56 Div and City of London Signals OCA	£200.00
Mr J. A. McCumisey	£100.00
JUO Claire Walker	£ 60.00
Mr N. H. Chadwick	£ 50.00
Comms & Sy Group (UK)	£ 28.70
In memory of Lt Col P. G. Gambier	£ 15.00
56 Div Motor Cycle Display Team	£ 10.00
Anonymous	£ 10.00
Mr W. C. Taylor	£ 2.20
Middlesex Yeomanry OCA	£ 1.05
	£476.95

REUNIONS

DENBURY NEWTON ABBOT JUNIOR LEADERS ROYAL SIGNALS REUNION

The Triennial reunion in and around Newton Abbot will take place on the 23 and 24 September 1994.

The programme will cover the Friday evening and all of Saturday. The Reunion will be much on the same lines as previously when approximately 100 attended and it is hoped that all regular attendees and some new ones will be able to make the date.

Any enquiries in the meantime to **Sam Ward**, 56 Seymour Road, Newton Abbot, South Devon, Telephone 0626 52101, or daytime 0392 51056.

NO 2 HQ SHIP SIGNAL SECTION HMS *LARGS*

A Reunion Dinner for all (of any Service) who served in HMS *Largs* will take place on Thursday 9 June 1994 in the Queen's Hotel, Southsea, Portsmouth. For details please contact **Ken James** (former Petty Officer Electrician) 28 Groveland Road, Speen, Newbury, Berks, RG13 1SS (Tel: 0635 42772).

ENIGMA REUNION

A reunion of all former wartime members of Special Wireless Groups, Companies and Sections, including ATS 'Wops' from Beaumanor, Forest Moor, Shenley, Kedleston Hall etc will be held at Bedford 30 September–2 October. Those wishing to attend should write to **Maj (Retd) H. Skillen**, 56 St Thomas Drive, Pinner, HA5 4SS.

COMMEMORATION OF THE LIBERATION OF VENRAY AND THE SOUTH PART OF THE NETHERLANDS

A Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday 18 September 1994 at the British Military Cemetery in Venray. All liberators of Venray and Overloon are invited to attend. For further information of the four days' programme of events, please contact: **Mr N. M. van Hoek**, Op den Bosch 2, 5823 CG Maashees, The Netherlands.

BURMA STAR ASSOCIATION–BLACKPOOL REUNION

The eighth annual Blackpool Weekend Reunion Event is being held in Blackpool on 17, 18 and 19 June 1994. All holders of the 'Burma Star', whether members of the Association or not, and their families and friends, are invited to attend. All events will be held in the Empress Ballroom, Winter Gardens. The cost per person for the full weekend of events is £4.00 (£7.00 if a buffet is required on the Sunday lunchtime following the parade).

For further information and tickets please contact **Mr J. F. Nield**, 188 Whitegate Drive, Blackpool, Lancashire FY3 9HJ. Tel: (0253) 763134.

We look forward to welcoming any Royal Signals personnel who served in the Burma Campaign and also those who served in South East Asia Command.

FOUNDER'S DAY, ROYAL HOSPITAL, CHELSEA

Founders Day at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea, will be held on Thursday 9 June 1994. The Reviewing Officer will be **Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent**. Bids for tickets are very often in excess of those available. The Hospital is concerned that tickets should go to Association Members only. Applications for tickets should reach RHQ **by 29 April 1994** latest.

FRONTLINE BRITAIN 1994

A major series of events will take place in Dover between 23 September and 1 October this year to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the last shells falling on Dover. The main event, on Monday 26 September, includes a Parade, a Memorial Dedication and a Reception.

A commemorative medal has been struck; the medal and ribbon costs £15 and includes an entitlement to join the Parade on 26 September and the afternoon Reception. All UK Services, Civilian organisations and Allied personnel who served in this frontline area are eligible, providing they served for 21 continuous days in the (war-time) East Kent District; roughly east of a line from the Isle of Sheppey to Rye, or, passed through Dover on the evacuation of the Channel Ports.

Members of the Corps wishing to apply for the medal should write, stating that they were Corps members to: **Alex Summers Esq**, 107 Mongeham Road, Great Mongeham CT14 9LJ.

Those applying for the medal and who wish to accept the invitation to be present in Dover on 26 September are asked to notify RHQ Royal Signals accordingly. The East Kent Branch are planning a supper that evening and will need to know details of those attending

THE NATIONAL EX-PRISONER OF WAR ASSOCIATION

National ex-Prisoner of War Association Annual Reunion will take place on 21-24 October 1994 at Warners Lakeside Village, Hayling Island. All Allied ex-POWs, friends and relations welcome. Details from **C. Jago**. 74 Norfolk Road, West Harnham, Salisbury SP2 8HG.

SECOND 'F' COMPANY REUNION. 29 SEPTEMBER 1993

The photograph below provided by **Stan Smith** who lives in British Columbia, Canada, was taken at the reunion on the steps of the Union Jack Club. Unfortunately it just missed the deadline for *The Wire* in which the write up appeared for which we apologise.

5th Row: J. Dadswell, R. Webb, V. Render, J. Harwood, R. Knight, L. Knight and P. Clowson; *4th Row:* S. Smith, A. Weatherly MM, J. Cragg, V. Martin MC, B. Burch, H. Galloway and V. Sampson; *3rd Row:* P. Smith, R. Shove, M. Ham, D. Chetwynd, C. Newstead, B. Beattie and K. Risby; *2nd Row:* F. Pavey MBE, A. Ridgeon, D. Smith, B. Band, R. Laing, J. Johnson and D. Neale; *1st Row:* C. Robbins, J. Le Hardy, R. Brown, ?, A. Earl, G. Sheldrake, R. Todd and D. Fairweather

Photographer: V. L. R. Dugdale

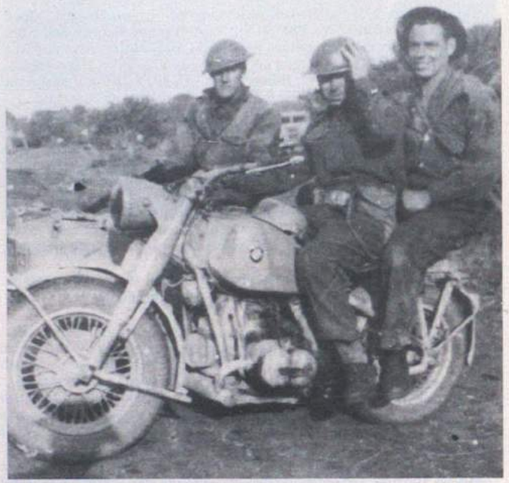
WHERE ARE THEY?

BARRY AND RUTH YOUNG

Will friends of **Barry** (ex Cpl) and **Ruth Young** who served in 11 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (Minden) or in 7 Sig Regt, Herford in the 1970s please get in touch with **Mr C. G. Francis** (ex WO1 (RSM)) as soon as possible as he is arranging a celebratory party to be held in August. Please write: 176 Station Road, Mickleover DE3 5FJ.

56th (LONDON) DIV SIG DESPATCH RIDERS

This photograph taken at Anzio in 1944 shows **J. Law** and **Ben Bennett** of the veteran display team with **Joe Gate** on the pillion. **Joe** came from Wishaw in Lanarkshire and if anyone has any knowledge of him or his family we would very much like to know. Also, the shadow of the photographer is that of **Les Davidson** who came from Manchester. He was killed a couple of days later and we would like to contact his family. Please contact: **J. Law**, 1 Vincent Close, Langney Point, Eastbourne BN23 6ET.



J. Low, B. Bennett and Joe Gate; Anzio Beachhead, March 1944

9TH ARMY SIGNALS, MIDDLE EAST

Maj (Retd) David Galbraith has sent us this photograph taken when 9th Army Sigs (formed in 1941) were serving in Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan and Syria. The first CO was **Lt Col** (later Maj Gen) **A. E. Morrison** and he was succeeded by **Lt Col Aspinal**. Perhaps some of our readers can supply the missing names?

Back Row: Sgts: Galbraith, ?, ?, Carter, ?, ?, ?
3rd Row: Sgts: Jones, Baker, Bastin, Philips, FofS?, Sgt Nash, ?
2nd Row: CQMSs Dewhurst, Downie, ? Sgts Nichols, ?, Bannerman, Ward
Front Row: CSM Baker, RQMS Ratcliffe, CSM Donaghy, RSM Baxter, CSM Bosher, WO2 Edwards

1 UNDERGROUND CABLE SECTION

Towards the end of 1941, 1 Underground Cable Section was formed out of 3 GHQ Sigs at Maadi. After laying a network in Egypt and, linking it to Palestine, and beyond, the section moved to Italy to repair the network as the 8th Army and American 5th Armies advanced.

The original section started to break up in 1944 when personnel returned to UK after long service overseas. As this is the 50th anniversary of its demise, I would be very pleased to be in touch with former members, their families and friends. 1 Construction Section, 32 Construction and 57 Line Sections were involved in the Section at its inception. Please write to me, **William Ferguson** (ex driver), Bankhead of Raith, Kirkcaldy, Fife KY2 5YF.

'JIMMY' MOULD

The Brighton Branch have a seventeen inch 'Jimmy' mould available for loan to other branches at a moderate fee. Enquiries should be directed to: **Ms Tina Malenczak**. Tel. 0273 412934.

LETTERS

From: Ex WO1 A. T. Kidd
Dear Sir,

I am writing to inform you, and anyone else who may know me, that w.e.f. 27 January that I have taken up permanent residence in New Zealand, at the address below.

I would welcome any correspondence and, indeed, visits should anyone wish to keep in touch.

Yours faithfully,
A. T. Kidd

Ex 24038437 WO1
44 Manse Street, The Regent
Whanganei, Northland, New Zealand.

Alan Clay would like to get in touch with **Geoff Young** who served in the Corps from 1955-57 as a Corporal Combat Lineman in Alpha Tp, 20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn in Detmold. He was a keen hockey player and a basketball referee. Please write to **Alan Clay** at 52 Berrylands Road, Moreton, Wirral L46 7UA.

From: Maj (Ret'd) Campbell-Lamerton
Dear Sir,

I had the great privilege to be in the Fiji Islands recently and met some of the 212 Fijian men and women who had joined the British Army in 1961.

I stayed with various members of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment but had the great good fortune to spend an afternoon with **Joseva Cagilaba** (ex R Signals–8 Sig Regt).

He's in splendid form, a most gracious and dedicated fellow, working with the Fijian Affairs Board in Suva. I enclose a photograph of him in his office. His job is Executive Officer, Ministry of Fijian Affairs.

We had last seen each other in the early rounds of the 1962 Army Cup (Rugby Football) in Catterick.

He would be very pleased to hear from anyone who knows him: Fijian Affairs Board, P O Box 2100, Government Buildings, Suva, Fiji Islands. Telephone Suva 304200.

Yours faithfully,
R. Campbell-Lamerton

1 Cransley Avenue
Nottingham, NG8 2QX.

Joseva Cagilaba

From: Mr Harry Moore
Dear Sir,

Nellie and I have just returned from a very nostalgic trip to Sri Lanka where we visited the sites formerly occupied by my old Unit Ceylon High Speed Wireless Company. Firstly we went to the site of the transmitters only to find that our site had become an industrial park, the adjoining site formerly occupied by Radio SEAC and operated by Royal Signals personnel was still very much in being. On being shown around by the superintendent of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation transmitter park we were astonished to find the original equipment. **Peter Burland** who accompanied us and who worked on that transmitter during its days as Radio SEAC was almost speechless, and that for **Peter** is a real achievement! The superintendent told us that they intend to operate the transmitter for a further two years and then turn the whole thing into a museum. He showed us photographs of the team that took over the site on our handover at Ceylon Independence and **Peter** in turn promised to send photographs of the original 'gang' that operated the site as AWBS Radio SEAC.

Later we visited Kandy and site of the HQ's (ALFSEA and SEAC) in the world famous botanical gardens where many of us from Ceylon H/S W/T operated until early 1946. Some of the buildings we used are still there and the guide that took us around was full of history of the Signal Units that occupied the gardens until the end of the war in the Far East. During our visit to Kandy I took the opportunity of visiting the war cemetery, still beautifully kept, and where three members of the Corps are buried, they are, 4625992, **LCpl J. R. Hoyal** died 3 June 1943 aged 31, 2517025, **CQMS Taylor**, died 15 March 1943, aged 31, and 2343372, **LCpl L. Jamieson**, died 25 November 1945 aged 29. I would love to be able to pass on the photos such as they are of the graves and of the cemetery and wondered how I could contact any relatives or friends of these men. Should anyone who reads *The Wire* know anything about them I would be willing to pass them on.

Lastly we visited the site of the Receiver station and latterly the signal office and receivers of Ceylon High Speed Wireless Company (from 1946 onwards). After much asking around and searching, we found a knowledgeable taxi driver who took us to the site. All that is left standing is the pair of main gate posts, the rest is a collection of huts erected on the site by the local Sri Lankans. As I had a picture of the main gate in 1945 I thought it appropriate to take one in 1994 just to compare; it was a mistake. The differences led me to have a sharp attack of depression and yearning for long lost youth! Seriously though, the whole trip was marvellous, seeing so many places after so many years and finding a good many unchanged, the only one changed was me and not necessarily for the better either!

I hope all this is of interest. Several other members of Ceylon H/S W/T are visiting Sri Lanka this year so our reunion on 28 October will have the 'lamp swinging' violently!

Meantime best wishes to all members of the Corps, serving and retired.

Yours faithfully,
Harry Moore

Secretary/Treasurer
Ceylon H/S W/T Company Reunions
1 Blue Granite Park,
The Green: Mountsorrel,
Leicestershire, LE12 7AG.

The Commonwealth War Cemetery, Kandy

545843 CPL W. E. (BILL) BERRY

The above named died at Chunkai Camp on 25 October 1943 and is buried in the cemetery there. Also buried there are 2311154 **Sig H. Armitage**, 2560297 **LCpl W. F. Ludbrook** and 2329806 **Sig S. Priestley**. All served with 29th Construction Section. **Cpl Berry** previously served with No.1 Coy Malaya Command Signals. Anyone who remembers him is asked to write to his brother: **Mr J. L. Berry**, 35 Homecroft Road, Wood Green, London N22 5EL.

From: Mr J. C. E. Prentice
Dear Sir,

I was wondering how many members of the Association were, like myself, born in 1920, and will celebrate their 75th anniversary in 1995, as will the Corps. I hope to attend the reunion next year and celebrate both anniversaries.

Also, I wonder if anyone knows of the present whereabouts of **Don** 'Cammy' **Camsell** who served with me in London District Signals in 1942 in the rank of Sergeant. Cammy volunteered from St John's Wood Barracks to join either the airborne or parachute units and we lost touch when I was posted to Combined Operations.

Yours faithfully,
James C. E. Prentice

22 Duncryne Place,
Kenmure Grove, Bishopbriggs,
Glasgow G64 2DP.

From: Mr Stan Procter
Dear Sir,

I only joined the Royal Signals Association (as a WW2 veteran) as recently as this year. I am very impressed with the coverage in *The Wire* of contemporary Signals' activities, but hoped to see more about historical events.

I enclose a photograph of 'L' Section of 43rd (Wessex) Div Sigs attached to 214 Inf Bde. It was taken in May 1944 at our HQ in Battle Abbey before leaving it for Normandy in June. We must have been the last Unit of the war to be stationed at the Abbey and it is a little bizarre to think that we left the very Abbey founded by William the Conqueror in thanksgiving for his victory at the Battle of Hastings to go and liberate his own Normandy.

I can only remember some of the names on the photo and will include them in the hope that they will ring a bell with someone who might then be instrumental in getting a contact to me: **Matt Aitken, Jock MacGregor, Ray Whatmore, Peter Hedger, – Needham, Bill Stickland** (Infantryman attached), **Teddy Dennis, Ted Bulbeck MM, A. Johnson, Dvr Yorke, Norman Ansell, Harry Hogg, Stan Gee, Ken Williams, Stan Percival, Stan Travi, George Reardon, Ronnie Croft** (Infantryman attached), **Sgt Bill Dodds, – Scott, Dvr Benbow, Nat Cooklin, – Rosenberg, Chris Howard, Dick Shepherd, Harry Wild, Capt Buchanan, Capt Griffith** and **Capt Jones**.

214 Infantry Brigade Signals
('L' Section of 43rd Wessex Infantry Division Signals)

In spite of the casualties suffered by the Division from Normandy to Germany (12,482 killed, wounded and missing) only three in the photograph were killed, **Dick Shepherd**, **Chris Howard**, and **Capt Jones**, the latter by a land mine just after the German surrender.

Cpl Ted Bulbeck received the MM for repeatedly laying telephone lines as they were repeatedly cut by mortar fire as he went forward with the infantry on Hill 112, accompanied by **Sigs Ken Williams** and **A. Johnson** and **Dvr G. Yorke**.

I too remember Hill 112. Whilst I was attached to one of the Brigade's Infantry Battalions my 19 set had packed up and a replacement was sent out to me. Unfortunately, whoever brought it just dumped it near where they thought I was and hurried off. I, not being privy to the actual position we were in, found myself at dusk wandering around on this hill looking for the set whilst infantrymen crouched in foxholes were looking up at me and saying 'I'd get down if I were you mate.' I soon understood why because from a clump of trees in the distance came what at first looked like slow moving fireworks coming towards me, some of which passed on one side of me (at very high speed!) at knee height and some on the other. I only learned later that I was on Hill 112, one of the most fiercely fought for prizes of the Normandy campaign and that the German machine gunner must have sprayed his bullets rather quickly for them to miss. Ignorance, on that occasion, really was bliss.

I would also like to know whether any of your readers are familiar with anybody from Operators Training Company STC (B) Mhow, India, where I was an Instructor in 1945/46.

Yours faithfully,
Stan Procter

8 Shelvers Way,
Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5QN.

From Mr A. H. Thomas
Dear Sir,

As a result of listening to the Charlie Chester programme on BBC radio Sunday 2 September 1992 I have been able to renew friendships with some of my Army comrades from 1943-1946 when we served in 18 Air Formation Sigs formed in Huddersfield, then going on to see service in France, Germany and then on to the Middle East. In France 18 AFS were in billets in 'Louveciennes' but were engaged on signals work at L'Hotel Trianon, Versailles.

During the winter of 1944, a Unit Dance Band was formed and the pianist was **Sig Stuart** 'Tug' **Wilson** an ex student of St. Andrews University. The drummer in the band was **John Crosland** of Huddersfield whose request to Charlie Chester, seeking information on Tug's where-abouts, was the one I heard. Many letters have been exchanged since the programme went out and I have been fortunate enough to meet **John Crosland** in Huddersfield and **Alec Macdonald** of Dalkeith. **Alec** was in the 18 AFS football team which played in many matches on the Paris area during the season 1944/45. Our Sports Officer was **Lt Seys-Phillips**.

As a result of our exchange of letter I have been pleased to make contact with **Denis K. Egan** of Dinas Powis who has sent me interesting news of past 18 AFS reunions and of possible future ones.

The purpose of this letter is, however, to try and locate Scot **Stuart** 'Tug' **Wilson** and both **John Crosland** and I would like to know if any members of the Scottish Branches, or indeed any other Branches of the RSA, have any knowledge of the whereabout of our piano playing Scottish friend. **John Crosland** lost touch with 'Tug' **Wilson** when he was sent from Quassassin, Egypt, on detachment to the Sudan, in 1946.

Any help readers can give will be much appreciated.

Yours faithfully
Arthur H. Thomas
(ex 149 Tele/Op Section 18 A. F. Sigs)

P.S. Section Sgt of 149 Tele/Op Section was a Scot!
Sgt 'Toc' **Trowsdale**.

32 Grasmere Close, Tettenhall,
Wolverhampton WV6 9DP

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.

The history is primarily concerned with the Second World War (1939-1945). It also covers the period 1918-39 and 1945-55.

Original mint condition copies are available from HQ 160 (Wales) Brigade (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 Comds Fund, HQ 160 (Wales) Brigade.

THE LAST GREAT CATTERICK REUNION

The last Catterick Reunion, in its present form, will take place on:

Friday 24th June

Saturday 25th June

Sunday 26th June 1994

Details have been circulated to Branch Secretaries and returns are now due. Any individual, who is not a branch member, wishing to attend and has not yet received the forms, or made an application to RHQ, should contact the Assistant Secretary as soon as possible; accommodation is in short supply!

We shall be exercising the Freedom of Richmond on Friday 24th and this will be followed by playing of Retreat in Richmond Castle by the Corps Band. The programme for Saturday and Sunday will follow the normal Catterick Reunion pattern. The fête and arena events will take place on Whinny Hill Sports Field, between 1400 hrs and 1630 hrs on Saturday 25th, and there will be a playing of Retreat on Vimy Square at 1830 hrs. Evening events in messes will begin at 1930 hrs. On Sunday 26th, the Church Service will commence at 0930 hrs and will be followed by the last March Past the Corps Memorial in Helles Lines before it is moved to Blandford. The Association Annual General Meeting will follow the March Past.

The Corps Luncheon (North) for officers and their guests will take place in the Officers' Mess on Sunday 26th June. This is a Dinner Club event which is being publicised separately; tickets can be obtained with Reunion applications or separately. Full instructions will be issued to Branch Secretaries and to individuals who have applied to attend the Reunion in May or early June.

THE LAST
GREAT CATTERICK REUNION

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THE wire

The Royal Signals Magazine

June 1994

75th Anniversary

CENTRAL EVENTS

Tuesday 4 July 1995
A Dinner with Ladies at a London Hotel.
The Colonel in Chief and overseas guests are to be invited and the Yeoman Warders are to be involved.

Wednesday 5 July 1995
A Sergeants' Mess Ball at Blandford.
Overseas Guests together with Senior Officers of the Corps are to be invited to attend.

Wednesday/Thursday 5/6 July 1995
A programme of visits to industry for overseas guests and a separate programme for their wives.

Friday 7 July – Blandford
Reception for Members of the Royal Signals Association
Freedom Parade
Colonels Commandant, Past and Present, Dinner, HQ Officers' Mess,
Overseas Guests and their wives invited.

Saturday 8 July 1995 – Blandford
Fete
The Opening of The New Museum (TBC)
Corps Lunch
Main Arena Events for Royal Signals Association Reunion
Playing Retreat
Royal Signals Association evening function

Sunday 9 July 1995 – Blandford
Church Service
Rededication of the Corps Memorial followed by the March Past.
Royal Signals Association Annual General Meeting Lunch, then disperse.

OTHER EVENTS

Palace Guard during March/April 1995 (TBC).

White Helmets and Corps Trumpeters in the 1995 Royal Tournament. Programme to advertise 75th Anniversary.

Corps involvement in a **Save the Children** project.

Unit Celebrations To take place throughout 1995 and to be a focus for soldiers' celebrations.

Indian Signals Association
Separate programme for Heads and other Senior Officers, Indian and Pakistan, to be arranged by Indian Signals Association in June.

75th Anniversary

The Royal Signals Magazine

June 1994 Vol. 48 No: 3

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 8428 and 8433
STD 071-414 8428 and 8433
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All enquiries regarding subscriptions/despatch should be made to ext: 8432

The Wire

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Remittances should be made payable to The 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

OPERATIONAL AWARDS

MBE

Major A. Duncan Royal Signals
Warrant Officer Class 1 S. Young
Warrant Officer Class 2 A. J. Mullen
Staff Sergeant A. T. Toner

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OUR COVER PICTURE

Our front cover picture shows Officer Cadet Ruth Pilkington receiving the Queen's Medal from HRH The Duke of Gloucester at Sandhurst on Friday 8 April 1994. The medal is awarded to the Officer Cadet who attains the highest scores in military and practical skills. Officer Cadet Pilkington was educated at Merchant Taylor's School, Crosby, and Birmingham University. She will serve at 21 Sig Regt (Air Support) before attending the Troop Commanders' Course at The Royal School of Signals.

Our back cover pictures shows Members of the GB Skeleton Bobsleigh team.
(L to R): Cpls Mark Wood, Paul George and Steve Robinson who competed in the World Circuit, the British Championships and the World Championships. (1(UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt) (see page 131).

National Champion TA Cross Country Champion – Sig Nicola Hawkins (35 Sig Regt (V)) (see page 173).

Competing in the inter-Services Match Racing Regatta in Poole (see page 196).
(L to R): Cpl Phil Lever, Sgt Phil Hawkins RLC, Col Chris Haskell (late RE), Capt David Ellis.

The price of *The Wire* will increase to £1.50 per copy, £9 per annum from February 1995

The opinions expressed in The Wire *are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of the Corps or the MOD. This publication contains official information. It should be treated with discretion by the recipient.*

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229 (BERLIN) SIGNAL SQUADRON DISBANDMENT PARADE

229 (Berlin) Sig Sqn which disbands on 15 July 1994, held its farewell parade on Thursday 28 April 1994 in Stadium Barracks. The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL, Brig A. J. Raper MBE**, Commander Communications (UKSC(G)) and **Herr Horst Dohm OBE**, Bezirksburgermeister of Wilmersdorf were present. **Brig D de G Bromhead CBE, LVO**, Commander Berlin Infantry Brigade, was the Inspecting Officer. It marked the end of the Corps' association with Berlin which began in 1945 – 49 years ago.

A reception followed the Parade at which the Master of Signals presented the Squadron Pennant to **Maj D. W. Powell**, 7 Sig Regt, to be held in safe keeping until the Squadron is reformed, in name only, later in the year, in Krefeld. A commemorative piece of silver, from the Squadron was received by the Master of Signals on behalf of the Corps, to mark the end of our long tenure in the City of Berlin.

All Squadron members were delighted to welcome former Commanding Officers and former Squadron Commanders who were present to witness this historic farewell occasion.

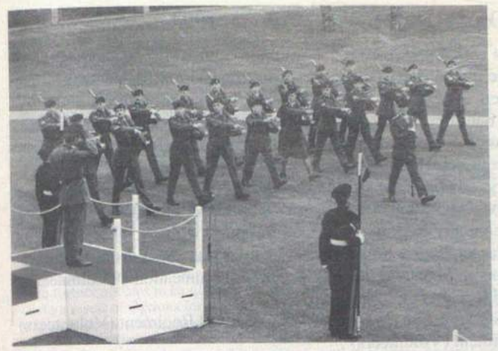
The Squadron is presented with the Wilmersdorf Flag by the Mayor, Herr H. Dohm

Sgt P. Butt receives the Wilmersdorf flag presented to the Squadron

1945 BERLIN 1994

Herr E. Pieroth, a member of the Berlin Senate, presents a Fahnenband to the Squadron

229 Sig Sqn marching past the Mayor of Wilmersdorf, Herr H. Dohm



229 (Berlin) Sig Sqn march past the Inspecting Officer, Brig D de G Bromhead, Comd HQ Berlin Inf Bde

The 'Brandenburg Gate' presented by 229 (Berlin) Sig Sqn to the Master of Signals

229 (Berlin) Sig Sqn depart Jahn Platz on completion of its Disbandment Parade

The Master of Signals hands over the 229 (Berlin) Sig Sqn Pennant to Maj Powell, 7 Sig Regt

YEAR OF THE YEOMANRY – ROYAL REVIEW 17 APRIL 1994

200 years ago, in 1794, the Government of Mr Pitt, threatened with a possible French invasion, invited Lords Lieutenant of Counties to raise volunteer troops of cavalry to be composed of Gentlemen and Yeomanry. Since those days the Yeomanry has taken on every change demanded of it and has distinguished itself in whatever role in which it has been required to do so. Yeomanry units have not only served as Royal Armoured Corps, but also as Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Royal Logistic Corps, Infantry, Women's Transport Service (The First Aid Nursing Yeomanry, FANY) and most importantly the Royal Corps of Signals, where Yeomanry spirit has been allowed to thrive and complement the volunteer units of the Corps.

1994, as the 200th anniversary of the raising of the Yeomanry, has been designated the Year of the Yeomanry. Foremost among the many events planned to celebrate this anniversary was the Royal Review on 17 April when **HM The Queen** reviewed her Yeomanry on Poets Lawn, Windsor Great Park. Around 50 Yeomanry Regiments were represented with 39 successor units actually on parade; of these 11 were Royal Signals Squadrons (by far the largest non RAC presence). Those Squadrons were:

5 (Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars) Sig Sqn, 39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (Special Communications) (Volunteers)
47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn, 31st (Special Tasks) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
67 (Queen's Own Warwickshire & Worcestershire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn, 37th (Wessex & Welsh) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
68 (Inns of Court & City Yeomanry) Sig Sqn, 71st Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
69 (North Irish Horse) Sig Sqn, 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
70 (Essex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn, 38th Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
80 (Cheshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn, 33rd (Lancashire and Cheshire) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn, 71st Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
95 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn, 35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
265 (Kent & County of London Yeomanry) Sig Sqn, 71st Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
HQ (Kent & County of London Yeomanry) Sqn, 71st Signal Regiment (Volunteers).

HM The Queen, accompanied by **HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother** and **HRH The Duke of Edinburgh,** reviewed and addressed Her Yeomanry. Those present included the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Chief of the Defence Staff and the Chief of the General Staff along with many other dignitaries. After the parade a number of Royal Signals Officers and NCOs were privileged to be presented to **HM The Queen** by the Regimental Colonel (TA), **Colonel A. P. Verey TD, ADC.**

Following the parade the 8,000 soldiers, old comrades and spectators who were there, retired to the hospitality tents for lunch. Most of the Royal Signals units, were catered for in the 71st Signal Regiment tents and thus it was here that the SOinC and The Master of Signals together with many other Corps dignitaries were entertained. The Review was an event to be treasured by all who were there and from the comments received to date is viewed as a memorable occasion on which to look back with pride by all who took part. The presence of so many units who were in so many different roles, and obviously carrying out those roles extremely successfully was a tribute to the flexibility, commitment and enthusiasm of the volunteer soldier.

Ensign Viv Williams FANY parades in original uniform

Silver on display in the Corps tent

31ST (SPECIAL TASKS) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

The Regiment had the honour of being represented at the Yeomanry Royal Review in Windsor Great Park in April by serving members and Old Comrades of 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn based in Harrow. Some concern had been expressed initially that the parade might require more than a passing interest in horses . . . that is, that it was to be mounted! Reassurance was soon given, however, that the contribution of horsepower could be provided by the Squadron Landrovers; just as well, really, as most members riding experiences were limited to sea-side donkey rides. As the ground was not suitable for all vehicles to take the salute, skills in controlling modern transport were not called for either. The parade passed off successfully with 47 Squadron managing to take up their correct position on the day! Representatives of the Squadron on parade were **Capt Guy Lester, SSM Chris Gillespie, SSgt Steve Prance, Sgt Brent Copsey, Cpls Jim Wright, Lee Giles, Garry Cheshire, LCpls Jane Copsey, Gerbil Huxtable,** 'Sparkey' **Valentine, Graham Kneafsey** and **Sig Justine Jones.**

Lt Col K. J. Bruce-Smith TD, Royal Signals (V), CO 31st Signal Regiment (V) and **Maj Steve Potter** Sqn Comd 47 Sig Sqn (V) led the Squadron supporters, which included a healthy number of serving Corps members, not too dispirited by the weather. **Sgt Dave Able, Cpl Graham Richards**, and **Sig Dave Allen** provided admin support which reinforced the Squadron's strong links with the Yeomanry tradition.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SINGLE CENTRE AT BLANDFORD CAMP

The following extract appeared in the December 1924 issue of *The Wire*, some 70 years ago:

'As the Training Centre (at Maresfield Park Camp, Sussex) is almost certain to commence its move to Catterick about March 1st next, there is a large assortment of wide rumours . . . A problem yet to be solved is the transportation to Catterick of the large numbers of cars, motor cycles and sidecars which the officers and troops have accumulated during their stay here.'

The equipment might have changed but the problems associated with such a move have not, as we prepare to move the functions of 8 Sig Regt and the Army Apprentice's College, Harrogate down to Blandford to establish the Single Centre for all Royal Signals training.

There will be few who are not aware that a Single Centre is to be established at Blandford, but how it came to be and the current status of the project may not be so well known. This article is intended as an update with further updates to be given in the future.

As a result of Options for Change, a review of the Training Base (RTB) was conducted which required 30% manpower savings. As part of this Army review, the functions of The Royal School of Signals, HQ Training Brigade Royal Signals, 8 and 11 Sig Regts and the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, were examined. The review recommended concentration, but where? Catterick or Blandford? After much debate and, close financial scrutiny, Blandford was selected as this provided the Army with the most beneficial solution, allowing Catterick to be developed as the Infantry's Phase 2 Training Centre. The recommendation to establish the Single Centre at Blandford was announced by the Minister for the Armed Forces in July 1993 and given Treasury approval in March 1994. It is of note that the limited funds available for the Options for Change moves meant the eviction of both 30 Sig Regt and the Defence Automatic Data Processing Training Centre (DADPTC) from Blandford Camp, to Bramcote and Shrivenham respectively.

The effect of the establishment of the Single Centre at Blandford, in respect of manpower, is that there will be a permanent staff of 546 military and 523 civilian posts, the latter being twice that of today, and at any one time there will be some 1,700 students (all ranks) undergoing training. The main impact of this is that there will be a requirement to provide an additional 800 bedspaces for single living accommodation; the local community, in Blandford Forum and the surrounding area, will be required to provide housing for the lecturers and Instructional Officers (IOs) who migrate from Catterick and Harrogate. There is no requirement to expand the military married quarters as there are sufficient to meet our needs.

Of greater significance is the effect of this move on the training of our apprentices and soldiers. As it became clear that once the decision to move to Blandford was made there would need to be a training break in order to move the specialist training equipment into its new home, particularly Ptarmigan used to train 80% of our soldiers, which at best will take some four to six months to decommission and re-install. This training break has been further prolonged due to the early closure of 8 Sig Reg in October this year. However, plans are in hand to minimise the effect of this training break, both on the individuals' pay and promotion, and on the operational effectiveness of our field units. In the meantime The Royal School of Signals at Blandford will continue to remain fully operational throughout this transitional period. On current plans most courses at 8 Sig Regt will be cleared by mid-October 1994 with only those on long courses (currently estimated to be 42 technicians), caught in the training break, who will be usefully employed assisting in the decommissioning and re-installation of specialist training equipment. Those soldiers due for upgrading courses later this year will be deferred until April 95 when the Single Centre at Blandford is due to come into operation.

In order to accommodate apprentice and soldier training at Blandford an extensive programme of new building and modification works is already underway. This includes the provision of new (fully scaled) single living accommodation, a new cookhouse and dining area for Junior Ranks, a new NAAFI Club, a new Trade Training Centre (TTC), which includes Ptarmigan training facilities, and a new Physical and Recreational Training (P&RT) Centre. In all, it is an extremely large building project currently costed at around £40M. Those who visit Blandford over the next year or so will find it to be a busy and complex building site with up to 900 construction workers with much chalk and mud around – so bring your wellies!

Those who know Blandford will be well aware that the local community offers scant entertainment facilities without going further afield to Bournemouth or Poole. While the provision of a new P&RT Centre and NAAFI Club, as part of the Transitional Works (TW) build, will go some way to providing off duty facilities they will be insufficient to meet our needs. This is a major concern and an area that is being vigorously addressed by all agencies, including local community leaders; plans are in hand to improve recreational and entertainment facilities for all staff and students.

There is much to be done in order to establish the Single Centre at Blandford by 1 April 1995. While many will reflect, with sadness, the demise of Catterick and Harrogate and speculate on what the future at Blandford holds, we need to move forward positively with what is a very ambitious and extremely tight programme. The problems of 70 years ago are with us today, for its is the 'transportation' of our specialist training equipment (and our memorabilia!) that is very much on the critical path to enable apprentice and soldier training to resume at Blandford by April 1995 with the minimum of effect on the welfare and well-being of our soldiers on whom we are entirely dependent to do our job in the field. All those in, and associated with the training organisation, will need to "GO TO IT" positively. The current timetable for key events is:

1 Jun 94 Start Construction.
14 Oct 94 8 Sig Regt cease training. Decommission training equipment.
1 Dec 94 Start commissioning work of training equipment at Blandford.
18 Apr 95 Resume soldier training at Blandford (less military training).
2 Jun 95 All apprentice and soldier training facilities complete at Blandford.
28 Jul 95 AA College, Final Graduation Parade.
2 Oct 95 Resume apprentice training at Blandford.

The Mansion–Maresfield Park Camp, Uckfield, Sussex 1924

THE WHITE HELMETS

OC RSDT	**Lt Col L. R. J. Tilson**
OC WH	**Capt R. Deans**
WH Team Sgt	**Sgt D. Brebner**

EXTERNAL TRAINING PHASE

The continuous training by the 1994 White Helmets reached its climax during March when the team deployed to ATR Bassingbourn for its annual External Training Phase. Two weeks of intensive skills and show training proved to be of tremendous value and a vast amount of progress was clearly made. Daily training took place on the airfield training area alongside our counterparts from the Royal Artillery Motorcycle Display Team–the Flying Gunners, which certainly generated a healthy degree of rivalry!

ANNUAL DINNER

The Team Captain, **Capt Richard Deans**, and Team Sergeant, **Sgt Don Brebner**, recently had the privilege of attending the Annual Dinner held by the 56 (London) Division Despatch Riders in Eastbourne. The White Helmets trace their history back to 1927 by association with The City of London Signals. Hosted by **Mr Jim Law** and **Mr Benny Bennett** a very warm welcome was extended to the team representatives and their guests. The evening finished with drinks and tales of motorcycling at the cutting edge–Anzio 1944!

PHOTO CALL

LCpl 'Tonka' **Richardson** came to the assistance of the Troop Commanders' course, currently Number 29 attending The Royal School of Signals, as they searched for an alternative course photo location. Volunteers to be last man were not easily found as 400lb of Triumph Tiger was launched inches above their heads.

LCpl 'Tonka' Richardson flies over the heads of 19 members of Troop Comd's Course No 29

AGAR MEMORIAL PRIZE

'On 27 August 1933, **Lieutenant John William Agar** Royal Signals gave his life to save the lives of men under his command, and in that act of honour fulfilled the brilliant promise of his youth.' In memory of **Lt Agar**'s supreme sacrifice his brother officers of the Royal Signals established the Agar Memorial Prize. It is awarded to the Officer Cadet who achieved the highest position in the Order of Merit and in the opinion of the directing staff of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst was the best of his course to be commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals. The prize was awarded to **2Lt Andrew Percival** who was commissioned on 10 December 1993 along with 165 other cadets in the presence of His Royal Highness The Grand Duke of Luxembourg. After graduating from the University of Manchester with a degree in mathematics, **2Lt Percival** initially joined the Royal Air Force in 1991 before attending Commission Course 931 in January 1993. During his year at the Academy **2Lt Percival** enjoyed all sporting aspects and completed the Basic Parachuting course at Netheravon, as well as participating in adventurous training in Corsica. He is a keen footballer and squash player. On commissioning into the Corps he was attached to 249 Sig Sqn for eight weeks and completed the arduous Novice Ski and Survival Course and Arctic Warfare training with the Squadron in Southern Norway as part of Ex Hardfall 94. **2Lt Percival** is currently completing his Troop Commanders course at the Royal School of Signals.

2Lt Andrew Percival with the Agar Memorial award

ECHOES FROM THE PAST

FROM: JUNE 1934 *WIRE*

THE ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION, 1934–An important Antarctic Expedition is being organised under the leadership of Mr. J. R. Rymill (a member of the Watkins Arctic Air Route Expedition). This is scheduled to leave England for Graham Land in the autumn of this year and to return in the spring of 1937.

There will be several Naval officers accompanying the Expedition, and among the Army representatives is Lieutenant I. F. Meiklejohn, Royal Signals, who will be in charge of the wireless communications.

His Majesty the King is being kept informed of the arrangements, and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales will be the Patron of the Expedition.

CRAZY CAMEOS–No. 1. Founded on fact.

'Squad! At-ten-shun! Move to the right in fours–form fours. Hey, you! what's wrong with you, man–can't you form fours?'

'No, sergeant.'

'Starve the crows! You mean to say you don't know how to form fours? How long have you been here?'

'A week, sergeant.'

'Did you pass off the square before you came?'

'Yes, sergeant, but I was a permanent blank file in my squad.'

No. 2. Just hearsay. A large gaily dressed crowd thronged the railings behind the saluting base. It was a brilliant morning, and a great occasion: the New Year's Day Proclamation Parade in a certain station in India. You can imagine it, of course. The troops were marching past in line and made a brave show. Whispers were heard running through the crowd: 'This next lot are the Signals–aren't they smart?' Just as the leading Company came up to the saluting base something went wrong, but the crowd did not appreciate the tragedy of it. One dusky gentleman turned to his wife and remarked: 'Look sharply, woman. Isn't that clever? 'S' for Signals.'

SHANGHAI SIGNAL SECTION. TIFENG ROAD CAMP, 7TH MARCH

Shanghai Tales–It was only by bringing into play great powers of snooping and scrounging (that finally resulted in the provision of a decent typewriter) that I am able with malice aforethought, to bang out some notes of the doings of this Section during the past month or two.

A perusal will doubtless move someone to say that I have faithfully copied out Part II. Orders. Who knows? and what's more, who cares? Anyway, I'll shoot.

Departures–We said goodbye last month to Sergeant and Mrs. Higham and Mrs. Griffiths and her two children, who left us for Blighty by the *Neuralia*. All of them have been here for the past three years. Sergt Higham will long be remembered for the excellent work he did during the Shanghai emergency in the early part of 1932.

Corpl Tubby Ralph, the man with the hockey stick, and Sigmn Jones W., also with a hockey stick, left on the same trooper. Tubby must surely rank as one of the best all-round athletes in the Corps, and lucky is the unit which snaffles him. Jonah put up one long wail at having to leave Shanghai, and he and Tubby had great difficulty in catching the boat. They arrived on board only a few minutes before she sailed–so, at least, Dame Rumour has it. I wonder!

All ex-rats will know Paddy Whiting, who left us just recently to become a 'sparkler' on a local line of boats. Well done, Paddy! We wish you all the best in your new sphere of activities.

Arrivals–The Section turned out in full force, with lorry, to welcome Sergeant Willis, Corpl Page V. and Signalmen Dawson, Lowe and Venner on their arrival from the U.K. From Hong Kong we welcome Signalmen Oates and Carter, and from Tientsin the one and only Tommy Ayres. We wish them all the best of luck during their stay with this Section, and hope they will refrain from using a sharp pencil in the bars and cabarets.

Several familiar faces from Tientsin appeared amongst us on their way home to Blighty. We noticed Corpl Bowie and Signalmen Michael and Williams in the party.

Education–With much burning of midnight oil, the use of wet towels, etc., Signalmen Birtles, Becker and Ekin obtained their second class certificates of education. Sigmn Franklin passed his first with flying colours (distinguished in maths, map reading and geography). The following have passed in subjects (as shown) towards their first class certificates: L/Corporal Binge, English; Sigmn Copinger, maths and map reading (distinguished in both subjects). Well done, lads! keep the good work going.

Trade Tests–We congratulate the following on grabbing a few more elusive dollars: Sigmn Coleman to be clerk class ii. Sigmn Taylor to be op sigs B.iii. Signalmen Perkins and Billingshurst to be linemen C.i., and Signalmen Cook and Jones H. linemen C.ii. Sigmn Hesford to be despatch rider D.ii., and Sigmn Birtles D.iii.

We have celebrated these efforts in the usual manner with that well-known Shanghai beverage known as 'U.B.'

Recreational–At long last we have succeeded in getting a billiard table and a recreational room. Wonders will never cease, or it never rains without it pours. Our thanks are due to the O.C. and Sergt Willis for their good work in this new project, and we can only hope that the billiard table will remain the success that it was on the opening night.

True Story–A certain n.c.o. who can boast of a few medals was once on a cross-country run, when a young officer overtook him and told him that he should be doing better. The n.c.o. replied, 'Do you know, sir, I was in the greatest cross-country race ever known in modern history, and one of the very few to complete the course?' 'Oh!' said the officer; 'what school?' 'No school,' said the n.c.o.; 'the retreat from Mons.' (Collapse of young officer.)

News Item–The following is an extract from *The North China Daily News*: 'Professor Richard Unger, F.R.G.S., who has been on home leave, returned to Shanghai recently. It will be remembered that the Professor, who is an authority on Chinese goldfish, gave an interesting lecture before he left us on the laughing goldfish of Manchuria. He made frequent reference to his notes, which appeared to be written on the bottom of a glass. The Professor hopes in the near future to give us a lecture on his latest discovery, the oxometer–its origin, uses and abuses.'

Orders That Don't Ring True–'In future, beds will be made up as laid down.'

THE ARMY MAJOR UNIT RUGBY FINAL
7 Sig Regt 20pts v 7 Para RHA 14pts

On Wednesday 30 March, the Army RFU Major Unit cup final, sponsored by Cadbury-Schweppes GB, was won by 7 Sig Regt in a lively encounter with 7 Para RHA, the UK champions. On a glorious Spring day at Princess Royal Barracks, Gutersloh, the BAOR champions, gently guided by **Maj Andy Hickling MBE** ended 7 Para RHA's four-year reign as Army champions, after narrowly failing to do so in a similar final last season.

7 Sig Regt were the first to score when, nippy winger **2Lt Brian Johnson** ran in a try, only two minutes into the game. A successful conversion gave the team an early 7pt lead. In the 17th minute the Captain, **Sgt** Dumper **Hammond**, kicked a penalty to add to his previous conversion. 7 Para RHA fought back and managed two successful penalty kicks giving a half time score line of 10 v 6.

The BAOR champions got into their stride in the second half and left winger **Sgt Jamie Alleyne** ran in their second try midway through the second half, which Dumper **Hammond** converted. The Gunners retaliated by scoring an unconverted try three minutes later. Both teams added a penalty before the final whistle which gave 7 Sig Regt the 20 points to 14 victory. This carries on a fine Rugby history in 7 Sig Regt which was the last unit to win the championship, in 1988/89, before the impressive run of success by 7 Para RHA.

The large silver trophy was presented by **Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie KCB, OBE**, Commander ACE Rapid Reaction Corps, A particularly pleased spectator was The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL**.

The Rugby squad shortly after beating 7 RHA to win the Army RFU Major Units Cup

SKELETON BOBSLEIGH
by Cpl Paul George

1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt has three of its soldiers currently representing Great Britain in 'Skeleton bobsleigh'. This year, the team consisted of **Cpls Mark Wood, Paul George** and **Steve Robinson**, and they competed in the World Cup circuit, the British Championships and the World Championships.

Cpl Mark Wood flying down the World Championship track at Altenmark

Skeleton is the head first, individual bobsleigh (unlike Luge, which is feet first). It is the oldest 'bob' sport and the sled, approximately one metre long and around 32kg in weight, can travel in the region of 85 mph. Steering is achieved by subtle movements of the head for light turns and shoulders and knees for more vigorous turns. The pilot negotiates a track of around 1500m with 14-19 bends, going from start to finish in less than one minute.

The team had a very good season, with **Cpl Wood** regaining the British Champion title and coming 11th in the World Championships. Early in the season **Cpl Robinson** had sustained an injury and could not compete, but did a superb job as coach and equipment manager. The final round of the World Cup circuit was held at St Moritz, one of the most natural and beautiful courses; the track cut out of natural ice and winding through the trees. It was the most expensive too! At the end of the competition the final places were 10th for **Cpl Wood** and 24th for **Cpl George**.

ROYAL SIGNALS BOBSLEIGHING
by Lt Damien Quinn

Corps Team members (all from 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt): **Lt Damien Quinn, Sgt Phil Green, LCpls Phil Dicken, Peeps Medcraft** and **Jason Stone**.

The Regimental team has had a very promising season, particularly as the Corps has not been involved in the sport for several years. The team entered all the events open to them and achieved the following results:

Army Novice Championships-Igls, Austria-7th Place.
Army Championships-St Moritz, Switzerland-7th Place.
British Open Championships-La Plagne, France-16th Place.

In each of the events the team used equipment provided by the Army Bobsleigh Association (ABA). After the Army Championships **Sgt Green** was selected to represent the Army in the inter-services competition at which the Army came runners-up to the RAF. The team achieved the remarkable record of a season without a single crash!

This season the Corps re-established itself in the sport. The plan for future seasons is to gain sponsorship, broaden the base for selection and ultimately compete at a higher level of competition. The team is now on the look out for young, fast sprinters who have a taste for life in the fast lane. If you fit this bill and have ever wondered what it's like to travel down an iced track at 130km per hour, pulling up to 5-G forces then contact **Lt Quinn** at 211 Sig Sqn, 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

The Team
L to R: Sgt Phil Green, Lt Damien Quinn and LCpl Medcraft

TRAINING IS MEANT TO BE HARD

More thoughts on the Royal Signals Detachment Commanders Course
by Cpl D. C. Hill AG Corps

I read, with great interest, the article by Colonel Cook, Commanding Officer 8 Signal Regiment, in the February 1994 issue of *The Wire*, on the subject of RSSC and RSDCC. As an Ex-member of the Corps who has attended RSDCC twice, I offer the following thoughts and advice for those JNCOs who have yet to attend their dreaded 'Detties'.

Colonel Cook's article mentioned that JNCOs who fail to make the grade often complained that the course was 'unbelievably' physically demanding. Admittedly, on my first attempt at RSDCC the physical training was a great shock to the system for many JNCOs, myself included. However, it cannot be said that it was 'unbelievably' hard. It was, in fact, well within the capabilities of any JNCO who had sufficiently prepared for the course. Even those of us who found it demanding managed it at the end of the day, and most students successfully completed the course, including the JNCO who failed his intake BFT! As long as there is the effort, there is every chance to pass.

As the course progressed into the second week, and not only the physical training periods became more intense, but also the classroom side of the course, it became absolutely clear that preparation is the ultimate key to success on the course. Know your theoretical military subjects thoroughly before you even attend the course. If you pass your classroom exams and put in maximum effort during the section PT activities, half the course is in the bag already. A point to remember for the less practical members of the Corps is that your theory exam results go a long way to that all important final grading.

Towards the end of the second week of the course I was injured in a physical training period and was unfortunately medically RTU'd. Although disheartened that I would have to start the whole course over again from the beginning, I attended a second course three months later. Knowing the standards expected, I trained and prepared myself much more thoroughly and tried to have a brighter attitude. This time I was successful and actually found myself enjoying certain parts of the course. To have a superior attitude and plenty of determination made an enormous difference. I wanted to be a Corporal and get on!

In a time when many personnel feel that military training standards are falling, it is important that The Royal Signals continue to maintain high standards. JNCOs who have been successful on RSDCC are justifiably proud, and because of the stringent standards feel that they are 'a cut above'. I certainly did. Those of us who have already passed our RSDCC can only hope that the 'Management' do not lower standards to cater for JNCOs who are not physically motivated enough to pass what is a BASIC fitness test, have not the willpower to complete a four week long course, or quite simply are not interested. The Royal Signals will lose if standards are lowered.

(The Editor is indebted to **Cpl Hill** for his interesting contribution).

BLACKBURN ARMY CADET DETACHMENT

The Royal Signals badged cadets of the Blackburn detachment will join over 200 boys and girls of Lancashire Army Cadet Force for their Annual Camp at Swynnerton in August, where they will take part in abseiling, target shooting, canoeing and, map and compass exercises.

Our photograph shows a group of the Blackburn cadets arriving at Halcombe Moor Camp for a weekend's training in February, where they took part in a night exercise and assault course training

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Regimental Headquarters

London District Military or STD 071-930 4466 and ask for extension as below
or
by direct dialling as shown

Appointment	Name	Extension	(STD Direct Dial)
Regt Col	**Col M. McI Ayrton**	8420	(071-414 8420)
Regt Sec	**Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon**	8421	(071-414 8421)
Asst Regt Sec	**Maj G. Schofield MBE**	8422	(071-414 8422)
Welfare Sec	**Mrs P. J. Haw**	8423	(071-414 8423)
Assn AO	**Mr R. Whittle**	8424	(071-414-8424)
Corps Acct	**Mr A. Wilkinson**	8425	(071-414 8425)
Accts	**Mr D. Wiles**	8426	(071-414 8426)
Ed *Wire*/Journal	**Lt Col M. Q. M. Greaves**	8428	(071-414 8428)
Asst Ed *Wire*	**Mrs M. A. Riggs**	8433	(071-414 8433)
FAX	–	8429	(071-414 8429)
Ord Room	–	8430	(071-414 8430)
Ret Offrs	**Lt Col Beattie/Capt Dugdale**	8431	(071-414 8431)
Chief Clerk	**Mr R. T. S. Corbett**	8432	(071-414 8432)
Clerk, Regt Col	**Mr M. Clark**	8433	(071-414 8443)
SO2 (Sldr Rec)	**Maj B. H. Rowe**	8444	(071-414 8444)
Corps Resettlement Offr	**Lt Col A. de V. Hunt**	8427	(071-414 8427)

ROYAL SIGNALS RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY EVENTS–1994

June		
4	BAE Show/Lostock Hall	Quicksilver
4	30 Sig Regt	Para Display Team
4	Slough Show Berkshire	White Helmets
4-5	Didcot Power Station	Para Display Team
5	Bovington Tank Museum	White Helmets
6	Portsmouth D-Day Celebrations	Para Display Team
8-9	Kingston Lacy/Blandford Retreat	R Signals Band
11	Addlestone Carnival	White Helmets
11-12	Bury Lions Carnival	Quicksilver
12	Bristol Car Show	White Helmets
17	Blandford Garrison Fete	RSS
18	British Gas Northern	Para Display Team
18	Garrison Fete/Corps Lunch	R Signals Band
18-19	Essex Show	White Helmets
18-19	Biggin Hill	Quicksilver
19	Grantham	Para Display Team
22	Army Benevolent Fund Sherborne	R Signals Band
25	Old Comrades Reunion	White Helmets and Para Display Team and R Signals Band
25-26	Middlesex Show	Quicksilver
26	Mini-Mania South Shields	White Helmets
27	Army Benevolent Fund Sheffield	White Helmets, R Signals Band
29-30	Royal Norfolk Show	White Helmets
July		
1	16 Sig Regt	Para Display Team
2	13 Sig Regt Birgelen	White Helmets and Para Display Team
	Preston (Lostock Hall)	Quicksilver
2-3	AA College Harrogate Re-union weekend	AA Coll Harrogate
3	Colchester co-op	White Helmets and Para Display Team
4	Altringham Festival	Quicksilver
5-7	Bassingbourn CRLS	Para Display Team
6	Army Benevolent Fund Kingston Lacey	R Signals Band
7	Tour de France Portsmouth	Para Display Team
8	Gurkha/Benevolent Fund Harlow	White Helmets
9-10	Dagenham Show	Quicksilver
	21 Sig Regt (AS) Colerne Open Day	R Signals Band and Para Display Team
	Haywards Heath Carnival	R Signals Band
10	Glamis Castle	White Helmets
	Parks Concert Darlington	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
12-14	Great Yorkshire Show	Quicksilver
14-16	Kent County Show	White Helmets
15-17	Save The Children Gala Pontefract	Quicksilver
16	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt Bulford	Para Display Team
17	Belmongate Festival Guisborough	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
19-21	East of England Show	Quicksilver
23	Cleveland County Show	Quicksilver
	Playing Retreat Middlesbrough	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
	Gillingham Show	Para Display Team
27	Nantwich & South Cheshire Agricultural Show	White Helmets
30	Border Union Agricultural Show Kelso	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
29-31	Pickering Steam Rally	White Helmets
30-31	Snetterton Race Norwich	Quicksilver
August		
1-2	Turrif Show	White Helmets
2-3	International Scout Jamboree Tatton Park	Quicksilver
3	Guest Band RMSM Kneller Hall	R Signals Band
4	Black Isle Show	White Helmets
5-7	Portsmouth and Southsea	Para Display Team
6	Perth Scotland	White Helmets
6-7	Standish Carnival	Quicksilver
13	Gatcombe Park	White Helmets
13-14	Adlington Carnival	Quicksilver
14	Norfolk Police	White Helmets
	Veterans Parade York	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
16-17	Cromer Carnival	Quicksilver and White Helmets
19	Bolsover Sheffield	White Helmets
20-21	Bolton Show	White Helmets
	Derby City Show	Para Display Team
21	3 Nines Romford	Quicksilver
	Bandstand Concert Bournemouth	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
23	Hull Show	Quicksilver
	Hull Taxi Drivers	Para Display Team
25-26	Durham Summer Carnival	White Helmets
27	Bandstand Concert Bournemouth	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
	Poynton Show	White Helmets
27-28	Blackburn Lions	37 Sig Regt (V)
27-29	Town & Country Festival Stonleigh Warks	37 Sig Regt (V)
28-29	Eye Show	Quicksilver
28	Wallsall Food Convoy	Para Display Team
29	Chelmsford Spectacular	White Helmets
September		
3	Enham County Show	White Helmets
	Stockton Show	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
3-4	Chatsworth Country Fair	Quicksilver
4	First World War Tattoo Leeds	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
	Royal Marines Museum Portsmouth	White Helmets
10-11	Duxford Air Show	Quicksilver
11	Darlington Railway Museum	White Helmets
15	Thame Show Oxfordshire	White Helmets
17	Camberley Military Show	White Helmets and Para Display Team
17-18	Peterlee Carnival	Quicksilver
18	Brentwood Working Dogs	White Helmets
	Hexagon Theatre Reading	R Signals Band
19	Nidderdale Yorkshire	White Helmets
October		
14-15	Farewell to Catterick	White Helmets and R Signals Band
November		
10	Ferndown Rotary Club Concert	R Signals Band
December		
3	Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children	R Signals Band
1995		
July		
28	Final Graduation Parade	AA Coll Harrogate
		R Signals Band

IF YOU RESPOND TO ADVERTISEMENTS, PLEASE MENTION THAT YOU SAW IT IN YOUR CORPS MAGAZINE

- Movements -

OFFICERS

APRIL 1994		
Rank and Name		*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col R. J. J. Ellis	... ...	JSDC
Lt Col P. J. Oldfield	... ...	DCS(A)
Lt Col A. R. Gale	... ...	HS Depot Lang Trg
Lt Col E. J. Richards	... ...	AA Coll Harrogate
Maj A. J. Clark ...	... ...	German Army Sigs School
Maj I. R. Fielder	... ...	DGI (ROW)
Maj J. L. Fletcher	... ...	JSDC
Maj J. G. Peck ...	... ...	MS PB11
Maj J. Perrett	... ...	AA Coll Harrogate
Maj S. P. Wallis	... ...	HQ UKLF
Capt M. A. Finneran	... ...	8 Sig Regt
Capt G. R. Grant	... ...	RMAS
Capt B. Greenwood	... ...	HQ Multinational Div
Capt G. H. Hume	... ...	259 Sig Sqn
Capt S. G. Hutchinson	... ...	215 Sig Sqn 1 Mech Bde
Capt M. J. Prodger	... ...	DCS (A)
Capt N. A. Walker	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Lt B. J. Elliott ...	... ...	238 Sig Sqn
MAY 1994		
Lt Col A. J. Porritt	... ...	HQ 2 (NC) Sig Bde
Lt Col I. O. Robertson	... ...	32 Sig Regt (V)
Lt Col R. C. Scriven	... ...	Depot Troop
Maj A. G. A. Brittenden	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Maj J. W. Clark ...	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Maj J. G. T. Doherty	... ...	32 Sig Regt (V)
Maj A. A. Ewell...	... ...	DEF ADP Trg Centre
Maj D. I. Whimpenny	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Capt G. Deans ...	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Capt M. L. Drake	... ...	SANGCOM
Capt B. P. Gardner	... ...	Royal Brunei Armed Forces
Capt L. S. Lawton	... ...	DEF ADP Trg Centre
Capt T. M. Ponton	... ...	280 Sig Sqn
Capt C. D. Pugh...	... ...	DEF ADP Trg Centre
Capt D. S. Raleigh	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Capt I. A. Walton	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Lt A. R. Basker ...	... ...	7 R Irish
Lt A. J. Jones ...	... ...	1 (UK) Armd Div Hq & Sig Regt
Lt C. B. Pettifer ...	... ...	3 (UK) Div Sig Regt
JUNE 1994		
Lt Col I. C. Shuker	... ...	HQ UKSC (G)
Maj F. A. Bancroft	... ...	HQNI & 15 Sig Regt
Maj M. A. Coupar	... ...	JFOS
Maj R. W. Lockwood	... ...	259 Sig Sqn
Maj F. T. J. Riley	... ...	Depot Troop
Maj C. D. G. Storey	... ...	63 Sig Sqn (V)
Capt M. J. Barnes	... ...	71 Sig Regt (V)
Capt N. H. Colville	... ...	7 Sig Regt
Capt R. C. Gamble	... ...	633 Sig Tp
Capt D. A. Gruncell	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Capt I. G. Lawrence	... ...	MoD
Capt S. J. Macleod	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Capt A. J. Parsons	... ...	5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn 216 (Para)
Capt M. Smith ...	... ...	APSG–PSO R Signals
Lt M. R. Bever ...	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Lt S. J. Boyne ...	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Lt N. C. Bruce ...	... ...	24 (Armoo) Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (210)
Lt N. P. Caddy ...	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Lt R. C. Chalmers	... ...	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (218)
Lt S. L. Davies ...	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Lt A. M. Fallows	... ...	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para)
Lt I. R. Hargreaves	... ...	5 R Irish
Lt N. C. T. Sandman	... ...	Queen's Gurkha Signals
Lt M. J. Smith ...	... ...	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
2Lt J. R. Collyer	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
2Lt L. W. Hendricks	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Lt T. J. Jeffery ...	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
2Lt B. G. W. Johnson	... ...	The Royal School of Signals

WOs AND SNCOs

APRIL 1994		
Rank and Name		*Unit to which posted*
A/WO1 (FofS) G. Blondel	...	Welbeck College
A/WO1 (YofS) D. A. Prince	...	30 Sig Regt
WO2 K. C. Hallett	... ...	399 SU (Army Element)
WO2 R. H. Ibbotson	... ...	21 Sig Regt (AS)
WO2 A. M. Reid	... ...	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) P. G. White ...	... ...	56 Sig Sqn (V)
A/WO2 S. Cheslett	... ...	71 Sig Regt (V)
A/WO2 A. C. Cox	... ...	ATR Bassingbourn
A/WO2 (YofS) P. J. Day ...	... ...	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
A/WO2 (FofS) M. R. Edwards	... ...	JCUFI
A/WO2 I. Shiels	... ...	School of Infantry
SSgt (FofS) R. J. Baldwin	... ...	399 SU (Army Element)
SSgt (FofS) K. Dodd	... ...	HQNI & 15 Sig Regt
SSgt A. Fulton	... ...	237 Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) R. D. Griffiths	... ...	7 Sig Regt
SSgt P. A. Lewis	... ...	HQNI & 15 Sig Regt
A/SSgt (FofS) P. R. Boot ...	... ...	Rocchan (Balado Bridge)
A/SSgt R. Davis	... ...	HQNI & 15 Sig Regt
Sgt R. P. N. Allen	... ...	7 Sig Regt
Sgt A. G. Baughan	... ...	2 Sig Regt
Sgt R. W. Bishop	... ...	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt G. Collins ...	... ...	19 (Mech) Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (209)
Sgt A. Crabtree ...	... ...	2 Sig Regt
Sgt S. Day ...	... ...	3 (UK) Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt S. R. Easter	... ...	7 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Forbes ...	... ...	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt D. M. Gibson	... ...	399 SU (Army Element)
Sgt R. Gorman ...	... ...	7 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Harvey ...	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt M. Hayward	... ...	3 Bn REME
Sgt R. D. Hutton	... ...	220 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. R. Jobling	... ...	2 Sig Bde
Sgt A. P. Kay ...	... ...	3 UK Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt G. McGuire ...	... ...	7 Sig Regt
Sgt A. M. McNally	... ...	13 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt C. J. Meehan	... ...	16 Sig Regt
Sgt G. I. Murray	... ...	56 Sig Sqn (V)
Sgt S. J. Newton-Roberts ...	... ...	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt S. J. Polman	... ...	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
Sgt P. C. Ridlington	... ...	399 SU (Army Element)
Sgt K. Robinson	... ...	20 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (200)
Sgt G. C. Samuel-Camps ...	... ...	HQNI & 15 Sig Regt
Sgt A. J. Scott ...	... ...	5 (AB) Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (216 Para)
Sgt C. R. Shrives	... ...	399 SU (Army Element)
Sgt S. D. Slaney	... ...	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt A. Smith ...	... ...	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt S. Thickett ...	... ...	399 SU (Army Element)
Sgt L. E. Turbitt	... ...	2 Sig Regt
Sgt N. P. Vagg ...	... ...	13 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt S. Wright ...	... ...	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt M. J. Wynn	... ...	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt P. Youd ...	... ...	16 Sig Regt
A/Sgt P. Boughey	... ...	39 HY Regt RA
MAY 1994		
Rank and Name		*Unit to which posted*
A/WO1 (YofS) P. C. Martin	... ...	9 Sig Regt (R)
A/WO1 (FofS) R. P. Moren	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
WO2 K. G. Jenkins	... ...	251 Sig Sqn
WO2 F. Nelson ...	... ...	HQ BAOR
WO2 S. Rook ...	... ...	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 D. A. Sacree	... ...	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 T. A. Tulloch	... ...	32 Sig Regt (V)
A/WO2 P. A. Anderson	... ...	Wales UOTC
A/WO2 A. C. Campbell	... ...	Edinburgh UOTC
A/WO2 P. A. Ellis	... ...	Queen's UOTC Belfast
SSgt (YofS) N. J. Bartlett ...	...	63 Sig Sqn (V)
SSgt I. Beverley	... ...	600 Sig Tp
SSgt (FofS) P. J. Hubble	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
SSgt V. E. McNaught	... ...	5 (AB) Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (216 Para)
SSgt F. P. Skene	... ...	3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (203)
SSgt (FofS) L. A. Wookey...	... ...	3 (UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt
A/SSgt N. J. Baughan	... ...	280 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. J. Alger ...	... ...	30 Sig Regt
Sgt G. Bingham	... ...	16 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Bradley ...	... ...	71 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt C. S. Budding	... ...	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt C. D. Drew ...	... ...	237 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. C. Graveson	... ...	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. A. Griffiths	... ...	3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (203)
Sgt B. Hardman	... ...	1 Light Infantry
Sgt S. R. Harrison	... ...	32 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. J. Hatton	... ...	3 Cdo Bde
Sgt R. H. Hicks	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt P. A. Holland	... ...	11 Sig Regt
Sgt B. N. Ibbotson	... ...	16 Sig Regt
Sgt M. D. Kelly	... ...	8 Sig Regt
Sgt C. D. Kidd ...	... ...	3 (UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt P. Marshall	... ...	399 SU (Army Element)
Sgt M. R. Melotte	... ...	HQ AFCENT
Sgt P. H. Newman	... ...	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt P. T. Price ...	... ...	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. Rabbetts ...	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt D. M. Rennison	... ...	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt M. Roberts ...	... ...	16 Sig Regt
Sgt K. Roberts ...	... ...	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt N. J. Roberts	... ...	2 Sig Regt
Sgt I. E. Rogers ...	... ...	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt D. Smeaton ...	... ...	7 Sig Regt
Sgt M. S. Tivey ...	... ...	20 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (200)
Sgt A. M. Tocker	... ...	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt P. R. Webster	... ...	36 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. A. M. White	... ...	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (218)

DEATHS

Beevers–Sgt W. Beevers–served 1939-66–died 28 February 1994.
Bell–Sgt I. A. Bell–served 1953–died 18 January 1994.
Bradshaw–2Lt B. Bradshaw–died 26 August 1993.
Bramley–Sig J. H. Bramley–served 1926-1938–died.
Burford–Capt M. R. Burford WRAC–served 1942-74–died 30 April 1994.
Callaghan–Cpl Callaghan–served 1942–28 January 1994.
Coles–Maj R. G. H. Coles–died 7 December 1993.
Day–WO2 A. J. Day–served 1936-53–died 1 March 1994.
Donnelly–WO2 A. B. Donnelly–died 24 November 1993.
Earnshaw–D. K. Earnshaw–served 1941-69–died 7 December 1993.
Elliott–Maj D. A. R. Elliott–served 1938-69–died 25 February 1994.
Fraser–WO2 Fraser–died 13 November 1993.
Halliwell–Sig A. J. Halliwell–served 1962–died 1 January 1994.
Halliwell–Cpl J. C. Halliwell–served 1936-45–died April 1994.
Haxell–Maj E. R. Haxell–served 1932-64–died 29 March 1994.
Haylett–Maj A. W. L. Haylett–served 1940-46–died 16 April 1994.
Holberton–Maj N. W. Holberton–died 11 February 1994.
Holifield–Lt Col A. Holifield MC–served 1939-74–died 12 April 1994.
Hyde–Sgt L. E. Hyde–served 1932-47–died 12 March 1994.
Lambert–WO2 M. Lambert–died 22 November 1993.
Latham–Sgt Latham–died 6 December 1993.
McDiarmid–WO2 A. McDiarmid–served 1934-58–died 31 January 1994.
Milner–Brig A. S. Milner CBE DL–served 1921-55–died March 1994.
Morgan–Sgt E. Morgan–served 1940-46–died March 1994.
Moss–SSgt Moss–died 15 January 1994.
Orme–WO2 J. E. Orme–served 1942-1968–died 4 December 1993.
Pearson–SSgt R. Pearson–served 1941-45–died April 1994.
Perry–Lt Col R. J. Perry OBE–served 1929-50–died 21 February 1994.
Peters–Sgt A. E. L. Peters–died 31 January 1994.
Price–Maj J. E. V. Price–27 December 1993.
Robinson–Sgt Robinson–died 28 November 1993.
Simpson–Sgt D. Simpson–died 31 January 1994.
Southall–Maj T. G. Southall–served 1962-94–died 10 April 1994.
Stirk–Maj A. Stirk–19 April 1994.
Strangward–Sig K. T. Strangward–served 1990-1994–died 4 March 1994.
Tibbles–Lt F. W. Tibbles–served 1943-45–died 2 April 1994.
Voyse–Sig B. E. Voyse–served 1985–1994–died 13 April 1994.
Wagstaff–LCpl E. A. Wagstaff–died 10 March 1994.
Western–Mrs R. J. Western, wife of **Lt Col R. J. Western** (served 1933-59).
Willey–Mrs M. Willey–died 13 March 1994.
Williams–Col F. D. Williams OBE–served 1945-73–died 11 April 1994
Wood–WO2 T. E. Wood–served 1931-1949–died 11 August 1993.

OBITUARIES

Boyd–WO2 J. McL. Boyd. It is with deep sorrow that the Cotswolds Branch has to report the death of **John Boyd** at the age of 73 years. **John** served in the Corps from 1942 to 1961 including Regular, 'Z'(T) Reserve and Supp Res/AER service during which he was stationed in India, France and Belgium. After retirement from the Corps he continued serving his country as a Civil Servant in the Ministry of Defence. **John** was a Life Member of the Association and holder of the Association's 50 Year Badge. He joined the Cotswolds Branch in 1980, having previously been a member of branches in London. He had a great affection for Catterick and regularly attended the Catterick Reunions. He will be sadly missed. Our deepest sympathy goes to his partner **Beryl** in her grief.

Dutton–LCpl C. J. Dutton.. It is with deep regret that we record the death of **Carolyn Dutton** who died at Frimley Park Hospital on 4 April 1994 aged 27 years.

Carolyn, affectionately known as **Polly** by her colleagues, suffered from a hereditary condition. Although she was aware of the seriousness of her condition, **Polly** amazed everyone by her courage and determination, she never failed to maintain her warm and friendly nature and her effervescent character endeared her to all her friends and colleagues.

Polly had served for nine years as a switchboard operator and had been employed as a supervisor in the Aldershot Operator Assistance Centre during her final tour of duty. She will be sadly missed by her husband **David**, a serving Staff Sergeant in the Army Physical Training Corps, and by her many friends and colleagues in the Corps.

Morrin–Mr Stephen Morrin. It is with deep regret that we report the death on 9 March of **Mr Stephen Morrin** who was the Supervisor of the telephone exchange at The Royal School of Signals until his recent retirement.

He joined the Ministry of Defence in 1961 and was employed at Bovington for 29 years. In 1990, he was promoted to exchange supervisor.

Mr Morrin's Funeral took place in Wareham on 15 March and was attended by his many friends and colleagues in the Corps. He will be sadly missed.

Ormond–Maj S. Ormond (Syd). Died on 13 April 1994, aged 74, whilst on holiday with his loved ones in Tobago. He enlisted in Catterick in 1939 prior to the outbreak of war. Served in 2 STC Prestatyn until embarking for North Africa in 1942, thence to the Western Desert – the landings in Sicily, Italy and on cessation of hostilities, to Greece 'to keep the peace'. His post war career alternated between Regimental and staff appointment 5TR, Scarborough STC, 11 Air Formation Signals, 1 BR Corps and Western Command. **Syd** was commissioned as Leiut (Cmd) in 1961, postings followed to Northern Command, 14 Sig Reg (EW), HQ BAOR, 31 Sig Regt (V) and MoD. He retired from the active list in 1972, and in 1974 was appointed to a RO vacancy at HQ NE District, first as 5C(A0 and then G2 (Sy) from which post he retired in 1984. A down to earth 'Geordie', with a ready wit and a retrievable fund of amusing anecdotes. **Syd** will be sorely missed by his daughters **Pauline** and **Gillian**, two grandsons, also by all his many friends. His wife **Meg** predeceased him in June 1992.

Quinn–Maj William Quinn died on 16 December 1993, aged 61 after a short illness. Following school in India, where his father served with the Corps, **Bill** went to Sandhurst, and gained a Commission in the Royal Corps of Signals.

His final tour of duty took him to Nigeria, and it was there, after demobilisation, he joined the Rediffusion Company where he was responsible for the maintenance of Radio Transmitters.

The civil war in Nigeria caused **Bill** to re-locate to London where he continued to work, planning aerial sites, in the Operational Services Department of the Company until it closed in 1981.

Reeves–Maj E. Reeves. 'Buck' joined the Corps in 1921. He was a member of the Royal Signals' team that won the Army cross country championship in 1924, the photos and medal of which are now in the Museum at Blandford. He served as an NCO in the Middle East and Palestine in the pre-war years before joining the Palestine Police. He retired in 1969 and settled in Norfolk with his wife **Doreen** and joined the Norfolk Branch of the RSA. He recently moved to the Isle of Lewis where he passed away on 26 March 1994. 'Buck' was always proud of the fact that he had served in the Corps and displayed his insignia whenever the occasion arose. We in the Norfolk Branch send **Doreen** our deepest sympathy in her loss. 'Buck' Reeves brother was also a member of the Corps in its early days.

Smith–Mr. N. J. W. Smith died on 1 May, after illness. He served in the Corps from 1939-46 where he reached the rank of Corporal. He then joined Post Office Telecommunications, now British Telecom, where he rose to executive rank. He was proud of his time in the Corps and his service memorabilia is now in the Museum. We send our condolences to his family.

If you are serving and have a standing order for *THE WIRE* please keep us well informed in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders and your *Wire* will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.

NOTICES

CORPS DATES

*18 June	Corps Luncheon, Blandford
25/26 June	Association Reunion and AGM Catterick
*26 June	Corps Luncheon North, Catterick
28 June	Princess Royal Day
*4 November	Corps Scottish Dinner, Glasgow
10 November	Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey
*24 November	Royal Signals Institution London Lecture
13 December	Corps Carol Service, London

Application Forms for those events marked with an * are to be found at the back of The White List and The Retired Supplement.

HM THE QUEEN'S GARDEN PARTY AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Our Colonel in Chief, **HRH The Princess Royal GCVO**, is expected to attend The Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday, 19 July 1994. 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.

AIR FORMATION SIGNALS DAY

21 Sig Regt (AS) will be holding an 'Open Day' at Azimghur Barracks on Saturday 9 July 1994, between midday and 6pm. The entertainment will include military displays and a village fete, with the usual mess tents, bars and fast-food stands available. All proceeds from the day will go to the Corps Museum Fund.

Anyone requiring further information, particularly for Association Reunions, should contact: **WO1 (RSM) A. S. Baldry,** 21 Signal Regiment (AS), Azimghur Barracks, Colerne, Nr Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 8QY. Tel: MOD Network Colerne 738, BT 0225 743240 Ext 5256.

THE FINAL REUNION AT THE ARMY APPRENTICES' COLLEGE HARROGATE 2/3 JULY 1994

The Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate is due to close in mid-1995 and move to Blandford. To commemorate the occasion there is to be a final reunion weekend on 2/3 July 1994. This will be the last chance for all ex-Permanent Staff, Apprentices and Junior Leaders to visit 'Penny Pot'.

THE FINAL REUNION AT PENNY POT

The reunion weekend will commence midday Saturday with displays, shows, side-shows and a Donkey Derby. There will be an evening Barbecue followed by a College Revue. There will be a Sunday Church Service and a short march past.

Pass the word on and write for further details to: SO2 Coord, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG3 2SE.

THE 12TH QUARTERMASTERS' CONVENTION

The last Quartermasters' Convention to be held at Catterick took place on 15 April 1994. After an extremely busy and enlightening convention covering numerous topics, dinner followed in the R Signals Officers' Mess for the 98 participants, approximately half of whom are serving members of the Corps.

The Guests were **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL**, the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle**, the Signal Officer in Chief, **Col J. R. B. Cook**, Commanding Officer 8 Sig Regt and **Maj G. H. Townend**, Royal Canadian Signals the PMC of the Officers' Mess.

The gathering said farewell to **Lt Col Alan Davies, Lt Col Fred Laverick BEM, Maj Stan Hargreaves MBE** and **Maj Brian Hudson**, all have served at least 37 years man and boy!

There was a Gurkha Guard of Honour from soldiers on courses in 8 Sig Regt and the entertainment was provided by the 34 Sig Regt (V) Band and a Gurkha Piper, by kind permission of their respective Commanding Officers. It must be said that the music went a long way in making the evening the success it was.

The end of an era for Catterick but there will be a convention in 1995 in Blandford; hope to see all the Quartermasters past and present there.

H TROOP, 220 SIGNAL SQUADRON (FORMERLY 3 SQUADRON), 21 SIGNAL REGIMENT, RAF BRUGGEN

The Troop is mounting a display of troop personnel photographs featuring early photographs and progressing to the present day.

Any H Tp photographs, regardless of size, condition or negatives would be greatly appreciated. They will be copied and returned. If you can help the Troop to compile an interesting part of its history by sending photographs, along with the date taken, if known, or even know of the whereabouts of old photographs please contact or send same to the Editor, *The Wire*.

LETTERS

From: Maj George Cowsill

Dear Sir,

I was very pleased to see in the December 1993 *Wire* that the Corps won the Methuen Cup at RASAM–this brought back many memories when the Corps last won it in 1970. At the time **Maj Geoff Exell** was Captain of Corps Shooting and I was the Secretary.

In August 1969 I was posted to 30 Sig Regt, which at the time was commanded by **Lt Col** (now Colonel (Ret'd)) **R. H. Gilbertson** who was an excellent National Rifle Association smallbore and fullbore shot with the distinction of shooting regularly for his country (Wales). Since I was a keen shot he immediately installed me as OIC Regimental Shooting with instructions to put the Regiment on the shooting map and at the same time I was approached about taking on Corps Shooting Secretary–I accepted both duties.

Over the next two months or so, by 'luck', I had several known good shots posted into the Regiment–some who immediately come to mind are the late **SSM E. C. R.** 'Smudge' **Smith**, **Cpl** 'Dodge' **Kingham**, **Cpl Gerry Jaques** (who now has a very successful computer components manufacturing business in Canada), 'Baldy' **Harris** and 'Geordie' **Reynolds**. I realised I had the makings of a very good regimental shooting team which proved to be true since we began to 'clean-up' at all the major shooting tournaments in 1970 with the eventual winning of the Methuen Cup–a first for the Corps. I was pleased to be able to provide most of the Corps team from the 30 Regiment team.

1971 and 1972 were also excellent years of continued success for 30 Regiment's team but, without doubt, the finest year in Corps shooting was 1973 when, I recall, in January, 1973 the Corps was informed it had been selected to represent the British Army in the name of 30 Regiment in the CENTO (NISHAN) 1973 International Small Arms Championships to be shot in Turkey in September 1973. In that year we also had the best results, and honours ever achieved at RASAM Bisley by a Royal Signals Regimental Team:–

(a) Army Champion and Queen's Medal–**Cpl G. Jaques**
(b) Winner SMG 30 Individual–**Cpl Kingham**
(c) Major Units Championship 3rd–30 Sig Regt
(d) Falling Plates Winners–30 Sig Regt 'B' Team

There were a total of 16 Royal Signals shots in the Army 100 in 1973–the highest number ever.

The icing on the cake was shooting for the British Army in Turkey but that is another story. However, I will say the trophies won at the CENTO (NISHAN) as result of the outstanding successes the Corps had in the name of 30 Sig Regt area, I understand, hidden away in that Regiment's Silver Room. Its rightful place is, without doubt, in our Museum here in Blandford Forum–after all 30 Regt was representative of the Corps as a whole which had been combed for good young soldier shots who were posted into 30 Regiment prior to the championship meeting in Turkey.

Yours sincerely,
George H. Cowsill, Major (Ret'd)

36 Holland Way
Blandford Forum
Dorset DT11 7RU

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED SIX WEEKS BEFORE THE PUBLICATION DATE

REPORT FROM ULSTER

HQNI and 15 Sig Regt BFPO 801

CO — **Lt Col C. L. Le Gallais**
2IC — **Maj G. J. Cary**

COMMS OPS

Ops Offr — **Maj C. B. Keenan**

The Province Comms Ops is kept on the go but, as always, morale is high.

PROMOTIONS

Our thrusters continue to advance with **Sgts Al** (RD) **Churchward** and **Dean** (LOA) **Poole** selected for promotion to SSgt and now 'sweating' on their next postings–Cyprus would be nice if RSM&RO are reading this!

WELCOMES

The turnover of personnel is always large and we extend a very warm welcome to **Maj Viv Thatcher** and **Susan** from 14 Sig Regt (EW), **Capt Chris Ford** is back from boxing training (and busy trying to fit in some leave) and **Cpl Bob Bleasdale** and **LCpl Tony Clark** from Germany.

FAREWELL

Sadly we say goodbye to **Cpl Brett Cowley** after 12 years' service, off to civvy street and, finally, to **Cpl Graeme Keith** on posting to 243 Sig Sqn in Bulford. (He can't wait to start area cleaning!)

CONGRATULATIONS

A very well done to **Sgt Pete Hatton** on recently passing the All Arms Commando Course, and **YofS Guy Benson** in having a good run in the Army Half Marathon at Fleet, despite an injury and suffering from a viral infection.

REGIMENTAL BOXING NIGHT

On the evening of Wednesday 16 February over 200 members of the Regiment witnessed the Regimental boxing team demolish a team from 21 Logistic Support Regiment RLC. To add to the pleasure, an equal number of spectators from both Regiments were also on hand to witness 15 Sig Regt's victory.

The Regimental Team had been training since November and were in top form. The spectators had less time to prepare but none-the-less performed equally well ensuring a boisterous, sporting and very enjoyable evening!

Referee SSgt Blair declares Capt Chris (Rocky) Ford the winner

Heavyweight Cpl Fred King showing the determination which saw him defeat one of the best RLC boxers, LCpl Cardwell

The Regiment's Victorious Boxing Team

225 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Stewart Sharman**

A quiet period apart from Admin Tp's Bowling Night where members were treated to a display of lane sliding and break dancing by **Sgt Gary Thomson** and **LCpl Jimmy Fox. Charlie Watch**'s 'away day' to the depths of the Scottish outback–Ayr–which was thoroughly enjoyed by all was a fitting venue to say farewell to **LCpl** 'Beouf' **Smith**. Thanks go to **Cpl Guy Farmer** for organising such an intrepid adventure.

The Squadron competed in the Mercury Cup potted sports competition and pulled off a joint first place with HQ Sqn. Notable performances were in the volleyball and the hockey. In addition the CO's Cup Rugby was played as a tens tournament and as firm favourites we came through, despite a close run with HQNI and a defeat by 233 Sig Sqn.

233 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj A. W. James**

COMMCEN TROOP

Tp Comd — **WO1 Jeffrey**

As ever there seems to be more personnel leaving the Troop than joining it. The Troop would like to welcome: **Sig Carrys Jones** from Belize and **Sig Mark Bruce** from 30 Sig Regt.

Farewell to **Sig Tina Brook**, who is off to Aldershot, **LCpl** Woody **Woodfine**, who is now off to civvy street, and our redundees: **Cpl Paul Gunn, LCpl** Beef **Berger** and **LCpl Debbie Baughan**.

Congratulations to **LCpl Dave McCall** on his recent promotion–your shift is still waiting for you to get the drinks in! Also, to **Sig Kierran Jukes** and **Mrs Jukes** on the birth of their son. Well done to **Sig Pete Mayhead** who recently competed in the Regimental Boxing Team and won his fight.

INDIA TROOP

Tp Comd — **Capt Chris Wood**

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES/PROMOTIONS

We welcome the following to the Troop-**Sgt** 'Loz' **Moore** from 8 Sig Regt, **Sgt Nick Hampson** from HQ BAOR, **LCpl Bob McCracken** from 3 (UK) Div, and also to the following Signallers: **Ed Kelly** from 16 Sig Regt and 'Sammy' **Samual** from 1 (UK) Armd Div. We wish them all well for their tours in the Province.

Sadly we bid fond farewell to **Sgt Gary Corrigan** and his wife **Caroline** off to the Mainland, **LCpl Steve Wilson** to 16 Sig Regt and **Sig Tim Hodgetts** who goes to civvy street. We wish them all well for the future.

We congratulate **Sgt** 'Loz' **Moore** on his recent promotion to Sergeant and also to **Cpl Rob Smith** on his promotion to Corporal. We also congratulate **Rob** on his romantic engagement to **Kate Smith** in Hong Kong.

MCKELVIE TROPHY RUGBY

On a wind swept spring afternoon the Inter-Troop rugby sevens got under way. TM Tp along with R Tp were the firm favourites and after the initial games TM Tp's lead looked convincing. However, Commcen Tp had obviously been practising and, following two close matches against the favourites, actually won the competition to everyone's surprise.

THE SMALL SYSTEMS GROUP (NI) MOVE

Before the move, SSG(NI) was housed in two portacabins within the HQNI Compound, but a move to a more substantial building was deemed essential. Following the move of R Tp a suitable building became available so after a two week blitz by the PSA the new building was declared officially open by the CO on 18 February 1994.

TM TROOP

Tp Comd — **Maj R. G. West MBE**

For those who are unaware of our existence, we are the hub of the Communications within the Province! There has recently been a large turnover of personnel and the Troop is busier than ever. We sustain ourselves with good humour in the knowledge that whatever we undertake is greatly appreciated by all and sundry (that's including Comms Ops!).

No stone is left unturned in the search for an ever increasing workload in the vain attempt to stop us from enjoying our Friday afternoon culture briefings!! The riggers are rigging, Installations are installing, DC/Radio workshops are installing and repairing, FRTs are FRTing, Systems are fridge raiding and Crypto workshops are on leave or playing rugby!

Arrivals and departures are too numerous to mention. Suffice to say we wish all new arrivals and families a good tour in the Province and those departing all the best for the future in their new posts.

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 809

Sqn Comd — **Maj G. J. T. Rafferty**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) D. E. Hall**

DINING OUT OF RSM

On Saturday 26 March the Officers and SNCOs dined out **WO1 (RSM) Stan Wise** on completion of 22 years service. **WO1 Wise** was presented with an original Indian-ink drawing of the Mall in Armagh City centre, produced specially for this occasion by a local artist. The Squadron was pleased to receive a leather bound photograph album on the departure of **Mr Wise**.

All ranks of the Squadron wish **Stan**, his wife **Jan** and their daughter **Lauren** all the very best for the future.

The RSM presents the Sqn Comd with a photograph album

SHQ says farewell to two of its clerks in the form of **LCpl** 'Geordie' **Glendinning** and **LCpl John Wooding** who are both leaving on redundancy. All in SHQ wish them both the best in the future and good luck with job hunting. Don't spend all your money at once!

We welcome into SHQ **LCpl Nicki Wallace** from 16 Sig Regt and wish her an enjoyable tour.

Although this is a busy SHQ, the Chief Clerk, **SSgt** 'Hoppy' **Hopkins** has kept HQNI's Adventure training storeman in a job by carrying out all forms of Adventure Training from caving in West Yorkshire to mountaineering in France. Hoppy has also managed to get the Squadron boat out which provides the opportunity of learning to water ski. This is all due to Hoppy being posted to 259 Sig Sqn in September. Although he is posted as Chief Clerk, it is felt by the SHQ members that he will spend more time doing outdoor activities than working behind his desk. **Pte Danny Flatley** keeps us all amused, 'Chief, there is no airmail today, I think it is something to do with the aeroplanes'. When tasked to find out who had not returned their arrival proformas, he produced a list two hours later which consisted of personnel who has not arrived in the unit yet! Anyone who is due a posting in and receives an irate letter from **Pte Flatley** is advised to bin it and laugh at the incident.

MT TROOP

Tp Comd — **Sgt C. R. Blake RLC**

Yet another busy month has passed in the MT and **LCpl Reid** is settling into his new job as details clerk (keep trying **John**).

Cpl Paul Bowman has gone to the mainland for his last 6 months. We wish him well for the future.

Commiserations to **LCpl Stephen Woodfield** on not completing his version of the NI RAC Rally. A sharp bend and steep ditch certainly put paid to his aspirations.

Cpl Gary Welsh has been fully involved in training in Ballykinler. His only plea is that the Squadron don't shoot at him!

Sig Tony Garner has completed a first for a change. Yes, he is the first in the MT to feel the heat of the RSM's "Hot Spot''. Next time remember to be polite to policewomen.

QM DEPT

QM — **Capt J. Mullender**
RQMS — **WO2 (RQMS) R. Stanton**

Moving relentlessly forwards at lightening pace, it is sometimes quite hard to keep abreast of all the activities going on within the department. What has happened is another departmental shift change with the arrival and departure of some of its members. Farewell goes finally to **WO2 (RQMS) Angus Reid**, who after one and a half tours as first sites manager (½ tour), then RQ (full tour), has managed to escape. Just for good measure he has made good his escape to Hong Kong. Farewell also to **LCpl John Davies** of the Pioneer Services (RLC), who is leaving the army after six years service. We all wish him well for his future; some of us glad that all the PT beasting sessions at early o'clock on Tuesdays and Thursdays are now at an end. We welcome the arrival of **WO2 Bob Stanton** as RQMS and his wife **Ann**, we hope your tour here is enjoyable.

SIG OPS

February saw one or two changes in Sig Ops, namely that Sqn Comd **Maj Peter Grogan** handed over the reins to **Maj Gordon Rafferty**. Also **LCpl John Wooding** (Sig Ops Clerk Extraordinaire) has qualified for Phase Three Redundancy and has left the flock. We wish them both all the best for the future.

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

Sqn Comd — **Maj I. J. Bradshaw**
2IC — **Capt C. J. Whitehead**

VISIT OF THE SOinC

On 27 January the Squadron welcomed the SOinC, **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle**. After an initial briefing the SOinC toured the Squadron lines.

Upon completion of his inspection the SOinC(A) kindly presented LS & GC Medals to **WO2 (FofS) Cutforth, WO2 (YofS) Walesby, SSgt Rose, Sgt Ashley** and **Cpl Ward**.

The LS & GC recipients and families:
Maj Bradshaw, Sgt Ashley, SSgt Rose, WO2 (FofS) Cutforth, WO2 (YofS) Walesby, Cpl Ward, WO1 (RSM) McElwee
Mrs Ashley, Mrs Rose, Gen A. H. Boyle, Mrs Walesby, Mrs Ward
Master Bryan Walesby, Master Michael Walesby

Maj 'Eamon Andrews' Bradshaw sneaks up to surprise the SOinC(A) with the famous Red Book

PORTADOWN TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt R. Gibson**

We are pleased to welcome **2Lt Lee Hawkes** who has arrived from 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt on a four-month attachment.

We congratulate **Sig Jimmy Marshall** and **Mrs Marshall** on the birth of their daughter, on 11 April.

The FofS takes an ear bashing

MERCURY CUP POTTED SPORTS

On the 16 March the Squadron participated in the Mercury Cup Potted Sports Competition hosted by HQNI and 15 Sig Regt, in Lisburn. The competition was divided into four phases, namely football, hockey, volleyball and squash. The volleyball team under the dynamic command of **Sgt** 'Shuggy Cruise' **Hughes** battled valiantly and were finally knocked out in the semi-finals. **Sgt Ashley**'s squash triplets managed fourth position with cunning stroke play from **Capt Tower** and **LCpl** 'Khan-Not' **Scott**. The hockey team dazzled all with footwork reminiscent of Wayne Sleep dancing the Lambada. Due to unforeseen circumstances (the opposition were better) a steady third position was achieved. The football heroes amazed all with an outstanding victory. Special mention must go to **Pte Ridsdel** for his cat-like saves which saved the day. The consolidated results placed us third, a position on which to build on in future events. Stand by for future reports.

EXERCISE SWANSONG 94

Ex Swansong 94 was initiated in January as the annual swan competition between the 2IC and AO. Stakes are high and the current form is as follows: the AO has completed a 2-week Winter Warrior course, a 10-day ski holiday, a Rugby Officers course, a Health and Safety at Work course and managed to squeeze in his son's wedding. The 2IC has spent 3 weeks in Vietnam and Malaysia, one week in Italy, attended a USO course, played for numerous rugby teams, attended a Corps cricket weekend and appeared on national television during the England/Wales International. The SP is available from **LCpl** 'Arfur Daley' **Ratcliffe** in Syscon 39 Inf Bde.

CONGRATULATIONS

All ranks would like to congratulate the following on their recent selection for promotion; **Sgt Hood, Sig** (now LCpl) **Pearce, Sig** (now LCpl) **Ratcliffe, Sig** (now LCpl) **Staddon an Sig** (now LCpl) **Street**.

BONJOURS AND FAREWELLS

The Squadron would like to welcome **2Lt Jodie White**, fresh from The Royal School of Signals, **Sgts Strugnell, Laverie**, and **McIntosh, Cpls Holland** and **Turnbull, LCpl Puzledski, Sigs Beddow, Gerry** and **Rainford**. We also say farewell to **Cpls McNeilly, Perry, LCpl Pearce** and **Sig Waring** – good luck to each and every one of you.

- News from Headquarters -

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

We're moving! In case anyone in the Corps has not realised we are due in Blandford in September 1995 but even though most of our efforts are directed towards the move the College does not intend to slide quietly out of Harrogate, there will be lots of farewell events starting this summer with a final reunion.

Were you trained at Harrogate?

The Commandant, **Col Cliff Walters**, has had so many requests for a history of training on the present site that he has decided to write one himself, his researchers have produced almost a complete set of names and even photographs of Apprentices who have trained in Harrogate since 1947 . . . and that is quite a few! So if you trained at the College why not return for the final College reunion during the weekend of 2/3 July. Sleep in your old barrack room, visit the first pub you ever drank in and meet your old classmates, there are lots of events planned especially the 'Memory Lane Show', can you spot yourself on the group photograph? Is that your name carved on the 'Roll of Honour'? Don't forget to bring all your old snapshots along to see if they can be copied and included in the 'History of the College'.

If you are interested contact **Maj Malcolm Emslie** on York Mil Ext. 4295.

Commandant with his research material

In March **Mr Keith Thomas** was awarded the ISM. **Keith** already the holder of the BEM, was an instructor at the College from 1968 until his recent retirement. He has been an active organiser of many College out-of-hour activities, especially the College Youth Club, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, and helping a variety of local charities.

The Commandant, Mr Keith Thomas, Mrs Thomas

Unable to compete this year in the District 'Race the Sun' competition the College decided to organise its own to replace the more traditional events of the termly Champion Squadron competition. With the day's hill run (for which we are ideally placed!), half marathon, forced march, cycling, orienteering, swimming and canoeing competitions complete the competition was eventually won by Scott Sqn. However, overall marks for the other events which made up this year's Champion Squadron competition has the trophy returning to Rawson Sqn.

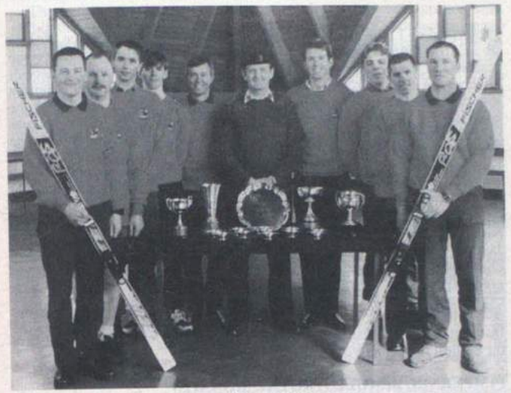
The College Football team returned to the college as winners of the Triangular Games Football Competition. With a win of 11-0 by PMC College Arborfield over AAColl Chepstow the former took on Harrogate as not only favourites but the home team, but Harrogate dominated the whole 90 min match and won 7-2 with impressive performances by ATs **Opie** (in goal) **Moore, Borril** and **Rodway**.

As usual both staff and students of the College have been active in even colder climates than Harrogate. **Capt Judy Palmer**, 2IC of Scott Sqn, travelled (along with **Capts Lisa Giles** and **Liz Hyde** and **Sig Helen McGarry**) to Serre Chevalier, in France, as part of the Royal Signals entry to the British Ladies Army Ski Team (Blast) Downhill Skiing Championships. Despite having three stitches in her mouth due to a minor accident **Capt Judy Palmer** was runner up in both the Slalom and the Overall Combined Championship.

Capts Judy Palmer, L. Giles, L. Hyde, Sig H. McGarry

Nearer home in the Army UK Alpine Ski Championships, held at Aviemore, **AT LCpl John Doughty** became the Junior Individual Champion (Giant Slalom) and **ATLCpl Barry Lennon** the Junior Novice Champion. They were both members of the College Apprentice Team which won the Junior Championship. The College PS won the Minor Units Team Championship and **SSgt Steve Major** won the R Signals Individual Championship.

Probably, because it was such a good pun, the Arrowgate Archers was founded at the College in the first year of its existence, 1947. With the high tech equipment used in the sport everything is very modern, except that they now occupy the only original building left on the Campus, a 1947 'spider block'. It started as the Sergeants' Mess and went through many changes to be the Jimmy Club, YMCA and WRVS, it is now an indoor 20m Archery range. 1993 was a milestone for the group, can you spot it from the photograph? Yes it now has a girl on the team.



The College Ski team

The Arrowgate Archers

LCpl John Doughty

FISHING TACKLE COLLECTOR

Interested in purchasing all your old (pre 1960's) fishing tackle items:

Mainly reels, books, catalogues, flies, lures, gadgets, knives, curios, mounted fish, fish(ing) paintings, etc.

Especially keen to find Mahseer tackle of either British or Indian origin and would like to hear from anyone currently in India who may be able to locate same.

One item or many – Distance no object – Cash paid.

Fly fishing – Spinning – Deep Sea

Call J. Miller on 0374-180724 or write:
J. Miller, Parallel House, 32 London Road Guildford, Surrey GU1 2AB, UK.

The Royal School of Signals
Blandford Camp

11 SIGNAL REGIMENT

On Thursday 10 March 1994, **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle**, Signal Officer in Chief presented the British Empire Medal (Military Division) to **Cpl Mark Stanton**. In 1990, whilst serving with 7 Sig Regt, **Cpl Stanton** joined forces with the YMCA in Hereford to run aid missions to Rumania. They developed the aid infrastructure which led to the establishment of a team of highly successful aid workers. The plight of the Albanian orphans extended his work to the more remote orphanages where he identified routes and targets for subsequent missions. Returning twice, he delivered an ambulance, medical supplies and other vital aid. He never allowed his efforts to interfere with his duties as Families NCO where he made an outstanding contribution to the welfare of families within 7 Sig Regt. It is worthy of note that **Cpl Stanton**'s efforts were instrumental in 7 Sig Regt being awarded the Wilkinson Sword of Peace.

Maj Gen A. H. Boyle and Cpl Stanton during the presentation of the British Empire Medal

EXERCISE RIPON ROCK
by Cpl Neil Gigg

Ex Ripon Rock was a Joint Service Adventurous Training Expedition which took place in Calpe, Spain over the period 19 February-5 March 1994. The exercise is run by the UKLF School of Adventurous Training and has taken place for the last seven years. The exercise is always over subscribed so I considered myself extremely lucky to get a place. Fifteen of us, 10 students from different Corps and five military and civilian instructors. The Calpe and Costa Blanca area provide a huge variety of challenging climbs, from the short bolted routes to 1500ft routes requiring the skills of route-finding and protection arrangement. The aim of the exercise was to introduce and develop rock-climbing skills and techniques on extended multi-pitch climbs. All students had the opportunity to be assessed for Joint Services Rock Climbing awards, depending on their log book experience. The majority of the climbs took place on bolted routes, so pushing the grades was not a problem–however, gravity and height were! There were also many 8-9 pitch routes where normal protection equipment was used, which was comforting at 800ft! One area of particular interest was the Valle de Sella, an area which was featured in the January edition of 'Climber and Hillwalker' magazine. This area is a climber haven; it is used exclusively for climbing and it has every possible grade from four upwards. It was a very enjoyable and worthwhile experience. Not only did I have the opportunity to climb in one of Europe's best climbing areas, but I also qualified as a Joint Service Climbing Instructor. The exercise was a great success and I for one intend to return at the earliest opportunity.

Cpl Neil Gigg and climbing partner having a 'knee-trembling' experience in the Valle de Selle, Calpe

PIMPERNEL BEAGLES (ROYAL SIGNALS)

The Commander **Brig J. H. Griffin** has made a commitment to re-establish links with its own beagle pack. Many years ago the pack, which was founded by the Corps, was kennelled on camp and hunted by a very active membership of serving personnel. Latterly, this military connection has faded, leaving the hunt still bearing the title and insignia of the Corps, yet having few serving followers. The aim has been achieved by introducing beagling as a programmed extra mural activity for long courses. On 23 February the pack was hosted at Foxdown House by the Commander. The yearly hunt ball was held in the Headquarters Mess on 8 April and with more weekday meets next season, the momentum thus far can be continued to keep alive this connection with the hunt.

The Joint Masters, the Commander, hunt followers and members of Tp Comds Courses 28 and 29 lined up before the inaugural weekday meet

THE HIGHLIGHT OF A TA OFFICER'S ATTACHMENT TO THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF SIGNALS
by Capt Susan Jeanes R Signals (V)

On a gloomy Monday in early December the telephone rang in the house of an under-employed TA Officer. A voice asked if I was prepared to undertake an attachment of 90 MTD (man training days–for the uninitiated) at the School. A little delving revealed that in this attachment I would be SO3 G3 (O&D/VISITS). 'A splendid title' I thought, 'and coordinating visits to the school might be quite fun'. With gay abandon I accepted and was only slightly taken aback to be told to report at 0830 hrs the following morning. It is fair to say that on the very first day, it was brought to my attention that the period leading up to the Corps dinner night on 10 March might be a trifle fraught. Invitations to the dinner were to go out to a number of VIPs but even more relevant to my exciting new appointment was the fact that there were to be 'gold' visits on the same day. The normal visit proforma is blue but for two star officers and above, or civilians of similar status one 'goes for gold'. Not one moment of foreboding did I experience at this stage. Perhaps they thought 'capable, calm' in reality of course it was 'blissfully ignorant'.

A warning order went out on 11 January for the visits of **Gen Audren**,Inspecteur des Transmissions, French Signal Corps the Minister of State for the Armed Forces–**Jeremy Hanley Esq MP** and the Master of the Worshipful Company of Engineers–**Gerald Clerehugh Esq**. A sneaking suspicion began to arise. Ensuring that these visits ran smoothly, in a logical sequence and that none overlapped or crossed tracks would require the skills of a choreographer, and I had not yet covered this in my TA training. The first outline programmes were circulated in early February and after some 'tweaking' were given the stamp of approval.

The various departments now set to work on their own programmes within the established time frame and a certain sense of satisfaction began to permeate my waking hours. There were a few 'vague' areas but I had no doubt that it would all come together in good time. Each visit had its highlight. The French General would inspect a Quarter Guard at the Museum Entrance on his arrival with the Tricolour flying and the band playing. So why were contractors laying a concrete ramp and establishing bases for new railings outside the main door less than a week before the visit; and much more to the point, when were they going to complete the job? The answer to the last question was apparent–not before the visit. The Worshipful Company of Engineers has funded a fine Honours Board for the School which is to hang in Princess Mary Hall. This new board was to be unveiled by the Master of that Worshipful Company and a clearly defined slot in the programme had been devoted to this auspicious occasion.

The journey into the office and return home allowed me approximately two hours each day of relatively uninterrupted thinking time. As I endeavoured to overtake a tractor it occurred to me, for some strange reason, that I had not actually set eyes on this board. Priorities: I must locate the board itself and touch base with the person who had been nominated to stage manage this event. No board–it was still with the carpenter. No nominee–step forward willing Volunteer. After lengthy discussions with COS and SO2 G1/G4 as to the best possible way to unveil the new board without incurring any costs whatsoever I began to wonder how long it might take me to 'run up' a pair of curtains at home, but lack of fabric would remain a problem. Fortunately it was decided that the gift of the board and the occasion of its being revealed to the world justified the appointment of a professional to undertake the production of the props. Another fact that I discovered at this time, which gave me serious cause for concern, was that the carpenter's deadline was the actual time and date for the unveiling. With my civilian hat on, this could mean delivery the following week. To my intense relief the carpenter actually delivered the goods on the morning before the event. Support Workshops undertook to establish the board in its rightful place on the wall in PMH. The soft furnishings lady, complete with sewing machine arrived and put the finishing touches to her blue velvet creations. Her husband put up curtain rails, draw cords and all the necessary paraphernalia required to ensure that the event, not to mention the curtains ran smoothly. By lunch time all was in place.

When the Minister of State for the Armed Forces originally accepted the SOinC's invitation there was a proviso that should he be required to vote in the House then he would have to leave, possibly at very short notice, and would forego the dinner. This did not prove to be a problem. Included in the programme for the Minister was a visit to the Town Hall to discuss the impact of Blandford Single Centre of the Royal Corps of Signals on Blandford, the small Dorset Town and the arrangements had been set in place for him to meet a number of local dignitaries. He was also going to present a BEM and take 'tea' in the Corporals' Club. The Adjutant and RSM of 11 Sig Regt had everything in hand, even the visitors' book, suitably inscribed, was ready and waiting. By 1900 hrs on the Wednesday evening everything was in order.

Maj Tony Wood's word processing skills, and patience, had been tested in the production of the final mammoth programme and the third edition had now been in circulation for two days. What at first had seemed to be an ominous silence I began to realise was mute approval. **Gen Audren** had arrived on schedule. I had met the party at the Guardroom, inflicted my few words of welcome 'en francais', and escorted them to the Commander's house. All was well–so far.

Back in the office there was an unfamiliar atmosphere, it was quiet, almost conducive to concentration! One of the administrative tasks which falls to the SO3 G3 (O&D/VISITS) is to ensure that the myriad of hosts for the SOinC's Dinner Night have somewhere to lay their weary heads after the event, should they so desire, and perhaps more importantly that they can claim subsistence if there is no room in the Mess. To that end I was signing Non Availability Certificates when I heard a telephone ringing at the far end of the corridor–'nothing to do with me–no one knows I'm here'. The next phone to ring was mine and I found myself on the receiving end of the latest update. The Minister would be coming to dinner, in fact he would only just be able to arrive in time for dinner. 'Gosh, a few more changes to the programme–someone somewhere must have thought I was getting bored.' Back to the drawing board; list telephone calls, in order of appearance on the programme, to be made the following morning. As I was leaving HQ I bumped into the COS who asked if the Minister had yet confirmed his attendance at dinner. It was interesting to repeat the conversation I had a few minutes earlier on the telephone but taking the other speaker's part. 'Yes, I am serious. No, really this is not my idea of a joke.' Home for a large gin and tonic.

On Wednesday 10 March the sun rose, this in itself was almost a surprise as the date had been looming on the horizon for so long without seeming to come any closer. The weather was superb, the quarter guard and the band arrived on cue. I was one of many watching the spectacle from the windows in HQ, all standing well back in order not to be seen. The inspection and march past looked extremely smart and efficient. We were off to a good start! By this time most of the Blandford world was aware of the Minister's change of plan. The COS had spoken to the Town Clerk who confessed to being somewhat relieved. He would not have the unenviable task of cancelling the Mother and Toddler dancing class at short notice. **Maj Gen Boyle** would be presenting the BEM to **Cpl Stanton** and the media representatives would be advised of the difference. All that was left now was to produce an amended programme. **Maj Wood** had been champing at the bit since realising that further changes to his masterpiece would be required.

Amidst the departure of **Gen Audren** to Wilton, the arrival of the Master of the Worshipful Company of Engineers and the general move to HQ Mess for lunch, the Commander approved the proposed amendments to the programme and the fourth edition went to print (this time on a pretty shade of pink). It had been brought to my attention, by some kind soul, that this day could well 'make' or 'mar' my name permanently across a wide spectrum of the Corps. Having spent some considerable time on the Planning and Preparation for this visit I did wonder if delivering the latest edition of the programme to the main players half way through the actual day in question might seem as if I had failed to prevent the other three Ps. I will console myself with the fact that I have been asked to stay on for another 90 days.

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.
- To assist, where possible, resettlement in civilian life.

The Association endeavours to achieve these aims by:

- Sponsoring branches which often meet for social occasions. There is generally an annual Branch dinner.
- Organising annual reunions. These provide the opportunity to meet old friends, for the retired to see something of the serving Corps and, to remember the fallen.
- Running a welfare section at Association HQ, which is at the service of all members.
- Publishing the Corps magazine, *The Wire*. Taking out a subscription will help you to keep in touch with Corps and Association affairs.

MEMBERSHIP

Nearly all members of the Corps have, whilst serving, contributed under the Day's Pay Scheme. By virtue of these contributions, they are Life Members of our Association. If you have not contributed at all you can become a Life Member for £10.00.

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) 414 8422). 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.

HQ ARRC
BFPO 39

COMMS BRANCH HQ ARRC

These are possibly the first and definitely the last set of *Wire* notes from Comms Branch HQ ARRC in our present location at Bielefeld. On 29 April 1994 the Headquarters lowered its flag in Ripon Barracks for the last time and prepared to move West. The move ended a long association with the barracks which, for the Corps, started in the 1950s. Many an officer and soldier will no doubt think back to the days when he trod the hallowed ground of Blocks 8, 9 and 10.

The move, though ending one era, saw the start of a new one, the ACE Rapid Reaction Corps, as a fully integrated multinational headquarters, raised its flag in Rheindahlen on 3 May 1994, taking over the top floor of the 'Big House'. This brought the headquarters under the same roof as UKSC(G) and MND(C) with something like 13 different nationalities working together. Within Comms Branch we have German, Italian, American, Dutch and British personnel who are all trying to cope with the common language–English, it ain't easy.

FAREWELLS

There have been several individual moves and we would like to say our fond and sad farewells to the following people: **Brig Adrian Schuler** and his wife **Caroline**. The Brigadier finally scooped the pot as far as the Corps in Germany was concerned when he became Chief Communications HQ ARRC, Commander Communications HQ BAOR and Commander 1 Sig Bde. Sufficient titles to make any ancient Emir green with envy! We wish him and his family the very best in Southern Command and look forward to various reunions.

Lt Col Peter Innocent and his wife **Avril** are leaving for London and MOD Main Building. **Col Peter** was to have had a posting to SHAPE but someone cancelled it and promoted him to full Colonel instead. Congratulations. A perfect, bad news/good news story! Good luck to you both.

Maj Frank Riley is also on the move. He asked for a posting in the south and that is were he is going–The Falklands! Should be more explicit next time **Frank**. Wonder what the good news will be!

WO1 John ODonnell, our Staff Assistant, leaves us for 2 (NC) Sig Bde and Cotswold Garrison, where he is taking up a hybrid appointment of GSM/SA. A man more than capable of being in two places at once, we are sure he will do well.

LCpl Carl Seddon (the Brigadier's driver) is joining 7 Sig Regt in Krefeld to learn how to be a normal JNCO. We will miss his cheerful face and dreadful jokes.

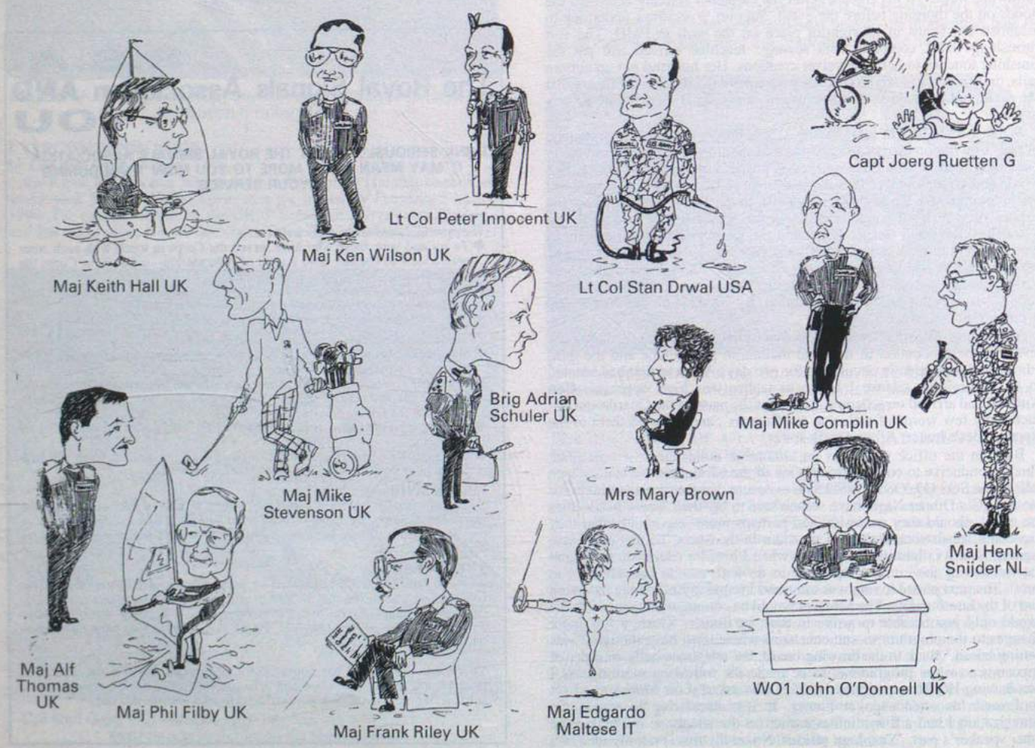
WELCOMES

We welcome **Brig Tony Raper** and his family as the new Chief Comms et al. Also to **Lt Col Andy Grey** who joined us when we moved to Rheindahlen. We hope you enjoy your time with the ARRC.

AND FINALLY

It would be remiss of me (**Maj Mike Stevenson**) not to mention **Cpl** 'Radar' **Noott** who has just gained his LS & GC. Well done.

The Hierarchy of Comms Branch HQ ARRC



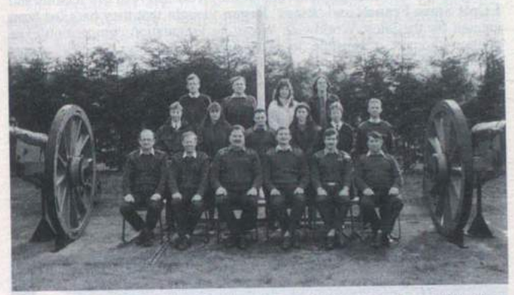
HQ UKLF
Wilton

There have been several notable departures and arrivals since our last entry in *The Wire*.

Firstly, fond farewells to **Maj** (now Lt Col) **Paul Oldfield** who has departed for 31 Sig Regt (V) and **Maj Adam Ewell** who has become an extremely mature student at RMCS. We will all miss the daily sight of **Paul** battering his keyboard into submission and **Adam**'s flexible approach to branch working hours. In their places welcome to **Majs Peter Grogan** and **Stephen Wallis** – Enjoy!

We also said goodbye to our AA Ops, **Mr Clive Adams** who has been deservedly promoted and moved 'upstairs' to G3 (O&D). In his place welcome to **Mrs Janice Pool**.

The branch has been kept busy with the recent roulement of the Op Grapple Sig Sqn (now 207 Sig Sqn) and the requirement to augment BRITFOR with additional Corps manpower. Readers will be pleased to know that our soldiers are providing an excellent service to the Staff and units deployed and are highly regarded by all those they serve.



The Staff of Communications Branch Headquarters United Kingdom Land Forces March 1994
Third row: Mr C. J. Adams, Maj P. F. Penfold, Mrs E. Stokes, Mr A. Davies; second row: Cpl A Fensom, Mrs C. Pickering, Cpl W. R. Denny, Miss N. Dennis, SSgt Clements, Capt G. J. Complin; front row: Maj R. N. Howes, Maj R. G. L. Hill, Lt Col R. M. J. Hussey, Brig N. F. Wood, Maj P. J. Oldfield, Maj M. Banks. Absent on Duty: Maj A. A. Ewell, Maj J. T. Nichols, Maj N. C. Beacom, Mrs S. Hibdidge

Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

CI — **Capt Borneman RDG**
RSMI — **WO1 (YofS) Roden**

GENERAL

The STW must currently be one of the most bemusing of postings available to Corps personnel. The SOP rank structure does not apply, we have:

Delete: Officer Commanding
Insert: Chief Instructor
Delete: Regimental Yeoman of Signals
Insert: Regimental Sergeant Major Instructor
Delete: Staff/Colour Sergeant
Insert: Sergeant Major (Cav)
Delete: Sergeant
Insert: Corporal of Horse (Life Guards)

The Signals Training Wing deploy on all exercises within the Academy, leading to a very busy three month term for our 24 Juniors. It does lead to a very rewarding overseas exercise in either Cyprus or Southern France. Exercise employment varies from running a Company Command Post to running a Battalion Net during the Officer Cadets final attack for the CO.

On exercise in France

TRAINING

With emphasis on insecure manpack radio, R Signals operators get to grips with SOCs, BATCO and all manpack VHF radios.

SANDHURST FITNESS TEST

We are once again undergoing training for the longest CFT to date:
Day One: Weight-66lbs with weapon
Distance-8 miles
Time-2 hours
Day Two: Weight 33lbs with weapon
Distance-8 miles
Time-1hr 50 mins
Shuttles-8 x 50 min

Under the watchful eye of the RSMI **WO1 (YofS) Steve Roden** a 100% pass rate is being considered.

SPORT

The gladiators of the Wing have once again been busy with victories in both Rugby and Football. More fixtures are planned to find an Academy department able to defeat the Wing.

Rugby results to date: v 44 Sqn RLC 22-0
v SAAW 23-0
Football results to date: v SAAW 6-3

RECRUITMENT

If you enjoy extending your trade, are physically fit, enjoy exercises in foreign (hot) countries then Signal Training Wing Sandhurst is the place for you–put it on your preference posting form now!

CONGRATULATIONS

WO1 (RSMI) Roden on selection for Commissioning and **LCpl Lester** on selection for Corporal. **Sgt Trevor Bailey** for completing a BFT after a long term injury. **Sgt Pete Rouse** on completion of the RSSC and **LCpl** 'Fluffy' **Flounders** on passing his A1 and volunteering for 216 Para. Welcome to the 'PADS' Club to **Sig John Love** and **Jackie, LCpl John Nock** (44 Sqn RLC) and **Sig Clare Nock** who both recently tied the knot.

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– News from Regiments –

1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
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MOVE OF 211 SIGNAL SQUADRON ASVs FROM MINDEN TO HERFORD
by Capt Neil Makepeace

211 Sig Sqn has been preparing for its move from Minden to join the rest of the Regiment in Herford since the end of last year. On Monday 7 February, the Squadron's armoured vehicles left Minden. A total of 27 ASVs were moved by seven low-loaders to Harewood Barracks in Herford. Harewood is currently home to the 9/12 Lancers who will move to UK by the early summer. 211 and 212 Sig Sqns are currently levering themselves into the few areas so far vacated by the Lancers. Having expected that 'a few bays were required for parking some vehicles up', the Lancers were clearly surprised by the scale of the takeover–particularly when 212 Sig Sqn began its own move in the following weeks. A few interested spectators were puzzled as to why we are fitting seven ASVs in the space they used for four CVR(T) (smaller vehicles altogether).

With the move of the ASVs, 211 Sig Sqn is nearing the completion of its move to Herford, bringing to a close the first chapter in its history–37 years in Minden. The German press turned out in force to witness the historic event of the last armoured vehicles leaving Minden, which made the front page of several local newspapers. It is probably no exaggeration to say that the populace was sad to see us go. The completion of the move was marked by a sponsored march from Minden to Herford–a distance of 35km. The money raised was divided between the Save the Children Fund, the Bernhard Heising Kinderheim in Herford and the Corps New Museum Project.

Our new home: Harewood Barracks, Herford

LCpl Jones directs as LCpls Francis and Burke put one of the AFVs on to a Lowloader

EXERCISE HALBERD HUNTER

Ex Halberd Hunter was a platoon strength hunter-force exercise in the Kempten area of Southern Germany. The exercise was held at the International Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol School (ILRRPS), under the direction of the Winter Patrol Course Commander. Twenty members of 211 Sig Sqn took part along with 10 members of 232 Sqn of 7 Sig Regt.

The first week took the form of preparatory training, which covered subjects such as cordon-and-search techniques and navigation. The navigation periods were particularly pertinent after the advance and main parties had difficulty meeting at the correct location! Some of the party even managed to convince **Sig** 'Scouse' **Wallace** that he would need his passport for his numerous Austrian border crossings!

Sig 'Big Vern' **Murphy** excelled at the arrest and restraint lessons and **LCpls Steve Francis** and 'Riggs' **Regan** thought that they had just been entered for the latest Worldwide Wrestling Foundation competition! The platoon thought it sensible to take cover whilst **Sig** 'Shakey' **Acott** attempted to remove a trip flare safety pin. **LCpl Jason Stone** is now fully qualified for the Tango adverts after displaying some unlikely facial expressions upon encountering a trip flare late at night!

The Hunter Force deployment itself proved demanding (several 1200m mountains were climbed each day), but also rewarding. Unknown to us at the time, there were only two five-man patrols on the ground. From these, six men were captured over a three day period. Five of them nearly got away when they managed to persuade a member of the platoon (who shall remain nameless) that despite their US, UK, Danish and German combats they were in fact part of a German unit exercising in the area.

The Platoon taking a well earned rest after the wood clearance

When the platoon arrived back in Herford, and our footwear had finally dried out, we all agreed that we had thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and learnt a great deal. Thoroughly recommended to anyone who gets the chance to do it.

REGIMENTAL CROSS-COUNTRY 1993/94

Building on the success in the BAOR Cross Country Championships, where the Regimental team came third, a squad of optimists and last minute recruits crossed a stormy channel to take on all in the Army Championships in early February. Longmoor Camp was this year's venue for the leg stretching, Helly-Hansen wearing brigade, where 500 runners eagerly anticipated the sandy tracks and teasing hills. **WO1 Terry Morrissey** the team captain, was quietly confident that at least eight of the 10 racers would complete the course; that was until the course was actually 'walked' on the morning of the race. Aches and pains appeared from nowhere, blisters were reported and **Lt Alan Owen** became so unnerved that he had great difficulty sleeping in the minibus thereafter.

The team, adorned in the new running strip attached to a myriad of numbered race cards, lined up for a classic start (or was it a stampede?). Images of last year's Grand National that never was sprang to mind as the 350 runners in the senior race surged forward on 'the off'. After only 300 metres the scene was more akin to Beecher's Brook and there was still six miles to go. Fortunately, enough of the team finished the course to record a team position of 1st or was it 11th (typo perhaps?). Notable performances came from **Cpl** 'Ginge' **Davey**, 41st; **SSgt** 'Scotty' **Scott**, fresh from the Army Ski Championships that had ended only five days before, 114th and **Maj Phil Brown**, who was still recovering from the prize-giving ceremony of the fore-mentioned competition, 159th. **Lt Sally Rees** finished 25th in the women's race despite having just returned from an enforced four months holiday in Australia.

To complete the picture, the squad were runners up in the 1 (UK) Armd Div East Zone League and the West versus East Zone Championships. Our thanks go to **WO1 Morrissey** AGC for his enthusiasm and abundance of packed lunches.

MY FIRST EXERCISE–A NEW TROOP COMMANDER'S VIEW
by 2Lt Colin Horton, 201 Sig Sqn

I walked into my office on the first day; images of my lean, mean commando style troop floating around my head, and how I was going to lead them on to greater heights. My Troop Sergeant walks in to introduce himself 'Good morning Sir, welcome to the Regiment'.

'What a start', I thought, in light of his next statement. 'Oh, by the way Sir, we're on a 12 day exercise next week.'

The time came for deployment. The vehicles were lined up and the Troop was aboard. SNCOs were running around shouting. If I had fully comprehended the situation I would probably have done the same.

The packets set off, it was actually a pleasant drive through the countryside. My spirits soared, surely nothing could go wrong. In the mirror I saw two horizontal headlights change to the vertical. 'That's strange?', I thought. On inspection I found one ESV on its side! surely, nothing else could go wrong . . . ?

Moving into our first location I was still not fully au fait with the technical abilities of my vehicles but I was quite sure my Central (I recognised it without asking) did not have the facilities to hang at a 45 degree angle over a 6m verge. I was not having a good exercise so far. Now that surely should be all the excitement over and done with!

After recovering in Node Command, trying to remember if I was insured or not, a shout was heard. 'Someone's having a heart attack!'. 'Stand back!' I ordered. My Sandhurst training was about to come into its own. 'Have a cup of tea', I suggested, 'and if you're really bad spend 10 minutes in the Admin Area. If it happens again just give me a shout'.

An MM and D bill of £150,000, a heart attack victim and half the Troop otherwise detained–I wonder what happens next week!

CHARLIE TROOP 'AWAY WEEKEND'

Over the weekend of 11-14 February, Charlie Tp took a much needed break from RSIT and went skiing.

Upon the party's arrival at Winterberg, it was split into groups. Non-skiers **LCpl Steve** 'Racing-Snowplough' **Groom, Louanne Thompson** and **LCpl Paul Hughes** took to the nursery slopes with **LCpl Mick Sansbury. Sig Sammi Samuel** took the other group, consisting of **2Lt Rick Craig, LCpl Andy Graham** and **Cpl Dean McKenzie** (teaching his wife, **Jill** and son, **Connor**). The first day saw the beginners become acquainted with the nursery slopes and their skis, while the rest were playing in the powder on the back slopes. On Saturday, **LCpl Sansbury** and **Sig Samuel** swapped groups and **Cpl Cal** 'No turns' **Bruce** went off 'two turn' skiing–one turn at the top and one at the bottom! The boss produced some spectacular wipe-outs, and the beginners even more. By Sunday the beginners were off the nursery slopes and the ensuing entertainment was provided by **LCpl Groom** and his racing snowplough and by **LCpl Hughes'** attempts to ski uphill.

Most of the party spent Monday on the slopes as well, although **2Lt Craig** and **Cpl McKenzie** had to return to Herford. A truly excellent time was had by all and the instructors would like to offer a special thanks to all for some excellent entertainment!

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2 Sig Regt
York

CO — **Lt Col A. D. Forster**
2IC — **Maj D. G. Proctor**
Adjt — **Capt C. J. Mcintosh**

A warm welcome to the new Adjt, **Capt Chris McIntosh** and a sad farewell to his predecessor **Capt Jake Thackray,** 'Best of luck at Staff College'. The Regt has had a busy period of exercises, visits and sports competitions and is now summoning all its resources and energy for RSIT, Race the Sun and the Morrison Cup.

VISIT OF BRIG J. M. ROULESTONE ADC–FEMALE FOCUS

Brig Roulstone visited the Regiment on 18 March and after speaking to the female soldiers in their working environments, which varied from the UAO to the vehicle park, she chaired an extremely lively Open Forum during which the level of success of the integration of females into the army was discussed.

BIRTWISTLE PENNANT FOR SPORT

The Regiment was presented with the Birtwistle Pennant for sport on 25 February by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL,** prior to the quarter finals of the Football Army Cup versus 15 Sig Regt. The pennant was awarded for the regiment's outstanding sporting achievements and quite aptly we beat 15 Sig Regt 11-0 thus securing a place in the Army final.

Presentation of the Birtwistle Pennant for Sport by The Master of Signals

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Les Wood**
2IC/MTO — **Capt John Marriott**

VISIT OF COMD 11 (ARRC) SIGNAL BRIGADE

The Sqn Comd climbed out of his running kit for the visit to the Regiment in February of **Brig W. H. Backhouse,** Comd 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde. The visit included a tour of Headquarters Squadron; SHQ, Mike Tp, the UAO, MT and the QM's domain. Rumour was rife that the QM's shelves were brimming with nothing more than rugby balls and jockstraps, however thankfully there were some 'legitimate' stores in evidence for the visit. During his visit the Commander presented a bar to the LS & GC medal to our long serving SQMS **SSgt Ken George** who leaves us shortly. He also presented Combined Services colours for marathon running to five times inter-services marathon champion **SSgt Jeff Martin**. Our congratulations to both.

The Regiment has a very busy exercise year ahead, and the squadron will have a particularly interesting time supporting 11(ARRC) Sig Bde and assisting with the implementation of its rapidly developing Brigade Logistics Support concept. Whilst on the subject, may we offer sympathy to **Maj Tim Craven** down in Liverpool. **Maj Craven** has generated so much paperwork on the subject this year that by March he had rocketed to the top of the Greenpeace 'Most Wanted Man' list!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are due to our QM, **Lt Col** Geordie **Gainford** on his recent promotion, **WO1 Terry Inman** on being selected for commissioning, and **Dean Whitworth** of the MT on his recent promotion to Corporal. Congratulations also to our Sqn Comd who finished second in

SSgt Jeff Martin receives his Combined Services Colours for Marathon Running from Brig Backhouse

the 1500 metres at the British veterans indoor athletics championships in Glasgow recently. His time of 4 mins 18 secs equates to a 6 min 52 sec BFT – and that's obscene at his age!

MIKE TROOP

Tp Comd — **WO1 (FofS) Terry Inman**

Mike Troop says goodbye and good luck to **Cpl Dave Kemley** who leaves for his T1 in Catterick/Blandford and **Cpl Steve Miles** who is off to NI. Hello to **Cpls** 'Baz' **Flintoff** and 'Fish' **Turbitt**, and **LCpl Steve Dade**. Finally best wishes to **SSgt Bill Garn** as he prepares for the London marathon, running as a 'Rupert's runner' for the *Daily Express* charity.

214 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj P. Stephenson**
2IC — **Capt T. Allen**

EX HADRIANS HORIZON

The aim of the exercise was to enjoy ourselves whilst putting SHF skills into practice. The entire squadron deployed to the Newcastle and Carlisle areas. Out task–to establish an SHF path using six ground stations between the two points, whilst the remainder of the Squadron took part in a 38km mountain bike leg, 12 mile canoe leg, a half marathon and finally a 12 mile bergen tab.

Before deploying on the exercise all the recces were done, Roman Tp relied upon **Cpl Peter Blagg** who put his reputation on the line with his motto 'Well they didn't say we couldn't do it'. A simple task on the outside but with limited frequencies to play with the gauntlet was thrown down as to who could establish the longest shot. Now most Relay operators can talk a good SHF link but the operators were made up of DE's, Linemen, Storemen and even the Switch crews, so to have it established by 15hrs was good going on everybody's behalf.

The physical competition began at sun up with the cycle race, **Sgt Dave Watson** was taking it all very seriously and even put his bike in for a service, the leg had been set by **Cpl Tim Mounfield** who, by chance, won it on a bike that you could use as a down payment for a flat in Park Lane. Roman Tp **LCpl Curley** was impressive, but it was **Lt Pete Drew** who amazed everybody when he actually fitted in a canoe! **Cpl Tim Mounfield** did exceptionally well as he completed this leg as well. It was time for the 13 mile fell run, or did they call it a half marathon. **SSgt Terry** led the way from the start and came in first in just under 1hr 20mins with **Sig Royston** coming in 1hr 40mins. **Sig John Elliot** Viking Tp, age 43, did very well

taking as many minutes as he normally has cigarettes in a day. The last event, the bergen run, was over flat ground . . . I think not! Roman Tp stole the show led by **Sig Lester** who was hotly pursued by **Sig Vakalala**–maybe that's why he ran so fast.

Prizegiving took place in Albamarle Barracks which brought back a few memories for the older members. The Communications competition was won by Roman Tp (who by chance only had high gain dishes) whilst the physical competition was won, as usual, by Viking Tp.

The games were not over, it was back to Feltham barracks for a games night with the TA organised by **Sgt Ronnie Nixon**. It was an excellent couple of days and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The Viking Troop Mountain Biking Team
Cpl Tim Mounfield, Cpl 'Wooly' Woolston and LCpl 'Peps' Braysford

ROMAN TROOP

Tp Comd — **2Lt John Torrell**

GOINGS ON

The infamous switch returned from Plessey. 'At Last!' was the cry. 'We can now deploy under our own ID, but just to make sure we will take another switch with us'. Yes, yet again the switch had Gremlins. Re-role was the SOP. Again the switch returned from Plessey with the mortal words 'If it doesn't work don't bring it back'. Hence the advert.

'ONE SWITCH CREW FOR HIRE. MULTIPLE INSTALLATION EXPERIENCE. WILLING TO TRAVEL.'

Still a heavy exercise period was upon us. Skills were sharpened, vehicles prepared, camouflage sorted and off we went. **Cfn Martyn** waving his wand en route ensured all his vehicles made it to location. Comms was our job. No problem there. Camouflage was set and appropriate and the administration sorted out with **Cpl** 'Chef' **Ball** working wonders. Drills were perfect with light and noise discipline second nature. Those who dared slack could rely on **SSgt Andy Terry**'s persuasive encouragement 24 hours a day. Then there were those true grit volunteers always needed for clearance or standing patrols like **Cpl Andy** 'This isn't like the TA, I'm off skiing' **Riley**.

New and keen blood has been injected into the troop. For example **Sig Symons** (Lineman) starting off on the right foot by working like ten men and chasing Node Command to get its camouflage sorted.

Then there is the departure of **LCpl** 'Tug' **Wilson** and **LCpl** 'Patch' **Paterson** who say 'welcome' to redundancy, and 'Goodbye Troop'. Or **Sig** 'I've been posted in to sort the troop out' **Knights** who is now saying 'How is the Falklands at this time of year'.

217 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj J. W. Clark**
2IC — **Capt D. G. Douglas**

EXERCISE FIGHTING CENTAUR

The Squadron recently took part in Ex Fighting Centaur, a signals orientated battlecamp. It was organised by the 2IC **Capt Douglas** and the SSM **WO2 Williams**, unfortunately though they couldn't organise the weather, and as some of the lads discovered things can get a bit cold out on Sennybridge Training Area.

The first week consisted of numerous stands ranging from all the old favourites like NBC to IBSR and CQB. During the second week everything we learnt previously was put into practice out in the field including FIBUA, DIBUA and section in defence. **Cpl Collins** and his section **LCpls Davies, Mangan, Sigs Watkins, Des Davidson, Gaz Roberts, Joey Joburns, Wan Carr, Ali Martin** won the prize for the best section. The rest of the Regiment in York won't miss out on the delights of Sennybridge either–they can look forward to Regimental Battlecamp next year.

The new Wing that had to be built on to the Medical Centre has been dedicated to 217 Sig Sqn.

EXERCISE SNOW PLOUGH

From 25 February to the 6 March, 17 members of the Regiment took part in Ex Snow Plough (an extremely arduous and demanding adventure training exercise).

The exercise involved seven days of Alpine skiing in the three valleys situated in the South of France. **Sig** 'Jas' **Cannon** proved his ability to ski out of control by jumping off the piste. While **Cpl Robinson** showed outstanding 'duck style' on the slalom course. **Sigs** 'Scouse' **Hodgkinson** and **Steve Mercer** under the instruction of **Sgt Rab Marshall** showed us the 'Wipeout', 'Headplant' and 'Blitz' techniques after a lot of practice.

Despite the incredible snow and outrageous sunshine the exercise was a great success and enjoyed by all. We are now looking forward to the next one.

TORNADO TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Dominic Sharkey**

Tornado Tp savoured the delights of Sennybridge Training Area for the annual Squadron Battlecamp. Vital skills were learnt and put to the test, such as how to fit a full 26 hours in a day and still have the time left for more activities. The more memorable aspects of the battlecamp included, **Sig Steve Godfrey** who decided he didn't want his weapon anymore and **Sig Phil** 'The Fish' **Humphreys** who curled up into a ball and refused to jump into the river at the end of the assault course and had to be lowered in by **Sig** 'Monty' **Montgomery**. Thanks go to the YofS **SSgt Dave Brudenall** for ensuring the pyro was used up. Also to SQMS **SSgt Dave Till** for ensuring the men from the sections knew what it was like to carry the SAWES equipment without actually using it and for his wit and humour that kept everyone going. Thanks to all the DS for talking a good fight and to **Sgt Steve Jones** (Royal Marines) for actually knowing what he was talking about.

Farewell and best wishes from the Troop go to **Lt Ashley Hayden, Cpl** 'Walley' **Wallace, LCpl Lee Irvine, Sig Dave Pope** on posting.

A warm welcome to **Lt Dominic Sharkey, Sgt John Bailey, Cpl** 'Tosh' **Ingham, Sigs Maggie Pryor-Healey** and **Watt** on their arrival.

219 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj B. P. Avison**
2IC — **Lt J. Merritt**

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

First of all, welcome to **Maj B. P. Avison** as Squadron Commander vice **Capt Stew McConnell** who, after doing a sterling job has moved into the Ivory Towers (RHQ), for a rest. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances the training camp had to be postponed at the last minute, but a hasty reshuffle managed to produce an enjoyable and interesting two range days, where personnel participated in some old and some new military training. The main feature being the firing of the 94mm HEAT (LAW). All 10 rounds achieved a direct hit. Some even developed the 'Barnes Wallace technique'.

EAGLE TROOP

In at the deep end and a big welcome to **SSgt Mick Williams** as well as goodbye to **Cpl Sid James** off to 7 Sig Regt, **Sig** 'Taff' **Evans** to HQ MT and **Cpl** 'Cleggy' **Cleghorne** deserting to Phoenix Tp. We were on Ex Bright Eagle, our chance to see the TA shine. The hill we were on would make the Arctic look comfortable but we had **Lt Dan Tomlinson**'s mobile phone to secure comms. **Sgt Jim Newell** and **Cpl Ian Burt** took some lessons on how to POL a landrover and the consequences of getting it wrong whilst **Sigs John Clarke** and **Conrad Smith** experienced Eagle Tp on exercise for the first time.

On return it was time to get our admin sorted out and we launched into the frenzy of ATDs, BFTs, APWTs NBC, CFTs, IMIs and any other TLA the SHQ could think of.

Then came the time to say goodbye to **Sgt Paul Jude**, it's sad to see him go but we hope he will enjoy life over there.

Most recently the Troop and Squadron ran the final race for Ex Lightning Strike. A select band of men headed south to Knook Camp to be entertained by a couple of hundred students, a traumatic experience for everyone.

FALCON TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt J. Hill**

Ex Key Panther came in early January followed by Bright Eagle. Ex Bright Eagle was a great success with SAN F1 providing comms for 11 Bde HQ and SAN F2 supporting the Brigade Echelon.

The military training week consisted of two very long, yet interesting and highly productive days. Imaginative, well thought out lessons and exercises in NBC, ranges (inc LAW 90 and Section in Defence) and first aid provided the opportunities for the well oiled Troop team to shine.

Goodbye to Tp Comd **Lt R. Scott** off to 602 Sig Tp. Farewell too to **LCpl Chris Downie** on redundancy.

A very good and interesting three months and we look forward to the challenges ahead.

3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Bulford Camp

202 SQUADRON

VISIT

On 9 March 1994 **Gen E. Audren**, the Inspecteur Des Transmissions of the French Army visited the Regiment.

In a busy programme, **Gen Audren** viewed all aspects of the Regiment including Ptarmigan equipments and, more importantly, the Armoured Headquarters of 202 Sig Sqn. The Squadron now awaits an invitation to set up the HQ in the Champagne region of France . . .

222 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj C. D. McGory**
2IC	**Lt N. Beecher**

GREETINGS AND FAREWELLS

The Squadron has seen quite a large number of people arrive and leave in the past few months. We said farewell to **Capt Julian Swindells** and WO2 **(SSM) Geoff Baldry** who go off to 21 Sig Regt (AS) as Adjutant and RSM respectively. **SSgt Cheslett** goes to 71 Sig Regt (V) on promotion as RQMS, we wish him and **Lorraine** all the best. Welcome to **2Lts Ben Fitch** and **John Speakes** fresh from their Troopie's course at Blandford and the not so fresh **WO2 (SSM)** 'Strings' **Stringer** from 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para).

The Squadron has recently hosted **Capt Roberto Lepore** and **Capt Cosimo Gualano** from the 3 Sig Bn of the Italian Army for six weeks. Since arriving they have been quickly indoctrinated to the Ptarmigan way of thinking and more slowly and painfully introduced to the British Army craze of hill running with **SSgt Cheslett** leading the way. We wish them well for their remaining stay!

EXERCISE BOWSTRING

Once again the Squadron ventured out into the infamous SPTA – however, this time without Ptarmigan! Instead the Squadron deployed on a five day field exercise to provide ATD training and improve tactical awareness.

The Squadron was divided into three training platoons and an instructional DS platoon. The subjects covered were varied and numerous, including driver training, communications and tactics. The three platoons rotated through the various lessons over the duration of the exercise. However it was not all hard work, thank you **Sgt Tony Barker** for providing a 'death slide' which was thoroughly tested!

The tactics package came to a glorious conclusion as the Squadron took on 257 Sig Sqn who were deployed on Ex First Crusade, were kind enough to allow the Squadron to practise Recce patrols and a Platoon attack on their Trunk Nodes. **Cpl Roy Spittle** was the lucky man chosen to be Platoon Commander for the final attack, where he put to good use what he had learnt over the previous days, leading the Squadron to victory at dawn on the final day.

HELICOPTER ESCAPE TRAINING

In March a few members of the Squadron, mainly SHQ Troop, went for a swim with a difference, down in Yeovil. A visit to the Helicopter Crash Simulation Tank was to prove an eventful experience.

On arrival we donned our 'dry' suits and, looking like oranges, we attended a 20 minute briefing where the instructors proceeded to scare the living daylights out of us! We were then split into sections of eight, the first section being led by **Sgt Tony Barker** and **Sig Shaun Brennan**. **Sig Brennan**, having done this before, was feeling very confident. However, after having made a complete mess of things, he was made to stand and watch before being allowed a second chance! The second section contained three ladies, **Sig Claire Sturman**, who backed out after claiming that she had been kicked in the face on the first escape, **Sig Mandy Shewell** soon followed and only **Sig Diane Gardner** saw it through to the cold, wet end. Can nothing stop her? The remainder attempted the 'Crash' without too many difficulties. The day ended with everyone a bit wet around the ears and ready to return to the safety and dry land of Bulford Camp.

EXERCISE HARD LANDING

This took place in late February in Crickhowell Training Camp, at the Joint Services Hang Gliding Centre.

We, the 10 aspiring hang gliding pilots, arrived on the first day, minds racing at the prospect of throwing ourselves off a hill with a kite attached somewhere on our person, but alas, twas not to be.

The initial introduction to the gliding equipment was in the form of the harness. This is a 'Krypton Factor' type of event as several loops, straps and karabiners must be negotiated before being ready for 'The Simulator'.

You may be forgiven for thinking that such a thing is a mythological creature found in books by J. R. Tolkein, but no, it is an animal which must be tamed before you are let loose on the real thing.

The simulator itself is a no expense spared item of invaluable importance for the novice pilot as it gives the first 'feel' for the glider. Built from bits of crashed, defunct and broken gliders, it doesn't look much, but does the job very well.

The only woman on the course, **Cfn Kirsten** 'Ginge' **Ginger**, was the first to try. Unfortunately, the harness she chose to use was a little too long in the body and nearly choked the intrepid pilot.

The flying produced some notable stars including **LCpl** 'AJ' **Wilcox**, who can fly a glider faster than any of us could possibly keep up on the tethers, **LCpl Andy Palin**, who, for some reason, could find a gust of wind from anywhere on a still day, but unfortunately couldn't control it!

The final days were filled again with crashes and more laughs before sadly, the sun peeped its face through the clouds, good weather you may think. Not for novice pilots, as the sun means thermal activity, which most of us were not ready for.

Despite all the bumps and bruises, the course was a complete success and all participants vowed to return and improve their skill.

HQMT

Recently, the MT ran a ROSPA Advanced Driving Course which went extremely well with some good results, notably from **Sgt Terry Hague** and **Pte** 'Taffy' **Beamand** who achieved a gold standard 27.5% reduction in their car insurance; can't be bad. Running concurrently with the ROSPA Course was the Regiment's LGV Cat C Driving Cadre. This produced some white knuckle rides for the Regiment's QTOs. Overall, the results were very good so well done and thanks to all the instructors.

A special mention to the birdmen of Bulford. **LCpls Griff Fox**, 'Kipper' **Fisher** and **Andy Paling** who, on their hang gliding course, only managed to get off the ground once. I guess £50 worth of air miles each didn't go very far.

206 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj M. F. Tucker**
2IC	**Capt P. Harlow**

HELLOs AND GOODBYES

A fond farewell to **Capt Nick Walker** who leaves us for JDSC and to **Cpl Mark Keogh** who now seeks the challenges of running his business in Civvy Street.

Hello to **Capt Phil Harlow** who joins us from 30 Sig Regt and **Capt Renato Lepore** on attachment from Italy.

The Victors–Ex Bowstring 1994

LCpl Dave Fisher, at one with glider and elements

MONS TROOP

Whilst the Tp Comd, **Lt Andy Lucas** was away in Northern Ireland, the Troop stormed to a well deserved white washing first place in the Inter-Squadron Sports under the guidance of **SSgt Matthews** and **Sgt Steve Russell**. The Troop still perseveres with its fantastic air tent and displayed its potential to the rest of the British Army at a conference held in January at HQ QMG(A). Since last appearing, we have had a multitude of characters join us and one or two leave. A warm hello to **SSgt Matthews** who arrived in October last year. Also hello to **LCpl Paul** "Tele Op Data Man' **King** who joins us from 243 Sig Sqn on a Pre-RSDCC beat-up! Finally farewell to a good friend, **Sig Warburton**.

98, 99, 100 . . . Coming ready or not! Sig Jago on a recent exercise with the Div Staff!

INKERMAN TROOP

The Troop have, as usual, been very busy over the past few months achieving very high standards on the PRE monitor and on the sports field. Inkerman Tp has had a few new additional members such as **LCpl** 'Tiny' **Purnell**, **Sig** 'James' **Bond** and last, but not least, **Sig Helen Mills** on an exchange from 243 Sig Sqn. Also congratulations to **LCpl** 'Robbo' **Robinson** on his recent promotion.

GREENHAM COMMON LADIES CAR WASH

Its not just the men who work hard, it's also their 'better halves'. The princely sum of £142 was raised towards a family fete, later in the year, by the Pioneer Car Washers at Greenham Common. Well done!

The Motley Crew

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7 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

FAREWELL TO HERFORD

7 Sig Regt has had ties with Herford since 1951 when it was titled 1st Corps Signal Regiment. The Regiment was retitled 2 Corps Signal Regiment in 1956 and 7 Signal Regiment in 1959. In 1972 the Regiment received the honour of the Freedom of the City of Herford in recognition of the close links between the Regiment and Stadt Herford.

Maj Steve Wallis leads 228 Sqn during the farewell to Herford parade

The Master of Signals, Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle signs the Golden Book in the Burgermeister's office in Herford

On 1 March 1994 7 Sig Regt marched off the Square at Maresfield Barracks for the last time. It marked officially the end of 43 years association between the Regiment and the town of Herford. The parade was the culmination of events which had taken place throughout the day. Six former Commanding Officers, including the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL**, accompanied the present CO, **Lt Col D. McDowall MBE**, to a civic appointment with the Burgermeister of Herford. In the afternoon the Regiment was privileged to play a Bath RUFC select team. It was a gripping game which the visitors narrowly won, despite some good first half pressure from the Regiment.

The Master of Signals, together with the Burgermeisters of Herford and Bad Salzuflen and the CO, took the salute during the evening's Parade and Retreat Ceremony. The Regiment marched past in slow and quick time to music from the Corps Band. With the CO's final words of 'We must go', the Regiment marched off the square for the last time.

The arrival in Krefeld on 12 March 1994 coincided with the departure of 16 Sig Regt from Bradbury Barracks. In a simple ceremony at the gates the keys of the camp were handed to **Lt Col D. McDowall MBE** by the Commanding Officer 16 Sig Regt, **Lt Col N. F. Fisher**. The CO and his escort party opened the gates and the move to Krefeld began. Busy weeks have passed since then and the move is now complete.

Sgt Taff Furnival gets the ball away during the fixture against a Bath select XV

230 SIGNAL SQUADRON

230 Sig Sqn has now joined 7 Sig Regt from 16 Sig Regt. Our three Trunk Nodes and Kilo Tp (Centrals) clung, tenaciously, to our existing places when the new Squadrons moved from Herford to squeeze into Bradbury Barracks. The Squadron has said goodbye to Sqn Comd **Maj G. M. Lewis-Taylor**, 2IC **Capt Mark Finneran, SSgt (YofS) Kevin Robinson, SSgt Joe Cox** and **Sgt Clive Reynolds**.

We welcome the following new arrivals: Sqn Comd **Maj Nick Bateson** and 2IC **Capt Dave Wilson**, noticeably fewer than those posted out!

Lt Fred Hargreaves is currently heading Ex Knuxall Backstop, painstakingly organised by **Sgt Steve Mitchell** along with **Cpl Haynes** (Kilo Tp) and several personnel from 16 Sig Regt. The expedition has successfully crossed the McKenzie trail in Alberta, the first party to do so in winter.

Lt Denis Thornton eagerly volunteered to lead the joint 7 and 16 Sig Regts' canoe team in the Devizes to Westminster canoe race. His assistants are **Sgt Gaz Williams** (Admin NCO), **Cpls Pickering** and **Pinnock** and **Sig Chawick**.

KILO TROOP

Tp Comd **SSgt Ian Davies**

Kilo Tp, the backbone of '230', consists of all the Squadron's 'hangers on', OSC, SCC etc who, on exercise becomes 'rent-a-det' and tend to disperse to the four winds. This breeds Esprit de Corps which, of course means we wipe the floor with other Troops at sporting/military events.

We have had remarkably few new arrivals, but we have had a number of departures. **LCpl Jonno Johnson** is off to Civ Div with a bag of redundancy money slung over one shoulder, our best wishes and good luck.

Sig 'Jock' **Lennie**, yes, for those of you that know Jock 'cheerful' **Lennie**, he's off to the German Civ Div.

Sig 'Leon' **Britton** is next and hopes to join Gloucester County Constabulary, so if you get stopped for speeding, no Liney jokes!

231 SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Spring of 1994 has produced a large amount of work for the Squadron. Two exercises (long hours), a farewell parade (a lot of rehearsals) and the move of the Squadron (the longest days of all!) have kept everybody busy. We are now settled and squeezed into our new home two hours nearer the ports.

EXERCISES

Ex Woodland Flight was the first Regimental exercise this year. The cobwebs were cleared in the wind, rain, hail, sleet and snow of BAOR and we began to remember a few of those pre-festive season pleasures. Ex Arccade Guard was an ARRC exercise which saw Forward Headquarters deploy via a simulated air move all the way to Bad Oeynhausen some 20km away. This highly mobile and lean headquarters is normally provided by Forward Tp who number 1+36. Assistance was given by several other troops, including both MAN and Radio Tps, to produce the 1+78 eventually required. Thankfully we did not have to move location.

Stars of the exercise included **Cpl** 'Ollie' **Mills** who tested his Kevlar helmet by putting his head into a doorway just as the door was closing.

SSgt (FofS) John Skelton and **SSgt (YofS) Tony Bunce** were evicted from their sleeping place when SEP (Sleep Expertly Practised) moved in midway through the exercise.

Cpl 'Mac' **Macintyre** eventually got his radio relay det on to the exercise when all the hard work had been done.

Sig Billy Baxter who demonstrated a new way of secure message distribution: place the ripped up messages into an old dirty paint can, add half a litre of kero and ignite. Hey presto, air mail.

232 SIGNAL SQUADRON

LINE TROOP

Line Tp says goodbye to **Cpls Wood, McKillop** and **Cpl Davies** who is posted to the UK, at last, back to his beloved Welsh Rugby. It also says goodbye to **Sigs Kennett** and **Evans**, to Op Grapple and **Cpl Kielty** to Belize, having only been with the Troop for one month. **Cpl Pritchard** has arrived in the Troop and has settled in.

FSG TROOP

Lt Simon Glover was welcomed back to the Regiment, having spent a glorious six months out in Sardinia. How long will the suntan last? The Troop has seen the departure of **Cpls Senior, Fraser** and **LCpl Ingram**; it wishes them all the best out there in 'Civvy Street'.

RADIO TROOP

Hello to **2Lt Mike Grierson**, who joined the Troop at the beginning of March. **LCpl Bedford** has departed for Northern Ireland and the Troop wish him the best of luck. Congratulations to **Sgt** 'Doc' **Halliday** on being selected for promotion.

EXERCISE HALBERT HUNTER

Ten members of Radio Tp were 'volunteered' by **Sgt** 'Doc' **Halliday**, to assist 211 Sig Sqn in providing a hunter force for the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol School in Southern 'antarctic' Germany, at the end of February.

After a very long journey down to the base location, an orientation consisting of a 15km speed march, was organised. This proved invaluable, especially during the night navigation exercise.

The work up training lasted five days, revising a comprehensive assortment of topics, from weapons to tactics. Arrest and restraint proved very popular, except with the instructor as **Sig** 'The Snake' **Clarke** managed to free himself from just about every holding move put on him.

Sig 'Bruce Lee' **Porter** employed a different tactic and used his weight to sit on his victims.

Finally, the main exercise came, and by now all the lads were itching to get stuck into what proved to be a very demanding, but enjoyable, week. Starting with aggressive patrolling over arduous peaked terrain with snow on the ground up to their armpits. The next phase consisted of wood clearances with minor helicopter support.

Sig Kev 'Geeky' **Roberts** stumbled upon one of the enemy sections but they managed to convince him they were on a different exercise. Luckily he mentioned it half an hour later, and so **Sig Roberts** and a few others went back out and rounded them up.

The final scores were, 232 Sig Sqn had caught six, 211 Sig Sqn had caught nobody. Never mind better luck next time **Vince**.

MAN TROOP

The Troop would like to say farewell to Tp Comd **Lt Tudor Hill**. Congratulations on his promotion to Captain and good luck on his move to 19 (Mech) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209). Also farewell to **Sig Angie Davidson** who joins her husband in N. Ireland.

232 Sig Sqn hunter force ready for anything!

Don't be disappointed!

Matter for publication *must* reach the Editor six weeks before the publication date

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

THE INFANTRY IS COMING

The first sods, or rather bucketfuls, have been turned. The Infantry has started to dig in! The photograph shows Vimy A in the background–the football pitches, where many readers have toiled on happy sports afternoons, are no more. The Advance Party arrived in early April and the toehold will rapidly expand until Vimy Barracks is handed over on 1 December 1994.

The Infantry Dig In

SPORT

The soccer team may yet win the EDIST league, whilst the Cross Country and Orienteering teams have won their leagues. The Hockey team has won the EDIST 6s, NEDIST Cup and may yet win the league. Special mention of the players' player of the season **WO2 (YofS) Mick Dawson** in his last season in the Corps. The netball team came second in the Army Championships. Junior talent just about to hit the Corps includes 927 **Sig James Thomas**–Army Youth Soccer, **LCpl Daniel Curtis**–Army Rugby, **Sig Jason Manton**–Army Badminton and **Sig Gareth Williams**–Army Hockey. All bids to Adjt 8 Sig Regt, with cheques!

COMMANDING OFFICER'S RUN

A recent innovation instigated by **WO1 (RSM) George** has improved the performance of all runners. Rather than timing every individual and working out a Pass or Fail: now the gates close at the appointed hour. All those outside have failed. All those inside cheer! The CO, **Col J. R. B. Cook**, celebrated his birthday on the last run, **WO2** (Good Career Move) **Broomfield** was the only man to beat him in.

REGIMENTAL INTER-SQUADRON QUIZ 1994

The competition for this year's title of 'Most Knowledgeable Team' was closer than ever. Eight teams started out with high hopes of success back in January. Seven weeks later, after some of the most closely contested knock-out games ever seen in the history of Regimental quizzes 1 Sqn and the mighty TTS team won through to take their place in the final.

The final was held in the Jimmy Club and over 300 volunteers turned out to watch. This year's organiser and quiz master **SSgt Dave Norman** was bitterly disappointed that no one had come up with enough money to bribe him for the answers! The result upset the form book. The Regimental Second in Command, **Maj Noble** presented lucrative prizes to **Capt Kate Pope** and her team from 1 Sqn and extravagant runners-up prizes to **Sgt John Leach** and his vanquished TTS team.

INTER SQUADRON SHOOTING

The inter squadron small-bore shooting competition took place during the period 22-25 February 1994. The competition produced some accurate shooting but the eventual winners for the second consecutive year were TTS.

SSgt Richard Malt of the TTS won the prize for the highest scoring male with **Cpl John Walsh** of 1 Sqn the runner up. The highest scoring female prize went to **Sgt Geralynn Harbage-Brown** with **Lt Melanie Young** a close runner-up.

2 SQUADRON MAKING MONEY IN WALES

The Squadron decided to raise money by taking part in the National Trust Snowdonia Marathon or for those bilingual of you Marathon Blynyddol Eryre Yr Rmddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol. After a whole two weeks' intensive training a team consisting of **LCpls Ian Taite, Tam Dick, Craig Sneddon** and **Daz Collins** took up the challenge of Britain's toughest marathon. The arduous course encircles the mountainous terrain of Snowdon and is definitely complemented by the Welsh weather! The team finished with an average of four hours and £232.20 was raised and presented to the West Dorset Macmillan Service. Congratulations to the team and especially **LCpl Craig Sneddon** for having the best time for his age group and winning the Junior Cup.

FINAL DINNER–SCHEMES TROOP

A total of 54 (yes 54!!) members of Schemes Tp turned up for their final Regimental Dinner. **SSgt Si Tatman** was the PMC, the venue the Corporals' Mess. A sumptuous three course meal was consumed, with lashings of extra helpings, followed by some marvellous speeches.

Yeoman Marty Fielding told all present how wonderful they all were. **Capt Neil Selby**, sometime Troop Comd, was presented with the Richmond print and misplaced his speech. The highly original Mr Blobby skits were well received, especially by **Cpl Jock Muir**.

Schemes Troop Dinner

REGIMENTAL RUGBY SEVENS

WO1 Marty Fielding organised a superb competition–marred only by the lack of brewery sponsorship and of pitches. The final was magnificent. HQ Sqn's tactics were to destroy the opponents. **Capt Neil Selby** removed one star player but in the process found himself on the way to hospital with a dislocated shoulder. **SSgt Dick Treadwell** played exceptionally well but showed lack of pace when needed, and it took **SSgt Bobby Snow** to take the ball over the line after **Dick** was tackled three yards short. **YofS Marty Fielding** and **FofS Tommy Steele** played out of their skins, **Sgt Tony Manktelow** and **SSgt Vince McNaught** used their tremendous fitness and kept the team driving forward.

Cpl Dougie Douglas, PTI, 2 Sig Regt tackled superbly and set up most of the tries. The final score was 33–0 to HQ Sqn 'A', which meant that HQ Sqn had swept the board, winning both the Plate and Cup Competition. **SSgt Si Norris** was named Man of the Match by **SSgt Bobby Snow** and received the trophy from the Regimental 2IC, **Maj Ian Noble**.

Sgt Si Norris receiving the 7's cup from the 2IC Maj I. A. Noble

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9 Sig Regt (R)
BFPO 59

CROSS COUNTRY

The Army Minor Units and Ladies Cross Country Championships were held on the 19 January in Dhekelia. The course, consisting of two laps for the men and, one lap for the ladies, was over bondu tracks and the undulating hills of BMH Valley. As to be expected, the weather conditions were ideal, if not a little too warm.

The race started with a gradual hill which alleviated any further problems of bunching on the many twisting tracks throughout the course. A head-to-head soon developed between **LCpl** 'Frenchie' **Cranwell** of the Pioneer Section and a 1 RI runner who, between them, soon established a convincing lead; however, **LCpl Cranwell** was eventually beaten into second place.

Our veteran runner, **Maj Paul Robertshaw**, having hobbled to the start with a bad ankle, twisted spine and, breathing problems, maintained a firm challenge throughout, sometimes chasing veterans who were not there, but eventually crossing the line as a true champion.

The ladies race was also well contended with **Mrs Katrina Bush** winning by a convincing margin from **Mrs Chris Bancroft** who was also the first veteran home.

Minor Units Champions
(L to R): Pte Keith Hassall, SSgt Ron Blackburn, Sgt Kevin Simmons, Cpl 'Dickie' Dickinson, LCpl 'Frenchie' Cranwell, Sgt John Watkins and Sgt Allan Holyoak
Maj Paul Robertshaw absent

Veteran Champion–Maj Paul Robertshaw
'I'll be all right when I'm fit'

The team title was won in a convincing manner by the joint HQ/1 Sqn team that had all its runners in the top 20 positions.

OFFICERS', WOS' AND SNCOS' SHOOTING COMPETITION

'Twas a sunny day when the teams assembled at the 30m range for the annual shooting competition. It had originally been scheduled for December, but a rare rainfall stopped play.

The competition comprised a 9mm Pistol shoot and a concurrently running Clay Pigeon shoot. Many a marksman floundered but some remained true to form with **Flt Lts Colin Bullock** and **Nick Lloyd** producing perfect scores on the Clay Pigeon shoot. Congratulations must go to **Sgt** (Wpns Instr) **Bousfield** for his resounding zero.

In the 9mm shoot some excellent results were also seen with **Sgt Masterson** and the Adjutant, **Capt Tony Burgin**, both getting 4/10. A special award to the WOs' team for their total of 4/110.

As with all competitions there are winners and losers. The RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Geer**, tried to blame it on the weather and, lack of fair play but, in the end, conceded defeat. The trophies for the Pistol, Clay Pigeon and overall winners were handed to the Captain of the jubilant officers' team, **Capt Tony Burgin** by the CO, **Lt Col Peter Neale**.

REGIMENTAL TABLE-TENNIS COMPETITION

On Monday 14 March D Tp entered three individuals into the Regimental Table-Tennis Competition. The three Troop representatives in the team entry were; **LCpls Stu Russell, Steve Dunsmuir** and **Babs Woodhouse**.

A total of 32 players entered the competition and the standard was very good. **Steve Dunsmuir** was the first to play for the Troop and after an initial poor start regained his composure to give his opponent a run for his money. Sadly, he was unable to maintain his good form and was knocked-out in the first round.

Next to play was **Stu Russell** who was drawn against the Adjutant. Undaunted by his opponent **Stu** gave a good account of himself and in a close match was also beaten and therefore knocked-out.

Our final entry, **Babs Woodhouse** received a bye into the second round but was then, unfortunately, drawn against a very tough opponent. **Babs** struggled to get into his stride but, went down 0-2 and, was also knocked-out.

So with no success in the individual competition, the only chance we had left was in the team competition. Unfortunately for us we were drawn against a very strong Navy A side who made it obvious they indulge in, amongst other things, rather a lot of ping-pong whilst at sea! Nevertheless, we gave it our best shot but in the end went down to a much stronger team. We were not disheartened by our performances and look forward to next year's competition.

TM TROOP
DEMI TROPHY (FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL)

The 21 February saw the gathering of the finest and 'Not so Finest' Troop five-a-side football teams in an attempt to win football's precious prize, a day as **WO1 Noddy Baugh**'s clerk and of course, if really lucky, a trophy as well. **Sgt Dave Purver** our newly qualified AFA Class 3 quickly laid down the rules, with such fine comments as 'It's a game of two halves' etc. Each section provided two, five-man, teams.

The competition kicked off and after many 'Ooh's and Aahs' as Line/Office A, Captained by **LCpl Yorkie Sowden** totally destroyed Radio's hopes of an early win. A wide range of tactics were used from actually passing the ball to shoot and hope for the best with finally the most popular terror tactics invented by **Sgt Martin** (WWF) **Garner** who was sin-binned for body slamming.

Outstanding skills were shown by **SSgt (FofS) John Dennis** who let rip with a heat seeking missile of a shot which weaved in and out of the opposition and exploded into the back of the net. (His own words.) As the afternoon progressed, Radio Section found themselves looking at the wooden spoon and Wkps Staffie, **SSgt Dave Cumming** was seen to slope off so their supersub **Sgt Shaun Nicholls** was brought into the fray. He made no difference to the score or results but was noted to look handsome gliding around the pitch. TG Workshops were slowly gathering up the points resulting in some nail biting during the game against Line/Office which through **LCpl Scouse Holmes** ended in a draw.

Final Placings were: 1st–Line/Office; 2nd–TG Workshops; 3rd–Radio Wkps.

Special mention must be made of **LCpl Dean Sutton** whose hand-to-eye coordination in goal managed to land three helicopters and a passing jumbo bound for Dubai. Thanks go to the Telemech Section under **SSgt Pete Atkinson** for arranging the event and we now move on to Hockey next month under **Sgt Dave Tribbeck**.

HELLOS/GOODBYES/CONGRATULATIONS

The Troop welcomes in-to the fold, **WO1 Noddy** and **Debbie Baugh, Sgt Dave** and **Lorraine Coffey, Sgt George** and **Robyn Lazenby, Sgts Steve Moore, John Ramsdale, Shaun Nicholls** and **Cpl Palmer**. On the departures front we say farewell to **Sgt** 'Taff' and **Maxine Roberts** off to 16 Sig Regt, and to **Cpls Adamson** and **Bond** on posting and **Cpl Furphy** to civvy street.

Our congratulations go out to **SSgt John Dennis** on his recent marriage to **Sophie, WO1 Noddy Baugh** on his recent pre-selection for commissioning; we wish him an early posting. To **LCpl Dean Sutton** on his recent award of a GOC's Commendation and to **LCpl Muzzi** on the award of the CBFC Commendation.

COMMS TROOP

Tp Comd	**Capt Andy Stokoe**
YofS	**WO1 (YofS) Sam McElreavey**

NEW ARRIVALS

The Troop would like to welcome **Sgt George Roper, Sgt Bob Clubb** and his wife **Sharon, Sig Jimmy McLean** and his wife **Mellisa** and **Sig** Scotty **Scott**. Hope you all have an interesting tour.

FAREWELLS

The Troop bids farewell to **SSgt Dave Leyland**, his wife **Lynette** and his family who leave us on posting to 34 Sig Regt (V) for six months gardening leave and then retirement. **Dave** has been Tp SSgt for the last 18 months. We would like to thank him for his hard work during that time and wish him all the best for the future.

THE FIRST TROOP BABY IN 1994

Congratulations go to **Cpl Mark** and **LCpl Lieanne Andrew** for producing their first Comms Tp baby. Baby **Benjamin** weighed in at 8lb 9oz on 16 February. Baby, mother and father are all doing well.

TROOP QUIZ NIGHT

The Troop held a quiz night on 27 January which was organisee by C Shift. Special praise goes to **LCpl Carol Watson**, the Question Master. Congratulations to **LCpls Elaine Badge, Tracy Chambers, Sharon Speers** and **Sig Sheridan Hardman** on becoming the eventual winners.

MILITARY TRAINING

Military training days over the last few months have been given over to all personnel carrying out their APWT's and on the lighter side completing an orienteering course organised by **Sgt Chris Bailey**.

PROMOTIONS

We now have our very own WO1 in the Troop. **WO2 (YofS) Sam McElreavey** has finally been promoted. **Sgt Karen Tindall** has recently been selected for promotion to SSgt. Congratulations to them both.

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt Louise Tomkins**
Tp WO	**WO2 Steve Shannon**

FAREWELLS AND GREETINGS

The Troop has said farewells to **Sgt Andy Roberts** on his way to a day-job within the Regiment. **LCpl Lou Gunther** on her inter-Squadron posting to be with her husband **Andy** and lastly to **LCpl Jez Holdrige** on his way to 13 Sig Regt.

Hellos to **Sgt Steve Smith** and his wife **Amanda** from RAF Witton, **Cpl Gav Wilson** and his wife **Tracey** from 225 Sig Sqn, **J/T Steve Pickerill** from RAF Digby and to **LCpls Daz Edge, Mat Collins** and **John Donaldson** who all join us from Comms and Sy Gp (UK). A warm welcome to all.

BRAVO TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt Mark Wadsley**
Tp WO	**WO2 Billy Chestnut**

The annual Ay Nik 15 mile road race took place at the beginning of March with two of our Troop leaders representing the Troop. **WO2 Steve Shannon** and **Sgt Steve Smith** completed the race from Dhekelia to Ay Nik in good times despite a thunder and lightning storm.

Mountain Biking is the latest inter-Squadron competition to be run within the Regiment. 'Bikers' representing the Troop were **Cpls Daz Hepburn, Daz Beany** and **LCpls Ken Cross** and **Richie Canale** all achieving good times which helped the Squadron to win the competition.

Orienteering was the next event, with the Squadron organising the all-island night orienteering championships. Troop 'Pathfinders' include **SSgt Tony Worley** and his merry band of RAF followers in the names of **JTs Neil Morgan, Simon Gregson** and **Russ Wittey** all doing well this year with the Squadron standing third place at the moment in this year's league.

We have recently had an influx of new arrivals to help alleviate the losses. All members of the Troop wish a warm and sunny welcome to **Cpl Dave McAllister** RAF and wife **Julie, LCpls Bart Spencer, Steve Hill, Paul Pettman, Ag Owen, Ned Kelly** and **Caroline Mansfield**.

On a final and happy note congratulations must go to **LCpls Paul Browne** and **Phil Rowley** on their pre-selection for promotion to Cpl. Maybe they will be wearing a little something else for their leaving function?

FAREWELLS

The Troop says a fond farewell to **Cpl Mick Telford, J/T Taff Llewellyn**, and **LCpl Phil Platt**. All will be sorely missed for their enthusiasm and contribution to the Troop.

CONGRATULATIONS

The newest and youngest member of the Troop is **Cpl** Fos **Foster Jnr** and the Troop wishes to extend the very best wishes to **Fos** and **Sharon** for their future as a family.

EVENTS OF LATE

Recent arduous training mornings have sent everyone running for their beds and sleep, as such the Troop parties and socials have slowed to just one a week. However, with summer fast approaching plans are ahead for beach type activities. **Cpl Gas King** has already set up a TR & A training day for those with a head for heights and other events are in the offing.

C TROOP

The Troop has said a fond farewell to the following **LCpl Rob Head** posted to 237 Sig Sqn, **LCpl Steve Roche** posted to 225 Sig Sqn, **J/T John Best**-posted to 399 Signals Unit RAF, **J/TW Trish Jones** posted to 399 Signals Unit RAF, and finally to **SSgt Mark** 'Chaff' **Finch** who is off to AAC Depot in Middle Wallop to learn to fly Helicopters and become a star of a BBC documentary. We wish them all well.

With departures come new arrivals, so the Troop extends a warm welcome to the following: **Sgt Paul** and wife **Sam Crawley**, a case of deja vu? **LCpls Steve Norrie** and **Ronnie Fardell**. We hope you have a happy and enjoyable tour.

Congratulations are extended to **J/T Rod Harvey** and his wife **Linda** on the birth of their baby daughter **Kirsty**–now you've an excuse to be late!

On the sporting front, the Troop's 'footy' team deserves a mention, in a recent match against A Tp we managed to keep the score down to just 12, special 'praise' goes to Keeper **LCpl** 'Boris' **Wade** without his skill, the scoreline would have been much, much higher.

INTER TROOP FOOTBALL MATCH
Delta Troop v Charlie Troop

Delta Tp's final inter-Troop match of the season took place on 10 March against Charlie Tp in atrocious weather conditions. Heavy rain throughout meant the game was played on a pitch resembling a ploughed field (or Old Trafford in mid-season)–not ideal.

The game only got the go-ahead at the 11th hour, so the scramble to find a team was frantic. Just before kick-off D Tp managed to find its 11th player–**Cpl Al Smith** from 3 Sqn–who had only come along to watch.

As the game started so did the rain. C Tp who were fresh from a 13–0 hammering in the previous match took a shock lead early on. D Tp soon retaliated when **Cpl Danny O'Neill** crossed to give **Al Smith** the chance to equalise with a header. **LCpl Lee Ghaut** added a second after a great solo run down the left. C Tp went ahead a second time just before half-time due mainly to poor defending but also to the loss of veteran **LCpl Andrew Burgum**.

The second half began just as the first had finished. C Tp were playing well and soon increased their lead to 4–2. This fourth goal appeared to stir up D Tp because straight from the re-start **Ghaut, O'Neill** and **Smith** combined well with one-touch passes before **O'Neill** scored an excellent goal from the edge of the box. The introduction of **LCpl Chris Sweeney** and **Cpl Tony Kitching** settled the defence and gave D Tp a boost. The equaliser soon came and was quickly followed by the goal of the game from **Tony Kitching** who scored after a run from his own half. The game was finally settled when **JT Steve Graham** made it 6–4 to D Tp. Not a great game to watch but the rain and mud were very welcome to this part of the world. The game was refereed enthusiastically and without bias by **SSgt Andy Kelly** (D Tp).

CYPRUS LONG ORIENTEERING COMPETITION 1994
by LCpl Jones, D Troop

The long 'O' held at Paramali was more keenly fought this year than previously; 50 teams entered this arduous competition from all over the island.

The course, 7.5km (as the crow flies) over hilly terrain, was extremely hard going and treacherous at times. This proved an eye opener and potential leg breaker to the majority of people who have not competed in a long 'O' before. I believe, the course could be more aptly re-named 'Marathon O' as I am convinced that that is the minimum mileage over the course of the day. My team managed to cover the ground in the astounding time of 4.5hrs. This, of course, included the time taken to look for those elusive control markers. We would have been quicker had we not had to complete that task.

Unfortunately there were a couple of more dynamic and fitter teams in the contest who managed to punch all the controls a little quicker than our intrepid band, the overall winners managing a very creditable 2hrs 40mins.

Out of 50 teams entered, 38 managed to complete the course with few injuries.

It was certainly a day to remember and my thanks to **Lt Col Mount RE** for organising the course and **WO2 Lindsay** for convincing me that I should use my leisure time more constructively.

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

CHARITY EVENTS TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE CORPS MUSEUM

The Regiment has been strongly involved in a number of charity events to raise money for the Corps New Museum: Two of these events, the Delta Troop Sponsored 24 hour Disco and the Charity 24 hour BFT are reported below:

DELTA TROOP 24 HOUR CHARITY DISCO

On 25 February at 0730 hrs, members of Delta Tp started their fund raising activities by ambushing unsuspecting personnel driving into camp, to have their windscreen washed for a small donation. This was the start of many activities occurring during the day. The second was the 'take-over' of the RSM's job. The RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Hugh Alison,** had offered his job to be raffled for the day. The winning ticket was won by **JT Greg Milne**

Delta Troop Charity Disco–the CO, Lt Col P. A. R. Rouse picks the winning ticket whilst Cpl Jon Brookes holds the bucket

Delta Troop Charity Disco–the RSM, WO1 Hugh Allison, hands over his job to JT Greg Milne for the day

(yes, a 'blue job'), who took the job of RSM very seriously! This was unfortunate for the Orderly Sergeant, **Sgt Andy Jensen,** whom he promptly gave five extras for being late. The actual Disco started at 1030 hrs with our four sponsored dancers. **JTW Paula Mansell, LCpl Hicky Hickenbotham, Cpls Dai Coomber** and **Dave Hill** all set for a 24 hour stint. During the afternoon the rugby club's stocks were brought into use, and for a donation to charity, numerous Regimental personnel were allowed to throw wet, freezing, sponges at their bosses. For some reason this proved highly popular! Guest BFBS DJ, **Andy Wane** got the evening's proceedings off to a fine start by coaxing all the girls in the audience to dig into their pockets, so that **Cpl** Mac **Macgregor** could really show them what was under a Scotsman's kilt. Needless to say, they got their money's worth. The whole event was a great success and proved to be a very enjoyable day for everyone. Thanks to a massive response from the Regiment, Delta Troop raised DM8000 for two charities: multiple sclerosis and the Royal Signals New Museum Fund.

Members of the Delta Troop Charity Disco Team
(From Left to Right): WO2 Andy Ashwell, LCpls Dave Hill, 'Chuck' Walker, 'Skid' Rowe, John Perry, Steve Ayres, Cpl 'Willy' Rushton, LCpl Ian Potton, Cpl 'Chopper' Christopher, LCpls 'Mixie' Martin and 'Lenny' Lenton

24 HOUR CHARITY BFT

LCpl Eric Herron took up the challenge as a part of 13 Sig Regt's effort to raise money for the Corps Museum decided to combine the fund raising with another charity, namely FSIDS; the Foundation for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. **LCpl Herron** organised a 24 hour sponsored BFT. (24 BFT's in just 24 hours!). His first objective was to recruit a band of gladiators who would be up to this gruelling and very demanding challenge: five were eventually selected. They were **Cpl Jon Brooke, Cpl Tony Codling** (RLC) and **LCpls Ed Dickson, Eric Herron** and **Andy Miller.** So, with only 24 hours and 72 miles between the start and the finish the team, joined by 1 Sqn Comd **Maj J. A. B. Floyd,** set off. The first three BFT's went without a hitch, but disaster struck; **LCpl Andy Miller** was forced to retire with a groin strain after the 13 mile point. **LCpl Eric Herron** reached the 21 mile point, but after a short rest **Eric** then went on to complete a further six BFT's before retiring injured. **LCpl Ed Dickson** had a rush of blood to the head, which kept rushing especially when it got to his nose! He had obviously pushed himself a bit too hard and retired after BFT 21. **Cpl Tony Codling**'s feet looked as though he had been running in cheese graters as opposed to running shoes. He kept going and fell only one short of completing all 24 BFT's. The CO, **Lt Col P. A. R. Rouse** had joined the mass of spectactors to cheer him home. **Jon Brooke** romped home in impressive style to complete the 24th BFT in 9 mins 30 secs. It was a superb effort by all participants for which they are congratulated. In total, 84 BFT's were completed which amounts to an amazing 252 miles. They raised DM3250, which will be divided between the two charities. Well done lads!

The Charity BFT Team romp home after 24 BFTs

CROSS COUNTRY

Following on from their startling win at the BAOR Cross-Country Championships (as reported in February's issue of *The Wire*), the Ladies team returned to UK and the scenic area of Aldershot to compete in the Army Cross-Country Championships on 2 February. Due to detachments, the team had to substitute some runners, but the mainstay of the victorious crew still represented the Regiment and BAOR. These were led by **WO1 Nancy Pearson,** who rallied together the remainder of the team who were **Lt Andrea Sharman, LCpl Fred Muchowski, LCpl Nikki Glen, JTW Paula Mansell** and **Pte Lorraine Gardner. LCpl** 'Robbo' **Robinson** also qualified as an individual to return to the UK and was quickly roped in as driver of the minibus to the Championships. A lone male amongst all those women . . . an envious task . . . ? The competition itself though was pretty tough, but our band of heroines battled on through to a creditable ninth place. The next major event was the Rhine Garrison Cross Country Relays held on 9 March at Rheindahlen. Three male teams entered from the Regiment: The Speedsters from 2 Sqn and from 1 Sqn, The Chippendales of Charlie Tp and The Dogs from Delta Tp. Each team consisted of four runners on a fairly flat and fast course. As the most mature runner from the regiment, **SSgt** 'Track' **Trethewey** put in a creditable performance of 17.04 mins, but having returned from illness, **LCpl Robinson** ran the fastest lap of the day in 13.59 mins. The team's final placings were: The Speedsters fourth; The Chippendales tenth and on their heels, The Dogs eleventh.

The last big event on the cross-country calendar was the Rhine Garrison Championships, held on 30 March. The Regiment entered both a male and female team for this event. **Pte Lorraine Gardner** was just pushed out of the medals into fourth place. The ladies were also just edged out of the runners up position by three points into third place. The men's race proved to be a lot tougher, but the Regiment managed to put in a full team of eight runners. Creditable performances were noted from once again **LCpl** 'Robbo' **Robinson** who came second individually and from **LCpl** 'Nobby' **Clarke** not too far behind, in eighth place. The remainder of the team (in order of appearance over the finish line!) was represented by **LCpl Green, Cpl Ted Whichelo, LCpl Chester, Cpls John Brooke, Cpl Dave Falcus** and last but not least **LCpl** 'Bamber' **Barron.** The team's hard efforts managed them a creditable fourth place and a free cup of soup afterwards.

MEN'S HOCKEY

The Regimental Hockey team have had a successful season and a good run in the Army Cup (Minor Units). The Regiment was knocked out at the semi-final stage 1–0 by the eventual winners 200 Sig Sqn. Our second, and final match, against the AAColl, Harrogate was a very enjoyable game. Our keeper, **LCpl** 'Icky' **Hickenbotham,** only touched the ball in practice, and the midfield totally dominated the game. After a thoroughly enjoyable game the finale score was 5–0 to the Regiment.

During the season three players from the Regiment have been selected to represent the Corps; they are: **Lt Simon Meadowcroft, SSgt Nige Watton** and **Sgt Charlie Brown.** These players along with **LCpl Daryl Rees** were also selected to represent the Western Zone.

BAOR LADIES INTER-UNIT HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Having turned up at JHQ with eight players to play seven-a-side hockey, we were horrified to discover we were definitely playing against more than seven players: it was 11 a side but we decided to carry on any way. At the end of the first day we were still up with the leaders with matchwinning goals from **LCpls Hazel Thompson** and **Nicky Holland.** The league placings were decided on penalty flicks. With some excellent flicks from **SSgt Linda Comyns, Sgt Di Gee** and **LCpl Claire Haynes** and some brilliant saves from **Sgt Sue Kind** we were placed first in our league. The second day in the semi we drew 0–0 against BMH Rinteln after a relentless onslaught kept the goals out. The result being decided again on penalty flicks. Goals by **SSgt Linda Comyns, Sgt Di Gee** and **LCpl Tracy Lamingman** saw us through to the final. Other players included **LCpls Claire Hallam** and **Steph Glass.** In the final we met Detmold and Herford Garrison again, who beat 16 Sig Regt in their semi. The game ended 0–0. This time our luck ran out and we lost 1–0 on penalty flicks. We now go back to Aldershot to represent BAOR in the UK inter-Unit Championships at the end of March.

ORIENTEERING

During the latter part of February the weather closed in and a couple of events in the league were run under very snowy conditions. This added immensely to the fun, with conditions under foot getting quite treacherous at times. However, this weather did not last too long and the conditions at recent events have been much better. Although the team are doing fairly well in the league we have been overhauled by RSU(A) who seem to be able to get 10 men to every event. Still we will keep trying! The Regimental Championships were held at the beginning of February as a joint venture with 220 Sig Sqn. It was decided to let it be a score event. Only **LCpl** 'Nobby' **Clark** from HQ Sqn managed to get all controls in the allocated time. All in all it appeared that everyone enjoyed the event and, no one got to lose! **LCpl** 'Nobby' **Clark** was the male champion and **LCpl Tracy Lamingman** the female champion. Champion male team was TM Tp and Female team was HQ Ladies. HQ Sqn were inter-squadron champions.The next major event was the Rhine Garrison Championships. These took place in the Recklinghausen area on 23 March. **SSgt Phil Mathews** confidence and smile increased immensely on the day, when he was told that we could run as many as we wished on each course, with the best two on the A and B course and best one on the C course to count. The event itself was well planned with some long legs included and some very technical controls.

On the A Course **Sgt Andy Jensen** beat **LCpl** Robbo **Robinson** by two minutes and earned himself 3rd M21. **Cpl Ted Whichelo** had a good run on the B Course as did **SSgt Harry Butland** who beat **SSgt Phil Mathews** by some seven minutes, thus forcing him out of the medals, if we won any. This performance also earned **SSgt Harry Butland** 1st M40 Prize. On the C Course **LCpl Brian Peach** managed to keep our novice **Cpl Steve Christopher** at bay by two minutes. Special mention must be made of **Cpl** Taff **Stewart**. He was made to run on the A Course just in case one of the other two messed up. He did well in that he got all his controls unfortunately he took some 2 hours 20 minutes. The event staff were just getting some search parties organised when Taff gamely came into view still running. Well done. We turned up to the prizegiving anticipating a first place award only to be awarded runners up. **SSgt Phil Mathews** lodged a complaint and we were put in first place by some 17 minutes.

REGIMENTAL RUGBY

The 1993/4 season will mark the end of the Birgelen Rugby Club and this season's committee and players ensured that the club definitely went out in style. This club had a triumphant tour to Weisbaden and Frankfurt defeating the "Yanks" with a score that the current English cricket team would be proud of. Unfortunately, the tour was a farewell to many of the club's stalwarts, including coach **CSgt Dave Tyce** and 'Poet in Residence' **Sgt Chris Kitchen**. Other results included victories over 16 Sig Regt, in their last match at Krefeld, and the touring RAF Lyneham Club. A sad loss against our friends from 14 Sig Regt (EW) spoilt the party, but hopefully a return match at Osnabruck can be arranged before the demise of the Regiment. The club also qualified for the finals of the BAOR 7's due to an excellent result at the Rhine Garrison event. The highlight of all fixtures was the match organised against RAF Digby held on Saturday 12 March for the inaugural 'Tasmanian Challenge Cup', donated by the current Rugby Officer, an exiled Tasmanian, **Lt Mark Burton**. The game was played in the right spirit and of course with the correct result Birgelen 17 RAF Digby 7. Outstanding players for 13 Sig Regt (R) were man-of-the-match **LCpl Steph Treloar, Cpl Brian Hands** and **FofS Tony Woolaston**. At the after match celebrations, the RAF Digby skipper had the final laugh when he announced that next season, Birgelen players would be wearing RAF strips!

The 'Tasmanian' Challenge Cup awarded by Lt Col P. A. R. Rouse to FofS Woolaston (Capt) of 13 Sig Regt rugby team who had just beaten RAF Digby 17 pts to 7. Lt Mark Bruton (Royal Australian Navy) gives the CO a big clap for managing to take both hands off his crutches after a squash injury!

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 36

245 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Phil Osment**
2IC — **Capt Andy Williams**

The Squadron has, as usual, had an extremely busy time of it, what with the Mouflon Challenge Trophy in December, along with all the usual festive activities. After our well earned Christmas break, we bade farewell to the Sqn Comd **Maj Nigel Harrison** at the beginning of the year, congratulations on your promotion and we all wish you and **Sue** and family, especially the new arrival the very best of luck for the future.

A very warm welcome goes to our new Sqn Comd **Maj Phil Osment**, we hope that **Phil, Sally** and family will be happy here.

JULIET TROOP

Tp Comd — **2Lt Adam Hillary**

Congratulations, or is it commiserations, go out to **LCpl Jim Johnson** and **Sig Debbie Cobb** (Comms Tp) as their single lives come to an end. They tied the knot in the Garrison Church on the 12 March; best of luck from the Troop. Sad farewells go out to **Sgt Crabb, Cpl Owen** and **Sig French**. Warm welcomes to **Sgt Peters, LCpl Clifton** and **Sig Watson**.

WHISKEY TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Malcolm Hanson**

Rambo watch out, we have your rival here, waiting like a coiled spring to take over when you fail in your mission, you guessed it **LCpl Paul 'Dead Eye' Kirk** not only kills attack helicopters with a single round, but rides the final lap of the BAOR Motocross with the throttle cable in his hand and still takes first place in the novice class, well done.

Adieu to **Cpl Clark** and **LCpl Hill** and salutations to **Lt Hanson, Sigs Roberts** and **Whyte**.

X RAY TROOP

Tp Comd — **2Lt Ros Artley**

Congratulations to 'Jock' **Honeyman** on his promotion to WO1. A warm welcome to **2Lt Ros Artley** who arrived from Blandford in time to deploy to Marne Battle to take the special parade of the order of the loo brush. Goodbyes to **Sig Emmerson** who left us for 30 Sig Regt and **Sgt Dagnall** who is off to Beaconsfield.

YANKEE TROOP–CHAMPION TROOP

Tp Comd — **2Lt Paul Jones**

A warm welcome to **2Lt Paul Jones** who also arrived from Blandford in time for Marne Battle but miraculously, due to his ex RAF skills, was not of the order of the loo brush. Goodbyes go to **Cpl Logan** going to 7 Sig Regt, **LCpl Parkinson**, off to 34 Sig Regt (V) and **Sig Whales** who is leaving the Army.

ZULU TROOP

Tp Comd — **2Lt Paul Atkinson**

Farewell and congratulations to **Brian Alexander** now a SSM at 13 Sig Regt (R) and to **Danny Thornton** soon to become a SSgt in Comms Tp and also to **FofS Neville Smikle** on his selection for promotion to WO2. Congratulations also go to **Sigs Pepper, Ridgers** and **Stone** on their promotion to LCpls. Warm welcomes to the new 2IC **SSgt Stevey Newton** come to us from Harrogate, and to **Sgt Forbes, Cpl Wilson** and **LCpl Snape**.

MOUFLON CHALLENGE TROPHY

The first ever Mouflon challenge was designed as a scaled down version of the planned annual grand event. The competition is essentially inter Troop 'everything', in three main categories; Military skills, Trade skills and sport. The competition was run over a 48 hour period with maximum participation especially in the final category the Basketball and Football. The competition was very close and Yankee Tp came out on top as Champion Troop. This year's competition has already started with the basketball competition which Zulu Tp romped home with.

EXERCISE MARNE BATTLE

During late February and early March 245 Sig Sqn exercised at the Combat Manoeuvre Training Centre, Hohenfels, an American training facility in Bavaria. The centre provides a marvellous training opportunity and is used at least once per year by every United States Army combat unit based in Germany.

The Squadron operated in support of 1st Battalion 4th Infantry, a resident unit which provides a realistic 'enemy' representing a former Soviet Motor Rifle Regiment. The Blue Forces during the exercise were provided by the 3rd Battalion 4th Cavalry Regiment. The Squadron had a very successful exercise, making a significant contribution to the infantry success on more than one occasion.

Personal achievement during the two week period peaked when **LCpl Paul Kirk** 'shot down' an AH-1 Cobra gunship with a single round from the LSW earning himself the immortal title 'Snake Killer'. When the crew of the 'downed' helicopter were interviewed by the author it was pointed out that both rotors bore the evidence of a tree strike. However, Snake Killer **Kirk** will not be denied his kill.

The Squadron made its mark on the American units involved and has been invited to return in September for a double rotation lasting 20 days, something which is eagerly anticipated.

226 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj D. G. Macaulay**
2IC — **Capt G. N. Addley**

LEADERSHIP COURSE

On Sunday 13 February, 23 JNCOs and Signallers of the Regiment formed up on the square to take part in the Regimental Leadership Course. The day started with an inspection by **Capt Addley**, the OIC, and **WO2 (SSM) Naclawek**, the Chief Instructor. There followed a short drill session under **Sgt Hicks** before the students and the DS staff deployed to Achmer Training Area. The course was made up of two phases, Phase 1 was the teaching phase and Phase 2 the confirmation. During the course a number of subjects were taught including M of I, Orders, Mission Analysis, basic leadership qualities and a refresher on tactics.

The instructors were drawn from the Squadron ably supported by **SSgt** 'Gunny' **Gilbert** and a guest appearance by **2Lt Adam Hilliary**, both from 245 Sig Sqn. One of the tasks given to the soldiers was to deliver a two minute lecture on a subject nominated by the DS. **Sig Robson** particularly endeared himself to **WO2 Waclawek** when he told the class that the role of the SSM was to be his mother whilst he was in the Army!

Out of the classroom the students undertook a platoon attack in line with their mission analysis and orders. All went well until **Sig Crutchley**, in the fire support section, decided that as things were a bit slow and boring he would assault the enemy position single handed from 200 metres away! ... Fortunately the firm DS hand of **Cpl Phil Render** stopped the 'death or glory' charge.

A key part of the course was a simulated NBC attack with casualties, prepared by **Sgt Sutherland** and **LCpl Mulligan**. The students coped well with the difficult scenario, and with the gentle encouragement of the DS, evacuated the casualties on DIY stretchers.

The final part of Phase 1 was a 'gun run' competition. This consisted of a 1.5km run with a gun made out of old tyres, ashpoles and planks of wood. The sections attacked the course with the drive and determination expected of future NCOs. Surprisingly nobody appreciated the OIC and SSM's sense of humour; little did they know they would re-run the course after the first attempt. Happily, all the sections completed the second run in a faster time, after they had worked out how to carry the gun.

Sig 'Chalkie' **Whyte** commanded the first serial of Phase 2 which involved the course deploying to a harbour area and digging in. The next day was spent on a competition with stands made up of various command tasks and map reading skills. One of the section commanders, **Sig** 'Ully' **Ullyart** was so amazed that she found the key in the middle of the 'minefield' that she completely forgot what it was for. The antics of **Sig McGarry**'s section interrogating an agent had all the DS in stitches.

On the final day, the camp was torn down and everyone was loaded onto the 4 tonners. However, to the horror of the students, they were dropped off by the canal and ordered to march back to camp! Confidently led by **Sigs Mark McGarry** and 'Smudge' **Smith** the students yomped back to barracks. All agreed that the course had been worthwhile and that future courses should be longer. Look out all those on the next course!

COMMS TROOP

Tp Comd — **2Lt K. Mosby**

A fond farewell to **SSgt Bob Banner** who is posted, on promotion, to 9 Sig Regt and **Sgt Hicks** whose dulcet tones now ring around the camp in his position as RP Sgt. Welcome to **Sgt 'JJ' Johnston** poached from H Tp and **Sgt Jake Thornton** from 245 Sig Sqn.

EXERCISE SNOW QUEEN–COURSE 5

Everybody met at the cookhouse for a big breakfast before the 11 hour journey south to Bavaria. Judging by the size of some of the holdalls and suitcases you'd have thought that people were going away for 10 weeks not 10 days.

On arrival we were promptly put into capability groups, the experts, the 'Mr Average' and the real beginners. We were then split into rooms and had a brief on the rules and regulations on the course. Finally, before the cocoa and bed, we were issued with our skiing equipment.

Early the next morning we were off, fortified by a hearty compo breakfast and carrying a huge packed lunch. Half the course Langlaufed whilst the rest did downhill. The Langlauf group put on the skis, and once we'd mastered standing up we played a few games to get us used to the techniques. We rapidly progressed through snowploughing, side stepping and herring-boning. When we cracked that, we got to the stage that the Germans hate–we were allowed on to the tracks. **2Lt Kevin Mosby** and **LCpl** 'Willy' **Wilcox** shot off showing us how it was done.

Naturally no day's skiing is complete without light refreshment at the end, commonly known as Weissen or Pils. Some people seemed a little better at downing a Weissen than downing the slopes! The entertainment was provided by the man with a story for every occasion–**Sgt** 'Fungi Spotter' **Hicks**.

After the Langlauf we hit the slopes. After mastering the basics it was time for some real skiing . . . showing the other piste users what speed is really all about!

By the end of the course everyone had shown considerable improvement especially **Sig McGarry** who won the Most Improved Student award. A special congratulations to all those who gained their silver and bronze awards.

HF TROOP

Tp Comd — **Capt E. Doughty**

Hello to **Cpl Lodge** and his wife who have newly arrived in the Troop.

226 SIGNAL SQUADRON

A successful and well organised Sunday lunch was enjoyed by the soldiers and families of the Squadron. The day started with the mandatory 'few sociables' in the NAAFI. The Sqn Comd, **Maj Macaulay**, said a few words while dodging children and dogs, which was followed by an excellent curry lunch. Special thanks to **Cpl Garner** and **Sgt Watson** for their endeavours and, most importantly, the chef 'Spike'. Finally all that remains to be said is 'let's have another one' and the washing up needs doing.

ROMEO TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt S. P. Moffat**

The last couple of months saw a large change-over of personnel in the Troop. A fond farewell to **Sgt Prosser** (13 Sig Regt (R)), **Sgt** 'Mof' **Moffet** (9 Sig Regt (R)), **Sigs Cavell** and **Howell** to Comms Tp, and **Sig Hinsley** to Def EW Tp. Hello and welcome to **Sigs Barlow, Birch** and **Vining**.

EXERCISE NORTHSEA SCAN

The Troop deployed on its first exercise of the year up to the North German Coast. The exercise largely ran very smoothly despite personnel returning to camp to support a variety of Regimental commitments. However, **Sig Vining** made a good attempt to kill off the Tp Comd as he tried to convert his Rover to a Robin Reliant. Over the past few months the Troop has lost a lot of experienced operators, so all considered the exercise was a great success. The 'new look' Troop worked hard and produced some good results.

COMBINED SERVICES CRICKET TOUR TO BARBADOS
by Cpl Cole

Pre-tour training at RAF Bruggen started on Friday 28 January and over the weekend all thoughts of the football and rugby season were set aside as the 17 players in the squad set their sights on the tour ahead. Although shakey at the start, by Monday the squad were fit and eager to depart. After touch down in Barbados, blazers off, we collected our luggage and we were off to our accommodation with the Barbados Defence Force. With the arrival administration complete, the squad went to the beach to 'acclimatise'.

The next few days were spent training and adjusting to the conditions in the Caribbean very different from the green playing fields of England or JHQ. Our success on the field was limited although many performances warranted greater rewards. Even with the inclusion of three outsiders, **Chris Lewis, Matthew Maynard** and **Nasser Hussein**, was not enough to put us in the winning habit. Obviously the opposition was of a very high standard.

As a break to playing the game the squad went to watch England play Barbados at the Kensington Oval, thanks to some tickets received from England Captain, **Mike Atherton**.

Back on our field of play we saw some creditable performances by all the bowlers, however the batsmen struggled against a strong bowling opposition and some indifferent pitches. The tour ended on a high note with the entire party watching England beat the West Indies in the first One Day International.

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 40

FAREWELL TO KREFELD

After 37 years in Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld, 16 Sig Regt has moved to its new home in the Rheindahlen Military Complex. On Friday 24 February 1994 on a misty morning the Regiment held its 'Auf Wiedersehen' to Krefeld Parade. The salute was taken by the Commander Rhine Garrison, **Brig H. H. Kerr OBE**, who was accompanied on the inspection by the Oberburgermeister of Krefeld Stadt, **Herr Wahl**. In the farewell speeches both **Brig Kerr** and **Herr Wahl** commented on the excellent relationship which had been cemented over the years between the Stadt and the Regiment. Krefeld Stadt presented 16 Sig Regt with the Freedom of the City in 1972 and the Regiment carries the Krefeld Fahnenband on the unit flag. **Herr Wahl** presented the CO, **Lt Col N. F. Fisher**, with the Krefeld Stadt flag to fly in Rheindahlen. The parade was also the final opportunity for a formal farewell to 230 Sig Sqn who remain in Krefeld to join 7 Sig Regt. The parade was followed by a lunch in the Officers' Mess for **Herr Wahl** and other Stadt representatives.

The Regiment led by the CO Lt Col N. F. Fisher marches into JHQ. Brig H. H. Kerr, Commander Rhine Garrison takes the salute

Lt Col N. F. Fisher leading 16 Sig Regt into Krefeld Lines, Rheindahlen

On Monday 28 February the Regiment held a parade to march into Rheindahlen Military Complex. The salue was again taken by **Brig Kerr** and music was provided by the band of the 1st Bn The Devonshire and Dorset Regt from Werl. The parade included a flag raising ceremony at the new RHQ building in the JHQ compound which used to house HQ 4 Signal Group. The parade then marched through the complex to Krefeld Lines which is the garage area for the Regiment in Rheindahlen. After the parade an all ranks lunch was held in the new unit club 'The Wall and Willow'.

The Regiment now has three Squadrons. 252 Sig Sqn based in Rheindahlen provides communications agencies (CDA, EST, RSSST and JDCMS) and the JHQ Comcen. 255 Sig Sqn is also in Rheindahlen and provide mobile communications for HQ RSC. 253 Sig Sqn provide static communications in the Bielefeld area (including SWS Tp), but the SHQ is soon to move to Herford. The Rheindahlen based RHQ and Support Troop now only number 29 military personnel as much of the unit administration is provided by the Rheindahlen Support Unit.

253 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sporting events have continued with four teams, two male and two female, entering into the last Lubecker Ridge Run in which the ladies team came first. Congratulations to **Cpls Towers, Strawn, Armstrong, LCpls Donahay** and **Richardson**. Individually the following achievements were gained, **Cpl Ingham** coming 25th in 1 hr 56 mins and 28 seconds, **Sig Knowler** coming 73rd and **Cpl Cullunn** coming 99th.

A female team was entered into the BAOR volleyball competition in which they came runners-up. With more practice the team should be on top form when returning to the UK to take part in the Women's Army Volleyball Competition. The men's team competed in the 1 (UK) Armd Div Volleyball Championships and fought a tremendous battle against various teams unfortunately they ended up third in their league.

On the social side a seniors and officers lunch was held in the HQ ARRC WOs and Sgts Mess in order to congratulate **SSgt M. Shirley** on receiving his LS & GC. **Mrs Shirley** and their children attended the presentation and lunch along with an old family friend known to everyone as **Harry** who kept everyone amused with his 'old soldier' stories. The presentation was made by **Brig A. J. Schuler**, Comd Comms. Sadly **SSgt Shirley** has now been posted to 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and the Squadron wishes him all the best in his new post.

ROYAL SIGNALS SYSTEMS SUPPORT TEAM FORWARD BFPO 40

ARRIVALS

RSSST (Forward) would like to extend a very warm welcome to the new team members **Capt Steve Williamson**, who is also double hatted as the 2IC of 252 Sig Sqn, **WO1 (FofS) Nige Cullen** from the windswept plains of Catterick Garrison and **WO1 (ASM) Bruce Leslie** REME joining us from the sunnier climate of Yugoslavia. We hope you all enjoy your stay with us. A very warm welcome to a baby boy born to **SSgt Ian** and **Val Beverley**; many congratulations.

DEPARTURES

We say farewell to **Capt** 'Chaz' **Dowie** for the third time in the last four years, perhaps this time it will be permanent. Also to **WO1 (ASM) Dave McFarlane** to Malvern and **SSgt (YofS) Ian Lawton** to 11 Sig Regt to complete his last six months of service. Good luck to all of you in the future.

MOVE TO RHEINDAHLEN

RSSST (Forward) have moved again as part of drawdown and are now completely integrated into 252 Sig Sqn, 16 Sig Regt. Unfortunately the offices are smaller than those in Krefeld station. However after much deliberation and movement of furniture there is now room to swing a cat. The move went quite smoothly with all team members lending a hand, or paw, in the case of Billy, our resident team dog. We would especially like to thank **SSgt Phil Tait** for all his assistance with the move, well done. Hopefully, this time we will have a permanent home for some years in Rheindahlen.

LS AND GC PRESENTATION

Congratulations to SSgt P. Tait on the award of his LS & GC which was presented to him by **Brig A. J. Schuler** D. Comd HQSDist.

SSgt P. Tait receives his medal from Brig Schuler

SPORT

The gladiators within the team have represented 16 Sig Regt at Golf and Dinghy Sailing, **SSgt Phil Tait** duly represented the team in the BAOR Inter-services Dinghy sailing competition and **Sgt Keith Horsfall** won the Rhine Garrison Golf Competition.

21 Sig Regt (AS)
Colerne

220 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj M. W. Edwards**
2IC — **Capt A. D. E. Cameron**

The Squadron's workload remains heavy at RAF Laarbruch and RAF Bruggen, and in supporting the Germany based element of the Support Helicopter Force. However, work aside, there is still time for an interesting sporting and social calendar. When the Sqn Comd arrived last year, he brought with him a range of new ideas and aims. These included the introduction of The Ram Challenge Trophy. The trophy is a rampant ram mounted on a rock and was 'acquired' from a previous unit by a light-fingered member of the Sqn LAD, **Cpl Snowdon**. With little knowledge of the trophy's history The Ram Challenge Trophy came into being as an inter-Troop challenge competition. The Troop holding the trophy can be challenged by any other Troop to a form of inter Troop competition. The challenge must be met within two weeks, otherwise the trophy goes to the challenging Troop. To date there have been a number of straight forward challenges including football and golf. More recently, L Tp Comd, **2Lt Joth Heywood**, called up his 'ideas' power and produced a Chain of Command Dog Baiting Competition for SHQ. With the challenge in place the Sqn Comd managed to get away on Ex Snow Queen, leaving his stand in, **Capt Andy Cameron**, to act as the Master Baiter for the SHQ dog baiting team. After much debate as to the form of the competition the rules were set and the challenge loomed. Each team was to consist of a chain of command from officer to signaller, in turn team members were to run from a start line away from the marauding dogs of the RAF Laarbruch Police Dog Section; the total distance for each team would decide the winners. In keeping with tradition the officers were the first to be thrown to the dogs. Police dog Elvis was released, the 2IC turned into Shaking Stevens staggered 10 yards slipped up and was the first to be a dog's dinner. **2Lt Joth Heywood** managed a little better before being wrestled to the ground. Much scheming had taken place prior to this event, with **SSgt (SQMS) Phil Christie** convinced that if he sewed strings of sausages to the outside of his suit the dogs would be more interested in eating them than him. After much hilarity and bruising L Tp took the Ram Trophy from SHQ and now await a challenge. Rumours of bungee jumping, go-karting and ice hockey challenges have come across my desk; however as yet none have come to fruition.

Other events have included the H Tp Charity Car Wash at RAF Bruggen. **Sgt Lee Calvert** could not have picked a better day to hold the charity push with the weather producing one of the best days, so far, this year. L Tp got together on a Sunday afternoon under command of **LCpl Sally Webster** to battle in the Station woodland in a series of paintballing conflicts.

220 Sig Sqn Driving Skills Competition
H Tp faults crew, boldly going where no other faults crew has been before

On the promotions front, the Squadron has had much success, the C Clk **Sgt Bill Pritchard** came off the AGC SSgt board, **Sgt Trib Slaney** arrived for just four weeks before being posted, again, on promotion this time, **Sgt** Yogi **Cauldwell** also received promotion and **Sgt Davies** who should have arrived in March had his posting altered, due to promotion. On the JNCO front, **Sigs Johnfinn, King, Pengelly** and **Wilkinson** all received their first tapes from the outstanding signallers' board.

To keep people hungry for promotion the Squadron recently held a junior cadre which saw some of the potential thruster signallers put through their paces on a week long cadre. It included a short exercise phase, Ex First Tape, which saw 220 Sig Sqn invade Germany from Holland after 18 Sqn of the Support Helicopter Force dropped the patrol off on the wrong side of the border.

244 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Bob Holt**
2IC — **Capt John Norris**

From the initial Squadron run up exercise, Alpha Tp immediately deployed to Norway for three months. This was quickly followed by exercises in support of 5 Bde and 24 Bde. In between, the 'Red Hand Gang' are still kept extremely busy providing the communications for all other Support Helicopter tasks.

There is also time to enjoy ourselves with the Squadron recently winning the Athletics Competition and coming runners-up in the Rugby Sevens.

ALPHA TROOP AMF(L)

Tp Comd — **Lt Graham Fletcher**

EXERCISES HARDFALL AND ARCTIC EXPRESS 94

A Tp AMF(L) has now returned from Norway, at last, to a welcome from the Squadron. The annual three month arctic deployment was an extremely successful and fun packed experience, especially for **Sig Matt Dorling** who showed himself as potential future Olympic skier. After completion of the Novice Ski and Survival Course and Infantry Arctic Warfare Training, the Troop moved on to special-to-arm training and trial exercises. Meanwhile the Force Helicopter Unit detachment under the steady reins of **Sgt Mark Tivey** fitted in the odd downhill ski session, despite the workload. The Troop Mobile Air Operation Teams continued the motion!

The dismounted Rebros about to be inserted

Notable successes were the deployment of two, four man manpack RRBs by helicopter to mountain locations led by **SSgt Steve Davison** and **Cpl Ian Johnston**. A fantastic third placing in the force downhill ski meet led by **Sig Stu Foster**. A successful defence of a bridge during AWT by the entire Troop.

Cpl J. O'Neill our FAC man on what he thinks might be his last deployment in Norway!

Cpl 'Taff' Thomas and Sig Mel Jones enjoy the comfort of their BV

A Tp–Lt Graham Fletcher tries to walk on water. The Yeoman finds it easy!

Thanks go to 249 Sig Sqn AMF(L), Regimental and Squadron Ops teams and the force RMP det for their valuable support during Hardfall.

After completing the move North A Tp set about the serious task of providing SH and OS comms for the AMF(L) within the Arctic Circle. Joined by the Sqn 2IC **Capt John Norris**, the Troop again managed to complete the task with flying colours. **Sigs Dave Horton** and 'Harry' **Harrison** (attached from 237 Sig Sqn) gave lessons in ballroom dancing and the dark hours were spent watching the northern lights and reminiscing in the Tp Comd's tent.

The Troop would like to thank **Cpls Pete Birtles, Mark Hughes, Cfn Ash Killon, Sig Mark Hone** (attached) and 237 Sig Sqn members **Sigs Harrison** and **Monteith** for all their efforts and we hope to see you again in Norway. On reflection an outstanding success particularly for the young inexperienced Signallers thrown in at the deep end (and sometimes the ice) who really performed well in every department. Roll on Ardent Ground.

SAY HELLO, WAVE GOODBYE

Welcome to **LCpl Curtis, Sig** 'Max' **Maxwell** and **Sig Rob Mason**. Sadly we say farewell to **LCpl** Taff **Thomas** to 19 Bde Sig Sqn, thank you and good luck.

J TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Duncan Parkinson**

The Troop wishes to welcome **Cpl** 'Del' **Paz, LCpl Thornton, Sigs** 'Daz' **Challis, Cunnington, Rob Kirk, Toni Palfreyman** and 'Taff' **Rees**.

INDIA TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Geoff Pullen**

EXERCISE NORTHERN CRUSADE

On Wednesday 2 February India Tp started the long and eventful drive towards Otterburn Training Area for Ex Northern Crusade. After 10 hours on the road, breakdowns and a few mishaps the Troop arrived at Redesdale Camp tired, but ready for the tasks ahead.

Booking in at 5 Ab Bde's admin/reception area proved difficult. No-one knew who we were, where we would be operating or who we would be working for. This hurdle was soon overcome by our illustrious leaders and after getting rid of our weapons we deployed all over OTA.

The exercise went very well with all members of the Troop and the Tp Comd, **Lt Geoff Pullen** getting plenty of hands-on training, especially with the new equipment currently being trialled.

Some members of the Troop had a 'jolly' in a Puma. Thanks to the RAF for giving us the chance of a battle run and although it affected some more than others it was certainly worthwhile.

After a wet and windy 10 days up north it was time to return to Colerne, to more wet and windy weather.

CHARITY BUNGEE JUMP

On 26 March at the Cotswold Water Park, Cirencester, eight members took part in a 300ft bungee jump for Tenovus in aid of Cancer Research. In doing this the Troop managed to raise well over £1200 which is still rising. That bungee jump was only the tip of the iceberg, so to speak. The eight members have now formed the 'India Troop Dangerous Sports Club', later events will include Sky Diving and a Bungee Catapult with our Squadron charity being the main beneficiary, the Physically Handicapped Able Bodied (PHAB). Well done again to **SSgt Phil Fluck** (the organiser), **LCpls** 'Wiz' **Wiseman**, Chuck **Berry**, 'H' **Hender**, Baz **Cadman, Sigs Lee Hickman, Daz Jardine**, 'Rust' **Hale** (our female representative) and our REME rep **Cfn Larry Grayson** for doing what most people would not do. With the success of this event and the monies raised, the jumpers would like to thank again all who sponsored them and it is hoped future events will also be so generously backed.

HELLO, GOODBYE AND CONGRATULATIONS

The Troop welcomes **Sig Chris Collin** from 1 ADSR, **Sig Shaun Thorne** from JCUNI and **Sig Ted Stoves** from 216 (Para) Sig Sqn.

Farewell and Good Luck to **Sig Jo Biddle** who volunteered for Bosnia and to **Sig Zane Humphries** who has been posted to RMA Sandhurst on promotion.

Congratulations to the following on their recent promotions to LCpl, **Sigs Chuck Berry, Geff Wilman** and **Pete Allan**.

Finally, best wishes and good luck to **LCpl Pete Cherry** and **Nikki** who took the plunge and married on 5 March.

Fond farewells to **LCpl Mick Anderson** and his wife **Sara** who are posted to AAColl Harrogate.

Cpls Graham Jenkins and **Andy Wigley** will be leaving on redundancy. The Troop congratulates **LCpl Vinny Hill** on his recent promotion.

Yet again the Troop deployed to an entirely new location on Salisbury Plain on Ex Red Beaufighter. Regimental Ops was quite insistent on sending Ptarmigan traffic over a Bruin Relay, but everyone on the exercise was astonished when the Staff turned out of their offices into a field tented location with combats and webbing.

30 Sig Regt
Bramcote

CO **Lt Col J. E. Thomas MBE**
2IC **Maj C. P. Donaghy**

PRESENTATION OF A BAR TO THE LS & GC MEDAL

On a recent visit to the Regiment, Comd Comms/CIS UKLF, **Brig N. F. Wood** kindly agreed to present Sp Sqn Comd, **Maj Peter Cain**, with a bar to his LS & GC Medal. A bar to this medal is a remarkable achievement as it marks exceptionally long service, in this case 33 years exemplary service. The Regiment congratulates **Maj Cain** and also his wife **Jean** for the support she has given him.

Brig N. F. Wood presents Maj P. Cain with a Bar to his LS & GC Medal

Presentation of LS & GC Medals
L to R: WO2 (SSM) D. Skimming, Brig N. F. Wood, WO2 (FofS) Drake

SUPPORT SQUADRON

The Regiment deployed on Ex Diamond Cutter in February, with the majority of the Squadron deployed in its supporting roles.

MT DEPARTMENT

Sgts Al Thompson and 'Geordie' **Nutbeam** are leaving on redundancy. Geordie is going to open his own business and Big Al is hellbent on being a Pontin's Bluecoat. Best wishes and good luck to them both.

QM DEPARTMENT

The **RQMS WO2 John Duckworth**, says his guys are as busy as ever, but really, how much longer can we be expected to believe this? And 'hot off the press', congratulations are in order for **Sgt Angus MacPherson** and **Sharon** on the birth of their baby daughter **Lauren**.

SECURE ROOM

The dynamic duo of **Sgts Drew Collins** and Taff **Tanner** have finally moved into their purpose built, all singing all dancing, crypto office and workshop. Thanks a lot for the windows!

MAYORAL RECEPTION

To welcome the Regiment to Bramcote, the Mayor of Nuneaton and Bedworth, **Councillor Maurice Kedwards**, recently kindly invited the Officers and Warrant Officers of the Regiment to a reception in the Mayoral Chambers at the Town Hall. The Mayor welcomed members of the Regiment and presented the Commanding Officer with a pair of framed prints. The CO replied on behalf of the Regiment and presented the Mayor with a framed Regimental Pennant to be hung in the Town Hall. Thus has started what is hoped will be a long and fruitful relationship between the Regiment and the Borough.

The CO presents a framed 'Swan Pennant' to the Mayor of Nuneaton and Bedworth

TM TROOP

The Troop says hello to **John Pryor** in replacement of **Andy Hunt**, the senior civilian technician, also to **Cpl Liz Cooney, LCpls Roy Joyce** and **John Crawford**. Farewells to **Cpl** 'Shaky' **Wakeham**, off to N. Ireland and to **Cpl** 'Monty' **Farrow**, off to Catterick on his T1. The Troop says cheerio also to **Cpl Linda Holtby** as she attempts to join the RAF as an Officer; we wish her all the best.

REGIMENTAL ADMIN OFFICE

One word: Nightmare. Well that's how one member of the RAO staff has described the last couple of months. This caused **SSgt Matt Morris** to giggle slightly–you see he works in another, well, quiet office with the RAO. It all started when this new fangled ID card machine arrived which everyone agreed was a 100% improvement on the admin burden-ie, whereas the old cards took a week to come back, the new ones take a superb five months. Still, it looks good and keeps **Pte Griffin** out of mischief!

Outside activities continue to throw the proverbial spanner in the works. **Sgt Stu Lowe** (who by now is enjoying his sabbatical at SHAPE) still dashes out to the football pitch to fall over, **Cpl Steve** 'Jack Dee' **Upsall** recently handed over his tenure as the Corporals' Mess PEC, thus leaving the showbiz circuit–'There's no business like Docs and Discharges' doesn't quite have the same ring.

So not a great deal is new, even the desks are pre-war. No seriously, this RAO thing is really impressing the rest of the Regiment; it oozes efficiency, one female soldier even called us the 'best looking' office in the camp. That's why we never advertise.

Finally, best wishes to **Sue Manley**, our Docs and Resettlement Clerk on her forthcoming marriage to **Paul**.

256 SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Squadron was formed from 47 GW (Guided Wpn) Regiment Royal Artillery Signal Troop on the 1st November 1960. Due to the changes in the Army in the late 1950's particularly changes associated with the reduction and re-organisation of the anti-aircraft formations and units, it has made it difficult to trace the history of the squadron. However it is certain that the squadron can be traced back to 1942 as part of the Signal Troop.

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?
HAVE YOU INFORMED RHQ?
TELEPHONE 071-414 8432

The Squadron provided comms for 47 Regiment Royal Artillery who were based in Napier Barracks, Dortmund. The Regiment was equipped with Surface to Surface Guided Weapons (SSGW) and manned the American Corporal nuclear SSGW system. The signal squadron provided a dedicated radio relay circuit to rear headquarters for the sole purpose of the control of nuclear warheads. The Squadron worked until 1966 when the Corporal system was discarded and the Regiment reverted to a non-nuclear role. It was then decided by the commander 1 Arty Bde that the 'brigade comms would be rationalised with one large squadron responsible for all communication within the brigade'. The Squadron then merged with 257 Squadron who were providing similar comms to 27 Regiment Royal Artillery who were also equipped with the Corporal system. The new squadron retained the title 257 Squadron and later became part of 3 Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment.

The Rams Head sign was adopted by the 1st Artillery Brigade and was worn by all units, including 256 Signal Squadron, within the Brigade.

The title 256 Squadron has now been given to the former 1 Squadron, 30 Sig Regt upon its move to Bramcote.

GENERAL

The Squadron continues to be as industrious as ever with our continual operational and exercise commitments. With **Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose** now in command in Bosnia his first cry upon arrival in Sarajevo was 'I want more comms – get me 30 Sig Regt' hence **Cpl Pete Van De Broek** and crew of VSC 501 'Nectrine' were sent out. The remainder of us left behind in Bramcote spent our time doing the occasional Ex Nimble Finger, the Squadron communications exercise, as well as providing Ptarmigan satellite bridges for the ARRC or 24 Brigade. It's not all work. With some of the Squadron away on Ex Winter Warrior, a skiing 'jolly' in France we continue to globe-trot as a Squadron. Some have had more travel than others such as **Lt Rumsey** whose one week recce to the Virgin Islands was increased to three weeks when he contracted Chicken Pox!

Op Hamden
LCpl Bray at work in UN HQ Sarajevo

EX ROYAL DAWN

Ex Royal Dawn was this year's annual winter deployment exercise for 3rd Cdo Brigade and once again the Squadron was tasked to provide the strategic comms. This year's exercise differed from the normal 'jolly' to Norway and, instead, due to the Winter Olympics at Lillehammer and, cost-cutting, the venue was changed to the Outer Hebrides. A VSC 501 detachment was dispatched to make the 600 mile trip from Bramcote to Ullapool, which made for a long journey in a fully laden rover which could only go at a maximum of 50mph. On arrival in sunny Scotland we moved to a rendezvous location on the banks of Loch Ewe and were informed that we were to wait for transport to take us on board HMS Fearless. However, we waited, and waited while the hours ticked by until we spotted a landing craft just off-shore attempting to land on the beach.

After a number of unsuccessful attempts a lone figure, fully laden with his kit, was seen jumping off the craft and wading ashore. Taking into account the driving rain and distinct chill in the air we all questioned this individual's sanity. The figure then doubled across to our location where we discovered his identity – **WO2 (FofS) Dobson,** fresh from his TV appearances on the 'Commando' series. **Foreman Dobson** became our guide and mentor for the exercise as well as our interpreter in understanding Marine slang. However, regardless of how hard he tried we all refused to call 'brews' by the Marine term of 'wets'. The remainder of the exercise was spent on the Isle of Lewis based on the most stormy and exposed part of Stornaway where we had a busy and interesting time.

GOODBYES AND WELCOMES

The welcomes in the Squadron are too numerous to mention but notable goodbyes include our 2IC, **Capt Ian Walton**, off to Blandford to be educated, **LCpl Roy Goddard**, off to Blandford (as a civvy) and **LCpl Mick Nelson**, off to The Royal School of Signals.

STONE AND DISTRICT PISTOL CLUB SOCIAL SHOOT

On 27 March a Shooting Team from the Regiment was invited to take part in a social shoot at the Stone and District Pistol Club.

After all the coordination, coaching and selection of the team had been carefully administered by **Lt Shyam Gurung**, there was little chance of any last minute hiccups. Unfortunately, one minor point had not been considered; the dads giving family a hand! This problem was soon to be negotiated and 25 minutes behind schedule the members of the Regiment, including an unexpected shooter, **Oliver Donaghy**, son of 2IC, **Maj C. P. Donaghy**, were underway, with the 60 minute journey to Stoke.

The team firers consisted of **Maj C. P. Donaghy**-OIC; **Capt I. G. Standen; Lt Navindra Gurung, SSgts Krishna Gurung, Chandra Gurung, Sgt Kharka Thapa**-Administration; **Cpls D. Copley, Okil Ghale, LCpl Som Dewan, Sigs Barat Shrestha, Young** and **Lettington**.

The day was eventful and took the form of a number of details shooting on a variety of different targets. It proved to be a great experience for both teams with the scores as follows:

Stone and District Pistol Club-2267
30 Sig Regt-1150

It has been noted that the Regiment were firing with the 9mm Mk 1 issue pistol, while members of the opposing team competed with their personal firearms (handcrafted in some cases)!

Later on the opportunity arose for team members to use the opponents firearms which included various revolvers and semi automatics none of which the team members had ever handled before.

At the end of the day those involved with the day's events were presented with commemorative glasses by the Lord Mayor of Stoke. Overall the day went very well and all participants look forward to the return match at Bramcote.

EXERCISE COBB RING
by Sig Ben Wilkins

This was the third phase of an inter-operability trial between 30 Sig Regt and the Joint Communications Support Element (JCSE) based at Macdill Airforce Base, Tampa, Florida.

We moved from Bramcote to South Cerney where plenty of box moving was done in the pouring rain. After a restless night at least the transport to RAF Lyneham was by a comfortable coach and not a battle bus.

The Hercules flight took our party and equipment to Gander, Newfoundland where **Cpl Kev** 'Basher' **Cooney** introduced a local to some cockney hospitality! After an overnight stop the next leg took us to Macdill, Florida.

The setting up of the equipment took place in conditions quite uncharacteristic for Florida, heavy rain. The use of the American's airconditioned/heated tents certainly made a change. Touring the American's facilities was certainly an eye opener into the amount of resources and funds they are allocated!

The trials basically comprised a 502 det, Euromux det and an HF 322 det. The majority of the trials went well, but the HF comms link back to the UK were limited to about four hours a day due to poor atmospheric conditions (that's what the Yeoman said anyway!!). Shift work was undertaken during the exercise so it was definitely work and not play at this stage. The packing of our equipment after the trials was undertaken in a fraction of the time taken to pack at the outset.

Organised adventure training included abseiling and a range day. **Cpl Dave Copley** organised the range day along with a Falling Plate Competition that was enjoyed by Americans and British alike.

R & R took place in such places as Universal Studios, MGM Studios, Disney's Magic Kingdom and Busch Gardens. The local hostels were visited by all including **Cpl Ted** 'Dunking Donut' **Heath, LCpls Talbot** and **Croft** (Beavis and Butthead). The Americans were constantly amazed at our 'Social Stamina' and the lateness of the hour when we returned to our hotel. We held the barbecue to end all barbecues and it was enjoyed by all. The result of this was **SSM Om** taking part in a beer competition and putting on a good show for all, though pipped by **LCpl Croft**. We were also treated to a night out at a Hooters restaurant which went down well with all concerned.

Important things were learned, fun had, friends made and all that was left was the long journey home.

The Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
BFPO 1

Comd — **Lt Col R. M. Crombie**
2IC — **Maj T. W. Canham**

HANDOVER OF GURKHA MAJORS

Maj (QGO) Gambahadur Buduja and his family left the Regiment on retirement on 15 February 1994 after completing 29 years' service in the Brigade of Gurkhas. While families bade farewell to his wife in the Gurkha Families Welfare Centre, the Gurkha Major was dined out at a Regimental Curry Lunch. Having been suitably garlanded by the Officers, **Gam Saheb** was towed in a well decorated landrover to the guardroom to inspect the Guard of Honour prior to being whisked away to the airport by a staff car. It was sad to see him go, we are grateful to him for his tremendous hard work, ever present cheerfulness and sense of fair play which have been so important in providing stability in the Regiment during his tenure that covered the difficult period of the build up and start of the drawdown.

Finally we wish **Maj (QGO) Gambahadur Buduja** and his family a very happy and prosperous civilian life in Nepal.

As **Maj (QGO) Gambahadur** left, his replacement **Maj (QGO) Silajit Gurung MVO**, was helped into his new badges of rank by the Commander, **Lt Col R. M. Crombie**, and Adjutant, **Capt A. I. M. Gordon**. Congratulations to **Sila Saheb** on his very prestigious appointment that caps a career that has, so far, spanned 27 years and included a tour as a Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officer.

FOUR PEAK YACHT RACE 1994
by Sgt Yamkumar Gurung

The Four Peak Race is an annual civilian event organised by the Aberdeen Boat Club in Hong Kong. Teams of four sail to the shore and climb up a hill to each check point. There are four check points all on different peaks. 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn was, again, asked to support the event. Our task was to provide communications between the check points, safety boat and the control (which was located in Aberdeen Boat Club).

Eight persons were deployed to the four check points for the communications support and there was a stand-by technician for technical assistance. Three detachments were airlifted to three check points (Ma On Shan Peak, Lantau Peak and Mount Stenhouse) by RAF Wessex. The fourth detachment to Violet Hill was deployed by landrover and had to walk up the hill.

The race started at 1100 hrs on 29 January. The first team arrived at Ma On Shan (first check point) at 1358 hrs. This was very fast according to the previous record. The strong wind was great for the sailing but it was not good for those people who stayed overnight on the hill top check points. It was freezing! The race finished earlier than last year in a new record time. All of the check points were finally recovered and back to control by 1230 hr 30 February.

It was another successful year using Storno pocket phone radios, which successfully covered the distances of up to 40km without any problems. It was an interesting task for us, where we were able to assist the Hong Kong community whilst raising some money for the Queen's Gurkha Signals Trust Fund.

EXERCISE JUNGLE TROOPER
by Cpl Mandy Niblett

Ex Jungle Trooper is an annual jungle training exercise held in Brunei and organised by QG Sig Regt. This year apart from members of all four Squadrons taking part, there were a few guests from 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para) and 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn and, for the first time, included female soldiers.

Having little idea of what they were letting themselves in for **Cpl** 'Nibs' **Niblett, Sigs Lynne Cunningham** and **Stef Lake** volunteered for the exercise.

After five days pre-deployment training in Hong Kong, the main body departed for Brunei. Apart from the apprehension of how we would handle the forthcoming weeks physically; we were equally worried about how to combat the enemy–the crawling beasties of six legs, or more–the in-flight magazine informed us that 400 species of beetle had been found on just one tree in the Brunei jungle.

The next few days comprised of early morning PT and instruction on section routine drills, patrolling and navigation procedures. This was all completely new to 'us girls', but after putting it into practice things began to make sense. We even got the knack of the hand signals and realised that hand, palm down, under the nose does not mean 'wild pig' but 'ambush'.

We had our first initiation to secondary jungle, two nights out, during which time we were instructed on survival and practised our fieldcraft, routine drills and section attacks. We realised how physically exhausting the jungle environment is especially when carrying all your personal kit. Torrential rain and thunderstorms at night made the terrain even harder. Our next challenge was a tactical river crossing with all our kit. This proved to be one of the simpler tasks of the exercise although the safety boat with a marksman watching for crocodiles was a bit daunting!

Our first tactical night out, without torches, fires, cookers and cigarettes, the jungle was very dark at night and impossible to move in without the aid of a comms cord. No comforts of the A-frame from now on but a poncho on the ground and one six inches above your nose.

Soon it was time to move on to the Labi Falls area of Brunei, which proved to be physically exhausting for everyone, the rain having made the going underfoot difficult especially up some of the steeper banks. That night brought more rain and thunder, bringing mosquitoes, leeches and scorpions out of hiding. We were then faced with a survival exercise for 24 hours. The only items of equipment and food consisted of what we had, if any, in our webbing. Once shelters were made and a fire started to ward off any unwelcome visitors our sense of humour returned.

Finally, it was time to deploy for the final phase, which was to be an exercise of six days and five nights out in the Labi area. We were now to be known as 'A Company The Queen's Gurkha Rifles' under command of **Lt Jim Anderson** and **SSgt Eric Udell**. A combination of elements proved too much for some and on that first day there were two cases of heat exhaustion and subsequent evacuation. On reaching the top of the ridgeline we had an extensive view of the jungle as far as the eye could see, resembling an extremely large and very thick broccoli patch.

On the fourth day it was back to tactics, as the company was split into three sections and each assigned a different task in order to reach the final goal–destroying the enemy.

After a day on 'hard routine' we moved off for the final dawn attack. By 1800 hrs there was no sign of the enemy–commence 'misplace procedure'. Hopes were raised at the sight of lights but they turned out to be streetlights on the main road in the distance, we were definitely misplaced! Finally due to the dark and terrain we had to stop where we were and wait out until morning. We all survived a night against the elements of the jungle and in the morning finally got back on course to complete our mission, albeit rather delayed. In fact we were so late that the enemy chief (alias **Capt Cole**) had started to cook his rolled oats for breakfast. Needless to say they were found after the attack with a large bootprint in them! At last it was all over and after a final tab back to civilisation we emerged from the jungle for the last time at 1030 hrs on 21 February.

On writing this, the moments that at the time were horrendous are slowly fading, along with the suntan of four days R&R but we all agreed that it was an experience of a lifetime and we learnt a lot–but never again!

Cpl 'Nibs' Niblett (the author) wondering if there are any crocodiles in this river

31 Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

HQ SQUADRON
LORD LIEUTENANT'S CERTIFICATE

Congratulations to **SSgt Leonard Clark** who has been awarded the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London's Certificate.

SSgt Clark was presented with the Meritorious Service Certificate by **Field Marshal, The Lord Bramall GCB, OBE, MC, JP** at the Duke of York's Barracks, Chelsea. The award was for 'Outstanding service and devotion to duty in the service of Her Majesty the Queen'. **Mrs Clark** and the CO of the Regiment were present at the presentation ceremony.

SSgt Clark joined the Regiment on its formation in 1967. Prior to this service he had served with the Army Phantom Signal Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment) and 41 Signal Regiment for six years.

He has attended an amazing 21 UK Camps and 13 in NW Europe! On one of the camps in Belgium he had a lunch with a difference; not the usual compo, with cam cream donned; but lunch fit for–well, not quite a Queen, **HRH The Princess Royal GCVO**!

SSgt L. Clark receiving the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate from Lord Bramall

EXERCISE SPRING COCKNEY

The HQ Sqn members deployed for Ty Cross Camp in Anglesey on Friday 18 March for a weekend of adventure training. The advance party consisted of **WO2 (MTWO) John Middleton, SSgt (SQMS) Lew Brice, SSgt (SQMS) Leonard Clark**.

They had a great weekend climbing, abseiling, hill walking and trekking, mountain biking, sea fishing and visiting local hostelries; mainly in Snowdonia National Park.

83 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
HOSTAGES AREN'T SAFE!

Sgt Cheryl Mills arranged for children with special needs from a local club to shoot on the indoor ranges; 25 children in all, aged 10 to 24 years, with varying degrees of disability.

They spent an evening shooting at balloons, then at gunmen with hostages. Unfortunately more hostages were killed than gunmen!

The children were thrilled at seeing and talking to soldiers in uniform with RSM **WO1 Pete Handibode, SSgts McMahon** and **Raynsford** assisting.

Owen, Clive, Anand, Moira and **Adam** achieved good scores. Others such as **Huu** laughed his way through the evening and **Ben** managed to talk his target to death, but did not hit it!

EXERCISE COCKNEY RAMBLE

The 83 Sqn (V) organised a combined skiing and comms exercise in March to Balater, Scotland. An advance party managed to get on to the slopes at 0800 to test the quality of the snow. With eight feet of freshly-laid snow, conditions were excellent. The party, under the instruction of **Sgts Baxter** and **Browning**, skied with all the skill and grace of the professionals.

LCpl Baker twisted his knee badly on the Saturday and was promptly removed from the slope by the men in white coats!

The concurrent comms exercise went very well. Communication links were made between Scotland, Wales, Folkestone and Germany.

The Germany det, under the leadership of **WO2 (SSM) Hickey**, was hosted by the 1 Bn REME, based at Osnabruck. The radio equipment was provided by the host unit, which proved novel as it was mounted in Sultan command posts. **Sig 'Sid' Ahulawalia** will remember his first encounter with the Sultan, a power short occurred when he entered it, producing dense smoke and burnt out the harness. **'Sid'** appeared out of the back of the vehicle, smoke blackened and in tatters!

The detachment also had a chance to drive Challenger tanks. **Sig Stickland** managed to demolish a road sign with the main gun but then we all have to learn, don't we? **LCpl Dave Brown**, now known as 'Barbecue' **Brown** created a new form of 'hot bedding' when he was woken up with his bed on fire; luckily he escaped unhurt.

Overall it was a most successful and enjoyable exercise.

47 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)/83 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
COURAGE TROPHY

Was it the incentive of a crate of beer or the challenge which made them take part? Whichever, 83 and 47 Sqns accepted the challenge and entered the LONDIST Military Skills Competition of the Year.

Led by **2Lt Geoff Mitchell** the 83 Sqn team, achieved 15th place overall, a very good score, considering the opposition.

The team consisted of **Cpls Dave Alleyne, Matt Kahill** and **Steve Upton, LCpl Andrew Cowlard**, and **Sigs Andre Ramsaram, Duncan Shaw** and **Brian Sharp**.

83 Sqn PSI, **Sgt Langdon** did a great job setting up their training. Congratulations to him on his promotion. Sadly this means a posting. Thank you to the Admin/backup team which gave good support.

If you are going to be injured, make sure 83 Sqn are there as it shone in the First Aid tests which consisted of a casualty scenario, treating burns and other injuries, resuscitation and written papers. **Cpl Steve Upton** certainly assisted with this score achieving 100% in his test!

The NBC stand was very realistic and whilst on a patrol the team was bombarded with gas attacks and various scenarios. Again, **Cpl Steve Upton** excelled achieving 100% in the shooting. The vehicle fault finding team missed one bomb but did manage to correct all the faults.

83 Sqn (V) Courage Trophy Team looking amazingly fit after the weekend's competition

EXERCISE ROYAL COCKNEY

Ex Royal Cockney; the first challenge was getting to Val Thoren, France by minibus. On 7 January heavy snow in London hampered the journey. All forms of transport were in chaos. Once the major obstacle of getting to Val Thorens had been overcome, the combined team from the Regiment, together with regulars from 225 and 238 Sig Sqns had a superb time.

Luckily, skiing conditions were perfect for both the beginner and the advanced skier. Val Thorens, being the highest ski village in Europe has either superb or absolutely dreadful skiing conditions.

WO2 (RQMS) 'Bend the knees' **Payne** demonstrated his skills on the steep slopes showing how it should be done. On the contrary, **Sig Brian Sharpe** showed everyone how it should not be done!

The Expedition Leader, **Maj Rod Thomas** enjoyed not only showing off his skiing skills, but also took the chance to test out his photographic skills on the slopes. The exercise successfully concluded with all the members passing the bronze ski proficiency test.

LONDIST ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONS

The Regimental Ladies orienteering team won the London District Competition on Sunday 10 April. **Capt Carolyn Oxlee** and **Sgt Meg Garvin** from HQ Sqn and **Sgt Cheryl Mills** from 83 Sqn have qualified to take part in the UKLF Championships.

FAREWELLS

WO1(RSM) Pete Handibode is, sadly, leaving the Regiment. We wish him good luck in his officer career as 2IC of 1 Sqn, ATR Bassingbourn.

WELCOME

To **WO1 Mark Smithurst** who joins the Regiment as RSM.

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

OPENING OF KITCHENER BUILDING

Observant readers will recall this Regiment reporting on the demise of the old MT building in Jardine Street TAC in early 1993. To replace the delapidated equestrian building, Lowland TAVRA commissioned various firms to tender for the contract, and after much discussion and debate, contracts were signed and the rebuild got underway in mid 1993. During this time, our MT and LAD departments were detached to a run-down warehouse on the east of Glasgow until the rebuild was complete.

The new Kitchener building was completed and occupied towards the end of 1993, and with the assistance of TAVRA, the Lord Provost of Glasgow was approached and agreed to open the building formally on Saturday 5 March.

Invitations to various local employers, associations and ex members were issued, and preparations continued in the weeks leading up to the big day. The idea was to show off the role of the Regiment to our visitors, in the hope that this would lead to a greater understanding of the TA soldier, and improved co-operation with our local employers.

The day dawned bright and clear, which was a shock in itself for those of us accustomed to the normal Glasgow weather! Last minute preparations were completed, and **Bailie Tom Dingwall**, from the Lord Provost's Office arrived on the dot at 12 noon, where he was met by **Brig L. Johnman**, of TAVRA, and the Commanding Officer and RSM. The Bailie then inspected a Regimental Barrack Guard, commanded by **Sgt Raymond McMillan**, of HQ Squadron. After the inspection, the Bailie was invited into the Kitchener building and performed the Opening Ceremony in the presence of many local dignitaries and employers. Following some short speeches, the visitors were shown around the facilities of the new building, including the LAD Workshops, classrooms and technical stores. Various stands were on display inside the new garage, and the visitors were treated to such delights as the Military Training stand, run by **WO2 Dy Smith,** Adventure Training and general "blethering", conducted by **WO2 Rab Campbell**, various trade stands provided by 52 and 61 Squadrons (V), a Computer stand, run by **Capt (TOT) Dave Andrews**, and **Sgt Steve Oliver**, and a Clothing Display organised by those two stalwarts of HQ Squadron, **SSgt Norma Sproul** and **Sgt Christine Dougan** (which ones were the dummies girls?).

Additionally the LAD, under **WO2(AQMS) Alistair Grant** showed off their skills, but the most popular stand was the field kitchen, superbly marshalled by **SSgt Rab Meldrum**, and **LCpl Christine McCormick**, which provided the visitors with doughnuts, scones, home made biscuits and hot drinks.

The day was completed with an excellent hot and cold buffet in the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, which was provided by **WO2 (AQMS) Davie Fraser** and his team. The day was a resounding success, and the **WO1 Rab Hamilton,** was a relieved man when he was told that he could have his building back and actually park up some vehicles inside it!

The CO, Lt Col W. E. Brewin, thanks the Lord Provost of Glasgow's representative, Bailie Tom Dingwall, for opening the new Kitchener building at Jardine Street TAC

The Bailie discusses the finer points of Rifle Drill with LCpl Donegan of HQ Sqn

TRADE TRAINING WEEK–INVERNESS

On Friday 4 March, the Regiment deployed to the cold but picturesque Inverness region for a week of Trade Training in Cameron Barracks. Under the experienced eye of our Training team, led by the Training Major, **Maj Brian Jackson**, and YofS, **WO2 Mac McKenzie**, the troops were put through a whole host of tests and examinations, culminating in the award of their Trade qualifications at the end of the week. It was a very rewarding and successful exercise for the Regiment, and the following awards were made:

25 x Class 3 Tele Op (Radio)
7 x Class 2 Tele Op (TG)
6 x Class 3 Tele Op (Data)
2 x Class 2 Elec Driver

Thanks must go to the following members of the Training team for making the week run so smoothly: **WO2 Ian McKay** (HQ Sqn), **SSgts Raymond Atkinson** (69 Sqn), **Billy Lyle** (69 Sqn), **Karen Swan** (52 Sqn), **Sgts Tony Cryans** (HQ Sqn), **Heather Ingram** (51 Sqn), **Jean Thomson** (52 Sqn), **Jeanette Mitchell** (61 Sqn), **Jackie Smith** (61 Sqn) **John Lynch** (1 DERR RLD Sgt), and **Cpl Karen McGurn** (52 Sqn). In addition, the Admin party, consisting of **Capt Nick Nicholas** (PSAO 52 Sqn), **WO2 (RQMS) Webster, WO2 SSM) Ian Walker, WO2 (AQMS) Davie Fraser, SSgt (SQMS) George Fraser, SSgt (SQMS) Chic Doyle** and **Sgt Margaret Murphy** did a marvellous job and ensured that all the background administration went ahead without a hitch.

SERGEANTS' MESS

It has been a fairly busy time for the Regimental Sergeants' Mess, and recent highlights have included a Burns Supper at Cultybraggan Training camp towards the end of January, and a Dining out at the end of 22 years service for two of our Regular soldiers, which took place on the final night of the Trade training week at Inverness.

The guests of honour for our Burns Supper were the Deputy Commander 2 (NC) Signal Brigade **Col P. W. Acda TD (V)**, and the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col W. E. Brewin**. Highlights of the evening included some very high class oratory from the PSAO 69 Sqn,**Capt Davie Roy**, during the Immortal Memory, and some rousing Burns Poetry from our resident Highlander **SSgt George Fraser**, who tried to convince the throng (and failed!) that he had only stepped in at the last moment, and was therefore not very well prepared (a very modest man).

Special mention must be made to **WO2 Bill McNamara** (52 SQN), who not only addressed the Haggis (and let the RSM off the hook), but also made an excellent stab at Tam O'Shanter, which to the uninitiated, runs to many pages. Incidentally, **Bill** made a better attempt the previous year, but that was because his better half was sat next to him, controlling his dram intake! Memo to PMC:- ensure **Mrs McNamara** attends the next Burns Supper!

The address to the ladies was voiced by the PMC **WO2 Ian McKay**, and it was felt by some that **Ian** was perhaps not as scathing as he could have been because he knew the PEC, **Marlene Niblock**, was waiting in the wings to reply on behalf of the ladies! **Marlene** was not so generous, and really laid in to the males with a vengeance! An excellent evening, and all Mess members wish to thank the Commanding Officer for his contribution which owed nothing to the man being honoured that evening!

The most recent Mess function occurred at Cameron Barracks, Inverness on the occasion of the dining out of two Regular soldiers, **WO2 (RQMS) Dave Bradshaw**, and the PSI of 52 Squadron, **SSgt Tony Reynolds**. Once again, the Mess excelled, and these two stalwarts were wined and dined in a style deserving of their long service. Best of luck to you and your families for the future gents, you will be greatly miseed. Thanks must be recorded again to the PMC and PEC for such a well organised evening

The RSM presents the piper, LCpl Dicken (51 Sqn), with his quaiche of whisky during the recent Regimental Dinner at Inverness. Looking on are *(L to R)*: WO2 (RQMS) Dave Bradshaw, SSgt Tony Reynolds, Capt Elliot and WO2 (YofS) Mac McKenzie

CPL McFARLANE

Cpl Janice McFarlane HQ Sqn, has recently taken part in various Regional driving competitions, where she demonstrated her driving capabilities to the full, emerging with some very impressive results and trophies.

After qualifying at the Regional finals as the best Lady driver, and best female Service driver, **Janice** moved on to the District finals, and maintained her high standards, finishing the day with the following results:

13th Place overall
Best Lady Driver
4th Place Service Driver
3rd Place Army Driver

Well done **Janice**, maybe your skills will rub off on other members of our illustrious MT!

LCpl (now Cpl) Janice McFarlane with her haul of trophies

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj J. E. Murphy**
PSAO **Capt G. M. Whelan**

Ex Executive Stretch, an annual event for Merseyside units was hosted this year by 33 Sig Regt (V). It took place over the weekend 18-20 March. The aim of the exercise is to bring the Volunteer Reserve Forces and the local business community closer together by taking executives on a weekend exercise designed to offer both physical and mental challenges. Companies from all over the North West took part, and in all, 64 executives assembled at Alamein TA Centre in Huyton on Friday evening.

Those taking part were briefed on the exercise and issued with their survival kit by **WO2 (RQMS) Paul Staynings**, before being given basic instruction in the delights of map reading, basha building, first aid and cooking with the 24 hour ration pack. The executives, by now somewhat bemused, were taken to the miliary training area at Halton, divided into teams and presented with a series of tasks and problems which call for mental as well as physical commitment. Crossing rough country in a variety of conditions, tackling obstacles and evading capture were typical challenges.

After a wet evening spent in their 'bashas' the executives awoke to sunshine and the task of making their own breakfasts. The teams were sent to their various locations where they carried out abseiling, casualty recovery, tent erection, rope climbing, aerial slide and negotiating a 'blown bridge' situation.

The executives proved resilient and each team leader in turn tackled the tasks set with enthusiasm and good humour. By the Saturday evening, however, a tired bunch of executives, in rapidly falling temperatures, had to survive another night in their bashas before facing the final day's adventures.

To their surprise, Sunday morning dawned and they were transported back to base for a hot breakfast, courtesy of **WO2 Rick** "Ging Gang" **Gooley** and his merry men.

Sunday's programme was a leisurely one and the executives were put through their paces on the assault course and processed through a trailer race, shooting stand and a variety of command tasks. The weekend was by now taking its toll physically and mentally, but with the encouragement of a well rested and well fed 33 Sig Regt (V) DS staff the executives gritted their teeth and got on with it.

Executives, in good order, crossing the river Lune

'A bridge too far' for some executives

The finale to a hard but enjoyable weekend was the raft race. Sensing a source of humorous material to be recounted at future office parties, the executives' employers turned up to witness the culmination of the weekend. Each team had to build a raft sturdy enough to cross a swollen river Lune. Various designs, some more seaworthy than others, were used with the inevitable result of a ducking for the team members to the amusement of the onlookers. At the end, with high spirits, the executives were whisked off to civilisation and a welcome and sociable lunch at a local hotel.

All in all, the weekend was a challenging and satisying one for executives and TA soldiers alike. HQ Sqn were involved in all aspects of the exercise, running two stands and providing the essential administrative support in terms of cooks, drivers, CNR safety net, medics and the myriad tasks, without which the aim of the weekend could not have been achieved. The executives now have a much better understanding of the function and methods of operation of the Volunteer Reserve Forces and the benefits to employers and employees alike, while the DS staff have a great sense of personal achievement and the satisfaction of a job well done.

The executives look on in admiration while the CO Lt Col P. Parfitt shows how it should be done and leads from the front

A resigned executive placing his faith in SSgt Frank 'Kill 'em quick' Hale

WELCOMES

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new PSAO, **Capt Gerry Whelan**, who joins us from the Army Apprentices College Harrogate where he was the Quartermaster. Also, **WOI (RSM) Dale Ikin**, taking over from **WOI (RSM) Rod Whateley**, and **Sgt Lamont**, double hatted as Radio Tp PSI and MT Sergeant. We hope you and your families enjoy being with the Sqn and the Regt.

FAREWELLS

Last but by no means least, the Squadron is saying goodbye to the Sqn 2IC, **Maj George Tinker**, on retirement, **Capt Geoff Downey** PSAO, moving sideways to 59 Sqn (V), and **SSgt Neil Thomas BEM**, our PSI on retirement. We will miss them all and wish them and their families the best of good luck for the future.

42 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–MANCHESTER

This training quarter has been a busy one, with two key exercises taking place in February and March.

Ex Bright Eagle from 18-20 February was a Brigade Exercise, the first since Ex Northern Hawk. TN031 was deployed to the bleakness of Winter Hill with **Cpl Kevin Westall** disappearing with his RR Det to the Yorkshire Moors to act as a Radio Relay. The limited shelter offered to some of the Squadron at Burtonwood seemed quite luxurious in comparison. It was however a very useful learning curve and for many the first exposure to the demands of staff officers.

Ex Executive Stretch was hosted by the Regiment with 42 Sqn providing several of the escorting officers and, in parallel, participating in a Regt Comms Exercise, both with Ptarmigan and the Radio Tp. The weather was very good which helped; it only rained at night. However, this was of marginal comfort to the executives and hosting officers who were in basha accommodation! A great deal of hard work but, definitely a worthwhile weekend.

Socially, the main function has been the dining out of **Capt Lynn Gregg**, **SSgt Shirley Stott** and **Sgt Macgregor** of the stores department. **Capt Gregg** has left us to go into the unposted list due to her international work commitments and **SSgt Shirley Stott** and **Sgt Macgregor** left on retirement. **Shirley**'s Service to the Squadron included 15 years service in the TA leaving as a SSgt and 20 years in the Stores.

Sgt McGregor served loyally for 19 years. Each brought commitment, enthusiasm and hard work to the Squadron and we wish them all the very best of good fortune and, where appropriate, a happy retirement.

80 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)–CHESTER

Ex Bright Eagle involved the majority of 80 Sig Sqn(V) who lived in a farmyard for the weekend. The farmyard had been recced some months previously – when it had been suggested to site some of the vehicles in the silage pit. It had obviously escaped the attention of those on the recce party that the silage pit in February would be full of cow dung, so it was a rather smelly weekend. **Capt Mike Mullee** had the bright idea of disguising the vehicles so that, from above, we looked like a compost heap – a huge roll of hessian (100 metres long) was brought out and work began from the front vehicle spreading out the hessian in one long strip to the back of the fourth and last vehicle. An attempt was made to hold the hessian down with tyres on the top of the wagons blowing a howling gale the silage pit resembled Billy Smarts' Big Top!

One of the most enjoyable weekends of the year took place in March when 80 Sig Sqn spent both the Saturday and the Sunday preparing vehicles for RSIT and the Royal Review of the Yeomanry. With regular soldiers on Easter leave it was hard work, but undertaken in a relaxed atmosphere. The weather was excellent and **Sgt C. T. Jones** prepared a barbecue on Saturday evening (for 'Tiff' **Taylor**'s presentation). Everybody gathered around the barbecue and, apart from the odd argument over who was to get the next cooked kebab, the evening was a huge success and enjoyed by all.

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

CO	**Lt Col M. K. Stretch**
Adjt	**Capt P. M. Kelly**
RSM	**WO1 M. Ara**

The Regiment is burning the midnight oil in preparation for 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde's workup exercises throughout the summer culminating with Ex Flying Falcon. Trade training continues apace and our sports teams go from strength to strength. All of our athletes are keen to participate in 2 Sig Regt's annual 'Race the Sun' competition.

Whilst recce teams were in Germany the CO and 2IC, driven under instruction by the Adjutant, recce'd Catterick for the Birtwistle Trophy. A great deal of tyre rubber was spent during the day and the CO demonstrated his recovery techniques.

SPORT

Maj J. Newman and **WO1 Dave McGurk** played golf for the Corps, again–were they really there?

EXERCISE FLYING KESTRAL

In preparation for Ex Flying Falcon, 10 'volunteers' from the Regiment went to Germany to recce sites. To ensure they got full value transport was by ferry and landrover from all points in the NE of England to Gutersloh.

Comd 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde, Brig W. H. Backhouse, about to tour outstations on Ex Bright Eagle. On the Comd's left is the CO, Lt Col Martin Stretch and on the Comd's right is the 21C, Maj Angus Maude

Training Major, Capt Tim Cooper congratulates Sgt Steve Bennet on his well deserved promotion. Sgt Bennet joined the Corps in 1983 and has served with 4 ADSR, and 21 Sig Regt and is now a Sgt technician with 90 Sig Sqn (V) in Middlesbrough

The intrepid travellers had four days of recce time to clear as many sites as possible for use in September. Unfortunately recce officers from BAOR units were not available to give us a list of currently used sites which was bad luck! However, with the usual enthusiasm of the TA and the maturity of the regulars, they set off in four teams to cover an area from Bremen to Minden and from Nienburg to the Dummer.

REGIMENTAL WORKSHOPS

TOT	**Capt K. Butler**
Regt FofS	**WO2 (FofS) T. McNeice**

There have been a great deal of changes over the last eight months with **Sgt Dave Durrie** on detachment to Wilton (for Op Grapple) for Six months. We welcome the arrival of our only Radio technician in the unit, **Sgt Paul Mayer**, from the Falklands, hope he enjoys every penny of the lodge. Our new TA Regimental Foreman has taken his post, **SSgt** (FofS) **Kev East**, and is doing a fine job in maintenance and training. **Mr Brian Mein** continues to be our stalwart member of the workshops whose boundless energy always amazes us. The rumour that one of the ATE's was working is, in fact, truth and is beginning its mammoth task of clearing the repairs backlog – long may it reign . . .Praise goes to **Sgt Andy Butler** after his course at 8 Sig Regt.

GOC EDist Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley listens while WO2 (FofS) McNeice tells him something truly amazing about the TA

34 Signal Regiment Recce Team
(*L to R*):Cpl Stephanie Gibson, Lt Dave Sixsmith, Capt Ian Hall, SSgt (FofS) Kevin East, Lt Juduth Simpson, Capt Tim Cooper, Maj Alan Grindrod, WO1 (RSM) Mick Ara, WO2 (YofS) Sid Perks, WO1 Dave MCGurk

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

NEW AGE TRAVELLERS

It wasn't so long ago that the very mention of Regimental exercises or annual camp conjured up images of traditional and well known destinations such as Belgium, Westphalia, the Rheinland, Scarborough, or exercise locations very close to home bases where recce reports could be relayed from memory and routes followed almost blindfolded. But how a change of role suddenly changes things and shakes you out of terminal complacency and injects new and vigorous energy into the brain cells. The initial shock to the system was exercising for the first time North of the Border which some tortured and devious planner believed simulated a BAOR deployment; then we were torn away from our customary Regimental exercise locations to savour the delights of the Notts and Lincs badlands much to the bemusement of 95 Sig Sqn who rarely venture east of Nescliffe. It is now clear that our own devious planning staff in the shapes of **Maj Pat Bannigan, Capts Steve Pell** and **Rob Meinertzhagen** are in the process of re-educating the authors of vague recce and exercise reports whilst making sure we can operate over a much wider area than before! Looking ahead to our BAOR annual camp, for the first time ever we will be experiencing the delights of the North German Plains and, in particular the Luneburg Heath and the Aller Weser Valley where we confidently expect to be declared operational and finally fulfil our demanding new role during Ex Flying Falcon. Our Recce teams have already paved the way but as expected faced a daunting task at finding suitable locations in Lower Saxony away from the shaded out-of-bounds areas which seem to expand on a daily basis. Green is not the flavour of the month but **SSgt Pete** 'Skeletor' **Mouland**, a member of the recce party from 95 Sig Sqn, thought he had found a solution to the problem and merrily carried on a few kilometres further east than he should have done with a blissfully unaware Recce Comd in the shape of **SSgt Chris Hymas** in the passenger seat. **SSgt Hymas**, who took the opportunity of snatching 40 winks after a particularly frustrating day, was rudely awakened by a strange and tortured vibrating sound that reminded him of a disintegrating lawnmower; initial relief that it wasn't the landrover but a convoy of motorised wheelie bins (Trabants), turned to horror when he realised that he was much closer to Magdeburg than he should have been, needless to say the move east was terminated and they beat a hasty retreat to more familiar territory. What was said to **SSgt Mouland**, who remains bashfully reticent about the incident, remains a mystery. Many other lessons were learnt during the recce, especially by **Maj Colin Meikle** who has discovered, to someone else's cost, that duty free goods are still substantially cheaper in the NAAFI than on the ferry. We now await to savour the fruit of the recce party's endeavours and are beginning to look forward to exercising in New Frontiers–now where did I put that BFG road map and useful phrase book?

TA CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Saturday 26 March the Regiment continued its competitive and successful assault on the TA sporting scene during the TA Cross Country Championships held at Longmoor. Here representatives and individuals from a large number of TA units competed directly against their Regular Army counterparts. For this particular event we were unable to field a team but three of our soldiers, **SSgt Dave Arnot, Cpl Maxine Hughes** and **Sig Nicola Hawkins**, entered as individuals and achieved success beyond our imagination. **SSgt Dave Arnot** was placed 129th in the main event and achieved an excellent 12th position in the TA vets race. **Cpl Maxine Hughes**, much to her credit, produced a performance that secured her a very praiseworthy 47th position. Special praise is reserved for **Sig Nichola Hawkins** who, fresh from her notable success in the District Championships, produced a magnificent performance that placed her just behind the winner of the competition, who just happened to be **Cpl Kelly Jones** who competes for Great Britain in International events. **Nichola**, who is now the undisputed TA National Champion, has produced the following personalised account of the competition.

THE LONELINESS OF THE LONGMOOR DISTANCE RUNNER

Unusually for early Spring it was a baking hot day, the sort of day when I normally avoid running but this was the moment I had been training for and looking forward to for some time especially since winning the Wales and Western District Competition. I was now, at least, physiologically prepared and determined to go for, and hopefully, win the big one. My pre-race preparation was not very conventional and almost ended in disaster and tears when, during the final stage of my training, I spilled boiling coffee on my foot and was told by the casualty department that I would not be able to run. Fortunately, the scalding was not as serious as it first appeared and, much to my relief, I was given the green light to compete. As I waited nervously at the start line, one of the competitors jogged across in front of us and someone exclaimed rather dramatically 'Oh my goodness, that's **Kelly Holmes**, she is the number one', which I confess didn't do too much to boost or bolster my confidence. It seemed like hours instead of minutes waiting for the race to start then, suddenly, we were off! I started the race in a confident frame of mind and joined the leading group on the firm hilly course. The lead was swapped from time to time but it was not too long before **Kelly Holmes**, who was representing the Regular Army, dominated the lead group and strode away from us into the distance. I fell into third place but kept the second runner firmly in my sights and constantly reminded myself that it was only a punishing three miles and about 20 minutes to keep up the effort. As I followed the zig-zag path up the final hill the will to achieve a good final place became stronger and stronger, it was at this point that I lost sight of the second runner who, I discovered later, had gone the wrong way.

As I ran around two sides of the last field I caught sight of the finish line and could pick out the crowd that had gathered, this caused a welcome surge of adrenalin and conjured up thoughts of the prize giving ceremony where I could visualise myself being presented with the TA cup. I was soon brought back to reality when I realised that the TA runner behind me was closing fast and my heart began to race faster than my feet. I was hot, tired and more than a little anxious but determined to make the final effort to secure victory. Then, suddenly, I saw the huge word FINISH in front of me and a sea of spectators but could not pick out the funnel until a course marshal vigorously waved me in the right direction. As I staggered into the funnel I still could not believe I had finished until someone yelled 'you can stop now'! My relief was complete and total as I had achieved my personal ambition to represent my unit and do well in a major cross country championships. I have to say that despite the physical and psychological demands it was a thoroughly enjoyable and well organised day with good sportsmanship. I am grateful that my enlistment into the Territorial Army provided me with this sporting outlet and other opportunities which have helped me enormously.

I now hope to succeed in my next ambition which is to join the Royal Signals in the Regular Army.

DON'T WORRY, THE WIND WILL KEEP YOU DRY

There is a rumour that the Regimental 2IC, **Maj Derek McConnel** and the RSM, **WO1 Guy Richards** are both avid fans of the BBC light comedy drama 'All Quiet on the Preston Front' and just happened to be viewing the episode (on Tuesday evening) whereby the fictitious TA unit was engaging in a Patrol Competition somewhere in Wales. The seed was sown and the idea soon evolved into a full blown Regimental Patrol Competition of gigantic and daunting proportions the likes of which had not been seen in the Regiment since the last competition in March 1989 and which incidently was won by 89 Sig Sqn. The scene was set, Sennybridge was booked for the period 11-13 March and Squadron training and team selections began in earnest shortly after the Christmas break. On Friday 11 March the moment of truth arrived and Squadron teams, filled with muted enthusiasm and a personalised copy of the RSM's new dress code, descended on Sennybridge although the COs driver **Cpl John Miles** thought Newport, Gwent, was a better alternative. Teams were tested on a variety of skills ranging from recognition and map reading to ambush drills and section attacks. To achieve this a number of stands approximately two miles apart, and manned by understanding DS were established to carry out detailed team assessments and finally select a winning team. After a very early reveille on Saturday morning the competition started with an enthusiasm that was impossible to contain and teams began to negotiate their allocated stands. At the end of the first day the leaders began to emerge; 89 and 95 Sig Sqn were running neck and neck with HQ and 58 Sqn closely behind, so all teams still had everything to go for and the competitive spirit was at an all time high. It was at this stage that the anticipated casualties also began to emerge, which in view of the rapidly deteriorating weather conditions and storm force winds was only to be expected. One or two unfortunate individuals (who found out the hard way that only their skin was waterproof) ignored their better instincts and suffered from mild exposure. Medical assistance was never far away, although one particular casualty, **Sig Teresa Pugh**, became separated from her waterlogged kit when some imaginative individual placed it safely in a black plastic bin liner. Unfortunately, on return to base camp an eagle eyed member of the admin staff came across the bin liner, assumed it was rubbish and promptly threw it in the skip. During the NBC Phase Junior **Sig Paul Jones**, a late substitution for an injured member of 89 Sig Sqn's team, almost became a casualty when he was subjected to his first exposure to CS gas. Someone forgot to tell **Paul**, who is still undergoing his Phase 1 training, that the way to avoid exposure is to breathe out before you put on your respirator and not to take huge gulps of air! At the end of the first day the weather conditions deteriorated even further and the Training Major, **Maj Ian Brown**, sensibly cancelled the Night Navigation Exercise and ordered a tactical withdrawal. As a result everyone shared an unexpected comfortable night in a harbour area set up at Dixies Corner. Here team members took the opportunity of recounting their earlier deeds and escapades, and team leaders scrutinised their plans and orders brief for the following day which concluded with the section attack phase. Sunday saw the highlight of the Patrol Competition with the section attack phase, the honours were still there for the taking by any team. The atmosphere was tense and could be cut with a knife–this was an intense physical and tactical phase which

would draw on all reserves of energy, guts and determination-the battle for lasting acclaim had begun, and each team took up its position and moved out at 20 minute intervals.

This phase started with a physically draining run up a steep hill that resembled the north face of the Eiger. On reaching the top with lungs at bursting point all teams were greeted by an ambush executed by the Sennybridge Popular Liberation Front, a motley crew led by **Capt Chris Paterson**, and supported by **Capt Rob Meinertzhagen**, and an armed and extremely dangerous **Padre** who could perhaps be described as a blessing in disguise. Teams had to counter this ambush, deal with the motley crew and then finally withdraw and move a notional casualty (two full jerrycans) by stretcher to the finish point, approximately one mile away by the fastest possible means. After a series of tremendous efforts and sparkling finishes by all teams, who are to be congratulated on their performances, the competition finally drew to a close around mid-day and all that was left to do was to tally the scores and proclaim the winner. This was announced shortly after lunch by the CO, **Lt Col John Ewbank**, who declared 89 Sig Sqn the overall winner; needless to say the Squadron was visibly delighted at repeating its much earlier success in 1989. Runner up was 58 Sig Sqn, closely followed by HQ Sqn who against all odds achieved third place, with 95 Sqn hot on their tail and finally 48 Sig Sqn; all achieved creditably with scores that all team members can be justly proud of. Finally, the Champions Cup was presented to **Capt Julian Webb** by Comd 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde, **Brig W. H. Backhouse**.

The Padre–armed and extremely mischievous but still managing to give a field blessing!

The Champion Team from 89 Sig Sqn

The final push to the finish

The award presentation–Brig W. H. Backhouse with Capt Julian Webb

36 Sig Regt (V)
Ilford

VISIT OF DEPUTY COMMANDER LONDON DISTRICT

On Thursday 10 February, Deputy Commander London District, **Brig R. J. Heywood OBE** visited HQ Sqn (V).

He was met on arrival by the CO **Lt Col J. S. A. Henderson** and the RSM **WO1 (RSM) Tom Perkins**.

The Deputy Commander was given a guided tour of the TA Centre and spoke to many soldiers in the Squadron involved in a variety of training, both military and trade.

Deputy Commander London District Brig R. J. Heywood presents LS & GC Medals to WO2 Shirley Clark and WO2 (RQMS) Dos Martyres

During the course of the visit the Deputy Commander presented LS & GC Medals to **WO2 (RQMS) Sandy Dos Martyres** and **WO2 Shirley Clark** and the Efficiency Medal to **Cpl** 'Ady' **King**.

44 (CP) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd	**Maj Gavin Miles**
2IC	**Capt Nigel Thompson**

ANNUAL CAMP–GERMANY

Although this highly mobile, arduous and often extremely cold exercise provided tough training for all concerned, it did have its lighter moments. Not only did the Squadron perform excellently during the exercise, it managed to achieve all its given tasks, whilst maintaining its sense of humour.

Regimental 'Top Troop' Winner: 747 Tp led by **Lt Graham Smith**

Runner up: 749 Tp led by **Capt Mark Smith**

Emerging from camp are a few modified proverbs. These included:

'A stitch up in time is worth nine'

'Too many cooks don't wash up or do a guard', and 'A rolling stone gathers no moss and doesn't get re-supplied'

Only three things went missing at camp. These were-second gear on the Sqn Comd's Rover, **Sgt Del Gregory**'s smile and **Capt Smith**'s train-spotting manual.

ADVENTURE TRAINING–WHERNSIDE

Squadron adventure training took place over a long weekend. The venue was the excellent adventure training facilities at Whernside in the Lake District.

The weekend was well supported by Squadron members. Everyone was given the opportunity to sample the delights of hill walking, indoor climbing, abseiling and caving.

Highlights included **WO1 (RSM) Tom Perkins** leading his walking team through a grouse shoot (why waste the opportunity of a bit of live firing acclimatisation training?) and **Cpl Chris Nunn**'s 'Spot the Waterfall' competition, 'Oh look, there's another one ... that makes 247'.

Nearly everyone took part in the Dent Village Pub Crawl, with some enjoying it so much that they did a lap of honour. It should be noted that Dent has only two pubs!

Only one minor accident to report. **Sgt Dave** 'Map Monitor' **Kingstone** managed to land on his head during the abseiling. Light bruising was diagnosed rather than the severe brain damage suspected. **Sgt Kingstone** made a miraculous recovery and has now received his commission and promotion to 2Lt.

The Squadron enjoyed the weekend so much that a full week's training has been booked for the summer period.

Other interesting developments resulting from camp include the following: the cook, **Cpl Del Ridgewell**, is rumoured to be writing 'The Blackheath Poisonings–Part II', whilst **SSgt Phil Hall** is to star in a new 'Shape Up and Prance' video. Also, **SSgt Nick Meddeman** and **Sgt Mark Ward** have started a new double act under the stage name 'Bitter & Twisted'.

54 (EA) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj William Brown**
2IC	**Capt Dave Watson**

Because of the commitments in December last, 54 Sqn was forced to hold its annual Christmas get-together at the end of January at Wretham Training Camp near Thetford in Norfolk. The weekend began at Barton Road Ranges, Cambridge early on Saturday morning and all Squadron personnel who had Bounty tests outstanding were able to pass them before making their way to Wretham for the evening Christmas dinner.

A number of former members of the Squadron are traditionally invited to attend the dinner and this time we were pleased to welcome five ex SSMs in the shape of **Gordon Royall** (1980-83), **Capt Dave Watson** (1983-85), **Ralph Collingridge** (1985-87), **Graham Chapman** (1987-91) and **Kevin Barnard** (1991-92) and of course the present incumbent, **WO2 (SSM) Gordon Shelley**, (is this some sort of a record?).

The meal was ably provided by PSAO **Capt George Lile** and the SQMS, **SSgt Eddie Kikas**, superbly prepared and cooked by **Cpl Norma Miller**, assisted by **Pte Paul Minshall** from HQ Sqn at Ilford, not forgetting the sterling work of **SSgt Ray Whall** and his band of helpers.

Dinner was served by the junior Officers and Sergeants of the Squadron and was thoroughly enjoyed by all ranks.

Our guest for the evening was **Capt Gary Wenko** from the US Air Force at RAF Lakenheath who enjoyed the novelty of a Christmas dinner served in the middle of January. The only missing ingredient was Father Christmas!

Sunday morning arrived bright and early at around 0600 hrs with the 2IC and SSM waking everybody with the traditional gunfire.

After some NBC, First Aid and the obligatory BFT the camp was cleared up ready for handing back and the Squadron made its way safely back to Bedford, Cambridge and Norwich, weary but in good heart.

37 Sig Regt (V)
Redditch

CO	**Lt Col John Macfarlane**
2IC	**Maj Ian Morris (V)**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) John Riley**

A LITTLE REASSURANCE

The absence of notes in this issue from Headquarters Squadron in Redditch or 53 (Welsh) Sig Sqn in Cardiff should not be taken as an indication that all contact has been lost. The Welsh are still living out of cardboard boxes while Park Street TAC is rebuilt; Headquarter Squadron and RHQ have merely had the painters in to disrupt normal life.

67 (QOWWY) SIGNAL SQUADRON, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Sqn Comd **Maj Roy Naylor (V)**

VISIT OF GOC WALES AND WESTERN DISTRICT

The Squadron was honoured to be visited by **Maj Gen M. D. Regan OBE** on a snowy training night in February. After the customary ear-bending (sorry, briefing) by the CO, **Maj Gen Regan** visited **Sgt John Downie**'s recruit training class and was then introduced by **Capt Alan Macleod** to one of the newly-fitted out Comms utility vehicles. Here **Sgt Rob Cameron** blinded him with the science of lap-top data over Mould techniques. Fortunately, the General did not visit the other end, which a power failure had plunged into darkness, though remaining in comms. Technicians **Cpls Dickie Fisher** and **Tim Mansell** waved a soldering iron or two at **Maj Gen Regan** and after a quick visit to the cadets it was time for the customary curry supper.

Visit line-up (*L to R*): WO2 (SSM) Malcolm Cooper, Sqn Comd Maj Ian Morris, Maj M.D. Regan, CO Lt Col John Macfarlane, WO1 (RSM) John Riley

EXERCISE ROMAN IX

67 Sqn was again tasked earlier in the year to provide communications for the Roman IX Road Race of the Stratford 3A's Athletic Club. The race has grown over the years and is now attracting the higher profile runners.

We thought that all arrangements had been made and all we had to do was turn up and be shown to our positions. That was our first mistake! A small band, **WO2 Brian Smart, Sgt** 'Fred' **Hughes, Cpls Ros Thwaites, Ian Sewell** and **LCpl Irene Walker**, left RAF Cosford on the Sunday morning, but, not early enough. This was our second mistake; we arrived late.

Then it all started to go wrong. **LCpl Walker** went to collect the FFR from the square, but came back without it, as it would not start. No problem, we can get back to Stratford by car. Next question–how many soldiers, masts and radio sets can you fit in an Astra? Answer–quite a few when you really try! We made it back to Stratford with time to spare.

Mistake number three–we did not discover we had made until we got to Stratford. Due to lack of space in the car we had left some personal kit at RAF Cosford. Guess where the keys to the Troop Stores were? You guessed it, back in the personal kit at Cosford! 'Don't Panic'! We could get into AFHQ Troop Stores, where we had 3 x 320's, 6 x batteries, 3 x goose necks and whips and 600 handsets! Just enough for the exercise.

Our FFR control station was still OK. However, one vehicle would not start and one was not there at all! We ended up with one FFR and one ½ tonne landrover. With minutes to spare, we left Stratford TAC with six empty cans, three long pieces of string, two tandems, but 'challenges are good for one, they bring out the best in one!'.

You know that Mercury is not happy with your performance when he puts your second control station next to a 12 foot Mr Blobby and there is really nowhere else to go! The race commentator at our control station was based at the finish of the race at the Home Guard Club, Tiddington. Despite everything, we relayed to the commentator the first three male runners, the first three female runners and the placings of the veteran runners as they passed our various control stations. Keeping the commentator informed and the crowds happy, we completed our task with all the precision, accuracy and confidence expected of us.

93 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V), BLACKBURN

Sqn Comd	**Maj Alan Whittle (V)**
2IC	**Capt Ross Parsell (V)**

NEW TRAINING CENTRE AT MANCHESTER

The new barracks at Manchester were completed at the end of December 1993 and 879 Tp moved into their new home in January 1994. Built on the old site at Higher Cambridge Street, it is a fine example of the new estates being erected by TAVRA. The old premises, built for the Manchester Regiment, had had their day and the new building, University Barracks, is infinitely superior. 879 Tp, a minor occupier, now has purpose built stores, offices and a permanent communications centre. Manchester University OTC, the major occupier, asked for and, received a climbing wall built-in, on which Troop SNCO, **SSgt Diane Feest**, looks forward to making good use of her abseiling and top roping qualifications. The garages, which are now being constructed, should be finished by May when the complete facility will be opened officially.

CROSS COUNTRY

On the sporting front the Squadron has built on its success in the Regimental Cross Country by entering two male teams and one female team in the Wales and Western District Championship. Despite three weeks of torrential rain, the majority of the course was able to be run, with only short stretches requiring the breast stroke. The female team improved on last year's result in the best possible way by coming first, with **LCpl Tracy Ireland** leading the team in third place overall, closely followed by **SSgt Diane Feest** in eighth place and all the girls in the first twelve places, an excellent result. The male teams unfortunately did not fare so well, the competition being dominated by HQ Sqn, 3 RRW. However, a good day was had by all and we look forward to cheering on our girls in the national finals.

96 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V), COVENTRY

Sqn Comd	**Maj Steve Holder (V)**
2IC	**Capt Dick Hall (V)**

Despite the cold and wet Spring weather new Sqn Comd, **Maj Steve Holder**, a new 2IC, **Capt Dick Hall**, and a new SSM, **WO2 (SSM) Mick Comber**, have lost no time in putting us through our paces.

Ex Spring Thrust was a military training exercise under the direction of the SSM. This saw the Squadron running up and down hills, wearing full equipment, at Leek Training Area. Leek, as everyone knows, is well known for its gentle terrain and warm climate, especially in February!

April was a complete contrast. This time the unit walked up and down hills carrying equipment. Ex Spring Mist was an adventurous training exercise in North Wales organised by the Sqn Comd. As well as hill walking, canoeing, climbing and abseiling also took place. Many 'war stories' resulted, with various bumps and bruises, as evidence. Scurrilous rumours abound that most of these were caused by an excess of 'falling down water' on the Saturday night recreation period.

93 Sig Sqn (V) Female Cross CountryTeam (*L to R*): Cpl Louise Daveron, LCpl Cindy Meller, Sig Zoe Sheppard, SSgt Diane Feest, LCpl Tracy Ireland, Cpl Dawn Phillips

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

TREKKING EXPEDITION TO MEXICO
EXERCISE ORIZABA EBOR
by Sig Nachelle Crowther

Altitude, climate and terrain were the challenges that lay ahead for six members of 38 Sig Regt (V), as they set off for Mexico on a 14 day climbing expedition at the end of February. The team consisting of; **2Lt Bob Childs, SSgt (FofS) Mark Cotton, Sgts Andy Wragg, Darren Snow, Cpl Vicky Colley** and **Sig Nachelle Crowther** went in search of demanding adventure training conditions amid the volcanic mountains east of Mexico City. Their aims were to gain trekking and climbing experience and to conquer three dormant volcanoes ranging from 4,282 to 5,700m in height.

The journey began at Gatwick Airport with a flight to Mexico City via Houston, Texas. The first day in Mexico City was spent establishing an itinerary. Not knowing the local transport schedule and unable to procure ordnance survey maps, planning a schedule presented its problems, not the least of which was that we were unable to communicate in the language. The difference in altitude was also apparent, the lack of oxygen being exacerbated by the abundance of carbon monoxide which hung over the city's skyline; it must have been equivalent to smoking 40-a-day. To get used to the heat it was suggested by our leader that the team walk to the bus terminal. Not surprisingly the 2kms very quickly turned into six! Never give an officer a map . . . !

The next day we caught a bus out of Mexico City, the brilliant colours of the houses against the luscious green landscape and blazing sunset a far cry from the 'tumbleweed western' we had imagined. Perote was situated at the base of the first summit, Cofre de Perote, and began the 25km ascent which took the majority of the next two days. The highlight of the climb must have been the set of microwave dishes and commercial antennae array we found at the summit well, at least according to **FofS Cotton** it was. We began the descent immediately, that evening being marked by the cold, fir cones the size of tennis balls and the large mosquitoes which kept us awake at night.

The night before the next climb we were disturbed by a large pack of seemingly hungry dogs and as a consequence spent an uncomfortable evening in a sugar cane field on the slopes of Pico de Orizaba. After a fruitless search for local information and maps we took a rickety old mountain bus up a very steep and windy track to Xometla. This ride proved to be one of the highlights of the trip as a combination of erratic driving and numerous crosses, which presumably had been erected to mark the spots where others had gone over the edge, tended to focus everyone's attention. Locals were much amused and roared with laughter as their guests gripped the seats of this all too real white knuckle ride.

Following a 20km walk away from this area through a series of villages whose occupants were stunned to see Europeans (one family had seen their first white face only three months before us) we negotiated a place to sleep for the night with a local cafe owner-his garage, no room in the inn . . . ! Incidentally, when he realised that we were British he refused to take any money from us; news of the state of the British economy had evidently reached these parts! Further walking through the scenic foothills, unfortunately now obscured by thick mist and drizzle, the group came across a party of nine children belonging to 'Mum Anna-Maria' who had never encountered foreigners before and who had no idea where UK was. Endless bottles of Pepsi for the team and dextrose tablets for the children were exchanged along with paper aeroplanes; much satisfaction was gained from these simple gifts.

The last objective was now drawing near; La Malinche, the final frontier in Puebla State. This was to be the steepest climb of the three summits, not helped by the tough under-foot going of loose rock and sand. Camping out in bivvy bags at 3,200m, the nights were colder than any previously experienced. Altitude sickness was also at its most severe; at one point just lying still raised the pulse to 140 beats per minute, and this eventually took its toll on two members of the team who were unable to make the summit.

Having re-grouped, the team took a series of buses to Puebla and from there proceeded to our R & R destination, Acapulco, where, in fact, we did let ourselves go a little 'loco'–however that is another story. Now back home, we have all had time to reflect on what was, without doubt, a trip of a lifetime.

Catching a lift from the locals!

Sgt Andrew Wragg and SSgt Mark Cotton having problems with the stove at altitude

Rocks and rubble make for an unsafe walking base as 2Lt Childs and Sgt Wragg descend 'La Malinche'!

39 Sig Regt (SC) (V)
Chelsea

39 SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

CO	**Lt Col C. J. Laurence TD (V)**
2IC **Maj**	**M. G. Touchin TD (V)**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) R. C. Bray**

A SAD FAREWELL

It is with great sadness that the Regiment announces the death of the TOT **Maj Tim Southall**, who died suddenly of heart failure on 10 April 1994. **Tim** joined the TA in 1984 having left the Regular Army after 22 years' service. He has imparted a phenomenal amount of technical knowledge to the Regiment as TOT and has been the mainstay of the Regiment's technical support and the maintenance of the Regiment's equipment for the past 10 years, he will be sadly missed. We send our condolences to his wife **Gloria**, his family and friends.

THE REGIMENT

The Regiment has had a typically busy period with Ex Farne Deep, a very successful course training weekend and the Courage Trophy military skills competition.

As well as providing 63 Sig Sqn (V) with a lot of live target practice, Ex Farne Deep was a communications exercise. The course training weekend proved equally successful with a great deal of hard work put in from all instructors and students alike. In addition a good recruit selection weekend brought more than 20 potential new recruits.

5 (QOOH) SQUADRON, BANBURY

Sqn Comd	**Maj Heather Collins (V)**
2IC	**Capt Robert Stone (V)**

There have been a number of personnel changes: **Capt Tony Perkin** has left his post as PSAO to pursue a business venture and his place has been taken by **Capt Bob Sheldon**, who holds the distinction of being both a former regular officer of the Corps and TA officer, having come to us from 38 Sig Regt (V). Their loss is our gain!

Lt Janet Walker has moved to 1 Sqn at Bletchley and **2Lt Carla Lankester** (who was **2Lt Carla Hughes** before she and **Lt Tony Lankester** got married and confused their Sqn Comd) has taken over command of F Tp.

WEEKEND EXERCISES

Since the beginning of the year, two Squadron exercises have been held. The first to practise patrolling, night moves and living in the field was planned and organised by the Squadron's SNCOs under the expert guidance of **SSgt Steve Cocksedge** and **Sgt Dave Oliver**. A good time was had by all despite the weather and the trip flares (not to mention the paint bombs!). Particular mention should be made of the heroic efforts of acting Platoon Commander **Sgt Ash Davies** who kept his troops under control against all the odds.

February saw the Squadron holding a work-up exercise at South Cerney in preparation for the following month's Regimental deployment. **Capt Robert Stone** managed to organise a skittles night on the Saturday, at which the 'killer' competition was won by **Sig Glen Davidson** who managed to cheat more successfully than the rest of us.

During March we deployed to Bramley training area as part of a tactical Regimental comms exercise. The weather was kind to us and communications went well. As ever the food provided under less than perfect conditions by **Cpl Dave Jarvis-Cleaver** was of an excellent standard an kept morale high. During the exercise, enemy play was provided by 63 Sig Sqn (V) and provided some interesting moments, especially when they managed to penetrate the perimeter–I do not recommend being shot at from 25 feet as a good way to wake up! However, we still maintain that we shot them earlier in the day!

The Courage Trophy military skills competition was very successful with the nearly all-female team beating the all-male team over the assault course; hopefully next year there will be an ALL-female team.

This month sees us welcoming 50 Danish home guard to the Regiment for Ex Lively Lynx, a Regimental military skills competition.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The end of March saw the Annual London District TA military skills competition: the Courage Trophy, the Regimental preparation and training for which is organised by the Squadron. Several months hard training by members of the Regiment and plenty of hard work behind the scenes, notably by **Capt Stone** and **Sgt Dave Oliver**, culminated in the Regiment entering two teams captained by **2Lt ANgus Evers** (1 Sqn) and **2Lt Sinead Leng** (HQ Sqn).

Both teams worked hard and enjoyed themselves despite the physical effort required, and the A team scored the highest mark on the vehicle stand. The B team, which was a mixed team did particularly well on the assault course and we look forward next year to putting in an all-female team.

Recently the Regiment has, for the first time in several years, organised and run its own class 1 course for Tele Op (Tg). Two members of the Squadron, **SSgt Debbie Frankham** and **Cpl Paul Johnson** were successful in passing this course and are to be congratulated at achieving A1 standard, a feat which required considerable effort and outside study on their part.

Members of the Squadron took part in a review of the Army's Yeomanry Units in the presence of **HM The Queen** in Windsor Park, held to mark the 'Year of the Yeomanry'. The Squadron is justifiably proud of its connections with the original Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars, and now that only one of the original First World War veterans is still alive, we are honoured to carry on the name and the traditions of this distinguished unit.

THE BLANDFORD TOWER HALF MARATHON

INCORPORATING
THE ROYAL SIGNALS CHAMPIONSHIPS
09 OCT 1994 at 1330hrs
Plus a 3 Mile Road Race and
Fun Run

A run through the beautiful Dorset countryside starting and finishing at the foot of the Radio Tower in Blandford Camp

IN AID OF
THE ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM
AND LOCAL BLANDFORD CHARITIES
FOR DETAILS CONTACT
RACE SECRETARY
1 SQN (TS), 11 SIG REGT
BLANDFORD CAMP
DORSET DT11 8RH
Tel: Blandford 0258 48 2279

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

VISIT OF COMD COMMS/CIS UKLF

On Sunday 6 February a visit was paid to the Regiment by Comd Comms/CIS UKLF, **Brig N. F. Woods**.

The Brigadier arrived at the TAC at 1000 hrs and was met by the CO, **Lt Col I. M. G. Strong MBE**, the Adjt, **Capt M. J. Fensom** and the RSM **WO1 (RSM) I. J. W. Little**.

After discussions with the CO he visited the various training activities within the TAC which included 66 Sqn, QMs Dept, Tech Workshops, MT and Recruit Training.

After drinks in the Sergeants' Mess he lunched with the Officers and toured 85 Sig Sqn's location at Newtownards, Co Down, during the afternoon.

Brig Wood speaks to SSgt Davy Delaney during his tour of the TAC

FAREWELL TO THE CO

Sunday 27 March saw the last day of service in the Regiment of **Lt Col I. M. G. Strong** after two years and 25 days in command. His day began with a briefing to the new CO and the signing of the Handover/Takeover documents. The day continued with a final address to the Regiment followed by lunch with the Officers.

Drinks after lunch in the Sergeants' Mess and JRC were necessary before he acquired the courage to face the rolling out ceremony.

We wish **Lt Col Ian Strong** all the very best in the future.

The Honorary Colonel, Col Sandy Cramsie presents a tantalus to the CO from the Regiment during his dining out

WELCOME TO THE CO

A warm welcome is extended to the new CO, **Lt Col R. W. Batho** and we wish him and his wife **Lesley** a warm welcome to the Province and a successful term in Clonaver.

107 BRIGADE ORIENTEERING COMPETITION

At 0800 hours on Sunday 27 February the team of hardy orienteers set out from Clonaver Park TAC to head out to the wilderness of Binevenagh Forest near Limavady. The male team was commanded by the Adjt, **Capt Matt Fensom** and the female team was led by **2Lt Fiona Lysk**. The few cheerful faces soon changed as the typical Ulster weather set in for the day. Wind, rain and snow–how unusual!

The male team with the Adjt, **SSgt Mark Brotherston, Sgts Mark Fettus, Jim Reid** and **Cpl Scott Phillips** looked as though they were in with the chance of a medal. That was however, before **Sgt Fettus** and **Cpl Phillips** decided to take a 'short cut' to control 11 via Outer Mongolia and the north face of Kilimanjaro. Three, yes THREE, hours after they set off they returned full of tales of derring-do and mumbling about a new sport called 'bog skipping'. Never mind . . . better luck next time.

The girls' team fared somewhat better. As well as **2Lt Lysk** the team comprised **Sgt Cathy Barker** and **Sig Rastus Thorne**. After some good running and map reading the girls finished second overall–definitely putting the blokes to shame. Then again, their course was shorter and easier!

Overall a good, if wet, day out which finished off with some relentless 'taking of the Michael' by **Capt Matt Fensom** aimed at those members of the team with the sense of direction of a dizzy pigeon.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Fond farewells are extended to **WO1 (MTWO) Willie Ireland** and **Sgt** Tich **Wright**, we wish them all the very best for the future. A warm welcome to **WO1 (MTWO) John Gibson** and his wife **Kay**, we wish them well during their tour with the Regiment.

PRESENTATIONS

The Regiment held its annual raffle in aid of the Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied (PHAB) Belfast Branch. The tickets were sold by **LCpl Dawn Diffin** and **Jacqui Wisely**. A cheque for £150.00 was handed over to the PHAB representative, **Maj Derek Smyth** at a small presentation ceremony.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are extended to the 2IC **Maj Jimmy Woods** and **Julie** on the birth of their daughter **Hannah Elizabeth** on 28 February, a sister for **Sam**; also to **Capt Robin Butler** and **Sarah** on the birth of their son **Andrew David** on 22 February, a brother for **Richard**.

LCpls Dawn Diffin and Jacqui Wisely present the cheque to Maj Derek Smith

71 Sig Regt (V)
Bexleyheath

VISITS

On Sunday 6 March 1994 the Comd 2 (NC) Sig Bde and Cotswold Garrison **Brig J. H. Neeve** visited the Regiment during its 10 day training course at Browndown Camp. He was met by the CO **Lt Col S. P. Foakes TD** with **WO2 (SSM) Mickey Mustoe** the camp SSM.

LCpl Rich 57 Sqn sharing a joke with Sgt Christie, SSgt (FofS) Allen and Brig Neeve who then visited the assault course to see the RSDCC being put through their paces with Battle PT

Training was discussed in depth before the commander visited our Royal Signals Detachment Commanders course being run by the Regimental training officer **Capt Tim Glover** with the assistance of our new Mil Trg PSI fresh from Harrogate **SSgt Rod Cowan**. The Commander sat in on a presentation given by **LCpl Farn**, 70 (EY) Sig Sqn on the administering of Morphine. **Brig Neeve** then moved to 'trade training' where he was met by **WO2 (YofS) Andy Campbell** and **SSgt (FofS) Jay Allen** who briefed him on all aspects of Regimental trade training. The Foreman escorted the Commander to see a Mould insertion vehicle being set up and tested by his class 2 course. He then visited the assault course to see the RSDCC being put through their paces with Battle PT.

The Brigadier then moved to the LGV course run by **Sgt Brian Bailey** whilst practising manoeuvring skills on the square. We can happily report a 100 per cent pass rate for the 10 students that attended the course.

On 12 March 1994 during the Regiment's training weekend at Longmoor Training camp we were visited by the Regimental Colonel Royal Signals (TA) **Col A. P. Verey TD ADC** who commanded the Regiment between 1988-90. His first port of call was lunch with the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess where he met many familiar Seniors who served under his command. **Col Verey** visited our Recruit Selection course run by the Adjutant **Capt Jonathan Gillespie** and spoke to some of the 60 potential recruits who were being put through a very tough selection process.

Col Verey was a guest at the Officers' Mess dinner that evening for the dining out of our Training Major, **Maj David Whimpenny**.

Before the dinner **Col Verey** presented the Territorial Decoration medal to **Maj David Hannam** Regimental Ops Officer, **Maj John Crackett**, Sqn Comd 57 (C&CB) Sig Sqn, **Maj Barry Fearn**, Regimental Medical Officer and **Capt John Barber** TOT HQ 265 Sqn.

Maj Hannam, Maj Crackett, Col Verey, Maj Fearn and Capt Barber with their Decorations

On Sunday 13 March 1994 **Col Verey** kindly accepted our invitation to review the RSDCC pass-off parade orchestrated by **Sgt Keith Wrate** and present the Top Student prize to **LCpl Hilless** and Best Shot prize to **LCpl Macmillan**. He was also able to see our Recruit Induction course complete the final of four weekends who are now ready to be sent to Catterick for the Corps Recruit course.

Cpl Knight Mil Trg Team, Col Verey and Capt Corfield. Sig Honey in the background is now in MCTC

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We are in a state of flux, with the changeover of Training Majors completed **Maj David Whimpenny** is off to Blandford, we wish him and **Chrissy** all the best. In comes **Maj Andy Johnson** from JFCUFI we wish him a successful tour with the Regiment. **Sgt Baz Hardman** is off to NI for a six month tour with 2LI then to I R Irish in Cyprus for a full tour. Good luck **Baz** and all the best for the future.

Our Adjutant **Capt Jonathan Gillespie** leaves next month for JDSC with **Capt Martin Barnes** flying in from 1 AAC which will be a pleasant and somewhat different working environment for him.

OPERATION RALEIGH
by Sgt Keith Wrate, 265 Sig Sqn

Namibia, where's that? was the usual response when **Sgt Keith Wrate** announced he was going on expedition to Africa as a project manager for Raleigh International. This is his story.

If you look at a map of Africa, it's just to the left of South Africa, with a long finger of land (the Caprivi strip) stretching across the top at Botswana to Zimbabwe. Unless you have an up-to-date atlas, it will probably be called South West Africa as it was administered by South Africa until it gained independence in 1990.

Over six times the size of England and with a population of under two million, it is a vast and empty land dominated by the Namib desert, a long coastal desert area with hugh sand dunes that stretch over 100km inland in some areas.

Namibia has only two rivers that run all year through, the Kinene to the north and Orange river to the south. With over 1200km of land in between, water is supplied by boreholes or collected during the brief and infrequent rain storms.

Arriving in June, in the Namibian winter, it was hot – often around 40°C – and it got hotter as the expedition went on until it was too hot to be out in the sun during the afternoon. The staff, all 21 of us, arrived two weeks before the volunteers so that we could do our recce's and become expert on the country. Our induction programme consisted of first aid, map reading, driving, local conditions and communications.

There were also a few runs just to see how fit we were, I soon discovered I had what I considered to be the prime job – small projects manager. I had three projects to complete during the expedition, unlike the other project managers who had one each! This meant that planning and timing were particularly important. I got to see three times the amount of country, meet three times the amount of people but also had to do three times the paperwork!

Apart from having all this work to do, I discovered I had been given the job of 'camp commandant', in charge of discipline, timing etc, at the campsite when the venturers arrived. My military experience came in very useful at this point and everything went well.

After nearly two weeks it was time to meet my first group, collect my order of tools and stores from the QM and take them all to my first project - building a bird hide on the Skeleton Coast. As you can imagine, this is a particularly inhospitable and remote part of the world, unbearably hot and dry when the east wind blows, or cold, foggy and wet when it doesn't. I was based on the only waterhole in about 500km of desert coastline strewn with the wrecks of dozens of ships and the corpses of washed up whales.

We had our problems. Our vehicle was totally wrecked and the transfer box fell out of our old Bedford truck. Food was basic and in short supply. Communications were patchy and a strong wind blew sand into everything. However, there were good bits, the locals (of which there were very few) were friendly and helpful, the scenery was spectacular, the full moon was beautiful and the venturers very good people to work with.

It took a month of very hard, physical work to finish the hide. One hundred bags of cement and 7,000 bricks had to be moved across very difficult terrain by hand. A hole 5m x 3m was dug and filled with rock to build a foundation and then a semi-sunken bunker erected overlooking the waterhole. I was told it would be teeming with wildlife – I saw a duck and two blacksmith plovers!

It was a sad day when I had to leave but the next phase was just as challenging. I was to build an adventure playground for 200 children at a school in the middle of the Namibian desert. Again we worked hard. The ground was like rock and all of the supporting poles had to be sunk into the ground to give proper strength. The local children helped us and proved much more skilful than us when it came to digging holes, mixing cement and other skilled tasks. Working with the children was tremendous fun, we played them at football, taught them English and learnt how to live in a delicately balanced eco-system.

We finished early and this gave us the opportunity to go looking for big game in the desert with the project funders. Three days in the Namib with expert guides is not an opportunity to be missed! It took some time but we finally tracked down the elusive desert elephant and rhino, as well as a few herd of zebra and springbok.

The last two weeks were spent in what was probably the most remote area of the expedition – nine hours away from the nearest civilisation, 720km away from HQ and right on top of the Angolan border.

The Marianfluss valley is an area of outstanding natural beauty – in the middle of a war zone for the past thirty years, inaccessible unless you have a 4 x 4 vehicle and inhabited by the last untouched tribe in Africa – the Himba. In fact, the Himba are spread around much of the North West of Namibia and Southern Angola but they still have little contact with the outside world.

The valley has been open to the public since independence three years ago but is not a declared national park. This has led to unrestricted access and the destruction by vehicles of the natural environment. In this area, tracks have been found from the original German settlers who travelled north from the Cape in the early 1800's – the land is very slow to recover in this region.

Work started as soon as we arrived (as usual). The Ministry of Wildlife, Conservation and Tourism had given us a tractor and drag to delineate one track across the valley and a five litre Ford pick-up truck to carry rocks.

We were camped on the banks of the Kunene river, no more than 200m away from the nearest Himba camp, and it was hot, damned hot! Well over 110°F in the afternoon. We started at 7.00am every morning. Johanis, our driver, took the tractor out across the valley, dragging behind a modified plough to flatten the gravel. We followed on behind, albeit a little more slowly in our pick-up. We laid rocks either side of the track, at right angles, every 100 metres or so.

I had the only 'taxi' in the valley (the truck) and soon the Himba children cottoned on to the fact that every day we drove out dropping rocks. After two days they were loading and unloading with us. In return, we dropped them off close to neighbouring villages to save them half a days walk.

Once the rocks were laid, we raked out tracks that should not have been there, with brushes, rakes and our feet. To make it more fun we sometimes danced on them. People are strange out there and no-one batted an eyelid to find twelve English people dressed in shorts doing the oke-koke in the afternoon sun. We had our fun as well – afternoons by the swimming hole, bartering with the locals and swapping languages. They drank our tea, let me share their tobacco (bad) and fed me roast sheeps brains straight out of the skull (very bad).

At the end, we said our goodbyes and returned to Opuwa, the nearest town. Apart from the clearing up, it was the end of the expedition. We had our parties and returned to Expedition HQ. It was pan-bashing time and we all lost our sense of humour. Nearly everyone else was leaving for the UK but a small band of us had elected to stay on and take the Convoy back to Zimbabwe – but that's another story.

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- News from Squadrons -

JCUFI
BFPO 655

BFFI INTER UNIT SPORTS COMPETITIONS
BASKETBALL
Time: 1130hrs Saturday 16 April 94
Scene: ACC Line Control, manned by **LCpl** 'Baz' **Pickles** and **Sgt** 'Yogi' **Cauldwell**

Incident: Phone rings

Reason: **Cpl Graham Pearce** phoned looking for basketball players.

Action: **LCpl Pickles** looks over his shoulder and asks 'Do you want to play basketball this afternoon FNG?' (Falklands New Guy) The reply was 'Yes'. That was how the final member of the JCUFI A Team was selected (or so **LCpl Pickles** thought). When the team members arrived JCUFI A Team was a man down. **Sgt** 'Rabs' **Rabbetts** was spotted pumping iron; final team selection made.

JCUFI 'A' and JCUFI 'B' played in separate locations in the preliminary round. JCUFI 'A' went onto the cup, JCUFI 'B' onto the plate.

The route for JCUFI 'B' was to be knocked out in the first round of the plate, enough said.

JCUFI 'A' breezed into the semi-final beating the Royal Green Jackets and RAF Regiment Teams without conceding a point. In the semi-final the opposition scored against JCUFI, this sparked them into action, another convincing win! Into the final!

The excitement was high, adrenalin pumping and the JCUFI Globe Trotters were off. Very much like an Oscar winning Hollywood Movie, JCUFI were 4–0 down with 15 seconds to play, the team went forward, suddenly **Sig Tim Holmes** fired a 3 point basket. 10 seconds left, JCUFI battled forward again, this time from 15 metres **Sig** 'Magic' **Holmes** took another shot, it rolled around the rim before dropping for another 3 point basket! Final score MTW 'A' 4, JCUFI 'A' 6, the all Island Champions (Teams from Stanley also entered).

The full team consisted of **Sgt** 'Rabbs' **Rabbetts** (FOG), **Sgt** 'Yogi' **Cauldwell** (FNG), **Cpl** 'Chalky' **White** (Non Mech), **LCpl** 'Baz' **Pickles** (Capt) and **Sig Tim Holmes** (Sad Man).

SWEDISH LONG BALL
The event was a very unusual version of softball including the use of a rugby ball.

ACC entered the following team:

Sgt Cauldwell, Cpls Donaghue, Gathercole, LCpls Hayhurst, McKillop, Sigs Holmes, Ambler, Wareing, Wood, and **Marsden,** (Non playing manager **LCpl Pickles**)

JCUFI got knocked out in the semi-final by JCUFI ACC. JCUFI ACC then went on to win.

JCUFI are now, not only the BFFI Basketball Champions, but also the Swedish Long Ball Champions. Hurrah the Telemechs!

ACC LINE SECTION JCUFI
As Line Section have not appeared in the *Wire* for some time I thought that I would put fingers to word processor and jot a few lines about us at the sharp end.

Life at MPA over the last couple of months has been busy for the Telemechs, as per usual. The workload has increased since the CPD Line and Plant Inspection in January. Projects are now being written and the boys are busy rectifying points brought up on the report. **Cpl John Phillips**, on his return to the Island, is beavering away on the Test Point Refurbishment Project, whilst learning how to use the computer (well, swearing at the screen a lot!) **Cpl Matt Donaghue** and **LCpl** 'De De' **Watts** are working on the Mount Kent re-wire in between faults and the Gym. **Cpl Richie Gathercole** has 'swanned' onto his EPC with 5 Para so he now thinks that he's intelligent. The faults crew, **LCpl Al Hayhurst** and **Sig Tim Holmes** are busy bogging wagons in, while the Maint Crew, **Sigs Mick Ambler, Dicky Pearce** and **'Parky' Parkinson** are earning their B2 qualifications rewiring the Eng wing.

On the sporting side **LCpl** 'De De' **Watts** and **Sig** 'Taxi' **Torry** are training for the upcoming March and Shoot. Training is done most mornings at 0730 hrs and the boys are taking it in turns not to show up, that's what I call dedication! **LCpl Watts** also completed the Stanley Half Marathon earlier in the month, so well done to him.

Socially, the Section is doing its usual thing by making up for the rest of JCUFI. **Sig Holmes** has just resurrected the darts competition in the NAAFI on Tuesday nights, and **Dicky Pearce** organised a Rave night in Sharkies. The next Sharkies 'do' is a Treasure Hunt organised by Line Section.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES
First of all we'd like to say farewell to **Maj Johnstone** the old OC JCUFI and wish him well in the future with 71 Sig Regt (V). Then welcome the new OC **Maj Gale** (How long?). On the section side welcome to **Sgt** 'Yogi' **Cauldwell, Cpls John Phillips, Andy Maylepp, Sigs Rob Marsden,** 'Woody' **Wood,** Eddy **Waring** and **Tim Holmes.** Farewell to **Sgt** Rabbs **Rabbetts, Cpl Richie Gathercole, Sigs Jimmy White, Dicky Pearce** and **Andy Prout.**

MARCH AND SHOOT COMPETITION
It was decided that as JCUFI is a Tri-Service unit it would be a wonderful idea if the teams were made up of elements from all three services.

A quick recruiting campaign was launched in the form of an entry on orders. This resulted in a tremendous response from as far afield as ACC (Airfield Cable Control/Line) which is adjacent to the control tower and HF Transmitters on the Stanley Road.

Our very own beastmaster, **WO2 (Fof S) Lee Wookey**, took on the task of bringing the teams up to a relatively good standard of fitness with only a month to go before the competition.

This resulted in us being taken on many a sight seeing trip around MPA, taking in all the hills that he could possibly find on the way. We were soon to learn the meaning of "bergan on," "bergan off," pick up the full jerry and run as fast as you can up and down those hills, "GO."

Before we knew it 19 March was upon us and we found ourselves on the way to Stanley for the start of the competition. This was it. We would soon find out if all that training had paid off.

After the weighing in of the bergans, a minimum of 36lbs, and a kit check, we waited, apprehensively, for the start.

The route started at Moody Brook, and then took in Mount Tumbledown, Mount William, Sapper Hill, Stanley Jetty then on to Rookery Range for the shooting phase of the competition. Naturally all the check points were either at the top of the mountains or close to them.

The shooting phase comprised each team member being given ten rounds, then doubling forward to the 100m point to engage the targets, falling plates. For each round left over at the end of the shoot, time would be taken off the over all time of both phases of the competition.

JCUFI A and B teams were placed 7 and 8 out of the 15 teams that entered. B Team beating A Team thanks to a good shooting phase, a difference of only 2-3 minutes.

JCUFI A and B teams also both beat the Resident Infantry Company B Team who came 9th.

JCUFI A Team had an excellent tab, finishing with 4th position for the tab phase and the B Team had an excellent shoot with 32 rounds left and all targets dropped.

All team members enjoyed a well earned beer at the end compliments of OC JCUFI, whilst attending the presentation ceremony at FIDF HQ.

March and Shoot Teams
Back row (*L to R*): Sig 'Sven' Heaps, SSgt 'Max' Inman, Cpl 'Slings' Slinger, LCpl 'De De' Watts, Cpl 'Chalkie' White, Flt Lt Losh
Front row (*L to R*): LWEM(R) 'Johnno' Johnson, POWEM(R) 'Gunny' Norton, Sig 'Torry' Torrington, JT 'Siggy' Forster, Sigs 'Val' Valentine, 'Rod' Rouchy

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para) Aldershot

Sqn Comd — **Maj John Whitby**
2IC — **Capt Steve Vickery**

A couple of new faces have recently arrived in SHQ. We say welcome to **WO1 (RSM) Joe Fairbairn** and his wife **Jane** who have arrived from the sunny climes of Cyprus. We wish the outgoing RSM, **WO1 George Burrows** and **Wendy** a happy tour in Wrexham, on commissioning. **LCpl Tricia Keenan** AGC (SPS) has also arrived to make up the four-man team in the orderly room. Our latest recruit, a new photocopier, is already hard at work and rumour is rife that it's also busy on overtime. Stand-by Training Wing for the rain forest bill. Perhaps the biggest decision still awaits SHQ–whether to raise the coffee fund charge from 75p to £1.00!

PROMOTIONS
Over the last four months the Squadron has celebrated a great number of promotions.

This is clearly a boost for morale and testament to the high quality of Airborne Signallers at 216. Among those to be congratulated are **SSgt Dave Catchpole, Sgts Ged Keane, Gary Smith, Stu Archer, Andy Young, Sigs Mac McBean, Dom Anderson, Paul Goddard, Hammond, Webb** and **Spink.**

EXERCISE SECOND ENCOUNTER
Report by soldier X

"They love us here'
"'Cos they see us every year, that's why'
'And we're still trying to wear our para helmets over the respirator'
'So I guess we'll come back next year and try again!'

A conversation between soldier X and soldier Y, during the Squadron's deployment on the Porton Down NBC Battle Run, directly after completing a 'Sniff' test at Oscar HQ. Squadron drills must have been slick, they even used Squadron personnel as actors in their latest film!

WO2 (YofS) Kenny Sirr returning from a recent exercise – the quick way!

LCpl 'Ackers' Ackland and the great white LAD

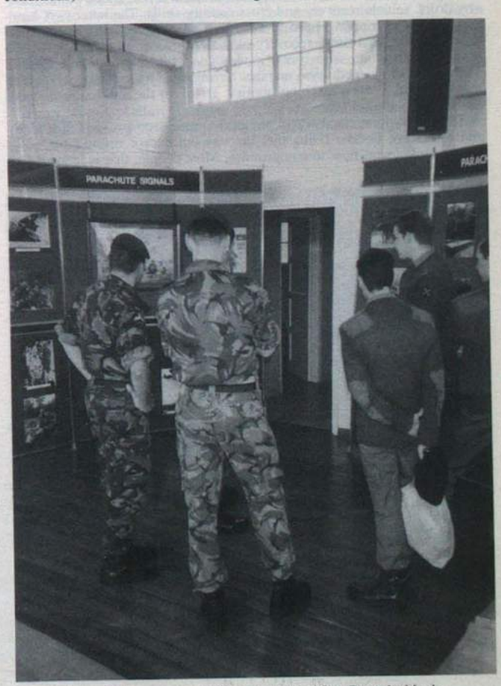
Ex Second Encounter was an all encompassing shake out exercise, located on Salisbury Plain, at Porton Down and Sennybridge. In the words of the Sqn Comd, it was a 'Skills and Drills' exercise. Both Troop headquarters were deployed and leap-frogged around the Plain. A three day period was spent at Porton Down practising aspects of NBC training. A swift move was then made to SENTA where various nets were established before Endex. Overall a successful work-out for the communications assets.

RECRUITING TOUR
The Squadron recruiting team, combined with the soccer team to tour the North of England from 21-25 February 1994. The itinerary began at York, with a presentation to 2 Sig Regt. This was well received, although 2 Sig Regt gained revenge on the football pitch with a 6-1 thrashing–never mind.

Harrogate was then visited where an evening lecture was delivered to the Apprentices. Although the response was more lukewarm than normal, some useful volunteers were identified. Sadly AAColl Harrogate were unable to field a soccer team for the match, although there was plenty of indoor football for the hardy.

Again the weather beat the footballers during the visit to 8 Sig Regt. Despite the 2IC and **Sgt Dave Buckingham** 'liberating' a snow plough from the MT, the volume of snow precluded any football. The teams were well hosted by **Sgt Clive Smith**–ex 216–who relished the chance to re-acquaint with parachute signallers. The presentation in the TTS cinema, the back of which **Cpl Tes Blakeley** knows well, went excellently. Over 20 tradesmen expressed interest in 216 and it was heartening to see the level of enthusiasm. Planning is already in hand for two more tours later this year; to Bulford in May and to Northern Ireland in September.

DEPLOYMENTS TO THE FRY
Finally a hello to **LCpl Mac McBean** who is currently serving in Bosnia with **Gen Sir Michael Rose**'s task group. Also **WO1 (FofS) Bob Morris** has recently returned after a stint in FRY checking comms equipment and areas. Luckily **Bob** is Commando Trained and well versed in icy conditions, run ashores and snow holing.



The February recruiting tour to 2 Sig Regt in York

7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207)
BFPO 30

Sqn Comd **Maj J. P. Wilson**
2IC **Capt N. D. Fraser**

ARRIVALS

The Squadron welcomes **Sig Soribas** to Bravo Tp. It also welcomes **Sgt** Taff **Smith** and **Sigs Walker, McKone, Ratcliffe** and **Tervitt** to the power bay which has now had to acquire more comfy seats for the crewroom.

DEPARTURES

The Squadron bids a fond farewell to **LCpls Sharp, Lowery** and **Scourfield** who are all off to Blandford. We also say farewell to **Sig** 'Toad' **Amos** and wish him and his family the best of luck in the UK. Also at this time we would like to say a premature goodbye to those who have been nominated for redundancy: **SSgts Rick Skelland** and **John Davidson, LCpls Lee Sharp** and Geordie **Richardson**, and **Sig Steve Farrar**. They will be a great loss to the Unit and the Army, but an asset to Civvy Street. Good luck to you all!

The Squadron is in a period of constant change at the moment due to our impending tour on Op Grapple 4. No one can agree with this more than the totally stressed 2IC **Capt Neil Fraser** and his merry clerks in the Unit Admin Office, consisting of **SSgt** 'Chief' **Robinson, LCpls Chaz Fisher,** Whitney **Houston, Lucy Butchers** and **Pte** Smudge **Smith**, ably led by **Collette Gallagher** on YTS. Their consistent hard work is a credit to the Squadron.

EXERCISE GREEN LIGHT

With impending deployment to Bosnia, much to the relief of 4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204), the Sqn 2IC **Capt Neil Fraser** assembled his 'gang of four' to organise Ex Green Light. It was to test the skills learnt over the previous weeks of ATD training and Sennelager.

The exercise took the form of two days 'Round Robin' consisting of vehicle-mounted and static stands. The vehicle stands involved groups following a route in convoy covering anti-ambush drills, check points, convoy drills, vehicle recovery and cross country skills. The latter two, however, ended up running hand-in-hand as **Cpl Al Crossman** spent more time teaching 'real-time' recovery at the cross country stand. A bit too muddy maybe, but, who cares, it was good fun learning. **Sgt Dougie Maher** was christened 'pyro maniac' having nearly used the year's quota of pyrotechnics when teaching his first group on the anti-ambush stand. Serious rationing followed.

The check point stand was particularly useful, run by **SSgt Jim Gray** and **Sgt Steve Ferris**. Using the 'no way out except negotiation' ploy, most people learnt how to compromise. Most people, that is, except **Cpl Fraz Reid**, who surrendered the convoy unconditionally and did absolutely anything and everything he was told to do. (Better luck for real **Fraz**.)

The second day involved foot patrols covering minefield location, marking and withdrawal, field tactics along with fire and manoeuvre techniques and ended with a navigation assessment. The minefield stand was made as close to realism as possible by 32 Engr Regt with the use of ELSIES which are simulated antipersonnel mines which emit smoke when trodden on. This was to stop people using the, 'Oh! I didn't notice that one' syndrome when locating mines. Above the noise of the thunderflashes and the rest of the noise of the Pyro, the very loud, though normally quiet, and reserved voice of **Sgt John Berry** could be heard. He was merely injecting enthusiasm and 'adjusting attitudes' where necessary. We have also decided that our map reading instructor, 'no names, no pack drill' has to go and do his Mapric course properly this time. After a few days without rain, much to the 2IC's annoyance, Excon (manned by **Cpl Gibbons** and **LCpl Armstrong**) called a halt and everyone recovered back to camp.

A thoroughly useful and enjoyable exercise, that has helped to make final preparations for the 7 Armd Bde to rescue the beleaguered 4 Armd Bde in Bosnia. (Only joking guys!)

EXERCISE HORSTEN HASH

Ex Horsten Hash was a test of the military skills learnt by the junior NCO and below in the form of a 'march and shoot' competition. So the Squadron's infamous training team consisting of **Capt Neil Fraser, WO1 (RSM) Trevor Smith, Sgts** 'Taff' **Webb** and **Steve Haresign** banged their heads together and produced the following master plan.

The competition was to be split into a total of five phases. The first would be the recovery stand which was manned by **SSgt** 'Tiffy' **George McIntyre** and **Cpl Al Crossman** from the Squadron's LAD. There was a tactical part in the scenario in which a sniper would hinder the group as they attempted to recover their vehicle. They were, as a consequence meant to trip some flares, but the only person to actually do this was Tiffy himself. The second was the First Aid stand which was run by **Sgt Steve Haresign** in which they had to recover injured personnel from within a minefield.

The last stand was the command task which was run by **Sgts Mac McKenzie** and Dickie **Dickinson** who boasted that there was only one way to complete their stand and that only they knew it! Wrong, they were then shown another seven ways that it could be done. The range phase was run by **Lt Nick O'Kelly, WO1 (RSM) Trevor Smith** with **Sgt** Taff **Webb** guarding the tea bucket. The main phase of the exercise was the four mile timed 'tab' between the stands.

The whole day went extremely well with the winning team coming from

'Jobsworth' Cpl Craig McGowan negotiates with the indigenous forces, Sgt Steve Ferris, whilst SSgt Jim Gray tucks into a local 'Death Pack'

'The winners' (*L to R*): Sig Charley Farley, Sig Pond Life, LCpl Si Upcraft, Sig Terry, LCpl Galloway, Sig Giros Proctor, Cpl Jas Raybold, LCpl Si Riley and Cpl Tom Murray

19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209)
Catterick

Sqn Comd **Maj David Hargreaves**
2IC **Capt Tudor Hill**

Farewell to **Capt Tony Picknell,** who leaves the Unit and the Army to begin a new life in Austria. Good luck with Chrysler, and all the best from all at the unit. Out with the old and in with the new, so a welcome to **Capt Tudor Hill** as the next 2IC. A baptism of fire followed with Ex Red Tricorn.

EXERCISE PANTHER'S PURSUIT

On Friday 11 February 1994 the Squadron deployed on Ex Panther's Pursuit on Dartmoor Training Area. The aims of the exercise were to develop teamwork, survival in a 'fairly' hostile environment and to practise low level infantry tactics. The majority of personnel arrived on Dartmoor that evening and moved into the field as soon as orders had been issued. Over the next few days everyone was tested to the full often in appalling weather conditions. The exercise culminated in a challenging company level attack on a well defended position. By the end of the week, all the exercise aims had been fulfilled.

On left Capt 'Monty' Kinnaird, right Cpl 'Bear' Convery

LS & GC PRESENTATIONS

On his farewell visit to the unit, the outgoing Brigade Commander **Brig Evelyn Webb-Carter** presented the LS & GC Medal to **WO2 (RQMS) Steve Johnson, SSgt** 'Dusty' **Miller** and **SSgt Mick Dighton.** He also conferred the Divisional Commander's Commendation on **Cpl Jeremy Bradley** and his own Commendation on **LCpl Carl Touhey.** Both Commendations were awarded for outstanding action at Road Traffic Accidents.

LS & GC Presentation
Back Row (*L to R*): Cpl Bradley, SSgt (FofS) Dighton, LCpl Touhey, WO2 (RQMS) Johnson, SSgt Miller
(*L to R*): Maj Hargreaves, Mrs Dighton, Mrs Touhey, Mrs Johnson, Brig Webb-Carter

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt David Kinnaird**

Welcome to all the new boys, and farewell to all the old. It has been a relatively quiet period, the highlight of which was a RAAT task as CIVPOP. This exercise is a culmination of all training undergone by an infantry battalion to enable it to operate in hostile conditions. To make for realism, other troops act as civilian populous. On this occasion 19 Mech Bde Sig Sqn was that populous and the Squadron deployed to Standford training area in early March for a week's exercise. Troops were located at various locations within the training area, some more plush than others.

During the exercise, members of the squadron assumed certain identities, some as terrorists and others as law abiding citizens. Various scenarios were enacted hostile and friendly, they played the role well throughout the week, enabling the battalion to practise drills and procedures learned during training.

This enabled those 'law abiding citizens' to take full advantage of civilianisation for a week and a beard-growing competition began in earnest, for which there were many entrants. Sadly there was no overall Squadron winner but certainly at Alpha Tp the competition was won by **LCpl** (Grizzly) **Randall.**

At the conclusion of the exercise, the squadron was thanked for its participation and by the CO of the NITAT training team for a job well done. So then it was back on the buses and back to not-so-sunny Catterick to resume life as soldiers again.

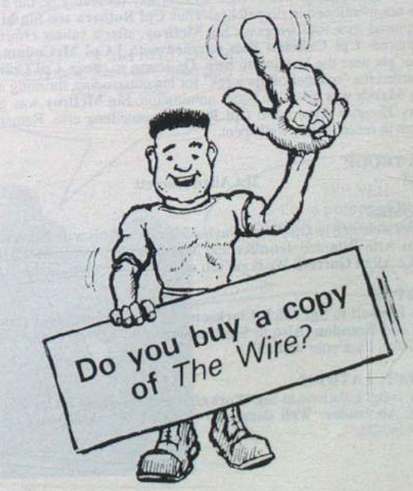
BRAVO TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Gavin Williams**

After Panther's Pursuit, PRE inspections, combined with trade training, the Troop participated in the RAAT task which has been reported by Alpha Troop, so we move on to sporting events.

The Inter-Tp Cross Country Competition saw the breaking of the legendary Bravo Troop losing streak. Yes, we won! Definitely a shock result. Fortunately the old ways were soon resumed when we finished last in the inter-Troop Swimming Competition. The team consisted of **Lt Gavin Williams, Cpl Olly McGrail, LCpls Al Stewart,** 'Geordie' **McPhee** and **Sigs Dave Dowson** and **Bob Beaman.** We competed in seven races, providing two men for each race. Not easy! On the evening of 24 March the Squadron threw an all-ranks party which proved to be an excellent stepping-stone to Scabs.

Farewell to **Cpl Stan Haworth** and **Sig Dave Dowson** both posted; all the best from everyone here and keep in touch. Welcome to **LCpl Thomas** from 244 Sig Sqn.



20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200)
BFPO 16

Sqn Comd **Maj Paul Eaton**
2IC **Capt Simon Parry**

EXERCISE BRANDY STATION

Ex Brandy Station was a Squadron HF exercise and both Comms Tps, Alpha and Bravo deployed to the field for five days. The exercise practiced HF and morse techniques and began with short range links before moving on to longer range links with both voice and morse. The Brigade Commander, **Brig A. R. D. Pringle CBE**, visited Bravo Tp during the exercise and was invited to send morse on a CW link to England. He did and the link worked at the moment of truth. On the fourth day, the exercise moved into a tactical phase and the following account is written by **Cpl Paul Culleton** on a task he was given.

EXERCISE BRANDY STATION PHASE FIVE

Ex Brandy Station was a Comms Tp exercise incorporating both A & B elements. Primarily, it was a HF exercise to revise HF A & P. However, for the last 36 hours, both Troops were called in from their respective locations and briefed on the next phase of the exercise.

Briefly, both Troops would deploy to locations in the Staple training area (a hostile enemy area), set up and conduct subsequent operations. This would involve sending patrols against each other to try and relieve each other of the prized possession of a full water can. It was good to see some excellent performances from the most ardent of signallers who became seasoned campaigners overnight from years of playing war as a lad.

The men of A Tp were keen to go without food/water and sleep in order for a good wrestle and the chance to get some notable 'scalps'. The A Tp patrol consisted of **Cpl** 'Gunny' **Culleton, Cpl** 'Name, Rank, No' **Rothera, Sig** 'Ow! Ow! they're at grid ref 876325' **Marsh** and **Sig** 'SAS' **McIlroy**. Both locations were in a 600m area and it was darker than a dark thing on the planet dark. However, with nerves of steel and a clean set of underwear, the patrol decided to sweep randomly to the north and south of the main track.

When they stumbled upon a Landrover stuck in the sand (memories of Desert Storm), it had four ways going and was just visible. It was apparent that it had been to the B Tp location. Cheers **SSgt Anderson**! Sure enough, the patrol stumbled across **Sgt** 'Chaz' **Fox**'s moustache, now visible in the moonlight. After his appreciation, **Cpl Culleton** came up with a plan so cunning you could stick a tail on it and call it a weasel! The old cliche applies 'divide and rule', it was to be a three pronged assault. **Cpl Rothera** was to stay at the FOP with the weapons and the remainder from the north-east and west.

Whilst crawling down the track, **Cpl Culleton** spied what appeared to be a pile of dishes. On closer inspection it was in fact a sleeping guard who woke up as he was passing him. **Cpl Culleton** had no option but to deal with him. At this point, things started to go wrong. After a brief struggle, the guard let out a blood curdling cry of 'stand-to'. It dawned on **Cpl Culleton**, how little his appreciation had covered because seven people stood up out of shell scraps, also a QRF came piling out of the complex. It was soon apparent that they were heavily outnumbered. **Cpl Culleton** decided to withdraw tactically to live to fight another day (in reality he ran away) and was not mentioned in despatches! Thus **Cpl Rothera** and **Sig Marsh** were captured with four weapons. **Sig McIlroy**, after a valiant effort was also captured. **Cpl Culleton** later returned with **LCpl McCallum**, but could not get near the location to help. On return to camp, **Cpl Culleton** was awarded the 'spanner of the week' for his outstanding sprinting abilities. **Sig Marsh** was given an oscar nomination, **Sig McIlroy** was given the Harry Houdini Award and **Cpl Rothera** something else. Remember time spent in recce is time well spent.

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Allan Garrett**

WELCOMES

A warm welcome to **Cpl** 'DM' **Davies-Morris** and his wife **Elke; LCpl Prior**, his wife **Rita** and **Jennifer** and **Matthew**; **Sig** 'Mac' **McFarlane** and to **2Lt Allan Garrett**. We hope you all enjoy yourselves in the Troop.

GOODBYES

A sad farewell to **Sgt Mick Clarkson** and **Claudia** and their children **Michael** and **Brendon**. Also to **Sig Garner** on his way to Canada, then Londonderry. Pack your umbrella!

CONGRATULATIONS

Hearty congratulations to **Sig Workman** and **Elisabeth** on the birth of their son, **Alexander**. Well done also to **LCpl** Mac **McKenna** on his recent promotion.

EXERCISE VENTURE DIAMOND

Ex Venture Diamond was a Squadron skiing exercise and took place in the Harz over the period 7-11 February. Ten members of the Squadron took part in five days of cross-country and downhill skiing. The group was based in the Torfhaus hut which overlooks the Brochen feature. Under the expert instruction of **Cpl** 'Dusty' **Miller**, day one began with an introduction to cross-country skiing. As expected some people took to it better than others. **Sig** 'all the gear, no idea' **Glaves** put in a stunning performance, particularly on the downhill sections of the loop. Day two began with cross-country and the remainder of the week was spent mainly on the slopes at Braulage. A special mention must go to the Banzi Bill trio of **LCpl Tam Bremner, Sigs John Allen** and **Jim Anderson** who all had excellent wipeouts. The best fall of the week award was a close call but the Boss, **Lt Paul Smith,** just clinched it with his 'come and have a look at this routine'.

The Winter Warriors At Rest

SQUADRON HOCKEY

The hockey season 1993/94 started very late with no league being set up. The Squadron played a few friendlies against major units in the Garrison. The Eastern Cup Zone Competition was played in early January against BMH Rinteln, which we lost, mostly due to injuries during the game, but still qualified for the BAOR Cup Competition. The quarter-final was played at home against 13 Sup Regt RLC, which was a resounding 3-0 victory.

The semi-final was a much closer and hard fought game against 13 Sig Regt, with the result being 1–0, scored by **Cpl** (missed penalty) **Al Rooney** in a solo run. Then there was a week of intense hockey training when we actually realised we were now in the final!

The final was played at Roxel in Munster and was against, yet again, another Signals unit–280 Sig Sqn. The game was a fair, hard fought and a typical minor unit final–fast and furious. The only goal scored was by **WO2 (RQMS) Mark Schofield** who took his time, putting the ball in the net in the second half of extra time. The team, recovered from the apres-game celebrations, is now in training for the Army finals in the UK.

The team captain, Sgt Mark Holden, receives the BAOR Cup

24 Airmob Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210)
Colchester

With the coming of Spring the Squadron has sprung into action and the exercise phase is now in full swing.

Ex Rising Phoenix took place in February on a snow-covered Stanford Training Area, described fondly by Bravo Tp's **Sig Dave Weatherstone** as 'the coldest place in the Northern hemisphere'. It started with a three day communications phase designed to give the Squadron's recent arrivals a taste of things to come. Then followed a patrol competition in sub-zero temperatures, the highlight of which was rumoured to be a river crossing. Smelling a rat, **Cpl Terry Bowen** of Alpha Tp decided to call the DS's bluff and bravely led his section off to take the plunge, hoping secretly to be dragged back from the edge at the last second. Luckily, his hunch was right–it was all a cunning hoax. But watch out, lads, we'll catch you next time . . .

Ex Parthian Shot, a five day communications exercise, practising detachment drills, followed. All went well, though Bravo Tp's **Cpl** 'Tracksuit Man' **Whitfield** has a special request for next time–'no more bramble bushes please, sir'.

More recently the Squadron was involved in Ex Gryphon's Lift, run over two weeks in mid-March. Units organised their own training in the first week, then took part in a Brigade exercise during which Alpha Tp was visited by **Maj Gen D. A. J. Cordingley DSO**, GOC EDIST. The Squadron's 2IC, **Capt Jim Forrest**, had a particularly good exercise, though Alpha Tp would like to point out to him that to do a sniff test it's usually a good idea to be wearing a respirator . . .

RM/LPC training took place on Watton Airfield, for which Alpha Tp provided the instructors. Some of the Squadron spent a week learning from scratch while others spent half a day revalidating their skills.

On the sports front, the athletics hierarchy is setting its sights on securing a haul of silverware in the coming months. The Cadman Inter-Troop Athletics Competition took place on 15 April to select the team to represent the Squadron in the Royal Signals (Morrison Cup) Inter-Unit Team Championships held in York on 4 May.

The Squadron has battled through to the EDIST Minor Units Knockout football final.

FINALLY, NEWS FROM THE TROOPS

ALPHA TROOP

Alpha Tp reports that, despite frequent visits from the 'Postie from hell', morale remains high. A belated welcome to **Cpl** 'Churchie' **Churchward**, who arrived in January.

BRAVO TROOP

Cpl 'Tubbs' **Arthurs** and **LCpl Boslem** organised a bowling evening at the Superbowl on 14 February, which was much appreciated by all, especially **Capt Chapman** who was much impressed with his bowling shoes and decided that they would make a perfect pair of lounge slippers . . .

Taking 'room for improvement' one step further, some of the Troop decided that, in fact, there was insufficient room in the garages for the Ptarmigan vehicles and set about customising the doors.

Finally, the Troop would like to say goodbye to **LCpl Boslem**, who left the Army on 13 May.

SUPPORT TROOP

Support Tp would like to say farewell to **Sgt** 'Shortie' **Green** who recently transferred to the MPSC and is now exercising his well-known, quiet, diplomatic demeanour there. The QM would like to record his thanks and very best wishes to 'Shortie' and family for a successful second career. PS–Stop sending members of MCTC(PS) to the clothing store for exchanges!

Farewell and good luck to **Cpls Connery** and **Allmark** who leave the Army on Phase Three redundancies.

'Would you get there?'
(*L to R*): LCpl 'Count Dracula' Boslem, 'Good Boy' Thomson, Cpl 'Kev' Johnson, Cpl 'Tubbs' Arthurs

229 Sig Sqn
BFPO 45

Sqn Comd — **Maj A. K. Trimble**
2IC — **Capt J. M. P. Leggate**

FAREWELLS

Farewells for the Squadron are building up as we draw closer to closing down and redundancy. We begin with saying farewell to **Sgt Jim Hamill** and his wife **Lorraine** and family on posting to JCUNI, **LCpl Steve Franklin** and his wife **Sharon** and family on posting to 259 Sig Sqn, **Sig Mark Chatburn** on posting to 21 Sig Regt and **Sig Justine Fazakarley** on posting to 3 Armd Div; our best wishes go to all. Further farewells go to **Capt Fred Mackender** and his wife **Pamela** and family, **LCpl Kurt Neilson, Sig Suggitt** and his wife **Jackie** and family and finally **Sig Dave Dowell**, all selected for phase three redundancy. We wish them all the very best for the future in their new found careers.

EXERCISE PILGER REISE

Pilger Reise is an exercise name given to the Hunter Force at the International Long Range Reconnaisance Patrol School survival course.

It was the second time that the Squadron has deployed on the exercise, the first occasion being exactly a year earlier.

The Squadron manpower was boosted by the attachment of 10 US Army Berlin Brigade personnel, two RAF personnel from Gatow, a dog team from Sennelager and two aircraft and crew from 651 Sqn AAC. Finally, we also had Officer Cadet **Tracy Wakerley**, whose account of the event now appears.

Cpl Jerry Marsden and Sig A. Dean re-acting to another 'Hot Tip'

EXERCISE PILGER REISE
by Officer Cadet Tracy Wakerley

As an Officer Cadet at Birmingham University Officer Training Corps I was very fortunate to obtain an attachment to 299 Sig Sqn in Berlin. In the middle of my two weeks stay I understood I was off on exercise down in Bavaria; a tough escape and evasion course for NATO special forces personnel. Needless to say as a 'naive' young student, in Army respects, I was in for quite an eye-opener.

The Pilger Reise exercise for us was the final stage for the students of the International Long Range Reconnaisance Patrol School (ILRRPS); for them it was survival in the field on the bare minimum using equipment they had made themselves. They had to run approximately 200km over undulating and steep terrain spotted with dense woods and small copses. Our task as Hunter Force was to track them down and, once caught gleen any information we could from them. The Sqn Comd, **Maj Andrew Trimble** had a tough job in hand, he had to parallel the students thoughts to try to begin deciding which possible routes they would take and what would be their guidance with the 'skeletal' maps they had been given.

After a long journey and problems with transport, three buses later the main body arrived at Unterschwarzach. That night mobile patrols were put into operation, I was sent out with **Cpl John Nixon** and we were tasked just to make our presence known to the students and to record sightings of them and their general direction. At this stage we were not allowed to lift them, not that **Cpl Nixon** or I saw anything at all that evening worth reporting. We were parked close by a bus stop and staring somewhat, so perhaps all we succeeded in doing that night was scaring people around us. The next day I was attached to a Platoon with **Lt Adrian Jones**. We were up at first light and tasked with wood clearances for the morning, unfortunately we had no success unlike 1 Platoon, commanded by **Capt James Leggate** who managed to capture four prisoners that day. Spirits were running high with this early success and I was told by **Sgt Jim Hamill** that I was in the wrong Platoon; he was feeling victorious. My next tasking was with **SSM Kevin Jenkins** as Quick Reaction Force; I think **SSM Jenkins** may have regretted asking me, we had no sightings that evening.

I concluded I wasn't a jinx after all as someone had suggested when the section I was with had success, we were moving through some woods when **Sgt Hatchett** (US Army) sang out a wonderful little bird call and we captured two prisoners asleep. I followed through and brought them back with the QRF who had arrived to pick them up. Various methods of trying to get them to reveal their next RV for that evening were employed, and, after detaining them for a couple of hours, the directing staff of the school came to collect and deploy them where they had been lifted. Two more were also caught that day, again by 2 Platoon who had captured the first two that morning. 1 and 2 Platoon were now level pegging. 3 Platoon, commanded by **SSgt** 'Chalkie' **White** had yet to have their moment of glory, a moment that I don't think actually arrived!

The exercise concluded with a resistance to interrogation phase for the students, which, without going into too much detail, was quite arduous for them. The exercise was very professional and despite the fewer number of captures this year, it was successful.

I enjoyed my stay in Berlin enormously and I would like to thank the many people involved in looking after me, particularly **LCpl Gill Sanford**, who was tasked with being my aide whilst here. I think everyone enjoyed the exercise as much as I did and, like me, felt they had learnt something.

'WELL MARRIED'

Everyone in 229 (Berlin) Signal Sqaudron would like to extend their congratulations to both **Cpl Trev Graham** and **Sig Justine Fazakarley** who were 'well' married on 2 April, in Birmingham. A reception was held at the New Norfolk Hotel.

We wish the newlyweds sincere best wishes for their future happiness.

Cpl Trever Graham and **Sig Justine Fazakarley** have both served in this Squadron and are currently serving with REME in Warminster and 3 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt respectively.

Cpl Trev Graham and Sig Justine Fazakarley cut the cake

238 Sig Sqn
Chelsea Barracks

Sqn Comd — **Maj J. A. Harris**
2IC — **Capt J. M. Harkness**

SQUADRON BATTLECAMP
A report by Sig Bill Bunning

The Squadron held its annual two week battlecamp in March in Crowborough Camp. A quick resume of one of the weeks is as follows:

DAY ONE

The DS and admin staff left Chelsea Barracks after the usual hustle and bustle. It was due to the astute driving of **Sig Bill Bunning** and the occasional map reading of **SSgt Kev Bickerstaffe** that we arrived at Crowborough Camp on time and in one piece. The DS and staff consisted of the following: **Sgt Mark Yates** 'At least I am out of the workshops', **Cpl Ez Ezard** Battlecamp extraordinaire, **LCpl Tiz Tyrell** 'Where's the fun?', **LCpl Steve Graham** MT wonderboy, **Sig Gaz Lea** PTI king/queen, **Sig Ian Keeping** Weekly runaround, **Sig Ian Branney** Day tripper.

The main party arrived later after all the work had been done by the staff (how do they always miss it?). Sorry, I almost forgot to mention the most important person of all, **LSgt Davis RLC**, who had the hardest job of all feeding 40 hungry squaddies. Also, somewhere in all this was **SSgt** Geordie **Harvey** (veteran of many campaigns) and 'the boss', **Capt Cubbin** (Airborne).

Gaz, Gaz, Gaz, Gaz has changed his socks

DAY TWO

The day started with an early morning call (siren) fire practice followed by PT to get everyone nice and warm. Everyone, that is, except **Sigs Killy Kilgannon** and **Andy Stevens** who managed to find the swimming pool. The training during the day was in sections and involved the usual subjects of first aid, map reading and NBC. It also included an easy, slow-time run over the assault course where most of us managed to get wet.

DAY THREE

PT as normal started the day with everyone getting very wet and muddy. Lessons throughout the day consisted of radios, more first aid and a map reading exercise, with three instructors from 21 (SAS) Regt (V) giving us some first class instruction. A special thanks to them.

DAY FOUR

PT again, but most are getting used to it by now. The rest of the morning was spent on foreign weapons, followed by a move into the field. A pyro demo brought terror to the troops aided by **Pte Traci Wood**.

DAY FIVE

Thursday started with various command tasks, but all this was cancelled due to two major forest fires in the local area. All the Troops helped the local fire-brigade to extinguish it within a few hours and training recommenced and more miles were covered.

DAY SIX

The finale of the week was a section stretcher/assault course race. The assault course was particularly wet, thanks to **SSgt Geordie Harvey** who had spent several hours ensuring all the pits below the obstacles were full to the brim with water. Those who were notable in their imitation of hippopotomi, wallowing in the water, were **Cpl Mandy Brazier, LCpl Aidie Williams, Sigs Mel Fortune** and **Caroline McMahon**.

All in all, it was a good week (retrospectively) and congratulations to section 3 (in both weeks) who won the inter-section competition. A special thanks to **Cpl Ez Ezard** for all the hard work he put in behind the scenes as NCO IC Trg Wing.

Anyone know how to open these new beer cans?

The only part that's dry is my mouth

243 Sig Sqn
Bulford Camp

OPERATIONS CELL
Ops Officer — **Capt Tony Reynolds**

ALL CHANGE

The 'Twilight Zone' has seen a number of changes recently with the departure of **Sgt Penny Lewis** to 'Slipper City' at 2 (NC) Sig Bde. Shortly after her arrival at 2 (NC) Sig Bde she was selected for promotion to SSgt and is now on her way to Northern Ireland. We wish her the best of luck in her new job, her wicked sense of humour will be missed. The vacant PTO seat has been filled by **Mr Norman McDonald,** who came to us from sunny Catterick, and is currently clawing his way up a sharp learning-curve with the odd comment that his database is full. We hope that he and his family enjoy the next few years in Bulford.

Sgt Geoff Croudace, LCpl Vicky Baggaley, Mr Norman McDonald, Capt Tony Reynolds

Sgt Geoff Croudace followed in the steps of **Capt Tony Reynolds** and attended the ISDX Managers course with BT and hopefully will be able to overtake **Sgt Maggie Bond** with her Black Magic tricks on the network system. **LCpl Vickie Baggaley** has brightened up the Ops Cell with tales of her sojourn in Norway.

Capt Tony Reynolds leaves us shortly, after 24 years service, for civvy street and a Picture Framing/Art Supply Business in Verwood, Dorset. We wish both him and **Trish** the best of luck and will take him up on his offer of special reduced rates for Corps Members.

UNIFORM TROOP
Tp Comd — **Lt Debs Sunderland**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Farewell and best wishes to **Cpls Tony Baines** and **Mandy Russell** both off to the sunnier climate of Belize and **Cpl Andrea Hindley** to Civ Div on redundancy.

We welcome to the fold **LCpl Dave** and **Wendy Hodge** and **Sig Andrea Appleton**. We hope they and their families have an enjoyable tour with the Squadron.

Finally we would like to congratulate **Mark** on his marriage to **LCpl Jo Furphy** (nee **Turner**); best wishes to them both.

251 Sig Sqn
Aldershot

Sqn Comd — **Maj J. J. Gerrard**
2IC — **Capt A. Platt AGC (SPS)**

ARRIVALS

Cpls Jordan and **Holmes, LCpls Neate** and **Jackson, Sigs Boothby, Brook, Bowman** and **Gibbard**.

DEPARTURES

The Squadron SSM **WO2 (SSM) F. Vaughan BEM, Sgt Meehan, Cpls Batey** and **Vincent, LCpls Hanbidge** and **Heslington, Sigs Winfield, Tyrell,** and **Brown**.

BIG HELLO

To **Sigs Dave Clark** and **Norma Moffat** currently serving at JCUFI for six months.

BATTLE CAMP
by Sig C. Davies

It's that time of year again when you hang up your barrack dress and dust off your combats for a week of sheer luxury at the Cwrt Y Gollen training centre in Crickhowell.

Long gone are the days of sitting in the Naafi, with your fingers curled around a pint and laughing about the good old days. No, this is something similar to the Krypton Factor. A week of living like no man has lived before.

To start off we had tests that required an IQ of mensa intelligence. Then we were all thrown in at the deep end with a pre-chosen title by our delightful SSM **WO2 (SSM) Vaughan**. We all had to give a five minute talk on our selected subject. For example, how to peel an orange or describe a sleeping bag. Unless of course you are as outgoing as **Sig Finch** who had us all in hysterics while teaching us to tell the time, 2 pm.

Our next task was to work out battle orders but the only orders our group were interested in were the bar orders, speaking of which 'it's your round'.

Then came the moment of truth, the exercise. Off we went to the local training area patrolling as we went. As time went by we practised our NBC and first aid, but the most enjoyable of all was the 4 am bug-out with CS gas, although most of us didn't smell it and ran off without putting on our respirators.

We spent part two of our exercise canoeing and windsurfing, sleeping out in our sleeping bags in the Black Mountains in constant wind and rain! Canoeing on rocks is a trifle difficult. So we were ushered into a nearby cave and inspected for sponge foot.

The thrilling part of the exercise was the night ambush which was held on the third night and, of course, Section 3 won. The funniest part of our ambush was when **Sig Finch** threw a rock into Section 2's area and screamed grenade, only to see most of Section 2 run for cover.

At 0600hrs on the Thursday morning we all packed up and took our weapons back to the Armoury, to find ourselves on a Tab/run across Sugar Loaf Mountain. We finally made it back to camp and flopped down on the floor hoping to hear the word 'endex' but, no, we were introduced to the infamous combat trail instead. This consisted of crawl tunnels, freezing water tunnels and 12ft jumps into mud pits. This course was a real test in confidence as well as a mud manure. After all that we dragged our tired bodies back to our rooms to get ready for a night out on the town, which was a perfect way to end a stressful but very enjoyable week.

WEEK 2 BATTLECAMP
by Sig Slight

Saturday 12 March had arrived. It was our turn to take over where Week 1 had left off. After taking over our accommodation it was straight into an introduction and tests. After these we had lessons on Military Law and Methods of Instruction. Methods of Instruction was like a confidence boosting lesson. We were all set a lesson in which we had to prepare a five minute talk. The next day was also filled with lessons and the gas chamber.

Monday came the exercise. We became keen/mean/green fighting machines, armed to the teeth; no retreat, no surrender. Moving to our harbour location we dug in and carried out 'Routine'. The SQMS arrived with our rations. It was stew and gateau to follow. We all tucked in; bang went the diet!

I was chosen, from my section, to go on the night OP. It went well. We did, as the saying of the week said: 'Get in, get out, don't look back'. It happened in the early hours, 'bug out'. Running all over the place. People here, people there. We ran to the ERV. When the count was taken, **Sgt Williams** appeared with **Cpl Heselden**, who had become lost, complaining, 'I couldn't see'.

When it became light some realised their kit was missing. The DS weren't best pleased to hear that. Eventually, when everything had been found, we boarded the vehicles and deployed to our drop zone.

Tabbing from the vehicles to a new wet and windy location, the other Sections arrived soon after us. Then there was the Navigation exercise. It was a real killer on the feet. That night we moved to a Quarry and got some proper sleep. Next morning, back to camp. New harbour, dug in, done 'the biz'.

PM saw some of us playing NBC casualties. The SSM loved every minute watching me being dragged, dropped and pulled over rocks and stumps. Come the evening, we were attacked and then bugged out. Having split into two Sections and dug in, the DS attacked. My Section attacked the enemy; the enemy then counter attacked. The defence bugged out and I was captured! End of tactical phase.

After a good night's sleep we tackled Sugar Loaf, 'no problem there', greeted by SSM on the top, returning to base to 'visit' the nature trail. Lots of mud, heavy breathing and sprains. Became a tadpole at the water tunnel. The feeling was great as I ran between the finishing posts. This was 'endex', greeted by beer from the SQMS. Hurrah!

WOMEN'S SIX-A-SIDE FOOTBALL COMPETITION

The first Army Women's Football Competition was held at Bassingbourn on the weekend of the 19/20 February. 251 Sig Sqn entered two teams, 'Duchess of Kent A & B'. Both teams played to a very high standard, with 'A' Team coming a well deserved second place and 'B' Team gaining 19th place.

All of the players enjoyed the weekend and look forward to the next competition.

The Squadron's Football Team

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

Sqn Comd — **Maj Gary Mason**
2IC — **Capt Grant Hume**

Cyprus has been the subject of trials, tribulations and turmoils in its long history but always comes through in the end. And even in modern times, the plucky islanders can breathe a sigh of relief as **Capt** Butch **Maycock** announces his departure from the island. There was the odd sigh of relief from some in the Squadron too! We wish him and **Anita** and family all the very best in Harrogate where he takes up his new post to sweep the square and lock the gates on the closure of the AAColl.

Welcome to **Capt Grant Hume** and **Rachael**, fresh from JCSC and 13 Sig Regt (R). His first job should be to spend some of the PRI money that has been hoarded over the last few years.

There were almost tears of joy from ORSQMS **SSgt Mark Bonham** when he received his posting to 237 Sig Sqn but the joy was shortlived when he found that he had to spend a fourth summer in Cyprus. Never mind that will give him more time to enter BFBS quizzes and write nasty readers letters to the Lion.

Sqn Comd **Maj Gary Mason** enters the summer with a tennis racquet in each hand and a sun hat with PMC Summer Ball written on it, but there is no truth in the rumour that the theme is Wimbledon Fortnight.

FOOTBALL

The first point to get across is that there will be no end-of-season notes from the Sqn A team. Not because of any lack of literary skill but simply a lack of football skill. It hasn't won anything! The veterans and not so gifted B teamers have lost only two league games all season in the Beefeater Div 2 and have finished runners-up.

Some sterling defending by **Sgt Craig Wrath, LCpl Yorkie Lawton, Sgt Andy Gilpin** and **Capt** Butch **Maycock** made sure the team clinched three points against league champions HQ Coy 1 R Irish. Goalkeepers **Sig Mark Aplin** and **LCpl Alan Minton**, both in the Army Cyprus squad, put in spectacular performances throughout the season. **Sig** Shimmy **Shimmans** partnered by **Capt John O'Rourke** has scored 29 goals this season and midfield dynamos **Maj Gary Mason, SSgt Dave Harris** and **LCpl Tony Hind** have been mainstays of the team's success.

Other worthies include **LCpl Taff Williams, Sgt Pete Szeremeta, Sig Mac McCarthy, Cpl Bob Leyland** and **Sig Bob Weldon**.

As we go to press a most impressive run in the cup has seen the team beat both Support Coy 1 R Irish and 12 SU RAF to reach the final against champions HQ Coy 1 R Irish. Special mention must go to **Sig Elvis Botham**, a loyal team man and main driving force behind the inception of the team. All the very best in civvy street and good luck in the final!

AMALGAMATION

The Squadron takes on Comms responsibilities island-wide and amalgamates with 662 Sig Tp in April 1995. New postings to the Squadron could now be employed island-wide in Troops or dets at Episkopi, Akrotiri, Troodos or Dhekelia. If any lucky 'postings-in' write beforehand we may be in a position to send you where you want to go–or in the case of Telemechs, where you haven't been before.

Civilianisation of some Technician and Telemech posts is moving slowly so anyone who has lodged an intention to apply for a post, should not think that you have been forgotten.

MERCURY CHARITY RUN

The Mercury Charity Run held on 11 March was in aid of two causes, the Royal Signals Corps Museum Project and St Stefanos Children's Home in Limassol. It started early on a cold, wet, miserable Friday morning (yes! it does rain in Cyprus), more like Catterick than Episkopi. **Maj Gary Mason** led from the front and ran the first leg, followed in turn by 11 other runners. **LCpl Nick Simpson** and **Sig** 'Arthur' **Scargill** were both trying to follow in Nigel Mansell's footsteps racing ahead before the runners caught up. Each runner ran three, two mile legs, and some fast times were recorded by **Lt Nick Tompkins** and **Cpl Pete Chapman** (AGC). One of the highlights of the run was going through Larnaca in a traffic jam. **Lt Nick Tompkins** and **Cpl Steve Griffiths** stopped and re-directed traffic whilst **LCpl** 'Mac' **MacDonald** carried the baton through the chaos under Police escort. Another reason for doing the run was to endeavour to beat the time set up by 662 Sig Tp last year, which we did in a time of 7 hours, 04 mins, 50 secs–can this be beaten? (we think not). We would like to thank everyone who took part in the run, and especially 662 Sig Tp for an excellent barbecue.

Back Row (*L to R*): LCpl 'Mac' MacDonald, Sig 'Shimmy' Shimmans, Lt Nick Tomkins, Sig 'Setch' Setchfield.
Front Row (*L to R*): Cpl Billy Liliburn, Cpls Pete Chapman, Steve Griffiths, Sig Dave McCarthy, Cpl Paul Haughton, Sig Brett Myerscough. Absent: Maj Gary Mason, Sig 'Coops' Cooper

280 (UK) Sig Sqn
BFPO 35

SQUADRON HOCKEY

The Squadron hockey team played through to the final of the BAOR Minor Units Army Championships by beating 14 Topo Sqn RE in the quarter finals and Monchengladbach/Viersen Station in the semi-finals. Although the whole team played very well man-of-the-match award for the semi final went to **Cpl 'Ali' Alison** our goalkeeper who made some splendid saves.

The final was against 200 Sig Sqn on a cold and blustery day at Munster. Despite what readers may think, we were, in fact, on exercise but managed to get most of the team to the Roxel Hockey Club all the same. The game was fast flowing with neither side being able to penetrate strong and resilient defences. The whistle went for full time with no score. There was still no score after extra time but in the second period of extra time we pushed hard and made a final effort to score but their centre forward also picked up a desperate clearance from their defence and scored a well taken individual goal.

Final score 1–0 to 200 Sig Sqn. The game was played in fine spirit, hard but fair, and could have gone either way.

The Team
(*L to R*): Back Row: Sig Hennessey, Sgt Hodkinson, Cfn Farquharson, WO2 Martin, Sgt Freak, Sgt Webb REME
Front Row: LCpl Wilkinson, WO1 Ward REME, Lt Elliott R Signals, Sgt Ainsworth, LCpl Clegg, Cpl Cator
Missing: Cpl Allison RLC Goalkeeper

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt S. R. Goodwin**

It is our pleasure to congratulate **LCpl Dave Johnston** and his wife **Tracy** on the birth of their son **Tommy**. With a name like that they are obviously grooming him to follow in his father's footsteps in the Army!

Unfortunately we have to say farewell to **Sgt Ian Munford** and **Cpl Chris Giles** who have been poached by Bravo Tp and **Sgt Baz Roberts** who escaped to Charlie Tp . . . turncoats! We must welcome a mysterious new member to the Squadron whose swash-buckling antics have entertained us on exercise, so welcome to Robin Hood.

The Troop has been kept busy with the take-over and trialling of the new RMA comms equipment. There has still been time for two off road driver training exercises, a Squadron Skill-at-Arms meeting and the TUV Competition, but only just!

Everyone worked hard and deserved the break that followed. Well done.

SQUADRON SKILL AT ARMS MEETING

2Lt Steve Goodwin thought he had covered all eventualities when organising an inter-Troop shooting competition until they reached the ranges to find . . . fog! Despite this, there followed a successful day after some changes to the shoots and some heavy breathing, after the march and shoot. Support Tp came first with Alpha and Bravo Tps tied in second followed by SHQ Tp, the women's team and Charlie Tp last. **LCpl Ray Crossan** shot well consistently earning him the best rifleman trophy.

RHINE GARRISON VOLLEYBALL COMPETITION

The Rhine Garrison Inter Unit Volleyball Competition took place at JHQ on 12 February. The competition consisted of 12 teams, one of which was civilian and thereby ineligible to receive the award. Two leagues of six teams were formed with the top two from each making up the semi-finals. The Squadron won their league with 16 Sig Regt in second place and the civilian team comprehensively winning the other league. The Squadron beat 13 Sig Regt (R) in their semi-final but lost to the civilian team in the final. However, as they were ineligible for the award, the trophy was given to 280 (UK) Sig Sqn who competed in the BAOR Final on 20 April and gained.

VISIT OF COMLANDCENT–GEN M. WILMINK ROYAL NETHERLANDS ARMY

On 16 March, COMLANDCENT, **Gen M. Wilmink**, paid an introductory visit to the Squadron during Ex Canary Caper 1/94. The aim of the visit was to mark the acceptance and first fielding of the new RMA communications system and provide a guided tour for other high ranking officers and civilians from industry. The senior British officer in LANDCENT, **Maj Gen M. S. White CBE**, Director of Support, accompanied **Gen Wilmink** during the inspection of the quarter guard.

Comlandcent UK Gen M. Wilmink takes the General Salute from the Quarter Guard of 280 (UK) Sig Sqn on 16 March 94 during Ex Canary Caper

5 AIRBORNE BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (216 PARACHUTE)
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PRE PARACHUTE BUILD UP COURSES	ALL ARMS P COMPANY	
COURSE	DATES	DATES
D/94 5	23 September	25 September-14 October
E/94 3-21	October 23	October-11 November

VOLUNTEERS ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED
5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para)

CONTACT THE TRAINING WING AT
216 SIG SQN (PARA)

56 Sig Sqn (V)
Eastbourne

Whilst the last two months have seen the completion of both trade and recruit training, and trade tests, the emphasis has primarily been on preparations for the 25th Anniversary of the Corps in Eastbourne, as reported in the last issue.

We are pleased to announce that all went exceptionally well, despite the weather being against us for the retreat ceremony, and the event was celebrated in style. We look forward to doing it all again in another 25 years, but for now we intend to concentrate on the exercise season, which began in April with a demanding yet rewarding Detachment Commander's exercise.

Mr Dino Constantinou was presented with the Adjutant General's Valedictory letter for 17 years service in the TA

Sgt Alistair Baker explains the aim of his military skills stand to the SOinC

Our honorary Colonel, Colonel Alan Dexter with Sigs Clare Hollebon and Olivia Johnson

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate **Officer Cadets Sarah Streete** and **Robert Whitworth** on passing the District Selection Board. Congratulations also to **Cpl Tracy Reed** on her recent promotion.

Congratulations to **Sig Mark Thomas** on winning the Best Shot Trophy and a coveted Squadron plaque, a special mention for **Sig Clare Hollebon**, the Top Female Shot, against all odds, and **Sig Mark Westcott** on winning the Best Recruit Shot Trophy.

Sig Mark Westcott receives the best recruit shot award from the SOinC

The Master records his visit to the Squadron at the Anniversary Dinner

The Mayor of Eastbourne, Councillor Bert Leggett, Maj Mike Gilyeat, the Director of Music and members of both the Corps Band and the Sussex ACF Band

– News from Troops –

642 Sig Tp
BFPO 52

Tp Comd **Maj Arthur Brittenden**

As it has been such a long time since the Troop contributed to *The Wire*, we ought to start by briefly outlining our role. We fall under the wing of CIS Gibraltar, a tri-Service organisation responsible for the daily communications needs of the MOD in Gibraltar. It is mainly a line Troop comprising of a TOT, FofS, SQMS, three Sys Techs and six Telemechs ably assisted by 34 locally employed civilians. The majority of work comprises providing and maintaining fibre and copper cables to the various communication sites as well as the day to day running of the military telephone exchange, located inside the 'Rock'.

RECENT EVENTS

March saw the last parade of 1FSTRE, the RE Troop, prior to their departure from the 'Rock' later this spring. Their departure will leave 642 Sig Tp as the only Army minor unit remaining. Ships and submarines of various sizes and nationality continue to come and go. HMS *Invincible* arrived to carry out her Adriatic handover/takeover with HMS *Ark Royal*. An impressive sight as the days of numerous ships in Gibraltar's harbour have long since passed. 640 Sig Tp arrived for a two week exercise but, in the interest of the nation's security, couldn't tell us how they got on! Later in the summer, 39 Sig Regt (V) will also be paying a visit to Gibraltar and we look forward to their arrival.

The Fibre-optic installation along with the repair of old (if not ancient) cable lays throughout the 'Rock', keep the Telemechs and their civilian counterparts very busy. The 'Spring clean' and change round of departments have kept not only the Telemechs but also the Technicians busy.

PRESENTATION OF THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL TO WO1 ROGER IREDALE

WO1 Roger Iredale was recently presented with his Meritorious Service Medal. **WO1 Iredale** who enlisted into the Royal Signals in April 1964 is now serving on the Long Service List at Headquarters British Forces Gibraltar. Although he no longer serves with the Corps he is looked after socially by the Troop.

WO1 Roger Iredale

ACTIVITIES

The recreational side of Gibraltar exists all year round. Obviously water sports abound during summer months with sailing, windsurfing, yachting and power boating courses arranged from March through to October. These are not just for service personnel; dependents can benefit too as during school holidays these facilities are also open to the children.

The winter period provides adventure training in the form of skiing, not only in the Sierra Nevada, but also in the Atlas Mountains in Morocco at Oukamaiden. Several members of the Troop have experienced this, staying at a French run youth hostel. The latest member to try enjoyed it so much that he managed to be snowed in for the return flight! Bless him!

Morocco also has been the location for the more hardy, looking for mountaineering and trekking expeditions. More recently a Rugby tour had been organised by the Navy to play various teams in Morocco. Volunteers from all services were welcome and our own **Sgt Dave Giles** leapt in, only to return saying he felt as though he had been thrown off the mountain that he had skied on months previously.

Not all is based around sporting interests. Evening classes provide the chance to learn Spanish and other leisure pursuits, such as picture framing, photography, computing and water-colour painting to name a few.

FAREWELLS

This year will see a great turn-over of military staff. The first half of the year saw the departures of **Cpl Dave Green**, his wife **Nicki** and son **Daniel** as well as **Cpl Paddy** and **Alison Quee**. Both families are back in UK preparing for redundancy. We also bade farewell to **Maj Arthur Brittenden** and his wife **Jean**, who are off to 'sunny' Blandford, and finally, but no means, least to **Sgt Dave Giles** who is leaving for wetter climes to the land west of Liverpool.

Later this year we say goodbye to **Sgt Glen Shipman**, his wife **Trish** and daughters **Danielle** and **Cacey**. Also farewell is in order for **Sgt Brian Rogers**, his wife **Gillian** and children **Elise** and **Lauren**. Both families are returning to UK. We wish all departees (or should that be deportees) all the very best for the future.

ARRIVALS

March saw the arrival of **Cpl Mick Lawlor**, his wife **Sharron**, daughter **Hayley** and son **Sean** from Germany. We also extend welcomes to the newly promoted **Capt Dave Smith** and wife **Janis** from Blandford, as well as **Sgt Chris Van Den Kerkhof, Gillian** and their daughters **Lauren** and **Catherine** from Benbecula. May saw the arrival of another man new to his rank, **LCpl Wilkinson** from Germany, while July sees the arrival of **Cpl** (soon to be Sgt??) **McIntyre**, from the hallowed Halls of Knowledge. To each of you we extend a warm, if not hot, welcome and hope you enjoy your time here in Gibraltar.

The Old Guard
Standing (*L to R*): Sgt Brian Rogers (posted UK), Cpl Paddy Quee (early 'retirement'), Cpl Dave Green (early 'retirement'), Cpl Steve Kemble, Sgt Les Crowder, Sgt Tim Moorcroft
Seated (*L to R*): Sgt Glen Shipman (posted UK), WO1 (FofS) Mick Flaherty (posted UK), Maj Arthur Brittenden Tp Comd (posted UK), SSgt (SQMS) Derek Livesey, Sgt Dave Giles (posted NI)

UNIVERSITY OTC'S ANNUAL COMPETITION

LIVERPOOL 1–CAMBRIDGE 2

No, nothing to do with football but the two best scores in this year's exercise, Lightning Strike, the annual competition between University Officer Training Corps held at Knook Camp on 19 March.

The object of the exercise was to introduce officer cadets to the Royal Signals. Stands run by officers and men from 10 units enabled the visitors to learn the varied roles of the Corps and tested the teams with a variety of tasks. The units displayed such imagination in designing and supervising the tasks that perhaps they themselves should have been awarded scores and prizes!

The various stands included such diverse activities as guiding AFVs through an obstacle course (3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt and 1 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn) or an Anneka Rice type treasure hunt by helicopter by the OTCs (21 Sig Regt). The teams also tried a spot of line laying which included singing 'Row, Row, Row the Boat' (30 Sig Regt) and minefield and casualty clearance (250 Gurkha Sig Sqn).

In addition to providing a competitive stand and display of Jungle bashers 264 Sig Sqn were generous enough to provide Birmingham and Tayforth UOTCs with roast chicken, fish and vegetables from the underground oven in their hide. Meanwhile at 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn's stand competition was raging fierce with Manchester trying to sabotage Aberdeen's efforts to win, a scuffle broke out, the winners and eventual stand winners–Aberdeen.

All the teams met for the final race where the healthy rivalry swept away the exhaustion of the day. Teams raced over a series of obstacles, including blindfold cam net crawls, basketball throwing and pulling a Kayak blindfolded through a slalom course. Queen's OTC had breath enough to break into song at the end and Bristol managed to blindfold their captain who was found trying to read the instructions card.

Although overall Liverpool were the winners, followed by Cambridge, Southampton and Aberdeen, the honours board should also include the other UOTCs–Birmingham, Bristol, East Midlands, Exeter, Leeds, London, Manchester, Oxford, Queens, Sheffield, Tayforth and Wales. They all showed themselves worthy of the Corps, at least, at the concluding dinner night. The only casualty of the exercise was the Speckled Jim Trophy which vanished without a trace during the evening.

Edinburgh UOTC being presented with the 'Halstead Speckled Jim Trophy' by Brig J. H. Griffin for the most 'fun' UOTC

Liverpool UOTC
Winners–Ex Lightning Strike, 1994

Cambridge UOTC–Runners-up, Ex Lightning Strike, 1994

WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

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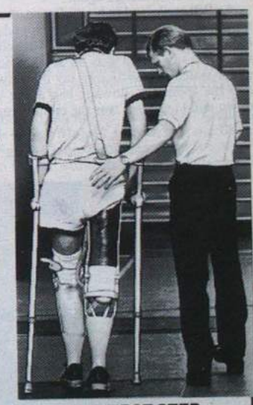

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by a recent, young double amputee

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THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Admiral	Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander CB OBE
Commodore	Col P. J. Pritchard
Vice Commodore	Col J. E. F. Kirby

Rear Commodores: Offshore, Maj B. H. Rowe; Dinghies, Lt Col M. J. McKinlay; Windsurfing, Maj D. I. Gilchrist; BAOR, Lt Col N. K. P. Hope MBE.

CONTACTS

Yachtmasters:	**UK: Capt J. F. Calvert, Blandford Mil 2459**
	BAOR: Capt R. K. Orr, Birgelen Mil 286
Secretaries:	**General: Maj J. P. McD Coulthard, Corsham Mil 4457**
	Dinghy Racing UK: Capt D. C. A. Ellis, Blandford Mil 2340
	Dinghy BAOR:Maj S. I. Andrews, Osnabruk Mil 5247
	Windsurfing UK: Capt P. G. Cross, Blandford Mil 2464
	Windsurfing BAOR: Capt W. N. White, Celle Mil 273/300
	Retired Members Rep: Lt Col (Retd) C. K. Powell, Blandford Mil 2437
Soldier Reps:	**Sgt Finnigan: Thorney Island 8263 Sgt P. Downie: Bulford Mil 2837**

The Royal Signals Yacht Club communicates with its members through the medium of* The Wire, *which regularly prints a forecast of events, accounts of activities and contains details for club officials.

Any member of the Corps who subscribes to Corps funds is automatically a member of the Yacht Club: this membership is activated simply by registering with one of the Club secretaries.

MATCH RACING

An Inter-Services match racing regatta run by the Royal Yachting Association and sponsored by BT was held at the Poole Yacht Club on 14 and 15 April with outstanding results for the Corps. The author of these notes was lucky enough to spectate the event as a guest of BT and witnessed a most exciting day's sailing in winds of 20 knots, biting cold and glimpses of sunshine between cloud and rain.

Match racing is perhaps the ultimate challenge for racing crews; boat speed counts for nothing; tactics and crew drills are everything. As the RYA National keel boat racing coach **Bill Egerton** explained to an expectant group of visitors, each crew member is pitted against his opposite number in the opposing boat one for one in a manner unique to the sport. The yachts race in pairs, races starting at five minute intervals, around a standard course of two legs to windward and two dead runs. The duel starts four minutes before the off when both boats enter the starting box and manoeuvre for line advantage. There follows a furious series of maybe 15 to 20 tacks, the leading boat trying to cover the other over the 400 or 500 metres to the windward mark. Next there is just time to get the spinnaker up and drawing well with probably a single gybe before the crews are back in the area of the start line. Down come the spinnakers at the leeward mark and round the boats go again.

As **Bill** explained to his audience, the good course setter always aims for the '12 minute race'. Your correspondent was lucky enough to be able to hitch a ride wedged in the main hatchway of one of the yachts for two races. To say that it was an action packed 12 minutes would be a gross under-statement; suffice to say the stowaway found himself being packed into the spinnaker stowage bag along with the sail at the end of the first down wind leg, such was the enthusiasm of the cockpit man.

The other feature which makes this a fast and furious sport is the on-water umpiring carried out from fast rigid inflatable boats (RIBs) in pairs–a chief umpire and a winger who calls the overlaps. Decisions are made on the spot, signalled by flags, boats have to gybe or tack as penalties. Six yachts are used by the RYA, Beneteau First Class 8s, sailed continuously throughout the day with launches ferrying crews backwards and forwards between boat and beach. The RYA have been running the event for six years and the organisation would put any well planned military operation to shame.

On this occasion the three Services had each been invited to enter six teams and all the top helms and crews were there, an indication that opportunities to take part in a sailing competition as prestigious as this are few and far between. Regional eliminators are held throughout the year, the winners proceeding direct to the national finals whilst second and third crews in each eliminator have to gain top places in a subsequent eliminator before qualifying for the Nationals.

Well, to cut a long story short two of the Army crews were skippered by the Corps–**Capt David Ellis** and **Sgt Craig Avey-Hebditch**. On the first day each Service sailed against their own to select two to sail against the other Services on the following day. By the end of Day One the Army team was the Royal Signals team. **A-H**, at his first attempt at match racing, had done exceptionally well to gain the same number of wins as **Maj Steve Pyatt RE** and **Capt Stuart Hudson AMS** and, luckily for him, his name was drawn out of the hat. Meanwhile **Ellis** had shown how easy it was by winning all his races.

The following day luck did not go his way and **A-H** failed to get the better of the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force's top sailors. However he lost two of his races by the narrowest of margins, it being a truly remarkable

L to R: Cpl Phil Lever, Sgt Phil Hawkins (RLC), Col Chris Haskell (late RE) Capt Dave Ellis

The Winners. Capt Dave Ellis and team with the runners up de-rigging after the final

achievement even to be representing the Army at the first attempt. Meanwhile **Ellis** had shown how easy it was by . .

So there we are. If you have a mind to come and see this most exciting of events, the closest thing in this country to an Americas Cup competition, then why not come to the National Finals to be sailed at the Southampton Boat Show in September? After all you will be able to cheer on the Services representative **Capt David Ellis** who got there by winning every single race that he sailed.

And the crews who did all the work? With **David Ellis** were **Col Chris Haskell (late RE), Sgt Phil Hawkins** RLC and **Cpl Phil Lever**; with **A-H** were **Capt Neil Selby, Cpl Steve Walker** and **LCpl Michael Holborn**.

The Winning team with Bill Egerton, the RYA National Keel Boat Coach
L to R: Cpl Phil Lever, Capt Dave Ellis, Sgt Phil Hawkins (RLC) Col Chris Haskell (late RE)

J24
SPI-OUESTE (LA TRINITE) AND FRENCH OPEN (PORT CROUESTY)

The crew of *Hitch-Hiker's Guide* deployed to France for the Easter regatta at La Trinite in southern Brittany on Wednesday 30 March. As last year, the intent was to sail the four days over Easter to La Trinite, then take the boat 15kms down the coast to Port Crouesty for the French Open Championships the following weekend. What we had not planned for was the weather.

We crossed the channel to Cherbourg via Ro-Ro in a southerly force 6/7, and had similar weather all the way down to La Trinite. We duly rigged and launched the boat on arrival there on the Thursday afternoon. The weather forecast was not good for the Friday, and indeed when we got up on that morning it was to find our race area (for the smaller boats) abandoned, although the race committee sent the larger boats out to their race area before deciding to abandon them.

Saturday dawned, and to our eyes the weather looked no better than the previous day, but we were duly sent out to race. It did not seem too bad at first, as the wind was off shore so we were partially protected from it, and we were going 'downhill' to the start. However, once we got to the start area, we realised just how hard it was blowing, and were quite prepared for the committee to abandon it at any time . . . but they didn't.

We were the fourth start on that line, and set off on a five leg windward-leeward course. This was to take us three hours to complete, flying the kite on both runs, although we chickened out of gybing with it. It was after we came in that we discovered just how hard it had been blowing out there. A cruising yacht who was watching the racing was registering a consistent 33-38 knots, and they came in before the hail squalls came through. By our estimation the wind in the squalls increased by some 8-10 knots, with the water turning white around us. Fortunately we were going up wind when they hit, so although we got knocked over, recovering was no problem for us. One of the French competitors was not so lucky, and ended up sinking their J24, with all of the crew ending up in hospital with hypothermia. Our down hill spinnaker legs were certainly fun, but it was only when we got back to the dockside that we even thought about putting the wash board into the hatch, such was our own blythe self-confidence!

In reality we should not have been racing at all in those conditions, and although we finished second in the race, only seven out of 40 J24s completed the course, with much carnage occurring to the Beneteau First Class 8s and the Jenneau One Designs, who between them lost some 20 masts. The other race course was also badly hit by gear failure, and the only people to benefit at the end of the day were the chandlers and sail-makers.

On the Sunday we had two races in really miserable conditions with continuous rain and a two hour wait between the races. In the first race we had an absolute cracker of a start, and went on to win that race. Unfortunately in the second race of the day there was a large wind shift just after the start, such that you could lay the windward mark on port tack, but we were pinned out on the left hand side of the course by other boats from other classes, and ended up overstanding the mark, and finishing ninth.

Monday was again blown off (the committee had learnt their lesson from the Saturday), so we finished the regatta second overall to **David Bedford**, with **Stuart Jardine** in third place.

The story of the French Open the following weekend was worse, with no racing possible at all and the whole regatta abandoned, so we remain the French Open Champions 1993.

* * *

WINDSURFING

The first five new Mistral Equipe II raceboards have arrived complete with Demon Race sails. The Corps has led the way with this re-equipment programme and initial impressions are that the boards are fast and responsive. They will be used by Corps members at National, Army and Regional events.

Four Corps members were invited to attend the Army team training camp during late March at Thorney Island. **Majors Jo Fletcher** and **Dave Gilchrist, Capt Paul Cross** and **Sgt Norman Finnegan** all took advantage of two days expert tuition with former world champion and olympian **Penny Way** followed by a day with Army Team coach **Maj Mike Roach RLC**. Hopefully the lessons learned will be put to good use during this year's busy racing season.

The Royal Signals (UK) Championships are set for 1-3 June at Weymouth Sailing Centre. The sheltered waters of Portland Harbour and the excellent club facilities make this a particularly suitable location for novices and we are looking forward to a good turnout.

CANCELLATION OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB RALLY

It is with regret that we must announce the cancellation of the Royal Signals Yacht Club Rally this year. We could not have it on the normal weekend, the first weekend in June, because a large number of our members were involved in the commemoration of the "D" day landings. It would also have been impossible to book anywhere for the dinner on that weekend. The alternative date in July has proved to be equally difficult for our members and after considerable research it has been decided that it is best to cancel the event this year and have it on our traditional weekend next year.

BASKETBALL

BAOR BASKETBALL FINAL

16 Sig Regt Basketball Team had progressed to the BAOR Semi-Finals and Final by defeating HQ ARRC Spn Bn team in the preliminary round and 14 Sig Regt (EW) in the Pool B (West) Final.

The line-up for the semi-finals paired 16 Sig Regt against 40 Fd Regt RA and 32 Engr Regt against 14 Sig Regt (EW). The first semi-final was a low scoring game, mainly due to nerves and the prospects of a much more difficult game the next day. '16' being the reigning BAOR and Army Champions went into the game knowing it would take a supreme effort from 40 Fd Regt and some bad playing from '16' for 40 Fd Regt to defeat them. '16' inevitably ran out easy winners by almost 20 points.

The second semi-final game was much the same with 32 Engr Regt last year's BAOR runners-up easily winning by a clear margin of 30 points from 14 Sig Regt (EW).

The final was a repeat of the previous two years 16 Sig Regt versus 32 Engr Regt. Both sides had their strengths and weaknesses, 32 Engr Regt were fast and an outside shooting team, but they lacked height and experience. '16' were taller and having won the previous seven BAOR Championships had the experience and pedigree to overcome their lack of speed.

The game started with '16' scoring freely both inside and out, with **Sigs** Johnah **Jones** and **Andy Dawkins** inside and **WO2 Fred Tedby** and **LCpl Mark Reeves** outside. The Engineers made some substitutions. '16' play maker **Sgt Rich Matless** was put under great pressure by 32's two guards **SSgt Pete Town** APTC and **Cpl Tony Lazlett** RE (both BAOR players). '16' took a 20 point advantage mid way through the first half. The Engineers kept their heads and pulled by point by point. The half time hooter went with '16' holding on to a three point lead. The half time talk by Coach **Capt Tedby**, was to relax and not be rushed into early shoots.

The start of the second was much the same as the first with the Signals taking a 16 point lead. The Engineers came back again pulling themselves into contention at 51 points each.

'16' again pulled away, with some fast breaking from **Sgt Matless, Sig Jones** and **LCpl Reeves** despite a last gap attempt by 32 to pull back, which brought them to within three points with 2 minutes 30 seconds to go, a three point shoot from **WO2 Tedby**, playing in his 12th and last BAOR final (shortly to complete 22 years' service) finally broke the Engineers.

'16' ran out worthy winners after a final which had paired probably two of the best teams in the Army.

ARMY FINALS

16 Sig Regt basketball team travelled to the UK to join three UK based teams for the Army Championships:

SEE winners SE District
22 Engr Regt RE RU SE District
39 Engr Regt RE winners Eastern District

The team knew it was up against some of the best players in the Army in the three teams it was to face over the next two days.

The first game took place at Fox Gym at the Army School of Physical Training against 22 Engr Regt.

This was not to be a good day with the team going down by 30 points. The new format of the BAOR Champions joining in UK was not to work for 16 Sig Regt.

The second game was played with a lot more spirit by '16', fighting all the way but again going down by nine points to SEE, which won the Army Cup seven times in the late sixties early seventies.

The third game was played against 39 Engr Regt. A team that '16' had played four times in the last eight years at the Army final stage, winning three times.

This was to be a very dramatic finish, the 1994 Army Cup campaign. Both teams scored at will, with defences being slack due to this being the third/fourth play off. With seconds left '16' were down by one point. **LCpl** Scotty **Scott** a long standing bench man in his game for the Regiment came on and scored making '16' winners by one point against its old adversaries.

Although a very disappointing end to an eight year reign as Champions of BAOR and four consecutive years as Army Champions many players have gained honours at representative level including Army, BAOR and eight at Corps level.

DUALTHON

ARMY DUATHLON CHAMPIONSHIPS 27 MARCH 1994
MAJOR UNIT CHAMPIONS 1994

The above event was held at Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot. The distances were an 8km run, 32km cycle and a 5km run.

If you have ever attempted to ride a bike after a cross country race, at racing speed, over hilly terrain and then dismount only to start running again, then you will appreciate the stressed-out faces of the athletes involved. 'Transitioning' (the changes from one discipline to another) causes the brain sensory overload to reach maximum entropy.

Indeed, Hell held little wrath compared to Rushmoor Arena on that crisp and fresh Sunday morning. For starters, a hard muddy cross-country race, the gourmet meal, an undulating cycle, and, for dessert, another short and sweet run. All this because some athletes want a full meaty meal, not just a mere snack, of a single race.

Congratulations to **Maj** (Airborne) **Rob Herring RLC** for his sprint finish to first place and to 29 Regt RLC for finishing as first Minor Units.

Three students from RMCS entered and are now the Major Unit Champions. These are the following:

Mr K. Garraway LEA (47 Mech), finished 9th.
Lt J. A. Clare (47 IT), finished 12th.
Maj J. Wormington REME (Div 1), finished 25th.

Lt J. A. Clare pressing on to finish 12th in the Major Units Championships

ORIENTEERING

CORPS ORIENTEERS WIN KIMM

The Karrimor International Mountain Marathon (KIMM) is Britain's toughest and most prestigious event of its type. Taking place annually in October the 1993 Event 'A' class winning pair were **Maj Nick Bateson** and **Sgt Steve Sharp**. The KIMM requires pairs of competitors to orienteer through mountainous terrain on two consecutive days with an overnight stop at a high altitutude campsite for which they must carry the appropriate equipment. **Maj Bateson** and **Sgt Sharp**, on the A course, did Day One (35km, 2505m climb) in 6 hrs 29 mins and Day Two (30km, 1380m climb) in 4 hrs 53 mins giving a total time of 11 hrs 23 mins. After lying third at the overnight campsite the pair really pulled out the stops on the second day. Compass Sport reported 'the A class was incredibly close, with **Sgt Steve Sharp** pushing partner **Maj Nick Bateson** very hard on the run in to the finish to snatch victory by a minute'. There were over 2,700 starters in the various classes in an event that is always heavily oversubscribed. **Nick** and **Steve** achieved a 4th place in 1992 and this victory crowns years of effort and training.

Both **Maj Nick Bateson** and **Sgt Steve Sharp** had an excellent year in 1993 with **Steve** and his partner **Maj John Rye** of the Royal Marines winning the Elite Class of the only slightly less prestigious Rock and Run Mountain Marathon at Blair Atholl in July. Both **Maj Bateson** and **Sgt Sharp** have their Army and Corps Colours for Orienteering and **Maj Bateson**, a member of the wining Army team in the Inter Services Championships, was reawarded his Army Colours in 1993.

Amongst the many other service competitors at the KIMM 1993 were **Lt Col Ian Foxley** and **Majs Tim Watts** and **Peter Gillespie** from the Corps. For those readers who really like a challenge, the dates for the KIMM this year are 22/23 October! (but get your applications in the post quickly).

Sgt Steve Sharp (*L*) and Maj Nick Bateson (*R*) receiving their KIMM 93 Prizes from the Earl of Dalkeith

SKI BOBBING

With snow conditions poor, the basic lessons were covered. I do not know what the locals were thinking but I am sure they must have thought we were putting more effort into posing than skibobbing! With all of us able to get from the top to the bottom reasonably safely(!) it was time to go off in hunt of some decent snow.

Of the 16 skibobbers, seven were selected to train with the rest of the GB team at the British National Week in Bavaria in January 1994. This week to be the first of an intensive three week period which would include the World and Army Championships. Skibobbers arrived from far and wide and an intensive race training and assessment week followed culminating in the British National Championships held at Jungholz in Austria.

The sheer speed of the Austrians and Czechs amazed us as they went on to dominate the competition over the next four days. Britain was classed this year as a 'B' nation and it was against the other non-alpine countries in this group that we were really competing. **Cpl Paddy Maybin** eventually won the 'B' nation competition, in its first year of existence. The rest of the team also did extremely well gaining excellent overall results in the combination.

This championship was an extremely enjoyable one for the whole team and also good training for the Army Championship which the Corps were hoping to dominate the following week.

To cap off 16 Sig Regt **Lt Col Neil Fisher**, OIC Skibobbing **Maj Dick Offord** and their wives came to congratulate us on such a successful season and sample the thrill of skibobbing for themselves.

CORPS SKIBOB SUCCESS

This season eight members of the Corps have achieved outstanding results competing for Great Britain and the Corps. The eight signallers, all from 16 Sig Regt, with the exception of **Cpl Dave Brown** (14 Sig Regt (EW)), were picked to join the team. The squad travelled to Bavaria in January for an assessment and a race training week which culminated in the British National Championships held at Jungholz, Austria on 21 January 1994. The results were: 1st **Cpl R. Maybin**; 3rd **LCpl A. O'Kell**; 5th **LCpl N. Pollitt;** 6th **LCpl W. Ballard**; 9th **Cpl D. Brown**; 11th **LCpl P. O'Sullivan**; 12th **LCpl P. Robertson**; 15th **Sgt R. Philp**.

The team then made its way to Adelboden and Hoch-y-Brig in Switzerland for the World Elite Skibobbing Championships. Races were held in the four alpine disciplines. Despite fierce opposition against a total of 48 competitors from 18 different countries, seven of the eight managed to gain credible overall world rankings, a feat not achieved by many of the Alpine Countries' top competitors. Their rankings were: 11th **Cpl R. Maybin**; 15th **LCpl A. O'Kell**; 20th **LCpl N. Pollitt**; 22nd **LCpl P. O'Sullivan**; 23rd **LCpl P. Robertson**; 25th **Sgt R. Philp**; 27th **Cpl D. Brown**.

Cpl Paddy Maybin did extremely well against tough opposition to come second in the 'B' Nation (Non Alpine Countries) Individual Competition in its first year of existence.

The World Championships ran straight into the Army Championships competed for at the Sollereck in Bavaria. The Corps fielded two four-man teams and went on to dominate the event with the 'A' team winning the team event and **Cpl Paddy Maybin** taking the individual. Team results were:

1st R Signals A **Sgt Philp, Cpl Maybin, LCpls O'Kell, Pollitt**
2nd REME A
3rd KOSB
4th R Signals B **Cpls Brown, Ballard, LCpls O'Sullivan, Robertson**
5th REME B
6th REME C

During the intense three-week period the soldiers also studied and were assessed for proficiency awards and instructors' qualifications with all seven gaining gold standard and four gaining the coveted International Instructor Award.

In April 1995 the British Skibob Racing Club (BSRC), plan to host a World Cup event in Scotland. This will be the first to be held in this country and we are privileged to be given the opportunity. It is an indication of how the controlling body, The Federation International de Skibob (FISB), views our contribution to the sport. Several of the Corps' skibobbers hold key roles in the BSRC and will be involved in the organisation of the event.

To sum up, this year has been the most successful year so far for British, Army and Corps Skibobbing. Next year's season is eagerly anticipated and 16 Sig Regt intend to take the lead and raise the sport to new levels. It is confident that supported by the Corps it will continue to dominate.

1994 Great Britain Skibob team

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 General Secretary: Major G. Schofield MBE**
Welfare Secretary: Mrs P. J. Haw — **Administrative Officer: Mr. R. H. Whittle**

Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel Military System: London District 8424. STD 071 414 8424 Welfare Secretary (direct line) 071 630 0801. All contributions for *The Wire* should be addressed to the Editor and any queries referred to him on extensions 8428 or 8433.

The Association communicates with its branches and individual members through the pages of The Wire, *which contains accounts of Branch affairs as well as a forecast of Association events.*

Branch Secretaries are asked to check that their Branch members receive sufficient copies of The Wire. *Association HQ can arrange for copies to be delivered in bulk to Branch Secretaries for further distribution if this is convenient: it helps us save on postage.*

Dates of Branch events can always be published in The Wire *and should be submitted to the Editor. We also welcome letters, requests to contact old comrades and announcements of births, marriages and deaths. We hope that each Branch will contribute a short account of its activities, preferably with photographs, at least once a year.*

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

A most enjoyable Concert by the Corps Band was arranged for us by **Lt Col Jim Blake.** The Concert, held in the gym at Duchess of Kent Barracks, was well attended by Members and serving personnel and their families. After the Concert youthful members of the Corps served a delicious hand-round buffet (compliments, it is understood, to the Catering Corps). No small contribution to the enjoyment of the vitals was the bonus of a further, somewhat informal concert presented, while we ate, by **Maj David Wall** and his Boys.

In April our Spring Luncheon was held at the Army Golf Club, Aldershot and was very well attended. It was a fine day but so breezy that one looked, without envy, at those out on the course struggling with the wind. We were happy to meet friends whom we see too rarely. **Mrs Jackie Andrews** was with us, and **Maj Douglas Gardiner** and **Laura, Douglas** being Chairman of this Branch before moving to Winchester, and still a Member, **Col Bruce Beattie** and **Jeanne** were welcome guests, and **Bruce** probably has a longer association than many of us with Aldershot Garrison. The Luncheon was followed by our Annual General Meeting.

BATH BRANCH

The Bath and District Branch of the Association held their 45th Annual General Meeting at the Mess, 21 Sig Reg, at Colerne on 13 April 1994. We had an excellent meeting at which **Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield, OBE**, presented 50 year Service awards to **Maj J. F. Everett, MBE, TD**, and **Capt E. C. Harrison, OBE, MC, BEM**. We also took the opportunity to sell some lottery tickets for the New Museum Project. We are deeply indebted to 21 Sig Reg and the Sergeants' Mess for their hospitality, as we were for our splendid Annual Luncheon held at the same venue in October last year.

Mr Tom Evans has been our Standard Bearer for over 40 years but now feels he must relinquish this duty after the 75th Anniversary of the Corps in 1995. We are hoping that some younger, vigorous, member of the Branch may take it up. We are expecting a party of up to 20 to attend the Blandford Reunion. the branch has received five new members within the last year, so signs are good for a successful future.

CAMBRIDGE BRANCH

The Cambridge branch held its annual Burns' night supper on 28 January this year and approximately 30 members attended.

The chairman **Col. Derek Latchford** welcomed all present and, in particular, a new member (he joined on the night), **WO2 (SSM) Gordon Shelley** who has in the last twelve months, since leaving the regular army, joined 54Sig Sqn (V) as Squadron Sergeant Major.

Being the only Scot in the branch **Gordon** was invited to address the haggis which saved the branch officers the usual task of trying to understand what they were reciting. The meal was laid on by our treasurer **Maj George Lile**, who worked very hard to ensure that the evening was a huge success, and washed down with copious amounts of whisky. All who attended had a very good evening and look forward to next year's supper.

During the next few months the branch is organising a number of social events including a visit to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford where one of our members **Dave Fearon** (who has recently married, congratulations **Dave**!) works.

Also planned is a barbecue and we hope to invite members of the Bedford, Norfolk, Colchester and East London branches to join us at Cambridge to renew old friendships from 36 Sig Reg (V) days where some served together.

And finally it is hoped to organise another battlefield tour of northern France and Belgium in late autumn.

CHESTER BRANCH

The Annual Dinner Dance was held on Friday 28 January at the Royal British Legion, Upton, Chester and our Guest of Honour was **Maj Gen J. O .C. Alexander CB OBE** who 'sang for his supper' by giving all members an update of the Corps and the effects of "Options for Change". Everyone was pleased to note that the Corps still upholds its fine traditions.

Before the Dinner got under way, however, we had a presentation to make to our oldest member **Lt Col Jim Ellis** who had celebrated his 90th birthday in January this year. **Col Jim** enlisted into the R Engineers in 1919 so we are proud to have a 'founder' member in our Branch. The photograph shows (Back) **Reg Hinge** (Chairman), **Mrs Pat Ellis, Lt Col J. H. Ellis** and **Maj J. D. Baldwin TD** (President).

After the cake cutting and candle blowing the members were treated to another unique occasion, a presentation by a long time member of the Branch, **Sandy Petit** of a Chairman's Chain of Office to the current Chairman **Reg Hinge**. The Press was in attendance but, no photographs are yet available. Perhaps in a future issue we can show this magnificent Chain being presented.

A vote of thanks for all their hard work in organising and running a very enjoyable evening is given to **Dave White** the Social secretary and **John Roberts**, the Treasurer, without whom the whole show would not have been the success it was.

These two unsung heroes also ran the raffle during the period between the end of dinner and the end of the evening, so while the rest of us were throwing back a few ales and re-winning the war(s), these two, **Dave** and **John** were 'hard at it'. Talking of being 'at it'–mention should also be made of **Dug Hall** and his Band who provided the music, which kept us all dancing till midnight.

Change of Venue–All members of the Branch are requested to note that the Branch will, from June 1994 meet at the Royal British Legion, Upton, Chester at 2000 hours on the 3rd Thursday in the month. Further details of meetings and forthcoming events can be had by contacting the Branch Secretary, **Bill Winder**, either by letter or telephone (details from RHQ). We are always pleased to welcome any members of the Association at our meetings so if you are in Chester do call and say hello and meet old friends or if you live in the area do come and make it a regular meeting place.

Ninety Glorious Years
Photo courtesy Chronicle Newspaper, Chester

DORSET BRANCH

Yet again we are pleased to record our thanks to **WOI (RSM) P. R. Abbott** for allowing us the use of the Sergeants Mess, in Blandford, for our Annual Dinner. We are also pleased to hear that he is to be commissioned in the near future. One hundred and ten people attended the Dinner; well supported by the Poole Branch, as usual.

What may surprise many of the Branches is the very successful after dinner dance. At 0200 hrs I had to ask the band to pack up! Some of our more elderly members were becoming a bit unsteady on their feet (and other peoples!).

Our President **Maj Gen A. Yeoman CB** introduced our senior guests **Maj Gen P. R. Davies CB**, who gave an interesting and enlightening talk on the 75th Anniversary Celebrations which are to take place in 1995. Our other guests were **Capt Graham Manning**, Adjutant 11th Signal Regiment and **WO2 Nelson** the PMC of the Sergeants' Mess, Blandford.

I think I can record that a good evening was had by all.

EAST KENT BRANCH

Sunday 13 February. 65 members attended an enthralling illustrated talk about many old buildings in Kent, some not open to the public, detailing their history which, in nearly every case, had a most unusual aspect to it. From the questions that followed it seemed that many wished it could have gone on for longer.

The setting was the Regency Room at the Westgate Hall which had its own bar to which most retired to immediately afterwards. Then downstairs to an excellent lunch. There were no complaints.

Sunday 13 March. Dungeness Nuclear Power Station. Over 40 members gathered in the sunshine and a stiff breeze at the Pilot Inn for what turned out to be a first class lunch, the fish menu was superb. Under **George Cooper's** guidance we drove to the Visitor Control Centre (in convoy) at the Power Station where we were made welcome by a bevy of girl guides who divided us into groups of six or seven, issued us with canary yellow helmets and marched us off round the newest of the two gas cooled reactors. There must have been few of the party who were not impressed by the comparatively small chemical reaction transformed into enough electrical power to meet the requirements of the South East. The noisiest place was the massive turbine room but not a sound from the reactor. Our questions were answered and we were delivered back to the start after about one and a half hours. Our thanks to **George Cooper** who organised the event.

Sunday 10 April. Bring your own Picnic on the Kent & East Sussex Railway. **Maj Dickie Dyer** who organised this trip and was our 'Fat Controller' on this wonderful old steam engined line. We had a reserved coach on the train leaving Tenterden Station at 1300 hrs (1pm). The train took about half an hour to arrive at the far end, Northiam, which incidentally, was one of the projects taken up by Anneka Rice for renovation on one of her programmes. During this journey our members munched their way through their picnic hampers and viewed the magificent scenery on the way. Thank you **Dickie** for your splendid effort in organising this event. Even the weather (three inches of snow in parts) did not put off our 48 members from attending this outing. During the journey a raffle was held, proceeds of which were presented to **Harry Howlett,** to sponsor him on a parachute jump in Arnhem on the 50th Anniversary 17 September 1994. **Harry** who is 72 years young is also training on the 11th and 12th. August at Netheravon. We are particularly proud of **Harry** as he is one of our founder members of the East Kent Branch; we all wish him well.

The Fat Controller of the Kent & East Sussex Railway keeping an eye on the East Kent Branch members.
(alias Maj Dickie Dyer!)

GUERNSEY BRANCH

Our AGM, held at Vason Bay Hotel, saw the resignation from the Committee of members **Alf Laine** and **Alvero Salazar**, both of whom have served since the Branch was formed. Our thanks go to them for their dedicated service.

Alf's role as Social Secretary has been taken over jointly by **Len Barbe** and **Sidney Jones,** whilst we also welcome the return to the Committee of **Tom Remfrey.**

Thirty-six members and friends met for a dinner at Le Villette Hotel where we listened to an excellent talk about Guernsey's Cheshire Home, given by **Mrs Marlene Place,** who manages it.

Plans for social events later in the year include a bus tour, followed by a bar supper.

NORFOLK BRANCH

We are pleased to report that the Norfolk Branch is still going great guns, very active and go ahead. At our annual Dinner held at the Ambassador Hotel, Norwich, recently, we were honoured with the presence of the Master of Signals **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL** and **Mrs Birtwistle**. Also Association General Secretary; **Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon** and **Mrs de Bretton-Gordon**. The Loyal toast was given by Our President **Maj Gen D. A. L. Wade CB, OBE, MC** who recently celebrated his 96th birthday. The toast to **The Princess Royal** and welcome to our honoured guests was given by Branch Chairman **Gordon Royall**. In his response The Master of Signals gave us news of the Corps' activities and of its present role in the modern Army. Our President in his reply thanked the Master and went on to say how sad he was that the Corps was leaving Catterick after all the years that it had been there. The toast to the "Royal Corps of Signals" was given by **Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon** and floral presentations to the lady guests was given by Branch secretary **Brian C. Gibbs**. Grace was said by our Treasurer **Alan J. Rix**. During the evening the Master of Signals was introduced to active members of the Branch, namely, local **Councillers Frank Mortlock** and **Richard Phelan**, our News letter Editor **Colin Spencer** and Vice President **Don Ellingworth**. In all, a very good occasion with everybody enjoying themselves. At our AGM held on 12 March last, the Officers and Committee were all re-elect-

(*L to R*) Mrs Cynthia Wade, Maj Gen D. A. C. Wade (President)

(*L to R*) Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon,
Brian C. Gibbs (Branch Secreatary),
Maj Gen D. A. C. Wade (Branch President),
Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle

SCARBOROUGH BRANCH

24 members of the branch enjoyed the Valentine's Ball at the Palm Court Hotel, Scarborough on the 12 February 1994. We were very pleased to have with us **Maj (Retd) Wilf Richardson** and his wife **Doreen** and **RSM (Retd) Peter Reynolds** and **Debbie.**

Maj Wilf Richardson and Doreen

The following donations were gratefully received during March 1994

In memory of Brig N.Barker	£1000.00
Bequeathed by Lt Col K. S. Newell	£250.00
56 Div Motor Cycle Display Team	£110.00
The Middlesex Imperial Yeomanry Lodge	£70.00
Mrs I. Harvey	£55.00
Cotswolds Branch	£50.00
Harrogate Branch	£50.00
Lincoln Branch	£50.00
2 Lt S.C.Glover	£31.37
In memory of Mrs J. A. G.Stokoe	£23.50
Jersey Branch	£1.05
	1690.92

The following donations were gratefully received during April 1994

44 Sig Sqn (V)	£32.00
RSA Beaford Branch	£30.00
Mr S. L. Smith	£11.50
Mr C. G. Bellamy	£2.20
RSA Aldershot Branch	£1.05
	£76.75

"F' BOYS COMPANY ROYAL SIGNALS - 3RD RE-UNION 28/9/94

The above mentioned re-union will be held at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, by Waterloo station, London from 1100-1500 hrs. Those for whom we have addresses will receive a written invitation w.e.f.1 June. Others wishing to attend should send a cheque for £9.50 to **Maj D. J. Chetwynd**, 11 Parmiter way, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 2BS.

The sum is a contribution towards the cost of a light buffet lunch and the facilities of the club.

REUNIONS

219 SIGNAL SQUADRON (TRIPOLI)

The first reunion of 219 Signal Squadron (Tripoli) will take place on Saturday 10 September 1994 at the East Midlands Hotel, Loughborough.

For further details please write or telephone **Roy Andrews,** 'Moorings', 7 The Heath, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3HJ. Tel: 0227-264551.

GREEK LIBERATION – AEGEAN REUNION

Force 133 and Force 142 Raiding Forces M.E.F., Royal Navy BMA UNRRA, 50th Anniversary Memorial Events, September 1994 CHIOS.

Please contact: **Mr R D Yates**, 100 Longridge Road, Preston PR2 6RL with SAE for full details.

FIRST ARMY SIGNALS – 16 LofC SIGNALS ALL RANKS REUNION

Still recruiting old comrades who served with us in North Africa and Italy. There is no subscription. (Our 44th Annual Dinner will be held on 22 October in London and our 62nd Broadsheet will be distributed early in 1995.) Please contact **Douglas Harris**, 45 Prior Avenue, Sutton Surrey, SM2 5HY Tel 081-642 1690

MALTA COMMAND SIGNALS 1941-1943

The President and People of Malta GC have given me the Malta GC 50th Anniversary Commemoration Medal, awarded to **all** who served in Malta during the Siege from 1941 to 1943.

I would like to know of any other members of the Corps, who may have this medal so that we can jointly arrange a re-union in Malta; fairly soon, as we must all be in our 70's or 80's and fading away! Please write to **Bill Shepherd** (former WO2 (FofS) and Lieutenant and Life Member RSA), Nunnery Wall, 8 Nethergate South, Crail KY10 3TY.

3RD DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

The Club held its 42nd Reunion and AGM at the Victory Club in London on Saturday 26 March 1994 at which we had a record attendance of 100 members and guests. When you consider that our membership is spread over the whole of the UK and Europe that's a pretty good turnout and one we are proud of.

Maj Gen R. F. L. (Bob) Cook, Representative Colonel Commandant, with **Mrs Jilly Cook** were our guests of honour for this occasion and we were pleased to welcome the CO of 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt **Lt Col Ian Foxley** and his RSM, **WO1 Dave Wilson,** both accompanied by their ladies.

The Reunion started in the usual way with a short AGM at which our Chairman, **Maj Ken Smartt,** who is one of the founder members of our Club back in 1952, retired from his appointment as our Chairman, having held the position for 22 years. Our President, **Brig Bertie Brett,** paid warm tribute to **Ken** and **Winifred,** his wife, for their long and valued services to the Club. These sentiments were heartily approved by the members. **Maj Derek Roberts** was then elected to fill the position of Chairman in addition to the post of Treasurer which he holds. It was then proposed, seconded and carried by acclamation, that **Maj Ken Smartt** be elected a Vice President of the Club.

Then it was in to an excellent lunch after which **Maj Gen Cook** gave us an interesting brief on the state of the Corps vis-a-vis, Options for Change and the Corps ever increasing responsibilities in this age of hi-tech communications. We were pleased to hear that Royal Signals is still a name to conjure with. **Lt Col Foxley** then brought us up to date with the news from the Regiment which is, of course, of great interest to us, but I shall let the Regiment tell its own tale in its own *Wire* notes.

Our erstwhile Chairman, **Ken Smartt,** was then allowed, for old times sake, to perform the pleasant duty of introducing our 'first footers', so many on this occasion that instead of introducing them one at a time he had them stand up to be introduced en masse. They were, **Bill** 'Joe' **Bailey, Bill Barnard, Bill Burton, Arthur Chappell, Jack** 'Ianto' **Davies, Gwyn Edwards, Tom Elleker, Douglas Ings** with **Mary** his wife, **Gerry Jones** with his wife **Kath, Capt Kenneth McKee, Stan Perkin** and his wife **Doreen, Tony Perkin** and his wife **Renee. Bob Piper**, **Norman Richmond** (all the way from Switzerland) and **Jack Simpson.** Additional first footers were the CO and the RSM making their first of, what we hope will be, many visits. **Ken** then asked our 'D' Day veterans to stand and we were able to count 20 present on this occasion.

All in all a most enjoyable Reunion which saw old friends who had not met for years get together to reminisce and swop tall tales. It's a good job the lamps in the Victory Club are the bulkhead type or they would have swung out of their holders. As a matter of interest the raffle raised the sum of £138 plus another £8 when **Derek Roberts** auctioned off a bottle of vodka rather than let it go as a raffle prize.

56 DIV. (CITY OF LONDON SIGNALS) ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OCA BRANCH

Our Annual Dinner was, once again, held in the Union Jack Club. We were pleased to have as our guest of honour **Brig P. Bowser, CBE, DL**, Secretary of the TAVRA for Greater London.

Our other guests included **Col D. A. B. Crawford CBE ERD TD** President of 31 Sig Regt (V) Association, and **Lt. Col. K. J. Bruce-Smith TD (V)** CO of 31 Sig Regt (V).

Brig Bowser gave amost interesting discourse on the future of the Territorial Army in the light of "Options for Change". This was followed by an impromptu petition to the Secretary of State for Defence, signed by those present, asking that cutbacks to the Territorial army be kept to a minimum.

Brig Bowser then presented 50 Year Badges, Certificates of Service and letters of congratulation to **George Coombs**, **Keith Goldie-Morrison**, **Robin Thyer, Arthur Overton**, 'Knocker' **White** and **Bertie Burton**.

The photograph shows the presentation to **George Coombs**, former RQMS, who joined the unit in 1925, served with it throughout the war, in North Africa and Italy, and is the survivor of the two members who founded the OCA in 1946.

More recently we held our AGM at the 83 Sig Sqn (V) Southfields TAC. After the meeting a curry and buffet lunch was provided by **Sgt Ali Matabdin** who is well known to our members.

602 SIGNAL TROOP ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS

The 602 AOF met for its Annual Dinner on the evening of 23 April 1994 at a hotel in Bournemouth. among those attending were new serving members of the troop, other members of the troop now serving elsewhere, and older members of the troop now committed to civilian life.

The social activities started much earlier in the day and by early evening the hotel was awash with fond memories and good times remembered. 66 people sat down to an excellent meal followed by a few short speeches. The movement and stories then continued in the bar.

The aim of the AOF is to bring together serving and ex-members of the troop as often as possible and to keep in touch with those who are unable, for whatever reasons, to attend the annual re-union. Some say that with 110 members, the 602 AOF is one of the largest associations in the Corps. The committee is to be congratulated for all the organisation, forethought, hard work and personal effort required to make such evenings go smoothly.

As the last few re-unions have been held in the South the next get together will be held in the North, probably in the York/Harrogate area. Those members who live in the North will have no excuse for not attending in 1995. Those serving and ex members of the troop who are not members of the 602 AOF are invited to join; please contact **Mr D Hay**, Well Cross Road, Gloucester, GL4 9SN.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Sidney J. Wilson would like to contact anyone who served in 35 W/T Section or B Troop, 3 Squadron, 8 Corps Signals during the period 1940 (Taunton) to 1945 (Kiel). **Lt Col J. M. S. Tulloch** was the CO for most of the time. Please write: 10 Haigh Street, Cleethorpes, South Humberside DN35 8QN.

239755629 SIG RICHARD SARGENT

Will anyone who served with the above named (1963-72) who came from Poole, Dorset, or who knows his present whereabouts please get in touch with a former colleague of his **Mr David W. Topp,** Hyundai Ltd, PO Box 60160, Riyadh 11545, Saudi Arabia, as soon as possible.

MACINTOSH McKILLOP

Will anyone who remembers **Maxwell Macintosh McKillop** (born 1916) who served in the Corps during WW2 and later transferred to the 1st Canadian Signals please write to the Editor.

THE CORPS AT MEADOWBANK, BARNET

Next year, my parents, **Mr and Mrs R. H. Sage,** will celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary. When they married, my father was based at Meadowbank, Barnet. I am putting together an album of photographs of their life together and I would be very pleased if anyone who may have any photographs pictures of the Corps in Barnet in 1945 would kindly contact me **Mrs Linda Yea,** 41 Donald Road, Uplands, Bristol BS13 7BT.

50TH ANNIVERARY OF THE LANDINGS IN NORMANDY AND OTHER CONNECTED TOURS

Members will wish to be aware of the many events being staged in 1994 to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings and other associated events:

27 May–HAMPSHIRE REMEMBERS D-DAY. An International All Services Parade at The Royal Victoria Park, Netley (Near Southampton).

3 June–The unveiling and dedication of The CANADA MEMORIAL in Green Park, London. The Association is being represented by the Chairman and elements of the East London Branch.

4 June–A GALA DINNER to be held in The Guildhall, Portsmouth. **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL** is representing the Corps at this event.

5-12 June–The READING and SOUTHAMPTON BRANCHES visit to Normandy. The tour, comprising some 24 members from the Reading and Southampton Branches is now fully booked. Both Branch Standards will be on parade at Bayeux and Arromanches on 6 June. Due to the huge attendance anticipated on this day, our own Members are holding their own private observance in the Bayeux Military Cemetery on Tuesday, 7 June 1994 at about 1045 hrs. All 'Signallers' in the area are invited to attend this Observance during which Poppy Wreaths will be laid on behalf of the Corps and The Association. Tributes from other Branches or Individuals may also be laid at this time.

12 June – ROWLANDS CASTLE. A Church Service and Parade. It is hoped that The Association will be represented and the Secretary is negotiating the availability of a Branch Standard for the occasion.

26 September – FRONTLINE BRITAIN. A major event being planned to mark the importance of Dover in the build up to the invasion of Europe. The Corps will be represented by The Master of Signals and local support is being coordinated by the East Kent Branch.

What information we have on all of these events is available in RHQ and anyone interested in taking part, particularly the events shown above should contact the Assistant General Secretary for further details. It is hoped that as many as possible will try to attend.

FRONTLINE BRITAIN 1994

A major series of events will take place in Dover between 23 September and 1 October this year to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the last shells falling on Dover. The main event, on Monday 26 September, includes a Parade, a Memorial Dedication and a Reception.

A commemorative medal has been struck; the medal and ribbon costs £15 and includes an entitlement to join the Parade on 26 September and the afternoon Reception. All UK Services, Civilian organisations and Allied personnel who served in this frontline area are eligible, providing they served for 21 continuous days in the (war-time) East Kent District; roughly east of a line from the Isle of Sheppey to Rye, or, passed through Dover on the evacuation of the Channel Ports.

Members of the Corps wishing to apply for the medal should write, stating that they were Corps members to: **Alex Summers Esq**, 107 Mongeham Road, Great Mongeham CT14 9LJ.

Those applying for the medal and who wish to accept the invitation to be present in Dover on 26 September are asked to notify RHQ Royal Signals accordingly. The East Kent Branch are planning a supper that evening and will need to know details of those attending.

GALLIPOLI ASSOCIATION

The Gallipoli Association was founded to ensure that the memory of Gallipoli, the men who fought and dies on its inhospitable shores and the many sacrifices they made are not forgotten. Thirty five Victoria Crosses were awarded during the month's campaign.

The Association is world wide in membership and includes over fifty veterans of the campaign, all now in their mid/late nineties. The remainder of the membership consists of those who have family connections with someone who served in the Gallipoli campaign, or have a specific or general interest in the activities of The British Army on the Peninsula.

The association welcomes new members and would be pleased to provide further information to anyone who has an interest in keeping alive the memory of the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915. Please write to: **J. J. Fallon**, Hon Public Relations Officer, The Gallipoli Association, 2, Sunnyfield, The Ryde, Hatfield, Herts AL9 5DX Tel. 0707 265812

18 AIR FORMATION SIGNALS

This picture of the 18 AFS football team of 1944, sent in by **Arthur H. Thomas,** was taken prior to the start of a football match arranged by **Lt Leys-Phillips,** Unit Sports Officer, with the Civil Authorities at 'THIAS', a Suburb of Paris. The match was part of a day of friendship to mark the appreciation of the local people at their new found freedom following the liberation of Paris.

Every player who took part received a commemorative medallion engraved with the words 'Stade de Vanve' 26 November 1944. After the match the players and officials were entertained to dinner followed by 'Un Grande Bal D'Honneur'.

It is thought that this match was the first to have been played between an English Army team and the French in the Paris area following the Liberation on 28 August 1944.

It was the forerunner of many such matches, invariably played on a Sunday afternoon, arranged by **Lt Leys-Phillips** during the winter of 1944-1945.

Among the players were **Alec Macdonald** of Dalkeith who had had two seasons at Hearts of Midlothian and **Albert Cox** (left-back) of Sheffield United fame.

Arthur Thomas and **Alec Macdonald** were able to meet each other again in October 1993 and hope that it may be possible to contact other players who were in the team which was drawn from 18 A. F. S. units stationed in Louveciennes and Marly Le Roi near Versailles 1944-45.

18th Air Formation Signals Football Team, France 1944
Played at Le Stade de Vanves Thiais, Paris
Back row (*L to R*): Cliff Fulcher, Larry Lorraine, Freddie Carlisle, Dai Williams, LCpl Albert Cox, Jack Empson, Bowland
Front row (*L to R*): LCpl Arthur Thomas, Cpl Johnny (Taffy) Price, Sgt Dickie Martin, Alec Macdonald

From: Norman E. Carter

Dear Sir,

As a former member of The Singapore District Signals Regiment I would like to bring to notice a veteran member, he is, **Mr Jowala Coffee** and has been resident in Birmingham since 1970. In 1968 I went to India via the overland route, staying for two weeks at Jowala's house in Julleendur. I have seen him many times since he came to England, and he has often mentioned officers known to him whilst employed in the Officer's Mess.

Yours faithfully
Norman E.Carter

22 Pitt Street
Broadwaters
Kidderminster
Worcester
DY10 2UN

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION - 26 JUNE 1994

Notice is given that the 49th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals association will be held in Baghdad Gymnasium in Catterick Garrison on Sunday 26 June 1994 commencing at 1130 hours.

Mmebers of the Association with matters they would wish to raise under 'Any Other Business' should submit such to reach the General Secretary at RHQ by 19 June 1994

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA

The Royal Hospital at Chelsea was founded by King Charles II in 1682 as a home for old soldiers. Its military tradition forms a natural setting for men who have spent a great part of their lives in the Army so that old soldiers find themselves in an atmosphere they recognise and understand. Moreover, they are all more or less contemporaries and similar in their outlook and interests.

LIFE AT THE ROYAL HOSPITAL

The Hospital is conducted on military lines but without the rigours of military discipline. Uniform is worn within the Royal Hospital but civilian clothes may be worn outside. Meal times are set but flexible. These meals are served restaurant style in the Great Hall but those who are infirm have their meals brought to them in the Long Wards. Each Long Ward contains two rows of 22 berths or small rooms back to back, flanked by wide corridors. In each berth there is room for a bed, wardrobe, chest of drawers, table and a chair. Each berth is equipped with radio headphones and has its own reading lamp. In Pensioners may also use their own portable television sets in their berths.

In-Pensioners are in the care of the senior staff of the Hospital—the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor and Secretary, the Assistant Secretary and the Adjutant (a retired officer who is the Commanding Officer of the In-Pensioners). The other officers include the Chaplain Quartermaster and six officers known as Captains of Invalids, who are in charge of the six companies in which the In-Pensioners are organised. Each company has a Company Sergeant Major, a Colour Sergeant, three Sergeants and three Corporals, all of whom are recruited from the In-Pensioners themselves.

One of the most attractive features of any community life is the opportunity it offers for the sharing of duties. At the Royal Hospital there are many tasks for those who wish to work and earn a small remuneration. In this way, the Hospital is helped economically and the In-Pensioners concerned become involved in and share in the responsibility for the running of the Royal Hospital.

Only such discipline is demanded as is necessary for the maintenance of mutual respect between men and staff and the smooth running of the Hospital. Virtually no restraint is placed on the activities of the In-Pensioners who can spend as much time as they please outside the Royal Hospital as long as they are in by midnight. A summer holiday at the seaside may be arranged. In addition In-Pensioners are frequently invited to attend regimental reunions and other social and sporting events.

Excellent medical care is available. There are three resident doctors.

Other facilities within the Royal Hospital include the Club, The Prince of Wales Hall social centre, the Barber's shop and the sub Post Office. In addition, the Hospital has extensive grounds including first class bowling and putting greens and garden allotments for those who wish to have them.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible as an In-Pensioner, a candidate must be: in receipt of a Service or Disability Pension awarded for Military Service, of good character and normally at least 65 years of age. Exceptionally, a candidate may be admitted between 55 and 65 if through disability he cannot earn his own living and receives a pension for an Army disability.

Any former soldier of good character aged not less than 65 years drawing Service Retired Pay awarded as a result of commissioned service in the British Army who rendered at least 12 years full time service in the ranks over the age of 18 is also eligible.

Situated in a very lovely part of central London the Royal Hospital is rightly proud of its foundation and tradition. The beautiful Chapel grounds and Founder's Day celebrations are testimony to the home and life style available to ex-servicemen in the 20th century.

There are currently 21 ex-Corps In-Pensioners at the Hospital, and RHQ along with the East and West London branches of the Association keep in regular touch with them. Highlights of the year include the parade on Founders' (Oak Apple) Day; a Sunday morning service dedicated to Royal Signals and of course, Christmas. RHQ is always pleased to arrange visits by the In-Pensioners to the serving Corps or Association events when requested to do so.

For futher information, please write to: The Royal Hospital, Chelsea, Room 6, (IPs), Secretary's Office, London SW3 4SR or to the Assistant Regimental Secretary, RHQ Royal Signals.

THE LAST GREAT CATTERICK REUNION

The last Great Catterick Reunion, will take place on:

Saturday 25th June

and Sunday 26th June 1994

Details have been sent to Branch Secretaries and to individuals who have registered their bid to attend with RHQ. All accommodation in Vimy Barracks is full, but RHQ can supply information on addresses offering accommodation in the Richmond area.

We shall be exercising the Freedom of Richmond on Friday 24th and this will be followed by playing of Retreat in Richmond Castle by the Corps Band. The programme for Saturday and Sunday will follow the normal Catterick Reunion pattern. The fête and arena events will take place on Whinny Hill Sports Field, between 1400 hrs and 1630 hrs on Saturday 25th, and there will be a playing of Retreat on Vimy Square at 1830 hrs, at which all three Corps Bands (The Corps Band itself, The Band of 34th Signal Regiment (Volunteers) and the Army Apprentices College Harrogate Band) will play. Evening events in messes will begin at 1930 hrs. On Sunday 26th, the Church Service will commence at 0930 hrs and will be Ecumenical. It will be held in the open air on Vimy Square, and will be followed by a last March Past the Corps Memorial in Helles Lines before it is moved to Blandford. The Association Annual General Meeting will follow the March Past.

The Corps Luncheon (North) for officers and their guests will take place in the Officers' Mess on Sunday 26th June. This is a Dinner Club event which is being publicised separately.

Returns already indicate that this will be the largest Catterick reunion ever, and a fitting final occasion there for the Association and the Corps.

THE LAST GREAT CATTERICK REUNION

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THE wire

The Royal Signals Magazine

August 1994

+ + D-DAY + + 6 JUNE 1994 + + D-DAY + + 6 JUNE 1944 + + D-DAY + + 6 JUNE 1994 + + D-DAY + + 6 JU

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.

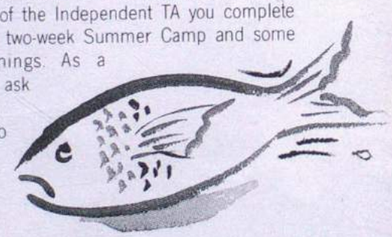
How? Simply by becoming a member of the Volunteer Forces, which make up a third of our Army and represent a significant part of our commitment to NATO.

There are two 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.

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.



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 1994 Vol. 48 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
MBE

Captain J. Mayson Royal Signals
Warrant Officer Class 1 (Foreman of Signals) N. E. Baugh
Acting Warrant Officer Class 2 (Foreman of Signals) K. Dodd
Acting Warrant Officer Class 2 M. J. Stringer
Staff Sergeant (Foreman of Signals) G. Johnson
Sergeant N. de-Oweneley
Corporal A. O. Bennie

We also warmly congratulate **Major (Retd) R. Castle-Smith MBE** on being appointed CBE.

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY 28 JUNE 1994

The Master of Signals sent the following message to our Colonel in Chief:

'On the occasion of Princess Royal Day, 28 June 1994, The Master of Signals and all ranks of The Royal Corps of Signals, serving and retired, send their Colonel in Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, their best wishes, affectionate greetings and their thanks for Her kindness and devotion to Her Corps.'

The following reply was received:

'I send my warm thanks and very best wishes to the Master of the Signals and all ranks of The Royal Corps of Signals, serving and retired for their kind message in which they forwarded their best wishes and affectionate greetings on the occasion of Princess Royal Day, 28 June 1994.

Anne Colonel in Chief

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OUR COVER PICTURES

Our front cover picture was taken at Bayeux Military Cemetery on 7 June 1994 where veterans laid six wreaths in honour of our Corps dead. On the left is HM The Queen's wreath and on the right the wreath laid by President Mitterand on 6 June.

On the back cover from left to right: Arromanches Beach, 6 June 1994, Massed Standards on Parade, including Reading Branch and Southampton Branch Standards: Rachel Akehurst, aged 10 years, from Tangmere, Sussex (twinned with Hermanville), lays a carnation on a soldier's grave at Hermanville Cemetery: Ranville, 6 June, four members of 6 AB Div Sigs who landed on the nearby dropping zones in the early hours of D-Day 1944, *(L to R)* David Pinnell, (Lt Col) Robin Laing, (Brig) Geoffrey Proudman Patrick O'Donovan: Maj Warren explains his work at the German Radar Station at Douvres.The Presentation to the Museum Director, Bayeux Museum, 9 June: Ronald Robinson (Reading Branch) receives the French medal from the Deputy Mayor of Arromanches.

We are indebted to George Hancox and David Pinnell for these photographs. Please turn to pages 208-211.

The opinions expressed in* The Wire *are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of the Corps or the MOD. This publication contains official information. It should be treated with discretion by the recipient.

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REPORT BY THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF (ARMY)

My second report for *The Wire* covers the first-half of 1994, a period which has been dominated operationally by events in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia and domestically by the Defence Costs and associated Studies.

OPERATIONS

With the exception of Northern Ireland, the Corps' main operational effort continues in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia. There are now over 200 signallers in theatre, with technical support provided by Regular and Volunteer signallers in the UK. In Bosnia, the bulk of the signallers are from 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207) based in Hohne, who took over from 4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204) in May. Strategic communications detachments from 30 Sig Regt continue to reinforce the Force Signal Squadron. A small detachment of signallers, commanded by a Yeoman of Signals, deployed with Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose to provide him with both static and mobile communications.

Detachments from 30 Sig Regt remain in Saudi Arabia in support of the RAF contingent which is enforcing a 'No Fly Zone' over Southern Iraq. Similar detachments are still deployed to Turkey and Northern Iraq on Operation WARDEN.

The significant contribution made by Royal Signals in support of the Security Forces in Northern Ireland continues unabated.

ORBAT

The draw-down of the Corps is proceeding according to plan. The following units and personnel have been affected during the past six months or will shortly be so:

- 7 Sig Regt has moved from Herford into the barracks previously occupied by 16 Sig Regt in Krefeld, which in turn has moved into the Rheindahlen Military Complex.
- Although the situation may yet change, it is currently intended that 237 Sig Sqn, 14 Sig Sqn (EW) will move from RAF Hullavington to Azminghur Barracks, Colerne during the summer, to colocate with 21 Sig Regt (AS).
  Once there it will absorb 640 Sig Tp which will relocate from Blandford later this year.
- 229 Sig Sqn in Berlin disbanded in July 1994.
- 633 Sig Tp in Belize will disband in October 1994 when the British presence there reduces.
- 13 Sig Regt (R) in Birgelen will reduce to a squadron. That squadron, 223 Sig Sqn, will become part of 399 Sig Unit RAF, based at RAF Digby in Lincolnshire from late 1994. The Regiment will disband in 1995.
- It is intended that 662 Sig Tp in Cyprus will be absorbed into 259 Sig Sqn in April 1995.
- In preparation for the final withdrawal from Hong Kong in 1997, Queens Gurkha Signals has begun to amalgamate a number of its squadrons.

MANNING

The current soldier strength of the Corps is some 9,500, approximately 1,000 above the authorised manpower ceiling for 1995. Reductions will be achieved by a mixture of those selected for Phase 3 of the redundancy programme, natural retirements, premature voluntary retirements and recruiting controls. I am concerned that we may undershoot our 1995 target, and the spectre of undermanning is now abroad in units. I am therefore clear that recruiting will demand a yet higher priority in the coming year.

At my Conference in May and from my visits to units and the commands it is apparent that during this prolonged period of restructuring, the chances of promotion to Lance Corporal have been depressed. This is a cause of frustration to many and potentially damaging to unit morale. I have given a high priority to determining and implementing a solution, but one which will stand the test of time.

Our officer strength, at some 950, roughly equates to our approved 1995 target. However, a number of posts are likely still to be gapped as the demand for officers in new posts continues. Despite the recession, I was concerned to note that the number of applicants for Phase 3 of the redundancy programme exceeded the quota.

RECRUITING

It is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit the quality of soldier we require. Of some 190 Apprentices recruited in 1993/94, only two thirds held the formal entry qualifications. We are also one third under-recruited in the adult entry programme, which now undertakes basic military training at the Army Training Regiment at Bassingbourn. We have embarked on a marketing and advertising campaign in an attempt to reverse, or at least arrest, the trend, and will need the help of the Corps family in this enterprise.

Officer recruiting is currently healthy, and the quality is high. 2Lt Ruth Pilkington Royal Signals was awarded the Queen's Medal at the Sovereign's Parade in April. The Corps is well recruited in Subalterns, and this is reflected in our relatively low allocation from RMAS in 1994/95. This has been achieved only after some years of sustained and intense efforts. There is no room whatever for complacency; those efforts need to be maintained to ensure that the ground so hard won will not by default be surrendered.

EQUIPMENT

In my last report I outlined the work in hand to develop PTARMIGAN. I can now confirm that the programme is funded and is in progress:

- Project SATCOM BRIDGE will provide the capability to interconnect widely dispersed Ptarmigan nodes over SATCOM.
- The provision of digital interoperability, for both circuit and packet switched services, with Allied and NATO communication systems, is being developed under Project DIGITAL GATEWAY.
- Under Project MOBILE ACCESS PTARMIGAN PACKET SWITCH (MAPPS) the contract for Project Definition work to modify the Single Channel Radio Access (SCRA) Central has been let. This work will not only improve single channel access for information systems, but will also enable parts of the SCRA sub-system to operate without the need for the support of a PTARMIGAN switch.
- Eight air transportable Access Nodes will be available to support advance elements of HQ ARRC. Similarly, two air mobile Access Nodes will be introduced in support of 24 (Airmobile) Brig.

Despite cuts in the programme, substantial funds have been allocated to EUROMUX enhancements, including the provision of an Automatic Message Handling facility and an international gateway.

There has been a rapid increase in demand for access to the United Kingdom Military Satellite Communications System and a wide range of programmes are in hand to replace or update the full range of military satellite capability.

Excluding Project EUROFIGHTER, Project BOWMAN is, by value, the UK's single largest military equipment project. Not surprisingly at a time of unprecedented funding constraints, BOWMAN has come under considerable pressure to find economies and while this pressure may result in a reduced scaling of some equipments, I am confident that it will not impact significantly on system capability.

The ,Defence Fixed Telecommunications Systems (DFTS) project is moving swiftly ahead, with renewed impetus from the Defence Costs Study. DFTS will subsume most of the Army Telephone Network as we know it today. A DFTS Headquarters under Central Staff Control will be formed to drive this work and we will provide our share of staff for this HQ.

TRAINING

The major review of the Army Training Organisation (ATO) continues and its aim is to reduce overall expenditure and military manpower by 30-35% before 1995, while maintaining essential standards. Phase 1 saw the closure of 11 Sig Regt in Catterick and the formation of the Army Training Regiments. In Phase 2 the concept of the Single Entry was created and Junior Soldier training terminated. Phase 2 also set in hand the reduction in the number of training establishments, and initiated the formation of a single centre for the Corps at Blandford. By late 1995 it is intended that all apprentice training and adult trade training will be carried out at The Royal School of Signals. In order to meet the financial savings targets for 1994/95, however, 8 Sig Regt will cease training in Catterick in October 1994, earlier than originally planned. In Phase 3 the type and conduct of training were scrutinised.

THE BLANDFORD PROJECT

On 8 June 1994 the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie KCB, LVO, OBE, ADC Gen, turned the first turf in the construction of the Single Centre at The Royal School of Signals. It is planned that the first recruits will begin trade training in the new Centre in April 1995, with the Apprentices following-on in September 1995. Funding has also recently been approved for the decommissioning, movement and re-installation at Blandford of specialist training equipment in Catterick, but there remains a requirement for a substantial quantity of training equipment to be moved under self help arrangements.

Blandford Camp is about to enter a period of enormous change, both physically through the construction programme and in the way it will go about its business in 1995 and beyond. Commander The Royal School of Signals will require the full support of the Corps throughout this period.

NEW MUSEUM PROJECT

The Corps' efforts towards the New Museum Appeal have found new life with many imaginative fund raising schemes being initiated. The Appeal has now achieved some 50% of its target. Based upon my 'bullish' report about further achievement, I am delighted to report that the Corps Committee has sanctioned the start of the building programme. A full report from the Project Manager will appear in the October edition of *The Wire*.

With the impetus given by this news, I ask the whole Corps both serving and retired, to renew their efforts to meet our funding targets and thereby ensure a firm stake in the preservation of our Corps heritage. I invite anyone who has not yet contributed to do so now, so that we may see the realisation of our ambitions in our 75th Anniversary year.

SPORT

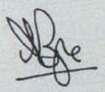
Despite the demanding pace of work, the Corps' sporting teams have again produced outstanding results in a wide variety of sports and at all levels of competition. 7 Sig Regt won the prestigious Army Rugby Cup beating 7 RHA in the final and 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt won the Alpine Trophy outright in the 1994 Army Alpine and Nordic Skiing Championships. Last season also saw the Corps participating for the first time in the Women's Inter Corps Hockey Tournament, where the team earned a very creditable third place. At the Inter-Corps Skill-at-Arms meeting the Corps Shooting team, consisting largely of members of 30 Sig Regt, retained both the Methuen Cup and the Woolwich Bowl.

The Birtwistle Pennant for Sport has been awarded to 2 Sig Regt for their outstanding contribution to Soccer, Rugby, Athletics and Cross Country. To name but a few of their successes, the Soccer team were runners up, for the second successive year, in the Army Soccer Cup. Three members of the Regiment played in the Army/Navy Rugby match at Twickenham and the Athletics Team are current holders of the Morrison Cup.

CONCLUSION

The Armed Forces are undergoing a period of change which is unprecedented in pace and extent in modern times. The Royal Corps of Signals has a key role to play in the future. As a forward looking Corps, we must respond positively to the many thrusts for change; we must ensure that we keep our corporate eyes firmly on the priority to deliver an important defence operational capability, by being a committed body, with high morale, ever seeking to improve our professional skills.

1 July 1994



A . H. BOYLE
Maj Gen SOinC (Army)

ROYAL SIGNALS RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY EVENTS – 1994/95

August		
1	Manchester	Quicksilver 1
1-2	Turrif Show	White Helmets
2-3	International Scout Jamboree Tatton Park	Quicksilver
3	International Scout Jamboree Tatton Park	31 Sig Regt (V)
3	Guest Band RMSM Kneller Hall	R Sigs Band
4	Black Isle Show	White Helmets
5-7	Portsmouth and Southsea	Para Display Team & 31 Sig Regt (V)
6	Perth Scotland	White Helmets
6-7	Standish Carnival	Quicksilver
7	Edinburgh International Truck Festival	White Helmets
9-12	Preston	Quicksilver
13	Gatcombe Park British National Horse Trials	White Helmets
13-14	Adlington Carnival	Quicksilver
14	Norfolk Police	White Helmets
	Veterans Parade York	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
16-17	Cromer Carnival	Quicksilver
17	Cromer Carnival	White Helmets
19	Bolsover Sheffield (TBC)	White Helmets
20-21	Bolton Show	White Helmets
20-21	Derby City Show	Para Display Team
21	3 Nines Romford	Quicksilver
21	Bandstand Concert Bournemouth	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
23	Hull Show	Quicksilver
23	Hull Taxi Drivers	Para Display Team
26	Durham Summer Carnival (TBC)	White Helmets
27	Bandstand Concert Bournemouth	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
27	Poynton Show	White Helmets
27	Durham Summer Carnival (TBC)	Para Display Team
27-28	Blackburn Lions	37 Sig Regt (V)
27-29	Town & Country Festival Stonleigh Warks	37 Sig Regt (V)
28	Walsall Food Convoy	White Helmets
28-29	Walsall Food Convoy	Para Display Team
28-29	Eye Show	Quicksilver
29	Chelmsford Spectacular	White Helmets
31	Challenge Day Visit	White Helmets
September		
2	Bulsover, Sheffield (TBC)	White Helmets
3	Enham County Show	White Helmets
3	Stockton Show	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
3-4	Chatsworth Country Fair	Quicksilver
4	First World War Tattoo Leeds	34 Sig Regt (V) Band
4	Royal Marines Museum Portsmouth	White Helmets
10-11	Duxford Air Show	Quicksilver
11	Darlington Railway Museum	White Helmets
11	Cranberry Road Fulham London	Para Display Team
13-15	Eden Camp (Malton)	Quicksilver
15	Thame Show Oxfordshire	White Helmets
17	Camberley Military Show (TBC)	White Helmets & Para Display Team
17-18	Peterlee Carnival	Quicksilver
18	Great North Run	Para Display Team
18	Brentwood Working Dogs	White Helmets
	Hexagon Theatre Reading	Corps Band
19	Nidderdale Yorkshire	White Helmets
October		
14-15	Farewell to Catterick	White Helmets & Corps Band
November		
10	Ferndown Rotary Club Concert	Corps Band
December		
3	Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children	Corps Band
1995		
July		
28	Final Graduation Parade AAColl Harrogate	Corps Band

KEY
TBC = To Be Confirmed

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	0258 482365
White Helmets	0258 482368
Blue Helmets	0258 482366
Quicksilver/R Signals Band	0258 482367
31 Sig Regt (41 Sig Sqn)	0735 54023/57228
34 Sig Regt (V) Band	0642 244198
37 Sig Regt (V) Band	0527 68989/66858

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE NORMANDY LANDINGS

'Walk–don't run. Save your fire' were Lord Lovet's orders to Commando Brigade Signals on 'Sword' beach on D-Day

ECHOES OF NORMANDY

A diary extract, 7 June 1944

Woke up at 0600 hrs and found we had arrived off the coast during the night. The Chief Engineer was feeling sad as this ship had to die. For after we had been off-loaded she was due to be sunk to form a harbour together with other old cargo ships. The sea was very rough and I felt rough too. The air was rent with the thunder of the heavy guns of the warships firing shorewards. The salvoes of the rocket ships were impressive. At 2pm I went down the rope ladder onto the landing craft that was to take us ashore. The sea all around was being peppered with shell bursts, and I was really nervous as I could not swim. We had a dry-shod landing, driving ashore in the CO's car. On French soil again for the first time since June 1 1940. Shells bursting on the beach, a very excited Camp Commandant giving orders, dead bodies everywhere and prisoners being herded in batches. We drove to the assembly area to find out what was to be done next. The village was Ouistreham, the sector SWORD, the beach section Queen. The French civilians we met were delighted to see us and pinned roses on our battle-dress, offering us glasses of wine. I don't know how these people managed to survive all the shelling. We drove inland and headed for Caen but were stopped by a Military Policeman at a crossroads and directed to Colleville, where Divisional HQ had been set up. At 8.30pm we unloaded the car and set up our office in a wooden hut filled with wheelbarrows. There was a lot of sniping and I was feeling nervy. Managed to get a German steel helmet as a trophy before having something to eat from my pack and then sleeping out under a tree. Continuous firing from tanks and field guns. It was the noisiest night of my life.

Ernest Bayley, Corporal in the 3rd British Infantry Divisional Signals

***Many readers will remember* Ernest Bayley *for his close connections with the Corps and the army following his 22 years service. He was largely responsible for the formation of the 3 Div Signals Reunion Club and kept in touch with the Netherlands Veterans Legion, among other service organisations. He was awarded The Master of Signals Award for 1991 but, sadly, died before it could be presented to him. His obituary appeared on page 9, February 1992 issue of* The Wire.**

NORMANDY REVISITED–1994

by **Alan E. Foot, Reading Branch of the Royal Signals Association**

Our stay in Normandy was from the 4-11 June. This enabled us to get settled in and do essential shopping on the 4th and then to commence our many visits on the 5th, known throughout Normandy as 'Airborne Day'. On this day we visited the site of the Merville Gun Battery and the site of Pegasus Bridge over the Orne Canal (the original bridge had recently been replaced by a new one). Both these sites were taken by troops of the 6th Airborne Division in the early hours of D-Day. We visited the famous 'Gondrée Cafe' and saw **Arlette Gondrée-Pritchett**, the daughter of the Owner in 1944. We visited the landing markers of the three gliders which delivered members of the Ox and Bucks LI, under the command of **Maj John Howard**, who actually took the bridge within minutes of landing. Later the same afternoon we were at the Ranville Military Cemetery from where we witnessed the impressive drop of 1,300 parachutists. After those who dropped had marched-past the Prince of Wales on the DZ, His Royal Highness came to the Ranville Cemetery to take the salute at a March-past of Parachute Regiment Old Comrades. During his subsequent 'walk-about' he met and shook hands with some of our Party.

On the evening of the 5th, we managed to get to the Military Cemetery at Hermanville in time for the 3rd (UK) Division Observance. This event was organised by 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt and those present included the Commanding Officer **Lt Col Ian Foxley** and the RSM **WO1 (RSM) Dave Wilson.** Young serving members of the Signal Regiment seemed very pleased to meet our Veterans who were properly attired in blue beret and wearing the Corps Cap Badge (old or new pattern). After the Remembrance Ceremony, a large group of youngsters from Hermanville and their twin town of Tangmere, Sussex, were led by a piper right round the cemetery and each child laid a red carnation on a grave. It was very moving, and was typical of the current attitude among the Normans who wish their children never to forget the sacrifices made by the invading troops in 1944 on their behalf. We were very pleased to accept an unexpected invitation to join the 3 Div personnel at the town's 'Vin d'Honneur' in the local Mairie.

On the 6th (the most important day) we found our authorisations very valuable in allowing our vehicles to pass along closed roads to Bayeux where we were able to take our places in the Military Cemetery in order to participate in the Official Commemoration in the presence of **HM The Queen, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, HRH The Duke of Kent, The President of France**, the **Prime Minister** of the UK and many other VIPs. Although we had Branch Standards from the Reading and Southampton Branches with us, we were too late for them to be paraded as the number of Standards on parade was strictly limited to 50. We therefore raised them in the area of the Cemetery in which we had gathered, and a number of other members of the Corps Family came and introduced themselves.

After a picnic lunch at our vehicle site, we moved, again along restricted roads, to Arromanches. For the British Veterans in Normandy it was a case of 'all roads lead to Arromanches'. Once we had parked our vehicles above the town, we walked down one of the approach roads to the beach and found ourselves fairly automatically formed into groups of 500, six abreast, and being marched by a static band towards the main 'parade beach', where the arriving contingents were being formed into an open box (eventually 12 ranks deep) by the Parade Commander, **Academy SM David Cox (Gren Gds)**. It was a tremendous thrill to be part of a formed parade of over 10,000 Veterans. After speeches by the Mayor of Arromanches and HM The Queen, the time came for the March-past. To see the Veterans, many of them closer to 80 than 70, marching past in perfect step, in straight files, with heads erect, proved very emotional and was a tribute to the military training we had all received so many years previously. To have a Parade like this, with everyone singing marching songs (including Her Majesty) was something only the British could have done–and they did it well. We were also very pleased to see members of the Royal Family walking about the parade prior to the arrival of **The Queen**, speaking to, and shaking hands with, many of the Veterans. Once again we were privileged to have the **Prince of Wales** in our particular location and he spoke to a number of us from our party.

Making friends.
Jerry Blake (York), Ron Robinson (Reading), Billy Powell (Indiv.)

The following morning (7 June) we again went to the Bayeux Military Cemetery for our own Royal Signals Commemoration. We had prepared an Order of Service with participants from among our Tour members and, in the event, we were able to utilise the services of a passing clergyman to conduct the short service on our behalf. During the Service we had the two Branch Standards on parade and these were dipped during the laying of the wreaths. The wreath on behalf of 'The Master of Signals and all ranks, serving and retired' was laid by the senior officer present (**Lt Col Bruce Beattie**); wreaths were laid on behalf of Reading Branch (by the Branch Chairman) and Southampton Branch (by the Branch Vice-Chairman); two other wreaths were laid by representatives from 3rd Div Sig who had requested to join us. The six Poppy Wreaths, with Royal Signals centres, made an impressive sight on the Memorial, just below those of The Queen and President Mitterand. Following the laying of the wreaths, the exhortation 'They shall grow not old . . .' was said by **Maj N. Warren MBE TD**, Chairman of Southampton Branch.

The remainder of the Tour was in a somewhat lower key, but visits were made to many places of personal interest to our Tour members, and special visits to the American Cemetery at St Laurent and the adjoining OMAHA Beach. Also to Sainte Mère Eglise (the first town to be liberated), its Church of **Private John Steele** fame, and its very good Airborne Museum.

Members of 3 Div Sig Reunion Club at Bayeux

We also visited the rather sombre German War Cemetery at La Cambe where 21,000 Germans are buried. During a visit to the British Military Cemetery at Douvres la Deliverande, still wearing our berets of course, another visitor recognised the badge and asked whether we knew of anyone from 1 Corps Signals. It transpired that he was **Cpl Jack**, who had served with HQ 1 Corps as the Driver/Operator of the Corps Commander (**Gen Crocker**) and he knew our **Maj Nicholas Warren** very well, although with the passage of time, he did not readily recognise him! Also at Douvres, we visited the remains of the major German Radar Station which, after its antennae had been demolished, held out as an Observation Post for some time against repeated British and Canadian attacks. Here **Nicholas Warren** gave an interesting account of his involvement in trying to determine how this station was managing to communicate with the German-held airfield at Carpiquet in the absence of radio antennae and telephone lines. It transpired after its capture that this communication had been achieved by sending electrical signals through the ground for a distance of 7 or 8km, a previously unheard-of feat.

Mention should be made of our visit to the Mairie of Arromanches on 8 June, where each of our veterans received his Jubilee Medal and Certificate at the hands of the Deputy Mayor; and of our visit to the Musée de la Bataille de Normandie at Bayeux on the 9th, where we presented to the Museum Director a Royal Signals Side-Drum Ice-Bucket with an accompanying scroll commemorating both the part played by Royal Signals in the Battle of Normandy and the 50th Anniversary Tour of Royal Signals members.

On the 10th, we spent many hours at the Peace Memorial Museum at Caen, only built in 1988, but which really must be included in anyone's visit to Normandy. Our Tour included a number of very sociable dinner

outings in the evenings and it was obvious that everyone had made friends as the week progressed. We hope to have a small Tour Reunion in the Autumn, when we can view each other's photographs and remind ourselves of the good time we all had.

THE D DAY ANNIVERSARY BANQUET IN THE PRESENCE OF HM THE QUEEN

by **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL**

Having watched the TV over 4/5/6 June, it seemed to me that everybody who had the remotest connection with the D Day landings was in Normandy. This was possibly the reason why the Corps had kindly volunteered me for the Banquet on the night of Saturday 4 June.

From the initial invitation and subsequent correspondence it was clear that Her Majesty would be accompanied by other Heads of State of the Allied Forces involved in Operation Overlord but it did not make clear from whom the lower echelon was to be drawn. Dress was optional–Black tie or Mess Dress, Decorations. The latter presumably narrowed the field to those who were able to sport the France & Germany Star whilst the dress seemed to indicate that there were unlikely to be for instance, many New Age travellers on the short list. There were ominous warnings of severe traffic jams and massive security which behove guests to arrive early. In the event, having started well before necessary, my car dropped me one and a quarter hours early in the multi storey car park which had been commandeered for the occasion not far from Portsmouth Guildhall. Other guests had arrived and others were following, all confined to the car park where it seemed natural to hold a preparatory reunion. I was soon talking to a previous Director of Transport, a Canadian Brigadier (Black Watch) whom I had known as the Head of their Liaison Staff in their High Commission, a contemporary Chief Engineer amongst others. Such were the security arrangements that we had to board buses to take us the 300 yards to the Guildhall where we went through an airport-type security check before being handed our programmes and menus and ushered into a vast hall through a line of bearers of champagne and canapes.

It was as well that most of the guests had chosen the Dinner Jacket option since our hosts here were serving officers who were more easily identified by their service Mess Dress and rank. They were to collect their flock around them and make sure they got to their nominated table. Mine host was no less a person than **Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Michael Beetham**. Three, (more appropriately titled!) Field Marshals stood elsewhere. There was an hour and a half to wait before going into dine and the supply of both champagne and canapes held out. Somewhat naturally this helped to break the ice and strangers were soon comparing notes upon why they were present. Nearly everyone had D Day connections but there were others. As an example I came across the Chairman of P & O in whose liner, the *Canberra*, 3,000 veterans were embarked for Normandy. His company had had only three weeks to acquire and fit out a ferry in which the overspill from the Royal Yacht were to be accommodated

Dinner was announced and everybody moved to one of 22 tables, each of 24 guests. Every name was listed in a Table Plan and it was on the index that our Colonel-in-Chief was listed as 'ROYAL, HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS' and under 'Q' was 'QUEEN, HER MAJESTY THE'.

My immediate companions consisted of the French Director of Prisons; the previous UK Ambassador to Japan who had been commanding an AVRE on D Day and took a direct hit before getting off the beach; the present Professor in charge of the Meteorological Office whose forebears produced the fateful forecast for D Day; the Private Secretary to **HRH Princess Margaret**; the captain of an LCT on D Day and the pilot of a Typhoon who had then followed a commercial career.

On a raised platform running the complete width of the banquet hall was the top table of 44 including five members of the Royal family, six members of other Royal families and the Heads of Government/State of Australia, France, Poland, New Zealand and UK. Many of their countrymen were also amongst us as guests.

As to the meal, the first and last course were cold but the main course was of roast Aylesbury Duckling with hot vegetables. The mind boggles at what must have been involved in the kitchen to serve 600 guests within three minutes. What is more the staff had only one rehearsal without food or guests that very afternoon. The wine list and service was just as impressive.

After the Royal Toast, the stage curtains closed upon the orchestra of the Royal Marines Portsmouth and after a few moments re-opened to reveal the well known army of media representatives who witnessed Her Majesty's speech. As many readers will have read or heard, with **President Mitterand** on one side and **Mr Clinton** on the other, she made the point that we had stood alone against Germany and were it not for that, there would probably not have been a D Day or the united Europe of today. Her Majesty gave the Toast 'Other Sovereigns and Heads of State here represented', the curtains closed on the media and that was the end of the formalities.

The high table filed away to join their cavalcade of cars taking them to the Royal Yacht. As we joined the queue to disperse I found myself with **Mrs Margaret Beckett** and on turning round found **Paddy Ashdown** behind me, with both of whom I exchanged words. Once outside, the organisation faltered: five minutes after leaving the entrance to the Guildhall, we were back again and we could but imagine what prayers were being said by the Bishop who had been shut out of our bus and was still without a seat in the line of buses which were now in front of us.

With the arrival that evening of all the Allied Heads of State and so many of their countrymen who had come to join the anniversary events, there had to be a focal point of welcome. It was certainly an evening to remember and an honour to represent our Corps. Above all it was a further example of the ability of the British to stage a perfect ceremonial occasion.

HAMPSHIRE REMEMBERS 'D-DAY'

by **Maj N. Warren, MBE, TD**
Chairman of Southampton Branch
Royal Signals Association

On 27 May some 4,000 veterans from all the Allied nations involved in the landings in Normandy in June 1944 gathered at the Netley Country Park on the edge of Southampton Water for a parade in the presence of **HRH The Duke of Edinburgh**. The Royal Signals contingent formed up behind the Standard of the Dorset Branch.

At the conclusion of the parade, the veterans dispersed to visit displays and hospitality facilities set up by Corps and Regimental Associations and other organisations. For Royal Signals the Quicksilver Display Team brought its trailer, a large framed marquee and sundry tables and chairs which it most efficiently set up to provide a reception area which was manned by members of the Reading, Southampton and Winchester Branches on behalf of the Association.

Within the marquee were located a bar and a stand manned by two members of the staff of the Corps Museum. We were pleased to welcome a number of members of the Corps and also members of other arms and allied nations, many no doubt attracted by the prospect of a seat in the sun with a splendid view out over Southampton Water to the Royal Yacht *Britannia*.

The day was made for the Chairman of Southampton Branch, **Nicholas Warren**, by a Canadian visitor who had been a regimental signaller in one of the assault battalions of 3 Canadian Division. He remarked what a splendid vehicle the specially fitted halftrack containing the rear link set to brigade had been for a foursome at bridge during quiet periods–a thought which was certainly not in Nicholas's mind when he was responsible for obtaining the halftracks, designing their interior fittings and subsequently supervising the contractors who did the conversion in the last few weeks before D-Day.

The thanks of the Association are due to the Quicksilver Display Team for their help so cheerfully given, to the party from the Museum and to the members who welcomed all visitors to the reception area.

3 (UK) DIV HQ AND SIG REGT RETURN TO NORMANDY

On 6 June 1944, 3 Infantry Division came ashore at Normandy on Sword Beach as part of the Allied invasion of Europe and ultimately to defeat the Germans the following year.

This was a fitting return as the 3rd Division had been picked up from the Dunkirk beaches. Now 3rd (United Kingdom) Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment is in Bulford Camp. As part of the 50th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings the Signal Regiment provided the backbone for two of the ceremonies at La Breche and Hermanville Cemetery. We also supplied radio detachments that linked the other major sites including Bayeaux, Ranville and Arromanches throughout the period of commemorations. These activities were Ex Iron Tribute which included senior staff officers and commanders participating in the D-Day events.

Of course support of this magnitude requires a firm admin base, the responsibility of which fell squarely on the shoulders of the Quartermaster (Technical), **Maj Mick Besant**, suitably a French Linguist and, a man of supreme patience. Having taken over a municipal gymnasium from the Caen authorities, the Advance Party of 25 all ranks set out on 26 May to convert the site into a five star hotel. When the Main Body arrived on 1 June there were 400 bed spaces and full catering facilities. As seen on television the parades went well despite the Somme-like mud, a mixture of 11 different units, Harry the 'lost' veteran, all went well.

Maj Colin McGrory and 25 members of 222 Sqn including five SNCOs and two other officers arrived to conduct the ceremonial guards and parades for the major events on Sunday 5 June and the following day the 6 June 1994. Despite dreadful weather these representatives, chosen for their individual soldierly bearing and drill ability, rehearsed twice a day for three days at La Breche and Hermanville Cemetery. However, an appreciation of French life was also high on the agenda with **Cpl McPherson, LCpl Nicholl, Davies, Sigs Campbell and Marshall**. The parade group also attended four battlefield tours, led by **Maj Mike Tucker**, which included Pegasus Bridge and the Merville Battery location. Visiting actual sites of major battles brought home the courage of those who took part 50 years earlier. Many of the spectators were witnesses of these events.

There were a number of amusing moments to cherish. When the RSM ordered the 'quick march' at La Breche, to the ranks of Veterans, we discovered we had a deaf right hand marker. For many the late arrival of the local French Band, fresh from the local café produced a wry smile (except for the RSM). On the arrival of **HRH The Prince of Wales**, at Hermanville Cemetery on the following day, **Maj Colin McGrory** had, unexpectedly, to be on his toes when the HRH's personal bodyguard appointed him stand-in for the absent Equerry! Unfortunately visions of BBC Personality of the Year awards disappeared after only five minutes when the real equerry was found in the crowd.

Overall, the parades were immaculate, thoroughly enjoyable and very rewarding. Without exception, everyone involved felt a sense of pride and privilege in having taken part in this historic occasion. All were deeply moved, particularly at meeting and talking to so many of the soldiers who had taken part and who, to a man, had an interesting story to tell.

In addition to the parade and administrative parties for Normandy, **Capt Ade Clewlow, Lt Phil Deans** and **2Lt Johnny Townsend** escorted six of the 3rd Division Reunion Club Veterans to the many events organised over the weekend. Coordinated by **Maj Mike Tucker**, the Veterans relived their memories at La Breche, Hermanville, Bayeaux and Arromanches. For most, it was their first visit to Normandy since the invasion and, for the escorting officers, it was a poignant and hugely rewarding four days. Luckily for the group, and with a reliance on language misunderstandings and goodwill, our Veterans were able to march at Arromanche with **Col Pete Hoskins** and meet **HRH The Princess Margaret**. On Tuesday 7 June a quiet Royal Signals wreath-laying ceremony took place, followed by a medal ceremony at the Caen Veterans' Association. The group then returned to the UK having participated, along-side the officers and soldiers of the 1994 3rd (United Kingdom) Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment, in an historic commemorative event.

Reunion Club Veterans receiving their D-Day commemorative medals presented on behalf of France by the Mayor of Caen

Ex Sig Joe Bailey at Caen for the second time in 50 years, SSgt McGowan there for the first time

The Parade at Sword Beach 5 June 1994

SWANAGE RAILWAY
MERCURY GROUP REUNION, 4 JUNE

It would seem that all major events held on the Swanage Railway are doomed to endure torrents of rain. The 10th anniversary reunion organised by the railway's Mercury Group was no exception, and as the 100 or so guests gathered in Swanage, the heavens opened.

The special relationship which has developed between the Swanage Railway and the Royal Corps of Signals was first fostered in March 1984. At the time the railway had been offered over 30 miles of redundant cable, a task far too big to be undertaken by the fledgling Telecom Dept, and 30 Sig Regt confirmed that 15 Linemen and Telemechs would assist in the recovery operation from Hampshire.

Since then up to 400 soldiers have assisted in supporting the Swanage Railway, mainly members of the Corps. To date eight units have been involved during 11 subsequent exercises. The on-going relationship has evolved on three fronts. A formal link was established in 1983 when the CO 11 Sig Regt, now based at Blandford, agreed that the unit would become a Corporate Member of the Southern Steam Trust. The SST is a registered charity and its members operate and support the railway. Trade training exercises are the next link, held periodically when unit commitments allow. The finale link commenced in 1992 when the Mercury Group was formed by military members of the railway.

Planning for this year's reunion, held at Swanage on Saturday 4 June, commenced last year and over 170 invitations were sent out. In addition to the 68 group members, members of the Corps who have supported the venture over the years were also invited along with members of the railway, local and district councillors, the Royal Signals Association, Regimental Headquarters and SSAFA. The latter has had a display at Swanage Station over recent months as part of the D-Day 50th Anniversary events.

The Mercury Group has members serving all around the world; group member **Sig Roger Wade** had returned from Cyprus; former Op Grapple soldiers included **Sigs Steve Nelson**, **Si Launder**, **Chris Mollinson** and **Haydn Payne** together with **Cpls Lee Clark**, **Richie Cleminson** and **Kev Jones**. The Group, and the railway, were extremely pleased to host the Master of Signals **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL** for a return visit. He was introduced to all the guests including **Cpl Shaun Curry**, the current 30 Sig Regt Det Comd in Vitez. Other 30 Sig Regt personnel who were unable to attend were **Cpl Frank Nevens**, currently in Turkey, and his wife **Donna** serving in Split!

Northern Ireland has always seen close liaison with the Railway (and the Purbeck!) and a strong delegation was led by the Group Chairman **Capt Matt Fensom**. Travelling from similar locations in the province were **Maj Stuart Hodges**, **Sgts Shuggy Hughes**, **Andy Sinclair** and **Cpl Andy Dutton**. Former lumberjacks also present were **SSgt Vince McNaught BEM**, **WO1 (FofS) Russ Moren** and **WO1 John Mackay**. They were joined by **Jimmy Watson**, **Stig Richards**, **Lee Hilligenn** and **Neil Parnham**.

An important part of the event was recognising the link which had been formed as well as realising the potential for the future. Joining the Master of Signals for a briefing on current progress given by **Capt Matt Fensom**, and the Chairman of the SST **Mr W. S. Trite**, were **Col A. P. Verey TD**, The Regt Col TA, **Lt Col V. G. Strivens** CO 11 Sig Regt and **Lt Col I. M. G. Strong MBE**, the present COS at Blandford Camp. The Group Chairman then publicly thanked members of the railway for their support over the years prior to the guests joining the six coach steam train for an excellent buffet lunch.

Other Corps members who managed to attend were **Cpls Paul Campbell**, **Mick Toes** and **LCpls 'Gaz' Middleton** and **Jim Gray**. **Capt Scott Youngson** and **Sig Rob Jones** travelled back from Krefeld and **Sgt 'Rabs' Rabbetts** conveniently finished a posting at Larbruch in time to be present. Former members of the Corps also present were **Mr George Louden** together with the Chairman of the Swanage Royal British Legion **Mr Walter Bishop**, and **Lt Col (Rtd) J. Weir** and **Maj (Rtd) D. Houghton** of the RSA.

Administration in support of the function was well looked after by members of 640 Sig Tp (EW), in particular by **Sigs Andy Martin**, **Dave Rogers**, **Hayden Payne** and **Kelli Tippet**. The chefs from Osnabruck, Germany, were also outstanding including **Pte Andy Brown**, **LCpl 'Windy' Miller** and **Cpl Karren Starling**. The many invitations and admin headaches paid off at the end of a long winter during which the Group Secretary **SSgt Frank Roberts** fell out of his tree in Bosnia! His Op Grapple Tour ended a little early, and with one arm in plaster he set to work preparing for the reunion, the smooth run up to the event being helped by **Cpl Shep Sheppard** of 4 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (204).

Ardent supporters of the present venture
(L to R) Capt Matt Fensom, SSgt Frank Roberts, The Master of Signals, Lt Col I. M. G. Strong and Lt Col V. G. Strivens
Photographs by courtesy of Andrew P. M. Wright

Kath Chard, catering manageress and a long time supporter of Ex Topham Hatt, with SSgt Frank Roberts

RACE THE SUN – 2 SIG REGT

All readers who have served in York over the last eight years will be familiar with Race the Sun–a multi-discipline relay race covering over 120 miles of the toughest countryside that North Yorkshire has to offer. Planning for Race the Sun 94 got under way before Christmas when **SSgt Steve Clements** and **SSgt Bob Squires** took on the mantle of course setters, under the direction of **Maj Les Wood**, HQ Sqn Comd. It is almost impossible to describe the fierce competitive spirit which is generated amongst the participating teams.

It is the ultimate team challenge–each team provides three competitors on each of the 16 legs; road cycling, mountain biking, canoeing, march and assault course, road and cross-country running, swimming, biathlon and orienteering. There is no quarter given once the horn announces the start of the race.

2 June 1994 saw 10 teams vying for honours which, this year, included trophies for the best novice team, the most sporting team and the most successful fund raising team, as well as the overall winner's trophy and inter-squadron team trophy.

For a competition which began as a challenging inter-squadron military training exercise Race the Sun has blossomed. Undoubtedly the advantage goes to those teams with local knowledge, and the ability to train over those stretches of the course where training is permitted. Not surprising, therefore, that last year's winners, and our near neighbours ITB Strensall, ran out winners once again in a time of 14 hours 45 minutes and 53 seconds. What is amazing though is the closeness of the competition over such a gruelling and varied long-distance event. Only nine minutes separated ITB from runners-up 8 Sig Regt. Much credit goes to 219 Sig Sqn who won the inter-squadron competition in a magnificent third place overall.

Several teams converged on York from far afield and competed without the benefit of in-depth 'recce'. These included 217 Sig Sqn from Colerne and debut teams from the Royal School of Signals in Blandford and a composite team drawn from 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde units around northern England. Blandford proved it can be done from a distance by winning the novice trophy in fourth place–and they left vowing to improve on that next year; 9 Regt AAC, from Dishforth, also gave a creditable performance on their first outing, whilst in sixth place a willing amalgam of desk-bound soldiers, civil servants and ageing senior officers from Headquarters Eastern District kept the sporting ethos alive in the finest traditions to take the sporting team trophy.

FENCING

This year at the Army Fencing Championships at Aldershot, Royal Signals 'thrusters' again achieved a fair degree of success. **Lt Ballantyne** from 40 Sig Regt (V) came fourth overall in the foil, seventh in the epee, and 14th in the sabre. He won the TA Trophy in both foil and epee. **2Lt Anderton Brown** from RMA Sandhurst came fifth in the epee. **Sig Bartlett** from 3 (UK) Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt retained his trophy as the Army Junior Champion at Arms. In the foil the placings were as follows: fourth **Lt Ballantyne**, seventh **Cpl Hartley** from 13 Sig Regt (R), 18th **Sig Bartlett**, 19th **Cpl Nice** from 7 Sig Regt (he won the BAOR Championships), 20th **Lt Col Hunt** from RHQ Royal Signals and 22nd **Sig Nealey** from 3 (UK) Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt. The epee placings were as follows: fifth **2Lt Anderton Brown**, seventh **Lt Ballantyne**, 13th **Cpl Hartley**, 16th **Cpl Nice**, 18th **Sig Bartlett**, 19th **Lt Col Hunt** and 26th **Sig Nealey**. In the sabre the placings were as follows: 14th **Lt Ballantyne**, 16th **Cpl Nice**, 21st **Sig Bartlett**, 23rd **Sig Nealey**, 24th **Sig Roscoe** from 209 Sig Sqn and 30th **Lt Col Hunt**.

The Army selections for the Inter Service Championships which are held at the Royal Tournament are made from the first 20 in each weapon. As can be seen from the above results Royal Signals will certainly be amongst those 'cut and thrusting' against the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force at this event.

Cpl Nice, Cpl Hartley, Sig Nealey and Sig Bartlett

THE 1937 VETERANS MOTOR CYCLE DISPLAY TEAM ALIAS THOSE MAGNIFICENT MEN ON THEIR ANCIENT MACHINES

Bruce Preston, from 'Motorcycle Sport' Magazine was a guest at the February bi-monthly lunch in Eastbourne of the surviving riders from the 1937, 1987, 1990 and 1993 Royal Tournament Motorcycle Display Team of the 56th City of London Divisional Signals TA.

A very pleasant lunch with the eight riders and their extremely supportive wives, resulted in a three page spread of the team's history and current activities in the June edition of Motorcycle Sport and also an invitation to the Magnificent Eight to give two performances at the British Motorcycle Federation Rally at the East of England Showground, Peterborough on 22 May, a show attended by 40,000 motorcycle enthusiasts.

The Old Boys at first declined this latter honour, pointing out that since their return to the saddle in 1987, they had only performed as part of the Royal Signals White Helmets display. They also very modestly suggested that no-one at the BMF Rally would be interested in seeing cross-overs by a team with an average of age 78 years. They were persuaded that they were wrong in their thinking.

On a cold and very wet Sunday morning, the arena marshal at the BMF Rally having lost several arena acts because of the atrocious conditions, was amazed and delighted to be told by **Jim Law**, the Old Boys' leader that their show would go on, and that the conditions were nothing like as bad as they had had to put up with as DRs riding motorcycles at Anzio.

So into the arena in pouring rain came two 1937 Rudge Ulsters each with four gentlemen with ramrod straight backs and a combined age of 322 years. They were clad in their now famous white overalls and blues hats (with pre-war Royal Signals badges). Each rider was wearing his distinguished row of medals, in total, one Distinguished Flying Cross and an Aircrew Europe Star, a Burma Star, five Africa Stars, three Italian Stars, a France and Germany Star, and not forgetting eight 1939/45 Stars, Defence, Victory and TA Efficiency Medals.

The two bikes executed four tight cross-overs with a distance of separation between the bikes that would have been a credit to the White Helmets.

The Old Boys left the arena to a standing ovation.

To those Magnificent Men on their Ancient Machines, the most satisfying aspect of their display was that they were able to donate their 'appearance money' of £300 to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund.

Long may they continue to be magnificent ambassadors for their Corps and for their generation.

L to R: Sqn Ldr Jack Tyler DFC (78), Robin Thyer (77), Bill Barrie (80), Benny Bennett (79), Geoff Putt (78), Jim Law (75), Tubby Gasson (80) and Capt Arthur Overton (77)

THE ROYAL SIGNALS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS–G4RS OPENING OF COLE BLOCK

At midday on Sunday 15 May 1994, The Master of Signals 'Cut the Tape' to officially open the new home of Headquarters Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society (RSARS).

Cole Block commemorates the Society's founder and first Vice-President, the late **Maj Gen Eric Cole, CB, CBE,** (1906-1992), a very distinguished Royal Signals Officer, who served from 1925-1961.

Gen Cole, who obtained his amateur transmitting licence during his early career, was appointed President of the Radio Society of Great Britain in 1961 and in the same year RSARS formed under his chairmanship.

It is fitting that a fellow RSARS member, **Mr Ian Suart**, President of the Radio Society of Great Britain in 1994, was present at the opening ceremony.

Master of Signals receiving an engraved plaque from Mr Ian Suart (GM4AUP), President RSGB. Also pictured are RSARS President, Brig John Griffin *(Right)* and RSARS Vice-President, Maj Ray Webb (G3EKL).

- Movements -

OFFICERS
JULY 1994

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col A. W. Merrick	HQ AFCENT
Lt Col A. W. Russ	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Lt Col R. J. R. West	SHAPE NICSOA
Maj B. K. Billsberry	ACDS (CIS)
Maj A. W. Boag	9 Sig Regt (R)
Maj D. H. Jepson	HQ S Dist
Maj J. T. Nichols	DGCIS (A)
Maj T. J. Pengelley	The Royal School of Signals
Maj A. D. P. Shaw	37 Sig Regt (V)
Capt G. N. Addley	24 (Airmob) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210)
Capt J. J. Cole	5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para)
Capt C. Dowie	HQ BF Cyprus
Capt K. J. Graham	16 Sig Regt
Capt G. Inglis	2 Sig Regt
Capt W. R. Kirkwood	HQ ARRC
Capt T. P. Langford	264 Sig Sqn
Capt J. M. P. Leggate	7 Sig Regt
Capt C. A. Maycock	36 Sig Regt (V)
Capt P. A. Smith	The Royal School of Signals
Capt J. R. Wallace	34 Sig Regt (V)
Lt I. A. Blower	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt I. G. Ellis	19 (Mech) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209)
Lt H. F. M. Hughes	4 (Armd) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204)
Lt C. Morcom	243 Sig Sqn
Lt T. M. P. Mountford	7 Sig Regt
Lt D. M. T. Shipley	30 Sig Regt
Lt L. V. Tomkins	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Lt D. J. Watts	237 Sig Sqn 14 Sig Regt (EW)
2Lt O. J. H. Bryant	9 Sig Regt (R)

SITUATIONS VACANT!!

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MOTORCYCLE DISPLAY TEAM

Will be recruiting new riders to fill vacancies in their 1995 team during a two week selection course at Blandford between 12-26 November 1994.

No previous motorcycling experience is necessary–all you need is guts, determination, fitness and a sense of humour

Applications forms are in your Orderly Room/Sqn Office now and need to be processed by the end of September.

The White Helmets

216 PARACHUTE SIGNAL SQUADRON

ARNHEM BARRACKS
ALDERSHOT
HANTS, GU11 2AU
TEL: ALD MIL 4549

1995 PRE-PARACHUTE BUILD UP COURSES **ALL ARMS P COMPANY**

COURSE	DATES	DATES
A/95	16 JAN - 03 FEB	05 -24 FEB
B/95	03 - 21 APR	23 APR - 12 MAY

VOLUNTEERS ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED TO FILL PARACHUTE POSTS AT 216.

POTENTIAL APPLICANTS SHOULD COMPLETE:
ANNEX M TO CHAPTER 43, AGAIS VOL 2 AVAILABLE IN THE UNIT ADMIN OFFICE
AND CONTACT THE TRAINING WING AT 216 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION INCLUDING A PREPARATORY HANDBOOK.

DEATHS

Armstrong-Whitworth–Maj G. C. H. Armstrong-Whitworth–died 27 November 1993
Cadwell–WO2 C. R. Cadwell–served 1932-53–died 9 June 1994
Edwards–Sgt W. T. Edwards–served 1925-46–died 17 May 1994
Heffer–Capt E. S. Heffer OBE–died 20 March 1994
Heritage–In-Pensioner (Dvr) R. J. Heritage–served 1939-46–died 23 May 1994
Maskell–Sgt D. L. Maskell–served 1942-46–died 23 June 1994
Pettit–LCpl S. E. Pettit–served 1942-46–died 2 July 1994
Underwood–SSgt H. P. Underwood–served 1944-70–died 28 June 1994
Wallwork–Sig H. Wallwork–served 1932-46–died 29 April 1994
White–Maj L. F. White–died 2 February 1994
Wildy–Maj A. J. Wildy–died 29 November 1993

OBITUARIES

Barker–Sgt Bernard Gerald Barker who served in the Corps from 1940 to 1946 died on 14 June 1994. He took part in the Normandy Landings as part of the Guards Armoured Brigade and later served in Germany. We send our condolences to his family.

Carter–Sig W. Carter died on 18 May 1994 after a fall whilst climbing, off-duty, at Tossa De Mar on the Costa Brava. **Billy,** 23, joined the TA and 55 Sig Sqn (V) at Aintree Barracks, Liverpool on 29 January 1989. The following May he attended and obtained a very good pass on No 219 recruit course at 11 Sig Regt. After attaining Class 2 Radio Operator in 1990 he volunteered for P Company training and gained his para wings at Brize Norton on 1 August 1991. In civilian life **Billy** was a tour company operator. A first class radio operator and popular member of the Squadron who will be sadly missed on rear link detachments and by all ranks of the Squadron. We extend our sympathy to his Mother and Father who live in Crosby.

Cooley–Sig Alexander Agnew 'Sandy' **Cooley** who served in the Corps from March 1949-November 1954, passed away peacefully on 22 May 1994. We send our condolences to his wife **Pamela**, formerly with Royal Signals, and to their children.

Guest–Capt (Retd) T. Guest. It is with great regret that Liverpool Branch report the death of one of its members, **Tom Guest** on 6 June 1994, after long illness. **Tom** served in the Corps from 1955-1987, with 21 Sig Regt, 4 Armd Bde Sigs and after commissioning with 16 Sig Regt. He was known in the Corps as a footballer and a boxer. When he retired from the Army he became actively involved with the ACF in Birkenhead. He will be much missed in the branch and we served our condolences to his widow, **Ann** and to his two sons.

Humphries–Lt Col D. M. Humphries. It is with great regret that we announce the death on 8th March 1994 of **Lt Col Donald Munro Humphries**, in the Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital in Catterick. **Donald**, as he was affectionately known to his many friends in the Corps and in Richmond, was commissioned in 1939, into the 10th Battalion of the Baluch Regiment, Indian Army. During World War 2 he saw service on the North West Frontier and during Partition.

In 1947 he transferred to the Royal Signals and was posted to Germany. Following a conversion course at the School of Signals, he served in Korea, Malaya, Zaire, BAOR and with the European Long Lines Agency in Paris. He left active service in 1975 and was appointed as School Staff Officer in the Trade training school 8th Signal Regiment as a Retired Officer and continued in that appointment until 1985.

Donald was a man of many interests. In 1974, after some years of part-time study, he graduated as Bachelor of Arts in French at London University. In the same year he and his wife **Miriam** settled in Low Row, Swaledale and both became active in the community life of the Dale. He became Warden and Treasurer of Welbeck Parish church in Low Row and indeed was working on the accounts on the day before his death. Throughout his retirement he maintained his connection with the Corps and Association activities on the golf course.

He was held in affection and respect by his colleagues and friends in the Corps, and in the local community that he enjoyed and continued to serve up to the time of his death. He will be greatly missed by his many personal friends. Our sincere condolences are offered to his wife **Miriam** and his family.

Lloyd–Sgt J. Lloyd. It is with deep regret that the Southampton & District Branch has to report the sudden death of **Jack Lloyd** on 9 June, only two days after he and his wife were present at the Branch monthly meeting.

Jack joined the Corps in 1931 and, after training, was posted to India in 1934 where he served at Meerut and with the Wireless Experimental Section at Cherat. He returned home in 1938 and shortly afterwards transferred to the Reserve but within two months he was recalled in June 1939. He served in France with the BEF and then, after two years in the UK, was posted to Iraq and from there he returned to India for two years.

He returned home in late 1945 for discharge, but after 6 months he signed on again and was posted as PSI of the Engineer Group Signal Troop (TA) in Salisbury and later was transferred to 63 Sig Regt (TA) also in Salisbury.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his widow, **May**, and family. Several members of the Branch, accompanied by the Standard, were present at his funeral.

Simons–WO2 H. A. Simons. Herbert Arthur (Iain) **Simons** was born in October 1919 and died on 4 June 1994. On leaving school he joined the Ericson Telephone Company and, under the guidance of his father, also joined the Territorial Army in 1938, a Royal Engineer Searchlight Regiment. When the unit was embodied for the War, it was thought that his work with Ericson Telephones fitted him better for the Royal Signals which he joined in 1940 becoming a Radio Mechanic. It was at the Training Depot that his fellow recruits could not accept his Christian Name of Herbert and christened him **Iain** which he and even his mother used ever since.

He was posted to India and joined the Special Wireless Group which was tasked to listen in to Japanese radio communications. He soon became a Corporal and his reliability was reflected in an unusual task which was to 'bug' a ship which sailed from India to Basra filled with German nationals being repatriated. He sailed with them putting listening equipment in appropriate places hoping that their conversation would lead to some useful intelligence. Overall this task took three months. He was then given another job. All alone he was to take some Direction Finding Equipment 1,000 miles into Burma leaving Calcutta by train in Kashta, then by river boat to Dhaka, then on by train again to Chittagong; hence by road through Cox's Bazaar to Akyab and so to his destination, another Special Wireless Unit.

By 1944 when he returned to UK he was a CQMS, became a Regular and extended his knowledge of Radio engineering, served in many Regular and TA units at home and overseas and finally left the Army as WO2 and proudly wearing the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. This award typified his utter integrity, devotion to duty and to his Corps.

Subsequently he joined the Ministry of Defence Police where he met **Reita,** herself of equal rank in the TA (and it may be said of similar standing!) When the East Kent Branch was formed, **Iain** and **Reita** were amongst the founder members and he joined the Committee. Of his 75 years, 50 were spent in the Army, Regular Army, TA or the Association and recently he was rewarded with receiving the R Signals 50 Year Badge.

He is survived by his widow, **Reita** and his daughter, **Barbara** by a previous marriage, and his two grandchildren.

Voyse–Sig Brian Voyse 31 May 1965-13 April 1994. **Sig Brian Voyse** served as a Radio Relay operator at 21 Sig Regt, 7 Armoured Brigade Sig Sqn and finally at 19 Mechanised Brigade HQ and Sig Sqn (209).

Brian will be sadly missed by all those who knew him. He leaves his wife **Helen**, and our thoughts are with her.

Donations, if desired, to The Soldiers Widows and Widowers Fund.

MOUNT PLEASANT PEAK

Memorial Service at Mount Pleasant Peak
Comd British Forces Maj Gen I. C. Mackay-Dick
Maj J. M. Gale, OC JCUFI laid wreaths at a service in memory of those who lost their lives in the Falklands Conflict held on 6 June 1994. 73 servicemen attended the Service

NOTICES

CORPS DATES

*4 November	Corps Scottish Dinner, Glasgow
10 November	Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey
*24 November	Royal Signals Institution London Lecture
13 December	Corps Carol Service, London

Application Forms for those events marked with an * are to be found at the back of The White List and The Retired Supplement.

THE LONDON LECTURE

The London Lecture will be given by **Sir John Bourn KCB**, Controller and Auditor General; title, 'What is Value for Money in Government?'

229 (BERLIN) SIGNAL SQUADRON FAREWELL TO BERLIN PARADE

Nick Cleveland has a short video of the disbandment parade held on 28 April 1994. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy, please contact him on Gt Yarmouth (0493) 665045.

MESS PRESENTATION ITEMS, 13TH SIGNAL REGIMENT (RADIO)

The Officers' and the Sergeants' Messes at Birgelen will close at the end of this year with the creation of a new unit based on 399 Signals Unit at RAF Digby. The respective Messes at Digby will include personnel from the Royal Corps of Signals, the Intelligence Corps and the Adjutant General's Corps.

It is the wish of the Commanding Officers of both 13th Signal Regiment (Radio) and 399 Signals Unit that as much memorabilia as possible be transferred to RAF Digby in order to reflect the joint nature of the Messes. Items not transferred to Digby will be disposed of by the Messes in a proper manner, reflecting the deed of presentation.

If you made a presentation to either mess at Birgelen and wish your presentation item to be returned to you or to be disposed of other than in the manner previously described, then please write to the PMC of the relevant Mess stating your wishes by **1 September 1994**.

THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND AND THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Founded on 15 August 1944 under the patronage of His Majesty King George VI–the Army Benevolent Fund celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year.

The ABF provides help to serving soldiers and ex-soldiers, and their families when they are in real need. Financial help is given to individuals through our Association, supplemented where necessary by grants from their Funds. In addition to this, the ABF gives financial support, on our behalf to those national charitable oganisations which provide for the special needs of soldiers and their families–SSAFA, FHA, BLESMA, Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society, etc.

Each year the Association make a large donation to the ABF in the order of £50,000. In return they give us strong and very generous support with our individual cases. In sum we get far more back from the ABF than we give them in our annual donations. Indeed we rely heavily upon them.

Please support them locally if you get the chance. In this, their 50th Anniversary year, we wish them well, but more so thank them for their very generous support to our signallers.

WANTED

'Royal Signals' embossed ceremonial Wilkinson Sword. Are you retired or leaving the Service shortly and wish to sell your ceremonial sword? If so please contact: **Capt A. G. Hill**, CIS Training Wing, The Royal School of Signals, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8RH. Tel: (Working hours Blandford Mil Ext 2561. Any other time (0258) 456865).

WIRE PHOTOGRAPHS

Please do not ask for photographs, sent for publication in *The Wire*, to be returned, unless they are irreplaceable.

Contributors should be aware of the fact that although every care is taken with contributions, they should not risk losing a photograph that cannot be replaced.

8th SIGNAL REGIMENT

CATTERICK GARRISON

FAREWELL CELEBRATIONS

13th/14th October 1994

13th - Corps Dinner	14th - Farewell Parade	14th - Warrant Officers' Dinner
	Contact : Trg Maj 8 Sig Regt	Contact : RSM 8 Sig Regt

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please advise the Subscriptions Clerk at RHQ, IN WRITING, of any change of address. This information should not be telephoned.

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 Jobcentres. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers, Jobcentres and local telephone directories.

During the period 1 April 1993 – 31 March 1994 the Association assisted 12,771 men and women with their resettlement and placed 4,823 in employment. Of those placed 2,794 were men and women from the Army and 264 were from your Corps.

The price of *The Wire* will increase to £1.50 per copy, £9 per annum from February 1995

LETTERS

From: Mr J. C. E. Prentice (ex SQMS)

Dear Sir

The article in the June issue of *The Wire*, 'Crazy Cameos No 1 (Form Fours)' is not as crazy as one may think. With two other regular Signalmen I was transferred from Catterick in November 1939 to a newly formed unit, London District Signals at the Duke of York's HQ Chelsea.

The unit was a mixed bag of Signalmen and Junior NCOs from several TA and Yeomanry units. The only senior NCO was an ex Guards sergeant, reservist. He was dressed in a blue suit with three stripes on an armband on his right upper arm.

On the first parade he lined up the unit in two ranks and after numbering gave the order, Form Fours. I was the only one to move into the correct position. After ranting and raving at the rank and file (as is the custom of drill sergeants), he asked me why I was the only one to obey the command.

I explained that prior to joining the Corps I was for four years a Royal Fusilier army cadet, and had been trained to drill in both three and four ranks, so being a well trained soldier, I instantly obeyed the order. I told him we no longer drilled or formed four ranks.

He had been so long on the reserve list that he was out of touch with modern methods of drill. He then cancelled the parade, and went to acquire an up-to-date book of Army drill. We three regulars were used as his guinea pigs before he took another full parade.

Later in my service I attended a junior NCOs' Drill and Duties course at Harrogate and a Senior NCOs' Drill course at the Scots Guards depot at Pirbright, learning the 'customs' of the Drill Sergeant in the process.

Yours faithfully
Jim Prentice

22 Duncryne Place
Kenmure Grove
Bishopbriggs
Glasgow G64 2DP

From: Maj (Retd) Alan H. Rudd

Dear Sir

Reference the June 1994 issue at Echoes From The Past, I offer the following.

A Royal Signals Training Centre in September 1939. During a 'Stand Easy', the Cadre NCO sought to encourage this squad with the following. 'There was a group of 'Old Sweats' having 'Char and Wads' at a table in the corner of a canteen and recalling times past. Yes, said a Guardsman, when we are on parade it is left-right, left-right as one; oh said a Royal Signaller we do it left-right, clinkerty-clink, left-right, clinkerty-clink. Hey, said the Guardsman, what is all this clinkerty-clink. Oh, said the Royal Signaller, that is our Medals.'

Yours faithfully
Alan H. Rudd CEng, MIEE

P.S. What a pity it is that so many of our functions nowadays are 'Medals are not worn'. This is surely a discourtesy to the Monarch who awarded them.

18 Romney Court, Winchelsea Gardens
Worthing, W. Sussex BN11 5EU

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED SIX WEEKS BEFORE THE PUBLICATION DATE

FINANCIAL PLANNING

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

FINANCIAL PROTECTION	–against the effects of possessions 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.

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

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

OUR ADVICE is free and does not commit you to any action: we only ask that any arrangements you decide to make be made through us. It is based on over 46 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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REPORT FROM ULSTER

XV HQNI and 15 Sig Regt BFPO 801

CO — **Lt Col C. L. Le Gallais**
2IC — **Maj G. J. Cary**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) R. C. Cory**

QM DEPT

A busy couple of months with all accountants now LGV trained–some may find this interesting (RSM & RO), but does this now qualify us to deliver MFO as well as move it?

The QM **Maj Gus Boag** has just returned from Cyprus sporting sunburn following his 'recce' prior to taking up his appointment as HQ Sqn Comd, 9 Sig Regt. We wish **Maj Boag** and **Freda** good fortune and welcome **Maj Fred Bancroft** as his successor and **Christine.**

Sgt Sparky Haynes who has broken the duck and has been selected for promotion to SSgt, is on his way to Gibraltar; at least the Irish trout population can breathe a sigh of relief.

Congratulations and best wishes to **Sparky, Debs** and family. Also due to leave us are **Cpl Dave Chapman** (sent to Coventry; well 30 Sig Regt at Bramcote) and **Cpl Martin Wright** on his way to 3 (UK) Div HQ Sig Regt.

We congratulate **Cpl Martin Wright** and **Pippa** on the birth of their daughter, **Libby.**

The elusive redundee **Cpl Tony Foat** continues in his job-hunting and resettlement quest. The Sweeper Society greets its new junior member, **LCpl Alex** 'Dick van' **Dack** and his wife **Kay.**

QM's Dept at near full manning!
Rear *(L to R)*: LCpl Dack, Cpls MacDonald, Wright, Bayliss, Chapman
Front *(L to R)*: Sgt Haynes, WO2 (RQMS) Mullen, Maj Boag, SSgt Carpanini, Sgt Henry

225 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Stewart Sharman**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Yarwood**

On April 8 the Squadron was well represented in the first event of the Officers v SNCOs annual competitions, namely the Field Sports Competition. Considering the SNCO's had neither barbour or Retriever to their name they did extremely well by winning all the events leaving only the third half up for grabs at the dinner in the Sergeant's Mess. This was also well contested with a draw being announced by the last man to leave.

The combined Mercury Cup/CO's Cup Athletics took place on Wednesday 13 April, a very close competition, that saw 225 Sig Sqn eventual winners after a recount. Well done to all the gladiators. Special mention to **Cpl** 'Gaz' **Campbell** for his efforts in the long jump and to **Cpl Lee Brooks** for running the 100m as if he was chasing sheep back in Wales. The Regiment also took part in the Morrison Cup athletics. The competition was actually beyond the team, as work commitments had dragged many away, so it was individual performances that mattered. In this respect the following athletes deserve a mention; **LCpl Sloan** and **Cpl King** for their performances over 800m and 1500m, **LCpl Costello** for launching his javelin an awfully long way.

Echo Troop said a sad farewell to one of its longest serving members in mid April when **SSgt Shane Knight** left for Germany.

The artists in the Squadron managed to show their skills in the annual Arts & Crafts Fair, the Sqn Comd **Maj Stewart Sharman** was the driving force for this event.

The annual adventure training started with the advance party heading off by road to Scotland to confirm that the local watering holes were suitably stocked. No sooner was this done than the first party of four departed for a week's 'adventure'. Those returning said it was the best adventure training they had ever undergone. Some highlights were **LCpl Lindsay Websters** 7 points of contact climbing technique, **Cpl Steve** 'The Human Fly' **Lille** on the Anoach Egach Ridge.

CO'S CUP CRICKET

This event took place on 11 May on a rare sunny day in NI. On the field 233 Sig Sqn excelled by losing both games comprehensively, leaving 225 and HQ to battle it out in the final. Impressive performances were made by **Capt Bosher** (34 runs in 1 over) and **Sgt Rob Binstead** (77). Special mention to **Sgt** 'Shaggy' **Shaw** (giving away more byes in one match than normally allowed in one season) and **Sig Sam Lee-Davis** (the only woman brave enough to take part!) The result of course was a victory for 225 Sig Sqn . . . again.

233 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj A. W. James**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) W. Gray**

With 'empires' expanding throughout the Squadron the Sqn Comd, **Maj Andy** 'Home' **James** has taken the opportunity to replace his trusty clerk, **Pte Jason** 'Postbag' **Williams** with a LCpl and a 2IC. So we welcome **Capt Simon** 'Chuck' **Spiers** and the 'Pompey' supporters club **LCpl Jim** 'Grunt' **Cooper.**

COMMCEN TROOP

YofS — **WO2 (YofS) Gascoigne**

A busy time for the Troop with **SSgt Ritchie Arundel** moving to the Training Wing; 'at last back into combats' was the cry as he was seen leopard-crawling across the rugby pitch towards the Training Wing. This period also saw **WO1 Millie Jeffery** being short toured suddenly to acquaint herself with the delights of Catterick. **Sgt Caroline Gordon** (nee **Lightfoot**) left the troop and gained a husband; we would all like to extend our best wishes to the newly weds. The Troop says farewell to its redundees **Cpl Jock Gunn, LCpl** 'Beef' **Berger**, and **Debbie Baughan** may they be successful in their job-searching and new found careers.

INDIA TROOP

Tp Comd — **Capt Chris Wood**

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

We welcome the following to the Troop–**SSgt Penny Lewis, Cpl Mick O'Brian, LCpl Jock McCracken, Sigs Chris Potts, Sammy Samuel** and **Ritchie Evans**–we hope they all have a rewarding tour. We say farewell to **WO1 Ian Stewart**, leaving the Army after 22 years service, **Sgt** 'Gaz' **Corrigan** now off to 2 Sig Regt, **Cpl Cliff Clifford** to Civvy Street and **Sig Dilly Dilnot** to 264 Sig Sqn. We wish them all the very best for the future. In addition we would like to congratulate **SSgt Dave** and **Kathleen Inman** on the recent arrival of their baby daughter **Kerry.** Finally, we would like to wish **Sig Stan Holt** very best wishes to him and **Lindsay** on their forthcoming marriage.

ROMEO TROOP

Tp Comd — **Capt A. J. Stringer**

The Troop has undergone some changes of personnel: Sad Farewells go to **WO2 (YofS) Phil Day** who has moved to Herford in Germany with **Michele** and family. **SSgt (FofS) Bob Pullan**, to 39 Inf Bde Sig Sqn on promotion. **Sgt Colin Hawkesworth** to Middle Wallop to begin helicopter pilot training, and to **Cpl Martin Oxley** to NITW. We wish them all the best for the future.

We welcome in their place: **WO2 (YofS) Kev Robinson** from 16 Sig Regt, **SSgt (FofS) Cox** from India Troop, **Sgt** 'Sammy' **Samuel-Camps** from 7 Sig Regt, **Cpls Bob Bleasdale** from 30 Sig Regt, Bear **Convery** from 19 Mech Bde Sig Sqn and **Steve Wilson** from The Royal School of Signals.

Thanks go to whoever organised this year's Troop barbecue. As usual a great time was had by everyone.

VOLLEYBALL

This year the Regimental volleyball team successfully defended both the NI League and Knockout Championships. Unfortunately, in the recent UKLF and Army Championships we were unable to retain the title but came runners-up in the UKLFs and beaten by the eventual winners 9/12 Lancers in the Army semi-finals.

NI WATERPOLO AND SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The NI Waterpolo and swimming championships took place in Lisburn on the 25/26 May. Under the watchful eye of their intrepid leader **WO2 (SSM) Yarwood** the team successfully wiped out the opposition in the waterpolo to become NI Champions, and were just beaten into second place in the swimming by the Welsh Guards.

III 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn BFPO 809

SHQ

Sqn Comd — **Maj G. J. T. Rafferty**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) D. E. Hall**

SHQ has finally said a sad farewell to **Cpl Bob Martin** who has gone to try out G2 work at HQBFFI. We welcome in his place **Cpl Carl Merrey** who has travelled from the Falkland Islands. Also new in SHQ is **LCpl** 'Windy' **Miller** who has arrived from 4 Sqn RAF. To **Carl** and **Windy** have a safe and pleasant tour.

SSgt 'Hoppy' **Hopkins** has yet again been away on Adventure training, this time it was in France helping out 2 (NC) Sig Bde and proving that being on the strength of the unit does not mean that you have to work in the Squadron. But with the reliable team of clerks led by **Cpl Martin**, the Chief was not really missed. In the midst of all this the AO, **Maj Eddie Wright** managed to grab a few weeks holiday in Spain.

NORTHERN IRELAND HONOURS AND AWARDS

The Squadrons congratulations go to **SSgt** (now Mr) **Al Toner** who was awarded the MBE, whilst being employed as BTLO.

The Squadron also congratulates another old member, **Maj Hem Goshai** RAMC who received a GOC's Commendation.

WHYNGE INN NIGHT

The RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Duncan Hall** decided to organise a Restaurant Night in the Whynge Inn. A few rules were produced; the clientele had to be Corporal or below, the waiters had to be Sgts or above. The event was heavily oversubscribed and a great night was had by all; not only was the food excellent, but some of the junior ranks enjoyed the boot being on the other foot. The RSM is now taking orders . . . booking orders that is, for the next night.

The Waiters: Sgt Eric O'Halloran, Sgt Jed Robinson, Sgt Craig Blake *(in the background)*, Sgt Tony Lee and last but not least the RQMS WO2 Bob Stanton (note the pose and headdress!)

OPS

Ops Offr — **Capt R. W. Lapslie**

Notes from the Ops Offr. With the YofS away on leave again I have had to drag myself away from the New Zealand plans desk to write these notes. Sqn Ops has been very busy over the last few months being heavily involved in the communications requirements for the rebuild of Crossmaglen SF Base, an operation that involved the largest helicopter insertion ever mounted by the Army. A change of OC on almost day one of the Operation has allowed the Ops Cell to run with the plan, although all correspondence now has an 'and' and not an '&' in the Unit Title. **SSgt David Little** completed his tour with the Squadron and he has now moved on to RMA Sandhurst where we wish him and his family a peaceful tour. **SSgt Phil Skene** has arrived with his wife **Diane** and Boris the dog who is challenging Tilly, my dog for primacy in the Ops Room.

LCpl Wooding the clerk who ran Ops has taken Phase 3 Redundancy. He has left for Colchester with his wife, an RMP Corporal, for his final six months, where he intends to get into the brewing business at which he will do very well. Also, he is now near to his beloved West Ham United. **LCpl Wooding** has been replaced by **Sig Rob Oakman**. We have now moved from stories about West Ham to Chelsea. However, he has not spoken about the Cup Final very much, but then again neither has the Chief Clerk!

Back to the main function of Ops: Ex Aoraki Fin, the Royal Signals Northern Ireland Expedition to celebrate the Corps 75th Anniversary. If anyone out there has any contacts in NZ, who may be able to help then please give me a call on Fastnet Portadown 47595 or 0762 360395. The Expedition will be away between 7 October-20 November, with the aim of climbing Mount Cook and trekking some of the southern Alps long distance paths.

Finally, on a more serious note, one of the Brigade staff officers was killed in the tragic Mull of Kintyre Chinook crash on 2 June. All of the Unit sympathies go to his wife and three young children. At his farewell speech, the previous Brigade Commander, **Brig Erskine-Crum** noted that of the seven British soldiers killed on operations in 1993, one was killed in Bosnia and 6 were killed in the 3 Brigade TAOR. A sad fact which focuses the mind.

COMMS TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt R. S. Gibson**
Tp Sgt — **Sgt G. Robinson**

In the true spirit of life in Northern Ireland the Troop has been too busy working over the last two months to achieve much more than to cope with the mountain of daily tasks sent our way from the Sqn Ops team. Only a handful of escapees have managed to get away on career courses and in some cases even leave. Tp Comd, **Lt Rob Gibson**, managed to get himself on P Coy only to return earlier than anticipated, apparently Phase 2 now takes place in the Dominican Republic, or so the postcard says! **LCpl Chris Green** completed his RSDCC with a creditable performance truly earning him the unofficial title 'Son of Bullet'. A belated well done to **Sig** 'Butch' **Tweddle** on passing his PTI course earlier in the year.

The Emerald Isle is obviously having an effect on the passion level within the Troop. **LCpl Rachael Sutton** (nee Simpson), **LCpls Si Nicholson**, **Viv Holloway** and **Sig Iwan Lambert Roberts** have all decided to take the plunge and get married. Good luck and our best wishes go to you all for the future. Singlies look out!

The Province model railway club bid a fond farewell to **LCpl John Peach** on his way to 207 Sig Sqn and wish him all the best for the future. Also goodbye to **Sig Tracie Main** off to 16 Sig Regt and **Cpl Fran Geddes** off to 243 Sig Sqn, best wishes and good luck to you both. Arriving to take over the stirling tasks performed by those posted are **Cpl Craig Hale, LCpl Mick Ross** and **Sigs Mark Lane, Wendy Moore, Robert Oakman** and **Karen O'Keeffe**. Welcome to you all and remember Work Harrrddd! Also welcome to **Mandy Brazier** on detachment from 238 Sig Sqn for two months to help out in the Crypto Cell (What do they do in there?).

Finally congratulations to Tilley, the 2IC's dog, for surviving the three month point–remember you're on borrowed time now so make the most of it.

This months ode: If you're not working, you're sleeping, if you're not working or sleeping you're on a course. If you are not working, sleeping or on a course you're on leave. If you are not working, sleeping, on a course or on leave you must be employed by Ops rebuilding Crossmaglen.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

Sqn Comd **Maj S. D. Hodges**

SHQ TROOP

For the first time in ages no-one actually departed from the Troop or, for that matter, arrived to join our illustrious ranks. The main event of the past few months was the visit of OIC Manning and Records, **Col M. J. C. Galloway OBE**, to the Squadron. The purpose – to brief the Officers and Seniors on soldiers career prospects into the next century, followed by a briefing to the entire Squadron on what lay ahead for them. In the near future **Col Galloway** intends to bring his desk clerks on a similar visit to see what life in Londonderry has to offer.

Colonel Galloway signs the Visitors Book

The Squadron has been host to two more young officers straight from RMA Sandhurst. **2Lts Jurgen Wilson** and **Tim Jeffrey** have been dropped in at the deep end, and as well as deploying on Brigade Area Repair Team (BART) taskings and comms trials, they have been out on the streets with 4 and 5 R Irish respectively.

Finally, congratulations are in order for **WO2 (YofS) Norman Bain** and his wife **Jane** on the birth of their baby daughter, **Hannah**.

COMMS TROOP

Cpl Pete Clements has been rushed off his feet after being thrown comms trial after comms trial by the Ops/Plans Cell. In addition he has had to act as minder for the two young officers ensuring that they didn't end up where they shouldn't be. He was hoping for an easy time prior to his posting to The Royal School of Signals. Fat chance!

On the subject of postings, we welcome into the fold **Cpl Phil Smithurst** who came from 216 (Para) Sig Sqn and has been seen trying to get away with wearing his old airborne stable belt (not on the RSM's patch you don't). **LCpl Kendra Cooper** is also given a warm welcome by the Troop as she joins us from 16 Sig Regt. Unfortunately the Troop is not without its losses; **Cpl Jez Hornsby** and his wife **Rachel** leave us for sunny England to join 238 Sig Sqn and are given our best wishes for the future.

The 8 Brigade Hells Angels Syndicate (**Sgt Pete** 'Virago' **Howson** and **LCpl Steve Reeves**) have been hoping for a couple of new members to make it into the 8 Brigade Chapter. **Cpls Bob** 'Snakebite' **Garlick** and 'Taff' **Thomas** finally made it in after recently passing their tests, however, they are all concerned about two possible members of the Chapter; **Sgt** 'Charlie' **Brown** appears to have traded in his leathers for a new car, and **Lt** 'El Tee' **Sutherland** unfortunately injured himself while trying to recover from a tumble off his Armstrong.

Wally of the Month goes to **LCpl Mick Law** who insisted that the Frequency Programmer was broken when he tried to input VHF frequencies into a UHF radio. After picking himself up off the floor **Sig John Massey** showed him the error of his ways and made a point of ensuring that everyone knew about his misfortune.

There has been a bit of 'all change' in the Troop recently with **Cpl Russ Jardine** moving from the secretive world of the Crypto Cell to the Rear Link post with the Welsh Guards. **Sig John** 'Pugsley' **Henry** makes history by moving from the Commcen to SYSCON to become the first ever Tele Op (Data) to work there. **Sigs John** 'The Pro' **Prigent** and 'Caz' **Carrington** also leave the Commcen behind to become **Cpl Pete Clements'** little helpers in Comms Trials.

Finally, **Cpl** 'Oz' **Faramus** is congratulated on his recent promotion, and for getting himself and **Cpl Ian Hughes** safely back from Corfu, and not a broken jaw in sight.

LCpl Steve 'Ninja' Reeves preparing to don his helmet prior to a rig with the Sqn Comd

TM TROOP

Starting off with the farewells this month, the Troop has lost two of its stalwart members; **Cpl** 'Tina' **Turner** and **Cpl Bob** 'Memory Man' **Barker** (a complete BART team gone forever) leave us for sunnier climes, to 620 Sig Tp and 7 Sig Regt respectively. We wish them all the best for the future. The warm and sloppy welcomes go to **Cpl Steve Davies-Morris, Andy** 'Question Master' **Reed, LCpl Martin Dixon**, and last, but, by no means least, **Sig Terry** 'Mech' **Brooke**.

The Troop has been working hard recently (its true!) preparing for the annual inspection of all our sites by Racal. In addition there have been numerous demonstrations to a plethora of visitors, which have taken the Sqn Comd on visits and rigs to most of our sites.

Despite not enough hours in a day, no white zip-ties, and no more RUC meals, the Troop have still had time to fit in a stag trip to Blackpool, a bikers trip to the Isle of Man and a few hill walking trips in Provence arranged by **Sig Greg Cunningham**. The Troop Comd, **SSgt Nick Preston** has finally managed to get his adventure training expedition to Dent off the ground after a year and a half of planning, and timed it perfectly so that he would be in hospital having an operation on his leg. Better luck in your next posting. Start planning now.

MT TROOP

Our new arrivals were sent straight on NIRTT and were then immediately put under the eagle eye of the RSM, **WO1 D. A. Wright**, on the Squadron training camp to learn their anti-ambush skills in civilian vehicles. Now that they are fully paid up members of the Troop a warm welcome is extended to **LCpls Billy Pollock** and 'Geordie' **Leader**, and **Ptes** 'Taff' **Roach**, 'Speedy' **Winder** and **Kim Barlow**.

The Troop annual dinner night was held recently with **Cpl Andy Dutton** as the Master of Ceremonies and **LCpl Dave** 'Tom Jones' **Harman** serenading the guests and Troop throughout dinner.

A sad farewell to **LCpl John Kielty** and his wife **Elizabeth** on their departure to Osnabruck and an even bigger farewell to our Boss, **WO2 (MTWO) Steve Appleby**. You will both be sorely missed and we wish you all the best for the future.

QM TROOP

The moment we have all been waiting for has finally arrived. The advent of the new URS store after it was scrapped several years ago, will bring with it a much more efficient and better equipped team for operational support to deployments. The problems of being a technical unit relying on infantry back-up were complicated to say the least. **Sgt Mick Boehm** and **LCpl** 'Smack' **McCormack** are finally being rushed off their feet trying to get everything in order.

The happy bit–we welcome to the Troop **Cpls Steve Cooney** and **Dougie Coid** (back for his second tour in five years), and **Pte Mark Ling**. The sad bit–we say a sad farewell to **Sgt Richie Clatworthy** who leaves us to become a civvy, **Sgt John Hack**, off to Hong Kong (what about the postcard?), **LCpl Gary Griffith**, to Colchester, and finally, **LCpl Steve Seaby** who gets another sunshine posting, Gibraltar – all the best.

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

Sqn Comd **Maj I. J. Bradshaw**
2IC **Capt C. J. Whitehead**

CHANGEOVER OF BRIGADE COMMANDER

April saw the departure of the Brigade Commander, **Brig A. S. H. Irwin OBE** (late Black Watch). The Brigadier was given a fitting send off, with the Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron personnel lining the route. 321 EOD Coy provided an ATO wheelbarrow for the Brigadier to sit on and he was piped out by **LCpl Duthie** of the Black Watch.

On the arrival of, the new Brigade Commander, **Brig S. H. R. H. Munro** (late Queen's Own Highlanders), one of his first duties was to visit his Signal Squadron. The various departments in the Squadron produced displays, covering the different and varied roles the Squadron fulfils. The Brigadier declined an offer from the rigging section to climb the Brigade mast, however he seemed to enjoy his introduction to our soldiers and their work.

'Well, we'll start on one about this high and progress upwards' Sgt Laverie and LCpl Artigan explain rigging to Brig Monro

EXERCISE MOURNE MINDER

During May the Squadron ran two identical training exercises in and around the Ballykinler Training Camp. Ex Mourne Minders 1 and 2 saw half of the Squadron at a time brave the elements of Ballykinler for a four-day training period under the direction of the **RSM WO1 Pete McElwee** and his merry band of instructors. The aims of the exercise were to improve weapon handling with the weapons carried on duty by all persons in the Squadron and to put the Squadron through their paces with an arduous march across the Mourne Mountains.

The first two days of both exercises formed the weapons phase, during which all soldiers fired the Northern Ireland APWT on both the rifle and the pistol. Those who successfully passed these went on to fire a top cover shoot from moving 'Snatch' landrover, a pistol shoot from inside civilian vehicles and pistol fire, and manoeuvre drills in an attacking and evasive mode using both the 9 mm Browning and the Walther PS.

During the little time left for background activities we managed to fit in First Aid training and map reading revision in preparation for the next phase, and just to ensure all were fit enough for the tabs, a CFT was thrown in for good measure.

The second phase of the exercise was down to the **RQMS WO2 Chris Skelton** who organised a 30 mile tab over the Mourne Mountains taking in the best views (when there is no cloud or mist in the Province). The soldiers were grouped into teams of four and set loose at the foot of Slieve Donard. With an immediate climb of 850m they moved off bright and early on day one of the tab. For most it was a good 13 hour march to the harbour area for a night under the stars. The second day started with a 0300 hrs reveille and move off from 0400 hrs. The first day was tough, the second day was sheer hell, more hills, no tracks, tired, and with sore feet, nevertheless the majority finished in fine spirits but it certainly tested navigational skills fitness and for some, moral fibre.

Overall, the exercises were a great success and the Squadron is now busy getting the five P's in order for Ex Mourne Minder 3 and 4 which will take place later in the year.

SQUADRON SHOOTING TEAM

Under the direction of the team captain, **Sgt Gaz Ashcroft**, a team was put together for the Royal Signals skills at arms meeting in May.

The team arrived at the four star Alma Dettingen barracks on Friday and set out to recce the local area for watering holes (a good pub guide is available on request). This activity was interrupted in order to zero the weapons prior to the competition on Monday.

The first day was an outstanding success with the team winning the Minor Units Fibua Match, gaining such a massive lead that they won it! Things became even better as the week progressed as the team won the Pistol Tiles (beating 30 Sig Regt in the final), then going on to win the Minor Units Parachute Cup and finishing as runners up in the Team Snap. This was enough to win the Minor Units Championships.

After a most enjoyable week in England the team returned to the Province and underwent major changes (due to work commitments) before the NISAAM. The week at Ballykinler was another success, with the team winning Minor Units Rifle Championship and the overall Minor Units Championships.

Overall, two oustanding results with some excellent individual results and a total of nine trophies for the (now too small!) display cabinet. Well done to all those who took part.

The victorious shooting team
(L to R) Sigs Beddow, Crooks, Sgt Ashcroft, Capt Whitehead, Cpl Forster, LCpl Holmes

24 HOUR BOWLATHON

Six members of the Squadron recently organised and participated in a bowling marathon in aid of the Royal Signals Museum Fund. The team consisted of **Cpls** 'Taff' **Skey**, and **Tom Hill**, **LCpls Matt Booth** and 'Shaz' **Wilson**, **Sigs** 'Steff' **Carroll** and **Bob Hansford**.

After the 24 hours all were tired, aching and had blistered fingers but many pins were knocked down and hundreds of strikes were scored (mostly by **LCpl Booth**!) and most importantly another £250 was raised for the Corps Museum.

Thanks must go to the bowling alley staff for their support and to all who took part playing or cheering them on. Congratulations for a magnificent effort.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Hellos must go to **Sgt Chapman** R Irish, our new training sergeant, **Cpls Witchell** and **Kev Ingley** (have you tried Juice Plus yet?) and **Pte** 'Geordie' **Ward**.

Farewell and congratulations to **Cpl Dave Scragg** on his promotion and posting to Cyprus and to **Pte Mick Bennett** who is going off to the Falklands on popular demand.

Finally, congratulations to **LCpl Harris** who was presented his Long Service and Good Conduct medal by **Brig Irwin**.

- News from Headquarters -

The Royal School of Signals
Blandford Camp

MENTION IN DESPATCHES AND LS & GC MEDAL AWARDS

On Wednesday 18 May, the Comd, **Brig J. H. Griffin**, presented a Mentioned in Despatches to **Sgt M. A. Main** in recognition of distinguished service whilst serving with 15 Sig Regt. The Commander also presented six LS & GC Medals to **SSgts Tony Gaston, Stephen Hodgson**, and **Russel Duckworth, Sgts Ralf Johnson, Tony Scoins** and **Michael Bailey**. The Regiment congratulates them all on their achievements.

The Commander and RSM join the recipients and families at the MID and LS & GC Medal presentation

VISIT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE HUNGARIAN COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION DIRECTORATE

During the summer of 1993, in support of CDS's policy of offering assistance to former Eastern Bloc countries, a party from the Royal School of Signals, headed by the Commander, **Brig John Griffin**, visited the Hungarian Home Defence Forces (HHDF) in Budapest to establish liaison with its Signals' Staff.

The visit was most successful, in terms of the frank, cordial and fruitful discussions which resulted and it was quite clear that the HHDF were very anxious to establish close relationships with the British Army. The view held by both delegations, of the key part which communications plays in any multinational, combined or UN operation, was almost certainly the major factor in achieving such rapport so quickly and so easily. The two Signal Corps share a number of problems, and there was considerable philosophical overlap.

The Hungarian visitors pose for a photograph in front of Windsor Castle

The MOD-sponsored return visit took place in early June and was based on the Royal School of Signals, Blandford. **Maj Gen Zoltan Priol** and his Staff Officers (**Lt Col Janos Mikita, Lt Col Istvan Ternyak** and **Lt Col Istvan Wapper**, who had all been involved in the UK delegation's visit to Hungary) were met at Heathrow by the Commander, COS **Lt Col Ian Strong MBE** and their Escort Officer, **Maj Tony Sugdon**.

The party was very kindly hosted to lunch at Windsor Castle by the Castle Governor, **Maj Gen Peter Downward** and three late R Signals Military Knights of Windsor: **Brig** 'Flags' **Atkinson, Brig Tim Hackworth** and **Maj Peter Bolton** before being given a conducted tour of the Castle, State Apartments and St George's Chapel.

During their stay, **Gen Priol** and his staff visited: 68 (IC & CY) Sig Sqn (V) at Lincoln's Inn; 21 Sig Regt (AS) at Colerne; HQ 2 (NC) Sig Bde in Corsham, where they also received a short but, detailed, briefing on the activities of HQ DCN; 30 Sig Regt in Bramcote; RMCS Shrivenham and 5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (216 Para). One full day was spent in Blandford, where the General was received by a Quarter Guard with the Royal Signals Staff Band before visiting CIS Training Wing and CIS Engineering Wing and Soldiers of 11 Sig Regt.

CIS ENGINEERING WING

On Monday 16 May, the Royal School welcomed its new US Army Exchange Officer, **Maj Dwight Reed**. **Maj Reed** and his wife **Mariann** and daughter **Catherine,** join us from 7 Sig Bde US Army Europe where he was Plans and Exercise Officer. His new assignment here in Blandford will involve work in the Doctrine, Planning and Integration Division of the CIS Engineering Wing. **Maj Reed** and his family will be here for the next two years and he is the 15th US Signal Corps officer to be assigned to the Royal School of Signals since 1964. **Maj Reed** replaces **Lt Col Bob Sinclair** who, with his wife **Joan** and children **Michelle, William** and **Lisa** leave Blandford to assume command of 24 Signal Battalion, based in Fort Stewart in Georgia. Our best wishes for continued success go with them.

Lt Col Bob Sinclair presents the Commander with a farewell gift to be displayed in the USA Room at the Royal School. The Gift is a framed chronology of Operation Desert Storm which also depicts the ground campaign of participating nations

REGIMENTAL SHOOTING TEAM

Whilst most of the Royal School was enjoying block leave, 11 Sig Regt Shooting Team was competing in the Royal Signals Skill-At-Arms Meeting (SAAM), at Ash Ranges in Surrey. By the end of the week the team was in possession of a certain amount of silver, and despite the rumours, none of it has been stolen! 'Reiths' Rifles', as the team has become known, were raised some two months earlier from willing (?) members of Systems Exercise Troop and anyone else who mentioned that they could shoot. It is rumoured that **WO1 Graham Reith** can hear a whispered voice at over 200m if they are talking about shooting. The Regiment entered three teams of five, each captained by an officer and each having a mix of experience. The results at the end of the week were pretty healthy. In the pistol competition, the Regiment has achieved six shots in the top 12 with 3rd place going to **Sig Paul Albone**. The Officer team of **Capt Damian Chubb** and **2Lts Col Kell** and **Mark Harrop** had come third in the Pistol Tiles and the Pistol Team competition. On the rifle, **Sgt Yam** won two individual rifle competitions, the Roupell and the Association, and came fourth overall. He was also selected for the Corps Methuen Team which won the Inter-Corps Match and the Woolwich Bowl. **2Lt Mark Harrop** won the Short Range Target Rifle competition and **LCpl Sven Gronn** won the LSW match. **Sig Randy Randerson** finally won the Best Young Soldier Shot after a dramatic shoot-out with **Sig Young** of 30 Sig Regt. **Sig Lee Lello** was the best 'B' Class Shot in the Association Cup. The best team performance came in the LSW competition where the Regimental Gunners namely **LCpl Sven Gronn, Sig Randy Randerson** and **Capt Damian Chubb** came 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively. Another creditable performance was in the Parachute Regiment Cup, when the three Regimental teams came 2nd, 3rd and 5th respectively. In the overall competition the 'A' Team of **2Lt Mark Harrop, Sgt Yam, Cpl Andy Sergeant, LCpl Sven Gronn** and **Sig Paul Albone** were narrowly beaten into 3rd place by 8 Sig Regt. Congratulations go to the Squad on a fine effort after such a short training period.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MOTORCYCLE DISPLAY TEAM
THE WHITE HELMETS

OC RSDT	**Lt Col L. R. J. Tilson**
OC WH	**Capt R. Deans**
Team SNCO	**Sgt D. Brebner**
Team JNCO	**Cpl P. Elson**

THE OPENING SHOW

The final weeks of April saw The White Helmets completing their final preparations for the 1994 Opening Show. Training continued as normal at Blandford, **Sgt** 'Don' **Brebner** polishing up and adding the finishing touches to this year's 'class act'. Daily routine also included the annual refurbishment of the Triumph Tigers into their summer show trim. The Tigers were facing a mid life crisis after seven years and their daily thrashing under the team riders. For 1994 the team has spent a considerable amount of time raising their overall standard. As they came on parade for the Commander's Inspection, they looked truly immaculate and a real credit to the team riders. A notable event following the team's move from Catterick in January and the first opening show in Blandford Garrison.

The opening show itself was also a success, the Spring sunshine welcomed local schools, families from the Garrison and invited guests alike. **Sgt** 'Don' **Brebner** and **Cpl Paul Elson** led the opening ride, which was followed by a variety of skills demonstrations from new riders, including **Sig** 'Riddler' **Keatley** performing with a broken wrist. Car jumps were completed by **LCpls Gareth Ford** and **Andy Stewart** using the overhauled Armstrong CCM 560s. The fire jumpers were led from the front by the new Team Captain, **Capt Richard Deans**, who immediately earned the first 'Black Peak' of the year for crashing, on impact, after the jump! The remainder of the show was completed without any spills, but it certainly thrilled the morning's spectators.

LCpl 'Tonka' Richardson completes his own unique style of wheelie across the square at Blandford

NEW TEAM MEMBERS

White Helmets were presented by the Commander Blandford Garrison, **Brig J. Griffin**, to the following Corps personnel:

Capt R. Deans–24 (Airmob) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210)
Sig N. Brennan–280 (UK) Sig Sqn
Sig S. Davies–14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sig A. Downer–4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204)
Sig T. Gaffney–1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sig A. Keatley–280 (UK) Sig Sqn
Sig R. Maskell–3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sig S. Quinn–3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sig N. Summons–3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sig L. Taylor–1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sig P. Williams–238 Sig Sqn

THE TOUR–PHASE ONE

The first phase of the UK tour involved a circuit of England and included 18 displays at various locations between Blandford, Guildford and Carlisle. In addition to the taxing workload over the two week period, the team experienced a number of minor dramas. **Sig** 'Dan' **Maskell** left the arena and ploughed into the crowd at Leicester, without cuasing any injuries, and **Sig** 'Riddler' **Keatley** was also carried off by medics after being ridden over by **Sig** 'Kev' **Mounsey** during the Tableau. **Sig** 'Fosie' **Forster** was lucky to walk away from a serious crash landing on to concrete, during the Car Jump in front of the RSA members' weekend at Blandford. Our next contact with the NHS was at Carlisle where **Sig Gaffney** broke his foot half way around the arena. Nevertheless, he still pushed his Triumph back into the pits before collapsing!

The most serious injury sustained by the team to date occurred at the Staffordshire County Show during mid May. **Sigs Mick Cox** and **Kev Mounsey** had a high speed collision and were swiftly taken to Stafford General where **Sig Kev Mounsey** underwent surgery for a leg injury. Both team members are now making a full recovery back at 11 Regt. The thanks of the whole team goes out to all the Emergency Medical Services for their assistance during these recent turbulent weeks. We never cease to be impressed by their professionalism and dedication. With such an expert team for 1994, riding on the edge and up to extreme limits have perhaps contributed to these spate of accidents. But without such skills and risks being taken the team would not attract its current level of public support or positive PR.

TELEVISION

The team featured in the BBC 'Jim'll Fix It' programme on Sunday 29 May having 'fixed it' for eight years old **Jane** from South Wales. Currently we are focusing upon a fresh challenge from the BBC Record Breakers programme. All plans still remain Top Secret as the 'A' Team riders finalise their skills.

SUMMARY

After a brief period at Blandford the team once again embarked on the second phase of this year's tour, including a six week period of non-stop travel at locations between Kent and Inverness.

- News from Regiments -

1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
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SSAFA FUN RUN AND FETE

On Saturday 16 April the newly formed Herford Station held a 'Fun Run' and Fete to raise funds for SSAFA. Herford Garrison SSAFA Voluntary Committee came up with the idea of a fun run. With a longer course of seven km for the athletes and whipets' and a 4.2 km course for the families. The Regiment stepped in to lend a hand, with runners and activities drawn from all parts of the Unit. Unusually fine weather drew in the crowds to witness the run and sample the stalls. The GOC, **Maj Gen R. A. Cordy-Simpson,** CB, OBE was the official starter for the run; with a creche being provided for the babies and young children, mums, dads and children all ran together. To boost the fund-raising a wide variety of stalls and activities were provided by the Regiment, including face painting, fortune telling, the bomb strike, and a bar and refreshments (naturally). At the end of the day over Dm 4000 was raised for SSAFA, who expressed their appreciation for the hard work everyone put into the event.

Mrs Anne Mills, QMSI White, Mrs Anne Huntley and WO1 (RSM) Spiers at the SSAFA fun day. The ladies are part of the SSAFA voluntary committee

The Bomb Strike, just one of the stalls at the SSAFA fun day

REGIMENTAL DINGHY SAILING COURSE
by LCpl Fisher, 201 Sig Sqn

On a cold and windy morning under the watchful eye of **2Lt Liz Dallyn** we left for the Dummersee Yacht Club. A week of sailing, in what promised to be near arctic conditions, was about to begin. Packing the bus proved to be a problem as **Pte** 'Terry' **James** decided to bring everything she owned, using **Cpl** 'Fluff' **Flaherty** as a bag carrier.

Morale was injected to compensate for the conditions. **Sgt Mark Pounsett** and **Cpl** 'ODS' **O'Donnell** discussed capsize drills and survivability in frozen water!

Once on the water there were some excellent displays of seamanship from the capsize crew, **WO2 Horton, LCpl Fisher, Sigs Pete Toms** and **Paul Brown**. The ramming exploits of **Sigs Ginge Jinks** and **Dave Warrender** were more akin to the dodgems at the funfair than the high seas.

At the end of the week some excellent instruction turned a group of landlubbers into what could be loosely called a group of sailors. Everyone had made the grade and budding sailors now feel ready to tackle the big blue sea.

THE SPECIAL FORCES SCHOOL CLOSE QUARTER BATTLE COURSE

On Sunday 17 April **Cpl Fleming** from 201 Sig Sqn embarked on a CQB course run by the Special Forces School. The following report gives an insight into this two week course.

The first night was spent socialising with the various foreign students on the course. I soon made friends with students from America, Holland and Germany. The next morning we went straight into the entrance exam: a Battle Fitness Test with a difference–8km in under 52 mins carrying 44lbs. I got round in 42 mins and as a group we succeeded in astonishing our international instructors as all 18 of us passed.

We packed our kit for the base camp where we would undergo training. Split into four man teams we learned to fire at moving and stationary targets from different fire positions. My team consisted of a Dutch Marine, a US Ranger and a fellow British Serviceman. Once we showed we could shoot reasonably straight we graduated onto the two man CQB lanes. I was paired with the Dutch marine and despite the language barrier we proved quite a formidable team. The conditions in these lanes were muddy, to say the least. The range was more like a swamp; there were certainly enough mosquitoes around for a good feed off us.

The course was very physical. We had daily rigorous PT lessons. The killer being the obstacle course used in the TA International Military Pentathlon. This can be described as hell on earth and seemed to be 4km sprint with obstacles such as 12ft deep bear traps and 'Irish Tables'–a plank of wood 7ft off the ground that had to be climbed over.

Overall I really enjoyed the course. I learned a great deal from the instructors' varied knowledge and experience. I would certainly recommend this course to anyone with an 'infantry' leaning.

211 SIGNAL SQUADRON AND 'LE MARCH'

The Squadron marked its move by marching from Kingsley Barracks in Minden to Hammersmith Barracks in Herford. 'Le March' took place on Wednesday 30 March. The Squadron completed the route as a formed body and even managed a bit of running. The event was staged in aid of charity and consequently attracted the widespread attention of the local German press.

The Squadron formed up in Kingsley Barracks, Minden, and conducted a ceremony at which the Squadron Pennant was lowered for the last time, by **SSgt** 'Gaz' **Stoker.** Following this simple ceremony, the Squadron set off for Herford.

The Sqn Comd, Maj Paul Hudson, presents Herr Wolfgang Standorf with a cheque for DM 670, while Herr Manz looks on

For readers who have served in the Westfalische area; the 35km route took us over the Bielefeld ridge, through Bad Oeynhausen, across the Schwarzenmoor and into Herford. Apart from the odd bit of running, every time we spotted anyone with a camera, the journey was conducted at a reasonably steady pace. All of those who had started the event were still with the squad when it arrived at the locked gates of Hammersmith Barracks in the middle of the afternoon.

The Sqn Comd, **Maj Paul Hudson**, knocked on the gates and requested permission to enter. The 2IC, **Maj Bob Carter**, admitted the Squadron which then marched to the Regimental Square where the remainder of the Regiment was formed up. A short parade followed, which was attended by the Deputy Bergermeister, **Herr Christian Manz**, and a representative of the Bernhard-Heising-Kinderheim, **Herr Wolfgang Standorf** (the childrens' home was one of the charities to receive a donation).

Following a short welcoming address by the CO, the Sqn Comd presented **Herr Standorf** with a cheque for DM 670, roughly a third of the total sum raised for charity; the other two thirds go respectively to the Corps Museum Fund and to the Save the Children Fund.

208 SIGNAL SQUADRON
9MM PISTOL SHOOTING COMPETITION

This competition involving all Squadron Officers and SNCOs was organised to coincide with the Squadron Commander's APWT, partly so that **Maj Brown** wouldn't get lonely on the range and as a fund shoot for the remainder of the Sqn seniors.

The range day was organised by **Cpl Davies**, willingly assisted by a gang of volunteers too numerous to mention who saw it as an afternoon away from the vehicle park. The competitors all arrived via various modes of transportation wearing a wide range of civilian attire. **Sgt Duffy** in particular, arrived in a green fleece jacket proudly proclaiming that he didn't look like a Squaddie.

The afternoon began with everyone standing around in small groups chatting, while consuming vast quantities of tea, coffee and small sandwiches with the crusts cut off. The shoot finally began with various 'Dirty Harry' stances. The day progressed with those 'experts' who just happened to be doing well discussing which particular pistol shoots the best, while those not shooting quite so well were busy explaining how the same pistol just hadn't quite been zeroed properly for them.

Each competitor took part in two separate shoots, the first for grouping and the second for snap shooting. The scores of the two shoots were added together to determine which lucky soldier would challenge the Sqn Comd once he had finished his APWT. The hard fought competition was eventually won by **Sgt Raine**, even without his glasses on. Finally, all that remained was a head-to-head matchup between **Sgt Raine** and **Maj Brown**, with the overall title being won by **Maj Brown** by a single point, even though it wasn't even close to CR time.

All in all, it was a good day out which provided familiarisation training for those who had never shot a pistol before and a bit of refresher training for those who had forgotten what pistols look like.

212 SIGNAL SQUADRON
DIV MAIN HQ, ROVERS AND RADIOS

With a series of exercises and attachments over the last few months, life has been a little hectic for the Squadron. The Divisional Main Headquarters, provided by A1 Troop, was recently part of the demonstration day for the Royal College of Defence Studies and although summer was approaching, the Goldrum training area, near Paderborn, soon turned into a mud bath after the movement of a few armoured vehicles and three days of solid rain. Needless to say these were not quite the conditions the Divisional Staff expected but this time they couldn't blame the Regiment! Despite the mud, it was an interesting exercise; the visitors to the stand were from all over the world and had a variety of experience.

Other Troops were busy providing manpower for an air exercise in Bavaria. Led by **Cpl Kerr**, elements of Rover Tp were happy with their lot, NRSA and good weather too! There were rumours that **LCpls Brass** and **Whyman** broke their windscreen on purpose, just to spend a few more days in the area, but we didn't believe them.

Exercises Quadriga Herald 3 and Rhino Shield came and went–the Squadron making a point of getting its new arrivals into the field as soon as they arrived. Our best time was from **LCpl Adele Smith** and **Sig Brett Grist**–in their combats and on to a det within five hours of arriving in Herford. They soon found exercises can be fun and exciting, **LCpl John Camp** and his crew kept his troop in the news with his famous 'Landrover cliff balancing act', a feat not to be practised at home, boys and girls. The staff; having had time to remove the mud from their boots were happier on this exercise than the demonstration. High spirits and humour were raised further by the rather interesting caricatures that appeared in the Admin tent, thanks to **Sig Gittins**.

REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS–208 ARE THE CHAMPIONS

By the end of the first Regimental Athletics Day with the new unit and sub unit titles, 208 Sig Sqn emerged as champions. The morning's events started amid a cloud-burst providing near ideal conditions for the 5000 metres. **Lt Alan Owen** led the field for a while before he was overtaken by the Sqn Comd, **Maj Phillip Brown**. He finished second in an exciting finish in which he just managed to stave off a late challenge from **Sig Carl Davies** of 212 Sig Sqn. It was an encouraging start and set a trend for the remainder of the day. Inevitably the known athletes played key parts in the eventual victory. **SSgt** 'Scotty' **Scott** won the 3000m steeplechase, **Cpl Andy George** won his string of the 1500m race, **Lt John Evans**, making his last appearance for the Squadron, cruised to first place in the 400m hurdles. **LCpl Tom Mulloy** won the 400 and 800m and the triple jump and ran the glory leg of the 400m relay. His personal performance earned him the Victor Ludorum title. **LCpl Charlie Neeve** managed to get one hammer throw to land in bounds to finish second. Newcomer to the team, and therefore team captain, was **LCpl Eddie Cochrane** who proved to be a useful sprinter as well as winner of the long jump event. Old Sweats, **SSgt Phil Philemon** and **SSgt (YofS) Gary Shakespeare** turned up to show that high jumping is all about technique not just athleticism. What was particularly pleasing was the emergence of new found talent. **Sig Andy Howe** high stepped his way in the sprint hurdles to win his string. **Sgt Dave Marchment** came third in the javelin and **Sigs George Harrison**, 'Coops' **Cooper** and **Darren Villiers** made up in enthusiasm what they lacked in distance in the other throwing events. **Sgt Simon Booth** demonstrated why he was still being selected to play Corps soccer with his sprinting performances. The darkest horse was **LCpl Mark Wright** who had to be ordered from the stands to get changed to compete in the pole vault. Not only did he have the temerity to beat his Sqn Comd, but the rest of the competitors as well!

Also competing for personal honours were **2Lt Liz Dallyn, Sig Andrea Sanders Fox** and **Sig Cheryl Ward** who between them, picked up most of the women's prizes available in the 100, 400 and 1500m as well as the javelin and high jump events. The final race of the day was the 400m relay which was run in glorious sunshine and before a large and boisterous crowd. **Sig Dale Armitage** provided the perfect first leg handing over the baton ahead of the others. It was a lead that **Cpl George, Lt Evans** and finally **LCpl Mulloy** did not relinquish. The result confirmed and reflected 208 Sig Sqn status as the best athletics squadron in the Regiment.

The price of *The Wire* will increase to £1.50 per copy, £9 per annum from February 1995

2 Sig Regt
York

CO — **Lt Col A. D. Forster**
2IC — **Maj D. G. Proctor**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) D. Whiting**

LS & GC PRESENTATIONS

On Monday 18 April **Brig W. H. Backhouse** (Comd 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde) presented **WO2 Andy Starling** with the MSM and **Sgt Mark Alexander** with the LS & GC. The presentation took place in the Sergeants' Mess and was attended by families of the recipients as well as Mess Members.

Capt Chris McIntosh, WO2 (SSM) 'Been there dunnit' Starling, Sgt Mark Alexander, Lt Col Andy Forster, Mrs Celia Starling and Brig Backhouse

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Les Wood**
2IC/MTO — **Capt John Marriott**

A warm welcome goes out to **WO2 (SSM) Rob Ibottson** who joins us from the Falkland Islands, also to **Sgt Nige Roberts** who joins Mike Tp from Northern Ireland, posted in as much for his rugby skills as his trade. We also welcome **LCpl Paul Mason** as the newly appointed Squadron Clerk and farewell to **Pte Sophie Hollow** who goes back to the grindstone (RHQ).

We welcome **SSgt Mary Cobban** as the SQMS of the Squadron as **SSgt Ken George** leaves on posting to Northern Ireland after a long tour with the Regiment.

Sadly, we say goodbye to **Sgt Geoff Phillipson** who is posted to the TA on promotion. Good luck.

214 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Pete Stephenson**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Dave Richards**

The Squadron has been playing musical chairs in the past few weeks. **WO2 Phil Atkinson** has handed over the pace-stick to **WO2 Dave Richards**. We all wish him well in his new role as 'Norman the Storeman' at 237 Sig Sqn in Hullavington. We welcome **WO2 Richards** and his family.

Congratulations to **WO2 (FofS) Booth** on his promotion and posting to Balado Bridge. The Squadron will be a less eloquent place in his absence but at least Friends of the Earth will not be accusing the Squadron of destroying quite as many rain forests.

The Squadron thanks both **WO2 Atkinson** and **WO2 Booth** for their hard work and dedication. A special mention too for their wives, **Anne** and **Michelle** for all their work behind the scenes.

Sgt Mick Fleming stepped into his boots for the few weeks prior to RSIT, but he has also been posted and promoted. There is good and bad in all aspects of life and he is off to sunny JCUFI for six months, but will then go on a punishment tour to Cyprus. We wish his wife **Sue** good luck in yet another series of moves. **Sgt Graham** 'Sandy' **Beech** is our latest Acting Foreman, so the Squadron is still in good hands.

ROMAN TROOP

Tp Comd — **2Lt John Torrell**

As the summer season comes and exercises abound, TN 021 deployed on its very own three day shake-out to dot the 'i's and cross the 't's.

Welcome to **Sig** 'Arthur Daley' **MacDonald** out of Catterick; and a sad goodbye to **Sig** 'Smirnoff' **Archibald** who moves on to a new posting. We wish him all the best.

Back to Troop exercises, day two and the Radio Relay site was conducting a sleepathon after a busy night fighting off and capturing prisoners of the sporting 219th. The remainder of the Troop were no slackers either, and although **Sig John MacLoughlin** 'took a bullet' for the good of the Corps as he came out of the SSC, overall reaction to 18 hours of sporadic attacks was excellent. With communications established and working throughout and defence assured, the three days served as good training prior to the next spate of exercises.

VIKING TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Lindsay Cullen**

A warm welcome to the new arrivals of 'Fighting Viking', **Cpl John Hart** who has joined us from 8 Sig Regt, **Cpl Kev Graham** from Padderborn and **Sig Toni Palyfreyman** from 21 Sig Regt.

LCpl Barry Gargett has been the first redundee to find a job and has left the Army to join the Fire Service at RAF Linton-on-Ouse. **LCpl Simon Worsley** and his family leave for 1 (UK) Div and Sig Regt and **Sgt Beech** moves to SHQ to be a FofS. To all of you thanks for your hard work and we wish you all good luck in the future.

Congratulations to **LCpl Simon Worsley** and his wife **Pam** on the birth of their son **Samuel** and to **LCpl Barry Gargett** and his wife **Allison** on the birth of their son **Ryan-Lee** who weighed in at a light 9lbs. **Sig Mick Haigh** has taken the plunge and has married **Joanne** and **Sig Paul Smith** has married his long-term girlfriend **Lisa**.

The Troop had a 'flaming' good exercise with 24 Bde in Thetford. **Cpl Phil Shawcross** the newly appointed Squadron Fire NCO had not banked quite so quickly on practical experience! His remarks were: 'I was quite surprised at the sacrifice the Squadron was willing to make just to see if I was up to the job.' Much to the Troop's distress all the vehicles were okay and RSIT would still be waiting for them on return! Better luck next time . . .

There were numerous 'jollies' to be had on helicopters and yes, **Sig Jamie Blake**, we do believe it was the bump on your head that made you ill! The general consensus as we flew back to York to pick up Troop mail was, 'every trunk node should have a heli.'

SAXON TROOP

Tp Comd — **Capt Gareth James**

During the past two months the Troop has said a number of 'hellos' and 'goodbyes'. We have welcomed into the Troop **Sgt Scott, Sig Underwood** and **Sig Clegg** and said farewell to **Cpl Cassidy** who has been a long serving member of the Troop. He has moved to 21 Sig Regt (AS) and we wish him and his wife well in Colerne. Other goodbyes have been said to **Sgt Mick Fleming** who is going to Cyprus via the Falklands and **Sig Skelton** who has moved to 217 Sig Sqn. All members of the Troop look forward to regular visits out to see **Mick** and his wife **Sue**! **Capt James** is also due to leave in the near future; moving to the position of Sqn 2IC.

The Troop has had a fairly busy time over the last couple of months. Initially we supported 19 Bde on Ex Panthers Roar. This not only proved the efficiency of the Troop but also the efficiency of the Switch vehicles in the Squadron.

A week after Ex Panthers Roar the Troop was subjected to RSSIT (Royal Signals Stencil Inspection Team) visit. This went fairly well.

Kinross ACF made a visit to the Regiment from Scotland. Whilst here they were sponsored by Saxon Tp. They spent some time being introduced to the equipment down in the garages. This included the Radio Kit by **Cpl Gold** and the Ptarmigan vehicles by **Sgt** 'Courses' **Bartliff** of Roman Tp. They had a very enjoyable time whilst at the Regiment.

217 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Jim Clark**
2IC — **Capt Debbie Douglas**

The Squadron bids a sad farewell to **Maj Jim Clark** and **Eileen**, who are leaving us to go to Blandford. **Capt Debbie Douglas** takes command of the Squadron until we can welcome the new Sqn Comd.

Once again the Squadron travelled to York to take on the rest of the regimental gladiators in the Summer Sports Competition. Although the only successful team was the volleyball side, all the teams gave a good account of themselves and fun was had by everyone.

PHANTOM TROOP

Tp Comd — **2Lt Lee O'Rourke**

Farewell to **Cpl Kev Dawes** who is off to Ireland and **Cpl** 'Robbo' **Robinson** who leave us to work with the TA in Hull. Good luck to **Sig** 'Scouse' **Carvill** who joins civvy street.

The Troop has been busy trying to fit in summer sports, summer camp, ATDs, inspections and exercise commitments; all before the move to York! As D-Day approaches the phrase 'so much, so few and with so little' becomes very apt. The Troop is hoping to send a representative on an all arms miracle workers course to help things run smoothly.

TORNADO TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Dom Sharkey**

Tornado Tp has a hectic few months ahead so this year's Summer Camp was the only break the Troop was going to have for some time to come.

Just before the camp we gave a warm welcome to **Lt** 'Fergal' **Sharkey**, **Cpl** 'Tosh' **Ingham** and **Sigs** 'Gaz' **Stewart**, 'Geekster' **Walker** and 'Killer' **Watt**.

Everyone enjoyed themselves at Newquay especially the nocturnal activities. During the day the Troop took part in a number of activities which included a mountain biking expedition around Cornwall (well–it felt like it!, climbing and walking.

On the final day **SSgt** 'High Noon' **Eddowes** decided to take the Troop on a Laser Quest which was enjoyed by everyone. All in all, it was an excellent camp.

Finally, well done to **Cpl** 'Simmo' **Simmonds** who has passed his LGV test at last!

219 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Bruce Avison**
2IC — **Lt John Merritt**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Dave Showell**

Following a successful RSIT inspection the Squadron deployed on Ex Wild Eagle and proved the communications fit for the Access Groups, prior to their deployment to Greece, Spain and Southern Germany in September. Not surprisingly there have been many volunteers for the detachments deploying to the sun, but the Sqn Comd, **Maj Bruce Avison,** has declared that since he cannot go, neither can the rest of SHQ. **WO2 (SSM) Dave Showell** would not like the drill down there anyway; and **FofS Pete Lowe** said that he would rather build the EXCON for Ex Arracde Fusion!

On the sporting front, the Squadron won the Inter Squadron Summer Sports competition and came third overall in Race the Sun early in June–an outstanding achievement considering the number of strong major unit teams who competed. Individually, members of the Squadron have toured the USA with the Regimental athletics team, represented the Army in a football tour of Thailand, **Sig Barney Hambrook** has won the Army novice light middleweight boxing championships and **Sig Tim Jones** has played Army Cricket. There have been many others and whilst this high calibre of sports achievement takes its toll on manning for exercises, its value on morale and training cannot be overstated.

We bid farewell to **SSgt (YofS) Kev Fowler** and his wife **Sue**, on promotion and posting to NI, and to **SSgt (SQMS)** 'Chalkie' **Atkins** on leaving for civvy street. Very best wishes for the future and many thanks for your hard work during your time here.

EAGLE TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Dan Tomlinson**

While Eagle Tp has not been away for a while, that does not mean that we have not been busy. **Sig Arnie Arnott** and **Lt Dan Tomlinson** were in the Regimental shooting team, **Cpl Ian Burt** competed in the Morrison Cup and **LCpl Alfie Alford**, **Cpl Si Wood** and **Sig Jim Strouts** played Regimental football. Inter Squadron Summer Sports then led us into RSIT fever! Great changes were afoot within the Troop. **Cpl Dave Gallagher** moved over from Phoenix Tp as did **Sig Steve Ellis**, **Sig Jim Richards** and **LCpl Jackie Simpson** moved to Phoenix and **Cpl Steve Ellis** moved to 602 Sig Sqn down in Bicester. **LCpl Alfie Alford** made a quick escape to 3 (UK) Div HQ & Sig Regt in Bulford, and **SSgt** (now **WO2**) **Mich Williams** got himself promoted to RQMS. **Sig Para Watson** spent a week in Phoenix and then jumped over to Eagle, while **Sig Jon Hanes** arrived out of the blue. **SSgt Miles Webb** arrived and paused for one or two nanoseconds before diving straight into the thick of things and the rest of the Troop's heads are still spinning!

As soon as RSIT fever was over the new look Eagle Tp embarked on Race the Sun whilst preparing to go on exercise concurrently, proving that whilst we can be stretched we have not reached breaking point–yet.

FALCON TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Jules Hill**

It has been a fairly busy period for Falcon Tp; RSIT visited, created the usual panic and then left fairly happy. As a reward for all the hard work a day at the Megabowl and Zapzone was organised by **Cpl Vince Key**. Most of the Troop had a good day, probably due to missing the SSM's Monday parade.

The Troop also showered itself in glory by winning the Regimental Inter Troop football competition with excellent play by **Sig Steve** 'The Spider' **Kennedy** in goal and **Sig Paul Bury** setting up some well worked goals.

Welcome back to **SSgt** 'Just off on Race the Sun Recces' **Clements**. A welcome also to **Sig Bury**, newly arrived on posting and also congratulations to **Cpl** 'Gazza' **Roberts** and his family on the addition of a new baby girl. Goodbye to **Cpl Lassetter** on posting to Ireland to get yet another medal.

PHOENIX TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Robbie King**

The past couple of months have seen quite a change in the Troop's ORBAT. We finally said goodbye to **LCpl Mark Jarvis**, who leaves the Army for Civ Div. **Cpl Dave Gallagher** was transferred to Eagle Tp, where he will spread the subversive message of the greatness of Phoenix Tp.

At the same time we welcome **LCpl Jackie Simpson** and **Sig Jim Richards** from Eagle Tp. **Jackie** will continue to stag on in the Squadron office and join us for exercises, whilst **Jim** now graces the garages with his massive weightbuilder's body. We also welcome back **Sig Paul** 'Bam Bam' **Blakey**, from the Falklands where he has been studying Ornithology (bird watching!) in great depth.

The final thank you goes to **Cpl Andy** 'Muff' **Moffat** for services to the Troop in this, his testimonial year.

EXERCISE GLENGARRY KINLOSS

Saturday 9 April 1994 saw several members of Phoenix Tp travelling up to Scotland to assist in a CCF camp. Details on the exercise were a little vague so the Troop was prepared for anything. To break up the long journey, **Lt Robbie King** organised a small side-show as he realised that the vehicles did not have enough fuel to get to the re-supply point. After a short stop, we arrived in Inverness.

It soon became apparent that the bulk of our time was to be spent in the instruction of basic signalling to 50 male and female cadets, aged 14-18. **Cpl Paul White** and **Sig Aly Simmonds** were instructing Voice Procedures, **Sig Mark** 'Panther' **Parr** and **Sig** 'Hoss' **Cartwright** the radios, and **Cpl Justine** 'Nightshade' **Shea** and **Sig Dave** 'Hoots' **MacKay** the use of line.

Although the actual instruction was a resounding success, the highlight of the week was the skiing. Outstanding snowfalls in Aviemore saw Phoenix Tp kitted out for suicide, with several cadets in tow. As he had never skied before **Cpl Shea** opted for the snowboard, much to the amusement of the rest of Scotland. As **Sig Cartwright** once again found his skiing legs, he contributed to the mogul fields by leaving 'Hoss-Holes' wherever he fell. **Sig Simmonds** was unfortunately crippled before the exercise.

The end of the week saw all the cadets passing their trade tests, no doubt a testament to the excellent instruction! After a final visit to a local guesthouse, the 2 Sig Regt Training Team bade farewell to Inverness and returned home.

Cpl 'Davey' Gold presents the Kinross ACF

7 Sig Regt
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VISITS OF SOinC (ARMY) AND COMMANDER 1 SIGNAL BRIGADE

The Regiment welcomed two important visitors soon after its move from Herford. The SOinC (Army), **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle**, paid a visit to Bradbury Barracks on 17 May. After an initial discussion with the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col D. McDowall MBE**, and a Regimental Ops brief, he witnessed various activities including trade training by Forward Troop, tug-of-war training by the Regimental team who will be competing in the Highland Games this year, fire and manoeuvre training and a combined UK/US tropospheric communications trial. The SOinC had lunch in the Sergeants' Mess, after presenting LS and GC medals to **WO2 (RQMS) Pettit, SSgts Anderson, Counley** and **Sgt Haycock**. The day was rounded off with a splendid Ladies Dinner night in the Officers' Mess where the SOinC was presented with a framed photograph taken during the day showing him with the Regimental rugby squad.

Brig A. J. Raper MBE, Comd 1 Sig Bde, visited the Regiment on 25 April 1994. After being welcomed by the CO, he was escorted around the barracks. The day closed with an entertaining lunch in the Officers' Mess. The entertainment was provided by **Maj Julian Turner** RA Signals, 232 Sig Sqn Comd, who ensured that all Regimental Officers knew that the day was also ANZAC Day. Rarely can Castlemaine XXXX have been used for a post-meal toast!

230 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj N. J. Bateson**

For those who have been following the wacky adventures of 230 Sig Sqn you will appreciate its avant garde stance within the Regiment. Only this afternoon the Squadron triumphed in the Page Trophy Athletics Competition with star performances from **LCpl Matt Gardiner**, 014, and **LCpl Rob Love**, Kilo Troop. **2Lt Nick Shenow** continues to document the Squadron's continued achievements also hastily conjuring up euphemisms for 'Being jiffed to do the *Wire* notes . . . again'.

The SOinC, CO and RSM with the LS & GC recipients and their families

Brig Raper signs the visitors book

TN014

Tp Comd **2Lt N. R. D. Shenow**

The Troop has had a rewarding time on the vehicle park; bringing the vehicles to a very high standard. The grafting 'Rust Brushes' of 014 must be praised for the continual and unswerving efforts in vehicle maintenance. At times like this Troop Commanders are on the verge of carrying out the popular Roman practice of decimating their legionnaries in order to stop them dashing off to NAAFI Break early when there are plenty of bolts to grease.

The hard work brought its reward on Ex Deci Damp, a two week climbing exercise to Sardinia. The weather was superb, with the experienced help of **Sgt Sean Humphreys** the participants were able to enjoy some climbing, snorkelling and pizza eating.

Three sites on the island were climbed two of which we could leap off into the cooling jade blue mediterranean sea. The expedition particularly appreciated the help of the OC BEB Sardinia, **Lt Andy Greenfield** and the 'Villa Boys' for making the expedition such a success.

TN015

Tp Comd **Lt D. J. Thornton**

As an outside observer one can only say, 'what great work these boys have done for charity'.

24 Hour charity BFT–four members of the Troop ran around the camp BFT circuit each completing BFT's under 10 minutes and 30 seconds; taking turns over the 24 hour period. Well done.

Ex Longbow. This was a Rhine Garrison Young Officers Exercise which involved a TEWT at Company, Squadron and Battlegroup level followed by an enjoyable and interesting survival phase. 230 Sig Sqn was strongly represented by **Capt David Wilson**, **2Lt Nick Shenow** and **Lt Fred Hargreaves**. **Lt Dennis Thornton** managed to avoid this exercise ostensibly on the pretext of recces in Denmark. By Endex we had crossed a cold expanse of water in the early morning, constructed our own survival shelters and eaten rabbit stew and one packet of biscuits brown.

EXERCISE HOMER BACKSTOP

It was early spring, and no one could think of what to do for the Troop adventure training camp. Everything the Tp Comd suggested was met with a 'Done it' response. They'd tried it all before, you see. And it was all too tiring and wet and cold for their liking. So the Tp Comd looked for something that didn't take too much effort and came up with . . . skydiving.

And so it came to pass that on 10 April, 13 members of Trunk Node 015 were dragged to the Joint Services Parachute Centre at Bad Lippspringe. There they had a day's training before being kicked out of a plane flying at 3,000ft. All this they did for charity, raising DM1,300 for Kidney Research and the Arnhem Veterans, and having landed safely they all returned to Krefeld and work.

But what about the Adventure training camp? Well, 12 days later they returned for a further two weeks parachute training.

The kit used at the centre is the most advanced of any training facility in the world. Students start off in a static-line which deploys a square canopy–a highly manoeuvreable parachute which used to be the preserve of experts. There are many built-in safety features to ensure a safe landing. Still, accidents can happen and 015 Troop proved no exception to landing downwind–which, for the uniniated means 'rather fast'. The next week proved to be great fun, getting over our fears and working through our practice ripcord drills, known as dummy pulls.

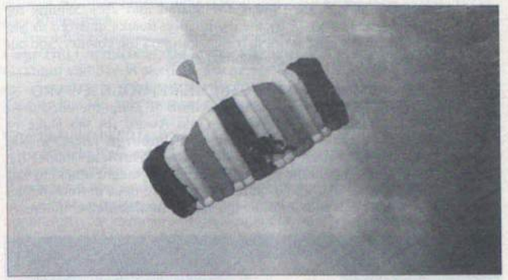
The fear suddenly returned on our first freefall descent. It might only have been a three second delay, but if you miss the ripcord handle, it can be anything up to 20 seconds before you hit the ground. This concentrates the mind on the task in hand. After that acrobatics come into play. These are not normally taught at the early stages, but **Sigs Jack Hawkins** and 'Digger' **Rigg** obliged with some spectacular tumbles, much to the fright of the instructors.

Sig Pettinger was pipped at the post for the accuracy prize by the entire Rhine Army Summer Show which hit the drop-zone straight in the middle. Despite a stylish approach he flew into a nearby forest amid cheers from the Troop and much searching for a long ladder by the centre staff.

Disaster struck again halfway through the exercise when **Cpl Steve Guppy** decided to take his ankle out once and for all. Luckily the remainder of the Troop completed the fortnight unscathed and some achieved up to 15 seconds freefall.

Everyone agreed that we had had a fantastic time. Even the two who broke their ankles want to go back. Parachuting is an incredibly exciting sport which can be recommended.

Exped leader–**Lt D. J. Thornton**
Exped 2IC–**SSgt Sean Kelly**
Jumpers–**Cpls Steve Guppy, Chris Pinnock; LCpls John Ward, Jason Crossley; Sigs Jack Hawkins, Nikki Ward**, 'Digger' **Rigg, Joe Moneta, Adam Pettinger, Grahame Parkhill, Shaun Neely**.



Sig Hawkins overshooting the Drop Zone

231 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Fourteen members of the Squadron took part in Exercise Spring Break providing the OPFOR for the 141st (US) Signal Battalion at Gerdau training area near Hohne. The Americans were impressed with our military skills and the training proved to be very interesting indeed. Well done to all the squadron members who took part and a special thanks to **Cpl** 'Reverse' **Richardson** for his efforts during the week.

The Page Trophy Athletics competition proved to be a tough competition for the Squadron with a creditable fourth position gained. The female members of the Squadron did particularly well with good performances given by **Sigs Carpenter**, **Warwick** and **Molloy**. The football competition was also held last month with the Squadron achieving third position in the Regiment. The team spirit and effort shown in the two events was a great credit to the Squadron, well done.

Radio Tp have said farewell to **Cpl** 'Geordie' **Pearson** on his posting to 19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209). Best wishes to him in the future. We welcome **Sigs Millington** and **Hine** into the Troop and hope they enjoy their time with the Regiment. **Sgt** 'Taff' **Furnival** left the Troop for a week's intensive adventure training in Bavaria with 253 Sig Sqn. At least the R&R activities for the Squadron Summer Camp have been recce'd!

Forward Tp have had a complete change of seniors recently with the departure of **Sgt Miles Webb** to 2 Sig Regt and **Sgt Graham Weavers** all the way to Z Troop. Good luck to you both. We welcome **SSgt** 'Doc' **Halliday** on promotion and **Sgt Rob Allen** after the short YofS course! Also recently arrived are **Cpl Eaves**, **Sigs Ferguson** and **Mason**. Welcome. The Troop is currently preparing for RSIT, recce'ing for a Regimental exercise in September, rehearsing for yet another parade, and dreaming of the Squadron Summer Camp. Oh, and we're also trying to talk **Sig** 'Gaz' **Pettitt** out of getting married!

232 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj J. M. S. Turner** RA Signals

SHQ

The Squadron extends a belated welcome to **Maj J. M. S. Turner** RA Signals who arrived in the teeth of a European winter from sunnier climes Down Under. We are all looking forward to working under a fitness fanatic.

Also a warm hello to **WO2 (FofS) Lloyd Boulby**–dropped right into the middle of Ex Arcade Guard with the first of many changes to 'the Plan'.

Finally, from a little closer, all the way from OPs **Sgt Stu** 'Not stressed at all' **Allister** our new SQMS.

Only one farewell and that to **Cpl Al Yerkess** off to the paradise of Preston. All was quiet on the Preston Front but Al will be giving the TA the 'Jungle Stare' and reminiscing about blanket stacking in the face of overwhelming cups of tea. Good Luck **Al**, Look out Preston!

RADIO TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt** 'Larry' **Grierson**

Firstly congratulations to **Cpls Kielty** and **Mrs Kielty** and **Cpl Bretherton** and **Mrs Bretherton** on the birth of their daughters. Farewell to **Sgt Paul Boughey** and **Sig Mick Collins**. Hellos to **Sigs** 'Cheesy' **Helm** and 'Gordon' **Bennett**.

Troop activities have included Ex Halbert Hunter in which 10 members of the Troop deployed down south as a hunter force for the LRRP School. The main highlights were **Sig** 'Larry' **Lamb** ditched the last vehicle in a convoy in the largest hole in south Germany. Also at the scene of the accident **Sig Roberts** asked five passing strangers if they were the enemy, the reply of 'No . . . Errr Nein' managed to fool him for five minutes until it dawned on him that they were wearing Bergans and carrying rifles.

Other than Adventure Training in Sardinia, in which eight members of the Troop are currently involved, normal maintenance continues.

MAN TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt O. D. Bryant**

Sigs Jimmy Case and 'Del' **Kitching** joined the Americans on Ex Spring Break. They played Enemy to the American Forces and gained valuable experience.

Congratulations to **LCpl Ritchie Lees** on his selection into the Corps Football Team. It went on to win the Inter-Corps Championships. Congratulations also to **Sig Gill** and **Purdon** for their contributions to the Regiment's Tug-of-war Team which was the last competition at Osnabruck.

Finally, welcome back to **Sgt Neil Perham** and **Mrs Perham** who have come across from FSG Tp. With his newfound Skill-at-Arms qualifications he will be able to sort out the Troops APWT: Hurry up and get on the Range!

FSG TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt S. C. Glover**

The Troop says farewell to **Sgt Perham** who has moved next door to MAN Troop, obviously they need a bit of FSG expertise to sort them out! Goodbye and good luck to **LCpl Fraser** and **Mrs Fraser**, the Troop wish you both all the best back in the UK.

LINE TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt B. G. W. Johnson**

Hello to the following: **SSgt** 'PC' **Collins** (The Ultimate Combat Lineman). Also to **Cpl Ward** and **Danela**, and **Sig Clark**.

Goodbye to **LCpl Andy** 'Alan' **Dick** who leaves after seven years with the Regiment and **Sig Stu McNeish**, good luck to you both on civvy street.

RHINE GARRISON SAAM

The Regimental Shooting Team, ably led by **Lt Nick Range** and **Cpl** 'Compo' **Compton**, attended the Rhine Garrison SAAM with high hopes of returning with some silver. They were not to disappoint, winning the Garrison Major Unit Rifle match. Individual performances of note were from **Cfn Hamish Whannell**, who came an excellent third in the Overall Marksman-at-Arms competition and **Sig Carol Ann Ney** who was awarded a special prize for the most improved young shot.

2Lt Lloyd Golley is presented with his Rhine Garrison Major Unit Rifle Match medal

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

HOWES/WOOD MEMORIAL TROPHIES

In commemoration of **Cpls Howes** and **Wood**, the training regiments play each other at Hockey (for the Howes Trophy) and Rugby (for the Wood Cup). The families of the two corporals were present. The Hockey was won by 8 Sig Regt (2–1) as was the Rugby (28–10).

Sgt Steve Harper and Barbara (Cpl Howes' Mother) with the Howes Trophy. Sgt Dave Hunt and Del (Cpl Wood's Father) with the Wood Trophy

THE MACMILLAN MILE WALK

All members of the Regiment took part in a mile walk to raise a donation in aid of the Macmillan Nurses Fund. **Maj Gen Badcock** presented a cheque, on behalf of the Regiment, for £1,005.04 to Mrs Wendy Baker representing the Macmillan Fund.

Maj Gen Badcock presenting the cheque to Mrs Baker ably assisted by Miss Kelly Hogan (the youngest Macmillan miler) and Mrs Sue Hogan. Sgt Tony Drucker, the Regimental Coordinator in support of MNF, looks on

3 PEAKS (UK) CHALLENGE

Participants: **WO2 (YofS) Martin Swiffen** (Team Leader); **Cpl Paul Knight** (on loan from 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde); **Sig Daz Williams** 912; **Sigs Mike Peace, Stu Thompson, Andy Worsley, Lynn Sheridan** (Driver).

The Three Peaks (UK) Challenge consists of climbing the three highest peaks in the UK, namely Ben Nevis in Scotland (1344m), Scafell Pike in England (978m) and Snowden in Wales (1085m) all within 24 hours.

A clear dawn broke on 28 May as the team left for Scotland. The Ben was conquered by lunchtime; and Scafell at 2315 hrs. The descent in the dark is not something I'd recommend, but, fortunately, we got down without any injuries and the first hot meal was wolfed down in the early hours.

The best time to climb Snowdon, or any mountain come to that, must be first thing in the morning before the crowds start to gather. We were on the miners track for 0630 hrs and there wasn't a soul in sight apart from a few overnight campers at the Tarn. We topped out just after 7am and came straight off because of the freezing wind coming up from the valley. After a quick descent it was into the café at Pen-Y-Pass.

The event was over and we were more than pleased with our times. 3hrs 40mins for Ben Nevis, 2hrs 19mins for Scafell and 2hrs 55mins for Snowdon (tiredness had set in by then!). Finally, thanks must go to **Sig Lynn Sheridan** for her hard work driving us around the country, she put up with a hell of a lot and never complained once.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME, GOLD AWARD

On Wednesday 4 May **Sig Johanna Freeman** of 2 Sqn travelled to St James' Palace in London to receive her Gold Award for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. **The Duke of Edinburgh** talked to **Sig Freeman** before the guest of honour, **June Whitfield** made the presentation to her. To gain the award **Sig Freeman** taught others to sail dinghies, helped an OAP with her garden, spent five days in Snowdonia, North Wales and a week with a residential school for disabled children.

Sig Johanna Freeman with her Gold Award

THE LAST LEADERSHIP COURSE

The last leadership course in Scotton Hall finished on 27 May 1994. As usual a wide variety of activities were followed. **Capt Tim Carmichael** certainly had his hands full!

The final lucky few – Royal Signals Leadership Course No 95

LOOK AT LIFE COURSE

The Regiment played host to 19 school children from nine Cleveland and Durham schools over the period 9-13 May: to 'Look at Life' in the Army. A wide variety of tasks was set before them by the course officer, **WO1 Chris Calow**, of 2 Sqn, ably assisted by **SSgt Tony Slaney** of Mil Training Wing.

The week included: Abseiling down a viaduct, Drill, weapon handling/firing, assault course, basha/night out in the 'woods', canoeing, command tasks, map reading and hill walking. BBC Radio Cleveland also came along and interviewed **WO1 Chris Calow** and two of the pupils: one female pupil said 'the Army food is much better than me mam's, you get loads of it and lots of bread and butter'.

REGIMENTAL SHOOTING TEAM

By early April, an elite group had been chosen consisting of **Capt Carmichael, WO2 Fitzpatrick, SSgt Slaney, Cpls Nick Basford, Joe Killen, Phil Graham, Sigs** 'Baggers' **Bagstaff**, 'Squeeky' **Preece**, 'Mac' **Macphearson** and 'YTS Driver' **Turner**.

CORPS SAAM

Having safely arrived at Blackdown Camp,. Pirbright, despite **Sig Turner**'s attempts at inducing travel sickness, the team eagerly debussed to check out the 5-Star accommodation afforded them, which they mistook for part of a FIBUA training area! Undismayed the team made the most of what had been provided and acquired some 'light refreshment' to get them through the first of many intense briefings given by the team captain **WO2 Kev Fitzpatrick**.

The competition went quite successfully as the 'A' team consisting of **Capt Tim Carmichael, WO2 Kev Fitzpatrick, Cpls Nick Basford, Paul Graham** and **Sig Wakefield Turner** achieved the runners up position to the dream team from 30 Sig Regt in the Rifle team competition. **Sig Turner** was the only member of the team to win an individual award.

EASTERN DISTRICT SAAM, 4-6 MAY

Cpl Nick Basford discovered that having a zeroed weapon greatly increases accuracy and found himself finishing third overall in the Series B individual competition and also going forward to Bisley 1994.

The two shooting competitions presented a unique and welcome opportunity for members of the Regiment, student and permanent cadre alike, to escape the confines of Catterick Garrison and the rigours of trade training. A great time was had by those lucky few.

MORRISON CUP

On 4 May the Morrison Cup went up for grabs. The team was selected from the most promising at the inter Squadron athletics meet, held on the 25/26 April and those individuals who had taken advantage of the Olympic standard ash track at the Garrison stadium, **WO2 Tim Broomfield** and **SSgt (ASSM) Chippy Chapman** tried their best to get to grips with the team.

The day came and there were some fine performances. **Sig Edment** had a cracking run in both the 100m and 200m sprint. **Cpl Andy Lothian** managed to clear a height and gained himself second in the pole vault with **LCpl Nobby Clark** fourth and **Sig Karl Hannah** had a fine throw in the shot. The event went well for the Regiment's athletes and a final placing of second to 2 Sig Regt was more than merely commendable

LONDON MARATHON

The Regiment again sent a contingent to participate in the London marathon.

The Catterick weather had been abysmal (surprise!) all winter making training for the event very difficult. The runners are to be congratulated on their efforts and for raising £1,250 for the new museum project.

The London Marathon team *L to R:* Cpl Aaron Lawler (4hrs 50mins), Cpl Bo Pradhan (3hrs 8mins), WO2 (YofS) Mick Dawson (Non-running coach and organiser), Maj Jan Jasiok (2hrs 52mins) and Cpl C. B. Clarke-Brown (3hrs 36mins)

LIAISON VISIT TO NEWCASTLE UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

by **SSgt Carlos Sinclair** (Chelsea Supporter) TTS Sqn.

I idly suggested a day out to one of the hot beds of football in the North East would be a fun thing to do. To my great surprise I was told by **WO2 (SSM) Jim McLachlan** to get it sorted, or words to that effect.

Letters were sent, phone calls made, and a visit was arranged for the 11 April 1994 to St James' Park, Newcastle. This was done with the aid of Newcastle United's football in the community officer, **Mr Ray Hankin** (the older Corps members will remember him as a Leeds player).

The day arrived and it was lovely and bright (maybe not as bright as some of the jackets and ties worn by the members of the Regiment).

We were met by members of **Ray Hankin's** staff and were given an excellent tour of the grounds and its facilities. These included the trophy room (the Jimmy we presented them with must be feeling lonely in there), various bars, the directors' boxes, the hospitality boxes, the changing rooms and pitch.

The tour finished with the presentation of a Jimmy on behalf of the Regiment to mark the close ties we have shared with the football club in the past, to **Mr Trevor Garwood** the Marketing Director of Newcastle United FC.

We rounded off the day with a walk around Newcastle and a nice afternoon lunch.

TEESSIDE VETERAN FOOTBALLERS ASSOCIATION VISIT 8 SIGNAL REGIMENT

On 20 April the Regiment hosted 40 members of the Teesside Veteran Footballers Association for the day. The Veterans are a mixed bunch of Ex Professonal/Amateur footballers from the Teesside region: amongst their members are such famous names as: **George Hardwick**, the former Middlesbrough player who captained England and Great Britain; **Harold Sheperdson**, the England trainer for the 1966 World Cup; **Wilf Manion**, the ex Middlesbrough and England player.

The Veterans arrived at the Corps 'Outstation' Museum in Helles Bks (ex 11 Sig Regt) and were met by **Maj Ron Hails**. After a short introductory talk, **Lt Col (Retd) Fred Orr** gave them a spell-binding talk on Army and Corps History. Many of the Veterans are Ex Forces, and before long the effect of the sherry and the fine words from **Lt Col (Retd) F. Orr** had them reciting tales from their own past. **Capt Rab Young** then gave an excellent presentation on military training techniques.

After a hearty lunch with the trainees in the cookhouse it was off to the central stadium to watch the Regiment play RAF Leeming. After a fine match the Regiment came out on top 2–1. There was a lot of praise for the standard of the football. The former England trio were impressed but had plenty of advice to offer.

When they heard that a young PTI, **Cpl Dave Leask** was on over £40 a day many of the Veterans were seen heading in the direction of the Darlington Recruiting Office. **Maj Ron Hails** then presented the Secretary, **Jack Peckitt**, with the Regimental Plaque. Shortly afterwards the Veterans departed overwhelmed with the hospitality they were shown by the Regiment.

Many thanks must go to **SSgt** 'Tommy' **Steele** for organising an excellent visit.

If you are serving and have a standing order for *THE WIRE* please keep us well informed in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders and your *Wire* will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.

9 Sig Regt (R)
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ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

There have been many changes of personnel over the last two months. The departures have been **FSgt Brian MacMillan, Cpl Daz Beaney, LCpl John Fitzsimmons** and **JTs Neil Morgan** and **Jon Stevenson**. We hope you all enjoy your new postings and the Troop wishes you all the very best.

The warmest of welcomes are extended to the new members of Alpha Tp, **FSgt Taff Phillips, JTs Anderson** and **Ratcliffe** and **LCpls Burton, Cassidy, Drummond, Forster** and **Winstanley**. We hope you all enjoy your tour of the sunshine island.

SPORTING SUCCESSES

The Troop has had a hectic time on the sporting front, mostly met with success. This year's Inter-Tp football league went down to the very last game of the season. Alpha Tp met Romeo Troop in the final match sharing the points at the top of the league. After a thrilling match, in which **LCpl Phil Berry** scored his second hat-track of the season, Alpha Tp ended up victorious (with the final result being 5–2), and were crowned league champions for 1994. Well done to **JT Phil Baumber** as team manager.

Coomber Cup athletics standards came next and the performance by the troop was again outstanding. Each troop member had to attempt six different events, and points were accredited by attaining gold, silver, bronze or lead standard. Everybody put maximum effort into the standards and the Troop were rewarded with the final results again showing Alpha Troop leading the way. Notable performances this time coming from **Cpl Daz Hepburn.** Staying with the Coomber Cup, this time for volleyball, two members of the troop, Q **Shannon** and **Cpl John Morris**, organised and captained the squadron team. Not a win this time but a creditable second, which was a great improvement from last year's team performance.

The Troop had a big hand in the squadron hockey team this year with no fewer than five members helping the squadron to lift the league title.

Congratulations must go to **Cpl Daz Hepburn** and **JT Phil Baumber** for achieving their representative Colours, **Daz** for Army hockey and **Phil** for RAF football.

TROOP SOCIAL LIFE

There have been many functions and social gatherings recently, one of the most enjoyable being a worthwhile trip to Limassol for a meal. We also tried our hand at golf and on a rainy May afternoon, staged the Ay Nik Masters. The Troop descended on Ay Nik golf course and although the standards weren't that high, most enjoyed their rounds. Eventual winners were Q **Shannon** and **LCpl John Myers**.

BIRTHS

Congratulations go to **Lisa** and **Phil Baumber**, **Mandy** and **Steve Smith** and **Joanne** and **Andre Govier** on the recent additions to their families. Lots of sleepless nights ahead!

CHARLIE TROOP

It has been a quiet month for the Troop. This social inactivity has been due to the majority of the Troop being away on phase one of Ex Mercury Break, the Regiment's bi-annual battle camp. However, the Troop was able to help out at the local school for the handicapped by doing some gardening and general tidying up.

The Troop has seen a large intake of personnel over the month, so a big Cyprus welcome goes out to **Sgt Paul Crawley, Cpl Chris Irwin, LCpls Cam Smith, Debbie Bowling, Wayne Lynk, Stu Bailey, Joe Gallagher, Damien Williams, JTW George Webb** and **JT Steve Astley**.

The Troop has also had to say its goodbyes to **LCpl Steve Trump** and wife **Natasha** on their posting to 237 Sig Sqn and **LCpls Lee Lawson** and **Roger Wade** on detachment to Northern Ireland.

Finally, congratulations go to **LCpls Pete Wilks** and **Mike Surtees** for passing the RSDCC and to **Cpl Paul Browne** on his engagement to **LCpl Sarah Robinson**.

D TROOP V F TROOP CRICKET MATCH, 22 MAY 1994

On a very hot and humid Sunday afternoon members of D Tp clambered out of bed, and climbed into the gaily coloured sportswear, ready to do battle in the inter troop cricket match.

The order of batting was agreed. They would bat 20 overs first each person, except the wicketkeeper, bowling 2 overs. This wouldn't prove too taxing for them. Everyone then withdrew to their prepared defensive positions, perhaps a relic of the recent memory of Ex Mercury Break, and hopefully looked threatening or menacingly towards the batsman.

Down thundered our first bowler, **JT Steve** 'Pad' **Graham.** He immediately had F Tp flummoxed at our seemingly insane tactics of consistently letting them hit 6's and 4's. Soon, though, the pattern became clear as their batsmen retired with sore arms, complaining somewhat disgruntledly about boredom. Each of D Tp's bowlers continued in the same vein until **JT Chris** 'Psychoeyes' **Beech** received the honorary 'Sad on' award as bowler and F Tp retired 148 for 4.

We knew we had F Tp over a barrel now, as we were obviously bound to be far better at batting than bowling. Padded up and leading the troop toward a resounding victory **Cpl Rental** 'Botham' **Fisher** and **LCpl Mark** 'Eggburger' **West** took to their respective wickets. Only for 'Eggburt' to be cruelly bowled out by a dastardly spin bowler from F Tp. Never fear **JT Gary Bunn** valiantly took his place. Only to be foully hit by a blurr of leather that he later claimed 'didn't hurt at all actually', although, his cries for an ambulance and consultant surgeon at the time manifestly proved otherwise. If only Beadle had been there! So the Bunnster departed the field of glory rather ungainly. Maybe I should have picked up those boxes after all? Still, **Cpl Fisher** managed to make a 4, which added to the rest of his score gave him the highest bat of the day on D Tp, a resounding 9.

The rest of the team were quickly bowled out in a rather undignified fashion. **LCpl Lee** 'Babs' **Woodhouse, LCpl Jamie** 'Josk' **Leishman, LCpl Glen** 'You're outta here' **Tinsley, LCpl Lee** 'EWOK' **Allen** and **LCpl Rich** 'Jurassic' **Whitmore**.

It was time to make a proper stand. I donned the gear and walked out to take the field. **LCpl Steve** 'Quiff' **Dunsmuir** had to save the day. The opposition looked on with signs of trepidation. Their bowler shone the ball, took a measured run and launched the projectile in my direction. I raised my bat, could see the ball coming and swung an almighty stroke at it. Missed completely and was out for a duck. Still my hair hadn't been ruffled so all was not completely lost. All out for 27 and the day had begun so well.

A special mention for F Tp. Where did they get all the cricketers? Even their wives were practising in the nets! Thanks to **Cpl Steve** 'Vicar' **Rushen**, for scoring and umpiring, to **LCpl Robbie** 'The Ram' **Ramshaw**, who made up part of the F Tp team, as if they needed it, and to **LCpl Andy** 'Boring' **Burgum**, who stayed behind to look after the block.

TRIATHLON CLUB

April saw the culmination of a six month triathlon series run by 9 Sig Regt (R). The series consisted of six races, one per month from November 1993 to April 1994. Early races were over short distances such as 600m swim (in the Ayios Nikolaos pool), 17km cycle followed by a 4km run. The first two races were won by visitors from 1 WFR and RAF Akrotiri respectively.

It wasn't until the 'middle' distance races of 1000m; 25km and 6km that members of the Regiment started to take the top placings. **Maj Paul Robertshaw**, who has endearingly become known as 'The Old Knacker' crawled off his death bed and managed to fall across the line first in Race 3 (and subsequently won Races 4, 5 and 6!). Minor place-getters in these races were **WO2 (QMSI) Paul White, Cpl Brian Mason**, and **Capt Matthew Opie**.

The last two races were run over the full Olympic distance of 1500m swim; 40km cycle; and 10km run. A late arrival to the series, **Cpl Andy Herd** was narrowly beaten by 'The Old Knacker' in the last, and closest race of the series.

Winner of the ladies series was **Mrs Chris Lindsay** (wife of **WO2 Frank Lindsay**), followed closely by **Cpl Sam Hepburn**. Commendable efforts were also put in over the series by **Maj Fred Bancroft, Capts Tony Burgin, Tom Dean, WO1 (RSM) Geer** (and **Gill**), **WO2 Jim Mitchell, SSgt Steve Penn, Cpl** 'Monty' **Sheridan,** and **LCpl Tony Norcross**.

The summer series of races is now in full swing and the Regiment sent two teams to the UK in June to compete in the Army Triathlon Championships at Swindon.

TRIATHLON FOR NOVICES

On Sunday 17 April 42 people from 9 Sig Regt (R) (and other units around Ayios Nikolaos) gave the fast growing sport of triathlon a go for the first time. With no experienced triathletes or 'fancy bikes' allowed, this was a true novice event. Distances covered were 300m swim, 10km cycle, and 3km run.

The field was broken up into six categories: Male and Female 13-17, 18-34 and 35+. The juniors, and arguably the most competitive bunch, the veteran ladies, were first in the pool. **Simon Penn** (son of **SSgt Steve Penn**) was first out of the water in the fastest overall swim time of 5min 25sec. The first veteran lady out of the pool was **Mrs Liz Neale**, closely followed by **Mrs Carol Robertshaw** (wife of 'The Old Knacker').

The next category was the 'I'm only doing it for fun (but watch out if you get in my way)' category, otherwise known as the 18-34 ladies. First out of the water was **Mrs Sue Pounder** (wife of **Cpl Mark Pounder**) in 5min 26sec, followed by **Cpl Sharon Simmons** and **Mrs Susan Opie** (wife of **Capt Matthew Opie**, and the only true international competitor). **Sharon Mitchell** (wife of **WO2 Jim Mitchell**) scored points for originality by doing the whole swim in backstroke.

The third heat was the veteran gentlemen, most of whom had been in training for at least two days (if you include riding to work). The smart money in this heat was on **SSgt** 'Rocket Ron' **Blackburn** who completed the 12 lengths in 5min 55sec. He was followed out of the water by **Mr John Greaney** (Civ Wing).

Finally, with the nerves reaching fever-pitch in their finely tuned, young Adonis-like bodies, the 18-34 gentlemen were able to wet themselves (I mean jump in the pool). **Daniel Penn** (another member of the Penn Dynasty), competing in a higher age group was fastest in this heat with a time of 5min 28sec.

Meanwhile, out in the transition area, the spectators were seeing numerous battles fought out on the bikes. A good ride had seen **Mrs Gabby Cole** (wife of **WO2 Nat Cole**) launch herself into second position behind **Mrs Carol Robertshaw. Mrs Angela Swinyard** recorded the slowest cycle time, but only because she waited for her husband **Brian** (Civ Wing) who was two heats behind!

In the Iron woman category, **Lt Sarah Ferguson** and **Mrs Julie Swift** (wife of **Sgt Mick Swift**) had got themselves into handy positions, just behind **Cpl Sharon Simmons** who was still leading. The dark horse of the vets, **Maj Tim Gigg** put in a good effort on the cycle and caught up a few positions.

In what can only be described as a careless and blatant disregarding of the safety brief, **Lt Niall** 'Banzai' **Stokoe** tried to break the land speed record in the transition area and entertained the crowd with a bike mounted double lutz that Torvill and Dean would be proud of.

THE RUN

In a display of excellent timing **Mrs Chris Bancroft** (wife of **Maj Fred Bancroft**) chose her moment well and took the lead in her category with a run of 12min 15sec. Other notable run times were recorded by **SSgt Jack Hawkins** and **Maj Jonathan** 'I want a triathlon with no swimming' **Turner.** The Officials had to look very closely at **Brian** and **Angela Swinyard** who completed the run with only three legs between them.

Five competitors completed the course for the good of the Ayios Nikolaos Rainbow Playgroup. The group, which was organised by **Mrs Cathy Burgin** (wife of **Capt Tony Burgin**) raised £140 through sponsorship.

Final Results:	1st Female	1st Male
13-17	**Liz Wilks**	**Simon Penn**
18-34	**Cpl Sharon Simmons**	**LCpl Andy Wilks**
35+	**Mrs Chris Bancroft**	**SSgt Ron Blackburn**

The event was kindly sponsored by George and Dimitri from The Bike Club in Larnaca. The next Try-tri at Ay Nik will be sometime in the very distant future.

Finishers in the 9 Sig Regt (R) Try-Tri

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13 Sig Regt (R)
BFPO 42

THE FINAL CHALLENGE
THE COLONEL'S CUP COMPETITION 1994

The last ever challenge for the prestigious Colonel's Cup prior to the Regiment's closure was held on 4 May 1994. It therefore had to be a memorable and fitting finale.

0500 hrs on a damp May morning saw seven teams emerge from the Birgelen mists and gather themselves for what was going to be a stern test of their military and physical skills. After an all ranks breakfast in the main kitchen (many thanks Master Chef), and an opportunity to see the coveted trophy and prizes, teams were briefed by the event organiser **Capt Dave Chrystal**.

Suitably briefed and ready to go, the teams deployed to Arsbeck training area. Fundamental skills of: NBC, first aid and fieldcraft were tested, in addition combat survival and fighting in built up areas (FIBUA) were introduced to provide new challenges. Fieldcraft was tested via a very difficult and demanding sniper stalk, which saw teams approach an enemy APC and fire a single shot each at the crew, when within a range of 150m. 2 Sqn 'B' team under **Sgt Peter Peak** and HQ Sqn 'A' team under **SSgt Lenny Hilton** both achieving the best scores. A three mile stretcher race was also included for the traditionalists, with 1 Sqn 'A' team under **Sgt Gordon Burns**. The command task was won by 1 Sqn 'C' team led by **Sgt Chris Gibbins**, and also on the circuit was a communications stand which thoroughly tested a broad range of skills. HQ Sqn 'B' team under **Sgt** 'Baz' **Fowler** providing the best answer. Shooting skills were the final event of the morning, and by this time a very balanced set of results had emerged, all three squadrons with everything to play for.

Captain of the winning team in the Final Challenge of the Colonel's Cup SSgt Lennie Hilton is congratulated by CO Lt Col Philip Rouse. The team look on and struggle with their spoils

Unfortunately there were many more mountains to climb before the winning team could lay it's hands on those quality trophies. The word 'mountain' being appropriate as the individual testing began with a tough cycle cross on mountain bikes. Seven hopefuls, one from each team, disappeared along the sandy tracks behind camp to the quarries and hills with names like 'one in one'. After a gruelling batile the 2 Sqn 'B' team were victorious, with **LCpl Sean Doherty** the individual winner. Simultaneously victory was sweet for 1 Sqn 'C' team in the bergan march, **LCpl Simon Green** storming to a very close and precious victory. The swim was to sort out the real fighters, a stamina based swim had 2 Sqn 'B' team as victors, **LCpl Phil Unsworth** taking eight points having completed the course fully clothed in lashing rain. Results from the pistol shoot and driving competitions came through in the late afternoon, and with two events to go any one of the squadrons could have clinched it. Interest had spread rapidly around the Regiment by this time and it was standing room only for the gym tests. Seven contestants were given the sternest of tasks by the PT staff, **SSgt Pauline Doran** and **Sgt Tony Mee**. Eventually 1 Sqn 'A' team were declared winners, with **LCpl Ian Shackleton** taking the individual honour.

Back as teams again, no time to rest, and still with everything to play for, the Squadrons assembled for a field gun race. The Regimental square was the venue, with at least three teams still in with a chance to clinch victory. The Regiment had gathered, the Commanding Officer set them off and it was a fitting spectacle to conclude the competition. As the drama unfolded it was 1 Sqn 'A' team that fired the final shot into the air having assembled the last gun and so missed their chance of winning. The strong finish of HQ Sqn 'A' team had been enough, and it was to them that the spoils were presented, **SSgt Lennie Hilton**, **Cpl** 'Esh' **Eshelby**, **Cpl Tony Codling**, **LCpl Richie Cooke**, **Ptes Neil Hall** and **Lorraine Gardiner**. Neither the teams, nor the spectators, will forget the determination and effort shown by all competitors in what was surely a fitting finale to the last ever Colonel's Cup Competition.

EXERCISE MERCURY LION

With the drawdown of the Regiment about to start the Commanding Officer decreed that each member of the Regiment should arrive in his or her new unit having completed all the mandatory training for the year 94/95. Consequently Ex Mercury Lion was born.

Many difficulties had to be overcome with a tight time limit of two weeks in which to get all the Regiment ATD qualified. 2IC HQ Sqn, **Capt John Coast**, ever eager to stop working in the PRI Shop was chosen as OIC the Exercise, and with **WO1 (YofS) Will Riding** as the Exercise Co-ordinator, planning began.

The programme would cover all ATDs, Basic Infantry Work and finish with an 18 hour exercise on the training area.

Instructional staff were drawn from the Regiment and selected to teach and test various ATD subjects. Some also found new skills, with **SSgt Phil Matthews** and **SSgt (YofS) Marc Ewart** becoming experts at tent erection.

With the ATD subjects being covered in detail other skills such as Section Attacks and Patrol Techniques were taught from basics. All elements of the Regiment attended the exercise and even the attached RAF and RN personnel learnt how to dash, down and crawl. **Cpls** 'Esh' **Eshelby** and 'Max' **Maxwell** covered many of the basic skills while **LCpl** 'Bomber' **Lancaster** enjoyed himself teaching Section Attacks.

The exercise was run with minimal DS supervision allowing the soldiers to practice their new skills. The final attack for most was the first time they had ever been in a Company level operation, and all the problems of Command and Control became apparent.

Over 90% of the Regiment passed through the Exercise which was a great success. Thanks must go to **Cpl Ben Batley**, the Exercise SQMS. Without his efforts the exercise would not have run as smoothly as it did.

The very last ATD after all this was the CFT back to barracks, another great saving on transport in these days of NMS!

ATHLETICS

The Rhine Garrison Major and Minor Units Athletics meeting took place at Grenzland Stadium, Mönchengladbach on 18 May.

Once again due to drawdown the Regiment was unable to defend its Major Units Winners Shield as it is now classed as a minor unit.

The competition was extremely strong with the Regiment being narrowly beaten by 1 point, 49 to 50. The track was the team's forte with several excellent individual performances from **LCpls Ian Robinson**, **Adie Raine**, **Sig** 'Richie' **Richardson** and **Capt Dave O'Hara**.

Right up until the last event, the 4x400m relay, it was neck and neck with 280 (UK) Sig Sqn. Unfortunately, the Regiment will not be able to have a re-match as due to drawdown we will not be around next year.

BAOR RUGBY SEVEN'S COMPETITION

As the reigning Plate Champions of 1993 we set off to Dortmund determined to return with some silverware, this being our last season.

Our first match went to plan, winning with good handling skills from an old face, **WO2 Tony** 'but I've retired!' **Woolaston** and strong tackling by **LCpl Sean Doherty**.

Due to a lapse in concentration we lost the next game and entered the Plate Competition. Our next two games were won in fine fashion with Road Runner like sprints down the wing by **LCpl** 'Steff' **Treloar** and jinky breaks by **Cpl** 'Loz' **Hill** and **LCpl Angus Morrison**.

Due to an excellent team performance we retained the BAOR Plate 36–14 in the final.

STARS, STRIPES AND DETACHMENT COMMANDERS

The 5 May 1994 was a special day for many people at 13 Sig Regt (R), Birgelen. The penultimate BAOR Detachment Commanders' Course was to pass off and **Warrant Officer CW2, Guy Tirk** (US Army) was to receive his promotion to CW 3.

The parade for the Detachment Commanders included a complex weapons drill display coordinated by the course drill instructor, **Sgt Mick Roe**. The Parade Commander was **LCpl Malcolm**.

The stars and stripes of the United States of America fluttered in the May breeze as **Col Bill Marvin**, of the United States Army inspected the parade. Following the inspection **CW3 Tirk** was sworn into the Regular US Army and the new badges of rank were fixed in position by the CO **Lt Col Phillip Rouse** and **Mrs Karyl-Lynne Tirk**. After the parade **Col Marvin** kindly agreed to present trophies and awards to the Detachment Commanders. **LCpl Ed Dickson** of 13 Sig Regt (R) won the PT award and **LCpl Burdus** took the Top Student prize, a copy of 'Vital Link' signed by the Inspecting Officer. Needless to say champagne corks were popping shortly afterwards.

ORIENTEERING BAOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The BAOR Oreinteering Championships took place at Leuth on 5 May 1994. After having won the Rhine Garrison Championships we were quietly confident about our chances especially running on home ground.

Our first problem was that two of the runners from the previous event were committeed to a course in the UK and were therefore unavailable. However, **LCpl** 'Nobby' **Clarke** was available to run one final time before his resettlement began. So things were beginning to look up.

The weather on the day proved quite good for orienteering although a few showers, dampened some spirits. On the 'A' course **Sgt Andy Jensen** and **LCpl** 'Robbo' **Robinson** performed once again, pulled out the stops and came within two minutes of each other.

On the 'B' course **LCpl** 'Nobby' **Clarke** ran one of the better times of the day. This obviously gave **SSgt Phil Matthews** a challenge as he ran in some 10 minutes behind, again a good performance. On the 'C' course **Cpl Steve Christopher** ran well on his inauguration to championship running.

The runners then had a couple of hours to wait before the presentation with **SSgt Phil Matthews** telling everyone that he thought we were in third place. We were therefore really pleased to pick up the runners-up trophy from the Chairman of BAOR Orienteering, **Col P. Lynch**, having missed number one spot by just 63 seconds.

The team now look forward to going to the Army Championships at the end of May.

BIRGELEN HOCKEY SHIELD

To commemorate the final season of hockey played by Regimental personnel, and to assist inter-Service integration, teams from RAF Digby and 14 Sig Regt (EW) were invited to take part in a competition, held at JHQ on 16 and 17 May 1994.

With the help of HQ Sqn **LCpl** 'Nobby' **Clark** kindly agreed to make a suitable trophy which would ensure that Birgelen Hockey will be remembered. The rules for the competition were formulated. If you win it, you organise next year's competition.

Many of the Regimental personnel willingly gave up their free time to assist the RAF team with an acclimatisation period which included long tactical discussions assisted by refreshments and trips to Roermond in the early hours.

When the RAF team debussed at JHQ they looked acclimatised, although not long into the first game against the Regiment it was obvious that they had been calling our bluff. The match ended in a 2–2 draw. With only a short rest the Regiment was back on the pitch to face 14 Sig Regt (with some help from 16 Sig Regt).

It was not long before everyone realised that 14 Sig Regt were the team to beat but this was easier said than done and they ended the day by beating both opposition teams. On the second day 13 Sig Regt (R) fought back with a vengeance and ended their game with 14 Sig Regt (EW) in a draw. The RAF battled hard against 14 Sig Regt (EW) in their second game but the strength of the 14 Sig Regt (EW) team was just too much and they lost 3–1. The final game of the competition was 13 Sig Regt (R) against the RAF, another hard fought match in which the score remained 2–2 until the last minute when **SSgt Nigel Watton** took a shot at goal, this was kindly helped into the net by **CT Dave Bues** (RAF Digby Team Manager) and the game was won by the Regiment 3–2. As with all other games the match was played in an excellent spirit. It was then back to the Regiment for a Barbecue and prize giving.

After a few words from the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Phillip Rouse**, he kindly presented the Birgelen Hockey Shield to **Capt Andy Williams** of 14 Sig Regt (EW). The CO reminded everyone that it was now 14 Sig Regt's responsibility to organise next year's event. BFG commemorative medals (souvenir) were presented to the RAF Digby team, including their OC, **Wg Cdr Bruce Wynn** and **2Lt Simon Meadowcroft**, who managed to score two goals for the RAF whilst supposedly playing for the Regiment. It was a highly successful two days of hockey, enjoyed by all. Formalities over it was time to start the integration process in earnest.

RHINE GARRISON SAAM

Despite the Regiment being in the process of drawdown and now competing as a minor unit team they still manged the same clean sweep of events as last year.

The team consisted of **Capt** 'Two Guns' **Corcoran**, **Lt Ashley Hayden**, **SSgt** 'Taff' **Gillespie**, **Sgts** 'Jock' **Burns**, **Andy Butler**, 'Robbo' **Robertson**, **LCpl Ian Robinson**, **JT** 'Smudge' **Smith**, **JT Simon Dodsworth**, **LCpls Kev Thompson**, **Phil Unsworth**, 'Skid' **Rowe**, 'Scotty' **Hoffman**, and **Tony LeSurf**.

The SAAM took place at Haltern Ranges over a three day period 9-11 May 1994. Although the weather wasn't perfect (you couldn't see the targets for the March and Shoot) the team used the 'force' and managed to win the SA80 Rifle Match, Section Match, Fibua Shoot (Graham Trophy), the Pistol Individual (**Capt Corcoran**), the Falling Plate and March and Shoot. Fortunately for the other major and minor units this was the last time 13 Sig Regt (R) will compete at the Rhine Garrison SAAM due to drawdown.

Finally the team would like to thank 'Two Guns' **Corcoran** for the excellent leadership as Team Captain over the past three years.

Lt Hayden receiving Rhine Area Small Arms Cup from Brig H. H. Kerr Comd Rhine Garrison

Rhine Garrison SAAM Minor Units Champions. Back Row: Sgt Burns, SSgt Gillespie, LCpl Hoffman, JT Smith, LCpl Lesurf, Sgt Robertson, LCpls Unsworth, Robinson, Capt Corcoran
Front Row: JT Dodsworth, LCpl Thompson, Lt Hayden, LCpl Rowe, Sgt Butler

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 36

226 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Don Macaulay**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Martin Waclaweck**

SHQ TROOP

Farewell to **Sgt Steve Roberts** who moves on to the Officers' Mess (but still under the watchful 'PMC' eye of the Sqn Comd), **LCpl Chris Leader** off to NI, **LCpl Mark Knowles** across to 200 Sig Sqn and lastly **LCpls Trip Journet** and **Ritchie Brookes** bound for pastures new in civvy street. A warm welcome is extended to **Sig** 'Freddie' **Starr**.

Congratulations to **Tracey** and **LCpl Eddie** 'Douglas' **Sharpe** on the birth of **Jessica**, their third child. Well done to **LCpls Lee Hopkins** and **Willy Wilcock** on promotion to full Corporal, and cheers for the beers!

C (COMMS) TROOP

Tp Comd — **2Lt Kevin Mosby**

The Troop has had a busy period on both Squadron Exercises and 'Rent-a-Det' deployments, namely Ex Quadriga Herald and Ex Whale Hunt. These all proved fruitful where the six pack pool of fines is concerned, as demonstrated by the sky diving feats of **LCpl Sharp**, the theory of relative motion by **Cpl Meek**, and the performing arts of **Sgt Thornton**'s nose.

Sadly we must say farewell to **Cpl Price** off to the USA, **Cpls Render** and **Swallow** on posting and **LCpl Chapman** going 'civvy'. We wish you all the very best. Welcome to **Sue** and **Sgt Danny Thornton** on internal posting from 245 Sig Sqn and **Anja** and **Sgt Johnson** from H Tp.

H (HF) TROOP

Tp Comd — **Capt Eric Doughty**

Congratulations to **Jane** and **Sgt** 'Hopalong' **Watson** on their new arrival. Welcome to **Natalie** and **Cpl David Lodge**.

R (ROMEO) TROOP

Tp Comd — **Capt Sharon Moffat**

The Troop says a fond farewell to **LCpl** 'Sticky' **Allardyce** and his wife **Sybil** who are leaving us for 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207). Welcome to **Angela** and **LCpl Gerwin Evans** who have joined us from 9 Sig Regt (R).

EXERCISE WHALE HUNT

With March and April dominated by the Regimental Battlefield Survival Exercise, Ex Sweaty Palm, the first test of the Squadron role kicked off with an early morning call-in (I thought we didn't do those any more?) and days later the exercise deployment. Overall the exercise was a success, but over to the Troops for the highlights.

A rare sighting of the FofS at work in SCP

'All hail to the CO–Where's that helicopter?'

H (HOTEL) TROOP

On deployment **LCpl** 'Taz' **Wake** was sporting a helmet with dreadlock accessories, and consequently he won the Bob Marley look-a-like competition, hands down.

At our first location things were looking good. The day was warm and the sun was shining. However, as dawn broke so did the weather. Morale started to take a nose dive, but was lifted by the humourous antics of **Sig Jock** 'quiz master' **Orr**.

With the complex smoothly up and running, Q **Robertson** began the rounds to the outlying detachments. Kingfisher 3 was sharing a location with 10 inquisitive cows. They soon decided that a diet of cam squares, PU 12 guys and combat braids made a tasty change from boring old grass. The farmer at the Kingfisher 2 location (when Q eventually found it), enjoyed their company so much that he went to the trouble of putting a fence around the whole detachment–it was an offer they couldn't refuse!

Meanwhile, back at the complex **LCpl Sara Jenkins**, a new arrival to the troop, decided that 'this exercise lark' was not for her and proceeded to back flip off the box body. After a short stay in hospital and a quick recovery she was back for post exercise drinks.

A vote was cast and **Capt Doughty** was pipped at the post for the coveted 'Golden Blanket' award by **Sgt Marie** 'Rip Van' **Cottam**.

'H Tp see, hear and speak no evil'
Photos by Cpl Buxton

R (ROMEO) TROOP

The exercise progressed uneventfully until **LCpl** 'Ditcher' **Phippen** decided to practise his 'off route' driving skills in the deepest ditch he could find. **Cpl Parr** then led the whole convoy on a very 'scenic' guided tour. Thankfully Q **Clee**'s tactful intervention brought us into the correct location by the planned arrival time.

The high point of the exercise was provided by **Sgt** 'Wodge' **Howard**, who recced a hidden electric fence–how his eyes shone when he found it!

A big pat on the back for all the effort put in. Keep it up for Whale Hunt II, the sequel . . .

OPEN DAY

'Encouraged' by the harassed figure of **SSgt (YofS) Dave Marriott**, the Troops planned, gathered stores, and then assembled one or more stands, with a Welsh theme, for the Regiment's Open Day. The money, from the event, was to be split between designated charities, which included the local childrens' school for special needs and, the Corps Museum Fund. Despite the Squadron exercise ending just before the day, all was completed in time.

Romeo Tp's contribution was a Face Painting Stand pulled together by **Cpl Lee Bourne**. The stand was extremely popular with the children and a number of bigger 'children'; **Ellen Clee**, **Jane Gardner**, **Lisa Harrison** and **Sonja Revell** provided the artistic talent while the Troop personnel drummed up trade.

Comms Tp provided the stocks, where many a Regimental figurehead fell foul of this instrument of public humiliation. However, we do feel that we peaked too early by the placing of **SSgt (YofS) Marriot** in there first; he wouldn't leave for three quarters of an hour! Many of the sponges were hurled with great feeling, even if the accuracy was not APWT standard; grateful thanks to **Capt Ashwell**, **Capt Plumb**, **WO1 (RSM) Knight** and the Sqn Comd for providing celebrity targets to help bring in extra cash.

Hotel Tp tested golfing accuracy, with one stand and the ancient art of turtle (wooden!) racing on the other, most of us could do with a lot more practice on both. Def EW Tp's 'Splat The Rat', incorporating a huge leek, clearly demonstrated a lack of hand/eye coordination based on the number of prizes left at the end! Finally, SHQ Tp learnt that its 'ED powered' Fruit Machine had a major fault–it paid out too often!

UKSC (G) CANOE SLALOM CHAMPIONSHIPS 1994

The UKSC (G) Canoe Slalom Championships took place on the River Lenne, at Hohenlimburg on 11 June. The team captain **Lt Paul Atkinson**, along with **SSgt (YofS) Andy Dobson** (who was also the event organiser), trawled through the Regiment looking for willing volunteers to participate in the event. After a little arm twisting and the promise of five days in sunny Hohenlimburg a team was assembled.

Most of the team undertook three days training at Hohenlimburg, broken up by helping **Andy Dobson** design, build, destroy, redesign, and rebuild a course for the competition. This was done quickly and effectively without the assistance of the promised good weather. It is fair to say that the hard work carried out by the team, enabled over 50 people to enjoy a successful championship. Thank you one and all.

Most of the training was carried out 'in' the canoes, although 'the Boss' **Lt Paul Atkinson**, was quickly showing why he is a natural choice for the swimming team. By the end of the first day, all could point the canoe in the right direction. It was then time to go through those gates, 'don't ask why, just do it', and 'trust me, I've swum some of the best rivers in Europe' were the quotes taken from the **Dobson** Slalom Coaching manual.

After a change of canoe (to a more stable craft) by **Sgt Dave Almond**, he showed the fastest improvement, and was destined to fill the spot in the A Team vacated by **Cpl Dave Brown** who suffered a damaged collar bone 10 days before the event. **Sig Babs Ennis**, who much prefers 'playing' than competing, managed to progress out of the plastic canoes (tupperware pigs) into a fibre glass canoe, which was no mean feat. **Babs** was even more surprised, when she produced an Eskimo roll, to complete the course on race day 'I had to roll, with so many watching' said a rather modest **Babs**.

On to the results,

Novice Kayak: 'The Boss' **Lt Paul Atkinson** got our best Novice result, placed 9th. **Pte Marcus Morley** came 13th and **Sig P. J. Johns** came 14th.

Intermediate Kayak: Sgt Dave Almonds came 9th and **Sig Babs Ennis** came 11th, **Babs** was also placed 3rd in the ladies event.

Open Kayak: SSgt (YofS) Andy Dobson won the UKSC (G) Championship for the third time in a row, closely followed by **Sgt Shane Wright** who was 2nd.

Sgt Wright negotiates a gate on the upper part of the course

Novice Team: The novice team consisted of **Lt Paul Atkinson**, **Pte Marcus Morley** and **Sig P. J. Johns**. Managing to finish 2nd after a disastrous first run, with PJ capsizing at gate 1.

Open Team: The open team of **SSgt (YofS) Andy Dobson**, **Sgts Dave Almond** and **Shane Wright** managed to negotiate the course in a time faster than **Dave**'s individual run to become the 1994 unit team champions.

SSgt (YofS) Dobson paddling into fast water
Photos by WO1 (RSM) G. N. F. Knight

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16 Sig Regt
BFPO 40

VISIT OF SOinC(A)

On 18 May 1994 the SOinC(A), **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle** visited the Regiment in their new home at Rheindahlen. The SOinC(A) was initially briefed by the Commanding Officer on the new ORBAT of the Regiment and the recent move to Rheindahlen. He was then given a brief on the very successful Ex Second Sip which saw the Regiment deploy on a long road move to a US Trg Area at Aschaffenberg in South Germany simulating an OOA operation. After leaving RHQ, the SOinC officially opened the newly built 'Wall' that had originally been built in Bradbury Barracks to commemorate the granting of Freedom of Krefeld to the Regiment. The SOinC then toured the new Regimental lines meeting as many personnel as possible, visiting Krefeld Lines, the Bradbury Shop and Silkman Cafe. He then moved on to the new Junior Ranks Club, 'The Wall and Willow', where he was able to meet some of the Regiment's sporting achievers of the year, who included **Sgt Farrell**, one of the British Winter Olympic Bob Sleigh Team and **Cpl Maybin**, who is the current British Ski Bob Champion. The SOinC then moved to the WO and Sergeants' Mess where he presented LS and GC medals to **WO2 (QMSI) Wilson** and **SSgt Whitaker** after which he found time in his hectic programme to speak to the officers and SNCOs of the Regiment before departing.

THE REGIMENTAL CLUB

Following the move of the Regiment from Krefeld to Rheindahlen, the opportunity arose to establish a Regimental Club in what had previously been 68 Sqn RCT's 446 Club. The Club has been renamed 'The Wall and Willow' after the imposing features which stood in front of RHQ in Bradbury Barracks at Krefeld. The Club has two bars and a large function room and will be used primarily by the Regiment's Junior Ranks. On the 19 March, an all ranks function to mark the formal opening of the Club was organised by the Club's Supervising Officer, **Maj Dick Offord** and his committee, it was thoroughly enjoyed by a full house which boogied the night away to a superb disco run by **Sig** 'Coops' **Cooper**.

LIFE IN RHEINDAHLEN

16 Sig Regt has finally arrived in Rheindahlen. The months of hard planning are all behind us, the parades are finished and the dust has started to settle. The organisation of the Regiment has changed somewhat since our arrival. The Trunk Node Sqn, 230 Sig Sqn remained in Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld and formed part of 7 Sig Regt and HQ Sqn reduced in size to be reorganised into Support Troop. So where have the different elements of the Regiment based themselves within Rheindahlen? 252 Sig Sqn which has always been based in Rheindahlen, but as part of the overall Regimental move, relocated its SHQ on the ground floor of Telephone House within the JHQ compound. This has ensured that SHQ is now closer to Systems, The Exchange and the Joint (BFG) Commcen, all of which form part of the Squadron ORBAT. Space was made available for the Squadron by the removal of the old Strowger Exchange, which was replaced by a digital exchange about 1/20th the size. 253 Sig Sqn remain in Bielefeld but is due to move to its location in Herford later this year. 255 Siq Sqn and Support Troop moved from Krefeld and took up residence in the old RAF Mechanical Engineering Flight (MEF) compound and this has been named Krefeld Lines to retain our Regimental identity within Rheindahlen. A reduced RHQ has occupied the old HQ 4 Sig Gp building which is also situated within the JHQ compound.

The Regiment having quickly established itself in Rheindahlen started to set up various amenities for the benefit of all regimental personnel. A much needed Junior Ranks Club was acquired and aptly named 'The Wall and Willow'. A great deal of hard work has gone into improvements so far and the club was opened soon after our arrival.

The Bradbury Shop was transferred from Krefeld and, again, after a lot of hard work, is now a thriving business. Located within the Bradbury shop complex is the popular Silkman Cafe which is a roaring success, offering a focal point for the Regiment where soldiers can go and relax, get a bite to eat and a coffee. It is also a regular meeting place for the wives club coffee mornings. There are many other facilities within the Rheindahlen complex, they include a swimming pool, the largest NAAFI in Germany, a cinema which is open every night, a saddle club and an American BX to name but a few. 16 Sig Regt has settled into its new environment, there is still a lot more work to be completed but we look forward to the future and being able to actively contribute to life in Rheindahlen.

TRAINING WING

The Regimental Training Wing, albeit small in number, has been kept extremely busy organising Regimental events from New Arrivals courses to Skill-at-Arms Meetings and the forthcoming Battle Camp at Sennelager.

REGIMENTAL SKILL-AT-ARMS

The Regimental Skill at Arms meeting was held at Arsbeck Range 25-28 April 1994. In addition to the normal shooting matches of Henry Whitehead, LSW Match and Pistol Match a number of background stands were incorporated into the programme to enable maximum use of time available for individuals to compete ATD's and brush up on other military skills prior to the Regimental Battle Camp. It can be said that it was a busy four days. In total 11 teams of section strength including one female, took part with all team members firing in all matches, this gave everyone the chance to compete for the overall champion and enabled the Training Wing the opportunity to select the teams for the forthcoming Rhine Garrison Skill-at-Arms Meeting which 16 Signal Regiment won as overall Major Unit Champions. The CO's wife kindly presented prizes to all the winners and runners-up, after which all the competitors enjoyed a barbecue excellently prepared by **Sgt Lake** and organised by **Cpl** 'Sid' **Perks** and his admin team. Worthy of a mention are:

Champion-at-Arms (Male)	– **LCpl Crooks**
Runner-up	– **Capt Williamson**
Champion-at-Arms (Female)	– **Lt Rankin**
Runner-up	– **Sig Wheatley**
Team Champion	– F Tp, 255 Sqn.
Runner up	– G Tp, 255 Sqn.
March and Shoot Winners	– F Tp, 255 Sqn.
Runners up	– Systems Tp, 252 Sqn.

Regt SAAM Team Champions, F Tp 255 Sqn

2Lt Harrison encourages his team along

EXERCISE BALTIC BACKSTOP
By LCpl Gill Brown

On 9 May 1994 five members of 255 Sig Sqn embarked on an exciting yachting adventure on the Baltic Sea. Ex Baltic Backstop was to have taken place on the Corps yacht *Quicksilver*. However, due to necessary repairs *Quicksilver* was out of the water so the 36ft *Kittiwake* was chartered in her place. We met up with our skipper for the week, **John Curran**, and The Corps Bosun, **LCpl** 'Windy' **Gale**, who took everyone through the safety points and a few knots.

Kittiwake set sail from Kiel Sail Training Centre on Tuesday 10 May headed for Sonderborg in Denmark. The wind was light, force 1-2, but it still got the better of **Cpl Albert Tatlock** as he decided to examine closely the side of the boat! Sonderborg proved to have all the ingredients of a good night, and morning, out! After a late rise we set sail for Svendborg. **Sig** 'Daz' **Cartwright** became the knotting expert and everyone was soon raising and lowering sails as though it was second nature. **Sig** 'Brocky' **Brocklehurst** soon mastered the art of crewing, in fact, so much so he could even do it in his sleep. Svendborg lived up to true Danish tradition and needless to say there was another late start on Thursday morning. On route that day we stopped in an anchorage for lunch – Brocky probably wouldn't have noticed if we had thrown him over with the anchor! We arrived in Aeroskobing that evening–a tiny village with one pub and a live blues band–not everyone's idea of a good night out. A good chance to write postcards back to the Troop–missing you!

On the return journey to Kiel Skipper **John** put all his faith in the novice sailors leaving us at the helm: 'Just steer 125 degrees and trim the sails if they need it!' As the wind increased, to a force 6 at times, everyone had a 'go' at helming. **LCpl Gill Brown** eventually got the hang of steering after a couple of 360 degree turns! **Lt Carole Rankin** discovered she could change colour from white to green and back again–it must have been something she ate!

On arrival back in Kiel the yacht we had hoped to charter for the rest of the exercise was unavailable so it was R and R in Kiel. We visited the German Maritime Museum which included a U-boat perched on the beach which we could look around–who'd join the Navy?

Many thanks to Kiel Sail Training Centre and especially **LCpl** 'Windy' **Gale** for all his help with sorting out the yacht charter and accommodation in Kiel.

252 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj A P Lomax**
2IC — **Capt S. M. Williamson**

With the Regiment settled in JHQ the Squadron has just about come to terms with its new set of abbreviations. EST(A), RSSST(GE), CDABFG, CDPT, JDCMS and CALAIS are all now administered by 252. Who? I hear you ask.

The Electrical Security Team (Army), for those who do not know of its existence, is a small hard working band of technical types who roam around the world carrying out electrical and electronic security inspections on various installations. The main element of EST(A) is based within CPD, Blandford; however there is a team in Germany, and part of 252 Sig Sqn. There are now only five members of EST(A) **WO2 (FofS)** 'Ossie' **Osborne** the team leader, **SSgt** 'Mac' **McMillan, Sgt John Barran, Lenny D'Rozario** and **John Hodson.** Despite being away from station quite often, we do take part in Regimental and Military activities. The Foreman, **SSgt McMillan** and **Sgt Barran** have represented the Regimental Golf Team and recently taken part in the Corps BAOR spring championship. **Sgt Hodson** has taken part in many Regimental running activities and in the London Marathon finishing in a very respectable time.

Congratulation are given to the Foreman on his recent promotion to WO2, and best wishes are given to **Sgt John Hodson** and his wife **Edna** on completion of twenty two year's service.

253 SIGNAL SQUADRON

The last two months have seen a flurry of activity with fond farewells to **Capt** Josh **Poole, Sgt Chris King** and **Sgt Millar**; the Squadron wishes them the best for the future.

Despite geographical and movement difficulties we still continue to meet the challenge competing in all inter-squadron events. Recently, in the Regimental Athletics the squadron came a close second to 255 Sqn, despite a head scratching session over how the points system worked, baffling even the best mathematician. Other activities have included **Sgt Mann** organising a sailing week with six Squadron members, placing themselves at the mercy of the Baltic and the capable hands of **Sig** 'Windy' **Gale** on the Corps Yacht Quick Silver.

Finally the Yeoman would be for ever unforgiving, if no mention was made of our annual participation in the Hereford marches. Again the girls did exceptionally well this year gaining 1st, 3rd and 4th positions with lads gaining 14th in their competiton. Another enjoyable day, very much Anglo/German in flavour, which finished with food, drink and much discussion with our hosts on the day's events.

255 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Capt D. J. M. Bizley**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Woodcock**

We have welcomed visits from Comd Rhine Garrison, Comd Comms and the SOinC.

The Squadron bade a fond farewell to its Officer Commanding **Maj** 'Steve' **Felton** and his wife **Jojo** to MOD Signal Directorate, who got out whilst the going was good back in Krefeld. **Jojo's** horse is still in transit we believe, awaiting collection from its round the world trip, trying to catch up with its owner's posting.

Congratulations go to **LCpl Goulden**, Squadron Clerk, on his recent and well deserved promotion.

FOXTROT TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Katrina Reynolds**

After the recent Regimental SAAM held at Arsbeck Ranges, congratulations must go to the 'Dead Eye' troop team in winning the champion team competition. The team consisted of **Sgts Richie Brown** and **Chris Wilson, Cpl Kev Howley, LCpls Niel Cawthorne,** 'Sanch' **Crooks** and **Sigs Neil Tarry, Mark Owen, Bob Booth** and **Mandy Smith.** It managed to gain four top placings including the March and Shoot and one third place, with the best overall shot of the competition going to **LCpl** 'Sanch' **Crooks,** who, unfortunately, found himself on an exercise in Frankfurt just in time for the Rhine Garrison SAAM.

The Troop bade fond farwell to **Cpl** 'Dino' **Flint, Sigs Pete Murphy** and **Andy Prentis,** all posted to Civi Street. **Cpl Lynne Davis** to Northern Ireland, **Sig Mark May** and his wife **Mel** to 200 Sig Sqn and **Sig Dawn Watson** to 14 Sig Regt.

We welcome **LCpl Damon Walmsley** who has joined us from 7 Sig Regt. We especially welcome back our fearless Tp Comd, from her successfully completed freefall parachuting course at Bad Lippspringe. We would like to wish **Sgt Richie Brown** every success with his RSSC later this month.

ATHLETICS

The first major sporting event on the calendar for the Regiment after the move was athletics, and with a busy athletics programme lined up for UKSC(G), the Regiment held its Athletics Meeting in April to enable a Regimental team to be selected for the coming meetings. The day was ably organised by the QMSI with his staff and went ahead in glorious sunshine. The Regiment having established itself in Rheindahlen decided to used the track facilities available in JHQ and, although a cinder track, this did not deter those keen athletes who wished to do battle. The meeting was a closely fought contest by all squadrons but the afternoon programme saw 253 and 255 Sig Sqns move ahead and it was a neck and neck race right to the end with 255 Sig Sqn just pipping 253 Sig Sqn for first place.

The Regimental Athletics enabled us to produce our best team to go forward to the Rhine Garrison Athletics Meeting in June. This was held at the excellent Grenzland Stadium in Moenchengladbach. The Regiment found itself up against some very tough opposition but was more than ready for the challenge and the meeting was closely fought with the Regiment giving a very good account of itself. At the end of the day both the male and female teams came runners up with only a few points dividing them from the winners.

Sig Dawkins of 255 Sig Sqn entered the UKSC(G) Individual Athletics Meeting at the Sennelager Stadium and fought off strong competition to win the Shot Putt with an excellent throw of 12m 34cm to become UKSC(G) Champion. Our congratulations go out to him and wish him luck at the Army meeting in Aldershot.

Sgt Farrell, Captain of the winning team being presented with the Cup by the CO

LS & GC PRESENTATION PHOTOGRAPH

We apologise for an error in the June issue of *The Wire* concerning an LS & GC presentation. The photograph caption should have read '**SSgt M. Shirley** receiving his LS & GC from **Brig Schuler**'.

21 Sig Regt (AS)
Colerne

220 SIGNAL SQUADRON – RAF LAARBRUCH
Sqn Comd **Maj M. W. Edwards**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Watson**

FROM ATHLETICS TO FOOTBALL?

In the past 21 Sig Regt were a power to be reckoned with when it was time to don one's running spikes in the world of athletics. (For those of you who cannot remember that far back, a brief look at the Corps history 'The Vital Link' (pages 294-295) will confirm this). However, with only 220 Sig Sqn remaining in Germany, there has been a shift from athletics to football. The team, which is led by the Corps Superstar **SSgt (YofS) Tony Redman** and, occasionally trained by the ageing superstar **Capt Paul Gaffney**, have managed to bring the North Rhine Inter-Services League Division Two Championship Trophy back to its new resting place at RAF Laarbruch. This was a remarkable feat, considering that, due to commitments, the Squadron was unable to field the same team at any stage, during the season, as **SSgt (YofS) Redman** reports . . .

The season began well with wins in both the League and Cup competitions. The Squadron never fielded the same team during the season, however, a small nucleus of players kept us in contention. Due to the backlog caused by cup competitions, inclement weather and extensive work commitments all games at the latter part of the season were 'double headers'. This proved beneficial for the team with all fixtures won by a large score. The North Rhine Inter Services Div 2 was won eventually by a margin of 3 pts with the Squadron winning all games apart from drawing two. Many thanks to all Heads of Departments for releasing players during these busy times. Congratulations to all who played and administered the team throughout the season. Next season sees the Squadron promoted into Div 1 and competing against major units within the North Rhine area. We look forward to this challenge and wearing the 'new strip' promised by the Sqn Comd.

The sporting skills, however, are not only limited to the football field. Through the dedicated leadership of **SSgt Ian Tapielow BEM**, the Squadron has maintained an excellent record on the orienteering front and is currently leading the Rhine Garrison League after eight events. Earlier in the season the team achieved a commendable third in the Minor units section of the Rhine Garrison Orienteering Championships and qualified for the BAOR Championships.

Some of the orienteering team
Back row *L to R:* LCpl Webster, SSgt Tepielow, Cpl Upton, Sig McGoldrick, Cpl MacPhee
Front row *L to R:* Sigs Roberts, Searle, O'Neill

More recently the unit has used sporting events to raise the mandatory 'Charity Coffers'. **SSgt Tepielow BEM** and **Cpl Billy Upton** completed their final 'Money for Miles' marathon in Rotterdam, ending a long term partnership as **Cpl Upton** leaves on redundancy, raising £175 for Christian Aid. The Sqn Comd **Maj Mark Edwards**, has also been doing his bit too. His days of rugby are now over, however, as a prime attraction as a guest on the 'Ducking Stool' at the RAF Laarbruch 40th Anniversary Fete he showed us that he still has a few fast moves left. For **Sig Riley**, it proved an excellent way of contributing to the Corps Museum Fund. A special mention should be made of **2Lt Ruth Pilkington**, attached to the unit post Sandhurst, and her team, for the effort in making the Squadron stand at the fete a popular attraction.

On the rugby league front, the Squadron continues to make up three-quarters of the RAF Laarbruch station team and **2Lt Joth Heywood** and **Sig Matt Eades** of L Tp have been selected to attend the BFG trial.

Money for miles–SSgt Tepielow and Cpl Upton

So back to athletics; well many of the superstars are now 'packed' in other Corps regiments, but Manning and Records appear to have missed **Sigs Chris Roberts**, **Paul Clancy** and **Mac McGoldrick** of Oscar Tp, who continue to compete as individuals in long and middle distance events.

Thus in conclusion, perhaps if there is ever a second edition of 'The Vital Link', a mention of the new disciplines of 21 Sig Regt, or more particular the disciplines of 220 Sig Sqn would help to bring our history up-to-date.

244 SIGNAL SQUADRON
ALPHA TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Graham Fletcher**

EXERCISE ARDENT GROUND

The Troop, having returned from a ten-week deployment to Norway, spent a busy fortnight de-kitting from the Arctic role and re-fitting for more temperate climes before departing for Baumholder in southern Germany in support of Ex Ardent Ground. Ardent Ground is the ACE mobile force annual artillery concentration in which Alpha Tp provides all fast jet and support helicopter communications. Flexibility was again the name of the game as the Troop managed to provide a radio room entirely from TSB radios (which do not exist) and det commander's spares boxes (no names etc) and an excon for the Commander Force Artillery out of admin tentage. Special commendation to **Cpl Ian Johnstone** and team for producing the above through the night. The exercise, although relatively slow for air went extremely well and members of the Troop were able to make the most of the excellent facilities on base (three gymnasiums, swimming pool, bowling alley, PX and of course the Rod and Gun Club).

COMMANDERS CUP 1994

On returning to UK the Troop barely touched base before the Sqn Comd sent us away again to Fort Tregantle in Cornwall to carry out an ATD camp. The nominated team for the Commanders Cup competition was announced at this time, surprisingly six out of the eight team members were Alpha Tp as well as all three nominated reserves. We gathered up our 'attached personnel' and spent three fun filled days carrying out ATD training (with extra Bergen Runs, tank 'spotting', map reading and military knowledge thrown in). Thanks to the Sqn DS for the extra support during the period and for the many words of encouragement and advice as they departed for home and we departed for sunny Oakhampton. Dartmoor provided no surprises (cold, wet and windy) and the team enjoyed three days of testing in an extremely well run competition. 4th place was achieved in the competition all team members to be congratulated for their contributions notably: **Lt** 'RCB' **Fletcher** for his command abilities (Command Task score–20%); **SSgt** 'Pathfinder' **Davison** for night navigation (an extra 18km and still disqualified); **Cpl Jim Hawkins** and **LCpl** 'Smudge' **Smith** (good march–shame about the shoot); **LCpl Vinny** 'Elastic' **Hill** (falling 25ft from the assault course and still completing the day); **Sigs John Brennan**, 'Fozzie' **Foster**, 'Geordie' **Haggarth** and **Danny Adams** (for not noticeably messing up).

ADIEU ET BIENVENUE

Farewells to **Sgt Mark Tivey** and wife **Caroline** and the family on promotion–enjoy that loa. **LCpl Rob** 'Julian' **Close**–enjoy Tidworth and **LCpl** 'Taff' **Thomas** and family. Welcome back for **Sig** 'Topper' **Dorling**.

INDIA TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Geoff Pullen**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We say farewell to **Sig Stu Park** who has finally decided to move to 264 for good. Also we say goodbye to **Sig Ray Hayes** who is off to Alaska for three months and **Sig Lex Barker** who is off to Zimbabwe for three months. Hello to **Sigs Andrew**, **England**, **Morgan**, **Hills** and **Rubin** arriving fresh from the factory and **Sig Hollyoake** who joins us from 43 Sig Sqn (V).

In April the Squadron deployed on Ex Red Beaufighter. India Tp found itself supporting 7 Sqn RAF and in between exercise mortar attacks and IED incidents had to swim through lakes of mud and free bogged-in radio relay vehicles. Congratulations must go to **SSgt Phil Fluck** who convinced the 2IC Sqn Captain, **John Norris**, that the quickest way to the location was by walking knee deep through a mud lake!

On 14 May half the Squadron and most of the Troop deployed to Cyprus on Ex Lion Sun 2/94. The exercise, although involving a full programme and hard work, proved to be most enjoyable. It was the military training which really made the exercise and it was felt by all participants that more time should have been devoted to this. Whilst some of the Troop were 'roughing it' in Cyprus the rest of us found ourselves making the most of the tropical climate in sunny Otterburn! Give us Otterburn any day!

The Troop also participated in the Devizes PHAB (Physically Handicapped Able Bodied) holiday at Torbay. **Sigs Lee Hickman** and **Si Bradford** represented us and yet again the soldiers and PHAB had an excellent time. Coming up soon is a PHAB Charity Wheelchair Push, in which the whole Troop will be taking part–beats PT any day!

LCpl Cadman, Sigs Nige Burns-Sweeney and Geoff Ford having a party on Ex Red Beaufighter

EXERCISE LION SUN

The Regiment provided a composite Company strength party for Lion Sun between 17 April and 20 May. The exercise was led by **Maj Craig Treeby** and the Company was put through its paces in an intensive but, enjoyable (at times) programme. This entailed the three platoons doing a round robin of activities. The infantry phases were led by **2Lt Alistair Kett** and **Sgt Paul Carr** of the 1st Bn Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

During the range phase our primary thanks must go to **Charlie Speak**, the Range Warden, for his enormous help aided by the evergreen **Christie**. Also our praise must go to the Red Arrows for their free displays, which stopped firing taking place and to the thousand ships which also halted the activities. It would be entirely unfair to say that **Capt Bob Taylor** was annoyed about this, but it is said anyway.

The tactics phase was a good blend of teaching and practice over five days. **2Lt Kett** and DS, **Cpl Jones** (RGJ) and **LCpl Wilde** (1RRF), pushed the lads hard but also gave them several memorable quotes. The phrase 'give him the good news' is now part of the Regimental vocabulary. The tactics phase was a steep learning curve and for **LCpl Pete Allan** an interesting nature ramble. Everywhere he went, snakes and spiders followed, in fact 3 Platoon spotted seven snakes on one night alone! Other points of note were that 1 Platoon was washed away by a rainstorm and **Sig Moffat** also provided a new spectator sport involving plastic bags.

The patrolling phase led by **Sgt Carr** and his two DS, **Cpl Smith** (1RRF) and **Cpl Parry** (RGJ) was equally testing and, unluckily for some, involved lots of Map Reading. 3 Platoon achieved greatest fame/notoriety for their Blue on Blue as they happily attacked their Fire Support Team.

During the three phases each platoon managed a couple of days off, known as washing days, and two days Adventure Training. The Adventure Training, led by **SSgt Steve Lyons**, was hampered by bad conditions but the troops received a welcome break and some fun on the water.

The final exercise provided the hardest test and brought out the best in most of us. The exercise consisted of a beach landing, a valley clearance, an NBC phase, a helimove, fighting patrols, a village clearance and lots of tabbing! All in all it went extremely well with real determination and enthusiasm being shown in the final attack on Paramali village.

The final attack saw some memorable sights and just went to prove that even after four weeks the motivation was still there. All in all a very successful exercise with a lot learned.

THE PRIDE OF THE REGIMENT IS AT STAKE

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30 Sig Regt
Bramcote

CO — **Lt Col J. E. Thomas MBE**
2IC — **Maj C. P. Donaghy**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) M. V. Doherty**

The Regiment continues to be heavily committed, with some 100 or so personnel deployed on operations in the former Yugoslavia, in Saudi Arabia and in Turkey. Despite this, life back in the UK continues to be busy.

VISITS OF THE SIGNAL OFFICER IN CHIEF

The Signal Officer in Chief, **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle**, visited the Regiment on 22 April 1994. After a briefing by the CO on the Regiment and its new home at Bramcote he was taken on a comprehensive tour of the barracks. During his tour he was able to meet a wide cross section of the Regiment and get fully updated on the Regiment's many and varied activities. He also officially opened the new Regimental Operations Complex by unveiling an inscribed plaque.

Cpl Parkinson in conversation with the SOinC(A) while Maj Strawbridge and Capt Cooper look on

REGIMENTAL SHOOTING TEAM

R Signals Skill-at-Arms Meeting (Corps SAM)

This year the Regimental Shooting team received an important boost in the shape of **Lt Navindrabikram Gurung**, an Army Hundred shot, who arrived from Hong Kong just in time to take-over and train the team for R Signals Corps Skill-at-Arms Meeting (Corps SAM). After barely a week of training the team moved to Ash ranges for the competition.

Corps SAM was only started in its current form this year and allows six Corps (AGC, RE, RLC, RA, R Signals and REME) to shoot its Corps Skill-at-Arms Meetings alongside each other making use of the same resources. At the end of initial phase of the Rifle Championship the Regimental A team was lying first in the Major Unit competition and 8 of the 10 members of the Regimental teams had made the cut off for stage two. **LCpl Nirmal Gurung** was lying second in the individual Rifle Championship, with **Cpl Dave Copley** lying third. The second stage was shot over the Roberts Cup ETR match and was won by the team captain of the Regimental B Team, **Capt Iain Standen**. Following Stage 2 **Cpl Copley** had moved up to second place behind **Sgt Ashcroft** from 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn.

In the team matches the Regimental A Team swept the board with the only title eluding them being the Falling Plate! In the Pistol **Capt Iain Standen** won the title for the fourth time!

The Regimental Shooting Team

The final round of the Rifle Championship, the Army Hundred Cup, took place on the final day of Corps SAM before a large audience that included **Maj Gen S Cowan CBE** and Comd Comms UKLF **Brig N F Wood**. Concurrent with the final phase of the Rifle Championship was an inter-corps shoot with the best six shots from each Corps competing. (For the R Signals 5 of the 6 came from 30 Signal Regiment!)

The final stage proved to be a close run thing and was finally won by **Capt Standen** with a score of 210/250 closely followed by **Cpl Copley** who scored 204/250. The winning margin was not large enough for **Capt Standen** to overhaul **Cpl Copley** who had himself overtaken **Sgt Ashcroft** in the overall competition and, in true Bisley style, was carried shoulder high off the range by members of the team. The concurrent inter-corps match also proved to be a close match with final score showing that R Signals has pipped the RLC by 2 points! For the Regimental teams it had been a successful week and they returned to Bramcote laden down with 16 trophies to show for their efforts. Notable performances are listed below:

Team Rifle Championship Winner–30 Sig Regt A
Team Para Cup Winner–30 Sig Regt A
Team Snap Winners–30 Sig Regt A
Team Championship Winners–30 Sig Regt A

Rifle Champion–**Cpl D. Copley**
Champion-at-Arms (Rifle and Pistol combined)–**Capt I. G. Standen**
Top Officer–**Capt I. G. Standen**
Pistol Champion–**Capt I. G. Standen**
Best Class A–**Cpl D. Copley**
Best Class B–**Sig Bharat Shestra**

143 (WEST MIDLANDS) BRIGADE SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING

Following the success of Corps SAM the Team prepared for the local Brigade SAM. Where the chief competition would be 1 RRW. So having replaced the iron sights it was time to train and practise in the new techniques required in shooting an optic sighted weapon.

The competition turned into a nail biting affair with 1 RRW putting up a very good fight and first place in the Team Championship finally resting on the result of the final event the Section Match. This proved to be the 'tour de force' with the team putting in a score that would have won Bisley the previous year; the Regiment won the Team Championship and returned home with yet more silver. Other details are listed below:

Team Rifle Championship–30 Sig Regt
Team Assocation Cup Winner–30 Sig Regt
Section Match Winners–30 Sig Regt
Falling Plate Runners Up–30 Sig Regt B
Team Championship Winner–30 Sig Regt

LSW Match Winner–**LCpl Nirmal Gurung**
Sig Bharat Shestra

Rifle Champion–**Sig Bharat Shestra**
Pistol Champion–**Capt I. G. Standen**
Best Subaltern–**Lt Navindrabikram Gurung**

TEAM:

Capt I. G. Standen, Lt Navindrabikram Gurung, Cpl D. Copley, Cpl Okilbahadur Ghale, LCpl Nirmal Gurung, LCpl Surje Gurung, Sig Bharat Shestra, Sig G. D. Gardner, Sig Harikumar Gurung, Sig S. A. Young, Sig J. M. Martin, Sig Prabin Thapa.

REGIMENTAL ORIENTEERING

The Regiment was busy in May both with the organisation and competition of two major orienteering competitions. The Corps Championships were held over the weekend 14/15 May 1994 and hosted here in Bramcote by 256 Signal Squadron. We entered a large number of runners who had an enjoyable weekend. **Cpl Liz Cooney**, Support Squadron, becoming Corps Female Champion. The next championships were the UKLF's, hosted by 250 Signal Squadron. The Regiment entered a smaller team who competed valiantly against the professionals. The best performance was once again from **Cpl Cooney** who expects her Army call up soon to run in the inter-services.

SUPPORT SQUADRON
TRAINING WING

OC — **Capt Jim Sykes**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Gordon Hitchen**

Most weekends the Wing and barrack facilities are used by both TA and Regular Army Units, not to mention the numerous charity assault course

The Last Great
CATTERICK REUNION
24-26th June 1994

The Last Great Catterick Reunion was held over the weekend 24-26th June 1994. This bald statement totally fails to convey the emotion, the nostalgia, the shared comradeship and the joy which was packed into a weekend the like of which the Corps has not seen before and will find difficult to repeat. The events of the weekend provided a spectacular climax to the Association's years of Catterick reunions. We were especially blessed with the weather; never a predictable feature of Catterick, and in the past the cause of many a cancelled event or washed out occasion, it was ideal beyond our hopes this year. Since the numbers attending meant that many of the events had to be held out of doors, this was just as well.

Some 1,600 members and their guests attended the Reunion: this was far more than we have ever had before. The high figure clearly indicated a determination to say goodbye to Catterick in style; it also placed a much greater strain than usual on the now very limited resources of the Corps in Catterick. Some 37 Branches of the Association were represented at the Reunion, and paraded their standards on the various occasions during the weekend when it was appropriate.

The weekend began with the exercising of the Freedom of Richmond by the Corps. The Corps Band led the parade, followed by three detachments from the serving Corps. Then came the Association standards, with the Association members behind. Those watching were stunned by the turnout; the long column of Assocation members seemed to go on for ever. It was certainly the largest parade ever seen in Richmond, where the citizens seemed proud and impressed, but undoubtedly sad that it was the last event. After the march past, the Corps Band played Retreat in Richmond Castle. After years in which we have endured wind, thunder, lightning and above all rain, the sun shone this year as never before, glinting beautifully on the instruments and accoutrements of the Band. The music programme was much appreciated, and it was an emotional moment when the Corps Band marched off to "The lass of Richmond Hill". Thirsty work it all was and members of the Association attended appropriately to that problem, to the benefit of the landlords of Richmond.

Saturday morning was again clear and dry, and members were free to visit the museum, to find their old barrack-rooms, to visit old haunts and to hold their own mini-reunions and branch meetings. At 2pm the fête began in its new location on Whinny Hill, where the layout clearly showed the care and forethought which had gone into it. Despite having to approach through a building site, the location proved more impressive and a fitting setting to a splendid afternoon's activities. The Blue Helmets started off the arena events with a spectacular display in breezy conditions (when is it not breezy on Whinny Hill?) and were warmly applauded. The Corps Band gave a short reminder of what was to come, accompanied by the Band of the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate. They were followed by an RAF dog display, then came the White Helmets who were received with great acclaim and whose popularity never wavers. Accompanying them were the veteran display team from the pre-war 56th London Divisional Signals, whose stamina is remarkable in the face of their advancing years. The finale of the afternoon was a pageant of signalling through the ages. This was an ambitious and spectacular event at which many old favourite equipments and vehicles were shown, along with some impressive new technology. It was a fitting climax to an excellent afternoon, during which numerous fund-raising activities and smaller displays took place around the perimeter of the arena–as well as a certain amount of light refreshing at the NAAFI and mess facilities.

The highspot of the day was without doubt the playing of Retreat on Vimy Square by the Corps Band and the Band of 34th Signal Regiment (Volunteers) on Saturday evening. Again, weather conditions were ideal for an outdoor event. The bands played separately and together in a way which most spectators had never seen them do before, and the effect was magical. The music was splendid, the impression given by massed bands of such size was dramatic, but above all there was the poignancy of this farewell occasion. Few who were present will ever forget it; at the end there was scarcely a dry eye to be seen.

The Retreat was another occasion for the generation of expensive thirsts, which were duly quenched as the evening wore on in the various messes. Despite the pressures created by catering for much greater numbers this year, it may fairly be said that a good time was had by all.

Sunday morning saw another full programme of events, again blessed by fair weather until the very last stages of the march past, when a few spots of rain reminded us of what Catterick can really be like in summer–though these did not spoil the event. We began with an open air church service, ecumenical and well attended despite the rigours of the previous evening. The Deputy Chaplain General, Archdeacon Alan Dean, preached a moving and very appropriate sermon, and the Corps Band accompanied some vigorous singing. From the service, the Band of 34th Signal Regiment led the standard bearers and Association members on a longer march than usual, from Vimy to Helles Barracks where the parade marched past the Corps Memorial for the last time before it is moved to Blandford, and finally past the Master of Signals, the Association's President.

From Helles, members moved back to Baghdad Gym, for their Annual General Meeting. The Chairman neatly balanced the needs of democracy with the pressing calls of pre lunch drinks, as he always does on these occasions, and the weekend drew to a close. This was without doubt the largest and most ambitious Catterick reunion in modern times, and provided a fitting end to the Association's long sequence of such events there. No doubt there was a good deal of sadness, and not a little questioning of why we are being forced to move, but the overall feeling was one of celebration and enjoyment. Members went home feeling that the occasion had been marked with a style appropriate to a Corps of our stature and to our long tenure in Catterick.

At the AGM, the Chairman paid a very warm tribute to Col J. R. B. Cook and the officers and men of 8th Signal Regiment, who had so clearly made a huge effort to support this last reunion. A great deal of work had been involved to plan and execute such a large and ambitious programme, and the Association much appreciated the support given. The Chairman particularly mentioned Maj Ian Noble who had been involved with the Catterick Reunion over some years and whose sterling work was greatly valued.

Branch Standards form-up at Richmond

The Corps Band leads the parade along King Street

The Mayor of Richmond takes the salute in Market Square

After the parade

The Master escorts the Mayor to Richmond Castle

Awaiting the Retreat Ceremony

The Corps Band Marches on

Sunset

The Mayor returns the Napkin

Association members at the Corps Memorial

The Corps Band and the Band of 34th (Northern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) play Retreat on Saturday evening

Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon reads the lesson at the Church Service

The Marching Column to Helles Barracks

34th (Northern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) Band leads the final parade past the Memorial

"Eyes Right"

The march past

Farewell

Photographs by David Wiles, RHQ.

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competitions organised by the local community. **SSgt (SSI) Tony Rowney** APTC is now quite a celebrity with his picture appearing, with numerous young ladies, on the assault course in most of the local papers.

BATTLE CAMP

Most recently the Regiment has returned from Ex Swan Hunter 13-23 May. The CO had tasked the Training Officer, **Capt Jim Sykes**, with organising a Battle Camp for the Regiment to test as many areas of the soldiers military skills as was practicable. A final cunning plan was produced by the Training Officer, Training Wing SSM, **SSgt Rob Carroll** and the organisers from each stand. Over 300 members of the Regiment deployed to Stanford Training Area.

The camp consisted of six nights in the field, range work under the watchful eyes of **SSgt** 'Stretch' **Barry** and **Sgt** 'Ned' **Needham**. A two day survival run by **WO2 (SSM) Chris McGinley** and **WO2 (RQMS) John Duckworth.** During this two day period soldiers found themselves living, sleeping and eating off the land. A military skills period organised by **WO2 (SSM) Darrall Skimming** and **SSgt Rob Carroll** involving river crossings. Confidence course, assault course, NBC, navigation and recovering a vehicle from a mine field. On the final day the Dyers Cup was held under the watchful eye of **WO1 (RSM) Mick Doherty.** Over 20 ten men sections completed the course consisting of a speed march, assault course, a further speed march and finally a falling plate competition. Overall winners of the Dyers Competition were Support Squadron. A special mention must be made to **Cpl** 'Harrison' **Ford** who, undeterred by the fact that his section completed twice the distance, still managed to complete the course. The Battle Camp ended with a barbecue and prize giving at Bodney Camp.

WALES AND WESTERN DISTRICT SWIMMING

The District Swimming Championships were this year hosted by the Regiment in the pool at Bramcote on 4 May. The swimming events were set aside for individual attempts at qualifying for the UKLF Championships later in the season. Notable performances came from **LCpl Kenyon, Sig Braund-Smith** and **Sig Betts**.

The Major Unit team events, in the afternoon, which were won convincingly by 30 Sig Regt's particularly strong team. The prizes were presented by **Col G. N. Donaldson**, DCOS, Wales and Western District and a former CO of the Regiment!

Results: 50m Freestyle–**2Lt Collyer**–30 Sig Regt
100m Freestyle–**Sig Green**–30 Sig Regt
100m Breastroke–**LCpl Kenyon**–30 Sig Regt
100m Backstroke–**Sig Collins**–30 Sig Regt
50m Butterfly–**Cpl Twigg**–30 Sig Regt
4x25m Ind Medley–**Sig Saunders**–30 Sig Regt

The victorious Regimental Swimming Team

CYGNET DINNER

On 23 April the Officers of the Regiment held the first Cygnet Dinner in their new home, at Bramcote. The guests for the dinner were the Prime Warden of the Dyers Company, **Mr Peter Matheson** and the Clerk of the Dyers Company, **Mr James Chambers**, who were both accompanied by their wives. In keeping with the tradition of the occasion, former Commanding Officers of the Regiment were also invited to attend, those able to do so were **Brigadier Backhouse, Brigadier Rose, Colonel Donaldson, Colonel McIntyre, Colonel Gilbertson, Colonel Burrows** and **Lieutenant Colonel Jarrett**, many accompanied by their ladies, and **Mrs Marion Bying** representing her husband.

30 SIG REGT DET RIYADH
BFPO 633

OC Det **Capt Mike Wood**

The Story Continues . . .

Even though the sands of time run out the Regiment continue to support HQBF Op Jural.

The three shifts work on a four day cycle, of days, nights, days off. Much of the time has been taken up with DIY rewiring, shelving, painting and cable laying. The Commcen is now a very permanent installation. Credit for the introduction of a formal PT programme mainly goes to **Sgt Balsdon** who, being an enthusiastic fitness fanatic, managed to gently persuade the junior members of the det that twice weekly rigorous PT sessions would be a good way to pass the time. **Sgt Balsdon** handed over as SNCO IC at the beginning of May safe in the knowledge that his PT system continues largely due to **LCpl Keise**.

On the sporting front the det has performed exceptionally well. In a recent 10km run det personnel took most of the top positions: **LCpl Nesbitt** 1st, **Sgt Balsdon** 3rd, **LCpl Keise** 4th and **LCpl Ashra** 5th. During the recent Joint Task Force-South West Asia sports day, the British team took first place with most of the team consisting of 30 Sig Regt personnel. In the last 5km run the 30 Sig Regt's 'A' team again took first position. Given that the det is only 15 strong and the Americans have hundreds of personnel here the Regiment can be proud of the det's achievements, and all of this in temperatures of 34 degrees plus!

After hours there is little to do. Now the highlight of the week is a visit to 'Batha town' which just happens to rhyme with 'barter' and this is the order of the day. The shopping area has all original name jeans and other clothing and gold items. If they don't have your size, no problem they will soon make them for you!

Now we are busy preparing for the move back. The RAF TCW didn't like the idea of Bosnia and the powers that be have decided that this place is much more to their liking (not that we can really blame them).

Ending on a high note, most people seem to have enjoyed their tour on Op Jural, many have returned for second tours! Comms have been maintained and morale has been high. The R&R spells in Bahrain have kept the boys happy, the food at the Novotel has been good. In fact, while some of the boys in Bosnia have probably been complaining about delayed re-supply, the det OC here has had to put up with overdone fillet steak! So spare a thought!

30 Sig Regt Det–Ex Rocky Lance–Oman

The price of *The Wire* will increase to £1.50 per copy, £9 per annum from February 1995

The Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
BFPO 1

Comd **Lt Col R. M. Crombie**
2IC **Maj T. W. Canham**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Gauparsad Magar**

While the cats (Comd, **Lt Col R. M. Crombie** and Gurkha Major, **Maj (QGO) Silajit Gurung MVO**) have been away on their annual pilgrimage to UK, the mice (RHQ Tp) have been playing. It seemed an ideal opportunity for the Annual RHQ Junk Trip, which was duly organised with typical Gurkha flair (enough food and drink for a battalion) by **Cpl Jitbahadur Gurung**. A splendid day was had by all and nearly everyone came back slightly sunburnt. This proved all too much for the Head Clerk, **Capt (QGO) Rajbahadur Rai**, who hadn't expected his 'permanent tan' to improve any. He was totally bemused when he started peeling!

No doubt the Comd and GM have been exceptionally busy on their round robin of all QG Sigs personnel in UK. Their return will undoubtedly bring a few problems to be solved and add to the ever changing plans for the ongoing Regimental drawdown and move of RHQ to Prince of Wales Barracks. Hopefully, this will put a stop to the Adjutant's attempts to restart his golfing career. From what we've heard, it's probably best left unstarted!

246 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd/SQGO **Capt (QGO) Dorje Tamang**
SSM **WO2 Kindarman Rai**

TM TROOP

On 7 February, NT (New Territories) Tp was renamed as TM Tp in preparation for the drawdown of 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn. The Radio Workshops, headed by **Sgt McNulty** and ably assisted by **Sgt Nirmal** 'Pop Star' **Bhattachan**, have been busy preparing for the move of our test equipment from Sek Kong to Hong Kong.

Systems Section have managed to carry on with maintaining both the Exchange and the Commcen, despite **Sig Mohan Gurung** playing more football than Gary Lineker. The Telemechs are always busy, continuously checking cables, Exchange records and the like. The Troop recently challenged the rest of the Squadron to a game of football in which the FofS felt he was doing reasonably well having scored two goals, that was until **Sig Mohan** came along and scored about 10 goals in the second half!

Congratulations from the Squadron go to **SSgt Hitman Gurung** on his selection for the QGO Commissioning Course. We all wish him well. The Troop has recently said farewell to a number of personalities, notably **Sgt** (now SSgt) **Steve Cherry** and tribe (Hong Kong Telecom are wondering why their profits have dropped since you left!), **Sgt Chetrabahadur Rana** to Brunei Sig Tp to join **Sgt Navinkumar Gurung**. Finally, **Sgt Mark Hitchins** has moved down to 247 to show them how things are done–or so he says!!

O TROOP

A Tp (Radio) and J Tp (Commcen) both joined forces recently to form Oscar Tp, Tp Comd is **Capt** (QGO) **Kishorekumar Gurung** with **SSgt Machindra Rai** running the Radio side and **SSgt Singabahadur Tamang** controlling the Commcen. The Troop has recently been subjected to the FofS and his Technicians carrying out second line inspections as well as the PRE team descending on the Troop store for a few days. **Sgt Perendra**, the Troop storeman, was more than up to the job, coming up smelling of roses on both occasions.

C TROOP

C Tp, consisting of two Rear Link Detachments, is drawing down to one detachment due to 10 GR's UK move. Current C Tp Comd, **Sgt Ambirhajur Gurung**, is presently experiencing quite a busy time as one detachments vehicles and equipment are currently under preparation for backloading. **Sgt Jaibahadur Gurung**, who is going away from the Troop, will soon be flying to BST to take his next post.

EXERCISE IRON FIST

Iron Fist, being the first military exercise that the Squadron had undertaken for well over a year, presented an opportunity for the participants to shake off a few cobwebs. The exercise was the brainchild of **YofS J. R. Knight**, who had planned everything to a fine detail. He had even booked the weather, it did not stop raining during the period spent in the field, 'If it's not raining, it's not training!' Following an APWT and some basic field skills revision, the Platoon began preparing for a deliberate attack on a pre-recce'd enemy position. Orders were given just after midnight 31 May by the guest Platoon Commander **2Lt L. W. Hendricks**. Duly inspired, the three sections set off toward the objective.

The seemingly endless wait in the FUP was made easier to bear by some unexpected entertainment. The exercise Directing Staff (DS), obviously fatigued by all the exertion they had endured, managed to steal some well earned rest on a park bench near the LD. Sleep came quite quickly to **SSM Kindraman Rai**, and in his relaxed state he fell off the bench. The laughter from the boys nearly compromised our position. Fortunately, the enemy must also have fallen asleep as the attack went in with the force of a T8 tornado. In true exercise spirit, the enemy were given no quarter and brass was distributed evenly over the Hong Kong countryside. Syabash 246!!

247 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Mervyn N. Johnston**
SQGO **Capt (QGO) Karnasher Tamang**

Options for Change and the drawdown of Hong Kong Garrison are having the predictable effects on Queen's Gurkha Signals. The first major change will be the amalgamation of 246, 247 and 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn to reform the Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn, HKGSS. This fine organisation will be based on Hong Kong Island, in Prince of Wales Barracks, probably known to older readers as HMS Tamar. It may bring tears to the eyes of those same older readers, especially the technicians and telemechs, to hear that the first step on the road to amalgamation was the demise of Island Tp and Kowloon Tp to form Mike Tp.

MIKE TROOP

Tp Comd **Maj Russ Davey**
Line Section **WO2 Ricky Fung Siu Kai**

LINE AND ANTENNA MAINTENANCE SECTION

A Report from Sgt Ho Chi Kau

On 20 April 1994, six HKMSC telemech/riggers including myself, joined the Line Section of 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn to form the Line and Antenna maintenance Section. This Section provides a military telephone service, fibre optic cable maintenance and the installation and maintenance of all military antennas in Hong Kong Garrison. In addition, the Section also provides support for line and antenna projects in Nepal and Brunei.

RADIO SECTION

A Report from LCpl Prembahadur Ale

Among the various sections in the newly formed M Tp is a Radio Section which has seen the Radio Technicians from K Tp 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn, I Tp 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn and NT Tp 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn amalgamated to form a combined Radio Workshop which maintains all the radio equipment across the theatre, including Nepal and Brunei. In general, the workshop is responsible for long range RACAL HF and PICOLLO, CLANSMAN, STORNO, and other commercial radio and PA systems.

SIGNALS WORKS SERVICE (SWS) SECTION

A Report by SSgt Bill Goddard (RLC)

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the members of the Signals Works Service Account Hong Kong. **SSgt Bill Goddard** of the Royal Logistic Corps, **Mr Poon** Store Keeper 1, **Jimmy Chan** Store Keeper 2 and last but not least, **Mr Dung** our resident telemech.

When I took over as SNCO I/C in June of 1993, we were part of K Tp 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn. We are now part of M Tp 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn, and are in the middle of our move from Gun Club Hill Barracks to Osborn Barracks. This could not have been done without the help of both the HKMSC of the Line Section and the LEP's of the Cable Gang. A big thanks to you both. Well I must sign off now (things to do). I would just like to leave you with a Storeman's favourite quote, 'In God we trust. Everybody else signs.'

THE LANTAU WALK

A Report by Sgt Derek Bright

Although it may seem like it at times, life here is not all work and no play. At a working breakfast in early January it was decided that a day out on one of the outlying islands of the colony would be a good idea. The TOT (**Maj Russ Davey**) said that it ought to be a challenging walk of four to five hours. Lantau Island with its giant Buddha and spectacular views from the second highest peak in Hong Kong would fit the bill.

On Friday 4 May, the Troop travelled by both ferry and bus to get within striking distance of the peak. Only 4km and 2,064ft below the summit, the Lantau Walk began. Unfortunately, the cloud cover was 500ft too low and the peak was totally obscured. The 6km and 3,064ft return trip to the coast at Silvermine Bay proved just as difficult as the ascent, but the meal and refreshments made the trip worthwhile. At the hot and sweaty debrief in the Squadron Club (The Verge Inn) it was decided that I was forgiven for my route selection if I promised to let someone else arrange the next Troop day out.

247 Gurkha Sig Sqn find religion

CADRE COURSE

By Cpl C. Nelson

On 16 May, 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn held a week long Cadre course at High Island training camp on the Sai Kung peninsula. The aim of the course was to bring our soldiers and JNCOs to a sufficient standard to pass the entrance tests for RSDCC and RSSC.

An intensive week was organised and run by the Chief Instructor, **Lt (QCO) Santa Pun**, who, along with some of the Regiment's finest instructors, revised and enhanced our basic military skills. Out of the 19 personnel who started the course, only one person failed to finish due to injury. Everyone got a chance to command a section and everyone was put under pressure at some time on the course.

The week started with a BFT and a chance for the females to try their 'new improved BFT', which is due to be implemented shortly. Most found this quite difficult, however maximum effort was given by all and some even improved on their own best times.

Subjects covered included weapon handling, with an emphasis placed on 'Live TOETS'. Low level tactics, NBC, first aid and night navigation were also dealt with. A new subject to most Signallers was M of I (Method of Instruction). The finished lesson plans were, however, of an exceptionally high standard.

The week finished with written exams on the subjects that were covered throughout the week. This was followed by a barbecue organised by number one chef **Cpl Dal Bahadur Rai**. This was a chance to relax and forget about our aching feet. There were numerous lighthearted occasions throughout the course. The quote of the week must, however, go to **Cpl Laxman Pun** who said, 'Look forward to my next lesson sometime, someplace, somewhere!' We can't wait!

248 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj S. C. Dexter**

EXERCISE TARHO HIMAL

On 16 February this year, seven members of Queen's Gurkha Signals flew out of Hong Kong for three weeks mountaineering in New Zealand.

Despite the none too promising weather outlook, we moved up to the Mueller Hut, high on a ridge above the Tasman Valley. 'Moved' sounds all too easy, the walk involved a strenuous 900 metre climb, made all the more interesting by the heavy rucksacks we were carrying! For the next three days we based ourselves at the Hut doing movement on glacier and ice axe arrest training, retiring to the Hut when the rain became too heavy. Our patience on the final day was rewarded by a breathtaking panoramic view of the mountains in the National Park, with Mount Cook rising majestically above all. The day also saw us knock off our first Kiwi peak, Mount Annette, of some 2,242m. The peak being an easy glacier plod followed by a scramble up loose rocks to the summit. It was a tired team that returned to prepare for the next phase, a six day trip to the Upper Tasman Glacier.

Fortunately, the weather, which dominates all, was good, as we were flying to the top of the Tasman Valley. Landing on the glacier was a strange but comforting experience. It was a fantastic day with more magnificent views of the mountains. Having landed, roped up and warned everyone about the dangers of crevasses, we started off. Within 150m **Sig Bharatkumar Rai** found a crevasse to put his leg into. Two minutes later **Sig Raj Gurung** confirmed their existence by going up to his waist! After almost an hour we reached the Tasman Saddle Hut, perched precariously on top of a rock outcrop in the middle of the glacier, surrounded on three sides by a sheer drop of 200m! This was to be our base for the next four days. A more dramatic backdrop would be hard to find.

For this phase I had hired two local guides to help with the instruction, which started with ice axe belay and crevasse rescue techniques. This required all to make an ice axe belay, tie on to it and then hurl themselves into a crevasse in order to prussic out! The prize for the best style must surely go to **Sgt Indrakumar Rai** who perfected a way of doing the last part upside down!

Over the next few days we settled into a routine of early rising, going off to climb a mountain and returning in the afternoon for more instruction on anything from belaying to crevasse rescue. The evening saw **Sgt Schrchandra Gurung** oversee the cooking of enormous and delicious curries. Fortunately, our guides **Matt Wilkinson** and **Paul Aubury** didn't seem to mind eating bhat every night, indeed, throughout our time in the mountains we ate nothing else.

We enjoyed three days of excellent weather, successfully climbing Mount Alymer, 2,608m, and the Hochstetter Dome, 2,823m, as well as doing some ice climbing on the wall of a huge crevasse. From the Hut it takes two days walk to the nearest vehicle track, which meant that on day five we had to make a start. The walk down the glacier was an interesting, if tiring day. Once below the fern line, the route became complicated by the constant need to cross glacial streams and open crevasses. The following day the weather broke and our descent over the boulder strewn glacier and moraine was made all the more difficult in the driving rain. That evening we were back in the relative comfort of the Unwin Hut.

After a days rest, spent washing and drying our clothes, we returned to the Mueller Hut. This time, however, the way up didn't seem as steep or tiring! We were there to climb two mounains, Mounts Sealy and Darby, however we had to abandon our first attempt on Mount Sealy due to bad weather. We returned to the Hut after an hour and a half of being buffeted by strong winds and rain. The next day we set out early again and got to the base of the climb after only four hours. The climb involved 200m of steep snow before a challenging and precarious climb up very loose and unstable rock. The snow was in excellent condition and the climb was exhilarating. As we reached the summit, 2,639m, the wind began to pick up and by the time we were at the base again had reached almost gale force. By now the sun had made the snow very slushy, making our return difficult and tedious. The wind made it uncomfortable and sometimes painful as the gusts picked up loose ice and hurled it at us. We arrived back at the Hut just as it started to rain. It had been a fantastic mountaineering day. That night the weather forecast on the radio was predicting rain for the next 24 hours! There was only one thing to do . . . go to bed and listen to the wind and the rain assault the Hut. The next morning, discretion being the better part of valour, I decided that Mount Darby would have to wait for another time, we went down in the rain.

On the summit of the Hochstetter dome

Before time ran out, we had a few days R & R visiting Milford Sound and white water rafting on the Stopover River, near Queenstown, before returning to Christchurch and then back to Hong Kong.

On reflection, New Zealand is an adventurous trainers dream. We just sampled a small portion of it, but what little we saw was superb. In all, we climbed five peaks, three of which were at the limit of most of the group. Had the weather been better we may have climbed more, however, part of mountaineering is experiencing the foibles of the weather and the frustration of having to turn back.

Finally, I must thank the Corps for their generous grant, Air New Zealand, Sinoland, Swire Pacific and the Hong Kong Bank Foundation for their generous support and sponsorship, without which we could not have mounted the expedition.

CONGRATULATIONS

Double congratulations to **Cpl Mary Hessell**, Tele Tech (Sys) who was awarded her UN medal for service in Bosnia in 1993 and who has also received the 'Rhode and Schwarz' trophy for her outstanding professional contribution to the Group during 93/94.

Cpl Hessell receiving the Rhode and Schwarz trophy from the CO Lt Col M. K. Hill

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM FUND RAISING WEEK

On Monday, 9 May, Comms & Sy Gp (UK) began a week of fund raising activities, with the aim of raising as much money as possible for the Royal Signals Museum Fund. The activities were designed to be enjoyable and fun without detracting too much from work commitments.

At 0800hrs on Monday morning **WO1 (RSM) John Standen** arrived for his monthly RSM's parade. The difference with this one though was that it was in 'Fancy Dress'. For a mere £1.00 donation everyone had the chance to wear what they wanted for the full working day. The five 'Frank Spencers' were immediately jailed for mixed dress closely followed by some very dodgy looking characters. Surprisingly enough though the RSM allowed 'ZZ Top' and the 'Pantomime Horse' to stay on parade.

Tuesday saw a number of personnel changing roles for the day. This was achieved by way of a raffle. The winners of which were:

'Commanding Officer' **Sig Brierley**; '3 Coy Comd' **Sig Seaword**; 'RSM' **Sig Berry**; 'CSM 3 Coy' **LCpl Armitage.**

All the winners were generously hosted by their respective appointees with breakfast and lunch in the relevant messes.

The All Ranks Disco was well supported with everyone paying an entrance fee whilst NAAFI paid for the Disco and the Officers' Mess supplied a 'Barrel of Beer' to boost profits. Additional money was raised by the discreet selling of squares at 50p per square.

Wednesday saw a sports afternoon with a difference when eight teams of six, took part in a 'Fun Assault Course' with record sales in the eggs, flour bombs and water balloon industry. Nice to see the RSM in this competition and he was made to suffer. Winners of the event were Support Platoon.

Members of Radio Platoon in fancy dress
(L to R): Sigs Vincent, Stewart, O'Halloran, Berry, Lee, Setterfield

Thursday was a rest period with only the sale of squares at £1.00 a go for those wanting them with £50 to the museum and £50 to the winner.

On Friday the final competition of the week took place in the form of a 'Bed Push' race. Once again the eggs, flour and balloons were readily available but the RSM was not. Winners of the race were 'On A Wing and A Prayer'. Immediately following this was the prize giving for both competitions held during the week and also for a number of other small raffles held. The CO, **Lt Col Hill** kindly presented the prizes. He praised all members of the Group for their excellent support and thanked **SSgts Armstrong** and **Barclay** for organising the week's events.

The amount finally raised was £863.18, which was nicely rounded off to £1,000 by the PRI. It should be noted that in addition to Corps personnel members of the Intelligence Corps were equally supportive of the events and gave generously. Thanks to all involved!

D-DAY COMMEMORATION

Radio Platoon provided the British Army element for the D-Day Commemoration parade, held in the nearby village of Quorn and made up mainly of current members and past veterans of the 505 Airborne Infantry Division. The division was stationed in Quorn during the war and carried out training there.

The parade commenced with a church service and was followed by the unveiling of a plaque at the town war memorial to honour those who did not return. The parade finished off with a march through Quorn where the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire **Mr T. G. M. Brooks JP** and **Lt Col M. K. Hill**, took the salute.

After the parade, members met the American veterans and their families at a buffet lunch locally.

NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN CAMPAIGN

As part of the National Spring Clean Campaign, the unit recruited a team of volunteers to refurbish the local War Memorial located in the nearby village of Woodhouse Eaves.

The main priority was to weed and tidy up the main flower beds in front of the memorial, also to block off a gap in the stone wall to prevent access to private land at the rear of the memorial.

Other minor tasks were to remove large amounts of refuse which had collected over the years, scrub the memorial to remove accumulated mould and finally weed the rock face surrounding the site.

As the tasks were fairly large ones, the project was scheduled to take place during the normal Wednesday afternoon sports periods to ensure minimum disruption to the training programme.

At the final count, approximately 40 bin bags and six trailer loads of refuse were removed from the site and disposed of.

The afternoon ended with some well deserved beers and sandwiches in the community centre.

ATHLETICS

The Group athletic season got underway on 14 March with the Unit Standards Competition, the aim of which was to identify potential Group-standard athletes in preparation for the forthcoming season and team selection for the Group Athletic Championships. The Standards were held over a three weeks period and personnel had to compete in a minimum of three events to qualify for team points. Six teams participated in the competition which was eventually won by E/M sections which were awarded the Team Shield; prizes were also award to **LCpl Crebin**, highest individual score male and **Cpl Moore** who achieved the top score for the ladies.

GROUP ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Group Athletic Championships took place at the Loughborough University Stadium on 21 April. It was evident from the results of the standards competition that the event would be a close run thing (no pun intended). A total of five teams competed, three male and two female with the permanent staff represented by both sexes and captained by **Sgt Steve McInally** and **SSgt Lauren Lilley.** In the mens competition the permanent staff quickly established a commanding lead over their nearest rivals from E/M sections, who despite a late rally and some excellent individual performances were unable to overcome what was a fine team effort by the old and bold. Notable performers were **Cpl Henry** 100m 200m. **Cpl Malin** 400m, high jump. **LCpl Bretherick** 1500m, 5000m.

In the Ladies competition the students redressed the balance by beating the permanent staff with a score of 25pts to 17pts.

Notable performers were: **LCpl Boardman** Shot, High Jump. **LCpl Williams** 400m, Long Jump. **Pte Barlow** 100m, 200m. Immediately following the final event the CO, **Lt Col M. K. Hill** kindly presented the prizes to the athletes and thanked them for their participation and sportsmanship. A special mention was also made of the gym staff, officials, organisers and, not least, the spectators, for their part in a very enjoyable afternoon.

Sgt Steve McInally receiving the Men's Team Winners Shield from the CO on behalf of the permanent staff

THE MORRISON CUP (UK)

Following the Group championships the OIC Athletics, **Capt Art Weaver**, team Capt **Cpl Viv Henry** and SSI **Greenfield** selected a squad from which the athletic team would be chosen to represent the Group in the Morrison Cup (UK) Championships. Despite only having a limited period of preparation the team was enthusiastic and quietly confident of retaining the Minor Unit Trophy held by the Group for the past two seasons.

Having elected to travel on the day of the competition which did not seem such a good idea at 0600hrs on 4 May as the team departed the barracks for the Ryedale Stadium at York. Following the team briefing at 0900hrs the competition got under way with the 400m. A win by **Cpl Pepper** in this event followed by an excellent performance by **LCpl Bretherick** to come overall third in a very strong field in the 5000m (first minor unit athlete) got the team off to a very promising start. However despite these early successes it soon became evident that both 237 Sig Sqn and 21 Sig Regt (AS) would provide stiff opposition. Indeed at the half way lunch break the minor unit championships had developed into a three horse race with only a few points separating the teams. Our team was weaker in the field events and we knew we had to secure second or third placings to maintain our position. **SSgt Mark Gould** duly obliged with a fine throw to win the javelin and **Cpl** 'Robbo' **Robinson** rose to the occasion, so to speak, by winning the high jump. Having dropped points in the 1500m and 3000m steeplechase the scores were still incredibly close with 237 Sig Sqn still hot on our heels. The final event of the competition, the 400m relay, would decide the final placings and we needed to come second to secure the result we wanted.

After a good start we lost the lead on the second leg before pulling back in the third and eventually going on to win the race and with it the Morrison Cup (UK) Minor Unit Championships for the third year in succession.

A special mention to **Cpl Viv Henry** who played a true captain's role, not only by winning his individual events but in the way he led the team to victory. Thanks also to the gymnasium staff led by SSI **Greenfield** for their help in preparing the team and finally to the CO **Lt Col M. K. Hill**, who travelled to York to support the team and graciously donated the celebratory 'refreshments'. A tired but happy squad travelled back to Garats Hay that evening already planning the strategy for next meeting in the calendar.

GROUP RUGBY LEAGUE

On Wednesday 13 April Comms & Sy Gp (UK) played their inaugural Rugby League fixture under the title of 'Woodhouse Raiders'. The game was played at Garats Hay Barracks against RAF Digby. The game itself was very close for the first 40 minutes but in the second half the players of Woodhouse started to fully understand the rules of the different code and began to play as a team. The final score was 34–14 to Woodhouse but credit must be given to the players and supporters of RAF Digby who contributed to a highly successful and very enjoyable game. Particular mention must be made of **Sgt Humphries** who successfully, but not without a struggle, managed to kick start the Group into action.

The Army Rugby League Seven a side competition took place on 17 April at Chepstow. In all 16 teams took part in a highly competitive tournament. Comms & Sy Gp successfully progressed to the last four of the competition which is a creditable performance considering the short period of time the Group has been playing the game. During the competition, which was also used as a trial for the Army team, several players were invited to train with the Army squad.

In preparation for the Inter-Service fixture versus the RAF, the Army squad held two training sessions, one at Chatham, Kent, and one at Leigh, Lancashire. From Comms & Sy Gp **Cpl Hands, LCpls Burton** and **Clark,** and **Sig Johnson** took part. **Sgt Humphries** also assisted the coaching staff. **LCpls Clark** and **Burton** were selected to represent the Army against the RAF at Hilton Park, Leigh, on Wednesday 11 May. The result of this game was 26–22 for the Army.

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.
- To assist, where possible, resettlement in civilian life.

The Association endeavours to achieve these aims by:

- Sponsoring branches which often meet for social occasions. There is generally an annual Branch dinner.
- Organising annual reunions. These provide the opportunity to meet old friends, for the retired to see something of the serving Corps and, to remember the fallen.
- Running a welfare section at Association HQ, which is at the service of all members.
- Publishing the Corps magazine, *The Wire*. Taking out a subscription will help you to keep in touch with Corps and Association affairs.

MEMBERSHIP

Nearly all members of the Corps have, whilst serving, contributed under the Day's Pay Scheme. By virtue of these contributions, they are Life Members of our Association. If you have not contributed at all you can become a Life Member for £10.00.

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) 414 8422). 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.

31 Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

MAYOR MAKING DINNER

Six newly-inaugurated mayors and escorts attended a mayor making dinner hosted by the CO, **Lt Col Keith Bruce-Smith** on 26 May. One mayor was only inaugurated the day before and for many others it was their first official engagement.

The Sqn Comds of each Squadron entertained their respective mayor and escort for the evening. For many of the guests it was their first introduction to a Territorial Army unit. The guests included Wandsworth Mayor **Cllr Beryl Jeffery** and **Mr Peter Donoghue**, Hammersmith & Fulham Mayor **Cllr Joan Carwana** and **Mrs Sue Hayward**, Kensington & Chelsea Mayor **Cllr Doreen Weatherhead** and **Cllr Alick Whitfield**, Harrow Mayor **Cllr John Cowan** and Mayoress **Cllr Janet Cowan**, Croydon Mayor **Cllr Waly Garratt** and Mayoress **Sylvia Garratt**, Hillingdon Mayor **Cllr Ted Harris** and Mayoress **Patricia Quilter**. **Maj Linda Harrison** TD, 2IC and PMC and **Capt Mike Atkinson** organised the thoroughly enjoyable and successful evening. The local papers were very interested in the event.

Mayor Making Dinner
L to R: Lt Col Keith Bruce-Smith, Mrs Sue Bruce-Smith, Mayoress, Cllr Janet Cowan, Harrow Mayor Cllr John Cowan and Major Steve Potter
Photo by Nicola Knill-Jones

CONGRATULATIONS

During a recent visit to the Regiment, **Brig R. J. Heywood OBE** presented medals to both regular and TA soldiers. **WO2 (RQMS) Rod Oakley** and **Sgt Keith Langton** received the LS & GC, **Sgt Loxley Trype** (HQ Sqn) and **Cpl Lynn Hammond** (47 Sqn) received the Efficiency Medal.

Since the presentation, **Sgt Langton** has been promoted to SSgt and posted to the Royal School of Signals; we wish him and his family good fortune and thank them for their contribution to the unit during their tour.

WO2 (RQMS) Rod Oakley, HQ Sqn receiving congratulations on his LS & GC from Brigadier R. J. Heywood

Sgt Keith Langton, 83 Sqn PSI, with his wife after receiving the LS & GC from Brig R. J. Heywood

Sgt Loxley Trype receiving his Efficiency Medal, with Cpl Lynn Hammond behind

REGIMENTAL GOLF V THE COMPANY OF INNHOLDERS

The Regimental Golf Team played the Spring match against the Company of Innholders on 3 June. In a keenly fought match, the Regiment came second losing by 3 matches to 1. The Regimental team played very well, but was beaten by a better team. Congratulations to **SSgt Smith** and partner, our winning pair.

EXERCISE SPRING FIELDS

During the weekend 13/15 May, the Regiment deployed to Stanford Training Area in Norfolk. This was the first Regimental deployment in the new role.

This exercise enabled all the newly converted tradesmen (persons!) to practise in the field, all their newly found classroom skills. Needless to say, many lessons were learned and the Regiment is looking forward to the next deployment to tone up its even newer-found skills.

All the PSAO's (all Tg Ops/R Tgs/Tele Op Tg) were deployed, and had a whale of a time passing on their accumulated knowledge to the fledgling operators.

47 (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON, HARROW CAVALRY MEMORIAL PARADE

Once again 47 Sqn had the opportunity to parade its historical links when serving members of the Squadron joined Old Comrades, other former and serving cavalry units at Cavalry Memorial Parade in Hyde Park on 8 May. Representatives from the Squadron marched to pay tribute to those who gave their lives in service of their country. The salute was taken by **Field Marshal HRH The Duke of Kent, KG, GCMG, GCVO, ADC**.

A NEW PASSION

A new passion seems to have taken over social events at 47 Sqn . . . they have discovered the joys of rugby! One of the benefits of this as an all encompassing Squadron activity is that it is open to all members, although to date no Old Comrades have been seen running out in Yeomanry colours. Non-playing supporters, composed of female (thank goodness for the X factor!), wives, girlfriends and those who prefer to watch bones being broken rather than experience the sensation themselves, also get involved by turning up to watch, eager for a victory.

A challenge to 83 Sqn, at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore, saw a very closely fought game with 83 Sqn, taking a very narrow victory of 16–14. Unfortunately without **Eddie Waring** there, we haven't a running commentary, but **Lt Rachel Jones** did manage to video most of the game, except for a few of the tries, as she was talking at the time! **Lt Steve Madigan** would have played but for **Sgt Brent Copsey**'s comment: 'Have you seen the Tp Comd? He said he could play hooker or was it hockey?'

Capt Mike Lansdown kindly filled in the missing details! 83's first try was set up by the forwards effective maul, enabling **2Lt Geoff Mitchell** to force his way over. The second try also from a maul, **Sig Alex Stair** thundered down the blind side from the full back and proved unstoppable from 15 yards. Both **Sig Blackbury** and **Cpl Dave Alleyne** deserve a mention, for their very effective playing techniques.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON, SOUTHFIELDS
LADIES ORIENTEERING TEAM SWEEP UP ALL THE TROPHIES

After winning the London District TA Ladies Orienteering Competition, they went on to run off with both the Royal Signals and Army UKLF TA Ladies Trophy!

The team members for the Royal Signals and UKLF Championships were **Capt Carolyn Oxlee**, **Cpl Lynne Doughty**, **Sgt Meg Garven**, and **2Lt Katy Harris**. **Capt Oxlee**, **Sgts Garven** and **Cheryl Mills** were the team for the LonDist Competition. Congratulations also to **Cpl Lynne Doughty** coming 2nd overall in the individual TA Ladies Championship. Various personnel entered as individuals, including **WO2 (RQMS) Rod Oakley**, the Team Manager.

The Regiment will be applying for a grant to extend the display cabinet soon! A nice surprise was that they also bumped into the Regiments previous RSM; **Mr Pete Handibode** and former Adjutant, **Maj Stuart Sharman**, obviously trying to pick up some useful tips from the ladies!

The actors, realising that they knew little about the Army called on the Regiment for a crash course on soldiering.

Ladies TA Orienteering Champions (and Team Manager!)
L to R: WO2 Rod Oakley, Cpl Lynne Doughty, 2Lt Katy Harris, Sgt Meg Garven, Capt Carolyn Oxlee

SOLDIERS INSTRUCT ACTORS!

Actors from the E15 Acting School, in East London, were rehearsing for the play, 'The Long, the Short and the Tall' by Willis Hall, in which a British patrol is cut off behind Japanese lines in the Second World War.

SSgt Andy Raynsford and others planned a training programme for the actors starting the day with a series of gruelling PT exercises, which left the actors wondering quite what they had let themselves in for. Following a brief respite as **Sgt Paul Burton** talked about rank structure and badges of rank they were back outside in the schools car park (an improvised drill square) for further instruction with **SSgt Raynsford** and **Sgt Burton**. The 'new recruits', more used to dance routines, ended in fits of laughter as they tried to emulate the smart precision that the senior ranks were demonstrating. In the end, it was decided they had got on so well that James Walmsley, who plays Sgt Michem in the play was given the chance to order the rest of the actors around and so perfect his drill sergeant roar.

Lunch was followed by lessons on military law and a soldiers rights. In the school ground **Lt Seb Walker** led the actors on a short patrol, teaching survival techniques for the jungle. As the patrol moved out the heavens opened, it started to rain hard. 'Never mind,' quipped **SSgt Raynsford**, 'if it ain't raining it ain't training'. An hour later after crawling along the ground, running, diving into cover the actors enjoyed themselves immensely, but agreed that being a soldier was extremely tiring.

Finishing with unarmed combat, the day was voted a great success by all. Actor, Gregory McFarnon, who plays Private Evans, said 'It's been great, it's really useful to find out what it means to actually be a soldier and hopefully it means that when on stage our characters will be that bit more believable'.

The play was staged in early June and was a great success. The school was most grateful for the assistance.

41 (PRINCESS LOUISE'S KENSINGTON) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V), COULSDON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Malcolm Bryan (V)**
SSM — **WO2 M. Byrne**

Following an active recruiting drive the benefits are now becoming clear as almost every training evening provides several new faces and more work for the recruiting team!

The Squadron has also benefited from the return of several ex-members following tours with other Squadrons in the Regiment. We welcome the new and the more experienced people to the Squadron all of whom are keen to get stuck into the training and fun elements of the TA.

The increased numbers on a Wednesday night have allowed the training programme (co-ordinated by **Sgt E. Orrell**) to broaden considerably. This is shown in the photograph with **Sgt McAulliffe** and **Cpl Mackay** 'arresting and restraining' **Cpl Traynor**, much to the amusement of the observers.

EXERCISE BROKEN BACH II

The Squadron Commanders Exercise took place on 18-20 March, planned and controlled by **FofS Tailor**. The strenuous and fun hill walking and navigation exercise was held in the mountains of South Wales. They had beautiful blue skies and glorious sunshine throughout, enhancing the dramatic scenery from the conquered peaks. After a safe return to camp the day was rounded off with a barbecue thanks to **SSgt Mackins** and **Sgt Baynham**, washed down by refreshments.

83 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V), SOUTHFIELDS
DRIVING THE SQUADRON AROUND THE BEND

Led by the Sqn Comd, **Maj Fred Southey (V)**, the Squadron have been heavily involved in BAMA rallying competitions in the past few months and getting good results. They are off again on another competition to test their driving and mechanical skills.

If responding to any advertisements in *The Wire* please mention that you saw it in your Corps Magazine.

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

CHANGES AT THE TOP

The Regiment has gone through quite a few recent changes at the top, thanks to PB11 and phase three redundancy! The Regiment says a fond farewell to the CO, **Lt Col Willie Brewin**, who has left us on posting to SHAPE. Best of luck to you, **Sue** and the boys. The new Commanding Officer is **Lt Col Ian Robertson**, who joined us at the end of June. We hope that you and your family have an enjoyable tour with the Regiment.

On Phase 3 redundancy we have lost the Training Major and Adjutant, who are both settling in the local area. The new Training Major is **Major Jim Docherty**, who has joined us from the sunny climes of Rheindahlen. Once again, a warm Scottish welcome to you and your family. The Adjutant has been temporarily replaced by **Capt Ray Patrickson**, who was the RSM! Congratulations on your early commissioning, and all the best in your future posting to 280(UK) Sig Sqn in September. **Capt Hinsley** joins the Regiment in August as the new Adjutant.

51 (HIGHLAND) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
CHARITY PARACHUTE JUMP

Eight members of the Squadron, plus a hanger-on from 61 Sqn (we'll forgive her, because she comes from Buckie!), went airborne for the day at Stirling Parachute Centre. After the mandatory one day training, we were deemed ready to jump. Several trips from Aberdeen to Stirling later, we had still not completed our jump, due to the very bad weather. Then, finally, after waiting from 0900hrs until the early evening, the wind dropped below 10 mph for 20 minutes, and off we went! Chocks away, out of the doorway at 2,500 feet and GO! Before you could change your mind it was 'one thousand, two thousand etc' and check canopy. Yes, it was there (thank goodness!), big and round just like the instructor had said!

A successful jump was completed with only one minor injury to our guest jumper, **Sgt Jackie Smith**. **Sig** 'Daredevil' **Douglas** won the closest to the landing cross prize, whilst 'Sky' **Sgt Pat Thomson** had the best report on her jump card. **Sgt Russ** 'Roman Candle' **Lindsay** was a little worried when his 'chute opened late, but at least it shut him up for a minute or two! **Sgt Elaine Ogg**, **Cpl Linda McKenzie**, and **Lt** 'Solvite' **Dan Robertson** are still wondering which way to turn when an orange paddle is on the right. A final mention to our cook, **Cpl Linda Richardson**. She is the lady who married 'Crack shot' **Sgt Ian Richardson**, the Sqn Tech PSI, who scored **NO POINTS** at this year's ASSAM. It's no good trying to blame the system Ian, own up to it like a man!

On a serious note, this Charity Jump was organised for and on behalf of our SSM, **WO2 Ian Walker**, and **Sgt Heather Walker**, whose son, **Daniel**, tragically died aged 13 months of Spinal Muscular Atrophy. The money raised is going to the Jennifer Trust for Spinal Muscular Atrophy. This will add to the hundreds of pounds already raised by the Squadron in various fund raising activities such as Quiz Nights, Discos etc, so well done the Skydivers!

51 Squadron Charity Parachute jump
L to R Sig Douglas, Cpl Allan, Sgt Lindsay, Cpl Mckenzie, Cpl Richardson, Sgt Ogg, Sgt Thomson, Lt Robertson, Sgt Smith (61 Sqn)

61 (CITY OF EDINBURGH) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

It has been some time since the 'Capital' Squadron last appeared in these pages, and a number of significant events have thus far gone unmentioned . . .

CHANGE OF SQUADRON COMMANDER

At the start of the year we bade a fond farewell to our Sqn Comd **Maj Brian Gilfether MBE**, who has gone northwards to take command of 2 Sqn, 39 Signal Regiment–the very best of luck.

In his place we welcomed our new Sqn Comd **Maj Allan Lapsley**, who has returned to active life after a spell as SO2 Comms in HQ Scotland. Within a matter of weeks the Squadron was bringing home the bacon, winning the Regimental Military Skills competition at Cultybraggan. The Sqn Comd in turn came to regret his rash promise of handsomely rewarding the team should they win! We quickly realised that we had moved up market when **Sgt Stuart Young (REME)**, had to undergo driving training on a two and a half ton 1929 Rolls Royce Limousine–the new Squadron town Staff car!

EX WEST LOWLAND HIKE

For the 24th year in succession, the Squadron provided the safety comms for this hillwalking competition organised by the Boys Brigade in Dumfries and Galloway. During the weekend teams from all over the UK compete over an arduous course. The weekend was a great success and a chance for many to renew old acquaintances–**LCpl Callender** in particular found some old friends who remembered her nickname well! The RRTT was let down by **LCpl Paterson**, who enquired on the HF net whether it was possible to re-heat bacon grill–an intensive compo familiarisation course has been booked for him. The weekend provided very useful 'live' traffic, and once again great training value was gained by all those involved. It was a very tired Squadron that eventually returned to the TAC at 8pm on Sunday night. Many were disappointed to find that the PSAO **Capt Peter Campbell** is not prepared to entertain claims for overtime!

EXERCISE BREWINS BANTER 2

In May, the Regiment deployed to Castlelaw Training Area, south of Edinburgh, for the Commanding Officers final Exercise, which was an Inter Squadron Military Skills Competition. For the first time in living memory, the entire Regiment was under canvas, and thanks must go to the Headquarter Squadron Admin party who looked after us magnificently throughout the weekend.

Two teams from each Squadron competed in a number of events which included Shooting, Command Tasks, Survival and Night Navigation, Vehicle Recovery and First Aid. The competition was rounded off on Sunday with an Assault Course Competition and Shoot. Unfortunately, the Assault Course was too dry for the organisers from 51 Squadron, so they promptly hosed it down to achieve the desired effect! Inspired by the rewards heaped on them on a previous occasion by a grateful Sqn Comd, the 61 'A' Team, led by **Lt Alan Pepper,** again defeated some stiff competition to win yet another trophy. Even the new recruits were represented in the team, with **Recruit Johnstone** gaining his first real taste of TA life. A despairing Sqn Comd headed once more for the off licence to purchase the usual rewards! The 61 'B' team, whilst not the overall winners, produced a stunning time in the Night Navigation phase, beating the nearest rival by a comfortable margin. Well done to both teams.

Exercise Brewins Banter 2 competition winners–61 Sig Sqn (V)

FOOTBALL

The Squadron Football team, and the supporters element, the Chesserettes, visited our friends in 34 Sig Regt (V) in Darlington for a challenge match. Unfortunately the men from the North East proved too strong for us, and we had to concede defeat by 6 goals to 1. A close game nevertheless! An enjoyable time was had by all, despite a number of people being completely lost by the Ptarmigan training!

TRADE TRAINING WEEK

The Regimental Trade Training week that was reported on in the last issue was a resounding success for the Squadron, and all personnel duly passed with flying colours. **Cpl** 'Babs' **Logan** even passed basic vehicle crash procedures when she was ambushed by a tree!

COMMANDING OFFICER'S DINING OUT BY THE OFFICERS

It was with much regret that the Officers dined out **Lt Col Willy Brewin** on 7 May 1994, at the Regimental Mess in Glasgow. In accordance with tradition, a spectacular exit was planned using the 19th century jetty under the TAC where the 1st Lanarkshire Engineers used to bridge the River Kelvin (and on one memorable occasion managed to drown their Adjutant!) **Maj Allan Lapsley** tested the raft throughout the day, aided by **Lts Tim Pitt,** and **Alan Pepper**, as well as **Capt Brian Murray**. A safety rope was put in place, but, being Glasgow, was promptly stolen before it could be used. After a rowdy dinner party complete with water pistols, **Lts Domnhall Dods** and **Brian Shankland**, wearing handlebar moustaches (in honour of the CO), and an antique mortar plastering fruit all over the mess during the CO's speech; the CO was presented with a silver Quaiche. The mess, in turn, was presented with an antique golf club in a glass fronted case which originated from the same year as the Main Drill Hall building in Glasgow.

Despite the absence of the aforementioned safety rope, the CO was carried from the mess aboard his raft, in full Mess kit, and then launched into the black River Kelvin. The proceedings were, in best Scots tradition, accompanied by a piper as well as fireworks. No one anticipated that **2Lt Grant Wilson** would be so excited by events that he would feel the need to jump into the river, swim after the CO, and capsize the raft! A good career move! The CO returned in good form to the Mess for a few drinks to warm up and dry out. Bon voyage!

CO's dining out–Lt Col W. E. Brewin is directed to his craft by Capt Jim Mackie *(left)* and Lt Alan Pepper *(right)*

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

HQ Sqn provided ushers at the Cathedral Service and 59 Sig Sqn (V) (West Derby) provided a marching contingent for the parade through Liverpool city centre to mark the anniversary of the Normandy Landings.

The Nijmegen Marches team, under the leadership of the Regimental 2IC **Maj Stan Quayle**, are firmly getting in to the swing of their training. They can be seen out walking two evenings each week and on a recent 15 mile walk the CO, **Lt Col Peter Parfitt**, and the Adjt, **Capt Neil Stevens**, joined them for the first four mile stretch before dashing off to a meeting. Naturally they both deny that this meeting was anything to do with a game of snooker in the Mess!

The busiest Squadron at the moment is undoubtedly 80 Sig Sqn (V). They are in the process of moving from Chester to a brand-new TA Centre in Runcorn. The PS are permanently dashing around in coveralls, led by the Sqn PSI, **SSgt Mo Lyons**. The most recent arrival to the Squadron, **Sgt Phil Price**, is so rushed off his feet that he has been heard to say that he is looking forward to his Sergeants' Course.

Ex Wild Eagle took place over the weekend of 10-11 June. The Regiment deployed to Burtonwood and Winter Hill to link in to a 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde Exercise. The training was of a great benefit to all who attended and the highlight was a visit from the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL**. His visit to TN 031 from 42 Sig Sqn (V) (Manchester) was particularly successful. Their location was a farmyard near Wigan. Whilst Wigan does not have quite the same ring to it as Stadthagen you could almost believe that you were there.

42 BDE SAAM–CLEAN SWEEP

HQ and 59 Sqns (V) achieved a clean sweep at the recent 42 (NW) Bde Skill-at-Arms Meeting held at Altcar Ranges. The team manager, **Maj Stan Quayle**, was quietly confident beforehand because last year 59 Sig Sqn (V) finished second. This year, the Regimental Team ran out as outright winners as 42 (NW) Bde Series B (ie no SUSAT) Champions and Falling Plate Winners.

33 Sig Regt (V) Shooting Team
Back row: Sigs Drummond-Walker, Morley, Sgt Shaw, Cpl Simcock, Sigs Madden, Morgan, Sgt McHugh, Cpl Jones, Capt Mullin
Front row: SSgts McCormick, Crampton, Kerry, Maj Quayle, SSgt Williams, LCpls Hogan, Cartlidge, Kerry

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

MEDALS AND AWARDS GALORE

On Tuesday 19 April following a visit to 48 Sig Sqn, Comd 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde, **Brig W. H. Backhouse** presented TA Efficiency Medals and Clasps to the following members of 48 Sqn; **Sgts John Richards** and **Carol Eden**, **Cpls Dave Beck**, **Eileen Monaghan** and **Andy Baugh** and to **LCpl Maxine Simkins**. A few days later on Friday 22 April, Comd 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde, at a special ceremony in Cateswell House, Sutton Coldfield also presented the LS & GC Medal to **WO1 (RSM) Guy Richards**, **WO2 (YofS) Mick Hawley** and to **Cpl Denis Feely**. Almost 2 months later in a similar ceremony also held at Cateswell House the Honorary Colonel, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE** presented the following awards–The Lord Lieutenants Certificate of Meritorious Service to **WO2 Ivor Ricketts** and **Sgt Paul Fundak**; the LS & GC Medal to **Sgt Chris Gleadow**; the TA Efficiency Medal to **WO2 John Mizen**, **SSgt Courtney Richards**, and **LCpl John Corbett** and finally Clasps to the TA Efficiency Medal to **WO2 Skip Wally**. All recipients are to be congratulated and thanked for their extremely valuable service to the Regiment and Corps.

WO2 Ivor Ricketts and Sgt Paul Fundak proudly displaying their Lord Lieutenants Certificates for Meritorious Service

LS & GC Recipients and their families with Comd 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde and the CO

Other medal recipients joined by the Honorary Colonel

Efficiency Medal recipients with Comd 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde, the CO and OC 48 Sig Sqn

AN INSPECTOR CALLS

There is nothing quite like an inspection warning order to send a shudder through the spine of even the most well organised and experienced souls. These unfortunate and put upon creatures are usually the PSAO's and their Technical and Administrative Staff, who often suffer from an immediate loss of appetite, often countered by a strong desire to outwit the inspection teams by dreaming up foolproof systems of identifying and eliminating all observations before the team appears. It never quite works that way as the dastardly team usually have a bagful of (we know something that you don't) tricks up their sleeves, and inevitably leave a sackful of observations and recommendations in their wake! Yes, the inspection season is with us again and within the space of three months we have faced the daunting tasks of producing Opeval statistics, which as the Trg Maj, **Maj** 'lies more damn lies and statistics' **Ian Brown**, has discovered, to his eternal annoyance, never quite add up. Meanwhile, whilst **Ian** was still trying to get the Opeval figures to make sense, we endured a series of intensive CO's inspections, our first and much feared RSIT, an SPS inspection and the vehicle PRE. Happily, we came through them all with varying degrees of success. In particular, our first RSIT, which caused a few sleepless nights, can be considered a huge success and was a clear example of how the Regular and Volunteer Soldiers of the Regiment worked so well together to achieve a magnificent result.

Here special praise must be reserved for **FofS Tony Jacklin** of HQ Sqn, **FofS Russ Dale** of 48 Sqn, **FofS A. J. Matless** of 58 Sqn, **FofS Bernie McAndrew** of 95 Sqn and **Sgt Martin Jeanes** of 89 Sqn who did an excellent job standing in for **FofS John Whitmore** who was busy resettling, following his selection for voluntary redundancy. Through their individual and collective efforts a constructive maintenance programme was initiated and executed most effectively. Through their singular efforts and those of the Det Comds a taskworthy rating just short of 90% was achieved, which is highly commendable and all involved are to be congratulated. It is with some relief that we can now relax–but only for a short while!

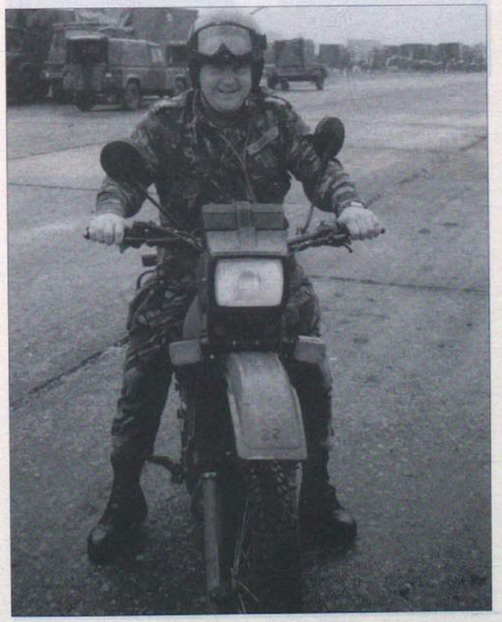
MOVEMENTS

During April and June we have bade a sad farewell to **SSgt (FofS) John Whitmore** on redundancy and to **Sgt Chris Gleadow** on posting to BAOR. To both of them and their families we wish them well for the future. We have also welcomed **Cpl George Crawford** and his wife **Julie. George** joins 48 Sqn and we wish him an enjoyable tour with the Regiment.

EXERCISE SILVER SPEAR

During the weekend 21/22 May the Regiment deployed, en masse, to a Regimental concentration area in Gamecock Barracks, Bramcote, courtesy of our nearest Regular Royal Signals neighbours, 30 Sig Regt. This weekend immediately followed RSIT and gave the Regiment one of the few opportunities presented in the training year when we could all train collectively and also shake off the cobwebs that had grown during the recent inspections. Intensive Military, Trade and Recruit Training all took place concurrently which was a welcome relief and respite from looking inside, outside and under vehicles as well as peering through masses of technical manuals and maintenance schedules. The RSM, **WO1 Guy Richards** certainly made a meal of the weekend in more ways than one. During the Military Training Phase he put the Regimental Admin Staff (or PONTI's as he affectionately calls them) through their paces/bounty tests in the most appalling weather conditions–as a cheerful **LCpl Sue Joyce** and **LCpl Jo Davies** later jokingly confessed; the last time they got wet whilst fully clothed was when they accidently spilled a cup of coffee in their respective Squadron Offices.

The RSM would also like to take this opportunity of thanking 30 Sig Regt for donating all their remaining fuel to the Regiment and to publicly state that he has now changed location! Trade training continued with a vengeance under the expert guidance of **WO2 (YofS) Mick Hawley** who appears to be on target to break all trade training records and to publish them on time! Whilst the YofS was continuing with his trade training crusade some members of the LAD and Regimental hierarchy were trying to break their bones courtesy of 237 (Tpt) Sqn RLC (V) who foolishly loaned the Regiment two Armstrongs to play with during the weekend. In particular **Cfn Andy** 'Salty' **Holden** tried to audition for the 'White or perhaps Blue Helmets' but didn't quite make it over the caravan he was trying to fly over; in the meantime **Maj** 'Easy Rider' **Derek McConnell** was more than happy to pose astride his machine looking mean but not very lean! Finally **WO2 Mick Kearney** and his splendid catering staff still haven't recovered from the longest queue in living memory for the Saturday lunch meal in Hangar 2–perhaps the attraction was the unusual fisheye pie or did it have something to do with the weather?



The mean machine in the formidable shape of Maj Derek McConnell astride his Armstrong

SKILL AT ARMS

Even with an intensive inspection programme time out is still naturally allowed to engage in competitions, which strengthen the Regiment's professional reputation, and give all its members the opportunity of improving their military skills. They also allow us to engage in one or two fun activities away from the tedium of inspections, however important. It has to be said that to restore morale quickly few activities can beat a shooting competition, having the unqiue combination of sporting fun and excitement, together with proficiency, determination and teamwork. To recapture the competitive spirit two teams were entered in the 143 Bde Skill-at-Arms Meeting which was held at Kingsbury Ranges during the weekend 7/8 May.

Both teams were trained under the expert guidance and coaching of **SSgt Chris Hymas** of 95 Sqn, fresh from his fund raising activities for Great Ormond St, and were captained by **Lt Richard Morris** (IC Team A) and **Lt Martin Highfield** (IC Team B). Despite some very good shooting, the competition from other units (some with Bisley champion shots as team members) proved just too much and our teams had to satisfy themselves with a praiseworthy 9th & 13th position, respectively, in the TA competition. A short time prior to the 143 Bde meeting a Regimental Small Bore Shooting Competition concluded with 89 Sig Sqn, fresh from their Patrol Competition conquest, taking both the individual and team honours. **FofS John** 'Hawkeye' **Whitmore** and **Cpl Alan Vowles** deserve special mention as they jointly achieved 1st place, with **Capt Julian Webb** close behind. In the team event 58 Sig Sqn (V) were runners up, followed by 95 Sig Sqn (V), who unfortunately failed to repeat their earlier success in the NRSA TA Cup.

Both teams together on the final day of the competition

ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Orienteering has figured prominently in the unit programme for the last month or so, with the Corps and UKLF Championships almost running back to back during the last two weeks in May. Although we didn't repeat our glorious achievements of last year, which left us more than a little disappointed especially as we failed to retain the Pritchard Cup, our determined assault on both these championships concluded with a very good final position in the Corps Championship where we achieved runners up in the TA competition.

All team members, which included **Lt David Hopper**, **OCdt Nick Barnett**, **SSgts Dave Arnot** and **Mick Purdy**, **Sgts Martin Jeanes** and **Steve Thomas**, **Cpl Colin Marshall**, and **LCpls Lyn Cairney** and **Steve Rothwell**, are to be congratulated on their individual efforts and performance. Regrettably, because of an unfortunate error by an unnamed team member failing to complete his course during the relay phase, our team was disqualified in the UKLF Championships. For the record, the team composed of **SSgt Mick Purdy**, **Sgt Steve Thomas**, **Cpl Tony Griffiths**, **Cpl** 'where am I?' **Colin Marshall** and **LCpl Steve Rothwell**.

36 Sig Regt (V)
Ilford

VISIT OF THE MASTER OF SIGNALS

On Saturday 7 May the Regiment was visited by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL**. The visit took place during a Regimental exercise. The Master was accompanied throughout the visit by the Hon Col, **Col Alan Hall TD**, the CO, **Lt Col Jon Henderson** and the Adjt, **Capt Rob Healey**, as shown on the photograph.

Directly after the visit the Adjutant packed his bags and jetted off to join the NATO EW course in Italy; he is now trying to convince us all, without any success that the course was not all pasta and sunshine.

The visit was also the last military event for **WO1 (RSM) Tom Perkins**, who by the time this is read will have firmly settled down somewhere in the depths of North Wales. All members of the Regiment would like to send their best wishes to **Mr Tom Perkins**, his wife **Joan** and family. **WO1 (RSM) Baz Palmer** is now in the chair and we welcome him and his wife **Jo** to sunny Ilford.

Due to the lack of a photographer, the mandatory handing over of the pace stick does not appear in this feature.

DISTRICT (TA) ORIENTEERING COMPETITION
A Report by LCpl Rose Prince

The weekend started at 1930 hrs on Friday night with a comms exercise in Essex and Kent. On Sunday at 0100hrs we found ourselves back in our TACs heading for some much needed sleep. On Sunday morning at 0600 hrs we were dragged from our beds and set off for Peterborough feeling energetic and enthusiastic (on the Sqn Comd instructions). We made a good start with all team members arriving on site on time without getting lost (unfortunately not all our team members managed to maintain this state of affairs).

With **SSgt Walker** and **Sgt Barnes** finishing first and second respectively and the other women putting in good times we won first team prize one hour ahead of the runners-up.

In the mens' event things didn't go quite so smoothly, one of our newer members got totally lost, failing to find a single checkpoint. One of our regular and usually reliable old timers got lost and arrived back having finished the course just in time to watch the award ceremony. The others, however, ran to their usual standards and they came away as the runners-up.

These excellent results meant that both teams qualified for the UKLF competition at the end of May. Finally, congratulations to **SSgt Geoff Backhouse** (our PSI) who, as a regular, was not eligible to enter the competition but completed the course in the fastest time just for the fun of it.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON
SIX-A-SIDE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

A recent London District six-a-side hockey tournament held at Woolwich on Wednesday 28 April, proved to be a 'real get-together' for the Regiment's hockey followers. With **Sgts Fran Graham**'s and 'Scotty' **Scott**'s encouragement, players from all Squadrons (from as far-a-field as Canterbury and Cambridge), joined the Squadron members in entering two teams.

A bright, sunny morning lay host to a series of seven eagerly contested eight minute games. If 'Old and Bold' (namely **SSgt Gordon Cameron**), was lacking in speed, he certainly more than equalled the 'youngsters' in gamesmanship.

The results:
Team A–Won 2, Lost 2, Drew 3.
Team B–Won 3, Lost 3, Drew 1.

Even though our team did not make it to the final, it was a pleasant occasion.

PS: **Sig Greata Jenkins**, 746 Sig Tp, is to be congratulated on completing the London marathon in a time of 3 hours 35 mins. Well done!

The Team
Back Row: Capt Rob Healey (Adjt), Sig Gary Bartram (54 Sqn), Sgt Paul Webster (HQ Sqn), LCpl Mark Batty (HQ Sqn), Sig Greata Jenkins (HQ Sqn), LCpl Tracy Austin (44 Sqn), Sgt Fran Graham (RHQ)
Front row: Sig Paul Gammon (54 Sqn), SSgt Cindy Hails (RHQ), LCpl Sally Howson (44 Sqn), SSgt Gordon Cameron (HQ Sqn), Sig John Sharpe (54 Sqn), LCpl Sue Baker (54 Sqn), WO2 Shirley Clark (HQ Sqn)
(Absent Sgt Scott)

The price of *The Wire* will increase to £1.50 per copy, £9 per annum from February 1995

37 Sig Regt (V)
Redditch

CO — **Lt Col John Macfarlane**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) John Riley**

EXERCISE GOLDEN LINK

After bringing the Regiment together for Ex Silver Link in May, when the Squadrons were based within Swynnerton training area, Ex Golden Link in June attempted to discover what could be achieved from home territories. The primary means was secure HF telegraph, whilst TOT **Capt Dave Fraley** planned a trial of data from laptop computer over one Mould network into an HF bridge and on to another Mould network. Whilst **Sgt** 'Fred' **Hughes** detachment from 67 Sqn proved the techniques successfully at Nesscliff at short range, the ionosphere deteriorated by the time they had deployed to Lancaster and little further could be achieved. **WO2 (YofS)** 'Monty' **Montgomery** enjoyed a frustrating weekend while his best laid plans for the secure HF telegraph suffered one set-back after another, but with the CO promising on Sunday morning that no-one would go home until it all worked, a few rapid moves of suspect equipment resulted in a successful conclusion. Exercise control at Nesscliff was guarded and fed as well as ever by HQ Sqn under their new 2IC **Capt Alan Macleod** (poached from 67 Sqn) and SSM **WO2 Les Griffiths**. The critical comms detachments at the centre of things were capably led by **SSgts Lindsey Millett** (53 Sqn) and **Neil Reid** (93 Sqn), supported in particular by **Sgt Ian Letman** (53 Sqn), **Cpls Yvonne Pinder** (93 Sqn) and **Jim Healey** (53 Sqn).

Exercise Silver Link–53 Sqn team in CUV at RCP
SSgt Lindsey Millett *(seated)* resorts to the cellphone

SSgt (FofS) Jim Sweeney and WO2 (YofS) 'Monty' Montgomery argue the toss at the end of Exercise Golden Link

RRTT
OC — **Maj Jim Featherstone (V)**
2IC — **WO2 Barry Weaver**

The Recruit Reception and Training Team have continued the successful winter formula at RAF Cosford with a series of weekends at Stratford-upon-Avon TAC and nearby Long Marston. We are particularly pleased to have had two best recruits on the last six courses at Catterick–**Sig Paul Davis** (67 Sqn) and **Sig Carl Tomlinson** (93 Sqn), with **Sig** 'Kiwi' **Hodgson** (HQ Sqn) gaining second place. **WO2 Barry Weaver** has proved an effective driving force in a short time since joining from 67 Sqn, but sadly **SSgt** (now WO2) **Ray Campbell's** appointment as SSM at 67 Sqn means we shall no longer have the use of his services.

67 (QOWWY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd — **Maj Roy Naylor (V)**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Ray Campbell**

The personnel changes referred to in the RRTT report were only two of many recent moves affecting the Squadron and we should also congratulate **Maj Ian Morris** on his elevation to Regtl 2IC and **Capt Roy Naylor** on his promotion to take command of the Squadron. Former SSM **Malcolm Cooper** has been commissioned in the rank of Captain and **Capt Alan Macleod** has moved to Redditch as 2IC of HQ Sqn. **Lt Andrew Fletcher** joins as an ex-Regular Troop Leader who has been 'in retirement' for a few years but now has the time to devote to the TA.

1994–YEAR OF THE YEOMANRY

As described on Page 128 of the June *Wire*, the Squadron took part in the Review by **HM The Queen** at Windsor in April. On the previous Saturday, the Squadron paraded in Worcester on Qatia Day at the annual service in memory of members of the Queen's Own Worcestershire Hussars who perished at Qatia in Egypt at Easter, 1916. At both Worcester and Windsor, the Squadron was led by **Maj Ian Morris**. By the time this appears in print, a third parade will have taken place, in Warwick in June.

Windsor Royal Review party
Extreme left: SSgt (now WO2) Ray Campbell;
Extreme right: WO2 Brian Smart; *Front, left:* WO2 (now Capt) Malcolm Cooper; *Front, right:* Maj Ian Morris

93 (EAST LANCS) SIGNAL SQUADRON, BLACKBURN
Sqn Comd — **Maj Alan Whittle (V)**
2IC — **Capt Ross Parsell (V)**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Paul Todd (V)**

A WALK IN NEPAL

During May seven members of the squadron joined a walking expedition in Nepal. The trip was organised by a former Squadron officer, **Lt Zoe Barker**. It lasted a total of four weeks of which almost three were spent hiking around the Annapurna Range. The views were tremendous, the terrain difficult, the local Nepalese were very friendly and the food interesting, with a special built in 'go faster' quality. This private expedition drew together **WO2 Jeff Dolan**, **SSgt Di Feest**, **Sgt Jim Holmes**, **LCpls Tracy Ireland** and **Louise Daveron** and **Sig Paul Dickman** from the Squadron, with a number of friends and relations.

OTHER EVENTS

The Squadron took part in Ex Silver Link, training for a new signals concept advocated by the CO for Home Defence. The Swynnerton training area was used and the exercise was a welcome change from the classroom work of the winter trade training cycle. Half-forgotten skills of living in the field had to be relearned, but the newer members soon caught on and a good exercise was had by all.

LANYARD TROPHY

The training for the Lanyard Trophy carries on with the team hoping to emulate, indeed surpass, the results of last year but more of this after the competition.

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

GUNS 'N' ROSES

The last Recruit Selection Weekend held at Ripon in March was particularly noteworthy for the attention it drew from the cameras and reporters of Central Television. The programme, which was screened in two parts on the local Midland's news, focused on female recruits before, during and after the selection weekend, and was titled Guns 'N' Roses.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON, SHEFFIELD

Sqn Comd — **Maj David Rigley (V)**
2IC — **Capt Roy Szulakowski (V)**

ARRIVALS AND FAREWELLS

In March we bade farewell to our Sqn Comd, **Maj Colin Slaughter**, after 21 years service with the TA and we would like to wish him all the best for the future. We also welcome our new Sqn Comd, **Maj David Rigley** and 2IC, **Capt Roy Szulakowski**.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Regimental Honorary Colonel, **Col (Retd) Peter Davis MBE**, presented the TA Efficiency Medal to **SSgt Gary Cundy** and to **SSgt Roger Huckerby** a third bar to go with his–a great achievement. Last, but not least, congratulations to **Staff Cpl Paul Haystead-Harvey** who received his LS&GC Medal for service in the Regular Army with the Household Cavalry (The Life Guards). He is now serving with 38 Sig Regt (V) as a SSgt in HQ Sqn.

EXERCISE RED ANVIL, 21/22 MAY 1994

HQ Squadron deployed to Beckingham Training Area for Bounty Qualifying Tests prior to Annual Camp. Indents were submitted for good weather some weeks before the weekend, unfortunately they were either lost or higher formations didn't receive them. Saturday morning arrived and so did the rain, the heavens opened. Undeterred we moved to the ranges. Safety brief over, NSPs carried out, weapons prepared and magazines charged we started to shoot. Still the rain came down. HQ Sqn being a hardy bunch, some would say daft, did not allow this to put them off and against all the odds a very good standard of shooting was achieved. Of course the only time it would stop raining would be during our BFT. Some bright spark was heard to say 'God must be a Yorkshireman and he wears a flat cap'. This was by no means a reference to our SSM, **WO2 Barry Pinches**, who just happened to be wearing one for the run.

Capt Phil Simmons, LCpl Andy Blair, Sig Chris Collin, LCpls Julie Phillips, 'Bob' Barrington and Cpl Dave Morritt

A special mention must go to our chefs; in particular our Master Chef **Paddy Connors** and his right hand man **SSgt Roger Huckerby** for the scrumptious meal they prepared for the Squadron on Saturday night. **Capt Roy Szulakowski**, the Sqn 2IC, in his warning order had said white shirt and tie was to be worn for the dinner. The LAD decided to turn this into a competition for the best tie. The eventual winner was **Sgt Kev Renwick** followed closely by our SPSI, **SSgt Paul Thornton**. The exercise concluded on the Sunday with a shooting competition. The competition included firing from 100, 200 and 300 metres in a test environment. The eventual winner turned out to be **Cpl Frank** 'Dead Eye' **Reid**. Before returning to Sheffield our Sqn Comd, **Maj David Rigley** congratulated the Squadron for all the hard work and enthusiasm that everyone had put into the weekend. He also presented awards for the best shot **Cpl Frank Reid** and two special awards for overall effort shown by a male and female. These awards went to **Sgt Ray Bolton** and **LCpl Julie Phillips**. The weekend was a great success enjoyed by all, even with the bad weather and we hope to have many more in the future. Shooting within the Squadron is overall very good and this all bodes well for REGSAAM later this year, the rest of the Regiment had better look at their laurels this year.

64 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V), SHEFFIELD
EXERCISE MARTIAL MERLIN

A determined team from 64 Sqn in Sheffield emerged as worthy winners in the annual 15 (NE) Brigade Military Skills Competition in March. Vigorously led by **Lt Andy Smith** and ably assisted by **Sgt John Marsden**, the teams victorious performance led to the win of the 'Other Arms' Trophy. Despite fierce opposition and a particularly young and inexperienced team, the recruits **Sigs Mark Shaw** and **Dave Wills** certainly proved that enthusiasm, physical endurance and expert military skills can pay off.

All members of the team were presented with new challenges even the team driver **Cpl Mike Thornhill** who was faced with a problem of parking an 8 ton vehicle in a space clearly designed for lesser traffic. The assault course in NBC kit would have brought tears to the SQMS's eyes if he had been there to see his carefully hoarded NBC gloves ripped to shreds on the ropes. The first day was completed with a night navigation exercise, the short straw being drawn by the team Leader and 2IC who were obliged to start the course as amateur builders carrying 10 house bricks – Perhaps a job with Wimpey or Barretts might be on the cards boys!

Evening entertainment was provided by **Cpl Trevor Grant** who kept the team amused with his tales of earlier military and non military achievements. The final day of the competition involved a gruelling march and shoot competition. Certificates were treasured mementoes of the weekend for all the team, and a final mention should be given to our reserve **Sig Jack Culf** for his prowess in sitting in the back of a four tonner, his entry is already in for next year's 15 Brigade 'Whose got the shiniest trousers competition!

Recruit Louise Reichenbach being interviewed after successfully completing the assault course

70 (ESSEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
CHELMSFORD

For the uninitiated let me explain the significance of 1994. It is, of course, the year of the Yeomanry. For 70 Sqn our first major event was the Review of Yeomanry by Her Majesty The Queen at Windsor on 17 April–a great honour for all of us involved. An additional highlight of our calendar was the visit of Lord Lieutenant of Essex, **Lord Braybrooke JP**.

Lord Braybrooke meets SSgt Ian Metcalfe. Sqn Comd, Maj David Swann in attendance, Sgt Ruth Wilks and Sig Sadie Curtin in the background

Within the Squadron we have continued our vigourous recruitment programme and there are currently 10 new recruits awaiting attestation. We also warmly welcomed **Lt Ian Bell** who joined us on 1 April.

87 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V), NOTTINGHAM

Sqn Comd — **Capt Colin Batchelor (V)**
2IC — **Capt Andrew Bullock (V)**

EXERCISE POLAR CHALLENGE

Ex Polar Challenge 94 was a 49 (EMID) Bde military skills competition held in Catterick on 11-12 March, comprising mostly TA Infantry teams. The entry from 87 Sig Sqn (V) composed of **Cpls Sean Roe** (Team Leader), **Phil Jones** (2IC), **Dave Drury, LCpl** 'Swainey' **Swain, Sigs Evans, Jim Gillham**, 'Thorpie' **Thorpe** and **Milnor**.

The competition commenced with the obligatory night navigation exercise which the team completed in good time. The next 48 hours consisted of completing stands and patrolling between each whilst carrying CEFO. The stands were varied, ranging from springing an ambush to dealing with improvised explosive devices (IEDS) or plain old booby traps. The team excelled themselves coming first in fact.

The weather was cold, wet and very windy and the going hard. The team were all in good spirits though and the fact that most of their training was carried out in similar conditions to these made them feel right at home. It was thanks to **Capt Andrew Bullock** and **SSgt (FofS) Mark Cotton**, that they were so well prepared for the competition. The Paras co-located at the TAC also proved invaluable giving up their time to help and instruct.

The team were up against some tough opposition and were the only non-infantry entry to complete the competition. Special mention should be made of **LCpl** 'Swainey' **Swain** who stepped in at the last minute, this was his last weekend in the TA, owing to new work commitments, and was a good one to go out on. **Cpl Sean Roe** delivered the best set of orders given that weekend by any Section Commander which was commented on by the Brigade Commander.

The team battled on putting in a very good time for the final speed march. They managed to finish 7th out of 15 overall in the competition which considering their R Signals background was a superb achievement. This did not go unrewarded in a rare moment when the sun broke through as the team collected the 'Bear Spirit' Trophy. (This is presented to the team showing the best spirit throughout the competition). All-in-all a magnificent weekend for which they were rightly rewarded for their professionalism, effort and good humour. The same bunch want to do it all again next year too! Well done lads.

'Watch that rope burn!'
Sig Fraser Newton and Sgt John Marsden, Ex Martial Merlin

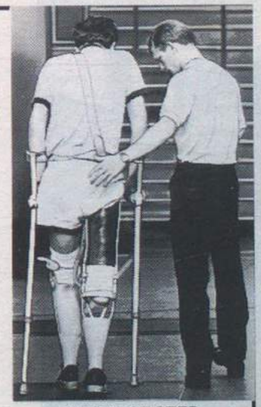
WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

We come from two World Wars, Korea, Kenya, Malaya, Aden, Cyprus, Ulster, The Falklands and all those areas of turmoil where peace must be restored.

Now, disabled and mainly aged, we must look to you for help. Please help by helping our Association.

BLESMA looks after the limbless from all the Services. It helps to overcome the shock of losing arms, or legs or an eye. And, for the severely handicapped, it provides Residential Homes where they can live in peace and dignity.

Help the disabled by helping BLESMA with a donation now or a legacy in the future. We promise you that not one penny will be wasted.



THE FIRST STEP
by a recent, young double amputee

PLEASE GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE

Give to those who gave – please

Donations and information: The Chairman, National Appeal Committee, BLESMA, Midland Bank PLC, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9DX

BLESMA
BRITISH LIMBLESS EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION

39 Sig Regt (SC) (V)
Chelsea

CO — **Lt Col C. J. Laurence TD (V)**
2IC — **Maj M. G. Touchin TD (V)**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) R. C. Bray**

THE REGIMENT

An active period for the Regiment, with the permanent staff undertaking a sponsored cycle ride from Lands End to John O'Groats, for a local charity and the New Corps Museum. Also this period there was the Regimental Annual Military Skills Competition with elements of the Danish Home Guard taking part for the first time in the Regiment's history. The Regiment also put forward a team to take part in the annual Berne Marches, with every one finishing the course, albeit with sore feet. Yet another comms exercise Ex Dogger Bank, with detachments in Belgium, Gibraltar, Barry Budden (in Scotland) and Shoeburyness.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON, LONDON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Paul Willmott (V)**

The past few months have been quite hectic for the Squadron with a number of key exercises and a few social and fun activities as well.

EXERCISE LIVELY LYNX

Mixed detachments of Danish and British soldiers tackled the testing stands which included amongst others: command tasks, vehicle recovery (or should we say not?), practical first aid, not to mention a little bit of navigation. Everyone agreed that the Exercise was a complete success, except perhaps the Sqn Comd who had to explain to the CO why he couldn't deploy on exercise as most of his vehicles were VOR'd, after what was supposed to be the 'Recovery Stand'.

Best of all, **Cpl Candy Brunyee** of City Tp (of course!) led the winning team–even if she couldn't speak Danish.

LCpl Perry attending to a casualty on the first aid stand

SSM Strachan Crossing the river? 'What river?'

Recruit Bigsby being presented his beret by Capt (Danish Navy) Soren Lund, the Danish Defence Attache

THE BERNE MARCHES

After last year's success the Regiment again entered the International two day Marches held in Berne, Switzerland.

This year the Squadron was represented by **SSgt John Sturgeon** (Alias the Tiffy), **Sgt Paul Compton**, **Cfn Alf Ringwood** who found the experience painful but enjoyable. The team worked well together during both 40km stages and managed to arrive alive and intact after both days. **Sgt Compton** admitted that the second day was the most painful of his life whilst **Alf Ringwood** somehow managed to complete the second day without his underwear (ask no questions . . .)

Needless to say much beer was consumed to ease the pain and build international relations with military teams from as far a field as South Africa. Indeed, as far as British Competition went we were amongst the top British entrants.

EXERCISE DOGGER BANK

Now that the sun is out, it's Exercise season again and time for us to skulk off into black holes and dirty hangars. Ex Dogger Bank is one of our major Exercises with detachments being sent off to far flung corners of the world such as Belgium, Gibraltar or, in the case of City Tp, HQ Sqn, Shoeburyness and the USAF base at RAF Upper Heyford.

City Tp, our special tasks comms Tp, found to its amazement, that it had not, for once, drawn the short straw and accepted quite happily the use of showers, fridge freezers (just who did put the Pepsi in the freezer) and plug in electricity. The weekend provided the best in-situ training opportunity the Troop has had for a long time and, as a result, confidence was gained not only in themselves but, more importantly, the equipment.

As always, there were moments of excitement with **SSgt Debbie Stock** unable, for once, to find the right 'Q' or was it 'Z' code for 'Wait Out–Absolutely Amazing Air Show in Progress'. We had only managed to position ourselves on the flight path for aircraft participating in the Southend Air Show.

The Red Arrows were good too, just managing to miss our masts and antenna fields. **Cpl Sylvester Hack** (our man from the Met) also found himself in a predicament, realising mid-shift that he was also due on shift in deepest Paddington, arresting hooligans. Meanwhile, **OCdt Adrian Whyte** was searching the beach, not for shells but pebbles for **Cpl Candy Bruynee**'s rockery.

CONGRATULATIONS

Sig Mervyn Hing on his marriage at Westminster Chapel on the 28 May 1994 to **Patricia**. Unfortunately the photographs from his stag night remain censored. **SSgt Debbie Stock**, **SSgt (SQMS) Tony Wells**, **Sgt Diana Bland**, **Cpl Libby McKerrow** and **Cpl Rachel Evans** on their promotions and to **OCdt Adrian Whyte** on passing DAB.

With City Tp sunning itself on the beach, the rest of the Squadron found itself incarcerated in concrete hangars which once formed the homes of F1-11 Fighter-bombers. Despite the sleep-disturbing sirens every time the doors opened, it was reassuring to know that we could lock the doors, switch the extractor and filtration equipment on and say boo to NBC (or so they think–Trg Wing). So from that point of view a good time was had by all.

COURT & SOCIAL HELLOS

Capt David Gibson who joins us as PSAO having just finished as a Regular with the Coldstream Guards. **Capt David Thomas** who recently left the Regular Corps as a WO1 now finds himself as a Capt and our QM(T). **Capt Joe Farndon**, ex YofS (Regular) who joins as 2IC. **Maj Sandy Monks**, formerly 2 Sqn Comd now Ops Offr (interesting one there as **Maj Monks**, when 2IC 2 Sqn and a Capt, once had a 2Lt under command–who is now her Sqn Comd; we are told he doesn't intend to bear any grudges, **SSgt John Sturgeon** our 'not so' new REME Veh Artificer.

FAREWELLS

Capt Helen Barker on maternity leave. **Maj Robin Macheath** who served with the Regiment for more years than anyone can remember (but was Training Major once, and more recently PSAO).

71 Sig Regt (V)
Bexleyheath

REGIMENTAL 25TH ANNIVERSARY

In April 1969 both the Regular and Territorial Armies suffered deep cuts and amalgamations. One result was the formation of the 71 Sig Regt (V) composed of four old Yeomanry Regiments. The Inns of Court and City Yeomanry, the Essex Yeomanry, the Berkshire Yeomanry and the Kent and City of London (Sharpshooters) Yeomanry. In 1992 the Essex Yeomanry was transferred to 38 Sig Regt (V) with 57 Sig Sqn (V) replacing them from 37 Sig Regt (V).

This Home Defence communications Regiment now celebrates its 25th birthday. Two events have been held to mark the occasion.

25TH ANNIVERSARY DAY

On 14 May 94 the Regiment celebrated its 25th Anniversary at Longmoor training camp. The day was marked by four events. Firstly, **Col A. P. Verey TD** Regimental Colonel Royal Signals TA, presented the LS & GC to **SSgt (FofS) Jay Allen**. The Territorial Efficiency Medal to **Sgts Kerry Jones** and **Dave Beamiss** and a second Bar to the Efficiency Medal to **SSgt (SQMS) Pete Gribble** in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

Rear: Lt Col S. P. Foakes, WO1 (RSM) Buxton
Medal recipients
Front: SSgt (FofS) Allen, Sgt Jones, Col A. P. Verey TD, SSgt Gribble and Sgt Beamiss

During the afternoon the White Helmets put on a superb display in very wet and slippery conditions. This was only its third display of the year and the team is to be congratulated. The salute was taken by the Regimental Colonel **The Earl of Limerick KBE DL**.

This was followed by a hastily reorganised indoor concert by the Royal Corps of Signals Staff band under the direction of **Maj D. F. Wall FRCM**. The concert held in the Kitchener theatre due to the appalling weather was a roaring success as the band played various compilations of the Retreat and the D-Day services to be held later in the year. I'm sure the applause given to the band far outstretched the response they had anticipated. This was followed by a cocktail reception in the Officers' Mess for our guests and an all ranks party including entertainment by a live group called 'Pleasurehouse'. During the evening the Commanding Officer presented two top student presentations to **Cpl Robert Begbie** Driver Electrician class 2 and to **LCpl Allison Graham** Radio Telegraphist class 2 well done to the both of them. This was followed by a cake cutting where the Commanding Officer was ably assisted by the youngest member of the Regiment **Sig Ian Wilton** of 265 (KCLY) Sig Sqn.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess held an Anniversary Dinner at Longmoor training camp on 9 April 1994. All past Regimental Sergeant Majors were invited to attend. Six were able to take up our invitation. They were **Lt Col (Retd) A. Abbot MBE, Capt Bill Naismith, Maj (Retd) Ian Rothwell, Maj John Newman, Mr Mick Lavery** and **Mr Alun Parry**. Guests of honour were our Regimental Colonel **The Earl of Limerick KBE DL** and the Commanding Officer **Lt Col S. P. Foakes TD**. Also in attendance were nine members of 70 (Essex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn having been affiliated to the Regiment for 23 of our 25 years. With the Corps Band kindly entertaining the guests throughout the dinner a truly memorable and enjoyable evening was had by all. To mark the occasion **WO1 (RSM) Steve Buxton** presented to the mess a silver salver inscribed with all Squadron emblems with an accompanying parchment scroll inscribed with all current mess members' names. Four Honorary members provided an insight of those early years when Cavalry became Royal Corps of Signals and the prospect of new trades and new ways. The rest, as they say, is history.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Sadly we have said our farewells to **SSgt** 'Art Veh' **Mal Whittaker** and his wife **Alice** who have moved to Chertsey on promotion. Also on the move was **SSgt Derek Noon** who on completion of 22 years has moved back to Chester to start his new career. We extend our thanks to both for all their efforts during their tour and wish them all the very best for the future.

Our new arrivals are **WO2** 'Ches' **Cheslett** taking over the post of RQMS and **SSgt Bernie Pallett** moving into the LAD.

The price of *The Wire* will increase to £1.50 per copy, £9 per annum from February 1995

- News from Squadrons -

1 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215) Tidworth

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Andy Kendall**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Al Haines**

PRESENTATON OF LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS

The presentation of four LS & GC Medals took place recently. Recipients were **WO2 Dineley RLC**, **SSgt Pete Street** AGC (ex R Signals), **Sgt Steve Harrison** and **Cpl Kev Twigger**. The medals were presented by **Brig I. H. McNeil OBE** who commands the Brigade. The presentation coincided with a visit to the unit by the commander, who was particularly interested to see his new TAC vehicle, a Warrior, not generally issued to R Signals units!

Presentation of LS & GC Medals
Back row: WO2 Dineley, Cpl Twigger, Brig McNeil, Sgt Harrison, SSgt Street
Front row: Miss Walsh, Mrs Twigger and sons, Mrs Street and daughters

EXERCISE FIRST CRUSADE

The Squadron has been particularly busy recently, fulfilling a variety of commitments for 1 (Mech) Bde. The most important of these was Ex First Crusade, an FTX, designed to test the newly re-roled Brigade. It took place on Salisbury Plain and is considered to have been the largest exercise to take place in the UK for over thirty years; over eight hundred armoured vehicles were deployed on the plain. The high point of the exercise was a 60km road move which took place overnight through Devizes and various other small Wiltshire towns. The majority of the brigade's vehicles took part, including those belonging to Sabre Tp, who were acting as Step-up HQ at the time. It appears that the atmosphere on the streets was akin to the liberation of France 50 years ago, with locals lining the roads handing out drinks and snacks! At the end of the exercise the Squadron were complemented by the brigade commander for achieving a very high standard of communications.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Hello to **2Lt Andy Mould**, Bengal Tp Comd, goodbye to **Capt Martin Phillips**.

Hello to **WO1 (RSM) Al Haines**, goodbye to **WO1 (RSM) Gary Hailstone**, now **Lt Hailstone**.

Hello to **Capt Mal Heaney**, QM, goodbye to **Maj Ken Clark**.

BENGAL TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Andy Mould**

In addition to participation on Ex First Crusade, the members of Bengal Tp took part in a Tp HF Radio exercise, under the auspices of **Sgt Bob Pye**. The intention was to brush up on long range HF operation and morse skills. To achieve this, detachments were deployed to diverse locations around the UK, from RAF St Mawgan in Cornwall to Benbecular in the Outer Hebrides and Douglas on the Isle of Man. The exercise was a great success; comms were achieved with very little problem and even the morse operation was better than it might have been!

We have also said several farewells: **Capt Martin Phillips**, **Cpl Brian Heslop** and **LCpl Pete Dimmack** on posting and **Cpl Chris Tearle** on redundancy. Our best wishes go with them.

SUMMER CAMP

For the second consecutive year the Squadron summer camp took place at Penhale Camp, Cornwall. This year the programme was a little different, beginning as it did with a 48 hour initiative test. Teams of two to four were required to visit three tourist locations within Cornwall, obtain proof of their visit and then return to Penhale Camp. Most of the groups completed the task with time to spare and by the second evening a Squadron 'bivi site' had been established on Fistral beach as groups waited to return to Penhale!

For the remainder of the week, six groups rotated around a circuit of activities comprising: walking, climbing, surfing, golf, clay pigeon shooting, mountain biking and swimming. The week culminated in a potted sports contest and barbecue where **LCpl Bramwell**'s performance on 'passing the tray' won him a 28 day sick chit.

'Would you argue with this woman driver?'
Sig Michelle Robinson loading an AFV 436 onto a transporter prior to exercise

4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204) BFPO 36

As this report is being compiled, members of the Bde Sig Sqn are returning from leave and are preparing for the Monday morning parade which will mark the end of months of commitment to the UN effort in the Balkans under Op Grapple 3, and the re-union of the Squadron.

The main party numbering 94 left at the start of a six month tour in November 1993 whilst the Rear Party was left behind under the Command of 14 Sig Regt (EW), also located in Quebec Barracks in Osnabruck. There was a clear remit for the work in prospect during the following seven months. Before all is forgotten it would be fitting to record the hard work of those left behind in Germany.

There were approximately 40 members in the Rear Party commanded by **Capt Wheeler** of 14 Sig Regt. In the SHQ **Sgt Ken Snell** was left running the show, doing all the bits and bobs that the RSM would normally do, supported by **Sgt Stu Jackson**. **Sgt Steve Osman** was well engaged in the matters of the families being kept on his toes by the Wives Club. The UAO was left in the capable hands of **Cpl Dean Fisher**, supported by **Pte Colin Keeler** until his posting to CivDiv and latterly by **Pte Jeff Brown** who seems to have mastered all that has been flung at him! Talking of postings, there was **Sig** 'Wiggy' **Wigglesworth** who came, and went, almost before anyone knew he was a Good Man. Also flying around were thousands of letters under the control of **Sig Dean Rhodes**.

Any illusions of putting one's feet up on the table in MT soon disappeared and as time went on through the dark winter months, the number of details increased. **Sig Trev Stamford** held the show together (when not pulling his hair out), with small bits of assistance, ish, from **Sigs Si Hinchcliffe** and **Steve Bradbury**. **Andy Carvin** was also there, but kept going 100 odd km's the wrong way up the route 30 (BMH Rinteln is the one next to Hanover–not Amsterdam!). Next door was **Sig Si Shaw** flying the Squadron flag in the LAD. And then there was the wrecker **Cpl** 'Mac' **McDonald**, no vehicles, only ISO containers to move, and loads of vehicles to fix with help from **Cfn Frankie Franks**.

As we moved down the garages, and the line of delivery wagons with yet more stores from hell, and over the mountain of goodies for the Expense Store the QM's department ticked over with **Cpl Chris Hood** (no mention of Football etc . . .) and another **Stu McDonald**, Signaller this type. The best part of the Ship of course is always the Techs part, feet up and kettle brewing. In there, lots of Systems Techs with **Cpls** 'Shep' **Sheppard** and 'Cheats' **Cheatle** (but he had to be short toured–to the Balkans) and also **Stu** 'Super chick' **McDonald**, LCpl type. Latterly **Cpl Bob Bowden** and **LCpl** 'Pez' **Perry** were posted on to boost up the Radio Techs. Rumour also has it that **SSgt Frank Roberts** was also posted in, again.

Once upon a time there were 12 disciples, well we have now got 12 ED's. We only wish they had turned on the light at the end of the tunnel well before 13 June! **LCpl Wayne Hunt** has transformed the Gene Bay with the help of **Sigs** 'Taff' **Davies**, 'Shuggy' **Nicol**, **Glen Russell**, **Scott Witts**, **Steve** 'Joe 90' **Maynard** and of course **Sig Mick Fernie**.

So that was it, all there is left to mention is a couple of dejected old Panzers which were lacking a bit of love, care and attention. Well they got that, and lots more and besides from many likely lads including **Sigs Pete Watson**, **Bill Waters**, **Carl Turner**, **A. K. Akkulugadu**, **Mick Alsop**, **Ali Burnett**, **Martin Craig**, 'Scouse' **Dibbert**. Is **Sig Dibbert** the Swimmer and **LCpl Brodie** the Panzer driver, or was that the other way round! Somewhere in there was **Sgt Aidy Chapman** in coveralls, ably supported by **Cpl Oli Oliver**, **LCpls Babs Dowsing**, **Rab Grice**, 'Scouse' **Farrell** and of course **Charlie Forsyth**. There were a couple more who apparently helped out including **LCpl Mino Minorcyk** assisted by **Sigs John Doran**, **Matt Knowles**, **Pete Mann** (when not serving in the NAAFI!), **Dai Mundy**, 'Parky' **Parkinson**, **Paul Chapman** and **Gus** ('Checking it out'–sorry wrong link) **Sygrove**. And another thing, we still had **LCpl Neil Fox** holding the fort, sorry holding the Commcen, with all the other good men, and women, from 16 Sig Regt.

Just to show there were no hard feelings between the rear and the main party Force Sig Sqn sent back a regular supply of spies. It only took **SSgt Nige Thomas** two weeks to get back for those important CES checks, on a stretcher. **Cpl Tony Dawson** came back early to arrange his wedding. **Cpl Steve Young** just came back. **SSgt Frank** 'the train spotting DJ' **Roberts** was out of his tree and **Sig Rob Dawson** was just out!

Now at the end of many cold dark months of extremely hard work there were a couple of memorable minutes, more than the fair share of which were drunk at the Potted Sports day in April. The odd disco and hours of effort for the Wives Club would not have been so much fun without **Cpl Pete Preece**. As we see the posting of many a fine person during the next few months, the Bde Sig Sqn is now back in Osnabruck for the Black Rats revenge (never mind the Red Rats they are on holiday somewhere!). So now if a member of 204 says they worked hard last winter, lots will not believe them, let alone remember it; the Good Men will!

Sgt Ken Snell and other Sqn members showing emotion as another one bites the dust (Sig Mick Fernie) at the hands of Cpl Chris Hood

Members of the Sqn Rear Party preparing for potted sports day on 29 April

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
(216 Para)
Aldershot

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

Sqn Comd	**Maj John Whitby**
2IC	**Capt Steve Vickery**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Joe Fairbairn**

The new RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Joe Fairbairn**, is welcomed back to the fold. After the longest jumps course in history, the RSM is suitably refreshed! We wish him and **Jane** well on their tour.

Not to be outdone by the Comms Tps, SHQ had a significant presence on the Normandy reunion jump. The Sqn Comd, 2IC and RSM were filmed by the BBC exiting the aircraft–unfortunately nobody saw the film clip so that's just another 'airborne story'.

Sgt Mark Sowerby, SSgt Stu Archer and LCpl Gaz Christie prepare for the Normandy drop

COMMANDER'S CUP

The Squadron are pleased to display the Commander's Cup in the Sqn Comd's office. The team was led by the 2IC, with **Sgt Jim Duncan** as team Sgt. Other team members were: **Cpl Kev Read, LCpls Andy Hodgson, Al Hammond, Sigs Dog Barker, Taf Kinsey** and **Paul Henderson**.

BRAVO TROOP

Troop notable events include:

Sigs Pete Watson and Olly **Oliver** passing P Company and joining the fold–well done.

Recently promoted were **Cpl** 'DB' **De Burgh, Pete Lawn**, 'Foggy' **Fogg, Al Hammond, Paul Goddard** and 'Mac' **McBean**.

Cpl 'Bo' **Bohanna** had just ventured to South Georgia for a six month holiday and **Sig** 'Tommy' **Tucker** has left for Herford. Finally a warm welcome to **Sig** 'Brum' **Brummell, LCpl** 'Max' **Maxwell** and 'Scotty' **Scott** on their arrival at 216.

MIKE TROOP

Tp Comd **WO1 (FofS) Morris**

Mike Tp congratulates newly promoted **LCpl Pete** 'Scouse' **Byrne, Cpl** 'Brad' **Braddock** and, soon to be, **SSgt Dave Buckingham**. We welcome **Sgt Andy** 'Scotty' **Scott** back after his TI course. We say farewell to **Sgt** 'Don't pass rubbish through me' **Jed Keane** who is on P Company staff in Catterick.

Also welcome to **Cpl** 'Dinger' **Bell, Sig Andy Fisher, Cpl Steve Jones, Sig Dec Maher**. We have been very active with **Cpl** 'Bootneck' **Gray** away for three months with his mates in Plymouth.

There was the Sardinia jump in May also Mike Tp (100% para trained) jumped into Normandy in commemoration of D-Day.

Finally, **Cpl Joe Jordan** and **Cpl** 'Brad' **Braddock** finished their OTP T1 Crammer Course.

A TOMS VIEW OF BATTLECAMP

By Sig Rob Howe

14 March saw the start of 216 Para Sig Sqn's annual Battlecamp. Its aim was to teach and test the soldiers on military and survival skills under arduous conditions.

With all the planning and preparation complete, the first test came with the Squadrons first jump with the new Low Level Parachute on to Garelochhead DZ. P-hr was 1200hrs and by 1230hrs the Squadron were safely on the Drop Zone without any injuries. We then moved from the Drop Zone to what was to be our home for the next two weeks, Strone Camp.

The first two days were taken up by revision on battle drills and practising our pairs, half section and section attacks.

Garelochhead is renowned for its fierce weather and after the first couple of days we all began to see why. In the space of an hour you could have sun, rain, hail and even blizzards and with the weather being worse than it has been for 10 years we realised it was going to be extremely cold, wet and wild.

The next few days were taken up with survival training and lessons on CTR's (Close Target Recce). On the final day of the survival training we were told we had to tab to an old quarry for our final lessons. When we got there we were given lessons on building shelters and fires and survival cooking. After the lessons we were given our breakfast to cook.

After our de-brief we were given the evening off to prepare for our final two phases which we had to follow the next day. The six sections went in turn to receive orders from the Sqn Comd, **Maj D. J. Whitby**. We were told that we were taking part in a patrol competition with a CTR and two river crossings. That evening after the Section Commanders had given their orders to their sections, we set off in 4 tonners to our drop off point. From orders we knew we had to tab approx 15km to our CTR and with each man carrying about 60lb of weight we knew we had a hard slog ahead of us. After we had been tabbing about 4km we came to the first river crossing. The river wasn't as deep as we had expected so we waded through just getting wet from the knees down. We continued through the night until we finally reached our FRV.

As it was just coming up to first light, our CTR team got some food and a brew before we set off to complete our mission. We sent two teams each having six hours eyes on target. After getting as close as possible we collected all our information. With the hardest part of the job complete we got a bit of rest until last light. When last light arrived we set off on another 15km tab back to our HQ. About 4km from our HQ we came to our second water crossing, this time across a lake and on a ridged raider assault boat. The crossing took about 10 mins and after re-organising on the other side we set off on the final 4km. Once we had reached our HQ we were given two hours to get some food and finish our patrol reports.

After handing our patrol reports in we were taken back to Strone Camp, where we were given some World War 2 clothing and told to put it on. We were then split up into groups and set off to reach our first agent contact which was about 10km away, trying to escape and evade the enemy who were hunting on foot, in landrovers, helicopters and with dogs. Because the object of this exercise is to simulate escaping from the enemy we weren't given anything apart from what we were wearing, so we had to live off the land. On the first night it started to rain almost straight away so we were wet from the word go. Because of this we thought it best to get some shelter, each patrol had their own ideas and some patrols even managed to get some food. On meeting our first agent he gave us another grid ref to meet our next agent which was another 9km away. Three agents, 20km and one night later we were given our final agent. On finishing we were given a cup of tea and a pie which put a smile on everyone's face. Then we had a group photo just to remind us of what a good time we had. We were then taken back to Strone Camp where we were given the results of the patrol competition which was won by **LCpl Paul Goddard**'s section. The end of Battlecamp was supposed to finish with another parachute jump onto Hankley Common Drop Zone but due to bad weather the jump was cancelled.

In summary it was an ambitious exercise organised by the Sqn Comd, 2IC, **SSgt Dave Catchpole** and **Sgt** (now SSgt) **Stu Archer**, but I believe that it was an enjoyable and rewarding exercise and that the aims were achieved and I am sure I speak for every member of 216 when I say that.

19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209)
Catterick

Sqn Comd	**Maj D. Hargreaves**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Pete Woodward**

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt David Kinnaird**

Fun in the sun on Ex Able Wanderer, the troop adventurous training exercise, here described by **LCpl Pettenuzzo** (P-Z).

The drive to Scotland was an interesting experience led by **LCpl** 'the Italian stallion' **Petenuzzo**. Absolutely nothing went wrong on the drive up to Garelochhead. **LCpl P-Z** knew exactly where he was going, he just happened to take the wrong turn through Glasgow ending up going through the Gorbals and Govan because **Capt Kinnaird** and **SSgt Nevill** just wouldn't stop harrassing him. **P-Z** is therefore completely blameless. Fortunately, nothing was robbed or vandalised by the local inhabitants and we arrived at Garelochhead Training Camp safely. It was from here that we were able to embark upon the week's activities . . .

ROCK CLIMBING

The actual rock face, that we were to climb, was already halfway up a mountain, and it didn't help that **LCpl Touhey**'s map reading is more than a little dodgy. Still, we got there and began climbing, at least you can't get lost when the only way is up! Highlights of the week were **LCpl Bagnall** on the rock face; proving to be a quite stupendous climber. He was later persuaded to plunge into a freezing pool of water by a group of schoolchildren.

'Walk Landlubber' says swashbuckling Stu Little

HILLWALKING

Led by **LCpl Venni** fresh from his UEL, he relished pointing out every mountain feature. Five minutes elapsed before it was realised that he was bluffing, and we ignored him from there on. It must be mentioned at this stage that **Sig Icke** actually managed to last longer than two hours on a walk without injuring himself.

On day two we prepared ourselves to conquer the worst that Scotland could throw at us. Someone, however, stood out slightly from the rest of us, **Sig Perrin** in his shell suit carrying a blue plastic bag full of fags, coke and pasties! Fun was had by all, especially in the evenings.

WINDSWERVING!

A small elite group based themselves at Luss for the week in the watery sunshine and freezing waters, much fun was had. In went **Sig Richardson**. He is a windsurfer extraordinaire, actually managing to windsurf for two days in an area equivalent in size to a table tennis table.

Sig Tony Toole who knew the theory but not the practice. **Sig** 'Strasse' **Street** who actually managed to windsurf. Finally there was 'the dark force' **Capt Kinnaird** who told us that he could not windsurf but we knew that, in fact, he can. The gallant instructor was **SSgt** 'Tiffy' **Percival**, the man in black, the carrier of the black magic box, the man who never gets wet (how annoying) the man with unfading patience.

THE FOOTBALL MATCH

Nobby's blue eyed boys v Capt Chaos' Flops.

Both teams played a long gruelling game which ended in a 2–2 draw. The game was completely dominated by the blue-eyed boys, and the Flops were quite lucky to equalise. Thus it all ended with a penalty shoot-out with the blue-eyed boys winning 8–2.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

To break everyone in gently we spent the first day on the training area around the camp. Sadly it entailed a sharpish climb to get up there, immediately provoking cries of 'mountain biking is fun!' from many of the group, most noteably **LCpl Dixon**. **SSgt Nevill** rode us hard for the week. Everyone felt jaded at some stage, the mountain goat, **LCpl** 'Mac' **McConnell** had gear problems–his one piece suit was too tight.

On the fourth day, and at last the going got really tough. The plan was for an 80km tour departing from Inverary. The trip out was viewed from the back of the DAF by unbelieving eyes–cries of 'we're not playing' on arrival found no sympathy and eventually we set off amidst moans and grumbles! The coastal plains of Inverary gave way to the climb to the heights of 'Rest and be Thankful'. As we arrived at Arrochar for lunch, **SSgt Nobby Nevill** and **Sgt Andy Allan** deftly produced a picnic from their rucksacks. Wine, candles, fine cheeses–and not a pastie in sight! Suitably re-energised we set off for base. One final climb allowed us to take in the 6.5km fast descent (awesome!) and than a road pursuit back to camp over the last 11km, left the whole team very weary, to say the least.

Yeeuuuch!

SUPPORT TROOP

Tp Comd **Capt Lumb**

The highlight of recent times within Support Tp has been Ex Strong Wanderer our annual adventurous training week, which took place in Capel Curig, North Wales. The weather held for us throughout the week, which was a good job according to the hillwalkers who are still wondering why we did not take the train to the summit of Snowdon. As well as the obligatory hillwalking, in which everyone took part, other activities included; Canoeing, Mountain Biking and Top Rope & Abseiling. The Troop also went white-water rafting at Tryweran, an excellent experience which was thoroughly enjoyed by all, especially the Quartermaster who found out just how cold the water was before being rescued by the RQMS. A special thanks to the chefs **Sgt Vince Pridden** and **Pte Ritson** who fed us superbly throughout the week. All-in-all an excellent week away from Catterick and everyone who took part thanks the instructors for making the activities interesting and challenging; we look forward to next year.

The Troop has had several departures and a few new arrivals. We say farewell to **Sig** 'Gaz' **Stewart** and **Cpl** 'Digger' **Grave** from MT, **Cpls Steve Mills, Steve Pattendon, Dave Baddely** and **Dave Catlett** from the Tech Workshops and **Cpl Dougie Coid** from the QM's. We welcome **Sgt Rob Clifford**, who replaces the 'wallet' of technicians that have just left and **Cpl Hayes** in the Generator Bay, enjoy your tours.

Finally, congratulations to **Sig Gilbert** for being selected for the Army U23 Basketball for the third successive season, well done.

20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200)
BFPO 16

Sqn Comd **Maj Paul Eaton**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Neil Turnbull**

ALPHA TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Allan Garett**

The Troop was now settled in its new garages 'invaded' by the QM's car which drove into its 'office'. However, there is one advantage to using a garage as an office, there is no telephone, so the RSM cannot get at us too easily!

The main exercise in April was Ex Northern Exposure. Amazingly, Alpha Tp managed to escape getting wooded locations everytime. Into May, and the Troop did very well in the Squadron athletics competition, coming second to a very strong Support Troop team. There were some very good performances, notably from **Cpls Adrian Rothera**, 'PC' **Culleton**, **LCpls Wayne Dunbar**, 'Mac' **McKenna** and 'Skel' **Skerritt** and **Sigs Sean McIlroy** and **Jim Steers**. Well done to **SSgt Danny O'Brien** who carried on despite an injury. Congratulations to **LCpl Wayne Dunbar**, who went on to the UKSC (G) Individual Championships, coming 1st in the discus, 2nd in the shot putt and 3rd in the javelin and 100m events.

Finally, Ex Rhino Shield hove into view at BBGT where we were very busy in exercise build, not very busy during the actual exercise (yawn) and busy again on tear-down. Thank goodness for the RASS.

HELLOS & GOODBYES

The Troop welcomes into the fold **Sgt Keith Robinson**, **Fiona** and their children–**Cally**, **Yvonne**, **Stephen** and **Jamie**; **Sig Dave Dawson**, from one brigade to another and **LCpls Wayne Dunbar** and **Alan Rooney** from other Troops within the Squadron.

FAREWELLS

We are all sad to say goodbye to **LCpl** 'Mac' **McCallum**, on his way to sunnier climes. We are also sad to lose **Cpl Martin Heathcote** to Support Tp and **Sig** 'Bod' **Mills** to Bravo Tp. All the best to you all.

BRAVO TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Paul Smith**

WELCOMES

Welcome to **SSgt Mark Tivey** and his family from 244 Sig Sqn. **Sig** 'Bod' **Mills** arrived from Alpha Tp and **Sig Howard** fresh from his attempt to join 216 Sig Sqn (Para).

FAREWELLS

Farewell to **LCpl Wayne Dunbar** and **Sig Paul Robinson** to Alpha Tp and goodbye to **LCpl** 'Winston' **Swanston** who left for Support Tp. In April the Troop moved garages and did surprisingly well out of the new allocation. We managed to get a new troop office, complete with telephone into the bargain. Ex Northern Exposure followed and Bravo Tp was accompanied by the Staff for most of the time. This provided us with decent locations, whereas Alpha Tp had to be content with the woods–unlucky.

The Squadron then moved on to a so called quiet period and the commitments just kept on coming. The car boot sale followed and the Troop car wash. The highlight of the day was when RRB 2IB drove into the car wash and a fierce discussion ensued between the OIC car wash and **Cpl Sorbie** over the fee, eventually both parties agreed to an undisclosed sum and 2IB departed in immaculate condition.

Next came the Inter-Tp Athletics Competition and surprisingly the Troop did not win this event! The fact that **LCpl** 'Superstar' **Dunbar** was posted to Alpha Tp in the same week did not help. The result was no surprise (to those in the know) as Support Tp A team 'All-Stars' won with Bravo Tp trailing third.

Since then we have done Ex Rhino Shield at BBGT and this was followed by the Rass and Ex Bear Fist and Wonder Why. So much for the quiet life!

SUPPORT TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Mick Pawlak**

LAD

The LAD says goodbye to **Sgt Baz Hoprey** after serving 5 years with the Squadron and welcomes his replacement **Sgt Al Osborn**, especially as PRE reports now come with the word 'good' on them. Welcome indeed!

MT

The MT has been as busy as ever with all the commitments over the past couple of months especially Staff Colleges visit, Ex Rhino Shield and the Rass. With special thanks to **Cpl Mark Fitz-Patrick** who ran the MT while **Sgt** 'Mitch' **Mitchell** was successfully passing his Sgts course. A mention has to be made to our only 'Trog' **LCpl** 'Oz' **Hulland**, who managed to cope with all the last minute fast balls in the details office.

TECH WORKSHOPS

The Squadron techs had their hands full with Ex Rhino Shield, the collection and installation of the equipment and on-call tech support for the exercise. Many thanks to **SSgt Barney Patel**, **Sgt Mark Holden**, **Cpls Cook**, **Heathcote**, **Cuddy**, **Wildish** and the remainder of the team who did an excellent job.

HOCKEY

The team captained by **Sgt Mark Holden** beat 280 Sig Sqn 1–0 in the last half of extra time, it was a fair and hard fought battle with '200' pulling through with a single goal by **WO2 (RQMS) Mark Schofield** to win. The picture shows the team displaying their medals just after the presentation and juggling act by **LCpl Al Rooney** with the trophy. Hence the grin (nearly dropped that).

The Squadron shows its delight at winning the UKSC (G) Minor Units Hockey final

STOP PRESS

The Squadron went on to confirm its athletic prowess by winning the Zone Athletics Championship, whitewashing the opposition and qualifying for the UKSC (G) finals. The team won all, bar one, of its minor unit events and out-classed most of the major units present.

The climax was the 4x400m where the team of **Sgt** 'Mitch' **Mitchell**, **Cpl John Payne**, **LCpl** 'Mac' **McKenna** and son of sonic **Sig** 'Brummie' **Nicols** stormed to a convincing win over the rest of the field, major units included.

24 Airmob Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210)
Colchester

CADUCEUS CENTRE
Shop Manager **SSgt Paul Watson**

The centre continues to expand and is now well and truly part of the local market economy. The centre was officially opened on 12 May by Comd 24 (Airmob) Bde, **Brig Grant Peterkin OBE**. The Commander unveiled a commemorative plaque to mark the occasion and went on to meet the personalities that make up the Caduceus Centre, the highlight of which just had to be this particular extract . . .

Commander . . . 'Do many families use the information office?'
Cpl Edwards . . . 'A few sir, but it is mainly new arrivals.'
Commander . . . 'And how do you go about your business?'
Cpl Edwards . . . (lengthy pause) . . . 'On my bike Sir!'

At this point the Commander's frown deepened a tad, the QM, now deftly tugging at the Commander's sleeve, suggested perhaps the Brigadier might like to move on. Curiousity, however, obviously getting the better of him–the Commander continues . . .

Commander . . . 'Yes! But how do you manage to cope?'
Cpl Edwards . . . (now getting into his stride) . . . 'Well it is hard work, but occasionally the QM lets me use the van!!'

The Commander, now urgently tugging at the QM's arm whilst heading purposefully for the door, asks, 'and what else do we have along here . . .?'

The Commander–Brig Grant Peterkin unveils the commemorative plaque

COMD COMMS' UKLF CUP

With the usual flurry of activity which accompanies the arrival of a Puma (obtained through the normal channels!) the Squadron's Comds' UKLF Cup team arrived at Okehampton Camp. Headed by **2Lt Stuart Boyne** and **Sgt Frank Flaherty**, the team won the Command Task Stand and came second in the First Aid Stand.

Some excellent performances by **LCpl Giddens** and **Sig Paddy Partridge** on the assault course typified the good spirit and morale of the team. Well done lads. The rest of the Squadron, however, are warned that the team does not contain the unit's crack shots! The advice is 'keep behind all of them on the next battle run . . .'

ALPHA TROOP

The Troop says farewell to **Cpl Ian Foster** after 22 years service

Congratulations go to **LCpl** 'Vera' **Duckworth** on his marriage to **Catherine** and we hope that they will have a happy tour here with the Squadron.

A great deal of emphasis has been put into Troop training covering the usual ATD subjects and some more unusual activities. The training included a bergan tab with first aid en route, turning the tab into an improvised stretcher race.

We also had a further instalment in the saga of the Signallers Challenge. This latest competition day was won by **Sig Johnston**, for a second time, so congratulations go to him.

SUPPORT TROOP
QM DEPARTMENT
QM **Capt Rick Licence**

Warmest congratulations to **Sgt Pete Brooker** and his wife **Helen** on the birth of their son **Thomas**. It is only a matter of time before baby Brooker is fitted up with a mini bergan and tabbed around Friday Wood.

Welcome to **Sig Sean Moses** who joined us recently from Aldershot and has already managed to fit in a short detachment with the 1st Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment.

TM WORKSHOP
Personalities **SSgt (FofS) Iain McNelly**

A recent mass exodus prompts one to think that the workshop crew know something that the rest of us do not. Recent farewells have included: **Cpl Ian Allmark**, **Cpl** 'Devo' **Thompson** and **Cpl** 'Mac' **McNaughton**.

Welcome **Sgt** 'Alli' **Duncan**, **Cpl Steve Mills** and **LCpl Pauline Brysden**.

The craze for car phones seems to have gripped the workshops with one-upmanship **Cpl** 'Thommo' **Thomson** wins, however, hands down.

The Foreman, **Iain McNelly**, has been seen stocking up with a huge supply of sun block since confirmation of his posting to Saudi.

OPERATIONS TEAM
Ops Officer **Capt Rupert Chapman**

The Ops team, or alternatively, the 3rd Generation Train Spotters Club, have been kept extremely busy with the numerous games available on computers these days. The president of the Train Spotters Club **Capt Rupert Chapman** will be swopping his spectacles and anorak for top hat and tails when he marches down the aisle to marry the lovely **Kate** on 9 July. Good luck **Rupert** and **Kate**.

210 FOOTBALL CLUB SEASON 93/94

The 1993/94 season has been the most successful for many a year for 210 FC. The team saw a big change around in faces from the Catterick days, with youth and experience filling essential positions. Our first discovery was that the East Dist (S) League was far stronger and more competitive, but we held our own and league results did not always reflect the way the games went.

It was in the East Dist (S) Cup that the team produced its best results. An away trip to ATR Bassingbourn saw the team to a 0–2 win with **Cpl Tony Taylor** on the score sheet. This set-up a semi-final with camp rivals 19 RAMC. The game was hard fought as expected and after 90 mins play with the score at 1–1 looked doomed to penalties. The tie was settled in extra time with an amazing 35yd goal by now goalkeeper **Sig Glen Brunskil**. The game will also be remembered by **Cpl Billy Cardwell** who has spent the last 6 months nursing a broken leg. The final against MCTC was the biggest disappointment of the season, with our worst performance on the field all year, we went down 5–1.

After a very encouraging first season together the squad can only get stronger. Congratulations go to **Sgt Paul Grundy** on receiving Player of the Year and **Cpl Mick Tennent** and **Sig Paddy Campbell** on their call-up to the Corps Soccer Squad.

The Squadron Football Team 1993-94

242 Sig Sqn
Edinburgh

Sqn Comd **Maj G. A. Carmichael**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Holden**

SHQ

Much planning, re-planning and re-re-planning began as early as November last year to ensure that everything went smoothly for this year's Summer Camp. Special thanks must go to **Dicky Dunn** for all his help and assistance and to **SSgt Ian Turner APTC, Sgts Matt Hughes, Mark Beardmore, Mickey Mann** and **Steve Griffiths** (240 Sig Sqn) for their expertise in the various adventurous training pursuits.

This year's camp was held in the Lake District and based at the Eskmeals Adventurous Training Centre, an ideal location for any units planning a future camp. To allow everyone to attend, the camp was divided into two weeks with numbers being bolstered by other Signals units. Rockclimbing, abseiling, hillwalking, canoeing and socialising were the order of both weeks and the weather was kind throughout.

Special mention must go to **Cpl Sharon Wright** and **Sig Greg Miller** for their prowess at Limbo dancing, to **Sig Amanda Blackburn** for her ability to walk on water and to **Sig Sue Stallwood** in achieving her lifetime ambition of climbing higher than three feet.

Sgt Ian Sutton and **LCpl Angie Campbell** left the camp with mementoes which will be with them forever. The mountain bike ride up 'two gently sloping hills' proved a challenge even for our resident 'SASMAN', **SSgt Brent Holmes** and our on loan PTI, **SSgt Ian Turner**, of 1st Bn Queen's Own Highlanders.

An extra special mention must be made of **Capt Peter Grist**, the winner of the fancy dress competition (he was the only competitor).

On top of Scafell Pike
Back Row L to R: Sgts Mickey Mann, Ian Sutton, Sig Shaun Parker, Sgt Clive Quantick
Front Row L to R: Cpl Sharon Wright, Sig Sam Hindsom, LCpl Angie Campbell, Sig Sue Stallwood, Capt Peter Grist

LS & GC PRESENTATION

Sgt Al Rutherford was presented with his LS & GC medal by GOC Scotland, **Maj Gen M. I. E. Scott CBE DSO** on Friday 29 April. This was totally unexpected as **Al** was on parade as guard commander. Fully briefed, the GOC played his part perfectly and **Al**, in the presence of his family was suitably 'stitched up'. Of course after a trauma such as that, the only thing to do is to retire graciously and celebrate accordingly.

HEBRIDES SIGNAL TROOP

Tp Comd **WO1 (FofS) Stephen Whitwood**

IN'S AND OUT'S

Since the Troop's last appearance in *The Wire*, there has been some personality changes so we wish a fond farewell to **WO1 (FofS) Alex Kennedy** and family to civvy street via Edinburgh, **Sgt Rod Kenna** to 622 Sig Tp, and **Sgt Tony Taylor** to civvy street in Hong Kong. Welcome to the following new arrivals, **WO1 (FofS) Stephen Whitwood** and family, **Sgt Mickey Mann** and **LCpl Craig Wilson**.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Troop congratulates **Sgt Phil Mackenzie** on his selection for promotion to SSgt, **LCpl Pearson** on promotion to Cpl, **Sig Craig Wilson** on promotion to LCpl, **Sig Shaun Parker** for his daring amateur dramatics performances, **Sgt Chris** and **Gillian Van Den Kerkhof** on the birth of their second daughter **Catherine**, and last but not least **Sgt Mickey Mann** for his abseil rescue of the St Kilda mail drop that had gone astray. Best wishes to **Cpl Donald MacInnes**, who leaves on redundancy.

COMMUNICATIONS

Despite rumblings of the Range Closure, the Troop's workload has actually increased with the Rangehead recabling, St Kilda rewire, LAN and WAN adoption, HF replacement, to mention but a few.

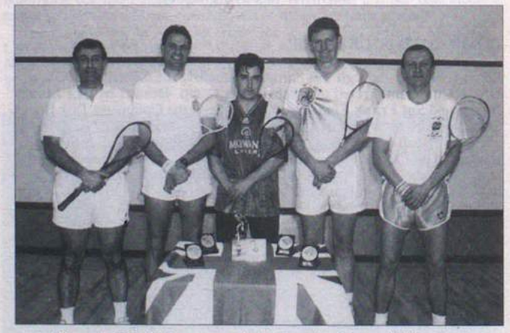
Rear: Sig Parker, LCpl Hoskins, Cpl Pearson, Sgts Mann, Mackenzie, Beardmore, Crosby, McLaughlan, Cpl MacInnes, LCpl Wilson
Front: SSgt Phillips, Capt Grist, Col R. W. Stark, WO1 Whitwood, Maj Carmichael, SSgt Povey, Mr Collins

VISITORS

Col R. W. Stark, Controller AFTS 2 (NC), Sig Bde visited the Troop in March accompanied by the Sqn Comd, **Maj G. A. Carmichael**. After touring the Range facilities and visiting the Tele Mechs, jointing in the rain as usual, the Colonel presented the Kuwait Liberation Medal to **Sgt Phil Mackenzie**, at a Troop social evening.

SPORT AND LEISURE

Due to the workload and seasonal climate, the hull of the Troop Boat has so far only seen rain water this year, however fishing trips are planned for the summer. Interest in Golf has been regenerated by the onset of lighter evenings, the Foreman's dogs are back in the swing of retrieving shot wildlife, and the joint Signals/REME Commander's Trophy Team have made a good start to this year's competition by winning the Squash.



Signals/REME Commander's Trophy Squash Winners
L to R: Lt Col Slater REME, Capt Holmes RLC, LCpl MacDonald REME, Capt Hapley REME, SSgt Phillips

243 Sig Sqn
Bulford Camp

TECH TROOP UPDATE

Although the Foreman and the 'Q' have both managed to improve their handicaps, the S.C.P. is now manned by our own personnel as we say goodbye to the Roulemont people.

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

A warm welcome to **Sgts Jim Meadows, Jo Richmond, Cpls Andy Baird, Kev Bownes, LCpls Simon King, George Lawson** and **Johnathan Poulson**.

Farewells to **SSgt Kirwin Daniel** and **Sgt Bob Archer**. We wish them and their families all the best for the future.

SGT BOB ARCHER RETIRES

After 31 years **Sgt Bob Archer** retires at the end of July. **Bob** joined the Army Apprentices School Harrogate as part of intake 63C, he has since served in Cyprus, the West Indies and at various posts within the UK.

Over the years **Bob** has brought many interesting projects into the workshop to do in slack periods. Probably the most unusual was a 3-D contour map of the Battle of Waterloo. After nearly three square feet of plywood had been cut and glued together the whole thing was covered in plaster of Paris ready for painting. The final paint job occurred two weeks and four attempts later. This masterpiece was paraded in the workshop for almost a month and now has pride of place somewhere in his attic at home.

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

KIWI TROPHY 1994

The Kiwi Trophy is an annual summer biathlon competition held on Salisbury Plain and involves all Squadron personnel, who compete over a 20km course of steep hills and sharp descents with varying conditions underfoot. The competition starts and finishes at the famous Bulford Kiwi and the only respite throughout the course is the stop at the halfway point for the shooting phase–10 rounds at 200 metres.

The competition rules were altered this year to highlight the importance of good shooting as well as superb fitness and each dropped shot resulted in four minutes being added to the march time. Preparations varied, some built up their carbohydrate intake, some munched bananas and chocolate all week and others relied on the amber nectar to see them through. The choice of boot was hotly debated and wearing any other than BCH meant 5lbs added to the Bergen weight of 30lbs plus water and rifle.

The competition was run over two days to allow for full manning of check points and ranges, **Cpl Kev Huffington**, the course record holder, was pre-race favourite but it was known that his shooting was comparable to **Lt Keith Manning**'s on the football field–few shots on target. The conditions on day one were perfect–cool and dry and the first pair set off at 1000 hrs.

WO2 (YofS) Nixon set the early pace and due to a fine battle with **Cpl Steve Whitford** set a good target time of 2 hr 16 min 22 sec, plus 8 minutes penalty. **Cpl Sean Gagie** was the first to rise to the challenge and beat the Yeoman's time by a minute and had the same shooting score. This was a fine effort by our REME VM who continually claims he can give anything a 'good servicing'. This looked like being the best time of the day until **Cpl Huffington** stormed home in an incredible new course record of 2 hr 6 min 54 sec. Unfortunately he accumulated 20 minutes of penalties, but an excellent run home none the less. So, after day one, the first three were **Cpl Gagie, WO2 (YofS) Nixon** and **Cpl Huffington**.

Day two started in almost identical conditions. Knowing the target they had to beat, several of the more experienced competitors were obviously going for it. **Sgt Grant William Arthur Johnston** finished in a fast 2 hr 14 min 22 sec but in spite of a recent RMQ 1-3 course he incurred a 28 minute penalty. Bad luck Junno! The tussle of the competition however was between **LCpl John Atherton** and **LCpl Kenny Marlow**. The former beat the latter by one second in a time of 2 hr 8 min 27 sec and as he had no penalties, **LCpl Atherton** was declared the winner of the Kiwi Trophy. A first class performance from a deserved winner.

LCpl Atherton–winner of the Kiwi Trophy with a time of 2hrs 8min 27sec

Overall the competition was a keenly contested event. It is a testimony to the fitness of the Squadron that all 104 competitors who started, finished the course and the majority set new personal best times.

The event concluded with a barbecue and prize giving at Ward Barracks. The following prizes were presented by **Cdre Peddie** RNZN:

Winning Individual–The Kiwi Trophy–LCpl John Atherton
Winning Team–The Innocent Cup–Support Tp

In addition, he presented **Cpl Max Million** the Barry Trophy for the best aggregate time for the 10km and 20km ski races and the Kiwi Trophy. A splendid effort by **Cpl Million** (technician) who proves that only the very best soldiers can combine brain and brawn!

The final trophy, the Lang Memorial Cup, awarded to the soldier judged to have made the largest individual contribution to the Squadron over the last year was deservedly presented to **Cpl Adam Yafai**.

COMMANDERS CUP COMPETITION 94

It was a typical Friday the 13th when the news of the Commanders Cup team selection was received. Out of a Squadron of some 100 plus a team of eight good men and true had been selected to represent the unit. Following a briefing by the team leader, **Lt** 'Competitions' **Mannings**, a training programme for the few days prior to the competition was produced. A packed week of physical training, NBC and first aid revision was to be expected. Map reading, recognition and the zeroing of weapons were to follow. The only small snag was the Sqn PACEX which had also been programmed for that week. A revamped programme was swiftly devised to provide each team member with a brief refresher prior to deploying to Okehampton.

An excellent result for the Squadron on the assault course and TOETS set the unit up for a good result. A strong finish by **Sig** 'Monkey' **Lawrence** who displayed his climbing skills to give the Squadron the fastest time of the competition. A small hiccup on the command task led to almost all the team suffering from radiation poisoning and left **Lt Keith Mannings** attempting to recover the 'cannister' with a 3ft camp pole and a bootlace. At the end of the military skills phase the Squadron was in a respectable third place and raring for the night ahead. The night navigation exercise was on home territory and a good result was expected, unfortunately by the end of the evening the Squadron had dropped into fifth place.

After a few hours cat napping the team was up and preparing to play the joker. Continuing as two sub sections one half was to shoot an APWT and the other a PARA Cup style shoot. The APWT went extremely well with a good shoot by most of the section, **LCpl** 'Hawkeye' **Bickerstaff** realising after the first 10 rounds that it's easier to aim when using the small hole. The PARA Cup consisted of a mile march in under 10 minutes followed by a 100m dash and engaging 10 falling plates. The team who dropped the most targets in the fastest time were the winners. The march was completed in the allocated time leaving the team still looking fresh for the shoot. Heads started to turn when the familiar 'dink' and drop of a plate was heard. The fastest shoot was recorded with the second most targets. An excellent result for the team.

251 Sig Sqn
Aldershot

Sqn Comd — **Maj J. J. Gerrard**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) K. G. Jenkins**

ARRIVALS
The Squadron SSM, **WO2 Jenkins** and **Sig Craze**.

DEPARTURES
The Squadron Ops Officer **Capt D. Jepson**, **WO1 J. Skelton**, **LCpls Thompson** and **Nichol and Sig Pearce**.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS
Over the past two months, 251 Sig Sqn has taken part in various championships. Although few medals have been won, the standard of competition has been very high and, for a small squadron, the performances have been outstanding.

INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES
There has also been some fine individual performances. The undermentioned personnel are all to be congratulated on their fine performances: **Swimming**, **Sig L. Mason**, Army Backstroke Record; **Boxing**, **Sig Kirkbride**, Runner-up Novice Boxing Championship; **Marathon**, **Cpl D. Thwaite**, 2nd Hermitage Half Marathon (Women), **Sig S. Clayton**, 9th Hermitage Half Marathon, **Sig Nield**, 1st Falklands Half Marathon (Women); **Triathlon**, **Lt Eggers**, 7th Army Sprint Championships; **Athletics**, **Cpl K. Holmes**, 1st National Championships, 1500m (4:01:41), 1st Crete International, 800m (2:00:63).

Cpl Holmes has now qualified for the European Championships and Commonwealth Games 1994.

SEDIST (EAST) WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
Again, in the volleyball championships, luck did not come our way. We missed out by a point to qualify for the semi-finals. A special mention should go to **Sgt Bevan**, due to her dives, spent most of the game cleaning the floor. An excellent team performance once again.

SEDIST ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS
As all would agree, the team was not one of 'natural athletes'. However, there was great spirit amongst the team and everyone was pleasantly surprised by the results.

SEDIST SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS
Sig Mason broke the women's Army Backstroke record and is now training with the Army team. There were fine performances from all team members, unfortunately, they just missed qualification to the Army finals.

280 (UK) Sig Sqn
BFPO 35

NEW PERSONALITIES
It's all change in the Royal Signals Contribution to LANDCENT Signal Group as we say goodbye to **Maj Bob** 'Football? Love it? I live for it!' **Lockwood**, off to play in the sunny climes of Cyprus and hello to **Capt Tom** 'I love football too' **Pontin** from just down the road at 16 Sig Regt. Also disappearing is **Capt** 'Gus' 'Golf's the game' **Colville** posted all of 10km to 7 Sig Regt.

The Squadron has now completed its first deployment proving that the new NATO RMA trunk system works, so how come it's still so busy?

VISIT OF SOinC
With the Squadron on parade and the old Regimental flag fluttering in the breeze all was ready for the arrival of the SOinC **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle**. It only remained for the 2IC to get the drill commands right and everything would run smoothly (shame). The SOinC was arriving to unveil the new Squadron sign and meet, for the first time, one of the Corps largest Squadrons. All went smoothly, as the attached photograph shows.

L to R: Maj R. T. Weston, Maj Gen A. H. Boyle, WO1 (RSM) Williams

EXERCISE FRANCONIAN BACKSTOP
Ex Franconian Backstop was an adventurous training expedition organised by 280 (UK) Sig Sqn to the Western region of Nepal. Its aim was to give 14 members experience in living and trekking in remote areas and of grade 3 white water rafting. We circumnavigated the Annapurna Massif from Besisahar to Pokhara, a distance of some 220 miles, trekked to Thorung La Pass, the highest Pass in the world at an altitude of 5,416m (17,764ft) and rafted the Trisuli River.

The expedition was organised and led by **WO1 (RSM) J. Williams** and ably supported by **SSgt (SSI) John Berry GM APTC**. An 18 hour flight from Frankfurt to Kathmandu via Dubai and Dakha marked the beginning of the expedition, compliments of Biman (White Knuckle) Airways. We arrived in Kathmandu at 1400 hrs on 6 April.

The next day was spent sightseeing, getting used to the area and preparing for the 10 hour bus ride to the start point at Besisahar where the road ends and the trek begins. We were lucky enough to get a seat on the bus as six of our own porters had to travel on the roof along with the luggage.

At the beginning of the trek the climb was steady and fairly easy going, the scenery gradually changing to a more European look with fir trees and a more humid atmosphere. As the climb became steeper the snow line started to creep down and the team began to feel the effect of altitude, headaches became more common as well as the usual stomach upsets; the bright green latrine tent becoming more popular.

A day's rest at Manang to adjust to the altitude was recommended as well as attending a lecture on Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS). A heavy snowfall delayed us for another 24 hours but this did not deter four of the team climbing up to see the local lama, who would bless any visitor 'for 100 rupees' to help with a safe crossing of Thorung La. The team was forced to spend an extra day in Manang due to another heavy snowfall, by this time everyone was getting fed up and just wanted to continue. However, NCO IC morale **Cpl** 'Mappers' **Mapstone** kept everyone entertained.

We left Manang and climbed very slowly. The views of the Annapurna range were magnificent. Villages now consisted of single mud huts and because of the high altitude we were now in minus temperatures. The trail descended towards the river and we had to cross a bridge at 4,310m; the narrow trail then traversed a high and unstable slope which was to be our campsite at Thorung Phedi. This was the highest we had been to date and it showed.

Today was the day to conquer Thorung La which started at 0100 hrs walking with torches along a narrow scree slope. **SSgt Gary Doran RLC** led the way followed by the rest. The pace was extremely slow as members of the group suffered from symptoms of altitude sickness. The snow was now knee deep and there were many false summits, however, after five and a half hours climb we eventually reached the Pass and achieved our aim. We stayed only long enough for the Commemorative Photograph and then descended for another five hours to reach our campsite at Muktinath; this was by far the hardest but most rewarding day.

The remainder of the trek was memorable, experiencing the sights of the deepest gorge in the world, Kali Gandaki and, the seventh highest mountain Dhaulagiiri, culminating in a climb to Poon Hill to see the whole range of the Annapurnas and spectacular views of the Rhododendron and oak forests.

Three more days trekking finished the expedition. Seventeen days of bliss were shattered as we spotted a tarmac road that brought us all back to reality with a bump. We all rejoiced at the fact we had achieved all our aims and had witnessed sights of which we had only dreamed. It was a most successful expedition and we must thank the Corps, HQ Rhine Garrison, and the Squadron for the financial support that made it all possible.

56 Sig Sqn (V)
Eastbourne

Sqn Comd — **Maj Ray Wilkinson**
2IC — **Capt Sandra Wilkosz**

The Squadron has recently undergone several changes to the hierarchy with the handover of Sqn Comd. We have said farewell to **Maj Mike Gilyeat** and his wife **Maggie**, and wish them the very best in civilian life, and especially thank **Maj Mike** for his enormous contribution to the

Maj Mike Gilyeat hands over to the Squadron Maj Ray Wilkinson

Squadron. We hope to see him again at future reunion dinners. In return we welcome, straight from our friends at 71 Sig Regt (V) **Maj Ray Wilkinson TD** and his wife **Liz**, and trust he will enjoy his tour in Eastbourne, once he overcomes the shock of having so many regular personnel in the unit.

To complete our quota of permanent staff, **WO2 (YofS) Phil White** has been dragged screaming and kicking from his deckchair in Belize, only to sign out a replacement in Eastbourne. His wife **Debbie** is currently taking her 'A' level examination in Sandcastle Building. Just off the tourist bus from Blandford, **Sgt Geoff Murray** and **Marion**, hanging up their buckets and spades in Radio Tp. Welcome to the team one and all.

The Squadron has been involved in a military training exercise, held over the weekend 22-24 May at Shorncliffe, which included a visit by **Brig De Vere Hayes**, Comd 2 Inf Bde. The weekend also included Recruit Tp training during which the Commander presented the recruits with their 'Jimmy'.

EXERCISE POLARPLOD
Each summer Polaroid the camera company sponsor a hike along the 40 miles of the South Downs Way with 26 teams from across Europe participating. The Squadron supplies admin and safety support for this prestigious event, including communications around the checkpoints and, a field kitchen to cater for approximately 200 entrants. This year the Squadron entered a team, for the first time, consisting of **Capt Brian Howe** and **Capt Ian Murray**, **Lt Jackie Blake**, **Sgts Geoff Murray**, **Tony Potter** and **Sig Heather Lawrie**. The event was held over 3-4 June. The weather turned foul, as soon as the first team moved off, with torrential rain making the going quite heavy. Unperturbed by the elements, the team came in a very creditable 6th position and led the way at the social arranged by Polaroid on Saturday evening. Sponsorship for the Squadron team was raised by individuals and from local companies providing a contribution to the Corps Museum Fund.

The YofS and TA TRG SNCO **SSgt Paul Hattemore**, together with **Sgt Geoff Murray** have been busy with Jocomex exercises, and who knows they may even get a weekend on the frigate, somewhere on the high seas.

TECH SECTION
A warm welcome to **Sgt Stu Ryder** and wife **Susan** from NI, currently enjoying the culture shock of weekend and evening working. The nearest thing to 'cushy' he has discovered is that **Sgt** 'Al' **Baker** voluntarily provides breakfast in bed for the ERV crew in the field.

MT SECTION
Congratulations to **Sgt** 'Mad Mick' **Lambert** on the recent completion of his RSSC. He is now busily removing the velcro from behind his chevrons and trying to offload the mantel of I/C menial tasks.

Finally our congratulations to **Cpl Tracy Reed** and **LCpl Lorraine Holder** on their recent promotions. Well done.

RECRUIT TROOP
Tp Comd — **Lt Karen Evans**

Changes have been afoot within the recruit training empire with **Lt Karen Evans** adding her own recruit to the team with the birth of her daughter **Heidi**. Congratulations and welcome back.

Having spent some months waiting for the YofS to arrive and keeping his chair warm, **SSgt Tony Doherty** has now installed himself as PSI for the Troop. We are not too sure what his face is like, as he tends to have a camera glued to the front of it.

OCdt Sarah Streete augments the Recruit Tp team utilising her skills as a schoolteacher; she has already risen to the appointment of milk monitor with one eye on the prefect's badge.

The Troop has maintained a busy schedule both in recruiting displays at local fetes and displays and with recruit training, for the newer faces in the Squadron, giving a whole new meaning to the phrase 'going green'.

Sig North receives his Corps Badge

– News from Troops –

642 Sig Tp
BFPO 52

JOTTINGS FROM GIBRALTAR
Tp Comd — **Capt Dave Smith**

ARRIVALS
We welcome the new Tp Comd, **Capt Dave Smith,** who has settled in to his new job, and also plays a mean game of football. **LCpl Brendan Wilkinson** also seems to like it here, this might have something to do with the sun, and the beaches.

RECENT EVENTS
The Royal Navy keeps the Troop busy connecting the communications for the berthing vessels, (someone has to make sure that the Senior Service can keep in contact with their mums), the most recent ships to visit being HMS Edinburgh, Fearless and Sir Galahad. The Royal Naval version of the 'Red Brick Intercom' is not without problems, those on HMS Shetland, now ably repaired by **WO2 (FofS)** 'Stumpy' **Rowe** and **Cpl Steve Kemble**.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Admiral	Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander CB OBE
Commodore	Col P. J. Pritchard
Vice Commodore	Col J. E. F. Kirby

Rear Commodores: Offshore, Maj B. H. Rowe; Dinghies, Lt Col M. J. McKinlay; Windsurfing, Maj D. I. Gilchrist; BAOR, Lt Col N. K. P. Hope MBE.

CONTACTS

Yachtmasters:	**UK: Capt J. F. Calvert, Blandford Mil 2459**
	BAOR: Capt R. K. Orr, Birgelen Mil 286
Secretaries:	**General: Maj J. P. McD Coulthard, Corsham Mil 4457**
	Dinghy Racing UK: Capt D. C. A. Ellis, Blandford Mil 2340
	Dinghy BAOR:Maj S. I. Andrews, Osnabruk Mil 5247
	Windsurfing UK: Capt P. G. Cross, Blandford Mil 2464
	Windsurfing BAOR: Capt W. N. White, Celle Mil 273/300
	Retired Members Rep: Lt Col (Retd) C. K. Powell, Blandford Mil 2437
Soldier Reps:	**Sgt Finnigan: Thorney Island 8263 Sgt P. Downie: Bulford Mil 2837**

The Royal Signals Yacht Club communicates with its members through the medium of* The Wire, *which regularly prints a forecast of events, accounts of activities and contains details for club officials.

Any member of the Corps who subscribes to Corps funds is automatically a member of the Yacht Club: this membership is activated simply by registering with one of the Club secretaries.

This month we have reports from Upnor, the Isle of Wight and Weymouth. The sailing season is well under way and the Corps sailors have been both active and successful as our reports relate.

DINGHIES

The Corps team has, as usual been competing in the inter-corps dinghy league. To date three matches have been sailed. The first at Netley sailed in the ASA bosun fleet resulted in a convincing win against the Royal Artillery. This was closely followed by another convincing win against the Army Medical Service at Upnor. Next was to come the REME match. However, the opposition were unable to produce a team on the day and the event had to be postponed until the autumn.

The event that our team were waiting for however was the match against the old opposition, the Royal Engineers, and this took place on 22 June, also at Upnor. Three of our most experienced helmsmen and crews turned out, **Capt David Ellis**, **Sgt Chas Cowell** and **Sgt Paul Downie**. However, they were to be matched by an equally strong threesome from the Sappers, **Lt Col Chris Haskell**, **Maj Steve Pyatt** and **Sgt Robbie Jardine**. And indeed the Sapper team sailed to a convincing win in the first race, 2nd, 3rd and 4th places giving them 9 points to our 11¾. However we were by no means finished and crossed the line at the start of the second race in 1st, 2nd and 4th place. With our first 2 boats leading the fleet the 3rd fought a famous rearguard action to hold back the opposition, first gaining a place and then eventually dropping back to fifth. So a second race score of 7¾ points to their 13 secured a fine victory. The team are now looking forward to the REME match in the Autumn.

The bridge crew at the Day Boat Regatta: Commodores past and present

DAY BOATS

This year the Corps have been hosts at the Seaview Yacht Club for the Annual Triangular Regatta against the Sappers and the Gunners. Thus we enjoyed four consecutive days at this charming and friendly club, the first two being devoted to the Corps dayboat regatta and the selection of our team for the coming event. The number of entries this year was slightly down with only nine yachts sailing on each day. Four glorious days of sunshine and the sight of the US fleet forming up at Spithead for the Commemoration of D-Day was insufficient inducement for some.

In spite of the bright sunshine, the first day started slowly with virtually no wind. However 10 minutes into the first race the wind filled in from the north east and four races followed each other quickly through the day. A sizeable group of spectators were treated to some close racing; in the second race over half the fleet made premature starts, so keen was the competition. In the evening the customary yacht club dinner was attended by competitors and spectators alike. And after a fine day's sailing everyone seemed to want to make a speech about something or other–mainly the other.

Next morning the fleet was away early and again the bridge crew ran four races during the day. However this had to be done without the help of the Admiral **Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander CB, OBE**, who had been 'persuaded' to take to the water and crew for **Maj Graham Lewis-Taylor**. By the end of the Regatta we had a clear winner, **Capt David Ellis** and his crew from the Royal School of Signals. However only five points separated the next four places. **Sgt Paul Downie** was second, followed by **Maj Graham Lewis-Taylor**, **Sgt Craig Avey-Hebditch** and **Cpl Phil Lever**. The closeness of the result indicates the current high standard of sailing in the Corps.

The next day the other teams dispersed to make way for the Sapper and Gunner crews in anticipation of the Triangular Regatta. This year saw the 30th occasion in 31 years that the Regatta has taken place since first conceived by **Lt Col Eric Glover**. It was therefore to everyone's great pleasure that **Eric** and his wife **Shenda** were amongst the spectators.

In accordance with the Glover rules the visitors sailed first and by mid-morning the Sappers had achieved a narrow victory over the Gunners. Next it was our turn and by the end of the day the Corps team had achieved two clear wins. The following day saw wind strengths of 25 knots and gusts well over that. Nonetheless after a short postponement, the Commodore ordered the teams onto the water and soon the yachts were flying backwards and forwards with spray going in all directions. It soon became evident that they were to get no racing that day and the fleet returned hurriedly to the moorings. Therefore with two convincing victories the previous day the Corps became Triangular champions for only the fifth time ever and the first time ever that we had successfully defended the trophy. Our congratulatons go to **Capt David Ellis**, **Maj Graham Lewis-Taylor**, **Sgt Paul Downie** and **Cpl Phil Lever**.

J24

A new international sailing competition has been instigated, the IYRU World Championships. This event is to be held every four years, alternating with the Olympic cycle, and is to cover all disciplines from board sailing through one and two man and woman dinghies to keelboats. For this inaugural year it is being held in La Rochelle, and the keelboat chosen is the J24. As one of the 'form' boats in UK we thought that it would be very nice to represent UK as one of the three keelboat entries.

Selection was dependant upon performance at the first two Open Meetings of the year, the Spring Cup held in Plymouth Sound and the Southern Areas held in the Solent. Using our brand new ULLMAN mainsail and genoa we were showing very good speed, including in very light winds which has been our weak point. What we were not doing, however, was being clever in our choice of route around the course, and in consequence put in two of our worst performances for a long time, finishing 7th and 8th at the two meetings.

The obvious outcome from this of course was that we did not qualify, however three of our crew will be going with **Lt Col Suart Jardine** to help him with his campaign. His crew line up will consist of himself as helm, **Capt David Ellis** as cockpit/tactician, **Cpl Phil Lever** on spinnaker, **Mark Jardine** on mast and **Sgt Robbie Jardine** RE on foredeck.

Prior to this we have the J24 European Championships at Medemblik, Holland, at the start of July. Our crew line up for this is a change again from our norm, owing to crew non-availabilities, with **Capt David Ellis** on the helm, **Cpl Phil Lever** in cockpit, **Sgt Phil Hawkins** RLC on spinnaker, **Helen Jardine** on mast and **Sgt Robbie Jardine** RE on foredeck. It will be interesting to see how this combination of talent works out.

ROYAL SIGNALS WINDSURFING

The first Royal Signals Windsurfing event for 1994 was the Corps (UK) Championships held 1-3 June at Weymouth. Twenty three sailors contested the individual event and seven teams fought it out for the Major and Minor unit trophies.

The team racing was held in light to very light winds and the race officer did well to finish a four race series by the end of the day. The leading teams in the Major unit event were neck and neck before the start of the last race and the Minor unit teams were just as close. An incredibly close first lap was followed by a complete loss of wind which led to a drift around the buoys to the finish.

The first day of the individual event gave slightly stronger winds and more interesting racing with the lightweights towards the front. The man dominating the fleet, however, was **Sgt Norman Finnegan** showing the results of a hard winters training at Thorney Island on his new Corps board.

The second day's forecast stronger winds arrived with a vengeance! Severe gales whipped the normally calm waters of Portland into white water so racing was reluctantly called off. This was not to deter the intreprid Rear Commodore, **Maj Dave Gilchrist** who ventured out on his race board in a successful bid for the coveted entertainer of the year award. **Col Kirby**, the Vice Commodore, arrived hot foot from Catterick to present the trophies and distribute the prizes of Windsurfing gear generously donated by our sponsors.

A special presentation to **Maj Dave Gilchrist** was made in recognition of five year's dedication to Corps Windsurfing.

Results

Team event

Major unit team winners	3 (UK) Div Sig Regt (A)
Major unit team runners up	11 Sig Regt
Minor unit team winners	215 Sig Sqn
Minor unit team runners up	237 Sig Sqn

Individual event

Overall champion	**Sgt Norman Finnegan**
1st Heavyweight	**Lt Colin Pettifer**
2nd Heavyweight	**Capt Paul Cross**
3rd Heavyweight	**SSgt Tim Wynn**
1st Lightweight	**2Lt Jonathon Coleman**
2nd Lightweight	**Sgt Geordie English**
3rd Lightweight	**Cpl Calum Black**
1st Veteran	**Maj Dave Gilchrist**
1st Novice	**Maj Peter Bowles**
2nd Novice	**Cpl Steve Lindsay**
3rd Novice	**Sig Roberts**

Also worthy of note is the superb Formula 42 series run throughout the winter at Thorney Island by **Sgt Norman Finnegan** who also won first prize. Formula 42 is a new discipline which demands both long and short board skills so his performance in this series has been particularly good.

– Sport –

ATHLETICS

MORRISON CUP

The Morrison Cup 1994 was held at the Ryedale Stadium in York on 4 May. 12 teams–six major units and six minor units–took part travelling from as far afield as Blandford and Northern Ireland. As expected the competition was dominated by the wealth of outstanding athletic talent currently residing not far from the Stadium but this in no way deterred the enthusiasm of the visiting teams. Although 2 Sig Regt dropped only four points out of a maximim of 228 in the major unit's events, all five remaining teams fought a fierce competition for the distinction of coming second to the current Army Champions. This honour eventually fell to 8 Sig Regt with 143 points, while only six points separated the third, fourth and fifth teams.

The minor units competition was also a close run thing with the result never 'in the bag' until late in the afternoon. Athletics talent at minor unit level seems to be evenly distributed and Comms and Sy Gp only made sure of the Minor Units title in the final relay event. It was good to see 21 Sig Regt (AS)–for many years a major force in Corps and Army athletics–still managing to produce a team despite their dwindling numbers and wide geographical spread.

Undoubtedly, the healthy performance of 8 Sig Regt and AA Coll Harrogate indicate that many recruits have the raw undeveloped talent to ensure the Corps of continued domination for many years to come. However, we continue to misdirect our talent as is illustrated by the fact that we have allowed **Sig Nicki Hawkins** of 35 Sig Regt (V)–who was runner-up to GB athlete **Cpl Kelly Holmes** in the Army v TA cross-country match and who was featured in the last isue of *The Wire*, declaring her ambition to join the Corps as a 'regular'–has been recruited into the REME!!

Cpl John Castle (in flight) and SSgt Jeff Martin take the water jump

MARATHON

MARATHON RUNNING

The Army and Inter-Services Marathon Championship took place on a warm sunny day at Gosport on Sunday 24 April. Despite the warm weather there was a stiff breeze which had a marked effect on the overall times. A four man team from 2 Sig Regt were optimistic about a successful defence of the Army Major Units team title. However, no one could have foreseen the domination which they showed over the otherwise strong opposition. **Cpl Jock Castle** running only his second marathon became the Army Marathon Champion for 1994 with a time of 2 hours 33 minutes and 12 seconds. **Cpl Castle**'s winning margin placed him almost 3 minutes ahead of team mate **Sig Kev Conlon** in second place. **SSgt Jeff Martin** recovering from a prolonged injury had little hope of defending the Army title he has held for the last five years, but was delighted to relinquish it to his regular training partner and remain firmly in the hands of 2 Sig Regt and the Corps. Running a gutsy race he finished in fifth place to see the team trophy safely on its way back to York. The placings of **Castle** and **Conlon** also ensured a decisive victory for the Army in the Inter Services event. This report would not be complete without a word of praise for 'reserve' **Capt John Marriott** who finished his first attempt at this distance in a time of just over 3 hours.

Army Marathon Champions
L to R: Cpl John Castle (Individual Champion), SSgt Jeff Martin and Sig Kev Conlon (Individual Runner-up)

RUGBY

7TH SIGNAL REGIMENT RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

7th Sig Regt Rugby Club have had an outstanding season. The club's aim at the start of the season was to become the top team in the Army. This was never going to be an easy task as the Army Champions, 7 Para RHA, were defending the title for a fifth consecutive year. They also had the advantage of being based in the UK and getting regular hard competition.

The season started with the Regimental squad touring the West Country and playing Taunton, Bridgewater, Cheltenhams Old Boys and a final game against a Bath XV on the Recreation Ground. This tour laid the foundation for the hard season ahead. On returning to Germany the side had easy victories against the British Army of the Rhine XV and Royal Air Force Germany. In an attempt to strengthen the fixture list the team added the top German clubs to the playing itinerary and eventually played the German National XV, running out winners by 38 pts to 8 pts.

In the midst of all these fixtures the Regimental coach and team manager, **Maj Andy Hickling** organised a 10 day tour to Texas. In all four fixtures were played one in Houston and three in Dallas. Details of the tour could be the basis of an individual report, needless to say the 30 tourists had an excellent time. It is worth noting that the tourists spent many hours in fund raising to offset what was for them the second tour of America in 20 months, not bad for a team drawn from a Regiment of only 700 men.

Just prior to the USA tour in January the team had become the Army Champions of Germany defeating 4 Regiment RA 25–0 in the final. This earned the Regiment the right to play the champions of the UK, for the honour of becoming Army Rugby Champions. It came as no surprise to learn that the opponents in the final would be 7 Para RHA.

Prior to the final the team entertained a Bath XV as part of the celebrations to mark the move of the Regiment from Herford in North Germany to Krefeld on the Dutch border. This was the third fixture the Regiment had played against Bath and the game once again proved to be close, exciting contest, with Bath scoring a converted try in injury time to win by 21 pts to 15 pts. Immediately following the game the squad followed Bath to the West Country for a series of four games as a final build up to the Army Final. The team played against Taunton, Bridgewater, Crèesycellios in Wales, and a final game on the Memorial Ground against Bristol. The Bristol game proved to be invaluable with the Regiment withstanding immense pressure to win by 19 pts to 18 pts.

The Army Final played in Germany on 30 March was played in magnificent conditions and for only the third time in the Regiment's history, 7th Sig Regt became the champions of the Army, defeating 7th Para RHA by 20 pts to 14 pts.

The side was superbly led by stand off **Sgt Dave Hammond**, a member of the REME serving with the Regiment. The forwards have been led from the front by tight head prop **Cpl** 'Tank' **Sherman** well supported by the Regiment's Master Chef, **SSgt Billy Innes**. Fourteen of the cup winning side have gained representative honours during the season and the Regiment now look forward to defending the title of Army Champions with vigour next season.

An afternote to the report is that due to the successes of the past year the Regiment hosted a Public School Wanderers XV in April, a team bristling with internationals. The Regiment also look forward to a visit by a Wales XV, managed by ex British Lion **Terry Cobnor**, to open the new club house in August. Finally the team have been invited to become members of both the Dutch and German first division. If you want good rugby come to Seven.

Trophies shown on photograph
Army Rugby Union Challenge Cup, BAOR Rugby Cup, Divisional Cup, Inter Service Cup, Arms Cup, Cathedral Cup–Inter Corps Champions, BAOR 7-a-side Champions Cup

TUG OF WAR

TUG-OF-WAR
From WO2 (SSM) P. Halstead, Sec. Corps Tug-of-War

After a year where our future in tug-of-war was not looking rosy, 1994, by contrast, is now far more promising after the recent Princess Royal's Open Inter-Services Competition at Windsor on 29 May. In an entry of 24 teams there were four Royal Signals units represented and even better, three of them reached the semi-final stages of the first weight (640kg), where 2 Sig Regt went out to 40 Regt RA and 7 Sig Regt were beaten by The Royal School of Signals in a thriller that went to 3 ends. 8 Sig Regt were the fourth team who, as novices, put up a very creditable performance and should not be discouraged. The final saw a win for the 'professionals' from 40 Regt RA, who had travelled over from Hohne.

In the 600kg competition an excellent performance saw 7 Sig Regt's very impressive team get to their second semi-final, where they were unlucky enough to meet Force Artillery AMF (the old 94 Locating Regt RA team) who had not competed in the 640kg event. 2 Sig Regt also pulled very well, just losing a pull-off to decide the winners of their league.

So, very encouraging for the future and the BAOR Championships on Wednesday 8 June, the UKLF Championships on Saturday 18 June and the Army Championships on Saturday 2 July. All this followed by the Inter-Corps Championships, the Royal Tournament, Braemar etc.

STOP PRESS

7 Sig Regt runners-up BAOR 680kg Championships.

THE BLANDFORD TOWER HALF MARATHON

INCORPORATING
THE ROYAL SIGNALS CHAMPIONSHIPS
09 OCT 1994 at 1330hrs
Plus a 3 Mile Road Race and Fun Run

A run through the beautiful Dorset countryside starting and finishing at the foot of the Radio Tower in Blandford Camp

IN AID OF
THE ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM
AND LOCAL BLANDFORD CHARITIES
FOR DETAILS CONTACT
RACE SECRETARY
1 SQN (TS), 11 SIG REGT
BLANDFORD CAMP
DORSET DT11 8RH
Tel: Blandford 0258 48 2279

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 General Secretary: Major G. Schofield MBE**
Welfare Secretary: Mrs P. J. Haw — **Administrative Officer: Mr. R. H. Whittle**

Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel Military System: London District 8424. STD 071 414 8424 Welfare Secretary (direct line) 071 630 0801. All contributions for *The Wire* should be addressed to the Editor and any queries referred to him on extensions 8428 or 8433.

MINUTES OF THE FORTY NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT CATTERICK GARRISON ON 26 JUNE 1994

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 DL	Vice Chairman
Brig M. R. Topple CBE	Vice Chairman
Brig T. H. Wheawell	Vice Chairman
Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO	Past President
Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL	Past President
Maj Gen M. D. Price CB OBE	Past Chairman
Maj Gen A. H. Boyle	Signal Officer in Chief (Army)
Col J. R. B. Cook	Commanding 8th Signal Regiment

and some 220 Members of The Association

IN ATTENDANCE:

Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon	General Secretary
Maj G. Schofield MBE	Assistant General Secretary
Mr R. H. Whittle	Administrative Officer

INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed The Master of Signals, our President; **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley** and **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock**, Past Masters of Signals and Presidents; **Maj Gen M. D. Price**, Past Chairman, and **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle**, Signal Officer in Chief (Army), and some 220 Members to The Annual General Meeting. He was particularly pleased to see at the Meeting 15 Founder Members of six Branches of The Association.

He emphasised the importance of the Annual General Meeting and the legal requirement that sufficient members be in attendance to formally approve The Association's accounts for 1993.

He recorded his very warm thanks to the Commanding Officer of 8th Sig Regt, **Col J. R. B. Cook** and all ranks of the Regiment, who against ever diminishing resources, had made this Last Great Reunion in Catterick such a memorable event. He also thanked the Army Apprentices College and 34 Sig Regt (V) for their bands' performances over the weekend.

MINUTES OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting held on 27 June 1993 were approved and signed by The Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

Minute 6–**The disposal of Corps Property in Catterick**. At its Meeting in November 1993, The Corps Committee approved the move of the following major items of Corps Property in Catterick.

To Blandford:
The Corps Memorial,
The FALKLANDS Memorial,
The FAITH WINTER Statue,
The TTS Screen and Jimmy,
The Officers' Mess Bar,
The Circular Window in The Officers' Mess,
The FORGE Memorial (from HARROGATE),
The SARACEN ACV (from HARROGATE).
To Bassingbourn:
The large Jimmy from the front of The Officers' Mess, and
To remain in Catterick:
The Chapel Window,
The BARRY Block Memorial,
The HOWES-WOOD Memorial Sundial,
The oak panelling in The Officers' Mess.

All of the items being left behind would have suitable engraved plaques recording their origins.

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY GREETINGS

Greetings were sent to our Colonel in Chief, **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal** on the occasion of Princess Royal Day, 28 June 1994.

In response to a question from **Brig W. M. Ponsonby**, The Master of Signals confirmed that he had sent a message of congratulations to The Colonel in Chief on her appointment as a Lady of the Order of the Garter. In The Colonel in Chief's reply, Her Royal Highness sent Her best wishes to the Corps.

A REPORT ON ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Meeting noted a report on Association affairs given by The Chairman.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1993

The Annual General Meeting approved the audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 1993.

THE RESTRUCTURING OF ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS

The Annual General Meeting noted a statement given by the Chairman on the restructuring of Association accounts and approved the course of action he proposed.

ELECTION AND RE-ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Meeting approved the election and re-election of Officers on The Central Committee as follows:

Brig M. R. Topple	Vice Chairman
Brig T. H. Wheawell	Vice Chairman
Maj C. Reynold-Jones TD (Manchester Branch)	Area 2 Representative
Capt J. Preston (Colchester Branch)	Area 3 Representative
Maj P. W. H. Lafferty (Dorset Branch)	Area 5 Representative

and noted the following Ex Officio appointments:

Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook	Representative Colonel Commandant
Col M. Mel Ayrton	Regimental Colonel
Col A. P. Verey TD	Regimental Colonel (TA)
WO1 (RSM) M. George	RSM, 8th Signal Regiment
WO1 (RSM) P. R. Abbott	RSM, 11th Signal Regiment

The Meeting noted also the retirement of **Col A. W. Illingworth TD JP** as Vice Chairman, and that **Brig C. T. Garton** had accepted an invitation from the Chairman to be Vice Chairman with particular responsibility for Area 1.

ASSOCIATION RULES

The Meeting approved minor amendments to Association Rules, details of which have already been widely circulated and were available to Members at the meeting. Branch Secretaries are asked to amend all copies of the Rules accordingly. It is not intended to produce reprinted rules at this time.

REUNION 1995

The Meeting noted a statement given by the Chairman on future Association Reunions and the 1995 Reunion in Particular.

FUTURE EVENTS

The Meeting noted the following future Association events:

1994

10 November	Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey, Central Committee Meeting at RHQ
13 November	Remembrance Parade in Whitehall
13 December	The Corps Carol Service at The Church of St Stephen with St John in Rochester Row

1995

8 April	Central Committee Meeting at RHQ
9 April	Branch Representatives' Meeting in the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea
TBC	Founder's Day at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea
7 July	Freedom of Blandford
8/9 July	Royal Signals Association Reunion and Annual General Meeting 1995

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following matters have been brought to the attention of the General Secretary as shown below:

- 3rd (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt have commissioned a commemorative first day cover to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Normandy landings in 1944. A limited number of copies signed by the present General Officer Commanding the Division at £5 each, and an unsigned version at £2 are available on application to PRI 3rd (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt, Bulford Camp, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 9NY.
- ITN have produced a Video Recording titled 'D-Day–The Ultimate Commemoration' under licence to the Ministry of Defence. The Video at £10.99 plus £1 post and packing is available from DD Video, Freepost CS640, 5 Churchill Court, 58 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA2 7BR. If you quote 'Royal Signals Association' on your order, the Benevolent Fund will receive £2 on every copy sold.

The following additional matters were raised by Branches/Individuals as shown:

- **Bradford Branch**. That a determined effort be made to raise a large contingent, led by the Chairman, to march on the Remembrance Day Parade in Whitehall on 12 November 1995–in the year of the Corps' 75th Anniversary.
- **Maj (Retd) A. H. Rudd.** That:
  More emphasis be placed on Princess Royal Day,
  More publicity be given to The Association by way of a biannual advertisement in such magazines as The Royal British Legion Journal, The Burma Star magazine, etc.
- **Bournemouth Branch**. That consideration be given to the provision of an inexpensive lapel brooch to mark the occasion of the 75th Anniversary in 1995.

The Chairman undertook to examine all of these issues in The Central Committee later this year.

The Meeting noted with pleasure a statement made by Brig G. J. Curl CBE DL on the high regard that The Association was held throughout SSAFA.

The Chairman accepted the need for a roving microphone at future meetings to enable all Members to hear details of questions from the floor.

AN ADDRESS GIVEN BY THE SIGNAL OFFICER IN CHIEF (ARMY)

The Meeting noted with pleasure and very much interest, an address given by **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle**, Signal Officer in Chief (Army), on matters affecting the Serving Corps today, and in the immediate future. An extract of his address will be published in the August issue of *The Wire*.

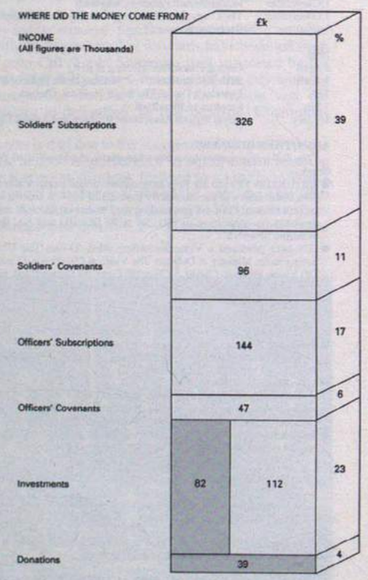
CONCLUSION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

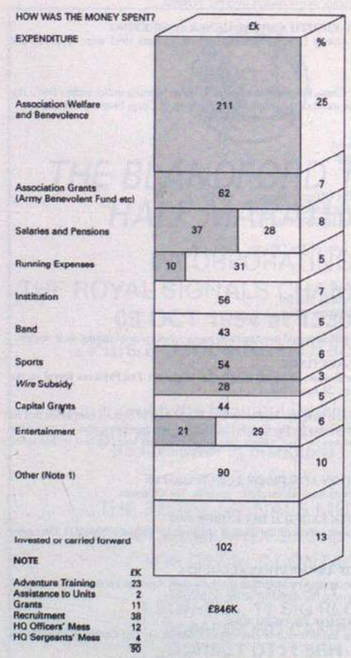
The Chairman thanked Members for attending and wished them a safe journey home. He expressed the hope that he would see them all again at the next Annual General Meeting to be held in Blandford on 9 July 1995.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1993

		1993	1992
INCOME			
Receipts from Corps Fund (DPS)		£284,611	£385,868
Subscriptions and Donations:			
Individual	£32,052		
Branches	1,996		
Units	4,098		
Joining Fees	982	39,128	13,815
Investment Income (gross)		98,370	91,985
Whernside Centre		7,666	
Interest on deposits		5,524	5,008
Total Income		£435,299	£496,792
EXPENDITURE			
Running Expenses:			
Salaries	£34,046		
Pensions and Gratuities	2,714		
Office expenses	2,089		
Travel	4,048		
Audit	3,586	£46,483	£44,260
Corps Activities:			
Games Club	£53,460		
Yacht Club	(6,913)		
WIRE Magazine	28,033	£74,580	£100,021
Reunions		21,452	13,760
Benevolence:			
24 Serving Corps Grants 700 Retired Corps Grants 7 Supplementary allowances 23 Nursing Home Fees 6 School Bursaries 14 Holiday Grants 360 Christmas Grants	206,710		
Army Benevolent Fund	53,500		
Other Donations	£12,142	£272,352	£273,487
Total Expenditure		£414,876	£431,528
Profit on sale of investments		138,048	49,907
EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		£158,480	£115,171
ACCUMULATED FUND			
Brought forward 1 January 1993		£1,088,001	972,830
Carried forward 31 December 1993		£1,246,481	£1,088,001
INVESTMENTS (at cost)		£1,211,228	£1,066,802
LOANS		88	417
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Income tax recoverable	£.2,473		
Sundry Debtors	3,267		
Cash at Bank or at Hand	56,461		
	62,201		40,232
CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
Sundry Creditors	£27,036		19,450
NET CURRENT ASSETS		35,165	20,782
Represented by Accumulated Fund		£1,246,481	£1,088,001

CORPS AND ASSOCIATION FUNDS–1993





COTSWOLDS BRANCH

The Branch was well represented at a Parade and service at Tewkesbury to commemorate those who died fighting for freedom on D-Day.

The parade was headed by the Tewkesbury Town Band followed by a platoon of the Logistics Corps from nearby Ashchurch and the Branch Standard, carried by **Alan Wingate**, flanked by the Standards of the Men and Women's Section of The Royal British Legion Tewkesbury Branch. Some 200 Men and Women together with several Standards from other service organisations paraded through the Town to the War Memorial where a Service was conducted by the Royal British Legion Branch Padre, the **Revd Michael Tavinor** and Tewkesbury Abbey's Canon **Bill Patterson**.

Numerous wreaths were laid on the War Memorial including one from our Branch byour President, **Col Freddie Worth**.

On the return march through the Town the Salute was taken by the Town Mayor, Councillor **Gerald Moody** and **Col Charles White**, Comd Royal Logistics Corps, in the presence of the Town Councillors, in full regalia.

EAST KENT BRANCH

It is with regret, that we are losing the experience of **Col John Francis** from our Committee, **John** was a founder member of our Branch and has been Chairman for the past six months. **John** and **Jean** are now moving on to pastures green in Dorset, sometime in August. **John** is not quite sure how to take the fact that there was not one single comment or objection raised upon his succession as Chairman by **Maj Dickie Dyer** (nor to **Mr Roy Andrews** assuming the Vice Chairmanship). Sadly, our best laid plans to 'lunch Col John out' on Sunday 10 July at the Westgate Hall has failed since he cannot attend on that day. We will miss you and Good Luck.

We could not have had better weather for our visit to HM Tower of London on 12 May, the sun shone until sunset and it was warm. Thirty members, who had not witnessed the Ceremony of the Keys before, made up the party with the Hon Sec **Maj Gen John Badcock**, going along to make sure that all the arrangements worked; 23 parked their cars in his garden. There was a tense moment with no sign of the bus, the Company had changed from a 33 seater to 50 which was too large to get down the driveway and was waiting at the entrance. The **Crisps** and the **Foakes** were picked up at Farthing Corner, the **Lambs** at Bexley and **Michael Barratt** who had walked, at the gate to the Tower where we were met by **Col Hamish Macinlay**, the Deputy Governor and Yeoman Gaoler **John Mayer** (both of the Corps). **John** took us on a fascinating tour, providing his own commentary which, with its lightness and humour surrounding the basic facts, would have done justice to any BBC documentary. We could have gone on but he was anxious that we should not miss our refreshment break in the Mess. Just before 10pm we were marshalled outside and witnessed the Ceremony of the Keys, a parade, not a tourist attraction, which has been performed, without a single break, for the last 700 years. Only 70 can watch it each night so we were indeed privileged. Back to the Mess for a nightcap and an opportunity to hear about life in the Tower before embarking on the bus for home. All agreed it was a wonderful occasion and our thanks go to **Col Hamish Macinlay** and **Yeoman Gaoler John Mayer**.

Blandford Reunion. Again we were lucky with the weather as 22 members enjoyed the events in the sunshine. Our thanks to The Royal School of Signals for excellent organisation. You did us proud.

Discussing the finer points of the History of the Tower of London, *L to R:* Mrs Pat Andrews, Col Hamish Macinlay (Deputy Governor), Mr Ray Lamb and Mrs Mary Lamb

GLASGOW BRANCH

The Annual General Meeting of the Branch was held on Tuesday 17 May 1994. 32 members were in attendance. Apologies were received from several members unable to attend, including the Honorary President **Maj Gen A. A. Anderson CB**.

The President sent a letter congratulating the Branch Committee on their efforts over the last year, on the range of activities provided for the members and achieving a membership of 57 and 6 associate members within three years after formation.

The chairman **Mr Bill Taylor** said he was pleased that the branch was well represented at the 1993 Catterick reunion and, also that 12 members had been present to witness the opening of the new Kitchener Building in Jardine Street of the 32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V) by the Deputy Lord Provost of Glasgow.

The Regiment provided a variety of stands where some of us old 'uns marvelled at the sophistication of the radio equipment and armament compared to our day. As usual, the Regiment provided an excellent buffet cooked on the latest field kitchen equipment (what a difference 55 years make!).

The Chairman and members gave a vote of thanks to the Social Committee members for their hard work in arranging various functions during the year; especially to **Cathie** who had carried on, though not in the best of health, to ensure that the high standard of functions was maintained.

Appreciation was expressed that the CO **Lt Col W. Brewin** and **WO1 (RSM) Ray Patrickson**, who are both leaving the Regiment on posting, have helped the Branch in so many ways during their time with the Regiment. They will introduce the Branch Chairman to their successors when they join the Regiment shortly.

The relationship between the Regiment and the Branch is being strengthened each year despite the inevitable changes that take place.

The Secretary, **Ivana,** stated that preparations were in hand to get members to the last Catterick reunion and that the committee was already making plans for the 1995 reunion in Blandford.

The Treasurer, **Eric,** sent apologies for his absence, on holiday in the USA. He did leave the branch funds behind and they are in the black!

The Committee was unanimously re-elected with a vote of thanks for its efforts on behalf of the members over the past three years.

The social events already arranged are a visit to the Edinburgh Tattoo, September Race night, St Andrew's Ball in November and a Christmas Draw party in December, among others.

Special thanks were acknowledged to the Royal Signals TAC for the use of its premises; to **WO2 Fraser** for the use of his kitchen, and to the caretakers, **Sgt** and **Mrs Dolan** for all their help.

The evening was rounded off with a buffet, kindly provided by the ladies of the Branch.

WEST LONDON BRANCH

Our meeting in March was attended by our President, **Maj John Daw BEM** who, with **Margaret**, came up from their home on the Hampshire coast to present **Cliff Wood** with the 50 Year Badge. **Cliff**, a Yeoman of Signals joined the Corps on boy service when he was 14. Always an energetic Member, until recently he had been Branch Secretary for a number of years. We wish you many more happy years, Chippy.

As always, the Blandford Reunion was well attended by our Members. It was a happy day out. Our thanks go to the serving Corps for making it so.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during May 1994

Bequeathed by Thomas Angel	£20,063.89
56 Div OCA (Motor Bike Display Team)	£300.00
In memory of Lt Col R. A. Oswick TD	£190.00
Eastbourne Branch RSA	£100.00
Brighton Branch RSA	£80.00
Mr P. A. Drummond	£30.00
254 OBA	£19.14
In memory of Mr J. H. Bramley	£5.00
In memory of Mr W. T. Edwards	£5.00
	£20,793.03

The following donations were gratefully received during June 1994

Plymouth Branch RSA	£500.00
In memory of WO2 H. A. Simons	£490.00
Norfolk Branch RSA	£100.00
Mr T. B. Neal	£12.20
Northampton Branch RSA	£2.10
	£1,104.30

REUNIONS

THE BLANDFORD REUNION

The Blandford Reunion was held on Sunday 15 May and was attended by some 500 members and their families. This was smaller than in previous years probably because some members were only able to take part in the historic Last Great Reunion in Catterick. The Royal School of Signals provided soldiers to help Regimental Headquarters staff to man the reception centre, an essential element to get the day off to a good start, Association members enjoy meeting the Serving Corps–to get up to date with the latest news of the Corps. A Church Service started the day and was well attended by members who filled the church although the regular congregation were still able to find room. **Jimmy Wilde** handed the Dorset Branch Standard to the Reverend Chris Ward as a reminder to the congregation of the sacrifices of their predecessors in the service to their Corps and country. **The Right Reverend John Kirkham**, Bishop of Sherborne and Bishop of Her Majesty's Forces, who had served with the Royal Hampshire Regiment, gave the address which was well received by all those present. The Royal School of Signals provided a magnificent meal in the marquee erected in the area of the soldiers' dining room so that all members of the Association could take lunch together. The Instructional Building in the Camp was open for members to look at the latest advances in electronic technology which were demonstrated in an imaginative and interesting way. There was also an opportunity for the 'radio hams' to practise their Morse skills and coincidentally the National President of the British Amateur Radio Society, **Mr Ian Suart**, had made the journey from Scotland to be present at the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society in Blandford Camp. The Royal Signals Museum proved as popular as ever and the shop did a brisk trade in badged items and mementos. Members were also able to see plans for the Museum extension, where building is due to start during the year. In keeping with the established programme, the Blue Helmets and the White Helmets enthralled the audience with panache and their professionalism was clearly demonstrated. The Corps Band played Retreat and their rendition of popular World War II songs encouraged the audience to accompany them albeit somewhat hesitantly. Perhaps for future occasions the programme should include the words so that members can do justice to these nostalgic songs. This was followed by a short evening service of a hymn and prayers which preceded the finale of a march past by some Standard Bearers. The Master of Signals took The Salute and the Band and Standard Bearers left the parade square to the Corps March Begone Dull Care. This was the last one day Reunion in Blandford which will in future be the venue for the main annual reunion since members of the Corps in Catterick are to relocate to Blandford later on in the year. The Commander and all ranks in Blandford Camp are to be thanked for their efforts and time they gave to make this a happy and memorable occasion for the members of the Association.

AIRBORNE SIGNALS REUNION EVENTS

3-4 Sept–Caythorpe weekend (includes Parachute display and dedication of new Airborne Signals stained glass window.
23 Sept–Airborne Signals Officers' Reunion at Aldershot.
Enquiries and bookings to Admin Officer 216 Para Sig Sqn.

FRONTLINE BRITAIN 1994

A major series of events will take place in Dover between 23 September and 1 October this year to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the last shells falling on Dover. The main event, on Monday 26 September, includes a Parade, a Memorial Dedication and a Reception.

A commemorative medal has been struck; the medal and ribbon costs £15 and includes an entitlement to join the Parade on 26 September and the afternoon Reception. All UK Services, Civilian organisations and Allied personnel who served in this frontline area are eligible, providing they served for 21 continuous days in the (war-time) East Kent District; roughly east of a line from the Isle of Sheppey to Rye, or, passed through Dover on the evacuation of the Channel Ports.

Members of the Corps wishing to apply for the medal should write, stating that they were Corps members to: **Alex Summers Esq**, 107 Mongeham Road, Great Mongeham CT14 9LJ.

Those applying for the medal and who wish to accept the invitation to be present in Dover on 26 September are asked to notify RHQ Royal Signals accordingly. The East Kent Branch are planning a supper that evening and will need to know details of those attending.

GUERNSEY 1945

On May 9 1945 Task Force 135 landed in Guernsey to liberate the island from German occupation.

A number of Corps personnel participated in the action and an effort is being made to trace them in order to invite them to return for the celebration which will mark the 50th anniversary of the event next year.

Some Association branches have already indicated an intention to be represented and anyone who is interested is asked to contact **Len W. Barbe**, 1 Paradis Cottages, Vale, Guernsey GY3 5BL for further details.

FOR SALE

D-DAY 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

DD Video are the official Video distributors of the programme made by Independent Television News to record the D-Day 50th anniversary commemoration being produced under licence for the Ministry of Defence. Cost £10.99 plus £1 p&p. Write to: DD Video, Customer Service Centre, Units 1-3, Tarvin Sands Industries, Barrow Lane, Tarvin, Chester CH3 8JF, Tel: 0829 741711 for special application form leaflet. A royalty of £2 will be paid by DD Video to Royal Signals Association for every order received on the special application form.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

1 TR ROYAL SIGNALS

Mr Colin Pattison would like to hear from **Jack Tyler, K. Cole** (Casey), **A. Mackenzie** (Sandy) and **A. Jupe** who served with him in 1 TR Signals, Catterick, as instructors for TMCC (1949-50). Please write to: 81 John Lewis Street, Hakin, Milford Haven, Dyfed SA73 3HU.

Will **Gordon Howie, Ken Palmer, Norman Clacker** and **Sydney Stuckey** please contact **Mrs Smith** on Tel: 0452 502127.

BILL FFOULKES

Will anyone who remembers the above named who served in the Corps as a National Serviceman in Suez please write to: Hon Sec: Liverpool Branch, **Mr J. J. Carruthers**, 38 Beech Avenue, Upton, Wirral L49 4NJ.

NORTH MIDLAND DISTRICT CAMP, WOLLATON PARK, NOTTINGHAM

Pamela J. Cooley, a member of WRAC/ATS Glasgow Branch, and recently widowed (**Sig Alexander Cooley**), would like to get in touch with former friends who served with her at the above unit. She served from 1947-51 and was W/347569 **Cpl P. J. (Pam) Barker**. Please write to her at 15 Ard Road, Kirklanoneuk, Renfrew, PA4 9DD.

SS KHEDIVE ISMAIL – FEBRUARY 1944

Mr J. Connelly, 7 Milnthorpe Road, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 5QQ would like to hear from anyone who knew his brother, 2342436 **Cpl Michael Connolly**, 11th East African Div Sigs, who was lost in the SS *Khedive Ismail*, sunk in February 1944, aged 28 years. He would be particularly pleased if anyone has a photograph of him.

CYRIL (ROBBO) ROBINSON

Would anyone who knew or served with the above mentioned named person please contact **Ossie (W) Fletcher** at 359 Innsworth Lane, Churchdown, Glos GL3 1EY. **Robbo** was an Ex Japanese POW, and after his release, served with the Signal Section of Jubbulpore Sub Area HQ India (1945-1947) and my last contact with him was in 1958 when he was serving with 18 Sig Regt in Singapore.

LETTERS

From: Brig G. J. Curl CBE DL

Dear Sir,

During my recent visit to Korea, I was able to take photographs of members of the Corps who are buried in Pusan Military Cemetery. There were **Cpl Bearne, Sig Hepworth, Sig Latham, Sgt Lalley** and **Sig Ware**.

In addition I presented to HE The British Ambassador a duplicate of the Book of Remembrance held in St Paul's Cathedral for safe keeping until it can be placed at Seoul Cathedral. This was done on behalf of the British Korean Veterans Association. In this book there are the names of Royal Signals personnel and, shortly I expect to receive photographs of the Royal Signals pages which I propose to send to the Museum in Blandford.

I hope that relatives of those men mentioned above will ask the Editor to send them the photograph.

Yours very sincerely,
Godfrey Curl

c/o RHQ

From: A. McDonald

Dear Sir,

I was very pleased to see the photograph of the 18th Air Formation Signals football team in the June issue of *The Wire*. It brought back some very happy memories of that period.

It was, however, unfortunate that you called it the first English team to play the French after the liberation of Paris. Looking at the names of the players, I notice **Dai Williams, Taffy Price** and myself, a true Scot called **McDonald**. A truly *British* team.

Yours faithfully,
A. McDonald

35 Lasswade Road, Eskbank
Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 3EE

From: Col J. H. Roberts

Dear Sir,

May I, through the pages of *The Wire*, share some belated and sad news concerning **Mohammed Yusof Ibrahim**, ex Sergeant Royal Signals LEP who served in Changi Tp, 19th Sig Regt (Air Support) until its disbandment in 1971. Since that time we frequently corresponded until losing contact in 1991. I have been advised today by the Kuala Lumpar Glass Mfg Co with whom **Mohammed Yusof** worked as a manager since leaving the Corps, that he passed away from a heart attack on 28th November 1991.

Mohammed Yusof kept up his links with Royal Signals through the Malaysian Signal Corps and there will be many members of our Corps, serving and retired who will remember him fondly, as my wife and I do, as an accomplished Line Sergeant, an hospitable and generous Muslim gentleman and a loyal friend.

Yours faithfully
John Roberts

DRA Malvern
St Andrews Road
Great Malvern
Worcs WR14 3PS

From: Mr Stan Procter

Dear Sir,

In your April issue you published my letter with a photograph of 'L' Section 43rd Div Sigs taken just before we left for Normandy. I gave the names of three of them who had been killed, including **Capt Derek Jones** I/C the Section.

I received a letter dated 17 May from **Capt Jones** telling me he had read his obituary! He corrects me by saying he was very badly injured, shipped home and later invalided out. Well–misinformation was, I suppose, rife in the confusion of war. No wonder I could not find his name in the Division Roll of Honour in Salisbury Cathedral. The rest of my letter is correct. **Capt Jones** is one of two people who responded to my letter and I look forward to meeting him in August.

I have just returned from three wonderful days in Normandy–the Remembrance service at Bayeux Cemetery, and the parade and march past on the beach at Arromanches with Croydon Branch NVA looking very smart in blazers, berets and 'gongs', finishing up at the Abbaye aux Dames in Caen to receive a medal from the Mayor. So my Normandy 'experience' started from William the Conqueror's Abbey at Battle in Sussex and finished 50 years later at William's other Abbey in Caen.

My last letter asked for anyone who was at Operators Training Company, STC (B) Mhow to get in touch.

Here is a photograph of them in April 1946.

Yours faithfully
S. C. Procter

8 Shelvers Way
Tadworth
Surrey KT20 5QN

Back row: Sgm C. H. Whitehead, SM Carriere, Sgm T. L. Redford, Sgm A. Moore, Sgm K. Shaw, LCpl N. T. Lowe, Cpl J. Slack, LCpl P. A. Timms, Sgm B. A. Finn, Sgm C. M. Kellingley
Centre row: LCpl D. J. T. Jones, Cpl G. W. Lawrence, Sgt P. Horn, Sgt L. H. Heudebourck, Sgt J. Bartram, Sgt A. N. C. Joiner, Sgt E. Jenkins, LSgt S. C. Procter, LSgt R. T. Baxter, LCpl D. J. T. Willbie
Front row: Sgt R. F. W. Tolman, Sgt L. D. Higgs, Sgt I. B. Hughes, CSM V. Talbot, Capt J. E. Palmour, CQMS G. R. T. Dickinson, Sgt G. Garrity, Sgt B. S. Humphreys
Inset: CQMS A. Banks, Sgt S. Freedman
Where are you now?

The price of *The Wire* will increase to £1.50 per copy, £9 per annum from February 1995

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THE wire

The Royal Signals Magazine

October 1994

ROYAL SIGNALS AND 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 Officers 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 cornmand. These awards confer Honorary Membership of the Institution upon the recipients.

Records. The Secretary of the Institution maintains the record of recipients' names and PB I I 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

The Royal Signals Magazine

October 1994 Vol. 48 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
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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**

Our front cover shows Maj Iain Standen, Sqn Comd 256 Sig Sqn, at UNAMIR HQ in Kigali, Rwanda with the Inmarsat station he took to provide communications on the Op GABRIEL recce.
Our back cover pictures show highlights of the Penny Pot reunion held on 2/3 July 1994.
(Top left): Long time departed Apprentices but only recently as PS Maj Charles Birchall and Capt Jim Dodds
(Bottom left): Ex Commandant Col Freddy Ramsbottom with successive College Quartermasters, the brothers Stan and Fred Pavey
(Top right): The Commandant Col Cliff Walters hosts the Mayor and Mayoress of Harrogate
(L to R) David Abercrombie (46A) David Corr (46) and Danny Hay (49A) discuss what it was like to train here in the 1940's
Maj Gerry Hegarty, currently OC Gen Trg Wing, with two of his running pals from the past. John (1.53.4) Turvey and Graham (how many laps to go?) Crossland
The longest serving member of staff WO2 (RQMS) George Firth who has been here since May 1983 shows off some of the older silverware to Ben 'Taff' Lewis (48A) who trained here as a Royal Engineer

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With effect from 1 January 1995 it will be possible to pay your subscriptions to *The Wire* by Direct Debit.
This will be a far more efficient system for RHQ and will help to keep the production costs of *The Wire* to the minimum possible. All existing subscribers should have had a letter informing them of this option together with a Direct Debit form.
If you have not yet returned your form please consider doing so now. Alternatively, if you have not yet received any notification and would like to know more about the Direct Debit system please ring RHQ on 071-414 8426.

The price of The Wire will increase to £1.50 per copy, £9 per annum from February 1995

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THE ARMY APPRENTICES COLLEGE, HARROGATE – REUNION

by Colonel C. J. Walters

On 2 and 3 July the College held a Reunion for those who had served in the 'Pennypot' Camps, in any capacity, since they were built in 1939. The planning commenced, with countrywide advertising, in mid-1993. Since then there was a build-up of considerable proportions until, by the day, no one in the College had escaped the massive organisational effort; the SO2 Coord, **Maj Malcolm Emslie**, had seen to that.

Saturday morning dawned with the College in cloud, hints of rain and warnings of possible thunderstorms. Was this to be typical Harrogate weather? But fortune favours the brave and the day improved as time passed. By mid-day the car park at Hildebrand was filling up as guests arrived in their droves.

Mr Dave Dearlove and his MGS staff steered cars to their parking places whilst **Maj David Craig** and **WO2 (RAOWO) Brian Durlik** saw our guests through reception. In the Bate Centre, **Eileen Clarke** provided tea and coffee as quickly as her kettles boiled. The Adjutant **Capt Neil Griffiths** kept an eagle eye on the situation.

The day commenced with the arrival of the Mayor and Mayoress, **Councillor Bob** and **Mrs Gwen O'Neill**, who were our guests of honour. Only a few minutes later, and exactly on time, eight free fall parachutists from the Merlin Parachute Club, Topcliffe, landed on target. The scene was set for a splendid day as hundreds of people poured into the arena to visit the many stalls and activities that **Capt Judy Palmer** and Apprentices of Scott Sqn had set up. There was something for everyone ranging from the Human Fruit Machine, where the big prize was to reveal the 'Jolly Green Giant', to the Greasy Pole where the aim was to batter your opponent into submission. There were many side shows including golf, archery, shooting, balloon racing, stocks, cake stall, bouncy castle and tombola. Even **Mrs Maureen McLaren** became involved with the WRVS stall.

The on-going event in the arena was the Donkey Derby races. With eight 'high class' sprints there was betting for all with the Commandant's Cup and Tara's Trophy being the main events. Who could refuse to support such thoroughbreds as Piddington's Pony, Carne's Carthorse, King the King or Lonsbrough Longlegs? Jockeys included **AT Rachel Bowers** and **ATCpl Nicky Jones** who found out that a donkey at full speed is no Nijinski. There was a fine display of high horse vaulting for which **WO1 (SMI) Danny McCuaig** and **Sgt Ray Gough** had coached 25 PS and Apprentices to a very high standard.

However, there is no doubt that the centre of attraction was around the 'hospitality tents'. At the peak of the afternoon, nearly 1,000 'Old Boys' were present and, in the arena, there were over 2,000 people thoroughly enjoying themselves. Many barrels of 'amber nectar' were disposed of as old soldiers reminisced about their time in Harrogate, and they were not all Royal Signals. There were Gunners from the days of 9th Field Training Regiment RA. There were REME, RASC, RA and RE from the early days of the Apprenticeship. Many of the 41 cap badges that were represented in 1957 were at the reunion. As one mingled with the crowd, friendships of yester-year were being reformed. **AT Zaw Win**, one of our Burmese Apprentices, was present. There were members of 47B; the first intake. There were those who came from F Boys' Coy in Catterick with the first draft of Royal Signals in September 1948. Some had arrived from the Army Apprentices' School in Taunton in 1948. Others were among those who had moved to Chepstow in 1961 when the last of the Sapper Apprentices departed from Harrogate.

They all found time to walk (or ride) around the College and visit the PRI, Tech and Op Wing, hobbies, gym or swimming pool. A favourite stopping place was 'Memory Lane' where **Mr Alan Green** and **WO2 (RQMS) George Firth** displayed many items of College memorabilia. There were photographs of all Commandants, many of Final Terms and, others, of training in the early days. There was a fine display of College silver and old scrap books. Many stories of 'when I was a lad' were swopped as visitors were reminded of their formative years. Others found their way to the communications dets of 264 Sig Sqn and 2 Sig Regt. The tension of **Maj Phil Castle**'s final raffle draw was released when the Mayoress chose **WO1 Pemberton** as the winner of the main prize. The proceeds of the raffle will go to the Corps Museum Project and local charities.

The arena finale was an excellent and moving Beating Retreat by the Band of 34 Sig Regt (V) and the College Drums. The salute, taken by the Mayor, brought the show to an end. We all moved over to the barbecue where **SSgt Alan Gerrard** and the catering staff produced a feast for over 1,000 visitors who sat on the grass quadrangle. So slick was the service that by 1930 hours we were all seated in the Cinema for the Revue. A nearly full house of 500 sat down for an excellent evening's entertainment. Our eloquent compere, **WO2 (RQMS) Terry Eccles** introduced us to a series of professional, well organised and often very amusing acts. The whole cast had laboured hard and long under **Rod Trenam** for many weeks. On the night, despite some stage nerves, everyone performed admirably; they were all stars. For various reasons the most memorable of the 30 acts would probably include **Capt Neil Griffiths** and **Lt Mark Cornell** in their ballet tutus with **AT Emma Stevenson** as their tutor. **AT David Johnston**, with his version of the Max Bygraves song, 'You Need Hands', was unforgettable. **Maj Keith Danby** appeared in many guises. **Sgt** (ex AT RSM) **Carl Budding** led the Chelsea pensioners and **AT Ruth Norman** acted as pace stick for a much taller **AT SSM Lee Hepworth**. **AT Tony Raby** acted as a very realistic drunk (with apparent ease). And surprisingly the padre, **The Reverend Colin Gibbs**, was able to act angrily to everyone's dismay.

As we approached our show of nostalgic slides there was a fitting presentation to ex **WO1 (RSM) Stan Lonsbrough** who was the School Sergeant Major from 1948 to 1955. **ATW Ruth Norman** presented porcelain ashtrays with the old School cap badge to the RSM and his wife as the audience stood and applauded in appreciation of a fine soldier now in his mid-80s. The show ended with Auld Lang Syne and there were a few lumps in the throat.

Sunday commenced with the Reunion College Service at 1100 hours. Rousing hymns seemed a few decibels louder than normal with full support from the Band. **Sgt Carl Budding**, **AT RSM Danny Robinson**, **Maj Brian Maltby** and **Mr Colin Hatcher** (1948B) read lessons and prayers. **The Reverend R. G. Laird** (Chaplain to the College 1972-74) delivered the sermon.

The offertory of £500 was given to the Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund and the Mayor's Charity for Children.

The Service was followed by 'the March Past of Decades'. Over 200 marched to the accompaniment 'Begone Dull Care'. It was noticed that the largest number present was from the 1950s and 1960s. **Mr Pickard** (1940) was dressed in the regalia of an early mounted dispatch rider and was undoubtedly the star of the show; he was as smart as a button-stick.

Another excellent meal for over 500 in the Restaurant brought the weekend to an end. Everyone reflected on an excellent Reunion in which the whole College had played its part. We had made many former Apprentices very happy which, after all, is the aim of any Reunion.

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London District Military or STD 071-930 4466 and ask for extension as below or by direct dialling as shown

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13th SIGNAL REGIMENT (RADIO) EXERCISE MERCURY SUNSET

The Regiment marches through Stadt Wassenberg

Brig Böhr presents the Fahnenband

As most *Wire* readers will know 13 Sig Regt (R) is due to disband in March 1995. With most of our soldiers leaving between August and December 1994. This year being the 40th anniversary of the Regiment's occupation of Mercury Barracks, Birgelen and the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Regiment's antecedent No 4 Wireless Company in 1934, it was incumbent upon the Regiment to hold a celebratory weekend and invite as many former members of the Regiment as possible. The weekend chosen was 1-3 July and the event was named Ex Mercury Sunset.

On Friday 1 July, some 350 guests, including The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL**, the SOinC (A), **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle,** seven former Commanding Officers, three former RSMs of the Regiment and many serving and former members of the Regiment arrived in Birgelen. Informal receptions were held in the various messes that evening, where old friendships were renewed.

The following morning, the Regiment held a parade in blistering heat in Stadt Wassenberg where the Regiment was presented with a Bundeswehr Fahnenband, by **Brig Böhr** of the German Army. The Regiment then presented the Stadt with a bronzed statue of Jimmy, and received, in return, two swords, one German, one British, crossed and mounted.

After the presentations the Regiment marched through the town with the Regimental Flag and Fahnenband flying, bayonets fixed, swords drawn and the Corps Band playing, led by the CO **Lt Col Philip Rouse**. The salute was taken by The Master of Signals and the deputy Bergermeister.

At a reception held in the Rathaus Wassenberg after the parade, the Master of Signals thanked the town officials, on behalf of members of the Regiment both past and present, for the hospitality and efforts of the local citizens who over the years helped to make the Regiment feel so much at home.

A programme of events took place in the afternoon sunshine. The crowd of approx 700 was treated to marvellous displays from the Corps Band, the Bugles Platoon of the 2nd Battalion The Light Infantry, the Royal Air Force Bruggen Police Dog Display Team, the White Helmets and The Royal Signals Free Fall Parachute Display Team.

Food and drink were plentiful in the form of a families barbecue lunch and refreshment tents. Static military displays were on show as well as a Regimental History Tent. There was also children's entertainment, music by a local German band and a dancing display by pupils from Blandford School, the local British Forces School.

To round off the day, evening functions were organised in the respective messes, culminating in an All Ranks disco in and around the gymnasium.

The Regiment held a Drumhead Church Service on the Regimental square at 1130 hrs on the Sunday morning to which guests and families were invited.

The service was conducted by **Reverend John Blair CF**, Senior Chaplain Rhine Garrison and the Corps Band played under the direction of the Director of Music **Maj David Wall**. A families curry lunch followed. The weekend was brought to a close by the Cadet Force Band of Wellington School, Somerset, who gave an invigorating display of marching and bandsmanship.

The CO, Lt Col Philip Rouse, presents the Bergermeister with a bronze statuette of Jimmy

The Drumhead Service

94 (BERKSHIRE YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON RECEIVES THE FREEDOM OF WINDSOR

94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn had three causes for celebration this year.

First, the Squadron celebrated its 25th Birthday. Twenty five years ago 71 Sig Regt (V) was formed from elements of the Berkshire Yeomanry, Inns of Court and City Yeomanry, Essex Yeomanry and the Kent and County of London Yeomanry.

Second, the Squadron joined in the celebration of 200 years of Yeomanry service; the Berkshire Yeomanry goes back that far with the formation of a troop at Abingdon, then county town of Berkshire. We were lucky that the Royal Review on Sunday 17 April took place in the Great Park at Windsor. The Territorial Army Centre at Windsor formed a useful base for the various meetings and recces held over the preceding months. In the week preceding the Squadron hosted the working party under the Regimental QM, who erected the most splendid Corps tent complex at the site.

Each Squadron provided a composite party under the Squadron Leader consisting of four vehicles (each manned by one of the Troops) plus a Guidon vehicle–**WO2 (SSM) Andrew French**, **SSgt Robin Scott**, **Sgt Alan Christie** and **Cpl Paul Carter**. In all, of the 38 surviving county successor units on parade, 11 were Royal Signals.

It was most disappointing that the wet weather of the preceding weeks made the ground too soft for the planned drive past.

Rehearsals on Saturday 16th were held in the cold and grey; fortunately, on the day itself the sun came out with the arrival of **HM The Queen Mother**.

The following Saturday, 23 April, the third event of the year took place–the granting of the Freedom of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead to the Squadron. The fact and the timing of this honour are very much to the credit of the last two Mayors and **Sir David Black**, a former Squadron Leader and the son of a former CO. We are fortunate in Windsor that parades and ceremonial are second nature; with the assistance of the Local Authority and the Thames Valley Police a route and timetable were worked out.

Before the day, the Squadron practised its drill and dusted down its uniforms. Vehicles and trailers were repainted and invitations sent out.

The Squadron's links with the Household Cavalry at Windsor go back over 150 years and we were fortunate to have the Band of the Blues and Royals to lead us through Windsor.

A light drizzle welcomed us on our arrival at the TAC. Our initial FUP was at Victoria Barracks (courtesy Commanding Officer Scots Guards). While the various military guests assembled at the Officers' Mess, the Squadron made a final practice; the photograph was taken. Even by the time the Castle Guard marched off it was still raining. We climbed on to the vehicles to move down to the start point. The sun came out. The Squadron formed up, some 95 in all with over 50 in No 1 dress in the foot party with the remainder on the highly polished vehicles. The Officer and the Guidon party fell in, the Chief Inspector gave the All-clear and off we went.

Windsor is not the easiest place to march through–the Guildhall, where stood the Mayor and Council, the Master of Signals and the SOinC, is at the top of a slope (by the road leading up to the Castle). Whichever route is taken it calls for a stiff climb up a twisting road.

There is nothing like a band and the men and women of the Squadron stepped out in style, despite the twisting route, step was maintained throughout. As well as the usual tourists and Saturday shoppers the streets were full of families, friends and old comrades.

As the column reached the top of the hill the band played Begone dull Care and The Farmer's Boy and eyes turned left. The Squadron Commander at this point hoped that the Squadron was still there; photographic evidence confirmed that they were and in step. It was a proud moment.

From the Guildhall it is a short distance down hill back to the Barracks where we fell out for lunch.

At the Guildhall there was a reception where, witnessed by the distinguished guests and representatives from each Troop, the Squadron Commander signed the Freedom Book and received on behalf of the Squadron an illuminated scroll from the Royal Borough. The Mayor, a good friend of the Squadron, made an impressive speech to which the Squadron Commander replied, emphasising the importance of Territorial principle, the value of local links and the benefit of Old Comrades' Associations.

Finally, the Squadron Honorary Colonel, **Sir David Black**, presented to the Borough a silver salver, provided by both serving members of the Squadron and Old Comrades.

Among the guests present were the Master of Signals, the SOinC, Commander 2 (National Communications) Sig Bde, his Deputy Commander (and his predecessor) and the TA Colonel Royal Signals.

It has been a great honour receiving the Freedom. Apart from the efforts of those who have opened the right doors, the Squadron Leader wishes to thank the serving members of the Squadron without whose hard work and dedication there would have been little substance in the honour.

94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn and the band of the Household Cavalry at Victoria Barracks, Windsor, prior to the Freedom Parade

ARMY CAREERS INFORMATION OFFICE, PRESTON

by SSgt K. G. McKenzie

The aim of the Army Careers in today's modern Army is the selection and processing of potential applicants for a career in the Army. The days of forcing people into the Army have long since departed. We genuinely have the individual's aspirations in mind at all times. Our job is to fill the targets set by the Army, for every job the Army offers. This does not mean that we are merely trying to fill quotas, we are endeavouring to fit the right person into the vacancy.

The recruiting environment has, for a long time, suffered from misconceptions about what we do for a living and how we do it. To some, it is a place to finish your career at a leisurely pace, or a refuge for the sick, the lame and the lazy, that no longer have a place in the mainstream of the regular Army. These preconceived ideas could not be farther from the truth. The recruiter of today needs to project a very professional image when dealing with the public. The amount of knowledge that is required to do the job efficiently is vast. Every occupation the Army has to offer the potential soldier needs to be told about in detail. What the job entails, what training is involved, where training takes place and of course, the career prospects. The rules and regulations regarding the recruitment and selection of potential soldiers, must be at the recruiter's finger tips, and with the changes currently taking place in the Army today, information must be constantly updated if it is to be of any value to a potential recruit.

My apprenticeship as a recruiter started on the reception desk, dealing with general enquiries from the public and the potential recruit. The questions asked vary enormously. Ones like, 'Can you tell me where the RAF office is?', to 'I have a dog that is a bit of a handful, I believe the Army takes unwanted dogs?' The first time I was asked about dogs, I responded positively that it did not. Well, I was wrong, the Army do take dogs of certain breeds and ages, although they do not have to take an Army Entrance Test!

After gaining experience dealing with general enquiries, I was ready to test potential applicants. This was originally a written test, the Army Entrance Test '86, which a lot of soldiers, now serving, would not like to see again. Imagine my surprise, when I found out on attachment, prior to my recruiting course, I had to take the AET '86 test again. To be honest, I was terrified, not of the test, but what would happen should I score badly. How embarrassing if I scored too low to qualify for the job I had been doing in the Corps for 18 years prior to my arrival in Army Careers! Alas, the good old AET '86 no longer exists. It has now been replaced with the British Army Recruit Battery test (BARB), which is a computerised test. The applicant sits in front of a computer, answering questions, by touching the appropriate answer on the computer screen.

I next started to put into practice the interview techniques I had learned at the Army School of Recruiting. This phase of the selection can be frustrating. In one interview, it took over 40 minutes to establish the actual relationship between 17 brothers and sisters an applicant enjoyed, as some were natural brothers and sisters, some half-brothers/sisters or step-brothers/sisters.

My next move was into documentation, where I was responsible for the documentation of all applicants, for the Army Careers Officer, and Ministry of Defence Statistics Department. Another job I was given at this time, was that of District Installer. The District Installer, is responsible for the installation and maintenance of all the computer systems and peripheral devices used by the Army Careers in their area. My area is Lancashire, which consists of five offices, spread over a wide area, with a total of 19 computer systems. The title of District Installer has now been changed to Area Systems Manager, to reflect the changes taking place in the computer systems, and their inter-related communications, with the Army Computer Centre at Worthy Down. During my time as the Area Systems Manager for Lancashire, I began to realise that the place to be for my future career is in the world of computers. To that end, I began a three year course in Business Oriented Programming and Systems Analysis, in my spare time, with a mixture of distance learning and residential courses. I have now passed my final exams, and can now add Programmer and Systems Analyst to the trades I have gained during my career in the Royal Signals.

During my time in documentation I got involved with schools in the local area. At first this took the form of Industry Days in which a group of pupils aged 14-16 years old were taken through various projects for a day with an adviser from Industry. I became involved with mock interviews, with pupils of the same age range, taking them through practice interviews before they left school. I have also been involved with Compact, which is an initiative, to show pupils what an employer is looking for, in addition to academic achievement. When I became heavily involved with schools, the Army Careers Officer, **Lt Col Chris Day**, allowed me to go back to school for a week to play teacher. After a week in school I realised, just how much I did not know about the teaching profession. The experience has helped me communicate and inter-relate with the various academic institutes, I am in constant contact within my present post. My current post is that of Acting Army Schools Liaison Officer (ASLO) for Lancashire. This post was previously carried out by **Maj Ted Durney**, Kings Own Border Regiment, who retired from the Army in April 1993. Since then I have been carrying out the tasks of the ASLO, which in a nut shell, is to inform the public, and the academic world what the modern day Army has to offer to young people. I spend a lot of my time giving talks in schools in Lancashire on what the Army looks for in the potential recruit and what the Army offers them as a career. These talks are normally given to audiences of two to 200 persons, which can be quite intimidating at first. I have also given talks to agencies, such as District Careers Offices, on their training days to bring them up to date on the Army today.

One of the other roles of the ASLO, is Careers Conventions; these public events can last a day or more. Some may only last normal working hours, although they are rare, normally the conventions last both the normal working hours, and well into the evening. Again, the Army is on public view. A professional approach at all times is essential. You must never lose your composure in public, whatever the provocation, and believe me, sometimes the wish to tell a member of the public to go away (nicely, of course), is overwhelming.

I have been in the recruiting organisation for over three years now, and it is one of the best jobs I have ever done. No day is the same. The recruiting environment may seem very informal compared with normal regimental life, this is true. The informality is necessary when dealing with the public and potential candidates, as a more formal approach could be quite intimidating to a potential recruit. This informality, is only possible, because the personnel involved in the recruiting world are professionals and dedicated to their role of finding the right people for the right jobs in today's modern Army.

FILL THE GAP! SHORT SERVICE LIMITED COMMISSION

by Lt L. C. Traves

Well, just where do I start? I am one of the few lucky 1993 school leavers who gained a Short Service Limited Commission (SSLC), with the Army for one year between school and University. I start a Medicine Degree Course at Leicester University in October 1994 with the intention of joining the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). However since the RAMC doesn't offer SSLC Commissions I have been pursuing my career in the R Signals.

My GAP year started with a series of interviews, which after having completed successfully, I proceeded to Sandhurst for four weeks of officer training. The emotional memories of satisfaction and pride of passing out of Sandhurst will remain with me for a long time to come.

I was posted to 259 Sig Sqn in Cyprus to be a Troop Commander of Episkopi which consists of 35 men. Being the only woman in the Troop had its advantages and disadvantages but it has been an experience not to be missed and particularly beneficial to me in many different areas of life.

I have learnt and developed skills which will definitely be put to good use in my future medical career. A very sharp learning curve taught me the qualities required of an officer, responsibility, conduct, discipline, morale, commitment, effort and enthusiasm.

Fortunately, Cyprus has many on-island facilities which make the organisation of exercises, command tasks, Youth Club activities, and week long adventurous training exercises for the Troop easier than elsewhere, but I still had to carry out normal administration tasks. Writing reports, running ranges including night shoots, organising mandatory training, looking after Officer Cadets and writing military essays took up most of my time. This was all quite challenging having had no previous experience of military life!

Life wasn't all work and no play for I have qualified as a Skier, Top Rope and Abseiling Supervisor, Sports Diver and Category Four Freefall Parachutist, all of which will hopefully be beneficial to me in the future. I would like to thank the 1st Bn Royal Irish Regt who allowed me to go on exercise with them in Sardinia to partake in a NATO Ex. This provided an insight into infantry life and tactics which I will enjoy using on any UOTC or TA exercises back in the wet and cold United Kingdom!

Overall the year has been very challenging and most enjoyable. It has provided me with an insight into Army life. I would finally like to thank all the Officers and men of 259 Sig Sqn and the Royal Corps of Signals who have given me enough rope, as an administrative nightmare, to hang myself by, but remained extremely lenient. Thanks.

I would commend this Commission to anyone looking for an exciting and challenging GAP year.

THE LANYARD TROPHY–1994

What is the Lanyard Trophy, and who organises this prestigious event? The answer to these questions are quite simple.

The Lanyard Trophy was instituted in 1979 and is, in essence, a 40 miles speed march across country consisting of teams of ten soldiers, of which eight must finish each carrying a 40lb Bergen. The team with the fastest time is declared the winner.

The competition is open to all Royal Signal Units, Regular and TA within UK. From 1995 there will be a trophy for the first TA Team to finish.

It is organised annually by 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para) based in the 'Home of the British Army' in Aldershot.

This year it was decided to run the event in the sun scorched area of Catterick over the period 28-30 June. The route was planned and cleared (which took an amazing eight months) by the Squadron infamous Training Wing, after numerous recces to the Taw Hill pubs and the Scorpion Night Club for some reason.

After much advertising, a total of 16 teams finally lined up at 8 Sig Regt top sports pitch eager, or not so eager, for the Tab ahead.

Needless to say all teams put in a good effort, a special mention to 19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209) who were excellent runners-up, however, the Airborne spirit won through and 216 Sig Sqn (Para) was declared the winner with a time of 12 hrs 56 mins. A full report of the days event is given by **Sig** 'Olly' **Oliver**.

Many thanks go to all the help the Squadron received of particular note, 8 Sig Regt and Granada TV.

We look forward to next year's event taking place?

Final positions and results are as follows:

1st	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para)	12 hrs 56 mins	
2nd	19 (Mech Bde) HQ & Sig Sqn (209)	13 hrs 23 mins	
3rd	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))	15 hrs 03 mins	
4th	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt (A)	15 hrs 42 mins	
5th	237 Sig Sqn	16 hrs 14 mins	
6th	30 Sig Regt	18 hrs 00 mins	
7th	8 Sig Regt	18 hrs 27 mins	
8th	24 Airmob Bde Sig Sqn	18 hrs 49 mins	
9th	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt (B)	18 hrs 55 mins	
10th	21 Sig Regt (AS)	19 hrs 22 mins	
11th	40 Sig Regt (V)	19 hrs 28 mins	
12th	93 Sig Sqn (V)	20 hrs 12 mins	
13th	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (213)	19 hrs 34 mins	(1)
14th	71 Sig Regt (V)	19 hrs 42 mins	(1)
	36 Sig Regt (V)		(2) 7
	1 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn		(2) 6

(1) Failed to finish with a full team

(2) Failed to finish–withdrawn at checkpoint 6 or 7

Next year's event will be held either at: Penhale Camp, Cornwall or Brecon Beacons during the period 21-23 June 1995.

Brig Wood, Comd Comms UKLF, presents Cpl Kev Read with a Winners Cup. Granada TV in attendance

The Winners

Sgt (now SSgt) Dave Buckingham passes Sig 'Olly' Oliver a drink. 'Olly' was the youngest member of his Squadron's team

If you are serving and have a standing order for *THE WIRE* please keep us well informed in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders and your 'Wire' will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.

93 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) LANYARD TROPHY TEAM

It was with trepidation that the team went for the weigh in at 0200 hrs. We knew from the map trace and the previous weekend's recce that this year's competition march was going to be the longest in the Lanyard Trophy (a Royal Signals annual competition) series, 40 miles carrying a minimum of 40lbs. Against us were 16 other teams, of which three were TA. To add to the pressure, we were to be the central focus of a camera crew from Granada TV who, more by accident than design, heard about the competition and thought that it would make good footage in their forthcoming series 'Endurance – Being There'.

The mass start at 0400 hrs saw the flyers sprint off for the first check point, whilst the more majestic teams jockeyed for places at the rear. To set the scene, the competition area this year was the Catterick Training Area and North Yorkshire Moors, with terrain varying from A roads to knee high heather. Team make up was 10 walkers (8 to count) each carrying a minimum of 40lb plus food and water. For the second year in succession 93 Sig Sqn (V) entered a mixed team and we were out to prove again that a mixed team could complete this arduous route. Team make up for us this year was three female and six male, our tenth member suffering a bad injury on a training walk.

The checkpoints were soon being ticked off and the value of doing a recce paid off as other teams took longer routes. Our admin team of **SSgt Pete Harris** and **Sig Wendy Harrison** were there to receive us at every checkpoint with tea, coffee and treatment for sore feet – on that score we were the envy of every other team.

The official lunch time stop saw us in 12th place with one of our members, **Sig Debbie O'Neill**, suffering under the weight, although it must be said she only weighs eight stone when soaking wet, so 40lbs was a lot to carry. However, we had trained hard this year and managed to retain that position until the finish. The last two checkpoints were purgatory, but we were cheered on by the fact that we were the only team to complete the course with its starting line up intact. Twenty hours and 10 checkpoints later we staggered over the finish line to a rapturous reception from 216 Para Sig Sqn, the hosts of the competition.

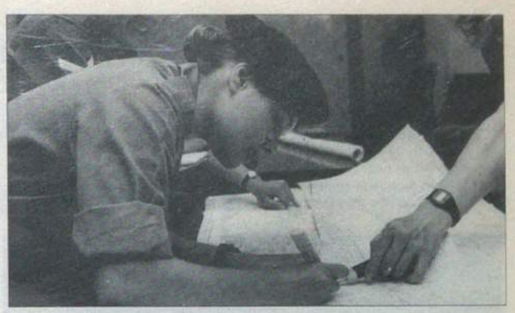
The camera crew said never again, the team vowed never again . . . until after their first beer, then planning started for Lanyard 95.

THE TEAM

Capt Richard Bowden, WO2 Jeff Dolan; SSgts Diane Feest, Marcus Cosgrove; Sgts Adrian Moran, Jimmy Dean; LCpl Tracy Ireland; Sigs Karl Tomlinson, Debbie O'Neill.

Watch out for the TV programme scheduled for October ITV.

PS. We have since found out that **Sig O'Neill** broke her foot during the walk.



Checking out the route – Lanyard Trophy trio LCpl Tracy Ireland, Sig Debbie O'Neill (centre) and team leader Capt Richard Bowden

OPERATION GABRIEL – RWANDA – THE PROLOGUE

by Maj I. G. Standen

It was the morning of Monday, 25 July 1994 when the CO called me into his office and told me that I was to be the Royal Signals representative on a recce party going to Rwanda in advance of a possible larger deployment. Once I had got over the shock I spent the rest of the day gathering my kit, visiting the medical centre for essential vaccinations and malaria precautions and testing the Inmarsat SATCOM terminal I would carry on the recce. The following day I went for a briefing at DMO in the MOD where I met the other nine members of the recce team and we all received a full briefing about the nature of our task. In short we were to visit Rwanda and report back on the viability of the British Government sending a force of no more than 500 to help provide humanitarian aid in support of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR). Having been fully briefed we all returned to our units for final preparations before meeting at Heathrow the next day for the journey to Rwanda.

The journey took us from Heathrow to Entebbe in Uganda, via Nairobi, courtesy of British Airways, where we arrived early on the Thursday morning. Here we were met by **Baroness Chalker**, the Overseas Development Minister, who was returning from Rwanda. She gave us a quick insight into the problems in Rwanda and thanked us for our efforts before we boarded a Canadian Airforce C 130 for the one hour journey to the Rwandan capital Kigali. On arrival in Kigali we were met by the UN and taken to UN Headquarters where a comprehensive brief had been laid on. We were addressed by **Maj Gen Dalliere** the UN commander and his staff on the problems within the country before discussing the composition of the possible British contingent. In outline the British Government had offered to provide a Field Ambulance, an Engineer Squadron and a Workshop as well as a Command, Control and Communications element. The UN Commander indicated where he would like these forces deployed and then it was time to start the recce in earnest. At this stage all members of the party dispersed to carry out their individual tasks. I went with the contingent commander to look at possible headquarters sites before establishing communications with the UK on the Inmarsat. This equipment was to prove invaluable over the next 24 hours in passing information back to the UK as the nature of the task developed and plans were formulated. That evening, as we assembled to discuss the plan, the task was becoming very clear and what remained was to argue over the Orbat of the force within the 500 man limit we had been given by MOD. It soon became obvious that to do the job properly would require more personnel than originally planned and this information would have to be fed back into the system the next day.

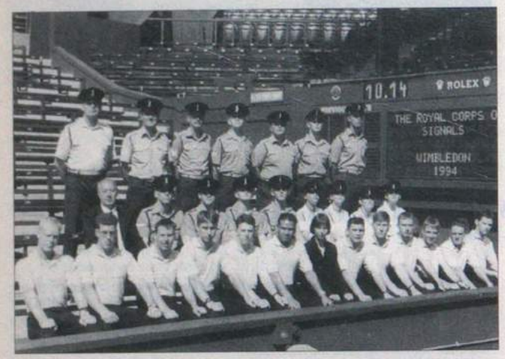
That night was spent in UN Headquarters in Kigali which, like the rest of the country, had no running water or sanitation! The following day recces were completed and initial reports updated before we prepared to return home. Contacts with the UK during the course of the day indicated that our initial lobbying had not fallen on deaf ears and it looked as the force would be increased to some 635 personnel! From a R. Signals point of view the task called for a SATCOM National Rear Link with a Long Haul HF back up which would be provided by 30 Sig Regt. In addition an in-theatre HF net linking the various deployed units was also required and this would be provided by 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para). With the recce completed it was back to Kigali Airport for another C 130 flight, this time to Nairobi, where we took an overnight stop before returning to the UK on the Saturday. On arrival in the UK early on the Saturday evening we were informed that the first troops would be deploying to Rwanda on the following Monday! Everyone therefore rushed back to their units to brief their personnel. In my case it was back to Bramcote and a night frantically completing my recce report and writing orders for an O Group on the Sunday morning. Fortunately, thanks to the information we had been able to pass back whilst in Kigali, much of the preparatory work had been completed and my orders proved to be little more than confirmation. They did however allow **Lt Sara Billingham**, the Troop Commander who would be deploying, to firm up her plans before departing for Lyneham later in the day.

Sadly at this stage my part of Op Gabriel came to an end. The job of providing communications in Rwanda was firmly in someone else's hands and I could only watch from afar. However it was a great experience to have been intimately involved in the launching of such an operation and was rewarding to see that the British Armed Forces can still react with great speed if required.

WIMBLEDON 1994
THE CORPS MEETS THE COURT

by WO2 (RQMS) C. Thompson

For over 600 million people worldwide, the 20 June-3 July 1994 means just one thing–TENNIS, to be more exact, The Lawn Tennis Championships held at the All England Club, Wimbledon. But for 32 male and female members of the Corps it meant that it was time to bull the boots, polish up the good manners and starch the smile into place.



From *(L to R)* on No 1 Court
Front row: LCpls Chamberlain, Landregean, Campbell, Ballard, Milligan, Capt Moore, LCpls Bevan, McArthur, Cox, Jefferies, Hayes, Morley
Centre row: Mr 'Chick' Cheetham, LCpl Jens Gronn, Sig Rob Marr, Sig Kev Daw, LCpl Polly Poulson, Sig Helen Mills, Sig Nicky Harmon, Sig Cathy Winder, Cpl Sharon Prescott
Rear row: WO2 (RQMS) Colin Thompson, SSgt Mark Eaton, Sgt Andy Rimell, Cpl Gary Pryce, Sigs Bob Ridsdale, Jim Turnbull, Paul Rush

The photograph was taken by SSgt John Laffey who was part of the Corps Contingent

Volunteers one and all, they had been chosen from a cast of tens (before Options for Change the cast would have been thousands), to serve either as Service Stewards on both Centre and No 1 Courts or, in the case of the Apprentice Technicians, to organise the covering of the Courts at the slightest hint of rain. Traditionally, over the years, all three Services have provided Stewards for Wimbledon.

The working day, using the term loosely of course, normally commenced at 0945 hrs with Section briefings, followed by security checks. That was the theory, in reality, one had to be in at the crack of dawn to stand any chance whatsoever of using the two irons and ironing boards before the other 159 people arrived. The gates opened at 1030 hrs sharp and, from then until play ended at approximately 2100 hrs, you were very much in both the public and, if strategically placed, the TV eye.

The first two days boded a typical British summer; heavy rain, high winds and low morale. But the sun finally broke through and continued to shine throughout the tournament, peaking on Finals day at 112°C which if it was Fahrenheit certainly felt like Centigrade. The heat was so intense that members of the 'old school' found that their beeswax had melted whilst the younger generation had to liberally apply another coating of 'clear' to their boots.

There are two sides to every story and the social side to this episode brings up the rear, only because it usually started later than the tennis. Wimbledon village became the local meeting place for the majority of the 200 Service personnel. It became the norm to glimpse the tennis 'stars' amongst the crowds.

The security duties were shared equally between the Service Stewards, Police and Fire Services, the latter two organisations putting 'The Bill' and 'London's Burning' to shame.

Over the two weeks it was amazing how quickly everybody became barrack-room experts on both tennis and the players. The combined knowledge of all 200 Service Stewards was virtually nil yet, after the first week JUICE became DEUCE and most people realised that at the end of each game when the umpire called 'Time' that this was not a question.

We saw and met celebrities including **Michael Caine**, **Jack Nicholson** and **Glen Hoddle** to name a few and, also many former members of the Corps who were delighted to 'chew the fat' and re-live their experiences before settling down to the traditional strawberries and champagne.

For some it was their first visit to Wimbledon and for others, namely, **Sig Bob Ridsdale** and **Capt Moore** it was to be their last before attacking civvy street. But a special mention must be given to 'Chick' **Cheetham** who has recently retired from the Corps and is now an Honorary Steward at Wimbledon, together with ex-**SSgt Jim Keeping**. It was great to see both 'Chick' and Jim back in this capacity, worthy representatives of the Corps.

So, for those of you who are prepared to sacrifice two weeks of your hard-earned leave and be privileged to attend one of the sporting and social highlights of the year, keep an eagle eye out for the DCI in February 1995; it is open to all ranks to apply.

F.A.N.Y ON EXERCISE AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

Ten members of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry spent an instructive weekend at The Royal School of Signals over the weekend of 23-24 July.

Warmly welcomed by **Brig John Griffin** and Course Officer **Capt Joe Cooper**, members of FANY spent Saturday under the able tutelage of Chief Instructor **Col John Kirby** and his team, Senior Instructor **Lt Col Malcolm MacKinley**, Group Instructor **Capt Jeremy Tod** and OC Radio Group **Maj Alasdair Rogers**, with useful contributions from **WO1 (YofS) Sutton**, **WO2 (YofS) Luckham** and **SSgt Fowkes**.

Sunday morning saw all this information, some new, some refreshed, and the odd bit forgotten, enjoyably applied in Ex Fixed Bayonet, a Command Post/Watchkeeper training scenario, led by **Maj Mike Motum**.

The weather was wonderful, the hospitality superb and we were at the best training centre in the land–we could not have asked for more!

LANCASHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE

The training at the Blackburn Army Cadet Signals Detachment in radio communication was put to good use, at Swynnerton, Staffordshire, where they spent 12 days in August on annual camp.

Our photograph shows one of the Blackburn Signals cadets during weekend training at Weeton Camp near Blackpool. He is Cadet Corporal **Terry Biggs** aged 16, a pupil of St Bedes High School, Blackburn.

Lancashire Army Cadet Force
Cadet Cpl Terry Biggs (16)
Blackburn Cadet Signals Detachment, Weeton Camp 1994

NEW MUSEUM PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Scenario

At their meeting in May, the members of the Corps Committee were faced with two situations. With rising building costs, the projected cost of the museum extension was rising faster than the income from interest on the money in the bank and, even more sinister, a recent report had recommended that MOD funding be withdrawn from those Army Museums that did not attract specified numbers of paying visitors.

The alternatives were to start construction before sufficient funds had been accumulated to create the displays within the building or to risk the real possibility of having to operate the museum without MOD funding, or, in the extreme, of closing it entirely. The Corps Committee agreed that building should start as soon as possible.

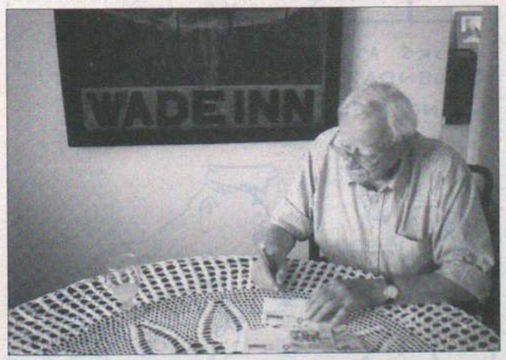
Building

Messrs Haley Sharpe, the Museum Designers selected to plan and execute the new building and the facilities and displays within it, commenced planning immediately and had started to issue Invitations to Tender by the end of August. When responses have all been received (by Friday, 7 October) the exact cost of building will be known and, if all goes well, the contract to actually start building will be signed on about Monday, 17 October.

Thereafter the schedule will be to lay the Foundation Stone immediately before or after the Christmas break, to take over the completed building in mid-May and for it to be formally opened by our Colonel-in-Chief on Saturday, 8 July. At that time we expect the new shop and the restaurant to be equipped and in operation, the library and archives to be moved to their new location and some temporary exhibits to be in place.

Fund Raising

At the time of writing, the fund has accumulated over £481,000 – some of which has already been spent on planning. A number of significant sums of money are known to be held by units bringing the total to nearer £550,000, a sum that we expect to exceed comfortably by the end of the year. The building, and its fittings, is expected to cost about £744,000, a sum that has to be raised by July 1995 if we are not to curtail the work or borrow money to complete it.



This photograph of Maj Gen Ashton Wade CB, OBE, MC, was taken recently at his home in Norfolk, when signing Philatelic Covers commemorating the Quetta Earthquake 1935. Gen Wade, who was born in 1898, has had a distinguished career in communications in war and peace. At the time of the earthquake he was serving with the Indian Army Staff in the region. He is President of Norfolk Branch RSA

We have four main sources of income: Contributions from individual serving and retired members of the Corps, unit fund raising activities, donations from industry and commerce and grants from major charities. We have also held three lotteries, have the first ten of our series of 20 Commemorative Postal Covers available for sale and, this Christmas, will be selling Christmas Cards using four of the designs drawn for the commemorative covers.

Thus far the first two sources have contributed most of the money raised. Personal donations from serving members of the Corps come in flurries, particularly after our travelling team has explained what we are trying to achieve. A number of units have engaged in very imaginative schemes to raise money and some have done very well indeed.

Now that over half of the money needed has been raised, we are approaching industry and commerce again and have received a number of small donations. We are also approaching the major charities that support museums and have hopes for some significant sums from them.

However, as the bronze plaque at the entrance to the new display area will say, the bulk of the money raised to construct our new wing will have come from the efforts of the serving and retired members of the Corps.

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM
BLANDFORD CAMP, DORSET

The Museum contains items dealing with the history of army communications dating from the Crimean War to the Falkland Islands Campaign of 1982, as well as the history of the Royal Engineer (Signal Service) and the Royal Corps of Signals.

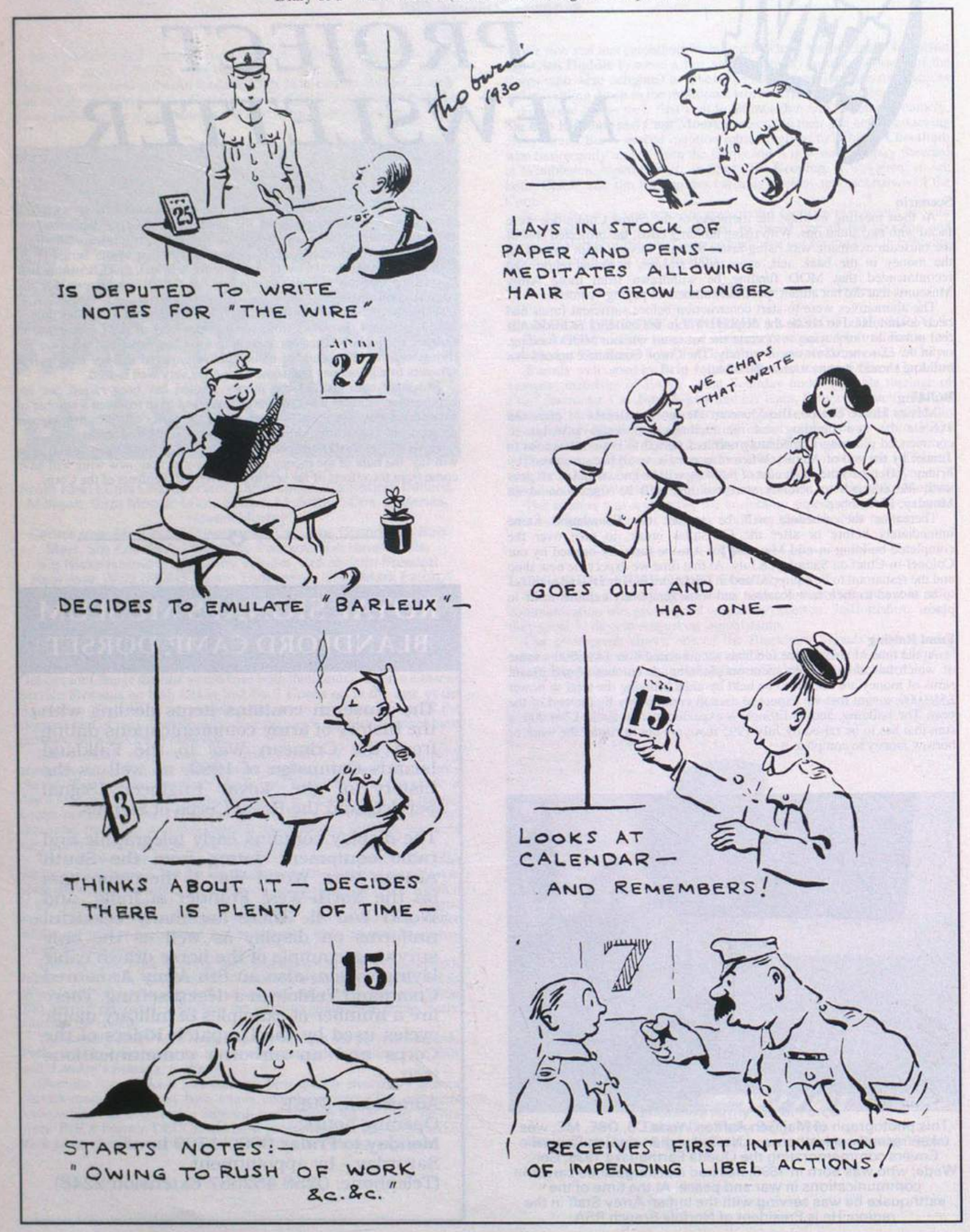
The display contains early telegraphic and radio equipment dating from the South African War, World War I, the campaigns on the North-West Frontier of India, and World War II. There are many colourful uniforms on display as well as the only surviving example of the horse drawn cable laying wagon, also an 8th Army Armoured Command Vehicle in a desert setting. There are a number of examples of military motor cycles used by the Despatch Riders of the Corps and an airborne communications jeep.

Admission: FREE
Opening hours:
Monday to Friday 0900-1700 hours
Saturday – by appointment.
(Telephone: 0258 452587 Extension 2248)

ECHOES FROM THE PAST–DOES NOTHING EVER CHANGE?

(Reproduced from *The Wire*, September 1930)

Diary of a 'Wire' Scribe! (26th/27th A.A.Signal Companies).



– Movements –

OFFICERS

JULY 1994

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Brig M. G. Taylor	HQ UKSC (G)

AUGUST 1994

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col A. J. Briggs	DGSTI
Lt Col C. P. Donaghy	CRLS HQ W & W Dist
Lt Col T. G. B Fish	R Signals M&RO
Lt Col A. H. Johnstone	15 Sig Regt
Lt Col C. L. Le Gallais	ACDS (OR) Land Systems
Lt Col R. F. Rutherford	Dept of AG
Lt Col R. M. Thurston	The Royal School of Signals
Lt Col R. C. A. Thwaites	AMD/HDES
Maj P. J. Costello	34 Sig Regt (V) (HS)
Maj J. M Gale	Depot Tp (HS Course)
Maj N. P. Harrison	DRA Military Manpower
Maj M. N. Johnston	30 Sig Regt
Maj D. J. Lumb	AA Coll Harrogate
Maj F. T. J. Riley	JCUFI (AE)
Maj G. J. Whyman	2 Sig Regt
Capt A. J. Botterill	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt M. C. Burke	Depot Tp (HS Course)
Capt D. Chrystal	4 Sqn RAF GL Sect
Capt M. Corcoran	Depot Tp (HS)
Capt D. A. Craft	7 Sig Regt
Capt P. S. Cubbin	5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para)
Capt T. A. Dean	The Royal School of Signals
Capt W. J. Dodds	399 SU (AE)
Capt E. Doughty	399 SU (AE)
Capt D. J. Duggan	20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200)
Capt J. D. Gorse	The Royal School of Signals
Capt W. Heelan	56 Sig Sqn (V)
Capt C. J. Hinsley	32 Sig Regt (V)
Capt I. N. Hunter	280 (UK) Sig Sqn
Capt G. F. Manning	9 Sig Regt (R)
Capt S. R. Mannings	15 Sig Regt
Capt T. M. Moorhead	9 Sig Regt (R)
Capt W. J. O'Rourke	JSG (NI)
Capt F. E. R. Whichelo	30 Sig Regt
Lt J. R. Anderson	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218)
Lt K. A. Reynolds	9 Sig Regt (R)
Lt R. F. P. Whelan	2 Sig Regt (HS)
2Lt R. J. Anderton-Brown	5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para) (HS Offr Trg)
2Lt J. Caesar	7 Sig Regt (HS Offr Trg)
2Lt R. L. Francis	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt (HS Offr Trg)
2Lt M. F. Graham	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt (HS Offr Trg)
2Lt L. J. Hawkes	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (203)
2Lt J. K. Walster	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt (HS Offr Trg)

SEPTEMBER 1994

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col G. D. Corbet	MOD DGGWLS
Lt Col G. M. Finney	Depot Tp R Signals
Lt Col M. L. Martin	The Royal School of Signals
Lt Col P. A. R. Rouse	SHAPE
Lt Col I. C. Shuker	HQ UKSC (G)
Maj A. S. Eames	240 Sig Sqn
Maj A. J. Hall	HQ 2 (NC) Sig Bde
Maj N. J. Hammett	HQ 42 Bde
Maj M. F. Tucker	DGCIS (A)
Maj W. N. White	ATR Bassingbourn
Maj K. G. Wilson	NACISA
Capt E. J. C. Clover	The Royal School of Signals
Capt S. E. J. Parry	RSDT
Capt A. J. E. Parsons	39 Sig Regt (V)
Capt M. C. Roberts	The Royal School of Signals
Capt J. L. Smart	3 (UK) Div Sig Regt
Lt N. H. Range	ATR Bassingbourn
Lt S. A. Rees	The Royal School of Signals
Lt C. R. Sutherland	ATR Bassingbourn
Lt C. F. S. Waudby	AA Coll Harrogate
2Lt L. C. Traves	Depot Tp R Signals

OCTOBER 1994

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Brig R. F. Baly	BDS Washington

WOs and SNCOs

JUNE 1994

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (YofS) T. C. Crosby	16 Sig Regt
A/WO1 J. Grandison	38 Sig Regt (V)
A/WO1 (YofS) S. A. McElreavey	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/WO1 B. J. Palmer	36 Sig Regt (V)
A/WO1 D. M. Stachini	14 Sig Regt (EW)
WO2 P. R. Atkinson	14 Sig Regt (EW)
WO2 N. J. Barnett	London UOTC
WO2 (YofS) A. C. M. Craig	BATUS
WO2 J. K. C. Easterbrook	HQNI
WO2 P. Edwards	9 Sig Regt (R)
WO2 C. L. J. Gopsill	8 Sig Regt
WO2 S. S. Wilson	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 K. R. Winkles	HQ RAO
A/WO2 J. M. M. Brebner	Oxford UOTC
A/WO2 (YofS) A. K. Herbert	21 Sig Regt (AS)
A/WO2 (FofS) R. A. Lane	SHAPE Sig Gp
A/WO2 (FofS) R. P. Pullan	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (213 Para)
A/WO2 (FofS) V. G. Ramsdale	SHAPE Sig Gp
A/WO2 (FofS) A. T. W. Steele	249 Sig Regt (AMF(L))
A/WO2 (FofS) S. Steven	The Royal School of Signals
SSgt (YofS) M. J. Dennis	40 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt N. P. Fanning	223 Sig Sqn
SSgt (YofS) P. A. Gordon	14 Sig Regt (EW)
SSgt N. W. Gould	223 Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) B. A. Knight	30 Sig Regt
SSgt S. A. Knight	221 EOD Coy
SSgt D. R. Little	RMAS
SSgt P. Skeith	223 Sig Sqn
SSgt M. J. Tucker	14 Sig Regt (EW)
SSgt N. Watton	223 Sig Sqn
A/SSgt A. Balsdon	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/SSgt F. Corrigan	ACIO Edinburgh
A/SSgt D. A. Devine	223 Sig Sqn
A/SSgt G. S. C. Farrar	38 Sig Regt (V)
A/SSgt M. A. Fleming	JCU (FI)
A/SSgt B. V. Roberts	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt M. J. Best	17 Port and Mar Regt RLC
Sgt P. Binns	19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Para)
Sgt K. A. Bowker	1 Sig Gp
Sgt G. Corrigan	2 Sig Regt
Sgt J. B. Harper	AAC Centre
Sgt C. Hawkesworth	AAC Centre
Sgt S. A. Howard	633 Sig Tp
Sgt S. R. Ireland	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. M. Jones	602 Sig Tp (SC)
Sgt M. W. Kendall	HQNI
Sgt R. G. Lond	ROCCHAN
Sgt M. McNair	633 Sig Tp
Sgt M. A. Press	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt G. Steel	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt C. Van Den Kerkhof	642 Sig Tp
A/WO1 S. Kassim	HQ AFCENT
WO2 (YofS) S. M. Little	DGCIS(A)
WO2 S. A. Wilks	16 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) B. Williams	CDCN
WO2 (FofS) R. A. Wilson	The Royal School of Signals
A/WO2 (FofS) D. C. Ball	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/WO2 (FofS) P. A. Cutforth	16 Sig Regt
A/WO2 (FofS) G. J. Haslam	40 Sig Regt (V)
A/WO2 B. W. Mazey	DGCIS(A)
A/WO2 (FofS) A. P. Owen	The Royal School of Signals
A/WO2 (FofS) A. H. Phillips	16 Sig Regt
A/WO2 D. R. Randle	9 Sig Regt (R)
A/WO2 D. J. Ruddock	AA Coll Harrogate
SSgt D. Adams	2 Sig Regt
SSgt R. M. Anderson	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) W. R. J. Bacon	2 Sig Regt
SSgt A. C. Bentley	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) D. F. P. Brudenall	2 Sig Regt
SSgt G. R. Crozier	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt A. M. Downs	The Royal School of Signals
SSgt A. N. Eley	280 (UK) Sig Sqn
SSgt J. E. Finister	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) R. P. Hodgkinson	24 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210 Para)
SSgt M. A. J. Inmarn	The Royal School of Signals
SSgt W. C. Johnson	2 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) L. Keily	280 (UK) Sig Sqn
SSgt D. Meggitt	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt J. P. Ogburn	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
SSgt R. J. Platt	The Royal School of Signals
SSgt (YofS) N. W. Richards	7 Sig Regt
SSgt S. K. Ridout	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) M. T. Sheppard	ITC Warminster
SSgt A. Simpson	HQ 2 (NC) Sig Bde
SSgt (FofS) K. Sturman	The Royal School of Signals
SSgt (FofS) N. L. Taylor	16 Sig Regt
SSgt I. G. Tepielow	UNICOM Team
SSgt J. R. Thomas	RMAS
SSgt (YofS) G. Tomlinson	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/SSgt (YofS) P. A. Anderson	39 Sig Regt (SC) (V)
A/SSgt S. A. Croft	7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207 Para)
A/SSgt R. G. Dalton	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/SSgt (YofS) H. J. A. Esson	238 Sig Sqn
A/SSgt N. Fisher	7 Sig Regt
A/SSgt (YofS) M. H. Horan	280 (UK) Sig Sqn
A/SSgt (YofS) G. D. Hume	BBGT (LG)
A/SSgt V. D. Kimber	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/SSgt P. R. Locker	37 Sig Regt (V)
A/SSgt P. V. McGarry	14 Sig Regt (EW)
A/SSgt (YofS) R. A. Owens	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/SSgt (YofS) S. L. Phillips	35 Sig Regt (V)
A/SSgt A. G. Scott	AA Coll Harrogate
A/SSgt (YofS) N. C. Stewart	HQ AFCENT
A/SSgt A. C. West	ATR Bassingbourn
A/SSgt (YofS) M. P. Whiting	7 Sig Regt
Sgt M. K. B. Bernstein	5 AB HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para)
Sgt C. F. Bruce	20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200 Para)
Sgt P. Buff	SHAPE Sig Gp
Sgt P. A. Burton	SHAPE Sig Gp
Sgt P. N. Cooper	The Royal School of Signals

WOs and SNCOs

JULY 1994

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
A/WO1 D. A. Deegan	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt

Sgt M. Cosgrove	... ...	30 Sig Regt
Sgt (YofS) N. Donohoe	... ...	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. Erskine	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt C. N. Garrill	... ...	223 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. T. German	... ...	40 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt C. J. Gleadow	... ...	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt S. A. Hadley	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt M. J. E. Hodds	... ...	7 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Hodson	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt A. C. Jenno	... ...	2 Sig Regt
Sgt K. E. Langton	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt B. E. Large	... ...	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Sgt L. E. Martin	... ...	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (213)
Sgt K. F. McHugh	... ...	40 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt (YofS) M. C. McCorry	... ...	2 Sig Regt
Sgt T. R. G. McIntyre	... ...	642 Sig Tp
Sgt R. Messenger	... ...	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Sgt M. O. Murphy	... ...	HQ 2 (NC) Sig Bde
Sgt S. J. Neldrum	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt S. D. Owen	... ...	2 Bn REME
Sgt R. J. Ramsay	... ...	32 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. D. Robertson	... ...	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218)
Sgt I. S. Shrubb	... ...	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt R. G. Stenhouse	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt M. J. Swift	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt N. M. Ter-Morsche	... ...	SHAPE Sig Gp

WOs and SNCOs
AUGUST 1994

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (YofS) S. C. Wayman	The Royal School of Signals
WO2 W. F. Abbott	The Royal School of Signals
WO2 J. N. Arden	Sheffield UOTC
WO2 J. S. Black	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218)
WO2 (YofS) T. L. Burbidge	SHAPE Sig Gp
WO2 M. J. Cole	5 AB HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para)
WO2 D. M. Forteath	Cambridge UOTC
WO2 K. A. Jones	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 M. Keech	223 Sig Sqn
WO2 (YofS) S. J. Lock	RSA Larkhill
WO2 J. McLachlan	14 Sig Regt (EW)
WO2 (YofS) M. H. Swiffen	The Royal School of Signals
WO2 S. E. Woodward	9 Sig Regt (R)
A/WO2 (FofS) J. G. Allen	The Royal School of Signals
A/WO2 C. E. Arnold	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
A/WO2 (FofS) I. McNelly	SANGCOM
A/WO2 (FofS) K. J. Moir	The Royal School of Signals
A/WO2 (FofS) N. T. Stirk	The Royal School of Signals
SSgt T. Ainsworth	AA Coll Harrogate
SSgt (YofS) A. K. Bennett	8 Sig Regt
SSgt G. Blight	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) A. G. Burns	71 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt R. J. Cousins	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt A. Elliott	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
SSgt (YofS) J. G. Evans	8 Sig Regt
SSgt P. R. P. Farrington	HQ BVO
SSgt (YofS) K. V. Fowler	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt P. S. Gee	9 Sig Regt (R)
SSgt S. Hodgson	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt K. Merrie	243 Sig Sqn
SSgt M. Q. Richmond	38 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt J. A. Rose	The Royal School of Signals
SSgt C. J. Spencer	RMCS Shrivenham
SSgt J. T. Summers	37 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt P. M. Tait	UNICOM Team
SSgt N. S. Varley	Depot Tp 11 Sig Regt
SSgt A. K. Warnes	243 Sig Sqn
A/SSgt D. M. Buckingham	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
A/SSgt A. M. Carthy	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
A/SSgt R. G. Dalton	220 Sig Sqn
A/SSgt (FofS) A. Dick	AA Coll Harrogate
A/SSgt A. C. Evans	21 Sig Regt (AS)
A/SSgt D. C. Halkett	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218)
A/SSgt A. Hartley	The Royal School of Signals
A/SSgt N. Hawkins	UKMilRep NATO
A/SSgt C. Holmes	16 Sig Regt
A/SSgt A. F. Quinn	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
A/SSgt G. D. Robinson	24 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210)
A/SSgt Q. M. Rose	71 Sig Regt (V)
A/SSgt C. J. Sinclair	The Royal School of Signals
A/SSgt C. M. Smales	7 Sig Regt
A/SSgt G. Smith	19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209)
A/SSgt S. P. J. White	7 Sig Regt
Sgt S. Armstrong	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt R. P. Atkinson	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. Barr	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt M. J. Blakley	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt C. N. Braid	DES 3
Sgt P. K. Brown	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt S. F. Bryant	220 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. P. Burrows	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt M. J. B. Cameron	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt R. S. Cave	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. R. Covey	SHAPE Sig Gp
Sgt B. D. Crosby	220 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. A. Daniel	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218)
Sgt G. Dewar	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt A. R. Dixon	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt M. A. Farmer	36 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt G. D. Fleming	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt S. M. Foreman	280 (UK) Sig Sqn
Sgt C. Gordon	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. L. Harvey	7 Sig Regt
Sgt G. J. A. Hicks	ATR Bassingbourn
Sgt J. A. Holder	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Sgt M. C. Hoodless	32 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt M. C. Howard	16 Sig Regt
Sgt P. R. Howson	7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207)
Sgt D. W. Hughes	16 Sig Regt
Sgt S. A. Jacklin	223 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. R. N. Jensen	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt T. J. Lappin	7 Sig Regt
Sgt A. K. Lee	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt O. D. Leyland	30 Sig Regt
Sgt E. M. Mangan	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Sgt J. P. Massie	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt B. E. Mee	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt M. C. Paddison	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt M. J. Richards	2 Sig Regt
Sgt P. D. Richardson	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt M. P. Riley	7 Sig Regt
Sgt H. J. Ripley	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt K. Robinson	QG Sig Regt
Sgt S. A. Seraphin	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt G. Shipman	ITC Warminster
Sgt D. Smeaton	SHAPE ACE COMSEC
Sgt C. M. Smith	39 Sig Regt (SC) (V)
Sgt C. Symonds	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt C. S. Warnes	243 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. K. Wheater	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt R. P. Williams	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt D. P. Wood	UNICOM Team
A/Sgt M. P. E. Angrove	8 Sig Regt
A/Sgt C. F. Bruce	20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200)
A/Sgt J. A. S. Castle	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
A/Sgt R. S. Dyer	AA Coll Harrogate
A/Sgt P. D. Elderidge	1 WG
A/Sgt P. W. Elgenia	HQ AFCENT
A/Sgt R. C. Enderby	29 CDO RA
A/Sgt S. M. Faulds	36 Sig Regt (V)
A/Sgt D. J. Fennelly	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
A/Sgt I. R. Foulkes	600 Sig Tp
A/Sgt M. W. Hill	JCUFI (AE)
A/Sgt P. D. James	30 Sig Regt
A/Sgt N. R. Jennings	259 Sig Sqn
A/Sgt P. J. Langley	2 Sig Regt
A/Sgt A. S. McNeil	280 (UK) Sig Sqn
A/Sgt P. F. Moloney	BATSU
A/Sgt R. B. Moore	AA Coll Harrogate
A/Sgt E. M. Musgrave	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
A/Sgt N. J. Oldcroft	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (203)
A/Sgt S. P. Oliver	14 Sig Regt (EW)
A/Sgt S. J. Parke	19 Regt RA
A/Sgt P. J. Robinson	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
A/Sgt J. L. Robinson	1 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215)
A/Sgt S. D. Seddon	21 Sig Regt (AS)
A/Sgt T. S. Smith	The Royal School of Signals
A/Sgt P. N. Smithurst	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (203)
A/Sgt V. K. Tipple	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/Sgt P. L. Weston	2 Sig Regt

WOs and SNCOs
SEPTEMBER 1994

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 M. D. Facer	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
A/WO1 G. G. A. Reith	32 Sig Regt (V)
A/WO1 W. Watts	7 Sig Regt
A/WO1 G. Woodcock	9 Sig Regt (R)
WO2 (YofS) S. Brant	20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200)
WO2 (FofS) M. J. Case	The Royal School of Signals
WO2 S. Grantham	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
WO2 P. J. Griffiths	The Royal School of Signals
WO2 (YofS) W. Jackson	BBGT (N)
WO2 (FofS) J. J. Newsome	BATSUB
WO2 (YofS) K. E. Roach	251 Sig Sqn
WO2 S. J. Shannon	223 Sig Sqn
WO2 C. B. Skimming	JCU(FI)
WO2 (YofS) G. E. Stratton	RMAS
WO2 M. Toner	14 Sig Regt (EW)
A/WO2 N. D. Parry	CGS (DGTA + ORG)
SSgt R. A. Arundel	The Royal School of Signals
SSgt P. D. Ashworth	9 Sig Regt (R)
SSgt M. R. Bahado	7 Sig Regt
SSgt K. Carter	HQ AFCENT
SSgt P. R. Davey	223 Sig Sqn
SSgt A. B. Hilborn	32 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt G. Hossell	UNICOM Team
SSgt A. T. Kelly	223 Sig Sqn
SSgt D. Roole	16 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) S. Young	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/SSgt S. H. F. Bovan	20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200)
A/SSgt I. J. Carter	30 Sig Regt
A/SSgt R. J. Hood	7 Sig Regt
A/SSgt S. G. Jackson	9 Sig Regt (R)
A/SSgt D. C. James	7 Sig Regt
A/SSgt S. Owen	Depot Tp 11 Sig Regt
A/SSgt E. J. Perry	34 Sig Regt (V)
A/SSgt D. L. Poole	39 Sig Regt (SC) (V)
A/SSgt D. I. Sloane	7 Sig Regt
A/SSgt J. A. Smith	16 Sig Regt
A/SSgt A. C. Wood	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. R. Ault	ITC Warminster
Sgt M. J. Beardmore	UNICOM Team
Sgt I. R. Burton	223 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. Choules	UNICOM Team
Sgt S. K. Cook	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Sgt J. R. Coupland	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt S. P. Cowan	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt C. Cunningham	642 Sig Tp
Sgt K. P. Curtin	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt G. C. Elliston	2 Sig Regt
Sgt M. R. Flather	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt M. H. Geere	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt C. Gouldson	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt A. J. Groves	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt P. J. Gruncell	642 Sig Tp
Sgt T. S. Hague	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. D. Hall	39 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt C. B. Hamilton	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt S. R. Hollands	36 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt S. G. C. Hopkins	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt W. Howard	223 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. King	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt K. W. Lee	JSG(NI)
Sgt J. F. Linck	71 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt L. A. Linton	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt L. D. Marshall	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt I. C. Noble	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt

Sgt N. R. Parkinson	... ...	2 Sig Regt
Sgt G. Pendrich	... ...	9 Sig Regt (R)
Sgt W. I. Pinhorn	... ...	36 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt M. D. Robinson	... ...	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. A. Rock	... ...	7 Sig Regt
Sgt B. A. Rogers	... ...	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Sgt J. F. Ross	... ...	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Sgt M. T. Sheeman	... ...	1 Para
Sgt I. P. Toft	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt K. A. Williams	... ...	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt C. M. Wilson	... ...	20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200)
A/Sgt M. Andrew	... ...	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
A/Sgt S. A. Cade	... ...	7 Para RHA
A/Sgt J. A. Chapple	... ...	30 Sig Regt
A/Sgt G. M. Davey	... ...	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218)
A/Sgt C. A. Davis	... ...	30 Sig Regt
A/Sgt P. M. Duke	... ...	2 Para
A/Sgt J. C. Goldsworthy	... ...	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/Sgt A. W. Haslam	... ...	19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209)
A/Sgt K. P. Innes	... ...	AA Coll Harrogate
A/Sgt B. G. Parry	... ...	24 Cdr Trg Team
A/Sgt N. R. Paul	... ...	55 Sig Sqn (V)
A/Sgt E. W. Reynolds	... ...	40 Regt RA
A/Sgt G. Sullivan	... ...	AA Coll Harrogate
A/Sgt G. E. Tuff	... ...	40 Sig Regt (V)
A/Sgt J. R. Walker	... ...	5 AB HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para)
A/Sgt D. J. White	... ...	JCU(FI)
A/Sgt M. W. Yeats	... ...	1 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215)

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
is 13th November 1994

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 Jobcentres. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers, Jobcentres and local telephone directories.

During the period 1 April 1993 – 31 March 1994 the Association assisted 12,771 men and women with their resettlement and placed 4,823 in employment. Of those placed 2,794 were men and women from the Army and 264 were from your Corps.

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED SIX WEEKS BEFORE THE PUBLICATION DATE

FINANCIAL PLANNING

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

FINANCIAL PROTECTION	–against the effects of possessions being lost or damaged.
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DEATHS

Barrett–Lt Col R. Barrett served 1933-73–died 25 August 1994
Bullard–Capt E. P. Bullard–died 5 February 1994
Cadwell–WO2 C. R. Cadwell–served 1932-53–died 9 June 1994
Carruthers–Maj F. M. Carruthers–died 30 May 1994
Colley–Cpl B. H. Colley–died 26 July 1994
Conner–Lt Col R. A. Conner–served 1930-56–died 26 April 1994
Davis–Capt H. C. Davis–died 25 April 1994
Farnden–Capt T. H. G. Farnden–died 2 April 1994
French–Mrs E. M. French, wife of **Maj A. M. French BEM**–died 12 August 1994
Hall–Lt G. G. Hall–died 16 July 1994
Harwood–Maj J. Harwood–served 1938-73–died 21 July 1994
Knowles–Lt Col J. Knowles MBE–served 1938-68–died 1 September 1994
Mahoney–SSgt Mahoney–died 31 July 1994
Matthews–Maj J. C. Matthews–served 1940-46–died 5 July 1994
Moran–WO2 J. Moran–served 1942-46–died 26 June 1994
Morris–Lt Col J. D. L. Morris OBE–served 1928-54–died 16 August 1994
Perriam–LCpl F. Perriam–served 1938-46–died 14 June 1994
Rutherford–Maj L. M. Rutherford–served 1941-62–died 7 August 1994
Sampson–Sgt V. Sampson–served 1938-49–died 2 February 1994
Shepherd–Sgt F. O. Shepherd–served 1943-46–died May 1994
Simmonds–LCpl A. W. Simmonds–served 1939-45–died 16 July 1994
Smith–Cpl C. A. Smith–served 1988-94–died 22 July 1994
Thompson–SSgt R. Thompson–served 1969-91–died 16 July 1994
Watson–Sig J. C. Watson–served 1940-46–died 17 May 1994
Welsby–Maj B. Welsby–died 13 April 1994
Wilce–CSM L. C. Wilce–served 1924-30, 1940-45–died 11 May 1994
Willet–Maj D. F. Willet–died 3 April 1994
Worsfold–Sgt E. Worsfold–served 1928-40–died 30 July 1994
Yeatman–Col P. F. Yeatman–served 1939-68–died 9 August 1994

OBITUARIES

Dixon–Sgt Reg Dixon. It is with great regret that we announce the death of **Reg Dixon** on 11 June 1994 at the age of 56. **Reg** joined Boy Service at Beverley in February 1953. On entering Man Service he trained as a Lineman and was posted to BAOR where he served with several Air Formation Units. Subsequently he served in Cyprus, Singapore, 7 Sig Regt, 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt in Verden, Ouston and Catterick.

In Singapore he met and married **Erika** and his elder son **Maurice** was born there. His second son **Eric** was born in Herford.

Sgt Dixon left Royal Signals in October 1977 and he and his family made their home in Scotton, close to Catterick Garrison. He joined British Telecom and worked as a Telephone Engineer in the Dales, particularly Swaledale and Wensleydale until his early retirement in December 1993.

He was a popular and active member of the Catterick and District Branch of the Association and had recently joined the newly formed 19 Sig Regt (Air Formation) Association.

Our sincere sympathies are extended to his family. He will be greatly missed by his many friends.

Elliott–Morris Elliott. It is with great regret that Catterick Branch announce the death of **Morris Elliott** who died on 12 July 1994, after a long illness. **Morris** served in the Corps from 1956 to 1968. Much of his service was in BAOR but he also spent some time in Singapore and UK. Following active service he and his family settled in Hipswell near Catterick Garrison. Initially he joined the Fire Service but later became a bus driver. At the time of his retirement, through illness, he was working as a driver for the local council. He was well liked and respected both in and out of uniform and he will be greatly missed by his many friends. We offer our sincere condolences to his family.

Phillips–Geoffrey Desmond Phillips, born 1920, died 28 July 1994, was a life member of the Association and long standing member of the Cotswolds Branch. **Geoff**, as he was known, served in the Corps during World War 2, from 1940 to 1945, mainly in North Africa and Italy, during which time he was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal. Prior to retirement 13 years ago he was employed on the staff of Government Communications HQ. He led a full and active life in retirement and had just returned from holiday when he became ill and died suddenly in hospital. Our deepest sympathy goes to his widow **Janet** and to their family.

Smith–Cpl Paul Andrew Smith, 23, died on 22 July 1994 in a road traffic accident whilst riding his motorcycle on the B69 north of Limavady, Northern Ireland. **Paul** lived in Ossett, Yorkshire with his parents and sister before joining the Army in York in May 1988. After training as a Systems Technician in Catterick he was posted to Germany. He served in Herford with 4 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and remained with that unit during its transition, continuing his service with the re-titled 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, until November 1993. At the time of his death he was serving with 233 Sig Sqn, 15 Sig Regt, detached to 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218) in Londonderry, as part of a Forward Repair Team. Within his close knit FRT, **Paul** was particularly popular. He was an excellent technician and a fine soldier and NCO. His love of Guinness, pool and motorcycles was legendary, and he was a notable squash player and fisherman. However, **Paul** will be remembered most of all for his warmth, friendship and consideration for others. As one of his closest friends said–'He was a star'. **Paul** will be greatly missed both as a colleague and friend and we send our condolences to his parents **Kevin** and **Jenny**.

Udell–Lt Col L. C. 'Inky' **Udell MBE TD**–Born in the United Kingdom on 8 May 1905, 'Inky' (**Laurence Cecil**) was educated in India where as a boy of 16 he joined the Royal Engineers Signal Service. He rose to the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major and was commissioned in 1939.

He went with the British Expeditionary Force to France and was evacuated from Brest after acting as ADC to his Commander. In 1942 he took part in the First Army invasion of Northern Africa with 16 LofC Signals in which he was a Company Commander and from North Africa, in the same unit, he fought in the Italian Campaign. He richly deserved his appointment of MBE. In 1945 he assumed command of 11 LofC Signals with his HQ in the Fort del Ovo, Naples, and under his command, the Unit coped marvellously with all the problems following the German Surrender.

In 1948, much to his chagrin, he finished his service in the Regular Army, but within two years he was commissioned into the TA as a Squadron Commander in 21 (North Midland) Corps Sig Regt TA. In the meantime he joined the Civil Service and until 1970 he was Chief Inspector of Custody Services in London.

Forever an adventurer, in 1954, in his 50th year, 'Inky' transferred as a Squadron Commander to 16 AB Sig Regt TA. Of his first parachute jump he said 'After a 100 years I had walked the 100 miles from the edge of the basket to the hole and jumped, I knew I was a man amongst men'. And that was true! However it was not long before the powers that be decided that 'Inky' was too old for such hazards, and his military career reached its end.

Nonetheless, after his civil retirement, 'Inky' served his country in the Intelligence Services for many years.

'Inky' was a man who had tremendous qualities of natural leadership: indeed, he exuded leadership and inspired confidence and loyalty in all whom he commanded. On the Royal Signals and the Army in general, he reflected the greatest credit.

'Inky' died on 9 July 1994 in his 90th year.

To his devoted widow, **Emma**, whom he married on 2 September 1929, to his son, **Peter**, who became Controller of Overseas Services of the BBC, to his grandchildren and to his great grand-daughter we extend our deepest sympathy.

Winning–LCpl Douglas Winning, died on Monday 27 June 1994 after having been involved in a road traffic accident. He joined the TA and 87 Sig Sqn, 38 Sig Regt (V), in May 1988 and trained as a Driver Electrician, serving the majority of his time in Mould Tp. A happy and hard working young man, he will be greatly missed by all members of the Squadron. We send our sincere condolences to all his family and friends.

NOTICES

CORPS DATES

* 4 November	Corps Scottish Dinner, Glasgow
10 November	Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey
*24 November	Royal Signals Institution London Lecture
13 December	Corps Carol Service, London

Application Forms for those events marked with an * are to be found at the back of The White List and The Retired Supplement.

THE RSI LONDON LECTURE

The London Lecture will be given by **Sir John Bourn KCB**, Controller and Auditor General, who takes as his subject: 'What is Value for Money in Government'. The Lecture will take place at the London Press Centre, 76 Shoe Lane, London EC4 on Thursday, 24 November 1994 at 6 pm.

OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION
PRESIDENTS DINNER – 19 NOVEMBER 1994

The next President's Dinner will be held at Welbeck College on Saturday 19 November 1994.

Dress is Mess Kit for serving officers and Black Tie for retired officers. The cost will be £14. Timings are 1930 for 2000 hours. 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. Tel: 0909 476326. Applications should arrive at least two weeks prior to the Dinner.

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 13 December 1994 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**, Tel. 071 405 2644.

5 AB BDE HQ AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (216 PARA) FAMILIARISATION COURSE

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para) will be holding an Airborne Induction Day during the period 1-3 February 1995. The aim is to provide potential volunteers the opportunity to experience the life and environment with 5 AB Bde. The day will consist of introducing volunteers to the various tests involved in P Company, an overview of the Brigade and more importantly the Squadron. Royal Signals personnel, with their Unit's permission, are eligible to apply. Bids direct by either signal or telephoning the Training Wing on Aldershot Mil 4549.

LETTERS

From: Maj R. J. Mitchell AAC
Dear Sir

The MITCHEMP Trust was established in 1992 with the aim of taking under privileged children away on adventure training camps in order that they could learn from, and experience the pleasures and challenges of outdoor pursuits such as rock climbing and abseiling, orienteering and mountain walking.

The annual camps are run in the Brecon Beacons and offer places to Social Services in order that they may send children, free of charge, that might otherwise not even have the chance of an annual holiday.

This year the trust and its volunteer helpers took 37 children, and despite some appalling Welsh weather, had a great time.

Such an organisation can only exist with the goodwill and charity of others and we would like to thank all those that made this year's event such a success.

On behalf of the MITCHEMP Trust and its children we would like to say thank you to the Commanding Officer, the Quartermaster and his staff of 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt who came to the rescue at short notice to provide us with much vital equipment. Without this equipment the camp could not have gone ahead and we are all very grateful for your help. Thank you.

Yours faithfully
R. J. Mitchell
44 GWSC, RMCS, Shrivenham SN6 8LA

From: Capt Frank Shore ERD
Dear Sir

From time to time the colours blue and white have been used by Royal Signals on Signal flags, as brassards, as flashes on jackets and helmets and as the Corps identification on vehicles. It was not until I visited Budapest in May 1988 that the possible significance of the colours was suggested to me.

I was invited by my host, an Hungarian historian, to a performance by a military band dressed in mediaeval costume in the old city of Buda. The musicians were arranged in a wide arc with drummers and trumpeters on each flank.

At the end of the performance the trumpeters gave a display with blue and white flags whirling them around and tossing them high in the air to the accompaniment of drum rolls–the other musicians remaining silent.

After this colourful performance my host explained as follows:

'Originally the drummers and trumpeters were the regimental signallers and not musicians as such. The drummers would transmit orders in a code of beats and rolls and similarly the trumpeters had a number of different calls.

For silent signalling the trumpeters used blue and white flags, those colours having been chosen as one or the other would show up against any background. Only very much later were the drummers and trumpeters augmented by other instrumentalists to form bands for ceremonial purposes.'

We are repeatedly told that we are soldiers first and signallers second. Should we now add 'and musicians third'?

Yours faithfully
Frank Shore
1 Larchfield House, Highbury New Park, London N5 2DE

FOR SALE

ATTENTION! ROYAL SIGNALS T.A.

The TA Trg Team, 8 Sig Regt, have a small number of plaques unique to the team, bearing Corps colours, badge and Regimental insignia for sale. This will be your last opportunity to purchase a plaque bearing the 8 Sig Regt title before the Regiment ceases training in October 1994, and the team moves to 21 Sig Regt to restart training in January 1995.

Anyone interested should contact: OC TA Training, 8 Signal Regiment, Vimy Barracks, Catterick Garrison, N. Yorks DL9 3PS. The cost for each plaque will be £16.50 inc. p&p.

If responding to any advertisements in *The Wire* please mention that you saw it in your Corps magazine

REPORT FROM ULSTER

XV

HQNI and
15 Sig Regt
BFPO 801

CO **Lt Col A. H. Johnstone**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. A. Deegan**

This has been a very busy period for the Regiment with both the Commanding Officer and RSM handing over. We bid a fond farewell to **Lt Col Charles Le Gallais** and **Jackie** and wish them all the best in London–here's hoping the new fishing rod will be more successful. We in turn welcome the new Commanding Officer **Lt Col Andrew Johnstone** and **Catherine** from DRA Malvern and wish them an enjoyable tour.

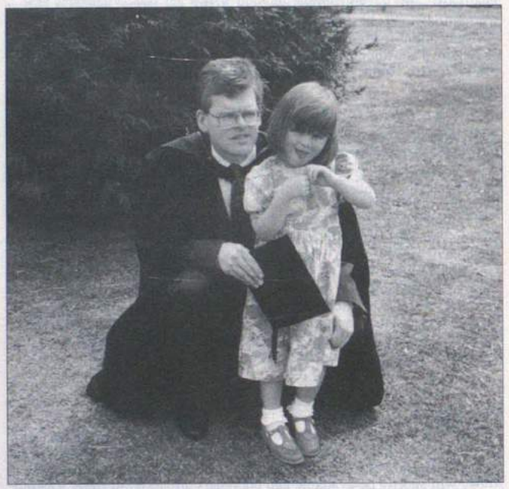
Handover/Takeover Command of the Regiment

LS & GC Presentation
(L to R): Lt Col C. L. Le Gallais, Mrs Donna Steven, SSgt (FofS) Steven and WO1 (RSM) Cory

In addition we welcome **WO1 (RSM) Deegan** and **Anne-Marie** to the Province for the first time. The RSM, a keen golfer, foolishly took out NI golf membership before realising his commitments as RSM and GSM. I am sure a rebate will be possible. We also say a fond farewell to **WO1 (RSM)** (now Lt) **Ray Cory** and **Jenny**. We congratulate him again on his commission and wish them all the best in York.

For the Foreman of Signals roster we congratulate **WO2 (FofS) Nic Stirk** on receiving his MSc (Data Communications) from Brunel University in July.

We also congratulate **SSgt (FofS) Scott Steven** on his richly deserved promotion on posting and his sunshine tour in Cyprus. We wish both **Scott** and **Donna** all the best for the future and congratulate him on the presentation of his LS & GC the day before he left!



WO2 (FofS) Nic Stirk with daughter Amy at the graduation ceremony

QM DEPARTMENT
QM **Maj Fred Bancroft**
RQMS **WO2 (RQMS) Stu Mullen**

The summer saw a new look department with **Maj Fred Bancroft** at the helm. Congratulations go to **SSgt Spike Haynes** on his promotion, plus a posting to Gibraltar–can't be bad. Also congratulations to **Sgt Rob Bayliss** on his promotion and posting to Aldergrove. Will the ECM Stores ever be the same with **Sgt Trevor Henry** in control. We say farewell to **Cpl** 'Chappy' **Chapman** to 30 Sig Regt, **Cpl** 'Mac' **McDonald** to 24 (Airmob) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210) **Cpl Martin Wright, Pippa** and family off to 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt. We wish them all the best for the future. In their places we welcome **Cpls Paul Elwood, Mark Willis** and **LCpl Fulton MacKay**–enjoy the tour and the weather!

MT TROOP

We would like to welcome **Cpls Brett Newton** and **Chris Davies** to the Province. Congratulations to **Cpl Mick Harman** on his forthcoming promotion and move to 16 Sig Regt. We say fond farewell to **Sig Biggar** on his move to 280 (UK) Sig Sqn and wish him and his family well in their new posting.

COMMS OPS

Congratulations to the growth in sporting prowess by the Ops Team. Particular mention goes to **WO1 (YofS) Guy Benson** on coming first in the 5,000m during the NI Major Unit Championships. In addition congratulations go to the Yeoman, **Sgt Al** 'Gunny' **Churchward** and **LCpl Phil Stroudly** for their second place team efforts in the 'Damp Dash' mini Duathalon.

225 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj S. R. Sharmen**
SSM **WO1 (SSM) Yarwood**

A lot of key personnel have moved and been replaced, namely the 2IC, **Capt Mike Burke**, who has managed to arrange a four month detachment to the 'Ecole Militaire' in sunny Southern France, Bon Voyage. His replacement is **Capt Deb Sunderland**, welcome. Farewells go to **SSgt Dave Labdon** and **SSgt Tim Ainsworth**.

Following a crushing defeat by 233 Sig Sqn in the CO's Cup Basketball, the Squadron Volleyball team went into secret training which paid off in the end with the Squadron winning the competition and not losing a set. Well done.

Finally the Summer Ball this year, an Hawaiian Night, organised by **Sgts Mark Atkinson** and **Dave Turner**, was a resounding success. **Cpl Nige Francis** demonstrated his ballet skills under hypnosis and has since been enquiring about dance as a pre-release course.

233 SIGNAL SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj A. W. James**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) W. Gray**

It is with great sadness that the Squadron records the death of **Cpl Smith** 849, of TM Tp, in a tragic road traffic accident. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him, and our sincere condolences are extended to his family and many close friends within the Corps.

Our thoughts are also with the TOT, **Maj Ray West**, who is on the VSI list following recent surgery at Woolwich Hospital. Our thoughts are with him and his dry wit and endless capacity for work are greatly missed by those stepping into the void–Get Well Soon from all ranks 233.

Congratulations to **Capt** 'Max' **Spiers** for avoiding resits in his staff exams and to all involved in our victory over 225 Sig Sqn in the CO's Cup Basketball.

TM TROOP

Our thoughts go out to **Maj West**, our Tp Comd, and we wish him a speedy recovery. **FofS Ken Dodd MBE** holds the fort but is hoping that the TOT will return soonest. We would like to welcome the following new arrivals: **Sgts Jimmy Anyon, Renny Renshaw** and **Brian Large** and **LCpl** 'Log' **Wright**. We also say farewell to: **Sgts Steve Erskine**, 'Skinny' **Cameron, Si Hopkins** and **Cpls Lee Harris** and **Joe McGuinness** (soon to be Sgt).

INDIA TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Chris Wood**

We welcome both **Cpl Lynn Davies** from 16 Sig Regt and **LCpl Daz Byrnes** from 243 Sig Sqn and wish them well in the Province. Sadly we bid farewell to **Cpl Steve Colbeck** on his way to Comms & Sy Gp Loughborough and **Sig Al Ward** to civilian life.

Congratulations to **Sig Tony Dandy** and **Kirsty** on the birth of their son **Aaron**. The Troop have recently won the Basketball, Volleyball and the Swimming competitions and now lead the field by two clear points. Congratulations to all members of the Troop who took part.

ROMEO TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt A. J. Stringer**

The Troop has said farewell to a number of old hands during the past few months. **Sgt Colin Hawkesworth** is now on the Army Pilots Course. **Sgt Andy Hartley** managed to fit in a wedding to **Pauline** during his final week, we wish them all the best. **SSgt (FofS) Bob Pullan** has moved down in the world, going on promotion to 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (213). **Cpl Martin Oxley** has gone to NITAT and **Cpl Tim MacLeod** has left the Army for life as a University student.

Congratulations to **Cpl Mark Hogan** for selection for promotion and posting back to the Troop as a Sgt and to **Cpl Tibbetts** on his promotion to Cpl.

New arrivals include: **SSgt (FofS) Phil Cox, CSgt Barry Harris** PWRR, **Sgts Martin Champness, Alec Henderson, Cpls Bob Bleasdale, Steve Buckley, Mark Ebanks, Steve Prendergast** and finally but not least **LCpl Max Challis**.

COMMCEN TROOP

Congratulations to **Sgt Melanie Crowther** on her recent promotion to SSgt and also to **Sig Kieran Jukes** and his wife **Vicky** on the birth of their son **Jamie**. Good luck to **Sig Sophie Benson** on her forthcoming marriage to **Sgt Keith Dowber** of TM Tp.

A big welcome goes to **Cpl** 'Sid' **Siddans** and his wife **Julia** from 16 Sig Regt, **Cpl Tony Lynch** from AFNORTH, **LCpl Craig Johnson** from 242 Sig Sqn and **Sigs Steve Sanders, Paul Crocker** and **Penny McKenzie**. Hope they all have a good tour.

We also say farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Ian Gascoigne** along with **Isabel** and the girls. Also to **Sgt Colin Warnes** who thinks he is off on gardening leave, but Commcen Wilton know better. Greatly missed will be **LCpl Dave McCall** on a cross move to 225 Sig Sqn.

Goodbyes go to **Cpl Nick Maughan, LCpls Hayley Ward** and **Jill Spiers** off to civilian life. Off to the sun is **Cpl Mandy Eardley**, to 241 Sig Sqn for **LCpl Steve Lewis** and by no means least **Sig Sam Lee-Davis** to 16 Sig Regt.

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39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

Sqn Comd **Maj I. J. Bradshaw**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) McElwee**

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to the Sqn Comd–**Maj Jerry Bradshaw** and his wife **Penny** on the safe arrival of twin boys. **Cpl** 'Taff' **Skey** and his wife **Debbie** are also in for double trouble with their new arrivals. **LCpl Julia Scott** on the birth of a son, **Callum** and **Cpl Bob Colborn** and his wife **Adele** who have a new daughter, **Sophie**.

Congratulations also to **Cpls Neil Russell** and **Jeanette Pace** on their promotions.

SHQ

Farewell must go to **FofS WO2 Phil Cutforth**–best wishes to him at 16 Sig Regt. Welcome to his successor **FofS WO2 Bob Pullan**.

Goodbyes also to **Cpl Bob Dean** and **LCpls** 'Cheesy' **Ellis** and **Andy Holmes** and hello to **Cpl** 'Noddy' **Needham** and **LCpl Linda Hughes**–their replacements in MT.

TM TROOP

Welcomes are extended to **SSgt Steve Hodgson**, taking over as Tp Comd, **LCpl** 'Yorkie' **Sowden** and **Sig** 'Spike' **Little** who both join the rigging section.

Farewells go to **Lt Jodie White**, **SSgt John Rose** and **Cpl Paul Wilcock**. Also to **SSgt Paul Gee**, **LCpl Lee Street** and **LCpl Billy Share** who are all off to Cyprus (gnashing of teeth from the rest of the Troop).

COMMS TROOP

New arrivals in the Troop are **Sgt** 'Lenny' **Martin**, **LCpls Jed Beard**, 'Alf' **Garnett**, **Debbie Watts**, **Pte Phil** 'Sleepy' **Wood** and **Sig** 'Jonah' **Jones**.

Leaving for pastures new are **Sgt Rob** and **Jill Hood**, **Cpl** 'Chic' **Sherriffs**, **LCpl Albert** 'T' **Ross**, **LCpl Ian Stewart** and **Pte Danny Attard**–good luck in your new posts.

Best wishes on their recent marriages to **Cpls** 'Buff' **Buffery**, **Pete Asplen** and **Sig Mark**.

VISIT OF CLF (NI)

The CLF (NI) **Maj Gen A de C. L. Leask CBE** visited the Squadron on 20 July.

The CLF visited the various stands to witness the role of the Squadron.

The Riggers demonstrated rigging techniques on the 50m mast, the techs explained covert car fits, SYSCON gave him a tour of the Squadron 'nerve centre' and the heliborne surveillance system section came up trumps with a helicopter to give a live demo of the heli-tele system.

The visit went off well, the Squadron was given a clean bill of health for another year–so, well done to all those involved.

EXERCISE FINN LINE 1994

Ex Finn Line was the Squadron's adventurous training Summer Camp for 1994. The exercise took place in the Cairngorms and surrounding area and was split into two identical phases. On each phase climbing, mountain walking, canoeing and locally available water sports were undertaken.

Mountain walking was led by the Squadron's answer to Hillary and Tensing, **Lt Jon Dakin** and **Sgt** 'Shuggy' **Hughes**. Whilst on the hills, much of the indigenous wildlife was spotted including the short necked, bob tailed giraffe, long haired snow zebra, Abyssinian tree wolf and the majestic moose owl. Apparently it is possible to get altitude sickness at 1000m. Phase one champion walker was **WO2 (YofS) John** 'the spotter' **Walesby**. The Squadron 2IC **Capt Chris Whitehead** was heard to say that the route up to Ben Macdui was like walking on the moon. Proof at last that he is not of this planet.

Rock climbing and abseiling took place under instruction from **LCpl Jed Beard**. Introductory climbing was held at Cluney's Cave (what cave?), just five minutes walk from the drop off point–not! All participants completed this phase without too many incidents and quickly advanced to phase 2.

Canoening took place on Loch Insh and Loch Morlich. **Cpl Pete Asplen** and **Sig** 'Chalky' **White** were the local Mohicans and impressed all with their boat craft. **Cpl Asplen** however was not impressed by **Sig White**'s waterproof container. Another packed lunch went to the ducks, amazingly 'Chalky's' cigarettes survived unscathed.

Mountain biking proved popular as an alternative activity.

At the end of each phase the Newtonmore Grand Prix took place. This consisted of a motoring extravaganza including Quad Bikes and four wheel drive vehicles. For those who were unfamiliar with cross-country driving a few heart in the mouth moments were had whilst going down the Hill of Death.

Winners of the Eddie Kidd Trick quad biking award were **Sig Chris Evans** who never quite got the hang of turning corners (he was caught up just before Hadrians Wall) and **Sig** 'Chalkie' **White** who managed the 360° back flip followed by the human landing pad manoeuvre, outstanding.

It was an excellent Summer Camp, giving all those who participated a chance to get out into the hills, attempt a wide range of activities and forget their problems.

COAST TO COAST RUN

On 16 June our intrepid band of fund raisers–**Lt Jon Dakin**, **WO2 (RQMS) Skelton**, **Sgt** 'Tosh' **McIntosh**, **LCpl Grewar**, **LCpl** 'Scotty' **Scott** and **LCpl Smith**–set off to combine some Lanyard Trophy training with a sponsored run in aid of charity.

The aim was to run from coast to coast in relays of 4½ miles in as short a time as possible carrying 30lbs bergens. For the first section legs were run in pairs. Each pair was required to do a leg in about 45-50 minutes–keeping up together. Mostly this worked well, especially for the perfectly matched pair–5ft 1in **Lt Jon Dakin** and 6ft 6in **RQMS Skelton**.

The key to momentum was lots of pasta, copious amounts of water and the promise of a bottle of Tennants Super at the finish line.

After 13 hours 8 minutes and 6 seconds of effort the 'fun run' was over. A grand total of £300 was raised for the Corps Museum and the Army Benevolent Fund. Well done to the team who are all looking forward to the next one.

The adventurous three in a search for Ptarmigan

PARACHUTE DISPLAY TEAM

In mid June ten members of the Squadron set off to the NI Services Parachuting Centre for a one-day training course and static line jump.

On arrival we realised that the weather meant we had little chance of jumping that day, also the aircraft was not available. We all completed the dry training using ceiling mounted TV monitors to simulate some very reassuring situations whilst waiting for a break in the clouds.

Due to work commitments and weather only **2Lt White**, **LCpl Scott** and **Sig Evans** managed to complete a jump. The others are due to go back again soon to emulate the style of **2Lt White**'s landing which involved using any part of your body to make contact with the ground except your feet! Congratulations must go to **Sig Terry Evans** who has since completed his first free-fall skydive–rumoured without the aid of a parachute!

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– News from Headquarters –

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

This has been a very busy period for the College with diving expeditions to Belize, sports tours of Germany, numerous charity fund raising activities and the first and last College reunion. The reunion weekend was a great success with about 1,000 'guests' revisiting their youth. A big thank you to all those who helped organise it and, of course, to those people who made the journey down memory lane.

SCOTT SQUADRON

The Squadron Permanent Staff have struggled through a busy term–obviously a bit much for three of them who left us in August. We say goodbye to **Sgt Carthy** who is off to play volleyball, **Sgt Mellett** who is just off and **Lt Roberts** who has just had enough! We wish them all the best and are sure they will miss us.

A number of notable recent achievements have to be mentioned. **Sgt** 'Dutch' **Holland** has made 12 months of avoiding Sqn PT, the Sqn Comd has got one-legged cycling down to an art and the Squadron at large has won Champion Squadron before it's even finished!

THE HUMBER BRIDGE

by **AT LCpl Burge**

It was a dark, drizzly day and Charlie Tp, Scott Sqn was all kitted out and on the 'battle buses' wearing baggy bottoms and wacky hats.

We arrived at the Humber Bridge expecting to be abseiling down one of the main support columns. We had all been motivated by 'Motivator Man' **Owen** (pity he did not do the abseil).

We were disappointed to find that we were actually only going to be abseiling from the height of the road down. However, it was a free drop on the rope with nothing to push off.

Brave or just plain stupid? I do not know, but most of the Troop were saying how fast they were going to fall. The civilian organisers obliged by not taking up the slack on the safety rope. The first to go down was **Lt Cornell**, he was a natural and fell like a 'stone'.

All in all it was a good day and we raised £560 for Help the Aged. Well done lads, it's the Golden Gate Bridge next!

Lt Mark Cornell prepares to take the plunge

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Churchill**

Everyone in Alpha Tp has been very busy over the last two months with Tradeboard, CFT's and Battlecamp. Fortunately, most passed Tradeboard and again most passed the CFT with only a few casualties and sore feet all-round. Battlecamp started with two days of revision and pre-deployment admin. We deployed on Monday evening after **Cpl Hennessy** and **Cpl Shimmons** had their bit of fun and gassed us in the RTS. We were off and in reasonably high spirits as Section Two of Two Platoon, or '22' as its members consisted of most of Alpha Tp NCOs. We arrived at sunny Otterburn at about 2200 hrs and put on our very light bergens and set off. Tuesday reveille was at 0315 hrs and after a half of our stag I had managed one and a half hours sleep. After a long tab with all our kit we ended up on a hill where we were going to go firm to fight off the bad guys. We launched a Recce with vicious intentions (an ambush) led by **Sgt** 'Dutch' **Holland**. We were positioned along a ridge which posed a threat, but we succeeded in our objective, hoorah! After our short but very tiring war we returned back to camp.

The Scott Sqn Beach Party followed the exercise. The party began with **AT Phil Smith** doing a little show involving some tiger style 'G Strings'. We were given the promised champagne from **Sgt** 'Dutch' **Holland** and we went to the party. The dancing led by **ATs** 'Frosty' and **Phil Smith** went on until the early hours and great fun was had by all. A special thanks to **Lt Churchill** who proved that you do not need alcohol to have a good dancing style. **Sgt** 'Dutch' **Holland** had a good dance and said he wished he was 16 again. The end is in sight and nerves are buzzing as Graduation Day looms and everyone is looking forward to moving to their new Units. I will miss the men of Alpha Tp and wish all the lads good luck and on behalf of them want to say a big cheers to our Tp Sgt and Tp Comd for putting up with us and getting us through.

BRAVO TROOP

Activities have included External Leadership Expedition in Wales, Leadership Training at Holcombe and even a day out at the Great Yorkshire Show for the lucky ones. We are now looking forward to the end of term and a well deserved rest before we become 'The Senior Term'.

Last, but not least, a sad farewell to young **AT Thorpe** who has moved on to better things at Catterick.

FOOTBALL/HOCKEY GERMANY TOUR

by **AT Chris Moore**

Thirty-five Apprentices and Permanent Staff gathered for the 1994 football/hockey tour.

AA Coll Soccer Squad 1994 BAOR Tour

AA Coll Hockey Squad 1994 BAOR Tour

We finally got all the kit loaded on to the coach and set off for Harwich. A long coach journey and ferry crossing led us to 13 Sig Regt (EW), our base camp for the tour. The idea was that we would play three games against Royal Signals units in the former RCZ area. Any thought of taking it easy and getting a good long lie in each day was soon dispelled when we gathered early on Sunday morning for our first 'warm up' session.

The first matches were against 280 Sig Sqn. The football team lost 2–1 with **Sgt Charlie Porter** scoring our goal. The game should have been 'wrapped up' in the first half with the College team having the majority of play and chances; many lessons should be learned from this game. The hockey team had the skill and stamina over their rivals, but 280 played a defensive game preventing us from winning by scoring a very lucky goal to win. It was a disappointing game in which **AT Paula Haddock** injured her hand preventing her from taking part in any further matches.

Our next encounter was against the host unit 13 Sig Regt (R). The football team failed to learn from the mistakes made against 280 Sig Sqn and lost this game 1–0. It was a very skilful game with some good football played by both teams. **AT Andy Carnegie** had the best of the chances but his finishing was typical of one whose first sport is Rugby. The hockey team had a very difficult game against a very strong 13 Sig Regt (R) team, sterling performances by **AT Paul Burton** in midfield and **Cpl Rhodi Wilcock** in goal could only prevent the home team taking the game into double figures, although **AT Burton** did try to assist them by scoring an unfortunate own goal!

Our final matches were against 16 Sig Regt. Last year 16 Sig Regt fielded the strongest team we played and there was considered to be very little chance of the footballers going home with a win under their belts. This time, however, the strikers got it right and **Andy Carnegie** scored a tremendous volley to add to **AT David Carter**'s first to take the game to 2–1 giving us our first win, much to the disappointment of the home team. The hockey team had a very hard game against 16 Sig Regt at Rheidahlen. The home team romped home to an easy victory with the game sewn up in the first half. **AT Taylor** played a good game on the wing but failed to get the support to make any difference.

Many other stories have of course been brought back from the trip, many are not for public consumption but will no doubt be cherished memories of the party such as the Rose visit to Eros, the Blowes visit at 13 Sig Regt (R), Hadfield's 'great skill' and **Maj Bornstein**'s collection of wonderful ties.

As well as the opportunity to play against Regular Army units it also gave us the chance to see what life is like for the Corps soldiers in Germany. It was also a wonderful opportunity to see some German and Dutch culture and society.

All in all it was a very enjoyable and worthwhile trip.

TECHNICIAN WING

PERSONALITIES

SSgt Dick Woodfine is slowly gearing up to a four day week. He's on three days now and thinks the fourth shouldn't be too arduous. **Sgt Zdena Best** certainly knows how to 'best' motivate her students in between Hockey matches and O.U., 'work hard and play hard' is her motto.

Sgt Ian Patterson and **Sgt Sean Cowan** have been showing the Apprentices how CFT's are done for real. We're glad they're on 'our side'.

We think **Sgt Frank Grant** is considering a future in the estate agency business. At least he's finished his College course, so the rest of the Wing can get on the wing computer, well the only one that isn't in an office!

Sgt Carl Hindson has been temporarily detached to 8 Sig Regt. Rumour has it he is demonstrating how to starch shirts! He is shortly to be joined by **Sgt Dave Glay**. It can only be coincidence that these two 'high-spirited youths' have been sent to Catterick to witness (or ensure) the demise of 8 Sig Regt in the North of England.

REUNION WEEKEND

It was a busy and successful high-profile event for the whole College, with all hands on deck before, during and after the festive occasion. Most of the military and civilian staff within Tech Wing are ex-apprentices. At the helm is **Maj Bryan Maltby** (57B), beating the drums are **SSgts Dick Woodfine**, **Colin Smith** (51A), **Bob Huxtable** (59C) and **Pete Shepherd** (60B). They were all in their element meeting old friends and familiar faces. And 'manning the oars' are the personalities mentioned below.

During the Reunion weekend Tech Wing was open for the Memory Lane tour with a taste of an experiments lab, Telegraph and Voice Engineering (Ex Quicksilver), the Applied Electronics/Projects Microlab, and student-made examples from Engineering Workshops. Visitors comments ranged from, 'That's interesting and new . . .', to '. . . Aagh, is that still here!'

On the sports-field, among the displays, the Tech Wing staff fought for their 'street-cred' on the Greasy Pole, affectionately known as the 'Technician Wing Alternative Training Stand'. They valiantly defended their honour and vanquished all-comers, and there is no truth in the rumour that there was a horseshoe or brick in their pillow case.

Sgt Jon Roberts organised the very popular Balloon Race. We aren't sure if his recent soprano impressions were due to helium consumption or a 'below-the-belt' blow whilst on the Greasy Pole.

OPERATOR WING

OC **Maj P. M. Castle**

SAY HELLO

Operator Wing warmly welcomes **WO2 Ruddock** to the Security Section. **WO2 Ruddock**, his wife **Helen** and their two sons **Daniel** and **Matthew** have joined us from Bracht in Germany. **WO2 Ruddock** will be joined next term by two new assistants, **Sgts Paul Crawley** and **Andy Munroe**. **Sgt Crawley**, his wife **Samantha** and their daughter **Danielle** have just spent a tour with 9 Sig Regt (R) in Cyprus. **Sgt Munroe** will also be joining us at the college from 9 Sig Regt (R).

Our final hello is to all the instructors, military and civilian who have joined us recently from 8 Sig Regt.

WAVE GOODBYE

A fond farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Steve Firth**, his wife **Lynda** and their children **Christopher** and **Amy**. Rumour has it that **WO2 Firth**, a keen fisherman, had a college telephone extension at peg 21 on the River Nidd. Good luck in your posting to 4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204), Osnabruck.

We also bid a fond farewell to **WO2 Mick Keech BEM**, his wife **Ann**, children **Becky** and **Shane** who leave the Security Section for pastures new at RAF Digby in Lincolnshire.

Also deserting the ship this term is **Sgt Paul Dunn**, his wife **Steph** and their daughter **Leah** who are off to sunny Cyprus to join 9 Sig Regt (R). **Sgt Dunn** will be sorely missed by all especially the Permanent Staff football team who relied on his defensive ability just a little.

Our final farewell is to **Sgt Keith Sharp** who is off on a Radio course in September and from there to 9 Sig Regt (R) in Cyprus. Good luck on the course and happy bronzing.

REUNION WEEKEND

The Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate held its final reunion on the weekend of 2-3 July 1994. The Operator Wing was presented with the task of running the tote tent for the Donkey Derby. **WO2 Mick Keech BEM** played the role of 'Bert the Book' reliably assisted by **Sgts Paul Dunn**, **Keith Sharp** and 'Mac' **McKinnon**. Copious amounts of hard earned cash were relinquished on our four legged friends after numerous falls and the odd refusal. General opinion was that a fun day was had by all, including the donkeys.

On a sporting note, there is a rumour going around the college that two of the donkeys have been signed up to play for the college permanent staff football team next season. OIC Football was not available for comment.

A Video of the Reunion is available at a cost of £12. Cheques should be made payable to 'PRI' to arrive no later than 21 October 1994. For further details, contact PRI on York mil ext 4280 or 0904 664280.

The price of *The Wire* will increase to £1.50 per copy, £9 per annum from February 1995

The Royal School of Signals
Blandford Camp

FROM THE SERGEANTS' MESS
THE GLOVER TROPHY

On 22 April 1994 **WO1 (YofS) Tony Glover** was lured to the Sergeants' Mess in Blandford, ostensively, to have some farewell drinks with old friends. On his arrival he was greeted by his wife **Sue** and 15 other members of his close family at a surprise function organised by **Sue** and the PMC, **WO2 (Supvr R) Dave Butler**. The look of total surprise on Tony's face was plain for all to see.

During the evening a presentation was made to the Mess on behalf of **Tony Glover**. The presentation which was in the form of a crystal goblet with 'Jimmy' forming the stem, is to be inscribed with the name of the Top Student on each subsequent Yeoman of Signals Course. The trophy was awarded for the first time on 8 July 1994 to **SSgt Donohue** of Course No 46.

The Trophy–RSM Phil Abbott receiving the award on behalf of the Mess

NO 2 TA YOUNG OFFICERS COURSE

Fifteen young, keen, enthusiastic hopefuls from the TA attended the Royal School for their first taste of the superb facilities and training the school offers to the TA. The Course commenced with a stirring introduction from the Chief Instructor, **Col John Kirby OBE**, fielded by **Lt Col Roger Buston TD** SO1 (D&P) and very ably 'shepherded' by (Lassie)–the tireless Course Officer, **Lt Jane Dodd** 71 Sig Regt (V).

The course was honoured by the visit and keynote talk by **Brig W. H. Backhouse**, Comd 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde on the Saturday evening. This, quite obviously, inspired the young, keen officers to further effort and enthusiasm–particularly as later that evening the world speed record for crossing the 'beams' was broken, as well as **Jane**'s arm!

Maj Paul Whittle, 2 (NC) Sig Bde, convinced the students that the Corps really did look after their broader interests and future careers in the murky depths of the world of the TA Royal Signals Military Secretary's department in Corsham. We look forward to more fresh faces in November.

TACTICAL SYSTEMS DIVISION
PTARMIGAN SECTION

Over the last few months the Ptarmigan Section of RSSST (Main) have been heavily involved with upgrades to the Packet Switch Network at Siemens Plessey Systems (SPS) in Christchurch. **SSgt (FofS) Gary Annetts** has shouldered most of the development monitoring effort, attending system trials at SPS on a daily basis over the past two months. He is also alleged to have trained his Alsatian to attack the SO1 on each and every occasion.

A long awaited modification to resolve the 'Battery Boiling' problems on a number of installations has been tested and is now undergoing a two month field trial by 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt at Bulford. The preliminary results are encouraging and the full results should be forthcoming in the near future.Other developments being persued by RSSST include the Packet Access Network User Monitor (PANUM) design specifications and testing procedures. This equipment will enable the user to check information on packet data and error messages for corruption from a PC. Pre-acceptance trials have been recently concluded and the final version should be ready for the Acceptance Trials in mid July.

STOP PRESS!! 'Coming Soon' there will be a facility developed to provide a SCRA Training Simulator which will vastly improve our soldiers training in one of the black arts.

If anyone out there has an answer to 'Obsolescence' please contact us as soon as possible!

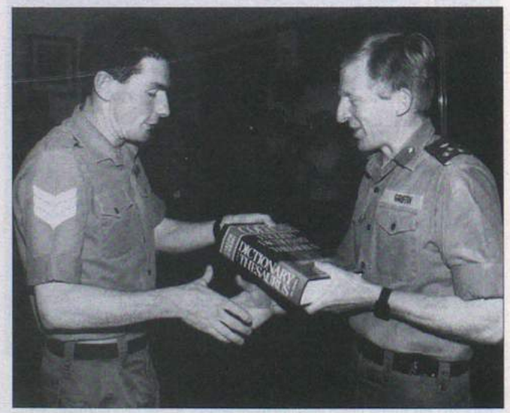
SATCOM AND SPECIAL SYSTEMS

The tactical communications world does not end with Ptarmigan and work in the SATCOM and Special Systems section continues apace. **SSgt Rick Hughes** has recently joined **Sgt Annette Wakelin** on Euromux and **SSgt (FofS) Andy Marston-Weston**, already the SATCOM FofS, is now immersed in the NCRS project and is monitoring contractor progress towards the User Trial in March 95. The FofS has just completed another season of Corps hockey and is congratulated on being awarded his Army Colours for indoor hockey at the grand age of 34.

TRAFFIC AND SECURITY GROUP
NO 46 YEOMAN OF SIGNALS COURSE

After months of hard work and sleepless nights, No 46 Yeoman of Signals Course ended on 8 July with a ladies dinner night in the Headquarters Sergeants' Mess in Blandford. The evening was attended by the Chief Instructor CIS Training Wing–**Col** and **Mrs J. E. F. Kirby**, the Course Tutor–**Maj** and **Mrs M. Nicol** and a representative from Information Security Systems–**Mr** and **Mrs Charlie Child**. Additionally, relatives of the course had travelled from all over the country to attend. During the evening presentations were made to students, their long suffering wives and other guests by **WO1 (RSM) P. Abbott**. On behalf of the Chief Instructor, we wish to congratulate all students of No 46 YofS Course on passing the course, and express our thanks and praise for their hard work and excellent team spirit. May they and their families enjoy every success in the future.

Special congratulations go to **SSgt (YofS) Donohue** who came top of the course. Well done! Coming top has its rewards, **Nigel** and **Niky** are off to 259 Sig Sqn in sunny Cyprus.The Group would also like to say farewell



Sgt (YofS) Donohue receiving his Top Student prize from the Commander, Brig J. H. Griffin

to **SSgt Martine Archer** who departs on terminal leave after just one year in the Group and to **Cpl Paul Lewis** after 22 years in the Corps. We wish them both the very best in their future careers.

1 SQUADRON (TRAINING SUPPORT)

Welcome to our new Sqn Comd **T. J. Pengelley** from 37 Sig Regt (V) who replaces **Maj E. Mitchell**. Welcomes also to **SSgt Keith Langton**, **Sgt Steve Wells**, **Cpl John Flannigan** and **LCpl** 'Del' **Goodenough** and farewells to **SSgt Martin Archer**, **Sgts Tom Lappin**, **Mark Findon**, 'Taff' **Maul**, **Cpls Dave Jennings**, **Paul Lewis**, **Sy Clark**, **Bob Bruce**, **LCpls Trev Legg**, **Ronnie Wood** and **Sig Dylan Davies**.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

On 24 June approximately 90 members of 1 Sqn (TS) proceeded to Penhale Training Camp, Newquay for their annual 'holidays'. The activities that they could enjoy ranged from Abseiling to Deep Sea Fishing. The Squadron was divided into small groups, allowing each group to participate in all the activities. The early evenings, before being allowed to descend upon Newquay were taken up with Knockout Competitions in both Soccer and Volleyball culminating in the finals being played on the Thursday evening before a Squadron barbecue.

Notable events that happened during our stay, were the visit of the CO **Lt Col V. G. Striven** and **WO1 (RSM) Phil Abbott**, both of whom showed their prowess on the rock face and the Troleyn Traverse; **Sig** 'Zag' **Albone** on being able to produce more from his stomach during his sea fishing trip than he had ingested during the previous week; he also didn't catch anything!

Sig Lee Walker is to be congratulated for organising the horse riding, and when, on being given the most 'frisky' horse to ride, demonstrated admirably her equestrian skills, at least she didn't fall off. **LCpl Ken Fyson** is also to be congratulated on completing the most circles in a canoe in any given time. Thanks must also go to our two chefs **Cpl Tony Wyatt** and **LCpl Ali Milne** who did us proud.

TRIALS SQUADRON

Trials Sqn started off the year with their annual Battle Camp. A week away in Warminster using all available Ranges. **Cpl Jackson** organised the APWT and Pistol shoots with **SSgt** 'Moose' **Hughes** and **SSgt (YofS) Jimmy Hanlon** organising the IBSR, 600m LSW, Section in defence, Night shoots, falling plate and all the fun shoots. Best overall shot was **LCpl Fred Walker**, although the LSW shoot was dominated by the SHQ team consisting of the Sqn Comd, **Maj Bob Binham** and the SSM, **SSgt A. P. Gaston**. The pistol shoot was unbelievably won by **LCpl** 'Geordie' **Robinson** who puts it down to nice weather and possibly that the previous shot had not pasted up all the holes! Best section was won by 2 Section held together by **Cpl** 'Porky' **Chris Benson**.Congratulations to **WO1 FofS** 'Chuddy' **Richardson** on his promotion to WO1, **LCpl Barny Barnett** and **LCpl Fazackarley** on their promotion to LCpl, and to **Maj Binham** on his selection for promotion to Lt Col. Farewells go to **Cpls Paul Urwin** and **Mick Garbett** who leave to go to civvy street.

TRIALS TROOP

The Troop have been busy over the past couple of months with the quarterly appearance of KIPLING and a couple of other HF trials. **LCpl Craig Walker** took a detachment consisting of himself, **LCpls** 'Woody' **Woods** and 'Robbo' **Robinson** to Okehampton Camp for a week to act as the testing station for trials on HF Voice Systems and some known HF Loop Antennas. **Cpl Sean Jackson** was the detachment commander at the Blandford Camp end with **LCpl Fred Walker** and **Sig Martin Terris**. It has yet to be decided which was the most exciting deployment Blandford or Okehampton! **Cpl Jackson** is seen in the photograph trying to tune one of the antennas. All three picked up pet names during the week which were, from left to right, the coat hanger, the kite and the fridge (Yes it was an antenna). Congratulations go to **Sgt Paul Irwin** on his marriage, **LCpl** 'Woody' **Woods** on his recent promotion and **LCpl Fred Walker** who now represents the Corps at hockey. Fond Farewells to **Cpl** 'Tweeky' **Tweddle** and family who are now serving with 2 Sig Regt and **LCpl Kev Bird** and family who have gone to civvy street. (All the way to Piddlehinton.)

Cpl Jackson with *(L to R)*: Coathanger, Kite and Fridge

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The White Helmets

OC White Helmets **Capt R. Deans**
Team Sgt **Sgt D. Brebner**

The height of the summer saw the most intense period of activity for The White Helmets since relocating to 11 Sig Regt in January. The hectic forecast of events included a solid six week period of non-stop travel and public performances.

RSA CATTERICK REUNION

The first venue during the second phase of our summer tour was the RSA Old Comrades weekend held on 25 June 1994. The Team made their final return to Catterick to perform during a superb day and for a very enthusiastic crowd. On Monday morning we left the Garrison and said a very sad farewell to what had been The White Helmets' home for many years.

THE SERGEANT BILL HARRIES TROPHY

During the RSA performance the Team had the privilege of being joined by members of 56 (London) Division Despatch Riders Team. After a superb demonstration by **Mr Jim Law** and his colleagues, the 56 (London) Division Team made a presentation to The White Helmets. **Sgt Bill Harries** joined The City of London Signals and served with them until 1940, when the Division deployed into defensive positions in Kent at the time of Dunkirk. He continued to attend reunion events for many years after the war. A statuette of Mercury was presented to the Team by kind permission of the **Harries** family and **Mrs Heather Brown**. It will now be awarded annually to the Team member who has made the greatest all-round contribution during the previous 12 months.

The first recipient of the award is **LCpl** 'Tonka' **Richardson** who has served with the Team for 11 years. The 'Sergeant Bill Harries Trophy' was awarded in recognition of **LCpl Richardson**'s outstanding commitment, loyalty and skill over the past decade, during which he has only seen three shows whilst injured as a member of the audience!

SUMMER TOUR

The RSPCA public advice notice 'Dogs die in hot cars' has now been adopted by the team and currently reads 'Wellies die in hot coaches'. The summer heat has brought out many massive audiences at our performances across the country, which is rewarding enough for the team members who have suffered the discomfort of travelling between Harlow, Dundee, Kent, Aberdeen, Chester and Inverness within three weeks. The vehicle fleet has now changed crews with **LCpl** 'Snap' **Stewart** being IC 'The Oven' (Coach) and **LCpl** 'Taff' **Jenkins** behind the wheel of 'Deano the Dinosaur' (Truck). **Capt Rich Deans** and the car crew, consisting of **LCpl Gareth Ford** and **Sig** 'Stu' **McDermott**, continue to cover the ground in air conditioned 'misery'.

FAN CLUB

The White Helmets enjoy a high level of public support and are constantly working on PR efforts for the Corps. These activities are often acknowledged by letters of support and a small following of dedicated fans. The team's Number One Fan is, without question, **Mr** 'Chippy' **Biscoe** (8) who recently fulfilled one of his ambitions by taking the salute presented by **Sgt Don Brebner**. 'Chippy' comes from Tiverton in Devon and had travelled to visit the team for the third time this year during our performance at Glamis Castle in Perthshire, Scotland. 'Chippy' is already a candidate for the White Helmets Selection Course in 2005!

TRIUMPH CRISIS

The team mechanics continue working like ten men as the Triumph Tigers suffer the effects of daily thrashings in their old age. The spanners, supervised by **Cpl Paul Elson**, work endless hours repairing an average of four breakdowns a show. **LCpl Dave Pendleton** is also kept busy maintaining the CCM Armstrong 'Jump Bikes' which have also been savaged since their overhaul during the winter. At one performance the Jump Bike snapped its White Power Mono-Shock upon impact with the ground. The rider, **Sig** 'Stu' **McDermott**, was unhurt and cleared the wreckage to the sidelines. With machines being pushed to their limits, the pressure upon spares and mechanics continues to escalate and demand ever increasing skill and dedication.

PSC CHILDREN'S CHARITY EVENT

During one of the few rest and maintenance periods on our tour the team received a request from **Mr Frank Bruno MBE** to assist with his PSC Charity Event. The President's Sporting Club (PSC) annually holds a 'Sports Experience Day' for severely disabled or disadvantaged children from all over Essex. The White Helmets agreed to participate by running a Mini-Bike Arena and interest demonstration throughout the day. The whole team were most impressed by the courage and determination of so many young people to overcome their difficulties. The other star personnel of the day were without question the staff and children's carers whose patience and strength were an example to all. The day proved to be extremely rewarding as well as exhausting after six hours of activity.

The team participated in the PSC Charity Event.
Pictured with Mr Frank Bruno are:
Front row *(L to R)*: Sigs Forster, Maskell, LCpl Hooper and Sig Summons
Mounted *(L to R)*: LCpl Stuart, Sig Williams, LCpl McMenanin, Sigs Cole, Brennan and LCpl Jenkins
Rear standing *(L to R)*: Sig Quinn and Sgt D. Brebner

1994 SELECTION COURSE

This year's team selection course will be the first held on the Bovington Tank Training Area in Dorset. Already preparations are being made by the staff. The fleet of Can-Am Bombadiers are currently being re-built by **Mr Lance Johnson** and one of last year's successful candidates. **Sig Ivor Downer,** who is now employed as a team mechanic. The Tank Training area should prove to be equally as challenging when compared to the moors on Catterick Training Area. Any personnel interested in joining the White Helmets should look out for the recruiting posters which will be published shortly explaining how to attend the Selection Cadre.

END OF THE TUNNEL

The team continue their show season with the light now seen as we approach our final show on 27 September.

Payment of Subscriptions . . . by Direct Debit

With effect from 1 January 1995 it will be possible to pay your subscriptions to *The Wire* by Direct Debit.
This will be a far more efficient system for RHQ and will help to keep the production costs of *The Wire* to the minimum possible. All existing subscribers should have had a letter informing them of this option together with a Direct Debit form.
If you have not yet returned your form please consider doing so now. Alternatively, if you have not yet received any notification and would like to know more about the Direct Debit system please ring RHQ on 071-414 8426.

Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Cpl Frank McGuinness** on being selected for promotion to Sgt–we await the posting order with bated breath.

SPORT

The Signal Training Wing is in the middle of an inter section sporting competition, the events are, Cross Country, Biathalon (cycling, running), Volleyball, APFA and 5-a-side Football. The Management section (CI, RSMI, 2 x YofS, Tech, SQMS, **Cpl Allen** and **Sig Gannash** QGS) hold the lead with 26 points out of 30 with 2 events left.

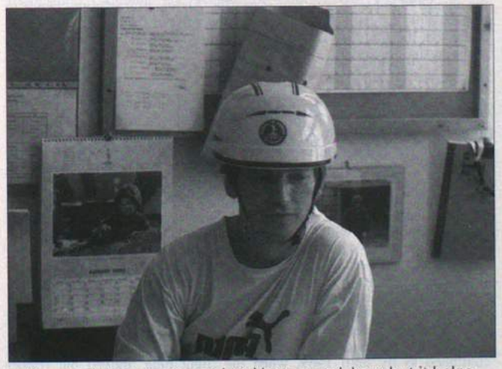
EXERCISES

The southern France exercise to Caylus was, unfortunately, cancelled (no tan, no duty free, yet again), however, an alternative venue was found. So from **WO2 (YofS) Steve Holt** and the instructors who have to stay behind good luck! to **WO2 (YofS) Graham Pardew** and **SSgt Angus Palmer** and the boys who have deployed to Galelochead in Scotland instead.

TRAINING

A military skill training day was held on Monday 4 July by **WO2 (YofS) Holt** and **Sgt Pete Rouse**. Events were centred around a driving stand (Bedford 6x6 14 tonne) and the indoor shooting range (Small Arms Trainer). The driving stands were comprehensively won by the SNCOs **(Sgt Trevor Bailey** won the Yorkie Bar for his driving of the 6x6 Bedford) which proved why the JNCOs will not let us drive on exercise. The Corps troops rode rough shod over the Infantry on the battle scenario shoot in the Small Arms (virtual reality) Trainer. Background activities included watching berets being lifted and heads scratched during the Command Task stand, trying to remember the highway code to enable a pass to be gained on the Driving theory stand and recovering a LR with the FODEN recovery vehicle, two pieces of string and a user hand book.

And finally the result of the annual SNCO v JNCO Cricket Match which was held in the Academy grounds on a blisteringly hot Friday afternoon with the SNCO led by **RSMI Steve Roden** returning a convincing victory by 73 runs despite the JNCO team holding **Cpl Andy Allen** the only man with his own bat (out for a duck) and **SSgt Angus Palmer** scoring (with a bucket of Pimms). The traditional after-match barbecue was much appreciated and livened up by the tremendous cloud burst which erupted just as the food was being served. Plan B was put into operation and a good night was completed in the bar.



You don't have to wear a hard hat to work here but it helps.
YofS Steve Holt ready for the cycle phase of the Biathlon

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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.
- To assist, where possible, resettlement in civilian life.

The Association endeavours to achieve these aims by:
- Sponsoring branches which often meet for social occasions. There is generally an annual Branch dinner.
- Organising annual reunions. These provide the opportunity to meet old friends, for the retired to see something of the serving Corps and, to remember the fallen.
- Running a welfare section at Association HQ, which is at the service of all members.
- Publishing the Corps magazine, *The Wire*. Taking out a subscription will help you to keep in touch with Corps and Association affairs.

MEMBERSHIP
Nearly all members of the Corps have, whilst serving, contributed under the Day's Pay Scheme. By virtue of these contributions, they are Life Members of our Association. If you have not contributed at all you can become a Life Member for £10.00.

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) 414 8422). 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.

- News from Regiments -

1 Sqn Royal Signals
Army Training Regiment
Bassingbourn

Sqn Comd — **Maj Rick Mather**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) A. S. Sherrard**

CONGRATULATIONS – SIG GAVIN SAYERS

Testament to the true 'All Arms' nature of the new Army Training Regiment, **Sig Gavin Sayers**, backsquadded from his R. Signals Troop due to a back injury, recently completed training with Anzio Platoon of C (Queen's Division) Company and was judged by his Infantry instructors to be Best Recruit of his intake. **Gavin** is shown here receiving his prize from the Parade Inspecting Officer, **Lt Col P. W. Field R Anglian**.

Sig Gavin Sayers receives 'Best Recruit' award

Many of you out there in the Corps may, as yet, be unaware that, with the exception of Harrogate, we now constitute the Royal Signals production line for new soldiers. As part of one of the five newly-fledged Army Training Regiments (ATRs) we are responsible for: 'Inducting recruits into the Army and providing them with those basic military skills, common to all Arms and Services, which enable them to undertake local protection tasks.'

So, what does that involve and how do we do it? We teach the Common Military Syllabus (Recruits) (CMS(R)) over a period of 10 weeks. The CMS(R) contains little that will be of any surprise: Weapon Training, Fieldcraft, Drill, First Aid, PT and NBC Training predominate, but there is much more required of the military training instructor than merely to teach basic military skills. The aim is not to produce a fully-trained soldier, rather one prepared for Special To Arm or Phase 2 Training. The art of converting a civilian into a fledgling soldier is a complex one made all the harder by the varying make-up of the raw product entering our gates. Under the new Single Entry System 'Sig Rawrecruit' may be female aged

Alpha Tp obscuring one of East Anglia's tallest peaks–the Troop staff of Lt 'Taff' Locke, Sgt Kev Greenwood, and Cpls 'Marky Mark' Emmerson, 'Robin Clive' Enderby, 'Auntie Beth' O'Leary and Gair Sorley (Taff Dodd and his Diddymen are hidden in the long grass (foreground))

16 years 9 months, or a male graduate, aged 24. With the exception of PT, where the standards to be achieved by the females are different, all training is conducted on a 'gender-free' basis solely by the Troop staff; the only assistance coming from a small Training Wing staff.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

There is a constant need for quality NCO military training instructors here at ATR Bassingbourn. Whilst we can't promise short notice deployments to the Balkans (as was arranged for **Lt Sarah Copely**) or to previously unheard of African Republics, nor a chestful of medals at the end of your tour, we do offer the opportunity of two years of knowing on a Monday what you will be doing on the following Friday, a full working day teaching lessons prepared by yourselves with first class facilities, and the chance to enhance your career profile. Above all it is your chance to influence the standard of the future soldiers of your Corps. Should you be interested, the first step is to ask your Unit to register your interest with Manning and Records.

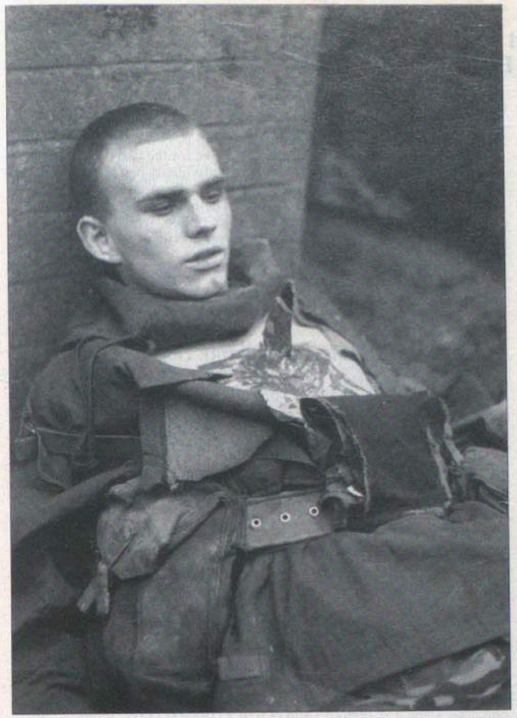
BASSING WHERE?

If, like me, your first reaction to the mention of Bassingbourn is 'isn't that just outside Hanover?' you are close in only one respect; the Lubbeke Ridge is the first bit of high ground visible looking east on a clear day, apart from the bunker on the second hole of the Barracks Golf Course. Bassingbourn is a small village some 12 miles south east of Cambridge. In 1938 the peace and quiet of this rural idyll was disturbed forever by the construction of RAF Bassingbourn. During the subsequent 56 years the base has changed hands several times, been witness to many deeds of daring-do and flirted with Hollywood.

From October 1942 until June 1943 it was home to the 91st Bomber Group (Heavy) USAAF. The famed *Memphis Belle*, star of the film of the same name, flew from Bassingbourn during this period and in June 1943 returned to the base after its historic 25th successful mission. Actors James Stewart and Clark Gable were based here during the same period working as Gunnery Instructors.

The RAF returned during the latter years of the War and aircraft continued to fly until 1969, when the 'light blue' moved out (rather clumsily leaving a Canberra Bomber parked in the middle of the base–it's still here chaps, if you ever realise it is missing), and the base became Depot, The Queen's Division, and the set for Stanley Kubrick's film 'Full Metal Jacket'.

25 years later it became the home of the Army Training Regiment Bassingbourn and welcomed members of the Royal Signals as well as the Sappers. During their tenure here the USAAF knew Bassingbourn as 'The Country Club', and the excellent recreational facilities that gave rise to this name remain to this day. If you like fishing, shooting, skiing or golf then fear not; they are all available on site.



First Aid Training–the lengths some people will go to avoid a 5 mile endurance run

No *Wire* notes would be complete without the usual hellos and goodbyes: Welcome to **WO2 (RQMS) Joe Cox** and **SSgt (SQMS) West**, now adding that little bit extra to the QM's Department; and to **Sgt Hicks**, newly-arrived in the military training world as the founder member of the Spec Op Escape Committee.

Farewell to **Cpl Robin Clive Enderby** to 29 Cdo Regt RA via the CTC Lympstone Camping and Ropework Course; **Cpl Bremner** to the Directorate of Infantry, Warminster; **Cpl Yule** to 16 Sig Regt; **Sgt** 'Doctor' **Ewing** to 7 Sig Regt; and finally to **Lt Mark Hanby** (who's he?) on completion of his attachment to 1 PWRR in Northern Ireland.

Congratulations to **Cpls Enderby**, **Steel** and **Donnelly** on their selection for promotion and to **Cpl Beth O'Leary** (nee **Rees**) on her marriage, successfully organised during her 2–1 Upgrading Course.

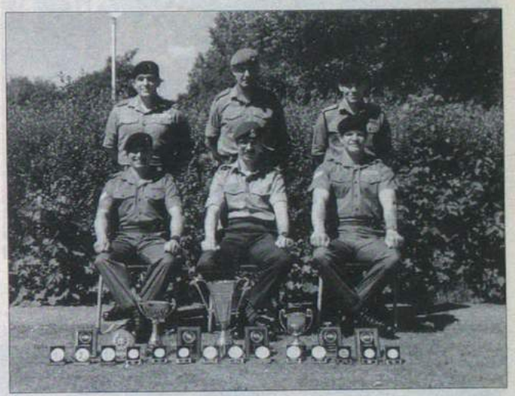
Finally, the Regiment has achieved a number of notable successes on the sporting front. The Football Team took top honours in the EDIST (S) Minor Units League with 1 Sqn 'hackers' **Cpls Darlington**, **Steel** and **Sgt Greenwood** adding finesse to a strong team. The Cross-Country Team, led by **Maj Nick** 'Training Shoes' **Bateson**, came close to winning the Army Championships, but had to settle for runners-up spot, this year! The Athletics Team glided to the Army Finals and finished 5th. Last, but not least, is the Orienteering Team which is a true reflection of the mixed cap-badges we have here at Bassingbourn. **Lt Paul Youngman RE** was 'requested' by the Adjutant to write a brief novel on the Team's achievements, which is below.

ORIENTEERING–BASSINGBOURN LEADS THE WAY
by **Lt P. B. Youngman RE**

The orienteering season has now come to a close and it sees the completion of what has been a successful year for the ATR Bassingbourn Orienteering Team. It also, unfortunately, sees the break-up of a very flourishing team as members of the permanent staff move to pastures new. The Regiment has now been in operation for a busy 18 months training Phase 1 recruits of three cap-badges: Royal Engineers, Royal Signals and Infantry of the Queen's Division. As busy as the training teams are, there has been a strong and willing turn-out on cold, wintry Wednesday afternoons and even weekends!

We have said farewell to **Maj N. J. Bateson**, **Capt G. D. Leahy PWRR**, **WO1 (RSM) K. E. McCreadie PWRR** and **Cpl Emmerson**. Even with the loss of the founder members, the Regiment has still managed to sweep the board at several competitions as a Minor Unit (see below) and, come within the top three in others. **Cpl Enderby** had an outstanding season. From 'sacking it' (not to getting lost I'm sure) occasionally last year, he has now, by perseverance, become the Eastern District 'C' Course champion. The Adjt, **Capt D. S. Robertson**, when not chained to his desk, now leads the way and captains the team under the ever-watchful eye of **Maj J. G. G. Ross R Anglian**. The results throughout the season are as follows:

Eastern District Minor Units Champions 1994
Royal Signals Minor Units Champions 1994
Royal Engineers Minor Units Champions 1994
Eastern District League Champions 1994
UKLF Minor Units–Third



Orienteering Team members
Back *(L to R)*: Capt Donnie Robertson, Maj 'JR' Ross R Anglian, Lt Paul 'Bobo' Youngman RE
Front *(L to R)*: Cpl Mark Emmerson, Sgt Mick Mould AGC (SPS), Cpl Robin Clive Enderby
Absent: Maj Nick Bateson, Capt Gerrard Leahy PWRR, WO1 (RSM) 'Tall' McCreadie PWRR and Capt John Bisseru PWRR

1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

1994 REGIMENTAL FETE

'I want to have a Regimental Fete,' said the CO, 'and let's make sure it's a fun day for all the family.'

Saturday 2 July saw the normally green, open, sports pitches in Wentworth Barracks, transformed into a throbbing crowd of families from in and around Herford at the Regiment's Fete. The aim was not only to have a good time but to allow a variety of groups and good causes to raise some much needed money. The Regimental Wives' Club, Cot Death Society, Scouts and Brownies all collected worthwhile sums, whilst the Regiment also managed to raise a significant amount for the Royal Signals Corps New Museum Project.

The weather could not have been better, with a glorious blue, cloudless sky and hot summer sun raising the temperature to a blistering 33°. The many brightly decorated stalls and stands ringed a central arena where 'It's a Knockout' and other games were held.

The first event of the day was the Inter Troop Tug-o-War competition, where big men wearing black boots, sweating under the blazing sun, were pitting might against might. The hard fought Inter Troop competition was won by A3 Tp, 212 Sig Sqn, but even it was unable to withstand a challenge from the scratch Sergeants' Mess team that finally won the day with a dramatic 2–1 victory. Mind you, with the RSM urging them on it was no small wonder that they won!

Sheer aggression from Catering Tp at the Summer Fete

The 'It's a Knockout' competition was also a major source of amusement, with each Squadron responsible for devising a game. Most of the games involved plenty of water and sponge throwing, and at the end of a soggy competition, HQ Sqn was named as the winner. This was followed by a marvellous display by the gymnastics club, where tumbling tots and gyrating gymnasts wowed the crowd with their agility and grace.

One the major attractions, apart from the refreshment tent, was the Ducking Stool, where the CO, 2IC, Adjt, RSM, Sqn Comds and SSMs all dutifully took their places at appointed times to be repeatedly dunked in the tank.The 'Hit Squad' had been very active for the two days leading up to the Fete, with numerous sightings of individuals being hotly pursued around the barracks by menacing figures in green coveralls and black balaclavas clutching shaving foam pies. Their 'Don't get mad, get even!' motto conveniently provided revenge as an option, which was frequently exercised through covering their targets with shaving foam during the Fete itself.

WO1 (RSM) Barry Spires about to get his come-uppance on the ducking stool

At the end of the day, many tired, tanned and happy families were seen making their way homeward, fulfilling the CO's aim of a fun day for everyone.

REGIMENTAL SUMMER ADVENTURE TRAINING

The month of June was occupied in four, week long segments as the Regiment deployed for its annual summer adventure training. Each weekly group was then subdivided into two more sections, with half of the group spending the first three days either windsurfing, dinghy sailing or canoeing on the Dummersee and then moving for the final three days for some hill walking in the Harz mountains. The high levels of effort and enthusiasm were helped by the wonderful weather, which cooperated for almost the entire period during what has been one of the hottest German summers in memory.

BATTLE CAMP–THE VIEW FROM 212

The Regimental Battlecamp was held during the period 17-28 July, with composite Squadrons becoming infantry companies and deploying into the field on the Haltern training area, near Munster. Nine FFR Radio Detachments were also deployed with the companies providing safety, battalion and company nets.

Every day was different with the stage five ranges being particularly popular. Live firing section attacks and C&B ranges went down well, but the chance to fire off a box per man on the GPMG was the major subject of discussion each evening. Another of the more memorable events of the camp was a survival demonstration.

Other highlights included a company assault on an object similar to the mountain landed on by aliens in the film 'Close Encounters'. Models of 'Bratwurst Hill' were skilfully prepared, without the use of a mashed potato, in this case. All enemy positions were eventually overrun and destroyed. Well done to **Cpl Passfield** of 4 Platoon who spearheaded a deceptive right flanking assault and posted more grenades than a grenade posting thing. Another highlight of the training were the platoon ambushes, where **Lt Adrian Jones**, also of 4 Platoon, chose a pleasant scenic route, which took his enemy force up and down nearly all the surrounding hills on the way to their objective. There seemed to be a sense of relief when they finally arrived at the ambush site and met with a virtual 'wall of lead'.

The big event of this year's Battle Camp was a complex evasion exercise called Ex Irish Maze, the brainchild of **Maj Paul Taylor** and **WO2 (YofS) Phil Day**. The scenario was that each section would act as a terrorist 'ASU' moving contraband, collecting arms and hiding explosives. Meanwhile 201 Sig Sqn would attempt to intercept, capture and interrogate any 'suspects' it could lay their hands on.

Various checkpoints on route took the form of 'dead letter drops', arms caches and of course the inevitable command tasks. Sections discovered Landrovers minus wheels, ditches that required bridging and an arms shipment moored 100m 'offshore' in a lake. Fortunately there happened to be raft-making materials nearby, and much to the amusement of the local populace, all sections successfully recovered the arms shipment. The DS team of **WO2 (SSM)** 'Mo' **Fisher**, **LCpl Bob Wilson** and **Sig** 'Titch' **Meakin** had a particularly tough time, having to spend two days in swimming trunks, sitting on the side of a lake, with an excellent Italian ice cream shop only 100m distant.

Other DS where less fortunate. **Cpl** 'S.J.' **Stanley-Jones** had to spend two lonely days by a mosquito infested ditch, while **LCpl** 'Dickie' **Brass** got worried about his location. Was it next to a busy road? Was it on boggy ground, with a potential to get stuck? No, **LCpl Brass** was situated next to a religious monument and was sure there were 'things that go bump in the night' out there.

Until Ex Irish Maze started, providing communications was genrally easy, but the ranges and type of equipment used during this exercise really tested the operators. Comms were provided by a range of radios, and in addition to manning the nets at Bn and Coy locations, FFR dets were also deployed into the Ex TAOR to act as rebros. As expected, these rebro dets were extremely busy, but slick voice procedure saved the day. Praise has to be given to these operators, who went for around 48 hours without sleep to keep the nets going. Maybe next year they'll volunteer to be in a Company!

The final day of Battlecamp brought an inter-company competition with all the military skills being tested. B Coy, a composite company from 211 and 212 Sig Sqns won overall, with C Coy (210 Sqn) a close second and A Coy (208 and HQ Sqns) third.

REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS

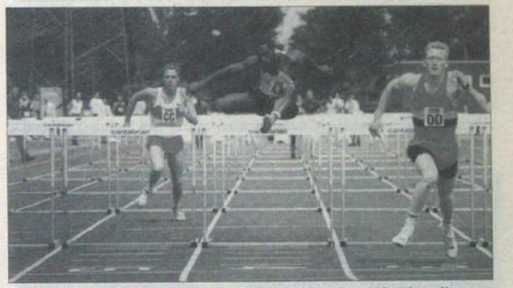
The Regimental Athletics Team (RAT) enjoyed another successful season which culminated in the Army Championships in Aldershot, where they narrowly missed out on second place. Along the way, the RAT had won the Zone and UKSC(G) Championships in very fine style. The season started with 208 Sqn winning the Inter Squadron competition in May, followed by 211 Sqn finishing a close second at the Morrison Cup in July. The women's team did exceptionally well, qualifying at theatre level for the very first time, allowing them to also compete at Aldershot.

There were many excellent individual performances throughout the season. **LCpl Tom Mulloy** finished second in the Army Decathlon Championships as well as second in the Triple Jump at the Army Individual Championships as well as second in the Triple Jump at the Army Individual Championships. Unfortunately, a badly twisted ankle prevented him from representing the Army team. **Cpl Paul George** was runner-up in the Army Individual Hammer Throw event and both athletes went on to represent the Corps along with **Sig Chris Palin** (100m) and **Cpl Andy George** (1500m). The arrival of **2Lt Melanie Rayner** mid-way through the season provided a boost to the women's team. She managed to win the 800 and 1500m events at the Morrison Cup, and the 3000m event at the Army Individual Championships.

What was so encouraging about this year's performance was the emergence of untapped talent. **Sig Stacey Hoole** ran competitively in the 100, 200 and 400m events as well as doing Long Jump. **LCpl Eddie Cochrane**'s speed over 200m was a great benefit in both the Long and Triple Jump events. When he went down with an injury, **Sig Steve Stranks** easily took over late in the season. **LCpl Steve Francis** burst onto the sprinting scene with great effect and was ably supported by **Sgt Phil Green**, who was still feeling the benefits of winter bobsleigh training. **LCpl Mark Wright** enjoyed his first serious season as a Pole Vaulter by becoming the Regimental Champion, while **Sig Dale Armitage** proved to have a useful throwing arm with the Javelin.

Throughout the season, the steeplechase was run by a variety of cross country runners, however the main players were **Sgt Vince Tibbs**, **Cpl** 'Tommo' **Thompson** and **SSgt** 'Scotty' **Scott**. **Maj Phil Brown** returned as OIC Athletics as well as a competitor in the Pole Vault, although his efforts were severely hampered when he broke his favourite vaulting pole during training. **WO2 (QMSI) Clive White** returned as Chief Coach and also enjoyed an injury-free season while competing in both hurdle events, the long relay and the Shot Putt. **SSgt Scott** missed many of the late season competitions because of an injured heel, however he proved to be invaluable by coordinating the movement and accommodation of the team during their UK competitions.

Other returning veterans from last year's RAT included **Cpl** 'Ginge' **Davey** (1500 and 5000m), **LCpl Charlie Neeve** (Hammer), **SSgt Andy Brown** (110m hurdles and High Jump), **Cpl** 'Sutty' **Sutcliffe** (Javelin), **Sig** 'Scouse' **Davies** (5000m), **Capt Barry Smith** REME (1500m), **LCpl** 'Taff' **Roberts** (400m hurdles and Pole Vault) and **LCpl Andy Dawson** (800 and 1500m). Finally, in the twilight of his Army career, **Sig Sonny Peat** ran several devastating races over 200 and 400m, and while he will be missed, the RAT will live on!



WO2 (QMSI) White heads for the finish in the 110m hurdles at the Army Athletics Championships in July

INTER-SQUADRON SAILING

Twenty-three members of the Regiment attended a Dinghy Sail Training week from 4-8 July at the Dummersee Yacht Club, which culminated in an inter-squadron regatta. After successfully interpreting some amateurish Rolf Harris impressions at the blackboard by **Sgts Pounsett** and **Driver**, the majority of the class managed to pass their Level 2 or 3 Dinghy Sailing qualifications. In true competitive spirit, the night before the big race consisted of an alcohol free, no party games or singing, early to bed evening so that everyone was at their peak the following morning.

A total of 13 boats crewed by members from all Squadrons took part in the regatta on 8 July. The hard fought competition was won by **LCpl** 'Delboy' **Whyman** and **LCpl** 'Willy' **Williams** of 212 Sqn, followed closely by **WO2 (SSM) Mo Fisher** and **Cpl** 'Oddy' **O'Donnell** also of 212 Sqn. Their cause was greatly assisted by **Sig Wild** of 208 Sqn, who managed to ram, and thereby eliminate their closest competition, a 208 Sqn boat ably crewed by **Cpl** 'Taff' **Davies** and **WO2 (FofS) Nicol**, just short of the finish line. The overall team winners were 212 Sqn, with 208 Sqn finishing a distant second.

Finally a big thank-you must go to **Sgts Johnathon Driver** and **Mark Pounsett** for a splendidly organised Regatta.

Victorious Men's and Runner-up Women's Athletics teams at the UKSC(G) Championships at Sennelager in May

2 Sig Regt
York

CO **Lt Col A. D. Forster**
Adjt **Capt C. J. McIntosh**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. Whiting**

This has been a busy period for the Regiment which has included hosting the Army Inter Corps Athletics Championships, numerous communications exercises, the relocation of 217 Sig Sqn to York and a Squadron level adventure training period.

ARMY INTER CORPS ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Wednesday 20 July turned out to be yet another sweltering day in the UK and the date for the first Army Inter Corps Athletics Championships. At the Ryedale Stadium in York things were even hotter for the athletics teams of The Royal Corps of Signals, Royal Artillery, Royal Logistic Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (unfortunately the Infanteers had not made the Start Line, or should I say Line of Departure).

After just two events it was clear that the battle for supremacy would be between the Royal Signals and the RLC. The REME and RA were left to battle for third and fourth places. Race by race the scores of the RLC and Royal Signals went one way and then the other. The most notable performance of the day was undoubtedly that of **SSgt Martin** of the Royal Signals who devastated the field in the 5000m after breaking clean at the 600m point.

Both Corps were neck and neck on points going into the final relay events. The RLC won the penultimate race, the 4x100m, putting them two points ahead. The Royal Signals needed to win the last event to tie on points, and everyone knew that it would be close. They achieved the much needed result by a whisker and on the count back the Royal Signals won on the number of wins, 16-11.

The overall results were as follows:

Royal Signals	118
RLC	118 (lost on countback)
REME	101
RA	21

The competition was extremely close and of a remarkably high standard. It proved a complete success and it is hoped that next year's competition consists of an even larger field.

214 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Pete Stephenson**
SSM **WO2 Dave Richards**

SQUADRON ADVENTURE TRAINING

The Squadron deployed to the North West of Keswick in the Lake District for a period of arduous adventure training. The area was initially bathed in glorious sunshine and it remained so for the full two weeks apart from occasional fog, mist, or just plain ordinary pouring down!

Over the duration of the exercise two halves of the Squadron were put through an intensive one week adventure training package. The OIC was, **2Lt John Torrell** who was ably supported by his 2IC, **OCdt Nathan Jones**, on attachment from Bananarama. The rest of the permanent staff included **Cpl Tim Smith**, the stalwart of the hill walking and the famous cooking duo of **LCpl Young** and **Pte Lucy Vallons** TA who, in her own words, was only just licensed to fly an Army Cookset. **LCpl Young**, is remembered most for his enhanced menus, one dish of which was the sausage roll which he described as 'a delightful mixture of the finest pork encapsulated in a light but tasty pastry wrap'. Climbing and abseiling was run by **Cpl** 'Mac' **McIntyre** during the first week. He crawled over some significantly large pieces of steep rock and lunged himself off a viaduct at every available opportunity. The second week was organised by **Cpl** 'Woolly' **Woolston** in his last week of service in the Army who did all of the above including a precariously wet climb up a waterfall.

There were three activities on offer. Two days of hill walking, a day of mountain biking and a day's climbing/abseiling. For the remaining two days we ran a Sqn Comd's Day, consisting of yet more hill-walking chosen by **Maj Peter Stephenson** and an activity day with Go Karting and all-terrain Quad bikes.

Mountain biking became a welcome change from PLC travel with few incidents but, of course, a few must be mentioned. **Sig Dave Christison** decided to try base jumping with his many geared velocipede, obviously hoping that the air in his tyres would effect some upward thrust at the final split second and **Cpl Jase Harvey** leapt before he looked and proceeded to lick clean the bottom of Derwent Water, whilst cooling off on one of the hot days.

Overall, the training was a huge success aided by fine weather and the location. Most of all the exercise was successful because of the impressive spirit and endearing morale of 214 Sig Sqn out of barracks.

VIKING TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Heath**

HELLOS

To **2Lt Ian Heath**, **SSgt Derek Adams**, **Cpl Ross** and **LCpl Dave Easley** on their arrival to the Troop. Obviously, with all the Hellos, tears and flag waving go out to: **Lt Lindsey Cullen**, **SSgt Bob** 'Gypsy' **Squires** on posting and also, not forgetting the Redundees: **Cpl** 'Taff' **Bowling**, **Cpl Tim Mounfield** and **Cpl** 'Wooly' **Woolen**.

CONGRATULATIONS

Are in order to **Cpl Ross** and his wife on the birth of their baby boy.

SAXON TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Duncan Noble**

We say goodbye and good luck to members of the Troop in their new postings or in new careers in Civ Div.

Goodbye to **Cpls Dean Henderson**, **Jones**, **LCpls Tom** 'Shed' **Matthewson**, **Steve** 'Sloppy' **Shawcross**, **Derek** 'Work Hard' **Dixon** and to **Sigs Billy Wharton** and **Greg** 'Saudi' **Anderson**, who are all off to a new job and a change.

Good luck to **Cpl Cassidy** and to **Sigs Terry** 'Mensa' **Smith**, **Sam Mushin** and **Jim Skelton**. Congratulations to **Capt Gareth James** on his new appointment as 2IC Sqn. Also to **Paul Connell** on his promotion to LCpl–good luck.

There has also been three new additions to the Troop, babies from **Cpl McIntyre** and wife, **Sig Mulla** and his wife and last, but not least, **Sig Mandy**. Congratulations to all.

Saxon Tp welcomes **2Lt Noble** on his first posting as Tp Comd, **Sgt Paul Weston**, **LCpl John Bolton** and to **Sigs Bobby Frost**, **Carl Underwood**, **Shane Hepworth** and **Lawrence Clegg**.

217 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj George Whyman**

TO YORK

Two and a half years after returning to the UK the Squadron has finally moved from Colerne to join the Regiment in York. The advance party arrived on 4 July under the command of **Sgt Sean Fairfield**. They immediately set to work on the massive task of preparing the garages for the vehicle fleet which followed on 14 July. From that point **Lt Dominic Sharkey** took over command from **Sgt Sean Fairfield**, who was able to concentrate his efforts on being the SSM, Tp SSgt, SQMS and Sqn Armourer. The advance party by then had swollen to over 40 strong and was spending the majority of its time keeping the vehicle fleet on the road (or was it off the road?) Meanwhile, back at Colerne they were working all hours (between PT and sports afternoons) to ensure that the hangar and living-in accommodation was ready to hand back to 21 Sig Regt. In York the brand new offices and single soldiers' accommodation were taken over by the Sqn Comd on 29 July. So it is fond farewell to Colerne and watchout York!

On instructions from the Budget Manager (the Adjt) 217 Sig Sqn hitch hike to York in order to save money

SHQ

The SHQ element has had a number of changes. A warm welcome is extended to **Zoe**, the Sqn Comd and his wife **Annette**'s baby daughter. Best wishes to **Pte Jo Bower**, the Sqn Clerk, on her marriage to **Sig Dave Coster**. A fond farewell to **Capt Debbie Douglas**, who is leaving the Army, **SSgt (SQMS) Dave Till** who is looking forward to running his own business, **SSgt (YofS) Dave Brudenall** who leaves for 2 Sig Bde (NC) and to **Cpl Tom Johnson** who remains in Colerne with 21 Sig Regt (AS).

PHANTOM TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Lee O'Rourke**

On Saturday 9 July 21 Sig Regt (AS) held an Air Formation Open Day at Colerne Airfield. Phantom Tp, under **SSgt Rab Marshall** organised a Charity Balloon Race to raise money, as a leaving present, for local charities. **Sig** 'Mac' **McNicholas** won first prize of £50 (no it was not a fix!) for the furthest balloon which was found near Romford, East London. Colerne Primary School was presented with a cheque for £200 to renew the Fitness Trail on their playing fields and a further £200 was presented to the local church to restore the church bells. Toys were bought with the remainder of the money raised and given to the John Apely Children's Ward in Bath. Thanks goes to everyone who bought a balloon and a special thanks to **Cpl Si Cullen**, **Sigs Den Pryor-Healey** and 'Scouse' **Fairclough** for their hard work in organising and running the event.

Farewell and best wishes from the Troop go to **LCpl Si Kenny**, **Sig Chris Chrysostomous** and **Sig Jim Copp**. A warm welcome to **Sgt Paul Garrett**, **Cpl** 'Mac' **McGachy** and **LCpls Bean**, **O'Mahony**, **Trafford** and **Sig Parker**. Congratulations go to **Sgt** 'Johno' **Johnston** on his recent promotion and to **LCpls Roberts** and **Farrell** on promotion to Lance Corporal.

SSgt Rab Marshall, Cpl Si Cullen and Sig 'Scouse' Fairclough donate £200 to Colerne Parish Church

HARRIER TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt Colin Kell**

A warm welcome to **2Lt Kell**, **Sgt Billy Bingham** and **Cpls** 'Taff' **Prance** and **Jed Bromley**. We hope you enjoy your stay in Harrier Tp. A fond farewell to **Sgts Paul Choules** and **Alex Hurst**, **Sigs Browne**, **Mangan**, **Verrinder** and **Lt Andy Fallows** and his wife **Rachel**.

TORNADO TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Dominic Sharkey**

At the end of a busy exercise and prior to the move to York the Troop lost some of its stalwarts. A fond farewell is extended to **SSgt** 'Gaz' **Davies**, **Cpls** 'Plug' **Darnell**, 'Scouse' **Josse**, 'Robbo' **Robinson**, **LCpl Eddie Aggar**, **Sigs** 'Rabs' **Raby**, 'Punchy' **Punchard**, 'Skids' **Skidmore**, **Phil Humphreys**, 'Goders' **Godfreys**, **J. C. Hedouin** and **John Walker**. We welcome the following new members to the Troop, **Cpl Neil Wellings**, **LCpls Dicken**, **Teale**, **Sigs Fred Peebles**, **Gavin Makewell**, **Jim Skelton** and 'Wiggy' **Wigglesworth**. Congratulations to **Cpl Nige Back** on his promotion to Sergeant and to **LCpl** 'Monty' **Montgomery** on his recent promotion.

219 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Bruce Avison**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Dave Showell**

PHOENIX TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Robby King**

The last reporting period has been an exceptionally busy one for the glorious Phoenix Tp. There have been many sad farewells which provided the excuse for a most excellent leaving do! Firstly, we said goodbye to **SSgt Steve Pellant** who takes over as Sqn YofS and will be sadly missed. **Cpl** 'Geordie' **Ridley** leaves us for Civ Div, with a wad of redundancy money and is followed by **Sigs Paul Brown** and **Marc Orchard** who are also throwing themselves at the mercy of Civ Div. **LCpl Paul Rowson** eventually leaves 2 Sig Regt for 14 Sig Regt (EW) after six years and **LCpl Dunc Cupit** and **Sig Craig Malcolm** for Eagle Tp.

We said hello to **Sgt Alex Hurst** from 217 Sig Sqn, who takes over from **SSgt Pellant**. **Sgt Andy Jenno** arrives from Blandford and finally fills the Tp Tech Sgt slot. **Sig Sam Muhsin** who joins us from 214 Sig Sqn. **Cpl Ev Bennett** and **Sig Paul Renwick** complete the Troop ORBAT, joining the Troop from Eagle Tp. In all, a pretty hectic turnaround.

Lt Robbie 'the Whale' King sea-launches from 35ft

EAGLE TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Dan Tomlinson**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Miles Webb**

June consisted of two fast moving exercises spanning the UK with a brief gap between to draw breath. **SSgt Miles Webb** got a baptism of fire when he found himself commanding the Troop on his first exercise whilst **Lt Dan Tomlinson** and several others went off to compete for the Regimental athletics team. We managed to break half the vehicles we took out with us but careful packing and a very full DAF got us through and comms in.

Then followed Kohima Weekend. The Inter Corps Athletics involved several Troop members, including **Cpl Tim Tomkinson** who departed from his normal event (the 110m Hurdles) to come second in the High Jump!

Welcome to **Sig Jon Hanes** and **Sig Andy Stenton**, both posted in time to go straight out on exercise. The Squadron reorganisation brought some changes with **LCpl Dunc Cupit** and **Sig Nick Malcolm** arriving from Phoenix Tp, while **Cpl Ev Bennett** and **Sig Paul Renwick** left us. **Sig Willy Wilson** left to become Mr Wilson, good luck to him in the licensing trade! **LCpl** 'Taff' **Berrill** and **Sig Jimmy Strouts** have both been posted out and **LCpl Arnie Arnott** has managed to get married and posted all in the same month. Some people have all the luck!

FALCON TROOP

Tp Comd **2Lt R. Sellwood**

There has been a large turnover of personnel. Welcome to **Cpls Andy Hayler**, **Chris Kelly**, **Sigs Paul Bury** and **Barry Nicholson**. Farewells to **Cpl Lassetter** and **Sig Tim Jones**, **LCpls Chris Downie**, **Mick Waldron** and **Sig Taff Treharne** to Civ Div.

There has also been a change of Tp Comd from **Lt Hill** to **2Lt Sellwood**. A big farewell to **Lt Jules Hill** who is off to Shrivenham to be educated. Congratulations must go to Falcon SAN 1 who, under the expert guidance of **Lt Hill** and **SSgt Clements**, moved the whole SAN into a DS location on Ex Summer Eagle then set-up without even waking the DS Staff! (The wearing of slippers on exercise does have its benefits.) Many thanks to **Sig Denham** who, thanks to his diligence and devotion to duty, allowed us to make the move.

LOOK AT LIFE VISIT

The Squadron has undertaken a number of Look At Life visits recently with about 60 young people coming to see what the Army might have to offer. Each visit comprises a series of activities and static displays and allows the children hands-on use of the equipment and the opportunity to talk to those of us who have already taken the plunge. Falcon Tp have been at the fore of these visits and **SSgt Steve Clements** has maintained an enthusiastic and vibrant attitude towards his task.

3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Bulford Camp

THE REGIMENTAL OPEN DAY

The Second Open Day held by 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt took place in glorious sunshine. Shorts, t-shirts, sunglasses and ice-creams abounded as the families of the Regiment as well as our Old Comrades of the 3 Division Reunion Club were welcomed to the event.

Opened by Patti Cauldwell of Meridian TV, the first display of the day was a five man drop by the Blue Helmets. During the course of the day spectators were able to enjoy spectacular shows by the HMS Sultan Window Display Team in the simulated rigging of an old ship, an arena falconry handling display, the MOD Dog Handling Display team, a Landrover assault course, an It's a Knock Out competition and Unarmed Combat skills.

The Band of the Army Air Corps performed excellently throughout the Open Day and also as the accompaniment to the hymns at our Sunday Church Service the next day.

Various stalls included the coconut shy, waltzer, bungee running and the unit personalities took their places in the stocks and on the ducking stool for charity.

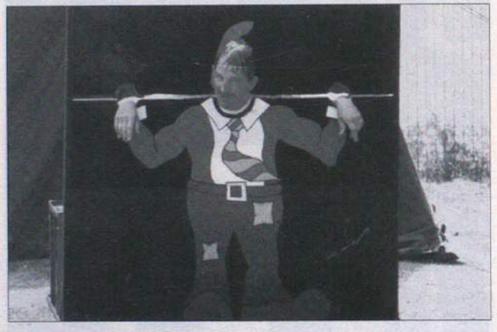
Any profits from the day will go to charity. One of the most notable fund-raising activities was by 222 Sqn who managed to raise a total of £1,339 with a charity march from Bognor Regis to Bulford Camp.

It was hard work, it was hot, as ever the Old Comrades were a pleasure to have in our messes and the weekend will not be quickly forgotten by all who attended.

All involved confirmed the successes of the Open Day and fete are due particularly to the project officer **Maj John Hornby** our HQ Sqn Comd.

The CO Lt Col Ian Foxley with WO1 (RSM) Dave Wilson and Brig (Retd) J. D. T. Brett the President of 3 Div Sigs Reunion Club with the D-Day Silver centre piece

Presentation of Regimental Standards at St George's Garrison Church, Bulford



CO in the Stocks at the Regimental Fete

222 Sig Sqn Charity March from Bognor Regis to Bulford in Aid of Cancer Research. (Over £1,000 collected!)

THE MYLES SHARMAN TROPHY

In May 1992 **Cpl Myles Sharman** was tragically killed whilst serving with 3 Sqn 22 Sig Regt. In memory of their son, the **Sharman** family donated a trophy to the Squadron to be presented annually to best Squadron sportsman. On the disbandment of 22 Sig Regt, 3 Sqn moved to become part of 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt and was retitled 222 Sqn. **Mr Sharman** is seen here with **Maj Colin McGrory** presenting his trophy and sports equipment vouchers to the value of £50 to **Sig Bob Bartlett** of 222 Sqn at the Regimental Weekend. **Sig Bartlett** is the Junior Master-at-Arms of the Army for fencing and represented the Army in Inter Services Championships at the Royal Tournament this summer.

(L to R): Maj Colin McGrory 222 Sqn Comd with Mr Michael Sharman and Sig Bob Bartlett

EXERCISE SECOND FORAY

Exercise Second Foray was the HQ 3 (UK) Div Chief of Staff training exercise which took place earlier in the year. The Signal Regiment deployed to locations in the South West based on Aircraft hangars at former RAF and USAF locations such as Abingdon, Greenham Common and Hullavington. These proved excellent HQ locations and saved on the camouflage and concealment. The exercise was a great success and good practice for the Divisional Commander's Exercise, Iron Compass.

Working hard but in high spirits behind the scenes on Ex Second Foray

WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

We come from two World Wars, Korea, Kenya, Malaya, Aden, Cyprus, Ulster, The Falklands and all those areas of turmoil where peace must be restored.

Now, disabled and mainly aged, we must look to you for help. Please help by helping our Association.

BLESMA looks after the limbless from all the Services. It helps to overcome the shock of losing arms, or legs or an eye. And, for the severely handicapped, it provides Residential Homes where they can live in peace and dignity.

Help the disabled by helping BLESMA with a donation now or a legacy in the future. We promise you that not one penny will be wasted.

THE FIRST STEP
by a recent, young double amputee

PLEASE GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE

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Donations and information: The Chairman, National Appeal Committee, BLESMA, Midland Bank PLC, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9DX

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7 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

CO	**Lt Col D. McDowall MBE**
Adjt	**Capt D. Craft**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Clifford**

RHINE GARRISON CRICKET CUP FINAL

The final of the Rhine Garrison Major Unit Cricket Cup was contested at JHQ on Thursday 14 July between 7 and 16 Sig Regt.

16 Sig Regt batted first with the CO, **Lt Col Fisher**, getting them off to a steady start before **Youd** fell to the accurate fast bowling of **Harrison**. 16 Sig Regt were then pinned down by accurate bowling by **Pidcock** (2–22) and **Hooper** (2–30) backed up by excellent fielding as 16 Sig Regt slowly progressed to 85 for 5. The return of **Harrison** (3–20) together with **Moore** (3–7) led to a collapse with 16 Sig Regt finishing on 91 all out. Only **Fisher** (16), **Balado** (26) and **Osbourne** (23) reached double figures.

Pidcock and **Groundsell** then opened 7 Sig Regt's innings and scored freely to put on 72 before **Groundsell** fell for 32. **Pidcock** and **Hooper** then saw 7 Sig Regt to victory with **Pidcock** finishing not out, 37.

At the end of a very exciting final the trophies were presented by **Brig A. J. Raper MBE**. 7 Sig Regt moved into the UKSG(G) Cup.

CADRE COURSE–EXERCISE FAST CURVE

Ex Fast Curve took place at both Bradbury Barracks in Krefeld and on Arsbeck training area. Thirty of the Regiment's potential JNCO's took part in this fast moving and gruelling course whose aim was to assess soldiers potential for promotion.

The course was led by **2Lt Nick Shenow** along with **WO2 Altham** and the Regiment's experienced training wing. The week began with entrance tests, ATD assessments, an introduction to orders and a water crossing; providing the students with the background knowledge they would require on the FTX assessment phase.

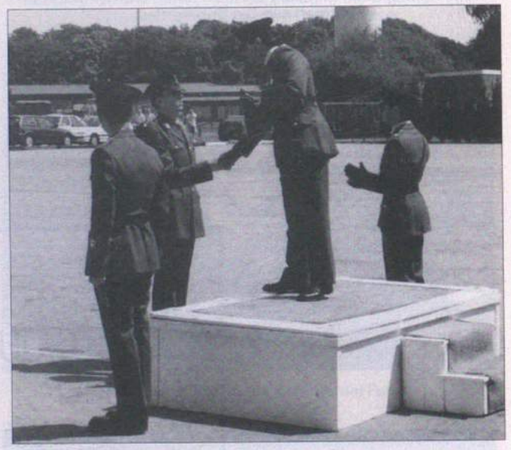
The first part of the week went well with encouraging progress particularly on the orders front. We were not so encouraged however when an LSW slipped off a 'Bergen raft' and sank to the bottom of a local quarry. Our safety diver found the weapon with only two minutes of air left to spare.

Students at the end of the river crossing

The Field training exercise got off to an excellent start by deploying with one of RAF Laarbruchs Chinook helicopters. Not wishing to break with tradition, the RAF dropped us off at an unexpected grid. After a little 'flapping' the Platoon Commander managed to find the Platoons harbour area; the delay, keeping the directing staff from their much needed sleep.

Once in full swing the course was kept extremely busy preparing orders for its patrols for recovery of food caches and recces of enemy locations. At every stage the sweltering heat made simply routine tasks extremely uncomfortable. The exercise finished in grand style with a Platoon level ambush. The course students were surprised to find their Squadron Commanders were now acting as the enemy; needless to say the strong temptation to 'lay the boot in' to their enemy harassers of the past few days was quickly checked.

A first tab from the ambush sight to our HLS and the RAF swiftly whisked us back for 'Tea and Medals'. The following morning saw the final physical event, the dreaded stretcher race emphasising the gap between those who had potential and those who hadn't. At last it was all over; the CO inspected the course, and the top student **Sig Purdon** marched them off the Regimental Parade square. Most of the students learned a great deal from the course, in many cases surprising themselves, not to mention the DS.



Sig Purdon accepting top student trophy from the CO

231 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Miller**
SSM	**WO2 Pocock**

PAGE TROPHY

After the tragedy of the Morrison Cup, remember it's not winning that counts it's taking part that matters. Congratulations to all those who took part in the Page Trophy assault course competition where the team, which was headed by **Capt Alderson**, miraculously came first after setting the pace and with a lot of blood and sweat fended off and blew away all of the other competition.

Well done the Swimming and Cricket teams who also with a lot of hard work and determination came first. Congratulations to all those who took part.

DAY IN THE RESPIRATOR TESTING STATION

The scene was set, it was unbearably hot, the Testing Station was full of CS Gas and, the assault course was ready and waiting.

Everyone was there raring to go. The shout was given by **SSgt** 'Gunny' **Brand** and everyone hurriedly got into full 'IPE' and prepared themselves for a wonderful coughing and spluttering session in their chamber.

SSgt 'Gunny' **Brand** took us around the assault course just to show us what degradation was really about while **Sgt Richie Morgan** decided he already knew what it was about and left us to it.

After being in the Testing Station and going around the obstacle course twice **Sig** 'Bagpuss' **MacDonald** looked as if he had been on a water crossing instead of his NBC ATD's.

FAREWELLS AND CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to say farewell to **SSgt Mick Halford** and wife **Rosemary**, wishing them all the best for the future. Also farewell to **Capt Andy Parsons** and wife **Karen** who go to Ireland, **Lt Catherine Waudby** and her husband **Glenn** who go to Harrogate, **Sig Karen Abbot** who leaves the Army. A very big goodbye to the longest serving person in 231 Sig Sqn **LCpl Ian Sanders** who leaves us for civilian life; all the best.

We would also like to say a hearty congratulations to **Cpls** 'Mac' **MacIntyre**, **Richie Richardson**, **Lee** 'Tosh' **Northeast** and **Adrian Haslam** on their promotion to Sergeant; all the best for the future. **Cpl Haslam** and his wife **Claudia** have recently had their first baby–**Natalia**. Congratulations and all the best at 19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn Catterick.

229 SIGNAL SQUADRON

TRUNK NODE 011

Tp Comd **Lt L. Golley**

A warm welcome to **Sgt Thompson** and **Sig Goodall** into the Troop and a fond farewell to **Sgt Price**, **Sigs Trowell** and **Clarke**.

Just as the tide of promotions appeared to have run dry we have been hit with a minor flood; congratulations to **SSgt Al Keen**, **Cpl** 'Rocky' **Hudson** and soon to be **LCpl Tom Sharp** on their promotions.

TRUNK NODE 012

Tp Comd **Lt Nick Range**

Firstly, fond farewells go to **Sig Andy Howard** who is leaving the Army, **Cpl Andy Hayler** who returns to 2 Sig Regt, and to **Cpl Neil Sorley** and **Sig Si Rudge** who leave the Troop but remain within the Regiment. A warm welcome to **Cpl** 'Mac' **McIntyre** and family who join us from 231 Sig Sqn. All would like to congratulate **LCpls** 'Johnno' **Johnson** and **Glen Neighbour** on their recent promotions.

TRUNK NODE 013

CONGRATULATIONS

A big cheer and lots of 'hurrahs' for **LCpls Castano** and **Robertson** on their promotion. They say the best things in life are worth waiting for.

Didn't we have a lovely time the day RSIT came to inspect us? Amid cries of 'Don't worry' and shouts of 'We're ready', sure enough they managed to destroy any faith that we had in the system.

FINAL ALLIED PARADE – BERLIN

A team of 75 from the Regiment went to Berlin for the last Allied Force Parade in Berlin.

The Parade took place on Saturday 18 June. The British contingent marched on behind the French with the Americans hot on our heels.

Everyone involved and the enormous crowd of onlookers all took pride in all that had been achieved over the years and were pleased to have witnessed this historic occasion. In addition to the Parade there were displays by parachutists, a motorcycle display team and a helicopter fly past.

Two and a half hours after marching on the squad were pleased to quench their thirsts with Coca Cola!

The amount of favourable press coverage that followed the Parade made us feel very proud to have participated. Well done to all those concerned.

ANNUAL OFFICERS' v SERGEANTS' MESS CRICKET MATCH

On 10 July the annual Officers' Mess versus Sergeants' Mess Cricket match took place in soaring temperatures on the Regimental Pitch. **Lt Nick Range** put **WO2 (SSM) Stanford**'s Sergeants' team into bat hoping for an early breakthrough. This soon came and after some tight bowling and acrobatic fielding, the Sergeants' team were struggling at 23 for 5. **SSgt Stu Read** kept his head and batted through to the innings top scoring with 28. This gave the Sergeants' Mess total of 84 all out some respectability and gave the Officers a target of just over four runs per over.

Lt Nick Range and **Capt Dave Wilson** opened well putting on 35 for the first wicket. After a very brief appearance at the crease by **Maj Andy Hickling**, **Maj Julian** (Don Bradman) **Turner** and **Glen Waudby** set about the Sergeants' Mess attack. The match looked to be heading for a close finish, however, **WO2 (SSM) Simcox** 'over' and two huge **Maj Turner** 'sixes' later and it was all over. The Officers ran out winners by eight wickets and **RSM Phil Clifford** reluctantly presented **Lt Col David McDowall** with the trophy that had not been in the Officers' Mess possession since 1986.

Lt Col David McDowall accepts the cricket trophy from WO1 (RSM) Clifford

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

CHAMPIONS

The women of 8 Sig Regt scored a notable and resounding success at the Army inter unit athletics-a magnificent victory. Winners: **Sig** 'Twitcher' **Morris** was outstanding at the 800m and 1500m, **Sig** 'Coach' **Michalska** the 200m and 400m, **Sig Angela Tudge** the shot, **Sig Louise** 'SF' **Hunton** the 100m Hurdles. The rest of the team, however, put the icing on the cake and won the Trophy!

The victorious team:
Back row *(L to R)*: Sig Angela Tudge, Sig 'Todd' Sweeney, Sig Louise Hunton, Sig Ann-Marie Reed
Front row *(L to R)*: Sig Lyndsey Howson, Sig Karen McIlvaney, Cpl Ali Garven, Sig Sophie 'Twitcher' Morris, Sig Carmen 'Coach' Michalska

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT

The Master of Signals presented LS & GC awards to a select band on 6 July; LCpl through to WO1 and an officer. **Maj Tom Friend MBE** received the rare distinction of the Clasp.

LS & GC Presentation
WO2 (RQMS) Steve Barnes, LCpl Mike Holbourn, SSgt Steve Hughes, Cpl Alan Taylor, Sgt Craig Avey-Hebditch, WO1 (RSM) M. G. George, Maj T. J. Friend
Col J. R. B Cook CO, Mrs Alison Holbourn, Mrs Sue Hughes, Mrs Sue Seven, Mrs Corrina Avey-Hebditch, Master Christian Avey-Hebditch, Mrs Diane George, Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL, Master of Signals

WHERNSIDE – THE ROYAL SIGNALS ADVENTURE TRAINING CENTRE

The magnificent Whernside Manor nestling in Dent Dale has undergone a change of management but remains very much open for business.

THE LAST LINE COURSE

The last Line Course was marked by the CO **Col J. R. B. Cook** presenting Line belts in the field.

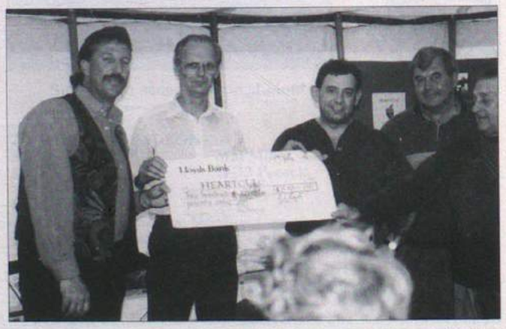
Col J. R. B. Cook presenting the coveted Line belt to Sig Dilip Kumar Rai QG Signals

WIMBLEDON '94

Capt Kate Moore led a team of 'cover operators' to Wimbledon '94. The glorious weather, superb tennis and tasty strawberries were much appreciated by all who were lucky enough to be selected to go.

HEARTCLIC

On 6 July two stalwart anglers of the Regiment, **WO2 (SSM) Bob Snow** and **Mr Brian Bruton** together with local past members of the Corps, **Capt** (Retd) **Henry Jenning** and **Mr Dusty Millar** fished the Castle Howard Lake in aid of HEARTCLIC, the British Heart Foundation and the Cancer and Leukaemia in Children Trust. The 41 competitors raised over £4,000 of which £570 was raised by our team.



Mr Ian Botham accepting the cheque for £570 on behalf of Heartclic from the stalwart anglers, Mr Brian Bruton, WO2 Bob Snow, Capt (Retd) Henry Jenning and Mr Dusty Millar

LANYARD TROPHY

The Lanyard Trophy is a time honoured competition between UK based Royal Signals units. Originating in the myths and legends of airborne folklore, it involves a forced march over challenging terrain for some 40 miles carrying 40lb bergens. The competitors are, to a man, steely-eyed volunteers who dare to stiffen the sinews and stretch the nostrils wide for this annual endurance extravaganza. Loosely translated, this means that this year's event was a 13 to 20 something hour slog over the best hills North Yorkshire had to offer, carried out by grown men who should have known better.

As a result, a programme was swiftly developed by which selected team members passed on their own particular individual skills as we marched. **Cpl Paul Beattie** gave a graphic lesson on economy of effort. **Sgt Smith** did one on advanced navigation, **Capt Dooley** demonstrated Olympic Marathon Pacemaking and **Cpl Andy Lothian** managed a few words on determination. Special mention should go to the RSM, who put in a surprise guest star appearance after 12 hours or so and produced a masterful lesson (viewfoils, slides, models, demo, role play and all) on morale and its effects on performance.

At the end, we had nine people still standing, which was a magnificent achievement given the restrictions of our prior training schedule. We weren't winners, but neither did any of us lose. After all, if it's not hard, it's not worthwhile.

The Lanyard Trophy Team
(L to R): Sleepy, Grumpy, Happy, Bored, Hobbler, Strider and Dopey

SCHEMES TROOP SUMMER CAMP 1994

The annual summer camp for Schemes Tp this year took place in Chickerall Camp, Weymouth, Dorset. The rock climbing and abseiling on Portland provided some anxious moments, not least of all for **Cpls Oldfield**, 'Ferret' **Cox** and 'Eyes' **Dixon** the intrepid trio of instructors. The tensile strength of the rope was tested by **FofS** 'Tiny' **Moir** which gave everyone else confidence. The canoeing was taken by **FofS Ian Hugill** and **SSgt Simon Tatman** with assistance from **LCpl** 'Olly' **Holburn** who even managed to learn to roll unlike **Cpl Sean Meadows**. The trekking was carried out on the South Coast Path from Lulworth Cove to Weymouth and gave some excellent views of the Tall Ships in Weymouth harbour. The Tall Ships race organised by the Tp Comd, **YofS Marty Fielding**, to coincide with the summer camp provided excellent night time entertainment. The mountain bikers under the watchful eye of **Cpl** 'Taff' **Evans** and **LCpl Mick Eades** provided our fourth activity and a spectacular crash between **Cpl** 'Bes' **Beswick** and **Cpl Bill Mill** provided the entertainment. The week culminated in a barbecue and games night organised by **SSgt** 'Ginge' **Colburn** and attended by the Sqn Comd ending the final Schemes Tp summer camp on a fine note.

EXERCISE DUMMY RUN

Ex Dummy Run was a sponsored cycle ride from Catterick to Blandford Garrison by Schemes Tp of 8 Sig Regt in aid of the charity Mencap and the New Museum. The cycle team consisted of **Sgt Dave Cook**, **Cpl Evans**, **Cpl** (Mr) **Kavanagh**, **LCpl Eades** and **LCpl** 'Ollie' **Holbourn**. The cyclists had excellent back up support from an admin team consisting of **Cpls Mill**, 'Midge' **Muir**, **Burn** and **LCpl Wood**.

At 0900 hrs, Monday 13 June, we found ourselves bathed in sunshine at the entrance of Vimy Barracks for the Commanding Officer, **Col J. R. B. Cook** to set us on our way. The route took in ice cream at Ripon, Buxton, Drayton Manor Pleasure Park, Salisbury Plain and finally Blandford on Saturday 18 June. The team handed the Master of Signals a cheque for £250 for the New Museum Fund and were able to give Mencap £1,269.23. Special thanks must go to **Cpl Evans** who not only thought of the idea, but put all the work into it, making it such a success.

Exercise Dummy Run
(L to R): LCpl Eyes Eades, Sgt Dave Cooke, LCpl 'Ollie' Holbourn, Cpl 'Mr' Kavanagh, Cpl Evans

THE NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM – LONDON

The Right to Serve:

Women in Britain's Land Forces from the Seventeenth Century to the Present Day

A new Special Exhibition at the National Army Museum
Open to Public: from 29 September 1994

Admission Free

13 Sig Regt (R)
BFPO 42

CO **Lt Col P. A. R. Rouse**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) H. R. Allison**

With the first soldiers posted out as part of the closure, there has been a flurry of activity to ensure that documentation etc. was all completed in time.

The planning of Ex Mercury Sunset also took up much time and involved many members of the Regiment. This event is included in this *Wire*.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We say farewell to **Cpl Tracey Lamingman** who left us for hotter climates on posting to 9 Sig Regt (R) and welcome her replacement **LCpl Mick King**. Also a swift welcome and farewell to **Sgt Billy Brogan** from CVHQ Worthy Down who joined us on a two week attachment.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate **LCpls Lorraine Gardiner**, **Tel Watson** and **Mick King** on their recent promotion and **LCpl Brian Peach** and **Andrea** on the birth of their son **Alexander**.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj I. L. Dudding**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) B. J. Alexander**

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Sgt Philip McSorley** and **Alison** on the birth of their twin daughters **Emily** and **Lucy**.

ONE SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj J. A. B. Floyd**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) D. I. R. Murray**

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd **WO2 F. E. Small**

The A Team have had a busy period, with teams competing in the Inter Troop sporting challenge, the Regimental softball league, and the Effeldsee raft race as well as heavy involvement in the Regimental Drawdown celebrations.

For the raft race the craft was constructed and driven by our two resident RAF attached personnel, **JTs John Surtees** and 'Rosy' **Procter**, both RAF rowers so great things were expected. **LCpls Daz Nicholson** and **Shane Hodgson** went along as ballast. In the end a creditable second place was gained, but more importantly, DM1500 was raised and given to LATCH children's charity. The Troop summer function followed at a medieval castle in Holland.

Finally, farewells to **WO2** 'Stitch' **Woollard** and **SSgt** 'Uncle Dave' **Randle**, both to Cyprus and **LCpl Tony James** to the UK. We wish them all the very best.

BRAVO TROOP

Tp Comd **WO2 P. Meadows**

After an early start to the softball league this year due to the USLO, **CW3 Guy Tirk**, leaving for a course in July, the competition was stronger than in recent years as the Troops became more proficient and after a three-way tie for second place, the final was played on Monday 25 July between Bravo Tp and TM/Comms Tp. As the teams took to the field, the weather was glorious and all was set for what promised to be an exciting final.

The first set of five innings were going well with Bravo Tp taking an early lead and consolidating well in the following innings until **Cpl** (now Sgt) 'Slugger' **Widdy Widdicombe** let the bat slip from his hand connecting fairly and squarely with the head of **Sgt** 'where did that come from' **Charlie Brown**. **Sgt Brown** is now well on the road to recovery after six stitches and some headache tablets!

A thunder storm stopped play at one game to nil for Bravo Tp with play postponed until the following morning. TM/Comms Tp, after some devastating play by Bravo Tp, were a mere shadow of the team who beat the Troop in the league and lost the day a resounding 10–31.

The trophy was presented by **Maj Ian Grant**, to the winning Captain, **LCpl Lamb**, the fourth consecutive year that Bravo Tp has won the competition.

CHARLIE TROOP

Tp Comd **SSgt P. A. Trethewey**

Congratulations and good luck to Troop members **Cpl Jim Porter** and **LCpl Marie Turner** on their recent marriage and we wish them all the best for the future. Also to **Sgt Andrew Jensen** and his wife **Jeanette** on the birth of their daughter **Jasmine** and **SSgt** 'Track' **Trethewey** and his wife **Alison** on the birth of their daughter **Megan**.

To celebrate our last summer in Germany we took over a medieval castle for the night which proved to be a great success, so much so that a number of other Troops decided that they should follow in our footsteps.

Everyone is now looking forward to the autumn when we shall say farewell to Birgelen and move to RAF Digby.

DELTA TROOP

Tp Comd **WO2 A. N. J. Ashwell**

Delta Tp has had a very successful and enjoyable last few months. No less than 13 Troop members have represented the unit in different sporting disciplines. These include: **WO2 Andy Ashwell** (Corps Golf, 2IC Regt Marching Team), **Cpl John Brooke** (Welsh 1000, Athletics, Cross-Country, Regt Marching Team), **Cpl Paul Coop** (Corps Golf, Regt Football, Swimming), **Cpl** 'Chopper' **Christopher** (Regt Orienteering Team), and **JTW Paula Mansell** (RAF UK Rowing Team).

Several of the Troop have been selected for various adventure training pursuits. **JTW Mansell** is currently in Thailand on Ex Pagoda Backstop, **JT Chris Morton** is sailing off the Dutch coast, **LCpl** 'Skid' **Rowe** is looking forward to a sailing exercise in the Mediterranean and other lads and lasses are eagerly awaiting our own Regimental pursuits.

LCpls Dai Coomber and **Jay Aldred** were lucky enough to go on an exchange visit with the Americans at Field Station Augsburg. Both had a very enjoyable three weeks.

Socially we have had a tremendously successful final Troop summer function at the Kasteel Limbricht in Holland. This was followed a few days later with a very social barbecue. Sadly we have had to say farewell to **SSgt Nige Watton** on posting to 399 SU RAF Digby, along with **Sgt Andy Butler** and **Julia**.

Cpl Steve Thomas and his family are leaving for civvy street and also **LCpl** 'Chuck' **Walker**. We wish them all good luck for the future.

SHERPA VAN PUSH

On 21 May, 16 volunteers from 1 Sqn took part in a sponsored Sherpa van push organised by **Sgt Johnston** RAF, on attachment from RAF Digby. The aim of the event was to 'push' a 1,340kg Sherpa van for a distance of 10 miles in order to raise money for Save the Children Fund.

The push took place on the Regimental Parade square and was started at 1400 hrs by the CO. Unfortunately, the rain began at 1359 hrs which rather dampened the enthusiasm of the three teams of pushers.

After a total of 1 hr and 24 mins the final team of six pushed the van over the finish line. There was great relief, not least for **JTW Trudy Buxton** who steered the van the entire time in permanent circles.

The volunteers were: **WO2s Andy Ashwell** and **Paul Meadows**, **Cpls Steve Thomas** and **Steve Christopher**, **LCpls** 'Dinger' **Bell**, 'Chuck' **Walker**, **Ian Potton**, **Al Roscoe**, **Dave Janvier**, 'Scotty' **Hoffmann**, **Dean Lenton**, **Andy Knowles**, **Steve Ayres** and **JT Chris Morton**. They raised a total of DM800 for Save the Children Fund.

RAFT RACE

This year's raft race was organised by **SSgt Gillespie** and it took place on the Effeldçr Waldsee on Saturday 18 June. The race is a sponsored event raising money for LATCH, a children's cancer trust. After the rafts were inspected by the Regimental 2IC, for the best raft prize, they all took to the water. Fair play and rules of the sea were soon washed away as rafts jockeyed for positions at the start. Red Dwarf crewed by MT Tp got off to a good start and led all the way to the finish. Sinking rafts were abandoned as crews swam in shoals to waylay those rafts still in the race. A crowd of over 200 spectators applauded as Red Dwarf crewed by **LCpls** 'Scouse' **Woods**, **Glyn Bass**, **Loz Parry** and **Sgt Dave Copley**, survived several attempted hijacks to come in first followed by 'Stitch' Celeste crewed by Alpha Tp with U-99 crewed by the RAO in third place. The best raft prize went to Alpha Tp.

The crew of Red Dwarf repelling hijackers as they head towards the finish

UK TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

On a hot four days of the week 23–26 June the R Signals UK Tennis Championships were held at 21 Sig Regt (AS), Colerne. The competition was open to all serving and ex Corps personnel worldwide working alongside the Corps. The standard this year was high, especially for the men, but understandably it was the women's event that was uppermost on the mind of **Sig Sarah Steele** from Comms Tp, having won the competition last year, she was rated a hot favourite, a tag she did not relish. Another top placed female was **Sig Fiona Molloy** from 7 Sig Regt who is the current BAOR champion. Sadly only four females entered the competition and as a result of this poor turnout the organisers decided to play a mini round-robin to ensure fair play. It resulted in a **Molloy/Steele** final.

The final took place on Sunday in brilliant sunshine and high temperatures with a small crowd of spectators. **Sigs Steele** and **Molloy** both found the going extremely hot but in the end **Sig Steele** managed to retain her crown beating **Sig Molloy** 5–7, 6–1, 6–4. **Sig Steele** then played in the ladies doubles final and the mixed doubles final but came runner-up with her partners in both. Her dream of retaining the Ladies Singles Rose Bowl was now a reality and she returned to the Unit to present it for display.

WELSH 1000M MOUNTAIN PEAKS RACE

For the last time the Regiment team was entered into the Welsh 1000m mountain peaks race. Led by **Lt Simon Meadowcroft**, training started three months prior to the race, to ensure that by the time the team reached Wales, they were all prepared to put in a good time.

The team were **Cpls Ted Whichelo** and **John Brooke** and **LCpls Angus Morrison**, **Daz Nicholson** and 'Marty' **South**.

The course is very arduous and challenging, starting at sea level and finishing at the summit of Snowdon. The route crosses nine peaks of over 1000m and is 36km 'as the crow flies' in length. All Army teams entering the competition have to wear boots and lightweights and carry a small pack containing a survival kit.

Despite the pain, the team enjoyed the race and are already training for next year, when the application will be from 399 SU and not 13 Sig Regt.

'THE FINAL CURTAIN'

In the week following Mercury Sunset the Phoenix Players rose once again from the ashes and put on a stunning review. Directed by ex-serviceman, turned computer whizzkid, **Jim Rolfe** and produced by **Lt Angus Small** 'The Final Curtain?' combined music, comedy and a dash of pathos in a very popular and successful show.

Much of the material was written by **Maj Ian Henderson** and despite the disclaimer in the programme–'Any perceived similarity between any character portrayed in 'The Final Curtain?' and any real person is entirely coincidental'–there were some members of the Regiment who were almost certain that they had been portrayed! It was however all in good taste and no feelings were hurt.

Interspersed amongst the sketches were musical interludes from the band QRM with lead singer **Sig Tracy Farr** and a couple of moving solo's from **WO2 Kev Bamforth**. **SSgt** 'Farmer' **Vaughan** provided incidental music while **SSgt Caterina Scott**, **LCpl Andy Dale** and **Sig Tracy Farr** provided the modern day equivalent of Legs and Co.

The actors and actresses are too numerous to mention, but they came from all departments in the Regiment including wives and civilians and demonstrated a surprising amount of hidden talent. **Capt Martin Corcoran** proved to be an excellent RSM and **JT Simon Dodsworth** showed clear potential to be a future CO.

And finally not to be forgotten are those who worked hard behind the scenes to make it all possible. At an early stage it was decided to put on the show in the old Globe cinema. The cinema had been closed some years previously and all the seats removed to enable it to be used as a storage area. A considerable amount of effort went into returning it to its former glory to make it a fit place for both audience and cast. Without the assistance of those behind the scenes 'The Final Curtain?' could not have been the success it was.

The Regiment was entertained and enthralled by the Officer's v Sergeant's Mess in the three legged volley ball competition at which the CO, **Lt Col Philip Rouse**, and his third leg, **Maj Rab** 'The Knee' **Butler** gave a wonderful display of coordination and leaping skills which would have been the envy of any Olympic high jumper over the age of 80! In a second highly competitive and lucrative competition, the 50m egg throwing and catching competition, a new star emerged in the form of Sqn Comd HQ Sqn, **Maj** 'incoming eggshell' **Dudding**. He showed how months of training in the office dealing with incoming 'fast balls' or should it be 'eggs', payed off by catching no fewer than 9 eggs.

Our two magnificent chefs, **Maj Floyd**, and **Capt Coast** showed our Master Chef and the lads what a good Chef is all about–personal presentation and panache. As the coals got hotter and liquid refreshment got stronger their presentation, panache and their tall Chef hats began to wilt!

NIJMEGEN MARCHES

On 19 July, at 0430 hrs, the Regimental Marching team proudly lined up as part of a 1024 strong British Military contingent for the start of the 1994 Nijmegen Marches. It was to prove to be a tough and arduous four days of marching. The weather conditions were extremely hot and humid throughout and the roads seemed endless. Nevertheless, the team kept its spirits up despite a lot of discomfort.

It was an experience not to be forgotten with some good memories, and a strong comradeship with teams from our own and other countries. The overriding memory for most however, has got to be the kindness and generosity of the Dutch people. After four days of marching the team were disappointed that they had failed to gain the team medal but were very proud of their own personal achievements.

The team led by **WO2 Andy Ashwell**, were **Sgt Mark Jordan**, **Cpl Jonathon Brooke**, **LCpls Dave Janvier**, **Jonathon Aldred**, 'Skid' **Rowe**, 'Fred' **Muchowski**, **Ian Potton**, **Alan Roscoe**, **Daz Nicholson**, and **Andy Miller**, **Pte Tracy Dewey** and **JT** 'Rosey' **Procter**.

The Regiment's team flying the flag during the Nijmegen marches

REGIMENTAL CRICKET TEAM

The final season for the Regimental cricket team is proving to be very successful, due mainly to the outstanding leadership and fine individual performances by the team's skipper, **Sgt John Sullivan** and vice-captain, **LCpl Brian Lamb**. The team has only been beaten once this season so far and has a very good chance of winning the Rhine Garrison League, an ideal farewell to Birgelen.

The Rhine Garrison Minor Units Cup Final was played in perfect conditions at Rheindahlen on Tuesday 12 July and resulted in a comprehensive win to the Regiment over 79 Railway Sqn RLC.

79 Railway Sqn RLC	88 all out
13 Sig Regt (R)	89 for 2

Three members of the team were rewarded with selection in the Royal Corps of Signals Eleven which won the BAOR Inter Corps Cricket Championships held during 27-30 July. Those selected were **Sgts John Sullivan**, **Chris Gibbins** and **LCpl Brian Lamb**.

'MORECURRY SUNSET'

On Friday 15 July, in the blistering heat of Birgelen, the Officers and SNCOs of the Regiment decided to show their appreciation to all the OR's and their families for all their hard work and commitment during the Regiment's disbandment weekend 'Ex Mercury Sunset'. The Officers cooked (literally), the Seniors plied beers and the OR's, so we were led to believe, enjoyed the treat.

14Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 36

226 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Don Macaulay**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Martin Waclawek**

SHQ TROOP

Farewell to the 2IC **Capt Graham Addley** who is posted to 24 Airmob Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210), to **SSgt (FofS) Rob** and **Karen Lane** who are posted on promotion to RSGS SHAPE and to **LCpl Chris Leader** who is off on an NI tour–all the best in your futures.

Welcome to **SSgt (FofS) Andy** 'Sweet William' and **Jacqueline Forbes** who join us on an inter Regt posting from 640 Sig Tp (sometime part of 237 Sig Sqn). Welcome also to **Cpl Daz Collins**, **LCpl Daz Brown** and **Sig** 'Pierre' **Napier**.

C (COMMS) TROOP

Tp Comd — **SSgt Danny Thornton**

Farewell to our Tp Comd, **2Lt Kev Mosby**, who leaves us for education at Shrivenham, to **Cpl Kev Swallow** posted to 220 Sig Sqn, **LCpl Dave Harris** posted to 207 Sig Sqn and **LCpl Billy Bremner** who goes to 21 Sig Regt. Good luck in your new posts. Welcome to **LCpl Wooley** from 229 Sig Sqn and **Sig Mark Rhodes** from 7 Sig Regt. Congratulations to **LCpl Scott Dernie** and **Sig Dawn Ullyart** on their recent marriage and to **Sig Ade Price** and his wife **Nicky** on the birth of their son **Thomas**.

R (ROMEO) TROOP

A/Tp Comd — **2Lt Jayne Appleby**

We bid a temporary 'adios' to the Tp Comd, **Capt Sharon Moffat**, and **Sgt Al Sutherland**, both detached to Boz. Have a good trip and keep your heads down!

The Troop welcomes several new members into its hallowed fold: **2Lt Jayne Appleby**, **Sgt Ian** 'Caravan' **Shrubb** and his family, **Cpl Tim Stevens** and his wife **Karen**, **LCpls Ange** and **Alan Elderbrant** and 'Ambrosia' **Rice**.

H (HF) TROOP

Tp Comd — **2Lt Ros Artley**

Departures include Tp Comd **Capt** 'Geordie' **Doughty**–best wishes to him and his wife **June** in his new post at RAF Digby. **Cpl Matty Laing** is leaving on posting to sunny Cyprus, which we hope the family will enjoy. Also off to pastures new at Tidworth is **Sig** 'Woody' **Woodman**; he will be missed. Welcome to **2Lt Ros Artley** from 245 Sig Sqn and **Lt John Smith**. Also with us is **Cpl Alan Elderbrant** and **LCpl** 'Geordie' **Anderson**. **Cpl** 'Chalky' **White** and **Sig** 'Ronald' **McDonald** have joined us on a temporary attachment from 245 Sig Sqn.

EXERCISE WHALE HUNT 2/94: 13-17 JUNE 1994

On 13 June the Squadron commenced Ex Whale Hunt with a Section Mil Skills Competition in the Vordon Training area masterminded by **WO2 (SSM)** 'Wack' **Waclawek**. The day started with an NBC scenario set up by **SSgt** 'Alf' **Cupper** and **Sgt** 'Al' **Sutherland** with casualties provided by **Cpl** 'Freddie' **Pullen**. After the initial test, and with a good working sweat, the sections moved off to complete various stands, comprising the Law of Armed Conflict, Recognition, S10 respirator, Map reading, Assault Course and the APWT. Whilst preparing for firing, the sections were subjected to the inevitable SOP kit inspection; the SSM discovered an amazing number of items had been 'lost on the assault course'! At 1500 hrs, when everybody thought that they had finished, the sections were lined up and sent off towards camp–it's that CFT time again. Ably led by **LCpl** 'Barny' **Revell** and **Cpl** 'Hoppy' **Hopkins** bringing up the rear the sections set off. All sections completed the CFT (despite the SSM's final steep hill and distance underestimate!) after a very strenuous day's activities. The competition was won by **Cpl Gill** and his section from H Tp.

That may have been the end of the competition but it was not the end of the day. By now, everyone was very tired but still had to return to camp and set up their detachments and establish a complete comms systems before end of play was called. The long day ended for most in the early hours of Tuesday morning. The rest of the exercise was conducted on camp. The additional Ptarmigan assets from 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt helped to make the training successful and proved a revelation to most of the specialist trades.

EXERCISE WINDY TOP

Flight RR3200 lifted off from the tarmac at RAF Brize Norton with all the grace and poise of a wounded albatross to begin our 8,000 mile southward journey to the Falkland Islands– Ex Windy Top 94 was off and running. We were led by **Sgt Marie Cottam** with a team consisting of **Sgt Bob Wright**, **Cpls Chris Dunn**, **Adi Donnaghie**, **LCpls** 'Pepsi' **Mattacola** and **Jason Huxley**. There was a brief, welcome stop-over at Ascension Island where we were greeted by temperatures of 27°C and warm rain. Once clear of Ascension, the pilot felt safe to announce that the Falklands was in the grip of a 2°C heatwave, he wished us a pleasant stay.

First impressions were not good–the Islands appeared quite bare and windswept. However, we soon found our hosts at Mount Pleasant (JSSU FI) to be a most helpful bunch who hosted us well.

The team was located at Mount Pleasant (though it was neither a mountain nor very pleasant . . .) for just over a week, during which time we prepared our equipment. The time arrived for our deployment to Byron Heights via Chinook helicopter (better than any ride at Alton Towers . . .).

Byron Heights is a very strange place and home to a rare breed of creature known as the 'mountain man'. These shy fellows are a reclusive species and tend to spend almost their entire tour atop a mountain struggling through deep snow drifts, freezing fog and gale force winds. For these reasons they have a habit of shouting a lot and walk around with their shoulders hunched against the gales.

We had been pre-warned about some of these little mannerisms by our recce team which consisted of **Capt** 'Geordie' **Doughty** and **Cpl Matt Laing**. They had advised us not to put our feet on the bar furniture or break off our ring pulls as this invariably led to a heavy beer fine or ringing of the bar bell. We must thank again all the members of 7SU for their help during the exercise and all the members of The Shepherds Club for seeing us through the long winter nights. On returning to MPA we managed to get away on a sightseeing trip to Stanley, where we visited such landmarks as the Stanley Totem Pole, the 1982 War Memorial and the Upland Goose Hotel.

EXERCISE MOBY DIAMOND 2

The annual adventure training camp began in typical fashion on a Sunday before sunrise! After a smooth, but lengthy journey we arrived at the Haus Am Brunnenbach near Sonthofen in time for dinner. Planned by **2Lt Kev Mosby**, it was executed by **WO2 (SSM)** 'Wack' **Waclawek** who ran the ten day CPC.

The next day the groups were tasked on various activities, including trekking, top rope and abseiling, and canoeing. **Lt Mosby** led the trekking which most people agreed was more like mountaineering and an oxygen mask and crampons would have come in handy. Hill walking on the first day began with an easy route but grew progressively longer. By endex groups were climbing peaks of over 1700m.

TRA was taught by **Cpl** 'Slim' **Barr**. Climbs ranged from beginner to a standard which even taxed the instructor. The main difficulty was the heat, with the temperature in the high 90s the rock face became hot enough to burn the skin. This didn't deter **Sgt** 'Chunky' **Watson** who conquered his fear of heights and completed a 40ft abseil. Two trips to Munich were organised by **WO2 Waclawek**.

Ex Moby Diamond 2 provided members of the Squadron with a valuable opportunity to gain experience in activities which were new to them–roll on the next Level 2/3 expedition!

EXERCISE WHALE DIAMOND 2: 21 JUNE-13 JULY 1994

Whilst the rest of the Squadron was down in Bavaria, seven of us took the opportunity to use the Corps yacht, *Quicksilver*, based at BKYC Kiel. With trepidation the first crew, comprising the intrepid skipper, **LCpl** 'Windy' **Gale**, **OCdt Matt Jones**, **Sig Claude Mellalieu**, **Sig Kath Hinsley** and **Nick Philbin** sailed out into gale force winds and driving rain.

Fortunately the Baltic rapidly calmed down to provide three weeks of excellent and enjoyable sailing; the problem now was if anything a lack of wind, but there were no complaints on the sun tan front. At Skagen there was a crew change, with **Sigs Andy Clarke**, **Nicky Daglish** and **Pippa Williams** coming aboard. We spent a day storing up before embarking on the return journey.

Despite often unfavourable winds *Quicksilver* was able to return via Copenhagen where we spent two days. As July was the festival season for the Danish islands, we received a particularly warm welcome from the Danes at most of our ports of call.

Ex Whale Diamond 2 introduced five members of the Squadron to offshore sailing and gave two others the opportunity to brush up on their skills. It won't be long before some of 226 are back onboard *Quicksilver* again.

Changeover for Ex Whale Diamond II crews
(L to R): Sig Andy Clarke, OCdt Matt Jones, Sig Nick Philbin, LCpl Gale
In Front *(L to R):* Sigs Pippa Williams, Claude Mellalieu, Cath Hinsley and Nicki Dalglish

'FESTIVAL OF SPORTS' WEEK

Predictably 'Festival of Sports' week kicked off before sunrise on a Monday! The first competition was the 'Quadrathon', organised so that individuals or teams only completed one event. Each discipline was largely run separately. Leading from the front, **Maj Don Macaulay** began the event by windsurfing around the Dummersee, a little behind the wake of HQ and 237. Unfortunately the dinghy section of the race had to be abandoned because of the lack of qualified personnel, but it wasn't long before the Sqn Comd handed over to our cyclists.

The Tour de France it was not, but there was no shortage of effort and **Cpl** 'Giz' **Bowers** and **WO2** 'Pathfinder' **Robertson** soon found themselves in sight of the finish line. It was at this stage that **Cpl Bowers** decided he would like to visit a German hospital, and hurled himself, to the ground at great speed. After being moved around various medical establishments, and then resting for a couple of days, **Cpl Bowers** happily made a full recovery. No 14 Sig Regt (EW) event would be complete without a healthy dose of running, and so **WO2 Eric Clee** led our band of runners to an exhausting finish on a very warm day.

Unfortunately, it was not to be our year in the cricket competition. Despite having some of the most talented players in the regiment we failed to reach the second round. An indifferent bowling performance left us chasing a total of 131, and with **SSgt Paul Gardner**'s early dismissal and **Cpl Cole** prodding his way to 35 off 16 overs, we never really looked like reaching the total in the allotted 20 overs.

Wednesday's swimming gala was a much brighter occasion for the Squadron. Wins for **Sig Nicky Daglish**, **Cpl Jason Meek**, **SSgt Danny Thornton**, **Sig Lovell** and myself set the standard for the team. Then **LCpl** 'Pav' **Fenwick** astonished everyone with a very quick PB and second place in the 50m freestyle. Encouraged by the close scores everybody performed well in the relays, winning two out of the three and coming second in the third. A very successful day earned the Squadron an impressive selection of medals and overall second place behind the well trained UK based 237 Sig Sqn.

Thursday's Boxing offered a suitable finale to a successful week. All of our boxers performed with style, finesse and power. Under the watchful eye and guidance of **LCpl Eddie Sharp** the team had blossomed into a potent force. Most notable was **Sig** 'Reggie' **Walsh**, who took the award for best boxer. All the bouts less one went in our favour but sadly this was not enough to carry away the trophy. The whole team celebrated the achievement of the quality of the team in the Sgts Mess afterwards.

Thursday also saw the Regiment once again participating in the sponsored Mini Bus Push in aid of Save The Children Fund. Organised and led by **WO2 'Jock' Robertson**, the team of 18 endured the stifling heat and achieved an excellent time of 61 mins 59 secs for the 10 mile push, coming a very close second to 9 Sig Regt (R) (who managed it in under an hour!). This was the second fastest time among the 20 odd teams who carried out the same event around the world on the same day. We would like to thank all those involved and all those who sponsored the team, not least, P&O who donated the first prize of a return ferry crossing to the UK.

The Sports Week offered a very welcome alternative to the Regiment's usual daily programme. The week proved to be demanding and rewarding, and was enjoyed by participants and spectators alike.

SPORTING EVENTS

Continuing the sporting vein, congratulations to the management-heavy Squadron tennis team (**Maj Macaulay**, **Capt Addley**, **WO2 Robertson** and **SSgt Gardner**) who were victorious in the rather damp Inter-Squadron Tennis Tournament (25 May), organised by our own **WO2** 'Jock' **Robertson**.

Congratulations also to those members of the Squadron in the Regiment Orienteering team who participated in the Royal Signals orienteering championships held in the East Midlands 4-5 May. **Capt** 'Geordie' **Doughty** was first on the B course and **Sgt Marie Cottam** helped the female team to become runners-up.

Finally well done to all the athletes of the Squadron who gave a gutsy performance in the Morrison Cup at Munchen Gladbach.

STOP PRESS: On 15 July all the available members of the Regiment completed Half Marathon with a difference (lots of hills!). The Squadron convincingly stormed home with **WO2 Eric Clee** first in 1 hr 20 min, **Sig Smith** second and nine of the first 20 runners from the Squadron.

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED SIX WEEKS BEFORE THE PUBLICATION DATE

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 40

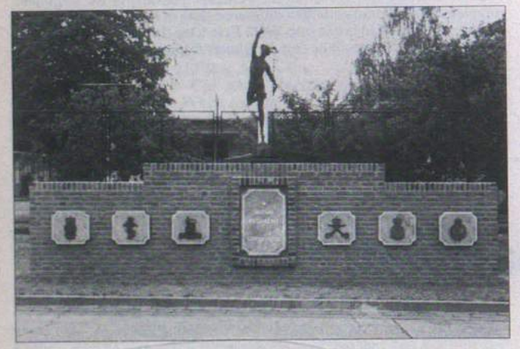
REGIMENTAL HISTORY
by **Lt Col N. Fisher**

I thought it might be useful to explain through the pages of *The Wire* how the move has affected the historical dimension of the Regiment. Before I took command of the Regiment in 1992 I knew as much about 16 Sig Regt as I did about other Regiments I had not served in. I was pleasantly surprised, therefore, when I did arrive, at the richness of the Regimental history built up after nearly 37 years in Krefeld. Since the Regiment was not disbanding I thought it important to ensure that this rich heritage accompanied the Regiment wherever it went.

The links with Krefeld and Leicester will be maintained. The Regiment enjoys the Freedom of Krefeld which it will retain for perpetuity. Consequently, the shields which hung over the entrance to RHQ still do but now in Rheindahlen. The link with Leicester was manifested in the Regimental Conference Room, the Leicester Room. This has been re-created at Rheindahlen with all its artefacts. The stained glass windows made by **WO2 (SSM) A. J. Tookey** that were part of the Leicester Room entrance have been moved. It will not be possible to use them as windows since the new RHQ does not have the space. However, they are to be hung against the glass wall in RHQ where the craftsmanship and colours of the glass can be better appreciated.

The Historical Room, with artefacts stretching back to the Second World War, and which catalogues the Regiment's march through time, is now in RHQ and available for anyone and all to see, particularly ex-members of the Regiment who may be visiting Germany.

Perhaps the most difficult decision was what to do with the Wall which, for many, is what they remember most about the Regiment. The original Wall was built under the guidance of **Lt Col Fred Orr**, the then Quartermaster. It depicted the Arms and Services that made up the Regiment at that time. As the picture shows, it was a uniquely 16 Sig Reg memorial. Since its construction, however, it has become much more than a memorial, more a focus for Regimental life. The Wall, with the Willow behind it, is depicted on many of the Regiments' photographs, pictures and PRI items. There were not many options available but to leave it in Bradbury Barracks and to turn our back on what has been the Regimental focus for so long was, I felt, inappropriate. So it has now been moved and re-constructed outside RHQ in Rheindahlen. In addition, a Willow has now been planted behind the Wall. The Signal Officer in Chief kindly 'opened' it on 18 May when he visited the Regiment for the first time in its new home. The 'act' was witnessed by **Maj Steven Bresloff** who now works as a Retired Officer in Rheindahlen but who was serving in the Regiment when the first Wall was built.



The reconstructed Wall outside RHQ in Rheindahlen

In addition to building the Wall, I had the Officers' Mess commission a silver centre piece. With financial assistance from the Corps' Heritage committee, the silver Wall is now complete and is a memorable addition to our history.

On leaving Krefeld, there were many farewells to the Stadt, with whom we have got along so well for such a long time. When asked, it was their wish that we presented a 'Denkmal' to them. This now stands in the Stadt Park close to the oak tree presented to Krefeld at the celebration of our last Freedom parade in 1992. In return, the Stadt presented the Regiment with its Stadt Flag which we have permission, from Moenchengladbach, to fly in our lines in Rheindahlen, named, incidentally, Krefeld Lines.

The Regiment is now settled into Rheindahlen and adjusting to its new environment. We have not disbanded and are still very much a force to be reckoned with at work and at sport. If any ex-members of the Regiment have old photographs which they feel would be appropriate for the Regimental collection in the Historical Room I would be very grateful for them. Similarly, if any members of the Corps are in the Rheindahlen area and would wish to visit the Regiment and the Historical Room they would be most welcome.

252 SIGNAL SQUADRON

A composite troop deployed on Ex Green Gambit under the able command of **SSgt Powell**. All performed admirably especially the teams in the inter Squadron sports. To all those who took part, well done, and to those who didn't, we'll get you next time!

After a brief respite for some well earned work the Squadron embarked on a joint summer camp with 255 Sig Sqn. After a long drive down to Berchtesgarten the troops led by **SSgt Gus Murray** partook of the local delights, courtesy of the American Forces Recreation Centre. Canoeing, windsurfing, climbing and Klettersteig were all undertaken during the day, with Regimental Formation Karaoke team taking prominence in the evening (keep taking the lessons **Linda**!).

Finally congratulations to **Sgt Anthea Jeffries** on her promotion and to **Cpl Henry** on coming off the board.

RSSST (G)

OC — **Capt Steve Williamson**

Farewell to **WO2 Jeff Newsome** and **Dawn** who are off to Belize; we shall certainly miss you. In **Jeff**'s place we welcome **WO2 Steve Wilks** and and his wife **Marie**, from Cyprus. Also off are **SSgt Phil** 'Blakey' **Tait** and **Carol** to project UNICOM at Worthy Down, **Sgt Keith** 'Fred Flintstone' **Horsfall** and **Vicki**, off to Larkhill. Welcome to **Sgt Paul** 'Chosen Man' **Youd** and **Julie**, who have finally escaped from the School, and **Cpl Stu Williamson** and his wife **Susanne** who join us from Hohne.

The team, as ever, has been busy on trials and screening programmes, and in the case of **Sgt Keith Horsfall**, whacking lumps of rubber around Bruggen Golf Course. Recent events include Regimental Battle Camp where **Sgt Paul Youd** narrowly missed losing his head, but his most important task was judging the left handed throwing competition, notably won by **Pte Clark** of SHQ.

Recently, **WO2 Jeff Newsome** chose to do some sightseeing in the Berchesgarten area, on a mountain bike. After a careful recce he decided to cycle a somewhat undulating 20km to a ferry terminal and take the boat back to camp. He arrived, tired but, fulfilled, at the ferry terminal, only to find out that bicycles were not allowed. **SSgt Jim Thompson**, saw him arrive back at the site a few hours later than anticipated.

REGIMENTAL BOXING COMPETITION

To the thundering sound of 'Eye of The Tiger' (Rocky Signature Tune), the Annual Regimental Boxing competition took place, for the first time in its new home in JHQ, Rheindahlen. The audience was treated to some fearsome fighting, so well done to:

Sig Morley (253) for his 'gutsie' performance in stopping the longer reaching **Sig Morgan** (255).

Sig Breaks (255) for his Tyson impression with a 20 second KO of the unfortunate **Sig Ritchie** (253).

Sigs Parkinson (252) and **Hellyer** (252) for impersonating a Chinook helicopter (arms everywhere) until they settled into a good scrap, **Parkinson** eventually stopping **Hellyer** in the final round.

Sigs Cardwell (252) and **Nightingale** (255) for producing the most well matched contest of the night, **Cardwell** taking it on a majority.

Sig Black (253) for an excellent display of controlled boxing earning the 'Best Boxer' award, eventually stopping the hard punching and very courageous **Sig Murray** (255) in the second round.

Cpl Howley (255) for producing the best combination of punches to put down **Sig Blair** (253). **Cpl Howley** won with a unanimous decision.

Sig Watson (255) for even stepping into the ring with **Sgt Scoots** (255) who took just one minute to convince him that he shouldn't be there.

LCpl Stevens (253) for out-boxing the luckless **Sig Wise** (255).

SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

The Women's team won both the Rhine Garrison and Zone (W) competitions and was narrowly beaten into third place in the UKSC(G) championships.

The men's teams came runners-up in the Rhine Garrison swimming and Water Polo and third in the Zone (W) competitions. The Water Polo team was beaten in the UKSC(G) semi-finals.

A special mention to **Sig Tracey Wheatley** who entered 6 of 7 UKSC (G) women's individual events and won all six! An established Army and Combined Services representative, **Sig Wheatley** is currently in UK representing the Army Team.

EXERCISE GREEN GAMBIT
A TROOP COMMANDERS VIEW
by **2Lt A. R. Harrison, G Tp, 255 Sig Sqn**

Green Gambit was the Regimental 'Preparation for Deployment' exercise that took place in June. The exercise was a cross between a Battle Camp and communications exercise set in an 'Out of Area' scenario.

As we deployed to Sennelager on day one I had mixed emotions although I did have this terrible feeling of trepidation–did someone think I had a better idea of the geography of Germany than I really had? By a considerable amount of nose following we arrived and promptly got lost inside the barracks, fortunately I managed to avoid deploying the MAN into the MRS!

The week quickly got underway with the Troop being robbed in the assault course competition (surely a case of itchy stop watch finger, **QMSI Wilson**! Anyway congratulations to Hotel Tp the winners). After the weekend sporting events we were soon into the serious business of field craft, fire and manoeuvre and of course tabbing! Throughout the week one of the problems constantly troubling me was how to keep everybody busy while they were 'heads down' tabbing, the answer of course being a few quick questions and answer sessions. (I think next year I better have a new plan as there may be dire consequences if I ask about Section Battle Drills or Principles of Defence ever again!)

Orders Group prior to the attack

A section prepares for live firing.
Comd Rhine Garrison and the CO look on

We finished the preparation phase with the March and Shoot competition, a March along some of the steeper tracks that Sennelager had to offer followed by a novel advance to contact/falling plate shoot conducted as a platoon. Would my Troop still speak to me after the march, would we be able to see the targets through the mist, would it ever stop raining? These were all crucial questions going through my mind as we headed towards the range. I need not have worried, my section commanders **Cpls** 'Brummie' **Perks**, 'Chalkie' **White** and **Carl Radley** had it well under control and thanks to some very good shooting especially by **Sig Keith** 'Dead Eye Dick' **Batey** we emerged damp but victorious.

Having prepared for deployment we then deployed to the small state of 'Durenia', which was being threatened by its larger neighbour 'Bergland'. Throughout the week the MAN moved, this time around the Monchengladbach area, sleep was in short supply except for a few notable personalities, (would the PV crew and Corps lights step forward!).

As the exercise drew to a close we re-deployed to Achmer to meet up with the other two Squadrons (252 and 253 Sig Sqns who had been on a slightly different second phase), having re-established an HQ site we waited for the exercise finale, an attack by the other two Squadrons on our site.

Would our cunning defensive plan work? Would **Sgt Lloyd Bath** work out the difference between a mini-flare and a LAW94? The attack started, and in a flurry of ricocheting mini-flares and confusion was soon over, we captured a few enemy and **Cpl Gary Sullivan** and other members of Line Tp set off in hot pursuit! Unfortunately, soon the shouts of 'stop' could be heard bellowing through the trees and it was all over, just in time for a quick barbecue and a move back to JHQ.

My memories of the exercise will be of getting my first real chance to see my Troop carrying out its skills and the question of whether the CO thought I was in bed for the entire exercise?

FATHER AND SON SERVE TOGETHER

The Regiment had the unusual experience of a father and son serving together in the Unit when **2Lt Darren Offord** joined his father, **Maj Dick Offord** for the duration of his six weeks attachment in the period between passing out of RMA Sandhurst and commencing his Troop Commanders Course at Blandford. It was a very proud, if somewhat shocked, father who found himself joining his son on the recent Regimental Battle Camp in an environment which he had thought he had long put behind him. **Darren** was lucky enough to command Line Tp throughout his attachment, a not to be forgotten experience and one which no doubt, he will retain fond memories of in the years to come. The Regiment wishes him all the best in his career.

Father and son serve together–2Lt Darren Offord and Maj Dick Offord

255 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Capt David Bizley**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Geoff Woodcock**

We have bade farewell to two Troop Commanders, **Lts Katrina Reynolds** and **Carole Rankin** and welcomed three new ones: **Lt Alex McLaughlin** straight from the Bar (the Legal one that is) and **2Lts Griffiths** and **Newell**, straight from the factory. The SSM is off to sunny climes, deserting us for Cyprus and promotion to RSM at 9 Sig Regt (R). All the best, we're not jealous, really. Farewell also to **SSgt B. J. Finister** off to count blankets at 1 Div, and **SSgt Dave Rook** off to Munster. Thanks for all your efforts as acting FofS.

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY

On 1 July the Regiment held its celebration of Princess Royal Day. It was a fun, family affair, which started with the Sergeants' Mess and their spouses being hosted to lunch in the Officers' Mess. There followed the afternoon's activities, consisting of an Officers versus Sergeants cricket match and an 'It's a Knockout' Competition. Despite attempts to scupper the opposition in the mess beforehand, and some sterling performances from the CO and Officers from our American sister battalion, 43 US Sig Battalion, the Officers were narrowly defeated.

The afternoon was rounded off with a families barbecue and a parachute display by the Blue Helmets. Thanks go to P&O European Ferries for the donation of a ferry ticket for the raffle. Congratulations to **Sig** 'Smudge' **Smith** who won it.

21 Sig Regt (AS) Colerne

AIR FORMATION SIGNALS OPEN DAY–SATURDAY 9 JULY

On a blistering hot July day the Regiment threw open its doors and invited everyone and anyone to Colerne Airfield for the Air Formation Signals Open Day.

The aim of the Open Day was threefold: To provide a focal point and meeting place for all ex Air Formation Signallers and Dispatch Riders. To raise money for the new Corps Museum Project and local charities, and last but not least, invite the local population to meet us and our families.

The Regiment, helped by local civilians and 217 Sig Sqn, put on a village fête around an arena with many varied and popular attractions and side shows. In addition, sited around the airfield, were static displays consisting of a C130, Chinook, Puma Wessex, historical vehicles, AFVs, a Challenger MBT, infantry weapons and the Royal Artillery. If all this was not enough the Blue Helmets jumped into the Arena either side of two helicopter flying displays involving soldiers from 244 Sig Sqn and 43 (Wx) Sig Sqn (V) and the day ended with the winner of the raffle crushing a car in the Challenger MBT.

As everyone thought it had been a successful day, it is planned to hold a similar day next year, the 75th anniversary of the Corps. The date for all the diaries of ex Air Formation Signallers is Saturday 22 July 1995.

A Tp 244 Sig Sqn provided a BV 206 train which proved very popular with the children and Sqn Comd 244 Sig Sqn

The penalties for illegal parking at 21 Sig Regt (AS) are demonstrated as the RP Sgt's car is dealt with summarily by the winner of the Raffle

The Blue Helmets jump into the arena

43 Sig Sqn (V)'s Medieval Fruit Machine
Sigs Ruddle, Hancock and Taylor produce two potatoes and one carrot to the court jester Sgt Bowmaker

The Commanding Officer accompanied by the team leader congratulates WO2 (SSM) John Williams on a fine display and shares a joke about York!

The Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt BFPO 1

AMALGAMATION AND REFORMATION PARADE IN QG SIGNALS

The amalgamation of 246, 247 and 248 Gurkha Sig Sqns and reformation of Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn took place on 28 June at the Prince of Wales Barracks. The date also coincided with the Princess Royal Day and it is the first time that the Regiment was able to mark the anniversary of its newly appointed Colonel in Chief. Commander British Forces, **Maj Gen Sir John Foley KCB, OBE, MC**, was the Inspecting Officer on the parade. Among the chief guests were the Brig BG, Comd 48 Bde, CAPIC, CRAF and **Ms Nanette McClintock** of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank.

Commander British Forces Hong Kong, Maj Gen Sir John Foley KCB, OBE, MC, accompanied by Comd QG Signals, Lt Col Dick Crombie, and the Gurkha Major, Maj (QGO) Silajit Gurung MVO, inspects members of the tri-national 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn prior to its amalgamation with 246 and 248 Gurkha Sig Sqns to reform the Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn

In the early morning of 28 June, all three Squadrons represented by Troops consisting of a Troop Commander, respective Sergeant Majors and 24 other ranks formed-up at the parade ground. At 0645 hrs the RSM, **WOI (RSM) Gauparsad Magar**, handed over the parade to the Adjutant, **Capt Alistair Gordon**, son of **Brig (Retd) S. G. Mk Gordon**, ex Comd QG Sig.

At 0700 hrs, CBF accompanied by his ADC, **Capt James Standen** 7GR, arrived at the Barracks. The General was escorted towards the dais by the Commander QG Sig, **Lt Col Dick Crombie**, and the Gurkha Major, **Maj (QGO) Silajit Gurung MVO**. The General took the salute and then inspected the Troops. After the three Squadrons had advanced in review order the following citations were read:

246 Gurkha Signal Squadron

246 Gurkha Sig Sqn's origins lie in the formation of 26 Gurkha Infantry Bde Sig Sqn in Kluang, Malaya in December 1952. Two years later, in July 1954, it was redesignated 48 Gurkha Infantry Bde Sig Sqn and moved to Hong Kong where it has remained ever since. The designation '246 Gurkha Sig Sqn' was first conferred in 1959. Ten years later, however, it was changed to '48 Brig HQ and Sig Sqn' and then, in 1976, to 'Gurkha Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn'. The 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn title was resumed in 1982 and it has, therefore, been the only Squadron which has served continuously until the present day.

247 Gurkha Signal Squadron

247 Gurkha Sig Sqn is the oldest of the Squadrons on parade today having been formed initially as K or King Tp 17 Gurkha Div Sig Regt in November 1951 in Seremban, Malaya. The Troop provided communications support for 63 Gurkha Infantry Bde and was redesignated 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn in 1959. When 63 Brig left Malaya in 1962 the Squadron went with it, initially taking up residence in Jellalabad Barracks, Tidworth, before moving on to Hubblelrath in West Germany. Thus 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn became the first Gurkha unit to serve in BAOR and the first in North West Europe since World War One. The Squadron returned to the Far East in 1964 when it was based in Brunei until the end of the Borneo confrontation in 1967. It was then disbanded until 1983 when it was reformed in Prince of Wales Barracks, remaining here ever since.

248 Gurkha Signal Squadron

248 Gurkha Sig Sqn was formed as L or Love Tp 17 Gurkha Infantry Div Sig Regt in November 1952 in Johore Bahru, Malaya. The Troop provided communications for 99 Gurkha Infantry Bde and was redesignated 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn in 1959. After the Malayan emergency the Squadron deployed in Sarawak in 1962, subsequently taking part in the Borneo confrontation. As a consequence, 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn has seen more active service than any other unit in the Regiment, serving 11 complete years on operations. The Squadron was amalgamated into 1 Sqn 17 Gurkha Sig Regt in April 1970 and was disbanded with that Regiment in September 1971. 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn was reformed in Sham Shui Po, Hong Kong in July 1971 and moved to Gun Club Hill Barracks in June 1977. It adopted the title 'Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn' a month later. The Squadron resumed its 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn title in 1982 and has remained in Gun Club Hill Barracks until today.

After the above citations were read the three Squadrons' flags were lowered to the tune of 'Auld Lang Syne' played by a lone piper, **SSgt (Pipe Major) Amarbahadur Limbu**. The Sqn Comd Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn, **Maj Sean Dexter** then took over the parade from the Adjutant, and gave the order for the Squadron to reform. It is worth noting here that he too is the son of an ex Comd QG Sig, **Col (Retd) A. C. Dexter OBE, DL**. The citation of HKGSS was then read as follows:

Hong Kong Gurkha Signal Squadron

The Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn was first formed in June 1977 from 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn and remnants of 27 Sig Regt. At this time all signals personnel in the Far East became part of Gurkha Sig and the Squadron had a cosmopolitan composition of Gurkha, Chinese and British soldiers. Three months later the Regiment gained its Royal title which was officially bestowed upon the Regiment at a parade in the Squadron's lines in Gun Club Hill Barracks. The Squadron was renamed '248 Gurkha Sig Sqn' in 1982 when Queen's Gurkha Sig reorganised. Reformed today, the Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn retains the multinational composition first seen in 1977 and, by virtue of this amalgamation, inherits most of the history of Gurkha Communications from 1954 until the present day.

After the reading of the citation, on the sound of the reveille the HKGSS flag was raised. The General then addressed the parade as follows:

'I am grateful for your invitation to take the salute here this morning on the historic but sad occasion of the disbandment of 246, 247 and 248 Gurkha Sig Sqns after a comparatively short but distinguished existence. I congratulate you all for your excellent performance over the years and I thank you for being such great ambassadors for the Brigade wherever you have served.

Today is Princess Royal Day and it is the first time that the Regiment has been able to mark the anniversary of their Colonel in Chief. So it is particularly fitting that we establish today the Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn to carry forward the traditions and high standards set by your predecessors. The parade is also notable to me as it is the first time I have witnessed Gurkha Arms Drill performed by male and female soldiers. It is also rewarding to see the three nationalities that make up the Regiment working together in such close harmony. This morning's parade has been very much in the true tradition of your Regiment. I have been most impressed with your standard of steadiness on parade, turnout and drill and I congratulate you all on a fine performance.

I have spoken with your Colonel, **Maj Gen S. Cowan CBE**, who asked me to pass on his regrets at being unable to join you today but extends his best wishes on the formation of the new Squadron.

It only remains for me to offer my sincere sympathies one final time to the disbanding Squadrons and to wish the new Squadron very best and good fortune in the future in the Brigade of Gurkhas. Shyabash 246, 247 and 248 Squadrons.

The parade came to an end when the newly formed Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn marched off in column of route. Thus, this historic but sad occasion for the Regiment saw the amalgamation of 246, 247, 248 Gurkha Sig Sqns and the reformation of the Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn.

GROUP CRICKET
by **Sig S. Sidiquee**

The Group Cricket team are having an eventful season, competing in a local evening league. Results are mixed to say the least. The team is captained by current Corps regular **SSgt Terry Gigg**, who opens the batting, bowling, occasionally keeps wicket, collects the kit and orders the sandwiches.

Our cup results have been very encouraging, in the EDIST Minor Units Knockout Cup away victories against ATR Bassingbourn, AAC Harrogate and ITR Ouston led the team to the final against ASMT Leconfield. The game played at Strensall was a low scoring game with Comms & Sy Gp (UK) winning by four wickets. Man of the Match was **Sgt** 'Smudge' **Smith** who scored 32 runs at a crucial time. Noted on the day was the speed at which **WO1 (RSM) John Standen**, who was spectating at the

The victorious Group Cricket team
Winners of EDIST Minor Units Knockout Cup 1994

match, made a beeline for the cream scones during the tea interval. In a sport where quotes and anecdotes are rife, the team has identified a few phrases that are never heard at our matches, for example, to our slow (spin ??) bowler **WO2 Steve O'Dare** 'That one turned', and to our ace fielder **Cpl Tom Butler** 'Well held, Tom'. We now look forward to the Zone finals with renewed confidence in our so called ability.

EXERCISE HIGHLAND FLING 2
by **Cpl Charlie Christian**

The Norwegian Lodge, close to the banks of Loch Morlich in the Cairngorms, was the venue for the summer Adventure Training Ex Highland Fling 2 in May. The advance party arrived early and did a sterling job of preparing the lodge for the arrival of the main party. **Sgt Howard Swift** (now Mr.) was instrumental in this area, he also showed his versatility as an entrepreneur as the exercise progressed, he even persuaded the 2IC **Maj Jack Fiskel** to buy a round of drinks. The main party arrived after a gruelling nine hour minibus journey but morale was still high and one of the contributory factors for this was the entertainment provided by **SSgt (YofS) Rick Dickson** in rearranging the front end of the minibus whilst parking. The first day provided a host of exciting and well instructed activities. With good access to the Cairngorms, some parties set off on arduous walks of varying lengths, while other groups sampled the temperature of the water in Loch Morlich with a spot of sailing and windsurfing–everyone had a good day. Amazingly, the weather was warm and sunny, with everyone wondering if this really was Scotland? The standard of food laid on by the resident chef **CSgt John Henry** (TA) was outstanding, how he managed to produce a first class barbecue, followed by strawberries and ice cream from a 10 man ration pack was one example of his culinary subtlety and was beyond us all. The RSM did his best to foster good local relations by volunteering for a spot of Karaoke in a local disco bar, his rendition of Unchained Melody by the Righteous Brothers will be remembered by the locals for at least 30 seconds, but will remain with us for the rest of our lives!

Ex Highland Fling, on the summit of Ben McDui
SSgt Brian Armstrong impersonates Jimmy, SSgt Phil Barclay supervises

More activities over the next couple of days included Mountain Biking, Top Rope and Abseiling and canoeing, with everyone really getting into the spirit of the whole set-up.

The final days training saw a daring team of intrepid explorers make an un-oxygen-aided ascent of Ben Nevis. Up and up we trogged, trying our best to stay ahead of the couple close behind us, who seemed to be coping a lot better with the climb than most of our party (we later discovered that the young lady was at least six months pregnant!). Comments like 'How much are the chips in the cafe at the top?' from **Sgt Paul Lincoln AGC**, helped to keep morale high during the descent as we passed the second party, led by **Lt Alison Dunn** approaching the summit.

A 100m from the top and apparently oblivious of the never-ending trail of men, women and children with bikes, dogs, prams, shopping trollies . . . the good Lieutenant was still determined to take a compass bearing just to be on the safe side! After 'conquering' Ben Nevis, the lead group held auditions for the R Sig Snowbagging team on the downward slopes. The individual kamikaze prize went to **WO1 Steve Jarvis**, who reached speeds one would not have believed possible, whilst squatting on a plastic survival bag. Sadly, departure day was upon us all too soon–the whole exercise had been a tremendous success.

Entertainment during the journey home was once again provided by **SSgt Rick Dickson**, doing his best to rearrange the front end of the minibus! The next Adventure training week is planned for September at Whernside in the Lake District . . . Don't miss it!

GROUP FETE

The Annual Group Fete took place on Saturday 25 June. Fete Organiser **SSgt Mary Fry** had done an excellent job of begging, stealing and borrowing kit and personalities from all over the county of Leicestershire. The Fete was opened by team members of the Leicester Tigers Rugby Football Club, who unfortunately declined to compete in the Tug of War Competition. They had obviously heard of the intensive training schedule undergone by the Sergeants' Mess Team. With numerous side stalls and activities, including a very ingenious and messy It's a Knockout competition, all proceeds from the Fete went to local charities.

PRESENTATION OF THE WYLLIE BOWL

Congratulations to **Sig Sid Sidiquee** who was recently awarded the Wyllie Bowl, presented bi-annually to the Trainee who has given the best all round performance during his trade training course at Garats Hay.

Sig Sidiquee tells Maj G. W. Reeve how he has wanted to be awarded the Wyllie Bowl since he was this high

CO	**Lt Col Keith Bruce-Smith**
Adjt	**Capt Justin Hodges**
Trg Maj	**Maj Rod Thomas**

The Regiment has been on the move. Regimental Headquarters has now moved to Southfields and 83 Sig Sqn (V) taken its place in Hammersmith. The bulk of the move has taken place and everyone is settling into their new offices.

It has been a hectic few months for the Regiment, despite it also being a period of annual leave. A mixture of communication and military exercises, charitable and social events has kept everyone occupied.

COBHAM CUP

The annual Regimental competition took rather a new form this year. It was held in the Aldershot area on the 16/17 July, despite having the usual system of a round robin of stands, the soldiers had rather different tasks and skills to combat. Teamwork and initiative were tested when the eight teams started on clay pigeon shooting. The teams on arrival were coached by **Capt Tom** 'Jackie Stewart' **McCappin**, then set onto the competition. The conclusion being the clays won the day! Next was the vehicle navigation, run by 83 Sig Sqn (V) Comd **Maj Fred Southey**. Given a type of treasure hunt and cryptic clues the teams had an hour to complete the route. It seems many of the teams had slight problems with their watches stopping!

Mountain biking team–five on three bikes?

Plenty of encouragement as Lt Seb Walker and his team were determined to win the tug-of-war in the Cobham Cup

Next, the infamous girls orienteering team coach, **WO2 Rod Oakley** set up a great orienteering course, his tuition had obviously paid off, as scores were certainly higher than the driving.

After an amusing vehicle recovery stand and water crossing (not in the vehicles) with everyone getting totally soaked (what else with **SSgts Andy Raynsford** and **Lew Brice** running it), which was much appreciated on the hot summer's day it was on to the first aid stand run by **Cpl Bob Stanton**. Bemused teams tried to remember what to do with snake and rabid dog bites. One even tried to ring Barclaycard! On to mountain bikes for a race, up hill was hard work, but the downhill was fast until they hit the deep sand traps.

After a good night's sleep they were off again, on the assault course at Pirbright, then a gentle run. The finale, watched and cheered on by families and friends was the tug-of-war competition at Rushmoor Arena.

The day ended with a tie for first place. Having fought valiantly and holding first place at the end of Saturday, to defend their trophy from last year, the 41 Sig Sqn (V) male team, led by **Cpl** 'Ollie' **North** was beaten by 'New Kid on the Block' **SSgt Schrivner** and his team from LAD, part of HQ Sqn in the final tug-of-war pull.

The prizes were presented by Honorary Colonel, **Maj Gen Ian Sprackling** to **SSgt Schrivener** and the female winners **Cpl Jan Davies** and her team from 41 Sig Sqn (V).

The Regiment had a fun weekend, thanks to all those who put such a great effort in planning it; mentioning just a few, **Capt Mike Bailes**, **WO2 Rod Oakley**, **SSgt Jim McMahon** and all the stand organisers.

EXERCISE STRATHTAY COCKNEY

The PSIs had a week of adventure training this June. The MTWO **John Middleton** decided to make the week in Scotland something a little different. In the Dunkeld area of Scotland the advance party settled down in the ACFTC after a long trek up by vehicle. The main party arrived by luxury transport–the train. So bleary-eyed and not so bushy tailed the permanent staff arrived at The Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh. The PSIs, with a certain amount of trepidation, waited to find out why waterproofs and sports kit were on their kit list. With joy, the RQMS **WO2 Rod Oakley** found the first competition was orienteering in Lochore Meadows Country Park. The Scottish weather lived up to its reputation by great downpours and a bracing wind.

It's true, officers and maps do not go together–just ask the Training Major. After a hot soup and cuppa, they returned to their accommodation for a games night. Team games included left-handed darts, domino tower building, shuttle cock target shooting, shove the 2p and bash the nail. The last event was the make or break for winning–the boat race!

Sunday dawned with sunshine for the hill walking–not part of the weeks competition, just leisurely map reading around the hills. Monday started with PT competitions, won by YofS and his team. The rest of the day was spent at Croft Caber Activity Centre on Loch Tay. **WO2 (FofS) Phil McGiveron** achieved a magnificent score in the Clay Pigeon shooting, whilst **Sgt** 'Robin of Sherwood' **Colin Weir** managed a good

The winners–or the most devious and cunning of the PSI Adventure Trg Week
Back *(L to R)*: SSgt Lew Brice, WO2 Byron Sinclair
Front *(L to R)*: Sgt 'Robin of Sherwood' Weir, Sgt Biddy Baxter, Capt Justin Hodges

score–well he is old enough to know Robin Hood personally. To settle lunch it was whitewater rafting on the rapids of the Grand-tully Raft Run. The pub quiz night proved what an amazing amount of useless information people store up–ie the Adjt, **Capt Justin Hodges**. Next non-stop football and basketball. Despite the Adjt and Trg Maj, **Maj Rod Thomas** hacking into the computer to find the questions for the next quiz, the MTWO still managed to fiddle the score to win the day. The terrible weather made Wednesday's activity the most memorable and fun for most–Honda pilot racing around a wet and muddy course. Obviously, driving Mr Bean gave the Trg Maj a distinct advantage as he won! After the dinner night sore heads hindered the volleyball standards. Team 1, led by the MTWO won the weeks events, with magnificent trophies all round. A visit to NATO Satellite Communications Station was followed by a final dinner party. So thanks to **MTWO** and **(RQMS) Brenda Prater**, a superb time was had by all, the PSIs returned weary and tired, but refreshed from a break.

EXERCISE LONGHAUL (THE GENESIS)

The Regiment has taken on a task to operate a long haul HF link to the USA as part of a memorandum of understanding. Each schedule is for 24 hours, once per calendar month. The first schedule was on 14/15 May. It is planned to exchange operators and staff from each of the particular HQs. The Yeoman of Signals, **WO2 B. Sinclair** was the first. He flew to Dulles airport, then straight into a very busy schedule. Besides attending the Brigade Commander's Conference he also took part in various tours in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Amongst his tours were the 4 Sig Bn (Fort Ritchie), Fort Detrick (including the hot line to Moscow), the satellite terminals at Detrick and Site 'C'. On Friday 13 May the Yeoman went to Carlisle Barracks in Pennsylvania where the US end of the link would be organised. By 0900 hrs 14 May the schedule was opened and it was a great success. After a small amount of time the link was established and voice comms were good, in fact better than ever before to this location, thanks to the UK team led by FofS **Phil McGiveron** at Browndown.

The Yeoman's trip was completed with an introduction to golf, which he thoroughly enjoyed and ten pin bowling. Many thanks must go to many of the Americans who looked after him so well, but especially to **Mr John Minnich**, **SSG Regie Dawson** and **Lt Nichole Jefferson**.

OFFICERS v SNCO'S CRICKET

A very different sight from last year's motley teams wearing multicoloured shorts and novices who'd never played before, with some bowlers resembling bowls players rather than cricket players!

This year, again held at Netherhall, Twickenham, it was a serious confrontation, whites worn throughout and official scorers! A great crowd of families and friends came to support teams and devour the barbecue. With **Majs Paul Fredericks** and **Fred Southey** leading the way with a magnificent innings, how could the Officers lose? The Training Major did have one secret agent who occasionally wandered onto the field to distract the SNCOs, his daughter who has just learnt how to walk, being led astray by a Jack Russell. The score?–I won't embarrass the SNCOs by publishing it!

EXERCISE MERCURY ASCENT

A few months ago a shooting evening held at Southfields TAC for children from Mitcham Junior Gateway Club, was such an outstanding success that the soldiers organised an adventure training weekend for the same club for children with special needs.

With an early start on 6 July, the six staff and seven children headed off for the Brecons in Wales. On that very hot day they set off from their campsite at The Pontsarn Inn to conquer Pen-y-Fan. **John Hines**, the youngest at 11 years old was the most energetic, testing **SSgt Jim McMahon**'s fitness, running after him the whole way. Five hours later, after many refreshment stops, **Moira Lynch**, **Danny Roberts** and **Matthew Lowe** and the rest of the group reached the summit. The feeling of achievement and excitement at the top was amazing, as it was by far the most strenuous event they had ever taken part in. A group photograph at the top, then a much more rapid descent–particularly as **Sgt Derek Traynor** was buying the ice-creams! After hotdogs in the nearby pub garden, followed by strawberries and cream, everyone was revitalised to dance the night away to the juke box.

At 0400 hrs **Danny Roberts** decided it was time for the next day's fun to start. By five o'clock the rest had all agreed and were having breakfast and ready for their Sunday's activities. **Sgt Derek Traynor** and **SSgt Jim McMahon** set up the rock climbing, **Matthew Lowe** and **John Hines** both excelled and loved every minute of it. Everyone completed the rock climb, but although they all attempted it, just **Matthew Roberts** and **Anand Parith** completed the abseiling, despite **Sgt Cheryl Mills** excellent demonstration. **Sig Laurence Vincent-Edward** and the rest of the staff packed up and headed back to London. The journey home was very different to the noisy, apprehensive trip there, the biggest noise was the snoring! Thanks go to **Capt Pete Handibode** (ex RSM) who returned to assist on the weekend.

47 (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON, HARROW

Sqn Comd	**Maj Steve Potter (V)**
SSM	**Chris Gillespie**

MEETING THE NEW NEIGHBOURS

With the forthcoming planned move to the brand new TAC in Uxbridge in 1995, the Squadron took the opportunity to introduce itself to its new neighbours at the Middlesex Show at Uxbridge. Co-ordinated by **SSgt Brent Copsey** and assisted by **Sgt Graham Richards**, **Cpls Jim Wright**, **Diane Evans**, **Lynne Hammond**, **LCpls Jane Copsey**, **Dave Valentine**, **Graham Kneafsey** and **Sigs Justine Jones** and **Shakleton**.

In addition to showing newly acquired equipment and military activities, the social side attracted many Uxbridge residents to enquire further. Links were rekindled with the 194 Middlesex Yeomanry cadets.

DINING OUT–FAREWELLS

Three members of the Sergeants' Mess were dined out in June. Best wishes for the future go to **Sgt** 'Ossie' **Osbourne** and **Sgts Steve Cooke** and **Chris Hurst**.

WHERNSIDE ADVENTURE TRAINING

Twenty-six members of the Squadron ventured out for the weekend. **2Lt Guy Anstiss**, a new arrival tried hard to damage himself, firstly by being very close to getting permanently stuck in his canoe whilst upside down in the water, and seemingly liking this new perspective so much, he adopted it whilst abseiling.

Sig Tim Fernando also tried the upside down position whilst abseiling **2IC Guy Lester** helped the Sqn Comd, **Maj Steve Potter**, in a rather more rapid descent than he had planned.

As all of this was taking place above ground, a hive of activity was taking place by another merry band of volunteers down below. The activity in the caves could later be described as a combination of climbing, abseiling upwards and swimming. The latter activity, particularly well demonstrated by **LCpl Chris Elliott**, who fell in the water at every opportunity, taking one of the Sergeants with her on one occasion.

The day was topped off with a splendid barbecue, cooked to perfection by the Sqn Comd and **SSgt Rudi Harding**.

41 (PRINCESS LOUISE'S KENSINGTON) SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS), COULSDON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Malcolm Bryan (V)**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) M. Bryne**

The Officers' and Sergeants' messes dined out the previous Sqn Comd, **Maj Andrew Cornish** in June. The Squadron then took part in the Regimental shooting weekend, weapons were zeroed and most passed their APWT. The Regimental Falling Plate Competition was an extremely hard fought elimination competition and the teams did extremely well with three teams in the final four. Congratulations to **Cpl** 'Ollie' **North** and his team for winning the competition.

SOLDIER OF THE YEAR 1994/95

Congratulations to **LCpl Kerry Cosgrove** for being awarded the Soldier of the Year Trophy. The trophy is generously awarded by the Worshipful Company of Innholders to the member of the Regiment with less than four years service who, in the opinion of the CO, best merits the title.

LCpl Kerry Cosgrove joined the TA in 1991 and on attending the Recruits Basic Military Training Course it was noted that she had well above average military skills.

1994 saw **LCpl Cosgrove** attend the Regimental Cadre Course, ranking fourth in the course overall, but putting in excellent performances in coming top during Fieldcraft and tactic phases. She has now passed the Class 3 Tele Ops (R) trade course, displaying enormous enthusiasm and eagerness to learn this new trade.

At the end of May this year came promotion to Lance Corporal and the responsibility of a detachment commander, a position allowing the demonstration of organisational and management skills as well as technical knowledge.

Howard Harrison Esq FHCIMA congratulating Soldier of the Year LCpl Kerry Cosgrove, 41 Sqn

LCpl Cosgrove is an excellent attender, and active member of the Squadron, frequently volunteering to assist at activities such as parades, social committees and functions.

Last year she demonstrated considerable determination and drive to expand her knowledge and experience gaining the respect of officers and soldiers alike.

She received a shield, engraved tankard and cheque from Master of the Worshipful Company of Innholders, **Howard Harrison Esq FHCIMA**.

83 (LONDON) SIGNAL SQUADRON, HAMMERSMITH

THE SQUADRON RALLIES ROUND!

83 Sig Sqn (V) Comd, **Maj Fred Southey**, thought of the fun he had with his previous unit entering BAMA rallies. One Wednesday evening he floated the idea to the Squadron and the team came into existence. The team members vary from rally to rally, with **Fred** himself and his navigator **2Lt Geoff Mitchell** maintaining continuity for each event. The choice of navigator was simple, **Geoff** as an athlete had competed in events sponsored by Cadburys, and was in possession of a vast store of chocolate! Since **Fred**'s rule was that the navigator provided the food and drink, his choice was made. Luckily for **Fred**, **Geoff** gets violently sick map reading, therefore unable to eat the chocolate himself! In spite of the noxious liquid slopping around the footwell, **Geoff** has proved a competent navigator, and in none of the four rallies they have entered to date, have they come away empty handed.

Another team to have entered every rally comprises of **Sig Rebecca Strickland** and **LCpl Liz Fitzpatrick**, and unlike some partnerships, their friendship endures! When competing at Longmoor, they managed to roll their Rover into water, causing the drivers' side to completely submerge. Although completely under water, **Rebecca**'s hand materialised into Excalibur, clasping her cigarettes and Filofax. **Liz** left the Rover via one half of the side window (yes, she is slim), having first stood on **Rebecca**'s head to gain leverage!

Veterans of three rallies are **Cpl Matt Cahill** and **LCpl** 'Sid' **Aluwalhia**. Many others have tried their hands at driving or navigating during the year, from signallers to REME; REME 'bending' rather than 'mending'. All have had fun, with driving and map reading skills definitely improved.

Fred 'Sterling Moss' **Southey** recently represented our Unit at the Association of Rover Clubs International Trial in Derbyshire and came third in the Road Trim Vehicle class, only missing first place by two points. **LCpl Angie Wake**, navigator, swears he didn't carry out her instructions!

GO FOR IT!

'Go for it' can only describe the attitude that the recruiters had on the TAVRA stand at the Royal Tournament. Many soldiers from the Regiment, with a take-over bid from 83 Sig Sqn (V), volunteered to assist on the recruiting stand through the tournament. They did a great job, they coerced over 2,500 more people this year than last, to sign up to join the Territorial Army. **2Lts Geoff Mitchell**, **Anna Darnell**, **Cpl Martin Oliver**, **LCpls Liz FitzPatrick**, **Dave** (do I get a medal) **Brown** and **Sig** 'Kevin' **Keegan** all assisted greatly.

The Royal Tournament itself was a great success, with the theme of war and peace, organised by the Army this year. It highlighted the international aspect and co-operation amongst the world's nations. The most memorable part of the event was the visit by our Colonel in Chief.

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE HITLER LINE

The weekend 20/22 May marked the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Hitler Line in which the tanks of the North Irish Horse supported the Canadian 1st Div in breeching the Hitler Line, North of Monte Cassino during the Allied advance through Italy.

The battle resulted in heavy casualties with the Canadian 1st Div sustaining 1,000 casualties and the North Irish Horse having 36 killed and 36 wounded.

In recognition of the support provided by the North Irish Horse, the Canadian Government granted the regiment the honour of wearing a maple leaf on their service dress. The tradition is continued up to the present day with the Regiment's successor, the North Irish Horse Independent Squadron and 69(NIH) Sig Sqn continuing to wear the maple leaf emblem on its service dress.

The tradition of commemorating the Hitler Line Battle was started at the end of the war by B Sqn, the predecessor of 69 (NIH) Sig Sqn.

The commemorative events for the 50th anniversary included a Regimental Association Dinner, a Garden Party and the Commemorative Parade. Past members of the Regiment throughout the United Kingdom, Ireland and Canada including survivors of the Battle attended the Parade. The Garden Party and Commemoration Parade at Shackleton Barracks, Ballykelly was attended by Commander Land Forces, **Maj Gen A de C. L. Leask, CBE**, who was Inspecting Officer of the Quarter Guard on Saturday 21 May.

Other guests included **Brig Gen D. M. Dean**, CD Canadian Forces and **Mrs Dean**; **Sir John Wheeler MP**, Minister for Security for Northern Ireland; **Brig J. R. Smales**, Commander 107 (Ulster) Brigade and **Mrs Smales**; **Col M. W. McCorkell OBE, TD, DL**, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the County of Londonderry and **Mrs McCorkell**; **Lord Erne**, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the County of Fermanagh; **Col J. T. Eaton CBE, TD**, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the City of Londonderry and **Mrs Eaton**; **Col The Lord O'Neill TD**, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the County of Antrim and **Lady O'Neill**, **Lt Col T. C. R. B. Purdon MBE**, Commanding Officer 1st Battalion the Welsh Guards and **Mrs Purdon**; **Councillor J. Guy**, Mayor of Londonderry and **Mrs Guy**; **Col J. R. Leslie TD, JP, DL**, Honorary Colonel of the North Irish Horse and **Mrs Leslie**.

The Officer Commanding 69 (North Irish Horse) Sig Sqn is **Maj G. M. Wylie** who, with his Squadron Sergeant Major, **WO2 Deans** and other members of the Squadron are to be congratulated on the results of their hard work and effort for this splendid and memorable occasion.

Members of the North Irish Horse Independent Sqn based in Belfast parade the Guidon during the Commemorative parade on Sunday 22 May at Shackelton Barracks, Ballykelly

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

59 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V), LIVERPOOL

Sqn Comd	**Maj Andy Payne**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Bob Taylor**

The Squadron has had a busy time since moving from the TA Centre in Edge Lane, Liverpool to Deysbrook Barracks, Liverpool in 1992. We have been re-equipped with Ptarmigan and started formal training on this equipment in January 1993. This training is still continuing for some trades and we look forward this year to Ex Flying Falcon which will be our 3rd annual exercise with this equipment. We are continuing to recruit new soldiers and numbers in the Squadron are steadily rising.

There have been a number of changes to Squadron members with some old hands leaving after many years service. In November 1993, **Maj Stan Quayle** left the Squadron to become Regt 2IC and **Capt Ron Meyer** retired after many years service as PSAO. A number of former Squadron officers met for the dining out of **Ron** in February and presented him with a decanter and glasses as a thank you for his contribution to the Squadron over the years. Earlier this year **WO2 Norman Crowe** left after many years service in the Squadron. We have greatly benefited by an increase in the number of regular soldiers attached to the Squadron, led by **FofS Mick Campbell**. They have done an excellent job training up the TA soldiers and helping with equipment husbandry. Without their help, we would not have been able to make the transition to the new equipment.

PTARMIGAN GARAGE OPENING, SATURDAY 25 JUNE

The new Ptarmigan Garages for 59 Sig Sqn (V) were officially opened by **Brig W. H. Backhouse**, Comd 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde, on Saturday, 25 June 1994. These purpose-built garages greatly enhance the facilities available to the Squadron. After the opening ceremony, former Squadron members and the families of Squadron members were able to view the facilities and some of the Ptarmigan equipment. This was followed by the presentation of The Conteh Trophy by the distinguished former boxer, John Conteh, who gave up time from a busy schedule to be with us. This trophy is in memory of Robbie Conteh, a nephew of John, who was a member of the Squadron until his sad death from cancer three years ago. The trophy, awarded annually to the junior soldier who has made the most significant contribution to the Regiment, went to **LCpl Sandra Cartlidge**. Other members of the Conteh family, including Robbie's father, Robert Conteh, were also present.

LCpl Sandra Cartlidge receiving The Conteh Memorial Trophy from John Conteh

After the presentation, fun and games were enjoyed outside by all while a bar in our newly refurbished drill hall kept everyone in a good mood. **Sgt Terry Hodge** had done an excellent job researching Squadron records to invite all the former Squadron members who could still be traced. Many old friendships were renewed and the day was considered by all to be a resounding success. In the evening, still more arrived for a Squadron 'bash' where a disco set the scene for a further assault on the bar. More old acquaintenances were renewed and reminiscences of good times on exercise flowed as freely as the mild (we are not a bitter Squadron). The Sqn Comd received some heavy hints that another Open Day next year would not go amiss so hopefully the event will be repeated although we will have to look for another reason for a celebration. Everton or Liverpool winning the League perhaps?

The CO interviews a potential recruit

Cpl Frankie Godwin and Sig Paul Jenkins compete in the 'Mr Blobby' look-a-like final

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

CO	**Lt Col Martin Stretch**
Adjt	**Capt Paul Kelly**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) M. Ara**

BAND INSPECTION

The Band of 34(N) Sig Regt (V) were inspected by the Army Band Inspectorate from the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall on Sunday 15 May. This inspection takes place every five years and is designed to test the Band in its musical capabilities and also take a very close look at the standard of dress, maintenance of instruments and the overall running of the Band.

The day itself turned out to be a very wet and windy one, however, this did not dampen the spirit of the Band members who had been preparing for this occasion since January.

Inevitably the inspection of the Band, by **Brig Bond** and **Lt Col Tomlinson** had to take place inside, thus causing some disruption for the invited guests of families and friends of Band and ex-Band members.

After the initial inspection, the Band and audience soon settled themselves down, and the musical inspection commenced. This part of the inspection is very much a test of the skills of the musicians in both the practical and theoretical knowledge of music. In addition to all of this the Band had to perform a prepared piece of music to a very high standard.

After a short interval, having overcome the official testing, a more relaxed atmosphere prevailed when the Band was given the opportunity to display its versatility in producing small musical combinations. These took the shape of a humorous musical and monologue expertly produced and performed by **Musn Kath Watts**, appropriately dressed in 'Combat Kit' and entitled 'Marksman Mike'.

This was followed by a Brass Quintet, Trad Jazz Combo, Wind Sextet and Trumpet Quartet, all of whom performed admirably, especially when consideration of the very limited time a TA musician has to rehearse for such an event in comparison with his regular counterpart.

The day concluded with a buffet lunch at which the inspectorate was able to meet and speak to the band members and their families.

Two weeks after the inspection the Inspection Report was received by the CO. The Band had been awarded the grading of 'VERY GOOD'. This was possibly the highest grading any TA Band could hope for and all members of the Band are to be congratulated on the dedication and efforts to achieve this grade.

34(N) Sig Regt (V) Band awaits its inspection by Kneller Hall

BIRTWISTLE TROPHY

This prestigious event is known to the territorial members of the Regiment as the mother of all military skills competitions. It is, in fact, the Regiments annual military skills competition, where teams have to navigate between stands (approx 18km) and when at these stands complete various military skills. This year's venue was Catterick Training area over 17-19 June.

The build up to this year's event was kept a closely guarded secret for several reasons, mainly to ensure no unfair advantage was given (heaven forbid). Even the stand DS were not given any information until just before the event.

The DS deployed to their locations at about lunch time on Thursday 16 in order to find the exact location and to prepare their stands with whatever equipment they required. They were then kept incommunicado (except for those with mobile phones) from their respective Squadron teams. If you believe that it is impossible to have a beach holiday on Catterick Training, then you should speak to **SSgts Steve Greaves**, **Adrian Appleyard** and **Ray Lang**–they managed it.

The three top teams of 'Birtwistle 94'

On Friday 17, the CO's team undertook to navigate around the course and complete the stands. Needless to say they did extremely well with some amazing scores (great for one's confidential don't you know!).

On Friday evening the TA teams deployed. The event for the teams was split into two phases as follows:

Day 1. Navigate between 10 stands and complete the tasks given to them within an overall time limit of 40 minutes. Some of the stands being more physical, mental and stressful than others. Once completed the teams moved to an overnight bivvi area.

Day 2. The dreaded march and shoot competition, where the teams were encouraged to run to a range and shoot some 5.56mm.

That afternoon the presentations took place in the Gym at Alma Barracks by **Col B. N. T. Foxon OBE**, Dep Comd 11 (ARRC) Bde. It appears that 49 Sig Sqn (V) did the most pre-training and this was reflected by them getting the first three places in the event. Well done 49 Sig Sqn!

WO2 (RQMS) Ken Sykes attempts a ravine crossing, carrying a load, on the Birtwistle Trophy Competition.

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

59 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V), LIVERPOOL

Sqn Comd — **Maj Andy Payne**
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The three top teams of 'Birtwistle 94'

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Day 2. The dreaded march and shoot competition, where the teams were encouraged to run to a range and shoot some 5.56mm.

That afternoon the presentations took place in the Gym at Alma Barracks by **Col B. N. T. Foxon OBE**, Dep Comd 11 (ARRC) Bde. It appears that 49 Sig Sqn (V) did the most pre-training and this was reflected by them getting the first three places in the event. Well done 49 Sig Sqn!

WO2 (RQMS) Ken Sykes attempts a ravine crossing, carrying a load, on the Birtwistle Trophy Competition.

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

59 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V), LIVERPOOL

Sqn Comd — **Maj Andy Payne**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Bob Taylor**

The Squadron has had a busy time since moving from the TA Centre in Edge Lane, Liverpool to Deysbrook Barracks, Liverpool in 1992. We have been re-equipped with Ptarmigan and started formal training on this equipment in January 1993. This training is still continuing for some trades and we look forward this year to Ex Flying Falcon which will be our 3rd annual exercise with this equipment. We are continuing to recruit new soldiers and numbers in the Squadron are steadily rising.

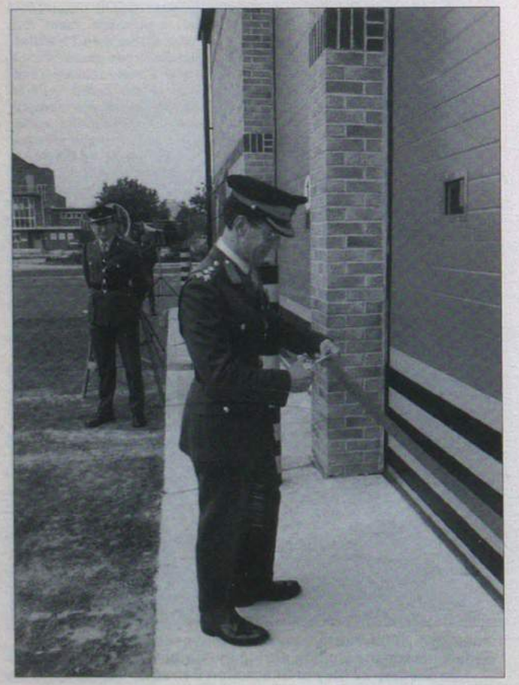
There have been a number of changes to Squadron members with some old hands leaving after many years service. In November 1993, **Maj Stan Quayle** left the Squadron to become Regt 2IC and **Capt Ron Meyer** retired after many years service as PSAO. A number of former Squadron officers met for the dining out of **Ron** in February and presented him with a decanter and glasses as a thank you for his contribution to the Squadron over the years. Earlier this year **WO2 Norman Crowe** left after many years service in the Squadron. We have greatly benefited by an increase in the number of regular soldiers attached to the Squadron, led by **FofS Mick Campbell**. They have done an excellent job training up the TA soldiers and helping with equipment husbandry. Without their help, we would not have been able to make the transition to the new equipment.

PTARMIGAN GARAGE OPENING, SATURDAY 25 JUNE

The new Ptarmigan Garages for 59 Sig Sqn (V) were officially opened by **Brig W. H. Backhouse**, Comd 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde, on Saturday, 25 June 1994. These purpose-built garages greatly enhance the facilities available to the Squadron. After the opening ceremony, former Squadron members and the families of Squadron members were able to view the facilities and some of the Ptarmigan equipment. This was followed by the presentation of The Conteh Trophy by the distinguished former boxer, John Conteh, who gave up time from a busy schedule to be with us. This trophy is in memory of Robbie Conteh, a nephew of John, who was a member of the Squadron until his sad death from cancer three years ago. The trophy, awarded annually to the junior soldier who has made the most significant contribution to the Regiment, went to **LCpl Sandra Cartlidge**. Other members of the Conteh family, including Robbie's father, Robert Conteh, were also present.

LCpl Sandra Cartlidge receiving The Conteh Memorial Trophy from John Conteh

After the presentation, fun and games were enjoyed outside by all while a bar in our newly refurbished drill hall kept everyone in a good mood. **Sgt Terry Hodge** had done an excellent job researching Squadron records to invite all the former Squadron members who could still be traced. Many old friendships were renewed and the day was considered by all to be a resounding success. In the evening, still more arrived for a Squadron 'bash' where a disco set the scene for a further assault on the bar. More old acquaintenances were renewed and reminiscences of good times on exercise flowed as freely as the mild (we are not a bitter Squadron). The Sqn Comd received some heavy hints that another Open Day next year would not go amiss so hopefully the event will be repeated although we will have to look for another reason for a celebration. Everton or Liverpool winning the League perhaps?



The CO interviews a potential recruit

Cpl Frankie Godwin and Sig Paul Jenkins compete in the 'Mr Blobby' look-a-like final

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

CO — **Lt Col Martin Stretch**
Adjt — **Capt Paul Kelly**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) M. Ara**

BAND INSPECTION

The Band of 34(N) Sig Regt (V) were inspected by the Army Band Inspectorate from the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall on Sunday 15 May. This inspection takes place every five years and is designed to test the Band in its musical capabilities and also take a very close look at the standard of dress, maintenance of instruments and the overall running of the Band.

The day itself turned out to be a very wet and windy one, however, this did not dampen the spirit of the Band members who had been preparing for this occasion since January.

Inevitably the inspection of the Band, by **Brig Bond** and **Lt Col Tomlinson** had to take place inside, thus causing some disruption for the invited guests of families and friends of Band and ex-Band members.

After the initial inspection, the Band and audience soon settled themselves down, and the musical inspection commenced. This part of the inspection is very much a test of the skills of the musicians in both the practical and theoretical knowledge of music. In addition to all of this the Band had to perform a prepared piece of music to a very high standard.

After a short interval, having overcome the official testing, a more relaxed atmosphere prevailed when the Band was given the opportunity to display its versatility in producing small musical combinations. These took the shape of a humorous musical and monologue expertly produced and performed by **Musn Kath Watts**, appropriately dressed in 'Combat Kit' and entitled 'Marksman Mike'.

This was followed by a Brass Quintet, Trad Jazz Combo, Wind Sextet and Trumpet Quartet, all of whom performed admirably, especially when consideration of the very limited time a TA musician has to rehearse for such an event in comparison with his regular counterpart.

The day concluded with a buffet lunch at which the inspectorate was able to meet and speak to the band members and their families.

Two weeks after the inspection the Inspection Report was received by the CO. The Band had been awarded the grading of 'VERY GOOD'. This was possibly the highest grading any TA Band could hope for and all members of the Band are to be congratulated on the dedication and efforts to achieve this grade.

34(N) Sig Regt (V) Band awaits its inspection by Kneller Hall

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WO2 (RQMS) Ken Sykes attempts a ravine crossing, carrying a load, on the Birtwistle Trophy Competition.

TM TROOP

After the last two Brigade exercises, it appears that the Regiment is well up to scratch to be operational by January 1995.

The Regiment has been very active over the last three months with exercises, competitions, stocktaking boards and PRE. Always there's the view 'right, let's get on with this'. Working to this belief the Regiment goes from strength to strength–'no rest for the wicked'. There has been an unending list of tasks with a complete drive of effort from all the Troop. We welcome back **Sgt Dave Currie** from Wilton Det. Well done **Dave**. We also extend a welcome to **Cpl Jason Randles** and his family, hope you have a rewarding tour.

The ATE's remind me of a famous Meatloaf song 'Two out of three ain't bad' but we're working on it!

The TOT, **Capt Carl Butler** went on an attachment to America for two weeks.

Sgt Paul Mayer showed us some neat drill with the SA80, it's amazing how he doesn't have to bend down to reach the rifle with the butt on the ground! That drill man RQMS, **WO2 Ken Sykes**, was duly impressed.

We bid farewell to the following: **Steve Tait**, Civvy Street; **Tony Quinn**, NI; **John Hughes**, Civvy Street; **John Winter**, Civvy Street.

We welcome the following: **Cpls Robinson, Wilson** and **Randles**.

FAREWELLS

The CO bade farewell to several members drawn from the ranks of old and bold–and some not so old but just as bold. **Maj Sarah Maude**, who commanded 90 Sig Sqn (V) in Middlesbrough has settled down to country life in Bedale and is enjoying the pleasure of her (and 2IC Regt) brand new Land Rover Discovery.

Regimental thanks go to **Maj Claire Pickles** who latterly commanded 49 Sig Sqn (V) in Leeds–it was amazing to see her in Middlesbrough–probably her first time with the Regiment.

After ten years of service as PSAO in Leeds the CO bid a fond farewell to **Maj Gordon Bonner** who will continue his quest to conquer every peak–mountains included, in Scotland.

Lt Mark Carter leaves the Regiment to go work with . . . shh, we can't mention who.

Lt Andy Gordon leaves the Regiment to join the RTR! One would think he would have known better.

A first in the Regiment occurred when husband and wife team Majors Sarah and Angus Maude presented 90 Sig Sqn (V) Comd, Maj Mike Holman, with two superb wooden tablets listing past Sqn Comds and SSMs. Sarah commanded 90 Sig Sqn from 1991 to 1993 Angus, who commanded 90 Sig Sqn from 1988 to 1991, is now 2IC

Lt Andy Gordon 'plays' for his supper on the occasion of his dining out. Before leaving to join the 'tankies', the CO felt it was necessary to test Andy, a music graduate, on his ability to play the Corps March. The 'invitation' came very late in the evening (and we all know what that means!) and Andy performed note perfect. Looking on is the CO, the High Sheriff and OC 90 Sig Sqn, Maj Mike Holman

Mr Trevor Newlove representing the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children thanks Lt Col Stretch for allowing Cpl Beverley Shrimpling to participate in a fund-raising event. Looking on is Sgt Kevin Shelmerdine. Cpl Shrimpling is now serving on attachment to BATUS for six months as part of the Secretary of State for Defence' initiative for wider employment of the TA

If you are serving and have a standing order for *THE WIRE* please keep us well informed in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders and your 'Wire' will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

VISIT OF COMMANDER 11 (ARRC) SIGNAL BRIGADE

On Tuesday 26 July Comd 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde, **Brig W. H. Backhouse** continued his series of visits to the Regiment by visiting 95 Sig Sqn (V) in Shrewsbury. Here he was met and escorted by the Sqn Comd of 95 Sig Sqn (V), **Maj Helen James**.

Following a grand tour of the TA Centre the Comd presented the Territorial Decoration to **Maj Helen James**, the LS & GC Medal to **Cpl Vince Tyler** and the TA Efficiency Medals to **WO2 Clive Winstanley**, **Sgt Angela Wilson** and **Cpl Roy Simpson**. All are to be congratulated on their awards and for their long and valuable service.

Brig W. H. Backhouse with medal recipients

PERMANENT STAFF NEWS

It is the time of the year when the Permanent Staff figure prominently in the news as, having endured an intensive training year, they are given time out to re-group, carry out a bit of refresher and adventure training and indulge in some well-earned leave. Continuation training started in earnest in early July when most Regular Permanent Staff descended on Rugby to engage in some intensive military training organised by the RSM **WO1 Guy Richards**. During this training the major manning changes that have taken place during the past 18 months became immediately apparent. This became clear when you began to compare the numbers attending their training to our former pre-Ptarmigan numbers; this is distinctly illustrated by the photographs captioned before and after Ptarmigan. Unfortunately, not all training goes according to plan and the Permanent Staff suffered their first casualty in the shape of **Cpl Steve Saunders**. **Steve** severely sprained his ankle during the physical training phase, playing basket ball, and ended up on crutches for almost five weeks. The forthcoming Battle Camp (adventure training) was now minus one. This drain on manpower continued due to some critical RSST inspections and other unforeseen commitments that clashed with the Battle Camp.

Permanent Staff before Ptarmigan

The RSM was not amused and was thwarted at every attempt to make more manpower available! However, the Battle Camp went ahead during the period 11-15 July and proved hugely successful although it was minus a few relieved permanent staff members. The Battle Camp took place in Devon with the home base at Fremington Camp, which just happened to be fairly close to the RSM's retreat by the sea! Activities included, coastal walks, windsurfing, rock-climbing, clay pigeon shooting, horse riding and other adventure pursuits with a smattering of some military training here and there. Unfortunately, on a more serious note a further casualty occurred during the horse riding stage. Here **SSgt Chris Hymas** suffered a rather nasty injury when his horse toppled over on him. **Chris** was hospitalised for some weeks, had his spleen removed and was treated for other injuries. Happily, he is now well on the road to recovery and has vowed that he will be fully fit to concentrate on his marathon fund raising venture for the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital and the Corps Museum Appeal. Appeals that are to conclude at the end of August–he has asked however that members of his Squadron (the Shropshire Yeomanry) stop referring to him as Giddy Oops! To prevent any further injuries to the permanent staff, the CO **Lt Col John Ewbank** wisely sent everyone home on block leave during the first two weeks of August and peace again descended on the Regiment.

Permanent Staff after Ptarmigan

EXERCISE BLACK DOG

89 and 95 Sig Sqns (V) remain in the frame with this report on their combined adventure and leadership training weekend that took place at Chickerell Camp, Weymouth, during the weekend 16/17 July.

The weekend was in fact organised by **Sgt J. D. Hogg** of 89 Sqn (another exclusion from the permanent staff Training Camp) and the intrepid **SSgt Charlie Walker** (that man again). This tour de force ensured that all participants gained maximum benefit from the various activities that included Sub Aqua Diving, Canoeing, Swimming, Hill Walking, Night Navigation, Rock Climbing and Sea Fishing. The first night provided a lesson in not accepting anything at face value for **Maj Colin Meikle** and **Capt Julian Webb** who, on arrival at Chickerell Camp, found, to their naive delight, their beds had already been made by the Advance Party. Incredulous as it may seem but this gullible pair did not find out until early in the morning that they had been subject to the oldest prank in the world. Not to be outdone, when discovering a blender wasn't available to make a Balti Sauce, **Capt Webb** suggested to the perpetrator of the bed incident (**SSgt Walker**) that a very good substitute was the pastry mixer in the kitchen. Result chaos and sweet and swift retribution. We would also like to take this opportunity of congratulating **LCpl Steve Rothwell** on winning the 'Moose' competition–although he would rather forget it and to **Cpl** 'Robbo' **Robinson** on discovering a kitchen knife has two sides which, it has to be said, he found very useful especially when attempting to slice a whole cabbage! Apart from these amusing interludes the weekend was a tremendous success thanks also in no small part to the valuable assistance given by The Royal School of Signals and 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt.

These two units kindly provided critical adventure training instructors in the shapes of **Sgt Tom Lapin**, **Cpl Mark Gray** and **Cpl Haig** and not forgetting 8 Sig Regt who helped us enormously on the catering side. Many thanks!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are extended to **Capt Barry Williams** on his selection for promotion to Major, also to **Mr Gavin Burt**, serving as an MGS with 89 Sqn (V) on his marriage to **Sharon** and finally to **LCpl Steve Rothwell** on his selection for the caretaker post at Rugby.

36 Sig Regt (V)
Ilford

RHQ

The Regiment is now preparing for Annual Camp, where we will be participating on Ex Flying Falcon. The lead up training has consisted of two Brigade exercises. The second of the two exercises was declared non TAC and communications worked extremely well, so well in fact that the SSM of 54 Sqn (V), **WO2 Shelly**, concluded that 'cam nets' obviously affect comms. However, it will be cam, as usual, for Ex Flying Falcon.

FAREWELLS AND GREETINGS

The Regiment bids farewell to **WO2 Shirley Clark**, PSI HQ Sqn, **Sgt Brian Penny** and **Cpl Gary Wright**, two of the FofS right hand men. All three are off to civvy street and we wish them all the success for the future.

We welcome our new QM, **Capt** 'Butch' **Maycock** who has moved from sunny Cyprus to sunny Ilford and is busy dusting his office as its been empty for some time. (Note: We have been on football training already).

Congratulations are extended to **Cpl** 'Tan' **Hughes** of our LAD and his wife **Leisha** on the birth of their daughter **Jasmin**.

54 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Tp Comd (754)	**Lt Viv Martin**
Tp Comd (756)	**SSgt Glen Baker**

754 and 756 Tp's from Bedford have been training for an attempt at the 'Three Peaks'. The team members are **Lt Viv Martin**, **Sgt Fraser Murdoch**, **Cpls Cathy McDowell**, **Jo Outlaw**, **LCpls Pam Reid**, **Roy Romans**, **Elly Walters**, **Sigs Ruth Griffith**, **Richard Montford** and Recruit **Richard Green**.

The first excursion was in the Leek area over the Easter weekend where blizzard conditions were encountered. This was followed recently by a visit to Snowdonia and the summit of Snowdon, where heavy cloud brought the following exchange:

'Which way is it to the top?'

'Just keep going up and you'll reach it–eventually!'

The team hope to return to Snowdon in October to see how quickly they can reach the summit (hopefully on a clearer day) followed by a trip to Scafell Pike next Easter.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The centre wishes farewell to our PSI **Sgt Phil Wynne** and his wife **Elaine** who are leaving the Army. They intend to settle in Bedford so we hope to see them on occasions.

We welcome to the Squadron new recruits **Sig Michael Allen**, his wife **Sig Linda Allen** and **Sigs Richard Green** and **Michael Panter**. We hope you enjoy your TA career with us.

44 SQUADRON GO 'EXTREME'

by **2Lt Dave Kingstone**

On Sunday 26 June, an intrepid group of around 20 Squadron members from Grays and Southend TACs, climbed aboard a fleet of minibuses and ventured north, to the wild and rugged surroundings of the Yorkshire Dales, for a five day visit to the Corps 'Whernside Manor Adventure Training Centre'.

Upon arrival, the Centre staff told us what adventurous training we would pursue during the next few days; canoeing, rock climbing, caving, abseiling and fell walking. That evening in a local pub, more serious discussions amongst the Group took place where the rigours of adventure training and our sanity were debated. It was too late to turn back.

A 6.30 am start the next morning, followed by a 'condemned man's last breakfast', ensured everybody was fighting fit and ready to go. And so on to the day's activities, with a party of cavers and a party of canoeists. All I can say of the first day is that the water in the lake was very, very cold and my own ability to canoe round and round in circles was superb. A good day was had by all. Late afternoon we all returned to Whernside to dry off, eat and compare 'war stories'.

That evening we were joined by our CO, **Lt Col J. S. A. Henderson** and the RSM, **WO1 Palmer**, who had volunteered to join us for a couple of days, to undergo 'trial' by adventure training. We believe the CO was actually looking forward to this, until he found he was being sent down a cave!

Tuesday, up with the lark again, including those insomniacs who had played a marathon session of Trivial Pursuit. Had they gone to bed at all? In a reversal of the previous day, the cavers went canoeing and canoeists went caving. There's some logic to it! Another excellent day.

Wednesday, we all went 'extreme' and lost the feeling in the ends of our fingers, rock climbing at Keswick, in the Lake District.

Thursday, our final day, we split into two groups again. The fell walkers/mountaineers who ascended Blencathra, and the abseilers who managed a 160ft drop into a quarry; both activities were pretty 'hairy'. We all returned to Whernside that evening to a marvellous barbecue on the front lawn of the Manor House.

Friday, unfortunately, we had to pack up and return south, and then, even more unfortunately, straight out on to a Bde Ex . . . what a way to finish the week!

Our few days at Whernside were superb. All who had journeyed north, without exception, had an invigorating and enjoyable time.

Our special thanks to the instructors at the Centre, who were excellent. Without their enthusiasm and encouragement we would not have achieved as much as we did.

We would strongly recommend and encourage other Corps Units to make use of Whernside. We were amazed to discover that we were the first TA unit to book the facilities for a week. It's so good, that we have booked again for next year!

Lt Martin in Leek area with her 320 which, thankfully for the rest of the team, was left behind in Snowdonia

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?
HAVE YOU INFORMED RHQ?

TELEPHONE 071-414 8426

37 Sig Regt (V)
Redditch

CO	**Lt Col John Macfarlane**
2IC	**Maj Ian Morris (V)**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) John Riley**

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Just a couple of events to note at RHQ. Firstly **Trg Maj Tom Pengelley** handed over to **Tony Shaw** at the beginning of July. **Tom** has ably seen the Regiment through a particularly difficult period, relocating RHQ from Bristol to Redditch. He is reported as enjoying a well-earned rest at Blandford. Secondly, **Cpl John McCarthy**, HQ Sqn's PTI, succeeded in passing the recent District Assessment Board and is now appointed OCdt. He is still adjusting to the loss of status from Cpl.

EXERCISE SUMMER SOLSTICE

For some years the Regiment has held an annual military skills competition on a weekend close to the Summer Solstice. This year the venue was Sennybridge and the weather, amazingly for Sennybridge, was ideal–cloudy but dry throughout. Squadrons entered two sections, led by a keen young (or not so young) officer. All competed in a dastardly series of stands on the Saturday, planned by **Trg Maj Tom Pengelley** as his parting gift to the Regiment.

After a night navigation exercise including some of the boggier parts of the area, the competition concluded on Sunday with the Assault Course. The rope crossing proved an interesting test of style, with some team members deciding the quickest way was to plunge straight off the rope and never mind the soaking. After the CO had adjusted all the scores as usual, the team from 96 Sig Sqn (V) was adjudged the winner. The other Squadrons promptly cried foul as 96 had only entered one team, with no officer, but as 96 are the newest Squadron, so far recruited to only half strength, the decision stood. Sqn Comd **Maj Steve Holder** was delighted with the team's performance, led by **WO2 (SSM) Mick Comber** and **Cpl Dave Pollock**.

OCdt Julie Lodge keeps a steady eye on the rope, crossing the water obstacle

Capts John Duggan and Richard Bowden escort departing Trg Maj Tom Pengelley out of the stream after his involuntary bath at the end of Ex Summer Solstice

HEREFORD AND WORCESTER COUNTY MILITARY RECEPTION

Adjt **Capt Andy Duncan** started looking even more harassed than usual about January when tasked again with organising the CMR on behalf of the Royal Engineers at Long Marston. A superb venue at the seat of the Bishop of Worcester, Hartlebury Castle near Kidderminster, was made available and planning started in earnest. After a few anxious moments, it all came together superbly on the night, with RSM **John Riley** and the Adjutant greeting visitors at the gate. The event was combined with the annual Regimental Cocktail Party so a good number of hosts were available from the Regiment. The Corps band played retreat in fine fashion and we were particularly pleased to welcome a number of honorary members from the old 37 (Wessex and Welsh) days, who all seemed to enjoy themselves.

Staff for the evening were provided mostly by RHQ and HQ Sqn, with 67 Sig Sqn (V) members in blues adding the ceremonial touch, in Yeomanry style. Many highly complimentary letters were received afterwards and it appears that the Regiment may thus be committed to the task for future years.

LCpl Pete Buka and Cpl Tim Mansell (67 Sqn) stand guard as Sgt Sarah Cull checks the guest list and WO2 Eddie O'Connor superintends

67 (QOWWY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V), STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Sqn Comd **Maj Roy Naylor**

The annual Skill-at-Arms Match was held this year at Kingsbury Ranges, near Tamworth. Competition was fierce for the trophy of Squadron Champion Shot, which was won by **Sig Andy Clarke** after an additional shoot-off with **Cpl Bob Hampson**, when the original scores were tied. This victory meant that **Sig Clarke** also won the Best Recruit Shot and the Best OR Shot as well. Champion Female Shot was won by **Lt Jo Dellamuro** and Champion Pistol Shot by **Lt Andy Fletcher**. On the Sunday, the families of Squadron members were invited to the lunchtime barbecue and watched the Falling Plate competition, which was won by 9 TAOR Tp from Stourbridge.

THE WARWICKSHIRE YEOMANRY BICENTENNIAL PARADE

On Sunday 26 June, 67 Sqn, A (WWY) Sqn of the Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry and the Old Comrades Association mounted a parade through the streets of Warwick to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the raising of the Warwickshire Yeomanry by The Earl of Aylesford on 25 June 1794.

The day started early for the participating Squadrons, as the rehearsals of the vehicle drive past had to be done before the streets of Warwick were engulfed by tourists. After two trial runs the vehicles were taken away to a local car park to await the start of the parade.

At 1015 hrs the vehicle commanders, led by **Maj Roy Naylor**, made their way to St. Mary's Church for the service of commemoration. Among the guests in the congregation were **Brig Neeve** (2 Sig Bde), **Brig Silk** (143 Inf Bde), the **Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire** and the **Mayor of Warwick**, as well as a number of former Commanding Officers of the Regiment. Lessons were read by **Col Sir Jerry Wiggin, M.P.**, Honorary Colonel of A Sqn RMLY, **Mr. Neville Warner** (OCA) and **LCpl Ashley Girdler** (67 SqnV).

After the Service the vehicle commanders made their way to the vehicles which were waiting in Old Square, at the front of the church. The remainder of the congregation lined the route of the parade and were joined by many of the townsfolk of Warwick and tourists.

The parade was led by the Guidon party, parading the Guidon of the Queen's Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry. They were followed by A Sqn RMLY and 67 (QOWWY) Sig Sqn. The band of the 5 Bn Royal Regt of Fusiliers led the Old Comrades for their march past.

After the parade, the officers and senior non-commissioned officers of the Squadron joined the guests and Old Comrades at the Lord Leycester Hotel in Warwick for a buffet lunch. **Col Haycock** made a speech and read a message of congratulations from **Her Majesty the Queen**, the Honorary Colonel of the old Regiment.

During the afternoon, the guests were given a guided tour of the Warwickshire Yeomanry museum and taken to see a display of the Regimental silver which was on show in the Court House. Afternoon tea was served in the Court House and a commemorative cake was raffled for charity. **WO2 (SSM) Ray Campbell** was the lucky ticket holder and he walked off with a joyous grin on his face (no wonder, he got a large cake for a poooooound).

Cpl Andy Westlake, Sgt Matt Duff and Cpl Andy Lockie take a break from guiding and guarding the CMR

Three COs: Col Jonathan Cox (1987-1989), Lt Col John Macfarlane (1992-) and Lt Col Ian Thomson (1989-1992) pose for the camera

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

EXERCISE LEG STRETCH

Once again the Regiment set itself the traditional physical and mental challenge of walking around most of the North of England in less than 24 hours. Teams from within the Regiment were joined by teams from other TA units and teams of civilian walkers, to walk either 40 miles on the Langcliffe Course or 23 miles on the Littondale course.

The start of the walk was unusual in the extreme. Most of the experienced walkers thought they were in the wrong place when the usual torrential downpour failed to materialise for the start–in this case about 0425 hrs on Saturday morning. **Maj Dennis Trayers**–the walk controller–was heard to be muttering, '. . . this isn't a Regimental Walk–it's not bucketing down . . .' all day. In fact, the weather was almost ideal if a little warm for walking across such places as Pen-y-Ghent, Horse Head Moor and Malham Tarn.

LCpl Barrington receiving the West Trophy from Mr Peter Thompson, United Engineering Steels

About a 100 walkers set off into the morning mist in total. As well as teams from within the Regiment, there were teams from 33 Sig Regt (V) (led by **Maj Quayle**); United Engineering Steels (**Messrs Peace, Mason, Bacon, Kitchen, Taylor** and **Harrison**) and the known-of-old civilian team (**Messrs Dumelow** x 2, **Sanders, Bennett, Blencowe**); together with a mixed scratch civilian team (**Messrs Siddons** x 2 and our own **WO2 (Retd) Hanman**).

The day ended finally at 2320 hrs, with **Capt Jane Boulton** leading the girls team from 64 Sqn in from the long course. There were some funny walks in the beer tent afterwards, but everyone seemed to find the walk to the bar easier with every pint!

Sunday morning saw the camp struck and the presentation of trophies. The Regiment was once again pleased to welcome **Mr Peter Thompson** of United Engineering Steels, Stockbridge, to present the trophies. The Pedley Trophy (best aggregate time for the first 10 long course walkers from 1 Sqn) went to **Sig Shay** from 64 Sqn; the 10 did not include the OC, **Maj Stan Fitzgerald**'s dog, Tegger, who actually covered twice the distance and who eventually was dragged in by the lead. 64 Sqn also took the WRAC Trophy for the best aggregate time for female walkers in one Squadron. HQ Sqn took the West Trophy for the first 10 walkers on the short (short?) course. **LCpl Barradale** and **Cpl Young**, **Cpl Parr** and **LCpl Westbrook** from 46 Sqn took the Sivell-Warburton Trophy and the Rita Warburton Trophy respectively, for best individual and best female efforts on the shorter course. Our new CO, **Lt Col R. Davenport**, thanked all for their efforts over the weekend–walkers, administrators and all.

Special thanks went to **Maj Dennis Trayers**, having organised the Regimental walk for several years now, who is bowing out of the walk organisation. Rumour has it this is due to his failure with the weather this year–those of you who were there and have taken part in the walk over the past few years will know what I mean!

46 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Once again the Squadron has had a busy two months, the 93-94 TCW cycle finished with the trade tests at Catterick. Congratulations to all those who successfully passed.

The 4-5 June saw the Squadron in Haltern Training Camp for a Leadership Training Weekend. A programme which centred on Command Tasks, Canoeing and Ranges, with Orienteering and Potted Sports for recreation, ensured a lively couple of days. A blustery and wet start to a tented weekend did not dampen the enthusiasm or our enjoyment.

The canoeing produced a surprising number of starts, mostly novices who by the end of the session were completing canoe borne entries into the water off 4ft high banks. Perhaps there is potential for our re-roling under 'Options'.

Our photographs show sections from Derby and our detached Troop at Leicester, each of which was led by a JNCO, enjoying their Command tasks. The first photograph shows **Sig Aaron Smith** and **LCpl Louise Gailley** about to hang **Sig Sarah Alsop**, while **Sig Smith, Cpl Biz Parr, Sgt Dick Alton** and **LCpl Paul Wilmer** stand and applaud–just joking **Sarah**!

The second picture shows some of Leicester Tp bluffing their way, with **LCpl Neil Holkham** equipped for mountaineering, while **Sig Matt March, Sgt Penny Burns, Cpl Julie Moulson, Sig Richard Jackson** (late Royal Signals Regular) and **LCpl Mick Burns** stare at something disgusting on his boots.

Note for the RSM–the only one without the beret is the ex-regular.

The orienteering was won by **Sgt Dick Alton** who beat all comers to show that it really is cunning that matters more than running!

On the third weekend in June the Squadron held a COMMEX and Training weekend, Ex Blue Oyster. On Friday night, it was all go, except no one had told British Gas, who decided to dig up the approach road to Chilwell Garrison. SHQ and 903 Tp were then treated to a guided tour of the back streets of Nottingham arriving at the gate some 20 minutes later–join the Army, see the world! **Cpl Lisa Emmerson** did sterling work putting a four-tonner and generator through the chicanes, causing **Sgt Martin** 'Bagsaroom' **Pratt** more than a few scares.

The Exercise carried on through the night, and onwards through Saturday. We were visited by the Training Major, **Maj Peter Baron**, the Adjutant, **Capt Jamie Compston** and the new Regimental Sergeant Major, **WO1 John Grandison** having his first look at the Squadron.

Sunday morning **Sgt Penny Burns** delivered her world famous Det Commanders' folder presentation. This was quickly followed by vehicle and equipment maintenance. Here **Sig John Coles** cut a dashing figure in his coveralls and wire brush!

Let's hang her now!
(L to R): Sig Aaron Smith, LCpl Louise Gailley, Sig Sarah Alsop, Sig 'AC' Smith, Cpl Biz Parr, Sgt Dick Alton, LCpl Paul Wilmer

Leicester Det Command Task
(L to R): LCpl Neil Holkham, Sig Matt March, Sgt Penny Burns, Cpl Julie Moulson, Sig Richard Jackson, LCpl Mick Burns

While all this excitement was going on **Lt Kay Sheriston** and **Lt Julia Bridge** were working hard passing their Range Management Qualification Stages 1-3. Congratulations also to **Sgt Dick Millett** who passed his Qualification earlier in the month.

Well done also to **Cpl Karen Westbrook** and **Cpl Dave Parnell** for passing the Det Commanders' Course at Catterick.

64 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
ARMY SAILING REGATTA

As a first for the Regiment, 64 Sig Sqn (V) chartered the Corps Yacht, *Petasus III*, and entered a crew in the ASA Offshore Regatta which took place 25-27 June.

As a prelude to the event however, the days prior were spent sailing in and around the Solent putting the crew through their paces in handling skills and race drills.

Of the crew of six, comprising **Sgt Gill Whitehouse, Sgt Paul Parker, Sgt Alex Groves, Sig Simon Jenner, Kath House** (Sqn civilian Admin Officer), and **Mary West** (sister of **Lt Col R. V. R. West**), three had never sailed before and of the remainder not one had ever taken part in an official race. Despite this fact **Cpl Martin Kendell**, our Bosun and Skipper, stated he had complete and utter faith in us.

The first race started in a total confusion as to which gun was our start signal. By the time we had sorted this problem out the wind had dropped and we failed to reach the line in time for the official race start. In our defence I might also add that we were not the only ones to do so. Although not in the race proper we did sail the course which gave all crew members a taste of things to come.

After two successful starts we managed to get into the swing of things and the crew started to work well together as a team and we were well prepared and ready for the start of the 'Passage Race' around the Isle of Wight on the Sunday afternoon.

On race day with the tide and the wind in our favour and with spray breaking over the bow we rounded the Needles in fine style. On the return leg along the south side of the Isle of Wight and with the spinnaker straining at the leash we crossed the finishing line in fifth place out of 11 yachts. The race had taken us 13 hours to complete and everyone was very tired but quite elated. Having tasted success, albeit limited, we are looking forward to the time when we can put our new found skills to the test and, well, who knows!!

(L to R): Sgt Alex Groves, Sig Simon Jenner, Sgts Paul Parker, Gill Whitehouse, Kath House, Cpl Martin Kendell (Bosun) and unseen but taking the picture, Mary West

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?
HAVE YOU INFORMED RHQ?
TELEPHONE 071-414 8426

39 Sig Regt (SC) (V)
Chelsea

CO — **Lt Col C. J. Laurence TD (V)**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) R. C. Bray**

THE REGIMENT

HQ Sqn undertook a very interesting weekend at the Hampshire County Council's Outdoor Pursuits Centre, at Calshot near Southampton. Thirty-five people took part in various activities such as indoor skiing, rock climbing, archery, indoor cycling (around the wall of death), canoeing and windsurfing. 1 Sqn has had a very successful Radio/Voice procedure Ex using VRC 353 and PRC 320's. 5 Sqn has undertaken various weekends with more recently, NBC training the **SSgt Steve Cocksedge** way which involves a lot of running around in full IPE. Also the Permanent Staff Golf team losing narrowly to 36 Sig Regt (V) in Ilford, even with Messrs **Maj Hugh Bardell** and **Capt Don Holmes** the Trg Maj and QM respectively and their ever such a little bit dodgy handicaps.

1 SQUADRON, BLETCHLEY

On our return from camp in summer 1993, the building work on our new TA centre had begun and we found our facilities reduced to three portacabins and a drill hall. Despite this, turnout remained high as we continued operator training in the new redesigned Commcen. October saw Ex Runnel Stone, our annual exercise based in Denmark which provides us with the opportunity to test our patrolling skills as well as our operator skills in a hostile environment. The exercise was an overwhelming success with most of the objectives destroyed and only a few of our soldiers captured despite the posters and radio bulletins urging the locals to report any sightings of foreign forces in the area. It was reported later that the Danish District Commanders had received over 300 phone calls, the first reports arriving before the advance party had even got off the ferry!

The end of 1993 was celebrated with a Squadron competition weekend which was won by **SSgt Dave Scott** and his team. The prize, presented at our Christmas dinner was a mounted brick from the old TA centre, a valued prize which now sits in the appropriate place, behind the bar. January saw another Squadron weekend located at Gamecock Barracks, now the home of 30 Sig Regt. It gave us the opportunity to test our administration and communication skills in the run up to Ex Farne Deep at the start of March. Training was designed to make people familiar with the jobs that other members of the Squadron carried out and so we saw Powermen tuning a Clansman 320, Operators laying line. Even the catering was tested out under the ever watchful eye of **SSgt Dave Scott**.

The start of this year heralded the arrival of a few new faces to 1 Sqn in the shapes of **Lt Jannette Walker** who has transferred across from 5 Sqn and **2Lt Angus Evers** who has joined from Northumbria OTC. The Squadron weekend in February was a bit more lighthearted and took place on the Isle of Wight. The Saturday was taken up by a treasure hunt round the island. The method of travel was left to the individual teams but with the rugby on, it was not surprising to see many of the teams cruising round the island in hire cars before meeting up in a pub in Newport. Saturday night saw one of the PSAO's (**Capt Harry Meekings**) famous curry dinners followed by a couple of well earned drinks. Sunday consisted of survival training and a few lessons on method of restraint given to us by **WO1 Foster** from LDSTT and **PC Colin Duggan** from the tactical firearms unit, Thames Valley Police. Everyone became actively involved in skinning rabbits, building emergency shelters, disarming armed villains and techniques for removing individuals from vehicles. It is amazing how cooperative you can become with your face in the dirt and your arm twisted behind your back. Our thanks go to everyone who made the weekend possible. February saw the first major exercise of the year with Ex Farne Deep, a special communications exercise with a live enemy provided by 63 Sig Sqn (V). It was the first time the now self sufficient Commhead had been up against a live enemy and there were a lot of lessons to be learnt. Whilst we fought them on the beaches, several members of the Squadron were sunning it up on the beaches of Ayia Napa in Cyprus as it was our turn to provide a field kaynard det. All kinds of rumours began to circulate when we found out that their flight back had been cancelled and they had to spend an extra couple of days in Cyprus.

It was obvious on Ex Dogger Bank in June that many of the lessons from Ex Farne Deep had been learnt as we had a good exercise despite the weather conditions. There is no doubt that the location at Upper Heyford was significant in this. The comms element ran without a hitch from our end and the catering was greatly improved with tea and cakes being served in the afternoon! The various Regimental Weekends have provided further trade training and social events. The barbecue and disco at South Cerney on a South Seas theme will be remembered for a long time with **SSgt Angie Bailey** leading the way.

Congratulations go to the following Squadron members on their promotions:

Cpl Loots, Cpl Dunn, LCpl Gott, LCpl Weaver, LCpl Stevens. Special congratulations go to **Sig Willmott** who has been presented with the Skinners Prize for best female soldier in the Regiment, the prize was presented by the Master of the Worshipful Company of Skinners, **Sir Richard Butler DL**. Finally, our best wishes go to **SSgt Ian Carter**, PSI Ops who will shortly be leaving us for 30 Sig Regt. His contribution to the Squadron has been appreciated by all and we wish him well in his new posting.

EXERCISE BARBARA

The article in the 'Daily Telegraph' supplement extolled the virtues of cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats–a total distance of 881 miles. Lesser mortals might have read this, thinking, 'who would be daft enough to do that?' and continue on their way.

Not so an intrepid four man team from 39 Sig Regt. To these brave souls, the challenge was irresistible. And so the team formed and **WO2** 'Robbo' **Robinson**, **Sgt Rick Buxton** and **SSgt Ian Carter** and **LCpl Grant Gellately** prepared for the off.

Everyone kept telling them to go from John O'Groats to Lands End because that would be downhill all the way, but they wanted to do it the hard way!

Sponsors were sought to benefit The Royal Signals Museum and Cancer Research and the Regiment rallied to the cause with sizeable amounts coming in from all four Squadrons.

Of course, the cyclists couldn't have achieved what they did without the support of their admin team. They kept us fed and watered and did a first class job, speeding from point to point arranging accommodation and food stops.

The admin team was made up of a host of personalities who joined and left at various stages of the trip. A special mention must be made of **Sgt Lumsden-Gordon**, who stayed with us the entire way and kept us liberally supplied with food, water, Vaseline and his unique sense of humour. Mind you, there are only so many things you can do with pasta and bananas!

Saddle rash created a small concern for 'Robbo' **Robinson** and we were constantly kept up to date on its progress. This enabled us, however, to cycle faster, because when one heard 'Robbo' coming up behind saying, 'Oh, and then the rash spread and I had to use a whole jar of Vaseline but it's better than it was yesterday and I think it might be OK soon . . .' one's instinct was just to get away!

At last, though, we were in a country of mountains, lochs, heather and strange grunting people–Scotland! John O'Groats was still far away, but we battled on and the emotion we felt on seeing a signpost which said 'John O'Groats 5 miles' was indescribable.

Then we spied the welcoming sight of the John O'Groats Hotel, the reception party and a few foaming tankards of Scottish ale. There was an RAF fly past, a few photographs, a light snack, and then the team got down to the story telling.

The next day, halfway home, we passed a cycle team. 'How far to John O'Groats, mate? they asked. We didn't have the heart to tell them!

'The Intrepid Team' outside the Groats Inn, John O'Groats, at the finish
(L to R): Sgt Lumsden-Gordon (Admin), SSgt Ian Carter, WO2 Robbo Robinson, the CO, Cpl Rachel Evans (Medic), LCpl Grant Gallatly, Sgt Rick Buxton (Organiser/Team Leader)

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

EXERCISE EXECUTIVE STRETCH 94

The Northern Ireland Ex Executive Stretch 94 was hosted this year by the Regiment. It took place over the weekend 14-15 May in the Stranraer Area of Southwest Scotland and is designed to foster relationships with local employers by taking company executives on a weekend exercise which offers both physical and mental challenges for the participants.

The gruelling schedule began on Friday night when the 60 eager local executives set out on their journey from Belfast.

After arriving in Scotland, the group was divided into 10 teams and given its first task–a 5am mountain hike through 4km of rough terrain while wearing a full back-pack.

Other tasks, before they made camp 14 hours later, included:

A water rescue involving swimming out to an overturned dinghy which had to then be steered to shore without the aid of paddles. A dummy body had also to be picked up en route. Once ashore, the rescued body had to be carried up a steep hill by the exhausted team.

Assembly of two separate radio units which then had to be connected by cable across a viaduct and signals transmitted.

Orienteering with three different maps through a forest, with a time limit of 25 minutes.

Construction of a 40ft aerial with an egg on top–yes, an egg!–and with all the equipment concealed in a forest.

Loading of 2-ton concrete blocks and shale onto a dump truck to create a helicopter landing site using heavy plant vehicles, including cranes. To add to the difficulty of the task, several obstacles also had to be manoeuvred through.

Erection of a tent–while blindfolded, of course!

Hostage rescue with only a map as guidance to the hostage location. Minor obstacles such as rivers and make-believe minefields had to be encountered along the way.

Rescue of a dummy from the rafters of a barn. Body was supposedly electrocuted, so the team had to devise a plan to bring it to safety without injuring him or themselves.

There was the added problem of the rafters only being able to support one body, as well as a genuinely electrified fence en route to the helicopter landing pad.

Is this the right way up? Constructing a raft, executive stretch

Abseiling down a 120ft cliff face. A challenge that most admitted they did not want to do, but all felt thrilled to have achieved.

A command task of climbing down one precipice to remove a key from a funnel and then climb back up to the other precipice to use the key to defuse a dummy bomb. Difficulties such as not allowing your feet to touch the ground made the task frustratingly difficult.

The next day's schedule started with a 5am alarm call–two pipers walking through the forest with a deafening reveille.

Then it was another packed programme of clay pigeon shooting, an assessment of skills on the rifle range, a driving test, Go Kart racing–finally–a Raft Race–using your own design of raft, of course!

To round the entire weekend off, the trip home was made by helicopter.

An exhausted, but completely exhilarated, crew of executives arrived home in Belfast . . . ready for their Monday morning back at the office.

And all agreed that the joys of shuffling paper around their desks would never be taken for granted again!

A vote of 'very well done' must go to our Trg Maj, **Maj Ron Chisholm** and his team for planning and administering this very successful event.

Send out a SOS, raft race executive stretch

VISIT OF COMMANDER 107 (ULSTER) BRIGADE

The Commander 107 (Ulster) Bde, **Brig J. R. Smales** paid his first formal visit to the Regiment on Tuesday 28 June during a normal evening training session. The primary purpose of the visit was to formally open the first Small Arms Trainer to be installed in a TA unit in Northern Ireland.

The Brigadier arrived at the TAC at 1930 hrs and was met by the CO, **Lt Col Roger Batho** and the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) I. J. W. Little**.

After changing into working dress he formally opened the SAT and took part in a competition shoot.

A visit to the Recruit Tp followed, after discussions with the CO.

He then visited the JRC, and Sergeants' Mess and left at 2330 hrs after having supper with the Regimental Officers.

Comd 107 Bde and CO pose for the camera at the official opening of the SAT

LANYARD TROPHY COMPETITION 94
by **Capt Mike Fraser-Brenchley**

There are certain things in life that one volunteers for without too much thought. Such decisions are often of little consequence, involving at most a little discomfort to everyday life. It was with such an air of insouciance that the Lanyard Trophy team volunteered for this year's competition.

Now, with it past, it can be reflected upon and the question asked: 'How could we have ever been so stupid?'

Little clues should have warned us in advance:

Reveille was at a time when most God fearing Ulstermen are still drinking in their pubs.

Even the most optimistic estimate would have our team walking for an ungodly length of time.

There were the stories told by old hands and the future horrors ahead that they hinted at.

Or the amount of preparation involved . . .

However none of this had an effect.

The team consisted of **Capts Matt Fensom**, **Mike Fraser-Brenchley**, **SSgt Mark Brotherston**, **Sgts Rab McCluskey**, **Mark Fettus**, **Cpl Gary Patton REME**, **Sigs Darren Anthony**, **Billy Stevenson** and **Jason Stroud**. Admin back-up was provided by **WO2 John Gibson** and **LCpl Phil Lee**. After a no-show earlier in the day **WO2 Gibson** stepped into the breach to complete the team. The RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Larry Little** was also on hand to offer advice and encouragement.

The Lanyard Trophy Team, Adjt in the lead

As the team tabbed, the day followed the expected format. The first couple of legs had everyone chatting away. Humour was evident, and the 'crack' was good. Drinks were drunk, 'Power' bars and stickies were eaten.

As the next couple of legs went past, bodies and feet began to have second thoughts. The idea that this was not a sensible thing for a sane person to be doing took hold. The vein of humour in the chatter began to peter out and mutual encouragement took over.

Walking had by now taken on a robotic quality. Stopping only made one realise how numb feet and muscles were getting, how much sweating the body was doing–and how incredibly stupid volunteering for such a competition was.

Towards the end silence dominated as the team members had found their own private hell into which to retreat.

It was this, combined with sheer ruddy mindedness that kept people going. The team finished 11th out of 16 teams to be the first TA team and the first NI Royal Signals unit to finish.

Post competition left the feeling of sheer elation that it was finally over and the co-ordinated walking ability of a new borne baby. The next afternoon had the team walking around the ferry terminal at Stranraer with all the fluidity of motion of Frankenstein's monster.

The team is left now with the memory of the competition and the major fear now is that we might be insane enough to do it again next year.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Fond farewells are extended to **SSgt** 'Taff' **Rideout** and **LCpl Brian Townsend** and warm welcomes to **SSgt (FofS) Gary Haslam**, **SSgt (YofS) Mark Dennis**, **SSgt Kevin German**, **Sgt Kevin McHugh** and **Cpl Kevin Dawes**; we wish them a happy tour with the Regiment.

LCpl Brian Townsend receives a gift from Maj Ron Chisholm at the happy hour

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are extended to **Lt Aaron Ballantyne** on his excellent performance at the Army Fencing Championships. In the overall placings he came fourth in the foil, seventh in the epee and 14th in the sabre. He won the TA trophy in both foil and epee.

Congratulations also to **Cpl Simon Dupree** who married **Sig Gillian McMaster** on the 6 July.

- News from Squadrons -

HQ BRITFOR Sig Sqn
Op Grapple
BFPO 544

It's hard to believe that we, from 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207) are already more than half way through our tour. We have accomplished a lot and have been prepared to do a lot more. There are always new plans being worked on to support events that never seem to happen. That is why you keep hearing in the Blueys that 'I'm going off to do this exotic task or capture that hill' but it often doesn't come about. It's disappointing because these 'funny' tasks break the routine.

Some of the lads have been hoping to deploy with their communications vehicles into Bosnian Serb territory. In the event there has been a lot of waiting around as neither side has been willing to let us through the confrontation lines. This hasn't meant idleness though as **Cpl Raybould** and **Sig Kutzner** have found out. The crew are busy turning themselves into a Special Forces detachment and will soon be able to handle any eventually, especially if it includes press-ups.

There are a few suntans developing nicely. In particular **Brian Dalton** and **Sgt John** 'Black' **Berry**. **LCpl Lucy** 'Giggles' **Butchers** and **LCpl**

Capt Bob Munro and the Squadron mascot, 'Stevie'

Mizzy Thompson have been able to fit in a few international press interviews as they race to develop the perfect tan. (That's between typing up all the Part 2 orders and helping to feed a 1000 people every day). **RQMS Dennis** and **WO1 (ASM) Parsonson** have escaped to Aldershot for a Mountain bike race; we don't know why, all the mountains are over here! Maybe it's a wind up. **Capt Bob Munro** has had a romantic week with his fiancee on one of the islands here. He's come back bouncier than ever.

We've had a few promotions to celebrate which is good news. Firstly it was **Sigs Benson**, **Simpson**, and **Hornby** who are now all Lance Jacks, then **Cpls McNeilly**, **Simcock** and **Clarke** (LAD) who have been selected for promotion next year. At times like these the Two Can rule is very restrictive.

Fund raising for the Vrlika institute carries on. We really appreciate your efforts, and so do the children and staff of the institute. Our aim is to help them rebuild their kitchen which is nearly as dire as the one our chefs have to use! 4 Bde's project to equip a laundry is coming to fruition with the plumbing virtually finished. The great Ariel opening will be taking place next week.

BRITFOR SIGNAL TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Nick O'Kelly**

Well as the turmoil in FRY is continuing, there is a small confrontation between the two warring factions within the BRITFOR Sig Tp.

Cpl Alf Smith (left) and Cpl 'Ginge' McNeilly

Newly promoted LCpl Hornby with his generator

On one side we have **McIntyre**'s merry men, made up of Big **George Mc**, Serious **John B**, **Al** 'Ferret' **Crossman**, **Danny Meikleham**, **Rose**, **Conway** and **Flash** who are all the members of the Squadron's LAD. Having just lost their para trained little Nobby they are eagerly awaiting reinforcements from the Big Fat **Dave** 'Gunner' **Mcleish**.

On the other side is **Obidiah Smith**'s Posse, made up of all of the MT and the Radio Tp. Led by immortal **Obidiah** 'Taff' **Smith** himself, **Ginge McNeilly**, **Tom Murray**, **John Broughton**, 'Ollie' **Mills**, **Lightbody**, **Connell**, 'Smudge' **Smith** and the rest of the happy gang.

At approx 1430 on Wednesday the 29th, the LAD were too hot.

Out of the goodness of their hearts, eight men from **Obidiah**'s posse left the MT in an armoured land rover and went to the LAD. Jumped out and relieved them all of their heat.

Mission accomplished.

For all those at home–Please do no try this at home or in the wives club as it ruins morale and the wallpaper.

HQ SSW SIGNAL TROOP

Another day and another $1.28 as life goes on in Gornji Vakuf. The new Arnold Schwarzenegger gymnasium is coming on well and we are hoping to have another weight bar made with concrete filled baked bean tins in the next week or ten! Pleas for decent food have reached our ears from our far flung comrade **LCpl Dean Rawlings**, currently with the Malaysian Battalion, who has sworn never to have curry for breakfast again! **Sig Gooch** has let it be known that he is getting used to eating anything!

The manpower shortages remain critical and have forced **Lt Jim Langley** to act as a 'liney' and lay a telephone cable between the Muslim and Croat Headquarters. He is very upset at not being allowed to wear the much sought after liney's belt! **Cpl** 'Scouse' **Simcock** used his birthday on 18 July to avoid something else. He was presented with a cake baked by **Sgt Fletcher** and thoroughly enjoyed the customary two beers.

Everyone is now looking forward to their R&R when the customary 10 beers will immediately come into effect.

NOTE FROM THE SIGNAL TROOP
by **Sig Proctor**

Well apart from the obvious things the Sig Tp gets up to, we are all involved in a six week changeover at the outdets (SPABAT, MALBAT and CANBAT). SPABAT is definitely a job for the man with no taste buds as you get fish for dinner complete with all its working parts! Tea is normally a juicy helping of squid–which still tastes like fish! After such culinary delights, coming back to GV and tasting **Sgt Fletcher**'s cooking, is heaven.

JCUFI
BFPO 655

CANDLELIGHTERS TAB
by **Sig L. Rankin**

On Saturday 11 June seven volunteers from JCUFI set out for a leisurely walk from MPA to Stanley. That's actually a little white lie, it was in fact a 35-mile tab with 40lbs Bergens.

'Tabbers'

Support Crew

The reason behind seven usually sane-minded people exerting themselves in this way (by choice), was the fact that the team was sponsored and all monies raised would go the Candlelighters Trust Fund. The Charity raises funds for a cancer research and treatment unit at York Hospital, which specialises in the treatment of children.

The team consisted of **Cpl Chris Cole**, **LCpl Nige** 'Ballistic' **Hinton**, **Sigs Jed Murphy**, and **Lesley Rankin**, with support tabbers **Maj John** 'Windy' **Gale**, **Sig** 'Brummie' **Taylor**, and **Sig** 'Tommo' **Thompson**.

I'm glad to say that all members of the team finished the tab, much to the relief of everyone's feet.

First in were **Cpl Chris Cole** and support tabber **Maj John** 'Windy' **Gale** with a time of eight hours and 35 minutes. The rest, after a slight diversion for hot soup, made it back in under 10 hours and 15 minutes.

All this wouldn't have been achieved without the help of the volunteers who turned up on the Saturday at the unearthly hour of 0700 hrs to supply rations, medical aid and, morale boosting humour, for the 35 miles. It was good to see **Flt Lt** 'Tarquin' **Rowland** seeing the funny side of **USM** 'Rab C' **Davidson**'s banter, even though I was in no fit state to appreciate it myself at the time.

A big thanks to all those who cheered us on and donated money as they passed by. A special thank you to the crews of 78 Sqn's Sea King, Fat Albert and Figas for their fly-overs en-route.

All in all a good day, and the money raised for the Charity is in excess of £400, with more to come.

Thanks **Nige** for the idea and the plans, we will get you back, and **Chris** for organising the event. I never thought I would walk 35 miles for a bath though.

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY

The day, Sunday, the occasion, Princess Royal Day, 26 June. It was decided to celebrate the occasion with the Crystal Maze, a Kart Race and 'It's a Knockout' competition. On the Sunday morning five teams of approximately five personnel, from JCUFI, assembled up at 12 Facility Reception. The idea being that each section would build a 'Man-powered cart' and race it round the internal corridors, trying to avoid all pedestrians, or not, as the case may be. The teams were all in fancy dress. The Line Section was appropriately dressed in aerobic costumes with shreddies worn outside. All teams managed to complete the course, bar one. The Power Section kart, with **Cpl** 'Hutch' **Hutchinson** as co-driver, managed to take out the solid concrete pillar in the corridor.

The Crystal Maze commenced directly after the Kart Race, various games took place, based loosely on the tele programme. In Porkyville Zone, one game consisted of someone guessing what objects were in amongst different coverings. In went **Cpl Pat Donoghue**'s hand, felt around, withdrew it and smelt. I'm not sure what it is but I've smelt it before somewhere.

Another game which was in the 'Toon-ville' Section was the 'Fireman Sam', where a competitor had to walk round a course blindfolded and don parts of a fireman's outfit. The lucky competitor was **Sig Knight** who managed to complete the course in half a day.

Finally, in the Crystal Maze, this time in the 'Waterworld Zone' **Sgt Des Jenkins** was selected to piece together a Union flag metal jigsaw, in a bin of water donning a diver's mask.

To end the day, 'It's a Knockout' was held in the Swimming Pool. The sight of the day has to be **LCpl Billy Smith** impressing everyone with his 'Man from Atlantis' impression. As **Billy** started to go under, his team dived in to rescue the fancy dress to avoid losing points. Then the team remembered the team captain, and rescued him!

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
(216 Para)
Aldershot

This contribution, the Squadron will focus on the outstanding achievements of the Commanders Cup and Lanyard Trophy teams.

COMMANDERS CUP
by **Capt Steve Vickery**

After a week of intensive training at Oakhampton Camp, the Squadron military skills team were ready for the Commanders Cup event. **Sgt Jim Duncan** thoroughly enjoyed putting the team through its NBC paces, including a smokey NBC chamber! **Cpl Kev Read** visibly shook his head on a number of occasions trying to explain back bearings to the uninitiated. **Sig** 'Dog' **Barker** explained everything about Soviet vehicles, including the tyre tread!

Sigs Paul Henderson and 'Taff' **Kinsey** provided the muscle with **LCpl Andy Hodgeson** expertly peering through the darkness during the night navigation tab. Although the banker event, shooting, did not go according to plan the Squadron had achieved enough points on day one to win the competition. After falling from the rope climb **Sig Paul Henderson** was in a good deal of pain, however 'the airborne spirit' saw him through, and because of his tenacious effort in the face of real pain, he was nominated to receive the winning trophy from **Brig N. F. Wood**, Comd Comms UKLF.

LANYARD TROPHY
by **Sig Oliver**

Lanyard Trophy is a competition where you find that actions speak louder than words. Training for the Trophy began a few months before the actual competition. At the Squadron it's hard to run a good training schedule, as we are on exercise most of the time, eating Airborne curries which **LCpl Paul Goddard** knows all about.

All the training was run by **SSgt** 'Smudge' **Smith** who constantly beasted us up, down and around the training area. After a few weeks training the trophy team started to take shape. Everyone in the Squadron takes part in the initial training, as they have pride in the Squadron and want it to do well. After the squad got picked we moved up to Catterick for some more serious training and to recce the course. When we arrived we couldn't believe it, we were stopping in the middle of nowhere, sleeping in 12 x 12 tents and surrounded by hills and sheep, but the lads were not bothered because we were in capable hands of **SSgt Dave** (Admin) **Buckingham** so nothing could possibly go wrong. The training went quite well even though a few of us had minor problems with the heat. The best training of all was at the weekends in Darlington.

The Victorious Commanders Cup Team 1994
Standing *(L to R)*: LCpls Andy Hodgson, Al Hammond, Sig Taff Kinsey, Cpl Kev Read
Kneeling *(L to R)*: Sig Paul Henderson, Sgt Jim Duncan, Capt Steve Vickery, Sig 'Dog' Barker

A couple of days before the competition we moved to 8 Sig Regt to relax and do our own thing. **Cpl** 'Whacko' **Jackson** and **Cpl De Burgh** spent most of the time boring the rest of us with their amazing new hobby, knot making, while **Cpl** 'Tez' **Blakeley** played **Cpl Spence Cave** at chess, they didn't know the rules but it looked good and yet again **Sgt** (now SSgt) **Dave** (Admin) **Buckingham** had everything under control.

On the morning of the competition we heard that we were getting filmed for TV so we knew where we could find the training staff.

From the start of the race to checkpoint five we settled in behind 19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (219). When we reached checkpoint five, ourselves and 19 Mech were the only ones in the running. We overtook them at checkpoint 6 and they had already lost two of their men, to our one. It all started going wrong from checkpoint 6, the heat was affecting one or two people and we lost **LCpl** 'Paddy' **Howe** because of heat exhaustion. We set off from checkpoint 7 neck-and-neck with 19 Mech, but we slowly started to lose them, even though myself and **Sig Andy Fisher** were in a bad state; **Sig Fisher** overcame it. I was held in there by the lads, led by **Capt Inglis**. When we reached, or should I say when I crawled up to checkpoint 8, I couldn't believe just how fresh some of the lads looked, especially **Sgt Dez** (Baz) **Eldridge**. In fact, it was the first time I saw his face, as all I could see before was the back of his Bergen.

We came across the finish line 30 mins ahead of 19 Mech, and we did it in true 'Airborne' fashion. I had never felt so good and knackered at the same time in my life; it was a great experience in more ways than one.

That night and on the way back to Aldershot we celebrated with a few cans, but that was short lived as it was back to work as normal on the Monday and some of the lads were straight out on Exercise. What a Bonus!

SSgt Dougie Craig, the SQMS dreaming fond thoughts . . .

19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209)
Catterick

Sqn Comd **Maj David Hargreaves**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Pete Woodward**

The Squadron is busier than a busy thing. On the turn of a coin it has been chosen from a cast of thousands to go to Bosnia. The Sqn Comd managed to calculate the possibility of deployment to be 94.5%! Just how he came to this exact calculation is anybody's guess. That's what a maths degree from Cambridge University does for you!

The Squadron embarked upon its own training the day after its return from block leave. **SSgt Smith**'s 20 league boots came into effect on a delightful stroll back from the range, few lived to tell the tale. The range work was spiced up quite nicely with a run through of all the foreign weapons that we are likely to encounter in the full former Yugoslavia. From the variety on display it seems that their economy runs on arms manufacture. Unfortunately, there was no chance to fire these particular weapons but we did make up for it on the GPMG. Apologies to Oscar the bunny rabbit who had the misfortune to pop up his floppy ears at range 300. RIP.

Then follows an Ex Panthers View to break in the new Squadron members to armour as these toys will shortly be going into storage for some seven months. The Squadron is looking forward to greasing every nut and bolt on the wagons in preparation for this.

To come, there is a Special-To-Arm training programme provided, courtsey of the Yeoman, and in between this, the Squadron is going to the Combined Arms Training Centre in Salisbury for a two week pre-deployment training package. More ammunition for the GPMG will no doubt be converted into empty cases. Watch out Oscar.

Chas 'n' Dave have been rabbiting on during the handover of the QM's department. It is farewell to **Capt Dave Lumb** and hello to **Capt Chas Dale**. No chance of forgetting the first names of this pair when they are together.

The weather in Catterick has been its normal self. It has been unreasonably warm for August with chill winds and heavy rain. 19 Bde was the obvious choice for Op Grapple deployment in the winter season as the soldiers are hardened to those sort of weather conditions. In fact, we are looking forward to Bosnia being somewhat warmer than up North.

Lastly, its farewell on posting to The Royal School of Signals to **WO2 (YofS) Stuart Little**. A busy time awaits him at Blandford where he will be in his element. Watch your back with the trucks and trucks worth of unloading work to be done.

Posted to civvy street are **SSgt MacDonald**, **Sgts Tollington**, **Edminson**, **Sowerby**, **Cpls Clarke**, **Stafford**, **LCpl Randall**, **Sigs Guest**, **Beaman** and **Dargie**. The best wishes of the Squadron go with you.

LANYARD TROPHY
by **LCpl** 'Taff' **Thomas**

1994 SQUAD

Capt Tudor Hill, **Lt Gavin Williams**, **Sgt** 'Mo' **Howarth**, **Cpls Andy Hayes**, 'Pot Noodle' **Robinson**, **LCpls** 'Taff' **Thomas**, **Luke Venni**, **Sigs Neil Binks**, **Lee James**, 'Mac' **McMullen**.

Glad it's all over. The 19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209) team

After missing last year's competition, due to the move up to Catterick, 19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn were keen to make up for lost time. We also hoped to go one better than the second place achieved in 1992.

After a month of progressive training, 20 initial volunteers were whittled down to 10 men. The night before the race, the team sought to calm nerves by devouring the contents of Ariston's Pizza Take Away.

We set out at a frightening pace in the early hours to the music of Wagner's 'Ride of the Valkyries'. We had drawn clear of the chasing groups, but, by the third of 10 checkpoints we were down to the minimum eight men. The pressure was on by the half way stage as 216 Sig Sqn (Para) had caught up and it was 'neck and neck' until checkpoint 8. By the ninth, the strain really began to tell and we drifted behind by 4 minutes, after 42 miles. Alas, second again, but there is great pride in the fact that the team finished over an hour and three quarters ahead of the next team.

Congratulations to everyone in the team and a special thanks to the Admin boys **LCpl** 'Al' **Stewart**, **Sig** 'Dougy' **Icke** and **Sig** 'Smudge' **Smith**.

Cpl Robinson (left) fondly remembers his last Pot Noodle accompanied by Sig 'Mac' McMullen

BRAVO TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Andy Knott**

Bravo Tp has seen an entirely new hierarchy in place. **SSgt** 'Gazza' **Collins** joins the Squadron and with a nickname like that, he was immediately made IC Football. He is accompanied by his wife **Maza**. He is joined by the equally new face of **Lt Andy Knott**, straight in from his Troop Commander's course. The third addition to the Troop with the new stripes is the recently promoted **Sgt** 'Olly' **McGrail**. Very well done to him.

Unfortunately, the Troop has a number of farewells to make. Among those who leave us (before the hard work) is the old Troop Comd, **Lt Gavin Williams**. He leaves for a career in civvy street and takes with him the Troop shed (BMW 1981) replaced with the new Tp Comd's 1986 Orion. Perhaps he can find a place for it in the car auctions that he is now managing.

SSgt 'Dusty' **Miller** is also leaving for a civilian life. **Cpl** 'Robbo' **Robinson** is posted on promotion to Sgt to 15 Sig Regt, where he will be sneaking about. A member of the recent Lanyard Trophy team, 'Robbo' might be pushed to find a suitable location to practice his undisputed tabbing skills. As part of the drive to find funds for the Corps museum, Bravo Tp deployed to the local shopping centre. The Army carwash was quickly established, using washing liquid which was akin to paint stripper. That combined with the inevitable gritty sponge and the over zealous soldiers holding them, made the victims cars cleaner than the day they left the factory. Initially, there seemed to be some competition from Mr Blobby standing at the entrance of the shopping centre. On closer inspection this turned out to be none other than **Cpl Pearson**. Unfortunately he made all the children cry, and only made 10 pence! But as the 2IC says, 'every little bit helps'.

20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200)
BFPO 16

Sqn Comd **Maj Paul Eaton**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Neil Turnbull**

BRAVO TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Paul Smith**

WELCOMES

Welcome to **Cpl** 'Geordie' **Nixon** from 229 Sig Sqn, **LCpl Skerrit** from Alpha Tp and **Sig Harper** from 8 Sig Regt.

FAREWELLS

Farewell to **LCpl Kenny Irwin** who is off to 249 Sig Sqn, **LCpl Andy Preen** to 14 Sig Regt (EW), **LCpl Jim Anderson** to JCUNI on promotion and **Sig Ben Coleman**. We wish them all the very best in the future.

Yet again it has been a very busy period. The Troop have been involved in various commitments such as the last Soltau womble and Ex Tartan Rose. The phrase 'rent a det' readily springs to mind. We have just completed PRF and RSIT and this was followed by adventure training in the Harz. The Troop also had a PX trip and a Church Sunday.

ALPHA TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Allan Garrett**

June was a very busy month, getting ready for good old RSIT. July saw most people away to the Harz mountains for adventurous training.

CONGRATULATIONS

Everyone was extremely pleased to see **Sgt Paul Culleton** gain his well-deserved promotion.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

A warm welcome to **Cpl Tony Martin** and **Kim**, **Sig Tim Borrie** and **Karen** and **Sig Sean Wade**. Everyone was glad to see **Sig Nicky Woods** arrive and sad to see her go so quickly. We all wish her the best in Colerne and hope that her track-pad will remind her of her short experience of Panzers.

SUPPORT TROOP
QM/Tp Comd **Capt Mick Pawlak**

FAREWELLS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Capt Simon Parry to 11 Sig Regt, **WO2 Bob Jonas** to 15 Sig Regt, **Cpl** 'Taff' **Burke** to 7 Sig Regt. **Cpl Jimmy James** to 30 Sig Regt on promotion. Congratulations. **Sigs Lee Blowers**, 'Geordie' **Gray**, 'Shaddy' **Shadbolt**, all to UK on discharge and last but by no means least, **Sig Trev Tomkins** to 220 Sig Sqn, on promotion–Well done.

A big congratulations go to **Cpl Jimmy James** and **Cpl Fitzpatrick** on impending promotion.

EXERCISE WONDER WHY

Start Ex was at 0900 hrs on Saturday morning 28 May. Twenty anxious wives from 200 Sig Sqn mustered together, fully clad in well fitted coveralls(!) and wearing helmet, webbing and bergen. The nominal roll was called by our leader for the weekend, **RSM Neil Turnbull**, who then marched us past our husbands and children as we waved goodbye.

On arrival at our extremely muddy exercise location, we were greeted by an amused group of soldiers waiting to put us through our paces in some field craft tactics, which included map reading, judging distance, camouflage, comms skills, shooting and finally, everyone's favourite lesson–panzer driving! This was followed by a demonstration by **Pte Lisa Kirwin**, on how to produce a gourmet meal from rations provided! Starvation had set in and as we huddled together to light our hexi blocks, the heavens opened and so began what turned out to be a very wet evening.

Split into two groups of ten, and by now up to our necks in mud, it was time to put everything we'd learned into practice, and so off we went to our wooded harbour area to make ourselves a comfortable home for the night. With about one hour of daylight left, we hurried to clear a groundspace and began building our bivvies! This gave the men in charge a good laugh as the finished result looked like something from 'Spaghetti Junction' with string coming from all corners and ending up on the highest branches we could find! Time for one more cup of tea and then ready for a night patrol and down to some serious shooting, at last!

Led by our section leaders **Sgt** 'Mitch' **Mitchell** and **LCpl Steve Maclaren**, our orders were for 'complete silence' as we set off on our mission. This immediately set off a noisy bout of giggling and unbeknown to us, the enemy was creeping up from behind, close enough to tap us on the shoulders! We ventured off and were very quickly commanded to drop to the ground as the first 'Schermuly' lit up the skies. Sudden shrieks of disgust, as one by one, we fell on to huge mounds of soggy mud. 'Run forward, drop down and fire' cried **Sgt Mitch**. This we obeyed without hesitation, emptying out magazines in record time and screaming for 'more rounds'. This time, the men couldn't keep up with us. Wonderful stuff!

Mission complete, we crept back to our base and settled in for the long night ahead. It was bed for some, whilst others were on guard, beginning with myself and **Mrs Lynne Bysouth**. 'Halt! Who goes there, friend or foe?' I cried out, preparing to shoot yet another tree! My blurred vision must have been the result of tired eyes. It was definitely time for bed! Zipping myself firmly inside my sleeping bag, I settled down for a cosy dream of 'life at home', when suddenly our base camp came under fierce attack. Thunder flashes forced us out of our bivvies and stumbling quickly into our 'stand to' positions, we stood guard for several minutes, protecting one another. With little hope of any sleep that night, it seemed easier to huddle around a camp fire, made up of several hexi blocks and 'sup' on our secret supply of liquor until the morning.

It was 0500 hrs on Sunday 29 May and time to pack up and prepare to move out. We took it in turns to check our appearance in the only mirror available and proceeded to apply our cam cream in preparation for the planned dawn attack on section two! The scene was set with yet more thunder flashes and clouds of blue smoke disguising our tracks. We made our way forward, this time with less enthusiasm and we once again wasted no time in letting off our blank rounds 'Phew!', we built up a huge appetite for breakfast and so back to base for something tasty. The smell of hot bacon, sausage and eggs soon put a spring back in our step as we hastily queued up, only to be told that it was a reserved meal for the duty soldiers–we were sent sulking to our rationed rolled oats!

The rest of the morning was 'fun-filled' with an assault course, river crossing and lots of reckless panzer driving, leaving us looking dirtier than we ever could have imagined possible.

ENDEX was finally called. We gathered wearily and looked blankly upon the RSM when asked if we'd do it all again. We simply clambered, in silence, on to our transport home. Our final journey was interrupted for a photo call and as we made our way to the top of a hill we stopped in our tracks at the sight of a civilised mess tent, laid out with 'finery' and with several chefs waiting to serve us with an afternoon lunch that was to prove 'fit for a king'. Our tired and pale cheeks began to flush under the influence of some chilled white wine and with smiles all round, we applauded and thanked the team who had guided us through the unforgettable experience of Ex Wonder Why? Roll on next year, when yes! we'll definitely do it again.

WATHGILL CCF CAMP 94

The dream team consisted of: OC **Lt P. Smith**, **Sgt Chaz** 'Smiler' **Fox**, **Cpls Steve Sorbie** and 'Ginger' **Campbell**, **LCpls Maclaren**, **Prior**, **Moore** and **Sig Anscombe**. The team departed Paderborn on Thursday 23 June and arrived in Catterick as planned. Over the three-week camp the Signals package went very well indeed and the team instructed over 600 Cadets from 17 schools.

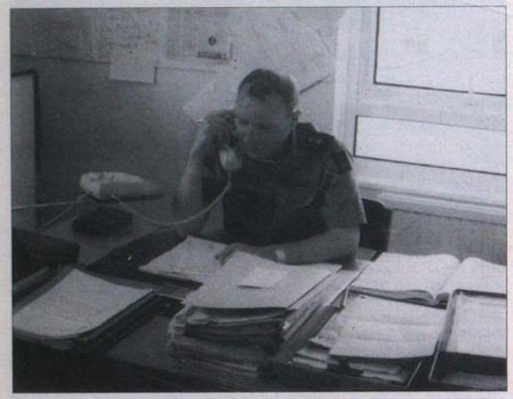
There were a few points in the instruction worth a mention. **LCpl** 'Fin' **Prior** honestly believed that he could determine the charge of a battery by its weight and **LCpl** 'next' **Moore** had the cadets rolling about laughing with his famous washing line joke. The team had a superb time and would like to thank 19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209) for the loan of the equipments and the crews for the driving phase.

24 Airmob Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210)
Colchester

Sqn Comd — **Maj David Meyer**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) Steve Morgan**

SQUADRON NEWS

Welcome to the Squadron **SSgt Ron Hodgkinson** and his wife, **Karen**. We also welcome the new Alpha Tp Comd, **Lt Lindsay Cullen**, who has since gone off to his HHI Spec course.



Yet again, the 2IC, Capt Jim Forrest falls for the superglue on the earpiece trick

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Lindsay Cullen**

Alpha Tp's arduous training took place on the South Downs Way. Three days of tabbing interspersed with the occasional visit to a local hostelry seemed like the ideal way to test the men's endurance.

Provisions were booked, Troops were briefed, split into three groups and then into the Valley of Death marched the 30 odd of us.

Day One. Whilst taking his turn to 'map read' along the 29km first leg, **Sig Trev Jupp** not only managed to lead his group off the beaten track, but into a farmyard guarded by a rather large Rottweiller called Conan. Anybody finding **Sig Paul Rush** is asked to return him to this unit as he was last seen disappearing over the horizon (evidently he's not too keen on Rottweillers).

Day Two. The RSM and **Eric** arrived just in time for breakfast and then joined in the marching and were fortunate not to be in group two who, at the 20km mark, were forced to breach a cow field . . . full of those very muscular, large horned, red eyed, udderless cows . . . exit **LCpl** 'Torro' **O'Brien** hot on the heels of **Sig Rush**.

With feet beginning to suffer a little, it was the turn of the Lanyard Trophy team and **Lt Kerry Levins** to show what they were made of, and give the rest of us something to aim for. They made good time and at the end of the day, after an impromptu photo call, the only sensible option was for us all to enjoy a few cold beers and a barbecue which rounded the week off nicely.

BRAVO TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt John Evans**

We say goodbye to **Cpl Dave Skingley**, **LCpl** 'Nora' **Batty**, **LCpl** 'Stumpy' **Robertson** and **Sig Turner** and wish them all the best for the future.

Congratulations go to **Sig** 'Tommo' **Thomassen** on his marriage to **Cori** and to **Sgt** 'Taff' **Evans** and his wife **Nicola** on the birth of their baby daughter. Also congratulations to **Cpl** 'Tubbs' **Arthurs** and **Cpl Pete Stidwell** on their recent promotion.

Finally, welcome to **LCpl Geoff Martinez**, **Sig** 'Solly' **Madle**, **Cpl Terry Bowen**, **Cpl Mark Vaughan** and to **Cpl Dave Waller** from Australia who arrived just too late to save the Squadron cricket team from embarrassment.

SUPPORT TROOP

This month we say a final farewell and thank you to the remaining redundees who take up the challenge of civvy street; **SSgt** 'Gaz' **Lee**, **Cpl** 'Woody' **Allen**, **Cpl Annal**, **Cpl Mick Markham** and **LCpl** 'Killer' **Brett**.

LCpl Cox joins us from 3 (UK) Div and **Sig White** is the new boy in the tech department straight from the chocolate factory.

Congratulations go to **Cpl Bill Edwards** and his wife **Jean** on the birth of their baby girl, **Clare**.

LANYARD TROPHY

After a couple of weeks training and route recce for those who could get the time off work, the team led by **Lt Kerry Levins** deployed to Catterick ready for the '40 miles with 40lb' that lay ahead.

The competition started at Whinny Hill at 0400 hrs with TV crews in attendance. We set off at a blistering pace which was a little too blistering for two of the team members who dropped out at Check Point Two. This enabled the rest of the team to shoot off at best speed. Before **Sgt Pete Brooker** could say 'no one can drop out now', disaster struck; **Cpl Dave Churchwood** fell over saying through gritted teeth that he had broken his ankle. A slight exaggeration and after we had dusted him down he was able to limp along on his damaged limb.

The Lanyard Trophy Team in training

The rest of the course was pure slog; lots of knees to chest, broken up with occasional check points or water breaks. We completed the course some six hours behind the winners but we had finished as a team and although tired and foot sore, morale was high and the team had displayed lots of grit and determination.

SUMMER CAMP

The Squadron summer camp was held at Fremmington again to save Training Wing having to demand any more maps.

The fortnights activities went well with a notable performance from **Cpl** 'Tubbs' **Arthurs** who proved that the safe working load of a canoe can be exceeded. A mention also goes to the Squadron's very own Go-Cart Racing team led by **Sgt** 'Spanners' **Fielding** who received a lifetime ban after setting off in the wrong direction on the warm up lap.

SPORTS COLUMN

The Squadron's Athletics Team has had one of it's best seasons; narrowly missing qualifying for the Army finals and then clinching the Brigade Athletics Competition on the last event (the 4x400m relay) after an exciting head-to-head with the CSS Battalion. The performance of the season was by **Sig Brad** 'the fish' **King**, who confused the 3,000m steeple chase with the 50m freestyle in the Eastern District semi-finals.

The Squadron Golf team also came up trumps by winning the Brigade Golf Competition in a vain attempt to justify golf for sports afternoons.

Finally, a mention must go to the Squadron's very own 'Man from Atlantis', **SSgt Neil Coatsworth**, for his valiant efforts in the Brigade Swimming Competition.

238 Sig Sqn
Chelsea Barracks

A SHIFT
HELLOS AND GOODBYES

We say farewell to **Sgt Mary Cobban** who will be missed but not forgotten, especially by her old shift. Good luck in York. Welcome back to **Sig Ron Stanley** who now has a little girl called **Elizabeth**. Congratulations.

ATHLETICS

An improvement on last year's efforts. We didn't win but we didn't lose either. Good solo performances for some, especially 'Billy Whizz' **Sgt Roger Thompson** and Marathon Woman **Sig Sharon Elder**. It was nice to see support from members of the Squadron.

DETS AND COURSES

Hello to you all on detachment **Sigs Matt Leeds**, **Keith MacDonald**, **Lee Sutton** and **LCpl Jason Bridges**. On courses are **LCpl Ann Vardy** and **Sig Karen Glennister**. **Ann** come back quick, we can't find anymore room for all your mail. Goodbye soon to **Sig Ally Gray** who will be going to the Falkland Islands in August.

B SHIFT
HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Firstly we bid farewell to **Sgt Andy Burns** who has gone to 13 Sig Regt (R) for six months. Good luck **Andy**. We welcome his replacement **Sgt Anne McNally**.

QUICKSILVER

So far this year, virtually everyone on the shift has had the opportunity to travel around the British Isles at some point, mainly thanks to Quicksilver. **Sigs Cathy Winder** and **Pete MacMahon** have both just returned only to go off on leave. **Sigs Barry Savage** and **Darren Coffey** have now joined the Quicksilver team to conclude our shifts guide to all the pubs and clubs within the UK.

OTHER DETACHMENTS

The Squadron, as a whole, is 'covering' a few outside units at the moment and just to show we haven't forgotten them: Hi to **Cpl Jase Bridges** and **Sigs Keith McDonald** and **Matt Leeds** who are residing within the Commcen at 264 Sig Sqn in Hereford, **Sig Lee Sutton** who's dossing in Commcen Mill Hill and **Sig Karen Glennister** on whatever course she is on at the moment and, lastly, for the detachments, **LCpl Darrell Bennett** who has succeeded in getting himself out of the Commcen and attached to Radio Tp and the Ceremonial Posse.

On a final point, the whole shift congratulates **Sigs Steve Kilgannon** and **Faye Doncaster** on their recent engagement and **Cpl Jackie Wood** on being selected to represent the Corps in Australia for three months as part of an exchange deal (hopefully we'll get a real operator in her place!). Only joking **Jackie**!

RADIO TROOP

May was the beginning of a new year for Radio Tp with the arrival of **Sgt Dave Reid** and a new Tp Comd **Lt Brian Elliott**, and the departure of **Capt Pete Cubbin** and **SSgt** 'Geordie' **Harvey** who has now taken up root in the SSMs Office.

The Troop cracked on with its hectic schedule providing the communications for the visit of the President of Zimbabwe and **HM The Queen**'s Birthday Parade, the visit of the King and Queen of Norway to Edinburgh and the Royal Garden Parties.

WO2 (RQMS) Thompson and LCpl Williams on Ceremonial Duty at the Tower of London

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

LANYARD TROPHY 1994
by **Cpl Wilson**

Being Bulford based our training for the competition this year relied upon a couple of day visits to the Brecon Beacons and with the exception of two, four day visits to Catterick for route selection, our tabbing was restricted to Salisbury Plain. As time wore on, our squad got smaller with injury and realisation of the distances involved. It was soon no longer a case of team selection more of getting a team. **WO2 (YofS)** 'Barking' **Bob** Nixon, a Lanyard trophy veteran, was dragged from SHQ screaming 'bang it out, bang bang bang'. **Sgt Pete Stowell** was acquired before he could finish his clearance chit and **LCpls** 'JC' **Chamberlain** and 'DC' **Drudge-Coates** may have missed some training but just finishing the APTI (3) course were duly recruited to the team.

June 29 was soon upon us and the team, with **Lt Keith Mannings** (no more Commanders Cup jokers to play!), were Catterick bound. After a talk through routes and briefings, we had our kit weighed. Under the paternal eye of **Sgt Grant Johnston** we were instructed to keep drinking (it's a pity he didn't mean beer!), and at 2030 hrs told to get our heads down. Reveille was at 2am with breakfast at 0230 hrs. A Granada television crew was there sticking cameras everywhere to get that all-important angle. **Cpl Steve Whitford** and **LCpl** 'JC' **Chamberlain** being far too busy looking good, attracted their attention, fortunately we had **LCpl** 'DC' **Drudge-Coates** standing by to gash. The team made its way to Whinny Hill for the 4am start and once again the cameras were there. It looked like (and was) a hot day ahead and the admin team had their work cut out to get our resups right.

19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209) got off to a lightning start and for the first three check points we found ourselves with 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para) and 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt fighting for second place. Although Catterick didn't offer the delights of Pen Y Fan and Fan Fawr, the going over the heather and head clump grass terrain was tough. Unfortunately, we lost two of the team before half way and also sight of the 216 Para team. We were now pitted in a battle between 3 Div for a third place and the pride of Bulford. We were met by our Sqn Comd, accompanied by **WO2 (SSM) Dave Fraser**, **WO2 (RQMS) Jim Boyle**, **SSgt (YofS) Bill Walker** and **OCdt White** at irregular intervals, to be

spurred on. **SSgt Terry Crane** and his admin team were at every check point to tend our needs but by 20 plus miles it took more than the RQMS's Cheshire cat smile to drive us on. We were ready to kill the next person who asked 'how do you feel?' The admin team did an excellent job and as we passed 3 Div for the final time just before checkpoint 8, we noticed the admin team's monument to 249 with crossed skis drawn out in stone. The final three miles seemed never ending. **Sig Chris Bound** by now set the pace with **LCpls 'JC' Chamberlain** and **Kenny Marlow** the unenviable task of traffic control for the final road section. We finally crossed the finish line in a time of 15hrs 3min–in third place!

It was one of the most arduous courses ever set and although the certificate says 40 miles carrying 40lbs, it was closer to 48 miles! It was an achievement for the teams just to finish. After completion there were cries of never again but for **LCpl 'DC' Drudge-Coates** next year looks good, if only to get his name spelt correctly on the certificate! 216 Sig Sqn (Para) managed to take 19 Mech at the last checkpoint and keep the Lanyard Trophy in Aldershot. The 249 team was: **Lt Mannings, WO2 Nixon, Sgts Johnston, Stowell, Cpls Wilson, Whitford, LCpls Chamberlain, Drudge-Coates, Marlow** and **Sig Bound**.

MAIN TROOP
EXERCISE THREE PEAKS

Once again Main Tp were called upon to carry out an adventurous trg exercise of an arduous nature, and once again the Troop rose to the challenge–Ex Three Peaks '94. With the race due to run from 18-25 June the Troop deployed on the 15th and 16th to enable us to establish comms in time for the race start–dets therefore deployed to Barmouth, Caernarfon, Snowdon, Ravenglass, Scafell Pyke, Corpach Loch and Ben Nevis. Although only mere landlubbers, all those involved threw themselves into the exercise with enthusiasm, determined to enjoy and make the most of it.

The command element of the Troop was stationed at Barmouth in sunny Wales and this was ably managed by **Cpl Egan**. The race was due to head north from Barmouth visiting each of the ports in turn, with the teams running each of the mountains, and so the Troop hierarchy **Lt Mannings** and **SSgt Elliot** were to be seen burning the many miles in between, visiting all the detachments. Needless to say, all were in high spirits . . .

All in all, it was another excellent exercise. Communications were maintained throughout the race and the race organisers were very happy with the service provided. News just off the press–sadly we'll probably have to do it again next year. Hot tip–save your wages, because you'll need them!

EXERCISE CLEAR VOICE 1994

Over the period 20-24 June the Squadron hosted 28 officers and SNCOs from eight nations within the AMF(L) for Ex Clear Voice. The aim of the exercise was to teach the students (many of whom spoke little English) the use of Joint Voice Procedure currently used within the Force–a major task.

The course was directed at staff officers, watchkeepers and radio users to ensure a commonality of both procedures and language. The exercise proved to be a great success, thanks to the hard work and preparation of all the instructors and of course the students themselves, most of whom had some knowledge of communications. It was good to see attendance from Norway and Spain for the first time; hopefully the association will continue next year.

FAREWELL DINNER

On Saturday 2 July officers, WOs and SNCOs of the Squadron, accompanied by their ladies, formally dined out **WO2 (FofS) Bill Erskine** and **Sgt John Wood** on completion of 22 years service.

Following an excellent dinner, the Sqn Comd **Maj John Terrington** thanked **Foreman Erskine** and **Sgt Wood** for their service to the Corps and particularly for their hard work during their time with the Squadron. Everyone at 249 wishes them well for the future.

Farewells were said to **Sgts Nick Dobbins** and **Rosie, Phil Locker** and **Simone, John Smith** and **Nicky**–all posted and promoted; **Sgt Pete Stowell** and **Jackie** on posting to the FofS course, and to **Sgts John Blood** and **Bob Kirkland** and **Lesley** on redundancy. Good luck to you all.

Sqn Comd, Maj John Terrington, bids farewell to Sgt 'Chippy' Wood after 22 years service

251 Sig Sqn
Aldershot

Sqn Comd — **Maj J. J. Gerrard**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Jenkins**

ARRIVALS

WO2 (YofS) Roach and **LCpl Donaghy**.

DEPARTURES

SSgt Peet, Cpls Davies, Howard, Henderson, Parker and **Westwood, LCpls Dickinson, Elmett** and **Thompson, Sigs Arundel, Brook, Boothby, John, Kirkbride, Larkin, Minto** and **Ridsdale**.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

251 Sig Sqn has been very active during the past two months competing in various sports across the District. Although not always victorious, we enjoyed taking part in the competition to the best of our ability.

SDIST ROUNDERS

Battling against the forces of nature (ie heat stroke and sunburn) we managed to come fourth in our pool. Not a great victory but a good time was had by all, even **Cpl Holmes** who needs to be a bit 'quicker off the mark' in order to reach that first base.

SDIST TENNIS

Again not victorious overall but good tans were achieved by **Cpl** 'Lofty' **Mullett** and **Pte Marie Irvine**, whereas **Sig** 'Where's the sunblock' **Brook** returned looking like a lobster.

SINGLE EVENT SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS (RELAYS)

Good performances in both the men's and the women's events. The women coming second in both the freestyle and medley relays, the men also coming second in the freestyle relays.

INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES

Cpl Holmes is maintaining her outstanding form on the track and is once again Inter-Services Champion in the 400m and 800m. **Cpl Holmes** has just competed in the European Championships at 1500m where she won the silver medal.

LCpl Mason broke the Inter-Services Backstroke record to become inter-services Champion whilst competing in the Championships at HMS Temeraire in Portsmouth on 2 August.

Cpl Kelly Holmes, LCpl Lucy Mason

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

Sqn Comd — **Maj Gary Mason**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Gary Waters**

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

We would like to welcome **Maj Gary Mason** back to the Squadron after an exhaustive European ATP Tennis Tour; congratulations on remaining the R Signals Champion. Take a six month 'wind down' before **Maj Kevan Thornber** arrives in January 1995. New faces abound. Welcome to the new QM **Maj Bob Lockwood, Joan** and family, **2Lt Mark Harrop** fresh from his Troop Commanders Course and already on leave! Welcome also to the new SHQ OPs Team, **WO2 (FofS) Scott Steven** and **Donna, YofS Nigel Donohue** and **Nicola**.

Fond farewells and thanks go out to **Capt** 'Butch' and **Anita Maycock** who have returned to the UK to 36 Sig Regt (V). Your Squadron polo-shirts are in the post and, yes, **Capt Hume** has already spent most of the PRI Funds! Good luck and best wishes also to **Maj** 'Storky' and 'Babs' **O'Rourke** on their posting to Northern Ireland. The cricket and football teams will miss your ageless commitment and sense of fair play!

HQ Tp was photographed to show that the administrative support team, who spend so much time indoors fighting the paper battle, are dazzled by daylight
Rear row: Sig R. A. Craven, LCpls S. J. Franklin, G. T. Gibson, Cpl S. L. Griffiths, Mr Chris Chrisanthou, LCpls N. C. Simpson, K. P. Lawton
Middle row: Cpls K. Dale, P. T. Haughton, Mr Pambos Kouzis, Sgts C. D. Wrath, I. W. Gurney, A. C. West, Mr George Vakis, Cpl P. Chapman AGC (SPS), Cpl N. L. Hunt
Front row: SSgt M. R. Bain, SSgt (SQMS) A. M. Carver, WO (FofS) S. Steven, Maj (TOT) A. G. Hooley, Capt W. J. O'Rourke, Maj G. R. Mason, Capt G. Hume, WO2 (SSM) F. G. Waters, Ms Litsa Nicolaidou, SSgt (OM) M. Bonham AGC (SPS)

FAMILIES BEACH PARTY

The annual families beach party was deemed a roaring success at the Four Arches Beach Club, Akrotiri. Undeterred by an Episkopi Garrison Internal Security Ex, which threatened cancellation, the merry throng took to the beach with children in tow. The Raft Race to collect a damsel in distress was valiantly won by **Capt Grant Hume**'s team of **SSgt** 'Biker' **Bain** and **Sgt Adie West**. They were assisted by **Sgt Ian Outterson**, who took to the water with a diver's knife and promptly sank two inner tube rafts.

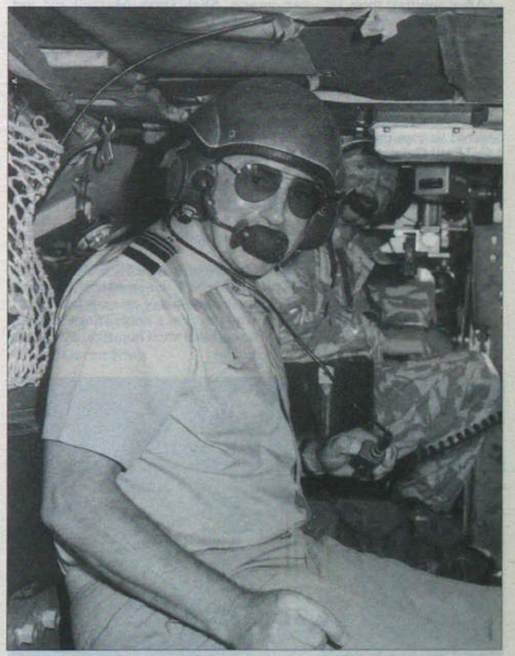
The volley ball competition was won by **Cpl Dale**'s team who, as it happened, organised the event and the **Capt Tim Jones** Barfly which helped aid the digestion of a superb barbecue! Our thanks go to **SSgt (FofS) Windows, Cpl Hunt, Sigs Setchfield** and **Youngman** for organising an excellent day.

VISIT OF AIR VICE MARSHAL J. B. MAIN OBE

Air Vice Marshal Main OBE visited the Squadron to see how we work. In a blistering heatwave he witnessed Airfield Tp, under the guidance of **Capt Tim Jones** and **SSgt Sartorious**, demonstrate its skill in Battlefield Damage Repair.

Thundering explosions ripped apart the Land Rover and, after the ensuing fire had been doused and the area cleared of explosives, the BDR Recce Team deployed. 34 Sqn RAF Regt provided the outer cordon of defence for our boys with their Spartans. **AVM Main** was invited to witness this 'Joint Service Operation' and carry out personally, a 710 Copper Cable joint, in the hole left by the explosion. After completing his B3 assessment the Air Vice Marshal thanked everyone involved in the demonstration and also for an enjoyable luncheon.

Air Vice Marshal Main Cable Repairing



In Spartan. 'Yes, you do need to press to talk!'

280 (UK) Sig Sqn
BFPO 35

The Squadron conducted mounting exercise to the wilds of Central Africa (actually Leuth Training Area, but the mosquitoes were just as big) after a seemingly continuous series of exercises and technical trials. After sorting out real flooded cellars on our return from Central Rugeria, we launched into the summer season of sailing, swimming and entertaining UOTC cadets, CCF cadets and youth services with some success. Now as the days are shorter and the temperature colder we look forward with eagerness to the winter exercise season. But before we start sharpening our bayonets some news of our summer exploits.

ROYAL SIGNALS REGETTA

280 (UK) Sig Sqn's team comprised five novices, **Cpls Brenda Cooper**, **Mack MacKenzie**, **Dave Honeyman**, **LCps Mark Brian** and **Wayne Hilton** and **Lt Forster**.

On our arrival in Kiel the weather was gorgeous and this set the scene for the next 10 days. We took over our yacht *Gannett* and our skipper **Bdr** 'Spearmint' **Wrigley**. The regatta was dogged by lack of wind but the crews took advantage of this to top up on the suntan. When it came to cooling off, **Cpl MacKenzie** demonstrated some very graceful body surfing after attaching himself to the bosun's chair. The crew also acquired a water pistol which **Cpl Cooper** used to start a waterfight on the startline of one race–we lost.

The most arduous part of the regatta was the 15 hours spent without a cigarette (or chocolate) and the evening meal of chilli con carrots, ingeniously made by **LCpl Brian**, when we ran out of food.

Unfortunately the crew came last in the Regatta. However we did win the Sgt Don Shaw Memorial Trophy for the best spirit of the Regatta. Well, there's always next year and then we'll make sure we find a water pistol that works.

B TROOP'S YOUTH TRAINING DAY

Are the children occupied whilst away from school on long summer holidays? With this in mind the Troop organised a Youth Training Day. Areas selected, we awaited the arrival of 24 youngsters and one Youth Worker; to our utter amazement we met 30 challenging vivacious young people and two Youth Workers.

After splitting them into two groups, **SSgt Terry Murrell** and **Sgt 'Taff' Burdge** took the first group to the 30 metre out-door range to show and let them fire the Anschultz .22 rifle, coached by **LCpl Stu McNeil**, **Vince Saunders** and **Pat Paterson**. A background activity of pistol, LSW and rifle 5.56 was displayed and a demonstration given by **LCpl Jim Hawksworth**. We definitely found a couple of 'naturals' at this stage.

The other group went to the Trim Dich area to **Cpl Tony Rosen** who talked to them about cam and camouflage. After getting almost completely covered in cam cream and grass, the group was set the task of finding **LCpl Paul Grimes** and **Sig Craig Dunford** who were cleverly hidden in a mass of undergrowth. After many calls of 'Yes he's standing behind that tree, no not that tree, that one!' their positions were quickly revealed. There was a demonstration of a Basha hut after which they built one for themselves.

After lunch the groups swapped over and a couple more budding soldiers were found.

The final event was a competition shoot-out, with a HPS of 50 points. After excellent coaching by **LCpl Stu McNeil** the overall winner was **Stacey** with 43 points (pictured below). Annie Oakley eat your heart out!

It was a very enjoyable and successful day. Even nettle stings suffered by most did not dampen the spirits. The children went home happy and we all went home with headaches. A Good Day!

SWIMMING CHAMPIONS

When **Capt Bennett** asked for volunteers for the swimming team, the response was far from overwhelming. After searching around for anyone who could swim, he managed to scrape together a team. Then training started, at 7 o'clock every morning, when most people feel far from motivated.

It wasn't long before the first zone competition, which was the qualifier for the BAOR (now UKSC(G)) championships. We managed to get a third place, after being disqualified in the medley relay, but we still qualified to go through to the BAOR's.

The BAOR championships were held at Hohne about three weeks later but in-between this we had a two week exercise, so swimming had to wait. The first event was the 50m freestyle with **Sig Williams** representing us, he was unlucky and came in fifth. Next up was the boss **Capt Bennett** in the 50m breaststroke in which he stormed into first place. After the women's and Major units events **Capt Bennett** was up again in the 100m freestyle in which he got a good third place. The 50m backstroke was swam by **LCpl** 'Pat' **Patterson** who was narrowly beaten into second place. The relays were now the final events and were worth double points.

The 50m Freestyle relay was the first one with **Sig Craig Dunford** going first, **Cpl Paul Cleet** going second, **SSgt (SSI) John Berry** going third and **Capt Pete Turner** as the anchor man. With an inspired performance from everyone we came a close second behind 13 Sig Regt (R). That left us in joint first with 13 Sig Reg (R), with only the Medley relay, one of our best events, come.

LCpl 'Pat' **Patterson** was first with the backstroke, then **LCpl Adey Howarth** doing the breaststroke, **Capt Bennett** did the butterfly and **Sig Williams** finished off with the freestyle. 14 Sup Regt RLC beat us into second place but it was enough to clinch overall first so 280 (UK) Sig Sqn became UKSC(G) Minor Unit Swimming Champions 1994. We were through to the Army Swimming Championships held at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

Sandhurst was a slightly different pool than we were used to swimming in. It was 33 yards long and most events were 66 yards so a turn was involved in all events. As most of the team were not great technical swimmers this caused a problem.

The first event was the 66 yard freestyle with **Capt Pete Turner** volunteering for it. He came in last but gave a convincing display of a submarine turn.

Capt Guy Bennett did the 66 yard breaststroke and the 100 yard freestyle and came second in each event. This more than made up for the first event. These placings earned him a place in the Army swimming team, as we found out later. Next up was **LCpl** 'Pat' **Patterson** in the 66 yard backstroke, he only managed a third this time.

That left the relays. The competition was still very close with the first four teams within four points of each other. The first relay was the medley relay, **LCpl** 'Pat' **Patterson** was first with the backstroke, **LCpl Adey Howarth** did the breaststroke, **Capt Guy Bennett** for the butterfly and **Sig Williams** in the freestyle. We came third in that event.

The freestyle relay was the best event with a lot of team changes made. Opening was **Sig Craig Dunford** with **LCpl** 'Weasel' **Campbell** in for **SSgt (SSI) John Berry**. Third was **Cpl Paul Cleet**, with **Sig Williams** joining us from his usual place in the freestyle relay. We were beaten into third place but our opponents were disqualified for a flying start. That gave us second place overall, in the competition which was a real achievement for a team of competitive swimming novices.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Admiral	**Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander CB OBE**
Commodore	**Col P. J. Pritchard**
Vice Commodore	**Col J. E. F. Kirby**

Rear Commodores: Offshore, Maj B. H. Rowe; Dinghies, Lt Col M. J. McKinlay; Windsurfing, Maj D. I. Gilchrist; BAOR, Lt Col N. K. P. Hope MBE.

CONTACTS

Yachtmasters:	**UK: Capt J. F. Calvert, Blandford Mil 2459**
	BAOR: Capt R. K. Orr, Birgelen Mil 286
Secretaries:	**General: Maj J. P. McD Coulthard, Corsham Mil 4457**
	Dinghy Racing UK: Capt D. C. A. Ellis, Blandford Mil 2340
	Dinghy BAOR:Maj S. I. Andrews, Osnabruk Mil 5247
	Windsurfing UK: Maj P. G. Cross, Blandford Mil 2400
	Windsurfing BAOR: Capt W. N. White, Celle Mil 273/300
	Retired Members Rep: Lt Col (Retd) C. K. Powell, Blandford Mil 2437
Soldier Reps:	**Sgt Finnigan: Thorney Island 8263 Sgt P. Downie: Bulford Mil 2837**

The Royal Signals Yacht Club communicates with its members through the medium of* The Wire, *which regularly prints a forecast of events, accounts of activities and contains details for club officials.

Any member of the Corps who subscribes to Corps funds is automatically a member of the Yacht Club: this membership is activated simply by registering with one of the Club secretaries.

OFFSHORE RACING
ARMY OFFSHORE REGATTA

The Regatta Chairman **Lt Col Rayner** RE kindly complimented Royal Signals at the prize-giving, on its strong support for the Regatta which numbered four yachts this year. Indeed with two entries each in Divisions 2 and 3, the Corps was well placed to make an impact on a competition which had yielded little of the silverware in previous years. The two Corps owned yachts *Skywave* and *Petasus* were skippered by **Cpl Baxter** (Royal School of Signals crew) and **Cpl Kendall** (38 Sig Regt (V) crew), both entered in Division 2. The Division 3 entries were **Maj Mark Castle-Smith**'s mini-tonner *Anomoly* and a JSASTC Victoria 34 *Amoria* skippered by **Maj Graham Lewis-Taylor** with a combined crew from 2 and 8 Sig Regts. This report covers Division 3.

The 3 race Inshore Series began with very light westerly winds. An optimistic Race Officer set a windward leg into the strong foul tide and should not have been surprised to find yachts in the area of the Committee Boat, half an hour after they should have started! Nevertheless light displacement yachts including *Anomoly* cheated the tide by shaving the beach along Stokes Bay and revelled in the light conditions. *Anomoly* was the only yacht in Division 3 to finish within the three hour time limit and recorded an important first win.

The course for Race 2 in the afternoon, was similar, but with a fresh Force 3/4 westerly breeze the heavier Victoria 34s and Corps yachts

The skippers of *Skywave, Petatus, Amoria* and *Anomaly* and some of their crew

enjoyed more exciting sailing. *Anomoly* started poorly and never really recovered, adding a seventh place but retaining the overall lead. *Amoria* settled for a conservative start but rounded the first mark in third place, thanks to some excellent helming by **Sgt Craig Avey-Hebditch** *Amoria* kept the pressure up on the second placed yacht throughout, finally passing her on the final spinnaker reach within 200m of the finish.

The third race saw a return of light winds, and with an excellent start at the outer distance mark *Anomoly* showed the Victorias an increasingly familiar transom. She close tacked up the shore before crossing to the island, and again despite a lower handicap took the honours in Division 3. **Maj Mark Castle-Smith** with his wife **Suzie** and bowman **LCpl Phil Platt** had convincingly won the Inshore Series. Among the Victorias in Division 3, *Amoria* had a disastrous start having been impeded by another yacht and was forced to cross behind the whole fleet. Good team work and boat speed recovered several places by the halfway stage on the windward leg. The next problem was deciding when to tack across the Solent to round the first mark without being swept down-tide. This would affect not only the race but the overall results. The temptation to go early was resisted by the navigator **Maj Mark Butler**, who waited until the rest of the fleet had tacked. Patience paid off, and *Amoria* incredibly rounded the mark in first place, a lead she retained to the finish. This result lifted *Amoria* into second place overall, completing a satisfactory and possibly unique one-two for Royal Signals in Division 3.

The fourth race of the Division 3 series was a passage race, whose course included rounding the Isle of Wight and sailing east towards Selsey Bill before returning to the Solent. *Amoria* achieved her best start of the series, flying away from the opposition in ever increasing winds. **Sig Darren King** took time out to get everyone a well deserved cup of tea, an art he still hadn't mastered–but full marks for effort. His ability to 'think heavy' on the guardrail though, was never in question. Unfortunately the rather tired looking 1 genoa suddenly become an ex-genoa, and the resulting headsail change reduced *Amoria*'s lead to one boat-length. On rounding the Needles, three Victoria 34s in contention for first place attempted to hold their spinnakers on a close reach, with varying degrees of success. The yachts battled to gain an advantage for the next 40 miles along the south side of the island. As darkness fell *Amoria* rounded Owers Lanby buoy just ahead of the other two and quickly climbed to weather, as the fleet fell down tide and into the Chichester/Langstone Bay. A long hard beat back to the finish off Fishbourne resulted in no change of places, although lights moving in different directions kept tension high until the winning gun was sounded at about 0300 hrs on Monday morning! **Maj Lewis-Taylor** and the crew of *Amoria* had thus won the Passage Race and Division 3 of the Army Offshore Sailing Championships outright.

The crews of winning yachts were:

Amoria	
Maj Graham Lewis-Taylor	HQ 15 (NE) Bde
Maj Mark Butler	MOD
Sgt Craig Avey-Hebditch	8 Sig Regt
Sgt Trev Taylor	8 Sig Regt
Cpl 'Taff' **Burn**	8 Sig Regt
Sig Darren King	2 Sig Regt
Anomoly	
Maj Mark Castle-Smith	DRA Malvern
Capt Suzie Castle-Smith	1 RRW
LCpl Phil Platt	640 Sig Tp

A final word should be added about the Corps yacht entries. **Cpls Baxter** and **Kendall** were two of the three most junior skippers in the whole regatta and sailed with probably the least experienced crews. Indeed **Cpl Kendall**'s crew from 38 Sig Reg (V) aboard *Petasus* included novices who thought they had chartered the yacht to go adventure training!

Their performance was particularly noteworthy in finishing seventh out of 12 overall in Division 2. Congratulations to the skippers and crews of both yachts.

SERVICES OFFSHORE REGATTA

Following on from the Army Championships was the Services Offshore Regatta introducing hot competition from the three Services. *Amoria* was entered with a reshaped crew, adding extra experience in the form of **Maj Mark Castle-Smith**.

In the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup a conservative choice of sail plan and a mediocre start reduced *Amoria*'s chance of success but a sound tactical plan enabled the crew to climb to sixth place by the finish.

In the Passage Race to St Peter Port fickle winds tested the patience but *Amoria* rounded Bembridge Ledge in first place. A long reach across the Channel and strengthening wind as darkness fell, created some lively activity. In bringing the spinnaker down a sheet was unfortunately lost overboard and two places were lost. However, the final twist came within 50m of the finish where the wind ran out of steam. Two boats that had been two and a half miles behind came through and stole the next two places leaving *Amoria* in fifth place. Nevertheless she achieved 2nd Army boat overall, and plenty of experience and knowledge was stored away for the next time.

WINDSURFING

The racing scene has really hotted up during the last two months with Corps members competing in national, regional, Army and Inter-Service events with some very pleasing results.

The most important event so far was the Army championships held in mid July on the south coast where 63 sailors competed in a high standard light wind series of races. Large sails and a crowded start line led to the inevitable bumping from which the wiser heads managed to stay clear. After two days of strenuous pumping round a thankfully short course the Corps emerged with two Army champions and a superb overall set of results. Our novices did particularly well to overcome their nerves and compete effectively in their first big event.

The Joint Services event was held 30-31 July at Rutland Water and once again the Corps windsurfers gave the event superb support. Our novices turned up in strength and again produced a champion in **Sig** 'Robbo' **Robinson**. With **Maj Dave Gilchrist** taking the old man of the sea award as inter-service senior champion we now need to work on the heavy and lightweight events. Rutland was declared a wind free weekend with very high temperatures so the fleet settled down to another two days of pumping round a short course. The committee managed to squeeze five races in and some very weary sailors attended the prizegiving to congratulate the winners.

Results: Army Championships

Novice Fleet

Maj Peter Bowles	Army Champion
Cpl Steve Lindsay	5th
Sig Ian Stephenson	10th
LCpl Phil Heron	11th
Sig Gary Roberts	12th
Sig Mark Corser	14th

Lightweight Fleet

Sgt Norman Finnegan	Army Champion
2Lt Jonathon Coleman	3rd
Maj Dave Gilchrist	8th
Cpl Calum Black	15th

Heavyweight Fleet

Maj Jo Fletcher	3rd
Sgt Barry Raine	5th
Capt (now **Maj**) **Paul Cross**	13th
SSgt Tim Wynn	17th
Cpl Reg Varney	19th
Lt Colin Pettifer	23rd

Team Event

A Team:	**Maj Gilchrist, 2Lt Coleman, Sgts Finnegan** and **Raine**	2nd
B Team:	**Lt Pettifer, SSgt Wynn, Cpls Black, Varney**	8th
C Team:	**Maj Evans, SSgt Howarth, Cpl Lindsay**	14th
D Team:	**Maj Bowles, WO2 Potterton, Sig Stephenson**	13th

Combined Services

Novice Champion: **Sig** 'Robbo' **Robinson** 3 (UK) Div
Senior Champion: **Maj Dave Gilchrist** 3 (UK) Div

– Sport –

CRICKET

ROYAL SIGNALS CRICKET 1994

Hot sun, dry pitches, willing participants and a robust 'fines' book all contributed to a successful season which has not been equalled since 1975.

The general malaise settling over services sport manifested itself on several occasions during the season. It is sad to see once strong and well represented Corps sides reduced to a shadow of their former selves and the standard of maintained pitches has deteriorated alarmingly.

Our season started well with a convincing win over a very poor Sandhurst side and gave an early indicator of the effect **WO2 O'Dare** with his finger spin was going to have on the season. A ruthless century by Corps skipper **Capt Philip Harlow** demoralised the Welbeck boys, but they greatly appreciated the opportunity to bat on at the end of the match, when without the usual bout of nerves they proved to be much better players than the result indicated.

The Famous Grouse Trophy matches started with our game against the REME at Arborfield. After a creditable batting performance we looked to have the game won, only to see a determined 9th wicket stand by the REME tail frustrate our efforts. After a comfortable draw against much tougher opposition at Shrivenham, we were somewhat lucky to come away from Bovington with a draw against the RAC. A fine batting and bowling performance in this game from **Sig Ross Thubron** held the team together.

The tide turned in our favour with a convincing and unexpected win at Chatham over the Sappers. Playing on the worse wicket I have ever seen at Chatham, ruined by heavy rain in the preceding days, **LCpl** 'Chappy' **Chapman** made a determined 63 in a total of 203. **O'Dare** then wove his magic, with stout support from keeper **SSgt Terry Gigg**. The ball turned and leaped, almost as high as did **O'Dare** on each of the 7 occasions he took a wicket.

AMS provided weak opposition when **O'Dare** again baffled the batsmen and the very successful opening partnership of **Harlow** and **Gigg** saw us home in some comfort.

The Gunners at Woolwich, provided only token resistance and their poor quality was illustrated by the Team Manager scoring 87 runs and taking three for 12. Fielding possibly our strongest team against the RLC, including **SSgt Paul Gardner** from Germany, we collapsed to 96 all out and were grateful for a swashbuckling 43 from **Sgt** 'Woger' **Thompson** which spared our blushes. The RLC 'rested' their Combined Services and Army skipper from the need for further exertion, so the five wickets that fell somewhat flattered to deceive. Our performance against the Infantry was a little better, but the early order batting failed to deliver the goods. **O'Dare**'s four wickets, on a good pitch and against genuine Army batsmen were well taken.

Our two day match at Worthy Down produced a contrived draw for the purposes of the league, but we went on to win a tightly contested match after a sporting declaration from the AGC at tea on the second day. **O'Dare** again featured taking 10 wickets in the match and **Lt Colin Russell**, ably supported by **Sig Thubron**, came to the aid of an ailing middle order with two fine knocks over 50. The most memorable performance, however, came from the Band of the AGC, who alighted from a Chinook on the boundary edge, formed up, and marched straight over the wicket to entertain the Commandant AGC on his last day in the Service. Having conducted the playing of the Corps march the General was seen off the premises in fine style. Preceded by the band his Land Rover was pulled from the Barracks by an honour guard of Warrant Officers escorted by mounted RMP. Did I mention that the entire parade passed behind the bowlers arm?–I thought not.

A relaxed and very well organised match at Loughborough University courtesy of **SSgt Gigg** and Comms and Sy Gp (UK) saw us win the annual match against the RAF Signals. This was followed by the post season dinner at a very smart Chinese Restaurant, during which the team made a variety of light hearted presentations to **WO2 O'Dare** to commemorate some memorable batting and bowling performances.

Sig Tim Jones, selected for the full Army side this year, was a feature of our opening bowling attack and with more work and greater consistency will undoubtably take many wickets for the Corps. He also made outstanding contributions to the fines book, capping a memorable season by turning up at Loughborough just as the match finished! **Cpl** 'Daz' **Winfield**, **Cpl** 'Fish' **Fisher** and **Sig** 'Taff' **Wilson** all stepped up to Corps level cricket with some success and **Cpl Fisher** provided the team with some inspirational fielding moments to cherish through the long winter months.

Harlow with 424 runs at an average of 35.3 was just pipped for top spot by **Russell** 179–35.8, and aside from some outrageous match picking by **Maj Luckett**, **O'Dare** topped the bowling with 43 wickets averaging at 10 runs each. A magnificent performance in his last season, he will be sadly missed next year.

Astute captaincy, hindered by the inability to correctly forecast a 50/50 toss, excellent team spirit, polished performances and total commitment have all contributed to a spirited revival of Corps cricket fortunes. Our grateful thanks to all unit CO's and OC's who released players and to the Troops who filled the gaps to allow them to be away. Our thanks also to the Umpires, who spent many long hours under a hot sun and to **Karen Luckett**, who worked her multi-coloured magic in the scorebook and prepared the statistics.

A good season–but how nice it would be for us to entertain the opposition on our own 'home' ground. We have some ideas for next year but what price Blandford?

ROYAL SIGNALS CRICKET CLUB RESULTS 1994

v RMAS. 18 May at Sandhurst

R. Signals–203 for 4 (dec)	**RMAS**–82 all out
Gigg 82	O'Dare 7–19
Harlow 59	

MATCH WON BY 121 RUNS

v WELBECK COLLEGE. 11 June at Welbeck Abbey

R. Signals–202 for 3 (dec)	**WELBECK**–93 all out
Harlow 100 retd n.o	Whimpenny 2–11
Winfield 32	Walters 2–14
	Ford 2–15

MATCH WON BY 109 RUNS

v REME. 16 June at Arborfield*

R. Signals–162 all out	**REME**–91 for 8
Gigg 28	Thubron 3–18
Harlow 27	O'Dare 2–17
	Bosher 2–21

MATCH DRAWN

v RMCS. 22 June at Shrivenham

R. Signals–246 for 5 (dec)	**RMCS**–206 for 7
Harlow 57	Fisher 3–42
Thompson 51 n.o	Jones 2–50
Chapman 33	
Jones 33	

MATCH DRAWN

v RAC. 25 June at Bovington*

R. Signals–185 for 8 (dec)	**RAC**–173 for 8
Thubron 45 n.o	Thubron 4–47
Harlow 44	
Winfield 29	

MATCH DRAWN

v RE. 27 June at Chatham*

R. Signals–203 all out	**RE**–105 all out
Chapman 63	O'Dare 7–36
Harlow 34	

MATCH WON BY 98 RUNS

v AMS. 28 June at Woolwich*

R. Signals–160 for 2	**AMS**–156 all out
Harlow 86	O'Dare 6–40
Gigg 46	Thubron 2–21

MATCH WON BY 8 WKTS

v RA. 4 July at Woolwich*

R. Signals–211 for 9 (dec)	**RA**–90 all out
Luckett 87	Thubron 4–19
Harlow 41	Luckett 3–12
Russell 28	O'Dare 2–47

MATCH WON BY 121 RUNS

v RLC. 12 July at Aldershot*

R. Signals–96 all out	**RLC**–97 for 5
Thompson 43	O'Dare 3–27
	Thompson 2–24

MATCH LOST

v INFANTRY. 13 July at Tidworth*

R. Signals–147 all out	**Infantry**–151 for 5
Thompson 29	O'Dare 4–54

MATCH LOST

v AGC. 14 and 15 July at Worthy Down*

R. Signals–204 for 9 (dec)	**AGC**–217 for 9 (dec)
Russell 68	O'Dare 5–81
Thubron 43	Jones 2–40
AND–153 for 8	**AND**–139 for 8 (dec)
Russell 59 n.o	O'Dare 5–50

MATCH WON BY 2 WKTS**

v RAF SIGNALS. 21 July at Loughborough University (55 Overs)

R. Signals–136 for 5	**RAF Signals**–135 all out
Harlow 45	Wilson 3–22
O'Dare 27	

MATCH WON BY 5 WKTS

* Indicates merit table matches.
** For the purpose of the merit table the match vs the AGC was a draw, however the ensuing two day game was won by 2 wkts.

ROYAL SIGNALS CRICKET CLUB
BATTING AVERAGES 1994

Name	I	N.O	H.S	Runs	Ave
Russell	6	1	68	179	35.8
Harlow	12	0	86	424	35.3
Wilson	8	5	17n.o	86	28.7
Thompson	9	2	51n.o	185	26.4
Luckett	4	0	87	99	24.9
Gigg	11	0	82	252	22.9
Chapman	10	2	63	169	21.1
Thubron	8	2	45n.o	121	20.2
O'Dare	8	2	27	116	19.3
Winfield	7	1	29	104	17.3
Jones	6	0	33	45	7.5
Fisher	5	0	17	26	5.2

BOWLING AVERAGES

Name	O	M	R	W	Av	Best	Str Rate	Eco Rate
Luckett	28	9	42	5	8.4	3-12	5.6	1.5
O'Dare	169	56	430	43	10.0	7-19	3.9	2.5
Thubron	99	29	270	16	16.9	4-19	6.2	2.7
Fisher	21	3	72	4	18.0	3-42	5.25	3.4
Jones	77	14	234	5	46.8	2-40	15.4	3.0
Russell	51	8	212	4	53.0	1-9	12.8	4.2

CATCHES

Gigg (W.K)	14	Russell	3
Harlow	9	Smith	3
Thubron	5	Wilson	3
Hudson	3	Chapman	2
Jones	3	Luckett	2

ROYAL SIGNALS CRICKET CLUB RESULTS 1968-1994

	P	W	D	L
1968	8	3	4	1
1969	8	6	2	0
1970	7	4	3	0
1971	8	3	3	2
1972	7	5	2	0
1973	8	7	1	0
1974	7	4	2	1
1975	10	7	2	1
1976	9	4	3	2
1977	10	3	6	1
1978	10	0	7	3
1979	10	2	6	2
1980	6	0	2	4
1981	9	4	3	2
1982	11	6	3	2
1983	8	3	3	2
1984	10	6	1	3
1985	10	3	4	3
1986	10	5	2	3
1987	12	4	4	4
1988	13	6	4	3
1989	12	3	4	4*
1990	12	3	4	5
1991	12	3	4	5
1992	12	3	4	5
1993	7	1	5	1
1994	12	7	3	2

*(+ 1 abandoned)

ORIENTEERING

RSOC 94

RSOC 94, the R. Signals Orienteering Championships '94, were arranged for the second year in a row by Comms & Sy Gp (UK) with, this year, administrative assistance from 30 Sig Regt and 224 Fd Amb. The championships took place over the weekend 14/15 May 94 with Day 1 at Fair Oak and Brindley Heath and Day 2 at Hay Wood.

The first day was the individual competition and after a long walk to the start, the 305 competitors were faced with hot conditions on the four courses. On the A course, the times were very close but eventually **Sgt Sharp**, 264 Sig Sqn, was declared the winner from **Maj Gill**, MOD, by a matter of a few seconds. Third place went to **Cpl Weston**, Comms & Sy Gp (UK), and fourth was **Cpl Emmerson**, ATR Bassingbourn. The B course was 1km shorter and was won by **Capt Doughty**, 14 Sig Regt (EW) by just over a minute from **Lt Col Titterington**. The C course was won by **Sgt Robson** also of 14 Sig Regt (EW) with **SSgt Jordan**, 15 Sig Regt, leading home the ladies in seventh place overall. Finally on the D course, the 15 Sig Regt ladies showed their strength with **Sgt Crowther** winning some nine minutes clear of the remainder.

The next day was the relays on the small, flat but intricate area of Hay Wood. The courses set by the local orienteers of the Octavian Droobers Orienteering Club were challenging and some local archers added to the excitement by (illegally) using parts of the wood!

The major units each had to field, two teams of four while the minor units ran just one team of four. The ladies, juniors and ad-hoc teams were just three strong but all teams started in one mass start. First back was **Maj Gill** running for the **Maj Medley** ad-hoc team; from then on the finish team were kept busy throughout as runners reappeared from the surrounding forest. Among the major units 14 Sig Regt (EW) were first, followed by The Royal School of Signals and 8 Sig Regt. Surprise minor unit winners were the permanent staff from 36 Sig Regt (V), followed by the staff of AA Coll Harrogate and in third place were 264 Sig Sqn. TA winners were 63 Sig Sqn (V), the junior champions were AA Coll Harrogate, and the fastest ladies were 15 Sig Regt.

The overall results mostly followed those of the relays. However in the minor units competition, times on the first day were critical as they allowed ATR Bassingbourn to take the trophy ahead of JCUNI; the successful relay teams took lower places. So, in all, an enjoyable weekends orienteering was had by those who attended. RSOC '95 is already being planned; the dates are 6/7 May 1995 and the location North Yorkshire.

BADGE AWARDS

The Corps has its own Badge Scheme for orienteering performance. The aim of the scheme is to encourage high standards by rewarding achievement. It is similar in format to that run by the British Orienteering Federation (BOF) but it recognises military as well as civilian events. To obtain an award a competitor must achieve the required standard at 3 qualifying events within a period of 2 years. Qualifying events are Divisional/District, UKLF/BAOR, and Army championships; also RSOC and BOF badge and national events. Individuals and unit orienteering officers are encouraged to apply for these awards. For further details contact **Lt Col Richards** as below.

ARMY, UKLF AND TA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Two weeks after RSOC '94, the teams reassembled for the Army, UKLF, and TA championships. This was a Royal Signals organised event with **Maj Rumford**, HQ Wales and West producing another excellent weekends orienteering. It was also held in the Midlands; the first day–the relays–were just down the road from RSOC '94. However this area (Rawnsley Hills) was more physical and less technical which made it less suitable for a relay. The net result was a daunting mass start and some very tired competitors. The second day shared Swynnerton Old Park with a civilian badge event. This proved to be a much more pleasant area with a long gentle descent into the finish.

Individually, **Maj Bateson**, 7 Sig Regt, beat **Sgt Sharp**, 264 Sig Sqn to take second and fourth places respectively while the other Corps runners were well down the field. On the B course, **Maj Cary**, 15 Sig Regt, did well as did **WO1 Fielding** on the C course. **Capt Hornsby** of 15 Sig Regt was second among the ladies on the C course but **Sgt Crowther**, also of 15 Sig Regt, was first female on the D course.

Overall, our unit results were somewhat disappointing. In the major units competition 14 Sig Regt (EW), 15 Sig Regt and 8 Sig Regt took 11th, 12th and 13th places respectively. Among the minor units, only JCUNI escaped disqualification and did well to finish fifth. Both our TA teams were also disqualified (in total 26 out of the 76 teams competing were disqualified including favourites such as last years champions MOD). However the women as always did well with 15 Sig Regt second overall and HQ Sqn 31 Sig Regt (V) first in the TA women's competition.

FUTURE EVENTS

By the date of publication, the new season should be under way. There are civilian events and military leagues in most areas and two major military events before the end of the year:

29/30 October: Inter-Corps & Army Individual Championships
5 November: Army Night Championships

FURTHER DETAILS

For further details of Royal Signals Orienteering please contact **Lt Col P. Richards**, Chief Instructor, AA Coll Harrogate on Harrogate Mil 4293.

ORIENTEERING IN NORTHERN IRELAND 1994

There are few places in the world where team captains are unable to train because civilian events/locations are out of bounds for security reasons. That has been the case in Northern Ireland for several years and it has reduced the number of units who now participate. However 1994 saw a major change take place. The ever resourceful **WOI (RSM)** (now Lieutenant) **Ray Cory** decided that 15 Sig Regt needed to train. He organised a Sunday league for units in Lisburn Station with runners meeting at hush hush locations on the edges of forests–he even managed to persuade an infantry battalion that the entry fee was an armed guard on the start/finish.

The next thing we needed was a Northern Ireland District Championship which was held in Northern Ireland. Previously only the keener teams were prepared to travel to Scotland in order to qualify for the UKLF/Army Championships. **Ray Cory** again produced the answer by mapping Ballykiner ranges. This is a large area of sand dunes between the ranges and the sea and is very similar to Barry Budden in Scotland. **Capt Jane Hornsby**, one of our female runners, planned some physically demanding and technically difficult courses whilst other members of 15 Sig Regt and 3 Royal Irish provided the organisation and administration. An excellent event took place in bright sunshine (also unusual in NI!) with over 250 runners from almost every unit in the Province participating.

Having qualified to go to the UKLF/Army Championships at the end of May we decided that a trip to the Royal Signals Championships in early May would provide an opportunity to select the best possible team, from our now large number of orienteers. This was a very enjoyable weekend which resulted in our female team (1993 Army Women's Services Champions) becoming the 1994 Royal Signals Female Champions.

The team was: **Capt Jane Hornsby**; **SSgts Melanie Crowther**, **Mandy Jordan**; **Cpl Paula Matheson**.

At the Army Championships another excellent weekend was enjoyed by us all both in and out of the forest. The girls were very narrowly beaten into second place by a team from REME Arborfield. Our older male runners needed refreshment after their exertions in the forest and **Majs Geoff Cary** and **Andy James** were disappointed that the night clubs were not as good as those provided last year in Berlin! However a good time was enjoyed by all and our thanks go to 30 Sig Regt for its organisation and hospitality.

Lt Col Richards, President Royal Signals Orienteering and Capt Lawton, former Secretary Royal Signals Orienteering, discussing tactics at RSOC 94

TUG OF WAR

CORPS TUG OF WAR

by Corps Sec **WO2 (SSM) Halstead**

Following on from the previous report, our early promise in various Corps units did not materialise at the qualifying championships. 7 Sig Regt qualified at all four weights, getting the BAOR Runners-up place at 680kg, but if put on the spot would admit they had hoped for better. Meanwhile at the UKLF Championships, 2 Sig Regt qualified for the 600kg category and The Royal School of Signals just failed at 640kg after a 3-way tie in their league. And so on to the Army Championships where 7 Sig Regt performed well, getting some notable 'scalps', but not into the medals. Meanwhile the School dominated the Plate Competition, winning three weights with 2 Sig Regt Runners-up at 640kg.

Six days later it was the Inter Corps Championships; first the important bit, the results:

560kg–Winners–Royal Signals
Runners-up–Army Medical Services
600kg–Winners–Royal Signals
Runners-up–Royal Logistic Corps
640kg–Winners–Army Medical Services
Runners-up–Royal Signals
680kg–Winners–Royal Signals
Runners-up–Army Medical Services

On the face of it, near domination; in reality, the only weight where we were supreme was, surprisingly, the 600kg, at which the RLC are Inter Service Champions. In the other three weights the results were on a knife edge with the 560kg and 640kg being won and lost respectively by a single point and the 680kg resulting in a three-way pull-off at the end of the league.

This was probably due to the lack of team preparation, with only four days to sort out the vital aspects of teamwork and balance, which of course are always with due regard to fitness, experience and weight. This year's squad was again mainly from three units,The Royal School of Signals, 2 Sig Regt and 7 Sig Regt plus individuals from 8 Sig Regt and 15 Sig Regt. It should be said here that if it were not for the support from these units in allowing their teams to train and then releasing them, that we would be looking up at the other Corps in this sport and not setting the standard for them to achieve.

Several stalwarts of Corps Tug-of-War were there in the thick of the action again, **Cpl** 'Jock' **Reid** (RSS), **Cpl Peter Howlett** (7) who is on the move to AFCENT soon, will there be a tug-of-war team appearing from there next year? **LCpl** 'Del' **Goodenough** (RSS just, formerly 7), **Sgt Russ Dalton** '(RSS) also posted; 220 Sig Sqn should start to figure highly at tug-of-war, we hope. Not forgetting **Sig Dave Moore** (7), **Sig Billy Milby** (2) and **Cpl** 'Tich' **Maidment** (8) soon, sadly for Corps sport, to be a civilian. Most encouragingly there are also lots of promising novices knocking on the door. **Sig** 'Simmo' **Simmonds** (7) who at 57 kg may not fit everyone's idea of the ideal tug-of-war man but, contrary to common belief, this is not a sport for beer swilling 'fatties' (we leave that to the rugby teams!). Other newcomers who pushed their way into the teams were **Sgt Tony Osborne** (RSS), **Sig** 'Spuggy' **Hetherington** (7), **Sig Billy Morris** (7) and **LCpl Kev Allen** (2).

In total, the squad this year numbered 33, with 21 pulling on the day (filling 32 slots) but there is always a need for more people to take up the sport, which relies upon individuals putting themselves out and being prepared to put in a lot of hard work; it also requires units to give their support in the current climate, where sport seems no longer to be an integral part of Army life.

Corps Colours for 1993 will soon be sent out and have been awarded to:

Sig Milby	2 Sig Regt
Sig Moore	7 Sig Regt
Sig Honeywill	7 Sig Regt
Sgt Cappleman	8 Sig Regt
LCpl Duplock	11 Sig Regt
Sig Dandy	15 Sig Regt

Without the usual preparation time for the Inter-Corps, it seemed that the annual and integral tour of various competitions in the name of 'Mercury' would not take place. However the 7 Sig Regt squad, who were invited to the Royal Tournament to represent the Corps, stayed in the UK and carried on the touring tradition. They were excellent ambassadors, being awarded the trophy for best sporting and well-turned out team at the Felton competition (one of the biggest in SW England) and winning all three weights at the Redhill and Reigate competition, where the sponsors prizes were very graciously received, although putting a frying pan in one's trophy cabinet may cause some comment!

The Royal Tournament tug-of-war had a new format this year, with the normal early morning round-robin leagues sending the two winners straight into the final for the evening performance. The remainder were then redrawn into another two leagues, with the winners going into a Plate final for the afternoon performance. The remainder then pulled in both performances in a cross-over knock-out system to decide the lower order.

Another change was to bring the tug-of-war forward in the programme (a relief not to follow the field gun crews who look interesting on television, but are boring and big in real life). We now followed the ARRC multi-national assault course race; so immediately the announcer was fed with the information that the only tug-of-war team from Germany came from the Regiment that provided HQ ARRC with their communications (who says that work and sport don't mix)?

The Corps was superbly represented by the 7 Sig Regt team in the environment that is a cross between a sauna and a Middle East street market. Over the three days, from the maximum permitted squad of 12, they won the 600kg, the Plate 660kg and were runners-up in the 640kg. They now start preparing for the Braemar competition to which they are also invited, along with 2 Sig Regt.

At International level, two members of the Corps, **Cpl** 'Jock' **Reid** (RSS) and **Sgt Brian Clark** (7) have been selected to represent the Scotland 'B' team in the United Kingdom Championships this September. Congratulations and good luck to both of them.

Lastly, my annual plea, if you are a lone tug-of-war voice in the wilderness of ignorance about the sport, please contact me if you need help or information. We may not do our pre-season training in warmer climes or run around hugging each other when someone does well but we do compete in a no-frills, genuine sport that ranks among the hardest. Try it. Down Hard.

The Tug-of-War team at the Royal Tournament–1994

ROYAL SIGNALS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS 1994/95

The Royal Signals Squash Championships are to be held in the new squash centre in Blandford over the period 22-25 November.

The following events are available for entry:

Open, Over 35, Veterans, Ladies
Team Event (three players from the same unit)

Entry forms are with Unit Squash Officers. Individuals may enter by phone by contacting Maj W. V. Miles on Colerne Mil Ext 5302. Entries are to be in by 11 November.

The Inter Corps Competition follows over the period 28-30 November.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

President: The Master of Signals

Chairman and Treasurer: Major General P. D. Alexander CB MBE

Vice Chairmen: Brig C. T. Garton Area 1; Brig M. R. Topple CBE Area 3;
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Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel Military System: London District 8424. STD 071 414 8424 Welfare Secretary (direct line) 071 630 0801. All contributions for *The Wire* should be addressed to the Editor and any queries referred to him on extensions 8428 or 8433.

The Association communicates with its branches and individual members through the pages of The Wire, *which contains accounts of Branch affairs as well as a forecast of Association events.*

Branch Secretaries are asked to check that their Branch members receive sufficient copies of The Wire. *Association HQ can arrange for copies to be delivered in bulk to Branch Secretaries for further distribution if this is convenient: it helps us save on postage.*

Dates of Branch events can always be published in The Wire *and should be submitted to the Editor. We also welcome letters, requests to contact old comrades and announcements of births, marriages and deaths. We hope that each Branch will contribute a short account of its activities, preferably with photographs, at least once a year.*

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

Catterick was all that we had hoped it would be and was well attended by our Branch. **Cpl Byrne** of 8 Sig Regt carried our Branch Standard on the Freedom of Richmond Parade and Retreat Ceremony on Friday evening, at the Saturday display and on Church Parade followed by the March Past on Sunday morning. We have to thank the Regiment for the privilege of our Standard being paraded by a smart young serving soldier.

On an early August day a party attended the Final Rehearsal of the Sovereign's Parade at the RMA Sandhurst. This was kindly arranged for us by **Col** 'Paddy' **Verdon** and **Maj Hank Langford** of our Branch. We were joined by friends from the West London and Reading Branches. We enjoyed it immensely but it was a very hot and humid day to be a spectator and none would have changed places with those on parade. It is to their credit that if they suffered discomfort it did not show. After the parade we retired to an area by the lake where we enjoyed a picnic and a very welcome bar set up for us by **Maj Hank Langford**.

We look forward to our Autumn Luncheon which will be held at the Army Golf Club in Aldershot on Sunday 9 October 1994. Friends from the Corps and from other branches are most welcome. 12.30 for 1 pm. The cost is £8.50 per head. Cheques to **Lt Col D. Crookes OBE**, 110 Fieldway, Aldershot, Hampshire GU12 4UL.

BEDFORD BRANCH

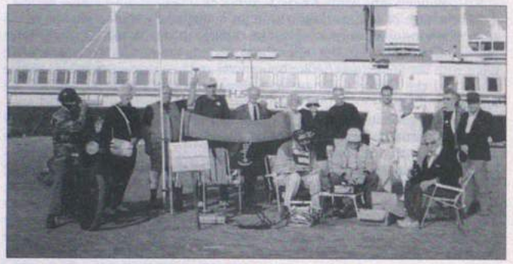
A few changes have been made to our branch over the past six months, firstly **Col Prophet** has now been honoured as President to enjoy his retirement and other commitments. All members would like to express their greatest thanks for his support and encouragement while chairman since 1979. **Barry Goodson** is now our chairman, **Barry** joined the branch at the inaugural meeting in 1979 and has been on the committee several times, branch treasurer for a period. He attended Catterick reunion several times including escort to our standard at the dedication in the presence of our Colonel in Chief **HRH The Princess Royal**. He served between 1949 to 1963 and left in the rank of Sgt. His two sons have followed him into the Corps and on one occasion at Catterick, they were on the same parade as **Barry**, they being in uniformed ranks and **Barry** with the 'Old Comrades'. All members send our best wishes to him for the future.

Following a few nomadic months since June 1993, due to security changes at Kempston Drill Hall our meetings will, in future, be held at Bedford United Services Association Club, 30 The Broadway, Bedford on the last Tuesday of the month at 8.00 pm. If in Bedford, please give us a look in.

EAST KENT BRANCH

June and the few days around it is full of Corps events and the Branch had record attendances at both the Blandford and Catterick Reunions. Both were thoroughly enjoyed but the poignancy of the latter was felt by everybody. However, the Branch managed to top these up with three events of its own. The first was an afternoon visit on 9 June by about 20 members to Shepherd Neame's Brewery at Faversham, the oldest independent Brewery in existence. Naturally there was a substitute beverage for tea at tea time!

On the day before the Catterick Reunion 23 members embarked at 1730 hrs upon a Hovercraft at Dover Hoverport attired in suitable beachwear for it was hot, sunny and very little wind. We were part of a larger party bound for the Goodwin Sands only uncovered by the neap tides about six times a year. A 20 minute flight and we were disgorged onto the Sands,



East Kent Branch Goodwin Sands Signal Centre

surprisingly hard and dry. The intention was to set up The East Kent Branch Goodwin Sands Signal Centre. The Secretary had made a large blue and white board to that effect, behind which flew the Corps flag; **John Raymond** and **George Woodcock** set up their 'Ham' radio and **Jack Dienst**, dressed appropriately, had brought his World War 2 Matchless M/C and acted as DR for the Fun Run which occupied the other 300 passengers. **Trevor Allison** (whose idea it was) set up the Public Address system and also ran in the Mile Race. The remainder of our members were 'in support' with picnics and a variety of beverages.

Maj Tommy Thomas who had received his 50 Year RSA Badge from **Lt Col Bert Sawyer** when the Branch went afloat on the Medway turned the tables by presenting **Bert** with his well deserved 50 Year Badge.

A little over an hour later, the tide was coming in and it was time to return. The Signal Centre had made contact with 35 RSARS members throughout the UK during this time and most people had ridden **Jack**'s M/C. As we left the Sands a head count found that there was one passenger short but that was another story . . .

On 10 July 57 members gathered for a most enjoyable (and cheap!) buffet lunch. The original intention was to say farewell to **Col John Francis**, our Chairman for only six months, who after a whole year of hunting, had finally found a house to his liking near Blandford. He has been a staunch Committee member from the start and we shall miss him and **Jean** very much–but I suspect the Branch will flood into his new house over the next Blandford reunion!

Lt Col Bert Sawyer, the first Branch Chairman is presented with his RSA 50 year Badge

MANCHESTER BRANCH

The Branch is increasing in attendance numbers–and so are funds! 30 members attended the 70th birthday party at the Vice President's home. The President was presented with his Honour Membership, donations had been made to MADLEA–Manchester & District Liaison ex Services Association. Another weekend at Blackpool at the Crewa Hotel in October, a raffle will be held in aid of Broughton House on 11 December and the annual dinner and dance will be held at the Hotel Cornelius on 3 December. Members attended Catterick in strength this year, several attended Blandford and arrangements are being made for next year's reunions. New members are always welcome and should ring either **Ron Taylor** 061-486 6772 or **Ida Harvey** 061-223 9395.

SOUTHPORT BRANCH

Saturday 23 July was Royal Star and Garter Home Day in Southport. The day started with coffee in the Mayor's Parlour opened by the Mayor of Sefton, **Councillor N. Fanning** (ex Corps). In the afternoon **Simon Weston** signed copies of his book in the town. The day concluded with Beating Retreat by the massed bands of Merseyside Pipes and Drums in the Floral Gardens which was attended by the Mayor and **Simon Weston**. Over £2,500 was raised for the Home.

R. Stanforth, Secretary Southport Branch with Simon Weston and Mrs S. Ball

TORBAY BRANCH

We meet at 8pm on the first Wednesday of every month at the Crown and Sceptre Inn, Petitor Road, St Mary's Church. They are enjoyable and friendly evenings so we look forward to seeing you at the next one! Membership is £5 a year and is open to serving and retired members of the Corps, including National Servicemen. Come along and swell our membership and join in the various events held from time to time. Bring others along too! Don't forget, next year's Association Reunion will take place in Blandford, a lot nearer home for people like us. Further information from **Mr E. F. Prior**, Tel: (0803) 329929. (**Mr Prior** is also a member of the Burma Star Association).

WEST LONDON BRANCH

Following Blandford reunion, where the Branch put in their usual good attendance and had a very enjoyable day, Catterick was the great occasion we all had hoped for, a sad time for so many old soldiers lightened by the hospitality of the Regiment and the various Messes who made us welcome. We were sorry that **Harry Ruff**, our stalwart Standard Bearer was not with us, **Kath** having been struck down by a mighty bug when they were due to leave for the North. A pity to miss such an occasion. However, since then Harry has carried the Standard at the Tobruk Association Ceremony at Cranford Church and at the New Zealanders Anzac Day Parade at Walton-on-Thames, so we think he has made his penance.

Wilf Scurr organised a very success Curry Luncheon in July, with a musical accompaniment.

In looking forward to our annual Branch attendance at Divine Service at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea we should thank **Cliff Wood** who instigated this event in 1982 when he asked the late **RSM** 'Tiger' **Hart** to approach the Governor. The reply came as rather a shock, the condition being that we parade with the In-Pensioners. We were proud to do this and many of us have paraded every year since then.

NEWS FROM SHETLAND

Shetlanders have served in the Corps for many years, mainly during WW2 and National Service days. In later years, 1968-1992, technicians were posted-in to Shetland to man the three NATO Forward Scatter Stations at Mossy Hill, Collafirth Hill, and Saxa Vord, together with some support staff. The stations came under command AFCENT, while the host country command was exercised by 242 Sig Sqn in Edinburgh. The techs, or 'welders' as some were known, had to undergo training at Latina, in Italy, before joining the NATO FSS circuit. On Shetland, like elsewhere, these stations were self supporting, with their own cooks, drivers, MOD ('Plod'), etc, but were controlled and administered by the Admin Base at Maybury, Virkie, where the OC and RSM resided.This was also the site of the renowned 'Maybury Club', a social and community institution, whose 200 members were drawn from both the military and civilian populations of the South Mainland. It was generally a popular posting for soldiers and their families, albeit an expensive one, for the cost of shopping, fuel and light, etc, was, and still is even today, fairly high in comparison with mainland UK. Almost all daily comestibles having to be shipped-in from Aberdeen, some 300 miles away. Happily a few items were quite cheap and readily available, ie. fish, mutton, beer, and woolly jumpers! The weather, especially the wind, took some getting used to, as did the tranquility, the absence of 'bright lights', and the distance to the nearest shop or town. Those posted-in from Germany found that not only had they lost their LOA, but there was also an 'arboreal deficiency', ie. trees, although growing on some parts of the islands, are quite small, and few in number. However, because of the isolation, the relatively small population (circa 20,000 spread over 500 square miles) where everybody knows everyone else, and the cleanest air you ever breathed, this all encouraged a sense of living in a 'time-gone-by', and made for feelings of security and contentment. Families either loved Shetland, or hated it, no in-between! Those who loved it often sought and obtained repeat tours, several of them returning to settle-down at the end of their Army Service. Some soldiers married local girls, returning eventually to raise 'peerie Shetlanders' of their own. When I retired from the Corps, this year, moving here to live, I was pleased to find about 30 or so ex Corps men still resident, with their families. I had been RSM at Maybury in 1984-1986 when my OC was **Maj (TOT) David** 'Rastus' **Collins**, now, with his wife **June**, one of my neighbours in Virkie. Also living close-by, with their families, are ex-**WOI (FofS) David Edwards** (now in TELS at Sumburgh Airport), ex-**SSgt** Tech **Howard Loates** (manager Shetland Office Supplies), ex-**Sgt** Tech **Jeff Lawrence** (manager Sumburgh Social Club), ex-**Cpl** Tech **Tony Bracken** (working with helicopters at the Airport), ex-DTg and ex-White Helmets **Peter Leybourne** (an Admin Asst to the ACF), and ex-Techs **Clive Wadley** and **Bob Porter**. While up North, on the island of Unst, ex-**Sgt** Tech **Sean McHale-Smith** is a CAO for RAF Saxa Vord. My research gave me a list of 32, who fell into 3 groups, (1) veterans of WW2, (2) National Servicemen 1945-1962, and (3) Regulars posted-in during 1968-1992. The NATO Stations were all closed down by 1992. In July we held two meetings. At the Royal British Legion Scotland (RBLS) Lerwick I was privileged to meet three WW2 veterans: ex-**Sgt Alistair Gardner**, who served with 2 Div in the Far East, ex-Operator Keyboard and Line 'Dodie' **Leask**, who also fought in the Far East, and ex-Operator Wireless and Line 'Monty' **Moncrieff**, who 'jumped' at Arnhem with 4 Para Bde. Also present were ex-National Servicemen **Ian Mustard** (DR and White Helmets 1952-54), **Bill Carter** (Tele Tech 1947-49), **Robert Bremner** (Tele Tech 1956-58), and **John Copland** (Line and Radio Tech 1957-59). Most of the NATO soldiers previously mentioned attended too. Following the meetings I was able to research Shetland's Roll of Honour and Roll of Service 1939-1945 (kindly loaned by **Ian Mustard**), where I discovered that, from the Corps, two were 'Honoured' (**Cpl Laurence Jamieson** of Sandwick, killed in Ceylon 1945, and **Sig Graeme Ian Grant** of Lerwick, killed in 1943), while 42 had 'Served'. The latter number included three ATS ladies, who were attached to units of the Corps. Of those who had 'Served', it is thought that at least 20 have died post-war, and quite possible that many more have 'gone' or just 'gone away'. Should any of your readers know of any Shetland WW2 veterans, still resident here, would they please tell them about this article, which will be similarly published in 'The Shetland Times'. We hope to form a Shetland Branch of the Corps Association, to meet monthly, on the second Tuesday at the RBLS Lerwick, and on the second Friday at Sumburgh Social Club, on both dates at 7pm. Contact, from those on, or away from Shetland, can be made through **Maj (Retd) Richard Hamilton** on Sumburgh (0950) 60330, who would always be pleased to hear from anyone with Shetland service.

Post Script. Visitors to Shetland NATO Stations, and there were many over the years, will remember the Meadowvale Hotel in Virkie, run by **Maggie** and **Jim Harper**, renowned for the size of their breakfasts, and hospitality. Both of them are still well, and although now in their 70's, continue to run the Hotel in their inimitable fashion. They have asked to be 'remembered' to any of their old visitors, eg. **Maj (Retd) David Antonisz**, late OC 242 Sig Sqn, and also that 'awful nice wee man, du ken da peerie General' whom I think was an SOinC some years ago!

ROYAL SIGNALS ATTACHED 5 REGIMENT RA 1964 TO 1969

from 23975255 Sig 'Jock' Hamilton

In 1964 my first posting, on leaving 24 Sig Regt, Catterick, where I had trained as a Radio Op, was to 5 Light Regt RA, in Perham Down, Hants. The Regiment, at that time, part of the Strategic Reserve, was equipped with 105mm Light Howitzers. I joined Sig Tp, HQ Bty, a motley mix of Royal and Gunner Sigs, led by a Sergeant Major Instructor of Signals (SMIS). There were ten Corps men (called 'scaley-backs' by the Gunners), and about the same number of Gunners (whom we called 'planks'). None of us was subtle! Our radio equipment, of the Larkspur Range, included A41/A42 (short-range manpack VHF), B47/B48 (short-range vehicle-borne VHF), C42/C45 (medium-range vehicle VHF), C11/C13 (long-range vehicle HF), and we even trained with flags once, to pass messages in Morse for an exercise in Norway. Voice procedure had to be re-learned, the Gunner way, for it included Fire Orders, which must be repeated back to the sender, word for word. We drove and exercised in Austin Camps, Ferret Scout Cars, and Saracens (6-wheeled Armoured Command Posts), all with Rolls Royce engines, and Landrovers, 1-ton Humber 'Pigs', and latterly Mk 1 (petrol) AFV 432s. In the realm of military dress fashion we had discarded Battledress, however, our olive-green combat jackts still sported Bde or Div Tac signs on the shoulder, and our web equipment was still '37 pattern, blackened with boot polish. Our small arms were SLRs and SMGs, while the officers carried .38 Smith & Wesson revolvers, only the CO had a 9mm Browning. We, Royal Signals attached, were responsible for the 'links' from Regiment to Brigade; radio maintenance (before REME took that on), and battery-charging. However, we became totally integrated into Regimental life, and involved in everything. I served with the Troop through the move from UK to Mansergh Barracks, Gütersloh, when we re-equipped with 25-pdrs and 5.5in Howitzers, becoming 5 Field Regt; through the subsequent role-change with the issue of Abbot 105mm Self-Propelled Guns, and AFV 432s; until I left them in 1969. All of the characters I knew, remain indelibly in my memory but, 30 years later, while the faces are clear, the names are not always so. Perhaps a few details may spark some of your readers to recall them in later life, and tell us where they are now?

The ranks given are as they were in the early years. The remarks made are as I remember them. Hopefully neither will cause offence, for none is meant.

SSgt George Carrington–Radio Tech and i/c Tech Workshops, a thoroughly pleasant old soldier, Korean War Veteran, he sometimes tried to be stiff and military, but was too 'nice' to succeed at that.

Cpl Russ Hickman–Radio Tech, from Nottingham, an old soldier who was clever but whose moods were mercurial. He hated the Gunners with as much passion as he loved opera and classical music. Refusing to shape his huge fly-away beret, or to wear elastics over his anklets, he showed unusual contempt for what we thought of as military 'cool.'

LCpl Bob Lea–an ex-Policeman from Leeds, and an ex-PO RN during his National Service) in the Korean War. He was a quiet, thoughtful, and very experienced old sweat. Our Electrician Driver, he ran the battery-charging shop.

LCpl 'Brummy' **Kendrick**–Radio Tech, very astute man, but sarcastic with it. He later transferred to REME, when that Corps took-on radio maintenance.

Sig Larry Askew–from Nottingham, he was a class 1 TG Op with 12 years service under his skinny waist-belt. A bit of a rebel, he had no respect for authority. He was a superb CW (Morse) operator.

Sig Ray Moss–a red-faced Yorkshireman, he was an average R Op, but a bully of exceptional guile.

Sig Phil Hobson–he was Moss's side-kick and alter ego. He was severely beaten-up by unknown assailants, who used metal bed-ends to deadly effect on him, as he slept.

LCpl Sid Barnett–he and I shared a room for several seasons. He was a most likeable, amusing, and friendly character, with a wide range of mimicry and humour, making him a popular companion. I last saw Sid in Soest in the late '70s, when he was a Sgt RTg.

Sig Chris Powers–how loud he was! The modern term 'motor-mouth' would have suited him perfectly. His non-stop, scathing abuse of the Gunners only ceased when one of them clubbed him into silence, affording us only a temporary respite, for he always recovered. He was a highly competent sailor, who, I think, ended-up on the Corps Yacht at Kiel.

Sig 'Taff' **Aherne**–quiet, bespectacled, from South Wales, he had the unenviable pleasure of sharing a room with **Chris**, he used ear-defenders constantly. The names of the others simply escape me, although, as I said, I can see their faces quite clearly.

Finally, there was me, **Sig** 'Jock' **Hamilton**, a quiet, smart young man from Musselburgh, who desperately wanted to succeed at 'being a soldier.' By the time I left 5 Regt I had attained ACE II (Education), MPC III (Top student), MPC II (Top student), Class 1 R Op, and sub Cpl rank ('67). In '68 I met-up with **Cpl Eric Rose** and **LCpl Danny Harewood**, whom I had last seen in Training at Catterick. They were on exercise in BAOR with 216 Para, and without too much prompting they convinced me to volunteer to join them. Thus, in '69 I struggled through 'P' Company together with the likes of **Cpl Ray Marshall**, **Sig** 'Norrie' **Clanachan**, **Sig** 'Taff' **Finn**, **Sig** 'Spud' **Murphy**, and others. But that leads on to another story . . .

In my peaceful Shetland retirement I reflect on events and comrades of the '60s, et seq, and wonder where my old chums are now, and how their lives and careers progressed? I would be delighted to hear about or from any surviving members of Signal Tp, HQ Bty, 5 Regt RA, circa 1964-69.

Please write to me at Solheimr, Virkie, Shetland ZE3 9JL.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during July 1994.

Bequeathed by Mr Harold Dudley	£7,160.24
AA Coll Harrogate (St Albans Church)	£260.00
In memory of WO2 H. A. Simons	£25.00
In memory of CSM James Moran	£20.00
	£7,465.24

The following donations were gratefully received during August 1994.

Catterick Garrison Church (RSA Reunion Service)	£683.92
Bequeathed by Maj Abram Stirk	£500.00
Comms Branch HQ UKSC (G)	£107.42
In memory of Jonathan Edmonds	£100.00
Mr J. Grimes	£50.00
Mr A. E. Roberts	£50.00
Mr D. W. Gent	£10.00
In memory of Edward Worsfold	£5.00
	£1,506.34

REUNIONS

THE 5TH (LONDON) CORPS SIGNALS OCA

The 49th Reunion of the 5th (London) Corps Signals Old Comrades Association will be held on 22 October at Duke of York's Headquarters at 1730 hours. Further information from Hon Sec **Mr S. F. Prior**, 56 Racton Road, Fulham, London SW6 1LP.

CEYLON HIGH SPEED WIRELESS COMPANY/ARMY WIRELESS CHAIN SQUADRON

Our sixth reunion of Ceylon High Speed Wireless Company/Army Wireless Chain Sqn personnel is on the horizon. 28 October is the date, the venue, our usual one at the Belmont House Hotel in Leicester. So far 81 people are confirmed reservations with several still to come in. Chief guest is our former CO **Maj Gen John Badcock** and his wife **Gillian**, both are great supporters of our reunions and we in turn enjoy their company immensely.

Several new faces have surfaced this year, they are **Don Nutkins**, **Les Wedgewood**, **Don Capon**, **Garry McKeon**. **Don Nutkins** and **Don Capon** arrived on the scene after hearing of our reunions from **Bill Hills** who attends the 254 ex-Boys Reunions around the same date. We are still searching for 'lost survivors' so if any ex colleagues might read this in *The Wire* they can contact me at the above address for further details.

The format of the evening is the same as former years, a buffet dinner followed by dancing until 1am. We have 48 rooms reserved at the hotel for overnight stays, this results in a reunion at breakfast the following morning.

We send our good wishes to all members of the Corps both serving and retired. **Harry Moore**.

LIBERATION OF GUERNSEY

Veterans of Task Force 135 and/or their relatives are invited to write to **Maj (Retd) E. H. Ozanne**, Royal Hampshire Regt, Deputy Director Guernsey Tourist Board, PO Box 23, St Peter Port, Guernsey GU1 3AN, regarding planned commemorations of the 15th anniversary of the Liberation which falls on 9 May 1995, code named Operation Nest Egg. Please provide details of Regiment etc. Alternatively, contact **Mr L. W. Barbe**, Honorary Secretary, Guernsey Branch RSA.

THE WILHELMSHAVEN ASSOCIATION

Will any readers who attended Prince Rupert School, Wilhelmshaven between 1947 and 1972 please contact **Mrs Hilary Seaborn**, 37 Daking Avenue, Boxford, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 5QA regarding the above named association.

3RD DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

When 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt were tasked to provide soldiers for ceremonial and administrative duties in France for the 50th commemoration of D-Day and the Normandy campaign the CO of the Regt, **Lt Col Ian Foxley**, asked the Reunion Club if we could find some veterans of these momentous days to go to Normandy with the Regiment to act as guides for the young men on tours of the area. So it was that **Col Peter Hoskin** (Adjt in 1944), **Lt Ernest Packham**, G Sect, **Les Wright**, E Sect and **Joe** 'Bill' **Bailey**, J Sect (185 Bde), all part of what was then 3 (BR) Inf Div, found themselves back in France 50 years on and in happier circumstances. A couple of youngsters in the shape of **Colin Spencer** and **Bill Barnard** went along to see what they had missed by being born about 10 years too late.

The group had a wonderful time whilst in France but the highlights, according to **Ernest Packham**, who provided the information for these notes, was the attitude of the young soldiers on the visit to Hermanville. Military Cemetery where as they wandered around the gravestones and saw the ages of the young men who are buried there that they began to see the connection between themselves and these doddery old men they kept bumping into in France, and the visit to Bayeux Military Cemetery where they joined with the Royal Signals Association (Reading Branch) for a simple Royal Signals Act of Remembrance where **Col Hoskins** and **Lt Packham** laid wreaths on behalf of the veterans and the Club.

If anyone reading this was with 3 Div Sigs, or 8th, 9th and 185 Bdes or the Gunner Sects at any time and has not joined the 3 Div Sig Reunion Club, please get in touch. You will find lots of your old comrades in our ranks. Pass the word on to those who do not take *The Wire*.

At our Reunion in March the CO of 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt issued an invitation to Club members to join in the Regimental Weekend and Families Fete on the 15/16/17 July. A total of 44 members and guests took advantage of this generous invitation and travelled to Bulford to spend what was to be a memorable few days with our old Regiment.

On arrival we reported to the Sgt's Mess where we were greeted by **Lt Gabby O'Mara**, staniding in for **Maj John Hornby** who had unfortunately been hospitalised with a nasty bout of pneumonia. The Old Comrades, as we were promptly dubbed, then settled down to tea, coffee, sandwiches, biscuits and reminicence until **RSM Dave Wilson** called us to order and gave us a thorough briefing on the programme for the weekend and bade us welcome to the Regiment. We were then shown to our accommodation and given time to freshen up before tea.

Colin Spencer at the 3rd Division Memorial at Caen

The first engagement was a 'Games Night' in the Mess annexe, though, to be honest, it was more of a 'gab fest' than anything else, as we all circulated round renewing old friendships and making new ones. It had been a glorious summer day and continued into an equally glorious evening and it brought back memories of exotic foreign postings by being able to stand outside in the cool of the evening without having to wear three layers of woollies. The buffet supper served was, as usual, first class as were all the meals provided during our stay. In fact it's a good job we were only there for a weekend as we all put on pounds.

Saturday started off in a leisurely way but the pace increased at 1100 hrs when the CO, **Lt Col Ian Foxley** welcomed us to the Regiment and told us of some of his plans for the future and how the draw down of the Army and the lessening of the threat from Eastern Europe had affected the Regiment's role. He then went to have a look round the stalls set up for the Family Fete, we had a short discussion on Club matters at which our Chairman/Treasurer, **Maj Derek Roberts**, told us of **Bill Holden**'s illness, and of **Maj Ken Smartt**'s disappointment at missing this first visit to the Regiment since his election as a Vice President, but he was unable to leave **Winifried**, his wife, alone as she is just starting to recover from a lengthy time in bed.

It was then off to watch the opening of the Fete by **Patti Caldwell**, the TV presenter, who seemed to be remarkably *au fait* with the personalities of the Regiment as she mentioned them all in a brief but witty speech. The Blue Helmets then dropped in and the Band of the Army Air Corps completed the Opening Ceremonies with an excellent display of marching and countermarching. During the course of the rest of the afternoon we were entertained by the Royal Navy's Window Ladder Dressing Team from HMS *Sultan*, the Police Dog Display Team from the Wiltshire Police, a Falconry Display and the brave sailors even gave a Hornpipe display in front of the 'brutal and licentious soldiery' which in fact was very well received by said soldiery so much so that when the sailors invited the audience to join in the encore the arena was filled with soldiers, and their ladies, trying to emulate the precision of the matelots. The afternoon came to a close with the presentation of prizes for various events and one special prize which came as a surprise to all. Some time ago Club members contributed to a presentation for **Ernie Bayley** but sadly **Ernie** died before it could be given to him. The money was held in trust and the Club decided it should be used to provide an annual award to a person selected, by the CO, as being most deserving. This award was not aimed at the 'gladiator' or 'highflyer' but at someone, like **Ernie**, who beavered away in the background. The first winner of this **Ernie Bayley** Award was **LCpl Pettitt** who was presented with his award, a suitably inscribed casting of a Signaller in combat kit, by our President, **Brig** 'Bertie' **Brett**. The final part of the Fete was the Playing of Retreat by the Band of the Army Air Corps who had played for the opening, the Royal Navy (three times), the Police and now for Retreat, from midday till 1730 hrs under a blazing hot sun in full kit. They deserved every bit of the standing ovation they got from the tired but happy spectators.

Saturday evening saw us gather once more in the Sergeants' Mess annexe, this time for an evening of music and dancing, at least that was the idea but in the early stages it was too hot to do anything but try to counter the dehydration caused by the excessive heat (that's my story). Just before the buffet the RSM had another surprise for everyone. He called us all to gather round a table decorated in Corps colours and topped by something covered with a Divisional flag. He then made a brilliant speech at the conclusion of which he invited **Brig Brett** to remove the flag to display a magnificent piece of silver depicting a standing soldier flanked by two kneeling soldiers, the gasp of surprise and admiration from all present was well justified. After supper when it had cooled down a little, some of the fitter members did a little dancing except for 'Pedlar' **Palmer** who did a lot of dancing, this from a man who had celebrated his 90th birthday on the fourth of July. Mind you it wasn't 'Pedlar's' fault, the young ladies kept asking him. When **Pam Roberts** asked one why they kept poor old 'Pedlar' on the go she replied 'He's light on his feet and sexy with it.' Hope they can say the same about me if I should last as long.

Sunday morning saw the Old Comrades watch as a Squadron from the Regiment marched to Church behind the Army Air Corps Band who provided the music for the service. Forty-five minutes of rousing hymns, reflective prayers and a brief but apt sermon left us in good heart for prelunch drinks in the Mess Annexe and we rounded off the visit with a Curry Lunch. All the Club members and guests agreed that it had been a memorable weekend and we cannot thank the Regiment enough for its kindness and hospitality. We look forward to making some return to you at our Reunion in March.

THE KOHIMA WEEKEND AND THE 2ND DIVISION

The 38th Kohima Weekend took place in York during the weekend 29-31 July where 600 veterans met for a magnificent all ranks dinner, a service of remembrance in York Minster and a march past which included an 'eyes left' as we passed the Kohima Memorial set in the historic remains of the adjoining cloister. All this in fine hot weather.

2 Sig Regt made a superlative contribution in preparing for the event and acting as focus for 2 Div affairs and the Kohima Museum since the Division was removed from the Order of Battle last year. The Regiment has played a major part in promoting this annual event over the whole span of its years and claims the distinction of having started the first all ranks weekend to serve the interests of the old and educate the young about this important Battle Honour which is part of their history.

Recent Divisional Commanders have risen to many high offices. **Sir Michael Rose** is commanding in Bosnia and could not be present, but **Sir Peter Inge**, Chief of Defence Staff was there, as was **Sir Charles Guthrie**, the Chief of the General Staff. When I told the latter that we expected a group of Indian Lieutenant Generals to visit us next year for the 75th Anniversary of the formation of our Corps he said 'Do please let me know if there is anything I can do to help'. It was he who made the announcement that agreement had just been reached to form a 2nd Division once again; news which was loudly applauded.

The High Table at this important event was also graced by **Lord Slim** and his Burma Star Chairman **Sir Bernard Chacksfield**.

Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield

MONTE CASSINO

Our photograph shows Capt Jane Knight who laid a wreath on behalf of The Master of Signals and all ranks, serving and retired on 15 May at Monte Cassino.
The Union Flag was carried by a Colour Party of Corps personnel from Latina. Chief, Nato CIS School, Latina, is Maj (now Lt Col) W. A. Locke who attended together with three members of the School, WO1 McCluskey, SSgt Torrance and Sgt Buchan and the Royal British Legion Representative who organised the event

NOTICES

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE AND THE PARADE AT THE CENOTAPH–1994

With the kind permission of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, this year's Field of Remembrance will open at 1130 hrs on Thursday, 10 November. A short Service will be held. It is understood from Clarence House that Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, intends to open the Field, which will remain open until 1600 hrs on Thursday, 17 November.

We hope that as many Members as possible, particularly those in London area, will attend. Our Plot this year is number 82, almost the same as in previous years, adjacent to the North Door of The Abbey.

Suitable crosses representing the Serving Corps, Association HQ and all Branches will be ordered and financed from Central Funds.

We will however, be pleased to order any individual or personal requirements on behalf of Members providing requirements are notified to reach this HQ by 10 October. Cheques should be drawn on Royal Signals Association. We recommend a 12 inch Leaf Cross at £2.40, or a 12 inch Poppy Cross at £2.90.

The Royal British Legion, on behalf of The Home Office, will again be organising the ex-Service contingent attending the Parade and Service at The Cenotaph in Whitehall on Sunday 13 November.

Columns are to be assembled by 1010 hrs on Horse Guards Parade in time to march off at 1025 hrs. After the Service, the contingents will proceed down Whitehall, Parliament Square to Horse Guards Parade. Dispersal will be at approximately 1220 hrs.

Branches/Individual Members wishing to attend this Parade should submit their bids for tickets to reach this HQ by 13 October. Admittance to Horse Guards will be by ticket only.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

8TH ARMY SIGNALS

Will any reader who served in 8th Army Signals with **Robert Andrews** who came from Greenwich/Charlton and was born in 1911 please get in touch with his daughter **Miss Jenny Andrews**, 25 St Giles Lane, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 ZAE. **Robert Andrews** served in Italy and in North Africa and his best pal during his Army days was **Bob Derritt**.

65th/39th CITY OF LONDON SIGNAL REGIMENT (V) WORSHIP STREET, LONDON EC2

I would like to hear from any previous members of the above Regiment who may remember me. Also from anyone who has information on Reunions that may be in existence. **Donald S. Radley,** (RSA Life Member) PO Box 44765, Nairobi, Kenya.

LETTER

From: Chairman Bath & District Association.
Dear Editor,

At the 'Last Grand Reunion' at Catterick I had much hoped to see or hear of an ex 'F' Company boy among the Association members there. Sadly, I met but one, **Geoff Oakley**. There were however compensations in that the weather was generally kind, particularly on the Saturday. I was much moved at the ceremony of Playing Retreat and wet eyed as the Bands marched off to Auld Lang Syne. Was it really 65 years ago that I participated in 'Spring Drills' on this very square.

I found the Church Service and Parade on the Sunday equally moving occasions. I counted 41 Association Standards on Parade, surely an all time record and didn't the Standard Bearers march well–a credit to the Corps. Marching to Helles Lines I found myself in a cohort of some 80 men. Chatting to them I discovered none had been born when I enlisted in 1929. Ah well time marches on.

Sad as it is that Catterick will no longer witness another Grand Reunion, I shall retain an abiding memory of the old Signal Training Centre and of two revered 'F' Company O.C.s–**F. R.** 'Cobbie' **Cobb** and **V. C.** 'Dutchy' **Holland**. Whatever success I may have made of my life I owe in great measure to them.

Yours faithfully
Edgar Harrison

33 Great Pulteney Street
Apartment 17
Bath BA2 4BX

THE ROLE OF THE ASSOCIATION IN BENEVOLENCE

One of the key objectives of the Association, set out in its Trust Deed, is the relief of poverty where it occurs in members of the Corps, serving or retired, and their immediate families. There are many organisations in - volved in Service and ex Service welfare, nationally, locally and on a Regimental or Corps basis. This brief note describes the relationship between them and explains how the Association carries out its role.

A vital function in Service welfare is filled by SSAFA. In addition to providing welfare workers and nursing sisters overseas, SSAFA provides the basic investigation organisation throughout UK. SSAFA has virtually no welfare funds of its own and seldom makes direct grants, but its case workers are deeply involved in the provision of welfare reports. These reports are the basis of most of the Association's welfare case-work.

The Army Benevolent Fund is the Army's major charitable organisation. It does not deal directly with individual cases, and refers them to the Regimental and Corps Associations to handle. It has large funds at its disposal and uses these to help the Associations with individual cases, often on a 50:50 basis. It also makes extensive grants to ex-Service charities such as the Regular Forces Employment Association, the Royal Star and Garter Home, the British Limbless Ex-Service men's Association and so on.

The Association makes a large annual grant to the Army Benevolent Fund: effectively, it gets all of it and more back in the support given to individual cases. The Association relies on the Army Benevolent Fund to support the numerous ex-Service charities on its behalf: hence, the Association tries not to get involved in supporting individual charities. This would be invidious, because there are so many of them, as well as duplicating the Army Benevolent Fund's work. The Chairman of the Association Central Committee is also a trustee of the Army Benevolent Fund, and there is close coordination between our RHQ and the Army Benevolent Fund staff.

The Royal British Legion (RBL) is effectively an Association for all three Services which runs parallel to the Regimental and Corps Associations. As with other smaller Associations such as the Burma Star and Dunkirk Verterans, it is perfectly consistent for an individual to be a member of his or her Corps Association and of the RBL. The RBL has some investigative capability, as well as some funds held locally for welfare purposes. Occasionally the Association is involved jointly in welfare cases with the RBL.

Welfare cases are handled for the Association by a Welfare Officer based at RHQ. Cases are considered by a Welfare Committee, meeting about every three weeks. The Chairman is invariably a retired officer, and the members are an officer and a soldier of the serving Corps. Urgent cases arising between meetings are dealt with personally by the Chairman of the Association Central Committee. In preparing cases for consider ation, the Welfare Officer makes searching enquiries. Often, the individual concerned served in more than one Regiment or Corps: he or she may have gone on to employment in an industry which has its own welfare funds which can be called on to help. And there is then a mass of State support, some of it complex in nature. Finally, since the benevolent funds of the Association depend almost wholly on the One Day's Pay scheme, it is necessary to check on whether the applicant is or has been a subscriber. Support to the non-subscriber is never refused if the case is sound, but if the applicant is still serving, his unit will certainly be asked to look into the reasons why he has failed to subscribe.

In dispensing welfare funds, the Association has a duty to be consistent and prudent. It has to establish the extent of the need, and assure itself that other more appropriate sources of support are not available. The more difficult cases are those where the extent of the problem is obscure or only partly disclosed. Once the need has been clearly established, the Association's help is prompt and generous. Money is normally disbursed through SSAFA and not direct to individuals, so that there is reasonable assurance that it is spent for the purposes for which it is needed.

BEQUESTS AND DONATIONS TO THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

In recent times, the call on the benevolent funds of the Association, to support members and ex-members of the Corps in need, has grown steadily. At the same time; the income to the Association, which depends heavily on the serving Corps subscribing One Day's Pay per year, has been in decline as Corps numbers have decreased. The Association is always grateful for donations, but particularly so at the present time. Donations in lieu of flowers at funerals are always appreciated and are a very appropriate way of commemorating an ex-member of the Corps. The Association has greatly benefited, too, from bequests: please remember the Association in Your will.

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Penny Pot Reunion

2-3 JULY 1994

THE
wire
The Royal Signals Magazine
December 1994

75th Anniversary

CENTRAL EVENTS

Tuesday 4 July 1995
An Officers' Dinner at the London Hilton on Park Lane
Separate Dinner for Wives of Overseas Guests

Wednesday/Thursday 5/6 July 1995
A programme of visits to industry for overseas guests and a separate programme for their wives.

Friday 7 July – Blandford
Colonels Commandant, Past and Present, Overseas Guests and their wives
Dinner, Headquarters Officers' Mess

Saturday 8 July 1995 – Blandford
Corps Lunch

Sunday 9 July 1995 – Blandford
Royal Signals Association Reunion. Reception, Church Service,
Commissioning New Museum Building, Arena Events, Playing Retreat by Massed Band

OTHER EVENTS

Palace Guards during June/August 1995

White Helmets and Corps Trumpeters in the 1995 Royal Tournament. Programme to advertise 75th Anniversary.

Corps involvement in a **Save the Children** project.

Unit Celebrations To take place throughout 1995 and to be a focus for soldiers' celebrations.

Indian Signals Association
Separate programme for Heads and other Senior Officers, Indian and Pakistan, to be arranged by Indian Signals Association in June.

75th Anniversary

The Royal Signals Magazine

December 1994 Vol. 48 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 upon us once again and many of you are still involved in movement and rehousing as restructuring continues. Few Regiments are where they were a few years ago, the exceptions being the ones in Northern Ireland, in Cyprus and in York. Perhaps the most painful departure has been the move of the Royal Signals Training Base from Catterick which became the much loved home of the Corps over the course of the past 70 years. The departure has been handled with great dignity, and although it was poignant, it was both memorable and enjoyable as our Colonel in Chief, Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal visited 8 Signal Regiment and, on a sunny day, 14 October, took the final parade and unveiled a tablet to commemorate the Corps' 70 years in Catterick. The final graduation day parade at Harrogate is planned for July next year and at that point the Corps ceases training in the North. BAOR is no more, and our Regiments in Germany are part of United Kingdom Support Command, Germany (UKSC(G)).

We must now look forward with the serving Corps towards making Blandford the new home of the Corps, remembering that The Royal School of Signals has been there for 27 years already.

A place to call home is so important in our lives as I'm sure you appreciate. A stable place, when our lives are full of change. It is certainly important for all our children and our grandchildren. I realise how lucky I am to be spending this particular Christmas in our family home with all our children and our grandchildren. But as I do so I shall stop and reflect and say a silent prayer for all those members of the larger family of the Corps who will not be as lucky as me. Those on duty in Bosnia, The Falklands, Northern Ireland and many other places where duty calls and it is their turn to take post. You will be in all our thoughts and we know that you will be maintaining the high standards and cheerful countenance of the Corps on duty.

There are others we must not forget. There are a surprising number of families in the Corps, serving and retired, who lose members of their family during the course of each year, through accident or illness. Let us keep them in our thoughts and prayers as they face Christmas without their loved ones.

Sylvia and I thank all of you whom we have been privileged to meet during this busy year. Thank you for your welcome and your hospitality and we send you all our warmest good wishes for a very Happy Christmas and a rewarding and successful New Year.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE SIGNAL OFFICER IN CHIEF
MAJ GEN A. H. BOYLE

This is my third and last Christmas message to you as the Signal Officer in Chief. For many, the past year has seen no slackening in the pace of change within the Corps. Catterick has now been handed over to the Infantry and the rebuild of Blandford as our single centre has begun. Unit moves and disbandments from the Options for Change studies have continued throughout 1994 and the 'Front Line First' initiatives have been set in hand. Further studies into restructuring the TA are also well advanced and I expect a formal announcement of the outcome to become public before this message is printed. Most importantly, the Corps has performed outstandingly throughout the year in every operational theatre where British troops are deployed, and this is the acid test of all our endeavours.

I have been greatly heartened by the wholehearted efforts of everyone in the Corps. Despite the many difficulties, it has been a joy to recognise the universally positive approach adopted by them. I thank you all most sincerely for your contribution during 1994. I also wish to express my personal thanks for the hospitality and the kindnesses so generously given by so many to Ann and to me during our visits in 1994.

The promise of the year ahead includes much excitement. The planning of 1994 will bear fruit in 1995. To those fortunate enough to spend Christmas with their families, I wish you all peace and happiness, and I ask you to remember those who are called to remain on duty. Many opportunities remain to be taken with the renewed vigour which a New Year can bring. Let us all resolve to seize them with the same positive approach and thereby doubly mark our coming 75th Anniversary year for the family of The Royal Corps of Signals.

PROMOTION

Congratulations to **Major General S. Cowan CBE** on his appointment to Inspector General of Doctrine and Training, in March 1995, in the rank of Lieutenant General.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

NORTHERN IRELAND

MBE

Warrant Officer Class 2 (Yeoman of Signals) P. J. Day
Staff Sergeant S. A. Knight

QCB

Corporal M. Hurren
Lance Corporal L. Beazley

QCVS

Lieutenant Colonel P. A. Pratley MBE Royal Signals
Major P. J. Grogan Royal Signals
Sergeant R. Gorman
Sergeant I. R. Patterson

FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

QCVS

Warrant Officer Class 1 (Regimental Sergeant Major) M. A. Wright-Jones

ROYAL VICTORIAN MEDAL AWARD

We warmly congratulate **Gordon Stephens** on being awarded the Royal Victorian Medal by **HM The Queen** in recognition of 28 years service to the Duchy of Cornwall. **Gordon** served in the Corps from 1950-52 and is an active member of the Plymouth Branch RSA.

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The Front Cover Picture. Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, in Queen's Avenue after the farewell parade at Catterick on 14 October 1994

The Back Cover Picture. The Commanding Officer 8 Signal Regiment, Colonel J. R. B. Cook, leading the Farewell Parade escorted by the Flag Party

The price of The Wire will increase to £1.50 per copy, £9 per annum from February 1995

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FAREWELL TO CATTERICK

After 70 years of training in Catterick the Corps has bidden farewell.

OFFICERS' DINNER

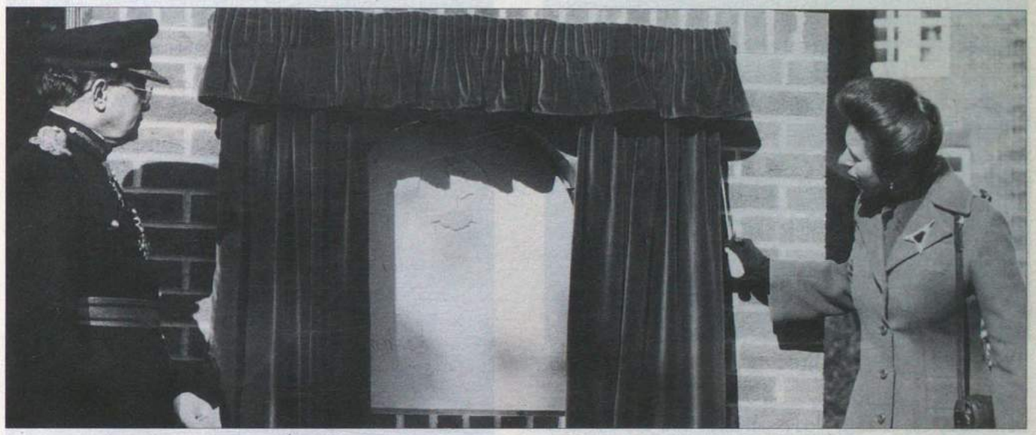
The night of 13 October 1994 saw 131 officers of the Corps, both serving and retired, dine for the last time together in the Royal Signals' Mess in Vimy Barracks. The Master of Signals presided over an august gathering of 13 Major Generals and many other of the Corps' senior officers. **Major Pudge Townend** Royal Canadian Signals was the President of the Mess Committee.

PARADE AND LUNCHEON

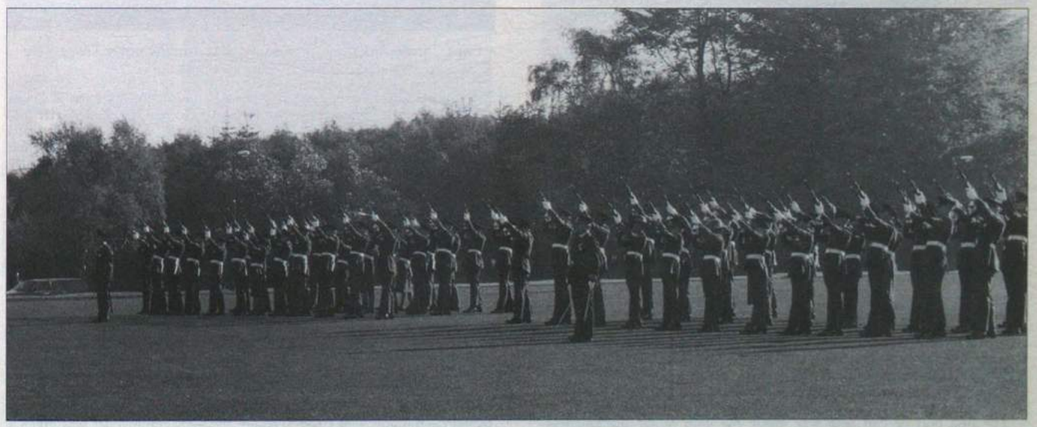
On 14 October 1994, in the presence of **HRH The Princess Royal** and bathed in glorious sunshine, 8 Sig Regt lowered its flag for the last time. **Colonel J. R. B. Cook** commanded the Parade and led the Regiment through a march past in line, Feu de Joie, Royal Salutes and the final march off with flag folded. The visiting civic and military dignitaries then lunched with The Princess Royal in the Officers' Mess.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' DINNER

The assembled throng of 162 Warrant Officers and Senior Non Commissioned Officers, representing 43 different Regiments and Squadrons of the Corps, who had watched the parade then gathered for a final dinner. The dinner was presided over by **WO1 (RSM) J. W. Mackay** and the **Master of Signals** and the **Signal Officer in Chief** were the guests of honour.



The Colonel in Chief unveiling the plaque commemorating 70 years of Royal Signals Training in Catterick



The Feu de Joie.

VISIT OF THE COLONEL IN CHIEF, HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL, TO 255 SIGNAL SQUADRON, 16TH SIGNAL REGIMENT

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal visited 16 Sig Regt on Tuesday 20 September 1994. The visit was conducted in the field at Gut Erpenbeck near Osnabruck, where 255 Sig Sqn were participating in Ex Flying Falcon.

Having arrived at Münster Greven airport nearby, Her Royal Highness was taken to the location escorted by a German anti-terrorist squad and accordingly arrived some 20 minutes early. Not surprisingly, this eventuality had been catered for and everything was prepared well in advance. This early start merely meant that Her Royal Highness had more time with the Regiment.

On arrival, The Princess Royal was greeted by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col N. F. Fisher** and the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) S. Toms**. The CO then presented the SLO, who in turn presented the German dignitaries and the **Erpenbeck** family, owners of the Gut. Her Royal Highness then moved into the splendid farmhouse where she met the Regimental 2IC, **Maj Tim Bryning**, the Ops Officer, **Capt Ian Parry**, who was also the project officer, and the Adjt, **Capt David Robson**. The team then briefed Her Royal Highness on the role and organisation of the Regiment including recent exercises and the move from Krefeld to Rheindahlen. After the briefing there followed a Regimental photograph in the Gut courtyard before the tour of the location began.

Herr Erpenbeck presents a basket of his farm produce held by Sig Tiffany Slim

It was at this point that the Acting Sqn Comd of 255 Sig Sqn, **Capt David Bizley**, and the SSM, **WO2 (SSM)** Dickie **Bird**, had some fancy footwork to complete. They had to leave the courtyard by a different, much longer route, don their webbing, helmets and weapons and run to the spot where they were to be presented to Her Royal Highness. The rest of the Squadron hierarchy were hot on their heels, dispersing to their own parts of the location. Needless to say, this had been practised several times with the CO employing delaying tactics on the shorter VIP route. These tactics obviously had limited success on the day as Her Royal Highness was almost upon them as the breathless Sqn Comd and SSM arrived to be presented. The Sqn Comd then set the scene for the tour of the Squadron location which started with The Princess Royal viewing a demonstration of the duties of a sentry.

The demonstration involved **LCpl Vicki Hardisty** and **Sig** 'Geordie' **Finney** the sentries, having to deal with a group of drunken, unruly local militia who were taking too close an interest in the location. The three militia, namely **Sgt Steve Honeyman, Cpl Colin Brooks** and **LCpl Steve Palmer** were clearly unarmed and, therefore, the use of minimum force was called for in preventing them from coming any closer. Seeing the first one approach, the ever chivalrous Lineman **Sig Finney**, who is also a keen supporter of equal opportunities, offered to hold **LCpl Hardisty**'s weapon while she went out to deal with the situation. Unfortunately for the militia, it just so happens that **LCpl Hardisty** is a Brown Belt in Karate. When they tried their luck, attempting to force their way in to the location each of them got kicked, chopped or punched where it hurts. When one of them drew a knife things were obviously getting serious. Not wishing to dirty his best set of combats, **Sig Finney** contributed by calling out the QRF from the safety of the sangar. The 'cavalry' arrived just as **LCpl Hardisty** felled the last of the unfortunate trio, who were then bound and taken away for questioning. The demo complete, **SSgt Gus Murray** who had been responsible for choreographing the action, was presented to Her Royal Highness. He then presented each of the QRF, militia and sentries in turn. The Princess Royal then moved off to visit the Major Access Node.

The first port of call here was inside the wire in the headquarters complex, where The Princess Royal was given a short brief on the role and capability of the MAN by the Squadron Foreman, **WO2 (FofS) Phil Cutforth**, newly arrived from Northern Ireland and therefore a real Ptarmigan expert. The Princess Royal then visited the Message Centre (L) where **WO2 (YofS) Alan Patterson** explained the intricacies of providing full Commcen facilities in the field, before asking Her Royal Highness to release a message to all elements of the Regiment which had been prepared by the crew, **Sigs Malcolm Connop, Mark Gibson** and 'Ernie' **Wise**. Her Royal Highness then visited Node Command where the Sqn Comd presented **Lt Andrew Harrison**, Golf Tp Comd. He explained the role of the Node Command Vehicle before presenting the Switch Detachment Commander, **Cpl Carl Radley**. The Princess Royal then went into the Switch and was given a demonstration of its capabilities by **Cpl Radley** and **Cpl** 'Comd Comms' **Punyer**. On leaving the Switch Her Royal Highness was shown the MAN support elements including the ERVs, ESV and Admin Area.

Next, The Princess Royal visited Hotel Tp under command for the day of **SSgt Chris Holmes** whilst his Tp Comd, **2Lt Gordon Newell** was acting as ADC to the Master of Signals. **SSgt Holmes** explained that the Troop could provide a forward, planning headquarters with Ptarmigan facilities, fully supporting a small staff. The Radio Relay Detachment Commander, **Cpl Tony Rowell** was then presented to Her Royal Highness and he then presented his crew, **Sig Tracey Wheatley** whilst showing Her Royal Highness inside the vehicle. Having visited the staff complex and Troop command post, The Princess Royal was then asked by the CO to present the Whistler trophy to **Capt Carole Rankin**, the previous Troop Commander who had come back from a course specially for the day. After this presentation, The Princess Royal completed her tour of the Troop by visiting the Secondary Access Switch and Message Centre, crewed by **Cpl** 'Albert' **Tatlock** and **LCpl Richard Todd**.

Capt Carole Rankin is presented with the Whistler Trophy by Her Royal Highness

The next serial on the programme, a demonstation by Line Tp, was nearby. The Sqn Comd presented Echo Tp Comd, **2Lt Paul Griffiths**, who then presented a short demonstration, within the Forward Headquarters, of how cable is laid between the various vehicles and the dismounted facilities. This included the line team, led by **LCpl Andy Thompson**, completing an overhead crossing, digging in a short lay and connecting a subset within the HQ. **Cpl John Kelly** was on hand to show Her Royal Highness a 'torpedo' close up. Onlookers remarked how much interest the SSM was taking in proceedings. Once a Liney . . .! the demo complete the Tp Comd then presented his team.

The Princess Royal then concluded her tour of the Squadron with a visit to Foxtrot Tp where she was escorted round the Secondary Access Node Special Task Groups by the Tp Sgt **Sgt Richie Brown**, because the Tp Comd, **Lt Alexandra McLaughlin**, was ADC to The Princess Royal for the day. Each of the four SANs was conducting various routine maintenance tasks including generator servicing, weapon cleaning and mast repair. The first three SAN commanders, **Sgt Ritchie Matless, Cpl** 'Smudge' **Smith** and **Cpl** 'Lofty' **Lofthouse** explained each activity to The Princess Royal and presented their crews. The tour culminated at the fourth SAN, where the crew was undertaking television interview technique training. **Cpl Clive Ireland**, the SAN commander was given a grilling by the hostile 'Kate Shady', played by **Capt Karen Huggins**. They were then presented to Her Royal Highness along with **LCpl Duncan Chamberlain**, who played cameraman.

On completion of the tour of the Squadron at this point **Capt Bizley** took his leave and the CO escorted Her Royal Highness to lunch in a nearby barn where she was presented with mementos of her visit in the form of a box of Regimental mugs commemorating the Regiment's long association with Krefeld, and a hamper of produce from Gut Erpenbeck. The Princess Royal then left for Osnabruck to begin her visit to 4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204).

Sgt Richie Brown escorts Her Royal Highness from a Foxtrot Tp RR Det

This had been a memorable day for all those involved. As always for such a visit, much hard work had been done in preparation, but it was undoubtedly worth it as almost everything went as planned and everybody, including **Her Royal Highness**, seemed to enjoy themselves.

Her Royal Highness meets LCpl Andy Thompson

. . . AND TO 4TH ARMOURED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (204)

Her Royal Highness arrived at Quebec Barracks and was attended by the Master of Signals, who presented The Commander 4 Armoured Brigade **Brig F. R. Dannatt MC**. The Commander in turn presented the Oberburgermeister, **Herr Hans-Jurgen Fip**, and the Oberstadtdirector **Herr Dirk Mayer-Pries**.

Her Royal Highness moved to the Signal Squadron Headquarters where the Master presented the Sqn Comd **Maj Jim McKee** and the **RSM WO1 Mark Wright-Jones**.

The Sqn Comd and RSM escorted Her Royal Highness to the Op Grapple road block display and introduced the 2IC, **Capt Matt Hanson** and his team; the team included **Cpls Tony Ward, Lee Clark, Sigs Stu Sands, Ian Barclay, Jim Womble** and **LCpl Carl Kidner**.

Her Royal Highness was escorted to the Vrilka Institute presentation where the display showed the Squadron work in support of the Orphanage.

HRH The Princess Royal, accompanied by the Sqn Comd, Maj. K. McKee.

The display was presented by **Lt Jonathon Sutton** who did much of the fund raising.

The Sqn Comd then presented the Chief of Staff 4 Armoured Brigade **Maj R. Porter** and **Lt Paul Rennie** P Tp Comd. Her Royal Highness then walked round the Headquarters in the field stand which provided an opportunity for our Colonel in Chief to meet more members of the Squadron.

The Princess Royal moved to the new Squadron club to present LS & GC Medals to **SSgt Nige Thomas, SSgt Roddy MacDonald** (REME) and **Sgt Ken Moran** (RLC). After the presentation the Sqn Comd introduced the wives and children of members of the Squadron.

After light refreshments Her Royal Highness viewed the Squadron drive past, led by **Lt Paul Rennie**.

All in all, a very enjoyable and memorable day.

Major J. K. McKee, HRH The Princess Royal, and Capt M. G. Hanson

THEN THERE WERE SIXTY RUSSIAN SCHOOLCHILDREN

By **Cpl Karl Duncan, 20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200)**

It all started on a wet day in July; the Sq 2IC, **Capt Simon Parry**, had found the perfect site for our adventurous training camp, a mosquito-ridden swamp at the bottom of a 'hill' (ideal for the early morning run) in the Harz mountains. Having finished the recce, he sat down with the campsite owner, **Herr Borner**, who led with a heart rending plea that could only be answered with the affirmative–'can you help build a campsite for disabled and disadvantaged school children from Chernobyl?'

For the past four years, the people of Bad Lauterberg have financed a holiday camp for 40 Russian children suffering from blood disorders and being both deaf and dumb; sadly due to escalating costs this year's camp was likely to be cancelled unless assistance was found. After a detailed planning meeting with the QM, **Capt Mick Pawlak, Herr Borner** and **Capt Parry**, it was agreed that we could help with the provision of tentage, bedding, power, lighting, some labourers and chefs, thereby considerably reducing the cost. Of course, we didn't actually have any of the kit required but with the authority and full support of Commander 20 Armd Bde , **Brig A. R. D. Pringle CBE**, it wasn't too difficult to acquire it all.

And so on Saturday 3 September the task began. Under the direction of the QM, the work party, consisting of **Sgt Darren Abson, Cpl Karl Duncan, Sigs Bryan Bell, O'Connell, Martin Newman** and **Geraint Evans**, set up the camp. To be expected, the previous day's sunshine was replaced by cold rain but in no time at all the accommodation, cookhouse and large classroom tents were erected, secured and fitted with lighting. Fortified by liquid refreshments supplied by **Herr Borner**, the team built flooring for each tent and laid walkways (remember the 'swamp' bit at the start?). Lo and behold after two days all was ready.

The permanent workforce of **Cpl Duncan** and **Sigs Bell** and **Newman** were reinforced on 7 September by two chefs, **LCpl John Burnside** (2LI) and **Sgt Paul Jervis** (RAAF). The latter being an Australian on Ex Longlook soon became adept at catering for up to 60 Russians! Finally, on 8 September at about 2200 hrs the guests arrived.

We heard the buses drive up and went out into the pouring rain to greet our visitors. The children were welcomed by **Herr Borner**, and then were taken off to the cookhouse for their first hot meal since leaving Russia on the 5 September. A mad rush was expected, but the children queued up without fuss and, to our amazement, none of them started the meal until everyone was seated.

After eating the children then went to their tents where they settled for the night while we did two hours worth of 'pan bash'! Then we were invited for a drink with the Russian teachers and drivers, the German organisers **Herr Borner**, his wife **Ursel**, the pastor of Bad Lauterberg **Helmut Sassenberg** and his son **Hans**. Sitting at a table drinking with Russians, Germans, an Australian and a Welshman (**Sig Evans**) was an experience. Only one of the Russian teachers spoke a little English, another spoke some German and **Helmet Sassenberg** spoke some English. It did become a little easier after a few bottles of Becks, a bottle of Applecorn and what seemed like an endless supply of real Russian vodka.

Over the next two weeks the children and the teachers participated in various activities laid on by the people of Bad Lauterberg and St Andreasberg. These included a football match, ice hockey, trips to the swimming pool, toboggan runs and a street fest. A barbecue was also laid on at the campsite and we were always invited to join in the activities.

The two weeks passed quickly in a whirl of 'pan bashing', tent maintenance and making friends. The children were kept active, and when they weren't on organised trips they played football, volleyball and gleefully helped out with the chores around the campsite, including the mountain of washing up after each meal. Meal times were definitely the highlight for our visitors and our chefs were stars of the show! The Russian coach drivers did invite us to share their breakfast but black bread, gherkins and pigfat washed down with vodka didn't appeal at 8am (or any other time!

Then it was time for them to leave on their 1800km journey home. We had made a lot of good friends, both Russian and German, and it was sad to say goodbye so soon. After a lot of tears and goodbyes the children and teachers boarded the buses to leave and we agreed to travel with them, just to the first autobahn junction. This turned out to be at Helmstedt, four hours away! When we finally said farewell for the last time, yet again the tears fell from most of the children and teachers and even some of the drivers had tears in their eyes; after wishing them a safe and pleasant journey home the buses pulled away. For us it was back to a now very quiet campsite to start packing away.

I think I can say on behalf of all of us that it was an enjoyable three weeks and we were proud to represent the Squadron and Brigade in what we think was a really worthwhile cause.

"Who knows, we might just get seconds"

Cpl Karl Duncan and friends

Sigs Martin Newman and Brian Bell with some of the children

Some of the children with the helpers

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BRIGADIER W. J. SMIJTH-WINDHAM CBE, DSO

(IT IS WITH REGRET THAT WE ANNOUNCE THAT BRIG SMIJTH-WINDHAM DIED ON THE 13 NOVEMBER 1994. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE REFERS TO A RECENT VISIT THE BRIGADIER MADE TO BLANDFORD.)

In the April 1994 issue of *The Wire* we published an article about the communications for the 1953 Everest Expedition, **Brig W. J Smijth-Windham CBE, DSO** was the officer advising the expedition on communications. The article stirred past memories, particularly as the Brigadier had played a key part in the 1933 and 1935 attempts to scale Everest.

A visit to the Corps Museum was arranged for **Brig Smijth-Windham**, now 87 years old on 11 September. He was accompanied by his daughter **Joanna**, and **Capt (Retd) L. A. Bateson** who arranged the visit with **Lt Col Ian Strong**, COS at The Royal School of Signals. Having twice been the Commandant of The Royal School of Signals, **Brig Smijth-Windham** was welcomed by the present Commander **Brig John Griffin.**

It was a visit that stirred many memories, particularly when viewing the items of equipment that remain from the 1933 and 1935 Everest Expeditions. **Brig Smijth-Windham** was, at the time, a Subaltern serving in India and formed part of a two man team responsible for the communications for both expeditions.

The wireless sets used provided facilities for CW only, but with considerable ingenuity a modulator was constructed on the mountain allowing speech communication. It was neatly contained in a 'Fortnum and Mason' tin and aptly named the 'Smij gadget'. Despite its less than military appearance it was both effective and efficient. The equipment and the photographs taken on the expedition are now housed in the Corps Museum.

The successful 1954 expedition on Everest received assistance from the Corps, again **Brig Smijth-Windham** was involved, but now far removed from his Subaltern days in India and, by comparison, advising on the use of far more sophisticated equipment compared with that used in 1933 and 1935 earlier expeditions.

Maj Roger Pickard, the Museum Curator, arranged a conducted tour of the museum which evoked other memories for **Brig Smijth-Windham**. During his visit he also met **Dr P. J. Thwaites**, the Deputy Director of the Museum, and **Lt Col (Retd) P. A. Soward**, Project Manager of the New Museum Project Team. There was also a chance meeting with **Maj (Retd) P. A. Treseder**, who remembered the Brigadier from his days as a young officer.

As a finale to the visit a luncheon was held in the Officers' Mess during which **Brig Smijth-Windham** was presented with a letter from **Lord John Hunt**.

THE BLANDFORD PROJECT

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SINGLE CENTRE HAS 'LIFT OFF'

After three months of delay due to funding difficulties the Transitional Works build for the establishment of the single Centre at Blandford finally got underway on 22 August 1994 when a construction contract was let with Amec. The main site office has already been established on Hawke Square and by the time this issue of *The Wire* is printed construction work will have commenced.

The funding difficulties have meant that the project has been split into two phases. Phase 1, at £42M, to provide the facilities to re-establish Single Entry soldier trade and military training at Blandford by November 1995. Phase 2, at £16M, to enable the resumption of apprentice training at Blandford by September 1996. The impact of this is that there is now an unacceptable training break of one year between the closure of 8 Sig Regt, Catterick in October 1994 and the resumption of Single Entry soldier training in Blandford in November 1995. In order to resume basic trade and upgrader training sooner, rather than later, an Interim Soldier Training Plan (ISTP) is currently being put into place. This is planned to start in January 1995, utilising all facilities available in Blandford and Harrogate as well as 21 Sig Regt (AS) which is to accommodate Military Training Wing (ie RSDCC, RSSC). Apprentice training will continue at Harrogate until July 1995 after which it may be necessary to cease apprentice training for one year until the new facilities are available at Blandford in September 1996.

SAVE THE CHILDREN AWARD WINNER

WO2 E. D. Jones, (ACIS Wakefield), received the Save the Children Award and Scroll from **Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal**, President of the Fund at a ceremony at the Barbican Centre, London on 4 October 1994. The Award was in recognition of **WO2 Jones**'s fund-raising efforts which have realised over £1,000.

WO2 Jones receives the Save the Children Award and Scroll from HRH The Princess Royal

29 COMMANDO REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY

Sgt Rob Enderby completed the All Arms Commando Course on 26 October 1994. He is the first member of the Corps to serve in 29 Cdo Regt RA.

Lt Col Chris Romberg RA, CO 29 Cdo Regt RA, congratulates Sgt Rob Enderby

WIRE PHOTOGRAPHS

Please do not ask for photographs, sent for publication in *The Wire*, to be returned, unless they are irreplaceable.

Contributors should be aware of the fact that although every care is taken with contributions, they should not risk losing a photograph that cannot be replaced.

EXERCISE ALPINE QUEST
ADVENTURE TRAINING IN HAUTES ALPS

by **Maj. M. J. Bosley, R Signals (V)–HQ 2 (NC) Sig Bde**

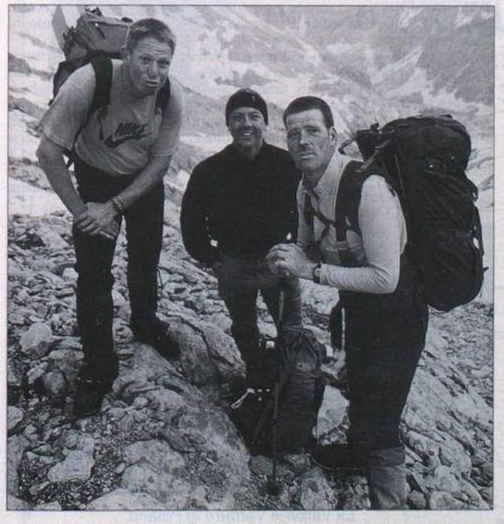
In June of this year a small group of HQ 2 (NC) Sig Bde from Corsham undertook a period of adventurous training in the French Alps with the main aims of high altitude alpine walking with ice and rock climbing. The expedition was organised by **Maj Brian Billsberry** and led by **SSgt** 'Hoppy' **Hopkins** from 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. The party was a mixed group in all sorts of ways, men and women, Regular and TA, an age range from 20 to 47, and a range of skills with some experienced climbers but mainly consisting of total novices. All of the party were members of the Corps and most were from the Brigade, or based at Corsham.

In addition to the leaders, the party consisted of the following members of the Brigade HQ: **Lt Col Ian Thomson, Maj John Bosley** and **Maj Bob Davis** (all TA Officers), **WO2 (ORQ MS) Sandy Campbell, WO2 (YofS) Wally Bacon, SSgt (FofS) Dean Briers**, and **Cpl Brett Newton**. Three other members of the Corps completed the team: **SSgt (YofS) Simon Tyler** from 600 Sig Tp also based at Corsham and **Sig Zoe Mannheim** and **Sig Mandy Robinson** from 243 Sig Sqn at Bulford (which is part of the Brigade).

We eventually arrived at our campsite just before midnight having travelled through some quite stunning countryside, although we were too tired to care. The area we had chosen in which to climb was the Ecrins Massif, which is at the southern end of the Alps about 20 miles from the Italian border and midway between Grenoble and Turin. The area has a number of peaks over 4000m and some very good glaciers. We had planned our expedition to take place just before the main season started in mid-June. Although we had made arrangements for the campsite to be specially opened for us, on our arrival we found everything in darkness and locked. In view of the late hour we simply climbed into our bivvy bags and resolved to sort things out the next day.

The first day was taken up with sorting out administrative arrangements and some basic rock climbing.

The following day we started what we had come for (we convinced ourselves) the ascent on to the snow and ice. We had planned to sleep overnight in a mountain hut at about 3000m near the Glacier Blanc and then practise ice and snow drills before returning to base camp the following day. The first part of the climb was marked on the map as 'easy going' but the combination of heavy packs and the sun soon started to tell. After about four hours we reached our first hut, a large stone building, complete with solar panels, all at 2800m–we had just climbed the equivalent of Snowdon. For the first time we could see the glacier that was our goal but the route to the Refuge des Ecrins (our overnight hut) proved to be far from easy. There had been a lot of snow which at this time of the year would normally have cleared. The remaining snow was very soft and thigh deep in many places. In addition to the ground conditions some of the party were by now beginning to feel the first effects of altitude sickness. After about four hours we realised that we would not reach our overnight objective of the hut. After finding a safe spot we decided to bivvy overnight in the snow on the glacier. The temperature fell rapidly once the sun dropped below the surrounding mountains and we were soon thankful for the Army bivvy and sleeping bags we were using. They may be bulky and heavy but they are certainly warm.



SSgts Hoppy Hopkinson, Dean Briars, and Simon Tyler rest on the ascent to the Glacier du Sele

The next day we practised basic snow techniques, such as ice axe arrests, roping up, and poly bagging. These proved to be good fun, however, the only problem of going down hill very fast is that you have to climb the hill to practise it again. At Corsham we had all been issued with a radio transceiver to aid recovery in the event of being buried by an avalanche. We spent some time practising use of the set. One person buried his device and the remainder of the party tried to find it. We found the system worked well except we failed to find that buried by **Foreman Dean Briers** .... he forgot to switch it on ! On the descent from the glacier we practised crevasse rescues. This involved the lead man on each rope 'volunteering' to walk over the edge into a crevasse.

After a day of drying out our equipment and further rock climbing practise we set out for a three day trek to the Glacier du Sele. The first part of the ascent was very pleasant, but once we emerged from the woods into the sun the temperature rose rapidly.and once more we found ourselves walking in snow. After about three hours we noticed a pair of walkers making rapid progress. They turned out to be the route-finders for a platoon of French Alpine infantry who also soon passed us. This proved to be to our advantage, for by now the climb was very steep through fresh snow. We were all very impressed with their performance and thankful for the snow steps they made. The final part of this route was through an extensive scree field which some of us found both 'exciting' and exhausting. When we eventually reached the overnight hut we found that 27 French soldiers had already spread themselves about. They were part of an Alpine Regiment which was being disbanded and were planting their Regimental crest on the local peaks. By the time that a small number of other climbers had arrived we found there were 42 of us sharing the very limited facilities which were designed for 20.

The party together with French Alpine Troops outside the hut at Glacier du Sele

Overnight the weather closed in so we did not leave the hut until 1100 hrs the next day. We had to adjust our plans since we had planned to leave at 0300 hrs to complete our climb before the sun became too hot. Although snow was predicted above 3000m, we started our ascent with the aim of finding a place to practise ice-climbing. By the time we had climbed another 400m we were becoming quite competent at moving as a team. The weather prevented any further progress beyond 3200m, at which point we decided to return to the hut and collect our kit. Since it was obvious that we were in for further bad weather we decided to return to base camp. We descended many of the snow fields by glissading (sitting down and sliding) and we all found this both quicker and considerably more fun than the uphill trek. By contrast the route through the scree fields was even more 'exciting' than the ascent.

Sunday brought two new activities. During our week at Ailefroide we had noticed feverish activity preparing the area for the main tourist season due to start after our departure. In particular **SSgts Dean Briers** and Hoppy **Hopkins** had befriended a local who was struggling to ready his hotel. The 12 of us spent the morning cleaning, gardening, and decorating. The change was quite dramatic and the owner was so appreciative that he invited us back in the evening to sample the local cuisine, complete with lots of red wine and cheeses.

Between the morning and evening trips to the hotel we travelled north to Briancon for white water rafting, a sport new to most of us. Following a briefing and land based instruction we rafted down the Rivers Gyr and Durance. The instruction covered the method for recovery when someone falls out of the raft and **Maj John Bosley** was chosen to demonstrate the procedure. This was quite fortuitous really since during the trip down river

he was the one person to actually fall into the very cold river. We split ourselves into two boats of six, each commanded by a French instructor one of whom spoke no English whilst his pupils spoke no French! The river was ideal for instruction since it combined relatively quiet stretches with some fast and furious rapids although these suffered from a lack of water due to the late end of the winter snow. The trip was actually rather short for the one team since Hoppy managed to steer his raft into an enormous stake resulting in a large tear in the fabric. The other team completed the trip and found it quite exhilarating although very cold.

It was decided that a small group of the fittest and most experienced would undertake an ascent of the Barres des Ecrins, at 4102m the highest peak in the area. Because of a shortage of time the climb, which normally spans three days with two overnight halts, would have to be undertaken in less than 24 hours. Completing the climb, some of which had been done on our first days out, in less than a day seemed a worthwhile challenge and culmination to our trip. The climb was undertaken by **Maj Brian Billsberry, SSgts** Hoppy **Hopkins, Dean Briers**, and **Simon Tyler** who planned to rest for most of a day and then climb overnight to avoid the energy sapping heat and to take advantage of the easier snow conditions during the cold night. The first part of the climb to the Refuge de Glacier Blanc was completed rapidly and after resting for an hour the party departed at 2000 hrs in good spirits, although the first symptoms of altitude sickness were already being felt.

As the group climbed, the earlier clouds gave way to a clear cold night. After a further six hours they reached the base of the final climb with two of the group feeling extremely ill due to the altitude. None the less, the climb was started and at 0430 hrs they watched the sun rise over mist filled valleys for many miles in each direction. With the sun up the shivering stopped and everyone once more stripped down to tee shirts. Throughout the climb the effects of the altitude were becoming increasingly severe and at 0600 hrs the decision was made to abandon the climb–only a short way beneath the summit. Although there was disappointment at failing to complete the climb it was tempered by a good degree of satisfaction knowing what had been achieved in such a short time.

Whilst the fittest four members were climbing the Ecrins the remainder of the party explored some of the smaller mountains around Briancon. The town is surrounded by hills up to a height of 2400m with each hill surmounted by an old fort, together forming a long defensive chain. We climbed to two of the forts up tracks which in previous days would have been marched by French soldiers and up which horse drawn carts would have been driven. As we climbed in the heat of mid-day with little kit and few clothes it was thought provoking to think of those earlier soldiers with full kit, arms, ammunition and food. Everything that was required for the defence of their immense forts had to be carried up the tracks which we walked.

We had 12 exciting days in the French Alps, but it was also tinged with some regret that the bad weather had kept most of us off the glaciers for so long. The return trip to the channel was uneventful. At Le Havre, where the D-Day celebrations were still running, we boarded the ferry having first visited a hypermarket to stock up with beer, wine and cheeses.

WO2 Wally Bacon leads his group up a steep climb

EXERCISE VALKYRIE VENTURE

by **WO1 (RSM) Joe Fairbairn, 5AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para)**

Ex Valkyrie Venture was an 'Outreach' exercise with the Polish 6th Air Assault Brigade, based at Krakow, southern Poland between 12-16 September. The exercise was a cultural exchange, involving parachuting with members from all Brigade units. Taking part from the Squadron were **Capt Fred Payet, WO1 (RSM) Joe Fairbairn, SSgt Dougie Craig, Sgt Jim Duncan, Sigs** Dogs **Barker** and **Dicky Henderson**. With the demise of the old Soviet regime, Ex Valkyrie Venture was the first 'Outreach' exercise to be held in an Eastern Bloc country.

Deployment to Poland was by parachute, mounting at RAF Lyneham, jumping with suspended loads on to the Bledowska Desert DZ. The flight was very smooth and the jump on to the desert was nice and soft; however we were all taken by surprise by weather which was extremely hot (25 degrees C). Tabbing across the desert was hard going and the sweat was pouring off everyone.

The next stage we were taken to the military side of Krakow International Airport (Belice) for passport documentation and to meet up with our aircraft. To allow more time for ground training on the Polish equipment, all our personal luggage was placed into a locked Polish military vehicle. We departed the airport for Rzaska Barracks home of 6th Air Assault Bde to be shown the Polish parachute, its method of deployment and drills in case of emergencies. Later that evening we met up with our kit and the lads were shown to their rooms (because of Polish custom and, the composition of their conscript army, the Officers and Warrant Officers were to stay in the Royal Hotel Krakow), and this is where the fun started. The RSM's baggage was nowhere to be seen, after a thorough search and a call to Lyneham it was discovered on the aircraft back in 'Blighty', with only one change of underwear and no civilian clothes in his bergan, things were looking very bleak indeed. The seniors rallied round and offered jumpers, shirts and **Capt Fred Payet** a pair of jeans stating they were for a 32" waist! Now someone is lying because they fitted the RSM, with ease, and he is a 36" waist! The next problem was washing and shaving kit. Our translator gave him disposable razors and shaving foam and later that night showed the RSM the local shop to allow him to buy toothbrush and paste, again bad luck was bestowed because all he could muster was baby brush and paste, at least the hotel did provide clean towels and soap daily.

On our second day we started at 0530 hrs with breakfast and straight on to ground training. Later that afternoon we went to the DZ for our first descent using the Polish equipment. We all stood and watched the Polish aircraft AN 2's coming towards us; seeing is believing, they were bi-planes built in 1948. The weather closed in and there was a thunderstorm and we all thought our first jump would be cancelled, but the Polish Officer in charge said it would clear before nightfall so we all took cover in the buses. At 1700 hrs our prayers were answered, the sun came out, we all managed to get our jump in just before nightfall. The evening was spent in Krakow, a lovely southern Polish city.

Day three was our chance to jump from the back of the AN 26 aircraft, again the weather delayed us, but we did manage to get everyone through, the experience was out of this world, diving out head first.

Day four was a visit to a salt mine at Wieliczki and it does not matter where you go in this world you will always bump into an ex-parachute member of the Brigade, this time he was a member of 16 Parachute Brigade in 1955. Later that day we went to Auschwitz and Birkenau Concentration Camps, the sights will be with us all, every member of all armies should be shown these camps to make sure that it never happens again. Later that evening our hosts presented us with our wings and a barbecue followed.

Day five saw us return to South Cerney to prepare for the Arnhem events.

Ex Valkyrie Venture in Poland
Sgt Jim Duncan, SSgt Dougie Craig and Capt Fred Payet show off their Polish para equipment!

ECHOES FROM THE PAST
(Reproduced from *Wire*, December 1930)

- Movements -

OFFICERS
OCTOBER 1994

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col M. J. Anderson	Depot Tp R Signals
Lt Col A. F. Browne	The Royal School of Signals
Maj R. C. W. Chisholm	Army School of Mech Tpt
Maj T. J. Gigg	HQ RAF Strike Command
Maj C. R. Urquhart	The Royal School of Signals
Capt J. S. Adams	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (203)
Capt P. R. Barron	7 Sig Regt
Capt K. Bell	The Royal School of Signals
Capt M. G. Billingham	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt S. Gregory	30 Sig Regt
Capt M. A. Kerr	30 Sig Regt
Capt J. Mayson	ROCCHAN (Balado Bridge)
Capt R. Morley	15 Sig Regt
Capt R. Patrickson	280 (UK) Sig Sqn
Capt A. Robertson	SANGCOM
Capt A. J. Stringer	2 (NC) Sig Bde
Capt M. G. Webb	HQ DSF
Lt L. C. Landers	The Royal School of Signals
Lt A. B. Mitchell	The Royal School of Signals
Lt R. J. Newhouse	The Royal School of Signals
Lt S. E. Pillar	The Royal School of Signals
Lt D. Saul	The Royal School of Signals
Lt R. J. Watts	The Royal School of Signals
2Lt N. M. Stokoe	30 Sig Regt

OFFICERS
NOVEMBER 1994

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col R. D. Abbott	SHAPE Staff
Lt Col R. F. Binham	DGES (A)
Lt Col N. F. Fisher	DG POL & SP
Lt Col B. Hewitt	16 Sig Regt
Maj A. J. Bowering	The Royal School of Signals
Maj J. A. B. Floyd	16 Sig Regt
Maj R. M. R. Graham	HQ 42 (NW) Bde
Maj M. Lithgow	RMAS
Maj A. P. Lomax	40 Sig Regt (V)
Maj P. D. Shawyer	DGES (A)
Maj R. J. Steed	Depot Tp
Capt M. S. Dooley	20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200)
Capt R. C. Gamble	The Royal School of Signals
Capt D. C. Gaul	15 Sig Regt
Capt L. S. Pilling	HQ RAO
Capt G. M. Pullen	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (213)
Capt R. C. Young	The Royal School of Signals
Lt M. R. Bever	7 Sig Regt
Lt S. J. Boyne	2 Sig Regt
Lt N. P. Caddy	280 (UK) Sig Sqn
Lt S. L. Davies	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt A. G. Lucas	ATR Bassingbourn
Lt N. J. O'Kelly	9 Sig Regt (R)
Lt R. E. Pilkington	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt D. J. Thornton	4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204)
Lt R. J. Webb	7 Sig Regt
2Lt J. R. Collyer	14 Sig Regt (EW)
2Lt L. Golley	ATR Bassingbourn
2Lt L. W. Hendricks	2 Sig Regt
2Lt T. J. Jeffery	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt B. G. W. Johnson	7 Sig Regt
2Lt J. A. McGregor	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt E. R. Warren	9 Sig Regt (R)
2Lt W. D. J. Wilson	2 Sig Regt

OFFICERS
DECEMBER 1994

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col A. R. Gale	DA Ghana
Lt Col M. Nicol	ACDS (CIS)
Maj A. J. Allman	DRA Military Manpower
Maj M. S. Castle-Smith	243 Sig Sqn
Maj J. S. Charnock	HQ NI
Maj P. J. Davies	ACDS (OR)
Maj E. A. Davis	HQ BF Hong Kong
Maj S. C. Dexter	DGSTI
Maj J. Dryburgh	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj I. Forbes	241 Sig Sqn
Maj T. J. Friend	The Royal School of Signals
Maj N. W. Gill	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Maj P. Gillespie	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para)
Maj P. W. Glibbery	DGCIS (A)
Maj D. G. Halstead	DRA Military Manpower
Maj A. A. S. Harwell	HQ Scotland
Maj G. Hearn	ATR Bassingbourn
Maj P. J. Holliday	HQ 107 (Ulster) Bde
Maj R. N. Howes	238 Sig Sqn
Maj A. W. James	DGGWLS
Maj J. R. Jasiok	SHAPE Ace Commsec
Maj M. P. Llewellyn	15 Sig Regt
Maj A. N. Morphet	20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200)
Maj R. G. Nicholson	Depot Tp
Maj R. C. Papworth	The Royal School of Signals
Maj N. A. W. Pope	AUS (Prog)
Maj C. C. Richards	ACDS (OR)
Maj P. P. Roberts	ACDS (OR)
Maj R. G. C. Sparshatt	30 Sig Regt
Maj M. A. Stevenson	Queens Gurkha Signals
Maj J. S. Stuart	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj D. A. Sullivan	Exch Appts Canada
Maj J. A. Terrington	HQ UKLF
Maj S. J. Turnbull	D Pers (A)
Maj D. G. Weston	HQ UKLF
Maj K. Whitehead	DG Pol & Sp
Capt P. C. Baker	33 Sig Regt (V)
Capt P. J. Beynon	243 Sig Sqn
Capt G. E. Blythe	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Capt G. W. Duncan	602 Sig Tp
Capt N. P. Metcalfe	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Capt A. S. Saddington	35 Sig Regt (V)

WOs and SNCOs
OCTOBER 1994

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 P. D. Clifford	35 Sig Regt (V)
WO1 M. Geer	71 Sig Regt (V)
WO1 (FofS) T. P. Waites	The Royal School of Signals
AWO1 P. S. Collinson	The Royal School of Signals
AWO1 (FofS) D. J. O'Brien	21 Sig Regt (AS)
WO2 (YofS) C. Heeles	The Royal School of Signals
WO2 (YofS) R. A. O. Jonas	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (213)
WO2 P. Meadows	223 Sig Sqn
AWO2 A. J. Barry	East Midlands UOTC
SSgt P. Gillespie	223 Sig Sqn
SSgt (YofS) J. C. J. Hughes	33 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (FofS) W. B. Johnson	280 (UK) Sig Sqn
SSgt C. P. W. Robinson	9 Sig Regt (R)
SSgt S. R. Tatman	The Royal School of Signals
ASSgt A. F. Churchward	71 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt M. J. Crowther	8 Sig Regt
ASSgt P. P. Gorman	The Royal School of Signals
ASSgt J. H. Laffey	238 Sig Sqn
ASSgt P. M. Lamont	37 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt A. M. McNally	36 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt V. R. Miller	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt D. Newton	The Royal School of Signals
ASSgt A. P. Staniford	14 Sig Regt (EW)
ASSgt T. P. Taylor	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Sgt R. M. Auton	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt A. G. Baughan	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Bracey	11 Sig Regt Depot Tp
Sgt M. N. Brown	223 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. B. Burns	223 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. J. T. Chubb	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Sgt D. M. Cooke	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt P. Davies	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. C. Gilmartin	223 Sig Sqn
Sgt F. A. Graham	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (203)
Sgt I. M. Grubb	SHAPE Sig Gp
Sgt S. A. Howard	HQ AFCENT
Sgt D. P. Jenkins	280 (UK) Sig Sqn
Sgt P. Jude	662 Sig Tp
Sgt S. R. Kelly	7 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Kenyon	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt P. S. Latimer	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt R. J. Leach	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt H. McNair	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. G. Osborne	223 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. R. Phillips	223 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. A. Radzimierski	280 (UK) Sig Sqn
Sgt S. J. Russell	602 Sig Tp (SC)
Sgt J. D. Simons	2 Sig Regt
Sgt N. J. Smith	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt A. J. Spink	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Sgt J. R. Stillie	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt J. S. Thompson	19 (Mech) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209)
Sgt M. A. Wood	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. M. Woodham	37 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt N. R. Back	2 Sig Regt
ASgt J. Barsley	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218)
ASgt N. Blenkinsop	259 Sig Sqn
ASgt P. L. Cappleman	240 Sig Sqn
ASgt S. Clark	71 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt D. S. Cooke	HQ AFNORTH
ASgt C. A. M. Cooper	ATR Bassingbourn
ASgt P. Culley	Balado Bridge
ASgt P. V. Davis	237 Sig Sqn
ASgt W. D. Edwards	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
ASgt A. C. Fensom	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt M. Johnson	1 KOB
ASgt S. J. Lynch	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218)
ASgt D. S. Mahoney	5 (AB) HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para)
ASgt F. McGuiness	14 Sig Regt (EW)
ASgt D. Meseck	7 Sig Regt
ASgt T. Reene	The Royal School of Signals
ASgt A. S. Rowell	The Royal School of Signals
ASgt A. V. Smith	30 Sig Regt
ASgt G. Wade	223 Sig Sqn
ASgt P. A. Yates	26 Regt RA

WOs and SNCOs
NOVEMBER 1994

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 W. J. Gillan	The Royal School of Signals
WO1 S. Young	223 Sig Sqn
WO2 A. J. Bottomley	30 Sig Regt
WO2 D. A. Davidson	30 Sig Regt
WO2 C. Doughty	2 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) I. C. Gasceigne	SANGCOM
WO2 J. Gower	BDLS Australia
WO2 (FofS) J. S. Hiorns	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (203)
WO2 D. I. R. Murray	16 Sig Regt
WO2 D. G. Skimming	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 S. L. Tiffin	9 Sig Regt (R)
AWO2 D. J. Catchpole	7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207)
AWO2 (FofS) J. R. Skelton	7 Sig Regt
SSgt M. R. Bahado	7 Sig Regt
SSgt D. M. Butler	ACIO Nottingham
SSgt K. A. Howitson	BOD Donnington
SSgt S. J. Hughes	The Royal School of Signals
SSgt D. M. Obrien	16 Sig Regt
SSgt A. V. Slaney	The Royal School of Signals
SSgt P. A. Tretheway	223 Sig Sqn
SSgt S. J. Vaughan	223 Sig Sqn
ASSgt S. Crawford	The Royal School of Signals
ASSgt J. S. Hogan	The Royal School of Signals
ASSgt S. M. Lockwood	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (213)
ASSgt A. Oldroyd	The Royal School of Signals
ASSgt T. Parle	2 Sig Regt
ASgt K. F. Tunstall	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt C. R. Avey-Hebditch	HQNI and 15 Sig Regt
Sgt L. V. Bath	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Sgt A. J. English	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (213)
Sgt D. J. Ferguson	280 (UK) Sig Sqn
Sgt R. J. Kenna	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt I. Kenny	7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207)
Sgt A. H. Mankiclow	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt S. D. Metcalfe	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt S. R. Morgan	16 Sig Regt
Sgt K. T. Phillips	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt M. A. Prince	16 Sig Regt
Sgt W. Riley	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt P. T. Sayer	223 Sig Sqn
Sgt T. Smith	The Royal School of Signals
Sgt A. Stratton	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. P. Sutherland	223 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. J. Wood	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. J. Yates	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. Zaar	SHAPE ACE COMMSEC
ASgt P. G. Beattie	The Royal School of Signals
ASgt R. A. Bell	1 PWRR
ASgt J. A. Fielder	14 Sig Regt (EW)
ASgt M. R. Fitz-Patrick	Comms and SY GP (UK)
ASgt D. M. Forrester	The Royal School of Signals
ASgt G. A. Greaves	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
ASgt M. E. Harman	16 Sig Regt
ASgt J. A. Hayden	238 Sig Sqn
ASgt G. R. Kitchen	21 Sig Regt (AS)
ASgt C. Mast	The Royal School of Signals
ASgt A. Oldroyd	The Royal School of Signals
ASgt T. M. Pellet	30 Sig Regt
ASgt I. T. Prosser	223 Sig Sqn
ASgt D. P. Twigg	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt A. J. Yafai	16 Regt RA

NEW MUSEUM PROJECT

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Parfitt, Commanding Officer 33 Sig Regt (V) handing cheques for £1,000 to **Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Pat Soward**, Project Manager for the New Museum Project. **Mrs Wanda Conway**, Project Secretary adds glamour to the occasion.

In the background can be seen the foundation stone for the new wing which was unveiled jointly by the Master of Signals and the Master of the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists at a dinner night in HQ Mess on 27 September 1994.

The money was raised in a number of ways but mainly from the raffle for 'Command of the Regiment' for a day which was described on page 96, April 1994 issue of *The Wire*.

THE PRIDE OF THE REGIMENT IS AT STAKE

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DEATHS

Aiken–WO2 Aiken–died 23 March 1994
Atkin–Sgt A. Atkin–died 25 September 1994
Barrett–Sgt G. J. H. Barrett–died 1 October 1994
Bett–Sgt D. J. Bett–served 1943-45–died 11 October 1994
Biles–SSgt R. B. L. Biles–died 9 August 1994
Bourke–WO2 R. T. Bourke–died 21 February 1994
Boyd–Sgt D. J. Boyd–died 14 February 1994
Brownlee–LCpl Brownlee–died 2 June 1994
Cadell–Capt T. O. Cadell–died 12 August 1994
Carlin–SSgt W. J. Carlin–died 20 March 1994
Clark–Maj G. Clark–died 11 November 1994
Cochran–Lt Col J. Cochran OBE TD DL–died 5 July 1994
Delargy–Sgt E. Delargy–died 5 April 1994
Dopson–Sgt E. J. Dopson–died 27 July 1994
Dossor–WO2 C. A. Dosser–died 2 June 1994
Drika–Sgt S. Drika BEM–served 1961-83–died 31 October 1994
Edwards–SSgt J. H. Edwards–died 20 July 1994
Ellerbeck–A. J. Ellerbeck–died 6 July 1994
Ellison–Lt Col D. A. Ellison–died 25 August 1994
Freeland–Lt Col D. H. Freeland–served 1910-1971–died 8 October 1994
Glenville–WO1 K. Glenville–died 30 September 1994
Graham–Sig P. W. Graham–served 1940-1946–died 6 November 1994
Head–WO1 J. F. P. Head–died 6 June 1994
Howard–Lt Col T. A. Howard–served 1920-47–died 16 September 1994
Hudson–Sgt F. Hudson–died 18 February 1994
Johnson–SSgt R. Johnson–died 8 March 1994
Jones–Sgt G. L. Jones–died 14 February 1994
Jury–Sgt S. J. Jury–died 21 February 1994
Leat–Cpl E. G. Leat–served 1939-46–died 18 October 1994
Liennard–Sgt C. H. Liennard–served 1938-69–died 4 October 1994
Lloyd–Sgt R. Lloyd–died 9 June 1994
Lumley–LCpl S. Lumley–died 25 October 1994
Molony–WO2 P. D. Molony BEM–died 26 September 1994
Morgan–SSgt L. R. Morgan–died 5 April 1994
Ommanney–Lt Col C. L. Ommanney OBE–served 1929-50–died 6 October 1994
Parish–WO1 A. Parish–died 25 August 1994
Parker–WO2 S. T. Parker–died 2 April 1994
Parsons–WO1 J. T. Parsons–died 6 January 1994
Pendleton–SSgt Pendleton–died 13 March 1994
Pickford–SSgt W. A. Pickford–died 12 August 1994
Porter–Sgt S. J. Porter–served 1941-46–died September 1994
Potter–Sig J. H. A. Potter–served 1943-47–died 29 October 1994
Price–Sgt L. Price–died 30 August 1994
Riley–Sig T. A. Riley–served 1991-94–died 1 October 1994
Robertson–Cpl G. A. Robertson–died 24 April 1994
Rowlands–Lt Col H. Rowlands–served 1939-73–died 14 September 1994
Sanders–Cpl I. C. Sanders–died 15 August 1994
Sansom–SSgt F. H. Sansom–died 4 August 1994
Senior–Sig C. Senior–served 1939-45–died 9 October 1994
Sims–WO2 F. A. Sims–died 20 August 1994
Smijth-Windham–Brig W. J. Smijth-Windham CBE DSO–served 1927-60–died 14 November 1994
Smith–SSgt D. Smith–died 6 October 1994
Smith–Capt S. Smith–served 1940-1946–died 15 October 1994
Smithson–SSgt R. H. P. Smithson–died 11 June 1994
Souley–SSgt J. G. Souley–died 8 March 1994
Spearman–WO2 G. C. Spearman–died 12 July 1994
Stenning–Sgt A. C. Stenning–died 24 March 1994
Stevenson–SSgt F. Stevenson–died 25 July 1994
Stock–Sgt P. E. Stock–died 5 June 1994
Swanwick–LCpl L. W. Swanwick–died 8 March 1994
Shwellnis–Sig F. J. Shwellnis–served 1940-46–died 7 June 1994
Taylor–Cpl W. Taylor–died 25 May 1994
Templeton–Sgt R. H. Templeton–died 16 May 1994
Thirkill–SSgt J. H. Thirkill–died 28 May 1994
Thompson–R. W. Thompson–died 16 August 1994
Timson–SSgt J. E. Timson–died 12 December 1993
Tobin–Sgt A. J. Tobin–died 29 May 1994
Todd–Sgt A. G. Todd–died 10 January 1994
Trow–WO2 J. Trow–died 10 March 1994
Tyler–WO1 F. W. Tyler–died 20 March 1994
Van Bueckel–Sgt L. H. Van Bueckel–died 31 March 1994
Vettese–LCpl R. Vettese–served 1958-67–died 18 August 1994
Waldron–Maj D. S. Waldron–died 18 May 1994
Walker–Sgt H. M. Walker–died 28 December 1993
Waterman–LCpl C. W. Waterman–served 1938-46–died October 1994
Watson–Capt H. M. Watson–served 1939-45–died 2 October 1994
Watson–WO2 L. Watson–died 2 May 1994
Ward–Maj A. V. K. Ward–served 1939-76–died 17 September 1994
Welling–SSgt A. P. Welling–died 29 December 1993
Whitbread–WO1 W. C. Whitbread–died 1 November 1993
Whitmore–WO2 L. N. Whitmore–died 18 July 1994
Wildego–Sgt H. Wildego–died 18 April 1994
Wombwell–WO1 R. J. Wombwell–died 13 December 1993
Wray–Sig G. H. Wray–died August 1994
Wright–WO2 S. Wright–died 23 April 1994

OBITUARIES

Bensley–Brenda Maureen Bensley, wife of ex-Cpl **Pete Bensley** (served 1970-1992) died peacefully on 20 September 1994 after a brave two year fight against cancer. Donations, if desired, to: St Luke's Cancer Appeal, Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, Surrey.

Maj E. J. P. Emett MC–Major Edward 'Baron' **Emett** died on 25 September 1994, aged 75. He enlisted in the King's Regiment, was subsequently commissioned and posted to the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, in India. 'Baron' saw action with the 'Chindits' where he was considered, to be 'A powerful Platoon commander . . . An example to us all.' After the war he continued to serve in India until partition. It was during the war in Korea that he was awarded the MC for his gallant action during the third and final battle for a feature known as 'The Hook', subsequently to be included as a battle honour on the Regiment's colour.

He also served in Western Australia, Cyprus and Yemen, and as an instructor at the School of Infantry before eventually retiring from the regular army in 1960. He subsequently served as non regular Permanent Staff with various TA units. In 1969, on the reorganisation of the TA, **Maj Emett** joined 33 Sig Regt (V) where he served until he finally retired in 1985.

Life with the Baron outside soldiering was never dull . . . The 'Baron' was a character; there were few like him. He was a gallant soldier and a good friend to all ranks.

Foot–Mrs A. E. Foot. It is with much sadness that we record the death of **Della**, wife of **Alan E. Foot**, founder member, sometime Secretary and currently Chairman of Reading Branch. **Della** died suddenly on 14 October 1994. We send our condolences to **Alan** and their two daughters.

Harris–James Harris was born on 29 September 1921 and died on 30 October 1994. He was a Life Member of the Association and a loyal member of the Derby Branch. **Jim** joined the T.A. (Signals) 1937, and served with the Corps during the second world war.

He was evacuated from Dunkirk and then guarded the beaches of Wales where he met and married his wife **Harriet**.

Later he served in Palestine, North Africa and Italy where he was wounded and taken prisoner-of-war and spent many months in hospital in Italy and Austria.

Jim will be well remembered for his sense of humour, loyalty and comradeship. Although he suffered many years of pain he never complained.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his widow **Harriet**, sons **Peter** and **David** and daughter **Jean**.

Keen–Sig Tony Keen (by name and nature) was a driver electrician on his first tour who was a candidate on the Outstanding Signallers Board for promotion. He was killed in a motor bike accident on Tuesday 13 September when a lorry pulled out onto him He died that same evening. A memorial service was held on Sunday 18 September that was attended voluntarily by the whole Squadron, members of other units and the Garrison Commander. The Sqn Comd would like to thank all those who attended the number of which proving how sorely **Tony** will be missed. The unit is still deeply shocked by the loss of **Tony** and sends its warmest feelings to his family.

Mahoney–SSgt Thomas Mahoney. SSgt 'Scouse' **Mahoney** was born in 1957 and served in the Corps from July 1976 until transferring to the AGC in July 1993. Scouse was an apprentice jockey before he enlisted and then after training as a clerk was posted to 4th Division Signal Regiment at Herford. Scouse was known throughout the Corps for his fanatical love of Liverpool Football Club, Country and Western Music. He was a colourful character who possessed a tremendous sense of humour and had a very distinctive laugh.

After a whirlwind holiday romance he met and married his wife **Bib** in 1978. Subsequent postings to 9 Sig Regt, 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and 207 Sig Sqn followed. During his service with 207, the Squadron deployed to the Gulf and he will be remembered for his help and kindness to all those who remained behind, especially when dealing with the welfare of the families.

The reward for his devotion to the families was a posting to Hong Kong but sadly during this tour, his wife **Bib** died of cancer. He was posted to 237 Sig Sqn, his last tour in the Army as he was selected for Redundancy and left 1 May 1994. Scouse then took over the tenancy of the Sir Audley Arms Public House, Chippenham where his effervescent character continued to be ever present. It was with tremendous sadness that we learnt of Scouse's death on 31 July 1994 after a short and sudden illness.

To his financee, **Melissa** and to his sons **Aaron** and **Lee**, we extend our deepest sympathy.

O'Halloran–Sgt H. O'Halloran. It is with regret that we announce the death of **Sgt O'Halloran (Harry)** which occurred at his home on 4 August 1994. **Sgt O'Halloran** joined the Corps in Catterick in 1951 and established a reputation as a boxer (fly-weight). He returned to Catterick on the Cadre Staff in 1964, in the rank of Sergeant, where he spent the next four years. He left the Corps in 1983 and went to live in Ireland. We send our condolences to his widow and to the family. **Sgt O'Halloran**'s son served in the Corps from 1968-80, latterly at AA Coll Harrogate in the rank of Sergeant. His grandson is currently serving with 7 Sig Regt.

Page–SSgt George Page. **George Page** enlisted into the Corps in 1924 and served in India, Africa, Egypt and UK. He left the Corps in 1959 on completion of 35 years' service. He died on 20 September 1994. We send our condolences to his widow **Ann**.

Pettit–S. E. Pettit. Chester Branch report the death of **Sandy Pettit** who passed away at Chester City's Grosvenor Nuffield Hospital on 2 June 1994 after being flown back from China, he had been on a trip to Russia and China with his wife **Elizabeth** when he was taken seriously ill and had to return home.

Sandy joined the Royal Corps of Signals in 1940 and during the war saw service in Palestine, North Africa and Italy.

Before being called to the colours **Sandy**, who was born in 1922 in Chester, had joined the family business of undertakers in 1938 and after his military service rejoined the business from which he retired in 1990.

Sandy was an active member of the Royal British Legion in Upton, Chester and served as vice-president of that Branch. He also participated when he could in the Chester Branch of the Association and was in fact the donor of the Chester Branch Chairman's Chain of Office which he kindly presented at the annual dinner held in January.

Sandy had been married for 42 years and it is to **Elizabeth** and the his family that we extend our sympathy–he will be sadly missed by all.

Potter–J. H. A. Potter who died on 29 October 1994 joined the Corps as a boy in 1943. Unfortunately, his career was cut short due to medical reasons. **Jim** (Boots, as he was known) remained in touch with the Corps through the '254 Club' of which he was a loyal supporter. He will be greatly missed.

Sampson–(No 2326648) **Sgt Vernon** 'Kipper' **Sampson** who died suddenly on 2 February 1994 following an operation, enlisted into the Corps as a Boy Apprentice Tradesman and joined 'F' Boys Company Royal Corps of Signals on 6 January 1938 as a trainee Operator Signals (later Operator Wireless and Line). He was an enthusiastic boxer and played rugby for the 'colts' and later the senior team.

In 1941 with 24 other A/Ts he joined the Special Operators Training Battalion at Trowbridge, and became one of the first B1 Special Operators in the service.

Vernon then volunteered for the Commandos, and was later posted to 14th Army in Burma.

On his return to the UK in 1946 he married **Doris Mitchley**. In the late forties he left the Army and entered the Board of Trade. He became a section manager.

He was a popular member of the Corps. He leaves a widow and a daughter.

If responding to any advertisements in *The Wire* please mention that you saw it in your Corps magazine

PERSONAL TRIBUTE

From:- **Arthur Collins**

I would like to pay a personal tribute to **Lt Col J. P. L. (John) Morris OBE** who died on 16 August 1994. He was a gentleman and an outstanding soldier with whom I had the privilege of serving in 1944/45. Early in 1944 I was posted, as a subaltern, to 6th Indian Air Formation Signals, then based at Imphal close to the Burma border. The Regiment, at that time, was in an unusual situation not normally covered by the text books at Catterick. It was short of officers just as the Japanese started their advance towards Imphal and Kohima., GHQ (Delhi) chose this particular moment to recall the Commanding Officer to an urgent new post in Delhi. On the day I arrived the Adjutant explained that he thought that he was more or less in charge because the Second in Command had been posted away six weeks earlier. To cap all this, the Japanese then blocked the only road into Imphal with the result that supplies were immediately cut. Fortunately for us, **John Morris** arrived about two weeks later, to take command. In his quiet, confident way he had the Regiment completely under control within twenty four hours and morale much improved within forty-eight hours. Over the next year and a half he led us from Imphal to Kalemyo to Meiktila to Rangoon. By September 1945 he had added an international element with companies in Bangkok and Saigon. Those of us who served with him during that time owe him more than we often realised. Quite apart from his professional abilities he set us all an outstanding example of tolerance and understanding.

GUIDING LIGHT–AN APPEAL
Mr M. J. Moffatt (ex WO1 Mike Moffatt 1964-88) writes:

A five month expedition called 'Guiding Light' is currently being planned to take place from December 1996 until April 1997. Four walkers from Hereford will follow the ancient Frankincense Trade Route which starts in the Oman and passes through the North Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Jordan into Israel.

The walk is approximately 2000 miles in length and crosses the infamous 'empty quarter' where afternoon temperatures exceed 48 deg C! The four walkers will follow the route using the same navigational techniques that the ancient traders used–the sun and the stars.

Many of the towns, villages and oasis have now disappeared under the sands of time, which means that the walkers will have to be supplied by twentieth century means during the walk. We shall use four wheeled drive vehicles which will move well in front of us leaving our vital supplies at pre-arranged locations. This will be the only outside assistance that we envisage using.

Why are we wishing to roast ourselves in the middle eastern sun you ask? Firstly, we hope to be able to raise considerable sums of money for some of the world's deserving charities. Secondly, there is a clear link between this route, the Three Magi and the birth of Christ on or around 6 BC. Like the Magi, we hope to carry with us, amongst other things, Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, which we shall place in the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem where our journey will end in early April 1997.

Lastly, for us all this crossing marks a real physical challenge which we look forward to immensely. Research has established that the route was originally covered by camel power, with the ancient traders firmly fixed upon them, so that by travelling the route on foot we shall be possibly establishing a first.

The four who will be walking the route are **Mike Moffatt** (Expedition organiser), **Pete Bray, Harry Maddison** and 'Brummie' **Stokes** of Everest fame. 'Brummie' is also hoping that the expedition will assist him with his dream of providing an Activity Centre for under privileged children. He currently has his 'Taste for Adventure' project running successfully in Hereford.

All four walkers are well seasoned expedition men having operated worldwide over many years. We would like to see expedition 'Guiding Light' become a totally Herefordshire package, born, bred and backed. However, if we cannot find the necessary backing from within the County we shall open it up nationally for financial assistance.

To those who wish to back us we can offer in return considerable good advertising with its usual spin offs.

To put the expedition on the ground is going to cost in the region of £375,000. Would any agency, business or individual who seriously wishes to put some financial support into the project please contact the organiser **Mike Moffatt** on Hfd 354418. I look forward to hearing from all serious sponsors.

NOTICES

CORPS DATES–1995

9 March	Corps Guest Night (TBC and may be postponed to coincide with the opening of the Single Centre), Blandford
8 April	Royal Signals Association, Branch Representatives' Meeting and Annual General Meeting, Duke of York's HQ
3 May	Morrison Cup (UK), York
17 June	Corps Luncheon (North), Catterick
28 June	Princess Royal Day
12 October	Master's Guest Night including Hon Colonels Briefing, Blandford
3 November	Corps Scottish Dinner, Glasgow
9 November	Field of Remembrance, Westminster
23 November	Royal Signals Institution London Lecture, London
13 December	Corps Carol Service

CORPS 75TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

4 July	Corps Dinner, London
7 July	Colonels Commandant Dinner, Blandford
8 July	Corps Luncheon, Blandford
9 July	Royal Signals Association Reunion, Blandford

75th Anniversary

of the Formation of The Royal Corps of Signals

From The Editor

The Wire will be including reports of events in 1995 that mark the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the Corps. As well as recording the various major events taking place throughout the year it is intended to include articles of the major landmarks in the Corps' history.

The June 1995 issue will lay emphasis on the historical events in the life of the Corps. Whilst the Corps Museum holds the more formal records of the Corps' past achievements, there are many readers who may be able to recount some not insignificant event which will add to the record of life in the Corps. If you feel that you have some anecdote or account that may be of interest to our readers please write to me.

The August 1995 issue will concentrate on reporting the major events that constitute the formal celebrations taking place throughout the year. Units and Association Branches will, no doubt, be holding their own celebrations and *The Wire* would wish to include reports of these activities. To allow sufficient time to accommodate these reports the August issue will be published on the 14th instead of the 1st of the month; the cut off date for the receipt of copy will, therefore, be 1 July.

To support your reports please ensure that you have good, clear photographs of the highlights of your celebrations, quality rather than quantity is the keynote.

Where events occur after the publication of the August issue these can be included in the October issue of *The Wire*. Normal reporting of unit and association branch activities will, of course, continue throughout the year.

If you need advice on the production of reports for *The Wire* please contact the Editorial staff on London District Military 8433, ATN 763 8433 or Direct Dialling 0171 414 8433.

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND SIGNALS SEVENTY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY (1996)

Royal New Zealand Signals was established as a separate Corps of the New Zealand Army on 1 June 1921 and will be celebrating its seventy-fifth Anniversary in 1996.

Planning for the occasion is in hand, with Unit and sub-Unit reunions among the activities being considered.

The highlight of the celebrations will be the presentation to the Corps of the Colonel in Chief's Banner hopefully by **Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal**, personally. Although dates for the programme of events have yet to be confirmed, present planning is focused on the second half of 1996.

Maj (Rtd) M. H. W. (Mike) Cooper has just been appointed Regional Convenor-United Kingdom for New Zealand Signals Incorporated, a two-year old organisation dedicated to the interests of serving and retired members of RNZ Signals and retired military communicators from other Services and Allied Forces.

Maj Cooper has re-established communications with his former 'Kiwi' comrades, more than 30 years after exchange duty in New Zealand with the Royal New Zealand Signals. He is hoping to encourage others who served with the RNZ Signals in New Zealand, Singapore/Malaysia, and with the United Nations, or on other duties, to join him and his wife, **Sheila**, for the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Corps in 1996. This could be either at the celebrations in New Zealand or at a reunion in the UK.

Anyone interested in participating, or in being kept informed of events, is invited to contact **Maj Cooper** on 0734-786736 (Home) or 0344-885317 (Office).

WRAC OFFICERS' DINING CLUB

At the final meeting of the WRAC HQ Mess the idea of forming a WRAC Officers' Dining Club was floated and met with considerable support. Two years on, with the encouragement of many officers who attended the WRAC Association Reunion, I am attempting to implement the proposal.

First thoughts are to organise two dinners a year, one in the north and one in the south probably based on a large hotel which can provide a good meal and accommodation at a competitive rate. This may encourage younger members with families to attend.

The club would have to be self supporting financially and an annual subscription of £5 will cover basic administrative expenses.

I now need to gauge the level of genuine support and canvas ideas for suitable venues or alternative suggestions. Membership currently stands at 110.

If you wish to join please write to **Lt Col (Retd) V. E. Trout**, Maybank, 28 London Road, Amesbury, Wilts SP4 7DY enclosing cheque for £5 made payable to 'WRAC Officers' Dining Club.'

LCPL PAUL VINCENT PROSSER

Any former friends of the above-named, especially those from AA Coll Harrogate, Intake 85A, 1985 and 233 Sig Sqn, India Tp are asked to get in touch with his wife, at 185 Winchester Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JH with a view to organising a reunion get-together.

FOR SALE

Service dress in immaculate condition–only worn once. Chest 44"-46", waist 34"-36", inside leg 33". To fit height 6'0"-6'2". Two pairs of brown shoes-size 11 large. Complete 'Bulled' Sam Browne. Price £200 ovno for all items. Contact **WO2 (RQMS) C. Thompson** Mil: 763-4234, Civilian 0171-414-4234 daytime only.

One Mess kit in good condition; one Service Dress, old, but in reasonable condition; a Sam Browne and Sword Frog, all to fit height 6'2". Also available are two No 1 hats and a SD hat (7¼). Any reasonable offer accepted, tel (0734) 835928 after 6 pm; **Capt M. D. Phillips**.

LETTERS

From: **Brig J. P. Hart OBE**
Dear Sir

As one of those privileged to attend the Corps Official Farewell to Catterick, I should like to place a few thanks on record.

First, I do not ever recall that Catterick looked better–so a big thank you to the gardeners, estate managers, and, no doubt, fatigue parties who made it so.

For the Corps Guest Night, the Officers' Mess was at its best–helped no doubt by the nostalgia of those present who did a lot of their growing up in it, and certainly helped by a Mess staff, for whom nothing was too much trouble, in spite of the amount of overtime they had to put in.

The Farewell Parade itself was probably the smartest and certainly the most moving that I have ever attended. Those of us who were directly connected with 8 Signal Regiment could not possibly have felt more proud nor much sadder.

I think this is the right place to say thank you to the many hundreds–indeed thousands–of Officers, Warrant Officers, NCOs and our long serving and devoted civilian instructors who between them have, over the years, produced soldiers for the Corps who are second to none. We owe all of them a huge debt.

Finally, thank you to the soldiers present in Catterick for the farewell. Without exception they were smart, cheerful and efficient. Thanks to them, our infantry successors have a fine barracks to march into–and I hope they appreciate it.

No doubt the 'old and bold' will lament our eviction from Catterick for many years. I just hope we can remember, from time to time, that nostalgia is all very well, but in the end it is the people who count. No doubt, in future, our officers will be even better for training alongside the soldiers they have to teach–so good luck to Blandford and all who serve there.

Yours faithfully
John Hart

PS. A sign of changing times–in the Mess Annexe (ie Students Block) a memorandum from the Mess Manager–'Officers are requested NOT to wash their boots in bath' !

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The Berkshire
YEOMANRY
200 Years of Yeoman Service

Anthony Verey, Andrew French, Simon Frost and Stuart Sampson

- The first regimental history of the The Berkshire Yeomanry ever to be published
- Reseached and written by four serving Berkshire Yeomen. Contains 89 illustrations.

Building on a fine tradition of volunteer soldiering began in the late 18th century, The Berkshire Yeomanry has seen action in a variety of conflicts over the past 200 years from the role of policemen quelling social unrest in the county of Berkshire during the late 18th and 19th centuries, through to its involvement in the Boer War of 1899, followed by the two great wars of the 20th century, the regiment has served its sovereign and country with distinction.

Today the regiment continues to build on its traditions as a part of the Territorial Army. This is the first regimental history of The Berkshire Yeomanry to be published and, appropriately, it has been researched and written by four serving Berkshire Yeoman.

Complemented by over 70 illustrations, many of which are from the regimental archives, the book will appeal not only to past and present members of The Berkshire Yeomanry, but also to all who have an interest in the history of the regiments that make up the British Army.

Authors: At the time of writing (1994), Anthony Verey is TA Colonel Royal Signals and curator of The Berkshire Yeomanry Museum; Andrew French is Squadron Sergeant Major Berkshire Yeomanry Signal Squadron , and assistant curator of the museum; Simon Frost is Staff Officer 2 Signal Brigade, and a trustee of the museum; Stuart Sampson is Officer Commanding Berkshire Yeomanry Signal Squadron, and also a museum trustee.

£12.00 (hardback)
128pp 248mm x 172mm 73 black & white and 16 colour illustrations

AA Red Rosettes for Fine Cuisine
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REPORT FROM ULSTER

XV

HQNI and 15 Sig Regt BFPO 801

CO — **Lt Col A. H. Johnstone**
Adjt — **Capt P. J. Watt**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) D. A. Deegan**

VISIT BY THE MASTER OF SIGNALS

On Wednesday 7 September the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL**, and **Mrs Birtwistle** paid a visit to Thiepval Barracks to officiate at the Northern Ireland Royal Signals Cocktail Party and Playing of Retreat by the Corps Band. Despite a shower of rain in the afternoon the clouds stayed away for the duration of the evening function. Following a LS & GC presentation in the Lisburn Station Sergeants' Mess the Master spent an enjoyable afternoon visiting the Regiment and 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (213).

COMMS OPS

Ops Offr — **Maj C. B. Keenan**

Capt Chris Ford is still leading by example and planning ahead for his maximum leave periods although **Sgt Craig Bruce** is trying hard to match him with courses. **Maj Tony Roberts** and **WO1 John Naylor**, the 'twilight zone' part of Comms Branch, are continuing to feed British Airways and British Midland profits on their almost daily trips to the UK–shame about the air miles being cut though! The team bid a fond farewell to **Sgts Al Churchward**, off on promotion to 71 Sig Regt (V), and **Dean Poole** to 39 Sig Regt (SC) (V). We also bid farewell and congratulations to **Sgt Stan Kelly** off on the Yeoman of Signals Course at the Royal School. In their place we welcome **Sgts Andy Chubb** and **Pete Robinson**.

LS & GC Presentation
(L to R): Back Row: WO1 (RSM) Deegan, WO2 (YofS) Robinson, the Master of Signals, WO2 Mountain, SSgt Hall, Lt Col A. H. Johnstone
Front Row: Mrs Ulrike Robinson, Mrs Catherine Johnstone, Mrs Sylvia Birtwistle, Mrs Trish Mountain, Mrs Christine Hall

MT DEPT

MTO — **Maj F. A. Bancroft**
MTSSgt — **SSgt S. Beattie**

Firstly, we must welcome the QM as the new MTO, and thank **Maj Paul Connors** for looking after us–were we that bad! As usual, the MT and new Regiment Movecon have been busy juggling the details with the lack of cars and drivers. However, we must congratulate **LCpl Scott Barrie** on coming off the recent Outstanding Signallers Board. Now on to the best news and the Troop day out with a difference! The Troop decided a different venue would be appropriate so off to Blackpool we went at the prompting of **Sgt Marky Sala**. With jaws dropping and tongues hanging out we tried hard, but to much disappointment the term 'blown out' comes to mind.

Despite this a great time was had by all, although no one made it on the rides without white knuckles despite all our practice on the B101 road.

THE SPERRIN MOUNTAINS HALF MARATHON

Despite the demanding pace of work the Regiment still managed to field a four man team for this event. The Sperrin Mountains lie in the 8 Brigade TAOR just south of Londonderry, in the notorious area of Plumbridge. The mad runners consisted of **Maj Fred Bancroft, WO1 (YofS) Guy Benson, SSgt John Carpanini** and **SSgt Tim Cheetham RLC**. Despite an arduous race, and the weather closing in, the team all finished with respectable places.

The Sperrin Team
(L to R): SSgt Tim Cheetham RLC, SSgt John Carpanini, WO1 (YofS) Guy Benson and Maj Fred Bancroft

225 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj S. R. Sharman**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) N. Yarwood**

On Wednesday 17 August **Sgt Jerry Coyd** took the Squadron Tug-of-War team to compete in the CO's Cup Competition. **Sgt Coyd** did his best but shouting 'push push' was probably duff advice and the gallant Tuggers ended up in third place.

Taking his lead from the Tug-of-War **Sgt George Murray** revived the Squadron 'footie' team, but again only third place was attained in the CO's Cup Competition. Special mention must go to **WO2 (FofS) Carl Shead** for being daft enough to compete at his age, to **Sgt George Murray** for not putting the Sqn Comd in the team despite all his foot stamping and, finally, to **Sgt Tony Delaney** for winding up the RSM by sporting a beard. Take 3!

FUN DAY

The Indian Summer continued just long enough for the Regiment Funday–an annual event at Ballykinler–normally referred to as 'Sunny Ballykinler' and for some strange reason it was this year! Under the watchful eye of **WO2 (SSM) Norman Yarwood** and **SSgt Colin Horner** equipment arrived from all over the Province to entertain 200 military and 150 dependants that turned up on the day. Some of the highlights were: the adult half hour in the bouncing castle, the RSM trying to stay on a jet ski by ordering it about, B Watch Delta Tp winning the footie, and of course kind Uncle Norman giving the kids musical instruments to take home to entertain Mum and Dad. All in all a good day out, with special thanks to all the fatigue party who really enjoyed themselves by taking tents down until 10pm that night.

233 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj A. W. James**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) W. Gray**

COMMCEN TROOP

Tp Comd — **WO2 (YofS) Walesby**

We must first welcome **WO2 (YofS) John Walesby**, from his long travels across the football pitch and 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (213). In addition, we congratulate **Sig Kieran Jukes** on his success at being selected for promotion on the recent Outstanding Signallers Board.

It is that time of year, which is normally any time of year when there seems to be a lot of Hellos and Farewells. First, the goodbyes: off to sunny Cyprus goes **Cpl Mandy Eardley** and **Sig Mel Brown, Sgt Whin Warnes** and **Sig Sophie Dowber** (nee **Benson**) have not been so lucky and are off to 'Sunny' Bulford, to Civ Div we have **Cpl Nicky Maughan, LCpls Alex Cunningham** and **Hayes**–we wish you all the best and do hope that the grass is greener on the other side, we also wish all the best to **LCpl Ali Dunwell** and **Sig Elsie Sutton**. Last, but not least, we say farewell to **SSgt Mel Crowther** off to 8 Sig Regt. In their place we welcome: **SSgt Carthy** on promotion from the Apprentices College at Harrogate, and **Sgt Musgrave** from Cyprus.

INDIA TROOP

Tp Comd — **Capt C. Wood**

We welcome the following to the Troop: **Cpl Jim Harding** from 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, **LCpl Brent Rushton** and **Sig Sharon Marshall** from 7 Sig Regt, we wish them all well in the Province.

Sadly we bid farewell to **Cpl Angie Edwards** to Civ Div, **Cpl Danny Tebay** to the All-Arms-Commando Course and **Sig Paul Smith** to 280 (UK) Sig Sqn and congratulations on his forthcoming promotion off the Outstanding Signallers Board.

ROMEO TROOP

Tp Comd — **Capt A. Stringer**

Three notable farewells this period are made to **Sgt Steve Clark** and **Bev**, off to 71 Sig Regt (V) on promotion, **Sgt Bob King** and **Sam**, off to 399 SU, again, on promotion, and **Sgt Ian Grubb** and **Margaret** off to SHAPE. We welcome **Cpl Dale Wallace, LCpls Deborah Hamlyn, Peter Challis, Shaun Kay, Paul Wright** and **LCpl Gary Snelling** from the PWRR. **LCpl Hamlyn** makes history as the first female to serve in Romeo Tp.

TM TROOP

Tp Comd — **WO2 (FofS) K. Dodd MBE**

Good news arrives from a recent visit to our Tp Comd, **Maj Ray West** who is presently still in hospital but on the road to recovery. His replacement **Capt Bob Morley** arrives in October. **WO2 (FofS) Ken Dodd** carries on cracking the whip (or should that be the tickling stick) keeping the troops in line, rumour has it he is looking forward to some leave when the new TOT arrives–maybe next year!

The Troop has recently won the inter-Squadron softball under the leadership of **SSgt Bob Davis**. This was disappointingly followed by runner up in the McKelvie six a side football competition, due to a 'limp' goal by Romeo Tp. This was overshadowed by the retention of the best goal of the competition, scored by **Sgt Rennie Renshaw** who is currently being signed up by Accrington Stanley.

Silly Season has arrived bringing with it the sound of church bells for **Sgts** Taff **Jolly, Keith Dowber** and **Sig Danny Rudd**. Our congratulations to them and their wives **Angela, Sophie** and **Anita**.

Welcome to the new arrivals: **SSgt Tony Quinn, Sgts Jimmy Anyon, Rennie Renshaw, Brian Large** and **LCpl Logger Wright**. Finally, a fond farewell goes to the following: **Sgts Steve Erskine** and **Si Hopkins** who are sunning themselves in Blandford, thanks to the delights of the Foreman of Signals Course. Also, good-bye to **Sgts** Skinny **Cameron, Joe McGuiness** and **Cpl Lee Harris** who somehow managed to get himself a posting to Hong Kong. Last, but not least, the two stalwarts of the FRT, **Sgts Pinhorn** and **Holland** who are off to work at weekends with 36 Sig Regt (V) in Ilford.

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn BFPO 801

Sqn Comd — **Maj I. J. Bradshaw**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) McElwee**

VISIT OF MASTER OF SIGNALS

Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL, Master of Signals visited the Squadron and as part of his visit enjoyed a flight in a Lynx helicopter over the surrounding area. He also was shown various aspects of the Squadron at work and play and briefed about our role here.

EXERCISE MOURNE MINDER

During September the Squadron ran two identical training exercises at Ballykinler. The exercises were planned and co-ordinated by **Sgt Darryl Chapman** our resident Training Sergeant on loan from the Royal Irish Regiment. Ex Mourne Minders 3 and 4 should have seen half of the Squadron at a time enjoying the delights of Ballykinler Training Camp but due to operational commitments it was more like one third the first week and two thirds the second. Without a doubt the exercises were a resounding success and it was a pleasant surprise to hear even the most recalcitrant of our lads asking for more. It seems to have been a toss up which was enjoyed most, the night shoot or the ambush, lots of fire was laid down on both, something we all enjoy.

REBUILDS

We have lots going on at the moment with Syscon living in the corridor while its new 'palace' is built. The Horseshoe Club is being completely revamped, I am assured by those in the know that it will reopen in plenty of time for all the Christmas festivities. Work continues to rear its ugly head and no matter what we do it goes on turning up. The Rigging Section have just finished a major refit of Divis KP and rather than take a well earned rest are now setting out to rerig the rest of the Province if you listen to their patter. The radio techs are snowed under with car fits and **Sgt Ted Heath** has been seen dragging in all and sundry to help where they can and hinder when they can't and in general life is very busy for everyone in the workshops; congratulations for bearing up so well under the strain.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Hello to our new YofS **WO2 (YofS) Bob Jonas** fresh from 20 Bde, **SSgt Rich Cousins**, our new ADPLO and to **LCpl** Yorkie **Sowden** and his wife **Carmen** who has just presented him with a daughter, **Hollie-Anne**.

Farewells go to YofS **John Walesby** off all the way across the sports field to sort out 15 Sig Regt, fortunately, **John** has never minded hard work. **Cpl Alli Watkins**, off to 'Gib' the lucky man, **SSgt John Rose**, back to Blandford and **Sig** 'Naff' **Ufton**, off to sunny Cyprus. Lastly to **Mac McLean** leaving the army for pastures new, best wishes from us all.

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 809

Sqn Comd **Maj G. J. T. Rafferty**

OPS

Despite the welcome news over the ceasefire by both parties, it is still very busy in the Province. We are taking the opportunity to address all of the maintenance issues. However, the Sqn Comd must have had a crystal ball out a few months ago, because some of the Squadron are away on adventurous training in Yorkshire.

Although the operational situation may have altered, the usual turbulence of trickle postings continues. So we say cheerio to **Capt** (now Maj) **Richard Lapslie** off to NZ climbing then RMCS, and welcome to **Capt John Adams** with **YofS Kevin Fowler** recently replacing **YofS Brant**; it's all change.

SHQ

The admin cell of the Squadron continues as usual, but there have been a number of changes. **SSgt** 'Hoppy' **Hopkins** has finally escaped to Cyprus after three years here, **Sgt Tony Lee** only made it to Herford. In their stead we welcome **SSgt Paul Bartlett** and **Sgt Phil Smithurst** and their families. Meanwhile **Sgt** Geordie **Shields** and **Fiona** celebrated the birth of **Mark**.

The SHQ has been working excessively hard, as soon as the Sqn Comd left for so-called well deserved leave, the AO **Maj Wright**, changed the whole SHQ around. The musical chairs ended just prior to the annual docs inspection.

QM DEPARTMENT

It would seem that every issue of *The Wire* sees the arrival and departure of persons from this department alone and this month is no exception. We welcome the arrival of **SSgt Brian Ashton** (RLC), he apparently knows something about football and has taken on the responsibility of coach and manager for the team, an unenviable task. But he has already made a great start with good wins against formidable opposition.

The peaceful ambience in the department has once again been shattered with the return of **Sgt Eddie Gajny**. (We think he must have bribed the driving test examiner in Leconsfield to get himself an HGV driving licence.)

An extract from a typical departmental conversation–
QM-'Has anyone seen the RQ lately?'
All-'Who?'
QM-'The RQ'.
All-'Didn't know we had one, sir'.

COMMS TROOP

Comms Tp is still producing the goods, albeit that there are less panics at present. As usual the Tp Comd, **Lt Rob Gibson**, has ensured he is leading the adventure training in Yorkshire (that's it sir, you draw the short straw!). In his absence the Troop is being run by the new Tp Sgt **Sgt Nick Oldcroft**. However, he has been hard pushed to get a handle on it as there have been so many changes. Comms Tp are a happy Troop with **Sigs Tweddell**, **Scott** and **Moore** being selected for promotion, 'Baz' **Scott** was doubly celebrating having just got married to **Claudia**. Then again with **Sig Nicholson** and **Deborah** and **LCpl Ross** and **Kelly** getting married, there is definitely something in the air.

Sig 'Scouse' **O'Leary** is now officially the luckiest man in NATO. Having swept his ID Card into the burning bag 10 seconds before it was burned, he was expecting a 'brown suit' interview with the Sqn Comd. By a miracle, when **Cpl Hale** checked the bag he found the card had stuck in the bag lining and had remained intact. Lucky break . . .

MT TROOP

MT Tp has lost one of their Corporals, **Cpl Gary Welsh** was last seen heading towards SHQ and hasn't been seen since. Rumour has it that he's been doing military training, and now is off to ATR Bassingbourn with **Vikki**. All the best and good luck.

The rest of the Troop have been either getting qualified, ie **Cpl Trev Boardman**, or getting promoted like **Pte** (now LCpl) **Gorton, LCpl** (soon to be Cpl) **Lee Swift** and **Sig** (soon to be LCpl) **Chris Eckett**. We have indented for new arrivals and been granted **Cpl Eddie Coles** and **Siobian** and **Pte Ben Middleton**.

TM TROOP

The Troop has been busy with a major rebuild of Newtownhamilton base, and the increased 'routine' maintenance. Certainly the level has not dropped noticeably–everybody is still busy. In the odd few minutes to spare we organised a families day. This proved to be a mixture of 'Mastermind' and the 'Krypton Factor' with a barbecue thrown in. The day was a great success. The only problem was the need to have an 'arena crew' on standby to remove the obstacle course when Wessex and Pumas landed.

As usual personnel continue to rotate:

In: **SSgt Dave Buckingham, Sgts Steve Ruxton** and **Jo McGinness** and **Sig Lee Holden**.

Out: **FofS Bob Hamilton, Cpl Martin Graham, LCpl D. J. Crampton** and **Sig Ryan Sedgwick**.

Congratulations to **Ruth** and **Martin Graham** on the birth of **Connor Martin Graham**, surely he will thump his dad when he finds out that his initials are to remind his dad of his favourite rigging site!

HOLLYWOOD NIGHT

The Sqn Comd and RSM are very keen that the Whynge has a range of entertainment. The most recent event was a Hollywood party. The usual array of film stars turned up. There was everyone from the Three Musketeers to Whoopi Goldberg and a complete array of Disney characters. The photograph tells the story, the sign did say Hollywood–blame the photographer!

Night of the Stars
It really was Hollywood!-Note 'Pluto' being naughty, cocking his leg on the 'Y'

Good News Travels Fast!

Publish it in *The Wire*.

The Editor is always pleased to receive interesting articles.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

Sqn Comd **Maj S. D. Hodges**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. A. Wright**

SHQ TROOP

Tp Comd **SSgt P. Kerr**

Over the past few months there has been a fairly large turnover of people. **Lt Craig Sutherland** disappeared to ATR Bassingbourn to train Royal Engineer recruits, and in came **Lt Jim Anderson** finally brought down to earth after his sunshine posting. Congratulations go to new arrivals **Pte Jane Burberry** and **LCpl Weatherall** for passing their NIRT courses. The latest arrivals are **Sgt Andy Dutton** and his wife **Shirley** who join us from the farthest corner of the camp, MT.

The Officers versus SNCOs and Warrant Officers cricket match was a resounding success. The Officers were narrowly beaten (thrashed) in a game which was played with high spirits and humour if not with skill. As most Brigade staff officers succeeded to bowl the ball at themselves, behind them and in every direction except the wicket, one officer's aim was true. **Capt Alison Monroe AGC** (a woman!) cleanly destroyed the RSM's extensive innings!

Another recent success, despite the weather, was the Squadron families day held in 5 Royal Irish Regiment's Corporals' Mess in Ballykelly. Thanks to the stirling efforts of **SSgt Jim Crabb** and his team, both the children and their parents were well fed and entertained. The day's highlight was a concert given by the Corps Band, as part of its recent tour of the Province, in which old and new favourites were played to everyone's delight.

COMMS TROOP

Tp Comd **SSgt J. Crabb**

Yet again the goodbyes are upon us. A great loss is **Sgt Phil** 'The Screaming Beagle' **Smithurst** who, after only a couple of months, disappears to 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (203), on promotion; **Sgt Dicky** 'Meldrew' **Dyer** also goes to Harrogate on promotion (Do we hear the sound of wedding bells?); **Sig Keith Hunt** books out to 7 Sig Regt; and finally **Sigs John Massy, Martin Griffin** and **LCpl Lorraine Davies Morris** leave for the big bad world of civvy street, although **Lorraine** isn't leaving here yet as her husband is in TM Tp. We would also like to welcome new arrivals **Sgt Des Eldridge, LCpls** 'Mac' **McCallum**, 'Grass' **Grassick**, 'Spotter' **Williams**, 'Spud' **Tait, Sarah Hall** and **Sig Cath King**.

On a lighter note. After four months the Comms Trials Team has averaged a car every two weeks thanks to **Cpl** 'Bollard' **Hughes, Sig Nigel Carrington** and **Sig Damon Prigent**. The new arrival to the team, **Lt Glynn Buxton**, has all the qualities required in this high pressure job, after failing to point out to **Cpl Hughes** a high speed bollard jumping out from behind their car.

MT TROOP

Tp Comd **WO2 (MTWO) P. Peart**

A warm and hearty welcome first to **LCpl Andy Roy** and his wife **Tina**, to **Ptes Flight** and **Filson** and to **Sgt Craig Blake** who takes over from **Sgt Paul Hughes**. Congratulations to **LCpl David Sheppard** and his wife **Sarah** on the birth of their baby daughter. The Troop is busy with all the JNCO's getting instructors courses under their belts, attempting upgrading courses, and running diving assessments for all the Brigade staff officers and members of the Signal Squadron. All this plus normal driving details.

QM TROOP

Tp Comd **WO2 (RQMS) J. S. Black**

Since last writing we have said farewell to **WO2 (RQMS) Toner** and family who are now setting up home in Osnabruck. However, we are still unable to make derogatory comments about Celtic as the new RQMS **WO2 John Black** happens to be the only other Celtic fan in the Province. Also leaving shortly is **CSgt Dennis Sissons** who, after four years in Londonderry, said he wanted to know what summer and good weather was like. A hearty welcome to his replacement **CSgt Ned Kelly**. Another escapee to a summer climate is **Sig Clive Spiller** who has departed to civvy street. Welcomes to the department are extended to **LCpl** 'Dinger' **Bell** and **Sig Hughes**. Left to last, because we want to keep him, is **Sgt Paul Culley** who, by the time these notes are published, should have escaped to Kinross to work with NATO. Congratulations to **LCpl Joe McCormmack** RLC on his marriage to **Karen**.

TM TROOP

Tp Comd **SSgt N. Preston**

The Troop is now looking forward to a period of stability following a summer of change, as many old stalwarts depart. **Sig Greg Cunningham** and **LCpl Steve Reeves** are now sunning themselves in Cyprus; **Cpl Gerry Dear** is in AFCENT; **Sgt Pete Howson** was more than happy to return to Germany and is now in 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (207); and finally **Cpl Justin** 'Mermaid' **Carter** is now frightening recruits at AA Coll Harrogate.

All these departures leaves the Troop with a new wealth of talent to train, in the form of **Sgt** 'Jock' **Robertson, Cpl Stu Stuart, LCpl Franks** and **Sigs Terry Dolan** and **George Hignett**. A big hello to all newcomers and we hope you enjoy your tours.

Finally congratulations to **Cpl Martin Dixon** on his recent promotion and to **Cpl Taff Jones** and **Sig Andy Dennis** on their recent marriages–though not to each other.

THE EBRINGTON ROAD RELAY RACE

After a kind invitation to participate in the 1 King's Own Royal Border Regiment inter-Company Road Race, a team of racing snakes was thrown together. Despite earlier predictions by the Border Regiment the team of **WO2 (YofS) Norman Bain, SSgt Chris Johnson, Sgts Kirk Reynolds** and **Mark Dicks**, and **Cpls Ian Hughes** and **George Quar** destroyed the best of its Company teams by a clear minute. With great satisfaction the team relieved the CO of the Trophy and since then the various Companies have been doing more PT and more running.

MERCURY CUP MARCH AND SHOOT COMPETITION

After extensive training and thousands of rounds expended on a very wet couple of hours on Magilligan Ranges, the Squadron managed to select a team for the Mercury Cup March and Shoot competition to be run at Ballykinler the following day. Select is probably the wrong word to use because the five men who turned up to do their four monthly requalification shoot suddenly found themselves being whistled away to destinations unknown. The competition was run by 15 Sig Regt at Ballykinler Ranges amidst glorious sunshine and consisted of six stands; a shotgun shoot, a moving target shoot, a zeroing shoot, a rifle APWT(NI), a pistol APWT(NI), and a march and shoot.

The team of **Lt Glynn Buxton, Cpl** Taff **Thomas, LCpl Jim Wainwright, Sig Martin Bently** and **Pte Mick Ling** ran away with the competition, despite managing to miss nearly all the clays on the shotgun shoot and, **Lt Glynn Buxton** falling in a trench on the pistol range. 233 Sqn finished second and our close rivals 3 Inf Bde an undeserved third place. Now that 15 Sig Regt has been trounced in one event, the rest of the Corps, Province-wide, had best take note of the 'marauding' 8 Bde.

SUMO NIGHT

This was to be every signaller's dream, a chance to repay all the seniors for those unsociable jobs dished out on his days off; SUMO Night. So great was the demand to don rubber suits and fight with each other that two leagues of eight each were able to be formed. Warm up bouts commenced and bets were taken. The favourites for the competition were **Cpl Gary Mathieson** weighing in at a devastating 16 stone closely followed by **Sig Stu Kelly** who was almost not allowed to take part for fear that the suits wouldn't stretch that far.

The competition was fast and furious, tempers became heated and sides split with laughter. In the shock of the night **Sig Stu Kelly** was thrown from the ring by **Sig Keith** 'Giant Killer' **Hunt. Sig Kelly** left broken hearted but not without leaving his mark–both feet punching through the wall of the newly refurbished Waterside Club. **Cpl Mathieson** also fell victim to the 'Giant Killer' in another close fought bout. But it was **Cpl** Taff **Thomas** who emerged victorious at the end of the night defeating **Sig Hunt** two falls to one in a fight. Both finalists have now begun eating to excess so that they won't need suits next time.

The night ended in a thunderous finale as the RSM took on the RQMS in an exhibition bout. The Rangers/Celtic divide was never more in evidence as these two Goliaths clashed, with the crowds cheering, as both one then the other added their signatures to the walls of the Waterside. Probably one of the most memorable nights in the Waterside ended well, with no fingers being pointed as to the cause of the damage and a good time being had by all.

– News from Headquarters –

The Royal School of Signals
Blandford Camp

SERGEANTS' MESS

The GOC **Lt Gen A. A. Dennison-Smith MBE** visited Blandford on 25 August, his first visit to the Garrison. After visiting the many units and departments within the Garrison the General visited the Sgts' Mess. He was met by the PMC **SSM Gaston** who invited him to sign the visitors book before having a drink with the WOs and Sgts. The GOC addressed the Mess and stated how impressed he was at the depth of training, commitment and ability within The Royal School and the challenges that lay ahead of us.

GOC talking to WO2 John Bowles 1 Cheshire, Sgt Carson AGC, members of SLIM SST

CIS TRAINING WING
TROOP COMMANDERS COURSE NO 30

During the months of July and August, the Blandford countryside was invaded by the Troop Commanders Course. TC30 were mounted! Following four intensive instructional periods, the 'troopies' were released into Deer Park to practise their riding skills, or lack of them. Only one member performed the Unscheduled Dismount. **2Lt Jeffery** was thrown spectacularly from his displeased steed.

The climax of their equestrian activities was the gymkhana at Deer Park Riding Stables. A number of guests attended the event but they had clearly been tipped off about the potential entertainment factor of 14 young officers getting to grips with the basics of horsemanship. Guests included **Col** and **Mrs J. E. F. Kirby OBE, Lt Col M. L. Martin, Lt Col M. J. McKinlay** and **Lt Col I. M. G. Strong MBE**.

The competition was won, overall, by **2Lt Ruth Pilkington**. The fancy dress prize must go to **2Lt Hendricks** who turned up in stockings and suspenders.

2Lt Jamie McGregor and 2Lt Neil Caddy wait whilst they decide what to do next!

TRIALS SQUADRON

In June the Squadron had their adventure training camp in Weymouth, good planning by the SSM because the Tall Ships race started during that week. The entire Squadron managed to get 'close up' views of all ships in the harbour thanks to **Cpl Sean Jackson** and his Gemini. Our thanks go to the two organisers, **Sgt Paul Urwin** and **Sgt Nige de-Oweneley**.

SSgt Tim Wynn, recently posted to RSSST, came to our rescue and taught swimming, no sorry windsurfing before rushing off for another busy week of competitions (windsurfing). **Sgt** (Mr) **Dave Pollard** gave up a week in his busy schedule of resettlement to help out on the instruction. Not forgetting **LCpl** Geordie **Robinson** without whose dedicated hard work, sacrificing all his own time and the pleasures of adventure training to keep everybody's spirits up (he ran the bar).

The return to work found several new faces **WO2 J. Allen** poured in and out of work by his wife, **Margaret**, also **SSgt John Rose** and family who reckons the Foreman's jokes have not changed since 1983. And of course, who could remember **Capt** erm . . . **Paul Smith** and **William** who we are signing over to Shrivenham for six months.

Unfortunately, we also have some farewells: **Lt Col Vinny Binham**, congratulations on your promotion and posting to MOD, please give up the football. **Sgts Dave Pollard** and **Gary Marshall** on redundancy, and **Sig Terris** on discharge, we all wish you the very best in your new Jobs.

11 SIG REGT
HQ SQUADRON
TM TROOP

A belated welcome is extended to **WO2 (AQMS) Grant Bruce** who has joined us as our new 'Tiffy'. We always welcome a challenge at TM Tp no matter how daunting the task. Also welcome is **Cpl Watkins** who has joined us from 1 Sqn. We hope you both enjoy your stay with us.

Congratulations to **Andy Cranmer** on his promotion to Corporal, must be time for the beers **Andy**! Also to **Capt Ellis** on his fine performance in the Truscott Trophy finishing second in the men's Veterans' race.

1 SQUADRON (TRAINING SUPPORT)
EXERCISE OPEN DOOR
Report by Sig L. M. MacIver

Sixteen soldiers, who volunteered for the exercise were loaded up and headed off to Longmoor Camp.

On arrival at Longmoor we were met by **Lt Muhan** of the Royal Marines. After collecting our rations we were taken to the training area.

By 2100 hrs that day the defences had been built.

Able to sleep anywhere, most of us fell asleep straight away, but by 0400 hrs we were awake and in position by 0430 hrs. Myself and **Sig** 'Gerry' **Rafferty** were positioned in a sangar at the bottom of the street with a GPMG. At 0530 hrs all hell broke loose. I could see and hear the Marines slowly advancing up the street. If any of them came out into the open, it was my job to shoot at them. Just as things were hotting up **Sig Rafferty** was casevaced due to serious burns, leaving **LCpl Ian Elson** to take over. We tried to keep the enemy's heads down with suppressive fire, while the rest left. Suddenly we were out of ammo, the only brave thing left to do was to surrender. As we came out of the sangar with arms raised, the Marines had different views about POWs! They shot us.

All too soon it was over, everyone regrouped just off the training area. A quick head count made us realise that we were missing a body. Then **LCpl** Robbo **Robinson** appeared, 'I was a prisoner and they didn't even molest me!'. He sounded almost disappointed.

Next day our mission was to take a house, then withdraw again. 1000 hrs and we were there, **LCpl Wyatt** and **Sig** Randy **Randerson** kicked the door in. Suddenly, a head appeared, 'who the hell is it?' was the bewildered enquiry. He had a menacing glint in his eyes so, to be on the safe side, four mags were emptied. Then we were off again, back to the harbour area for more 'personal admin'.

Up at 0400 hrs and off we went, crawling the last 50 yards or so. We went undetected until we burst into the first house. The occupants put up little resistance, however, the bruises on **Sgt Phil Harden**'s face would have suggested otherwise. They withdrew and all semblance of tactics and order went out of the window, as we chased them shouting and emptying our mags. Again it seemed to end all too soon and we were back at the 'galley' for a cooked breakfast.

The two warring factions then combined for a joint clean up operation and by 0900 hrs we were on the way home, glad it was over and looking forward to a hot shower.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

In August TM Tp was to be found walking, climbing and mountain biking in Wales. The walking stages were organised by **Cpl Harry Neish**, fresh from his UEL course and keen to see us sweat. The walks included various routes to the summit of Snowdon and some very interesting ways down again, especially for a certain person who found he was scared of heights! Still there was always the pub at the end that made it all worthwhile. The climbing was organised by **Cpl Mick Stanyer** who as a qualified rock leader found climbs to suit both the first timers and the more experienced climbers among us. Most of us managed climbs above a standard achieved before. The mountain biking was on a local route around the surrounding area and could be as hard or as easy as you wanted, you paid your money, took your map and off you went.

On a break day some members of the Troop took a trip to Caernarvon to either shop or visit the castle. The final event was a barbecue which was prepared by **Andre** who kept us well fed and watered throughout the week. Thanks go to all those who helped to make the week both rewarding and enjoyable.

The White Helmets

OC RSDT	**Lt Col L. R. J. Tilson**
OC White Helmets	**Capt R. Deans**
Team Sgt	**Sgt D Brebner**
Team Cpl	**Cpl P. Elson**

THE FUTURE

During the first week of September The White Helmets received the tremendous news that it has secured its future into a 68th year of operations in 1995. This came as a huge relief following the demanding and turbulent months since arriving in Blandford Garrison. Already many arena display teams, such as the RAF Dog Display Team, RMP Red Caps and our own Parachute Display Team–The Blue Helmets, have been given notice to cease their operations at the end of this season. The team now has an optimistic outlook for a bright future next year and beyond!

END OF SEASON

After the hectic mid-summer, the end of season saw the timetable of events slow down as we approached the Final Show. Given that the team re-located from Catterick in January, it was highly appropriate that the 1994 Closing Show should coincide with the Final Show in the North Yorkshire Dales at Pateley Bridge, Nidderdale. Despite the adverse weather conditions the whole team gave an excellent account of themselves and received a very warm welcome from their audience. The Final Show also marked our farewell to nine members who will leave the team over the winter period. They include: **Capt R. Deans**-on posting, **Cpl T. Smith**-redundancy, **LCpl L. Anderson**-redundancy, **LCpl G. Ford**-civilian life, **LCpl B. Fullerton**-249 (AMF(L)) Sig Sqn, **LCpl T. Rogers**-JCUNI, **Sig A. Cole**-15 Sig Regt, **Sig D. Garton**-civilian life and **Sig A. Sherman**-redundancy.

SELECTION COURSE

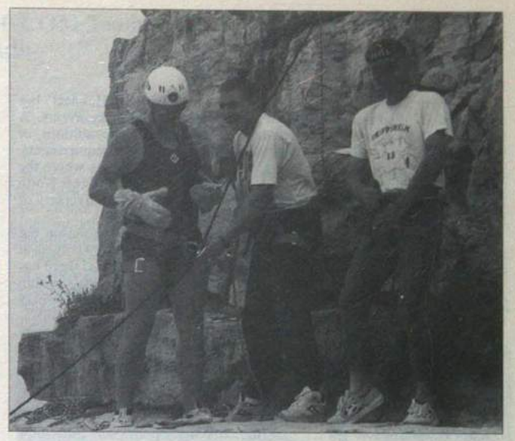
Final preparations have now been completed ready to execute the First Team Selection Course to be held on Bovington Training Area. The first student volunteer arrived at Blandford in September mounted on his own Suzuki RF600 and associated black leather! The team will see a change of command as **Capt Rich Deans** departs on posting and **Capt Simon Parry** assumes the appointment of Team Captain for 1995 after completing the 1994 Selection Course.

WINTER MONTHS

The team has once again reverted to routine 'Green' life under the daily management of **Sgt Don Brebner**. Our working weeks remain hectic as annual training starts as well as the maintenance period controlled by **Cpl Paul Elson** and his team of mechanics. **LCpl Andy Stuart** has been detached to the gym staff and has devised an interesting and productive (ie painful) physical training programme to keep the team in trim and on their toes.

TV PROJECTS

The team achieved 10 seconds of star status after appearing on LWT's Hale and Pace Programme on 18 September. We spent a whole working day (and earned a healthy cheque) to produce the material for only a few seconds during **Gareth Hale**'s Meatloaf video sketch. The TV production crew were amazed that half the team could provide their own 'smelly biker' clothing from their normal civilian dress. The team smellies of **LCpl** 'Tonka' **Richardson** and company only required wigs to look the part! Sadly, volunteers were not required to assist with the hired models, handcuffs and whipped cream scene!



Sgt Dave Pollard, 'is the rope strong enough for Cpl Cal Hewitt?'

The White Helmets as never seen before (or again) during a Filming Shoot for the LWT Programme 'Hale and Pace'

Presentation of the 'Sgt Bill Harries' Trophy from 56 (London) Div DRs to LCpl Kev Richardson by Capt R. Deans

ANNUAL STATISTICS

1994 has seen the team achieve the following targets between April and October:

Days absent from Blandford	- 96
Number of shows	- 75
Number of venues	- 45
Cancelled Shows	- 1
Vehicle Mileage (Total)	- 76,000 Miles
TV Appearances	- 6

SUMMARY

The White Helmets is now back into conventional mode and focusing upon a challenging season during 1995. Firstly though, a well earned and welcome break over Christmas.

THE BLUE HELMETS

Team Commander	**Lt W. J. Kirby**
Team Leader	**Cpl. L. D. Smerdon**

1994 DISPLAY SEASON

The Royal Signals Parachute Display Team 'The Blue Helmets' has completed 27 displays this year at both public and military events. A further 11 displays were cancelled due to adverse weather conditions, or because of the organiser being unable to fulfil the contract requirements. Several of the displays took place at very high profile events where the team received considerable media cover. These included The Great North Run (BBC Grandstand), The Tour de France and the 75th Anniversary of Save The Children, where our Colonel in Chief took the salute.

The team has, undoubtedly, had a very successful display season but unfortunately the decision has been taken to disband The Blue Helmets at the end of 1994. During the 22 years since the team was formed there has been tremendous support from the qualified display parachutists within the Corps who have dedicated their weekends throughout the display season to represent the Royal Corps of Signals. Thank you all.

Several key personnel have supported us throughout this extremely hectic and turbulent year and deserve special thanks for:

Lt Col (Retd) P. A. Spooner	your commentaries and continued support.
Maj A. Allman	formation skydiving coaching and advice.
Capt D. G. Robson 16 Sig Regt	the BAOR displays and the new Corps Canopies!
WO2 J. Williams 217 Sig Sqn	being 'enormous' throughout the display season. Also to **Annette** and **Zoe** for their support.
Sgt L. Doughty 31 Sig Regt (V)	1994 display, suede training shoes and your mobile phone!
Sgt A. Scott 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para)	1994 displays 'Pepperami'
Cpl C. Hurd 30 Sig Regt	1994 displays, war hero and everything!
LCpl I. Sutton RSDT	1994 displays with flag!
and finally **Lt E. McLeod** 39 Sig Regt (V)	the only DZ Miss in three years!

STUDENTS

Three adventurous training exercises have been run this year, solely for R Signals personnel. Ex Blue Plummet and Blue Spiral took place in Cyprus and were organised by The Blue Helmets. Ex Homer Backstop, took place at the Joint Service Parachute Centre, Bad Lippspringe and trained 13 members of the Corps.

COMPETITIONS

The Royal Signals entered teams into the Army Championships in August. Despite not being able to complete any training before the competition all teams produced excellent performances. The four-way formation skydiving team 'Furys for Sale' (**Lt Kirby, Cpl Smerdon, Sgt Scott** and **LCpl Emblin**) were bronze medal winners in the intermediate category.

THE FUTURE

Although The Blue Helmets have been disbanded it is hoped that a Royal Signals Sport Parachute Association will be formed to provide a governing body for sports parachuting within the Corps. Such an association would have the primary aim of supporting progression in the sport at all levels of experience. The parachute equipment currently held by The Blue Helmets would be used for student progression, competitions and to perform a few select displays at Corps events.

An adventurous training expedition to the USA is provisionally planned for May 1995. The expedition would involve training five students on an accelerated free-fall course over a two week period.

Finally, the permanent team members of The Blue Helmets are posted in January 1995. **Cpl Eddy Smerdon** is off to 24 Airmob Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210) and **Cpl Jacky Hind** is posted to 251 Sig Sqn, Aldershot. **Jacky** will complete a one year attachment to The Red Devils on 23 January 1995. Good luck **Jacky**!

The point of contact for all future Corps Sports Parachuting matters will be: **Lt W. J. Kirby**-7 Sig Regt, BFPO 35.

Lt Kirby, OC Blue Helmets, tandem skydiving at JSPC Netheravon with the Red Devils

Lt Kirby, Sgt Scott, Cpl Smerdon and LCpl Emblin at the 1994 Army Championships

UK MOD SANGCOM Team
Riyadh

UK MOD SANGCOM PROJECT TEAM

It is more than two years since a report from the UK MOD SANGCOM Project Team last appeared in *The Wire*. The recent visit of the SOinC(A) presents a perfect opportunity to remind the Corps that we are still here in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia actively supporting the National Guard and above all to record a successful and most memorable visit by **Major General** and **Mrs Boyle**.

For those in the Corps who have not heard of SANGCOM, the Project was originally set up in 1978, consisting of a MOD(PE) Project Team supervising a Prime Contractor (Cable and Wireless) tasked to procure and build a nationwide communication system for the Saudi Arabian National Guard. Since 1978 the Project has had an unbroken presence in the Kingdom including the Gulf War period, and is currently engaged in managing enhancements to, operating and maintaining, and training personnel on the installed system. The Project has been particularly busy in recent months working towards a change over of Prime Contractor in February 1995.

The Team consists of 20 soldiers and civil servants. The Royal Signals personalities are currently:

Project Director	**Col Bob Wright**
SO1 Comms	**Lt Col Roland Ebdon**
SO1 Trg	**Lt Col Derek McLean**
SO2 OR	**Maj Trevor Bradley**
SO2 O&M	**Maj Les Tanner**
SO2 Trg	**Maj Alan Doane**
SO2 Central Region	**Maj Mick Drake**
SO2 Western Region	**Maj Peter Shawyer**
SO2 Eastern Region	**Maj Peter Coleman**
YofS Trg	**WO1 (YofS) Mick Purves**
FofS Comms	**WO2 (FofS) Iain McNelly**
FofS Maint	**WO2 (FofS) Nigel Griffiths**

VISIT OF MAJ GEN AND MRS A. H. BOYLE

The SOinC(A) and **Mrs Boyle** arrived in the early hours of Sunday 25 September 1994 after an overnight flight from London and departed, after an exhausting visit itinerary, in the early hours of Thursday 29 September 1994.

On the first day of his visit, the SOinC(A) was briefed by members of the SANGCOM Project Team on its activities. **Gen Boyle** then went on to meet the Chief Executive of Cable and Wireless and call upon the HMA Riyadh, **the Hon David Gore Booth** at the Embassy. The Defence Attache, **Brig Martin Lance** late Royal Signals, was also present. SOinC(A)'s first day was rounded off in true Gulf style with a theatre and dinner evening hosted by HMA.

On the second day **Gen Boyle** was invited to the Headquarters of the Saudi Arabian National Guard where he met all the key National Guard Ministers and senior officers, including the son of His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Abdullah, **Maj Gen Prince Miteb**, Deputy Head of the Military Organisation. This meeting was very friendly and culminated in **Prince Miteb** extending an invitation to the SOinC(A) to attend the Janadriah Cultural and Heritage Festival in the Spring of 1995. (This annual event has been likened to a cross between the Royal Tournament and Ascot with camels.) The SOinC(A) also called upon his counterpart in the National Guard, **Maj Gen Abdulaziz Al Ayyar** and spent the day visiting various Signal Corps units and establishments at the National Guard base at Khashm Al An. The visit culminated in a lunch hosted by the SOinC(A) in the Team HQ attended by **Gen Ayyar** and all his senior Signal Corps officers.

Under Saudi Arabian law ladies are not allowed to drive in public and it was therefore not surprising that the Team desert driving competition organised by **WO1 (YofS) Mick Purves** for the final day of the visit was well subscribed by wives wishing to let off steam. **Mrs Boyle** also volunteered and turned out to be a keen co-pilot for **Maj Peter Shawyer**. The driving competition combined with a desert barbecue provided a light hearted break from the more formal aspects of the visit itinerary. **Mrs Boyle** very kindly offered to present the prizes at the end of a fun day. The best lady driver was **Caroline Bradley** and the men's competition resulted in a fierce drive off between **Col Bob Wright** and **Maj Les Tanner**. In the interests of his career **Maj Tanner** turned out to be a gallant loser to **Col Bob**. **Lt Col Roland Ebdon**, also mindful of his future, narrowly pipped the SOinC(A) for the wooden spoon as the driver with most penalty points.

In an effort to provide a degree of diversity into a busy programme, nine holes of desert golf accompanied by **Majs Trevor Bradley** and **Mick Drake** and **Foreman Iain McNelly** was arranged for the evening of the second day (with the last three holes played in the dark). In the afternoon of the third day the SOinC(A) and **Mrs Boyle**, accompanied by **Maj Les** and **Jackie Tanner** and **Maj Peter** and **Lilliana Coleman** toured Diriya, the ancient capital of Saudi Arabia, located on the outskirts of Riyadh, and then the Masmak fort, scene of the battle of 1902 which eventually led to establishing Abdul Aziz as the King of the modern state of Saudi Arabia.

The SANGCOM Project is a remote element of the Corps and the Team is very pleased that the SOinC(A) found the time from his very busy programme to visit and to raise the Project's importance in the eyes of the National Guard. We look forward to another visit from the SOinC(A) in the Spring of next year.

The SOinC(A) and Col Wright, with the National Guard Director General of Signals

The SOinC(A) and Mrs Ann Boyle admire the Saudi Arabian craftwork in Diriya village

Lunch, bedouin style, at the desert driving competition-YofS Purves (immediately behind the SOinC(A)) explains what a spoon is to three Majors and two Foremen, whilst the SOinC(A) wonders whether or not he should sit on the floor

– News from Regiments –

1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

EXERCISE RHINO CHARGE
A REAR PERSPECTIVE

The locations may vary, but some things remain unchanged. So it was with the autumn Div HQ CPX, Ex Rhino Charge.

A 400km rail move provided a welcome change to the mundane deployment to our normal exercises in Germany and spirits were still high on arrival at Mendig, near Koblenz in the Mosel. It was to be a static exercise for REAR with the emphasis being on exercising the Brigade staff. The HQ was immaculately presented awaiting the arrival of the Staff. Typically, the advance party of two officers failed to materialise in the expected numbers, or perhaps the other six were just along to keep them company. Some pretty big wigs were scheduled to arrive during the week and this had an amazing short term effect on the Staff's capability to tidy their cells!

The first two days were obviously fairly tiring as Sunday was set aside for TEWTS and a break from it all. Imagine how the Operators were feeling, eight days on and still on A2! Some much loved excitement was available in the form of ATD training and the real highlight came in the wee hours of Sunday morning with the lifting of radio silence!

EXERCISE HALBERD DIAMOND
A TRIP TO THE SOUTH OF FRANCE

On 3 July nine members of 211 Sig Sqn departed on Ex Halberd Diamond. The journey to the South of France was a rather somniferous affair, but the views on arrival certainly woke everyone up. The weather was awful, only about 35°C. **Sgt Openshaw** came to the fore by building the barbecue. Despite, or is it due to, him being a technician, he had trouble lighting it. This was solved in typical tech style by using half a gallon of lighter fuel; however the food tasted surprisingly good. Our trek along the route GR5 began in earnest, travelling between the Chamonix Valley and the Isere. The first day of the walk was ably led by **LCpl Dicken** with **Sig Cann** darting ahead to check the route. Calling in at Col de Voza, we managed to catch a few well-earned sun stops. During the eight day walk we covered over 110km, always in the shadow of the magnificent Mt Blanc. The R&R in Landry proved highly entertaining with the team sampling the local hospitality. The trip was a great success and for some was their first taste of anything more adventurous than the Tank Park.

AUSSIE'S VIEW OF A BRITISH SIGNAL REGIMENT
by **Lt K. K. Buczynski, Royal Australian Corps of Signals**

Twenty-two hours and three days after departure from wintry Sydney airport, touched down at Hanover. With senses still dulled from an epic Charles Kingsford Smith journey across numerous time zones, nevertheless, managed to stay awake for the 160km/hr trip back to Herford with the non-English speaking German speedster adamant on setting the pace for autobahn traffic.

Arrival in the Mess was a surprise, due to the fact that my perception of a British Officers' Mess was something like our Opera House. Although the facilities compare with those in my Mess, the rooms tend to be much larger. I was disappomted to learn, however, that the facilities (ie heating) would not beturned on until early October . . . for someone used to warm showers and a warm environment, it was becoming quite unbearable by the end of August.

Battle Camp was the first activity on the agenda and, judging by the amount of sweat produced by most, it proved to be a most challenging period. Similiar in aim and execution to our own Infantry Minor Tactics the hot weather ensured that our British counterparts, wearing heavy fatigues, suffered the farmiliar feeling of sweating to the point of saturation. Of particular interest was the survival stand run by **Sgt Vince Tibbs** and friends.

A pleasant surprise was the realisation that summer break began on 5 August and lasted three weeks. Needless to say, the majority of that time was spent discovering new cultures and forging new ground for European/Australasian relations . . . Lacana will never be the same again.

On return to the Unit, it was back to work, starting with Ex Quadriga Gallop 1. An eye-opener, firstly due to the reliance placed on armour by the Unit, secondly due to the Ptarmigan Trunk System. Australian communications at Divisional level rely heavily on various equipment (mostly HF and SATCOM) configured to meet the changing tactical scenario. Currently, there is no dedicated system similar to Ptarmigan, although there are plans afoot to rectify this situation in the short to mid-term future.

Having command of Tac HQ meant that my exposure was initially confined to CNR. The merits of having the Tac HQ established as it is are quite significant and more effective than some of the other HQs that I have witnessed.

During the time that I have been in the Unit, I have fostered an admiration for the Squaddie. An Army needs colourful personalities as much as it needs soldiers and there are certainiy no shortage of those within 211 Sig Sqn. The Squaddie and the Aussie Digger are similar in this respect and I'm sure that any combined operations would be harmonious and, no doubt, eventful.

The Staff and personnel at the Unit have been more than helpful. From the CO (who was thankfully receptive to the idea of me visiting both UK and Cyprus Signal Units) to the ORs, I found everyone more than willing to have a short natter or just pass the time of day. I am most grateful for this reception and guarantee that similar courtesy will be returned should they happen to venture south to my country.

My Aussie's view of a British Signal Regiment is one of admiration. 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt is constantly called upon to provide for exercises, ad hoc Divisional tasks, guard duties, sporting fixtures, and other events such that no-one has a moment to spare.

EXERCISE CASINO DIAMOND–A CLIMBING EXPEDITION

The country–France. The activity–rock climbing. The Party–seven like-minded 'stone monkeys' from 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, 7 Sig Regt and 220 Sig Sqn. These hardy souls took the opportunity to spend two weeks climbing in glorious sunshine on some of the best crags in South Eastern France.

The journey to France was uneventful. The initial welcome at our first campsite, however, was not. The campsite owner refused us access to her sparsely populated campsite; even the combined talents of **Capt Dave Cathro**, and **Capt Kes Russel** (team linguist) could not persuade her otherwise. The guide to camping in Europe was promptly deposited in the

Ex Casino Diamond–the team by the old fort above Monte Carlo

first available bin. The party was in luck when we found a better camp site nearby that just happened to have a swimming pool. This was a very nice location until **Sig Tony Palmer** (team pyromaniac) set a hedge and **Sig Cavanagh**'s tent on fire with his cooker. The first three days were spent on a crag called Mouries near Avignon.

It was soon apparent that the standard of individual climbing was very high and some serious grades were going to take a hammering. The temperature was hitting high 30s/low 40s, and gallons of water were carried to stop heat exhaustion. The evenings in Mouries were spent in typical French fashion . . . sitting outside the cafe enjoying the local ambience; and cheap wine. Once every Grade 3 and 5 climbs and a few 6a's had been conquered we moved on to Cavaillon. This area can be likened to Mecca. Climbers from all over France come to hone their skills on the well polished and slippery limestone. **LCpl Rich Berg** (team pathfinder) enjoyed showing off his skills by claiming a couple of 6a's for his log book and **Capt Cathro** took everyone on the two pitch route 'La Dul' 5c, in preparation for long multi pitch routes to follow. **Sig Ivan Muckle** made several brave attempts to get up the seriously inclined

'Acrobatie aerienne' 6b before accepting defeat. Evenings at the campsite were not exactly uneventful. A local band played one evening. They had problems with the lyrics of most of the Beatles classics so **Capt Cathro** was persuaded to give an impromptu solo on the guitar, much to the appreciation of the audience.

From here a day was spent nearby on the Orgon crag. All 11 on the 'Face des Djins' ranging from 4a to 6c were climbed. Once again it was time to move on and we sped down the French toll roads along the coast to Toulon. The imposing feature of Mt Coudon looks down over Toulon and was successfully descended and then ascended. It was now time to gain some serious vertical displacement and we took off St Jeannet to climb the Baou de St Jannet, 807m. The group split here and **Capt Russel** took the party top roping on La Source leaving **Capt Cathro** and **Sig Palmer** to tackle the imposing Baou.

The expedition was now nearing the end. There was one crag left on the list and we headed along the coast to Monte Carlo. Here, after negotiating our way through the confusing one way system, we found our final crag–La Loubiere. This towers above the palace and there is a spectacular view of the bay. Naturally, a very pleasant evening's R&R was had in Monte Carlo experiencing the street carnival by the water front. At the end of the expedition we took stock of what we had achieved. A massive total of 72 routes were completed during the two weeks and spectacular scenery was experienced, but most of all a good time was had by all.

MORRISON CUP TUG-OF-WAR 1994
by **Sig Paul Burn**

After the success of the 211 Tug-of-War team in the Regiment Summer Fete we decided we would have a crack at the Morrison Cup Minor Units Competition. After many hours of training a team of elite professionals was put together. They included **Cpl Murv Ovenden, SSgt** 'Gunny' **Slaney, Sigs Bri Divitt** and Bully **Mulvamey**. On the day **SSM Paul Horton** replaced **Sig** Bully **Mulvaney** who had not managed to find Munchengladbach! I was selected as coach as a result of my extensive tug-of-war knowledge, having once seen a TV programme on the subject. The first few rounds went well considering half the team were involved in other events and we found ourselves undefeated at the end of the first round. What had started as a fun day out now suddenly became serious once there was a chance of victory. By this time all the members of the team were getting tired and arms were beginning to hurt so the semi-final was going to be hard. The first pull went according to plan, namely losing convincingly and lulling the opposition into a false sense of security (Hmm!). This was followed by two fantastic pulls where the lads gave everything, and a bit more, to secure a place in the final. Although we eventually lost to 255 Sig Sqn, who were considered to be the 'Ringers' in the contest, the members of the team did exceptionally well to get their silver medals–watch out 16 Sig Regt, we'll be back.

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EXERCISE FLYING FALCON
MT SECTION

September saw the Squadron back to stark realities and off to Germany. Contrary to popular belief Headquarter Squadron do work harder than any other elements of the Regiment, and all perform functions essential to the success of the exercise. Since the CO missed the MT grafters off Regimental Orders when he published his 'well done' it's only fair that they get a bit of good PR in a much wider readership!

For 2 Sig Regt Ex Flying Falcon was a testing time–and more so for the logistics boys than most. The Brigade Comms Logistic Team concept was severely tested (and found lacking in a few areas) but our MT Section was tasked with satisfying the POL requirements for the whole Brigade. This was achieved despite the severe limitations imposed due to the drawdown of the POL supply system in Germany and the lack of suitably qualified personnel in the Brigade as a whole. Many hours were spent collecting fuel in bulk, filling jerry cans by hand in Warendorf, and distributing fuel throughout the exercise area. Likewise our boys spent 48 hours reversing the process to dispose of the 10,000 litres of fuel left over at ENDEX due to unrealistic POL demands from sub-units. All this whilst the 'players' were enjoying some 'R&R' in exotic locations such as Herford, Munster and Osnabruck! Well, no-one ever said it was going to be easy, and it's all good character-building stuff for some.

The MT Warriors

'SWANNING IT' IN CANADA

July and August were quiet months so **Maj Les Wood** seized the opportunity to organise a trip to Canada for the Army veteran running team to take part in the World Veterans Road Running Championships in Toronto. He couldn't go into all those bars without some protection so he took the 'Gripper' **Sgt Bill Bailey** as his minder. The team left from Gatwick straight after the Regiment went through the formality of winning the Army Major Units Athletics Championship in Aldershot, and arrived in Toronto suitably jet-lagged 12 hours before the start of their 10km race. The immediate priority was to pass the Canadian Forces 'tick test' and the Ontario drivers test to get them mobile. Once this hurdle was overcome sleep was the main aim, then up at 6 o'clock for the race at 9 o'clock. The early start was intended to combat the expected heat of the Canadian summer, however, the dawn brought a modest 20 degrees and light refreshing rain–ideal conditions for racing. Over 250 runners from 27 nations began the race, with the leaders, including Britain's number one veteran **Nigel Gates** and **Bill Bailey**, passing the one mile mark in 4 mins 52 secs. **Les Wood** went through in 5-06, followed closely by former international steeplechaser and cross-country runner **Maj Dave Gibson** of 28 Engr Regt. At the half way point **Nigel Gates** took a decisive lead and continued to move away from the rest of the field, but **Bill Bailey** finished strongly in 32 mins 16 secs to take the bronze medal in his first year as a veteran. **Gates, Bailey** and **Cameron Spence** finished only nine seconds behind the Canadian team to give Britain the silver medals in the team event and assure **Bailey** of an England vest in the Home Counties cross-country international in November. Not far behind, our OC, nursing a calf muscle injury which would have kept a sane man at home, limped in, in 46th place but still managed to cross the line as first British M45 runner and help the British team to fourth place in the international team event.

Throughout the two-week tour the team was admirably hosted by the Canadian Forces in Toronto and 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment and, with transport and a Canadian Government credit card provided, they were able to become minor celebrities on the 'local' running scene whilst taking in a good deal of Ontario and New York state at the same time. The tour was an unqualified success and our two participants did a fine job representing Great Britain, the Army, the Corps, the Regiment, and Headquarter Squadron.

Capt John Downes of 21 Sig Regt (AS), Maj Les Wood, the Master of Signals, and Sig Carmen Michalska of 8 Sig Regt with some of the trophies won at the Army Inter-Unit Athletics Championships

Maj Les Wood (again!) and Sgt Bill Bailey displaying medals won during the Canadian Tour

214 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Pete Stephenson**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Dave Richards**

ROMAN TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt John Torrell**

As summer drew to a close, Roman Tp continued to train for the main exercise of the year, Ex Flying Falcon whilst also fulfilling its ceremonial duties in the form of a splendid march past at York Minster in commemoration of Kohima. Press comments were as follows:

'A fine example of the military quick step.' *The Daily Rag*

'Quite a show! What a pace! What coordination!' *The Sunday Times*

Not feeling challenged by the rough and tumble of life in the Regiment some have chosen to marry. Congratulations go to **LCpls Kevin Allen** and **Scott Dickinson** and **Sigs Paul Lester** and **Steve McNally**. May your lives together be long and prosperous, with your spouses that is, not each other! Enough of the sloppy stuff and on to the hard nosed, fast moving TN021 on exercise.

'It's September 1994 and out in a German wood, knee deep in mud the valiant TN021 was putting in vital links for the Brigade. Meanwhile, the Fantasians had taken time out and were letting the Kartonians have a crack at the UN Forces . . .'. In short the exercise was a success. Everybody did their jobs and did them well. The relay operators in getting the paths, the systems operators in somehow not crashing the switch and even **Sig** 'Wally' **Wallace** (there's an original nick name) for laying 7km of quad correctly, eventually. Let us not forget the SCC crew and the central crews, on detachment, for holding up the node's proud and noble reputation.

Finally a sad farewell to **Sgt Andy Baughan**. Thanks for your work and your camaraderie, it's unfortunate you could not stay longer. And welcome to **Sig** 'Hat' **Witham; Sig** 'Smiler, Boxer, Windsurfer' **Breaks** and **Cpl Johnson** (when he returns from Spain).

SAXON TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Dunk Noble**

A busy period for Saxon Tp in preparation for Ex Flying Falcon. In the run-up we lost **Sig Berwick** to 7 Sig Regt. Saxon Tp says farewell and good luck to you 'Bes'. The new boy in town is **Sig** 'Smudge' **Smith**, virtually straight from training.

Ex Flying Falcon was to be the first trial by ordeal for the new Tp Comd **2Lt Dunk Noble**. He was, at one stage, seen to be at the head of a 40-vehicle convoy, after starting with 10 vehicles having lost a Radio Relay vehicle without trace, even his liberal mathematics could not allow for this!

The exercise went smoothly enough, so smoothly in fact that **Cpl Jase Harvey** was given enough time to engineer the BFBS satellite down link from Bosnia–really **Cpl Harvey**! The originator of these and many other pranks was **Sgt** 'Winker' **Watson** who is now closely watching his back when he rounds corners. **Sig** 'VW' **Francis** promoted TN 022 to the Brigadier by asking the shadowy figure standing on the steps what he was doing standing around, and to hurry up and give a hand with the camouflage netting. **Sig Francis** is now putting forward a proposal to get rid of red tabs and replace them with 'glow in the dark' fluorescent ones.

The Troop returned from Germany much depleted in numbers. The others were left abroad having to bolster the ranks of the other Squadrons remaining in Germany. We can only wait for their return, not least because of all the guards that are floating around!

VIKING TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Ian Heath**

Welcome to **Sgt Paul Langley** newly promoted from 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, his wife **Anga** and children **Shawn** and **Carie-Ann** we all hope they have a happy time in York. Congratulations to **LCpl Dave** 'BFT' **Dorking** and his wife **Sharon** on the birth of their first child **Rebecca**. Congratulations also to **LCpl** 'Seve' **Seville** passing his det commanders course after being given just three days notice that he was to depart for Catterick. Finally on the introductions, best of luck to **Cpl** 'Happy' **Wilkinson** on his Sergeants' course.

The main event was Ex Flying Falcon. The deployment to our initial location went fine and comms were established surprisingly quickly, with the exception of **Cpl John** 'The Hit Man' **Hart** who is finally doing his heights and gains as this issue goes to print. After a week at the first location and a visit by the SOinC, orders were given to move and things then heated up.

Other highlights of the exercise were **SSgt Derek Adams** being rushed to the RAP with bed sores and **2Lt Ian Heath**, not wanting to be outdone by **LCpl Hillier**, taking the whole packet plus CO towards Berlin instead of Hamburg. A special mention must be made to **Sgt Langley**'s mother-in-law for providing a superb laundry service and schnelly in Bad Oynehaussen.

With half the Troop still in Germany on Ex Arrcade Fusion, the rest in UK look forward to some peace and quiet.

217 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj George Whyman**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) John Williams**

EXERCISE FLYING FALCON

Following the tortuous move from Colerne to York the Squadron deployed to Germany with HQ 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde. The Troops were looking forward to a short drive from York to Hull to catch the ferry to Germany. But, that route was far too sensible so the Squadron drove to Harwich and half way across Europe to get to the Startex locations.

The exercise started well and seemed to continue in such a manner, well that is what OSC 142 thought. Suddenly a strange force appeared from nowhere, it grew stronger day by day until . . . crash . . . and there it was; the Death Star Node. Node 024 had gone over to the Dark Side and was now being commanded by Dark Helmet. No one could stop him. Not even TOMPHAN Troop could reverse this one, and it soon became the next to crash and 'burst into flames'. Even the NICE Node was eventually tricked into the destruction of its own Switch. The OSC had only one choice–to give in to Dark Helmet's demands and pay the ransom of all the food in the area. Soon after, comms and order were restored and the remainder of the exercise proved to be as eventless as the beginning.

The return drive was just as long as the deployment phase with a drive through Denmark, a RORO (Roll On Reverse Off) ferry back to Harwich and then on to rainy York. The trip even had the element of danger if you were travelling anywhere near **LCpl** Gaz **Roberts** in his 'Stock Car'. Of course the Squadron would not have made it back intact without the stalwart efforts of the Squadron REME VMs: **Cpls** Taff **Davies** and **Andy Hollinshead**, in their RRRV (Radio Relay Recovery Vehicle).

HARRIER TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Col Kell**

Welcome to the new influx of Radio Relay Ops: **LCpl Tony Sharp** and **Sigs Gary Shilton, John Crutchley** and **Andy Southwood**. Sadly a farewell has to be said to **Sgt Nige Back** on his posting to AAColl Harrogate. Well wishes go out to **SSgt** Gaz **Smurthwaite**, hope the back gets better and good luck to **Sig Ali Martin** who seems to be re-trading as a Squadron clerk.

Congratulations to **LCpl** Smudge **Smith** on his marriage to **Diane**, and **Sig Ed Howard** on his marriage to **Melanie**.

PHANTOM TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Lee O'Rourke**

We welcome **Cpl John King, LCpl Steve Pengelly** and **Sig** Scouse **Woosnam**. Farewells go to **Sig Steve Hall** (at least it is summer in the Falklands!) and **LCpl** Yorkie **York** and **Sig Jase Cannon** who have decided to pursue their careers in civvy street, good luck.

TORNADO TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Dom Sharkey**

Welcome to **Sigs Kev Bauser** and **Phil Jenkinson**, we hope you have a nice time. Farewells go to **2Lt Darren** 'Caveman' **Saul** who is off to Blandford and **Lt Dom Sharkey** on attachment to The Cheshire Regiment, good luck in Ulster.

Congratulations to **Sig Andy Pike** on his marriage to **Rachael**, and **Sig** Carty **Cartmell** on his marriage to **Nikky**.

3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt
Bulford Camp

EXERCISE IRON COMPASS

In September, the whole Regiment was committed to Ex Iron Compass, the third (UK) Division annual Command Post Exercise (CPX). As with all other formations, what was a CPX for the staff was a fully fledged FTX for the Signal Regiment. The exercise covered most of middle England, and included a sea borne move of Divisional Support Group (Forward) Armoured HQ from Marchwood round the Lizard of Cornwall to disembark at Avonmouth. This was 30 hours on board a LSL, and the 206 Sqn personnel involved can confirm that it was not just one person who became sea sick.

For the main HQ element, the exercise started with a tactical helicopter flight from Bulford to join the fly forward HQ in the Turnhill Barracks hangars.

206 Sig Sqn provided a wheeled and tented Main HQ which joined the fly forward HQ to trial a dismounted/airportable major divisional HQ in line with the new Joint Rapid Deployment Force (JRDF) concept. Meanwhile, 202 Sig Sqn deployed the traditional armoured divisional main HQ to Nesscliffe training area where the Regiment, assisted by 24 (Air Mob) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210), had also established the first of two Exercise Control HQs. Playing on the exercise were 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para), with its Brigade Staff, 1 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215) with its staff and the staff of the Italian Ariette Brigade who worked from communications provided at Excon.

Deploying the Signal assets with the staff on the first day of the exercise, whilst being very realistic, put pressure on at all levels to produce good communications quickly. The Divisional HQ 'Bird Table' remained busy and hectic for the week, which included changes of location of control taking the exercise across to eastern England, with a second Excon established at Woodbridge within sight of the North Sea and an armoured HQ at Bassingbourn. Communications over the divisional area of 120km x 90kms required the assistance of two 30 Sig Regt satellite detachments which were able to anchor Excon into our system.

Ex Iron Compass was a challenging and realistic exercise which severely stretched the communications systems. In spite of the distances involved, logistic support and maintenance provided by Echelon from field locations was excellent throughout.

As always, on high profile exercises, there were a number of VIP visits, **Lt Gen Phillip Morrillion**, a previous UN Commander in Bosnia and now Commander of the French Rapid Reaction Corps; the CGS, **Gen Sir Charles Guthrie; Mr Michael Bett** and his review team, looking into pay and allowances in the Armed Services.

The importance of the exercise and the tensions of such a deployment in support of the Divisional Commander did not prevent some lighter moments. The Staff Officer who demanded to know why the whole Ptarmigan system was not working because he could not get an answer on subscriber 3303016 (number changed to protect his blushes) was informed that he had spent the last 20 minutes trying to ring his own Subset! This caused a ripple of amusement in Comms Ops. The Endex dinner provided an appropriate farewell to **Maj Mike Tucker** 206 Sig Sqn Comd and now MA DGCIS/SOinC.

EXERCISE LION SUN

The definition of a Fast Ball has to be being asked to organise an infantry training package for a Company, in Cyprus, in four weeks' time. But hey–this is 3 Div–not a problem! So began Ex Lion Sun. The thought of spending summer leave lying on the beach in Cyprus was enough to entice about 120 volunteers and leave some spare for admin support. The advance party left three days before the main body and had its work cut out trying to establish contact with local units, all of whom were just starting their own leave periods.

The exercise was run from Bloodhound Camp, a small collection of Nissan huts on the western edge of the Episkopi Garrison area. The Sqn Comd, **Maj Mike Rough**, commented '. . . this place hasn't changed at all since I came here as a subaltern–16 years ago'.

After a brief acclimatisation period, it was straight into a three phase training programme with each platoon spending a couple of days on an activity. The first phase was a range package at Dhekelia run by **Lt Colin Pettifer** and **Lt Phil Deans**. For the majority of the soldiers this was the first opportunity they had had to fire the GPMG. There were always plenty of volunteers to fire it but not so many to clean it!

The climax of the range package was a live firing section attack which left everyone hot and sweaty and glad they'd joined R Signals and not the Infantry that might be required to repeat the process again.

The next phase was back at Bloodhound for an introduction to section and platoon tactics under the direction of **WO2 Skirving** (Royal Scots). Due to the extreme heat of Cyprus in August this started at Sparrow's in the morning and generally finished by lunch time. The afternoons were spent on Tunnel Beach windsurfing, sailing, canoeing and being glad it was a long way from the tank park in Bulford.

The final phase of this part of the exercise was adventure training in the Troodos mountains in the forest area close to Mt Olympus, the highest point on the island. During the three days the platoons were there they managed to fit in mountain biking, top rope climbing and abseiling, and swimming. This fitness burst was topped by a local hotel owner who provided sustenance for £4 a head! It was a great feast and a splendid way to end the adventurous training phase.

Platoon training over, it was time to put it all into practice in **Capt Walley Drain**'s masterpiece, 'Operations just short of war' of a Company attack on Paramali village. The aim was to drive out local partisans who were terrorising the population. This was successfully carried out by 1 Pl and 2 Pl, whilst 3 Pl were tasked to secure a power station and landing area ready for further Ops. Despite determined attacks by the partisans throughout the night, the Company managed to hold the ground they had captured. In the morning they were relieved and flown in helicopters to a Company RV under the direction of **Sgt Murray Dick** (a tech Sergeant on attachment from New Zealand who thought he was going to spend his Ex Long Look time in a cozy workshop and sight-seeing in England).

The war was not yet over so the Company leapt aboard a waiting landing craft and prepared for an opposed beach landing against the final enclave of terrorists. GPMGs blazing, the Signal Regiment's answer to 'Delta Force' stormed ashore. They met stiff resistance in the form of heavy fire from **SSgt Lindon**'s thunderflash wielding enemy who, despite repeated hits, refused to 'die' until they were physically over-run.

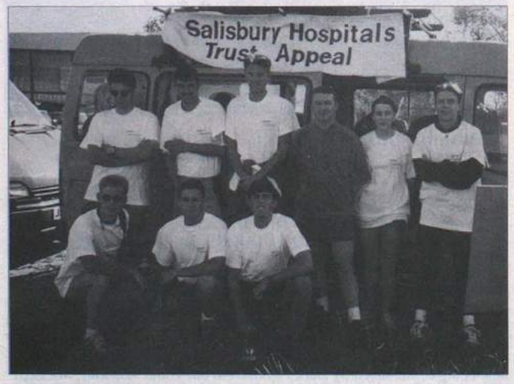
The partisan uprising was finally quashed and another small Island race could return to peace, the Company returned to Bloodhound for five days R&R and more adventurous training before returning to UK and, not so sunny, Bulford.

HAND OVER OF OPERATIONS OFFICER

After a certain time in a unit, especially in a key job, incumbents become something of an institution. This has certainly happened with **Capt Nick Hammett**. He had been Ops Officer as long as anyone could remember except perhaps the Technical Adjutant **Capt Dougie Rackham** who is in his fifth year! Finally, however, it is time to say farewell and welcome **Capt Mark Billingham** who must have friends at PBII to get the challenging posting of running the Communications Ops in 3 (UK) Div.

EXERCISE SPANISH ROSE

Ex Spanish Rose was an expedition for seven novice divers to upgrade their qualifications to 'Sports Diver'. At the end of July the group set out for 10 days of sun, sea, sand and diving on the Costa Brava. The 'students' were **Sgt** 'Sootie' **Souter, Cpl** 'Lid' **Box, Cpl** 'Deano' **Spiers, Cpl** 'Baz' **Heanes, Sigs** 'Burnie' **Burnham, Dave Holden** and **Mick** 'Gibbo' **Gibson**. They were ably put through their paces by SADSman **Capt Rob Hughes RE, Lt Paul McCarter, Lt Rob Chamberlain, Maj Simon Leigh, SSgt Bob Pollard, Sig Ian Evans** and **Sgt Barney Barnfield**. This was altogether a very enjoyable and successful expedition proving that adventure does not always mean cold wet mountains.



Members of Mons Troop on a Mons to Oostend charity march in aid of local hospitals
(L to R): Sigs Mark Jago, Richard Windard, LCpl Toby Fernbank
Rear: LCpl Davies, Sgt Cox, Sigs Ansell, Col Welch, MacPhail, Lt A. Lucas

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

CIVILIAN STAFF COMMEMORATIVE LUNCHEON

The CO presenting the 8 Sig Regt print to Mr George Cawston and Mrs Sylvia Rogers MBE

The CO, **Col J. R. B. Cook** invited all the civilian staff of 8 Sig Regt to a Commemorative Luncheon which was held in the 'Jimmy Club' Vimy Barracks on Thursday 29 September 1994. Over 200 Staff Members, both past and present, attended.

The occasion marked the end of an era as the Regiment said farewell to the civilians who have served the Corps over the decades. Each member of the staff was presented with a specially commissioned print, featuring scenes from within Vimy Barracks, as a tangible token of appreciation. The CO added: 'Words are inadequate to sum up the debt of gratitude the Corps owes you all'.

Among those gathered at the function were the two longest serving members of the civilian staff, **Mrs Sylvia Rogers MBE** and **Mr George Cawston**. They both started work for the Corps within a month of each other and have since given 35 years of unbroken service. **Sylvia**, from Darlington, said 'I've been here most of my working life and feel it's an extended family. This is like someone leaving home for good'. And 58-year-old **George**, from Skeeby, echoed her feelings. 'This is very sad. I'm going to miss the Regiment and I wish they weren't going'. Some of the civilians will be moving down to Blandford. The vast majority of the rest will be redeployed within Catterick.

MR TAFF LOVERIDGE

Mr Taff Loveridge join the Corps in 1947 as a driver. In 1970 on leaving the Corps he stayed with us to work as a storeman in Vimy Barracks. Taff has given 47 years loyal service to the Corps and will be missed by many members of this Regiment.

A LETTER FROM THE OUTSTATION

Sqn Comd	**Maj Dave Smith**
Tp Comd	**WO1 Chris Calow**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Stew Campbell**
SQMS/Tp SNCO	**SSgt (SQMS) Martin Henley**
Tp Cpl	**Cpl Steve Sparrow**
Beastmaster	**Cpl Dave Leask**

The Regimental Outstation, affectionately known as 2 Sqn, is now firmly encamped in the old Bradley Lines at the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate where it is hoped all Basic Operator training will continue until Blandford is up and running. A small admin staff bolstered by an instructional team led by **Maj Ross Graham** and **WO2 (YofS) Mick Dawson** have established themselves in Harrogate and now have just under 200 students under training. We would like to welcome our new admin officer **Margaret McEleney** who was seen running for the sanctuary of the SQMS store the first time the SSM voiced his displeasure at some wayward student and was only coaxed out after being assured the noise and vibrating walls was not the result of an earthquake. The students have quickly settled into the college life and are taking full advantage of all the facilities available; sports and social events between Apprentices and Single Entry are frequent. Although we have too many stars to mention individually a special mention must go to the SSM's pet killer **Sig Sarah Sargeant** who has never mastered the concept of non contact sport.

The initial reservations concerning mixing Apprentice and Single Entry have so far been unfounded. The College Band is more than delighted with the arrival of three very talented musicians: **Sig Katharine Monahan, Sig Trevor Evans** and **Sig Gregor Smith** who will no doubt be seen on the December Graduation Parade providing they can be released from trade, possibly the only decision OC Op Wing, **Maj Phil Castle** will have to make this year; we will keep you posted. We have also had an intake of adult recruits headed up by an excellent team from the College, **Lt Andy Churchill, WO2 (CSM) Jim** (Slopey) **Timperly** Scots Guards, **Sgt Zdena Best** and **Cpl Merm Carter**.

GREAT NORTH RUN 1994

On 18 September over 30,000 people of dubious sanity turned up to run the 13 mile BUPA Great North Run course. Athletes of all abilities, from world class to third class lined up for this 14th running of the event–8 Sig Regt as usual provided the communications and marshalling. Alpha section started its days work about seven hours before the starter even stirred. The journey to Newcastle was its usual fun self with the Ant Hill Mob (**Cpl Graham Oldfield**) leading the way to the finish.

Luckily **Cpl Mark Hurren**, being a local, knew his way around the North East and ably got all the finish teams in position before the roads closed.

Once the event began, comms ran smoothly though at one stage, **Cpl Lush Basford** did his bit for PR by letting an alien throw the Net into confusion by talking in foreign tongue. Once we'd got hold of an interpreter we once again took control.

A special disclaimer must now be produced in defence of **Cpl Frank Jackson**. It is rumoured that as **Sir James Saville** passed his locations the following message was heard over the air, 'CQ this is 10, **Sir James** has just walked past my location with the speed of a striking bullet!' We believe the shock of seeing the said person on the course rather than in his Roller was too much for him.

Finally as the event came to its end **Brendon Foster** and ex Corps member **David Coleman** passed on their thanks to all for their efforts over the past 14 years.

THE GREAT NORTH RIDE 1994

The Great North ride is an annually held cycle event, which takes place in the North East, starting and finishing at the Team Valley industrial estate at Gateshead.

As in previous years, Schemes Tp had been tasked with providing the medical safety radio Net for this annual event. The Net consisted of several radio dets being deployed to key points around the course with control situated at the start/finish area.

On Sunday 11 September, after an early breakfast at 0500 hrs, 14 instructors of Schemes assisted by members of course **OT160BH** set off in convoy North up the A1 under the command of **Sgt Pete Mullen**. On arrival at the finish point **LCpl Taff Dilling** set up the control station and took command of the Net. **Cpl Pete Lagden** and **Sig Darren Kidd** were then sent to the start point to liaise with the course coordinators. On route they were accosted by 'Lightning' from the TV series 'Gladiators' who begged to have her photo taken with two such magnificent 'specimens'.

TU440 CHARITY PROJECT

The Dales school, with which 8 Sig Regt has had a long relationship, was recently burgled. To raise funds for the school, the course decided to stage a sponsored 'Bergen March'. So, on a chilly Saturday morning in Richmond Square, the course departed on **Cpl Mick Lingards**' 27 mile 'yeah it'll be a stroll' route. By the halfway point we had made good time but strangely enough the 25lb bergens we set off with were starting to feel a lot heavier. To compound the problem, boots were starting to chaff tired feet and several of the course were getting nasty sunburn.

Bedale saw the course take a convenient break–at a local pub to collect donations both of liquid and financial type before we went on our way. Seven and a half hours further on the route, we were met, and then escorted for the final leg by some of the schools more able pupils. We limped on to the finish, where the 1 Sqn Comd **Maj Townend** presented a Statuette of the Jimmy to the school's headmaster. Two weeks later the course visited the school and presented them with a cheque for nearly £500, which was gratefully received and the look on their faces made all the pain worthwhile.

9 Sig Regt (R)
BFPO 59

AT THE ARMY TRIATHLON CHAMPIONSHIPS

It sounded simple enough. Get six people and their bikes from Cyprus to the UK to compete in the Army Triathlon Championships on 26 June. Two, (**WO1 (RSM) Mal Geer** and **Cpl Andy Herd**), managed to get there early for various reasons, and therefore didn't have to enter the RAF lucky dip. The next duo (**Maj Paul** (Old Knacker) **Robertshaw** and **Capt Matthew Opie** (SO3 G 1-4 for the trip)), managed to get on a C130 that took 12 hours to get from Akrotiri to Brize Norton, including a two hour stopover in Turkey; (and they wouldn't even let us into the PX). By making this huge sacrifice, the two officers ensured that the remainder of the team (**Cpls Monty Sheridan** and **Brian Mason**) enjoyed a comfortable and incident free journey the following day on a luxury jet.

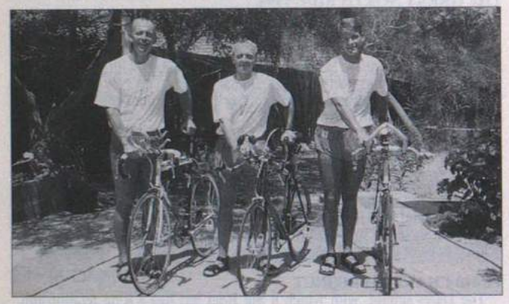
So, we were all in the same country. The race was to be held at the Cotswold Water Park, and the team was kindly accommodated by 29 Regt RLC. Two hundred entrants gathered on race morning, preparing to tackle the icy waters, made bearable by wetsuits kindly provided by The Bike Club in Larnaca.

The race was held over the Olympic Championship distance of 1500km swim; 40km cycle, and 10km run. After a murky and crowded swim, **Cpl Herd** emerged from the water in fifth position, followed by **Capt Opie** in 20 position.

Maj Robertshaw made up several positions on the cycle, which took competitors through a picturesque circuit around the Cotswolds. **Cpl Mason** would have made better time if he hadn't had to stop to complete some bike maintenance. **Cpl Sheridan** didn't make up any positions, as he had two tyre 'blow-outs' and unfortunately had to withdraw from the race.

Positions did not alter significantly throughout the 10km 'out and back' country lane run route, however, the RSM began to pay the penalty for a slight lapse in his rigorous pre-race training schedule.

Our third place in the team event was very pleasing and worth the tortuous travel arrangements. **Cpl Herd** must be complimented on his fine 7th position and **Maj Robertshaw** on winning the veterans competition. **Cpl Herd** and **Maj Robertshaw** were both selected to represent the Army in the Inter-Service competition, where **Cpl Herd** came an excellent 18th place and **Maj Robertshaw** came runner-up in the veteran competition.



(L to R): Maj Paul Robertshaw, Cpl Andy Herd, Cpl Brian Mason

The Regiment's Triathlon Team
(L to R): Cpl Monty Sheridan, WO1 (RSM) Mal Geer, Cpl Andy Herd, Cpl Brian Mason, Capt Matthew Opie, Maj Paul Robertshaw

Overall Results:

Cpl Herd	7th	2 hr 1 min 59 sec
Maj Robertshaw	45th	2 hr 16 min 4 sec
Cpl Mason	52nd	2 hr 17 min 12 sec
Capt Opie	54th	2 hr 17 min 51 sec
WO1 Geer	126th	2 hr 40 min 20 sec
Cpl Sheridan		Did not finish

DHEKELIA ONE MILE SWIM

On 26 August the annual Dhekelia One Mile Swim was held, commencing at 0630 hrs. The mass of people, both military and civilian, gathered on Dhekelia Jetty to test the sea conditions. The race catered for all ages, sex and additional categories of teams. The Regiment took part in all events proving very successful in most.

Results:

1st Junior	**Master Thomas Ball**, son of **WO2 Kev Ball RE**, youngest competitor to finish, at six years of age.
1st Family	**WO2** (we're off to Australia) **Gower** and family
1st Veteran	**Maj Paul Robertshaw**
1st Mixed Team	**Maj Paul Robertshaw** **Cpl Andy Herd** **Cpl Sue Yost**
1st Female	**Cpl Sue Yost**

Dhekelia One Mile Swim
Winning Mixed Team
(L to R): Cpls Sue Yost, Andy Herd, Maj Paul Robertshaw

EXPEDITION MAPLE RANGER
By Cpl Martin Pestell

The main aim of Expedition Maple Ranger was to trek the 75km West Coast Trail, (situated on the Pacific Coast of British Columbia). Reputedly one of the most gruelling treks in North America, as we were to discover. The expedition also offered the chance to white water raft, mountain bike, horseback ride, canoe and a brief time to sample the local brew.

'Led by **2Lt Niall Stokoe**, and supported by our JSMEL **QMSI Paul White APTC**, we made the long journey from 9 Sig Regt (R) Cyprus via Hannover to Calgary. Hosted superbly by 2 RTR and RAF aircrews en route we arrived after what seemed a lifetime of travelling at BATUS, Alberta.

Cladding ourselves sufficiently to bear the Canadian 'summer' we received a somewhat disturbing brief on the action if encountering Grizzly and Black Bear. At which point the group decided **2Lt Stokoe** should lead from the rear, coincidental of course!

A low snow-line forced our preparatory treks to change, from a stroll around a lake, to a 48km two day trek taking in Carrot Creek and Lake Minniwanka. Our handbook publicised this trek as a 'masochist's delight', much to the pleasure of **QMSI White**.

Ceaseless rainfall and crossing the Creek some 27 times by rickety log bridges and using **Cpl Angie Bellis** as a stepping stone on falling in, proved to be a physical and mental shock to many. Contouring Lake Minniwanka provided us with our first taste of the sheer beauty of the Rocky Mountains, helped by the then improving weather.

A further three day trek took us from Cascade Mountain to Elk Lake. On arrival we were met with a cold night of heavy snowfall, causing all to question the sanity in leaving a 35 degree Mediterranean Island. From Elk Lake we dropped slowly into Banff. Using our final day to climb Mt Peechee we saw abundant wildlife and untouched scenery all breathtaking, as was the gradient of the Mountain.

Our treks to this point prompted an invaluable re-think of equipment and skills required for the West Coast. Despite protest **JT Martin Davies** would, however, still carry the shovel . . . and now only taking two tents some of us would have to share with **JT Jill Lewis**! Thank goodness I was in the other tent!

Greyhound Bus, ferry and a further bus journey over two days saw us at Pachena Bay, head of the West Coast Trail. Pacific storms with torrential rain and high winds welcomed us. At which point **JT Daz Walker** thought it advisable to mention he had 'mislaid' an essential part of a tent, which he added was 'definitely' there on packing. (Fortunately the local knowledge of the Parks supervisor and the skill of a machinist prevented **Daz** getting lynched.)

Returning to camp, after refreshments that evening I could swear I saw a Black Bear scurrying from under the tent canopy. Heartbeats raced and a torchlight search confirmed 'IT' was indeed black, but only an inquisitive dog sheltering from the elements.

The Trail proper started, on a sunny Monday morn, lulling us into a false sense of security. Good progress was made over 16km before setting camp, in now pouring rain, at Tsocowis Creek.

Tuesday came and ever continuing rain, coupled with spray off the ferocious sea, dampened clothes and packs but not spirits. All felt good at crossing Nit-Nat Lake and reaching mid-way point at Cheewat River. Despondency lay around the bend, however, as we began meeting trekkers who explained the trail was officially closed. Due to the heavy rains swelling rivers to impassable levels with whole ladder systems, bridges and cable car destroyed by landslide. On setting camp **JT Will Spencer** spent the evening chanting to the Indian Gods for 'safe passage . . . and the damned rain to stop!'.

Expedition Maple Ranger
JT Vickie Shead takes the next obstacle
JT Daz Walker and JT Jill Lewis look on

We awoke Wednesday to no rain, cheers **Will**. Donning wet boots we set off only to meet further uncertainty as more returning trekkers issued warnings of nine feet swells at Walburn Creek. Disheartened, but not beaten, we continued in thick slippery mud and soft beach sand over 17km in ever improving weather to find for ourselves what awaited at Walburn.

The dry day proved to make Walburn's water level drop as quickly as it had destructively risen. The cable car was indeed unusable but with care we crossed the rocky Creek bed early evening in only knee/thigh water.

Thursday and 53km down. After the previous evening's log fire with satisfying food we attacked the day's remarkably heavy going mud, inspected 'head first' by **LCpl Greg Mulley** on many an occasion. A tiring full day's trek got us to 70km point at a picturesque Thrasher Cove. An arrowed sign pointing the way we had come was simply etched 'Hell', which **JT Vicky Shead** fully agreed with.

Friday's final 5km stretch rose some 600m, the highest point on the trail, before dropping steeply into Trails End with the weather in complete contrast to the storms previously encountered. The boat skipper took us across Port San Juan to Port Renfrew and expressed surprise as we were the only group to have completed the trail in the last eight days, adding to our satisfaction.

Rest days in Vancouver proved very enjoyable, taking in sights and Canadian culture before returning to Banff. Our final days around Banff National Park's idyllic surroundings were spent white water rafting on Kootenay River and pursuing the activities mentioned previously.

Reaching Calgary, our final night was spent in a sumptuous hotel at the airport, thanks to BATUS continuing help. It was novel to have a bed and indeed sheets, but the night's sleep refreshed us before our long journey back to Cyprus.

The sponsoring agencies and the considerable support we received prior, and throughout, the Expedition made Maple Ranger the success it was. Blisters, mosquito bites and the odd 'thrown teddy bear' were a small price for the satisfaction gained.

1 SQUADRON
COMMUNICATION TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Andy Stokoe**

Before we move on to the cut and thrust of Comms Tp life we have the joyous farewells and sad hellos (yes it's the right way around) to cover.

FAREWELLS

The Troop say a 'joyous' farewell to the following multitude, who have moved on to such exciting places as Bulford, Northern Ireland, Blandford and the rigours of civilian life: **WO1 (YofS) Sam MacElreavey, Sgt** 'Walt' **Disney** and his wife **Sandie, Sgt Elaine Musgrave, Cpl Mark** and **LCpl Lieann Andrew, Cpl Eric** (MMG) **Burns** and his wife **Sue, LCpls Ann Collins, Debbie Watts, Suzie Greenland, Sharon Speers** and **Leslie McGuffie**.

ARRIVALS

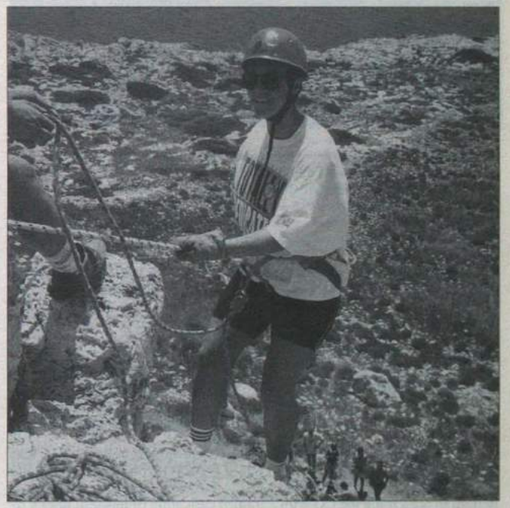
We also have a whole bunch of arrivals to welcome to the only 100% Royal Signals and 100% 'Green' Army Troop in the Regiment: **WO1 (YofS) Pete Martin** and his wife **Caroline, Sgt Dai Rennison** and his wife **Lisa, LCpls** 'Sooty' **Sutton** and his wife **Toni, Theresa James, Rod Hood** and his wife **Karen, Mick Stoneman** and his wife **Sheryl. Sig Cathy Scragg, Sig Nigel Wakely** and his wife **Janice, Sig Jimmy McLean** and his wife **Melissa** and **Sig** Scotty **Scott**.

Now for a snapshot of life in the Troop, in Cyprus, in the sun.

THE WORK ANGLE

The Tp Comd came to the conclusion that the Troop was spending too many hours locked away in the Tech Block and not getting enough sun and fun. Thus, the Inter Shift Trophy Competition was born.

It covers everything from trade skills, through BFT times and sport to a military and trade skills patrol competition.



Cpl (now Sgt) Elaine Musgrave demonstrated her posing potential on the cliffs of Cape Greco. The rest of the shift viewed this historic event from a safe distance

REST

The Troop visited Cape Greco where it was able to view Cyprus from a different height and angle, by doing a little bit of rock climbing and abseiling.

PLAY

To avoid a multitude of 'dull boys and girls' we do 'play' as well. As long as it's in our own time and not the Troop's. Here we have members of the Troop exploring the possibilities of an amphibious role, in other words the annual taking of the waters in the Dhekelia Raft Race.

13 Sig Regt (R)
BFPO 42

CO **Maj I. R. Grant**
Adjt **Capt Z. J. S. Edwards**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) H. Allison**

A much quieter period for the Regiment with the first soldiers, posted out as part of the closure, leaving for RAF Digby and destinations various. Despite the postings out, the Regiment managed to run two adventure training exercises, one in July and the other in August, both were a great success.

DEPARTURES

Among the many departures the Regiment bids a fond farewell to its CO **Lt Col Philip Rouse**. He handed over command to his 2IC **Maj Ian Grant** on 2 September and we wish **Lt Col Rouse**, his wife **Lalita** and their family every success on his posting to SHAPE.

We also say farewell to the RAOWO **WO2 (SQMS) Ian Trask** who leaves us to prepare for the sunnier climes of Riyadh where he will be arriving some time in January 1995.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate the RAO, **Capt David O'Hara** and his wife **Julie**, on the birth of their son **Jamie**. Congratulations also to **Capt Marc Edwards** of 1 Regt AAC on his recent marriage to **Capt Zoë Edwards**.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S FAREWELL

It was a damp, miserable morning on 2 September when the CO, **Lt Col Philip Rouse**, set out to say farewell to his Regiment. His farewell visit to all departments was due to start at 0900 hrs but, true to form, he had just one more small job to complete in his office before the tour could begin. In the meantime the 'wind up' continued. Various members of the Regiment had dropped subtle hints that he was going to do a complete bungee jump before being allowed to leave the barracks; in fact it was so convincing that the CO had already completed two detailed recces of the barracks, before work, to look for the crane!

Eventually, at 0945 hrs the tour commenced, the first visit being to the Operational Block, with a request for a final look in the conference room which had **Maj John Floyd** running round the Block in search of the key. It was eventually located and the CO, with a tear in his eye, had a last sit in his chair and a final look round.

After much prompting from the RSM, the CO suddenly realised he was running late and he took off at a sprint for his next port of call, catching the RSM and **SSgt Taff Gillespie**, the photographer, completely by surprise.

A visit to the cookhouse and a quick chat to the Chefs was followed by a high speed march to the Regimental MT where **Sgt David Copley**, the MT Sergeant, was interrogated at length about the location of the crane for the bungee jump!

From the MT the CO insisted that the Guardroom was the next port of call. However, he walked straight past the Guardroom muttering something about not trusting anyone and wanting to have a look down the road for the crane. At this point the RSM assured the CO that the crane was in fact up on the sports fields because a grass landing would be softer should anything go wrong with the bungee.

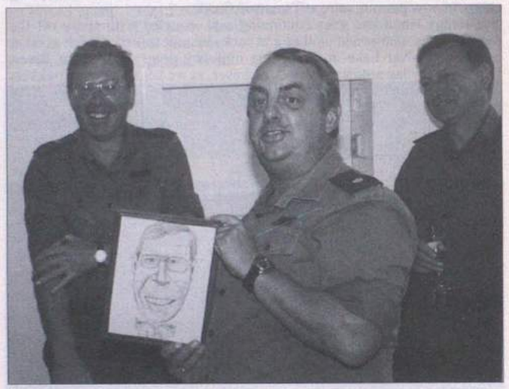
From the Guardroom the CO and his party made their way to the Quartermaster's department and the SSO's office. At the same time the Regiment were busily making their way towards the sports fields, all talking about the crane and the bungee jump, much to the dismay of the CO.

After a lengthy discussion on the future of the quarters and the Barracks the RSM managed to prise the CO out of the SSO's office and into RHQ where a small reception was held to say farewell. **Maj Ian Grant** took delight in presenting the CO with a framed caricature of himself, drawn by **Cpl Steve Christopher**.

At the appointed moment the CO was ushered out of RHQ and on to his 'chariot' festooned with memorabilia of various events during his time with the Regiment. The most poignant being the rolling screen behind him, depicting the amount of curry we were served during our Regimental Weekend farewell celebrations, Ex Mercury Sunset, or More Curry Sunset as it was better known. An exercise the CO will long be remembered for, which developed after an idea the CO had and the following conversation with the RSM.

CO 'RSM, we are disbanding the Regiment in about 18 months, I think we ought to have a bit of a parade to mark the occasion'.
RSM 'Excellent idea, Sir, I can organise that'.
CO 'I think we'll march through the town RSM . . .'.
RSM 'No Problem Sir'.

CO '. . . carrying weapons with bayonets fixed, flags flying . . . and we'll have the Corps Band with trumpets blowing and drums banging . . .'
RSM 'OK, Sir'.
CO 'Could we ask the White Helmets to come along too!'
RSM 'Really!'
CO 'Not to parade RSM, but to give a display . . . we could ask the Blue Helmets as well . . .'
RSM 'Oh!'
CO '. . . and we could invite past members of the Regiment to come along . . . we could have a Drumhead Service to . . . in fact RSM, we could make a weekend of it . . . what a marvellous idea!'
RSM . . . Fainted.



Maj Ian Grant presenting Lt Col Philip Rouse with a caricature of himself drawn by Cpl Steve Christopher

The CO on his memorabilia-festooned chariot

Having recounted the conversation, the Regimental SNCOs then gathered round the chariot and proceeded to tow it in the direction of the sports field with the remainder of the Regiment lining the route. By this time the CO was becoming extremely agitated at the thought of having to complete the dreaded bungee jump.

When the sports field was reached, the CO breathed a sigh of relief because the crane was nowhere in sight. Then the sound of a siren was heard and **Maj Ian Grant** assured the CO that it was the ambulance that had to be there for the bungee jump. The CO's reply is unprintable!

As the siren approached the CO became more and more restless but soon relaxed when a fire engine appeared and he was invited to climb aboard to be driven slowly to the Barrack gates while the Regiment lined the route for the final salute.

The Barrack gates were reached, the CO dismounted, shook a few hands and departed, too emotional to speak.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj I. L. Dudding**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) B. J. Alexander**

DEPARTURES

As with the rest of the Regiment, HQ Sqn saw many of its members depart over the last few months. We say a fond farewell to the following:

Capts Martin Corcoran and **Dave Chrystal, WO2 John Hallissey, Sgts Jock Robertson, Phil McSorley, Sue King, Ian Burton** and **Andy Burns, Cpls Geordie Eastick, Baz Berry** and **Yvonne Harland, LCpls** 'Toddie' **Todd** and **Paul King, Ptes Tracey Dewey, Leyton Allan, Darrell Owen, Michael Gray, Micky Farrell** and **Mac McAlwane, Sigs Glyn Bass** and **Emma Robertson**.

ONE SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj J. A. B. Floyd**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) D. I. R. Murray**

ARRIVALS

The Squadron extends a warm welcome to **Sgt Widd** RAF who joins us on a short attachment from RAF Digby.

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd **WO2 Small**

This has been a very quiet period due to the closedown of the Regiment and all the postings that are taking place now. We say a fond farewell to the following people all posted to RAF Digby. **Sgt Sav Phillips** and **Jeanette, Sgt Joseph Gilmartin, LCpls Steve Fenwick, Shane Hodgson, Steve Bowes, Keith Richards** and **JTs Garry Adamson** and **Jon Surtees**. We wish them all the best in a tri-Service environment.

Despite all this sports continue. **JTs Rose Proctor** and **Jon Surtees** represented the RAF at rowing and **Sgt Chris Gibbins** was selected to play cricket for the Corps.

BRAVO TROOP

Tp Comd **WO2 Ashwell**

The Troop has had a busy time over the last few weeks and due to the move to Digby the Troop manning level has dropped drastically. In early August some of the more robust members of the Troop went on a parachute course organised by **Sgt Roy** 'Para' **Poulton**, there were no broken bones and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Look out 216!

Recent departures to Digby include **LCpl Kev Dingsdale**, (found any mountains yet?) and **LCpl Martin Barker** who arrives there after his upgrading at Loughborough. We extend our warmest wishes to **LCpl Brian Lamb** and **LCpl Nikkie Holland** on their recent betrothal, the present is in the post. We also send out congratulations to **LCpl Dave Janvier** and his wife **Sue** on the recent addition to their family. Recent promotions to Sergeant were **LCpl Loz Hil** who goes to 255 Sig Sqn and **Cpl** 'Widdie' **Widdicombe** who departed to Comms and Sy Gp (UK). Well done lads. We also say a fond farewell to our Tp Comd **WO2 Paul Meadows** and wish him well at Digby and to **SSgt** Taff **Gillespie** who leaves for Digby via Bosnia.

The remaining Troop members hope everyone has a good tour but the lads are wondering when they are going to see their satellite dish again Q?

CHARLIE TROOP

Tp Comd **WO2 Small**

During the past two months the Troop has said a couple of 'hellos' but rather more goodbyes, as the Regiment is closing down and we are being sent our separate ways. So firstly we welcome on to our Troop **Cpl** 'R2' **Williamson** who joins us from A Tp, and **LCpl** 'Dobbin' **Troth** who rejoins us after his detachment to NI, may your 'tour' with us be a pleasant (although short) one.

Fond farewells go to **SSgt** 'Track' **Trethewey, Sgt** 'Gogsy' **Burns, Cpl** 'Trigger' **Brown**, and **LCpls Richie Glass, Clare** 'Missy' **Haynes**, 'Oz' **Osbaldestin, Dickie Pearce, Ady Raine** and **Zoe Wainwright**, who are all off to work alongside our comrades in blue at RAF Digby. Speaking of 'the lads in blue', we also say farewell to **JTs** 'Tic Tac' **Storey, Richie Weeks** and **Louisa Weeks** who are also 'flying' back to the nest at RAF Digby.

Congratulations go to **SSgt** 'Track' **Trethewey** and his wife **Alison** on the birth of their daughter **Megan, Sgt Andy Jensen** (at present on his course) and his wife **Jeanette** on the birth of their daughter **Jasmine**. Also congratulations to **LCpl** 'Mitch' **Mitchell** on his recent engagement to **JT Paula Mansell**, and finally to **LCpls Billy Wardrope** and **Tracy Phillips** on their forthcoming wedding. We wish them all the best for the future.

DELTA TROOP

Tp Comd **WO2 Ashwell**

Delta Tp have had an interesting and busy last six weeks as the Squadron draws ever nearer to close down. Nevertheless the Troop has managed to remain active.

On the sporting front **WO2 Andy Ashwell, Cpl Paul Coop** and **LCpl** Dinga **Bell** were selected to represent the Corps at Golf. **JTW Paula Mansell** was selected to represent the RAF in a UK select rowing competition and **Cpl** 'Chopper' **Christopher** represented the unit in the UK orienteering championships.

During this period it has been a time of sadness as people are going their separate ways but one bright spot has been the marriage of **LCpl Jay Aldred** to his long-term fiancee **Helena Lowe**. We wish them good luck and happiness for the future.

One new arrival to the Troop is **Sgt Trev Prosser** who joins us on successful completion of his RSSC, congratulations and welcome. Leaving us for pastures new we must sadly say farewell to the following: **Cpl** and **Mrs Steve Thomas** who are leaving the Army for civvy street, **Cpl Paul Coop, LCpl** and **Mrs Lenny Lenton, LCpl Al Roscoe** and **LCpl Ian Potton** who are all going to RAF Digby.

The Pagoda Backstop team from top left were: Lt Ashley Hayden, Cpl Graeme Dixon, JT Simon Dodsworth, SSgt Mark Ewart, Lt Angus Small (I/C), JT Paula Mansell, LCpls Julie Lesurf, Ed Dickson and Phil Unsworth

EXERCISE PAGODA BACKSTOP

11 July saw the beginning of Ex Pagoda Backstop as nine intrepid explorers gathered at Heathrow for the Regiment's last major expedition. Everyone was in high spirits as we were heading off to exotic Thailand. Two days later we arrived in Bangkok after an 'interesting' flight with Bangladeshi airlines.

Our aim was to head north to Chiang Mai for 10 days hard trekking in the hills. So, after an entertaining evening in Bangkok we went north. In Chiang Mai we discovered that our hopes of finding suitable maps were to be shattered. So we engaged the services of two local guides.

We planned to cover 110 miles in 10 days rounding off with the ascent of Mt Doi Inthanon, Thailand's highest peak. The nature of the trekking was very hard and we spent most of our time slogging up and down steep muddy paths. If it wasn't up and down then it was crossing paddy fields or rivers. Apart from the annoyance of leeches, this made sure that we stayed wet through nearly all the time. We overnighted in local hill-tribe village huts. The accommodation was basic, but at least it provided a roof over our heads out of the rain.

Sadly, after the fifth day the team had to send back four of the party to Chiang Mai due to various medical complaints that couldn't be treated in the jungle. They rejoined the party on the last day for the final slog to the top of Mt Doi Inthanon (2595m).

The hard work over it was back to Chiang Mai to start R&R. Our first port of call was Kanchanaburi to visit the sight of the bridge over the river Kwai. It was an unforgettable experience to visit the scene where so many POWs had toiled to build the Burma-Siam railway. From there we headed off to the paradise island of Kho-Samet to recover from our adventures and soak up the sun. Too soon, it was time to return to Birgelen and reality. All said the expedition was a great success taking in a diverse and interesting country. A never to be forgotten experience.

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 36

CHANGE OF COMMAND

In August **Lt Col Nigel Hope** handed over command of the Regiment to **Lt Col Tony Russ**. We wish **Lt Col Hope** every success in his new appointment within Comms Branch at JHQ Salisbury. Our best wishes also to **Diane**. We welcome **Lt Col Russ** and **Sue** to the Regiment and hope that they will have an enjoyable tour.

CHANGE OF LOCATION

Most readers will now be aware that the Regiment has been formally warned that it is to re-locate from Germany to the UK. For many reasons RAF Brawdy in South Wales, has been chosen as our new home and the Squadrons of the Regiment currently based in Germany will move there by March 1996. Our UK based Squadron, 237 Sig Sqn, will move from Hullavington to Brawdy to join the Regiment later in 1996.

This move, along with our current heavy operational commitments, the introduction and bringing into service of our new automated EW equipment and vehicles (VIXEN) and our many and varied exercises all aim to make 1995 a very busy year.

226 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Don Macaulay**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Martin Waclawek**

SHQ TROOP

We welcome our new Sqn 2IC **Capt Guy Bennett** (to the cheers of the Sqn Comd, who claims to have been busy!) from 280 Sig Sqn–is the 'airborne' element about to take over? Welcome also to **LCpl Paul Postance** from 21 Sig Regt (AS). A sad farewell to **LCpl** 'Bulldog' **Sharp** (a sad loss to the boxing community) and family; we wish them all the best in Bassingbourn. Our best wishes go to **Cpl Daz Collins** who is supporting the Romeo Tp deployment to Bosnia.

C (COMMS) TROOP

Tp Comd — **SSgt Danny Thornton**

Another busy period for the Troop, involved in nearly every exercise in BFG: Ex Marne Battle, Ex Whale Hunt 3/94, Ex Rhino Charge 3 and Ex Woodland Flight, to name but a few (and still searching for more!).

There have been many comings and goings recently. We must bid a sad farewell to ace all-rounder **Cpl Chris Mulligan** who is off to ATR Bassingbourn. 2 Sig Regt has claimed **Sigs Woosnam**, 'Robert Redford' **Southwood**, 'Smudge' **Smith** and last but not least **Sig John Crutchley** on short notice postings. We say hello to **LCpl Paul Rowson** fresh from 2 Sig Regt York, **LCpl Peter Allan** from 21 Sig Regt (AS) and **Sigs Simon Chaffer, Andy Jones, Matthew Shaw** and **John Devine** all from the 'factory'–we hope you enjoy your stay with us.

Finally a big congratulations to **Emma** and **Sig Andy Leach** on the arrival of their baby son, **Mason**.

R (ROMEO) TROOP

Tp Comd — **2Lt Jane Appleby**

Sadly we must say farewell 'in absentia' to **Capt Sharon Moffat** who will return from her roulement in November to a post in the Regiment Ops. Farewells also go to **Sgt** 'Wodge' **Howard** and his wife **Tracey**, off to 399 SU (AE) RAF Digby, and to **LCpl Pete Lewis** and his wife **Sandra** off to 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. Hello to the new arrivals **Cpls** 'Foggy' **Forshaw** and **Dave Whitehead**.

The Troop has been very busy over the last month, preparing two detachments to fulfil a commitment in Bosnia. On that note, we would like to wish **Sgts Al Sutherland** and **John Winn** (who thought he had escaped from the Squadron), and **Cpls** 'Robbo' **Robson** and **Steve Garner** all the best during their time over there.

H (HF) TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Ros Artley**

We say goodbye to **LCpl Rod Ashley** off on his upgrading and posting to 399 SU (AE) RAF Digby, **LCpl Eddie Timms** to 30 Sig Regt (congrats on your recent marriage), **Sig** 'OB' **O'Brien** to HQNI, **Cpl Andy Gill** and his wife **Mandy** to 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (218) and finally, **Cpl** 'Snakey' **Sheldon** and **LCpl Fergie Mathias** starting a new life in Civ Div.

Welcomes go to **Cpl** 'Ginge' **Hall** from Cyprus and to **Sigs Ryan Porter** and **Barry Still**.

A quick mention for our lads on detachments; **LCpl** 'Hux' **Huxley** in the Falklands, **Cpl Nige Francis, LCpls Teck** and Lewi **Lewis** in NI and **LCpls Mary Nurding** and **Mersom** in Bosnia. All miles away but not forgotten–you all owe Troop funds!

INTER-TROOP SPORTS

A major event was the inter-Troop sports afternoon held on Wednesday 24 September. The competition consisted of six-a-side football and volleyball round-robins played on a fine afternoon. After many hard fought matches four of the 12 teams made it to the two finals.

Volleyball saw Hotel 2 v Hotel 3 fighting it out for the honours. Hotel 3 dominated throughout, and helped by **LCpl** 'Fingers' **Mattacola** and 'Oops' **Anderson** on the other side, took the trophy. The victory was punctuated by some fine point scoring from the CO, **Lt Col Russ, Cpl Chris Cole, LCpl** 'Mine' **Randle**.

On the football field, H Tp's supremacy was challenged by Comms 1 in the final. After five minutes, Comms was reduced to five men while their goalkeeper brought down goalbound **Cpl Al Elderbrant**. Despite several chances, the only goal in the second half was late when **Cpl Al Elderbrant** connected with an excellent cross from **LCpl Danny Clayton**. Hotel Tp had made a clean sweep in both events–better luck next time Romeo, Comms and SHQ.

BISCHOFSZELL MILITARY PATROL COMPETITION 94

The Bischofszell Military Patrol competition took place on Saturday 27 August at Bischofszell, in north east Switzerland. The competition is an annual event organised by the Swiss to test the military skills of the Swiss Militia Officers and soldiers. Foreign teams are invited to attend, and teams from UK, USA, Germany and Italy took part this year.

The 226 Sig Sqn team was found from Comms Tp, and consisted of **Sgt** 'JJ' **Johnston** patrol commander, **Cpl Jase Meek** and **Sig** 'Robbo' **Robson**.

The competition consisted of eight stands in a 14km patrol route, carrying two Swiss army rifles (pre World War 1!?). The stands tested a number of military skills. The patrol's judging distances was a little weak. On the First Aid and Casualty Evacuation top marks were gained for First Aid, but a poor DS briefing resulted in points lost on the evacuation. White water rafting in a three man inflatable dingy was mastered, thanks to a good effort by the team and **Sig Robson** who was supposed to be steering. A sprint up 1.5km of the north face of the Eiger was completed in 13 minutes of hard graft. Only two of the total of 30 shots were dropped in the Biathlon. The team surprised itself with a high score in Aircraft and AFV recognition. An above average score was gained for throwing 12 simulated handgrenades at nominated targets. In the 'Surprise Stand' the team was faced by tossing the caber, horseshoe throwing and a laser rifle shoot; points were pulled back on the last part countering the Americans high scoring on the horseshoes.

The team finished 20th in a field of 83 foreign teams with a score of 189 points–not bad on the limited training time available. All are looking forward to heading back next year!

245 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Phil Osment**

We say a fond farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Alan** 'Dicky' **Bird** who we feel sure will make a great impact at 16 Sig Regt.

He will be remembered for his excellent contribution to Regimental athletics, in particular coaching the women's team which went on to win the BAOR championships. He was also instrumental in collecting food for Bosnian children and organising Ex Mouflon Marauder, which incorporated the SSM's going away drinks!

We wish you, your wife and daughter, **Karen** and **Sarah** all the very best for the future.

A very warm welcome back to **WO2 (SSM) Clive Sear** from his short spell at 13 Sig Regt (R).

YOUNG OFFICER ATTACHMENT
By 2Lt Ronnie Launders

I arrived fresh, green and keen from Sandhurst to join Comms Tp of 226 Sig Sqn for a nine week attachment. The attachment was designed to give me background knowledge and experience of a typical Signal's unit (hence 14 Sig Regt (EW)!). I encountered the full rich variety of Regimental life and even learnt something about EW. I worked with the Americans twice, in Bavaria for Ex Marne Battle II (with 245 Sig Sqn) and on Ex White Lightning (with H Tp). I also saw Romeo Tp in action in Holland on Ex Whale Hunt 3. While I wasn't on exercises or being briefed by the Squadron and Regiment's key personalities, I was introduced to the intricacies of running an effective and happy Troop by **SSgt Thornton**, Tp Comd, and **Sgt Johnston**, C Tp Sgt. Suitably enthused I now go to Blandford and back to the classroom for the Troop Commanders Course.

16 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 140

VISIT OF THE MASTER OF SIGNALS

A busy day began with **Maj. Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL** arriving at RHQ at 0900 hrs. Accompanied by **Mrs Birtwistle** the Master was welcomed by the CO **Lt Col N. F. Fisher**, the Adjt **Capt D. G. Robson** and the **WO1 (RSM) S. Toms**. Following a complete brief by the CO on the Regiment's ORBAT and role **Mrs Birtwistle** then began her separate programme which included shopping at the Regiment's PRI Bradbury Shop as well as in local towns and a ladies lunch with some of the Regiment's wives, whilst the Master began his tour.

His first hour was spent in RHQ where he visited the Ops Cell and was given a brief though thorough insight into the Regiment's immediate exercise commitments by **Capt I. Parry**, the Ops Officer. The Master moved swiftly around the various offices in RHQ including a visit to the Historical Room which, unique to 16 Sig Regt is a living museum of artifacts, and chronicles the history of the Regiment from the Normandy Landings. Departing RHQ a photo opportunity was called for to include all personnel working in the 'Hub' of the Regiment and the Master of Signals.

A short walk brought the Master to SHQ, 252 Sig Sqn. Greeted by the Sqn Comd, **Maj T. Lomax**, he was introduced to the 2IC **Capt Steve Williamson**, and the acting SSM **SSgt (SSM) Keith Dwyer**. He also met the clerical staff **Pte Clark** (the clerk), and **Tracey** the typist, and was given a brief outline on the role and make-up of the Squadron before his departure to the Commcen where he was met by the Comms Tp Comd, **Capt Ken Graham**. Here the Master unveiled a plaque to commemorate his visit and his formal opening of the refurbished Traffic Hall. Having signed the Commcen visitors book he then met and chatted with all of the operators which included in-depth discussions with **Sig Vickey Fielder** on her swimming prowess, and **Sig Maria McDonagh** on her athletics accomplishments.

From the Commcen he then went on to Systems Tp where he met **Maj Dick Offord MBE** who informed him of the changing role of the Troop and introduced **SSgt (FofS) Neil Taylor, Sgts Dave Martin, Rolf Bruinsma** and **Cpl** Taff **Nicolls** who were manning the newly created Strategic SEP. The Ops Officer outlined the new role of the Troop which was to offer fixed communications users in Germany a one-stop fault reporting centre for as many services as possible.

Leaving Strategic SEP behind the Master of Signals was shown to Ptarmigan Tp where he was welcomed by **Maj Bill Ritchie** Sqn Comd, 253 Sig Sqn, and Ptarmigan Tp Comd, **WO1 (FofS) Tony Mullen**. Generously he took the time to promote **LCpls Pete Eden, Simon Farrar** and **Eddie Clay** to Corporal.

LCpl Pete Eden receives his promotion from the Master

Already it was 1200 hours and so time to move to the Sergeants' Mess. The Master was greeted by the PMC **WO2 (RQMS) Paul Stevenson**. Welcoming him to their Mess, the Master was introduced to many personalities including **WO2 (YofS) Brendan Kelly**, and 255 Sig Sqn WOs and SNCOs who had returned from deployment in the field. The Master enjoyed the insight given to him by the seniors. Completing his lunch, the Master departed for the nearby field location where 255 Sig Sqn were deployed. At the RV the Master met the acting Sqn Comd **Capt Dave Bizley** and **WO2 (SSM)** Dickie **Bird**. Travelling by rover the convoy moved from the RV to RSC Fwd, manned by Hotel Tp, representing a Rail Head Deployment. The Master was shown all the assets of this HQ by **SSgt Chris Holmes**.

Another brief walk brought the party to Foxtrot Tp, and then onwards to Golf Tp. **Lt Andy Harrison** guided the Master around the MAN HQ, introducing his soldiers to an ever interested **Maj Gen Birtwistle**. After finally being shown the HQ Staff Cells the party took position on a higher vantage spot and viewed the Troops of the MAN repelling a so-called Guerilla attack using the SAWES (Small Arms Weapon Effects Simulator).

The schedule being tight, it was then time to depart from the field location for Krefeld Lines back at JHQ. Upon arrival at the QMs, the Master of Signals was greeted and guided around the lines by **Maj Ken Clark**. Visiting the QMs Dept was followed by a tour of the RSSST offices, and a demo of bulk refuelling from an original idea of **Sgt Dave Hughes** and **LCpl Mark Bissett** (REME). He then took a look at the Bradbury Shop facilities. At last the Master of Signals would have a short time 'off duty' before beginning the evening's activities.

The Master meets *(L to R)*: SSgt Chris Holmes, Cpl Wayne Ballard, Sigs Jock Steer and Charlie Chester

A busy and well attended Regimental Cocktail Party began that evening at 1800 hours. The CO hosted many people, including **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Birtwistle, Maj Gen S. C. Grant**, Comd UKSC(G), **Brig A. J. Raper MBE**, Comd Comms UKSC(G). The Reaction Forces Mess was a busy place. Drawing to a close, those attending the Regimental Supper took their seats and an appropriate ending came to bear on the day's events. The Regiment had spent a thoroughly enjoyable (not to say busy) day with the Master and **Mrs Birtwistle** but eventually had to say farewell, with all ranks looking forward eagerly to the next visit to the Regiment.

LEICESTER TROPHY SWIMMING

The Leicester Trophy Swimming took place on 27 September in the Blue Pool Rheindahlen. The weather held and the heating had been turned on for the event!

Mr Starter, **WO2 Tug Wilson**, got the competition under way with the 50m Freestyle which produced a sub 30 seconds for **Sgt Andy Roberts** which keeps his season's performance intact. A notable second place was clinched by **Sig Mal Connop** for Golf Tp who I am sure will be looking forward to swimming for the Regiment next year.

The second event–50m Breaststroke was Echo Tp's (Line Tp) finest 40 seconds, **LCpl** 'Tomo' **Thompson** taking first place. The 50m Backstroke produced a comfortable win for Foxtrot Tp's **Sgt Mal Pavier**; however I suspect the contented smile was because he had managed to avoid doing the butterfly for once!

Next came the 100m Freestyle which found **Cpl Lee Crossland** of Foxtrot Tp and **Sgt Bruce Ibbotson** of 253 Sig Sqn battling for first place, four tenths of a second was good enough to secure Foxtrot Tp's third win of the day. The 100m Breaststoke was an easy win for Foxtrot Tp's **Sig Mark Ellis** but **Sig Collette Hoyle**'s second place (by 9/100ths of a second) left Echo Tp Comd **2Lt Paul Griffiths** 'gutted'. The last individual event of the day was the 50m Butterfly won by **Sig Tracey Wheatley** for Hotel Tp with second place going to 253 Sig Sqn's **Cpl Vicky Adamson**.

The depth and strength of Foxtrot Tp was evident by winning all the relay events. The Medley relay butterfly leg had **Sig Tracey Wheatley** (combined services swimmer) proving that trailing by 15m doesn't present a problem even if the fiance **Cpl Lee Punyer** was the opposition. The boat race produced Echo Tp's strongest team, the two canoes and paddle totally confused them! The object of the relay was to have one person holding both canoes together, preferably by kneeling in the cockpits and another standing on the back of the canoes and paddling; so much for the theory! Suffice to say with great amusement accompanied by chants of Hawaii-5-0 all teams managed to complete the course.

The final race was the Chain-of-Command which had the CO swimming for Hotel Tp, the Adjutant (knowing he's on to a good thing) swimming for Foxtrot Tp and **Capt Graham Douglas** heading 253 Sig Sqn. The Adjutant cruised in to first place with a notable second place by the CO–cries of 'after you Sir' are totally untrue! After a very enjoyable event the CO presented prizes to the winners, Foxtrot Tp.

Foxtrot Tp, the winning team

FINAL PLACINGS

1. Foxtrot Tp	130 pts
2. Golf Tp	100 pts
3. 253 Sig Sqn	98 pts
4. Hotel Tp	75 pts
5. 252 Sig Sqn 'A'	65 pts
6. 252 Sig Sqn 'B'	59 pts
7. Echo Tp	48 pts

LEICESTER TROPHY CRICKET

The cricket season for the Regiment was brought to a close on Friday 2 September, with the Leicester Trophy Inter-Troop Cricket Competition. The matches took place at the RAF pitch Rheindahlen and took the form of two leagues, with the runners-up and winners of each league going through to the semi-finals.

The day started on a cold morning, there was dew on the ground which caused problems early on for the bowlers and fielders, the pitch being slippery underfoot. Although it did cause a few laughs as players struggled to keep their footing.

The two leagues had been completed by lunchtime, with Foxtrot Tp captained by **Sgt Ritchie Matless** amd Ptarmigan Tp captained by **WO1 (FofS) Tony Mullen** winning each of their leagues, and both looking favourites to reach the final.

The semi-finals were due to start after lunch, but due to a heavy downpour was delayed for half an hour. As soon as the sun came out the semi-finals were underway with Foxtrot Tp playing 252 Sig Sqn, and Hotel Tp playing Ptarmigan Tp. After disappointing performances by both Hotel and Foxtrot Tps the final was set for a rematch between 252 Sig Sqn and Ptarmigan Tp who had already played each other in the league with Ptarmigan Tp coming out winners, so 252 were set for revenge.

2IC Regt (Maj T. Bryning) presenting the Leicester Trophy inter-Troop Cricket Cup to Sgt Paul Youd

The final lived up to expectations with Ptarmigan Tp setting a total of 64 runs after six overs to win. With team captain **Sgt Coffin** giving endless encouragement to his bowlers they set out to get an early breakthrough. This came in the second over when **Sgt** 'Dime Bar' **Youd** hit a fierce square cut which was superbly caught by **WO1 (FofS) Tony Mullen**, and shortly after when **Cpl Howley** was out for a duck.

Ptarmigan Tp was now clearly on top and looking clear favourites to win. Next in to bat, **SSgt** 'Enoch' **Powell** who, after a few balls, began to take a grip of the game, hitting the ball all over the ground. The overs were running out, but the game started to swing towards 252 Sig Sqn, eventually proving too strong for the opposition **SSgt** 'Enoch' **Powell** hit the winning run ending on 42, not out. Congratulations to the 252 Sig Sqn team (who said it was an Inter Troop competition?), and many thanks to the organiser **Sgt Ritchie Matless** for a very enjoyable day.

252 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj A. P. Lomax**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) A. Fullwood**

SHQ is now in the midst of supporting a busy exercise period, though it's with a heavy heart that we have to say a fond farewell to the Sqn Comd, **Maj Tony Lomax** who, by the time everyone reads this, will be enjoying his new job with the TA in Belfast. So from all ranks in the Squadron–thanks for all the hard work and we would like to wish you, **Edna** and the family all the best in your new tour.

COMMS TROOP

Tp Comd — **Capt K. Graham**

Life in Comms Tp whilst revolving mainly around the commcen, still appears to move at a hectic pace. Having said goodbye to the old management team; **Capt Ian Parry** to Ops, **WO2 (YofS) Bill Jackson** to the BBGT at Catterick, **SSgt Nick Bahado** to 7 Sig Regt and **Sgt Anthea Jeffries** to sunny Penny Pot Lane. We not only welcomed in the new Tp Comd and CDSO but also two large lorry loads of new furniture, which once put together (by Mr MFI himself **Cpl Al Harris**) has finally brought the appearance of the Traffic Hall into the 20th century. That aside, we also have to say goodbye to **Sgts Karen Turner, Marianne Zaar** and **LCpl Rachel Cavanagh** to UKSC(G), SHAPE and Bulford respectively. Fortunately someone up above must be looking down on us as we have just posted in a whole batch of operators (including a leader!) so we're pleased to say hello to **Sgt Jane Marsden, Cpls Sue Cox, Trudy Yule** and **Caroline Walker, LCpl Joe Telford, Sigs Ian Howard, Rachel Gay, Leanne Peddie, Sandy Jennings, Helen Hepburn, Jenny Hopwood, Paddy Lucas, Kerry Rawlings** and **Steve Reynolds**; welcome aboard.

253 SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj W. Ritchie**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) P. J. Ramsey**

Time has marched on as has the Squadron which has just completed its move to Herford, residing in Hammersmith Barracks. Our long affiliation with Ripon Barracks came to an end when the switches to the exchange were thrown on 8 September, the Commcen had closed several weeks earlier. Our thanks go to **Margaret** who had worked at the exchange for 22 years having been the supervisor for the last 17 years, her friendly and attentive voice would no longer be heard giving way to automation and the loss of a personal touch. Those of us now rubbing shoulders with 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, are finding the 'natives' friendly and making us welcome, with an understanding and acceptance of our loyalties to the Regiment in Rheindahlen.

Despite the upheaval, the Squadron has continued to participate and perform well in Regimental activities including sport. The recent Boxing Competition saw our team win four of the eight bouts thanks to the efforts of **LCpl Stevens, Sigs Black, Morley** and **Parkinson**–well done, with our thanks also to **Sigs** Fighting **Blair** and Thud **Ritchie** for giving of their best.

Finally fond farewells go to **WO1 Willie Dott** on commissioning (but staying in the Regiment) and **SSgts Frampton, Piper** and **SSgts Miller** and **Robinson** who have all moved to pastures new, and welcome to **Sgts Howard** and **Hughes** both recently arrived.

If you are serving and have a standing order for *THE WIRE* please keep us well informed in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders and your 'Wire' will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.

30 Sig Regt Bramcote

256 SIGNAL SQUADRON

256 Sig Sqn has once again been trying to prove its reputation as the 'jet setting Swan Squadron'. Squadron members had to cope with the hardships of Ex United Mercury (Trinidad and Jamaica); it is tough gazing at all those beaches. The end of July saw various Squadron elements deploy on Op Gabriel (Rwanda). This left the 'Aussie' exchange officer as Sqn Comd for a few days.

There was a 501 deployment on Ex Able Fast to Shape HQ in Belgium (particularly arduous for the lads staying in a four star hotel). A 522 was deployed to Canada for Ex Dog Bite and the biggest and most exciting deployment was Ex Sylvan Dawn. This involved moving several Squadron elements from Hangar 3 to Hangar 4 at Bramcote. No doubt 256 Sig Sqn shall go in the next couple of months to prove itself once again as the 'jet setting Swan Squadron'.

YORKSHIRE NORTH AND WEST ARMY CADET FORCE ANNUAL CAMP AT WARCOP
by **Sig Harding, A Tp**

After being invited to Yorkshire North and West Annual Cadet Force Camp at Warcop, the Squadron released me, for the fortnight. I arrived on 26 July to help with the advance party. The first couple of days consisted of moving vehicles, sorting out the bedding and admin ready for the onslaught of the juvenile hoards that would be arriving shortly. The masses descended into the usual chaos. After the initial pandemonium the cadets went to their respective Companys and Cadres to start the camp. The cadets undertook various activities ranging from basic recruit training and adventurous training expeditions to the Signals Cadre. This was where I was involved. The Signals Cadre lasted for six days and consisted of basic voice procedure, mast erection, line laying, and a brief history of Royal Signals. At the end of the six days they were set a practical and theory test.

The course started with a basic introduction to communications security, then moved on to basic voice procedure before being let loose on the PRC 349s. At this stage they also started to cover line laying and the duties of a lineman, by now they were halfway through the week. The rest of the time was spent fine tuning with a bit of Corps history included in the overall syllabus!

By test day the cadets were extremely nervous and worried, and extremely concerned about the final result. Many wanted to learn more and were very interested in communications, especially operating.

On the last day they held a small Awards Ceremony, where they received certificates. For me it was back to square one, teaching a new batch of cadets. The cadets usually worked about a 10-11 hour day, before congregating at the local nightspot, well the NAAFI. Most of the instructors give up their holidays from work to attend this camp, with a lot of dedication and enthusiasm. They are aided by a small contingent of attached personnel consisting of TA, Light Infantry, RLC and R Signals from 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt, 2 Sig Regt and myself from 30 Sig Regt.

I found working with the ACF a very rewarding challenge. Although daunting and trying at times, the efforts and results were, to say the least, fun.

OPERATION GRAPPLE

As the members of Op Grapple 4 settle into the routine of life in Bosnia the members of Stratcom Tp, Britfor Sig Sqn continue to provide UK Strategic and in-theatre satellite communications. The usual roulement of Troops from the Regiment continues with the new Regimental YofS, **WOI (YofS) Prince** deploying after only a month in his new post; we wish him every success during his time with the Regiment and particularly whilst on operations.

Our thanks go to all those members of the Regiment who have finished their tours: the first Op Hamden crew ably led by **Sgt Pete Van den Broek** with technical assistance from **Sgt Don Anderson** and a motley crew of operators who will be more than happy if they do not see another UN fax machine for the rest of their careers. **SSgt (YofS) Geoff Love**'s sense of humour within the dark depths of comms ops will be sadly missed but the Regimental YofS seems to be making a valiant attempt to keep the comms ops crew smiling **SSgt (FofS) Steve Wardle** has a permanent smile on his face as he nears the end of his six month tour, maybe he should be gritting his teeth for his return to the Regiment and a move to TM Tp! Finally, the Troop would like to congratulate **Sig Matt Childs** and his wife **Sam** on the birth of their baby daughter.

Several changes to some of the dets locations, in some cases these have been more dramatic than others. Firstly, **Cpl Kev Cooney** and **LCpl Cliff Lawrie** have taken on additional comms links from Gornji Vakuf to Bugojno and the location on the far side of the town. The extra links are certainly keeping **Cpl Kev Lumley** and, newly arrived (on his second tour). **Cpl Dave Street** very busy with all the additional technical maintenance. Eventually, **Cpl Simone Rouse** managed to move the Vitez detachment out of the rather spartan surroundings of two ISO containers into the 'luxury' of the main building in the Vitez school. The most monumental move of all took place at the end of June with the 501 located at Bugojno moving into the besieged Muslim enclave of Gorazde. After getting on and off the bus for over a month the det: **Cpl Col Richarson, LCpl** Gaz **Dutton, Sigs Norman, Conley**, 'Scouse' **Lloyd** and **Bom**, accompanied by the Tp Comd and **Sgt Greenwood** finally managed to clear all the checkpoints and set up in their new home with the Headquarters of BritBat 2. The only problem now seems to be fax paper! That det appears to do whatever it can to get out of working full time; including making feeble excuses like 'we're running out of fuel, we'll have to go on to part time working'.

As can be seen life is still reasonably exciting, but there are enough opportunities for some to make their names away from communications. In a recently held biathlon comprising of a 500m swim, 10km run and finishing with another swim this time covering 300m the Troop achieved a notable result in the women's pairs event with **LCpl Donna Nevens** (the runner) and **LCpl Sara Scott** (the swimmer) carrying off the winner's medals. Obviously acquiring a taste for success **LCpl Scott** soon followed up this victory with yet another prize, this time carrying away the star prize at the Brit Log Bat charity raffle–the prize was a flying lesson in a Sea King helicopter on loan from 845 Naval Air Support Squadron. Being a helicopter pilot is obviously not as difficult as pilots like to make out as **LCpl Scott** was soon taking off and landing with ease and very shortly afterwards she was seen flying off towards one of the small islands off the coast of Croatia. It was far harder trying to convince her that she really did want to come back and work in the syscon!

LCpl Donna Nevens receives her winner's medal from WO2 (RQMS) Dennis while her team mate LCpl Sara Scott looks on

Why does LCpl Scott look more at home as a helicopter pilot than in Syscon?

The Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
BFPO 1

Comd — **Lt Col R. M. Crombie**
GM — **Maj (QGO) Silajit Gurung MVO**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) Gauparsad Magar**

INTRODUCTION

The period August-September has been an important one for the Regiment, if somewhat traumatic. Following the amalgamation of 246, 247 and 248 Gurkha Sig Sqns into the single Hong Kong Gurkha Signal Squadron (HKGSS) we have seen the RHQ move to a new location in Prince of Wales Barracks. Our presence in Sek Kong is much reduced, whilst additional responsibilities for HQ British Forces have been taken on. At the same time, the Regimental birthday was celebrated in traditional manner, and normal Regimental operations and exercises have continued.

REGIMENTAL RE-ORGANISATION

It is the move to Prince of Wales Barracks which has been the most prominent event recently. After 23 years in Borneo Lines, Sek Kong, RHQ moved to Amethyst Block, POWB, and the flag was raised by **WO1 (RSM) Omprasad Gurung** on 26 September. As the CO, **Lt Col Dick Crombie**, pointed out this was the last time that the QG Signals flag will be raised in a new location in the Far East. New responsibilities also mean that QG Signals has become tri-service, as well as tri-national. The new HQ Squadron is formed from the former HQBF Admin Unit and is commanded by **Maj Steve Davis LD**.

Some elements of the former HQ Sqn have combined with the Brigade QM's Department to form the Admin Unit Sek Kong. This includes the all-Arms Training Centre and Admin Office Gurkha Family Lines, which remain at Sek Kong. AUSK is commanded by **Lt Col Ian Buckley**, who doubles (triples?) as Sqn Comd, Brigade QM of a disbanding Brigade, and Deputy Commandant Sek Kong–which one he is depends on the time of day.

REGIMENTAL BIRTHDAY

The move coincided with the Regimental Birthday, on 23 September. This marked 45 years for the Regiment and 40 years for the cap badge. **Maj (Retd) John Ridge** attended the birthday parade at Borneo Lines (he had been a Troop Commander at the original cap badge presentation parade 40 years ago) and read the original presentation speech. Following the parade was a morning of inter-Troop sports. The football pitch was, unfortunately, too waterlogged to use, but there were basketball and volleyball leagues on the hardcore. The tug-of-war provided a hard-fought finale and the RHQ team was eventually victorious, despite J Tp's **Sgt** (first name withheld for security reasons) 'Nibs' **Nibblet** urging **2Lt Richard Newhouse** to 'dig in harder, Sir' and observing that it was the first time that RHQ had pulled its weight in years (despite Adjt **Capt Alistair Gordon**'s new diet).

That evening was the HQ Officers Mess Birthday Ball. Entertainment was provided by Gurkha children's cultural dancing and Signallers dancing with Khukris–the GM **(Maj (QGO) Silajit Gurung MVO)** and **Brig Mervyn Lee** (Brig BG) carried on bopping until about 10 am, or so they claim. That really marked the closing of the Mess, as most of the Officers have moved to POWB. The last event of the weekend was Officers v Sergeants Mess croquet afternoon on the Sunday (in other words another excuse to drink cans of Tiger).

HONG KONG GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Despite all the other commitments, the annual HKGSS battle camp Ex Paidal Yatra was held at Dills Corner for about 40 Signallers and NCOs. It consisted of a teaching phase followed by a two-day exercise in the Brides Pool Area. The platoon came under intense artillery NBC attack (from **SSgts Rajendraman Gurung** and **Dilip Rai** using SPAL and Portfire simulation kit). On another stand patrols had to deal with various injuries (**SSgt Pemba Sherpa** was running the stand and hadn't realised that **Sig Karen** 'Doris' **Clifton** was really a make-up artist). The biggest problem for the Gurkhas was how to CASEVAC **Sgt Steve** 'Slim' **Rowe** up to the road ('Why was he chosen to be a casualty?' complained the girls).

There were other difficulties which **2Lt Richard Newhouse** hadn't planned, such as finding the exit gate from the training area being locked at 5 pm–long after the civilians had gone home–and the 4-tonner breaking down at the same time. However, **LCpls Santiram Magar** and **Bhakti Limbu** had managed to sabotage, sorry, pick the lock, by the time **Sgt Rituman Limbu** arrived with a new truck. In the meantime **Sig Scott Jenkins** had built a mock-up Wessex for a quick heli-safety lesson, since **Sig Ann-Marie Ambury** had never seen a helicopter before (or so she claimed). In the end the platoon successfully carried out their missions, wiping out **SSgt Steve Brennan**'s PLA patrol several times. **Sgt Alex Regan** led the final ambush, and supplied his Troops with about 4000 rounds per enemy soldier; **Sig John McGee** almost blew the 'Enemy' up in the final ambush with a shower of thunderflashes.

Sgt Steve Swithenbank as an undercover enemy soldier

Sgt Hastabahadur Gurung and his men (and women) prepare to attack

BORDER SURVEILLANCE DUTY

Notably, a detachment for HKGSS has been on Border Surveillance Duty for three months in the absence of an operational infantry battalion (whilst 2GR and 6GR amalgamated). Although hardly a role to which the men are used, they have been regarded by 48 Bde intelligence staff as the best they have seen. Mainly, they have watched the Chinese border guards changing sentry, often leaving their rifles behind or going to sleep out in the sun. For a few Yuan they let civilians borrow their Kalashnikovs and shoot at fish! **LCpl Ratnabahadur Thapa** was a little worried when all the lights and power in his OP failed–luckily this turned out to be a lightning strike and not enemy action!

32 Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

RHQ
OC — **Lt Col I. O. Robertson**
Adjt — **Capt C. J. Hinsley**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) G. G. A. Reith**

The Regiment completed a very successful Annual Camp at Cultybraggan from 24 September to 8 October. The 'New Regime' of CO, Adjt and RSM survived their first taste of the TA largely unscathed, all three having recently arrived into the Regiment. Welcome!

The Regiment would also like to say a fond farewell to **Maj Jim Doherty** the Training Major, and thank him for the hard work that he has put in over his short tour. Goodbye!

The Camp was split into two phases: Week 1, comprising of Bounty Training, a two day adventure training package at Garelochhead and exercise preparation. Week 2 comprised of comms exercises Blue Duster and Bonnie Dundee and Ex Maple Leaf, which was a challenging tactical infantry style exercise to test soldier skills organised by 69 (North Irish Horse) Sig Sqn. There was also a recruit training fortnight which was split between Barry Buddon and Cultybraggan.

During Week 1, the RSM's first parade did not go quite as planned when the Adjt, thinking he was late, rushed out on to the parade square and 'fell in the officers', most of whom were being entertained with a glass of port from the RSM, prior to the parade. The Adjt was later seen presenting the RSM with a fresh bottle of port.

ANNUAL CAMP
ADVENTURE TRAINING PHASE

The Adventure Training at Garelochhead organised by **WO2 Rab Campbell** included watersports, hillwalking and top roping/abseiling. Events were going very well even the weather was being kind, when a certain nameless jet-skier decided it was a lot less frightening if he did not look where he was going when travelling at 25 knots 2ft above the water. This novel approach to jet-skiing seemed to work quite well until the unfortunate individual came to an abrupt stop after penetrating the side of **WO2 Rab Campbell**'s yacht. Fortunately there were no injuries other than to pride, yacht, jet-ski and of course wallets!

Still on the subject of jet-skis, **Cpl Clerk**, 61 Sqn (V) when told that the jet-ski would return to her position, if she fell off, piped up . . . 'but how does it know where you are?'

WO2 Rab Campbell's yacht prior to its 'new porthole' Galley hand–2Lt Angela Galli

MEDAL PRESENTATIONS

The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, **Col A. S. Petrie OStJ, TD JP**, made the following presentations on 3 October 1994:

WO2 Rab Campbell-2nd Clasp to TA Efficiency Medal
Sgt Jean Thomson-Lord Lieutenant's Certificate
SSgt Marlene Niblock-Clasp to her TA Efficiency Medal

Brig J. E. Neeve, Comd 2 (NC) Bde made the following presentations on 4 October:

Maj Silcox-Territorial Decoration
WO2 Fraser-3rd Clasp to TA Efficiency Medal and Lord Lieutenant's Certificate
WO2 (AQMS) Grant-Clasp to TA Efficiency Medal and Lord Lieutenant's Certificate
WO2 (SSM) McVey-TA Efficiency Medal

(L to R): LCpl McCartney, WO2 (AQMS) Grant (REME), Maj Silcox, Brig J. E. Neeve, WO2 Fraser (RLC), WO2 (SSM) McVey

(L to R): Sgt Thomson, WO2 Campbell, Col Petrie, SSgt Niblock

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

HQ SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Eric Murphy**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Frank McCormick**

We had only just stopped unpacking from Ex Northern Hawk when Ex Flying Falcon was upon us. The Regiment was off again and as usual it was up to HQ Sqn to organise the remainder of the Regiment. The day of deployment arrived,10 September, and we were all primed for the sortie to the Continent. The **Riley** twins, **Stephen** and **Alan**, had never deployed abroad before. They found the prospect of practising their culinary skills in Germany very exciting.

The move out to Germany, via Harwich, went quite smoothly thanks to the careful planning of **WO1 Ian Thorneycroft** and the dogged supervision of **WO2 Tony McFarlane**. Once on the Continent the rest of the Brigade joined the Squadron before all of us were deployed to our various locations. Some members were dispersed to work in the Bde Comms Logistic Group (CLG) to carry out watchkeeping and damcon duties. During the exercise CLG was visited by **Maj Gen Kennedy** acting in his appointment as Director General TA.

Maj Gen Kennedy speaking to SSgts Williams and Hale during his visit to 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde Comms Logistic Group on Ex Flying Falcon

Before Annual Camp the Squadron went for an adventure training weekend to Anglesey in August. Various activities were undertaken including canoeing, abseiling, mountain biking and an excellent barbecue on the Saturday evening. The canoeing in particular was a great success thanks to the brilliant instruction by **Sgt Wayne Fletcher.**

Ursula Andress eat your heart out. LCpl Colleen Kerry re-enacts the famous scene from 'Dr No' on HQ Sqn's recent Adventure Training weekend

FAREWELLS

The Squadron has said a sad farewell to a number of our regulars. **WO2 (YofS) Pete McInally** has left us for the long Arabic course even though he has yet to master the 'Scouse' accent. **Sgt** 'Guppy' **Meseck** has also left us for 16 Sig Regt. We wish him and his wife all the best on their return to Germany Also we have said farewell to **SSgt** 'Taff' **Roberts**, the Chief Clerk for the last eight years, and to **Cpl Roy Sharp** who has been the CO's Driver here for the last 11 years. We wish them both the very best in their new careers.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **SSgt Mick Robertson** and his wife **Lynn** on the birth of a baby boy. Also to **WO1 Thorneycroft** and **Cpls Smith** and **Kerry** on their promotions.

42 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) MANCHESTER

42 Sig Sqn (V) has been hard at work developing our Ptarmigan trade skills in preparation for Ex Flying Falcon. Our Trunk Node has been out so often that at one location the local farmer now greets them like old friends.

During the Summer we were delighted to hear that **Shirley Stott** had been awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. She had retired this year after many years' service as the Squadron's civilian storekeeper and, for a while, a serving member of the Squadron. We wish her every happiness in her well earned retirement.

SSgt Steve Dickson and his wife, **Shirley**, will leave us shortly for 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. **SSgt Dickson** certainly will not forget Ex Flying Falcon in a hurry. Whilst driving on the autobahn, en-route to a new location, one of his landrover's wheels overtook him in the outside lane! Then on the journey home the Radio Relay vehicle in which he was travelling as a passenger was rammed. **SSgt Dickson** will find life extremely dull without us.

Finally, we are pleased to welcome **Sgt Chris Gouldson** and **Tracey** from HQ Int Corps, Ashford and **Cpl Pepper** who has joined us from 16 Sig Regt. We hope you all enjoy your tour with us.

59 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

59 Sig Sqn (V) deployed on Ex Flying Falcon for the first time in support of HQ 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde. The Squadron was a little apprehensive. How would we get on with the Brigade Staff? Will we get on? What will happen? It had been suggested that a TA Squadron could not cope supporting a Brigade HQ in the field, but, after a hesitant start the Squadron settled down, got stuck in and proved everybody wrong.

A shortage of manpower and experience made life difficult but everyone worked hard. The junior ranks in particular did a marvellous job and the Brigade Staff were impressed. Comms went straight in, tents were up (and down and up and down . . .) and it is rumoured that some even managed to get some sleep. An invasion of 'Klingons' from a myriad of other units managed to really keep the pressure on. At one stage 180 people passed through the cookhouse for a meal.

A lot of lessons were learned during the exercise including the fact that it is better to use the steps provided when leaving the back of a vehicle. (Hope your back gets better soon **Capt Ron Allen** of 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde.) It also became apparent that map reading skills need to be improved as the citizens of Lubbecke will testify. How that packet managed to fragment and then reform we will never know.

After the exercise, due to the delay in a ferry sailing, the Squadron personnel enjoyed an extra day R&R at York Barracks, Munster. When it was our time to start the move back the RSM, **WO1 Dale Ikin**, was seen shaking his head in despair as a packet led by **SSgt Mick Allcock** of 11 Sig Bde passed him for the second time–looking for the way out of York Barracks.

A safe journey home ended a hard, but extremely worthwhile exercise and 59 Sig Sqn (V) can now go forward having proved that they have what it takes to get a hard job done well.

SSgts Hale, McCormick, Williams, Sig Stoddart and WO2 Forbes photographed at an inopportune moment on Ex Flying Falcon

34 Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

CO	**Lt Col M. K. Stretch**
Adjt	**Capt P. M. Kelly**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) M. A. Ara**

EXERCISE FLYING FALCON

As the majority of the members of Royal Signals units in Germany smiled at the prospect of not being involved in Flying Falcon, it was left up to 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde to carry the can!

The exercise constituted the Regiment's 15 days annual camp, with the opportunity to deploy to a part of Germany not previously visited by the TA members. For those regular and ex-regular members of the Regiment, it was a trip back home.

The Regiment reported to its TA Centres on the evening of 9 September. The ferry left North Shields on Saturday morning to deposit us in Denmark on Sunday afternoon. After a long move south (and Berlin for some) the Regiment was complete on Vorden Training Area by 12 September. We then had 24 hours to shake out, carry out such delights as IBCP and IBFP before deploying south of Osnabruck on Tuesday 13 September.

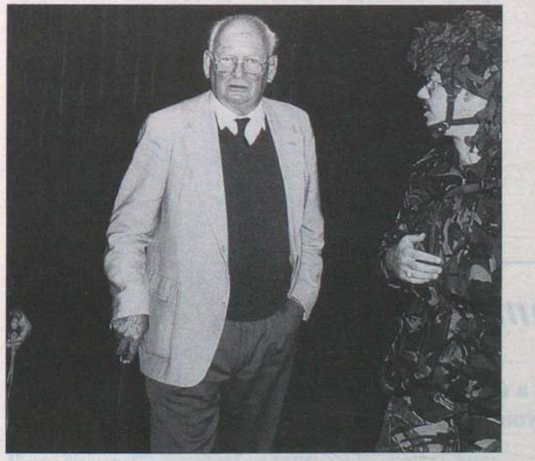
The exercise itself was an excellent opportunity to refine communicating skills learnt during the past year. A lot of night movement had the junior officers working hard and not sleeping a great deal.

By the second week the Regiment was well used to set up, recce, orders, tear down, move and set up. Just when everything was running to a high standard, it was time to return.

If the move out was great the move back was fantastic. Endex was Tuesday 20 September with a day in Osnabruck.

Flying Falcon proved not only that the Regiment can communicate, it can also drive for days on end to get to the war!

The officers of the Regiment on their way to Esberg, Denmark



Maj John Lambton guides the Vice President of the North of England TAVRA, Colonel The Viscount Ridley, through the various sub-units of the Darlington based Squadron

The Regiment on its way to Ex Flying Falcon September 1994

LCpl Angie Starsmore is ready for anything

Capt Ian Hall, shown holding a length of C4 explosive, appears to have second thoughts about placing his life in the hands of two USAR engineers

The Regiment hosted two US Army Reserve Officers during Ex Flying Falcon.
Standing *(L to R)*: Maj Mike Holman, Capt Paul Kelly, Capt Dave Carter USAR, Maj Paul Nicholson-Taylor, Maj John Wallace, Maj Tom Franks USAR, Capt Carl Butler, YofS Taylor, RSM Mick Ara, Maj John Lambton, Lt Col M. K. Stretch and Capt Watts

TRIP TO THE SUNSHINE STATE
by Capt I. T. Hall

From time to time the chance to do something really unusual within the TA comes along. My only advice is apply for it!

A simple circular from the Adjutant alerted me to the fact that there was to be an exchange with the US Army during July 1994 and bids were welcomed. Naturally, I applied and was surprised and delighted when I heard I had been selected to go to 841st Engineer Battalion in Florida.

A long flight (courtesy of the RAF as far as Washington) brought me to Camp Blanding, Florida. The Camp has a reputation for heat, midday temperatures were around 102 degrees and lightning strikes!

The 841st were there for their Annual Training which lasts for only 12 days rather than our 15. A major part of the programme was the annual weapons qualification and I was able to fire the M-16 Rifle, Beretta 9mm Pistol and the M-203 Grenade Launcher (very exciting). As Engineers, they also ran a Demolition range and I had the opportunity to use some C4 (Plastic Explosive) and make a very satisfying bang!

I am pleased to be able to tell you that it wasn't all hard work. I managed to visit Universal Studios in Orlando before flying to Washington for the exercise debrief. Washington is a most interesting city and, arriving early, I had the chance to see The White House, The Lincoln Memorial, The Washington Monument and the Vietnam Memorial. My last day in the US was spent in the Pentagon, where together with the other 16 Exchange Officers, I had a briefing on US Reserve Force structure and lunch. There was just time for a guided tour of the building before making my way to the airport and back to the UK again courtesy of the RAF.

All in all, it was a very interesting trip. I was well looked after by my American hosts.

34 SIGNAL REGIMENT (V), LAD REME (V)

Most of the LAD's efforts in the beginning of the year was concentrated on the Warcop Trophy (in between exercises and trade training) where, for the second year running, we were the second place TA team, an excellent result for such a small unit. Because of this we had to withdraw from the Birtwistle Trophy, but I'm sure the Regiment realise they only have it back on short term loan?

Camp this year was extremely successful for all concerned, in fact the Foden crew enjoyed it so much that they opted to say an extra day! Hamburg is as good a place as any to break down in, isn't it?

Thanks also to **Lt Jones**, for the magical mystery tour, nobody else could have planned it so well.

The LAD bids farewell to PSI, **SSgt Geoff Burton** on leaving the Army, **Sgt Andy Tinsdall** and his wife **Anne** who are now in Bordon, all the best on your 'Tiffy' course **Andy**.

Welcome to the new PSI, **SSgt Paul Fitzmaurice** and congratulations to **WO2 (AQMS) Devitt**.

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36 Sig Regt (V)
Ilford

The Regiment deployed to Germany on Ex Flying Falcon in September. Once on the boat we thought we were home and dry–until we reached the Brigade Concentration Area where the rain fell like stair-rods. However, some smooth talking by the CO got us deployed first and a few hours ahead of the rest of the Brigade. Establishing comms was easy, even if a few of our RR relays made it difficult by driving off the edges of the Teutoburgernwald tracks. Nevertheless, as the photo shows, **Cpl Andy Letts** and **LCpl Roy Romans** stayed smiling and even managed to communicate by putting the antenna into the cage!

In fact, we let nothing deter us from doing our communicating job. On learning that SEP wouldn't fit into one farmyard the answer was to dismount it and form SEP (Temporary). The picture shows a hard pressed SEP crew slightly bemused at working in this strange environment, from left to right **Capt Alan Newbury, SSgt Helen Macfarlane** (improperly dressed having been promoted in the field by the CO), **Maj Phil Penfold** and **Capt Gyda Warren**.

Other notable events were two of our RR relay vehicles becoming targets on the Hohne ranges, despite the location being cleared–apparently we got there too early! It's said that this was an attempt by **Maj Jackie Allan** to get her own back. Others felt it was an attempt by the CO to get even with the relay crews who, having bogged one vehicle as described above, promptly bogged another on the Lubbecke ridge despite being led in by **Sgt Andy Harriott**. Just as well his golf is better than his knowledge of the back of his hand!

All too soon it was over, with barely time for a party and a bit of shopping prior to a long drive back.

SOinC's VISIT

During Ex Flying Falcon the Regiment was visited by **Maj Gen A. H. Boyle**, seen here (right to left) the CO, **Lt Col Henderson**, the Adjt **Capt Healey** and **WO1 (RSM) Palmer.**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We welcome **SSgt Anne McNally**–PSI HQ Sqn, **Sgts Steve Hollands, Wayne Pinhorn**–TM Tp and **Sgt Sam Faulds**–PSI TAC Bedford. We are sure you will have an interesting time with the Regiment.

The escape committee has finally approved the posting of **Sgt Fran Graham**, who moves to NI; good luck.

HQ SQUADRON
DEDICATION TO DUTY

Saturday 10 September was the first day of Annual Camp. It was also the day chosen by two TA members of HQ Sqn to get married. **LCpls Steve Lee** and **Nicola Eves** did not let this prevent them from attending camp. At 0600 hrs on the Sunday morning they set sail and caught up with the rest of us. The photo shows the happy couple with **Cpl Graham Daniel** (Best Man) and **Sgt** 'Scotty' **Scott**. An excellent day was followed by a very good camp, we wish them all the best for the future.

Sgt Jahan McCready is a member of the RAO. This article is submitted to prove that it is possible to be an effective member of the TA, have a demanding civilian job, raise a family, and in my case, have the help and support of my husband **Chris**.

I was born and brought up in Ilford, Essex and I have remained in this town all my life. My career in the TA began at Selsdon Road, Wanstead when I joined 36 (E) Sig Regt (V) in 1986 as a WRAC military accountant and eight years on I have reached the rank of Sergeant, been married for four years, and have an 18 month old son called **Khalid**. However, because I enjoy what I do I manage to hold down a civilian job and bring up my baby and am a regular attender at the TA. Over the years the TA has enabled me to participate in group activities having achieved my Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. The TA has also allowed me to acquire a trade which has complimented my civilian employment and qualifications.

I have attended six Annual Camps over the last eight years at different locations all over Europe. In September we went to Germany, which was my sixth Annual Camp whilst my husband baby-sat for the two weeks. On my trips to Germany I had the honour of meeting the Mayor of Redbridge who was visiting the Regiment.

Sgt Jahanne McCready meets Her Worship the Mayor of Redbridge, Councillor Linda Perham

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

DASH TO RAISE CASH

Fund raising, for whatever purpose, requires a special spirit, determination and resolve to see the campaign through and overcome the countless obstacles and setbacks that usually emerge to discourage those involved and prevent them from achieving their goal. Fortunately, we had a fundraising team led by **Maj Richard Hemmings** and **SSgt Chris Hymas**, they had the resolve to persevere with their fund raising efforts for Great Ormond Street and the Corps Museum Appeal and achieved remarkable success. Ex Silver Child was the culmination of all those efforts and this took place during the period 27-29 August. The fund raising venture involved a series of sponsored events that took the form of a sponsored road run, cycle race, trailer push, canoe race and finally a sponsored Kojak (bravely endured by **Sig** 'Smudge' **Smith**–now known as Bald Eagle!). The start point was Cateswell House, Sutton Coldfield and concluded 138 miles later at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Donations flowed in throughout the long journey and these were supported by many generous donations of either cash, toys or equipment and vehicle loans from many other companies throughout the West Midlands as well as individual donations from members of the Regiment. Once all pledges have been received it is expected that well over £5000 will have been raised, which is an excellent achievement! In the meantime a cheque for £3000 was presented to Martin Barnes, the fund raising manager of Great Ormond Street, by the CO, **Lt Col John Ewbank**.

The fund raising team, which composed of volunteers from throughout the Regiment maintained their cheerfulness, good humour and conviction for the duration despite being clearly fatigued at a number of stages; they are all to be congratulated on their magnificent efforts!

Presenting the cheque to the hospital are Sgt Steve Anderson, SSgt (FofS) Bernie McAndrew, Martin Barnes of Great Ormond Street, Lt Col John Ewbank, Maj Richard Hemmings and SSgt Chris Hymas

A DRIVING FORCE

Ex Rough Rider, the Wales and Western District Safe and Skilled Driving Competition was held at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield at the end of June. A total of 18 teams competed including a team from 89 Sig Sqn (V) who unfairly considered themselves outsiders.

The team composed of **Capt Julian Webb** (Team Capt), **Cpl Colin Marshall** and **LCpl Brian Peel**. Driving proficiency standards at the competition were extremely high, but against all odds the team from 89 Sig Sqn (V), despite an early set back, achieved runners up position having just been pipped at the post in the team event by 3 RWF.

Individual honours, however, went to **Capt Julian Webb** who beat all-comers and achieved first place in the Road Safety and General Knowledge stage of the competition. 89 Sig Sqn (V)'s team and individual performance earned them a well deserved place at the UKLF Road Safety and Driving Skills Championships, but, unfortunately, their place had to be forfeited because it coincided with our Annual Camp in Germany. They are, however, planning to make a concentrated assault on the competition next year.

EVERY TIME WE SAY GOODBYE . . .

It is always sad to say farewell to long serving members of the Regiment and during the last two months we bade a particularly sad farewell to **Maj Derek McConnell**, our illustrious and jocular 21C, who seems to have been with the TA ever since it was formed.

Derek leaves us to take up a post with the staff of 11 (ARRC) Sig Bde and we all wish him well in his new appointment. Next, we said farewell to **Maj Helen James**, another long serving and dedicated member of the Regiment who recently handed over the reins of 95 Sig Sqn (V) to **Maj Richard Hemmings**. **Helen** joins the unposted list so the opportunity does remain for her to renew her acquaintance with the TA at some future stage. We have also said farewell to **Lt Will Aitken** who has moved to the London area for training as an osteopath, we wish him every success in his new profession.

Finally, amongst the permanent staff, we said farewell to **Sgt Gary Mountain** who proved to be a real stalwart in Alpha Tp. **Gary** has left the Army and has now joined the police force. Last, but not least, a fond farewell to **Cpl** 'Daz' **Ginn** who leaves us on voluntary redundancy. Replacements have not exactly matched departures but a special welcome is extended to **Sgt Ollie Campbell** and family. **Ollie** takes up the reins as HQ Sqn PSI and we wish him a happy and fruitful tour. 89 Sig Sqn (V), who it has to be said have been a little thin on the ground as far as Tp Comd's are concerned, are particularly delighted with the arrival of **2Lt Ashley Dillon** from Cambridge UOTC. **Ashley** is already proving to be a 'tour de force' and is clearly beginning to enjoy himself and thrive on the challenge of his new post!

BABY BOOM IN THE OPS OFFICE

Capt Rob Meinherzhagen and **WO2 (YofS) Nick Hawley** who both share the same office, also shared a recent happy family event resulting in additions to their respective families. **Rob** and **Kim** are congratulated on the birth of their daughter **Sophie**, and **Nick** and **Sally** are congratulated on the birth of their son.

We wish both fathers many sleepless nights and mothers a long and well deserved rest!

EXERCISE FLYING FALCON 94

The peak of the TA training year for any TA unit is undoubtedly its Annual Camp. This is the time when Squadrons that are normally separated geographically throughout a wide area in the UK, for a short time at least, come and operate together as a complete unit for collective training either in the UK or on the Continent.

After months of careful planning we were ready to deploy, this time to Germany for the period 10-24 September, attendance as expected was high and the initial enthusiasm, vigour and humour throughout the Regiment was infectious. This was understandable because to many of our new members it was to be an adventurous experience not to be missed but more importantly after this exercise we were confidently expecting to be declared fully operational by Comd ARRC. What follows is a stage by stage account of our incredible adventure into the unknown; anecdotes were involuntarily provided by those luckless individuals in the right place at the wrong time.

PHASE 1–THE DEPLOYMENT

The deployment phase from TA Centres in the UK went very well and the QM **Maj Barry Williams** and his staff ensured everyone was well fed en route with SCRAN bags of the highest standard. Across the water the Regiment endured a long laborious but eventful journey to our first staging area at Krefeld before moving onto the STAG. It was during this stage that, although not so funny at the time, the first humorous incidents took place.

These began with the first packet's arrival around midnight Sunday 11 September at the border crossing at Venlo, unfortunately the movers were evidently at another border point; enter the CO **Lt Col John Ewbank** and his driver **Cpl John Miles** who together with **Capt David Brough** and **SSgt Dave Arnot**, became reluctant Movement Controllers.

Throughout the long and miserable night, without protective clothing they channelled the Regimental convoys safely through the border crossing. After a hearty breakfast at 0600 hrs of Bratwurst and Chips at Krefeld the first Regimental elements began the move to the STAG and as expected the heavens opened and didn't close until the last day of the exercise.

PHASE 2–STAG (THE LONG WAIT)

Morale was still high even after two severe thunderstorms at the STAG area somewhere near Osnabruck. Here the RSM **WO1 Guy Richards** recovered his remaining dry combat kit from his rain filled tent and was actually seen to walk on water–well up to his knees that is! Rather sadly the mess tent, full of what can only be described as livid catering staff, was in the same area and looked like a paddy field but **SSgt Jim**

Centrals ready to move

Hubbard and his excellent team of reservists soon recovered and provided some exceptional meals.

Undeterred by the rain the pay team, led by **Capt Mark Whittingham** commandeered a tent (occupied by a rather tired padre) opened a Field Pay Office and held Squadron pay parades; these concluded sometime after midnight. Needless to say a rather magnanimous padre gave the pay staff what, in the dark, appeared to be a field blessing! Following a good night's sleep by all members of the Regiment the preparation for deployment to field locations on Tuesday 13 September began in earnest.

PHASE 3–THE COMMEX

Around midnight 13 September most elements by now were firmly established in their field locations, comms however were still a little patchy due to initial technical and siting problems but these were quickly resolved with one or two hot recces and good comms soon became routine much to the relief of the OSC staff led by **Maj Pat Bannigan**. Many moves under very difficult weather conditions took place during this Phase and under the circumstances all elements of the Regiment coped well, damage was very slight, movement problems few and comms good. The DAMCON SCRAT under the command of **Capt David Brough** and crewed by **LCpl Paul Beckett** and **Sig Carl Sharman**, decided however to create its own damage somewhere on the Bielefeld Ridge when their vehicle struck a steep bank and rolled over. Thankfully there were no injuries. Comms, it has to be said, actually improved while the vehicle was upside down, which allowed the unfortunate incident to be reported quickly; whether or not this will be incorporated as a future modification though remains to be seen! Prior to the arrival of the recovery team, the SCRA Management Cell deployed a Rover crewed by **Capt Julian Webb** and **SSgt Lance Thornton-Granville** to give some moral support–they promptly ran out of petrol on arrival and rather embarrassingly had to be recovered themselves. To add insult to injury the crew of a central located close by, manned by **Cpl Alan Vowles** and **Sig Mark Savage**, had the temerity to ask if they could salvage any spare rations in exchange for a hot flask of coffee–needless to say a quick trade was arranged.

SCRA Management kindly provided OC DAMCON with a timely replacement SCRAT crewed by **Cpl Colin Marshall** and **Sig Simon Wright** and they rejoined the exercise just in time for the visitors phase. I would like to report that this was the end of the incredible adventures of DAMCON but, unhappily, their misery continued when early one morning, in a tyre factory close to Bad Meinburg, they awoke to find that everyone else in their location had moved during the night; even worse they had no comms and had to contend with an obstreperous landowner who was demanding a rather excessive amount of barn money!!

PHASE 3A–VISITORS

Notable visitors during the exercise included Comd ARRC, **Lt Gen Sir Jeremy MacKenzie KCB, OBE** who visited TN 038 on 4 September. The Hon Col, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE**, who stayed with the Regiment from 16-18 September. The Lord Mayor of Birmingham

Early morning

The Lord Mayor of Birmingham visits CSG

Councillor Sir Richard Knowles, who was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress visited various field elements during Saturday 17 September. Finally, GOC Wales and Western District, **Maj Gen I. L. Freer CB, CBE**, who made a flying visit to TN 039 on Monday 19 September.

PHASE 4 AND 5–REST AND RECOVERY

The traditional rest and recuperation phase was reduced slightly because of the extraordinary length of time it would take to recover the Regiment back to the UK via Denmark. None-the-less, every opportunity was taken by all members of the Regiment to have the usual good time in the Detmold area following the endex announcement early in the morning on Wednesday 21 September. Shortly after which all Regimental elements, spread far and wide, descended on Hobart Barracks.

The NAAFI Manager in Hobart Barracks must have been pleasantly surprised to find that the majority of the Regiment decided to stay in barracks during the evening of Wednesday 21 September and enjoy the live cabaret he had laid on, as a result the 0200 hrs curfew proved a little difficult to enforce as everyone was having a ball! The following morning was the final round of duty free purchases, and that almost forgotten gift for the little lady at home as well as final preparations for the long journey home. The first packets moved out of Hobart Barracks around 2000 hrs and made their way north towards Hamburg and, in particular, the port of Ejsberg in Denmark.

The journey, although tiring, proved free of any remarkable events, apart from the novel re-fuelling arrangements and the mysterious disappearance of **Maj David Munson** and his party of cooks somewhere in the Hamburg triangle–it will never be revealed whether or not he went under the tunnel or over the bridge! **Maj Richard Hemmings**, of 95 Sqn (V) does not escape scrutiny either, and an explanation is still sought from him why the 95 Sqn (V) flag was flying upside down from the ship's mast, and why **Lt David Hooper** was involved and who indeed was the perpetrator of this dastardly incident? Finally, could **2Lt Ashley Dillon** please provide a reasonable explanation as to why his packet was seen negotiating the Cambridge ring road? By the early hours of Sunday 25 September the adventure was over, but the excitement and enthusiasm prevailed throughout and continued as the Regiment dispersed and everyone went home!

"Give us a quiche"

37 Sig Regt (V)
Redditch

CO — **Lt Col John Macfarlane**
RSM — **WOI (RSM) John Riley**

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We welcome **Maj Tony Shaw** to RHQ as Training Major and hope that he will soon recover from the culture shock of a TA posting. We are sorry to lose technician **Cpl Andy Westlake** and wish him well. Sadly Pay Sgt **Sgt Kay Wiggett** of HQ Sqn passed away just before Annual Camp. She had suffered cancer and chemotherapy very bravely and will be missed by all who knew her. Sqn Comd **Maj Les Porter**, the RSM and **WO2 (SSM) Les Griffths** led a party from the Regiment at her funeral and the Sergeants' Mess have presented a cup to be awarded in her memory.

ANNUAL CAMP–THE FIRST WEEK

Each Squadron enjoyed a varied programme, based at Altcar, between Liverpool and Southport. This included radio exercises, range work and adventure training. The exercises were particularly important to run up the Comms Utility Vehicles and refresh our skills before the second week's exercise.

The Officers' Mess held a formal dinner on the Thursday night when our Honorary Colonel, **Maj Gen Alan Yeoman CB**, presented decorations and promotions in the Sergeants' Mess.

The first week concluded with a military skills competition which added interest for visitors to the Regiment. After a morning of blood, sweat and tears, the Mayor of Blackburn presented the prizes. Appropriately, 93 (East Lancs) Sig Sqn (V) won the overall competition, though it was again 'amazingly close', in the CO's words.

ANNUAL CAMP WEEK 2

2 (NC) Sig Bde had been planning Ex Blue Duster for some months; the Ops Officer and Training Major thought they knew most of what was planned, but a few surprises were in store. The Squadrons deployed from Altcar to South Wales, the West Midlands and Lancashire in appalling weather, arranged specially to meet 2 Bde's MACA scenario. RCP, HQ Sqn and 67 Sqn received visitors on the Monday and again on Tuesday, when **Maj Gen I. L. Freer CB, CBE** (GOC Wales and Western District), his three Brigade Commanders and members of their staffs descended en masse. The CO was delighted that **Gen Freer** took on board the Comms Utility Vehicle concept to enable district and Brigade HQs to go into the field. RCP enjoyed additional staffing from three members of the FANY; thank you, ladies, for keeping us in order.

On return to Altcar, after a frantic rush to return loan stores, wash vehicles and bodies and sort out kit, the Regiment relaxed with a Caribbean evening and a sports competition. The girls of 93 Sqn (V) would have won all the fancy dress prizes if there had been any but 67 Sqn (V) walked off the next day with most of the sporting honours, including the new trophy presented in memory of the late **Sgt Kay Wiggett.**

67 Sqn presentation line-up: Sqn Comd, Maj Roy Naylor, Sgt 'Monty' Walker (TEM), LCpl Graham Ennis (TEM), new Sgts Roz Thwaites (TEM), Tim Mansell and Pete Deakin, WO2 (SSM) Ray Campbell

Sig Philip Smart (67 Sqn) receives the sporting trophy from the CO

WO2 Jeff Dolan briefs LCpl Sue Cornthwaite ready for her climb

RCP watchkeepers: 21C Maj Ian Morris, Lt Judy Kunkler FANY, Cadet Stella Hellier FANY and Ops Offr Maj Ted Widgery pose for the camera

39 Sig Regt (SC) (V)
Chelsea

CO — **Lt Col C. J. Laurence TD (V)**
Adjt — **Capt A. J. Parsons**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) R. C. Bray**

Annual Camp has been the mainstay of the Regiment's activities. One of the most exciting aspects seems to be the devious plans that the Trg Maj is hatching for the Mobilisation Exercise. No doubt he has learned a trick or two from the current relocation programme.

EXERCISE YELLOW DUSTER

2 Sqn go west in the vain attempt of finding the perfect adventure training haven. Eventually, the advance party took far too many wrong turns and ended up at Garelochhead. To ease the pain of such an obvious mosquito mecca, the main body infiltrated at night in Gemini boats across Loch Long. The wily captains of these vessels; **Majs Bryan Gilfether** and **Hugh Bardell** and Sgt Dukes **Lumsden-Gordon** performed an admirable job ferrying a rather intrepid crowd.

However, the weekend was not about comms or trade training but adventure and the following activities were attempted: abseiling, water-skiing, canoeing and trekking. Happily, all the activities were successful, just ask the cheery troops who were fortunate to be present.

Saturday was a superb day and each individual had the opportunity to take part in all the activities, most did, although some were wary of the water-skiing and the cold water. Abseiling also proved fun, when the unknowing abseilers found out that climbing was the only way home. After a hard day's training everyone welcomed the chance to get stuck into **SSgt Bert Wright**'s barbecue and various other delicacies.

Sunday started with a lavish breakfast and continued with the site clean up including packing up the tents. However, the time had now arrived for the greatest double treat; the PSAO's special packed lunches and the eight mile trek over the hills to catch the transport back to the TAC in Dundee.

This indeed had been a weekend to remember and plans for similar weekends were being made, preferably at a location with less 'sabre toothed' mosquitos.

EXERCISE COCKNEY GAIT

Ex Cockney Gait was the Regimental Adventure Training exercise which took place amidst the Appalachian Mountains in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, Tennessee, USA. The carefully selected team aimed to navigate a portion of the Appalachian Trail which bisected the National Park. The overall aim, however, was to identify and improve the leadership qualities of all in an arduous out-of-the-normal part of the world.

(L to R): SSgt John Sturgeon, Sig Dave Adams and Cfn Alf Ringwood, Sig Melissa Trim, Sig Sam Morgan, LCpl Mark Taylor, Sgt Dave Oliver and Lt Jackie Lockhart (both discussing their life assurance policies) and Sig Paula Goddard The motley crew await their do or die moment at the Ochee River

The team comprised **Lt Jackie Lockhart** (OIC Ex, 2 Sqn), **LCpls Mark Henderson** (2 Sqn), **Mark Taylor** (5 (QOOH) Sqn), **Sigs Dave Adams** (2 Sqn), **Catherine Corcoran** (1 Sqn), **Paula Goddard** (City Tp, HQ Sqn), **Samantha Morgan** (5 Sqn), **Cfn Alf Ringwood** (HQ Sqn) and **Sig Melissa Trim** (City Tp, HQ Sqn). Instructors: **SSgt John Sturgeon** (LAD, HQ Sqn) and **Sgt Dave Oliver** (5 Sqn).

A report by **LCpl Mark Taylor** and **Sig Samantha Morgan**.

With as much 'gucci' kit as we could carry, we departed London Gatwick for the USA. We arrived at Knoxville Airport some 12 hours later to be met by our hosts, members of the 228th Combat Communications Squadron Tennessee Air National Guard. A little while later the National Guard Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Clyde B. Husky**, and the expedition's US Liaison Officer, **Master Sgt Don Chance**, welcomed us to their base. The remainder of the first day and a half was then spent shaking off jet-lag, preparing equipment and purchasing rations for the coming trek.

The start point for the trek was at Abrams Creek, on the edge of the National Park. We split into two teams and steadily climbed our way to the first camp but our thoughts focused on the warnings we had received of wild bears, wolf packs and poisonous snakes and so acclimatisation was less of a worry. At the first location our concern was replenishing water supplies. Supposedly all of these pre-authorised locations were in easy reach of a fresh water supply but not this one. After a couple of hours searching **SSgt John** Diviner **Sturgeon** found a small spring from which we all resupplied. Later **Sgt Dave Oliver** set about what was to become a nightly routine–patching up sore and blistered feet!

As the sun's first rays penetrated the tree canopy, we finished off breakfast and prepared for several kilometres of staggering through forests. Unfortunately a medical stop was needed, **Sig Paula Goddard** was gaiting badly and needed urgent attention but there was to be no field amputation today, but, the good old syringe saw some action. While all this was taking place, **Sig Melissa Trim** devoured yet another meal, perhaps in the misguided hope of reducing the weight of her bergen! As evening closed we took advantage of our new camp location which was complete with waterfall.

The following days saw us ascend a ridge known as Sassafras Gap and camp on the shores of the Fontana Dam Reservoir. In the warm waters of the dam, **LCpl Mark Henderson, Sig Dave Adams** and **Cfn Alf Ringwood** demonstrated their future Olympic swimming potential, while the rest of the team caught the last of the afternoon rays. After a night of thunderstorms, we set off northwards, our next camp was to be at 2000m altitude. The first part of this leg followed a raging torrent known as Eagle Creek. After 21 river crossings we had just about learned every possible way to cross without being swept away! Several hours later we heard the welcoming laughter of the leading team who had established camp but they were not alone. After learning about our route, we were plied with fresh coffee, given no doubt in sympathy rather than surprise at meeting a group of bedraggled Brits in the middle of nowhere. The signs of wildlife in this area were clear to see, the steel mesh door of the stone building had been clawed and bent open, were we safe in our lightweight tents!

On the resupply phase our generous hosts met us at a tourist campsite with their USAF pick-up truck stacked with barbecue food and drink. They seemed surprised that we had made it so far. Perhaps they hadn't quite realised that the promise of good scoff and beer will motivate any Brit Squaddy, TA or Regular.

Our last days were spent climbing our way up a mountain known as Clingman's Dome which is the highest peak on the whole 3360km Appalachian Trail. We reached Clingman's Dome by midday on 8 July right amongst the near freezing clouds and the decision to dash downhill for transport back to our accommodation at Knoxville was greeted with great enthusiasm at this stage, maybe the aim to improve leadership was working.

For many the highlight of the trip was the white water rafting on the Ochee River, the venue for the next Olympic Games canoeing. Our American hosts transported us to the river on what seemed an endless mountain pass with accompanying surging river, we thought there is no way any one would canoe or raft down that! Wrong!

At the rafting centre we were allocated a boat, a bosun and given a half hour safety briefing. The shore-based safety teams were in place and canoe-borne medics ready to follow us down the river. Ambulances were cruising up and down the road. Off we went into what became a two hour disorientating seat-of-the-pants ride.

The expedition team certainly had a rewarding exercise and, in addition, met some very helpful and friendly hosts. We all looked forward to the next opportunity to go adventure training!

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

66 (CITY OF BELFAST) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Sqn Comd	**Maj Joe Haldane**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Maurice Stanley**

ANNUAL CAMP–EXERCISE SYLVAN DAWN

Camp got off to an inauspicious start for the command team at OSC 2 when they found that the first field location was the mud pit of KP 1 at Swynnerton Training Camp. When the ground no longer has a firm base anywhere underfoot, and forward motion is the only thing stopping you from sinking, then it's time to move site. If any units exercising in this area in the near future find a mudlark with an Ulster accent, our address is BFPO 806 for returns.

For the rest of the exercise the OSC vehicle resounded to cries from the **Capt Cathy Sunderland** of 'This vehicle needs a good clean out.'.

Despite its constant repetition, this remark produced nothing more than the expected neutral male grunts from the Sqn Comd and the 2IC in response.

Thankfully, however, locations picked up after Swynnerton.

It was realised that the long hours and distances travelled during the resups had finally affected the SQMS, **SSgt Derek** 'Ooh Err' **Irvine**, when he announced–without prompting–'I've got a lot to learn from my Sergeant Major'.

Residents of the West Midlands will be glad to hear that he wasn't allowed out on his own again after this announcement.

Overall 66 Sqn provided three out of the five Euromux Access Nodes deployed by the Regiment. Alpha, Bravo and Charlie Tps provided one each, under the command of **Lt Andy Woods, Lt Diane Burke** and **2Lt Claire Tyler** respectively. Bravo Tp found it a particularly moving experience, setting up in six locations, only one of which they managed to occupy for a full 24 hours.

All of the detachments got to see more of the countryside than they expected–sometimes due to the alternative routes thought up by their packet commanders whilst on the move. Quite how on the move home the OSC vehicle, driven by **SSgt Tom Edgar** and **Sgt Michael White**, managed to go astray whilst in the middle of a packet is a mystery to all concerned. The smart money is on them being too busy arguing with each other to watch where they were going. Thankfully, the LAD chose to stop off for a visit to the Burger King beside the car park they had come to a halt in, otherwise they might still be there.

And if one thing was learned by **Maj Joe Haldane** at camp, it was that no matter how inviting an open window may be as a short cut into the Officers' Mess, it is best avoided if it means travelling through Comd Comms bedroom.

Sig Andy Crawford, Lt Diane Burke

Sig 'Rastus' Thorne wonders about the contents of her ammo pouches

Sgt Janet Coates

71 (Yeo) Sig Regt
Bexleyheath

VISIT OF BRIG R. J. HEYWOOD OBE DEP COMD LONDON DISTRICT

On 7 June 1994 **Brig R. J. Heywood OBE** visited Regimental Headquarters in Bexleyheath as part of his familiarisation visits to the many Territorial units within the London district. During the course of the evening **Brig Heywood** visited HQ Sqn, 265 Sig Sqn and our Light Aid Detachment commanded by **Capt David Bowman**. To complete the visit the Deputy Commander attended a buffet supper with the Officers and Senior NCOs where he surprised two members of the Regiment by announcing their promotions. The first was for **WO2 (RQMS) Bobby Andrews** to receive a commission, and an appointment as QM; many congratulations and well deserved. The second was for **Sig Darren Lythe**, the CO's driver, to Lance Corporal.

Brig Heywood presents LCpl Lythe with his first stripe

GREAT ORMOND STREET CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Regimental Headquarters took upon itself the task of raising money for GOSH by a series of events sponsored by the Regiment. The curtain raiser was **SSgt Rod Cowan** who completed the Lanyard Trophy course and, together with the rest of the team hopes to realise £2000. **Maj Phil Daisey, WO1 (RSM) Steve Buxton, WO2 (YofS) Andy Campbell** and **Sgt Jim McCready** had hoped to parachute into Falmouth Bay on 9 September. The ground training went well with adrenalin high for the main event. Unfortunately the weather conditions prevented the jump taking place and our intrepid foursome returned disappointed. Another jump is being organised for next year. On 11 September **WO2 (RQMS)** Ches **Cheslett** ran the New Forest Marathon in an excellent time of 2 hours 50 minutes coming fifth. We trust these efforts will go some way towards raising money for a deserving cause.

Ground training what a doddle Sgt Jim McCready, WO2 (YofS) Andy Campbell WO1 (RSM) Steve Buxton and Maj Phil Daisey preparing for the jump that never was

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS COMINGS AND GOINGS

RHQ has seen many changes recently with the following leaving our merry band. First **SSgt (FofS) Jay Allen** on promotion to The Royal School of Signals, followed by his able assistant **Sgt Harry Board** to civilian street, and **SSgt Bobby Wilson** after 22 years' service. **WO2 Cheryl Jackson** leaves on redundancy, closely followed by **RSM Steve Buxton** on completion of service. We wish them all the very best for the future.

Our unsuspecting arrivals are **WO1 (RSM) Mal Geer** from 9 Sig Regt (R), **SSgt Q. Rose** from 63 Sig Sqn (V), **SSgt (FofS) Andy Burns** from 280 (UK) Sig Sqn and **Sgt John Linck** from QG Sig Regt. We trust you all have a rewarding and successful tour with the Regiment.

57 (CITY AND COUNTY OF BRISTOL) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj John Crackett**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Stan Gane**

For the second year Cheltenham Tp entered a team in the Courage trophy competition, an annual infantry based military skills competition, organised by London District at the Army Training Depot, Pirbright. Our eight man team took time out from trade training to take part, assisted by the persuasive techniques of **Sgt Chris Spencer**, the team Sergeant.

Highlights this year included a third place on the Signal stand, using the unfamiliar PRC351, an Infantry Platoon's radio. During the cross country march, **LCpl Shaun Betteridge** almost disappeared into a bog near the start of this easy two mile course, **Sig Jeremy Ackroyd**'s knotty expertise also came to the fore when the team had to construct a raft and race another team to a marker buoy; the rendition of Hawaii Five O ensured an easy victory.

Special thanks go to **WO2 Dick Lee** and his two man admin team who was able to lay out a three course meal at a moment's notice.

As part of our recruiting cycle we have opened our doors to the public on several evenings. Demonstrations of working equipment took place at both our Bristol and Cheltenham locations to give a general insight into what we do in the Territorial Army. Besides our Signals role we included medical and catering to provide a clearer idea of a unit's role.

The evenings have been a success resulting in a high number of recruits waiting to take part in our next selection weekend.

The Fighting 57th completing this year's Courage Trophy Event led by Lt Smith *(Front right)*

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

The Squadron bid farewell to **SSgt Derek Noon** having completed his 22 years' service; we wish him and his wife **Kathy** all the very best for the future. In comes **SSgt Brad Bradley** from 264 Sig Sqn who awaits with bated breath to discover his new role.

265 (KCLY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Simon Malik**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Mickey Mustoe**

During a visit to Bexleyheath on 6 September Comd 2 (NC) Sig Bde **Brig J. E. Neeve** presented the Territorial Efficiency Medal to **WO2 (SSM) Micky Mustoe, SSgt Steve Shelley, Sgt Dave Whitehouse, Sgt Dave Wren** and **Sgt Melvyn Absalom**; congratulations to all, a well deserved award for their efforts during the past 12 years. After the presentations **Lt Sarah Shelton** handed a cheque for £250 to the Commander, on behalf of the Squadron, for the new Corps Museum. The money was raised by members of **Lt Shelton**'s Troop which completed the Newark half marathon.

SSg Steve Shelley, Sgt Dave Wren, WO2 (SSM) Mickey Mustoe, Brig Neeve, Sgt David Whitehouse and Sgt Melvyn Absalom with the CO and the RSM

Lt Sarah Shelton presenting a cheque for £250 for the Corps Museum

Have you moved?

If so, and you are a *Wire* subscriber who has not received the latest issue please write to Subscriptions Clerk, RHQ Royal Signals giving your latest address.

We try to keep pace with the latest postings but we are not infallable.

1 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215) Tidworth

SHOOTING CAMP

The Squadron shooting camp under the direction of **SSgt Rouse** took place on the Hythe range complex. The journey down was uneventful except for an unscheduled detour by **Sgt Bob Pye** and **Lt Andy Mould**. Having decided to turn up a slip road for no apparent reason, some speedy driving was needed to avoid incurring the RSM's wrath for leaving the convoy. But **Sgt Pye** was equal to the task, the roundabout was negotiated at top speed and a sonic boom was heard as they hurtled down the opposite slip road and rejoined the convoy. Rumours that the RSM had slept through the whole event were not proved and both of them agreed to return the following day and pick up the Land Rover's gearbox.

The shooting itself proved very successful, with everyone progressing beyond their APWT to the more interesting shoots. The RSM's knowledge of the lines from Top Gun reinforced the belief that he bears more than a passing resemblance to Tom Cruise. **Cpl Phil Owens** made friends with everyone, except the RSM, when he confused miles with kilometres when measuring the route for the march and shoot competition.

EXERCISE IRON COMPASS

After a good deal of hard work the Squadron deployed on the major exercise before Christmas. **Sig** 'Arnie' **Arnell** promptly decided that the trailer on the back of his truck was slowing him down too much, and ruining his image. So he abandoned it at the earliest opportunity and thereby increased the number of vehicles in the packet by one. With everything arriving eventually the exercise began in earnest. Sabre Tp started at RAF Stafford before taking in such scenic places as Whittington Barracks, some charming firing ranges and finally ending up at RAF Woodbridge (where is all the RAF?). **Sig** (now LCpl) **Woodman**'s attempt to hold up a supermarket ended in failure, and he had to pay for his 'stickies' like everybody else. The newly arrived **Sgt** 'Popeye' **Robinson** proved an asset in keeping Sabre Tp's areas clean, proving particularly diligent in picking up small pieces of windblown paper. He also won the 'Rip van Winkle' award for the most sleep on the exercise. The exercise as a whole went well, with the Commander being very pleased with the Squadron's effort.

SHQ TROOP

SHQ Tp has seen several changes in personalities including the arrival of **Cpl Eddie Longford** and **LCpl** 'Lugs' **Curbishley**. Most notably, however, is the departure of the 21C **Capt** 'Flo' **McCourt. Lawrence**, to give him his real name, leaves the Army after 11 years' service, six of them spent adventurous training. He is going to join the TA as a hobby (so no change there then!). Best of luck to him and a big, big hello to **Capt Simon Hutchinson**, his wife **Sandra** and son **Jonathan**. Yes, the light is on in the 2IC's office.

SABRE TROOP

Welcome to **2Lt Al Long** who takes over from **Capt Andy Chessum**, who moves on to selling second hand aeroplanes in civvy street. Other welcomes include **Sigs** 'Harry' **Worth, Littler** and **Cpl Cheshire** and **Sgt Robinson**.

LCpl Adrian Glover departs for civvy street with our best wishes. **Sig** 'Ernie' **Appleton** has finally cleared (after six months trying) and left for 11 EOD Sqn where he is to be joined by **Sig** 'Charlie' **Brown**, good luck to them both. The latest addition to the Sabre Tp family: **Charlotte**, was provided by **Cpl Mark Holden** and his wife, congratulations to them.

PORTON BATTLE RUN

After much trepidation and preparation of NBC signs, IPE and vehicles the Squadron drove the few miles down the A338 to Porton Down. The weather was extremely hot, and the news that the NBC state had gone up as soon as we arrived on the area brought a universal groan from everyone. The new Sabre Tp Comd **2Lt Al Long** decided not to risk losing anyone so soon into the exercise and instructed everyone to don IPE. This approach contrasted with that of the Recce Offficer **Capt David Kenyon**, who, having been issued with the latest NBC proof skin, decided that no IPE was necessary for the entire exercise. Malicious rumours that he'd forgotten his kit were unproven.

Sabre Tp were given a prime sunny location, and there was much debate as to whether sun cream would be worn inside or on the outside of respirators. The Tp Comd was concerned about people becoming bored while waiting to assume control, so he instigated a 'who can sweat the most weight off in an afternoon' competition.

With temperatures in the 90s competition was extremely fierce. But the undoubted winner was **SSgt** 'Geordie' **Shave**, who lost 24 stone in two hours and 15 gallons down each leg. The QM flatly refused to exchange his kit on the grounds that none of it fitted him any more. The exercise was a great success and proved that NBC, even in those temperatures was not as bad as everyone thought it might be.

Sig Barker learns that CAM really does work

Cpl Meehan and Sig Brookes on NBC Sentry duty

Photos Courtesy 'Andover Advertiser'

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
(216 Para)
Aldershot

ARNHEM REUNION

Twenty lucky members of the Squadron, led by the Sqn Comd, QM, AO and RSM, made the journey to Arnhem earlier to celebrate the 50th Anniversary, of Op Market Garden. After the parachute descent and tab to the famous bridge our party relaxed amongst the locals of Arnhem. Many stories and ales later, the party returned to UK.

Arnhem 94
Jovial faces on the DZ at Arnhem, 17-18 September

THE CAYTHORPE WEEKEND–SEPTEMBER 1994

During the weekend of 3/4 September 1994 the Old Comrades of the 1st Airborne Division Signals Regiment and Veterans of Airborne Signals reunited in remembrance of the Battle of Arnhem and Op Market Garden 1944. The Reunion took place in the village of Caythorpe, near Grantham in Lincolnshire. Elements of 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para) participated in this event. The programme was as follows:

SPONSORED MARCH 28 AUGUST–3 SEPTEMBER

A team of 12 men (carrying 40lbs bergen) marched from Aldershot to Caythorpe from 0900 hrs Sunday 28 August and arrived at Caythorpe DZ early on Saturday 3 September. The men then joined the remainder of the Parachuting Party. Once parachuted, they finished the march in Caythorpe village arriving at the football pitch at 1300 hrs. The march was to raise money for the Airborne Initiative Trust and other charities.

The Caythorpe Tabbers

PARACHUTE INSERTION–SATURDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

The Squadron made a Parachute Descent on the fields by Beighton's Gorse, within walking distance west of Caythorpe. P hour was 1200 hrs. There was also a static display by the viewing point at the DZ.

On the DZ
(L to R): SSgt Dougie Craig, SSgt Vince McNaught, Maj John Aspinall, WO1 Joe Fairbairn Capt Fred Payet

FOOTBALL MATCH–SATURDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

Once again the Squadron team attempted to reverse the previous year's results against the local team. Kick Off was at 1530 hrs and a fine 1-1 draw was the result. Evening entertainment followed in the Wagon and Horses.

CHURCH SERVICE–SUNDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

As in previous years the Squadron followed by the Old Comrades of the 1st Airborne Division Signals marched to the church for the service at 1000 hrs where the Airborne Signals Stained Glass Window was unveiled and dedicated.

THANK YOU

Finally a thank you to Comms and Sy Gp (UK) for their admin support, and to everyone who donated money towards the window.

MIKE TROOP

Tp Comd **WO1 (FofS) Bob Morris**

Over the last few months the Troop has had a very busy period. We deployed two members to Rwanda on Op Gabriel, **Cpl Colin Forrester** and **Sig Andy Fisher** respectively. We believe that 'Fish' has now recovered the Brigade matel which had been lost on deployment. The remainder of the Troop deployed to Caythorpe in Lincolnshire for the Reunion weekend. All in all a great weekend and a soft descent onto 'DZ Payet'.

Then it was straight onto Ex Iron Compass, the MRT discovered their cam-net was all net and no cam. From Iron Compass we made part of history by having members of our Troop jumping into Arnhem, Holland for the 50th Anniversary. They were **WO1 (FofS) Bob Morris, Sgts Jim Duncan, Andy Scott, Cpl Paul Jordan**. An incredible weekend was had by all, after a very sporting jump.

We then deployed to Denmark, for Ex Larksong/Foxtrot, where we were hosted by 1st Bn The Royal Danish Life Guards. The Tuborg Brewery has made record profits and a good trip was had by all.

Congratulations go to **Cpl Colin Forrester** on his promotion and also to **Cpl Paul Howl** on his. Welcome back to **Sgt Andy Scott** and **LCpl Polly Poulson**.

Congratulations to **Cpl** 'Bradd' **Braddock** and his wife **Gill** on a new addition to the family.

CATERING DEPT

The year 1993/94 has seen a major turnover of chefs in the Squadron. **WO2 Paul Shaw** was posted to the Army School of Catering, St Omer Barracks and ably replaced by **WO2 Paul Taylor**, fresh from a three year holiday in Hong Kong. Another change over was the departure of **Sgt Paul Airey** on redundancy and his replacement is **Sgt Dave Tweddle** just in from Cyprus.

We have lost **LCpl Wayne Heaton** on a well deserved promotion, and also promotion for **Pte** Jona **Jones** to Lance Corporal to fill his shoes.

The chefs have had a busy time lately with exercise commitments, but have still had time to organise the Q Tp bowling team. Superbly led by **Dave Tweddle** with **Paul Taylor** going on to bowl in the British National Open Bowling Competition for the Army. The team also flew the flag in Denmark on their recent exchange exercise. All in all a busy but satisfying time has been had by all.

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 peace.

There are two 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.

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.

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.

19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209)
Catterick

Sqn Comd **Maj David Hargreaves**
2IC (Bosnia) **Capt Tudor Hill**
Adjt **Capt Dan Taylor**

The month of September has seen a new page turn in the history of the Signal Squadron and the Corps. **Capt Dan Taylor**, formerly of the Squadron in the Colchester days, has had his commission re-activated for the duration of the tour in Bosnia–a first in Corps history.

Dan's employers obviously think the tour will be of benefit to him in his civilian job. It must be an easy life in Civ Div, six months off at the drop of a hat. There could be no bigger slipper job out in Bosnia than Squadron Adjutant. A couple of visits to see the Troops, and handing out extras to the two young subalterns; on second thoughts, he might well be quite busy after all.

Anyway, we wish **Dan** well, and hope he enjoys the next six months with the Squadron. As they say in Serbo-Croat 'Dobra Dan'.

ALPHA TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt Ian Ellis**

Since the last report there has been more Op Grapple training. The introductory exercise went well and now the Squadron has a fully trained hierarchy. The Comd 19 Bde did not get to use his nice new M reg landrover as a little impromptu panel-beating took place.

The training at CATC was enjoyed by all, particularly when it came to the field firing stages as a number of the Force Squadron had not done any before. Fortunately, the rain encouraged people to dive for the puddles which seemed to excite the RGJ somewhat. Realism was added with items from the abattoir. Great enthusiasm was shown by all, and **Sig Lee Harper** storming a position to screams of 'Get some!' managed to kick the head off one of the dummies. After working everybody up there is now a need to calm them down so that the situation in Bosnia is not inflamed.

Farewell and good luck to redundees: **Cpl Pete Clark** and **LCpls Bob Armstrong** and 'Rickets' **Randall**. Also on postings to **LCpl** 'Mack' **McConnell** and **Sig** 'Tommo' **Thomas**.

Finally, on discharge, farewell to **LCpl Karl Touhey**, who is off to be a para medic.

'Warmongers'–A and B Tp members on CATC

Welcomes are extended to **Cpl Andy Forster** from NI, and **Sig** 'Malcy' **Pattinson**, fresh from the factory–hope your move is fruitful.

There were also seven from the Troop in the early deployment group. We will catch up with them soon. *Wire* notes will then be scribed from the former Republic of Yugoslavia.

BRAVO TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Andy Knott**

The Troop has had a busy time since Summer leave, doing lots of training and further training for our imminent deployment on Op Grapple 5.

We spent a glorious week, which seemed like a year, in that most salubrious of military architectural examples, namely Westdown Camp. We were processed through the Combined Arms Training Centre package. The training was, generally, very good, thanks to 2RGJ who had the unenviable task of getting us up to speed. The inevitable cliches were a bit thin by the end of the training and proved as morale boosting (or is that morale busting) as ever.

The main point to note from the CATC package is that the greatest enemies in Bosnia are mines, boredom and 'Dear Johns'. Allied to that are the problems from bad roads made worse by the weather and the Mujaheddim playing chicken with you on the cliffs.

Add to this, the **Sig Gilchrist** traitor who says he has never lost a game of chicken yet (but he hasn't met **Sig George Foreman** of A Tp and Comds rover fame)–the result would be rather frightening. It's a good job he's on our side–except that there are no sides.

On CATC the sweepstake for loudest shouting SNCO was won by **SSgt Collins**, the Bravo Tp rep who sounded like a town crier. The SNCO cliche competition went to **Sgt Thompson** who will soon be posted into the Squadron permanently from 8 Sig Regt.

Ammunition allocation for the Squadron was excellent. It is possible that the yearly allocation for the Corps was fired. The range days were organised exceptionally well and instruction was particularly good. On the pistol range the instructor was outstanding. This may have been due to his special duties training, or some auditions for the professionals. The FofS, **WO2 Dighton** got his initial barn door grouping down to a catflap size. **Sgt Andy Allan** of A Tp, managed to get his 20 metre 10 round group into the size of his Tp Comd's pay slip for the month, which really is remarkable shooting. Troop marksmen were: the Tp Comd, **Cpl Pendrich, LCpl Stewart, Sig Clark** and finally **Sig Harding** with a score of 117.

SUPPORT TROOP
QM **Capt E. C. Dale**

Support Tp forges on under the new management of **Capt** 'Chas' **Dale** and in the organised chaos of deployment to Bosnia. The pre-deployment programme is keeping all elements of the Troop busy, both training and work being fitted in. After all we are being paid 24 hours a day, so we may as well work that long.

On a lighter note, congratulations to **Cpl Jon Clarke** and **Cpl Giles Paver** on passing their T1 entrance exam, and to **LCpl Thomas** on being selected for the Corps Orienteering Squad. A special thanks to everyone who took part in the charity car wash event organised by **Cpl Hayes**, and the Charity Hit Squad organised by the MT. We are assured that the Corps Museum will soon be built (on a foundation of raffle tickets).

And finally, we say farewell to **SSgt** Geordie **Edminson** leaving us for civvy street and welcome **SSgt Stu Conway, Sgt Andy Haslam** and **Sig** 'Wurzel' **Armstrong** to the MT, good luck.

20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200)
BFPO 16

Sqn Comd **Maj P. H. Eaton**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Turnbull**

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

This month has seen a fair change over in personnel within the Troop. We would like to welcome the new 21C, **Capt Dave Duggan** from ORLO, **WO2 (YofS) Steve** and **Kate Brant** from NI, our new Chief Clerk, **SSgt Willy** and **Linda Martin** from the Gordons, **SSgt** (Tiffy) **Lee** and **Petra Saunders** from REME HQ Bordon, **SSgt Steve** and **Christine Bovan** from the Cadet Training Team in Worthy Down and **Sgt Harry** and **Monika Baird** from the Army Air Corps in Detmold.

We bid fond farewells to **WO2 (YofS) Bob** and **Hilary Jonas** to NI **SSgt Don** and **Tina Stewart** to 31.RLC, **Sgt Andy** and **Lyn Hall** to the Gunners in Dortmund and **Sgt Paul** and **Yvonne McGrevey** to NI.

ALPHA TROOP
Tp Comd **2Lt Alan Garrett**

WELCOMES

We all say a big hello to **Sgt Bruce** and the Clan **Bruce, LCpl Mick Devlin** and family, **LCpl** 'Ginger' **Thompson** from Bravo Tp, **Sigs** 'Susat' **Brown** and 'Rocky' **Smith** from Canada, **Steve Godfrey, Chris Kirkman** and 'Ed' **Hazelwood.**

CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes from everyone go to **Sig Dave Dowson** and **Lee**, and to **Sig Sean McIlroy** and **Lisa** on their recent weddings. **LCpl** 'Geordie' **Aspery** has now returned, a fully qualified DMI and **Sgt P. C. Culleton** is off on his Sergeant's Course–enjoy!

Everyone has been very busy. Straight off leave and into preparation for Ex Seven Pines which went well especially as not too many panzers broke down.

Ex Rhino Charge was a slightly different ball-game. As for Comms, the Troop was not really stretched. Our tent-erecting skills were put to the test on a lot more than one occasion. Highlights of the exercise were almost constant take-offs by German Tornados 800m away and **Sig** 'Billy the Fish' **McGlinchey** and the Tp Comd's covert OP near the athletics track–thank you, whoever she was!

BRAVO TROOP
Tp Comd **Lt P. R. Smith**

WELCOMES

Welcome to **Cpl** 'Wicksy' **Whittaker** and his family and **Sig Wade** all the way from Alpha Tp on a free transfer.

FAREWELLS

Goodbye to **LCpl** 'Buck' **Rogers** to 3 (UK) Armd Div Sig Regt and **LCpl Thompson** to Alpha Tp.

As always, it has been a busy period with the Troop deploying on Exs Seven Pines/Mailed Might and Rhino Charge. This was followed by assistance to 19 Bde at BBGT. Ex Rhino Charge was very quiet and there were some excellent performances in the sleeping stakes for the Golden Blanket Award. **LCpl Dave** (Key Det Comd) **Bartlett** was the easy winner with **LCpl Maclaren** in second. To keep the boredom to a minimum, the Tp Comd, **Lt Paul Smith**, introduced various military lessons. A special mention has to go to **Sig** 'Max' **Maxwell** who ran away with his machete at hand! when the radio relay were paid an unexpected visit late one evening.

The Grand Prix season is well under way and Bravo Tp have taken a sudden liking to motor racing. The Troop have put in a number of outstanding efforts in a variety of vehicles. **Sig Cheshire** started it off with his 'a dog ran out in front of me–let's roll the Rover' routine and this was followed by **Sig Lewis** in the same vehicle who was determined not to be outdone.

The latest race, which was held in Belgium, had to be stopped for safety reasons. **Sigs Burnett** and **Howard** drove a great race and thus resulted in broken bones and carnage all round. Anyone who has seen a dog with a habit of waiting in front of extremely fast moving Landrovers should contact **Sig Cheshire**.

The following is an extract of **Sig Eliot Harper**'s account of this year's major exercise–"Ex Rhino Charge II was the main Divisional exercise of the year for our Squadron. For Bravo Tp it was an unexpectedly quiet exercise, but the boredom was quickly relieved by several refresher sessions on infantry battle skills. While **Cpl John Payne** was demonstrating his fire fighting techniques on generators, there was a completely different atmosphere buzzing over the BSG (Brigade Support Group).

HQ BSG, manned by **Sig** 'Acky' **Atkinson** and **Sig Eliot Harper**, were taught on different types of insect killing with sticky tape and a SOI pamphlet by a visiting TA watchkeeper, the BOWO decided to join in on the act, and turned our 9 x 9 into a gas chamber using fly spray. We supplied the local farmer with enough fertilizer for his field to see him through to next year, until the portaloos eventually turned up and everyone figured out how to lift up the lids in the dark.

Overall, an enjoyable exercise, something was learnt by everyone and we look forward to Ex Rhino Replen."

ATHLETICS

The Squadron Athletics team crowned the most successful season in Squadron history by achieving an excellent third place in the Army Athletics Championships at Aldershot. Having only been beaten by two vastly larger units (Regiments), the claim to be the best true minor unit and Squadron team in the Army is a valid one!

The season started with a resounding win in the area qualifying round followed by a hard fought battle to win the UKSC (G) title. This was a first for the team, never having won this competition before and was won against stiff opposition from 12 Sup Regt RLC.

Perhaps the real highlight of the season was being the first team to win the Morrison Cup (G) in its new format. With opposition coming from 15 Squadron teams comprising a mix of Regimental standard athletes this was an exciting and hard fought athletics competition with the result never a certainty until the very end.

I have deliberately not singled out individuals for praise (the majority are big headed enough already, especially the sprinters!). This season has been a true team effort and in every competition it was the all round high scoring in each event that earned the results.

Team:

100m and Javelin	- **LCpl** 'Daley' **Dunbar**
200m and 4 x 400m	- **Cpl** 'Retired' **Payne**
400m and 4 x 400m	- **LCpl** 'Daddy' **McKenna**
400m and 4 x 400m	- **Sgt** 'Physio' **Mitchell**
800m	- **LCpl** 'Concorde' **Skerritt**
1500m and 4 x 400m	- **Sig** 'Son of Sonic' **Nicholls**
3000m Steeplechase and 5000m	- **WO1** 'Sonic' **Turnbull**
Long and Triple Jump	- **SSgt** 'Gasper' **Tivey**
High Jump	- **LCpl** 'PG' **Tomkins**
Shot and Discus	- **LCpl** 'Big John' **Phoenix**
Travelling Reserves	- **Sig** 'Jack' **McIlroy**

and, if things get really desperate, **Capt** 'Armani' **Pawlak**, Team Manager.

Squadron Athletics Team on winning the 1 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt Athletics Championship (Absent Capt Pawlak)

INTER-TROOP FOOTBALL

This year's inter-Troop football competition held on 7 October was run and organised by Bravo Tp under the watchful eye of **Lt Paul Smith**, keen as ever to win. B Tp Comd had had his team out training a number of weeks prior to the competition.

Bravo were pre-tournament favourites, and coasted through their first two games with easy victories over Support Tp 'B' and Alpha Tp. Then

there was Support Tp 'A', a team put together mainly from the LAD (REME & RLC) and SHQ (21C, RSM and RQMS). They had made even easier work of their first two games scoring 13 goals. It was then down to the all important and deciding final game-Bravo Tp v Support Tp 'A'. The game was a tight and hard fought affair, with **SSgt** 'Scrapper' **Saunders** being taken to the local MRS with a gash to his face and RSM 'Tiger' **Turnbull** even ending up in the referee's notebook–much to the amusement of the watching crowd. The game was eventually won by Support Tp 1-0 with a penalty from **LCpl Mac McKenna**. The penalty was given away by a deliberate hand ball well inside the penalty area by **SSgt Mark Tiffy**. As time began to run out Bravo tried everything to break down the Support Tp defence and in the last 30 seconds, **Lt Paul Smith**, missed a sitter, kicking the ball well over the bar from close range.

Sqn Comd Maj Paul Eaton presenting the inter-Troop Football Cup to Cfn Short, Spt Tp A Team Captain AWO1 (RSM) Turnbull and Sgt Fox look on

It was tears from Bravo after all their training as Support Tp 'A' collected the trophy for the second year running.

CHARITY AEROBATHON

On Sunday 2 October BDG's very own 'Miss Motivator', **Mrs Izzy Dunbar**, placed over 70 fitness fans through a two hour charity aerobathon, when they donned their leotards and trainers to workout as part of an UK Nationwide Reebok Day, the first of its kind to take place in Germany.

Izzy again managed to pace 150 well coordinated(!) officers and Troops of the Squadron through a number of 'hot' sessions of aerobics after which each of them generously donated towards the cause.

Izzy's aerobathon was a huge success and the total sum raised for the charity 'Breakthrough Cancer' was a mighty DM 7647.36! A substantial amount that will help towards the building of a research centre in the UK dedicated to finding a cure for breast cancer.

Mrs Izzy Dunbar *(centre)* with Squadron wives after being put through their paces raising money for the 'Breakthrough Cancer' Research Trust

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24 Airmob Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210) Colchester

Sqn Comd **Maj David Meyer**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Steve Morgan**

SQUADRON NEWS

Life in the Squadron has been as busy as ever with a Brigade exercise followed by a 3 Division exercise and then capped off with a week of technical inspections, thanks to those nice men from RSIT.

Cpl Dave Whitfield during RSIT–fortunately his brush strokes are better than his golf strokes

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt Lindsay Cullen**

The Troop has returned from Ex Gryphons Eye on Salisbury Plain training area. It was a notable exercise with many new and interesting ideas being put into action.

The crew of TAC HQ (alias Lone Vehicle, Alternate, No-Name . . .) were told they would be deploying as alternate HQ and not as Excon. An excited **LCpl Paul Davies**, reaching for his cam cream, had only been told half the truth; TAC HQ was being used in its correct role, but he and his crew were still working in Excon!

There were many interesting tales to come from the Rebros. Rebro One reported that its location was being stalked by a 'shotgun carrying 14 stone owl'. This caused **Sig Nige Skelly** great discomfort as he refused to leave the safety of his 9'x9' tent for the entire two weeks unless he was accompanied by 'Moby Dick'. The 'owl' was constantly hunted by snipers **Cpl** 'Churchy' **Churchwood** and **Sig Ash Gage**, but according to the 'owl' there were no confirmed kills.

Rebro Two discovered an interesting new way of mast de-erection by releasing the guys and letting gravity take its course. Meanwhile, the crew of Rebro Three was being invaded by a herd of cows; **LCpl** 'Gueido' **Giddens** had to fight off the attack from inside his cam net and all that could be 'herd' coming over the radio net was the popular Vietnam phrase 'Gooks in the wire'. This was the only time that **LCpl Giddens** was allowed on the net as it was just too depressing for the rest of the Brigade.

A somewhat garbled PXR point from **Sig Paul Grundy** on Rebro Recce was 'can we have a trailer for the extra food that the 2IC needs to stop himself falling asleep'; it is now being investigated. **Cpl** 'Wiper' **Tennent** performed admirably in his new role as the Brigadier's driver and for the record he did not get lost once . . . twice maybe! The finer points of his job still need to be worked out as there seems to be some confusion in who wakes up whom.

The final point to come from Ex Gryphons Eye, the action-on comms failure, is to keep the staff entertained by juggling. It is surprising how quickly **SSgt Neil Coatsworth** has taken up the sport, having heard the Sqn Comd say how much he enjoys it. **SSgt Coatsworth** is now planning to do a 24 hour sponsored juggle in aid of the Corps new Museum.

Finally, welcome to **LCpl Barry Samuelson, Sig Andy Nichols** and fresh from the factory **Sigs Robinson** and **Davies**. Congratulations go to **LCpl** 'Tugger' **O'Brien** on his marriage to **Libby** and last, but not least, to **Sig** 'Tugger' **Pysden** on his presentation of Tp Comd's lolly pop!

BRAVO TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt John Evans**

Whilst Alpha Tp returned to camp, feeling a little peaky after Ex Gryphons Eye, Bravo Tp tirelessly carried on the motions with Ex Iron Compass.

It started with a swift session in the Gym at Picton Barracks (thank you 3 Div) and was followed by a week in the Butlins Holiday Camp at Nesscliffe, near Shrewsbury. Despite a lack of Red Coats, the staff managed to keep the troops entertained and **Cpl Dave Whitfield** even managed a couple of rounds of crazy golf.

Feeling suitably rested the Troop played 'Whacky Races' to RAF Woodbridge, near Ipswich, for another week of fun and games including that interesting one 'Lay the Quad' (thank you Yeoman).

To finish off, we say farewell to **Cpl** 'Taff' **Bowen** who is posted to Northern Ireland and welcomes go to **Sigs Claire Moses, Gav Storey** and **Baz Hopgood**. Congratulations to **Sgt** 'Tubbs' **Arthurs** on his recent promotion and also for being awarded 'Slimmer of the Month' by Colchester Weight Watchers (you kept that one quiet Tubbs).

MT SECTION

Ex Gryphons Eye saw the MT Section deployed in various guises–**Sig** 'Perry' **Mason** once again took 'The Damon Hill award for driving excellence'; one day he will learn to stop.

It's a sad farewell to **Sgt Dave Butler** who leaves the unit to join the '9 to 5-ers' at ACIO Nottingham; good luck to him and to his wife **Tracey**. Congratulations to **Sgt Pete Stidwell** who has been promoted in house as the MT SNCO. Welcome to the pleasure dome.

Another farewell to **Cpl Kev Johnson** who has been posted to 2 Sig Regt. Your leaving present is on the way (and the cheque is in the post). Again best of luck to you and your family.

A complete change in the 210 MT is complemented by the arrival of **Cpls Rick Lodge** and **Gaz Topps, LCpls Dan Benson**, 'Milly' **Millington** and **Dave Cox. Sig** 'John Mate' **Ryalls** has finally returned from his tour with the Irish Guards in BATUS. We are looking to him to provide drill instruction in the future.

A Chinook airlifts a radio detachment during Ex Gryphons Eye

243 Sig Sqn
Bulford Camp

Sqn Comd — **Maj Peter Davis**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Linda Cooper**

There have been so many changes recently, due to redundancy and normal turnover, that we will not record them here, except to note the departure of **2Lt Deb Sunderland** to 15 Sig Regt which is a great loss after her enormous contribution to all aspects of Squadron activity, especially organising summer camps.

Congratulations to **LCpl Poulson** and his team for winning the UK inter-Unit Sailing Regatta on the Solent in September. They won every race despite being disqualified in the first event on a technicality!

Congratulations to **Cpl Smart** and her team who won the Southern District Modern Triathlon (swim/shoot/run) held at 21 Sig Regt (AS) on 28 September.

WO2 (SSM) Linda Cooper
Now in her final year in the Army and busy resettling. Has the distinction of being the first female SSM in the Royal Signals

After 29 years, the last eight years at HQ UKLF–Sgt Archer is now working for a medical company in Salisbury

Southern District Modern Triathlon
Cpl Smart displays the cup won by LCpl Baggaley, Sigs Campbell, Mills and Appleton

UK Inter-Unit Sailing Regatta Trophy
LCpl Poulson holds the trophy which was won by Sig Harman Cpl Baxter, Sigs Duggan and Daw

Mr Colin Hutchings
He has spent 30 years working with Royal Signals on Dartmoor and in the South West.

Mr Tom Coghlan
In charge of the Squadron's detached civilian personnel in numerous Commcens and telephone exchanges. Retired in October after 44 years' service

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

AMF(L) FOOTBALL COMPETITION

During Ex Arrow Exchange in Turkey the Squadron took part in an international football competition, the winners would play a Turkish Army side in Gaziantep stadium. (Home of a Turkish 1st Div Side!)

The competition got off to a flying start with the Spanish, Dutch and English arguing about who should play first as both the Dutch and Log Sp Bn AMF(L) teams arrived late! The Squadron played the highly fancied Dutch team that was sporting its national football strips with the Squadron playing in its Army Green Squadron T-shirts. The match was played on what can best be described as a flat quarry site with goals at each end. The Squadron won 2-0, with goals from **SSgt** 'Tommy' **Steele** and **WO2 (SSM) Dave Fraser..**

The Squadron met with little resistance in the next two games as they marched towards the final.

The final was between the Log Sp Bn AMF(L) and 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)). It was a fine contest between the two teams intent on playing the Turkish Army side. At half time the Squadron was one goal up. Some fine play by **LCpl** 'The Tan' **Atherton** and **LCpl** 'Crosser' **Crossley** saw 249 dominate mid field. The second half started well, then only eight minutes left, Log Sp Bn AMF(L) equalised with its only real attack. All that effort seemed to have been for nothing, but with three minutes to go up popped **SSgt** 'No 9' **Steele**, who scored his second goal which put us into the final.

The match against the Turkish Army team was played later the same day, some 70km away in Gaziantep. The ground was immaculate, with the pitch being as good as any first division pitch back in the UK, the Turks had brought some 800 soldiers with them to boost their morale. The game kicked off with the Squadron team at its most eager. Alas, they were too good! The ball zipped from Turk to Turk at great pace, and by half time the score was 7-0 to the Turks.

Tired but undaunted, the Squadron went into battle for the second half with some fine spirited play which led to two goals from **Sig 'J' Briggs** and the SSM. Unfortunately, there was further agony to come when we conceded a further three goals. The final score being 10-2. We later found out that they were nearly all ex-professional players and that three members still played in the Turkish First Division. Nevertheless, it was an experience not to be forgotten!! Thanks to all our supporters, especially to those members of the Squadron who doubled up on the guards and shifts so that a certain few could play out a few schoolboy dreams.

FofS Tommy Steele shoots after out-pacing the Log Sp Bn (AMF(L)) defence

THREE COUNTIES CHARITY MARCH

by **Cpl Dave Coussons**

The third week of August saw Support Tp's annual fund raising week. Our chosen charities this year were Cancer Research Campaign, the Army Benevolent Fund and, of course, the Corps Museum.

We decided that this year we would organise a charity run which would cover three counties along the south coast of England. The run started on Monday 15 August in Weymouth, Dorset, running along the coast through Devon and finishing on Saturday 20 August in Truro, Cornwall, a total distance of 157.3 miles.

The week was a great success, mainly due to the good weather and the help of that genius of comedy, the game show host king, **Ted Rogers** of '3.2.1.' fame. **Ted** had agreed to spare us an hour of his valuable time in Torquay where he was appearing in summer season. He turned out to be a great crowd puller with his fantastically funny one-liners and as a result of this we coined it in!

The run ended with a warm welcome from the Mayor of Truro and a civic reception which was held in the town's council chambers. The final total raised for the week was £5580 which just goes to show how much effort was put into fund raising, almost as much as socialising on the way!

Much of our success was due to the organisation put in by many but, especially **Sgt Pete Griffiths** and, the Troop PR Agent **Coates** who waffled for NATO and managed to get the run publicised all along the route.

LCpl Swayne leads the way, followed by Cpl Barton, Sigs Quinn, Bratley and Powell

Ted Rogers with Support Troop

- News from Troops -

633 Sig Tp
BFPO 12

Tp Comd **Capt Dick Gamble**

As 633 Sig Tp disbanded on 30 September 1994 this will be the final report from the Caribbean Signal Tp. This year has been extremely busy for Troop personnel with all long haul HF circuits being closed in April and May (resulting in full reliance on commercial satellite for rear link), and Army Commcen Belize itself closed on 1 August in order to make way for the Headquarters of the British Army Training Support Unit Belize (BATSUB).

One of the first to leave the Troop was **Cpl Yambahadur Gurung** who returned to the UK in June. Over the following months many more departed and the last three, the Tp Comd turned off the lights and the other two helped him to the plane, departed on 27 September 1994.

The finale

TECH SECTION
by **Cpl O'Hara**

It's 31 July and all of our major circuits have been closed–no large thuds because morale is at an all time high, despite the devious attempts of the sensation seekers (**WO2 (FofS) John Hiorns** and **Sgt Neil Parkinson**) to find other work. **Cpl Steve Munro** has been snatched by a busy Tele Mech section where he is attempting to earn his 'Golden Snips'. The remainder, ably led by **Cpl O'Hara** and renamed the 633 Humpers and Dumpers, whose five point plan-Shift, Shove, Sweep, Scrape and Sweat is paying off, as they have transformed the Commcen into an uncluttered and very clean place of peace and quiet. Special mention for **Cpl Lee** 'Trigger' **Perry**, and **LCpls Jon** 'Muscles' **Hatch, Adie** 'Tactical' **George** and **Corry** 'Zziggyy' **Pennicot**. Congrats on a job well done.

TELE MECH SECTION
by **Cpl Cascarino**

An extremely busy time for the Tele Mechs for 31 July saw the introduction of a new 'All singing and all dancing Telephone Exchange', with **Sgt Pete Gruncell** and **WO2 (FofS) John Hiorns** ably assisting **Cpls Dave Cascarino** and **Steve Munro** to iron out the 'few' teething problems. Modifying the Commcen building to its new role as HQ BATSUB was a tortuous event, with lots of new subscribers to provide for and new cabling required, and always by tomorrow, if not today.

It was noticed (by everyone) that **Sgt Pete Gruncell** managed to fit in another diving exped and that **WO2 (FofS) John Hiorns** smiled on at least five occasions. **Cpls Dave Cascarino** and **Steve Munro** have applied to live on Ambergis Cay and become citizens of San Pedro town as that is where they seem to be spending a lot of their time and copious LOA.

BRITISH FORCES BELIZE SAAM
by **Sgt Steve Littlewood**

On hearing that B Coy 3 Para were hoping to walk away with this year's competition the Tp Comd approached me and said words to the effect '**Sgt Littlewood** you've been in 264 Sig Sqn, pick the best three shots in the Troop and enter the SAAM'. So was born a legend with **Sgt Littlewood** leading **LCpl** 'Indiana' **Hatch** and **Sigs** 'Deadeye' **Inglis** and 'Five Bucks' **Pennock** to fame and fortune.

The competition took place on a very hot (even for Belize) Wednesday afternoon and comprised one event–the Falling Plate, which was tackled following the mandatory 100m sprint. Our first victims were 24 Tpt Sqn RLC 'A' which was dispatched in short order. Next came 3 Para 'A' who didn't take us seriously until it was too late–we beat them by nearly 20 seconds and earned a place in the semi-finals. We 'faced' 3 Para 'B' next and when the dust had settled it was the Paras who were left counting their plates.

As the competition had now very seriously 'warmed up' the organisers decreed a 15 minute break before the final. We were to face 24 Tpt Sqn RLC 'B' team, who had recorded a time only one second slower than our best, so nerves were on edge. In previous heats the Troop had maintained the same 'lane', but having won the toss, 24 Sqn elected to make us change lanes, hoping to ruin our run of luck. It was not to be, only 21 seconds after hearing the word 'GO', the Troop had knocked down all their plates and were the champions. The grins soon returned to the faces of the other competitors however when it was realised that the prizes were lovely hand painted coconuts!–surely the greatest centre piece in anyone's trophy cabinet.

British Forces Belize SAAM 1994 Champions
(L to R): Sig Steve Pennock, Sig 'Spesh' Inglis, Sgt Steve Littlewood and LCpl John Hatch proudly show off their prizes

Aberdeen University OTC

Tp Comd **2Lt E. P. Garden**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) K. J. Bywater MBE**

SIGNALS SPECIALIST TRAINING PACKAGE
SUMMER CAMP 1994 HALTON

Summer Camp 1994 took place at 'happy' Halton. After an initial period of adventure training all Officer Cadets then went through some general military training before undertaking some specialist work in preparation for **WO2 Bywater**'s aptly named Ex Tree Boar.

With a much higher percentage of new recruits involved in this year's package the training ranged from the basics of putting a PRC351 together, to the dizzy heights of long range HF, and the sighting and setting up of a radio det. However, the standard bad/good det lesson had a whole new dimension added to it by **SUO Graham Ingram** and **JUO Andy McGowan**. Their arrival in location to the sound of the Blues Brothers (shades and white shirts!) was only surpassed by their attempt to 'crash' (a very appropriate way of describing it!) the det out of location, which left all their equipment behind, and **SUO Ingram** firmly stuck to the front bumper of the Land Rover in true Indiana Jones style! Hopefully, this popular method (with the Officer Cadets), of moving into and out of location would not be copied on exercise.

The Signals 'package' moved from Halton to Catterick, and met up with 19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209) for a familiarisation visit, which included a demonstration of how fast an APC could negotiate the driver training course! On completion, all members of the package deployed to the Catterick Training Area where **Capt Phil Wotton** and **2Lt Andy Cox** put the majority of the Officer Cadets through some last minute revision of the basic Infantry skills. Unfortunately, the location used for this training also appealed to PWO, who decided to use that particular wood for a dawn Battalion attack, which created a somewhat early reveille.

The concept of Ex Tree Boar was for half of the Officer Cadets to dismount from their vehicles and deploy as Infantry to protect the remainder who deployed as comms assets against the fiendish hordes from the AUOTC's Infantry specialist package; all did not go as planned.

While the majority of the Officer Cadets were practising their Infantry skills, **JUO Kerry Henderson** (holding the prestigious appointment of Tp Comd at the time) moved off for a simple (appearances can be deceptive!) recce of locations in Stang Forest where she was to deploy her dets the following day. To cut a (very) long story short, there were some vehicle problems which led to the deployment of AUOTC's equivalent of 'International Rescue' (**OCdt Nick Gilbert** and **LCpl Graham Gibbs**). Unfortunately, 'Virgil' and 'Brains' must have been out of practice as things went horribly wrong, never mind I'm sure REME didn't mind the drive from Ripon on a Saturday to help out!

This early phase of the exercise included an HF link-up with Exeter UOTC. However despite AUOTC's best efforts (and those of 'Pinky' and 'Perky' from 19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209)) Exeter could be heard but not spoken to! Until that is, **WO2 Bywater** decided to go back to the days of his youth and sack all the hi tech antennae and prop stuff and revert to the 'brute force' of a barbed wire fence. It was a pity that no camera was present at the Exeter end, to see their jaws drop at the reply of 'Barbed wire fence, Over' to the question 'Which means are you using, Over'. This piece of fence must have been lucky as things started to improve! The enemy hordes were being driven on to Feldom by a classic example of 'Recce by Fire' as demonstrated by **SUO Ingram** and **JUO Henderson**. Unfortunately, at this stage **WO2 Bywater** was denied the chance to 'gently walk' (his words) the Officer Cadets Cross-Country to redeploy on to Feldom, an experience that was deeply upsetting to both him and the Officer Cadets involved (his words again!).

On redeployment, the tempo of the exercise moved up a gear with 'Pinky' and 'Perky' enjoying the unusual experience of dishing out 'serials' as opposed to suffering from them. The Feldom phase concluded with a redeployment of all Signals' Officer Cadets to protect comms assets dispersed in a large wood. This move was followed by a lengthly attack by the Infantry hordes. However, **JUO Alan Walker** (temporarily appointed Tp Comd) obviously had great confidence in his Troops having carefully deployed them. He then slept through the entire hour long, 6000 round attack, and was only woken by the DS checking for brass!

Unfortunately, after the excitement of Ex Tree Boar, providing comms for the CO's exercise (Skillful Boar) went just too smoothly, for personnel so used to improvising, adapting and panicking!

As to the future for members of the team, **SUO Ingram** heads for Sandhurst and a TA Commission, followed by a Royal Signals sponsored RCB (where he is joined by **JUO McGowan**), **JUO Walker** gets to practise his sleeping by being appointed as the SUO. Several members 'toddle off' to Blandford for the UOTC course while others sample the delights of Wainwright and Ex Pond Jump West in Canada, 259 Sig Sqn in Cyprus and 30 Sig Regt at Bramcote.

Meanwhile, the remainder are left to argue just how far Exeter is from Catterick and look forward to yet another exciting year and Annual Camp at Easter next year.

University of London OTC

by **OCdt Melanie Amara-Carnell**

Trinity Term at ULOTC ended with a barrage of examinations for most, the Contingent Cocktail Party and Annual Camp. Immediately prior to camp, the Sub Unit had a 'change of PSI', giving **WO2 Nigel Barnett** the opportunity to really find out about the OTC the hard way . . . on exercise! **WO2 Chris Gopsill** (the previous PSI) managed to get back and join us for the cocktail party and on receipt of his farewell present commented 'I thought you'd all forgotten me!'–don't worry, Sir, we haven't and we all intend dropping in on you when passing!

Annual Camp at Tregantle Fort, Dartmoor brought about new challenges, especially during the special-to-arm exercise in week two, when the sub-unit's ability to communicate with the rest of the OTC was tested to the full–particularly for **OCdts Fraser Patrick** and **Keith Fraser** to keep the whole thing from their rebro station on Gutters Tor, despite the 'helpful' comments from **2Lt J. C. Allen**. The usual Dartmoor weather of blazing sunshine and cloudless skies, interspersed with five-metre-visibility-fog only added to the fun as did the families happily camping on our objectives for the final exercise.

Our **WO2 Nigel Barnett** had realised just how we operated, he managed to find himself a motorbike and spent the rest of the time riding around the lanes of Devon and Cornwall, 'troubleshooting'–or so he told the OC anyway! He seemed to turn up at TAC HQ every time the kettle boiled and stayed just long enough for tea! He even managed to drink more than **OCdt Emma Covell**, in her tiring stints in Excon at the guard room.

The highlight of the camp was the visit of **HRH The Princess Royal**, the Chancellor of the University of London and Honorary Colonel of the University of London OTC. Most of the sub-unit were involved in specialist displays, range work and a patrolling demonstration. Other high points included the Contingent dinner at Stonehouse Barracks and the end-of-camp barbecue, which gave us the opportunity to show off the new sub-unit rugby shirt, in its smart Corps colours.

In addition to the change of PSI, the sub unit has also 'lost' a number of third years, including **JUO Chris Burge**; he is succeeded by **JUO Catherine Brodie** as sub unit JUO, and **JUOs Graham Alexander** and **Craig Smith** and **OCdt Isabel Lipsett** have appointments with Athlone Company, which should test them further. **JUO John Symmons** has passed TA Sandhurst and has been promoted to 2Lt, congratulations to all! At the time of going to press, the sub unit are concentrating on a strategy to win the CUOTC inter-OTC HF exercise.

WO2 Barnett, 'trouble shooting' in Devon

Tayforth University OTC

B SQUADRON
Sqn Comd — **Capt 'CJ' Johnston**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Neil White**

We welcomed **WO2 (SSM) Neil** 'Chalky' **White** as the new B Sqn PSI on 5 January 1994, whilst waving goodbye with the other hand to **WO2 (SSM) Steve** 'Digger' **Barnes**, wishing him the best of luck.

Whilst the Squadron continued to provide training for its own recruits and other soldiers throughout the Spring term, its biggest Signals training responsibilities was to provide instructors for the C Coy Recruit Cadre, at Cultybraggan, in February, and the A and B Squadrons combined Recruit Cadre, at Barry Buddon, in March. These positions were taken, at great personal hazard, by **JUOs Alan Calderwood, Rich Medway** and **Rich Prime**. At Barry Buddon, the RSM, **WO1 Alister Morran**, A&SH, was awarded the 'Most Stupid Hat on Camp' award, the Adjutant, **Capt Terry Ellison** fought off stiff opposition from the cooks for the 'Fish Fryer of the Year' award and **WO2 (CSMIM) Eddie Cameron** SG 'The Golden Book of One Hundred and One Useful Guards Stories'.

Entertainment in the Spring term focused on a Vietnam Night in February organised by the PMC, **JUO Andy McDowell**, and 'Empire Night–The Former Glory of the British Empire' in March, organised by the PEC **JUO Rich Prime** and his oppo **JUO Rich Medway**. Special mentions must go to **OCdt Mike Smith** as a pukka gent, **OCdt Ruairi Fitzpatrick** as Lawrence of Arabia and the Sqn Comd, **Capt Colin Johnston**, as Gunga Din. The Mess wholeheartedly endorsed the move from Budweiser and Coors from the American colonies to Castle Lager from South Africa–now politically correct to drink!

The Summer term is traditionally a quiet time in the Squadron as most Officer Cadets are studying for degree exams. Late May, however, saw one section's annual visit to the St Fort Estate to provide additional signals coverage for the Scottish Horse Carriage Championship. Although the Saturday was warm and uneventful, B Sqn excelled itself at the party at night: **OCdts Jim Simpson** and **Chris Cairns** successfully fought off all local opponents in the Mess Jousting whilst **JUO Rich Medway, OCdts Chris Cairns** and **Mike Parr** twice beat last year's local champions on the scramble to the top of the marquee pole and down. B Sqn's motto was defended–'and Never beaten–In Mess Games'.

Entertainment focused on the unit Cocktail Party in A Sqn's Mess in St Andrew's when B Sqn triumphed in removing anything that was not nailed down. The Science Fiction party on 11 June was a huge success with notable costumes by **DJUO Barry Henderson** (C Coy) as a Colonial Marine (Alien 3), **OCdt Jim Simpson** as Rogue Trooper complete with blue skin (2000AD), and **2Lt Joanna Kay** (C Coy) as Rimmer (Red Dwarf). Squadron training continued on Wednesday nights but with depleted attendance due to exam preparation.

OCdt Melissa Lamb demonstrates the PRC 351 baby carrier to OCdt Heather Morrow

LANCASHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE ANNUAL CAMP

Swynnerton, Staffordshire was the 1994 Annual Camp venue for Lancashire Army Cadet Force who took advantage of the on site facilities for watermanship, canoeing, target rifle range, assault course, and electronic target aids (INVERTRON) as well as the excellent terrain for map and cross country exercises. Rock climbing and abseiling, organised by **Capt Alex Rogers** and the 40 Cadet Training Team, took place on 'The Roaches', the rock formation overlooking the A53 Road between Leek and Buxton.

Visitors to camp included **Col B. A. G. King TD, Brig I. R. D. Shapter, Col C. G. Dickie TD**, and **Col G. B. Stamm TD**, who kindly made awards to SM Instructor **McClements**, and CSM Instructor **Galbraith**.

The accent of the cadet training was leadership and self reliance, whilst the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is encouraged, along with an attitude of responsibility not only to themselves but to others.

Lancashire Army Cadet Force 4 Passing Out Parade Fulwood Barracks April 1994 includes Cadets from the Counties of Cheshire, Lancashire, Cumbria, and Greater Manchester. Col Peter Dew Commandant Lancashire inspecting

ANNUAL CAMP–CLEVELAND A.C.F. BREAKS ALL RECORDS

The most popular event in Cleveland A.C.F.'s annual camp was the motorcycle training and the statistics prove it.

This year **Sgt Gary Elliston** of the Royal Signals Road Show, the trainer and mentor of the 270 cadets who were given instruction in riding at camp, added a new dimension to the training by fitting recording equipment to one of Cleveland cadets riding around a 600 metre oval circuit covered 5346 miles during an eight day period, that's 888 miles per bike and that works out at 99 miles per day per bike.

The instruction was also put to good use in tuition towards the visit by the Royal Logistics Corps Mobile Display Team on which the cadets were actively encouraged to drive 16 ton wagons, snow cats, JCBs and last but not least Felix (The Army's bomb disposal wheel barrow). To fulfil their more mundane requirements each cadet also made for themselves a pancake using the mobile field kitchen equipment.

All this together with the military training and sporting activities that are always a standard part of annual camp made Cleveland's 10 days at Beckingham one of the most popular training camps that most cadets could remember. To qupte one young cadet "Roll on Leek next year".

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL SCHOOL CCF

A group of Cadets from the Hereford Cathedral School Combined Cadet Force have just returned from a two and a half week expedition in the high Pyrenees. The expedition area was the Ariege region which was selected because of its remoteness and rugged beauty.

The expedition groups based themselves high up in the remote valleys and supported themselves for the whole period, carrying all equipment and food necessary to move around this very mountainous area of southern Europe.

Whilst in the Ariege the groups climbed some of the areas highest peaks, Mountcalm and Pic de Estats, which are both over 3000 metres. Many more minor peaks were ascended, all over 2500 metres in height.

During the latter part of the expedition two groups participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Scheme underwent their award expedition walk. A Gold expedition in the Ariege was truly a challenge. The physical demand of covering 50 miles in the high Pyrenees, completely self-contained for four days was a true test.

The Duke of Edinburgh assessor **Mr Pete Bray** praised the young participants and commended them on their fine achievement and display of mountaincraft skills.

Also completing her Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze expedition walk was **Grizel Clouston**, who openly admitted that the walk had been the most physically challenging thing she had ever taken part in.

The successful Duke of Edinburgh participants were:- **Lizzie Ferguson, Sam Sudlow, Ben Compton, Louise Langstaff, Tom Morgan-Jones, Emily Davis, John Meredith, Justin Miles** and **Grizel Clouston**.

Summit of Pic de Rouge Ariege region of the Pyrenees

Royal Signals Section
Foreground *(L to R)*: Lt Tony Collier, Cdt Cpl Matthew Reynolds
Background *(L to R)*: Cdt Cpl Sophie Hill, Cdt Sgt Sam Sudlow, Cdt LCpl Justin Miles, Cdt Sgt John Meredith, Cdt Cpl Joanne Crockett

10 EASTBOURNE CADET TROOP

October saw the Annual Presentation Parade of No. 10 Eastbourne Cadet Tp, Royal Signals Sussex Army Cadet Force, which was held on Wednesday 19 October 1994.

The Cadets were in the presence of a large gathering of parents, friends (old and new) and members of the T.A. and Army Cadet Force. The guests were welcomed by the OC **Capt Eddie Pettitt** who reported on an extremely successful year and one which saw many achievements. He also spoke of the busy year ahead in 1995.

Eastbourne is very lucky that it can offer Senior Cadets a number of extra activities other than the normal A. P. C. training. One being the Unit Band which, along with the Canoes are based at Eastbourne.

The Inspecting Officer was **Maj Ray Wilkinson T.D.** Sqn Comd 56 Signal Squadron (V). After the inspection of the parade he presented the awards for the years achievements. **Maj Wilkinson** was extremely pleased to see such a high standard among the Cadets, Adult Instructors and Officers, and congratulated all concerned. After the Parade parents and friends gathered in the combined mess, for a buffet.

AWARDS 1994

Best Cadet GP Shooting–Cecil Baker Cup – **Cpl Clint Edwardson**
– **LCpl Richard Duckett** Marksman 70
Best 0.22 Shooting – **Cpl Sarah Stredwick**
Best Section – Mercury
Most Outstanding At Camp – **LCpl Stuart Lambert**
Most Promising Cadet–RE Efficiency Shield – **Cdt Ben Mills**
Top Recruit Of The Year – **Cdt Luke Pettitt**
Best NCO–Brunsden Cup – **Cpl Clint Edwardson**
Promotion From Cdt to LCpl – **Cdt James Jarvis**
– **Cdt David Knight**
– **Cdt Simon Frew**
Promotion From LCpl to Cpl– **Justin Mileman**
– **Richard Duckett**
Attendance Shield – **Sgt Simon Newton**
– **Cpl Keith Cooper**
Fitness Shield – **LCpl Scott Fitzgerald**
S.W.A.T. Shield – **Cdt Simon Frew**
One Star A.P.C. Passes – **Cdt Martin Pearce**
– **Cdt James Jarvis**
Two Star A.P.C. Passes –
Band Person of the Year – **LCpl Stuart Lambert**
Cadet Of The Year With Promotion to LCpl–**Cdt Martin Pearce**

Maj R. K. Wilkinson TD (V), Sqn Comd 56 Sig Sqn (V) with the award winners

THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Admiral	Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander CB OBE
Commodore	Col J. E. F. Kirby OBE

Rear Commodores: Offshore, Lt Col J. R. S. Amberton;
Dinghies, Lt Col M. J. McKinlay; Windsurfing, Maj D. I. Gilchrist.

CONTACTS

Yachtmasters:	**UK: Capt J. F. Calvert, Blandford Mil 2459**
	BAOR: Capt R. K. Orr, Birgelen Mil 286
Secretaries:	**Dinghy Racing UK: Capt D. C. A. Ellis, Blandford Mil 2340**
	Dinghy BAOR:Maj S. I. Andrews, Osnabruk Mil 5247
	Windsurfing UK: Maj P. G. Cross, Blandford Mil 2400
	Windsurfing BAOR: Capt W. N. White, Celle Mil 273/300
	Retired Members Rep: Lt Col (Retd) C. K. Powell, Blandford Mil 2437
Soldier Reps:	**Sgt Finnigan: Thorney Island 8263 Sgt P. Downie: Bulford Mil 2837**

The Royal Signals Yacht Club communicates with its members through the medium of* The Wire*, which regularly prints a forecast of events, accounts of activities and contains details for club officials.

Any member of the Corps who subscribes to Corps funds is automatically a member of the Yacht Club: this membership is activated simply by registering with one of the Club secretaries.

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB (GERMANY)
THE ROYAL SIGNALS SAIL TRAINING WEEK

The annual Sail Training Week took the form of an offshore regatta held in the Baltic Sea visiting both German and Danish ports. The regatta was held under the authority of the Royal Signals Yacht Club (Germany) and 65 personnel serving with Royal Signals units from both UK and Germany took part.

All 12 Hallberg-Rassey yachts of the British Kiel Yacht Club were chartered and allocated to units as follows:

BOAT	UNIT	SKIPPER
Stork	The Royal School of Signals	**Cpl Baxter**
Pintail	1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt	**Sgt Pounsett**
Skua	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt	**Cpl Sangster**
Tern	7 Sig Regt	**Mr Lockhart**
Grebe	8 Sig Regt	**Sgt Abdey-Hebditch**
Petrel	13 Sig Regt (R)	**Mr Curran**
Pochard	14 Sig Regt (EW)	**LCpl Gale**
Gannet	16 Sig Regt	**SSgt Jones**
Widgeon	30 Sig Regt (A)	**Lt Mould**
Curlew	30 Sig Regt (B)	**Bdr Kempen**
Teal	20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (200)	**Cpl Fitzpatrick**
Gannet	280 (UK) Sig Sqn	**Bdr Wrigley**

In addition the Adventure Sail Training Centre, Kiel provided one of the two Committee yachts, *Sir William Scotter* which was crewed by the Race Committee, **WO2 Honeyman, Sgt Ennels, Cpl Foulger** and **LCpl Sharp**.

The Committee's other yacht being *Quicksilver* the Royal Signals Corps Yacht, based at Kiel. *Quicksilver* was crewed by **Col J. R. B. Cook** and **Lt Col Evans** and their wives.

The regatta sailed the following course through the Baltic:

DAY ONE

A cruise in company from Kiel to Marstal, enabling the Skippers to carry out crew training and safety drills practice. This produced many hilarious moments as the novices attempted to hoist their sails, along with several personnel becoming very wet during the man-overboard drills.

DAY TWO

The first race proper from Marstal to Kertiminde which was won in the end by *Pintail*, after the early leader, *Grebe*, lost the wind and was held up in a current. *Petrel* finished second and *Curlew* third.

DAY THREE

This was the longest race of the regatta from Kertiminde to the island of Anholt. Another close race that tested the stamina of the crews as it finished in the early hours of the morning. *Grebe* finished the strongest and won by a clear margin. *Petrel* again finished second with *Pintail* finishing in third place.

DAY FOUR

A rest day was held on Anholt to allow the crews to recover from the rigours of the previous day.

DAY FIVE

The winds were very slight on this day and only a shortened race from Anholt to Grena was possible. The leading boats were pulling away from the others in terms of points by now and it was no surprise that this race was won again by *Grebe*, with *Curlew* coming second and *Widgeon* third.

DAY SIX

There was now pressure of time for the regatta to reach Horsens Yacht Club who had offered to host the regatta for a Short-Course-Series (Round The Cans) event. The winds again were light but the crews persevered and finally reached Horsens late in the evening with *Petrel* leading and *Stork* second with *Pintail* in third position.

DAY SEVEN

The Horsens Yacht Club laid on an excellent Short-Course-Series which all of the crews enjoyed and which was very competitive. The Novice Skippers Race was also held during this series and it was won by **Cpl O'Donnell** from 1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. The main event however was won by *Grebe* with *Pintail* second and *Petrel* third. In the evening the Committee hosted a cocktail party during which gifts were exchanged with Horsens Yacht Club. Afterwards there was a dinner in the Clubhouse where the Horsens Committee were hosted by the regatta Committee.

DAY EIGHT

Again the race from Horsens to Sonderborg was abandoned due to the lack of wind.

DAY NINE

The final race back to Kiel with the top three boats all with a chance to win the regatta. It went right to the finish with the result uncertain until all of the boats had finished. The race was won by *Pintail* with *Mallard* second and *Petrel* in third place.

On the final evening there was a barbecue held in the Kiel Clubhouse for all crew members and invited staff from ASTC Kiel. During the evening **Col J. R. B. Cook** (CO 8 Sig Regt), representing **Brig A. J. Raper MBE**, presented the following trophies to the prize winners:

The Dickinson Telescope
First Place in the Regatta–1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

The Cannon CITO
Second Place in the Regatta–8 Sig Regt

The Mermaid Cup
Winner of the Longest Race–8 Sig Regt

The Jerry Sharp Trophy–Homeward Bound
Winner of the Last Race–1 (UK) Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

The Round the Cans Trophy
Winner of the Short-Course-Series–8 Sig Regt

The Novice Skippers Cup
Winner of the Novice Skippers Race–**Cpl O'Donnell**

The Don Shaw Memorial Plate
Presented to the Skipper and crew that best display the spirit of the regatta–280 (UK) Sig Sqn

It had been an excellent regatta due to **Capt Rob Orr**'s planning and the expertise shown by the two racing experts, **Sgt Baz Ennels** and **LCpl Jerry Sharp**. The Committee thank all participants for their enthusiasm and hope to see you all again next year.

WINDSURFING
ROYAL SIGNALS (CORPS WIDE) CHAMPIONSHIPS

Thirty four windsurfers from Germany, Holland, Northern Ireland and England entered the Corps' major windsurfing event of the year. An added attraction to the expected competitive racing was the chance of meeting world speed champions involved in Weymouth Speed Week being hosted by the same club. The first two days were allocated to individual racing with the Army team joining our team racing as a means of warming up for the next day's inter-service event.

With a forecast of light winds on the first day the OOD, **Maj Mike Roach RLC**, set a reasonably short course and briefed all sailors. The forecast proved true and only two races were held in unusually hot weather. Those sailors who had packed shortie wetsuits were at a distinct advantage over their overheated colleagues trying to pump their way round in winter steamers. The fleet was visited by the Vice-Commodore, **Col J. E. F. Kirby OBE** who managed to speak to all competitors. The initial races showed that **Sgt Norman Finnegan** was doing well as a recently converted heavyweight but that lightweight newcomer **2Lt Jonathon Coleman** was going to cause him some problems in gaining the overall championship trophy. In the novice lightweight fleet **Sig** Robbo **Roberts** had the edge over **SSgt Mark Finch** whilst **Lt Mark Wadsley** and **Sig** Gilly **Gilbert** shared the honours in the heavies.

Day two dawned with no increase in wind speed, despite promises of planing conditions from the met man. The racing on this day was more competitive throughout the whole fleet for all four races. The Admiral of the RSYC, **Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander CB, OBE**, paid a visit and stayed the whole day on the committee boat where he could see just how much effort it takes to race in light conditions. **2Lt Coleman** dominated the proceedings in the overall championship and **SSgt Finch** went to the extreme measure of purchasing a light wind racing sail to wrest control of the novice lightweights. The novice heavyweight competition was still a tie so the result of the last race gave the decision to **Lt Mark Wadsley** over **Sig** Gilly **Gilbert**.

The team racing day produced no wind whatsoever which upset our fleet just as much as the unfortunate speed sailors who packed up and departed. The committee were left with no alternative but to use the results of the last four individual races for the team event. The Rear Commodore Windsurfing presented the trophies and prizes and the competitors departed hoping that the secretary would try harder to obtain more wind for the next event.

RESULTS
INDIVIDUALS

Overall Champion	**2Lt Jonathon Coleman**
1st Heavyweight	**Sgt Norman Finnegan**
2nd Heavyweight	**Sgt Barry Raine**
3rd Heavyweight	**SSgt John Fradley**
1st Lightweight	**Maj Dave Gilchrist**
2nd Lightweight	**Sgt Douggie Shields**
3rd Lightweight	**WO2 Chris Martin**
1st Lightweight Novice	**SSgt Mark Finch**
2nd Lightweight Novice	**Sig** Robbo **Roberts**
3rd Lightweight Novice	**Sig Mick Hodkinson**
1st Heavyweight Novice	**Lt Mark Wadsley**
2ndHeavyweight Novice	**Sig** Gilly **Gilbert**
3rd Heavyweight Novice	**Sig Andy Collins**
1st Veteran	**Maj Paul Cross**

TEAM EVENT

1st Major Unit	**3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt**
2nd Major Unit	**11 Sig Regt**
1st Minor Unit	**UKDSU (AFCENT)**
2nd Minor Unit	**280 (UK) Sig Sqn**

ARMY TEAM SELECTION

In recognition of the massive improvement in Royal Signals windsurfing three members of the Corps were selected to represent the Army in the inter-service team racing event in early October. Our congratulations go to **Maj Dave Gilchrist,** who is still defying Anno Domini, **2Lt Jonathon Coleman** and **SSgt Norman Finnegan.**

'. . . amongst the best pieces of kit we had throughout operations'

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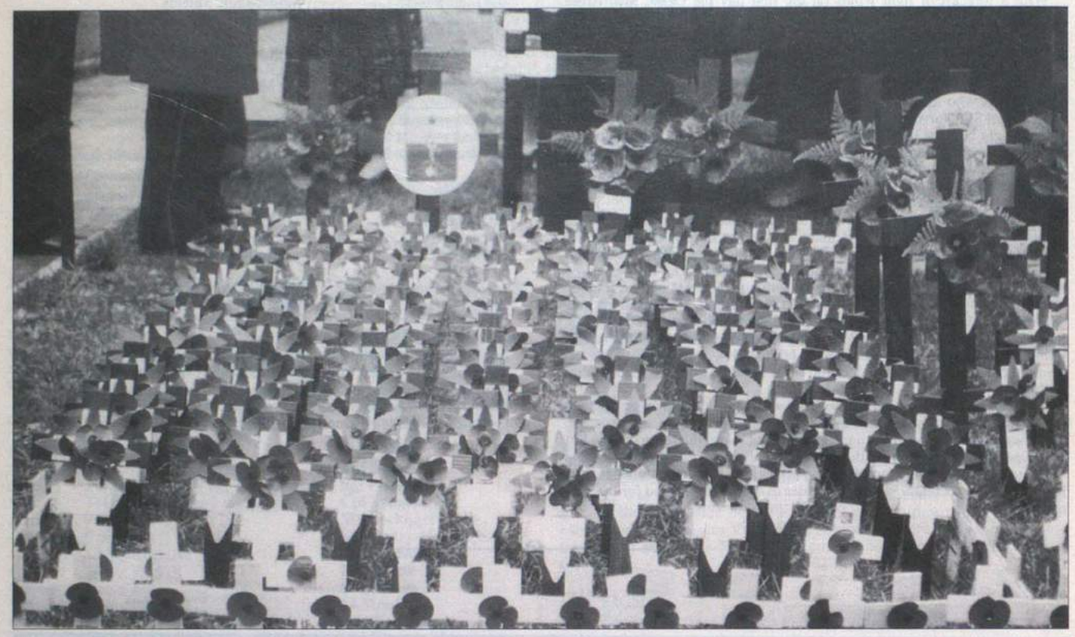
THE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE
WESTMINSTER

10 NOVEMBER 1994



Tom Seddon and Jimmy Wyldes

Association Area Representatives
Majs Colin West-Watson, Bill Barnes, Chris Reynolds-Jones

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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The Association communicates with its branches and individual members through the pages of The Wire, *which contains accounts of Branch affairs as well as a forecast of Association events.*

Branch Secretaries are asked to check that their Branch members receive sufficient copies of The Wire. *Association HQ can arrange for copies to be delivered in bulk to Branch Secretaries for further distribution if this is convenient: it helps us save on postage.*

Dates of Branch events can always be published in The Wire *and should be submitted to the Editor. We also welcome letters, requests to contact old comrades and announcements of births, marriages and deaths. We hope that each Branch will contribute a short account of its activities, preferably with photographs, at least once a year.*

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

The sun shone on 70 righteous Members and guests of the Aldershot Branch on a beautiful Sunday in October when we held our Autumn Luncheon at the Army Golf Club. We were delighted to have with us **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Archie Birtwistle** and also **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Paul Alexander**. To have the Master and our Association Chairman was indeed a bonus. We were pleased that **Mrs Joan Tucker** had recovered sufficiently to be with us. **Mr** and **Mrs Alan Foot** and **Mrs Pauline Tennant** (the very able management of the Reading Branch) were welcome guests. Bright sunshine and warmth encouraged us to gather on the terrace before sitting down to lunch, a pleasure not always enjoyed even at summer gatherings. It was a fitting atmosphere for a curry tiffin.

Col Douglas Crookes organised an evening visit to the Aldershot Military Museum in September. A visit to the museum is recommended, especially to those who knew the garrison in 'the old days'. A most enjoyable visit, this ended with a party, Cheese and Wine, the former beautifully presented by **Mrs Edelgard Moss** and washed down by the latter. **Mr Hywel Thomas**, being the bard he is, concluded a successful evening by leading the gathering in a sing song.

It is with sorrow that we record the deaths of **Col Alan Howard** (known to many as **Tom**) and of **Col Charles Ommanney OBE**, long standing Members of this Branch. Those of us who knew him were also very sad to learn of the death of **Charles Cadwell**, an ex-Warrant Officer of the Corps who attended meetings until prevented some years ago by failing health and distance, but who never failed to send the Branch his good wishes at Christmas.

DERBY BRANCH

In March 94, we held our Annual Dinner Dance seating 125. Our Guests of Honour being **Lt Col R. J. R.** and **Mrs West**, **Lt Col R.** and **Mrs Davenport**, **WO1 (RSM)** and **Mrs Grainger**. We said farewell to **Lt Col** and **Mrs West** and **WO1 (RSM)** and **Mrs Grainger** wishing them every success in their new postings. We welcomed **Lt Col Daveport** as the CO of the Regiment. The efforts of the Committee made a happy enjoyable evening. We thank our members for their support of this event.

With regret we announce the death of **James Harris**, a Life Member of the Royal Signals Association and a member of Derby Branch, on 30th October 1994. **Jim** joined the Signals TA in 1937 served with the Corps in the Second World War and was injured in Italy. Although suffering much pain thereafter, **Jim** never lost his sense of humour or loyalty to his Corps and friends or missed a Branch event. Regimental Padre **Father Franey** officiated at his funeral and our sick visitor **G. Allman** and **WO2 (SSM) Ward** of 46 Sig Sqn (V) read the lessons. **Jim** will long be remembered and our deepest sympathy goes to his widow **Harriet** and family.

In September 1994 five members of Derby Branch were invited to spend a few days with 46 Sig Sqn (V) during their Annual Camp at Longmoor Camp. After a leisurely drive down and an overnight stop in Winchester, we arrived at Camp in time for Lunch. We were all made very welcome and regally entertained in the Sgts Mess by **WO1 (RSM) Grandison** and other mess members. We took part in a quiz night and some members attended the Sergeants Mess Regimental Dinner. We accompanied the Padre to witness the Troops at work in the field. A trip out to Petersfield was organised one day and also a visit to Portsmouth (where old haunts were re-visited). In all, a very enjoyable trip reminiscing about old times and old comrades.

Remembrance Sunday. With the permission of the Sqn Comd **Maj Williams**,we held our usual Parade in the Main Hall at Kingsway TA Centre. Our guests again being 222 Heavy Ack Ack Battery. The Salvation Army played Last Post and Reveille. Wreaths were laid at the Memorial by the R Signals Association and our guests **Col A Hawksworth TD DL, Lt R. Ward** and **WO2 (SSM) A. Whittaker** took the Parade, after which the Admin Officer **Capt C. Webb** provided lunch.

The Regimental Padre, Father Franey with Capt C. Webb, Vice President Derby Branch

Congratulations to our Committee Liason Officer **WO2 (SSM) R. Ward** on his promotion to Lieutenant, well deserved **Bob** and to another of our members **SSgt A. Whittaker** on his WO2 (SSM) promotion.

Congratulations to **Sgts R.** and **C. Ryan-Gilbank** on the gift of a daughter **Jessica Bridie May** a sister for **Dominic** and **Cpl P. Smith** and **Julie** a daughter **Laura** a sister for **Karl.**

Thanks to the people who have helped, advised and supported our Branch Committee during 1994.

EAST KENT BRANCH

FRONTLINE BRITAIN (FLB)

What had been a dream in the eye of one of our members, **Ken Flint** nearly two years ago, actually came to fruition in the week 24-30 September. His hobby is to put any person who had served in any of the Service or civilian organisations in Kent during the war in touch with one another.

Throughout the war, Dover and the surrounding areas of SE England were subjected to constant attacks from shelling and bombing as a prelude to Hitler's intention to invade England. Dover itself was on the receiving end of 40,000 shells fired from Cap Griz Nez but the port and the coast defences continued to operate effectively. Winston Churchill maintained an HQ dug into the cliff beneath Dover Castle from which the evacuation of Dunkirk was controlled and the subsequent defence of what came to be known as Frontline Britain was commanded. On 26 September 1944 the last shell fell on Dover as the Allied Forces, moving up the coast from Normandy, overran the German gun positions.

Ken Flint managed to persuade Dover District Council to hold a 50th Anniversary Reunion to commemorate this day and pay tribute to all those Service and civilian organisations that had stood firm through those early years. HQ 2 Inf Bde at Shorncille took up the organisation of the military preparations. Ambitious plans were made to involve not only the three British Services but also the, then, Allied Forces serving in Kent–US, Canadian, Dutch, Czech, and Free French. A plan was evolved to extend the reunion over a whole week though the principal event would take place on Monday 26 September. All those wishing to be present were invited to pay £15 which included a special medal, and covered some of the cost of participation. The balance went to Service and Civilian Charities.

Tom Bewsey and **Charles Skingle** were two of the Branch members who qualified. We identified 40 FLB veterans who had served in R Signals and all were written to before the event. There was an impressive Parade on Dover Esplanade in bright warm sunshine (which many may have seen on ITV) in the morning with the salute being taken by the Countess Mountbatten supported by the First Sea Lord, the Master Gunner and the Commander RAF Manston with the Engineer-in-Chief and the Master of Signals in attendance. A service was held during which a memorial was dedicated, followed by a march-past of over 2,000 veterans.

Afterwards, all the veterans went up to the Duke of York's School for lunch, and the Signals' veterans were asked to rally to the Branch Standard (the original purpose of Colours) which **Roy Andrews** displayed prominently. Here they met the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL.**

In the evening the Branch had arranged a Buffet Supper and disco in the Royal British Legion Club at Deal to which they were invited (and all came).

Naturally, there were many reminiscences and good humour. Amongst them, these. The Master of Signals, who was in full No 1 Dress, sword and medals, could not be found after the parade. It transpired that there was a Canadian Veteran Contingent who, having marched, stopped the Master and having assessed his importance, asked him to present them officially with their medals (which they were wearing). The Master asked them to take them off and then solemnly pinned them back on whilst suitable photographs were taken for posterity!

Five of the FLB veterans (**Messrs Cudd, George, Hembra, Lamb** and **Luddington**) had been 18/19 year old DRs at the time and kept the SDS going throughout the bombardment. They have kept in touch ever since and often come down to Dover–their Mess Hall is now a restaurant where they hold their reunion. Five ladies (**Mrs Blackwell, Mrs Davies, Mrs March, Misses B.** and **M. Pinney**) who served as Teleops etc in 71 AA Bde Signals have also kept in touch and were all present for the week.

The Master of Signals enjoying a chat with five of the Frontline Britain DRs

Finally, **Mr Waugh** was a Sergeant and **Mrs Waugh** (not then married) was a switchboard op in Churchill's HQ in Dover Castle. The first words ever spoken by him to her when she brought him a mug of tea were 'put it down there and *!? off'. After the war, they went their ways and married, but recently their partners sadly died. They got in touch again, married a month or so ago and were using this week as their honeymoon–they are both 81 but certainly not to look at!

The Branch thoroughly enjoyed hosting the Master of Signals, who entered into the occasion with his usual enthusiasm, and these gallant veterans, some of whom are now joining the Branch!

The Tour de France was routed through Kent and Sussex for the first time, coming through the Channel Tunnel returning to France by boat from Brighton. Our claim to fame was that one of our Committee members, **Trevor Allison**, co-ordinated the radio communications while the Tour was in the country, well done **Trevor**.

On Sunday 10 July, 65 members attended a Buffet Lunch at the Westgate Hall, Canterbury at £4 per head, deemed to be good value. A very successful raffle was arranged by **Edith Thomas**, our co-opted committee member. Well done **Edith**, and thank you again.

Our thanks go out to the **Dyer** family, **Dickie, Doreen** and their daughter **Pat**, also to the Sergeants' Mess members of the Intelligence Corps at Ashford for entertaining 80 members to a superb barbecue on Sunday 14 August. Everybody said it was better than last year. Unfortunately, they may have to move, not 'Options for Change' this time, but the planned new rail link to the Channel Tunnel will go through the middle of the barracks. We hope to have one more barbecue before this happens.

We are still managing to attract new members. Our total number at present including wives, is 163.

At the barbecue

NEWARK BRANCH

A very enjoyable 'Call my Bluff' evening was held on 12 October with teams from the Branch and from the Newark Branch, Royal British Legion Newark RAFA and a team called the 'Stand-ins'.

The latter team was formed at 4 pm on the evening of the event to replace a team from the Roman Catholic Club which had to withdraw at short notice. Newark Branch was drawn against the Stand-ins and lost! The Royal British Legion team was the eventual winner, A buffet supper followed for which many thanks are due to **Mrs Val Vaspar** and to **Mr Cliff Payne** for making the evening the success that it was. Our next social evening will be held at the Railway Club on 14 December when a Christmas draw and a bottle bingo will be held.

NORFOLK BRANCH

I am happy to report that the Norfolk Branch is very much alive and kicking still, and monthly meetings are held at the TA Centre in Norwich which are very well attended. We hold a monthly raffle which is organised by **Mrs Dorothy Gibbs**, prizes are donated by members. This, and the 50p attendance money keeps our bank balance in a healthy state. We also fine any member not wearing the Branch tie at meetings, 50p, I am glad to report that this has only brought in £1 up to now. Our Branch accounts are presided over by Treasurer **Alan Rix**, who does a very good job and is much appreciated by the Branch. He intends to step down at the next AGM and hand over the Treasurer's job to **Dick** (Dodger) **Green**, who is also very popular in the Branch. The Branch attended both Blandford and Catterick reunions this year, Branch Standard carried by Standard bearer **Barry Robinson** was on parade at Catterick along with some 24 members of the Branch. Both occasions were thoroughly enjoyable and well organised, our thanks to everyone involved in both reunions, it was a job well done and very well appreciated, by all who attended. The Branch is holding a social at the TA Centre on 10 December next 1930 hrs, anyone wishing to come along will be made most welcome.

WEST LONDON BRANCH

The Branch continues to be very active, we forgot to tell you in our last notes of the Curry Lunch followed by 'Indoor Sports'.

Branch members also attended Knneller Hall in support of the Corps Band, fast footwork by our Secretary **Jim Fowler** ensured the tickets on a 'Sold Out' night.

On 18 September Branch members paraded at the Royal Hospital Chelsea for the 'Governors Parade' supported by members of the Reading Branch. The marching contingent was led by **Col Donald Crawford.** The Standard bearer was **Harry Ruff**. **RSM Bob Appleby** of the hospital was heard to say 'What a fine body of men'. Nobody had the nerve to ask him if he meant his members or ours. Two hospital members who were on parade and 'ex Signals' were **RQMS Martin Ford** and **RQMS John Mondail.**

(L to R): Dusty Miller, Dave Greenbrook, Bill Mills, RSM Bob Appleby, Gordon Giles, Donald Crawford, John Eversfield

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during September 1994.

9th Signal Regiment (Radio) BFPO 59	400.00
In memory of Colonel P. F. Yeatman	180.00
Bequeathed by Thomas Angel	155.51
44 (Cinque Ports) Signal Squadron (V) J. Ranks	110.00
Mr J. Williams	100.00
In memory of Lt Col D. A. Ellison	75.00
In memory of Mrs J. Neville	50.00
Mr G. W. Cook	27.81
Mr S. K. Hollingsworth	11.00
Mrs E. A. Grint	10.00
Loughborough RSA	5.00
	£1.124.32

The following donations were gratefully received during October 1994.

Sig Regt.	£5,000.00
In memory of Lt Col R. Barrett.	708.00
Maj (Retd) R. H. Blizard	170.00
Middlesex Yeomanry OCA.	25.00
In memory of WO2 H. A. Simons	10.00
Mr R. L. Cartwright	10.00
In memory of E. G. Leat-3 Div Sigs Reunion Club	5.00
In memory of R. W. Thompson-3 Div Sigs Reunion Club	5.00
	£5,933.00

REUNIONS

F COMPANY ROYAL SIGNALS RE-UNION

Thirty one ex-members of F Company attended a re-union and buffet lunch at the Union Jack Club in London on 28 September 1994, including **Mr H. Craig** a member of the staff.

An excellent official photograph of all F Coy members taken at Catterick in late 1939, and donated by **Stanley Smith** of Vancouver was on show with an identification list in very large type to enable us to recognise ourselves after fifty five years. Our Chairman **Alan Ridgeon**, thanked everyone for coming followed by our President, **Alan Earl**, who is retiring from his appointment. He then introduced our guest of honour the Commandant of the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, **Col C. Walters** who gave us a most interesting talk about "Options for Change" and how it was affecting the Corps. **Capt (Retd) A. Taylor MBE** an invited guest also spoke.

Our new President **Fred J. Pavey MBE** gave a short address and thanked **Alan Earl** for his period of service and **Col Walters** for giving his valuable time to attend our function and for his excellent explanation of the role and composition of the Royal Corps of Signals in the army of today.

List of those who attended:- **A. Brown, B. Band, P. Barker, D. J. Chetwynd** (Treas), **P. Clowson, H. Craig** (Staff), **J. Dadswell,** (Committee Member), **V. Dugdale** (Sec), **A. Earl** (Presdt), **D. Fairweather, O. Fletcher, H. Galloway, M. Ham, C. Johnstone, R. Knight, R. Laing, A. Lees, J. Le-Hardy, P. Moore, K. Masson, T. O'Connor, F. Pavey** (Presdt elect), **A. Ridgeon** (Chmn), **E. Sanders, G. Sheldrake, J. Sinclair, P. A. Smith. R. Webb, R. Todd,** and **C. Weech.**

'THE 254 CLUB' FIFTH ANNUAL RE-UNION

The re-union took place at the Brandon Hall Hotel near Coventry over the weekend 28/31 October 94 with a total of more than 140 members and wives attending. Friday was as usual the day of assembly when the bar profits went up and the lamps were swinging wildly. Again there were a few firsts, Notably amongst them Ginger **Holtum** and **Ken Hughes**. From further afield came **Don** Boggy **Marsh** (New Zealand) and **Bob Shaw** (Australia). That pair fitted in their holiday to coincide with the Brandon weekend and were delighted to see them, come again soon. Closer to home we had **Beryl** and **Roy Smithard** who only live five or six miles from Brandon. By the time that the last ones went to bed on the Friday we were all well and truly re-acquainted.

Saturday morning was a mixture of DIY visits to Warwick or Leamington or stay in and take part in the golf or archery competitions. Unfortunately the clay pigeon shooting was cancelled. There was also a lecture and sampling of aromatherapy thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. These activities filled the morning and after soup and sandwiches the afternoon was devoted to a concert programme of operatic arias and ballads sung for us by **John Kevin Hughes** superbly accompanied by **Caroline Clemmon** of the Hartley Trio who can often be heard on Radio Three. Interspersed with the recital **John's** father **Ken Hughes** of 13 Squad fame gave his interpretation of how not to read Pam Ayers poetry, thoroughly amusing. A great afternoon's entertainment enjoyed by all who were present.

Saturday evening is the highlight of the weekend when we have the formal dinner followed by dancing and the raffle also the photograph session. Again this year **Peter McNaughton** reminded us of the 'In memoriam List' which has been added to by the names of **Jack** Nancy **Head, Ian** Nobs **Norbury, Den** Dado **North**, and also **Olga** the wife of **Don Nichols**. All those mentioned were with us at Brandon last year. Un-be-known to all **Jim** Boots **Potter** had passed away on the Saturday whilst we were at Brandon, the news only reaching **George Severs** on the following Monday.

As ever the dancing and merrymaking carried on until the wee small hours. Once again the raffle was superb with a big thanks to all who so generously gave so many and such magnificent prizes. The prizes and their display, as well as the actual raffle, were once again highly organised by **Janet** and **Dave Ross** to whom we owe a debt of thanks because without them collecting our 'fivers' to keep **George Severs** solvent we would be pushed to have such interesting newsletters and a re-union such as we do. A presentation was made by **Peter McNaughton** to **Margaret** and **George Severs** to thank them for all the hard work in ensuring the success of the re-union.

The golf and archery competitions took place on Saturday morning and of the five archery entrants, all complete novices, **Pat Soward** emerged as the best contestant with a score of 96 out of a possible 108 – we have a champion in the making! **Terry Reeves** tells me that all five having had a taste of the sport are keen to take it up.

As usual the golf was fiercely contested by all who took part and the eventual winner was **Geoff Oakley** who gets his name on the Dixon Cup for 1994. Our thanks to **Velia** and **Peter Dixon** for organising the competition and for obtaining and presenting all the interesting prizes.

Those who look closely at the photograph may just regognise a few of the faces. Roll on Brandon 1995!

A reformation of reprobates

THE BRITISH SHAEF ASSOCIATION

Personnel of Royal Signals figured largely in the British element of Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF) and many were posted to 'V' (later '5') HQ Signals. All the Signals trades were represented, including ATS personnel, and the operating Sections (nowadays 'Troops') included some High Speed Wireless Sections Type 'M', popularly known as the 'Golden Arrows'.

For some time now there has been a SHAEF Veterans Association in the United States and Conventions are held every Autumn in different US locations. Following a successful commemoration event at the site of SHAEF Main at Bushy Park, Teddington, earlier this year, a new 'British SHAEF Association' has now been formally established and is seeking to enrol SHAEF-assigned persons as Full Members and others with an interest in SHAEF matters as Associate Members.

We are particularly seeking persons who were serving at SHAEF Forward at Rheims in May 1945 when the German Surrender was signed there, as we are planning to take a party of SHAEF Association members to Rheims in May next year to join with an American Contingent in commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the event.

Interested persons should contact: **Alan E. Foot**, 96 Chiltern Crescent, Earley, Reading, Berks, RG6 1AN.

12,15 AND 18 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENTS' REUNION DINNER

As a result of an inaugural meeting held in Cardiff on 28 February 1994 it was decided to continue with the annual dinner, we now have 92 names on our membership list. A dinner was held on 12 October 1994 at Pratts Hotel, Bath. A total of 26 people attended this 'resurrected' reunion.

The stalwart work in organising the event was carried out by **Gerald Evans** who welcomed us all and, in particular, our guests of honour **Lt Col D. A. Lynam MBE**, CO 21 Sig Regt (AS) and **Mrs Lynam**. The Loyal Toast was propsoed by **Colin Morgan**.

Lt Col Lynam gave a most interesting address on the role of the present day Signallers, and emphasised the quality of the men and women required to operate and maintain the current sophisticated equipment now in service. A vote of thanks was proposed by **Dennis Egen**.

The evening closed at a very late hour after what was unanimously agreed to be a most enjoyable event.

Ex-members of Air Formation Signal Units who are interested in meeting up with old friends should contact: **Dennis Egan**, 4 Hazel Grove, Longmeadow, Dinas, Powis, South Glamorgan, CF6 4TE

ROYAL SIGNALS SCARBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

WHO SAID MORSE WAS DEAD?

Five members of the Royal Signals Scarborough Amateur Radio Club attended the RSA last great reunion in Catterick June 1994.

It was with great delight that permission was granted by the RSM 264 SAS Signal Squadron that **Jack Simpson** G3CAA, **Tony Timme** GCWW and **Peter Bateman** G3LCG were allowed to operater the link to HQ using the Morse Key. For us it was the jewel in the crown on which truly was a sad but wonderful day.

Jack, G3CAA, on the key; Tony Timme, G3CWW, waiting his turn

KEEPING BRITAIN TIDY AND THE WHEELS MOVING

The following item is reproduced by kind permission of the "*Kentish Gazette*".

'Towed trash make things hum on road'

It nearly put the lid on an ingenious method of towing a loaded wheelie bin to the end of a long drive.

John Badcock forgot to unhook the rubbish bin and caused astonishment in a city centre rush hour.

He claims to have the fastest bin in Canterbury after he drove from his Stodmarsh Road home to Longport unaware the bin was still in tow – until it shed a wheel.

"We can only wonder at the thoughts of those who followed us down St Martin's Hill as to why anyone should wish to tow a wheelie bin into Canterbury," said Mr Badcock.

"But nobody Flashed us or tried to stop us."

He and his wife, Gill, were on their way to the multi-storey car park when they were eventually alerted to the problem, causing traffic chaos as they tried to retrieve the missing wheel and put the loaded bin into the boot.

"The bin was still attached and having been driven with a full load of evil-smelling rubbish at 40mph, it discarded one wheel leaving the bin to be dragged on the road," he said.

The Badcocks say their escapades have caused great hilarity among friends.

Their postman suggested neighbours might think they had a new, compact caravan. Some joker has fitted the bin with a registration number and GB plates.

Meanwhile, Mr Badcock wonders if the city environmental health officer ought to be concerned of the design fault.

"The wheels are apt to come off at 40mph!" he said.

This brought a smart response from John Fisher, director of environmental services. He said Mr Badcock had unintentionally stumbled on the council's future and, as yet secret, refuse collection arrangements.

"It is our intention to provide all households with a suitable coupling so that they can all take their wheeled bins direct to the refuse tip and save the council and, therefore, the council taxpayers large sums of money in not having to pay for a refuse collection service," he said.

(Dare we suggest he's talking rubbish?)

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Mr Peter T Gibbons 33 Tiverton Road, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire EN6 5HX would like to hear from his friend **Bill Cockerham** who was with him in DR Squad on 7 June 1944, on Sword Beach and later in Holland.

Were you a National Serviceman in February 1953, at Catterick Camp and then posted to Egypt? Do you remember **John Lockwood**? If so please get in touch with **Mr Ron Allen** at 37 Ashmore Grove, Welling, Kent DA16 2RU, who is planning a 60th birthday celebration.

14504560 CPL E. OLIVER

Does anyone remember **Cpl Oliver** who served in the Corps from 1943-46 with 829 (WA) Div Sigs? Please write to his son, **Mr J. Oliver**, 267 Rainham Road, Rainham, Essex RM13 7SH.

Gordon Raku would like to contact ex Yeoman of Signals **Vaughan Raynor** who was with him on No 8 YofS Course and subsequently 7 Sig Regt in the 70's.

Vaughan was last heard of in 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in Verden. Please write to 14840 Camrose Ave, Springhill, Fl 34610, USA.

LETTERS

From: **Mr R O. Fox**
Dear Sir,

In 1993 at a motorcycle auction I purchased six medals, all mounted in an aluminium frame. They are all about 3" in diameter and cast in aluminium. There is a rider and motorcycle cast into the centre surrounded by the words, Naples Area Motorcycle Club. They were presented to the winners of various motorcycle trials and rallies.

The name of one winner was **Sig S. James** for the Hazard Trial dated 21/1/46. Another winner was **SSgt F. James**, Hazard Trial 4/11/45. I wonder is this the **Jimmy James** our instructor at the Paddock at Huddersfield in September 1940?

The other medals are inscribed **McCrae** Hazard Trial 4/11/45, **AQMS W. Gaymer** Capva Scramble 23/3/46 and **AQMS W. Gaymer** Scott Trial 12/2/46.

I wonder if you would publish my letter please in the hope that an ex Signaller might see it to throw some light on the motorcycle sports which Army motorcyclists entered for and run by the Naples Motorcycle Club.

The medals incidentally are going to be displayed at a new Motorcycle Museum being formed in Lincolnshire.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully
R. O. Fox
(ex Royal Signals 1940-47)

13 Ruckland Avenue
Lincoln LN1 3TG

From: Mr F. S. Griffiths, Vice Chairman, Southampton Branch
Dear Sir

I was fortunate enough to go on the Normandy trip described by **Alan Foot**, Chairman of Reading Branch on page 209 of the August issue of *The Wire*.

He failed to say, however, that it was he who organised the trip ably assisted by both **Nicholas Warren**, Chairman of our Branch and **Pauline Tennant**, Secretary of Reading Branch and a super job they did.

We travelled in two mini-buses the owners of which stipulated that they must not be driven by drivers over 70. As veterans of that age are rather thin on the ground, we were lucky to have in our party of 24, two stalwarts who were far too young to have been veterans. They were **Rodney Higgs** and **Keith Griffiths** who did a brilliant job in looking after us old 'uns so well.

I thought I was a bit long in the tooth, having survived the perils of the old Telephone Wagon, but I was amazed to find out that two of our party of veterans had actually manned the Old Cable Wagon, had served together at Dunkirk and were on shore on D-Day with an Air Formation Unit.

To conclude, I met some lovely people and I am very glad I went.

Yours faithfully
F. S. Griffiths
(ex Sergeant, 43rd Wessex Division)

If responding to any advertisements in *The Wire* please mention that you saw it in your Corps magazine

From: **Mr Arthur H Thomas**
Dear Sir

The August issue of *The Wire* proved to be of great interest to my wife and I with its reports and pictures of the 50th Anniversary of D-Day tour to Normandy when we were able to meet friends of the Reading and Southampton Branches. There was also a letter from my friend **Alec MacDonald** of Dalkeith commenting on the 18 Air formation Football Team, a picture of which appeared in the June issue. Thanks for the correction **Alec** for it was I who described it as an English team.

In this letter however, I wish to thank RHQ staff for the help and advice provided to enable me to obtain the necessary permits and passes to the Ceremonies we wished to attend. In addition, I would like to thank the Reading Branch for the advice it gave in response to my queries.

At the Ceremony in Bayeux Secretary, **Pauline Lennast** did say that we were all part of a 'Happy Family' and my wife and I were delighted to have the opportunity to meet 'the family' at the TA Centre in Hammersmith on Saturday 29 October to enjoy an excellent lunch, browse over the many pictures, hear **Keith's** tour history and to watch the tour video. It is very rewarding to have forged new friendships through membership of the RSA and I must record my thanks to my own Branch officials in Tamworth, **Tony Whiles**, Secretary and **John Mobbs**, Chairman for the invitation to represent the Branch in Bayeux. I was proud to have this unique opportunity.

Yours faithfully
Arthur H Thomas

From: Col. C. J. Walters
Dear Editor,

I recently had the opportunity to visit the immaculately preserved War Graves in Suda Bay, Crete. Whilst there I photographed the headstones of two members of the Corps who had perished during the initial German airborne landing;

2590352 **Signalman R. H. Martin**, attached to RA, died 22 May 1941, aged 21.

2583997 **Signalman C. J. Bennett**, attached to RA, died 22 May 1941, aged 24.

Any member of family or friend who would like a copy of the photograph may contact me at the address below.

Yours faithfully
Cliff Walters
Colonel

Army Apprentices' College
Uniacke Barracks
Harrogate
HG3 2SD

50 YEARS AGO

"SURVIVAL WAS FOR ME"

by DUNCAN WILSON

"A gripping story" Daily Telegraph
The TRUE STORY of a soldier in Japanese POW Camps in Singapore & Thailand 1942/45.
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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.
- To assist, where possible, resettlement in civilian life.

The Association endeavours to achieve these aims by:

- Sponsoring branches which often meet for social occasions. There is generally an annual Branch dinner.
- Organising annual reunions at Blandford. These provide the opportunity to meet old friends, for the retired to see something of the serving Corps and, to remember the fallen.
- Running a welfare section at Association HQ, which is at the service of all members.
- Publishing the Corps magazine, *The Wire*. Taking out a subscription will help you to keep in touch with Corps and Association affairs.

MEMBERSHIP

Nearly all members of the Corps have, whilst serving, contributed under the Day's Pay Scheme. By virtue of these contributions, they are Life Members of our Association. If you have not contributed at all you can become a Life Member for £10.00.

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: 0171 414 8422). 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

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Regimental Headquarters

London District Military or STD 0171-930 4466 and ask for extension as below or by direct dialling as shown

Appointment	Name	Extension	(STD Direct Dial)
Regt Col	**Col M. McI Ayrton**	8420	(0171-414 8420)
SO2 (Sldr Rec)	**Maj B. H. Rowe**	8444	(0171-414 8444)
Corps Resettlement Offr	**Lt Col A. de V. Hunt**	8427	(0171-414 8427)
Clerk, Regt Col	**Mr M. Clark**	8433	(0171-414 8443)
Regt Sec	**Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon**	8421	(0171-414 8421)
Asst Regt Sec	**Maj G. Schofield MBE**	8422	(0171-414 8422)
Chief Clerk	**Miss C. Feltham**	8432	(0171-414 8432)
Ord Room	–	8430	(0171-414 8430)
FAX	–	8429	(0171-414 8429)
Ret Offrs	**Lt Col Beattie/Capt Dugdale**	8431	(0171-414 8431)
Welfare Sec	**Mrs P. J. Haw**	8423	(0171-414 8423)
Assn AO	**Mr R. Whittle**	8424	(0171-414-8424)
Corps Acct	**Mr A. Wilkinson**	8425	(0171-414 8425)
Asst Corps Acct	**Mr D. Wiles**	8426	(0171-414 8426)
Subscriptions Clerk	**Miss B. Simmons**	8426	(0171-414 8426)
Ed *Wire* Journal	**Lt Col M. Q. M. Greaves**	8428	(0171-414 8428)
Asst Ed *Wire*	**Mrs M. A. Riggs**	8433	(0171-414 8433)

Payment of Subscriptions . . . by Direct Debit

With effect from 1 January 1995 it will be possible to pay your subscriptions to **The Wire** by Direct Debit. This will be a far more efficient system for RHQ and will help to keep the production costs of **The Wire** to the minimum possible. All existing subscribers should have had a letter informing them of this option together with a Direct Debit form. If you have not yet returned your form please consider doing so now. Alternatively, if you have not yet received any notification and would like to know more about the Direct Debit system please ring RHQ on 071-414 8426.

The price of The Wire will increase to £1.50 per copy, £9 per annum from February 1995

Corps Goods Available from the Museum Shop, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH

Telephone enquiries to Blandford Military 2248 STD (01258) 482248.

Price list with effect from 1 August 1994:

	PRICE £
Blazer Badge	12.50
Blazer Button– Set: 6 Large, 6 Small–presentation boxed	22.20
Set: 4 Large, 6 Small–presentation boxed	18.40
Bookmark–Real Leather	0.65
Fine Marker pen/pencil set, boxed with Museum Crest	2.50
Ballpoint pen, assorted colours, Museum Crest	0.69
'Tubby' notepad 3½" x 3½", leatherette cover with Corps Crest	1.50
Brooch, white enamel with gold Corps Badge	3.75
Cap Badge–pre 1947 style	2.75
Coasters–leather, set of 4, with Corps Crest	2.50
Corps Badge, on foil, framed and glazed, 11" x 9"	7.95
Corps Cassettes–Information Sheet Available	6.20
Crystal Engraved with Corps Badge	
Brandy Glass	10.25 ea
Sherry Glass	9.45 ea
Whisky Glass	9.50 ea
Wine Goblet	10.25 ea
Decanter–Plain	38.50
Decanters–Cut	59.25
Rose bowl–Plain	32.50
Bud Vase	15.75
Gilt Cufflinks, die stamped with Corps Badge	15.25
Hipflask, captive top, leatherette finish	16.95
Keyrings– Leather with Museum Crest	0.50
Corps (enamelled Corps Badge on leather tag)	2.25
Acrylic with Corps badge	1.95
Ladies Brooch, Sterling Silver set with Marcasite	27.50
Ladies Brooch, 9 carat Gold	62.50
Ladies Headscarf, Dark Blue with 'Jimmy' in one corner	9.25
Lapel Badge (Association Members only)	2.25
Ladies Lapel Badge	4.50
Mug, white china with Corps Badges in blue	2.45
Bon Bon Dish, gilt edged white china with Corps Badge	2.95
Mini china tankard with Corps Badge	1.20
New–Gents Notecase/Wallet–Black leather with crest	11.25
New–Credit Card Holder, black leather with Corps Badge 8 PVC pockets	3.95
Pendant, white enamel with 17" chain	5.25
Postcards	0.20

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
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Information Sheets available	15.00
Statuettes:	
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9" Royal Signalls Soldier with SA80 Rifle (Bronze Resin)	79.50
11½" 'Jimmy' cast Bronze Resin	79.50
9" Signaller with SA80 Rifle and Manpack Radio (Bronze Resin)	62.50
Silver Plated Teaspoon with pre–1947 crest	2.50
Sticker, Corps Badge on Corps Colours, good quality – Large	0.50
– Medium	0.50
– Small	0.50
Stickpin, 9 carat gold, Corps Badge, can be used as Brooch, Lapel Badge or Tie pin	75.00
Stickpin, sterling silver, Corps Badge, can be used as Brooch, Lapel Badge or Tie pin	22.50
Sports/Leisure Wear, Excellent Quality, various sizes/colours	
Sweat Shirts with embroidered Corps Badge	14.85
Sport Shirts with embroidered Corps Badge	12.25
V/Neck Sweater with embroidered Corps Badge	15.85
Rugby Style Shirt, Corps Colours and embroidered Badge	19.95
Tablemat Set, six blue acrylic with Corps Badge	38.60
Tablemat, Large 15" x 11½", blue acrylic with Corps Badge	10.65
Cocktail Mat Set, six blue acrylic with Corps Badge	17.50
Tankard, 1pt, polished pewter, heavyweight, with embossed Badge	26.50
Tankard, 1pt, polished pewter, lightweight with engraved Badge	15.25
Teatowel Blue Signals Design on White Background	2.50
Teatowel, World War II vehicles	2.65
Thimble, Bone China with Corps Crest	2.50
Tie, Corps Colours in polyester, 3" width	5.75
Tie, Corps Colours in Pure Silk, 3" width	12.50
Umbrella, Golf Size, Corps Colours	15.75
Video/Audio Pack, presentation boxed "Songs That Won The War"–Original Artists	14.99
Wall plaque, 'Royal Corps of Signals' shield, 6" x 7"	15.25
Watch strap, Corps Colours, Nylon	1.45

Prices inclusive of VAT. Overseas orders will be less VAT. Please Note: Post and Packing not included

Telephone Orders will be despatched with an invoice. Bulk Orders from P.R.I.'s will attract a discount.

GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED EVENTS TO MARK THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY AND VJ DAY

Provisional Programme For 1995

Programme Of Events

6-8 May Public Event in Hyde Park

A public event will be staged in Hyde Park to provide the central focus for the VE Day Celebrations. The site will play a prominent role in the Government Sponsored Programme with invited Heads of State in attendance. Associations will be invited to send representatives to the opening event on 6 May. On the afternoon of 7 May it will serve as the culmination of the Youth Parade and on the evening of 8 May it may be the location for the finale to the VE Day Celebration. Pavilions will stage exhibitions throughout the period and a veterans centre will be provided.

6 May The Guildhall Reception and Dinner

A Reception for the invited Heads of State or Government in the Guildhall would be followed by a Banquet for the Heads of State or Government, hosted by the City of London.

7 May The Service of Celebration

Heads of State or Government will attend a Service of Celebration of Peace in St Paul's Cathedral. The Service will be ecumenical in nature and would emphasise the twin themes of reconciliation and 50 years of peace. Approximately 2500 people are expected to congregate in the Cathedral. Afterwards, the Heads of State or Government would join Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace and other receptions will be held at a number of London locations.

7 May The International Youth Parade

A Youth Parade with bands and representatives from the participating nations will march through Central London during the afternoon. The parade will be essentially civilian in nature and would disperse in Hyde Park with the participants joining the Hyde Park event. Special viewing areas will be made available along the route of the parade.

8 May the VE Night Party

8 May has been designated a public holiday and there will be a final VE Day concert, probably in Hyde Park, that evening. This would reflect the community atmosphere of the day and the theme of a "VE Night Party" would seem to be appropriate. The Royal British Legion plan to hold street parties and to light beacons/bonfires across the country in coordination with other European capitals.

VJ DAY

19 August The Tribute and Promise Parade

A mobile parade and march past of veterans' organisations reflecting both the military and civilian elements of the wartime generation is planned to take place in London. The Tribute and Promise organisers will contact associations separately about participation in this event. During the parade a flypast would be mounted by the Royal Air Force.

19 August The Drumhead Service

A Drumhead Service will be held in Central London after the Tribute and Promise mobile parade and immediately prior to the march past. Her Majesty the Queen and other members of the Royal Family would be asked to attend the ecumenical service. Veteran Associations will receive priority but the Service would be open to all and very large numbers are expected to attend.

19 August The Culminating Event

The final part of the commemorations in London will include a firework display along the Thames which will act as the signal to spread the message throughout the Nation.

20 August A Tribute Throughout The Nation

On Sunday 20 August throughout the nation a common church service will take place. Local authorities will be encouraged to follow this with community events including parades. The day would end with the Sunset Ceremony which would vary in size and scale from the full Beating Retreat being organised in the national capitals (including London) and attended by members of the Royal Family to perhaps a single bugler in villages and towns. The Sunset Ceremony would signify that the Nation's commemorations of the 50th Anniversary of the Second World War had finally drawn to a close.

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