

THE wire

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December 2011

The Magazine of The Royal Corps of Signals

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER OF SIGNALS

Lieutenant General Robert Baxter CBE DSc FBCS CITP FIET



The year has not been an easy one with the first tranches of redundancy and sadly more to follow. All that I would say here is that the quality of our people remains something very special and attractive to any employer with their heads screwed on: a message I deliver at any and every opportunity. The year has also seen some real successes: the initial difficulties with Falcon being overcome; and the roll out of the latest version of Bowman with the Corps very much in the lead. And of course our operational performance in Afghanistan, Libya and around the world remains a source of immense pride to me as we deliver signals intelligence, communication and information systems and electronic counter measures. Sadly we have also seen deaths and injuries and I know that our thoughts and best wishes are with those left behind and those coping with serious injuries.

Our Royal Colonel, **Princess Anne**, has had a number of excellent visits and medal parades. I get the impression that you and your families really enjoy these events. Her Royal Highness certainly does and so do I. Well done to those involved as you have shown the Corps off to excellent effect. On my own visits thank you for your patience in explaining some of the complex and challenging things you do to someone, me, who was brought up in an era of punch cards and main frame computers! More seriously I am very impressed with what you achieve as soldiers, technically and on the sports field. On the last point your achievements are many and varied from the runner-up Service entry in the Fastnet Yacht Race to winning the tug of war at the Braemar Highland Games in the presence of the Queen. More widely, 11 Signal Regiment, receiving the Carrington Drum for their quite staggering achievement in raising money for charity was heart warming to say the least. BRAVO ZULU indeed – if you don't know what this means stop a passing Yeoman and ask.

As always, I remain deeply proud of you all as you go about your complex, sometimes dangerous and frequently un-trumpeted tasks. It is an honour and privilege to be your Master. All the very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from **Gwynedd** and myself to you, your families and loved ones.

Sure and Swift.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE SIGNAL OFFICER IN CHIEF (ARMY)

Brigadier Tim Watts OBE ADC

Welcome to this December edition of *The Wire*. I'm not going to attempt to sum up the year in detail. Suffice to say we've driven success on operations, provided a wide range of contingent forces at readiness, kept ourselves technically and militarily fit and ready, constantly adapting for the future, and we've won at sport. Of course there is much change in the air, but this has been another great year, and 2012 should be just as busy and rewarding.

I just wanted to say a couple of things that I hope are interesting to all our readers, regulars, Gurkhas, reservists, the retired Corps and the wider family.

First, the Museum. For those who have not been into the Museum in recent months, I'd really recommend a visit. We have re-defined the museum as the 'showcase of Corps Ethos', without detracting from its related role as the guardian of our history and heritage. The hard working team, many of whom are volunteers working for free, and with great support from some units and individuals, have modernised many of the displays and livened up the whole feel of the place. The aim is to make it more relevant and interesting to the serving Corps and, particularly to the young trainees in Blandford. This is a long term project, but the results already are remarkable – do join in the project by contributing or by simply dropping in.

Second, the Corps has a growing web presence, through the Royal Signals Association, Royal Signals Institution and the Museum web sites and a range of Facebook groups, Wikipedia and YouTube. These are all linked so they can be reached easily. *The Wire* and *The Journal* can be easily read online too. Now these are up and running I'd really encourage people to get on and use them, jump into the forums and into Facebook, and really stay in touch.

A special Christmas thought goes out to those of our Corps family who are deployed on operations, and to the gallant team embarking on the South Pole Challenge.

In the meantime, *Certa Cito*, and a very Happy Christmas from **Claire** and me.



RSA Website



Museum Website



RSI Website

The Wire



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CONTENTS	Page	Other notable articles	Page
News from Operations	2		
News from Blandford	13	Corps Calendar 2012	56
News from Training	14	Lanyard 2011	88
News from Regiments	22		
News from Squadrons	71	Queens Gurkha Signals 62nd Birthday Celebrations	112
Other Units	85		
Sport	97		
Royal Signals Association	104		
Last Post	108		
Obituaries	109		
Miscellaneous	111		

E-mail address changes

The e-mail addresses for RHQ have recently changed from the .mod.uk suffix to .com

The new address for The Wire are now:

thewire@royalsignals.com
wiredeputy@royalsignals.com

FRONT COVER

21 Sig Regt (AS) Thanksgiving Service at Bath Abbey following the presentation of The Freedom of the City of Bath to the Regt.



BACK COVER

Cpl Houghton operating a 117f on Ex PRAIRIE THUNDER 4 in BATUS



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NEWS FROM OPERATIONS

HONOURS AND AWARDS

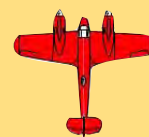
We congratulate the following Royal Signals personnel who received honours and awards in the Operational Honours list recognising service on operations in Afghanistan and national operations for the period 1 October 2010 to 31 March 2011.

Queen's Gallantry Medal (QGM)
LCpl Sebastian Edward WYTON-DE LISLE

Mention in Despatches (MiD)
A/Cpl Craig Graham CAMPBELL



21st SIGNAL REGIMENT (AIR SUPPORT)



CO
RSM

Lt Col GN Addley
WO1 (RSM) MS Morgan

easy – I could not have asked for more from them and we leave here proud of what we have completed and achieved.

JFCIS – by WO1 (FofS IS) Robson

Welcome to the final instalment of the JFCIS team update. As you can see from the name above the duties of producing this final article have fallen to me. With **Cpl Ski** away on R&R all believed the world would collapse around us, but no, **Capt Alun Kelly** seems to be taking it all in his stride.

The JFCIS football team goes from strength to strength in taking on all new comers; we have even partaken in a spot of American Football with our cousins from across the pond. The pre-game briefing saw a lot of confused looks and whispers of “can you translate for me”. However, after a few false starts and the RSM having to pick a few members of the opposition off the floor, an enormous amount of fun was had by players and spectators alike. We lost, but only just and seeing that we didn’t know or understand the rules losing by a touch down deserves a pat on the back. A special mention must go to **Capt Rob ‘The Salmon’ Clifford** for the Michael Jordan-esque leaps to stop the opposition.



Going home after the final installation, MOB Price



Fear me, I am the salmon

MDOR Team – by Lt Smith

Job done! With a month left of our tour we have completed the installation of MDORs throughout Helmand Province. The lads involved have worked extremely hard and morale has remained high throughout with the team finishing our epic journey in MOB Price, the only place in Helmand where the food and atmosphere is like a holiday camp!

We came out here in May to start from scratch and install a brand new tactical comms system. It has been tough and frustrating at times, but the lads have made a hard job look

220 SIGNAL SQUADRON (HELMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON)

OC HICSSS **Maj C Roberts**

This month has seen a huge amount of progress on all fronts thanks to all members of the HICSSS team. It has certainly been interesting to watch the professional development in all personnel throughout this tour as people have adapted to the technical nature of their jobs and have become experts in their respective fields. The evidence of this progress can be seen in the record low number of major issues that HICSSS are currently dealing with, and the completion of many large scale tasks which have involved co-operation and teamwork across all of the areas for which we are responsible.

Everyone out here is now looking forward to seeing family and friends again, and we are thoroughly grateful for all of the support that you have given us over the last 5 months. We couldn’t have achieved all that we have without you and look forward to seeing you again soon!

BASTION ICS TROOP COMMCCEN – by LCpl Rourke

Another hectic period since the last instalment from Bastion Commccen. I have only just returned from R&R and with **LCpl Stephenson** just going, I have the honour of the being the big daddy for the next few weeks (some work might actually get



done now)! We have settled in well since the move especially now we have a working telly in the Commcen and I think **Sig Cooper** definitely appreciates her daily dose of Big Brother. I will find where she has hidden the remote some day!

Special mention goes to **Sig Bamford** who, along with myself, completed the 50 mile charity (exercise) bike ride setting the best time overall with 2h 25m. He has not stopped talking about it since, but I wonder if his PFT time will be as good!

With October just around the corner it is time to start preparing for the handover takeover, and it can not come quick enough. I know all of us can not wait to see our families and friends again for a much deserved POTL (and a little trip to Vegas is on the cards - see you there **Tam, Taff and Johnno**).

HICSSS FORWARD REPAIR TEAM – by LCpl Hillyard

September has been another busy month for the Forward Repair Team deploying out to even more locations all over Helmand, but with R&R kicking in for the team it meant our manpower was stretched thin.

At the start of the month we welcomed back **Cpl Hodge** and **LCpl McLoughlin** from COP Oulette where they spent 3 weeks setting up comms in the camp previously run by the US Marine Corps. This was a huge task due to the amount of work needed, from installing British power to installing 3 Ops Rooms with laptops and phones. This task did not go without its complications and the frequent inconvenience of indirect fire from the Taliban did not help. This has undoubtedly been the biggest task that the FRT and HICSSS have had during our tour. Even though it was a big task, both **Cpl Hodge** and **LCpl McLoughlin** enjoyed their time in Oulette but have now got a sugar addiction due to the American rations being 90% sugar based! Both **Hodge** and **Mac** claim they have lost weight during their time away on the American all sugar diet.

When **Cpl Hodge** returned it was time for a well earned rest and he departed on R&R. The rest of the team, along with RSOI briefings, had to educate members of Kabul ICS Tp and KICSSS on the setup and maintenance of an OTS site ready for a deployment to Kandahar. This training also fell in the time when a small Patrol Base near Lashkar Gar was due to close, meaning the ORAS kit needed removing. **LCpls Hillyard** and **'Flash' Gordon** (Tech Section) deployed to complete this task. It nearly failed before leaving Bastion as **LCpl Gordon** was confused for an interpreter! After persuading the flight line staff he was a serving soldier we managed to get the flight. The main part of the task was to remove the Kestrel Mobile Comms Unit and pack it ready for a road move to Bastion. The MCU is a mast built on to the top of a small yellow cabin, usually quite an easy job but with 2 collapsing in the previous month it was a much more health and safety orientated task! **LCpls Gordon** and **Hillyard** were in full body armour, helmets, gloves and eye protection as well as putting out a cordon around the mast. The guys were more kitted out than troops going out on patrol and with the whole BG waiting with hope and expectation of the mast collapsing, they started work. Unfortunately for the gathering crowd it did not collapse.

BASTION ICS TROOP INSTALLATION TECHNICIANS – by Cpl Cracknall

The R&R plot is now in full swing and we are all getting away for 2 weeks well deserved time off. We are still very busy as a section with **Sig Alex Rees** deployed to MOB Price to assist with an Ops Room move and **Sig Martin Bishop** in Lashkar Gah covering for their resident Telemach whilst he is on R&R.

In Bastion we have the usual heavy workload; our main effort is to winterize the cable infrastructure so 1ADSR don't have too many dramas when the rains come (we felt our first spots

today, Thu 6 Oct). **Sgt 'Dinger' Bell** has finally been given full control of our compound now HICSSS have fully moved out and is creating his own little empire. We have ISO containers and stores all over the place as we try to create a better solution, which we will hopefully have completed by the end of this month. On a plus note the Telemach quad bike is soon to return to us after being taken from us to go to a forward location. We now have just over a month before our replacements arrive, so we are now into the final push before we start to handover to the Mechs from 1ADSR.



Sgt Dinger Bell and the Inst Tech mafia trying to look hard. There's a pun about choppers in there somewhere...

BASTION ICS TROOP POWER SECTION – by Sgt Card

Another busy month in the Power Section with deployments to new locations, R&R rotations in full swing and electrical safety checks needed across the Sqn. We have seen **Cpl Joe Bibi** return from FOB Shazad; he managed to fly the MT desk in **Cpl Mc's** absence for all of 4 days before deploying off to Khar Nikah! **Sig Stu Sears** has joined the section from the UK as part of a surge team. He has settled in well and will be off to FOB Price shortly, covering **Cpl Paul Gowdy** on R&R. So it's Hello and Goodbye to **Stu!** **Sig Campbell** managed to secure an extra couple of days R&R along with **Sig Green** and **Cpl McDermont**, leaving just **Sig Josh Leslie**, **LCpl Assan** and **Sgt Card** in the section flying the flag for the RSEs.

LCpl Wood has been busy, in and out of CP Ouellette over the last couple of weeks, helping both the location and ICS Det with power problems, and carrying out some great work to get the place sorted. Although **Sig 'Jealous' Leslie** believes he keeps going back there to top up on American scoff!

In all we are still enjoying the busy tour, especially the guys on R&R! We are looking forward to their return and the arrival in Theatre of the 1ADSR relief next month!



Power Section proudly pose by their new sign

BASTION ICS TROOP SUPER TECHS – by Sgt Dan Beckett

It's been a busy old month out here in Paradise. Guys away on R&R along with members of the section being sent out to help with tasks in other areas definitely had an impact on the workload for everyone. **Cpl Bruce 'Horoscope' Horoszko** and



LCpl Alex Rogers both had a well earned break back in the UK, but to be honest no one really noticed they were gone! **LCpls James 'Tiberius' Cook** and **Kieran Budd** have certainly made the biggest impact by managing to break a huge 30m mast each. Quite how they managed it nobody knows.

A teary farewell was said to **LCpl Dickson** as she moves down to RC (SW) to cover for our newest member **LCpl 'Left on the bench' Northam**, who joined us and went straight on R&R!

BSN TROOP HEADQUARTERS – by Lt Rich Dixon

It has been quite an athletic and charitable month for Bastion ICS Tp. 16 members of Helmand ICS Sig Sqn took part in a 50 mile cycle in support of Ex BEAUFIGHTER TRAIL RIDER that was occurring simultaneously in the UK. Using the exercise bikes in the Camp 501 gym every member of the team cycled 50 miles. Whilst nowhere near as arduous as completing the first half of the South Downs Way on mountain bikes, the poor air conditioning during the midday heat definitely added another dimension to the physical challenge. **Sig Bamford** got the best time in the Tp by a decent margin. **LCpl Tuppen**, down from KAF to take part in Overtask training, also took part, and gained the best female time and the second best time overall. In total the 17 participants clocked up 850 miles, and the webpage for the event has raised over £500 so far.

Later in the month I took part in the Dancon March, a 25km charity race with 10kg daysacks comprising of 2 laps around Bastion 0 - 3 and Leatherneck. 181 tickets were sold, raising \$2181 for charity. I came 3rd overall out of about 173 runners. The winner was **Capt Frazer Alexander** (REME), who finished in an impressive 1h 55m. He has a place reserved in the next London Marathon as he is part of the Army Marathon Team, and ran his last one in 2h 30m. The runner up, an ex-PTI KBR contractor, completed the race in 2h 05m. I finished in 2h 15m, not a scratch on the record in boots of 2h 06m.

Part of my motivation on the second lap was the Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regt Gurkha who was (up until the last few miles) hot on my tail. I'm sure chasing me spurred him on too, and resulted in the top 4 places going to Brits. The 5th place went a Dane, who had chosen to make up his 10kg burden by wearing body armour the whole way round!

Later on **Sig Gray** came 3rd of 42 runners in the 5km Bastion "parkrun", with a time of 19m 07s. He also claimed the record for his age group (out of the 5 races so far). The winner was the same as the Dancon March, **Capt Alexander**, who completed the run in only 17m 59s.

We're still 6 weeks away from the Relief In Place with our replacements, 1 Armd Div Sig Regt, but I can sense a lot of the Tp are getting itchy feet, eagerly looking forward to some well earned leave over Christmas, and the postings or adventurous training that lie in wait for them in the New Year.



Getting more than a handful of Bastion Tp in one place at one time is more challenging than you might think

HICSSS HEAVY BASE ISTAR (CORTEZ)

– by Sgt Terence O'Mahony Doran

Well here it is, the last update of the tour, the last opportunity for everyone to say how busy they have been, how much they have learned and how much they have enjoyed their job. Here at HBI support we've been pretty much been doing the same as we were last month. So this month, the article will be about the people in the det and what they have achieved.

It was cold and raining when we left Colerne in late April bound for Afghanistan. The vehicle that was meant to take us to Brize Norton had sprung a puncture on the way to pick us up and a mad dash for a replacement had been made. There was also plane load of delays courtesy of the RAF (it's not their fault, mostly) and it didn't get the tour off to the best start. These were not the early indications of a good tour, luckily I was wrong, massively.



Cpl Gardner, LCpl Allsopp and LCpl Bosman of the CORTEZ team

On taking over from the outgoing team a tidal wave of work and problems came our way. Supporting the Intelligence, Target Acquisition and Surveillance Network had all the indications that this was going to be a busy and challenging time. After a very brief handover and no real experience of the equipment, straight away I had to deploy half of the det out to carry out some vital repairs and installation. The

CORTEZ FRT bounced from location to location for over 2 weeks and I knew from then that it was going to be tough.

Individually they've all been impressive and even better as a team, I couldn't have hoped for better. **Cpl Hayden's** technical prowess has consistently allowed us to push the boundaries. **Cpls MacGregor, Rai** and **Gardner** have probably been the most travelled of the Regt this tour. They've spent most of their tour bounding from location to location, doing outstanding work in some very hostile sites. Not forgetting **LCpls Allsopp** and **Bosman** who have also deployed several times and have provided vital technical and logistical support to the deployed repair teams. Not only have they maintained the network so well, they have expanded it by over a quarter. They have all learned a great deal, gained a lot of experience and should all be proud of what their achievements. I think it is safe to say that they have all enjoyed the tour, as I have enjoyed working with them. They have seen first hand the fruits of their labour and a great deal of accomplishment is theirs. They have no doubt made Helmand a little safer for UK troops and made life a little more difficult for anyone wishing to cause harm.

FOB JUNO ICS DET – by LCpl Washington

We are now ¾ of the way through the tour. **LCpl Vale** has just left for R&R, which now gives the Comd's power to **LCpl Washington**, who is not alone as **LCpl Routley** has joined the mighty crew. **LCpl Routley** has been here for just under a week and is already planning to find a way to stay due to the food being high quality and he enjoys joining in growing the famous Juno moustache. The shift patterns are the same and make the days fly by, before long we will be back on the plane flying home. There are still many challenges ahead but nothing these 2 fine soldiers can't handle.



Both **LCpls Washington** and **Routley** have had their R&R and enjoyed every minute of it with their family and friends. **LCpl Vale** was in the best of moods when he heard his flight had been brought forward. This made it able for him to return for his birthday, for which we're sure he'll be on his best behaviour. As you all well know J6, our trusty guard dog, has grown incredibly. He's more a white bear than a dog.

LCpls Routley and **Washington** have lots to do and look forward to. **LCpl Routley** has been told he gets to go home early to compete in a rugby competition, which gives him only a short time at Juno, but **LCpl Washington** plans to make it memorable. All in all though, life at Juno is ace and in some ways will be missed. A big thank you to everyone for the packages and parcels. Of course everything that has been sent has either been eaten or used not long after arriving. We are all safe and healthy and are looking forward to seeing everyone at home.

LASHKAR GAH ICS TROOP – by LCpl Dabell

Since our last article the personnel of LG ICS Tp have had an exhaustive few months. With the RIP of 20 Bde into Theatre (which is set to continue for the next few weeks), and with the usual commitment and appetite for a challenge, the Tp have put their best boots on and got stuck in. Even with the Tp running on minimal manning due to the R&R plot and with loss of personnel due to “medical issues” (aka no spine), they have managed to continue providing the high standard of CIS and Comms that the Tp has been recognised for.

With the RIP now in full flow, we also started the huge task of replacing some 200 laptops, which has pushed our manning to the edge. This became the main task of our newest Tp member, **SAC Pepper**. The great responsibility of ensuring that our users continue to have the same access to all the CIS systems one day came at a price of **SAC Pepper's** cup of tea, which he decide to drop on his groin. We also dealt with the deployment of **LCpl Johnson** to one of our forward locations to fix a fault, which was to take all of half a day, but a total of 4 days later he decide to return to us. Did he forget his flights on purpose in exchange for some Op-Bronzing? Who knows?

Now we are looking to the future; we are over half way though our tour, but does that mean we're going to slack off? Hell no! On 22 October the Tp will be involved in a 24hr Endurance Challenge which is being organised by myself, **LCpl Dabell**. This will require every individual from the Tp to row and pedal in a continuous relay, in 1 hour rotations. There will also be a raffle which will be held during the evening, which is being organised by **LCpl Melvin**. For all those family, friends and colleagues that wish to support us they can donate at: www.bmycharity.com/lkgendurancechallenge.



The FOB Ouellette build team

FOB OUELLETTE ICS DETACHMENT – by Sgt Susie Cooper

It is ironic that the first submission from PB Ouellette is in the final Regtl update, but the changing nature of Op HERRICK dictated that **Sgt Susie Cooper**, **Cpl Chris Reid** and **LCpl Marc Holden** returned from R&R to find that they were to join the 3rd Bn, 4th US Marines at “Combat Outpost Ouellette” as part of the handover of the Upper Gereshk Valley to UK control. A team of Engineers, Signals and Marines had been assembled to build the new HQs, installing the comms infrastructure, and turning the site into a British Patrol Base.

With only a handful of Brits amongst all the Marines, we tried to fit in; joining them for “chow”, drinking “cups of joe”, and sometimes speaking to them in American accents so we could be understood. But they were very welcoming, probably because our presence meant that they could go home sooner.

The facilities at the PB are fairly basic and we have seen the transition from the US way to the British way of providing these. Sometimes the Yanks did it better (steak and lobster was a welcome first-night meal), and sometimes we do it better (we can surf the net from our sleeping bags). But we can't grumble; we get 2 hot meals per day, there are 2 shower tents, we have BFBS on big-screen TV, wifi internet for up to 20 users and 4 welfare phones for calling home. There is a reasonable gym here and limitless miles of running track (depending on how many laps of the heli-pad you can stand).

We are now working towards establishing and documenting our procedures, and ensuring we hand a smooth-running Det over to our replacements in November. All of us are looking forward to seeing our loved ones when we get home.

PATROL BASE 2 ICS DETACHMENT – by Sgt Oli Neeve

It has been a long time coming but we are now at the stage where we can all say we are coming home next month. Despite this, **'Youngy'**, **Sig Josh Rowe** and **Sgt Tony Cook** are still waiting to go on R&R and so for them a return to Theatre will only be fleeting before heading back home for the medals parade and Christmas with friends and family. It would be nice to sit back and relax at this time but the pace of life is increasing as we carry on with our normal work as well as trying to tie up all loose ends. We are due to see a new Battle Group join us and so there is plenty of work trying to ensure jobs are handed over whilst attempting to pre-empt as much as we can to aid a smooth transition to 5 Rifles.



Cpl Young and Daisy do the nightly fuel run

We have taken over a couple of new locations and this often requires some on-site training that the blokes will happily volunteer for and **Eddie** and **'Hilly'** have been all over the place recently. It is still nice to get away to see what life is like at the pointier end of the stick but everyone feels strangely comfortable back here despite the obvious lack of creature comforts. Everybody is missing home and obviously their family, I am looking forward to spending some quality time



with **Darcey**, the first addition to our family. I was so lucky to get back for the birth but only got to spend a week with her before coming back out here. My only request now is that by the time I get back she sleeps through the night, however this isn't going so well at the moment. More training required.

We have had a new batch of chefs arrive, much to the delight of everyone in camp. The routine and lack of imagination from before becomes more obvious when you start to get tasty and well thought out meals. Pancakes and Coco Pops are still the preferred choice of many and you have to be there early to ensure they are still available. With less than 50 days until we arrive in the UK, the back of this tour is well and truly broken and the light at the end of the tunnel grows ever brighter. Thank you all for the parcels and blueys that have been winging their way out here as they have made the weeks, especially starvation Thursdays, pass quicker. See you all soon, please dig out the coats, hats and scarves as I fear we are not so good with the cold anymore!

FOB SQT

September has been a busy month with comings and goings, **Sgt Winzar**, **LCpls Tilcock** and **Shinett** have all been on R&R. We have had the privilege of new arrivals **LCpl Hutchinson**, **LCpl Myzak**, **LCpl Thornhill**, **Sig Drury** and a temporary guest **SAC Pepper**. The month has also been busy with work, the ICS det managed to finish a network uplift at SQT just in time for the new Battle Group of HERRICK 15 to take over, 45 Commando have now mostly been replaced by 3 Scots. There has been a visit by 2 telemechs from BSN to upgrade the phone network, not just to increase productivity but to improve welfare facilities. **LCpl Myzak** has been busy visiting PB's to teach them how to use different applications. **Cpl Bevan** and **LCpl Tilcock** have been out and about to increase the capabilities of PB's on the network.



LCpl Myzak 'Your taxi awaits sir'

The det received a visit from the RSM, **WO1 Morgan**, and the Regtl FofS, **WO1 Hughes**, both of whom seemed happy when their flight out was cancelled. The RSM could watch a couple of extra rugby games and the Regt FofS to become a tech again. **FofS Hughes** dived straight back into things when **Cpl Brown** had a technical fault with one of his comms systems.

On a lighter note, **LCpl Tilcock** had the best 10 seconds of his life whilst on holiday at Cavos. **LCpl Shinett** made it home for his fathers 60th birthday and **Sgt Winzar** spent his time with wife and baby, he also managed to successfully pass his Yeoman's selection course whilst back in the UK. **Cpl Brown** celebrated his 27th birthday with cards and cake, he even managed to squeeze a sanger duty into the day. Good times.

With less than 7 weeks to go spirits are high, the last few weeks will be just as busy but the end is in sight.

SFPTC

OC
Ops O

Maj N Fisher
Capt J Tinnion

The Coy arrived into Theatre just at the beginning of the summer and the fighting season and over the last 5 months we have dominated our area of responsibility. Kabul has strategic interests and influence, the young men and women have been involved in every major incident which has occurred in this complex and demanding urban area. The major attacks have tested the metal of the Multiples and they have not faltered, with tact and diplomacy they have set the standard. As we eagerly await the arrival of 1 ADSR we remain on the front foot, fully focused and resolute to the mission. We now approach the winter months and look forward to a swift and succinct handover. We wish the men of 1 ADSR all the best and we thank our families for all their support they have given us over the last few months.

SIGNALS DETACHMENT – by Cpl Hewitt

It is with a great smile that I am writing our final article from the Rad Det at Camp Souter. It's been an interesting tour, with the many incidents in Kabul city centre which we have had to deal with, crossing the language barrier with many of the other nations who thankfully mostly spoke English in one way or another and with trying to teach the ways of the operator to the RSE and CLS trades who although had a shaky start to their VP are now at it like pro's. This month also had its share of news. The attack on 13 Sept was dealt with well, yet suspicions arose when we realised that **LCpl Stu Green** was away somewhere else in the city. It seems that whenever he leaves Camp, something happens! However, between myself, **LCpl Brad Sluz** and **Sig McSharry** we managed to work something out where we were able to man the net and keep the Watchkeepers hydrated with brews, whilst still getting rest during the 18 hour siege.

Also in the news, our ever expanding arsenal of radios has increased again! On top of the HF, PMR and mobile phone that we are using, we have been given US-made UHF radios to test, TacSAT PRC 117F, upgraded our Bowman to include VHF and the Embassy has kindly given us some small portable radios. The CCTV cameras haven't been left out either, with 2 of them getting thermal imaging capabilities much to **SSgt John Kennaugh's** delight who has been trying to glean more J2 off the locals. The SS Enterprise is now good to go.

K10 – by Sig Latimer

Firstly congratulations to the lads that came of the board for promotions: **Sig Winson**, **Sig Day** and **Cfn Bodley**, hopefully they will all do well as LCpl's. With the final month of tour about to start, we are most definitely all looking forward to handing over to 1 Div and then landing in the UK and receiving our medals followed by the eagerly awaited leave.

Temperatures are dropping making sleeping easier at night and patrolling a lot less sweaty. We are no longer returning from patrol dripping wet! **Sig Purchase** has gone on his R&R, that was the K10 big milestone indicator, comfort for all our minds knowing our work here is nearly done! We have all also participated in 2 recent charity events, the Terry Fox Run, a 5 or 10 Km run for cancer, in memory of the Canadian runner, and also a bike ride for charity, involving **SSM Bishop** cycling 100 miles, **Cpl Day** doing 50 miles on a rusty old Afghan bike and everyone else doing on hour each of arduous spinning.

K20 – by Sgt Mike Secker

As the tour is rapid coming to a close, I feel it quite important that I do the final article for the Multiple. As you have read



previously the morale and humour has been ever present, even when our backs have been against the wall with work tempo and when the Afghan people want to try something. Within the Multiple there has been a fair few interesting relationships being formed with **Sig George Bradley** and **Sig Steve Weatherall** getting a special mention. I have spent this whole tour trying to work out who is looking after who in that room, you can never tell. Even though if you asked them, they would tell you that they own each other. Then there is the ever interesting **Sig Adam Plumb**. He is our very own Doctor Doolittle. He never stops surprising us with what he brings. We have had everything, birds, lizards, camel-spiders and the odd scorpion. It is a rare treat. **'Plumby'** has also been our very own liaison with the locals because they believe he is an Afghani himself, and at times I think he thinks he is to.

It is almost the end and I think it right that the whole multiple be introduced and named. In the multiple are the following: **Cpl Mo Morris**, **LCpl Nicky Lloyd**, **Sig Jamie Wood**, **Cfn Mark Hardy**, **Sig's Josh Carmichael**, **Chris Gruby**, **'Patch' Mountain**, **Liam Whitehead**, **Adam Plumb**, **George Bradley**, **Steve Weatherall**, **Callum Watson** and myself, **Sgt Mike Secker**.



Loc Stat

K30 – by *Sgt Taff Langley*

The end of tour is nigh and K30 can look back at what can be described as a very successful tour. A lot of the soldiers came here as tour virgins with a smattering of veterans, such as **Cpl JJ Cascarina** to pass on his knowledge and experience's.

The multiple has been put through its paces with a multitude of tasks. Some of the more memorable being looking after the security for the Prime Minister on his visit to Kabul, when we provided a 36 hour vigilance on the British Ambassador's residence from the top of a ridgeback. The multiple was then crashed out as part of the British QRF to the British Council incident in Kabu. A big well done to drivers **Sigs Nikki Smees** and **Nath Humphries** for driving their vehicles (Ridgebacks) through the middle of Kabul at a rapid rate of knots to reach the incident without added complications in a record time.

Along with all the exciting tasks we have carried out comes the more mundane, swimming at the BEK (British Embassy Kabul) and tagging on although watching **Sig Dave Page** cry like a baby when finding a camel spider in the sangar and refusing to go in until **Sig Rach Wheatman** came to kill it, WHAT A HERO!! Congratulations must go to **Sig Johnny 'Taff' Wheeler** on the birth of his son **Jake Rhys** and to **Cfn 'Smudger' Smith** on his selection for promotion to LCpl.

Finally I would like to say a big thank you to all the multiple for a job well done throughout the tour. The NCO's, **Cpl JJ Cascarina**, **LCpl 'Geordie' Hardy** and **LCpl 'Bubblehead' Doyle**

for being top commanders. The Ridgeback drivers **Sig Page**, **Sig Humphries** and **Sig Smees** for your brilliant efforts in not killing us whilst driving around Kabul. And to all the other soldiers within the multiple **Cfn Smith**, **Sig Wheeler**, **Sig BZ**, **Sig Wheatman**, **Sig 'Big' Phil Kay** and **Sig 'Man SV' Tina Turner** for all the hard work and professionalism that you have shown during an extremely busy and hopefully rewarding (£5000 bonus) tour. We now look forward to our move back to Colerne for tea and medals and a well deserved break.

KABUL SUPPORT UNIT

OC **Maj Stuart Gunson**

Last month I remarked that the finish line was in sight, well as we move in to October it's almost in touching distance. The majority have now completed their R&R and have returned reinvigorated to push on to the completion of the tour. As the weather up in Kabul starts to cool we are starting to consider our handover and everybody is now looking at ways to make it run as smoothly as possible and of course to pass on any lessons they have learnt during their deployment.

GROUPING & ZEROING COMPETITION

On 24 Sep SSM KSU, **WO2 Lancaster**, held a grouping and zeroing competition in the 25m pipe range on Camp SOUTER ably assisted by **Sgt Chris Mark**.



There was a good turnout no doubt due to the lure of the prize donated by the EFI, a tub of Maxi Muscle in any flavour you want!! Firers were permitted to fire up to 3 x 5 round groups with their best group size counting. The competition was fierce but the overall winner was **Sig Collins** from SFPTC with a group size of 17mm. The event was enjoyed by all who took part and the majority left with their weapon more correctly zeroed than when they arrived, which was of course the whole point of the day.

SQMS – by *Sgt Mark*

During the past month the SQMS department has been re-named to SQES; "Souter Quiz and Entertainment Section". It all began with a virtual dog racing night. The "punters" would buy a betting slip for \$5 of which \$2.50 was donated to the Army Benevolent Fund Charity. In return they received £1,000 in virtual money. They would place their bets at our state of the art betting booth, made from an old Afghan table and a MFO box, not forgetting a few rolls of black nasty. We got the idea from an episode of Blue Peter. This was manned by myself and **Sgt Paul Denham**. There where a total of 10 races and the punter with the most virtual money at the end won. It was an enjoyable night and we raised \$85 for charity, however on a sore point **Sig Gosbee** is now receiving counselling from the Padre after loosing £10,000 in one race.

WORKSHOPS – by *Cfn Bennett*

The penultimate month before we go home and it's gone pretty fast. We thought this month might drag on a little as we are nearing the end of the tour, it's not as if were counting



the days or anything, but we just cant wait to smell the fresh scent of morning dew on the grass. We think the reason this month might have gone so quick is because the AQMS has been on R&R for most of it. Time has flown by and the morale-ometer is at an all time high.



The lads hard at work as usual

J6 – by SSgt Raby

It's been a busy month for the guys in J6 particularly with **Fofs Steve Read** being away on R&R. This probably did contribute to us winning the SOUTER Thursday night quiz for the first time in a while. He's useless at everything except knot questions! The majority of the team have been working hard in the gym and doing plenty of running, except for **Fofs Chris Klass** who admitted this week the only time he's worn his new trainers was for a fire practice several week ago. It was also time to wave farewell to the Ops Offr **Flt Lt Nick Bolan** who leaves us to head home for good to take a well deserved, permanent and very late R&R as his wife is about to give birth to their first child. He won't be missed that much as **Ma Bolan** is still sending cakes to the Kabul J6 NOC. He will be sorely missed by all, especially the Signallers who will no doubt pick up his brew making duties.

KABUL ICS TROOP – by Lt Woollan

With weeks to push, by the time this article is published our replacements will have arrived. I would like to take this opportunity to praise all of those who have deployed as part of Kabul ICS Tp and thank them for all their hard work. They have all played their part in an important task. Several large HQs are based here and whether it has been maintaining strategic satellite links, setting up VTC's to London or ensuring that tactical comms are working to allow different call signs to communicate with each other on the ground; each task has been completed to a high level with a great deal of professionalism. Every soldier has done a brilliant job and out performed all expectations I had before I deployed and made my job commanding the Tp that much easier.

I would also like to say thank you to all the families and friends that have sent out parcels and provided us with much needed morale. A big thank you also goes to those that have sent parcels to the HQ ISAF detachment to support the local Orphanages. You will see from below their latest visit.

I will now let the detachments tell you about their last month and weeks on tour. We all look forward to coming home and some well earned leave over Christmas and New Year.

HQ ISAF ICS DETACHMENT – Cpl Hosty and Sig Pickard

Yet another busy month with people moving around Theatre to help out on the ICS Det in Kabul. **Cpl Grant** has joined us from Souter replacing **Cpl Morrison** and **Sig Pickard** flown from the UK to give us extra manpower, he has got lucky with only 2 months left of the tour. They have both settled in and we're making sure they know all about the kit we use here.



Cpl Hosty with her American team mates

I am heading up to KAIA to do a Marathon Relay for charity; I am joining in with the Americans as they need a female on their team, bonuses of being a female!
SSgt Mick Lawrence, Sgt Tooke and I visited a displaced persons camp in the last few days to deliver aid, clothing and provisions. It was a pretty grim sight seeing the conditions these people live in and makes you appreciate more what we have back in the UK. The camp was set near the city sports stadium and was crammed into a 100m square area of waste land which was strange to see in the middle of a capital city.



Sgt Tooke with locals from the displaced persons camp

KAIA ICS DETACHMENT – by LCpl Francis

This month has been dominated by the last few people going on R&R. This however has not affected the continuous charity work conducted by the det with a further 2 poker tournaments and more orphanage visits. We have raised a total of just under \$8000. **LCpl Francis** was gifted the chance to play in the recent Charity Poker Tournament; after his performance it is clear he was there to make the numbers up!

The football tournament ended with a defeat to the Belgians but as quarter finalists it was a good showing by the lads. Other events include the KAIA rugby tournament in which **LCpl Francis** and **LCpl Smith** participated in placing third out of 5 teams. It was a close affair with our team winning one drawing 2 and losing one game. The training continues for the ISAF tournament that is at the end of the month. We also got to enjoy the Australian welfare show, in which we got to see a band, whose lead singer we all thought was Rolf Harris turned out to be a coincidental look alike minus the didgeridoo. And also this month was time for the Germans to celebrate Oktoberfest, free non alcoholic beer was enjoyed and we all made the most of the free sausages on offer!

CAMP SOUTER ICS DETACHMENT – by Sig Humphreys

Well, all in all September was a busy month for the ICS DET with many people on R&R, myself included, leaving the rest to fill the gaps. The highlight of the month was the charity bike ride in which we raised an impressive \$650 as a camp. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate **Cpl Herbert** and soon to be **LCpl Bruce** on their respective promotions, however they are still yet to buy a crate of pop.



With a couple of months to push the fun began on an evening in the EFI with quiz nights and even a night dedicated to dog racing! The Det have also taught the Canadians a few tricks at hockey this month thanks to **Sig 'Sharky' Morrison** with his amazing skills. Away from all the fun on **Sig Cook** got himself on a flight to Camp Bastion for an ORAS course (Overtask Remote Access Ssystems). We guess he enjoyed it as he has told the Det the ins and outs since his return.



Sig Tate logging an important fault

HO/TO notes were finished a while back now and everybody is ready to handover to 1 ADSR and jump on the flight to sunny Cyprus. On R&R I managed to purchase some pink and yellow swim shorts which I am sure the Cypriot ladies will love!

SFPTC CHARITY RIDGEBACK PULL – by Sgt Secker

On Tue 25 Oct 11 members of SFPTC completed the Ridgeback Fitness Test in Camp Souter. This consisted of 20 members pulling a 26 tonne Ridgeback over a distance of 1.5 miles with an hour allocated. The aim was to raise money for the Army Benevolent Fund and Afghan Heroes. In an excellent effort the distance was reached in 29 minutes 34 seconds with £1500 being raised to be split between the 2 charities.



CHINOOK PULL 5 NOV 11 - by Sig Williams

At 0730 on a sunny Saturday morning in Camp Bastion, 17 members of 21 Sig Regt (AS) arrived at the flight line and for the first time they were greeted by the 17 ton beast they were about to pull for a painful and agonising 1000m.

The event started with **Sig Williams** taking the group for a warm up and, considering the daunting task that lay ahead, morale within the group was very high. As the ropes were attached and we took our places in front of the Chinook, the size of the challenge that lay ahead began to hit home. We took our places and everyone was ready. 3.....2.....1.... PULL!!!! All 17 guys and girls immediately began to pull and the 17 ton beast steadily began to move. As the pace picked up each member of the group was shouting out words of

encouragement while **Cpl 'Nobby' Norton** was shouting out checkpoints that lay ahead of us. As we passed each point and the finish line was insight it didn't seem so hard. The total time was a muscle tearing 12min 59sec. Once the finish line was reached **SSgt Kiff** was man down and needed comforting by **SSgt Wood**.



The event was a great success and over \$3300 was raised for the Royal British Legion and the Mayor of Bath's Relief Fund.

QABEL BAY SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACHING DAY

– by WO1 (FofS) Hughes

Members of 21SR delivered an afternoon of football coaching for children from the Qabel Bay School in Kabul. This included a warm up, a technical practice and a tournament before a school select taught the coaches a thing or 2 in an exhibition match to finish. The afternoon was concluded with each child receiving an ISAF football and goodies donated by Swindon Town Football Club. The school were also presented with a range of coaching equipment to start a school club.

ISAF INTERNATIONAL RUGBY 7'S TOUCH COMPETITION

– by LCpl Routley

A majority of the Army Community Cup winning side travelled north to Kabul from our home of Camp Bastion to compete in the ISAF International Rugby 7's Touch Competition on the night of October 21st. Typical delays with our flight meant we got to Kabul later than expected. First impressions of Kabul – What is that smell?! Arriving at HQ ISAF after a quick brew in their garden (garden!), the teams were split and the A side got stuck in, playing the first game against the Afghan national team. The game was watched by the huge crowd of locals who didn't seem to know what was going on and military spectators, running out victorious 10 - 5. A senior player of the 21SR side was reported to have said to a journalist from the Guardian newspaper that he predicted "the Afghans would soon become a real threat once they added some discipline to their undoubted enthusiasm" The 21SR team went on to win 3 more games in the group stages, playing in a downpour of rain that back home in the UK would have been proud of, and losing a game to the NZ Special Forces 10 - 5, both teams looked good enough for the Final. A few players thought they saw the RSM, playing for 21SR B team, sprint the full length of the pitch for a try, but no one could confirm this! A try always seems better than what it actually is!

Our semi final against the hosts, HQ ISAF, was comfortably won and we progressed to the Final, against our victors in the group stages, the NZ Special Forces. Another hard fought game saw us lose out 15 -5. We were promised a BBQ but no steaks or chicken were cooked apart from the local's 'burger stall' food which looked more like rat burgers! Runners up not bad but a sad end to an otherwise awesome day!





20 ARMOURD BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (200)



OC'S FOREWORD

After a thorough 9 month MST package, a quick splash of restorative pre tour/summer leave and RAF flights that actually left and arrived on time, the Corps Senior Sig Sqn have now taken over as Task Force Helmand Sig Sqn. The excellent RSOI package ensured minds were focused and bodies were steeled for the tour ahead; it also revealed some novel uses for the Tier 2 protective underwear, but that is one for the Sqn yearbook only. The Sqn is now 'up to speed' and making real progress, especially with developing ANSF comms skills. Op MASSIVE has begun in earnest and a few have even started Op MINIMISE; some by choice, others by bad admin and a visit to the D&V 'Tent of Shame' – step forward **Capt Ed Vickers**. There are many individuals and organisations that have helped us throughout the last year, I would especially like to thank 11 Sig Bde, 1ADSR and 209 Sig Sqn for their assistance with manpower and training.

Finally, the Sqn's thoughts are with **Sig Wesley Wright** and his family as he makes a swift recovery from his injuries. We hope to see him back out here soon.

WEEK ONE AT MOB LASHKAR GAH TFH

-- by *Sig Shane Marklew*

Following our RSOI package, Main Tp, under the tutelage of **Sgt 'Chappie' Chapman** took the short journey to Lashkar Gah to settle into life in support of Task Force Helmand HQ.

On our arrival at the HLS, we disembarked from the Heli and struggled into the arrivals area under mountains of bags and equipment, excited but nervous about the months that lay ahead. After the mandatory camp briefs we were allocated our accommodation. We were going to be living in 8 man pods broken down into the shifts we would be doing in the HQ. The pods, surprisingly comfortable, consisted of camp cots with foam mattresses and a hanging rack to put your stuff in. Most of the pods also have great air-conditioning.

The facilities in Lashkar Gah are fantastic and consist of a launderette, a barber, a tailor, a volley ball court, a good gym and probably the best cook house I have come across during my short Army career. On top of this there is also a NAAFI and all the usual welfare facilities. I felt confident that we would be well looked after this tour, even if the hours are going to be long. The MOB is approximately one mile around and its size means all these facilities are conveniently close together. The HLS is good for running around when there are no helicopters about and even the tap water is drinkable.

Within hours of our arrival we started our HOTO from 30 Cdo. This consisted of 2 days of shadowing everything the Marines were doing in their role as Main Tp accompanied by Signallers from 207 Sig Sqn. One of the most important jobs we would have to get to grips with was tagging on in the JOC, listening to the nets on the BRF and J3 desks. 30 Cdo were extremely helpful and answered any questions plus lots of general tips. I personally found the HOTO period very beneficial and a great deal of thanks must go to the guys from 30 Cdo and 207 Sig Sqn. **Sgt Chapman** split the Tp into day and night shifts under **Sgt Bob Yuille** and **Sgt Steve Lawrence**. We also set about converting the 'Wets' area back into a 'Brew' area. We also had to get rid of all the 'Oggin' in the fridge and fill it back up with water. In addition to manning the JOC and looking after the HQ comms we would also take on Sangar duties and 24hr

guards on the front gate. This guard consists of a rotation between searcher, gate cover, GPMG, barrier, runner, pass office and prowler. It may sound onerous but it is a welcome break in my shift pattern and it flies by due to the constant rotation, it also presents you with a chance to interact with the local nationals as they come and go from the camp.

After my first week I am really looking forward to the rest of my tour. I'll have ample opportunity to complete my workbook and gain a lot of trade knowledge and experience.

RSOI PACKAGE – by *LCpl Gaskell*

Following a relatively hassle free journey from Hannover we arrived in Camp Bastion for the start of our Sqn deployment on HERRICK 15. After being taken aback by the stifling heat we were ushered straight to the RSOI training centre situated in Bastion 3 where we would be based for the next 5 days.

After a gladly accepted admin day, we made our way to the RSOI briefing tent fully aware of the torment that awaited us. Day One of the package involves a series of consecutive briefs updating all new arrivals with all the information required for their tour. The 10 hour day is filled with presentations regarding the current mission objectives for coalition forces in Afghanistan, situational awareness, health and hygiene, operational procedures and briefs concerning the insurgency's weapons and equipment, strength and tactics. This belt-fed but essential part of the package brings all new arrivals up to speed with the current situation in Afghanistan.



Sqn members play 'Guess The Insurgent' on RSOI

The following morning we completed an acclimatisation tab in full kit to the Bastion Ranges. This is an essential part of the process which all soldiers have to endure on their first few weeks. For many of the soldiers it is the first time that they get a taste of what it is like to perform cardiovascular activity in a hot environment whilst bearing full patrolling kit. The tab was followed by a quick check zero of every soldier's weapon on the 100m range. The rest of the day is filled with in-depth briefs regarding emergency medical care and evacuation, the rules of engagement and prisoner handling.

Day 3 of the package focussed on Op BARMA and essential skills such as Valon drills, safe lane marking and ground sign awareness (GSA). These subjects were all taught by the Counter IED (C-IED) team who were bringing their 6 month tour to a close. This day alone provides invaluable knowledge to any soldier who could go out on patrols and the excellent instructors have a wealth of knowledge and experience regarding all of the C-IED equipment and procedures. The following day was a sweaty affair involving briefs on ECM, a



vital piece of equipment which has saved many lives from the RCIED. The day also included prisoner handling scenarios, more in depth GSA in and around compounds and the hilarious RODET rollover drills. Suffice to say you don't want to be opposite **Cpl Si Garrett** when a vehicle really tips. The RSOI package culminates on the fifth day; all of the soldiers are put to the test in a series of patrol exercise in order to see what they have learnt, giving the OPTAG instructors a chance to observe and provide constructive criticism to further improve the soldiers' skills in the field. It was a tiring but really effective package which got us into the right mindset for the upcoming 6 months.



Cpl Sherchan, of 1 YORKS RSIST, struggles to find his keys



Can anyone find Sherchan's keys?!

DAN BAT RLD - MOB PRICE – by Sgt John 'Jar Jar' Binks

The DANBAT RLD deployed to Bastion with the main body of the Sqn. After an early start we arrived at Hannover Airport and were soon hurried through check in to wait in the departure lounge. Here the ever present NAAFI were waiting to take the last of our hard earned cash off us without a smile; some things never change. Once on the flight it became clear that it was going to be more comfortable than anticipated. Firstly, we wouldn't be flying in an aging Tri-Star and secondly, the flight was not packed to the rafters so there was plenty of space to stretch out. Once on our way we soon arrived at our transfer airport in a featureless Middle Eastern desert. We were greeted by what can only be described as a stifling heat wave. We had a lengthy and very wait before being flown to Camp Bastion, which has now grown to the size of Aldershot.

Once at Bastion we were put through a 5 day RSOI package to refresh and hone the skills that the Sqn had begun to train us on 10 months earlier. It was a chance to acclimatise before going forward to our future locations and was an opportunity to revise key skills. We also had an admin day, however, the mighty 200 Sig Sqn (the OC) saw this as an opportunity to

show off to the rest of Bastion with an acclimatisation run. Once RSOI was complete we were given our flight times and left to get ourselves ready for the onward flight to CF NES(N).

We were put on various flights to our locations within CF NES(N), **Cpl Moore** and **Sig 'Bucks' Buckley** were the first to go with an onward flight to Hazrat. Next out was myself, **Sgt Binks**, **LCpl Smedley**, **LCpl Lamb** and 3 of the strangest and young looking Signallers you have ever seen, **Sigs Maynard**, **Perry** and the beautiful **'Butch' Hutchinson**. Once on the heli they were like 3 young pups exploring a new environment with tongues out and tails wagging. The last to leave on route to Bridzar, Khar Nikah and Rahim were **LCpl 'Parky' Parkhill**, **Sig R-S**, **Sig S-J** and last but not least **Sig 'Wes' Wright**. All was going well, until **Sig Wright** decided to take all but his bergan and daysack off the Heli. Safe to say he is still waiting for his belongings to arrive.

The RiP worked well and the handover from the Marines of 30 Cdo and Signallers from 207 Sig Sqn was well put together. **Sig Maynard** was quickly picked up by his counterpart and swept off to CP Viking, the handover was 'swift and sure' and the Marine was back before I had time to make my bed. To be honest am not surprised as the outgoing Royal Marine had experienced a near miss with a grenade coming over the wall just a few days earlier. **Sig Hutchinson's** adventure has also started sooner than he would have thought. As soon as he arrived he began preparations for a Deliberate Op with the Danish Tank Platoon. He looked quiet worried at first but after a few soothing conversations with myself and my right hand man, **Cpl McCallion**, his head was soon in the game.

LCpl Smedley is finally starting to live up to his role as a JNCO, running the TOC (the Danish Ops room). He is managing the shift and looking after **Sig Perry** and **LCpl Lamb** who is playing a key role in our RLD. **LCpl Smedley** is progressing with his VP and trade knowledge with every shift although he still keeps complaining about being stuck in the TOC all day. We keep reminding him that he has a long way to go yet. After all, he is still not a Class 1 after being out of training for almost 10 years. **Cpl Moore** and **LCpl Parkhill** have taken over the RLD at Hazrat and Bridzar. From what they have told me these are comfortable locations with plenty of Danish welfare facilities and a warm welcome. **Cpl McCallion** and I are running the RLD from MOB Price. We have a nice little compound that is perfect for anybody who loves to tan or play darts. Our main entertainment comes from listening to **LCpl Smedley's** VP over the net. I'm also happy to say that **Cpl McCallion** had already taken on the Crypto account prior to my arrival.

In the last few weeks there has been plenty to do with IRGs (resup) going out every couple of days and a couple of Ops ongoing at any one time. Everybody is mucking in and getting out on the ground whenever possible, although **LCpl Smedley** seems to be glued to the Ops Room whenever leaving the MOB is mentioned... Overall, the DANBAT guys have taken over in good order and looking forward to a challenging tour.



232 (SINGAPORE) SIGNAL SQUADRON 7th SIGNAL REGIMENT



OC
SSM

Major J Mayne
WO2 (SSM) D Mears

HQ ISAF JOINT COMMAND – SIGNAL SUPPORT GROUP

DEPLOYMENT – by Lt 'Wirenote' Adams

It was a bleak and teary-eyed scene at 0500 on 19 July within Elmpt Station, the home of 7 Sig Regt. For potentially the last time, Hotel and Delta Tps lined the floor of Hangar 291, travel

documents in hand and a ferocious appetite for CIS in mind. After 6 months of pre-deployment training, and 309 separate movement plans, OP EAGLE had arrived. Our mission was to form the Signal Support Group within ISAF Joint Command supporting of the ARRCs' 12 month deployment to Kabul. The reality is that our mission was to show the currently deployed 231 Sig Sqn exactly how it's done.

I'd assumed, for it is usually the case, that the title of 'Chalk Commander' was a predominantly notional title offered to the



unassuming junior officer in order to promote delusions of grandeur. It also provides the SNCOs a welcome opportunity to giggle at the mindless and overly complex solutions we concoct to solve remarkably simple tasks. Hilariously, this was not to be the case; but more on that later. With the movement plan about as firm as it would get, we set off.

On arrival at Ramstein Air Base the helpful US RAF employees ensured our check-in process was as seamless as possible, only occasionally stalling to check their own pulses. No sooner was the process underway when an exasperated **Cpl Kelly** sidled over to announce that he'd lost his NATO travel order. With the documents located, and **Cpl Kelly** provided a fresh set of underpants we continued to the departure lounge for the weigh-in. How fortunate it was that each individual only packed the legally permissible 11 grams of equipment, because had we have gone a gram over, nobody would have cared. An hour later and we were on our way..... to South Cerney, England. The 16-hour stop-short was mercifully ended by news that we'd deploy direct to Kabul at 1100 the following morning. By this stage, I'd been given responsibility for the SSG and the entire ARRC Staff whom we'd met at South Cerney; an unruly international body of men and women.

After a quick stop at check-in, our 1930's buses pulled onto the runway and alongside another majestic C-17 Globemaster. After pulling rank as 'Chalk Commander' I secured the best seats in the house for OC Sqn **Maj Jon Mayne, WO2 (SSM) Mears, SSgt Gleadall and Sgt Smith**. At long last I was to be rewarded for my role as 'Chalk Commander'; with a seat in such proximity to the lavatory that I only had to tie my laces in order to bury my head into the naked lap of whichever ARRC officer was defecating at the time, a rare treat.

The flight landed in much the same way as it had taken off, except in reverse. Not literally of course, because that would be dangerous. Within moments of landing **Capt Smith** gave us our arrivals brief then off to our accommodation. A few hours of sleep later the short and sharp RSOI package commenced, confirming for the 17th time that week that I was able to apply a First Field Dressing without decapitating myself. All-in-all, it was as smooth a transition as we could have asked for. An evening of personal admin was a welcome change of pace prior to the start of the handover. I'll use this chance to thank 231 Sig Sqn for a thoroughly well planned and executed training package; it will provide us with the foundations we require to take on each day with confidence, professionalism, commitment and crucially, good humour.

HITTING THE GROUND RUNNING – by LCpl Robertson

The Sqn are currently serving in Afghanistan as part of ISAF Joint Command. Following a 2 day RSOI package a small team led by **Lt Adams** was sent to ISAF HQ to take over the NATO Satellite comms. After a 2 day HOTO with 231 Sig Sqn, the team were ready to go. **Sgt Burton** led the first deployment to a local ANA Camp. With team members **LCpl Thomas** and **LCpl 'Mogsy' Mogford**, they completed the task and were back at our HQ within a day. The next deployment was to be in the northern province of Afghanistan. A German controlled camp in RC North, known as Kunduz, not far from the border of the Republic of Tajikistan. **Cpl 'Frosty' Frost** was selected to lead this and his team for the Op was **LCpl 'Pratz' Pratz** and **LCpl 'Scottie' Robertson**. Their task was to deploy with a NATO comms system known as a MiniPop (point of presence), and a DART satellite system, in order to provide temporary NATO comms for the Dutch contingent in Kunduz.

After 3 days of setting up, tearing down, fault finding and getting to grips with the general dynamics of the equipment, it was time to deploy. The team (Team Frost) was due to leave at 0830hrs, expecting to arrive at 0900 hours at the pick up depot. Unfortunately the vehicles could not leave camp

until 0854hrs. However, this proved to be no problem for our US friends providing the transport, as we still somehow managed to arrive at KAIA by 0859, a record journey between the 2 camps as far as I'm aware... and so the adventure began.

The 'Herc' arrived in Mazar-e Sharif where 'Team Frost' had to disembark the plane and re-board the same plane 40 minutes later. It was just as well that the German contact was there to board the plane with them as the German Air Force initially wanted to remove all of the equipment, but after a quick conversation with the Loaders they managed to secure the equipment back on the flight. Hauptfeldwebel Hagerman, our German comms specialist, then boarded the plane with the team to see them safe to the camp in Kunduz and to acquaint them with our Dutch Comrades.

On arrival we were greeted by a Dutch Company Sergeant Major and the Capt in charge of comms for the Dutch Army in the area. We took the kit into Camp Windmill (The Dutch HQ). **LCpl Pratz** and **Cpl Frost** began with set up of the modems, laptops, phones and printer while **LCpl Robertson** climbed onto the roof to begin the set up of the DART satellite. This was the sweaty and dirty part of the set up, with the amount of dust in the area and the intense 60 degree heat.



LCpl Robertson astonished he'd ended up in the right camp

The cabling went long into the evening and after many comments from the Dutch soldiers who were perplexed at the amount of work we had achieved and thinking us crazy for still going at this time, finally convinced us to stop. After showers we joined them for an evening in the German bar for a soft drink. We agreed wholeheartedly as we had finished the set up and the link was in, all that needed finishing was the IS and networking side of life. We then provided training to those who would need it so that when we left if a problem arose there would be someone available to deal with any first line repairs and or maintenance on the equipment.

On Sunday 31 July everything was in place and working well, with the Dutch Officers using their new NATO user accounts and using the system as and when needed. The 24 hour soak period was finished, though we stayed around and offered what help we could provide. It was then that the Dutch CSM invited us to a BBQ that they had planned for the Dutch contingent in Kunduz. This was a pleasant surprise for the soldiers, especially **LCpl Robertson**, as he was celebrating his 25th birthday. The food was delicious and the men were well looked after throughout the afternoon and evening.

Although the flight was a very early one and the pick up from KAIA arrived 5 ½ hours after landing, we were in good spirits after a successful deployment and looking forward to returning to HQ ISAF, where good food is served, Facebook is available and delicious milkshakes and slush puppies await.



NEWS FROM BLANDFORD

CIS TRIALS AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT



SO1 Lt Col R Healey

TRIALS TROOP

OC Capt M Bentley
SSgt SSgt P Smith

Our recent farewells have been to **Capt Mark Wyldes** the former Tp OC and YofS who has been posted onto 5 (Army Cooperation) Sqn in RAF Waddington, **LCpl Claire Donoghue**, who leaves us to begin her long journey on her CS Engr Class 1 course; we wish them and their families, all the best for the future. From our recent arrivals we welcome **WO2 (YofS) Helen Nolan** as our new Tp OC and YofS, **Cpl Marc Repton** (REME) supporting our mechanical needs, **LCpl 'Damo' Sylva** supporting our technical needs and **Tpr Mark Lloyd** supporting our morale needs!

EXERCISE TRIALLED DARTMOOR EXPLORER – by LCpl S Tait

On Thursday 13 October Trials Tp personnel left Blandford Camp and the routine of trialling for a day of hill walking over Dartmoor National Park. At 0700hrs, everybody met to board the transport making the 2 hour journey to the glorious County of Devon in the hope that the early morning fog would disappear before arriving in the moors.

On arrival everyone eagerly departed the transport and were sorted into their groups for the day's activity. There were 3 groups, headed up by **Maj Graham Wills**, **Capt Mark Bentley** and **SSgt Will Morrow**. After receiving maps, compasses and routes, each group set off at intervals across Dartmoor.

After a dreary start to the day with heavy fog, it turned out to be sunny. The navigational challenges of a misty Dartmoor evaporated with the fog, and the October sun proved an enjoyable surprise. The unexpected heat of the day made the hill climbs and relentless babies heads that little bit more difficult, but morale was still in abundance.

All in all, an enjoyable day was had by all, even if most were lagging behind **Maj Wills** and **Capt Bentley**. The most weary award must go to Maisie the Spaniel, who started the day doing laps around each group and wanting to chase sheep, without realising how long the day on the hills would be. Our thanks goes to **SSgt Will Morrow** for making the day possible.

TRIALS MANAGEMENT COURSE – by Sgt P Stewart

CIS TDU plan and manage a large number of trials each year. To ensure they are conducted to the highest standard, 8 members of the unit attended the Trials Management Course at the Defence Academy in Shrivenham. The course ran for 2 weeks and was designed to provide an understanding into the techniques used in planning, conducting and analysing trials. It consisted mainly of classroom based work including guest speakers from each of the other 6 TDUs in the Army, with a visit to DE&S at MoD Abby Wood.

Usually when you attend a course you expect to be crammed into the worst shoe box style temporary accommodation possible, this was not the case at Shrivenham however, with

both the Officers' and the WOs' & Sgts' Mess en-suite transit accommodation getting good reviews. The facilities available to visiting troops are excellent with all of us making good use of the gym, squash courts and running routes.

What was surprising was the course coordinator and maths teacher who seemed to be the reincarnation of Mr 'I'm free' Humphries from the BBC's Are You Being Served? This did at least give some amusement in what was an otherwise dry subject, based around statistics and probability. We needed to understand how simulations can be useful in a trial so we participated in what can only be described as *Call Of Duty* with tanks. The simulated battlefield mission started well, with good instructor guidance on how to successfully complete our battlefield mission. However, when the enemy targets became less, we quickly found ourselves an attractive target for others in our teams, looking for something else to shoot at. Although good fun, the data gathered by the instructors for the demonstration soon became a little skewed.

The 2 weeks culminated with mini syndicate trials, assessing Body Armour, Rifles, Binoculars, a Remote Weapon System and new Helmets. As can be seen in the photo, **SSgt (FofS) Rob Latham** and **Maj Jim Hurst** represented the 5 percentile soldier well whilst trialling the Mk7 helmet. **WO2 (YofS) Helen Nolan** meanwhile took no chances with Health and Safety when required to measure A3 paper.



Sir, have you got the right helmet on?



Are you sure this is safe?



Although none of the syndicate trials we were involved in were likely to be repeated in our day to day work, the foundations of each trial is similar so the knowledge learnt on the course can be put into good practice for future CIS trials.

COMMAND BATTLESPACE MANAGEMENT (LAND) TROOP

OC **WO2 (YofS) Nolan**
 SSgt **SSgt A Mechen**

The Tp have had a very busy summer, consisting of work (lots of it) and a bit of play. Amongst our wide variety of cap badges, we have carried out a number of UOR trials for BCIP 5.4, BISAs and Overtask (more of that in the next edition of *The Wire*). We have been supporting experimentation with TiGR and interoperability of Bowman into DII and Bowman into a multi-national network of radios in the US.

TROOP SAILING

Some of the Tp managed to have a few days sailing in the Solent, kindly organised by **SSgt Drew Mechen** and skippered by **WO2 (YofS) Nolan**. The skies were clear, beautiful sunshine and a bit of wind too! You can see **LCpl Andy Fyfe** and **WO2 (FofS) Warren Quinn** were well impressed with the task of helmsman.



MATT CAMP

The Tp headed off to Chickerell Camp on the South West coast near Weymouth for some **MATT** training and other activities. Organised by **SSgt Drew Mechen** and assisted by **Cpl 'Dez' DiStefano** (AAC) the week was a success, ending with a spot of golf and sunbathing to recuperate.

CHARITY ABSEIL

We have been blessed with some time out of the work place. The troop recently 'volunteered' for charity to abseil from the Blandford Tower (apart from a couple with severe vertigo – not to mention any names... YofS).



Cpl Dai Mundy and LCpl Tammy Williams – don't... look... down!

NEWS FROM TRAINING

HEADQUARTERS SIGNAL OFFICER IN CHIEF (ARMY) BLANDFORD



WO1 (CORPS FOREMAN OF SIGNALS) G R TIBBETTS



I was appointed Corps Foreman of Signals in June following a Troop Commander/Engineering Ops post in JSSU(Cyprus).

I enlisted into the Royal Corps of Signals in Sep 90 as a junior tradesman and underwent trade and military training at the Army Apprentices College Harrogate. My career to date has been wide, varied and extremely rewarding and I have been fortunate to have served on Operations in Northern Ireland, the Balkans and Iraq.

The next 2 years will be a challenging time for us all, set against impending change from the content of the SDSR. The results of these changes are likely to impinge on our family as well as professional lives. But challenge is something that has always brought out the best in our soldiers and I firmly believe that the opportunities on offer to Royal Signals soldiers now have never been greater or more exciting: from Campaign Signal Regiments to Royal Signals Infantry Support Teams; support to Special Forces and Other Government Departments; from the Falkland Islands to Afghanistan.....our unique skills have never been in such high demand.



And this is for good reasons: your work ethic, commitment and professionalism. I implore you to continue to uphold the Corps' ethos and promote the work being undertaken across the globe by our trade group and the wider Corps at every opportunity.

During my tenure I will seek to review, update and modernise where appropriate all technical training for which I am the assigned owner. Priority will be given to the Communication Systems Engineer, Royal Signals Electrician and Installation Technician Class 3 and 1 courses as well as continuing the good work already undertaken by my predecessor, to modernise the Foreman of Signals course. I want to actively encourage all technical trades to embrace the professionalisation opportunities on offer from the Corps. For example, the IET Apprenticeship, IEng and CEng. And in the not too distant future it is anticipated that Royal Signals soldiers will be afforded the opportunity to align their skills with the British Computer Society. Foreman of Signals across the Corps have an obligation to ensure all subordinates are fully aware of the benefits that these organisations bring and the positive affect membership will have on their future development and career.

It is a great honour to have been given the chance to represent within the Headquarters, all the Corps' technical support trades and the Foreman of Signals supervisory roster. I am fully aware that this position and the work undertaken by the Royal Signals TDT carry a burden of responsibility, since decisions made lightly could have far reaching consequences for us all. I can assure you therefore, that I will execute my duties on your behalf with the level of selfless commitment and endeavour that you all deserve.

TRAINING GROUP HQ SOINC(A)

POLICY UPDATE

17th Edition IEE Wiring Regulations. Earlier in the year we were informed that to commission both temporary and permanent electrical installations all class 1 R SIGNALS Electricians must hold the appropriate City & Guilds 17th Edition Wiring Regulations Certificate. Changes in equipment also require these soldiers to have received Temporary Electrical Installation Design and Testing (TEID&T) training. To address this shortfall:

- R SIGNALS Electricians Class 2 and below will receive 17th Ed training on their future Class 1 course.
- R SIGNALS Electricians who are SSgt and below who became Class 1 tradesmen before 2008 (the introduction of (TEID&T)) will be required to return to Blandford to complete the 4 week Course ELSR (FEPDS, LAPDS and 17th Ed Trg).
- R SIGNALS Electricians who are SSgt and below who became Class 1 tradesmen after 2008 but who failed to pass the City & Guilds (2382) 17th Ed qualification will now be required to pass it either by distance learning or at Blandford.
- R SIGNALS Electricians who hold the 16th Ed qualification will be required to upgrade and pass the one day City & Guilds (2382) 17th Ed upgrade qualification either by distance learning or at Blandford.
- R SIGNALS Electricians who have reached WO2 will not be required to attend any 17th Ed training as they are now employed out of trade on the RD Roster.

R SIGNALS Electricians and their employing officers should use the above to ensure that everyone who needs top up training receives it. Training courses and timings will be clarified in a R SIGNALS Information Note due for dissemination in November.

Command Leadership and Management. CLM training has recently been updated in line with HQ LF policy. Headline changes are:

- There are no longer any Low Medical Category courses.
- From the date of receiving acting rank, individuals have 3 attempts or 12 months (whichever is the soonest) to successfully complete the course. If not they will revert in rank.
- There are 3 potential failure points on the course. They are:
 - Failure to complete the AFT, on day 1 of the Junior and Senior CLM courses.
 - Displaying poor Values and Standards (V&S) that bring an individuals integrity or character into question, for example cheating on a test.
 - Failure to demonstrate the necessary military skills and leadership in a field environment, as tested during the Basic Close Combat Skills Module.
- Unit preparation of soldiers for these courses is key, especially in addressing poor military skills.

More detail is available on the HQ SOINC(A) website and in R SIGNALS Information Note 015/11

TRAINING PLANS UPDATE

FALCON Training. FALCON conversion training will give selected personnel within the Corps the knowledge and skills to deploy and operate the FALCON system. LAND training will be delivered at Blandford by Babcock Land on behalf of BAe Systems. This Team are augmented by a number of DCCIS personnel whose tasks include the delivery of elements of training and the maintenance of the FALCON training fleet. Conversion training will run for about 2 years at which time responsibility for steady state training will transfer to DCCIS. Considerable effort has been put into developing the FALCON training solution over a long period of time. This solution continues to mature in line with the development of doctrine, information and equipment. The original extensive list of operational tasks distributed between 14 distinct job roles has been rationalised to the current streamlined list of 6 core roles:

COURSE TITLE	DURATION/DAYS
FALCON Capability Manager	3
FALCON System Manager	15
FALCON Engineer	20
FALCON Operator	15
FALCON LAS Installer	3
FALCON Electrician	5



FALCON Conversion Training Courses. In addition to fielding FALCON within LAND Forces, elements of FALCON will be deployed on Op HERRICK. Training of personnel from 30 Sig Regt and supporting elements such as USSO, FIT and 600 Tp commenced in late September and will continue until December when all those required to support the System Field Trial (SFT) and Op HERRICK Network Build Up (OHNBUB) will be complete. Further training will be delivered in tranches, primarily to prepare Campaign Signal Regiments sustaining the deployed network, but also to provide a Contingent Capability within the United Kingdom.

SOinC(A) Visit to FALCON Training 7 OCT 11. The SOinC(A) visited FALCON training and spoke to students attending the inaugural FALCON System Managers' and Operators' courses in early October. He also visited Deployable Systems Troop and awarded FALCON course certificates to members of 250 Sig Sqn and 600 Tp.



The SOinC(A) awards Sig Gurung (250 Sig Sqn) his FALCON Electrician certificate



The SOinC(A) awards Cpl Davies (600 Tp) his FALCON System Manager certificate

TDT UPDATE

Basic Signalling Skills. Training Group recently conducted a comprehensive analysis of the Basic Signalling Skills (BSS) requirement for all R SIGNALS tradesmen in response to feedback received from units. TDT analysis work is now complete and has been handed over to HQ DCCIS to develop into a training solution for delivery from early 2012. The new package which has been termed '21st Century Basic Signalling Skills' represents a significant change to BSS as many may remember it. The revised training will include:

- Army and R SIGNALS Organisation
- Security (including a Cyber general awareness package)
- Field Infrastructure
- Communications Principles
- EW and ISTAR
- Introduction to Service Management
- Professional Development and Functional Skills

BSS will be delivered to all Phase 2 courses at the DCCIS, including the R SIGNALS Troop Commanders course. TDT is now scoping the production of an advanced package to underpin the need for Continued Professional Development at Class 1 level.

BACK POCKET TRAINING NOTES

An electronic copy of the HQ SOinC(A) Back Pocket Training Notes can be found through the Training Pages of the HQ SOinC(A) Website. This is regularly updated and contains a range of useful background training information and guidance on R SIGNALS training.

Further advice on R SIGNALS Training can be obtained from:

Policy: **Maj AOH Biggs** – 94371 5243
 Plans: **Maj M Jolly** – 94371 5810
 TDT: **Maj JE Greenwood** – 94371 5277





11th (ROYAL SCHOOL OF SIGNALS) SIGNAL REGIMENT BLANDFORD



CO
RSM

Lt Col J A L Vosper
WO1 (RSM) M Darby

RHQ UPDATE

It's been a hectic last couple of months and the Regt has said a fond farewell to **WO1 (RSM) M Yendell** who leaves on promotion to be 2IC Sup Sqn at 16 Sig Regt. Stepping into the breach is **WO1 (RSM) M Darby** who joins from 3 DSR. We also welcome the towering presence of **Capt Blair Addison** late of 14 Sig Regt as our new adjutant. He replaces **Capt Joey Mayhead** who leaves us on maternity leave. We wish her the very best of luck and many thanks for all your hard work.

1 (OUSTON) SQUADRON

OC
SSM

Maj M Moulton CD
WO2 (SSM) D Foster

BATTLEAXE TROOP

OC
SSgt

Capt C Jones
SSgt Challand

TROOP UPDATE - by Cpl Bloy

It has been a busy month. Firstly Ex OUSTON WARRIOR 3, one of 1 Sqn's weekend exercises. This was organised by the Tp's very own **Cpl Teletawa** and comprised of 6 stands that each section of Phase 2 soldiers would rotate through. Each stand was run by a permanent staff member from the various depts of 1 Sqn and were designed to help refresh the Phase 2 soldiers military skills and give them a heads up of the sort of events that would happen on the Gordon's Cup later in the month. The most memorable part of the ex must have been when 2 of the sections had to help the PTI **LCpl Bryce** bump start his car because he drained the battery due to driving from the assault course back to the block between sections.

On Monday 12 September a small team of Phase 2 soldiers took part in the inter Sqn rugby tournament which counts towards the Morrison Cup. After a valiant effort from the team they eventually lost in the final to fierce rivals Rhino Tp of 2 Sqn. Revenge is sweet though because on Saturday 24 September it was time for the Gordon's Cup and with only 6 sections entered from the Sqn we finished second overall just behind 3 Sqn.

Finally a few changes to the Tp with **Capt Flavelle** jumping ship and joining 3 Sqn as 2IC, and **Lt Jones** joining us from 258 Sig Sqn, who has subsequently been promoted – many congratulations! **Cpl Humble** has joined the happy bunch of Tp Cpls from 1 ADSR and I'm sure she will fit in just nicely.

2 (CATTERICK) SQUADRON

OC
SSM

Maj J C Maynard MBE
WO2 (SSM) S Riste

EXERCISE CATTERICK CULMINATION – by Sig Billingham

Ex CATTERICK CULMINATION is the confirmatory testing exercise at the end of our BCCS evening syndicate training. I had previously taken part in the exercise and really enjoyed it; this time I was selected to be a section 2IC. The exercise was fully contextualised and it was run as if we were actually

deploying on an operation. We had the use of loads of equipment borrowed from the field Army and it was our first introduction to using HMNVS, Valon and a few other "Gucci" bits of kit. I was a little nervous to be doing the Section 2IC appointment but loved having the responsibility and felt proud that **Sgt Margrie** had chosen me for the role.

There were 3 roles that we would rotate through: FOB Defence, Patrolling and QRF. We had been given the role of FOB Defence first. It was quite quiet throughout the night, not a lot of activity apart from a few civilians throwing stones and harassing the sangars and the odd sporadic gun fire. The next role that we moved on to was patrolling. We patrolled down to a grass field which was mainly open with mixed cover and came under contact. Soon the sound of 'MAN DOWN' rippled down the line. The QRF was called out to extract the casualty and take him back to the FOB.

We patrolled back to the FOB for a debrief from the Tp Comd on how the patrol went. We then moved to the role of QRF, having to squeeze all of the section into the dusty tent and being on immediate NTM it was hard to get any sleep. We were soon woken up at 0300 by the Tp Comd for a task, local civilians had started to get aggressive outside of the FOB so we had to move them away or arrest them if need be.

The exercise flew past and on the last day, the section commander and 2ICs were called into the command tent; while the Tp Comd was giving orders IDF started to hit the FOB. We all went to ground and waited for the attack to finish, as soon as it had the commanders and 2ICs sprang into action getting the sections to man the sangars and walls. The attack lasted for about an hour and was an excellent way to end what had been the best training that I have received since joining the Army.



Taking POWs

EXERCISE CATTERICK RANGES – by Cpl Gurung

On 2 Sep, 48 phase 2 soldiers from 2 (Catterick) Sqn deployed to sunny Brecon for Ex CATTERICK RANGES, the culmination of Sqn marksmanship training. The aim of the exercise was to hone the shooting skills of the Phase 2 soldiers prior to employment within the Field Army.

Unfortunately, the weekend got off to a slow start as the coach carrying all of the exercising troops lost its wing mirror just 30 minutes into the journey. However, our coach driver, who had only got his licence 2 weeks prior, was not to blame



– “it was the tree that did it”. With the coach VOR, we were forced to wait for a few hours for the recovery service to arrive. Fortunately we had broken down next to a pub so we managed to watch the England game.

The range staff for the exercise were **WO2 (YofS) Lyons, SSgt Welton, Cpl Firth, Cpl Myles** and **Cpl Shambu**. After initial safety briefs, detail allocation and prepping weapons for firing we began LF5 at 0900. It was becoming apparent that a great deal of coaching would be required as groupings were all over the place. The weather was good to start with but, as always, Brecon proved reliable and the weather turned. It started drizzling and stayed drizzling for the remainder of the day although morale remained high and the range stew for lunch raised it even higher. Once all the details were finished the last shot was fired at 1600 and everybody was eager to return back to the camp to dry off.

The next day saw the trainees tackle LF 9 with a noticeable improvement in marksmanship from the previous day with Best Shot going to **Sig Doherty** from Iron Tp. The last shot was fired at 1200 and, after being cleared from the ranges and a receiving our final debrief, we set off on the return journey from Brecon to Blandford camp.

3 (HARROGATE) SQN

OC **Major M Solomons MBE**
SSM **SSM WO2 I Wells**

EXERCISE HARROGATE FOCUS – by Cpl Harpam and Cpl Lamkin

With the Gordons’ Cup competition fast approaching, the competing sections from 3 (Harrogate) Sqn deployed on Ex HARROGATE FOCUS so that Section Commanders could find out exactly strengths and weaknesses and test and adjust as required. Organised by **SSgt Kev Young**, Lightning Tp, the weekend exercise was broken down into 2 distinct parts: Part A, where sections were coached on the various skills that would be part of the competition and Part B, where these skills were tested in a simulated Gordons’ Cup.

Covering BCCS, BCDT, Casualty Extraction, Obstacle Course, Navigation, C-IED, Observation and DCCT the Tp Cadre and Phase 3 Upgraders worked tirelessly to ensure that top quality training was provided and that the sections were really up for the forthcoming competition where they would be looking to regain the trophy from 2 (Catterick) Sqn. With the Section Commanders happy that their sections were as prepared as they could be, there was only one question; had we done enough? Only time would tell....

THE GORDONS’ CUP - by Cpl Harpam and Cpl Lamkin

On the morning of 24 April, there was a good vibe around the troop lines as the sections gathered prior to the start of the Gordons’ Cup competition. With 6 sections from the Sqn competing in an overall field of 30 sections, the guys knew that maximum effort was going to be required and it was with baited breath that we awaited the 0900 start time.

The claxon sounded and our section commanders led their sections all over Blandford Camp. The competition was fierce, with every Sqn believing that they were doing just enough to hopefully bring home the trophy. As more and more sections passed through the stands some fantastic performances were produced; Section No26 from 3 (Harrogate) Sqn posted the fastest ever Gordons’ Cup Assault Course time (5min 14sec) and practically all of our sections flew around the 1km casualty extraction stand. The one stand that our sections struggled on was the navigation stand, we just had to hope that this was not too detrimental to our overall score. After a gruelling 6 hours and 40 minutes, the competition was

over and all 3 Sqns were waiting at Pond Bottom to hear the results. There was a definite buzz around the place with no one knowing who had won. The first prize awarded was for the Best Shot; an accolade that went to **Sig Gyanendra**, 3 (Harrogate) Sqn. Next up was the award for best section, which was won by Section No26, our assault course blazers, led by **Cpl Rohit**. The last prize was for the Gordons’ Cup winners, and even with the previous 2 awards won by our Sqn, we could not be sure. When the result was announced, the roar was defining, the Sqn had done it; we had regained the trophy from 2 (Catterick) Sqn who finished third.



The winning Gordon’s cup section

LIBERTY OF THE TOWN OF SWANAGE – by SSgt M Turner

It was with delight that 11 (RSS) Sig Regt received the Liberty of the Town of Swanage. This event has been celebrated every 2 years since 2005. The Regt received the Liberty from the Mayor of Swanage in a formal Parade and March Past along the seafront at on Saturday 25 June 2011. The Parade was commanded by the CO, **Lt Col Vosper**.



The Band of the Adjutant General’s Corps plus 100 soldiers with weapons and bayonets fixed marched through the town. Pride of place was given to The Baton, part of a stretcher used in Afghanistan, which was carried by the youngest soldier on parade. Ex Corps member **Frank Roberts** had walked with it on the length of the South West Coast Path, finishing on the morning of the parade. All those on parade were then treated to a BBQ lunch and a thank you from the



3 (Harrogate) Squadron march through Swanage



Mayor. 3 (Harrogate) Sqn also provided several stands for members of the public to visit. As the Regt departed for Blandford, 3 Sqn were hosted in the Royal British Legion and a memorable night followed. With such a wonderful location and a warm welcome, a great day was had by all.

4 (MILITARY TRAINING) SQUADRON

OC **Maj D Ashton**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) N Butler**

MILITARY SKILLS TRAINING TROOP

A very busy period for MSTT with CMS(R) and BCCS courses coming thick and fast with a steady turnover of personnel completing Phase 2 training. The team has also seen its fair share of comings and goings. First up we say farewell to **SSgt Niell Crawshaw** who leaves us for 14 Sig Regt (EW). Thank you for all your hard work. Next up is **Sgt Ali Sabistan** off to help with JCLM prior to posting to 16 Sig Regt. Replacing Ali we have **Sgt Bob Barn** who as all new faces do has brought some new ideas from 7 Sig Regt. We also say goodbye to **Cpl Bill 'Debrief' Harris** who moves on to greener pastures with 7 Arm'd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. We wish all those moving on all the best for the future and look forward to seeing you again. The team looks forward to breaking in the new personnel with more and more BCCS and CMS(R) courses.

BASIC CLOSE COMBAT SKILLS (BCCS) COURSE – by Sig Stone

On leaving Blandford Camp after completing Phase 2 training in whichever trade we have chosen it is compulsory for all personnel to complete a week's Basic Close Combat Skills course within 4 (Mil Trg) Sqn. I recently completed this course prior to moving onto PNCO.

The course started on a warm sunny Monday morning with an introductory brief by the course I/C **Sgt Barn**. He told everyone what was expected of us and made it clear we would be working hard over the coming 5 days. The course continued on the Monday with some death by PowerPoint on the basic skills we would require during the week.

On Tuesday it was more hands-on with a day spent honing our skills of basic fieldcraft, section battle drills and SOPs with our section commanders **Cpl Rodway** and **Cpl Harris** ensuring we knew exactly what we were doing. The day ended with 2 very fast and hard section attacks. I think we were lucky that I had done trade training with most of the people on the course so it was good to be with familiar faces. Onto Wednesday where it was round robin day with Casualty Extraction (Lick out), POW handling, Counter IED, Vehicle Anti-Ambush Drills. All the lessons were hard however having **Sig Simms** (the biggest guy in the section) as the casualty did not make it enjoyable.

And so it began, Ex BLANDFORD WARRIOR. We deployed to FOB THORPE carrying all our kit as the inevitable column of sweaty people showed. Once in the FOB it was into routine: sangars needing manning and patrols to be carried out. For 1 Section it was foot patrols first with 2 contacts: the first being an assault on a position and the second being the inevitable casualty extraction. Luckily for the section the commander was nice and placed me as the casualty, which aided in the extraction being carried out smoothly and swiftly. After some admin time in the FOB it was vehicle patrols where we got the chance to carry out C-IED drills with **Sig Shelley** ensuring he can still do the Squaddie shuffle. The foot patrol ended in a contact IED situation and a vehicle anti ambush serial which again was carried out as per the SOPS exactly!!! The day carried on with our section then taking over sentry positions with an enemy attack to repel and some PW to deal with everybody got some hands on with all aspects of the training. The only bad thing about endex being called was the tab back

to 4 Sqn which this time was conducted with the same kit except we were all knackered from the day's activities; so bringing out the inevitable line of trainees again.



Cover from view not cover from fire as Sig Gammack gives fire support to his section

The Friday started with a theory test to confirm all the knowledge we had been taught during the week and then into the depths of weapon cleaning where no matter how clean we thought our weapons were, the training team always seemed to find some more dirt.

I think as a section we all gained a lot of knowledge from this course and our basic close combat skills were better by the end of the course. Everyone learned from the experience and we all look forward to putting the lessons into practice on further training when we all arrive bleary eyed at our respective working units.

SQMS DEPARTMENT

The Sqn would like to welcome **Miss Clare McKenzie** and **Cpl 'Bart' Simpson** from Bovington and 16 Sig Regt respectfully. The department is in the fortunate position of being up to full manpower and is taking full advantage of this during the busy period of getting the quarterly inspections completed.

SQMS **SSgt (PM) Jimmy Scott**, who double hats as the Corps Pipe Major recently took 5 of the Corps' pipers to Denmark with the Corps Band to support the annual Ringrider Festival in Sonderborg. The 20 hour bus ride was emotional. The programme was a busy one for the 6 days we were there with performances every day starting from 0800 and going on until 2300 on some days. The weather was not the best with rain and thunderstorms on the first couple of days, but this soon made way for sunshine and high temperatures, neither of which are good for pipers or bagpipes! The pipers returned to Blandford with reddened faces from the sun, sore feet from the street marches and lighter wallets from the Danish beer prices! The tour however, was a resounding success.

The Corps Pipes and Drums perform worldwide every year and offers fantastic opportunities for personnel interested in piping and Highland drumming. Membership is open to all serving officers and soldiers, Regular and TA, irrespective of experience. Interested personnel should contact the Pipe Major on 94371 2986.

5 (MARESFIELD) SQUADRON

OC **Maj T Wood**
SSM **SSGT M Clubb**

EXERCISE TIGER BLANDFORD – by Sgt Widdup

Foreman of Signals Course 81 managed to squeeze in an adventure training week between the Bowman System Managers course and summer leave. Based in the Nuffield Centre at JSMTC and expecting a beautiful Welsh summer, a mix of mountain-biking and hill-walking was planned with an ascent of Snowdon as the culmination of the week's activities.



For the hill-walking a circular route of the Glyders was taken, incorporating Glyder Fach and Glyder Fawr. With the weather against us the first group started the ascent to the cloud base, which was reached within about 20 minutes. The next 3 hours were spent in the clouds with vertical rain stinging the faces, good practice for later in the week though! After a few laps at the summit (apparently **Sgt 'Shambot' Shambrook** likes looking at the cantilever and didn't get geographically challenged) we made the descent, chuckling at all we passed knowing that the view at the top was non-existent. The second group of hill-walkers had perfect weather and made a point of telling the first group how fantastic the view from the top was!



Excellent weather and view

The Marin trail in Betws-y-Coed was the venue for the mountain-biking, giving the course a chance to tackle 25 km of red routes. For some this didn't prove a problem, with big grins at the bottom of the descents. Others smashed the bikes or themselves up, but were still up for the challenge and less a couple of mechanical issues everybody finished; then it was off to the local bar for a well earned pint.

Wednesday brought with it the ascent of Snowdon (as well as lots of wind and cloud) via the miners' track. Bad weather and the thought of a hot chocolate at the summit made everyone work hard and we got to the top in good time, only to find the café closed and quite possibly the worst weather I

have ever experienced. What made it worst was knowing **WO1 (FofS) Kev MacDonald** was getting his head down in the minibus waiting for us! Again, the poor kids being dragged up by their parents cheered us all up as we climbed down.



The night saw a small team of cowboys deployed (complete with 6-shooters and a rodeo bull!) to Bangor to quash the civil unrest that had spread throughout the country. (Un) fortunately nobody had told the residents of Bangor about the riots so all was peaceful, at least until we found the karaoke bar anyway.

The last day gave the course a chance to turn round the Regt mountain-bikes, rest any sore muscles and have a look round the local area (or go on the sunbeds - **Sgts 'Petchy' Petch, 'Vern' Vernon** and **'Gaz' Johnston** consider yourselves named and shamed!). The ex culminated with a BBQ late into the night overlooking the Menai Straits, where the entertainment was the RAF wake-boarding team having a practice session and **Sgt 'Goat-leg' MacKay** and his trusty guitar!

The Nuffield Centre was an excellent location for our AT, being right on the doorstep of the Snowdonia National Park whilst keeping the costs to a minimum. An extremely good time was had by all and the Nuffield Centre comes highly recommended!



2 ARMY TRAINING FOUNDATION COLLEGE WINCHESTER



OC B Sqn
SSM A Sqn

Maj K A Jeeves
WO2 (SSM) D Windsor

There is a steady stream of Royal Signals both in, and out of ATFC Winchester. We will shortly be saying farewell to **Capt Naomi Nichols**, who is off to 37 Sig Regt and **Capt Emma Thomas** off to 14 Sig Regt as a Sqn 2IC. **Sgt Glen Sunderland** will be leaving on resettlement prior to leaving the Army after 22 years of service. We have welcomed **Sgt Fay Taylor** and **Cpl Bobby Coatsworth** into 4 Tp, and shortly **Capt Donna Gavin** will be arriving to take command of 1 Tp.

A SQUADRON PASS OFF PARADE 02 SEPTEMBER 2011
– by *Cpl Smyth*

On returning from Ex FINAL FLING there was only a week left before the Junior Soldiers completed their 23 week course and passed off the parade square in front of friends and family. This is a hectic period in which drill is naturally the main focus, followed closely by bulling boots and prepping uniforms.

WO2 (SSM) Windsor had the Sqn on the parade square as often as possible in an attempt to turn the motley crew of

Junior Soldiers into a fine body of parading men. Fortunately the weather remained good during the week and the time spent in practice certainly paid off on the Friday. We just had to get through the CO's (**Lt Col MacMullen IG, MBE**) rehearsal on the Thursday in one piece. No mean feat, as being a guardsman, he expects the highest of standards on the square. Needless to say, it was testing, and we saw the inception of a new form of drill specifically tailored to meet the needs of **Capt Nichols**, who had issues with swinging arms, legs, timing, rhythm, and the list goes on.



WO2 SSM Windsor at the helm



At last Friday was upon us, and time for rehearsal at an end. A few shots of port with **WO2 (SSM) Windsor** in the Sqn HQ settled the nerves. With an anticipated crowd of around a thousand, the sun was shining along with boots, buckles and swords. I have to admit, the Sqn looked impressive when it was formed up ready to march onto the square. With **WO2 (SSM) Windsor** at the helm, very little was likely to go wrong. The junior soldiers did themselves proud and performed extremely well, making family and friends very proud. All in all it was a cracking pass off parade and now they can look forward to starting the next stage in their careers at Phase 2 establishments.

B SQUADRON PASS OFF PARADE 30 SEPTEMBER 2011

– by Capt Ayres

Four weeks behind A Sqn in the training cycle, it was now the turn for the mighty B Sqn, commanded by **Maj Karl Jeeves**, to go about their business on the parade square. The Junior Soldiers had put in a decent performance up in Thetford over the 2 weeks that they were on Ex FINAL FLING. In spite of the poor weather conditions the junior soldiers were able to display the skills they have learned and developed over the previous 20 weeks to a good standard.

Week 23 was packed with time on the drill square and it was definitely needed. In particular for some of the Tp Comds who have some rather crazy notions about drill. Unfortunately for those of us who lack coordination (myself included), getting arms to swing in time with feet, proved to be rather difficult. On a number of occasions it looked like a scene from a Benny Hill sketch, we just lacked the accompanying music!

The week flew by and before we knew it the CO's rehearsal had been and gone with only a few mishaps (hopefully I will remember my sword next time). Friday morning arrived, by 0900hrs it was already 25 degrees and climbing. Everybody was hoping that the Inspecting Officer would get round as quickly as possible before soldiers started dropping. Even the Offr contingent were praying that they didn't find themselves becoming intimate with the tarmac. Fortunately the OC had a lovely sun hat to keep him 'cool' during the parade.



OC B Sqn, Maj Karl Jeeves in his sun hat

Once we had survived the dulcet tones over the PA system of our Sqn 2IC, **Capt Dave Woods**, it was time for the CO and the inspecting VIP's to arrive. We were extremely fortunate on this occasion to have our Head of Arm, **Brig TJP Watts OBE ADC SOinC(A)** and the Corps RSM, **WO1 (RSM) McBean**. They were able to chat briefly with those junior soldiers who have joined the Corps and are preparing themselves for Phase 2 training in Blandford. The day was a success and the families



SOinC(A) inspecting Sgt Ronnie Corbett and Capt Ayres

had a fantastic time watching their sons and daughters pass off the square. It is definitely a proud moment for the training teams watching their Tps finish their time here at ATFC Winchester. B Sqn is now looking forward to a couple of weeks well deserved leave before readying ourselves for the next intake of junior soldiers.

A JUNIOR SOLDIERS PERSPECTIVE – by JS Holt

I arrived at ATFC Winchester on the morning of 25 September 2011 with my father and bags in tow. I was experiencing all kinds of emotions on the trip to the camp; trepidation, anxiety, and excitement, even having prior military experience with the cadets and my father who used to serve, I was nervous about embarking on a new career path.

My earliest concerns were over the prospect of having to wear the dreaded coveralls until our military uniforms were issued. After seeing some of the Permanent Staff walking around in the new MTP uniforms we quickly realised this would be the clothing we would get issued. Even though I had a vague understanding of what it would be like for the first 24 hours, it was still a complete shock to the system, especially the 0530 reveille.

Going through the application process, and testing, at my Army recruiting centre in Darlington I made the decision to join the Royal Corps of Signals, as an Information Systems Engineer. Little did I know about the love within the Corps held for 'Techs'!!

In the build up to arriving at ATFC Winchester, I spent considerable time being taught to iron by my dad, which has proved invaluable now that I am here. We also did lots of fitness training which again has stood me in good stead as I am one of the fitter members of my section.

So far I have really enjoyed the physical aspect of the training, although my shooting on the DCCT needs lots of work. Ex ICEBREAKER was good fun and very interesting. It is basically a camping exercise and gives us the chance to get to know our sections and work as teams on command tasks. I feel like I have bonded well with the others in my section which makes everything much easier to work through. Locker inspections are the worst experience so far and I am not looking forward to the upcoming Tp OC's inspection on Monday morning. The one area that is causing me the greatest difficulty is learning to keep disciplined when on parade. I have a natural tendency to fidget and move around, which is something I am going to have to work hard on improving.

So far the first 4 weeks have flown by and it has been a fantastic experience, and I am getting to make lots of new friends and learn new skills. The initial apprehensions have definitely gone and now I very much looking forward to the remaining 19 weeks of the course and passing off the parade in front of my family.



NEWS FROM REGIMENTS



1st (UNITED KINGDOM) ARMoured DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT HERFORD



CO
RSM

Lt Col R Carter
WO₁ (RSM) K East

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

OC
SSM

Maj J Duncan
WO₂ (SSM) C Moore

HQ Sqn has been spread very thinly across Germany in recent months providing Real Life Support for Ex PREMIER KUSH 2 in Elmpt and conducted military training on Ex PREMIER SOUTER and PREMIER SHOOT in Sennelager. We have also deployed on numerous other exercises for the preparation and training of troops deploying on Op HERRICK 15.

Even with such a busy exercise schedule the normal routine and inspections carry on, with a lot of effort and work being carried out by all the departments for the CIW and RSIT. The restructure of the Sqn is now complete in readiness to provide the support required whilst large elements of the Regt and Sqn are away on Ops. With all the training, range packages and MCCP in its final stages the troops are now ready to deploy and the UWO **Capt Adam Torrington** has begun the family briefings and social activities programme in support of all the families.

A warm welcome goes to the QM (A) **Maj Stu Beattie** and his family, we hope you enjoy your tour. Although busy, our social life still goes on as we find time to take a breather and relax, and with it being the Octoberfest season there has been many a stein raised at the various functions, mixed with some very dodgy costumes, singing and story telling!

QM(T) DEPT

QM(T)
RQMS(T)

Capt D Taylor
WO₂ (RQMS) B Anderson

We are almost there; with the completion of the Regt's MST the department has worked tirelessly supporting the various sub units and exercises. The CLSI went well with all the accountants receiving positive comments from the Divisional Ordnance Warrant Officer. The department has also managed to fit in some extra curricular activities. **RQMS 'Baz' Anderson** took members of the Regt kayaking in the Hartz mountains and the Corps football sevens saw **Sig 'Larry' Lamb** hit the cross bar during the golden goal period (because he missed we lost!). During a "lull in battle" over Ex PREMIER KUSH 2, the QM (T) and **Cpl Tony Ward** were permitted to wet a line on the newly renovated coarse angling lake on Elmpt station with the QM (T) catching the better quality Bream and Ide.

The department is now ready to deploy on Op HERRICK 15 and we extend a warm welcome to our newest team member **Cpl Anna Higgins** RLC. The dept will be left in good hands with the RQMS, **SSgt 'Dougie' Douglas**, **Sgt Nat Whelan** and **LCpl 'Asa' Cannon**. We are all under no illusion that the Ops Support Group will be the un-sung heroes of the next 6 months.

MT TROOP

MTO
TCWO

Maj S Vernon RLC
WO₂ B Etherington RLC

The MT has now formed into 2 separate Tps for the duration of Op HERRICK 15, Souter Force Protection and Transport Company (SFPTC) and the remainder of the MT, Regtl Generator Bay and TM Tp personnel have joined forces to create Sp Tp which will form part of the rear party.

SUPPORT TROOP

The last few months have been extremely busy for the newly formed Sp Tp, which is now commanded by the TCWO. Whilst on the subject it comes as a good time to say thank you to the outgoing TCWO, **WO₂ Bri Etherington** and good luck to him and his family on their 2 year posting in BATUS. The MT would like to give a warm welcome to **WO₂ Kev Phillips** who replaces him and we hope you enjoy your stay in Herford.

Sp Tp has found itself picking up the pieces as the deploying elements of the Regt continued their STA training. Support to Ex PREMIER KUSH, Ex ROMAN PASHTUN, Ex RHINO STAFF and Ex PASHTUN HORIZON has seen us stretched to capacity. Throw in a Combined Inspection Week in the middle of all that and the ongoing support to Herford Station, you get a flavour of the pace of life we have become accustomed to.

We have still found time to relax, with **Sgt 'Geordie' Cairns** laying on another excellent games night in the MT hanger. Without going into it too much it involved a lot of eggs, flour and crisps and a brief not to wear your best clobber! The Tp will be visiting Hamburg for a 'cultural visit' to say goodbye to the TCWO and a final drink with those departing for OP HERRICK 15. Watch out for an update in the next edition!

All in all a busy period but with the ex season nearly finished and the deploying personnel about to walk out the door, the pace of life may calm down. However winter will soon be on us so time to start dusting off the tractors and snow ploughs and getting ready for that dreaded first dump of snow!

SOUTER FORCE PROTECTION AND TRANSPORT COMPANY

Another successful pre-deployment exercise was completed by SFPTC which was conducted in Sennelager. Ex PREMIER SOUTER was our final exercise prior to deploying. The training was second to none and was arranged by the K40 massive **SSgt Lee Cote**, **Sgt Andy Naylor** and **SSgt Mason** who was I/C enemy. The MT multiple playing enemy gave us all a hard time by continuously harassing the sangers and gate guard with ill-treatment and battle sims. The duty vehicle adopted by the enemy was a squeaky old wheelbarrow which had seen better days. The highlight of the exercise for the K20 'Badgers' (who had it easy again) was when the barrow was liberated from the enemy for a quick overhaul. Whilst in all round defence they had it away and oiled the wheel.

This left the enemy with transport issues, so **Sgt 'Demolition**



Man' Morey, who had up to this point failed to setup a functioning IED, used the Safari Land Rover to simulate a VBIED. **LCpl Niavalu** and **Sig Page 083** had the most realistic scenario whilst in their guard rotation as this Safari was slammed into the HESCO with a rather shocked demolition man getting out. Fair play to the 2 guards as they played the scenario to TTP's instead of rolling around laughing at him. As the enemy needed the barrow back, **Cpl Jay Nelson's** beret was held ransom by **Cpl Gav Roberts** for the safe return of his trusty one wheeled transport. The barrow was repatriated to the enemy who spent many hours trying to make it squeak again. K30 now got in on this and stole the barrow back again. While K10 were keeping up their spirits singing songs about Scooter (**Cfn Dolphins** imaginary dog) and competing in the daily press-up competition, K30 decided that the squeaky wheelbarrow was too annoying. **Sig 'Vicar' Wilby** obviously didn't want to hear the enemy approaching as he carefully reversed over the offending article without looking. **Cpl Matt Wright** should have known better as he was guiding him.

All the while in the background the operators in the Ops room helped coordinate the comms. At least they would have if **LCpl 'Black Spot' Madden** wasn't in there to complicate things. After banging on at the Multiples to complete their daily changes he was embarrassed by **Cpl Jamie Smith** when the lineman had to remind the Rad Ops to do the same. At least **Black Spot** has **Sig 'Picky D' Pickard** to help him out next time things go wrong.

Lessons learnt during the Ex are simply that K10 will be the first on Op Massive led by **Sgt Niki Dearing** with his press up competition. K20 will be expecting to have a quiet tour while K30 will be driving their vehicles into anything that gets in the way. Ops will be polishing off their trade skills and the MT will do anything they can to get their hands on a vehicle with more than one wheel. On a serious note though, SFPTC, led by **Maj Stu Vernon**, are keen and ready to go out to Kabul and complete what will be an arduous tour for most.



The squeaky wheelbarrow provides the ideal enemy diversion

HOME RHINO WELFARE CENTRE

OC **Capt A Torrington**
SSgt **SSgt R Cullumbine**

With the impending HERRICK deployment the Station's newly appointed Welfare Officer, **Capt Adam Torrington** has spent the first 2 months in his new job investigating ways to get a strong support package together. Having recently returned himself he was aware of the strong Welfare Package available to those in Theatre and some of the funds available to the UWO to support deploying soldiers and their families.

The Service Sound and Vision Corporation, perhaps better know to us as SSVc was however a grant that we at the Rhino Welfare Centre had not come across before. After further investigation into the fund the UWO applied to the trustees,

hoping to better facilitate not only those Soldiers deploying, but their families left at home. Within 3 weeks of the initial enquiry, the application was approved! Thanks must go to **Capt Geordie Southern** and **Maria James** who helped this succeed. **Yvonne Freund** and **Joanne Farrar** from the SSVc's team are now a great support to the Home Rhino Welfare Centre, making the approval for the SSVc fund's application excellent news for all concerned. The girls at SSVc assist families with their language skills, with anything from the translation of documents to the setup of internet service contracts. A big thank you to SSVc from all at 1(UK)ADSR.

OPERATIONS SUPPORT TROOP

OC **Lt L Yaxley**
Sgt **Sgt W Watt**

Ops Sp Tp recently formed under the command of **Lt Yaxley** and **Sgt Watt** to maintain the various departments equipment whilst 212 and 201 deploy to Op HERRICK 15. No sooner had the garages and working areas been streamlined for their new support role, the work began to pile in. All of the detachments had to be prepared for the CIW inspection and hot on the heels of that, RSIT. Everyone in the Tp dug in, cracked on with the work and soon everything shone.

True to the name, Ops Sp Tp has provided manpower in support of Ex RHINO STAFF and wrapped **LCpl Skarratts** and **Sigs Milne, Standing** and **Marshall** in dish-dashes to play enemy in scenarios on Ex PREMIER KUSH 2. Meanwhile **Lt Yaxley, Sgt Watt, Cpl Young** and **Sigs Graham** and **Roberts** prepared and delivered a pistol range as part of Ex PREMIER SHOOT for those deploying. In Army fashion, as reward for hard work the Tp geared up for some well earned fun, squaring off in a paintball battle royale, while upcoming battlefield tours will provide the chance to get out of camp. The Tp has also seen the rise of 2 budding musicians, releasing **Sigs Standing** and **Mills** to attend a 6 month Pipes and Drums course in Edinburgh.

No one is banking on an easy time in the months ahead, but morale is high and work ethic is holding, unwaveringly, at "noses to the grind stone" as we prepare to hold the fort.

We bid a fond farewell to **Cpl Pennington**, who moves over to welfare and to **Sigs Marshall, Mountford** (congratulations on being selected for promotion) and **Smith** who are posted back to the UK. A warm welcome is extended to **Sigs Noble, Milne** and **Parsons** as they join the fold in their first postings.

201 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj P Brunton**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) S Miners**

The Sqn has undergone a restructure, with **Lt Laura Yaxley** and her team moving to HQ Sqn as the newly formed Ops Sp Tp, responsibly for maintaining vehicles during deployment. The Sqn now consists of only one Tp, who will be deploying as the Kabul ICS Det. There has been a change of hierarchy, with the Sqn saying goodbye to OC **Maj Bernie Higgs** who is off to Blandford and Sqn 2IC **Capt Amber Roach** who is leaving the Army for pastures new. We wish all the best to you and your families in your new jobs and we welcome their replacements OC **Maj Pete Brunton** and Sqn 2IC **Capt Rich Tudhope**.

KABUL ICS DET

OC **Lt K Davies-Walters**
SSgt **Sgt M Wall**

It has been an incredibly busy few months for Kabul ICS Det as we finish our final preparation to deploy on Op HERRICK 15



at the end of October. July saw us continue to support Ex PASHTUN PANTHER, the 20 Bde CFX on STANTA before swiftly moving on to Ex PASHTUN DAWN, the 20 Bde FTX on Salisbury Plain. August consisted of leave for some of the Tp, while others continued to work hard attending Reacher STA and fibre optics courses. The odd few days in camp were crammed full with MATTs and range packages, before the PACEX and preparation for Ex PREMIER KUSH 2, the Regt FTX in September.

The Tp has also seen a change in personnel with **Sig Tom Watkinson**, a member of 32 Sig Regt TA and **Sig Carl Eccles** from 211 Sig Sqn joining the us for deployment. We have also said goodbye to **Sig Rob Wheatland**, posted to 3 DSR.

EXERCISE PASHTUN PANTHER – 20 BRIGADE CFX – by LCpl Dan Chick

Ex PASHTUN PANTHER was the 20 Bde CFX in STANTA, held over the period of April till July this year. 201 Sig Sqn was tasked with providing the comms infrastructure for both the OPTAG HQs and the exercising BGs.

We deployed to STANTA at the end of March and began a 2 week build phase. This was an excellent opportunity for us to get lots of hands on with the new OTES (Operational Theatre Emulation System) equipment. We provided Bowman and OTES to 2 PB locations, the BG HQs, Bodney Camp and OPTAG HQs. In order to get the network that we required we used Artillery Tower as a relay for the Radwin antennas. Reaching the top of the tower to rig the dishes was a test in itself; it consisted of 152 metal steps with little protection, and the whole tower swayed a lot in the wind. Once on the top we had to edge our way around an exposed platform before carefully attaching the dishes.

Once the exercise went live each BG rotated through a 6 day long exercise. We manned each of the locations as well as providing an FRT for when faults occurred. Due to the exercise scenario all movement had to be by air and some lucky individuals like **LCpl Si Marshall** and **Sig Luke Nicholson** got a free helicopter ride.

There was some down time during the long exercise and we visited the local drinking holes several times on a Friday night, to enjoy some Norfolk karaoke. **LCpl 'Parky' Parker** was the star of the show with his outstanding air guitar ability and maybe less high quality singing!

EXERCISE MERCURY COMPASS 5 – by Sig Nick Janes and Sig Chris Evans

Ex MERCURY COMPASS 5 was a Corps orienteering training camp, in conjunction with the Scottish national 6 day event on the west coast of Scotland held from the 29th of July to the 6th of August. We had a team of mixed abilities and experience. Luckily for the novices we had a practice afternoon before the competition started where the more experienced runners were able to pass down some of their knowledge and skill to the less experienced, as well as recce'ing the type of terrain we would be running on.

The team organiser **Maj Mel Rayner** had booked the 13 of us - **Maj Katy Caie**, **Capt Mark Bentley**, **Capt Sally Calland**, **Lt Mike Rose**, **Lt Kirsty Davies Walters**, **Sgt Andy McNally**, **Cpl Anna Gailey**, **Cpl 'Sub' Subba**, **LCpl Angus Thomson**, **Sig Chris Evans**, **Sig Nick Janes** and **Sig Tom Julian** into the Backpackers hostel in Oban where we all shared a room and took turns cooking for each other every night.

Throughout the competition the weather conditions were pretty good. We didn't have any torrential rain, nor were there any days of blistering heat. On a couple of days there

was a bit of humidity which made some of the long walks to the start points a bit unpleasant and sweaty, but overall we were lucky with the weather. The terrain on the other hand wasn't so friendly. Where most of the team is used to southern England or north western Germany, the courses in Scotland were very physically demanding, with lots of steep gradients, large areas of bogs and marsh land which just saps your energy, and although the longest course we ran was only 5.2 km, we were glad to have a mid-week rest.



Sig Nick Janes and Sig Chris Evans orienteering in Scotland

On this well earned rest day the team took the ferry from the mainland across to the Isle of Mull and a very pleasant day of pottering around, shopping and a seafood lunch with stunning views followed by a tour of the Tobermory distillery.

Throughout the week all of the novices showed improvement. Most importantly we enjoyed ourselves. We definitely have become more interested in orienteering and are looking forward to taking part in future events. We would also recommend entering the 6 day event if you get the chance.

211 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj B Walker**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) T Woodall**

The last 2 months have been as hectic as ever for 211 Sig Sqn. They have seen the CIW and RSIT inspections as well as our biggest exercise of the year Ex RHINO STAFF, a one month ex providing support to 1 Armd Div HFT trg. We did find time for a Sqn BBQ before leave and our Tp Comds also engaged in some Peacock hunting! Curious? Just read on. We have also said goodbye to the undisputed PASHTUN HORIZON master SQMS **Gaz 'Superman' Welch** who has been posted back to the UK. However we have said hello to his replacement **SSgt Stu 'tattooist' McCrone** and his calligraphy skills.

BOWMAN TP

OC **2Lt R Cooper**
SSgt **SSgt T Evans**

Bowman Tp have spent the past 2 months gearing up for and delivering Ex RHINO STAFF to the 1 Div staff officers. The exercise aim was to train the staff officers in staff processes within the context of the outbreak of conventional war. The exercise proved a great success with comms proving to be robust throughout and with the Tp being complimented on its professionalism and upbeat attitude by the GOC at Endex. In particular, **Sigs Bradley** and **Burgoyne** were awarded a GOC's coin for their excellent and tireless work throughout.

In other news, the Tp welcomes **2Lt Cooper** as its new OC, replacing **Lt Painter**. There has been a flurry of other comings



and goings with **Sgt Mettam, LCpl Gibbons, Sigs Downing, Peat, Penn, Roberts 706, Sullivan and Williams 310** leaving the Tp and **Sgt Harris, Sgt Everett, Sigs Mnisi, Duffey, Watson, Wrigglesworth** and **Noble** being posted in.

CORMORANT TROOP

OC **Lt E Roberts**
SSgt **SSgt R Savage**

Returning refreshed from summer leave, the Tp have been at it non-stop once again! Following some serious preparation, both PACEX and RSIT oriented, we deployed independently to Elmpt on Ex PREMIER KUSH 2. Whilst there we filled the role of TFH, enabling the deploying elements of the Regt to conduct their final bout of MST for Op HERRICK 15. On a lighter note, **Sigs Pitts** and **Sym** regressed to their childhood days, engaging in numerous games of conkers while **LCpl Hales'** love of home comforts resulted in his Det winning a hotly contested 'Pimp My Tent' competition. A word of thanks goes to **Cpl Bell** who, in the absence of any GS fleet, kindly brought along his 'Tactical Command Bicycle', which proved to be the most valuable Tp asset on the exercise.

The last couple of months have seen the Tp say farewell to **Cpl Haigh** who moves to 11 EOD Regt, **LCpl Bishoprick** who is off to 102 Log Bde, **Sig Foster** who leaves for 3DSR and **Sig Taylor** to 10 Sig Regt. We also wish a safe and successful tour to **LCpl Stratton** and **Sig Eccles** who are both now deploying with the Regt. We welcome **SSgt Savage** from 16 Sig Regt, **Sig Bebb** from 3DSR and **Sig McGilloway** from 209 Sig Sqn.

SUPPORT TROOP

OC **Lt D Wallis**
SSgt **SSgt S Middleton**

After a brief period of peacock hunting, a summer BBQ and some well earned leave Sp Tp were ready to hit the ground running on our return at the end of August. The Tp divided in 2 in order to support both the Div HQ HFT and the Regts MST on Ex RHINO STAFF and PREMIUR KUSH 2 respectively. We also found some time to send some signallers to a range day with the German Reserve Army and one Tp Comd on a recce to California. What is more **Sig Walker** got married, many congratulations to you and your wife. With 1(UK)ADSR as busy as ever we are already looking forward to Christmas!

The Tp has also said goodbye to **Cpl Thompson** and **LCpl McKain** who are both posted to Blandford for Class 1 training. **Sig Walker** is also leaving us for 6 months to fill a trawl in the Falklands. **Cpl Edwards** has also left us to deploy on HERRICK 15. We do have one hello to **Sig Barks**, fresh out of Blandford.

EXERCISE RHINO STAFF – by Sig 'Onion' Bunyan

Every year 1 (UK) ADSR deploy to support 1 Divs exercise, Ex RHINO STAFF. This year it was in Sennelager. During our first week we carried out the build, setting up the main area-Silver HQ. We were luckily about 1 1/2 days ahead of schedule so we continued with the rest of the build, including 5 9x9 tents for all the dismount kits and attached rovers. We even managed to get the ACU'S and generators in to place. However we came to a stop here as we had to wait for the final Bowman plan to arrive. In our spare time we started putting the razor wire around the HQ. It first started with just one roll which we could manage to jump across, we then put another roll down, and we spotted a challenge! If we could jump across one roll, surely we could jump across two? Video moment!! So **Sig 'Hardman' Roberts** decided to take up the challenge. He took a massive run up, jumped, caught his leg in the razor wire and fell flat on his face. I couldn't believe I caught it on camera. Even though his legs are torn to pieces with massive

craters in them, it was totally worth it and raised morale throughout the remainder of the exercise! He was absolutely fine and laughed along with us. Well done **Hardman**.

We swiftly moved into the second week and 7 Bde started to arrive. As Class 3's we are so lucky we were allowed to help them put their cam net up. It wasn't all bad, at least I got a signature in my work book. However, this is where all the fun began. The UDT'S and UCD'S started to arrive, the tech's built all the VOIP'S and fancy projector screens and everything was really beginning to look the part. We also got started on Gold HQ as well, so we wired up all the dismount kits and got all the UDT'S connected. **Sig Wheeler** noticed that her batteries in her detachment were low so I decided to charge them up with the help of a generator. Just before I was about to start the generator I found myself surrounded by my colleagues, so it became pretty obvious that I couldn't mess up. So I did all my safety checks and I took one last look around and noticed that **SSgt 'peg leg' Evans** was there too. Brilliant! So I checked for the bite, got 2 hands involved, put my foot on the edge for that extra oomph and pulled the cord, best effort. As I pulled I slipped and landed right on my rear! Oh dear. However, even though I looked absolutely ridiculous, not to mention the same colour as a tomato, the generator started! Thank goodness. Also this week it was **Sig 'Ducky' Duckron's** 23rd birthday and my 21st, Hygiene went out the window when we used our hands to demolish the 2 cakes which got specially made for us by the chefs. Thanks guys.

So after our fun filled week we had to get back down to business and the exercise finally kicked off. There were a few problems along the way, such as needing to re-initialise every UDT and a few of us had to stay up through the night to sort the problem out. When the exercise did finally start, all comms were in and everything was going well. General Duties made sure there was a constant supply of hot brews, thank you! The hours were long, the mornings were cold, but with the people around, the morale was high. There were also other birthdays this week too, namely **Sig 'Heart Attack' Rennie's**, **Sig 'Sonny' Jenkinson** and **Lt Wallis**. **Sig 'wee man' Hume** turned into a tunnel rat for one day. He had to crawl for about 30 metres between 2 feet of the CAST buildings floor and lifted second floor to get a phone cable to its destination. Whilst under the floor a helpful staff officer decided to push closed the floor tile which he had entered through. **Sig Hume** remained stuck under the flooring for 10 minutes before he realised all he had to do was push any of the tiles up to get out. Another piece of morale to keep us going! I would have thought with **Hume's** height he would have been able to run through, but he made a meal out of it. Speaking of meals, after lunch we were sitting round a table and the wasps were getting ridiculously out of hand and most of all pestering **Sig Grant Roberts**. He watched the wasp for a



LCpl McWhir and Sig Peat add the finishing touches to Divisional ROC Drill model on Ex RHINO STAFF



good minute as it buzzed around his head. Eventually it slowed down near his mouth and just as he inhaled to blow the wasp away, he sucked it into his mouth!! Mmmm tasty! **Sig Wheeler** managed to choke for him, though I'm not quite sure how that happened. Anyway, with that new height of the morale we all knew that we were nearing the end of the third week which ultimately meant 5 more days!

So the last, and final week. I'm sure most of us were feeling the exercise blues and it felt as if it was never going to end. Long days, short nights, we still managed to keep each other going though which is always a bonus. Personally I found the last few days tedious and I couldn't wait to get into my own bed. As soon as ENDEX was called we started smashing out the tear down. We were all in the briefing tent for our final brief when **Cpl Everett** got given his promotion! Well done Sergeant! Not only this, we also were given a bottle of beer for all our hard work over the exercise. We then carried on with the tear down. **Lt Wallis** and I swept the insides of the tent and the dirt and dust were making clouds around us, it was so hard to breathe. We ended up on the floor with our t-shirts up and over our mouth and nose spooning the dirt into a bin bag using our hands. I'm certain that's where we've got these disgusting colds from! Everyone else was in such high spirits that they dared to steal **SSgt Middletons'** bike seat. Oh they felt his wrath as they had to push a land rover round camp as punishment, helped by 2 Int Corp Cpl's who thought that they were trying to bump starting the rover. Overall it was a really good exercise and I think I'm speaking for everybody here but we all had a good time.



LCpl Gough clearly enthralled by the Bowman system

211 SUMMER FUNCTION – by Sig 'Heart Attack' Rennie

The week before summer leave **Cpl Sim** and **Cpl Haigh** organised a summer doo for the Sqn and families at the Royal British Legion in Wentworth Barracks. It was a lovely warm summer's day which was perfect for the BBQ and summer feté based activities. On arrival at the function we were greeted with free Pimms, well that was the plan but a certain LCpl drank most of it, consequently latecomers didn't get any, nice one **LCpl G!** Just past the entrance stood 2 bouncers, **Cpl Sim** and **Cpl Haigh**, who refused entry to anyone who didn't buy tickets for the 'voluntary' charity raffle. For those who made it past the bouncers there were a range of activities from face painting to inflatable rides. These were a great laugh and the kids loved it, less so the mums who had to wash it all off later that evening. A clown also entertained the children with games like musical statues and the Okey-kokey. Most of these children's activities were commandeered by the soldiers, particularly the face painting for some reason. There was also a run away peacock who spent most of the function on the roof above squawking at us.

Just at the right time the food came and it was amazing. I was shocked to see a full hog on a plate, cooked by **SSgt 'Coops' Cooper**. He also prepared us a BBQ with all the usual

trimmings. A big thanks goes to the chefs, **Cpl Adam Newington** and **LCpl TJ** who put on this great food.

After the food the clown transformed into a world class DJ with a bumper collection of karaoke tunes. We saw the SSM **WO2 'Rock-a-Billie' Woodall** sing a cover of an Oasis song and some might say he had the voice of an angel, more honest men may disagree. Following that we had a rendition of 'Barbie Girl' sung by **Pte Saunders** and **Lt Wallis** was booed off stage while massacring Cyndi Laupers 'Girls just want to have fun', no X-Factor career for him. We also had a surprisingly good duet from the OC and CO singing 'Just the Two of Us' by Bill Withers. Fortunately the raffle prize draw was held before the karaoke got out of hand. Prizes won, the Clown turned DJ continued the party. After seeing some dodgy dancing coming from **Sig 'Paddi' Hearne** the summer function started to come to an end as the light faded everyone disappeared down town for a banging night out. Overall it was a fantastic day and everyone had a brilliant time, unfortunately though we had CO's PT first thing the next morning which proved to be rather emotional.

A DAY ON ZE GERMAN RANGES

– by Sig Burgoyne and Sig Willis

It was 0715hrs on a beautiful Saturday morning somewhere in north Germany. We congregated outside the guardroom in our finest range day attire ready for a jolly good day out with ze German Reserve Army. At 0745 we embarked on a voyage up the A2 to the Cammer Ranges in a 'rapid' white 9 seater mini bus. Our ETA was 0830hrs but thanks to driver **Cpl Bennett** driving like an OAP, we eventually arrived 'casually late', unlike the usual 5 minutes before, 5 minutes before.

We were greeted by 2 cracking chaps who chaperoned us to the reception area where to our surprise we were welcomed with a classic continental breakfast. Back of the net! In a gentlemanly fashion of course we smashed our scoff down our grids fuelling ourselves for the action packed day that we had ahead of us. We proceeded to stand around chatting for a bit until someone shouted at us to fall in for the safety brief. Nice to see all armies are basically the same. OK, first thing you've got to understand before I go on is that the health and safety is far more chill-axed on a German Range than a British one. As we walked past our minibus on our way to the 25m range we stopped and asked Rolf our German military instructor, "what about our webbing and helmets." To our astonishment he replied with, "nein, no need for them, fun day shooting." So we slung our helmets, webbing and ear defenders the size of satellite dishes back on the bus. We were provided with the more practical yellow squashy ear defenders by the Germans.

At the pistol range we were given a weapon handling test on the Heckler and Cock P8 pistol and the G36 assault rifle. We all took a totally professional approach, showing that we were competent at handling weapons and we were keen to start. We shot at 25 and 30m. The pistol was surprisingly easy to shoot, but **Sig 'Noodle Arms' Rennie** didn't have a blinding first couple of shoots, maybe this is because his arms look like and have the strength of noodles. **LCpl Jimmy Anderson** also struggled to get 5 rounds onto any of the 3 pistol targets. The assault rifle took a while to get used to, it's longer than the SA80 and the magazine is in front of the trigger. Stranger still is the battle sight that you use with both eyes open! Even with these bizarre changes **Cpl Bennet** managed to get 15 out of 16 on target. **Sig Jenkinson** however, Oh dear! He couldn't hit the front door if he was standing on the welcome mat.

After an adrenaline pumping morning of shooting the pistols like we were from down town Detroit and the awesome G36 assault rifles we stopped for lunch and were served only the finest of cuisine from the Germans' top master chefs,



THE GREAT HERFORD ORNITHOLOGICAL TRACKING SOCIETY
– by Lt ‘Peacock Hunter’ Wallis

The life of a junior signals officers is largely dictated by the whims of staff officers’ good ideas. This is no more evident than in the case of the Herford peacocks. A staff officer, like all good staff officers, bought a leaving gift for the Mess on posting. Unlike most gifts these walked, squawked, ate and, most irritatingly, pooped. The gift was none other than a pair of young male peacocks. Male peacocks so young, indeed, that they could not have their wings clipped; and thus could fly. As you may imagine within precisely a minute of being released into the garden they had left the garden. Over the next week this amusing anecdote inspired many a Naafi break conversation; but this story was far from over.

Enter now a young troop comd, Lt ‘Peacock Hunter’ Wallis, Royal Signal Troop Commander, Officers’ Mess Gardens Member and so, by default, the newly appointed IC Peacocks. Whilst toying with a dry Martini he discussed this story with all and sundry, secretly glad that this ‘good idea’ had flown away. At that very moment a member of the German Guard Service, flustered and breathing heavily, burst into the bar. The peacocks had been sighted! Aply assisted by his fellow officers Lt ‘The Greyhound’ Painter and Lt ‘Pygmy Hunter’ Yaxley it was time for the Gardens Member to do his duty.

For those too underprivileged to ever have stalked peacock it is worth taking note of the following consideration: they are heavy birds and so require a great speed to take off. They achieve this with their excellent running ability; not so fast as an ostrich but certainly capable of outstripping your average tiger. It is therefore essential when trying to catch one to firstly encircle it without being detected and then reduce this circle so the prey has insufficient distance to gain take-off speed. This is exactly what our hunters did... **Pygmy Hunter** in a concealed position behind a wheelie bin and **Peacock Hunter** secured the car park area on the right hand side of the first peacock. **The Greyhound** then took a flanking movement around the cinema in order to complete the encirclement and then herd the peacock into this carefully laid trap.

Heartbeats reverberating in their ears; time slowing; it was not fear that gripped our hunters but a heightened sense of things. The moment had come, like coiled springs they leapt forward to seal the fate of this troublesome fowl. All was going well but in a last ditch attempt at freedom the peacock flapped maniacally, beating back our hunters. Fortunately **Brian ‘Monty’ Mortimer**, the clothing storeman and geese owner, somehow grabbed the first birds legs and capture it. Together with **Pygmy Hunter** they returned the peacock to the Herford mess garden. The other bird, more intelligent than most of his avian genus, retreated with the camp fence to his right and a brick wall to his left, preventing our heroes from achieving the encirclement so essential in peacock apprehension. Despite this, and with great temerity, **Peacock Hunter** and **The Greyhound** gave chase. Sweat dripping from their brows; lungs burning and flip-flops abandoned they bore down on the flighty peacock. Oh! The disappointment they felt as it took flight. Without dwelling on this setback our 2 hunters immediately rode out into Herford on their

trusted steed ‘SEAT Leon’ to scour possible landing sights for the elusive bird, but to no avail. Meanwhile, back in the garden the captured peacock took one look at the home he had been re-interred into and flew off to join his partner in crime.

The next day **Peacock Hunter** built an aviary in the garden. Many said this aviary looked just like a 9x9 tent frame covered in chicken wire. This author can personally assure you it was definitely an aviary.

Not long later **Monty** yet again captured a peacock and secured it in an upside down MFO box, thus allowing **Peacock Hunter** to transfer it to the aviary. Safely secured the peacock was fed a hearty meal of lettuce and breakfast muesli to ease the shock of capture. That night his fellow peacock could be heard in the trees around the mess pining for his friend. Unfortunately the grand design of the aviary attracted the attention of a passing Dalmatian who, upon approaching the cage, instilled great panic in the peacock. Unsurprisingly the incarcerated bird flapped for its’ dear life and somehow, in the ensuing melee, the wall of the chicken wire fortress was breached and the peacock yet again escaped.

Upon arriving in work the next morning our hunting troop commander found a large number of very disgruntled soldiers. The reason behind their, even greater than usual, morning blues was the loud squawking of a blue bird on the AEC roof. Spider senses tingling, **Lt Wallis** rushed to the nearest window to espy the peacock. Quickly assembling his team **Lt Wallis**, Mountain Leader (Summer), Advanced Open Water Diver, basically ski proficient, adventurer, peacock hunter decided it was too dangerous to pursue the bird onto the roof and it was best to wait for it to return to earth and capture it then. So the team decided to go to the 211 Sig Sqn summer BBQ instead. That night the bird slipped away.

Some weeks passed, summer leave came and went and the memories of this fowl had started to fade into myth... in the minds of the Herford station soldiers at least. In the meantime 2 unknown birds had been causing havoc in the town, slowing traffic by walking in the road, waking local residents at unholy hours, eating all the seed off bird feeders. The hunted had become the hunters. Herford town was in the

grip of terror. Rumour spread that these juvenile delinquents were of British descent. Whispers of subversion filled the air. Stories appeared in the local media. Finally local officials summoned the courage to knock on the door of the Officers’ Mess and ask if the peacocks were ours and if we would do something about them. Of course the Officers’ Mess had no knowledge of any such peacocks and they were most certainly not ours!

Only when these birds resorted to burglary did their crime spree come to an end. An enterprising German lady was able to lock one of the dastardly duo in her living room and get the local fire brigade to take this once feared bird to the local zoo. For him the war was over. As for his side-kick, who knows? He was spotted hanging around the local area for several days before melting away. With the threat gone, this story and the missing bird have passed into legend... for now.



Wanted Poster for ‘The Great Herford Ornithological Tracking Society’





2nd SIGNAL REGIMENT YORK



CO
RSM

Lt Col A R Knott MBE
WO₁ (RSM) D Lamont

This last 3 months have seen significant change for the Regt, with the CO, **Lt Col Andy Knott MBE**, handing over the reins to **Lt Col Colin Vaudin**, and the Regt coming to the end of HFT. During this period the Regt has gradually shifted emphasis from recuperation and sport, to low level military training in preparation for the seamless migration into MST 1. Upon leaving not only the Regt, but also the Service, **Lt Col Knott** would like to congratulate all at 2 Sig Regt on their efforts and he wishes everyone the very best for the future.

SUPPORT SQUADRON

OC
SSM

Maj T Barry
WO₂ (SSM) M Whitfield

EXERCISE JORVIK WARRIOR – SP SQN BATTLECAMP

– by *LCpl Brown and LCpl Smith*

On 19 September Sp Sqn held a Battlecamp in the Catterick training area for the junior ranks. The idea was to go right back to the basics of soldiering in the field to prepare us for a series of more advanced exercises leading up to deployment in Afghanistan. Many participants had not taken part in a military skills exercise for a long time so it was beneficial in bringing those people up to scratch. In the last few months we have had a large number of recently promoted LCpls join us, so it was the ideal opportunity to test their own abilities in either commanding or fulfilling a 2IC role within a section.

The week was split down into 2 phases: Phase 1 followed a teaching program around the Gandale Farm area. The aim was to refresh skills and drills required to soldier effectively on the battlefield. This involved understanding the mechanics of a section attack, progressing to a platoon attack practiced towards the end of the program. We also learned how to deal with PoWs, route selection, target indication and BCDT which involved everyone's favourite drill: the CASEVAC!

The second phase was the exercise phase. Our mission was to control an area of responsibility in which a terrorist group were operating. We patrolled to our harbour area and began a working routine which involved administering ourselves and every soldier's favourite past-time: Stag! Once into routine we sent out clearance, fighting and tactical patrols,



Cfn Power waits for the enemy

some of which attracted enemy small arms fire. At first light, as a platoon we left the harbour area to advance on known enemy positions. This put all our training into practise as we were contacted several times en-route to our extraction point. In the last contact we took Indirect Fire, resulting in multiple casualties. This led to an 800m CASEVAC to the extraction point bringing the exercise to a close.

Throughout the week all personnel progressed with their skills and drills and on completion we received great feedback from the 2IC Sqn, **Capt Dave Wilson** and **WO₂ (SSM) Matt Whitfield** who were impressed. Last word went to the OC **Maj Barry** who is now confident for the Sqn personnel to move onto the Regt! Battlecamp where these skills will be tested once more. This will then enable us to move forward to MST 1 with more confidence and belief in our own abilities. I believe the exercise was a success and found it to be extremely beneficial. Although exhaustion was beginning to take hold, spirits in the Sqn were very high and everyone who participated seemed pleased with their achievements.

LIFE AFTER SANDHURST – by *2Lt Thorburn*

As one man, **Lt Col A Knott MBE**, CO 2 Sig Regt, comes to the end of a distinguished career in the British Army, 2 fresh faced, naive 2Lts arrive for their attachments, fresh out of Sandhurst. Both would spend the next 5 weeks with 2 Sig Regt and have new experiences and face different challenges.

I am **2Lt Brent Thorburn** and I write this article as I come to the end of my time here in York. I have learnt a great deal about the Army and the Royal Signals during my attachment; but most importantly (for me anyway) is what I have learnt about the Queens Gurkha Signals here in 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn.

Our first night in York was the first time we had been in a Mess as officers and not as lowly officer cadets; this however, we soon learnt, meant very little to the other 'subalterns' in the Mess at the time. After a supposed last minute room allocation change, we found ourselves sharing a mattress in a store cupboard in the corner of the Mess. We were assured by the others that 'it was an unfortunate oversight by the Mess Manager and that it would, hopefully, be rectified in the next week or so!' The next morning was spent carrying trays of tea and coffee through the Mess, providing morning refreshments to those living in, this was because by a 'complete coincidence', it was our turn according to the rota.

If your powers of deduction are even marginally superior to ours, then by this point you may realise that we had fallen victim to an elaborate windup. Unfortunately however, we did not. It wasn't until after another 2 nights in the store room that we worked it out! We had just experienced our first taste of Mess life, of which there was much more to come.

When I arrived I was told that I would be shadowing **Lt Rich Greener**, a Tp Comd in 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn. When he first led me into the Tp offices I began to experience an overwhelming temptation to drop down into a firing position, take out a grenade, fix a bayonet and charge at the nearest Gurkha I set my eyes on. This habit of course stems back to my time at Sandhurst, where we spent hours upon hours hunting down and wiping out every last member of Gurkha Company Sittang who were, of course, our ever elusive enemy.

When we arrived **Rich** dropped me in with Island Tp, as they didn't have a Tp OC at the time and simply said "crack on", he



then promptly left the office. There was an initial moment of bewilderment on my part, as I didn't have a clue what to do. This was until one of the signallers offered me a cup of tea (Chiya), soon to be the first of many, and then properly introduced me to everyone in the office. It was at that stage where I first met **SSgt Durga, Sgt Kiran** and **Cpl Rabin**, each of which would prove to be an invaluable source of information and advice about the Army, the Signals and of course the Gurkhas. So after a short introduction to the inner workings of the Tp I found myself as (temporary) OC Island Tp, an experience of which I have no doubt I will ever forget.

It didn't take me long to see the strong sense of community that existed within the Sqn, a community to which I would very soon feel a part of with the great many social events I was invited along to. My Tp Cpl, **Cpl Rabin**, assures me that it is a only because of the CO leaving, the QGS anniversary and the festival of Dashain that they were partying so hard, and that they're not usually the party animals I had come to conclude they were. Of course, I'm not so sure.

My initiation into the Tp was to be that of a 'Baptism of Fire' – literally, as I was forced to endure chilli after chilli after chilli, until I was reduced to nothing more than a dribbling mess, frantically trying to keep up with the junior signallers showing me how to, as they would put it, 'dance properly'. For those of you who are yet to experience a Gurkha disco I can help you to recreate the experience in your very own living room: simply put on some music, swallow about half a dozen chillies until you start foaming at the mouth and then commence doing squats for the next 30-40 minutes. If by the end you feel that you have just completed a particularly cheeky circuits session, then you've pretty much cracked it and are bang on track to becoming the next UK Nepalese dance champion!

Over the next few weeks there were a number of other parties and social gatherings, some of which include: the Regtl boxing night, the Sqn BBQ for the CO, a trip to 30 Sig Regt for the Queens Gurkha Signals' 62nd anniversary, and a great many more. One of the more notable evenings was the CO's dining out of the Officers Mess, a particularly special evening as a portion of it was spent in 'The Mansion House', home to the Lord Mayor of York and dates back to 1725.

During my time here at 2 Sig Regt I have been able to see what a Sqn operating at its best is like, but have also seen what it is like when a soldier doesn't. Whilst here I have: been on exercise, been to other units for parties, been to sporting events and I have even been to court! I have thoroughly enjoyed my attachment and have learnt a great deal about the Gurkhas during my time here. I would like to wish **SSgt Durga** and **Sgt Kiran** all the best as they move on to new things, and I thank my very own **Guruji Cpl Rabin** for all he has taught me. I would consider it a great honour to command any Gurkha soldier in the future.

REGIMENTAL BOXING – by Sig Roshan K Baidhya

It is well known that the Army values sport, especially boxing which is highly regarded. It is a new sport for most of us but the good thing is you don't have to have prior knowledge to take part. The boxing training was announced on CO's PT in April. More than 30 volunteers turned up for the challenge, among them were **Sgt Lord, LCpls Younger, Santangeli, Cassidy, Mallinson, Mulholland, Sigs Ramesh, Santanu Roshan, Bishwadeep, Bedprasad, Deepak, Lochan** and **Ridehalgh** from 246 GSS. All went through an intensive training regime set out by the OIC Boxing, **Capt March** in preparation for the big night.

As the training kicked off, the CO granted full time training from June. The potential boxers started training 3 times a day. Moreover, York Boxing Gym was booked for the

afternoon sessions. The training programme included runs, circuit training, skills sessions, sparring and swimming. During training, some recreational activities were also organized such as paint balling, visit to Castleford and few social evenings, which proved to be a morale booster for everyone. As the training intensified, the date for the match was confirmed for 1 Sept 2011. As the big day approached the opponents for each weight category were announced. The boxers were fighting each other on the fight night and were split into 2 teams. The Red team was led by **Sig Ramesh** and the Blue team was led by **Cpl Hoszowskyj**.

On fight night the gym was set for the event. It was packed with spectators including the Officers and all ranks from the Regt and some honoured guests. The boxing match officially started at 1800hrs with a brilliant laser show. As soon as it finished the first bout was announced while the rest of the boxers were in the changing room warming up and preparing for their fights. They were all a bit nervous and anxious about being in the ring in front of a very enthusiastic crowd.

The Master of Ceremony announced the boxers who were warmly welcomed into the ring. Of the 12 bouts, **Sgt Lord, Sig Bedprasad, Sig Lochan, LCpl Santangeli, LCpl Mallinson, LCpl Mullholland** and **Sig Roshan** were victorious. The event finished with a big well done to everyone from the CO and **Brig Greville Bibby CBE, Comd 15 (NE) Bde**. The evening concluded with the Offrs and SNCOs hosted the boxers in the WOs and Sgts' Mess. Having done 4 months of gruelling training, the boxers had built up a strong bond between them as well as having learnt lots of skills. Above all, they have pride and sense of achievement to take away with them. On behalf of all the participants, we would like to thank the coaching staffs **Sig Ramesh, Cpl Hoszowskyj** and **Capt March** for their support, guidance and selfless commitment.



The boxers with Lt Col Andy Knott MBE

219 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj MW Davis**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) CA Stansfield**

CO's CUP – INTER-SQN HOCKEY 31 AUG 11 – by Lt HSE Bell

The beginning of the CO's Cup competition started with a bang, as the Sqns pieced together their finest 5-a-side hockey teams to battle for the competition's points.

It was a deceptively warm day, but the Sqn's team training undoubtedly paid dividends when it came to push back. Each Sqn were required to enter 2 teams, each containing a female at all times during play. The contention for top spot was fierce and altered regularly throughout the day.

219 Sqn's A team seemed the most competitive, that was, until 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn B team beat their Sqn rivals! The support from the sideline was fantastic and certainly added to the day's atmosphere. **Sgt Royston** and **Capt Wilson** helped



bolster Sp Sqn A team's goal difference! Although, a last minute goal from 219 Sig Sqn A team by, **Maj Davis** was the decider for the competition!



Sig Searle makes a blinding save against 246

Overall it was a great day which brought many talented and potential hockey stars forward. In turn, we hope to ensure a successful competition later this month in 'The Signallers' Cup'. The winning Sqn was 219, with 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn following closely behind in second place and finally, Sp Sqn. The Regt now look forward to the second CO's Cup Competition, which will involve several games of basketball!

EXERCISE CHIMERA WARRIOR – by *Sgt Salter*

Ex CHIMERA WARRIOR was a Collective Training 1/2 exercise held across Catterick Training Area from the 04 – 09 Sep. The exercise practiced and confirmed basic low level soldiering skills in order to prepare 219 Sig Sqn for the Regt Battlecamp early next month and ensured appropriate skills had been accumulated during the Hybrid Foundation Training (HFT).

Heading up the exercise was **Lt Bell** and **Sgt Graham** who ensured both training objectives were met and the exercise ran according to plan. To start the exercise **Sgt Rich Salter** amplified the troops vocal cords with a Fire Control Orders lesson, **Sgt Wayne Stewart** puzzled their minds with a 5 tyre command task, and **Lt Owen** put them to sleep with some quality Rules of Engagement scenarios! In the evenings we moved into wooded harbour locations to practise personal adm in the field and harbour routine. One night **Sig Harvey** placed a toad the size of a football into **2Lt Greenwood's** bergan purely by accident of course! It was eventually released back into the wild 3 days later in the Officers' Mess garden, how it lasted that long unnoticed we'll never know!

Throughout the exercise, **Cpl Nick Berry** enjoyed being on the receiving end of a one way conversation with a PWRR CSM - how dare he have a stand next to his platoon attack area... it's a shame he didn't realise he was TA sooner! During the week the Tps emphasised how much they loved tabbing; **LCpl 'Doris' Day's** section out sprinted the Lanyard team to most of the stands and completed the 3 day march in a fantastic cumulative time of 20hrs and 07mins. As the physical element was enjoyed so much the exercise ended with a stretcher race using tank track stretchers, putting a smile on **Sig Maw's** face.

Despite being physically hard work, the exercise was enjoyed by all and it set 219 up nicely for the Regt Battlecamp in Oct.



Tough Stretcher race implemented by Sig Seed 219's own PTI

246 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC
SSM

Maj D Orr
WO2 (SSM) Som Chochangi

FAREWELL TO THE CO – by *Cpl Surendra Sampang*

On Fri, 9 Sept 11, 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn organized a farewell function to say thank you to the outgoing CO. It was a very special occasion and bitter-sweet too, because he was not just leaving the Regt but also the Army after 18 years of distinguished service.

Each Tp had their own responsibilities to make the event one of the finest by providing food, drinks and entertainment. Midway through the occasion, OC, **Maj Orr** and 2IC, **Capt Ambar Gurung** gave short speeches describing him as an excellent leader, a mentor and a very good friend of the Sqn. OC and 2IC then presented him with a memento on behalf of the Sqn. The outgoing CO then thanked all the Sqn personnel for their hard work over the years and individual contributions made during Op HERRICK 13, making it such a successful tour. He also promised that he will visit the QGS during "Trailwalker UK" every year even though he is leaving the Army.

After the speeches were delivered, everyone in attendance had an opportunity to chat with the CO Saheb and extended their good wishes. The Officers led by example to serenade a final goodbye on the karaoke machine rounding off the night including "Sing is King" by CO Saheb himself.

All the members of the 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn wished him the very best of luck for his future. As we said goodbye to him, we were reminded that farewells are not forever, nor are they the end; they are simply words to say we will miss him dearly and remember him fondly.

Jai QGS!

INTER SQUADRON SAILING – by *LCpl Aiden Hardy*

On the 14 of Aug 11, members of 2 Sig Regt departed Imphal Barracks to Gosport for a week on the high seas sailing around the Solent. Everyone knew that it was going to be a long drive, but the journey was made a little longer as **WO2 (YofS) R Murray** misheard the Sat Nav and took a detour just off the M4. We arrived in good time to socialise with other crew members and visited the local town of Gosport.

The following day was preparation for the week ahead. Once the yachts had been checked and signed for, it was time to go shopping for the week's supplies. After hours of preparation and a safety brief, it was time to set sail for the Solent. **WO2 (YofS) R Murray** was the skipper for the 219 Sig Sqn yacht and **WO2 Bradshaw** the skipper for the Sp Sqn yacht. They were ready to go. The crew members from the 246 yacht were awaiting the arrival of their skipper **SSgt (YofS) N Donaghy** who kindly flew back from Afghanistan for the week. With Sp and 219 Sig Sqn setting sail on the Monday afternoon, the 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn yacht was left behind in Gosport which gave the crew members time to see more of Gosport.

During the early hours of Tuesday morning **YofS Donaghy** arrived to skipper his yacht. After getting a couple of hours sleep he was up bright and early ready to take control and get ready to set sail. Once the last minute checks were carried out, we were ready to go and catch up with the other two. Conditions were very good, the sun was shining and the wind was in our favour helping us to sail to our first destination at Lymington where we met up with the others. The evening was spent dining in our cabins. On the 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn



yacht we had the chance to taste Gurkha curry prepared by **Sig Deepak** and **Sig Hatam**, although **WO2 (Fofs) S Colbeck** had the ketchup on standby in case it was too spicy for him!

The following morning we left Lymington to sail around the Solent. **Yofs Donaghy** decided to make it an early start for us and this worked in our favour as it meant we would miss the incoming tide and not have to battle against it to get out to sea. Our destination for the day was Southampton Village, the other 2 boats sailed to the Isle of Wight. Throughout the day all crew members were learning the skills and drills needed to ensure the yacht sails smoothly, but for some reason **LCpl Hardy** managed to get it doing figure of eights every time he took charge of the helm. Luckily for him he had **Sgt Lord** helping him out with control of the yacht. After an eventful day on the open sea 246 GSS moored in Southampton Village and enjoyed a well earned supper.

The final day involved all 3 yachts sailing back to Gosport. Between the 3 skippers there was a lot of competitiveness to be the first back. Once back it was time to have our last supper on the yacht, and then give it a good clean. After getting all the jobs done it was time for an end of week drink to listen to each others stories about the sailing experiences. Everyone from novices to experienced skippers had gained something from the sailing trip, not only just individual skills but also the importance of working as part of a team. It was a great week of Adventure Training for the Regt, thanks to the organising skills of **WO2 (Yofs) R Murray** and **Sgt Blakey**.

EXERCISE KHUKURI WARRIOR/THUNDER

– by *Sig Mahendra Rai*


Ex KHUKURI WARRIOR/THUNDER took place over the period of 11-16 Sep 11 on the Catterick Training Area. The members of the 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn deployed to Gandale Bivi in the afternoon of Sun 11 Sep 11 for the first phase. Sqn personnel were divided into 3 Platoons and the first 3 days were non-tac where teaching and revising were conducted in the local area. The emphasis was given to Basic Tactics and Trade Training focussed on Tactical Comms Procedures. The main aim was to refresh the soldiers on their basic military tactics and trade knowledge. When everyone arrived at Gandale Bivi, all the supporting measures for the exercise were set up and the first combined lesson started in the evening.

The following day started with training on different elements of both military and trade training. The round robin continued until the afternoon of Wed 14 Sep 11. Some of the lessons included were: VHF Man-Pack Radios, Detachment Set-Up, VP, BCD, Op Barma, Camouflage and Concealment, CIED, Vehicle Anti Ambush Drills, 9-Liners, Harbour Drills etc.

The second phase of the exercise was tactical and started with Patrol Orders delivered by the Ops Officer. This was the testing phase for all the skills and drills learnt on phase 1. All 3 Platoons marched tactically to their respective harbour areas, where they were to carry out harbour routine. The following day there were more training schedules including Casevac, Advance to Contact, Battlefield First Aid and CTR. On the last day of the exercise, all 3 Platoons arrived in a FOB location where they had to defend it from the enemy encounter. The battle lasted for nearly 3 hours where all the enemies were eliminated, and in the end, the FOB was secured.



It was a very good exercise and all the participating members were able to brush up on their skill and drills. The drills taught during the first phase were thoroughly practised on the second phase and everyone came out better trained. It showed that every individual who took part in the exercise had learnt a great deal from both military and trade skills.



3rd (UNITED KINGDOM) DIVISION

HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT

BULFORD



CO Lt Col G Wilson
RSM WO1 (RSM) P Jenkinson

RHQ – by *Capt Greenwood*

RHQ finally moved into its new building in Kiwi Barracks, a move of only 400 yards that resulted in the Regt changing postcode. The building, stark and plain when it was taken over, is now branded R SIGNALS, with the Regt's history proudly displayed throughout. Without door signs yet, it has the added advantage that no-one knows where people's offices are, leaving those in the building in peace and quiet!

202 SIGNAL SQUADRON – by *Cpl Ferris*

OC Maj W Cramer
SSM WO2 (SSM) Stenning

After returning to work from a well deserved POTL, we have had a quiet couple of months. This time has been filled with

MATTS training and extra PT to get the lads back into the swing of things. After a homeless week, the Sqn finally moved into our brand new garages. Since then we have been busy setting up our offices and workshop areas, we just need to fill the empty garages with some kit! In the meantime the Sqn carried out the first of many small tasks planned for the future. This started with a group presentation, the Sqn broke down into groups of 6 and had to pick a subject to research and then ultimately present to the rest of the troops. This was focussed around leadership tasks expecting JNCO's to take the lead and organise this to gain experience.

Various members of the Tp have completed different AT packages since our return, including a hill walking trip to the Hartz Mountains in Germany and a Trekking package in South Africa. The Germany guys had a good time, enjoying themselves over 2 weeks which included hill walking, rock climbing and some occasional days out mountain biking. These days produced some glorious crashes mainly provided by **LCpl Dave Meakin** who crashed too many times to



remember. The true highlight was the next day watching everyone trying to walk around with severe saddle sores, **Cpl Rob Jaggs** appeared to be in the most pain.



L to R: **LCpl Healey**, **Cpl McCleod**, **Cpl Roberts** and **Cpl Ferris** on AT in the Hartz Mountains, Germany

Since returning from Afghanistan there have been various arrivals and departures in the Sqn. **SSgt Alexander** has moved on to an easier life in the Trg Wing as he prepares to become a full time civilian. In his place FOB Tp welcomed **SSgt Lane** into the hot seat. We had to say bye to **Sig Abel**, posted to 30 Sig Regt, **Sig McCurdy** to 39 Inf Bde, **Sgt McCaig** to 16 Sig Regt and **Sgt Onley** who is posted to Blandford on his Foremans course. Within SHQ we have also had to say farewell to some key personnel. **WO2 (SSM) Thisby**, **WO2 (FofS) Dobson**, **WO2 (YofS) Charnley** and **SSgt (SQMS) McMahon** have all been posted out on return from tour. We wish them all the best of luck for the future in their new postings.

As well as losing personnel we have gained a few and would like to welcome **Sig Jones**, fresh out of the factory, **Sig Wheatland**, posted in from 1 (UK) ADSR and **Sig 'Mikey' Harrage**, posted in from 216 (Para) Sig Sqn only to be loaded straight on to a PTI course. In SHQ we have gained **WO2 (SSM) Stenning**, **SSgt (FofS) Sherchan**, **WO2 (YofS) Olver** and **SSgt (SQMS) Davies**. We wish them a warm welcome.

Many congratulations on the promotions of **Sig Emily 'X-Factor' Gurton**, **Sig 'Psycho' Sykes** and **Sig 'Mikey' Harrage** to LCpl. We also send best wishes to **Cpl McCreadie** and his partner **Gemma** on their daughter **Violet**.

We now look forward to the start of Hybrid Foundation Trg ready for the next deployment. Also the first of many battle camps, Ex BUFFALO SOLDIER is being organised for November. This will be a back to basics low level soldiering skills exercise. Later on we have got the annual Kiwi Trophy event taking place, this will mean a step up in PT for 202 Sig Sqn led by **LCpl Jay 'the face' Patmore** who is defending his title of fastest JNCO. A lot of sore feet and chub rub await!

MEDALS PARADE – by *LCpl Kay*

After completing a successful tour at the beginning of the year, 202 Sig Sqn were awarded the Op HERRICK medal. For some of the Sqn it would have been their first tour and to receive the medal in front of family and friends was a proud moment in their careers. The big day was finally upon us, Wednesday 7 September and luckily the weather held out. All the Sqn was looking smart and raring to go. We stepped off to the beat of the Royal Signals band, looking smart, necks in the back of the collar, arms locked out and also with a bit of swagger showing off for families and friends. Once we were all on the square and the officers had been 'fell in' we were all on show for the crowds. The GoC, **Maj Gen Lorrimer**, the SOinC, **Brig Watts** and the DCoS, **Gp Capt Devlin** presented our medals and asked questions about how the tour went. You could tell how proud all the guests were because the moment someone had received their medal you heard an almighty roar. There were also commendations for **Cpl**

Charnock, **Cpl Deans**, **Cpl Macleod** and **LCpl Healy**, awarded for the work they had done in 2010 leading up to tour working with Ex SANDPIPER.

Overall the Medals parade was a brilliant day and the fun carried on with the Regtl families day.

206 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj C Coleman**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Bedward**

After a busy summer the Sqn has had another exercise to look forward to in Ex IRON RESOLVE. Provision of the deployed Div HQ is now a smooth affair although the DRASH footprint seems to grow every time it is put up. We seem to have completed a wide range of more physical activities as well, achieving good results in the Lanyard Trophy and Blandford Tower 10 race and a first place in the Regtl Football 7's competition.

EXERCISE IRON RESOLVE – by *Sig Lucas-Gardner*

The aim of the exercise is to build 3 (UK) Div HQ to test its deployment as well as the Div Staff on their planning skills. 206 Sqn is now responsible for supporting the Div and is made up of 3 Tps: Normandy, Mons and Cambrai; Mons is responsible for installing and maintaining Cormorant assets; Cambrai the LAN network and Normandy providing the Bowman Voice and Data comms. On Wednesday 21 Sep we deployed to Old Carter Barracks, to start the mammoth task of building the HQ. This was achieved in record time, finishing the build in a day and the infrastructure by the Friday. After the obligatory hierarchy inspections and titivation we were awarded the weekend off. For Normandy Tp the initial prep and set up of the Bowman equipment went smoothly, under the watchful eye of **Cpl 'Mo' Morris**, who ran a tight ship, working the troops hard to achieve the necessary goals. After the Staff arrived, Normandy Tp settled into exercise routine, mainly consisting of class 3-2 and class 2-1 training as the HQ required minimal manning once up and running. The highlight of the training was the text book demonstration of setting up a VHF antenna by **Cpl Morris** and **Cpl Mackay**, their rusty skills letting them down at the crucial moment by them forgetting to connect the coax – more remedial training required!!

Normandy Tp are now looking forward to the Staff College visit during the ex on the 12 October, giving us the chance to show off our freshly honed skills and drills. With the help of a Reacher Det from 30 Sig Regt, various Cormorant assets from Mons Tp and the Bowman assets from Normandy Tp, the visit is sure to be an enlightening day for the Staff. Normandy Troop are now all waiting in anticipation for the end of a long and successful exercise, before indulging in some well-deserved rest, until the next time.

TOWER TEN – by *LCpl Duggins and Sig Smith*

It was 1400hrs on 5 October when the claxon belatedly blew to release the 250 or so mixture of cross country runners and weighted marchers for the 10 miles around Blandford Garrison. We started downhill at a surprisingly fast pace, but when that pace stayed the same on the uphill stretch it was a real eye opener! It was so intense that the pack spread out very quickly, intermingling with the runners in trainers rather than boots. During the race, runners passed those with weight and, rather embarrassingly, those with weight snuck past the over confident runners that had burnt themselves out. Once the adrenaline had settled, the muscle ache and pain started to set in as the hills started to arrive. After 9 miles of continuous tabbing, the relief of the 2 mile marker arrived and once again the adrenaline overcame our bodies.



This soon depleted once we realised 2 miles was still quite a long way! The final marker was then in sight and the real race began between the groups of contenders that were together. Trying to catch the man in front, checking over your shoulder to make sure the man behind you doesn't beat you and with strongly worded phrases running through your head as the pain builds. The last 200 meters felt like a sprint, but after watching others come in, it didn't look like such a sprint. The finish line finally arrived and we could at last take our Bergan's off and rest while the other competitors arrived.

Major Irwin finished in 1st place in 1hr 28, followed by his weighted march team mates **Sig Smith**, **Sig Gornall** and **LCpl Duggins** in 9th, 15th and 24th respectively. The Regtl female running team smashed their competitors by a large margin. The male running team also dominated their race, including the individual winner, **Capt Porter**, in a ridiculously fast time of 58mins. The team led by the previously mentioned **Maj Irwin**, came a very close second in the loaded march team event. So all in all, the Blandford 2011 Tower Ten event was dominated by 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt.

258 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj A Senneck**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) R Smith**

Now reunited after a well deserved leave period, the Sqn's focus has been on AT, MATTs and low-level trg in preparation for upcoming Tp exercises. We said congratulations and farewell to **Maj Jim Knight MBE**, who left for HQ ARRC on promotion to Lt Col, and welcomed in **Maj Alex Senneck**. A large number of personnel have changed over in recent weeks; we wish all those who have departed all the best in their new postings and to **SSgt Medcraft**, **Sgt Allen** and **Sgt Preen**, all the best in civilian street.

EXERCISE HAWAIIAN DRAGON – Cpl Rachel Kenyon

On Thu 7 Jul 11 ten members of 258 Sig Sqn departed for Ex HAWAIIAN DRAGON. The aim of the expedition was to climb the world's largest active volcano – Mauna Loa (13,677 ft) situated on The Big Island, Hawaii. The journey to Hawaii consisted of 3 long flights, a big delay and consequently an overnight stay in Los Angeles before finally arriving. **Sgt Danny Shovelton** worked his charm with the airline staff to get us free accommodation in the LAX Hilton Hotel. We took full advantage and visited Hollywood and Beverley Hills.

Base camp was Kileau Military Camp, a recreational service centre for US Forces personnel, situated within the Volcano National Park. Our acclimatisation phase involved a series of treks visiting locations with lava tubes, steaming bluffs and lava flows. We also visited sites of previous eruptions of 1979, 1984 and more recently on 2006. The actual expedition was a 5 day trek to the volcano's summit. On day 1 we covered 7 miles involving a climb of 5,000 ft which took us to the Red Cabin and our first stop. The terrain was steep and rocky, and we had the weather to contend with as we passed through the clouds, wind and rain.

The second day we covered 11 miles with a further climb of 3,000 ft. The terrain became more difficult with the hardened lava proving difficult to navigate over. **Lt Charlie Jones** informed us the last 2 miles were flat but what he really meant was half a mile and then 1.5 miles of climbing to the summit! In the end we all made it successfully to the top.

After a day at the summit we made the descent. The views throughout were amazing, especially at sunset. The fact that only 10 people out of the 2 million yearly visitors to the island achieve what we had made us very proud. After a day to recover we flew to another island, Ohau. Here we travelled

around visiting the North Shore (famous for world surfing competitions), Honolulu, Waikiki and also Pearl Harbour which was a great experience. Our own surfing wasn't particularly impressive so we stuck to snorkelling and sunbathing! Our return trip sent us via New York where we managed to squeeze in quick visits to Times Square, the Empire State Building and Broadway between flights. It capped off a memorable trip and a once in a lifetime experience.

EXERCISE ADVENTUROUS BEAR – by Radio Troop

For the rest of the Sqn, AT consisted of a multi-activity package in the Lake District, which provided an excellent opportunity for those newly posted in, including new OC **Maj Senneck**, to meet each other. The activities undertaken were hill walking up Scarfell Pike, mountain biking, gill scrambling, rock climbing and abseiling. Scarfell Pike was completed in some very windy, wet and cloudy conditions, unfortunately with no group gaining a view from the summit; a few moans could be heard on the route up but everyone was pleased with achieving the summit of the highest peak in England.

The activity of most interest was gill scrambling, something which came as quite a surprise to those who didn't know what it involved. They soon found out when they were told get their wet suit on and start making their way up that waterfall. The rock climbing and abseiling showed some that they had some talents that they didn't know about; **Sig Campbell** shot to the top of the rock without any dramas while others struggled to get even half way, and some people had to overcome their fear of heights. Mountain biking was another new experience for many, some having not ridden a bike since they were kids. With the possibility of a slight error leading to falling off the edge of some steep slopes, there was a definite fear factor. **WO2 (SSM) Setchfield**, our instructor, proved difficult to keep up with, seeming to power up hills with no effort. The rest of us were more worried about staying on the bike than going fast! It was all worth it for the downhill section at the end, and everybody enjoyed it despite the aching legs. Overall the package was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and thanks go to **Sgt Greenfield** and **Cpl Mitchell** for organising some varied and interesting activities.

SUPPORT SQN

OC **Maj S Cross**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) K Fleming**

EXERCISE IRON RESOLVE 2 – by LCpl Upton

Being the highest rank at the time in the RGB, I was heavily involved with the planning process of Ex IRON RESOLVE 2. With plans drawn and the calculations worked out, I was confident that the exercise was going to be a success.

The RGB deployed out on exercise on 21 September to Old Carter Barracks. We arrived just as 206 Sig Sqn had finished erecting the DRASH tents but could do no more work until the power was in place (or so they claimed). With the threat of a working weekend ringing in our ears the lads cracked on under the guidance of **Cpl 'Class 3' Culliford**.

As we started work, we soon realised the tents had not been exactly set out as per the original plan. This led to rearranging some of our kit but we soon got things back on track. As the night drew in the operators left for their beds, leaving us to install the lighting system inside the complex. Expecting there to be little work to be done upon his arrival from working in the gym, **Sig Gorey** was shocked to find this was the case and took it upon himself to boss his small team around in true PTI style.

Sig Day was quick to volunteer his services after it became



clear his hero, **Cpl Culliford** needed to go to A&E after an accident cutting zip ties. After spending many hours sat in hospital he returned to work with 3 stitches in his hand and a smile on his face bracing himself for the banter to come.

The next day brought its own shock with some record breaking temperatures for this time of year. It dawned on us

that the Div HQ Staff would appreciate more air conditioning units than we had previously planned for. Acquiring a J-Cab from the MT, **Sig Cound** 'volunteered' to manoeuvre them in place, which had nothing to do with how cool the cab was. Although challenging, the exercise went without to many problems and I am sure the experience will be valuable for the next time.



7th SIGNAL REGIMENT ELMPT



CO
RSM

Lt Col A Long
WO1 (RSM) SG McIlroy

SUPPORT SQUADRON

OC
SSM

Maj A Burdge
WO2 (SSM) Dunnachie

NAAFI RHINO CATERER 2011 – by Sgt Stoneley

It was that time of the year where numerous teams from 1 (UK) Div would represent their Regt and Catering department and take part in the Catering competition in Princess Royal Barracks, Gutersloh, the NAAFI Rhino Caterer Competition. This year I would have the honour of representing Elmpt station as the team captain. The Unit Catering Managers of both 7 and 16 Sig Regts selected the team from both departments, this was the strongest team that could have been fielded and we agreed that we had a winning team.

I was tasked by both UCM's to prepare the team for the competition, this involved all the pre training, administration and ensuring the team were ready to compete in this years NAAFI Rhino Caterer competition.

The competition commenced at 1600 hrs on the 14 June 2011, with an administration brief from **WO1 (Cdr) Asquith** and a Team Captain's brief where all Team Captains would draw their plot, this is a number relevant to the main events list. This year I drew out number 1, to my delight, I mentioned to numerous Directing Staff that this would also be the finishing position of Elmpt Station this year.

The years competition was again over 3 days. We started with escape and evasion on the first evening, which was a very demanding event with numerous dogs and soldiers on the search for all the teams. The March and Assault event followed which was very physically demanding in all areas, my team did very well in this event. The Live Cook event went well for both myself and **Pte Reed**. The military skills event this year consisted of FOB Ssecurity, Observation Post, Patrol Sskills and BCD. The field catering event well according to plan, we were clear winners in this event. The Improvised Cooking event this year saw the introduction of live chickens, the mystery box was full of excellent rations with bags of potential for an appetising Afghan theme menu. Last but not least, was the driving stand where **LCpl Chemjong** achieved 220 points from a possible 250 points, a job well done.

The presentation would take place for the competition at 1600 hrs. I told my team that they had done an excellent job from start to finish, and I firmly believed that we had an excellent chance of being the overall winners. This was to be reality when the winning team of the NAAFI Rhino Caterer 2011 competition was announced as, "Elmpt Station Catering Department." I was a very proud man and especially very proud of my team. I said to them at the start of the competition, I wanted them to put 110 % into everything we did, have a smile of their face throughout the competition and

put any mistakes that may occur behind them and move on. It was an excellent competition, I can now retire from Rhino Caterer as becoming the team captain champion, no easy task, but, I am thinking about possibly retaining the title. I would like to thank both Catering Departments and Regts for their support throughout. Till next year.....



The winning Rhino Caterer team

Team members:

Sgt Stoneley	(Capt) 7 Sig Regt
LCpl Brown	(2ic) 16 Sig Regt
LCpl Chemjong	16 Sig Regt
Pte Reed	7 Sig Regt

229 (BERLIN) SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC
SSM

Maj MA Muller RA SIGNALS
WO2 (SSM) J Attwell

EXERCISE WOODLAND BERLIN III – by LCpl Riddell

Throughout the year 229 Sig Sqn has run WOODLAND BERLIN exercises aimed at improving our military and leadership skills. The third and final ex focusing on survival skills, kicked off on Tuesday 4 October. After a long weekend an enthusiastic Sqn paraded to have their kit checked by **WO2 (FofS) Cleary**. He soon decided that half the kit on the packing list was unnecessary for survival, and was to be left behind. After a 10 minute scramble to get rid of unnecessary equipment (which was pretty much everything except sleeping bag, warm kit, water bottle and gortex!) we were ready to go.

The first half of the exercise was the teaching phase. This was a relaxing and enjoyable time, with constant reassurance from both **WO2 (FofS) Cleary** and **SSgt (YofS) Krikorian** that it was all about teaching us survival in a relaxing and fun manner and would in no way be strenuous. The activities included map reading, emergency water collection, agent handling, shelter building and food preparation. During the food preparation each section was shown how to effectively cull and prepare a chicken for cooking and then given the opportunity to try it out for themselves. This was clearly **LCpl Tosh's** favourite



lesson as everyone could see by her amazing chameleon impression when she turned a lovely shade of green.



Instructor Capt Rich Dray looks away as Sig Bush goes too far yet again

The second half of the exercise started at midnight on the Wednesday. This we were assured would be a maximum of 6 hours out on the ground navigating covertly by night through checkpoints where we would find an agent to guide us to the next point. This went well for all sections and all reached the final checkpoint around the 6 hour mark, proud of themselves for evading the enemy. Ready for a nice hot breakfast that had been promised by **SSgt Tyrrell**, everyone's morale was high as each section got into a troop carrying vehicle and taken away one at a time. This hot breakfast was, however, slightly different than any that has ever been served in JB's restaurant! As soon as the vehicle pulled up shots started to be fired from all around and almost instantly 2 masked men jumped into the back of the vehicle, forcing everyone into a hanger where hands were restrained and blacked out goggles applied. After 3 hours (that seemed like 12) of white noise, stress positions and interrogation, it finally came to an end when **WO2 (Fofs) Cleary** and **SSgt (Yofs) Krikorian** took on an entire militia themselves and emerged victorious, releasing all 5 of us. Amazingly they managed to do this several more times throughout the day with the enemy never once catching on to what was happening.

We now found ourselves dressed in coveralls that were at least 2 sizes too big with 1 litre of water, a map and a sleeping bag between us. All this whilst being chased by numerous enemy and under a strict time schedule to reach the next checkpoint. This was not the most ideal of situations but we all considered it and decided it was definitely an improvement from what we had just emerged from. Determined not to be recaptured our small section of 5, cut down from 6 after **LCpl Jobling's** earlier 'Rambo' style escape manoeuvre had failed epically, we would take every precaution necessary to evade this enemy. After 32 hours on the run in some of Germany's finest weather (rain), it was clear that survival was not as easy as previously thought. At the last checkpoint we were once again privileged to watch the heroics of both the Foreman and Yeoman as they faced immense danger taking on the enemy one last time, rescuing us and returning us to safe ground where we finally got our hot breakfast.

Ex WOODLAND BERLIN III was a unique exercise that was enjoyed by everyone (although not necessarily at the time) and one in which we all learned a great deal. However, we do need to ask ourselves why the Regt sent in 229 Sig Sqn when they could have just sent in **WO2 (Fofs) Cleary** and **SSgt (Yofs) Krikorian** alone to take out this ferocious enemy!

SKI DAY – by **LCpl Payne**

In the middle of summer stand down, despite the gleaming sunshine, it was dull in the Sqn. We were told we could sort something to do to make an afternoon pass quicker as all the

IMI's weren't quite cutting it for us. The imaginations of the young signallers kicked into overdrive, their mouths spouting ideas like 5-a-side football. It's not hard to tell these guys don't get out much! After deliberating, I decided to organise a trip to the indoor skiing, erm, thing, in Laandgraf, Holland. I threw myself into the research, 10 minutes later and thanks to Google, I had all the information I needed. I briefed the guys up, **Sgt Austin** gave us the go ahead and we were on.

When the day came, the excited adventurers of 229 Sqn were ready to go. The road brief was, well, brief. The address was punched into sat navs and we set off, **Cpl Emslie** in his 'rapid' Focus RS being the last to arrive. Parting with our cash and throwing on hired clothes, except **Sig Clark** who insisted on wearing his shorts and t shirt, we made our way in. We were met by the sight of young kids effortlessly gliding down the slopes on skis and snowboards. Looking at them, I naively thought it would be easy. I was about to find out how hard it would be. I'd ignored the advice from the rest of the guys who told me I shouldn't throw myself down a ski slope on a snowboard if I'd never even seen a slope before. Admittedly I was nervous and as I set off and picked up speed, panic set in. If you've never fallen face first down a ski slope in front of your mates who told you not to go down in the first place, I would not recommend it. As my face hit the compacted snow and my legs went over my head, snowboard attached, I was thrown with an ungodly thud into the side. Cushioning 2 things ran through my mind. "Well at least I have PAX!"

After brushing the melted snow from my eyes (it definitely wasn't tears) I sat up and caught my breath. I was greeted by what can only be compared to a cross between a screeching harpee and a rabid hyena type laugh from not just 229 guys but everyone else who'd been there to see my first attempt at snowboarding. Great. I picked myself up and carried on. About 5 minutes later and after 7 or 8 brutal collisions with the ground I made it to the bottom of the slope. We had another 1 hour 45 minutes slope time left. All in all everyone had a great time despite the bruises and we all agreed that it was better than in the hangar moving trailers, rolling cam nets, checking IMI's and sweeping. I'd just like to drop a few names of the guys who went so I can crate them for laughing at me. **LCpl 'Creepy' Crawley**, **Sig Walker**, **Cpl Higgins**, **LCpl Bradley** and **LCpl Hughes**.

231 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC	Maj ER Warren
SSM	WO2 (SSM) DJ Kidd

OP EAGLE WRAP UP – by **Capt Gavin**

As the Sqn's final tour on Op EAGLE drew to a close we were presented with the usual preparation of the impending hand over to our sister squadron, 232. Although to us as British soldiers this is nothing new, being under a NATO deployment this was not the case. Firstly the date 232 Sig Sqn were due to take over was then delayed by more than 2 weeks and as such there were a few twitchy soldiers thinking about the holidays they had booked. To be honest we had started to think that we wouldn't make it back at all.

Never the less with the end in sight we knuckled down and awaited the arrival of 232, some more than others, like **Cpl Gadsdon**, who up until the last minute had no replacement and was beginning to think he would be staying until one was found. The HOTO had to be done in under a week and in some cases only a few days. Naturally the emphasis was on a smooth transition with minimal disruption in services and to keep the HQ staff up and running during the busy period. This meant that no technical detail was left out affording 232 to maintain British superiority in most technical aspects, and to continue to support the HQ. The hand over was conducted



with no issues and with our sister Sqn eager to take the reigns to make their mark we left (albeit to transit accommodation).

With our tour finally on the wind down we, alongside ARRC staff, ran a small decompression in the local area. Despite the lack of resources and the disappointment of no water sports in Cyprus, the decompression was quite a pleasant surprise. Consisting of potted sports in the form of inter section competitions, followed by an evening BBQ the day before the much awaited flight on the C17 back to the Germany, via the UK of course! Therefore we would have to make the final journey from Brize Norton back to Elmpt on coach. This involved a coach with a ferry stop midway and proved popular with the Sqn having not laid eyes on an alcoholic beverage in 7 months. Unsurprisingly the on-board bars were quickly occupied by MTP clad soldiers, and some very bemused civilians watching soldiers in complete agony trying to remember their pin numbers in order to buy a pint!

231 SQUADRON DISBANDMENT – by Capt Gavin

When we finally arrived back in Elmpt Station the mood on both coaches was high although some heavy rain did try to dampen spirits. It wasn't long before the Sqn was formed up and marched around to Archie's bar to the sound of applause, with the band playing behind us and the sun giving a brief show. As we were halted and turned to face the awaiting crowd of family and friends, a few words from the Regtl 2 i/c, **Maj Gray**, set us on our merry way. The OC then addressed the troops with the words we have waited a long 7 months for, to your families fall out! A BBQ was provided at Archie's with some drinks and everyone quickly relaxed, departing that evening to our families and friends knowing that the next day we were in work early, refreshed with no hangovers.

Friday morning was the medals parade. We had a few more rehearsals from **WO1 (RSM) McIlroy** and **WO2 (SSM) Kidd**, much to the amusement of all, just so that we could see a certain Captain (no names, **Carnegie**) try his best. The RSM was waiting to pounce on him, much to our enjoyment. Everyone formed up waiting to march on and receive medals from the Bde Comd. This was a proud moment for those receiving their first medal and also for those who have been swinging with only one on their chest. The parade went well with a little bit of singing, as insisted by the Padre, and soon we were marching off past families and friends who had come to see us. Once more we retired to the Regtl bar for food and drinks before everyone went off on leave to spend their Op bonus unless that is, their wives hadn't spent it already!

On return from leave we were given the news that we would be disbanding by the end of Oct and some members already posted when they finished their POTL. 231 Sig Sqn finds itself looking more like a small Tp than a Sqn just back from tour. First the inter Sqn football and 2 weeks of AT. With almost no time to train a team and dust off the cobwebs from POTL, the Sqn was able to wear their new strip. The team was sent out

and the Joker card played for double points. Both games were close but the Sqn held its own and won the tournament, little did the rest of the Regt know the Sqn had racked up a few football hours whilst away.

The activity week was organised by **Cpl Copland** who worked to get the most from very little and with great success. Some sports days were organised so it was off to play baseball, hockey and a little bit of rugby. A trip to an indoor ski slope was popular even with people who had never tried before, like **LCpl Brissett**. He even went down the slope marked "No Beginners". The high ropes trip in Holland had members of the Sqn pushing their boundaries, like **Sig Georgiou**, who despite a fear of heights started on the kid's area and worked his way around to some of the more challenging areas of the course. The highlights of the 2 weeks of activities were clearly the trip to Movie Park and Karting. Movie Park in particular produced a shocking result in that the Sqn's favourite ride was the 'Dora the Explorer Log Flume', as avidly voiced by **Cpl Gadsdon**. The Karting heated to fever point when a clear competition broke out between the uber competitive **Cpl Thompson** and **LCpl Maguire**, both giving it big licks on way to the final race. Both were surprised that the top spot was not theirs but Sqn OC, **Maj 'Jenson Button' Warren** and **Cpl Thompson** was piped to the podium by **LCpl Smart**, pulling a last lap blinder to secure third before being sick in the toilet.

With the activity week over the Sqn quickly settled back into a normal routine, with soldiers checking JPA every 5 minutes to see if they had been posted. Normal routine meant that duties had to be filled and exercises planned. The Sqn will be saying goodbye to the first instalment of troops who are posted at the end of Oct. The next instalment sees the vast majority of the remainder posted in Dec with only a handful remaining with 229 Sig Sqn until the end, when 7 Sig Regt finally closes its doors. As the week's activities end the Sqn now looks ahead to the farewell function headed by **Sgt Wilbor** and **LCpl Chambers**. This will be held in the Families Club for all members of the Sqn and their families who will be very sad to say goodbye to the mighty 231st. We are proud to say that we have served in 7 Sig Regt but even prouder to state that we served with 231 Sig Sqn and sad to say goodbye to 60 years of history.

7th Signal Regiment Disbandment

On the 31st July 7th Signal Regiment will be consigned to history. All previous members of 7th Signal Regiment wishing to purchase any memorabilia i.e. ties and plaques must place their orders by 31 Jan 2012.

A drawdown Church Service has been planned for the 15th March 2012 followed by a joint Officers and Sergeants Mess evening function with previous Commanding Officers and Regimental Sergeant Majors in attendance.

For further details please contact **WO1 (RSM) McIlroy**
Mil 94868 Ex 4703 Civ - 0049 2163 974703



10th SIGNAL REGIMENT CORSHAM



CO
RSM

Lt Col G E Bennett
WO1 (RSM) Nowosielski

The Regt has continued to maintain its focus of delivering a constant stream of professionally trained and motivated soldiers in support of Op deployments. Despite the challenge of the Unit's Sqns being dispersed across the UK (including NI), the Regt has continued to foster and develop an ethos of "work hard, play hard". As the paragraphs below show, there

has been a good mix of Regtl Exercises, sport and social functions all well supported by the officers and soldiers across the board. This is indicative of the type of Regt that 10SR has developed into and we aim to continue in the same spirit.

As we look ahead to the end of the year, we are no less focussed and immediately on the horizon are Ex JEBEL CALPE 11 to Gibraltar, Young Officers training and a number of Regtl Evaluation days, more of which next time.



225 (ECM(FP) SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj RJ Craig**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) J Love**

The Sqn continues to focus on its permanent operational commitments, training and contingency tasks both on Ops and in Barracks; however during September the Sqn was, once again, able to represent 10 Sig Regt at The Royal Highland Games at Braemar as well as hosting a visit by the SOinC. The visit took place on 28 Sep 11 and provided him with an opportunity to see our Operational pre-deployment training. We were able to show him both the Military and Technical aspects of training and to discuss deployments with members of the Sqn who have recently returned from operations and those due to deploy shortly on Op HERRICK.

SSgt (FofS) Potter introduced the SOinC to the Sqn's Technical Training Wing. Responsible for providing bespoke ECM (FP) courses to qualify Sqn members to be ECM (FP) Operator/Maintainers they run a 3 week intensive course. In addition the Tech Trg Wing conducts ECM (FP) PDT to the Army, Navy and RAF deploying elements, including supporting all MRXs and CFXs as advisors. The SOinC saw demonstrations of the current and future ECM equipments and had the opportunity to speak to the Technical Training Wing instructors about their experiences on Operations and how they employ that knowledge to benefit the courses they now teach.

The SOinC was taken to the Mil Trg Wing stand by **Sgt Wood** who explained how the Sqn does its own PDT to DCC Stage 2+ with a 3 week operational military skills package (OMTP). This starts with conducting all MATTs and progresses through static ranges and on to complex shoots including live fire vehicle contact drills. The OMTP culminates in a final exercise phase combining elements of military training and ECM (FP) technical training. Finally the SOinC was briefed on future ECM capabilities due to be rolled out to Op HERRICK over the next year. He was impressed with the way we had been involved throughout the development cycle – from design to deployment – and is confident that we will complete rollout as successfully as the recent equipment surge for ERGYNO.



Sgt Wood introducing the SOinC to Cpl Taylor and Cpl Soppitt

241 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj SJ Bristow**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Belcher**

Whilst maintaining the Sqn's mission of providing ICS cabling, installation and specialist expertise to UK, Expeditionary and OGD Operations, we also found time to take part in a number of sporting challenges. The CO's Cup Football 7s competition was a hard fought contest and well represented by all Sqn's. The competition was designed to pick the best team for **SSgt Mick Partridge** to take across to Elmpt for the RSFA 7's. The first match was the mighty 241 vs 243. 243 only had 7 players for the competition but they battled hard. Although they tried hard they were overpowered and soundly beaten by 7 goals to nil. Goals a-plenty but goal of the game and probably the tournament was scored by **LCpl 'Tommo' Thomas** – a

sweet strike from outside the box which found it's way to the top corner leaving the keeper no chance. Was this the start of things to come? The game between 251 and 225 was just as good to watch. After another hard fought match 251 won 4-1. The teams to beat were clearly 241 and 251 and when they played each other the game finished honours even, 0-0.



The Winning Team

At the end of the competition 241 and 251 were level on points which brought the decision of the winner down to goal difference. Well done to 241 Sig Sqn for retaining the CO's Cup Football shield for the 2nd year in a row. The competition highlighted some new talent for the Regtl football team such as **Sig Downey** from 243 who had a great competition despite 243 finishing last with no points.

On Thursday 1 Sept the CO's Cup Hockey tournament was held in Corsham on the AstroTurf. Selection and training for the team was held at Corsham on the Wednesday afternoon. After 4 hours of training **Capt Sammy Brinkworth**, **SSgt Micky Partridge** and **LCpl Smith** selected a team. This decided our positions and who was rolling subs with one another. During the morning while waiting for the other Sqn's to arrive, 241 were running around helping set up tents and score boards for the CO's cup football that was being held in Colerne. As soon as the football had finished it was a quick dash down to Corsham with the same guys that had just played football, changing strip and tactics, with everyone gasping for breath, and grabbing a quick bite to eat on the way. All hockey teams had a fast warm up and the hockey was on its way.



Fast paced games with goals aplenty

Our first game was against 243 which we won 2 - 0. A really easy game for us just getting used to our positions and who was playing where. We then had to wait for another 2 games with 243 and 225 both losing against 251 by 9 - 0 each. We knew we were going to have a tough game ahead of us and we had to beat 251. After a quick break the final game was soon on its way and immediately 251 were all over us and we found ourselves having to defend really hard as they had a lot of the Corp Players. Despite our best efforts, they eventually beat us 3 - 0. After a hard days work of playing in the sun, we had a final presentation, presenting the winning trophy to 251.



251 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj JTD Wright**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Watts**

Based in Aldershot, 251 Sig Sqn's mission is to "Provide Information Communication Support (ICS) and specialist expertise to Public Duties, UK and Other Government Department operations (OGD) in order to deliver specialist signalling effect to the supported commander".

EXERCISE SENATOR

At lunchtime on Wed 7 Sept we deployed on Ex SENATOR, a Defence Nuclear Emergency Organisation (DNEO) exercise in Scotland. Due to drivers hours this involved a stay over in Liverpool courtesy of 33 Sig Sqn (TA). After overnighing we continued on our way up to Prestwick and arrived late on Thursday evening and we welcomed our hotel with open arms as each of us had a double bed en suite and made for an unusually comfortable nights sleep.

The weekend was spent setting up for the exercise and involved some late nights in gale force winds and horizontal rain, which according to **Sgt Moffat** was not typical for the time of the year. The exercise itself started properly on the Tuesday morning. Satellite Comms were difficult to establish due to the high winds which provided a valuable training experience for the new, inexperienced BANTAM operators.

The younger crew got to work with staff for the first time and understand the implications, especially working with civilian staff. Staff may have degrees in nuclear physics but turning on laptops and using a phone seemed beyond them, so it was a good job the crew were on hand to assist. The tear down happened on the Thursday followed by an end of exercise meal which provided a valuable team bonding experience. We then returned to Liverpool on Friday morning, where we let our hair down with a well deserved take away before returning to Aldershot to enjoy the rest of the weekend.

The exercise was enjoyed by all, with hard work in places but also times to relax, and certainly provided a good training and learning experience for all, with everyone taking something away from it that could be used in future deployments.

243 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj D Hughes**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Thirlwell**

Once again this has been a very busy period for the Sqn. Recent months have seen the turn over of key personnel, both **Maj Nev Smikle** (OC) and **Capt Jules Thorne** (Ops O) have moved on, being replaced by **Maj Dave Hughes** and **Capt Nicki Coombs**. The Sqn's role within HQLF is constantly evolving and this has carried on since the completion of HYPERION (the move of HQLF from Wilton to Andover).

The Land Forces server farm is continuing to grow, both in size and reputation, with additional applications hosted each month. The Sqn will soon be migrating the applications currently hosted in Germany and even the RAF are showing an interest in us hosting some of theirs. We have also taken on responsibility for the CinC's (Palava Hut) address. This is transmitted in real time across HQLF via IPTV and the wider Army community by 33 VTC points of presence. HQLF is also working through a series of Staff Planning Exercises, with the first recently completed. 605 Sig Tp have been instrumental in installing the additional fixed ICS infrastructure (including CSS and SSS voice, Airwave Radio, Sectera, VTC, IPTV, unclassified Internet, creating SharePoint sites, testing applications, and providing a 24/7 Service Desk and Watch Keeper.

A special mention should be given to the personnel that represented the Sqn at the CO's Cup Hockey and Football competitions (held on the same day). Due to work commitments, the plucky 7 had to play all 6 matches in both competitions. Although they didn't win either event, respect was well earned for their determination. Testament to their effort was the obvious exhausted state that they came back in, clearly demonstrating that 2 teams are better than one.

605 SIGNAL TROOP

605 Sig Tp have had an extremely busy time with support to HQLF and preparation for the Olympic Games next year. We have all been working hard, improving technical knowledge but also enjoying the benefits of extra curricular activities.

Network Support Section, under the auspicious leadership of **Cpl Tommy Thornton**, has been working on the integration of comms systems. This has been taxing but the team have surged ahead with great success and are in a promising position for the upcoming sporting event next year. Whilst Line Section, under **Cpl 'Damo' Williams** have been ensuring fault rectification processes, records and infrastructure cabling is of the highest standard, they have also ensured we are improving our fitness with **LCpl Mike 'Britney' Sear** and **Sig Aaron Downey** producing some interesting PT circuits. Although some have suggested it may have been assisted by the arrival of a certain SSgt!



LCpl Ng conducting fault finding on the VTC network

Ops & Ex insist they have the busiest job updating, maintaining and fault finding on SharePoint. However, they do seem to drink the most brews on a daily basis. **Sgt 'Jonah' Jones** heads up the department with **Cpl Richie Cole** occasionally assisting when he is not trying to get on more courses. Their job is becoming more and more to the front with the transition from SharePoint to MOSS on DII.

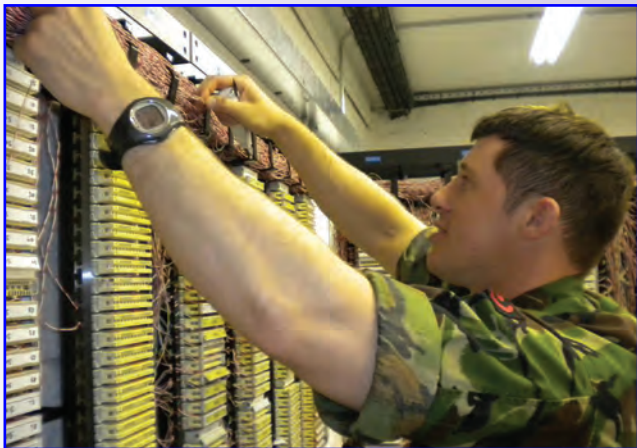
The Test & Release Team are working closely with Microsoft to assist in software programs, updates and patches. At the cutting edge of software technology, **Sgt John Ward** and **LCpl Lana Davidson** have a solid working relationship with the civilian staff; just don't mention the word "Cone-Head!"

The Enterprise Administration Team are overseeing live operational systems supporting current operations around the world. The team work with some of the most advanced computer systems in the British Army which are at the forefront of the Corps.

Congratulations go to **LCpl Mike Sear** who has been selected for promotion to Cpl and become the proud father of **Amelia**. Also to **Sig Aaron Downey** on selction for promotion to LCpl and to **Sgt L-B** on his selection for the Yeomans course in 2012. A huge congratulations is also given to **Sgt 'Tommo' Thompson** for his award of the Royal Signals Institute Silver Medal (details to follow in the next Wire).



We are now looking forward to not only supporting the Olympics in addition to our normal daily routine but enjoying a 3 week battle camp in Gibraltar later this year. The future promises to be a very busy but rewarding time for us all!



LCpl Sear performing routine maintenance on the telephone infrastructure

643 SIGNAL TROOP (COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY)

It has now been a year since 643 Sig Tp had our FOC date and as such we were forced to celebrate this auspicious occasion. Our first year has been a high tempo for all concerned, the Defence Internet Monitoring team has viewed over 7500 open Social Network Site profiles which were directly affiliated to military personnel, they have also alerted the CoC

to OPSEC and PERSEC breeches. This has led to briefing packs being built and handed over to the members of our briefing teams who have carried out Comsec awareness briefings to well over 20000 personnel. These briefings are to educate soldiers before they deploy to Theatres around the world. Our Technical Security Section have deployed within the UK, BFG as well as on Ops. During this period they have supplied reports ranging from a unit G2 cell up to the Commander of British Forces on Op HERRICK, allowing them to deal with anything which has been overlooked.

However it has not been all work for the Tp. Our OC has occasionally removed the chains from our desks to supply 10 Sig Regt and 2 Sig Bde with personnel for shooting competitions, Bruno Torch (a leadership development camp which took place in Oakhampton) and AT courses which have varied from Ocean Diving, Paragliding and Sailing.

One such day away from our keyboards was a recent leaving function for members of our Tp who have now been posted to both 21 Sig Regt and 600 Sig Tp in Corsham. It convened with go-carting, where there were various levels of driver confidence on display. One of our Tp was heard to utter "they are all crazy out there, just plain crazy" on his return to the pits. This was followed by a meal in Bath, in which the cocktail menu was more widely consulted than the main menu. This led onto an evening in Bath, where both the new arrivals and leavers of the Tp took full advantage of such a great location on our very own doorstep.

We would like to wish our leaving members every success on their future assignments with the Royal Signals.

	16th SIGNAL REGIMENT ELMPT	
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CO
RSM **Lt Col R D W Rumsey**
 WO1 (RSM) T Hodgskins

ELEMENTARY PILOT PARAGLIDING COURSE – 24-30 JULY 11 – by Sig Hammond

On 24 July 11 5 soldiers from 16 Sig Regt went to the Joint Service Alpine Training Centre in Oberstdorf, Bavaria to attend the Elementary Pilot paragliding course. **LCpl Jacobs**, **Sig 'confuses Bavaria with Bulgaria' Miles**, **Sig Hammond**, **Sig Reynolds** and **Sig Jordan** made the long drive to Bavaria.

On arrival we were given accommodation and an evening meal. We had an early start the next day and were ready for our introduction to the course. This is where we were told what the course consists of, the aims of the course and what was expected of us. After the introduction we then met the course instructors and they told us about themselves. There were 4 instructors and we were split down into groups of 7. After being put into our groups it was then time for us to be issued our paragliding equipment.

We were issued with a paraglider and harness, helmet, boots, gloves, jump suit and a radio. After the kit issue we separated into our groups and the instruction started. We were shown how to inspect our paragliders to ensure that they were serviceable. Once everyone had checked their kit we were taught how to fold and pack the paraglider properly and were then ready to go. That afternoon we went to a training slope to practice opening up our paragliders.

The next day was again an early start. Each morning we were given a weather brief and that day was going to be a nice day, but bad weather was due for the upcoming days. The

instructors decided it was better to take us out to the training slope where we could get hands on the kit and save the theory for the days where it would be unlikely for us to be able to fly due to weather conditions.

After a day's training we all thought we were professionals and wanted to head straight for the mountains. In the next couple of days the weather wasn't ideal so we went through the theory part of the course which consisted of how the



The view from the top



paraglider works, the rules of the air, the weather and the best conditions to fly in. Once the weather had got better and the theory was complete we then headed back out to the training slope. Here we had to prove to the instructors that we were capable of launching our paragliders, controlling them, being able to turn and then land safely. Each student had to show that they could take off and land safely 10 times. After a couple of days on the training slope everyone had become more confident and were ready to head to the mountains. We were shown different take off and landing sites and put had the local rules explained to us.

The first mountain was around 300 metres above the landing site. The weather was perfect and we all managed to get a flight, some even got 2. It took about 8-10 minutes to get down depending on the size of the person and what winds were present during your flight. The next mountain was a bit higher at 800 metres above the landing site but from the top it definitely looked a lot higher. The group started off fine and half had taken off and landed safely. The clouds started moving up through the valley and it become unsafe to fly there. Luckily we were able to move a bit further up the mountain and take off from there using a different route to the landing site. Everyone was able to make a safe flight and our goal was achieved. Everyone had managed to pass the course and we are now Elementary Paragliding Pilots.

SUPPORT SQUADRON

OC **Maj A Higgins**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Watts**

Sp Sqn has seen a complete change within the HQ with a new OC, **Maj Al Higgins**, 2IC **Capt Mickey Yendell**, and the SSM, **WO2 'Curly' Watts**. **WO2 Barrie** has not gone far and has taken on the task of the MTWO with **WO2 Phil Korba** leaving the army after 22 years service, the new team wish him and his family all the very best for the future.

EXERCISE GRIFFIN SPANNER – by Cfn Skill

On Monday 6 June we set out in our passion wagon of a mini bus for the Eurotunnel, bursting with enthusiasm and morale. After a lengthy journey and a cheeky stop at McDonalds (which was very much needed) we arrived at SEME Bordon where we were to be accommodated. After handing our weapons into the armoury, members of the team took the opportunity to hit the gym or go for a run. After a good session, **Cfn Outterson** (a local man) organised a trip to the local Indian restaurant, where we had a meal and several bevies. Some members got a nice surprise when getting stuck into their much anticipated meal; a certain **Cfn Bolam** was very red faced and watery eyed. After a few more drinks at the local pub we called it a night and hit the sack.

The following day as the team briefs were in the afternoon, we decided to take advantage of being in the UK and hit the shops in Guildford in the morning. Soon after we headed to Longmoor camp to receive our team and team captain brief, seeing what was in store for the event the following day with confidence high. We headed back to our accommodation in Louisburg Barracks and relax and get an early night.

The day of the event and everyone up and ready bright and early we set off for Longmoor. Having signed our weapons out we were met by OC LAD, **Capt Alexander**, who was there to give us much needed encouragement and support. After a long wait we weighed our monkeys and parrots and were raring to go. We crossed the start line full of enthusiasm to the first section; the command task. **Cpl Dunsire** took the lead and this involved the usual array of barrels and wooden planks to cross a imaginary river and retrieve items needed to evacuate the casualty on the other bank.

The command task complete, and **SSgt Carroll** back in charge, leading from the front, we cracked on with the 8 mile march. With encouragement from stronger members of the team we pushed through to the 6 mile point completing a first aid test as we went. There we picked up a loaded stretcher which we carried for half a mile to an assault course. On completion of the assault course, in torrential rain, we recovered the stretcher and with some needed aggression we dropped it after another 1/2 mile. Girding our loins, we then gave a last burst of effort to cross the line in a very respectable time.



Extracting the casualty

Only thing left to complete was the shoot which, after a much needed burger (kindly bought by the OC), we felt confident due to our weapons having bipods fitted unlike the remainder of the teams. On receiving our safety brief and being told we were no longer allowed to use the bipod we proceeded to complete the shoot. Having completed the march in a respectable second place time of 1h 54mins and all the other tasks successfully, we now relaxed in the English summer weather, cleaned our weapons and awaited the results. However, our shooting had let us down more than expected and we did not finish in the top 3. Despite this, having put in an excellent effort, we were happy.

After prize giving we returned our weapons to the armoury and headed back to our accommodation to get cleaned up. We then headed out for some takeaway and well deserved beers, taking advantage of the offers at Tesco we turned our block foyer into a social room with a pack of cards and a marker pen the games began and a good night was had by all!

With a few sore heads the next morning we packed up our kit, cleaned the block, collected our weapons and headed back to Elmpt, sore but content.

EXERCISE OPENING GAMBIT

– by Sig Robinson and Sig Crutchley

The aim of Ex OPENING GAMBIT, conducted on 12 - 23 Sept 11, was to establish a start state for Souter Force Protection and Transport Company (SFPTC). The ex provided the first chance for SFPTC to deploy in its entirety; it allowed the multiples to work and bond with each other as they will do on ops.

The ex was split into 2 weeks; week 1 designed to introduce the Tp to the role of SFPTC, Actions On, and likely scenarios that may be encountered on tour. The week started with comprehensive briefs on SFPTC routine and Camp Souter in Kabul; also the key areas surrounding the Camp including other ISAF locations were identified. As the week progressed the lessons focused on various pieces of specialist equipment and vehicles that will be required on tour such as Vallon and Ridgeback. Lessons were also conducted on TTPs and SOPs that are currently being used by 21 Sig Regt (AS). SFPTC received invaluable assistance from **SSgt Burgess** and **CSgt Burnside** from OPTAG, and **SSM Manley** and **Sgt Hancox** from 3DSR. They were employed during the teaching and assessment phases of Ex OG. Towards the end of the week



we started a 'round robin' practicing the various skills and drills learnt throughout the week.

The 2nd phase was the confirmatory phase. This incorporated serials to test the skills learned during phase one and also to demonstrate the cognitive and physical demands of working in a pressured environment. The second week began with preparing for deployment to the FOB on Javelin Barracks Airfield. SFPTC were broken down into multiples and started routine moving through 6 hour rotations of MT, QRF and guard duties. During each rotation the multiples were subjected to various scenarios organised by **SSgt Shubert**, the OPTAG CSgts, and the 3DSR representatives who were full of relevant ideas fresh from Kabul and Camp Souter. The main threats that challenged SFPTC during the exercise were IDF, SAF, SVBIED, PBIED and public disorder. During the scenarios there were various comedy moments including **Sig Munro** attempting to apply a tourniquet to a neck wound during a CASEVAC drill, an un-named Tp Snr trying to bolster a sanger forgetting to apply a magazine and attempting to fire at the bemused insurgents; then to top it all off **Sig Adams** tried to radio check a field telephone! It was an informative and enjoyable shake out ex for SFPTC and we achieved everything we set out to do. The exercise has provided the Tp with an in-depth understanding of the SFPTC role and will lay the foundations for training on which to build up to deployment.



230 (MALAYA) SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj C L Jardine**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Wedge**

230 Sig Sqn is pleased to welcome **Maj Jardine** as the new OC, as her predecessor **Maj Hervey Scott** leaves for his new job as DCOS at 11 Sig Bde. The Sqn also bids farewell to 2 stalwarts, **SSgt Geoff Wilman** who has completed 22 years of service and SQMS **SSgt Billy Matthews** who has taken the bait and jumped ship for the bright lights of civvy street. We wish them and their families all the best for the future.

EXERCISE OPENING GAMBIT – by Sig Nicholls

The First couple of days were quite busy. As the Radwin team was configuring radios and dropping off masts to set them up later, the IS geeks were moaning about wrong IP addresses and subnet masks. **Sgt Kent**, although very capable, was feeling the pressure sorting out Radwin, as his 2ic **Cpl Robertson** was away on a course in the UK. The IS team including **Cpl Sammons**, **LCpl Henderson** and **LCpl Dyke** encountered problems early on and ended up working as late as 0300 hrs some nights.

In my location, FOB Mcllroy, **Sgt Opie** and **Cpl Thomas** were in charge of the layout, however as there was a need for more tables and felt, away I went to source them. If tables and chairs weren't enough problems, **LCpl Meredith**, **Sig Doran** and their crew of Installation Techs were refusing to lay more than one fibre per table, which simply was just not enough! However, with a little diplomacy, all the fibre was laid before

LCpl Dyke and **LCpl Gurung** turned up with their Point of Presence (PoP) server which seemed to be at their own liking. By the time the weekend came all links, OTES (Overtask Theatre Emulation System) and Bowman were in and working, however as FOB Garcia found out, never let an RSE do a night shift unsupervised, or let a CSE do an Operator's job. **LCpl Bishop** (CSE) failed in the most basic of handover takeover duties, leaving poor **Sig Simpson** (RSE) with no idea what crypto is, just knowing that he had to sign some sort of check sheet every 6 hours. He also failed to mention, much to **Cpl Jones'** despair, that the Bowman Data Terminal would E-Purge itself if enter was pressed too many times.



LCpl Phelps manning the Bowman detachment

As minimum manning was called for the weekend FOBs Mcllroy and Poulter had 2 people on shift. At FOB Mcllroy **LCpl Dyke** volunteered to do a double 24 hour shift and replace **LCpl Gurung** who was going on course the following week. He was almost crying when he got called into work on his day off. Why he volunteered for someone else's shift no one knows. **LCpl Cullen** would have been much happier however, if there was another person on his 12 hour shift at FOB Garcia. As he was chilling out on shift he had a surprise visit from the SSM **WO2 Wedge** and the OC **Maj Jardine**. On their departure, **LCpl Cullen** found his easy 12 hour shift turn into a 24 hour shift which he was ecstatic about.



Cpl Hazell explains Combat

As we moved into week 2, the exercise was now in full swing. Although fairly quiet through the day, the night shift suddenly got many surprise visits, and sometimes even casualties, but as **Sig Simpson** found out they weren't real casualties and ringing 999 in Germany would have been pointless. The crews were tested on fault reporting procedures and other comms related issues.

On the Monday **LCpl Cullen** received his second tape after marching up to the Sqn OC twice, much to the amusement of the Sqn, but the Sqn was not so amused with the Staff Officer briefing card everyone had to learn word for word for their location. As night shift was regularly tested on this, the day shift started doing cross training, so everyone could put their own spin on, and add extra things into the brief. **Sgt Opie** gave a few lessons on fault finding procedures, Impexing, and different classifications on different systems. **Cpl Thomas** gave an overview on the Radwin side of life. **LCpl Dyke** gave a basic overview on how the PoP works. He also showed us how to set up User Access Devices and check services like J chat and Adobe were working. Also he taught us how the Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Phones work and how to set them up. **Sig Williams** taught our FOB a little about power and the current plan we had for our backup power. All other locations carried out similar cross training activities.



The exercise was a learning curve for everyone. We achieved the primary aim, which was to test and prep the kit ready for CFX and managed to fit in cross training so everyone has a better understanding of the kit and systems in place if (and when) things go wrong. Overall I would say that the exercise was very successful.

RECENT EVENTS IN 230 SIG SQN – by LCpl Gual

Recently 230 Sig Sqn participated in a small scale, week long exercise. This consisted of all the trade groups learning how to erect masts, cam up vehicles and navigate, among other things, and culminated in an orienteering competition which had various challenges at the checkpoints.

The Leicester Trophy is the CO's competition and takes place on most Fridays as part of CO's PT. This has been a welcome change of pace from the normal activities and adds some healthy competition between Sqns. It kicked off with a cross country race, consisting of an 8km route for the males and 5km route for the females. **LCpl Thompson** finished first, with **Sig Barnes** and **Sig McCarthy** taking second and third places respectively. **LCpl Mason** took first place amongst the females. 230 Sig Sqn came second overall in the Regt. Still to come in the Trophy are the Tug of War and the volleyball.

To prepare for our HERRICK tour next year, most people have been back to the UK on various STA courses relevant to their planned jobs. Having just completed Ex OPENING GAMBIT we're now preparing for the upcoming CFXs where we'll be in STANTA, applying our trade knowledge and solidifying our abilities to complete the tasks given on operations.

230 Sig Sqn also took part in a morning of orienteering organised by **2Lt Eldridge**, where our navigation skills were challenged under the physical duress of having just finished a PFA earlier that morning. There were 2 different colours assigned to teams of 2 people to avoid crossover and cheating. The competition involved a series of questions found at the locations about navigation skills taught earlier.

With Ex RHINO SOLDIER to look forward to people are stepping up their training to prepare for this endurance event consisting of 16km of running and various obstacles throughout. 230 Sig Sqn are hoping to enter numerous teams of 5, varying in fitness and including an 'oldies' team.

255 (BAHRAIN) SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj A J Lawson**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Birch**

SUMMER FUNCTION – by Cpl Smith

That time of year had arrived; it was time to organize the Sqn summer function and this year the powers that be had decided that it was my turn to take the lead. The date had already been selected and was to be Saturday 16 July 11. This just happened to be the day after the Regt BBQ, which meant it was going to be a messy weekend for some people!

Unfortunately the pesky LAD had beaten us booking the our Regt bar "The Wall and Willow", so we had to find another location capable of holding the whole Sqn as well as their families. The Sqn OC **Maj Lawson** made the decision that we would do what nobody at 16 Sig Regt likes to do - ask 7 Sig Regt for help! It turned out that they were more than happy to assist, allowing us the use of their Regt bar "Archies", so it turns out they're not all bad! Now the venue was booked it was time to think about the food and entertainment.

Given the excellent weather we had been having, a decision was reached that the food for the function would have to be

a BBQ, so I enlisted the help of the "specialists" aka: NAAFI. The food was spot on and was enjoyed by young and old, so a big thank you must go to the chefs for all of their hard work!

Everyone knows that the first thing that any family function requires is a bouncy castle. The welfare office were happy to supply us with one, but yet again the LAD had beaten us to it, booking the large one, so we had to settle for the medium one! Fortunately this turned out to be big enough anyway. Next on the list was face painting. **Sig Seferidis** volunteered and after a few practice runs was soon up to speed; a big thank you must go to her as the kids loved it. **Maj Lawson** then came up with the idea of having a water slide. All we needed was a large plastic sheet that we could peg to the ground, cover it in water and washing up liquid. Obviously this had to be tested beforehand and the brave **Sig Andy Atherton** stepped up. He had the bright idea of cutting holes in a black bag and then wearing it, in an attempt to avoid getting wet, which worked for his top half but sadly this didn't help his trousers: they got drenched. This didn't put him off doing it again and again though! The water slide proved to be a massive hit with the kids on the day even if the weather wasn't the nicest!

On the morning of the function I had a number of people who had staggered down to help, most were worse for wear from the previous day of drinking. I found **Sig Atherton** sleeping on one of the benches outside Archies half an hour before he was even meant to be there. We got everything ready in time for the first transport from Wildenrath, a big thank you must go to **LCpl Kingston** for driving the minibus. All in all the 255 summer function was a success, it achieved its aim by bringing together the Sqn and families in an informal manner, which will put us in good stead for the forthcoming deployment.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS INSPECTION TEAM VISIT 255 SIGNALS SQUADRON – by LCpl McCalla

The past 2 weeks has seen the Sqn very busy preparing for a visit from RSIT. The week started with a move of the entire Sqn Bowman fleet from Hanger 2 which had been damaged by strong winds during a large storm. The Bowman dets were moved to Hanger 3 which was to become our place of work until Hanger 2 had been repaired or at least declared safe!

The upcoming days saw det comds and crewmen working tirelessly to clear A jobs, complete IMI's and place demands and the Sqn Techs actively rectifying whatever faults they could. The more experienced members of C Tp took the initiative to ensure that new operators arriving from Blandford got their hands on the Bowman kit.

The Sqn OC's inspection gave det comds and crewmen the opportunity to impress; all dets were lined up in a uniform manner. With our vehicles lined up, mast erected, kit nicely displayed we anxiously awaited the OC's arrival. He inspected each det meticulously; det folders were scrutinised, crewmen and comds quizzed on trade knowledge and mast erecting skills put to the test. C Tp were fortunate to have no re-show inspections, though the OC's inspection did highlight some areas that needed work before RSIT.

After another couple of days work we were ready to welcome the RSIT team. When they finally arrived they were actually impressed to see how much effort we had put in to setting up and the standard that the dets were at. In particular I was very happy to see that my detachment had no A jobs. All of the Sqn were happy to see all the hard work had paid off.

EXERCISE OPENING GAMBIT – by LCpl Turner

Everyone hit the ground running at the start of Ex OPENING GAMBIT. For some it was their first major comms exercise



since leaving Phase 2 training and for others just another to add to their long list!. However it was the perfect opportunity for the Sqn to prove their worth when it came to trade knowledge, to put into practice everything they had learnt on recent STA courses and to give people the confidence to work on the same equipment that they would be managing in Theatre, and most importantly to confirm the Sqn's readiness to support the upcoming MST 2 exercises.

Hangar 1, the old IS training facility, was transformed into JFSP(A) which provided staff users access to J1/J4, JOCS and OTES. **LCpl McCalla** and **LCpl Baxter** managed to get J1/J4 in and working over Bantam fairly quickly and spent the rest of the exercise adjusting mine tape, creating new accounts and repairing coax cables that people kept tripping over!

JOCS ran over the problematic Reacher detachment. **Sig 'Bri' Johnson** and **Sig 'Gibbo' Gibson** managed to construct the antenna group on the airfield in break neck speed only to find they would have to tear it down and rebuild it again on the grass, in order to anchor it as the 50 knot wind on the airfield was lifting the whole antenna group 2 inches off the ground. The OTES team consisting of **LCpl Dave Kerrigan**, **Cpl 'Robbo' Robinson** and **Sgt Lawes** took turns doing late night shifts in order to build over 100 clients throughout the night in preparation for the live part of the exercise.

JOCS had its own problems, luckily **SSgt 'Paddy' Briggs** was on hand to offer assistance and after spending many hours suffering from 'other-end-itis' whilst waving his hands around frantically, adjusting his glasses and swearing at the server he managed to find the source of the problem, (it was an issue at Northwood). **Sig Eagleson** and **Sig Crosby** found it hilarious when they informed the FoS that the helpdesk phones had stopped working only to be told "Ring the telemechs and get them to come sort it!" "But the phones aren't working FoS." Personally I think I currently hold the world record for the most amount of time spent on the phone to PCCC.

After the build phase the rest of the exercise ran smoothly and end-ex was called on Friday afternoon. In classic Signals fashion, everything was torn down and packed away 10 times quicker than it was put together and everyone got to go home after completing the Tp Comds surprise 100% serial number check. It's safe to say everyone now has the confidence to go on the next exercise in the UK.



ENEMY – by Sig Watkins

With tour coming ever closer for the Regt, **Sig Letley** and I were called upon to play enemy for an exercise to hone the skills of the Souter Force Protection team. As FP, the soldiers involved will be deploying to Kabul to provide much needed support and safeguarding the local population and it was our job on the exercise to help simulate some very realistic and lifelike scenarios that they will possibly encounter on their tour of the region. The team is made up of all trades from the

Corps, with some other cap badges involved; soldiers from the REME and others from the RLC are going along as well.

The first week was all about demonstrations, for example many of the troops going had never been involved in dealing with suicide bombers or searching a track for IEDs using the Vallon. This was also good for **Sig Letley** and me as we were learning as well whilst showing everyone how to employ slick drills. We demonstrated how to deal with a suicide bomber first; as I was standing guard on one of the makeshift sangars, a man came running at me with a suicide vest on his body. Needless to say I dropped him and it felt good! Next we were told that there was going to be a UXO hand in from one of the 'local' civilians. We dealt with IDF and then went on to how to clear a track of IEDs and actions on an IED find. The best was saved until last though as we mounted up in vehicles and did vehicle ambush drills. This was brilliant fun and all in all it was a good start to our time helping out the FP team.

Week 2 and the team went out for one of their first of many exercises, to see how much they had learnt and to put the skills we had shown them into practice. We turned up at the FOB and were quickly given a rifle and hundreds of blank rounds, practice grenades and smoke grenades. From that point we knew it was going to be a fun week! I was ushered into a hiding place for one of the many attacks we were going to be doing on the unsuspecting patrols. As soon as I saw the patrol I opened up on automatic and needless to say I think I caught them off guard! The section quickly switched on and was out of the killing zone very quickly. As the day went on, **Sig Letley** and I gave them hell, getting through lots of blank ammunition. The funniest scenario we did though was the very last one. We had set up an 'RTA' for the patrol to deal with, and we were acting as a bunch of angry locals. As the patrol arrived we were just being nuisances and we could see the lads getting frustrated with us. I couldn't stop laughing though because our Pashto accents really were not too good!

If the chance came up to play enemy again I would do it. It was 2 of the most enjoyable weeks of my career so far, we actually got to learn as we were doing it and we helped provide valuable training for SFP. Overall, a great experience.

BFG CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS - by Sig Johnson

During a recent Tp OC's interview with **Lt Prady** one of the questions asked was "Do you like running?" My answer was yes, but little did I know that this would see my name added to the Regtl Cross Country Team! On Wednesday 21 Sept, the 16 Sig Regt team headed to the first race of the season which was to be hosted by 7 Regt RLC in Bielefeld.

During the pre-race briefing we were told that there were 3 hills on the course, one of them called CFT hill, which was one kilometre long and steep.

Once the race started I felt fine, running with the rest of the team, including **LCpl Hall** and **Pte Esaki**. Then CFT hill was in front of us and that is where the pain kicked in. Trying to get up the hill required some effort, even from **LCpl Hall**, a PTI, and during the climb I lost the team. Not knowing where the rest of the team was, I kept pushing to catch up with them, but encountered the second hill and then the third. They seemed to just keep coming at us. In total there were about 7 hills, and still no sign of the team.

After 46 minutes and 9 kilometres the finish line was in sight, and what a view it was, with the finishing line and the rest of the team who had already completed the course. I was the last to finish from the team and placed 97th overall. The Regt have some good runners, with **LCpl Mason** coming second in the Women's event. Overall 16 Sig Regt has a strong team and did well, with high hopes for the rest of the season.





22nd SIGNAL REGIMENT STAFFORD



CO
RSM

Lt Col L Westerman
WO1 (RSM) R Midgley

We have had a Change of Command since the last edition of *The Wire*. We wish the outgoing CO **Lt Col Nesmith** the very best in her future post at HQLF whilst simultaneously giving a warm welcome to **Lt Col Westerman**. The new CO joins at a great time as we prepare to take on delivering close support to ARRC points of presence in NRF19 in addition to continuing to conduct our extensive station commitments in Stafford and taking part in numerous sporting events.



After a successful HOTO, it is back to business

222 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC
SSM

Maj O Dinnis
WO2 (SSM) King

MARSHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL VISIT – by LCpl Locke

On Friday 23 September members of Hotel Tp embarked on a visit to Marshlands Primary School, a local school for children with special needs. The Tp had been invited as part of their ‘‘Help for Heroes’’ fun day. The school has many links with the Army; **Mrs Ellis**, the head teacher’s daughter currently serves with 21 Sig Regt in Afghanistan. Other links included members serving with the Navy, Marines and Mercians. Due to these links the school felt it fitting to hold a H4H awareness day for children and staff, especially as a member of staff’s brother had recently been injured on operations.

On arriving at the school it became evident that the children were eager to come to meet us and see what we had brought along to show them. **2Lt Taylor** conducted an inspection of the children who had dressed in military fancy dress. They came to the ‘Army House’ det where a VHF radio was set up with 2 manpacks outside so they could talk to each other, which fascinated them. Due to the nature of the visit the day mainly involved getting the children to try on helmets, berets, cam cream and webbing. They took a liking to plastering **Sig Rawlins** in cam cream and then set upon their teachers.

The school was appreciative of our efforts and to the delight of **Sig Grimshaw** provided school dinners for everyone. To **2Lt Taylor’s** dismay no pink custard was served. After lunch it

was time to head for the playground where **LCpl Mabaso** and **LCpl Roman** both had their jackets taken for the children to play ‘army’. It became clear the children had far more energy than we anticipated. **Sig Gillick** and **Sgt Hankey** had to prove to some members of the older class exactly how many press ups the Army could do, ‘especially girls!’ remarked **Tristan**. As the day drew to a close a thank you card made by a few of the children was presented to the Tp as a token of gratitude from the school for the effort to make their day memorable.

SUPPORT SQUADRON

OC
SSM

Maj S Keilty MBE
WO2 (SSM) Rowley

THE ROYAL SIGNALS AUTUMN GOLF MEET – 6-8 Sep 11

The Regt entered 2 x 4 man teams to the R SIGNALS Autumn Golf meet which was held at Ashley Wood Golf Course, Blandford from 6-8 Sep 11. There were 64 individual golfers with 12 teams competing; this was the highest attendance participating in the Autumn Meet in recent years. In very testing and difficult conditions (blustery wind and more than occasional downpours), all 8 team members put in credible performances with the following successes:

Inter-unit team Champions: 22 SR Team 1 - **Capt (QM) Gerry McGachy**, **Capt Ash Ingham**, **SSgt Somras Tamang** and **Cpl Bhupal Gurung**.



Corps Golf Champs 8 man Team

Div 1 Medal Runner up: **SSgt Somras Tamang** (222 Sig Sqn)
Div 1 Stableford Winner: **SSgt Somras Tamang** (222 Sig Sqn)
Div 2 Medal Winner: **Cpl Bhupal Gurung** (217 Sig Sqn)
Div 2 Stableford Winner: **Capt Ash Ingham** (MTO)
Div 3 Stableford Runner up: **Capt Dean Whitworth** (Sp Sqn)



Sig Ross Wilson receives his trophy from Col Halstead

However the highlight of the Meet for 22 Sig Regt was **Sig Ross Wilson** (222 Sig Sqn) winning the Overall Autumn Meet Scratch Champion, well done **Ross**.

REGIMENTAL MT

It has been a fairly busy past couple of month’s within the MT especially with posting’s in and out. We have said farewell to **Capt Pollitt** as MTO and welcome **Capt Ingham** who is now in



the chair. We have also had an abundance of new Siggie's posted in so we say hello to **Sig's Devaney, Hutton, Ellis, Henry, Elmore** and **Anthony**, all straight out of Blandford with the exception of **Sig Elmore** who joined us from 16 Sig Regt.

The last couple of week's have seen the MT's main effort concentrating on supplying Transport for the Lanyard Trophy and setting up and running the Safe and Skilled Driving Competition held on 13 Sep 11. This was a fiercely contested event with 2 teams being entered from each Sqn. The competition consisted of 8 stands varying from the UK and European matrix test's to several driving stand's with varying level's of difficulty, the C+E reversing being one of the more challenging due to the nature of the small Dumper Truck and trailer borrowed from ALC. The serpentine run by **Sgt Place** provided a challenging but highly amusing stand with some unusual methods of directing the driver being shown mentioning no name's (**LCpl Yebuah** 252 Sig Sqn).



The driving competition was a real test for all competitors

The day was a huge success with all teams gaining some valuable experience and honing driving skills that are not used that often. The overall results were announced by the CO on Friday's PT Parade with Sp Sqn just edging out 222 Sig Sqn to take the Trophy (third time lucky). A big thank you goes out to **SSgt Ibinson** and **Sgt Alderson** for organizing the event and all the stand I/C's for there hard work during the day.

LORD MAYOR'S BIG CURRY – by LCpl Amrit Limbu

On Saturday 9 April 11 Birmingham's Victoria Square was transformed into a curry spectacular in aid of the ABF. This year's event had come together through the efforts and hard work of a range of local businesses and individuals. The Lord Mayor of Birmingham, **Lee Gregory**, was joined by TV chef **Rustie Lee** and local rock legend **Roy Wood** to judge the big curry cook-off. The competition to cook and deliver the best curry was fiercely contested by teams from University of Birmingham, top Indian Restaurant Itihaas and the Army. With space at the ready, chef's battled through the soaring afternoon heat to deliver food for a round of Master Chef and all this in military field kitchens.

The competition was fierce with 2 first class students from the University of Birmingham. Next came the Head Chef and his Sous Chef from Itihaas Restaurant, the most famous Indian in Birmingham. These were the main competitors and bookies favourite. They came with a cabinet of trophies to their name, including The British Curry Awards in 2006, Cobra Curry Awards for the UK Restaurant, Best Restaurant in Midland's 2007 & 2008, winner of Menu Magazines and 'Newcomer of the year' for Ethnic food at the Best of Britain Awards 2009. From 22 Sig Regt, **LCpl Bishan Pun** and I were representing the Army. We didn't have as many awards but we had a knowledge and experience with curry. Our menu was very classic Nepalese dishes, connected with very popular and delicious dishes of Gurkha style.

The curries came from various Asian countries including Nepal, India, Thailand, Burma, Malaysia and Indonesia, taking into account that curries differ greatly in their taste, content

and country of origin. There is also the chef factor; no 2 chefs' make identical meals, each has his or her own special style and adds that individual touch to a fantastic meal. Essentially a curry is a spicy recipe but the way the types of spices and herbs are used differs considerably from country to country. We should understand that not all curries are hot; in fact there are more mild curry recipes than hot ones. These are designed to give a cleverly balanced blend of the various spices and herbs used. This is the reason that Gurkha curries are the best and highly delicate curries in the world.

Finally the Lord Mayor announced the Army as the winning team on the BRMB radio stage. Commenting on the standard of the cooking, celebrity TV chef **Rustie Lee** said, "I am amazed at what the guys have cooked, it's been absolutely fabulous". She was asked by live BRMB radio, why she chose the Army? She answered; "I was blown away by taste and the way they presented their food". The Bde Comd was present and thoroughly enjoyed the day and gave us great praise. We were also very delighted with our work and achievement. As a QOGLR chef and team captain I was very honoured to represent 22 Sig Regt and the Army.

248 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj D Farragher**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Dev**

HAPPY DASHAIN STAFFORD – by Sig Rajendra Rai

Dashain is the auspicious festival of Nepal, celebrated by all caste and creed throughout the country. It lasts for 15 days of celebration and occurs during the bright lunar fortnight ending on the night of the full moon. It is a time of family reunion, blessing and abundant offerings of thousands of animal sacrifices for the ritual holy bathing. The festival commemorates the great victory of good over evil and is celebrated with great cultural and traditional significance in the Bde of Gurkhas. On 30 Sep 2011, Dashain at Stafford was a huge success where 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn managed to setup its venue at the Lekali Cclub in a very short period of time thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm from the Sqn personnel. At the same time, the cultural team were also busy in conducting their practice and rehearsal for the cultural dance programme under the command of **Cpl Milan Rai**.



Happy Dashain!

The programme started at 1830hrs where everyone along with their families met at the venue's entrance. Later at 1900hrs all the Gurkha Officers, WOs and SNCOs along with their wives lined up at the entrance gate to welcome the VIPs of the night, which included the new CO, **Lt Col Westerman**. The Nepalese food prepared by the Gurkha chefs went down extremely well and the performance that the cultural team gave was enjoyed by everyone that watched. At the end, there was a khusiko naach where everyone was welcomed up



onto the stage to dance to a mixture of Nepali and British music, making a perfect end to a perfect evening and a Dashain that Stafford won't forget for a very long time.

Finally, on the behalf of 248 Sqn and family. I would like to wish you a very happy Dashain 2011.

252 (HONG KONG) SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj G Lewendon**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) D Owen**

SUNRISE WALK FOR WINSTON'S WISH – by LCpl Spain

On Saturday 17 September 25 volunteers from 252 Sig Sqn got up early and made our way to Cheltenham race course to provide support in the form of markers for this year's Sunrise Walk, a sponsored event for the local charity, Winston's Wish.

The 10 mile walk began just before day break. The trail leader James positioned us at waypoints where people might have gone off course. We began the ascent into the hills above Cheltenham just as the sun was rising. There was a barn at the half way point where you could grab a bottle of water. Once they had all gone through his way point, **Cpl Dobson** managed to over take the civvies and catch up to the leader so he could be used at another marker point. Also **Capt Turner** was running the course with his wife, or rather, dragging her round! PTI **Cpl Thomas** was also on hand in case any of the people taking part needed motivating.

We were questioned by some people if our mate **LCpl Fagan** was here again this year as according to them he sent them on a "small" detour last year! For the 2nd year running **Sgt O'Connor** came along and I was also there dishing out morale to those who needed an energy boost. At the end of the walk we were given goody bags with a thermos mug, t-shirt and energy saving light bulbs, random! Thanks to RS Components.

Our support was gratefully received and the organisers said they couldn't do it without us. It was a great opportunity for children, family and friends of all ages who have suffered through a bereavement to get together and raise money and awareness for such a worthy cause and one which is quite pertinent to the Army. The next event for the charity will be "Hug a Squaddie" where we will hopefully be able to shake buckets in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury town centres in various states of dress to see if we can beat our last effort where we raised over £2,600 in Cheltenham alone. I think we'll leave the Ghillie suit behind this year as it made too many small children cry last time!

TRAINING FOR EXERCISE RANDONÉE DRAGON

Over the last few months one main focus of the Sqn has been the cycling team's training for Ex RANDONÉE DRAGON. This will take place in early October and will be a 10 day challenge to cycle 936 miles from John O'Groats to Lands End. The team will consist of riders from the Regt with a Stafford based element training in and around Beacon Barracks and an Innsworth based element training around Gloucester. Some good routes have already been identified with **Capt Turner's** favourite being Birdlip Hill! This has proven to be a real man test to get up and one which **SSgt Ralley** refuses to let beat him. It has now become an almost weekly feature in the training due to the enthusiasm of these two!



Sig Garrard enjoying the ride!

Training started with some short 15-20 mile rides on relatively flat terrain to give people a chance to test out their bikes and become accustomed to being in the saddle for a long time, but soon progressed to 60-75 mile rides for Wednesday sports afternoons, which were warmly welcomed! However, it soon progressed that the pain of the distance meant that some people would probably have preferred to stay in work...

After a couple of months the team was selected and now the detailed preparations are setting in. **Sig Garrard** still maintains he doesn't

need energy drinks and will survive on "a cup of tea and cigarettes", but the rest of us are loading up with energy and carbs! We're pretty sure he'll come round! Other than "fuel" everyone is now looking into more detail at the kit and beginning to get "the special clip in shoes". Cycling with cleats whilst cleated in is a new beast entirely and whilst it is more efficient and helps you move faster, you also fall off more easily! Remembering to clip out when you stop is a lot more complicated than it sounds as many of us have found out... Luckily only a few scraped knees have been the results and most recently we've managed to keep all riders in the saddle!

With the route finalised and the date set all that remains is the last few weeks of training and then the 22 Sig Regt cycling team will begin the 10 day challenge. Wish us luck and watch this space for the follow-up article!



30th SIGNAL REGIMENT BRAMCOTE



CO **Lt Col R J Watts**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) L Tosh**

250 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj P C Wettenhall**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Unbahadur Thapa**

Heck of a couple of months for 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn, with a fairly seismic shift in direction for nearly all personnel. We have divested ourselves of our JTFHQ responsibilities and moved on to pastures new, time will tell if they are greener.

Of particular recent note has been the handful of soldiers employed propping up the Libyan Transitional National

Council on the ground in Bengazi and Tripoli; working hand in hand with coalition nations and Libyan troops. We have also been assigned the Perigrine Engineering Team task; signing for FALCON from 222 Sig Sqn and commencing the Op HERRICK Network Build Up Exercise 4B1; quite a learning curve but one the soldiers have relished. The newly formed Airborne Task Force det has deployed on Ex JOINT WARRIOR supporting 16 AAslt Bde, where, despite not being able to fit in a day-sack and be deployed under a handkerchief and bits of string, has been very well received. We have also recently taken on responsibility for the Spearhead Land Element det, returning soldiers to the familiar requirements of R1 status after a short break. We've managed a smattering of AT, stalked a few more deer, provided the Army with 7 of the top 100 shots, danced through Dashain and recovered from Tihar.



All in all a positive and successful few months, noting that Christmas is scheduled not before time this year.

OP ELLAMY: POST TOUR REPORT – by Sig Santa Gurung

On 17 March 2011 United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973 was adopted on the situation in Libya. This resolution formed the legal basis for military intervention in the Libyan civil war, demanding an immediate ceasefire and authorising the international community to establish a no-fly zone and to use all means necessary short of foreign occupation to protect civilians. Under NATO's Op UNIFIED PROTECTOR, the instigation of Op ELLAMY took place later in the month which was directed by the Prime Minister for the establishment of a UK Diplomatic Mission in Benghazi. This mission would link with the anti-Gadhafi Interim Transitional National Council, establish their credentials, help establish ground truth and look for ways in which they could support International community efforts under UNSCR 1973.

The mission was a small group led by JFHQ SO1 Defence Advisor who would work alongside the Special Envoy Head of Mission. He was accompanied a small group of staff and 2 JFHQ Signallers equipped with mobile secure lightweight CIS equipment. The team was limited to work at the operational level within the confines of Benghazi. The team later pushed as far as Tripoli after a long ongoing revolution and fighting from the opposition. As part of the team the signallers' role was to understand the nature of the opposition military and identify ways, within UNSCR 1973, to assist the Defence Advisor with a robust and reliable means of secure comms either via data and voice capability or VTC. Over the period of the Op 6 pers from 250 GSS have served in Libya.

The daily role included working in the Libyan Joint Operations Centre (JOC), manning of a UK ops room, maintenance of secure comms and the interaction of Libyan 2 Star Officers and HQ staff in the de-confliction of NATO flight operations. Working in a small team was a very challenging task.

This was a unique and fascinating deployment partly because of the work environment which consisted of people from different nationalities, and partly because of the revolution that is still ongoing. Although having spent a short spell on tour and played a very small role, I came back with a huge satisfaction for being able to assist a very jovial and helpful people in the Libyan opposition forces.

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD BY SIKH COMMUNITY

– by Capt Ganesh Gurung

LCpl Simranjit Singh, community workers and members of the armed forces attended the Service to the Sikh Community Award Ceremony held at the Town Hall in Birmingham on 14



LCpl Singh takes a pose in front of RHQ QG Signals

Sep 2011. The Event was organised by the Sikh Television Channel and individuals receive awards in different categories. **LCpl Singh** received the public service prize which was awarded by **Brig Benham**.

LCpl Singh was inspired to join the army after meeting his uncle in the Indian Army, **Maj Harminder Singh**, and also having his grandfather serve in the British Indian Army. **LCpl Singh** joined the army in 2006 from Coventry, after finishing his phase one training he has regularly engaged with the local Sikh Community, schools and temples where he has met positively with a wide cross section of society to educate them about the Army and opportunities it offers. **LCpl Singh** assists the Army with Community Engagement as he is a well known figure within the Sikh Community from his previous service as part of the Queen's Guard in 2009. He has done a lot to keep the army in the public eye and encouraged his community to follow his path. He also travels to Vaisakhi (Birth of Sikhism) which is celebrated in April which always results in a number of enquiries to the Army Careers Centre.

EXERCISE SWAN CONNECTION 2 – by Cpl Narayan Khadka

With new roles within the Regt, Sqns were undergoing huge changes in their roles and responsibilities. The introduction of FALCON in the foreseeable future for the first time has come as a bit of excitement for the whole Regt and the Sqn.

Ex SWAN CONNECTION 2 (5-16 Sept 2011) was organised with the aim to help the Sqns orientate themselves with their new role. The ex was also aimed to shape X-Ray Tp's current role of SSCBG (Small Scale Communication Battle Group) into its new role of ABTF. On Ex SC2, X-Ray Tp was deployed under Joint Task Force Head Quarter currently held by 256 Sig Sqn.

After completion of all preliminary comms preparation under the watchful eyes of **Capt Shankar Gurung**, the Tp deployed to Swynnerton Camp. Apart from getting our hands on the kit, the drivers had an invaluable left hand driving experience. The second phase was conducted at The Royal Engineers' TA centre in Sheffield. Hard Shelter and building of opportunity was a morale booster for the guys on the ground, especially without having to setup the tents. Despite having some technical difficulties which required 2nd line support to investigate, the exercise went smoothly. We also found time for weapon handling test as part of MATT which was conducted by **Cpl Khagendra** and a lesson on Cormorant which was given by **Cpl Narayan**, new members of the Tp.

For the final phase of the exercise, the Tp recovered back to Bramcote. All the links and services between JTFHQ and SLE elements were up and running without major issues thanks to all the experience gained over the week, which proved invaluable for all. With the completion of Ex SC2, X-Ray Tp is now ready for its new role of ABTF and looking forward for EX JOINT WARRIOR with 3 PARA Battle Group in Scotland.



Ex Swan Connection 2, X-Ray Tp with OC 250 Sqn, OC Tp and SSM



EXERCISE SNOWDONIA DRAGON – by LCpl Ramkumar Gurung

250 GSS deployed to Capel Curig for a week of adventure training from 26 – 30 Sep 2011. The package was organised by **Sgt Surendra Limbu** and consisted of numerous recreational, adrenaline pumping and bone thrilling activities such as mountain biking, hill walking, kayaking and rock climbing.

On arriving in the training camp we were briefed on the sequence of events for the week. We were divided into 2 groups and were given all the AT equipment needed.

The week got off to a good start with fantastic sunny weather. The hill walking commenced with a gentle 25 km walk along the arduous terrain of Snowdonia, the highest summit in Wales. We were given a map and a compass to lead in turn by our MLT instructors and they watched our safety from behind. When we got close to the summit the going got very steep. The summit is marked by a cairn, on top of which a brass plaque is mounted. The brass plaque points out what we can see in the distant horizon. In our case we could hardly see anything in front due to the intense fog.



A group photo taken at the summit of Snowdonia

Although we had previous kayaking experiences from basic training, we found new thrills every time we paddled. We were taught some of the vital skills needed in kayaking. **Sig Fung** amused us after seeing him struggling to control his kayak eventually requiring him to use the capsize drill again and again. The mountain biking was run by **Capt Sillito** (250 Ops Offr). We rode on the marine circuit which consisted of all sorts of terrains ranging from a smooth pitched road to dusty bumpy roads. The most exciting bit was yet to be discovered towards the end when we no longer had to peddle while coming all the way downhill, we did occasionally have to pick ourselves up and get back on our bikes though.

Rock climbing and abseiling were both fun and adrenaline pumping activities. To overcome our fear of heights we had fantastic RLT instructors, **Cpl Sujan** and **Sig Anup** who covered all the safety aspects prior to the climbing. With all the vital skills such as learning how to make a figure of eight with the rope, belaying and abseiling techniques everyone carried out both climbing and abseiling with confidence.

This exercise has enhanced our core leadership and teamwork spirits without any doubt. In addition to those it also strengthened our mental and physical endurance. The AT came to an end with delicious BBQ in the evening.

256 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj A Aylward**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) M J Lane**

EXERCISE SWAN CONNECTION 2 – by LCpl Thorpe

Ex SWAN CONNECTION 2 was an exercise which involved 3 Tps being deployed throughout England in order to provide a

mock operational environment, in which the operability of various systems used by the Regt could be tested. It is safe to say some of the kit performed brilliantly while other pieces were not so great, but more about that later. I was part of the Spearhead Lead Element from Bravo Tp.

The exercise began on a bleak Monday morning at 0530hrs, so as you can imagine morale was at an all time high and enthusiasm peaked everywhere. After a few hours of final preparation we hit the road arriving at location late morning. Looking around Nescliffe training area **Lt Campbell** quickly analysed the ground in comparison to the map we had been briefed on and under his direction unpacked our comms kit. We set up dial-up JOCS, sent a message stating we had arrived and began to lay out the framework for the tents. In good old army fashion, we soon realised the big 18x24 HQ tent would never fit inside the barn we had chosen to be our home for the next week and so in the true nature of adapt and overcome we re-arranged the tent removing one of each of the small and large poles making it small enough to fit.

The next challenge was getting FOC and whilst we worked hard with the comms kit **Lt Campbell** and **Sgt Greenhough** came up with an excellent idea (or at least that's what the guys who didn't win thought) and so we were introduced to the morale board. This resulted in every mistake on the ex being tallied and the top 3 offenders would present the Tp with a 'forfeit'. After an hour everything was in and working, well almost everything. Being the SME in J1/J4 I regret to admit it would not work for love nor money. After spending hours fault finding to no avail we spoke to the SMC and began working alongside them to repair it. This pretty much set the standard for J1/J4 during the ex and so I spent the next few days being ribbed by the JOCS crew (which was amazing fun honest). So **LCpl Coleman** and **Sig Greenhalgh**, if you're reading this – thanks, you made my exercise so much better! During these few days I did some on the job training such as VTC connectivity and some basic Cormorant training, however **Cpl Robson's** tooth being chipped by **LCpl Coleman** and his rifle has to go down as one of the exercise highlights which of course saw a few points awarded toward the morale board. A few days later we received notice to move and tore down, packed up and made the journey to Southampton docks.

On arrival at Southampton we repeated the process and it was around about now that **Cpl Robson** had his vengeance on **LCpl Coleman**. This resulted in **LCpl Coleman** receiving a VTC on the head (accidentally) and a hospital visit and of course some more points for the morale board. We then spent the next few days as before although here we had the space for some sport and so the Tp enjoyed a bit of touch rugby and some light jogging. Despite only being in changing rooms I think it safe to say that everyone enjoyed sleeping within a building rather than a barn although the smell did leave a lot to be desired. Having spent a few days in this location we again received notice to move and so moved to our final location at 37 Sig Regt (V) in Redditch.

On arriving at our final location we spent an hour waiting for the DAFs to catch up and finally began setting up, this time deciding our new residence should be a garage. However this proved to be quite short lived as we learned that the next day we'd be returning to camp. This came as a god send to me as I was already developing a nice lead on the "morale" board. After a final few hours it was time to pack up ready for departure. During this time **Lt Campbell** and **Sgt Greenhough** managed to invent another fun game resulting in some lovely last minute morale points before we got back to camp.

To summarise, this exercise achieved all its aims and resulted in some brilliant training for the younger members of the Tp such as myself and other new arrivals. Whilst sharpening the skills of the more experienced soldiers, it also allowed us to



see how our role works in an operational environment and gave us training in the skills needed to cope with the pressure of our unique job. And so a couple of pounds lighter from the amazing rat pack diet and owing the Tp a 'forfeit', I came out of this exercise with a much better feel for my own role and a better understanding of the comradeship the army promotes.

MATTs CAMP – by LCpl Randall

256 Sig Sqn deployed to Nesscliff training camp on 26 Sep to conduct a MATT's week. Out of the original 50, there were only 27 people who weren't on "courses or sports". Within 5 minutes of arriving Alpha Tp made themselves at home by putting the Alpha sign above the door of the accommodation.

The week wasn't going to be a mess around or hard and included a PFA, a booted run and potted sports. The PFA route was very uneven and on poor terrain and there were also cattle grids. **Sig Harvey**, who was doing his first PFA in a year, overcame the tough conditions and passed well. The boot run was just over 6 miles long and with the heat beating down it took its toll on many of those who took part. Again no one dropped off which was a great achievement for all.

On the Thursday the NavEx began with everyone released at 5 minute intervals in pairs to various RV points. All of the points were annotated on maps and the route looped once round the training area. At each RV there was a question about general knowledge within the MATT syllabus. Overall it was an enjoyable experience. In the evening we all attended a team bonding and social event in the Officers' Mess with a serving of curry and some well earned liquid refreshment.

On the Friday **Cpl Mansell** arranged for 15 people to conduct underwater escape training at Yeovilton UETU. This is where naval pilots and crewman conduct their training in a mock up Lynx helicopter. It consisted of 4 phases. Phase 1 was to be lowered in slowly and upright, just to get the feel of how quick it fills up with water and to familiarize ourselves with the drills. Phases 2, 3 and 4 were all the same but faster with different light settings, starting with full light through to pitch black. Sadly **LCpl Globe** and **Sig Prest** did not finish and receive the certificate. On the plus side **Capt Barrett** on 8 October competed in the Swindon half marathon.

SUPPORT SQUADRON

OC **Maj P Griffiths**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) A Setchfield**

Having overseen another successful summer of madness, Regtl Open Day, Regtl BBQ, ECI, Alderney it is time for 'the boss' **Maj 'Griff' Griffiths** to break out the carpet slippers and relax for a while up in York. We welcome **Maj Steve Lockwood** who takes over the reigns just in time to allow the 2IC **Capt Shuggy Hughes** to sprint into Civ Div.

ADVENTURE TRAINING 17-22 JULY 11

Canoeing – by Cfn Johnson

After a hard couple of weeks in the LAD with preparation for the ECI, Regtl Open Day and BBQ all within a month of each other, **SSgt Nicholls** arranged a week away in Capel Curig for some well earned adventure training to do either hill walking, kayaking, canoeing or multi-activities for the week. As we arrived at the 5 star Army accommodation we were greeted by one of the instructors who showed us to our top quality rooms, then ushered us into the briefing room for the mandatory briefs and to find out the activities we were doing. Myself and most other sane people had our fingers crossed for anything but hill walking and were extremely relieved when given canoeing

Canoeing day one entailed basic skills on how to control and paddle the boat which we all took to pretty fast. On day 2, more of the basic skills and how to recover a capsized boat. We each successfully completed the recovery drill until it was **Cfn Stone's** turn. His recovery partner, **Cfn James**, passed the capsized boat to assist **Cfn Stone** in his recovery and as the boat was now flipped for some unknown reason they both let go. At this point **Cfn Stone** started to float away with the current. As he tried to swim back to his boat he didn't have the strength to push through the water thus leaving himself swimming in one spot in the lake, which we all found highly amusing. Day 3 was the only day which we saw sunlight that week. It was a lovely and warm and an absolute pleasure paddling around the lake putting our new skills into action. **Cpl Hucklesby** decided to take his over jacket off and release his massive guns to the world but was the unfortunate victim of the sun as he was burnt pretty badly but manned up and completed the week. Day 4 saw us enter the sea and even though we used the same techniques, it felt totally different when we were paddling against the waves. Day 5 was a free day where we went to the lake and paddled around for an hour or so on our own to build confidence. A successful week was rounded off with the presentation of our certificates in foundation canoeing.

Kayaking - by Cfn Hough

Day 1 for the lads kayaking saw us learn capsize drills and basic skills in a lake which quickly turned into upside down paddling and our very own **SSgt Bromage** was the first to go under. Day 2 saw us get introduced to grade 1 and 2 star river kayaking, the river we were on started as a grade 1 and we progressed to a grade 2 and as you could guess there were many capsize along the way. On day 3 we went back onto the lake to polish up on our paddling drills and then had to do a team rescue where everyone got thrown out of their boats and had to get back into them using teamwork. Day 4 gave us the chance to go back onto a grade 2 river and practice our paddling there. This day was by far the most fun but at the same time the most challenging due to the fast flowing water and 2 foot drops with stoppers which made for bumpy ride. **Sig Oates** spent most of his day upside down in the rapids. Day 5, the final day gave us a chance to try out different variations of kayak. For the 5 days hard work and effort we all put in we received a 2 star kayak proficiency certificate.

Hill Walking - by LCpl Havinden

Day 1 and we got issued the kit needed for the week ahead. This entailed hill walking to a grade 1 scrambling level which enabled us to achieve SMP (Summer Mountain Proficiency). One member of the team was already MLT (Mountain Leader Trained) and used this opportunity to refresh his skills. Once the kit was checked for serviceability we went to the mini bus and headed out towards a place called Conway. On arrival we carried out a small NavEx to refresh our map reading skills, heading in the direction of McDonalds as most squaddies do. Tuesday was a more physically demanding day. The area we used was wet, the ground extremely boggy and the weather very overcast. We set off at a slow pace taking in the sights and referring to them on the map. On the way back down the instructor slipped and fell half way down the hill, much to the amusement of the others! We headed back towards the car soon after that. Wednesday was a day I was very much looking forward to as we were heading up Mount Tryfan. On the way up it became apparent that we had a weak soldier among our ranks, **Cpl Roy Flanagan** (MLT &PTI) doesn't like heights!! He therefore demanded to wear a confidence rope to assist him climbing over the "pebbles" which we encountered throughout the day. I on the other hand had no such problems leaping and bounding up the mountain with freedom and ease. Thursday was our expedition and overnighter. The area we were using was Cadair Idris which



started off to be pretty easy going as a lot of it was steps up the side of the hill, until we reached a slate bridge. From there it was an ascent up a shale hillside. Once we reached the top where it was very windy, we did the usual photo and poses. Lunch was taken before heading down. Friday we packed up and headed back to camp to hand all the kit in we had been issued ready for the journey back to Nuneaton.

Multi-Activities - by Cfn Connell-Moore

Those that didn't need, want or ask to get a qualifications in a specific subject got to do a multi activity week. On day 1 we spent the morning bouldering and the afternoon climbing the walls. Day 2 saw us in the sea in kayaks to do a bit of kayak surfing. Not being a fan of the sea myself, I still got in and joined in with the tasks given to us. **Cfn Jefferis** at first struggled to control the kayak. As she capsized she fell out and sent the kayak coursing towards a group of civvies narrowly missing them. Day 3 we spent the day hill walking where we got eaten alive by midges. On day 4 we went mounting biking where **Sgt Jim Greenham** broke a nail disconnecting the trailer and spent the whole day in A&E getting his finger bandaged up. Friday, the last day, we had the chance to go abseiling off a 147ft cliff with the whole group (nearly) managing to complete it.

Overall my personal experience of Capel Curig was top and I would definitely want to return to do more courses. They are spread out over the year and are all over the world. I highly recommend going there with your units to gain some AT qualifications and experience

EXERCISE RAMPANT LION 28 JULY-12 AUG 11 - by Sgt S Lewis

Ex RAMPANT LION is Sp Sqn's annual visit to the Island of Alderney, where we undertake various Military Aid to the Civil Community (MACC) projects. This year's visit coincided with the 40th Anniversary of the Regts association with the Island. After a 3 day recce in mid May, a number of projects were highlighted including preparation for a parade through the island exercising the Regt's Freedom of the Island and to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of our association.



LCpl Rouget supervising weapon handling with a young islander

This year's MACC projects were to include re-instating **Spr Onions'** grave, who was a Royal Engineer sadly killed clearing mines after the occupation, re-instating the water trough at the airport, re-instating the Lost at Sea Memorial at the harbour and repainting the harbour masters office and work for the Island Conservation project at Les Rochers, a World War 2 German gun emplacement at the top of the Island.

The Regt also exercised its right to the Freedom of the Island and marched through the High Street with bayonets fixed. There was a great turnout, the streets were packed with people who really appreciated us undertaking work on the island. The President of the Island took the salute with the CO.



Sig Jukes repaints Sapper Onions' grave

Ex RAMPANT LION falls over Alderney Week where the Islands number swells by almost 200%. This is the Islands main social occasion consisting of a number of events from sandcastle building, unpowered flight, strong man and a 10km run. We play football against the Island's semi-professional team and a game of golf against the islands club players, all of these events go towards a competition for the Gamecock Cup. Sadly this year we lost to the Islanders although we gave a sterling account of ourselves in the football, losing 4-2. Particular praise must go to **LCpl Alfie Garnett** and **Sig Minty Moran** who never stopped running and putting the tackles in.

The strongman and unpowered flight drew massive crowds around the harbour and the Regts participation was fiercely contested. **Maj Pete Griffiths, WO2 (QMSI) Lee Millet** and **LCpl 'Alfie' Garnett** took part in the strongman contest and although it more represented a pub games night, the jeep pull at the end was very cheeky. All of our contestants gave a superb account of themselves, however they lost out to an amazingly strong local. The unpowered flight was again this year championed by **LCpl Mitch Fuller-Tierney** with the Mark 2 version of last years winning design. Sadly this year didn't go quite as planned as the Mk 2 wing snagged on the end of the platform and left pilot **Sig 'Dukesy' Dukes** falling to the icy cold water less his craft. This years Tug of War competition on the cavalcade was a massive triumph. After overcoming the local police force, who cheated by having 10 men on the rope, we moved through the competition with ease until the final pull which was fiercely contested, however we walked away triumphant. We also gave a good account of ourselves in the 10km run, with a team tabbing round with CFT weight and all other exercise members running in the 5km, 10km and 12km ish run. A special mention to **Sig Kev Masamba** who won the 12km ish run, which was a 10km run but some of the runners were sent the wrong way so it ended up 12km.

This year's Ex RAMPANT LION was the epitome of work hard, play hard which all the lads thoroughly enjoyed. All the MACC projects were completed and the Regt entered a team in every event and gave a fantastic account of ourselves challenging the locals every step of the way. Finally one very special mention to **KEITH!!!!!!**



Maj 'Griff' Griffiths leads the marching contingent as the salute is taken by CO and President of Alderney





32nd SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS) GLASGOW



CO
RSM

Lt Col Phil Donegan
WO1 (RSM) Newton

be carried out by a neutral selector to prevent any cries of "FIX!" (of which they may have been one or two!).

NEWS FROM RHQ

The last 3 months has been a busy period. The focus has been on the preparation and deployment on the 2-week Annual Camp. This year saw us deploy to Elmpt Station in Germany to conduct trade training and mil skills, before moving to Harscamp in Holland to conduct a full range package. Big thanks for their efforts to enable this ambitious ex must go to the Ops Maj, **Maj Rhid Jones**, and his team and to the support elements from 52 Sp Sqn and the QM, **Capt Paul Buckley** – G4 is not a dirty word! The Camp went smoothly from start to finish (although I'm sure there was some frantic underwater paddling at times by the support team in order to achieve and maintain this state!), and there is no doubt the soldiers will have many stories to tell of this Camp in the years to come – they definitely made the most of the experience! In conjunction with Camp, September also saw elements of 51 Sig Sqn, under command of **Maj Helen Jephcote**, deploy on Ex SCOTTISH BUZZARD, providing very successful training and CIS support to the deployed RF Bde Staff.

Within RHQ, Regt Ops has seen the arrival of **WO2 (YofS) Ross Menzies**, replacing **YofS John Inglis**, who shortly comes to the end of his career in the Army (who knows, we may even entice him back to the TA!). Also arriving fresh faced is **SSgt (FofS IS) Iain Munro**, who will have the task, once he has dusted off his desk, of taking the Regt's IS capability forward – "Just in time" I'm sure thinks Regt FofS **Keveaves**, as he hands over the incoming MOSS application to the new arrival.

As well as comms, the last couple of months have seen Regtl personnel challenge themselves out in the country's wilder environments. In Scotland, 51 Sqn's **SSgt Jim Omahony** took a small crew sailing up the west coast of the country (sailing may be a slight exaggeration, due to a lack of wind!) and even some of the regular staff managed to step away from the Inbox long enough for a couple of days walking and mountain biking (and getting soaked in streams) around the hills and lochs near Aviemore - all in the name of team building!

The pace of life does not look to slow much over the next period, and the calendar is quickly filling up as RHQ looks forward and begins to prepare for next years events, including support to Op OLYMPICS and the deployment of soldiers on Op HERRICK. It certainly stops life being boring!

REGIMENTAL GOLF DAY

On Friday 5 August the Regtl golfers went to war, well a day's golf in sunny Bellshill in Lanarkshire to be more accurate. You would have thought by the intense concentration on some people's faces on arrival that it was a bit more serious than a golf day. Between members of the Regt and guests we had a total of 16 playing.

The morning round was a 3-man Texas Scramble competition, competing for the Peter "PC" Campbell Memorial Trophy. This trophy was purchased by the Regt in memory of "PC", the PSAO of 61 Sig Sqn who died 3 years ago, as it turned out on the same date as the competition this year. The teams were selected by **Sgt Tam McCole** and there was definitely some dubious methods used in selection which resulted in his team winning by a country mile. Team selection next year will



Sgt McCole and his winning team

In the afternoon there were a variety of competitions, with prizes for the longest drive and nearest the pin, Members Gross, Net and Stableford, and a Guests Stableford. The standard of golf was pretty good with **Mr John Shearer** (an ex member of the Regt) winning the guest prize and **WO2 (RQMS) Sam Parks** winning the Regtl Championship.

We were fortunate to be joined by **Sarah Campbell**, PC's widow, as well as some other members of his family. **Sarah** kindly presented the prizes for us. Due to some financial wizardry by **Sgt McCole** everyone competing won a prize of some description. I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Sgt McCole** for organising this year's event. It was great to get a team out, an enjoyable day was had by all and it was fitting to remember an old friend of the Regt now gone.

33 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC
SSM

Maj Bob Paterson
WO2 (SSM) Hanna

EXERCISE ARNHEM DROP 2011 - by LCpl Kath Wilkinson

Two weeks of hard work by **SSgt Stevie Jolliffe** had created a chance for 7 members of 33 Sig Sqn (V) to catch a lift in a C130 Hercules with elements of 4 Bn (V), Para Regt, as they commemorated the Airborne effort during Op MARKET GARDEN in 1944. Unfortunately for us the nocturnal antics of some of our cousins across the wall meant a change of plan and we had to be happy with a ground level view of the Drop.

An early start to the day in Holland saw the remaining Phoenix clan departing in convoy with 4 Para from Harskamp to Ginkle Heath (Drop Zone Yankee). Our prime viewing location allowed the 7 of us (**SSgt Jolliffe**, **Cpl's Tommy Harrison**, **Phil 'Brad' Bradley**, and **LCpl's Wayne McGarry**, **Anthony 'Stuie' Stewart**, **James Isherwood** and **Kathryn Wilkinson**) a great view of the combination of C130 Hercules, C160 Transall and C47 Dakota aircraft from the UK, US, Dutch and German forces as they arrived en-masse over the DZ. To complete the scene a collection of military vehicles from the period were also on display. The aircraft passed above the DZ at a height of around 800ft, dispensing paratroopers from the range of nations involved, which made for a great display. The impressive view of the 3 "lifts" of multinational Para's filling the skies with parachutes must have only been a tiny representation of the sights witnessed 67 year ago at this DZ



during Op MARKET GARDEN. It was an excellent experience to witness and made a great ending to Annual Camp this year.



40 (NORTH IRISH HORSE) SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj S Burgess**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) G Campbell**

ANNUAL CAMP 2011

On Friday 2 Sept members of 40 (NIH) Sig Sqn reported at Clonaver TAC in preparation for Annual Camp 2011 (AC11) in Germany; the destination was Javelin Barracks, Elmpt Station. Everyone in the Sqn had truly been looking forward to AC11 and relished at the opportunity to get to train in both Germany and Holland; especially at a time when budget constraints often limit what can be done.

After a mini MOBEX was carried at SHQ and funds allocated to sustain us en-route – along with ‘super pack lunch’ produced by SQMS **Sgt Cathy Barker** – we were all prepared and set for the long journey (by sea and land) from N Ireland to Germany.

We left SHQ Clonaver at 2100hrs to catch a boat to Scotland; this was the beginning of our journey and we would not be arriving in Germany until the early hours of Sunday morning - some 29hrs after departure! The OC, **Maj Sam Burgess**, 2IC, **Capt Derek Irvine** and SPSI, **SSgt Steve Anderson**, were dropped off at Javelin Barracks while the main body had to be located at JHQ; some 20 mins away by coach. On arrival we quickly got settled into our accommodation, which was clean, comfortable and had everything we needed. It was then a case of everyone trying to get some much needed sleep for a few hours to be ready for the AC11 intro brief by the CO and RHQ staff at Javelin Barracks first thing after breakfast. Understandably all Sqn personnel were very tired given the distance we had just travelled and RHQ kindly stepped in to adjust the program for us; which included shifting the PFA some 24 hrs to afford people time to be properly rested and hydrated. The Sqn achieved a 90% pass rate with those who were tested, so the rest had the desired effect! Thankfully the stay at JHQ was short lived as the QM, **Capt Paul Buckley**, was able to secure accommodation for the Sqn in Javelin Barracks after a few days. It was a welcome move as it helped greatly with feeding times and assisted those who had command meetings etc to attend outside of the working day.

The first week encompassed a good mix of trade training and military skills. The JNCOs attended Bowman Trg while SNCOs and Offrs took part in a Sqn Comd Post (SCP) trg package. The SCP Trg was very informative and educational,



WO2 (SSM) Glenn Campbell all warlike during the Military Skills Competition

especially for those who did the recent TOSCA tour and have not been heavily involved in UK Ops work for a while. **Capt Nathan Streetley** (new Adjt 32 Sig Regt) and TOT **Capt Steve Erskine** headed up the SCP Training, providing both Offrs and SNCO’s valuable tools and templates for use in any Comd Post type situation. The phrase “So what?” was well exhausted during the ICS Estimate, and is being used in imaginative ways by the SSM, **WO2 Glenn Campbell**.

In the middle of week 1 Mess functions took place at Elmpt. Both the Offrs’ and WOs’ & Sgts’ Mess members were very impressed with the standards in the Javelin Messes and the attention to detail by the staff. Everything from the layout of the tables, quality of food and delivery of service was expertly done. A lot of hard work had clearly gone into preparing the evening and making it a success for all. Many thanks from the Sqn to those in both Messes who did the background work.

At the back end of week 1 the Military Skills phase kicked in. Thursday and Friday were dedicated to beat up training, with Sqns completing several stands covering all types of activity from causality evacuation, CIED/ambush drills to section battle drills. It was a great opportunity for the new people in the Sqn to gain experience and seasoned members to receive some refresher training in current techniques and tactics. The week concluded with a Military Skills Competition on Saturday – the day when all the drills and skills would be put into practice as teams competed their way around the stands. The event was very well organised and the training value achieved was enormous. DComd 2 Bde, **Col Chris Edwards**, visited the Regt over this phase and got valuable feedback on how AC11 was progressing. Everyone in the Sqn got something out of the event and the post competition BBQ was a very welcome opportunity to get some food and replenish those depleted energy levels from the stretcher run! It was also great to see **Lord Rogan** (Sqn Hon Col) and **Padre Ian Gamble** (former 40 Sig Regt) make the journey to Germany to see us.



Team No 8 on the Military Skills Day lead by Sgt Glenn Adair

AC11 was a great opportunity for the CO, **Lt Col Phil Donegan**, to hand out promotions and awards, and no better time than just after the Military Skills event when everyone is on a high! Our congratulations go to former **Sgt Ricky George** on his promotion to SSgt. We also had 2 Sqn personnel receive their VRSM bars for another 10 years service to the TA; well done to **SSgt Keith Palmer** and **LCpl Nick Graham**. One of the Sqn PTIs, **Cpl Artie Holland**, achieved 300 club status twice in week one and deservedly received his 300 club T-Shirt (it may never fit him but it’ll make a nice bed spread!).

After the challenging events on Saturday it was time for R&R and a chance to unwind – if not nurse the blisters and bumps for the previous day. The troops were given a good selection of locations and activities to do on their day off ranging from visits to Düsseldorf, a theme park and water skiing. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to relax and explore the local area.

Week 2 began with a move to Holland for a stay in Harskamp, close to Arnhem. The first day we were hosted by the Dutch Army at their newly opened School of Signals, which proved



interesting for all involved. They made us all feel welcome and totally at home. The reason for visiting Holland was to shoot and this started in earnest on Tuesday morning with a 2 day range package. With the Regt split into groups everyone was put through their weapon handling tests and then familiarised with a range of foreign weapon systems. The Dutch ranges proved to be excellent and gave everyone an opportunity to hone those important shooting skills. Comd 2 Bde, **Brig Steve Vickery**, paid a visit during the range package and members of the Sqn got the opportunity to meet with him. Most impressive was the Dutch Automated Marking System which gave instant feedback on the ability of the individual shooter. Many new people to the Sqn had never encountered this system before and were keen to get using it.

Across the Sqn most people got the experience of firing at least 2 foreign weapons – it looks like the Diemaco/Colt C7 proved a big hit with those who got onto the CMQ range! The OC was very pleased with his score of 96 out of 100 on the DCCT while using the M16 rifle until **Cpl Artie Holland** told him he got 98. Well, after all, you are a Skill at Arms Instructor **Cpl Holland** and ex-infantry – anyhow, the OC wants to know why did you drop 2 points?



Cpl Simon Wheeler with the Diemaco/Colt C7

In parallel with the range package was a Battle Field tour around the Arnhem area. Everyone got a great insight into Op MARKET GARDEN and the job which both the Para Regt and Gliders did near Arnhem. There was a visit to a DZ, an LZ and the actual bridge depicted in the film 'A Bridge too far'. One of the highlights was the visit to the Arnhem museum and the opportunity to see at first hand a lot of the fighting equipment used in the various battles. The tour finished with a sombre trip to the Commonwealth War Grave and an Act of Remembrance for those who had paid the ultimate price. In all, a very successful camp and great learning experience for everyone. It was the CO's last camp with the Regt and he



Members of 40 (NIH) Sig Sqn at Arnhem Bridge

gave his final address to all on parade before we boarded the coaches for the UK. Everybody listened in carefully as he recapped everything we had achieved in the last year as a Unit and all we have to look forward to regarding support to Ops and the forthcoming Olympics in London next year.

Finally, from the Sqn, a special thanks goes to all those who organised, planned and worked tirelessly behind the scenes in support of AC11. Everyone in the Sqn got a deal out of it and are very appreciative. We also wish to mention the great job undertaken by the Sqn drivers: **Sgt Roy Johnston, LCpls John Colgan, Glenn Lord, Arran Boyd, Nick Graham and Cfn Matt Holmes**. They did sterling work getting us and our baggage safely to Germany and back again. Well done guys!

51 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj Helen Jephcote**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Andy Tochel**

EXERCISE SCOTTISH BUZZARD 11

Ex SCOTTISH BUZZARD is the annual 51 (Sc) Bde Ex, at which the Bde Comd gets to exercise OPCON units of the RF Bde. As part of its ADMINCON role the Sqn ICS Support to the Bde. On 4 Sep 11, 24 personnel from the Sqn paraded at Edinburgh TAC for the start of the Ex, a mix of volunteers and pressed men, and amazingly they all made it in on time. Week one was designed as refresher training, mainly covering Reebok and Bowman, culminating in a full PACEX and establishment of Bowman HF comms to 32 Sig Regt personnel on AC in Elmpt Station. To most people's surprise comms were established without a struggle, using Broadband Antennas. Not content with this the YofS made the Dets practice with improvised antennas. So after a few minutes of remembering how to calculate Antenna lengths there were all sorts of "bodged" solutions in place, and once again (HF being HF it was decided not to follow the normal result), comms were established relatively easy. Most surprising to all was the fact that the 4 metre whip also enabled comms to Germany!

After a good night out in Edinburgh, the Sqn was ready to deploy. On Sat 10 Sep the Sqn deployed to Kirkcudbright Training Area to support the Bde exercise. Reebok deployed with **SSgt Tam McDonagh** and his crew, providing Data and Tels for the Bde Staff and Bowman under **Sgt Euan Leslie** provided a secure rear link back to 51 Bde Main in Stirling; it also provided a HF Insecure net which the rest of the Bde units where able to join using Clansman, (yes Clansman!). Also supporting the Ex was a Comd Sp Team under control of **Sgt Carol Vaughan**, who provided 3 roles during the Ex, including the 7 SCOTS BG HQ, crewed by a solely female team – **Sgt Carol Vaughan, Cpl Carol Tod and LCpl Val 'Carol' Birkett**. Initially they were apprehensive of deploying forward with the BG, however they where welcomed with open arms, and provided excellent ICS. Could this be the first TA IST!

Lastly thanks also to the RadOps who manned the dets and helped out the Bde Watchkeepers, under the watchful eye of **Sgt Vidya Nursimiloo**. The operator crew helped ease the frantic pace of the ex from the G3 personnel. On a personal note, thanks from **Sgt Nursimiloo** must go to the REME, who managed to get her Rover going again after breaking down at Abingdon services on the journey home!

ANNUAL CAMP 2011

Prior to the parade for Ex SCOTTISH BUZZARD, 31 personnel from 51 Sqn paraded on the Fri night to start the Journey from Hell – East Kilbride, via Edinburgh, Darlington, Dover, Calais and onwards to Elmpt Station. After arriving 24hrs after leaving East Kilbride the troop settled into their accommodation prior to the following days briefings and



APFT. The Sqn were split up for the first 3 days, with the SNCO and Officers attending SCP training, and the JNCO's carrying out Bowman training, which culminated in communicating to the remainder of the Sqn in Edinburgh. After trade training was complete we all joined up to carry out a 3 day military package finishing in a Patrol Competition, which the Sqn duly won! Praise must go to the members who took part in the competition. The 2nd week saw us attending ranges packages in Harscamp in Holland. To further military knowledge the Sqn also participated in a battlefield tour of Arnhem, which was the final bridge in Op MARKET GARDEN. The Regt also held an inter Tp football competition, and whilst the Scottish National team may not be the best team in the world, 51 Sig Sqn are certainly the best in the Regt!

Three days prior to arriving in Elmpt a small advance party of what would become the Unit's Lanyard team drove to the camp. The team, led by the 51 Sqn SPSI, **SSgt Jim O'Mahony**, had arrived to take part in the Arnhem Veterans March as part of their preparatory training. The march was scheduled to be 40km long, however due to the sheer numbers attending, over 35,000, the team only managed 15km, prior to the event organisers stopping all the competitors as time was against them on the day. Still, every km helps and the good weather and scenic route made a nice change for the team. Overall, Annual Camp proved a great mix of activities and challenges, both technical and personal. Being overseas made a great change, and the location enabled all the Sqns to mix and mingle and to get the inter-Sqn banter flowing!

EXERCISE SUMAN WARRIOR 11 - by Sig Stephens



One of the 51 Sqn Patrol Teams

The Sqn were called upon to provide their technical and comms expertise to help instruct, set-up and maintain an Airwave network and demonstrate CST capabilities for the multi-national SUMAN WARRIOR ex at Strensall. SUMAN WARRIOR is an annual event consisting of 5 nations, namely; New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, and the UK. The Sqn deployed their best and most versatile team led by the highly experienced **Capt Rutherford**, along with **SSgt Murphy**, **SSgt Jemmett**, **Sgt Pattison**, **Sig Stephens** and **Sig Poole**. The exercise's main effort, over 3 days, focused on a natural disaster to which the nation's teams had to respond. 50 Sqn's first task was to provide basic training to each nation in the correct operation of the Airwave handsets, along with a VP refresher. This was swiftly followed by several demos of our CST capabilities. We anticipated that the first day of the exercises main effort was going to be a challenging one, and it didn't disappoint! From the word go our Airwave and comms skills were utilised to help fix various issues – "*Swift and Sure*" all the way! As the exercise progressed, every nation involved started to get used to the new equipment and, with our assistance; it proved its worth.

It was a very challenging experience and allowed us to work with our counterparts from across the globe. We particularly enjoyed the Kiwis and their views on mixed dress, although I don't think Under Armour tops, flip-flops and baseball caps would work well here in the UK!



SUMAN WARRIOR'S Finest!

52 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj Terry McVey**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Swan**

ANNUAL CAMP 2011 – by LCpl Grice

The Regt were amongst the luckiest people in the TA, having their 2 week Annual Camp in both Germany and Holland this year. To the delight of most, transit accommodation on camp in Germany was single man rooms, meaning ear defenders were kept solely for the ranges rather than drowning out the noise of snoring. Not everyone appreciated the single man rooms, as **LCpl Clark** became lonely after only a few hours and spent most of his time in search of anyone who would let him sleep on their floor for some company! To the relief of the Scottish members of the Regt, there was also a chippy within walking distance on camp.

Once the formalities were over, a 3 day Bowman package was run for the junior ranks. This was a refresher course for most, getting some much appreciated hands on training and setting up dets. The newer members of the group learned about antennas and masts, and on the final day comms were gained between Javelin Barracks and Edinburgh TAC on the Bowman det. Unsurprisingly, the highlight of the day was when a lone Signaller became tangled in the cam nets and struggled to get free while everyone observed this one-man command task!

To end the first week of camp each Sqn took part in 2 days of MILSKILLS trg in preparation for a MILSKILLS competition. Over £250 was raised for charity through bidding for a senior personality from the Regt to join each Sqn. The competition was a great success, with 51 Sqn being the overall winners.

LCpl Graham (40 sqn) received his 15 years service medal, and awards were given to 6 soldiers making it into the Army's 300 Club. **LCpl Morris** (51 Sqn) and **Sig Wright** (52 Sqn) deserve mention, as they were the first females within the Regt to achieve the maximum number of points on their PFA and earn the right to wear the 300 Club T-shirt.

In Holland the we were invited to the Dutch School of Signals and given a tour of their camp. They were very hospitable, making us feel welcome with tea and biscuits on arrival. The Scousers were pleased when they heard that skip caps were being handed out for free, and we all enjoyed the bagpipes and Dutch moonshine shots to finish off an interesting day.

A range package was run over the last days, with everyone getting the chance to fire the Danish Di Marco rifle and the Colt C7 and C8. A few people struggled with the concept of keeping both eyes open at the same time to fire, but that's what happens when pirates are recruited into the TA!

A fun and interesting time was had by all. No one wanted to go home, but they were eventually persuaded by the 18 hour coach journey – a downside to exercising abroad. Future annual camps now have a lot to live up to!



ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS

January

- 17 RSI Executive Committee Meeting - Blandford



February

- 10 TA Honorary Colonels Briefing - Blandford
- 29- 1 Mar (TBC) Corps Orienteering Championships - New Forest

March

- 2 Birtwistle Sporting Pennant Nominations to - CRSM
- 5 Display Teams Management Meeting - Blandford
- 6 RSI Council Meeting - Blandford
- 6 Corps Dress Committee Meeting - Blandford
- 7 Corps Music Committee Meeting - Blandford
- 8 Corps Heritage Committee Meeting - Blandford
- 8 HQ Officers Mess Management Meeting - Blandford
- 15 7 Sig Regt Disbandment Parade
- 18-23 FofS Selection Board - Blandford
- 20 RSI Workshop - (Lincoln's Inn) London
- 23 RSA Central Committee Meeting - London
- 24 RSA AGM - London
- 29 Royal Signals Trustees Limited Meeting - Blandford
- 29 Corps Finance Committee Meeting - Blandford
- 31 RSI Awards 2011/12 End of Year
- 31 WCE Op Engr Award 2012 Citations to - RSI Sec

April

- 2 Deane-Drummond Prize Essay 2012 - Launch
- 13-20 Corps Operational Shooting Competition
- 15 Birtwistle Recruiting Pennant Citations to - Corps COS
- 19 Corps Opening Show Rehearsal - Blandford
- 21 Corps Opening Show - Blandford
- 27 Corps Rugby 7s - Chippenham RFC
- 28 Army v Navy Rugby - Twickenham (Corps Tent)

May

- 1 RSI Awards 2012 Nominations to - RSI Sec
- 2-3 Corps Golf Championships - Blandford
- 8 181st Corps Committee Meeting - London
- 8 Corps London Dinner - Savoy Hotel, London
- 9 Army Festival of Football - Aldershot
- 10 Race The Sun - North Yorkshire (2 Sig Regt)
- 14-18 Corps Week - Blandford
- 14 PLOD Conference
- 14-15 WO1s RD Conference
- 14 WO1s RD Dinner
- 15 -16 Morrison Cup
- 15 -16 Corps Conference
- 15 Corps Guest Night
- 16 Football Signallers Cup Final
- 16 Party in the Park
- 19 Diamond Jubilee AF Muster Windsor (16-18 Rehearsals)

June

- 7 Founders Day Royal Hospital Chelsea
- 14 30th Anniversary Falklands Liberation
- 19 RSI Workshop - Bristol
- 23-24 RSA Reunion Weekend - Blandford
- 23 Colonels Commandant Dinner - Blandford
- 24 Corps Luncheon - Blandford
- 25-28 Corps Clay Target Shooting Championships - Brawdy
- 30 Armed Forces Day 2012



RPS CALENDAR 2012

July

- 1 Corps Freedom of Blandford (11 (RSS) Sig Regt)
- 1 RSI Awards 2012 Citations to - RSI Sec
- 10 Awards Livery Dinner Carpenters Hall City of London
- 10-11 CAGE – Blandford
- 11 Corps Rounders Championships - Blandford
- 14-15 Trailwalker 2012 - South Downs (QG SIGNALS)
- 31 Deane-Drummond Prize Essays 2012 to - RSI Sec

October

- 2 RSI Council Meeting - Blandford
- 2-3 Corps Hockey Championships - Aldershot
- 4 RSI Awards 2012 Notification of Recipients
- 4 Corps CABAL - Blandford
- 4 Corps Guest Night - Blandford
- 6-12 LECB 2012 - Blandford
- 12 LE Conference & Dinner - Blandford
- 20-21 TA LECB 2012 - Blandford
- 26 The Scottish Dinner - Glasgow

August

Nil

November

- 1-4 WOs & SNCOs Convention - Blandford
- 8 Field of Remembrance - Westminster Abbey
- 15 182nd Corps Committee Meeting - London
- 15 RSI Lecture and Awards Dinner - London
- 25 Corps Cross Country Championships - Blandford

September

- 4 Corps Luncheon in the North - Catterick
- 5-6 Corps Autumn Golf Meet - TAWGC
- 13 ICS Dinner - Blandford
- 18 RSI Workshop - (Lincoln's Inn) London
- 19-20 (TBC) Lanyard Trophy 2012 - (216 (Para) Sig Sqn)
- 23 QG SIGNALS Regimental Birthday/Reunion

December

- 7 RSA Area 2 Carol Service - Liverpool Cathedral
- 10 Corps Carol Service - London





37th SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS) REDDITCH



REGIMENTAL OFFICER DEVELOPMENT WEEKEND - by Lt Luke Cawston

The weekend of 6-7 August saw a good turnout from the Offrs of 37 Sig Regt as they travelled to Naseby, the location of the key battle of the English civil war in 1645. A rumour did circulate that **Maj Fraley** had fought in the original battle.

The morning was spent on a battlefield tour with our guides **Lance** and **Ian** (**Lance Taylor**; late Royal Signals and Rhodesian Light Infantry and **Ian Dexter**; late R Anglian, RAOC and RLC) and we were also given a fascinating brief by a parliamentarian re-enactor – **Tom Aldwinckle**, Hammond’s Regiment of Foot, the Sealed Knot, who even fired his matchlock musket. The Musketeers of the day carried a maximum of 12 lead “shots” and had to carry a lit match cord. Whilst we worked out possible rates of fire **Tom** explained that “Signals” in the battle consisted mainly of shouting, messengers and drumbeats.



Tom; our re-enactor

The afternoon saw us clearing out the village shop for lunch and then settling into Naseby village hall where we split into syndicates to discuss and present our analysis of how current military doctrine related to the events at Naseby and our civilian jobs. Certainly the conclusion for Naseby was that inspired leadership (and an extra 3000 Infantry!) was the key factor for the Parliamentarians and that all of the principles of war could be applied to our Civilian occupations.

That evening we enjoyed dinner in 'Planters' which the YOs had Googled to varying effect. The following morning we returned to Naseby for further development activities which included an hour that had been set aside for the CO and 2IC to present their insightful personal leadership models (CO: 54 mins, 2IC: 6 mins!). The COs intent was for individuals to further develop their understanding of military doctrine by applying contemporary principles to a historic battle thereby understanding the origin of the doctrinal principles and understanding how they can be applied to wider conflict. Building mess cohesion was also definitely met!



The OM; Armed and Dangerous

SQUADRON LEVEL TRAINING - by Sgt Iddon

On Friday 30 Oct 11, 18 members of 54 (Worcestershire) Sp Sqn went on an AT weekend at Capel Curig. After a gruelling 90 minute drive, a short visit to the pub was followed by an early night in anticipation of a challenging day to follow.

We lost no time the next morning and got straight on with a testing walk over some very tough and undulating Snowdonia terrain. The weather was better than expected; warm and sunny with only slight cloud cover, however that didn't seem to matter as getting wet was built into the programme! The route involved knee deep wading across a lake that ensured that everyone could experience walking in wet boots and understand the need to bring spare socks!

The Sunday hike was a lot more relaxed and allowed us to visit Betws y Coed before heading back to Redditch. Spirits were high and a good time was had by all who attended.



Before the wade across the lake

It has been a busy few months with members of the Sqn being involved in a variety of activities. At the end of July a



The Brigade Commander in the lead

large number of us took part in a charity cycle from Redditch TAC to the National Arboretum that was organised by the QM, **Capt Tom Lappin**, to mark the blessing of the Royal Signals Corps Memorial.



Remembering

Annual Deployment saw the Sqn in Knook Camp carrying out a mix of military, trade and sporting activities. As usual we won the Regtl sports competition and ask that next year other Sqns try to put up a bit more of a fight! We were helped in our endeavours though by **WO2 (YofS) Pip Crowder**





Members of the Regt at the newly blessed Corps memorial

who proved to be a bit of a 'Sport Billy' by participating in just about every event.

Congratulations to **Cpl Ratcliffe**, **LCpl Bellamy** and **Sig Harris**, who were selected to deploy with 16 Sig Regt next year. Well done also to **Sig Johnson** and **Pte Selvey** who have been pre selected for promotion.

ANNUAL DEPLOYMENT 2011 – AN OC'S PERSPECTIVE

- by *Maj Kirk Humphries*

AD 11 saw the Sqn deploy to Knook Camp which, although not 5*, the accommodation was better than some..... The first 3 days saw SNCO's and below carrying out CLM training under the RSM, **WO1 McGuire**, and the remainder taking part in management training and development in preparation for Ex SOUTHERN CHAMPION, the Regt Comms FTX.



The Regtl Foreman colouring in his map

The Regt Comms FTX was based on an Olympiad theme, with the Sqn forming a CAOR CP and taking control of its own CST and Bowman assets as well as additional assets from 53 Sig Sqn and 54 Sp Sqn. After frantic planning, the CAOR CP was established and the dets deployed to the South Coast and SPTA to carry out planned tasks, reacting to the scenario accordingly. Although deployed for no more than 60 hours, the dets and CP staff learnt a lot and reaffirmed knowledge, in particular **Sig Flemming** with regards to REPLEN!

Following the ex, the Regt Sports day was held. Although 36 did not win the competition, they put in a strong performance in the football and volleyball; with **Capt Umesh Pun**, **WO2 (SSM) Tara Pun**, **Sgt 'Ruby' Murray**, **Sigs Welsh**, **Milne** and **Roberts** deserving a mention for their tireless efforts. An uneventful journey back to Colchester and Cambridge TA Centres on the Sunday, prior to returning to our civilian jobs on the Monday morning....

Congratulations to **Cpl Crompton-Taylor**, **LCpls Barwell** and **Hughes** for recent and well deserved promotions on AD 11.



OC 36 Sig Sqn writing orders

Sadly the Sqn seems some changes; firstly **Sgt 'Ruby' Murray** leaves on posting to 22 Sig Regt. He has been a valued member of the Sqn Comd team and fully participated in Sqn/Regtl training and all social activities. We wish **Ruby** and his family all the best on his posting and future career.

Maj Stuart Rowson leaves the Sqn to become Regt 2IC following 6 years as OC Sqn in its various guises. He handed over command just before AD11 to **Maj Kirk Humphries**, who has been the Sqn 2IC for the last 9 months. Finally a warm welcome to **SSgt Lee Fraser** and his family who joins the Sqn as SPSI (T) on posting from Manchester AFCO.



SSgt (Yofs) Clarke and SSgt (SQMS) Thumwood planning a Replen

EXERCISE EASTERN FREUNDSHAFT – by Lt Sarah Earl

21 personnel deployed on Ex EASTERN FREUNDSHAFT over the period 25 – 28 Aug 11 to undertake a 4 day mil trg package with the German Military, as guests of Landeskommmando Baden-Wuertlernberg (LKdoBW). Day 1 – Loooong drive! We were lucky to get on an earlier train meaning we arrived at the German RAF ground training school at 1400. This gave us plenty of time to have a lesson on bed making and then very carefully fold our duvets into thirds. Dinner surprised most people with its lack of hot food, but the beers afterwards made up for it. This also gave the German, English and US personnel from 1 Special Forces Group a chance to get to know each other. It also gave us the opportunity to find out first hand just how vicious the German mosquitoes are!

Day 2 – The morning was spent doing a round robin of stands. We learnt NSPs and how to strip and assemble the German Assault Rifle, then used it in their trg simulator (similar to our DCCT). The aim was to enter a village and react to anything that occurred; using force only if required. The second let people shoot as much as they wanted! The third stand was pistol training and machine gun familiarization. The afternoon was spent learning how to man a check point and running through a number of scenarios, a first aid stand including using a fire blanket to help put out a person on fire, and leaning how the Germans conduct personnel searches, which is quite different to what we are used to. The day ended with a BBQ in the Officers Mess where they provided so much food some people must have been on their fifth helping.





36 (E) Sig Sqn on arrival

Day 3 was our chance to put everything we had learned into practice in the patrolling exercise. We were based out of a FOB and while the patrol members were putting on their leg holsters for their pistols and the body and helmet-mounted laser system that beeps if you've been shot, patrol leaders were receiving their orders. Eisbier 1 (a UK patrol under **Capt Umesh Pun**) was to man the check point, while Eisbier 2 (the US patrol) and Eisbier 3 (my patrol) were given routes and told to respond to anything that occurred. Eisbier 4 was the German patrol that were manning the FOB and in reserve. Having a Gurkha, an American, a German and myself on the radio net was very amusing, but worked surprisingly well (and I eventually realised that our call signs were the well known German beverage, not Ice Bear which is how it sounded when the German Lt gave orders!).

Half way through our patrol we came under contact from a small compound and responded by clearing the huts and searching the personnel we came across. We were then sent to relieve **Capt Pun's** patrol manning the checkpoint. Here we carried out a number of vehicle searches, finding an IED and illegal weapons in the process, and had to deal with a very drunk man who kept trying to go to sleep by the CP. After recovery back to the FOB, EndEx was called. Everyone agreed that the Ex was very well planned and made even better by the large number of role players in the different scenarios. During the debrief the Sgt who was running the compound clearance scenario said he thought he could generate the perfect soldier by combing the UK and the US – I might have been slightly slow to react to the contact but apparently the US pretty much obliterated the compound! Once weapons were cleaned and the kit returned, we got ourselves ready for our visit to the Fort of Gemmersheim.



Lt Earl flanked by Sig Clifford and Sig (now LCpl) Hughes

Day 4 – We spent the morning on a guided tour round the city of Speyer before loading back on the minibuses for our long trip home. This was broken by a trip to Ypres where we visited 2 Commonwealth cemeteries, before heading into town itself to take part in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. I was very honored to lay a Royal Signals wreath

accompanied by **Sig Hughes** and **Sig Clifford**, while the rest of the Sqn stood guard.

A great time was had by all because of the excellent training the Germans laid on and the opportunity to meet and train with soldiers from 2 different countries. Everyone is looking to the return visit when the Germans come here next year.

ANNUAL DEPLOYMENT 2011 FROM A JNCO PERSPECTIVE – by LCpl Reardon

On 10 September 48 Sig Sqn deployed on the Regtl Annual Deployment (AD), Ex GLOBAL TOTAL. This year's deployment was 9 days rather than the normal 15 so the Sqn was looking forward to see how everything was going to fit together, especially with the new RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Maguire** to impress.



SSgt Smith on RSM's inspection

The 9 days were split into 2 main phases, the military skills phase and the comms phase. The mil skills phase involved 48 hours in the field combining both theory and practical lessons, from patrolling, to harbour drills, to advice on kit. The exercise finished with an extraction from the Platoon harbour areas whilst under fire. The 2 Platoons completed this with only one fatality (namely the author of this article; not my greatest moment, but an old soldier told me never to get separated from your kit.....). The feedback across the Sqn was positive throughout and even with a lack of sleep everyone kept it together and enjoyed it.



The Regtl Trg Wng Officer means business

The comms phase was again a 48 hour exercise and involved the Sqn deploying out with 4 Bowman dets, 2 CSTs and 1 Reebok. The scenario for the exercise was based around the Olympics, which fitted well as next year the Regt will be supporting the event. As this was only the second Annual Deployment with the Sqn equipment it was a steep learning curve for crewmen and detachment commanders alike, but



again like the first phase it was a success with everyone gaining something from it.

The 9 days were ended with a sports day to decide which Sqn went home with the Regtl trophies. Helped by the heroics of **Sig Jennings**, involving some interesting football techniques (Vinny Jones has nothing on him), 48 Sig Sqn came a strong second only missing out on the top spot by 1 point. During the week there were many highlights. We had an outstanding rendition of 'Everybody's talking Airwave'



The 48 Sig Sqn Reebok Det

composed by **LCpl Butler** and performed by The 48th City of Birmingham Choirists and an impromptu 'pile on' by **Cpl Reid** midway through a tug of war match. The Sqn may not have won the Regtl sports day trophy but we held our own by collecting a number of individual awards and in addition 2 promotions of Sig - LCpl, well done to **LCpl Searle** and **LCpl Mazella**.

As a whole the deployment was a definite success and bodes well for 2012 and beyond.



A thorough testing of all the tels



38th (STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS) SHEFFIELD



CO
RSM

Lt Col A J Parsons
WO1 (RSM) S Hook

WELCOME

The Regt welcomes new members; OM **Maj Al Jenkins**, Adjt **Capt Tuni Masi**, PSI (Tech) 1 Sqn **SSgt Stu Yates**, SPSI 64 Sqn **SSgt A I Piper** and PSI (Tech) 64 Sqn **SSgt L Bancroft**.



On Parade

1 SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS)

OC
SSM

Maj MC Fisher
WO2 (SSM) Gott

ANNUAL CAMP 3 – 17 SEP - by LCpl John Melling

In early September 1 Sig Sqn converged at 891 Sig Tp Rugby before the cannon ball convoy to the beautiful ancient market town of Ripon. Well a not so beautiful but equally ancient camp just outside Ripon, for Annual Camp 2011.

We arrived in good spirits after a 5 hour journey to find the Northern elements of the Regt looking well fed and watered after their exhausting commute. Quickly we settled into the accommodation and squared away our admin enjoying the

delights of **Sig Dan Edwards'** latest procurement, a small screen iPad if that counts. The next morning was filled with Regtl Parade with **WO2 (SSM) Mark Gott** being right marker (I'm sure someone said he was a Drill guru); we then rolled in to the PACEX before deploying on exercise. We also got to meet **Sgt Justin Zimmerman** on exchange from the US ARMY. Things were going ok, bar my detachment, led by **LCpl Sam Kemp**, who were yet to leave the camp. A couple hours later and some very hard work by **SSgt Hannah** ably assisted by **Sgt Gav Dent** we were fully fit and sprinted out to catch up (note; **Sig Alec Chuckulwozie** and I were wearing correct uniform at time of departure). The exercise proved to be challenging and enjoyable with the Squadron scattered to the four winds.



Sgt Zimmerman overseeing the PACEX

The Ex culminated in a Comms race which was enjoyed by all, despite the staff not being able to locate the 1 Sqn Det initially as it was hiding on the top of the mountain instead of trying to transmit through said mountain. Once the message was received it was back to camp for a day of turn-around with a sports competition squeezed in for good measure. The following day was a well earned stand down for all the Regt.



The Sqn thought they would head for the seaside for stand-down and with our local tour guides **LCpl Jody Coburn** and **Cpl Will Nichols**, we arrived in a very sunny (not bad for Sept) Bridlington for some fresh air, ice cream and proper fish and chips, although **Sig Robson** did try out most of the chip shops before anyone else could get to them. We convinced the vast majority of the Sqn that we should commandeer a pirate boat for a trip around the bay. **Sig Amie Daniel** acted as Capt due to the real old sea dogs **SSgt Mark Taylor** and **Cpl Pete May** saying their sea fairing legs weren't up to it.



The Sqn take on the North Sea

All frivolity aside it was back to camp for training in the shape of JNCO development and a robust military training package. With an excellent and varied array of stands, dealing with everything from basic fire control orders up to dealing with the media, it was a tough but very rewarding few days. We were told that the media videos are a sight to be seen! The camp concluded with a patrol competition which saw us loaning a couple of willing volunteers to the fighting 46th Sp Sqn in the form of myself, **LCpl Daryl O'Sullivan** and **Sig Graham**. A special thanks to all at 46 Sqn for making our sabbatical extremely interesting and enjoyable; you certainly have your own way of doing things.

With all the hard graft done and dusted it was time for the obligatory BBQ, presentations and confirmation of all the rumours circulating camp this year. It was soon back to normality and the usual fast pace of Sqn life with the recovery plan back to Sqn locations. We arrived back on Saturday afternoon to a wonderful reception. Both our PSIs **SSgt Paul Coxon** and new bloke **SSgt Stu Yates** stood to attention with boxes and boxes of Dominos Pizza, paid for out of their own pockets and gratefully received by the whole Sqn, which finished off an excellent camp.

2 SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS)

OC **Maj JR Stillie**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Smith**

EXERCISE CELTIC RISING 3 – 17 SEP, ARBROATH - by *SSgt G M Cowan*

It was that time of year again, Annual Camp loomed and so the pace in the TAC picked up. Cunning plans and swagger sticks were being dusted off and all locations and logistics booked and confirmed and all was set. The initial comms site at Marne Barracks, close to RHQ, had to be abandoned due to concerns raised by the CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) about flying the Aerostat so close to local airports. Instead, RM Condor, Arbroath, was chosen as the new comms site.

The Sqn formed up at the TAC in Dundee on 3 September to be processed through the MOBEX before being split into groups to support Ex STEEL CHARGE, the ICS component of AC. Both our Bowman FFRs were tasked for this, to provide real time comms at Arbroath under the command of **Sgt MacDonald** and the other commanded by **Sgt Joe Wiggins**,

with his crew of **LCpls Batchelor, Parkin** and **Smith**, was tasked to report to RHQ at Deverall Barracks for further tasking. Due to our FFR establishment **Sgt Wiggins'** det was attached to 41 Sig Sqn to supplement their establishment. Once the initial PACEX was carried out in Ripon the 17 FFRs deployed to locations throughout the UK. **Sgt Wiggins'** det bounced from Warcop, to Catterick and finally Otterburn - for the final phase of the exercise, which was a comms race (Ex STEEL CHALLENGE). For the first part a message was passed from America to Cawdor Barracks, to STANTA, to Otterburn, to Warcop, to Arbroath and then to the Royal Navy before being acknowledged and time stamped by PJHQ. This element went well with points being gained and added to the inter-Sqn competition, which would be decided at the end of annual camp. Once all the crews had sufficient rest the recovery phase back to Ripon took place.

Whilst the Bowman element had been supporting the Regt on Ex STEEL CHARGE, the remainder had been busy building the comms site at RM Condor. This activity formed a part of AC for 2 Sqn called Ex CELTIC RISING, which is one of the 2 yearly deployments in support of its primary role as the LFFB. To support this Ex CELTIC RISING attachments from 22 Sig Regt provided the Reacher detachment and JOMOC the metrological detachment. **SSgt Anne Gibson** and **Sgt Karen Dilly** from RHQ provided the catering support. The build went well with the weather window being kind to us for once but with the remnants of Hurricane Katia approaching the UK weather warnings from the Metrological Detachment did not look good. Wind speeds of 60 mph meant the Aerostat took a severe battering but it held on to the GHE. The 22 Sig Regt CS Ops **SSgt Ian Stewart** and **Sgt Lesley Baynes** quickly established the links needed and with the weather window allowing us to launch. We soon reached our maximum operating height and achieved our mission with the LLFB.



Sgt Freddie Grieve and Sgt Lesley Bayne

The Sqn re-org'd on the 16 September at RM Condor for a social end-of-camp gathering before heading our separate ways. 851 Sig Tp departed the next morning to setup and man a recruiting stand in Gordon Barracks as part of the Bridge of Don open day, before finally handing in their kit and going home for a well earned rest... or should I say going back to work first thing Monday morning.

Members of 2 Sqn carefully inflating the Aerostat



EXERCISE STEEL FROLIC 07 – 09 OCTOBER

- by SSgt Devonport

This was the first weekend since Annual Camp and as it was the first of the 4 ICS Bde driven exercises. We went back to basics to cover lessons identified on AC. The Sqn RV'd from Elgin, Dundee and Aberdeen at Gordon Barracks late Friday night and received orders and the weekend format from the SP5I (A) **SSgt Devonport**. Lessons started early the next day with MT revision delivered by **Sgt Briggs** and **Sgt Trevor King**. Once this was done the troops deployed to the outside trg area where **SSgt Cowan** and **LCpl Bachelor** delivered an A&P lesson. The lesson was aimed at Sqn personnel who were deployed with the Regt on AC the antenna setup used by 2 Sqn at Arbroath during Ex CELTIC RISING. This would also form the SOP antenna setup from now on.



SSgt (SP5I) Cowan teaching component parts of the Marlborough (Bowman) Multi-Freq antenna

Up to this point the weather had held off even with the OC Sqn **Maj Jim Stillie** threatening to do the rain dance - "if it ain't raining it ain't training". As soon as the A&P lesson was complete the weather closed in; just in time for the PACEX with **SSgt Devonport**, which concluded the comms training. The garages that night were used to dry off the cam nets and the remainder of the det kit. As soon as this was done the social activities began with **LCpl Chris Flockhart** sorting the food for an ad-hoc barbecue; assisted by **LCpl Jennifer Kelly** (soon to be Chef Class 3).



Sig Hodkinson, Cpl John and Sgt King putting up the mast

The last annual camp stumbling block was the HAZMAT awareness training that was clearly pointed out by the MTWO prior to deploying Ex STEEL CHARGE. **SSgt Callander** came up to Aberdeen early on Sunday morning to deliver the training before PT with **Cpl D J John** who had a boxercise session ready for the Sqn personnel. The guinea pigs, Tp OC **Capt Lynn Bertram** and **SSgt Devonport** were otherwise engaged as they had uncoupled this lesson the previous drill night and as it was just them and **Cpl John**. After technical issues with the IT the HAZMAT training; resolved by **Sgt J J Gray** and **SSgt Devonport**, all was set.

64 (CITY OF SHEFFIELD) SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS)

OC
SSM

Maj K M Flanagan
SSgt B ROSS

ANNUAL CAMP 3 – 17 SEPTEMBER

The Regtl parade was a good start to camp, all doing their utmost to turn out in a way that reflects what pride the Regt has in itself. The comms exercise, STEEL CHARGE, was an intense fight for comms, for all involved on dets and in the respective command posts. All the operators worked above and beyond their station to ensure that the best results could be achieved with the equipment available. The competitive element at the end brought out the best of the Regt, the determination to perform their tasks combined with the healthy rivalry that keeps the troops striving to improve. No effort was spared by any of the troops on the ground.

Post Ex STEEL CHARGE, the sports afternoon was a welcome relief, allowing light hearted competition to build relations between and within squadrons. The stand down was probably more welcome than the sports competition, an eagerly awaited time to recover from the intense start to camp. The Sqn opted to spend the day in York, visiting the Jorvik centre and relaxing, whilst sharing stories and reflections with friends new and old in the Regt.

CIED training for the junior ranks was a test of our ability to learn. A fast but comprehensive delivery of CIED training introduced many new concepts and acronyms! Practical exercises and written tests ensured a thorough grounding of the necessary knowledge as well as putting some of the ideas into context.

After the CIED training the Regt spent a couple of days refreshing its core military skills. Pairs fire and manoeuvre stands were run to ensure a continued understanding of section drills in combat. These were fun and suitably intense. The stand was run incredibly well, allowing for the fact that skills needed to be kept sharp whilst making the training seem fresh rather than a simple retreat of old ground. The refresh of target indication and gauging distance were also welcome as it is a skill that can quickly be forgotten but as the training demonstrated, quickly remembered. A welcome practise of battlefield casualty drills was also provided alongside media awareness, ECM and the Law of Armed Conflict.

The Tara Cup was a fitting end to the camp, starting as it began, with intensity and pride. Each team worked to the utmost of their abilities, ensuring they achieved the best results in each of the 8 stands. The CBRN stand provided a



SSgt Gibson exhibiting some horrific injuries – not from a No5 cook set



welcome, if brief, refresh of the life saving drills necessary in an NBC environment. The shoot was a great deal of fun. It was a varied shoot, which not only tested your marksmanship principles but also your weapon handling skills. The comms stand was a hark back to the history books, combining semaphore and airwave, with ballistic safe opening. A challenging and frustrating exercise in team work as much as anything else! The mil skills stand was a well put together exercise that tested how certain we were of our vehicle checkpoint drills with the teams performing well under pressure from some very good acting by the DS staff. The CIED stand put into practise 5 and 20s and CIED response when on patrol. A challenging test of how well each member of the team could recall the necessary drills. The navigation stand was interesting: the teams were split in 2, half doing a theory test whilst the other half were paired off and challenged to put their pacing and navigation from a compass bearing to the test. An enjoyable exercise made tricky by the nature of the terrain - thick undergrowth and some aggressive tree branches. The penultimate stand was BCD, which gave a glimpse into the confusion and intensity of a situation such as an IED contact. The final stand was a surprise from the CO. Each team put forward a team of 4, who raced against each other to strip and assemble

their individual weapon in the fastest time. It ended with an incredibly tight contest between 64 and 2 Sqns; with 2 Sqn just taking it and the associated bonus points.

The evening of the Regt barbecue and prize announcements was enjoyable for all, a welcome chance to relax after a great deal of hard work. The announcement of the awards for the Tara Cup and champion squadron was greeted with much jubilation for 64 Sqn.



64 Sqn Tara Cup team tackle the LAD's command task



39th (SKINNERS) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS) BRISTOL



CO
RSM

Lt Col D M Sharkey
WO1 (RSM) D Lythe

August and September are traditionally the busiest months for this Regt, and this year was no exception. The main focus of our efforts was towards deploying on Annual Camp in September –here's a snippet of what we got up to:

On Saturday 3 September, the 4 Sqns of the Regt paraded at their respective TA Centres ready to embark on AC 2011. After what seemed like an eternity on the 'luxury' coach, we finally arrived in our home for the next 2 weeks – the remote and blustery Barry Buddon Training Camp. After finding our accommodation and some hearty stew, we set about preparing ourselves for the challenges of the week ahead.

Day 1 saw us formed into sections, carrying out Weapon Handling Tests, kit checks and a number of briefings. We also completed fitness training and a relay of weapon assembling. The evening saw us receive a 'drugs and alcohol' brief from a very lively external presenter. After that we were into the range package beginning bright and early on the Monday.

For the next week we progressed from basic Grouping and Zeroing through the ACMT (well most of us), to moving targets, pistol shooting, CQB ranges, GPMG familiarisation, First Aid and C-IED training. This all-encompassing package was an excellent way to spend the first week – it was a good revision of core skills for some and an eye-opener for others. The CDT team even managed to find us on the Wednesday! During the week we were delighted to host our Honorary Colonel, **Col Snagge** and Comd 2 Sig Bde, **Brig Vickery**, who both enjoyed taking part in some of the activities.



The CO assisting on the Ranges

Saturday and Sunday were the culminating days of the range package and saw us taking part in a section in defence field firing shoot. With GPMG flanking fire, plenty of smoke and bags of aggression, we fired round after round at the targets as they appeared at anything from 100 to 500m. This was a fantastic experience and great way to end a busy week.



Brig Vickery showing the Ops Maj how to shoot





Troops in Defence

During week 2 we switched our focus to our main role as we conducted UK Ops trade training on the CSTs. This gave us a chance to refresh our skills and prepare us for the challenges of Op OLYMPICS next year. There was also a chance to conduct AT in the Ben Nevis area but more on that later.

56 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj K Francis**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) G Windham**

The Sqn has faced some changes in the past couple of months with alterations to the ORBAT, new faces arriving, some old and bold leaving and others deploying. We welcome **SSgt Innes** as the new PSI Tech. **WO2 Robert Vincent** has been posted as Regtl YofS (V) with **SSgt Tim Still** taking over as Sqn YofS (UK Ops), a position he has always wanted. His role as OC 859 Tp has been assumed by **Lt Stephanie Barron**, with **SSgt Tony Back** taking over her role as OC 858 Sp Tp.

Over in 859 Tp newly traded soldiers continue to arrive. **Sig Ben Carson** and **Sig Tom McClarence** have to find their feet quickly as **Cpl Ben Carter** and **Cpl Jason Scrase** have both now deployed out on Op TOSCA and Op HERRICK respectively. **Sgt Joanne Reader**, the Recruit Tp Training Sgt, joins **Cpl Scrase** on Op HERRICK working in EW. The Sqn wishes both of them a safe tour and quick return. The Tp bids farewell to **LCpl Stuart Brown** and **Sig Aaron Jones** both who have decided to spend more time with their families. All at 56 Sqn hope they will continue to maintain their relationship with the Sqn.

In 858 Sp Tp **Cpl Tom Rossi-Flint** has now passed his Senior CLM course, and **LCpl Nikki Walker** has got married. The Sqn wish her and **Trio Brignall** a wonderful future together. **LCpl Kevin Diton** and **Sig Barry Heanes** briefly returned to the Sqn for a moment of R&R from Op HERRICK, both are doing well and keen to complete the remainder of the tour. In 884 Tp based in Brighton **LCpl Fiona Murphy** and **Sig Emma Lewis** have successfully completed the Royal Signals Yacht Race.

EASTBOURNE AIRBOURNE AIRSHOW - by Sgt Gardyne

The Airshow runs for 4 days and is the largest in Europe. The Sqn has its pitch alongside the other Armed Forces and the competition that once existed between us all has slowly dissipated in preference to mutual support. Visiting recruiters from other services locate teams at the Eastbourne Sqn for administration and accommodation and as such a network of support has grown. This includes helping direct the public to other services they show interest in. The event is sponsored by the local radio stations who speak to many of the soldiers during the event and **Sigs Jamie Goodwin** and **Tom Mann** were keen to give their points of view to the news crew.



Its not quite "News at Ten"

Aside from generating interest in recruiting is the maintenance of a positive image of the Army in society. The Sqn recruiting effort during Airbourne not only addresses people of a certain recruiting age for the TA, but also helps encourage an interest in the Cadet Forces for both boys and girls in the local community.



Made by Max Factor

Over the 4 days of the Air Show the Sqn collected contact details from over 120 members of the public interested in joining the TA. After sifting through the details this was whittled down to 59 who got invited to the Sqn Open Evenings, with around 30 attending the first evening and 25 the second. Of these, 28 went through medicals and 18 were ready for recruit selection in September. 13 have completed the selection process and have been attested into the Sqn. This recruiting momentum is continuing at a great pace and additional Open Evenings at both Eastbourne and Brighton and more medicals are booked for the beginning of October.

57 (CITY AND COUNTY OF BRISTOL) SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj P Rodenhurst**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) R Sharpe**

As is usual at this time of year we have been busy preparing for AC, which this year, due to a last minute cancellation of our booking of Warcop saw us undertaking a tiresome coach journey Barry Buddon Camp. The OC was noted at the end of being especially disappointed that he had neither met Barry or indeed any of the Buddon clan. As we had travelled to the other end of Britain the OC thought it would make sense to see the local sights and duly organised, with the assistance of the SPSI, a cultural trip to the Arctic Exhibition in Dundee.

In late July we hosted a Sqn Inter Tp Sports Competition in Gloucester, to which we invited former members of the Sqn with a view to enticing them back to the fold, which proved successful as one ex member has re-joined and another has her application in process.



In Aug **SSgt Steve Humphries** and **Sig Adam Morris** assisted the AFCO in the national recruiting campaign; we wait to see the fruits of their efforts. At the end of the month we hosted a mid tour welfare meeting for the families and employers of our Mobbers, **Cpl Herbie Hyde**, **Cpl Cassie Downs**, **LCpl Darren Shinett** and **LCpl Brad Sluz** all of whom are now in their last few weeks of their tours with 10SR and 21SR respectively.

It is with deep regret that we belatedly announce the death, following a long battle with cancer, of our previous Hon Col, **Cdre Iain Pemberton**. A well attended thanksgiving service was held at St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol. **Capt Eddie Kingston** was honoured to attend to represent the OC and the Sqn.

On a lighter note we extend warm welcomes to new members of the Sqn family: **Cpl Richard Kingston** and **Sigs Aimee Morris** and **Alex Saunders**, both of whom thought that moving from 56 to 57 was a type of promotion! We welcome back **Sig Adam Herniman** from the wilderness that is the Royal Marines Reserve and **Sig William Howie** on transfer in from 6 RIFLES. Sadly we have also had to say goodbye to long serving members of the Sqn, **Sgt Roger Theyer**, **LCpl Raj Rajagopal** and **Sig Tom Stirling**.

93 (NORTH SOMERSET YEOMANRY) SUPPORT SQUADRON

OC **Maj P J Smith**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) C Stockwell**

We extend a warm welcome to 2 new permanent staff, **SSgt (SPSI) Carl Eden**, who joins us from 22 Sig Regt, and **SSgt (Art Veh) Keith Criddle**, who joins us from SEME. We would also like to welcome a new member of the TA, **SSgt Keith Butcher**, who joins us from 43 Sig Sqn. We hope they enjoy their stay with us, and that the expertise and experience that they bring with them will benefit the Sqn.

CULTURAL DAY - by WO2 (SSM) Stockwell

On the Friday of week one of Annual Camp, the Sqn had a cultural tour of Edinburgh, where we visited the castle and were fortunate to watch the firing of the one o'clock gun. A short guided tour followed and included looking at several military museums. We also visited Mary King Close, which is a preserved 16th Century street that runs underground beneath The Royal Mile. Some of the Sqn then sampled some of the more traditional fayre of Haggis, neaps and tatties followed by a couple of wee drams before returning to camp.



OC and Members of 93 (NSY) Sp Sqn at Edinburgh Castle

ADVENTURE TRAINING ON ANNUAL CAMP

- by WO2 (SSM) Stockwell

The Regt ran an AT package over 2 days at Kinlocheven. The first day was white water rafting which gave a chance to show off our fine physiques in the lovely wetsuits! Split onto 3 boats we set off onto the rapids. This was a great day out and a welcome change from the hard effort we had put into

the ranges. **Capt Mark Ward** seemed to prefer getting out of the raft and quite enjoyed floating down the river! Day 2 was the big day as we embarking on the challenge of climbing Ben Nevis. Again split into 3 groups we set off to reach the top.



Maj Rodenhurst at the summit of Ben Nevis

However this wasn't a race and taking it nice and steady it was a very enjoyable hike with amazing views across the Scottish highlands. The way down proved a little harder than going up for some, with Lt Joanna Murray

suffering a few falls. There was also a great exhibition from **Capt Andy Morris** who decided to go for a swim in the lake half way down Ben Nevis (showing off as usual!). At the end of the hike we all joined for a well deserved celebratory pint at the Ben Nevis Pub.



Lt Murray during the ascent

94 (BERKSHIRE YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj A Hawes**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) C Dean**

Like the rest of the Regt these last few months have been focused on AC. 94 was proud to send a strong contingent and to be able to contribute to the whole effort. Whilst this is covered in detail elsewhere, the mixture of concentrated time on the ranges; quality communications training and some good fun adventure training went down well with all.

The return from camp sees us looking at a number of key tasks on the lead into Christmas. Paramount amongst these is support to 145 Bde in upcoming CAST exercises. Although weekday timings are tough for TA soldiers we are hoping to be able to deliver quality capability. Alongside this is the continuing effort towards enhancing comms skills and ensuring our equipment is maintained to the standard required; all supported by upcoming exercises.

EXERCISE CASTLE COMMS - by Cpl Tait

On arrival at the FOB in Longmoor Camp, our home for the weekend, there was a briefing on the insurgent activity in the area and our proposed Actions On. Shockingly, we learnt that the insurgents would be dressed in a mixture of issue kit and "Eastern" clothing and would probably be armed with British Army small arms....

Up early o'clock on the Saturday morning for a fine breakfast from the new-style ration packs – who knew they would taste just the same as the old ones! **SSgt (YoS) Collins** then took us through some Bowman revision. After several hours sorting out our VAGR from our HCDR and UDT, it was time to move on to a lesson on the Principles of War, from our new SPSI, **SSgt Robertson**, recently jumped in from 216 (Para) Sig Sqn. Time to go into the field! My Det, commanded by **Cpl Andy O'Marah** were to be located in woodland near to a water tower, a useful aid to navigation. We stopped short and patrolled in to recce. As we did so we noticed a couple of landrovers and some people dressed in issue kit, but no "Eastern" clothing. We cautiously moved in, but soon



discovered that they had no idea who we were; they were here for a different game!

Back at the FOB it was briefing time again and orders for the fighting patrol to locate and destroy those pesky insurgents. Orders given and command appointments allocated, we were ready to go, all itching to get at the enemy, especially our newest rifleman, **SSgt Robertson**. We patrolled out onto the dark training area through the camp and into the woods, anticipating the fight to come. With **SSgt Robertson's** regular encouragement and tactical advice (although subtitles may have helped), we came to a deserted base. As we paused to regroup, a figure emerged from the gloom and walked past us, whistling. Then, some more suspicious people started shooting at us... We returned fire and forced the enemy to flee. We patrolled back to base for tea and medals all round.

OFFICERS v WOs & SNCOs CRICKET MATCH

- by Lt Stephanie Barron

The Sqn continued its tradition of hosting the competitive inter-mess cricket match over the weekend of the Eastbourne Airbourne Airshow. On a beautiful sunny day broken by the occasional rumble of a Red Arrow overhead the senior ranks across 39 Sig Regt met for the annual match. Aside from the match the event is a wonderful opportunity for family members to enjoy a buffet and weather on the South Coast. Lanyard team member **Sig Jake Cole** acted as impartial umpire and did well to maintain control over the sometimes volatile team members on each side.

Last year the trophy was won by the WOs and SNCOs, so it was a matter of pride that they keep the trophy for a second year, and a matter of honour that the Offrs win it back. Consequently whilst a few players (myself included) were probably more interested in a second round of cucumber sandwiches and a dose of additional sunshine, others were focused on winning. WOs' & Sgts' Mess Team Captain, **WO1 (RSM) Lythe**, along with 56 Sqn **Sgts Paul Hawes** and **Justin Hewett** all set the tone by hitting the ball into the nettles (thanks for that) and instantly achieving 4s and 6s in quick

succession. **Lt Mark Craster** from 94 Sqn is a skilled wicket-keeper and managed to keep check on some of the faster back hits from 56 Sqn **PSI SSgt Mark Anderson**.

For the Offrs, Team Captain OC 56 **Maj Keiron Francis** teamed up with **Lt Mark Craster** to pound the ball with venom. Run after run was tallied up on the scoreboard and victory for the Offrs loomed. The Deputy Bde Comd, **Col Edwards** lined up to bat with CO, **Lt Col Sharkey** and between them, they racked up enough points to secure a win for the Offrs.

PERMANENT STAFF CHALLENGING PURSUITS

- by SSgt Sutcliffe

Day 1 kicked off with superb weather and a PFA which was passed by all with ease! Next on the program was a NavEx which took in a coastal route between Druidston and Solva taking in several points of interest along the way, the only navigational faux pas being the questionable skills shown by Co-driver **Capt 'Magellan' Rea** en route to the DOP!!

Day 2 - Surfing was to be the day's activity which started with a brief from our Instructor on how to identify hazards, "pop up" on the board as well as the pros and cons of self aid in the event of being stung by a weaver fish. After the brief, we strutted onto Newgale beach, endeavouring to look as manly as is possible while wearing neoprene tights and bright yellow rash vests. Despite bringing all his own kit **SSgt Sutcliffe** failed to impress and was heard to comment that his board must be broken, the water wasn't working and that the waves were too small! We did however manage to catch a few waves between us and finished off the day all experts in our own right with plenty of stories for the bar.

Day 3 - As with the Surfing, the Coasteering started with a brief from **Emma**, our guide for the day and was to take us on a route around the Pembrokeshire coastline, clambering/ climbing and jumping off various coastal features. There was only one refusal to jump during the activity by **SSgt 'Wendy' Anderson** and to be fair as pointed out by **Emma** "It was very high, and very scary" as she dived off the same point!



The trophy is handed over to the CO

We were invited to the WOs' & Sgts' Mess Oktoberfest which saw us descending on the charity shops of Haverfordwest to buy fancy dress and anything remotely German ... which was not as easy as it sounds! However £20 and a bit of squaddie improvisation later we were all kitted out and ready for a night of beer swilling, bratty munching and Germanic singing !

The Ex, although short was enjoyable and at times challenging but definitely worth the effort. Thanks go out to all that attended as well as to 14SR for being very accommodating and helping to make it all possible.



71st (CITY OF LONDON) YEOMANRY SIGNAL REGIMENT BEXLEYHEATH



CO
RSM

Lt Col CR Sutherland
WO1 (RSM) D Graham

Aug and Sep are typically the busiest time of year for the Regt and in particular the Ops Team. This year was focused solely on comms; specifically to ensure that the Regt practiced the deployment of ICS in support of a UK focussed Contingency Op. The Regt looks set to be well positioned and prepared for any possible tasks in relation to Op OLYMPICS in 2012.

Initially the Regt deployed to Longmoor Camp with the aim of building upon the Regtl led PHOENIX GALLOP and PHOENIX

CHARGE exercises earlier in the year. Soldiers undertook special to arm training to ensure they had a basic level of trade skills that could be subsequently built upon. Officers undertook basic Ops Room training as well as Regtl Offr training. After this initial period the Regtl FoF led a PACEX and the Regtl YoF followed with a confirmatory comms exercise on the training area. We were fortunate enough to be visited by Comd 2 Sig Bde, **Brig Steve Vickery**, allowing him to see some of the training taking place. Subsequently, the Regt reconstituted at TACs in order to conduct an FTX at locations within the M25. Sqn operation teams assumed the role of the Regtl Command Post Forward, which allowed



them to react to information, plan and execute deployment of assets and personnel as various scenarios started to unfold. The culmination of AC was a Regtl photo on Horse Guards Parade with the London Eye as the backdrop.



The Bde Comd views from the Fofs(V), Yofs(V) and Sig Alston

SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS

The Regt continue to support the Defence Main Effort of Op ENTIRETY with LCpls Michael and Ward recently returning from Op TOSCA. Capt Sean Olohan is currently deployed on Op ELLAMY and 2 soldiers are soon to depart as individual augmentees on Op HERRICK. We look forward to supporting 3 Div Sig Regt and continue to exploit opportunities to assist other Regts with their deployments.

BIKE SAFE COURSE - by SSgt Iwan Davies REME

On Tue 30 Aug the 71 Y Sig Regt chapter undertook a Bike Safe course with the Metropolitan Traffic Police. This was kindly funded and sponsored by the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson. The Regt sent 10 personnel to undertake the course ranging from the CO to LCpl Danny Smith.

The day started with us meeting the Police at their training depot at London Gate service station on the M1, north of London. Firstly, we had to fill out forms and show proof that all were legal to ride, which can be debatable for some of us. This was followed by a short introduction to the team. From the outset we all hit it off with great rapport and banter flying between us. Once all the paperwork was confirmed we were given a series of briefings and a handful of videos in order to place us in the right frame of mind to undertake the practical section of the course. We were split into teams of 2 or 3 of similar riding ability and accompanied by a police officer on

their bike. As part of the course we rode through rural areas and in towns to get a feel of the varying driving conditions that we would experience. As part of the team, we took it in turns to take the lead with the police rider behind us. My team consisted of LCpl Danny Smith on his Kawasaki 600 Ninja and me on my original 600 Ninja (25 years of age and much better). We were fortunate enough to have a police officer who was riding a Moto Guzzi Italian police bike.

During the ride we were advised on road positioning, speed and obstacles that could create problems for us. The CO and SSgt Paul Thwaite witnessed this when they came across a lorry stuck under a bridge! The instructor explained that being proactive and aggressive on the road would make the ride better, safer and more enjoyable. After riding for a couple of hours we stopped at a Frankie and Bennie's restaurant to have lunch and to get to know our companion police a little more. Once finished, we all jumped on our bikes for another thrilling couple of hours around the North London area and then back to the training depot.

We finished the day with an additional brief and introduction to the Advance Riding Course. They explained that the course offers a possible reduction in insurance premiums and would lead you to be better all round riders and maybe take us further onto becoming an instructor. After a quick debrief a group photo was taken and we all departed. We all took a great deal from the course, mainly road position, use of the horn to alert other road users, and keeping our speed down!



The Bike Safe crew around the Adjts glorious Triumph Sprint ST

47 (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

OC Maj David Cornick
SSM WO2 (SSM) Marc Gilfrin

EXERCISE PHOENIX CAMP 2011 - by LCpl Hennigan

The first week of Ex PHOENIX CAMP saw the Sqn deploy to Longmoor Camp to conduct refresher training. The week started with the Sqn carrying out an MCCP and undertaking 2



days of maintenance and training at Uxbridge TAC. From here the Sqn then deployed for the quick trip round the M25 and down the A3 to Longmoor to meet the rest of the Regt. The first week was split and saw the Comd team's conduct ops room training, defence writing lessons and soldier career management. Simultaneously, the soldiers were given 4 days of lessons and refresher training on the comms platforms in preparation for the FTX in week 2. The first weeks training passed very quickly and all concerned felt they had further developed their skills and knowledge base. At the end of this phase the Sqn recovered to Uxbridge in preparation for The London Military Knowledge Day organised by 68 Sig Sqn.

Week 2 started with some last minute familiarisation training during which **LCpl Brayshaw's** beret was tragically left on the bonnet of a WOLF before a 2 hour motorway drive. In the early hours of the morning dets began rolling out the gates towards their locations with members of Sqn particularly pleased with their brand new acquisitions - cooking utensils purchased courtesy of the OC's wife! The Regt established dets at points across London, including Police Stations, TA Centres, Hospitals and an RAF Camp and established robust VHF comms. In some cases this was easier said than done as for the FFR dets, certain antennas require a large amount of real estate to work which was not always available. Soldiers were often forced to improvise and even nature attempted to stand in the way with **LCpl McGowan's** det having its antenna braid chewed through by a fox 2 nights in a row! However, despite these adversities the Regt successfully established all dets and achieved a fully informed net with each det establishing comms with HQ.

The next 4 days were spent working in shifts confirming comms, sending reports, changing antennas to achieve better strength and some dets even had to tear down completely, move to a new locations and set up again from scratch. It was hard work but not without its rewards. Everyone gained valuable experience working on the kit.

After the endex was called, the kit was turned around and soldiers got ready for the Regtl photo taken at Horse Guards Parade. The Sqns then returned to their TACs where there was nothing left to do but have "one or two" quiet end of camp drinks with the soldiers of 47 Sig Sqn.

LEADERSHIP DAY AT HYDE PARK

Solders from both 47 and 68 Sig Sqn paraded at Wellington Barracks with much excitement to receive the brief for the day. The day consisted of 2 command tasks and a stretcher race in Hyde Park. The teams had an additional task to collect as much money for the ABF whilst moving between stands. Each element was then scored with the winning team being awarded a fantastic prize. The highlight of the day for all the soldiers was the stretcher race around Hyde Park with random tourists taking pictures and a positive reaction from the general public. At 1700hrs all the teams returned to Wellington Barracks for the money count and prize giving.



The 47 Sig Sqn stretcher race team

This part of the day took much longer than expected because of the huge amount of time taken to count the money. The final total was in excess of £1700 with 47 Sig Sqn contributing over £700. The team scores for each element of the day where added up with 47 Sig Sqn winning first prize awarded by the CO. On returning to the TAC the soldiers proceeded to celebrate by going to the garages to undertake some more det maintenance to ensure that fun was not being over done!

68 (INNS OF COURT & CITY AND ESSEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS)

OC **Maj Alex Downing**
SSM **WO2 James Paton**

SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS

The main effort remains Op ENTIRETY and the Sqn have been proud to have played a part in this with the sunfaltering commitment of **Capt Sean Olohan**. He returned to the Sqn in June and as soon as his tour leave was over he was back with the Sqn at the earliest opportunity. Congratulations also go to **Capt Sean Olohan** who was rewarded with his much deserved promotion to Capt by the CO on Annual Camp, a very visible recognition of his achievements. With a thirst for commitment, he has now engaged on a 3 month tour based in London to again support overseas operations.

In addition to Op HERRICK members of the Sqn have also supported Op TOSCA in Cyprus. Two soldiers, **LCpls Michael and Ward**, have now completed their tour and are on much needed post tour leave. We are thankful for their safe return.

With these achievements accomplished we turn our thoughts to our soldiers who are preparing themselves for Ops. **LCpl Gorman, LCpl Fox** and **Sig Osment** are now training with the LONDON Regt and have completed their Phase one training in Canada in preparation for a deployment next year in the role as dismounted infantry. This is a significant shift from their comms background and again goes to show the flexibility of the TA soldier. We wish them well with their endeavours on HERRICK. In addition to these soldiers, we also have 2 more that are carrying out their pre-deployment training at Chilwell prior to deployment to Afghanistan. Once completed, **Cpl Malouf** and **Sig Teslenko** will then deploy in the role of supporting the training team that prepare the new arrivals for their time in Theatre.

ENDURANCE EVENTS

Like all things in life, all work and no play make Jack a dull boy and 68 Sig Sqn does have a passion for challenges. The Sqn provided 6 out of the 8 members of the Lanyard Trophy team. The team was led by **Lt Tim Roberts** (47 Sig Sqn) with **Sgt's Jack Stabler** and **Richard Marsh** (68 Sig Sqn), **Cpl's Ross Nugent** (68 Sig Sqn) and **Jim Sutton** (265 Sp Sqn), **LCpl Peter Fox** (68 Sig Sqn), **Sig Alex Teslenko** and **Sig Luke Morgan** (68 Sig Sqn). Team coach **SSgt PSI (T) Andy Carnegie** coordinated the training with support from **Sgt Rich' Griffiths** and **Sig Christine Markham**. Well done all for a great effort.

ANNUAL CAMP

Annual Camp this year was split between Longmoor and our home TA Centres around London. The Visitor Day was in the first week and we were very pleased that **Tom Taylor, Nick Holder** and **David Norris** all turned out to battle the cold and drizzle to see the Sqn in the field. The Sqn deployed its full complement of comms assets and more than enough soldiers to crew them. The exercise scenario was, not surprisingly based around London and gave us more practice at providing comms from one side of the City to another in advance of future taskings.



During Camp each Sqn organised a period of training and it fell to 68 Sig Sqn to organise a Military Education day. This was achieved by setting questions which had to be answered by visiting key sites and museums around London. Extra points were awarded for team ingenuity and thinking outside the box. One team managed to talk their way through security and had a photo taken outside 10 Downing Street.



The team was **SSgt Brazier**, **Cpl Maalouf**, **Sig Rideout** and **Sig Shepherd**. The winning team overall on the day was led by **Cpl Sharp** and comprised of **Sgt Jules**, **Sig Kerlan**, **Sig Brown** and **Sig Teslenko**.

265 (KENT AND COUNTY OF LONDON YEOMANRY (SHARPSHOOTERS)) SUPPORT SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS)

OC **Maj Andy Church**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Adrian Keeble**

With August traditionally a quiet month, it was a chance to recharge the batteries before AC. **Cpl Jim Sutton** found time to organise the Regt's Lanyard Trophy team and their training across the South Downs. It was also a chance for routine admin to come to the fore and to catch up with MS reporting, mobilisation procedures and prep for annual camp. **Capt Paul Ukpai** organised some imaginative Bowman training, put into practice by our ever resourceful SPSI, **SSgt Adam Wilkie**.

Sept arrived and with it the Regt's 2 week AC. Deploying to Bexleyheath TA Centre for 0700 on the first day, **SSgt Sharon Savarese** did a fantastic job in taking the Sqn through the mobilisation process by mid morning. The Sqn was then put to task to conduct special to arm training for the next couple of days. A 0500hrs start on day 3 enabled us to arrive early at Longmoor Camp and avoid the usual Monday morning traffic on the M25. A quick stop for a brew courtesy of Liphook Services and the Sqn rolled through the camp gates at 0730hrs to be met by the ever cheerful representatives of the QM's Dept. No sooner had the troops arrived, they found themselves square bashing to the pleasant tones of **WO1 Steve Healey** and **SSgt Iwan Davies** in preparation for the Freedom of Bexley Parade due to take place later that week.

As the rest of the Regt arrived, the rest of the day took shape and the training began. This was followed in the evening by a period of physical training under the guidance of **WO2 Adrian Keeble**, **Cpl Jim Sutton** and **LCpl Carl Crane**. Tuesday began with some early morning drill practice while the remainder of the training at Longmoor took place on the training area where electricians learnt to provide power to comms kit and operators learnt to provide comms to anyone who would listen (or receive for that matter). **SSgt Daz Lane** even found time to teach some members of the Sqn the easiest way to connect 2 12x12 shelters together. Unfortunately he left it to their own initiative to separate them again once the exercise had finished. Don't worry **Daz**, the bill for 2 new shelters is on its way to you! As the end of the week approached, the Sqn deployed back to Bexleyheath and began final preparation for the Freedom of Bexley parade. A day spent marching round the TA Centre and Hall Place in anticipation of the big event the following day. We even had the pleasure of members of the public watching to point out our little mistakes. "When the Sergeant Major says right turn, shouldn't they all be going the same way?" was one constructive comment. Still, that's what rehearsals are for I suppose. It'll be fine on the day.

FREEDOM OF BEXLEY PARADE 2011

The sun shone on the Sqn on Saturday 10 Sept 2011. At 1000hrs, we set off from the Bexleyheath TA Centre led by the Corps Band. The public had turned out in force to cheer its local boys and girls on. With a professional band in front, it was easy for the Sqn to keep the step as they snaked their way through the town centre, down Gravel Hill and arriving at Hall Place at approx 1043hrs. A quick brew and it was time to form up again for the march onto the presentation area in front of honoured guests The **Rt Hon Nicholas Soames PC MP**, the Mayor of Bexley and Comd 2 Sig Bde, **Brig Steve Vickery**. Presentations in recognition of long service were awarded to **WO1 Mark Gittins**, **WO2 Adrian Keeble**, **Sgt Charlie Woo** and **Cpl Chris Larney**. As the parade came to a close it was back to the TA Centre for tea and medals, apart from those who had been presented with them earlier, and the rest of annual camp could continue.



The Corps Band lead 265 Sp Sqn through the streets of Bexleyheath

The start of the second weeks training saw the Sqn deliver its dual role of logistical support and communications as part of the 5 day long UK Ops exercise. With fox's eating through comms cables, generators exploding and soldiers demanding to be driven home immediately, it was a very testing time for everyone. Of course all the above examples were part of the exercise scenario and the faithful fox lived to fight another day. Eventually peace was restored to the London area and the rioters returned home. 71 Y Sig Regt could then return just in time for a "group" photo on the parade ground at Horse Guards Parade with the London Eye looking on. It was a very special photograph indeed and one to treasure for many years. It brought the curtain down on another successful and enjoyable training period for the Sqn.

The rest of September was quiet, although **Sig Rob Brazier**, **Pte Simon Ness** and **Cfn Adam Johnson** found time to attend their 2 week junior CLM course. All 3 did very well, especially **Sig Brazier**, who picked up a couple of blisters on his heels that were the size of Bournemouth. For the next 2 weeks, every step he took reminded him of those arduous days tabbing around Longmoor Training Area. All jolly good fun.

The Sqn now looks forward to a busy pre-Christmas training period starting with Ex PHOENIX TROT in October.



265 Sp Sqn and guests at the Freedom of Bexley Parade



NEWS FROM SQUADRONS



4 MECHANIZED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (204) CATTERICK



HILL WALKING – by Sig Wookey

The aim of the day was for the group to practice some basic map reading and navigation skills whilst also enjoying challenging adventurous training in the picturesque area of Hellvellyn. The group, mainly members of Alamein Tp, were of varying abilities and experience. It was obvious from the initial turn out who had been hill walking before, those with less experienced dressed for a night out or in a tracksuit.

The route itself was chosen by **Sig John Hayes** the Sqn PTI, so most of us anticipated the fact it would be arduous in parts. The group set off full of enthusiasm, at a lightening pace, reaching the top of Red Tarn after a steady climb of 1000ft. Despite only having to climb up the hill some of the group managed to get geographically embarrassed. From Red Tarn there was a great view of Striding Edge, Catsye Cam and Hellvellyn itself, as it was a clear day you could easily see people on the peak of the summit and what appeared to be a building at the top. Here the group found some shelter from the wind and began tucking into their lunch. **SSgt Sean Sweeney**, who had climbed to the summit numerous times, then told the group that we had to be quick if we wanted a coffee from the shop on the top of Hellvellyn as the poor old lady had to walk back down the hill. With this in mind the group set off for Striding Edge.

SSgt Sweeney took the lead through the trickiest parts and gave expert advice to those that followed. There were times where those without a head for heights would be best not to scramble and take the easier footpath slightly lower down. We hurried the last climb as quick as possible with the revelation that there was a café at the top where we could rest and unwind, not knowing that this was all a big hoax conjured up by the Tp management!!!

We just hoped that **Lt McNeillie** and **SSgt Sweeney** felt a slight sense of guilt after seeing the disappointment that overwhelmed **Sig Padgett's** face when he realised that there would be no home made chips. At least **Cpl Phillips** cheered up, he was gutted earlier when he realised he hadn't packed any money. Our disheartened group then made our way back down from the summit following the route which passes the former site of Greenside Mine. This route gradually sloped back down into Glenridding and towards the awaiting mini-bus, but not before stopping in a local watering hole for a quick, and much needed beverage. All in all, the day was enjoyable, it was a great chance to bond as a team whilst also learning and refreshing key but basic soldiering skills.



Cpl Bickerton starting the climb to Hellvellyn



7 ARMOURED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (207) BERGEN - HOHNE



OC
RSM

Maj N Bruce
WO1 (RSM) K Langan

OPERATION HERRICK 14 - by LCpl Wiles and Sig Dickson

The life of a Royal Signals Electrician

The Sqn welcomed the safe return of the 38 members of A Tp deployed on Op HERRICK 14, concluding a 12 month period with the unit maintaining a constant presence in Afghanistan, though the Desert Rats Sig Sqn continue their operational commitment with individuals deployed on Op ELLAMY.

The remainder of the Sqn has had an equally pivotal involvement in both upholding the armoured flame and preparing to support a multi-role Bde HQ in the field as the formation realigns itself for modern warfare. This process began on Ex RHINO STAFF and will evolve throughout the winter in preparation for future exercises in BATUS. Prior planning and careful management has also enabled Sqn participation in a range of sporting competitions and Adventure Training events, embodying a true "work hard, play hard" ethos.

Whilst deployed on Op Herrick 14 as a Royal Signals Electrician I was part of a team known as the PRRS (Power Response Repair Section). While serving our 6 months on HERRICK our department had 2 main roles; the first inside Camp Bastion consisted of basic stores counting, ordering and fitting new parts, and second line repair and maintenance of the emergency reserve of FEPS generators for Theatre. For our second part of the job we were on 4 hours NTM ready to deploy out to any location at anytime during the day or night. Our basic routine would be to carry our tools, spare parts or new equipment, weighing up to 110kg, and then set about repairing the fault, usually with the only direction of "the power's knackered" from the end user at the FOB. Problems varied from basic errors such as users pouring petrol into the clearly labeled diesel engine or by soldiers "daisy-chaining"



4-way extension leads and overloading the system; through to more technical faults such as sensor replacement, valve clearance or re-distributing an entire FOB power plan. We were always greeted with respect upon arriving at a location and it was extremely rewarding being able to improve the operational effectiveness of numerous PBs and the morale of those serving within them.



LCpl Wiles on patrol in the Green Zone

Brigade Advisory Group, 3 Kandak 5 Tolai (Heavy Weapons)

Our role as G6 Advisors within the BAG was to provide G6 Mentoring to the Afghan National Army and also too provide comms support to either the force protection teams or the KATT (Kandak Advisory Training Team). Our team consisted of **Cpl Cocozza** (BAG RLD Team Comd) and **Sig Senior** providing support from the IJOC, and **LCpl Sheard**, **LCpl Clarke** and **Sig Telford** providing intimate KATT G6 support. Deployed with 3 Mercian BG as part of an 8 man team based out of PB Shia Agha, NES-N, we were the advisors for the heavy weapons Tolai of 3 Kandak.

The tour started quietly but after 2 months things started intensifying with the occasional IED and small arms contacts. After the half way point we were tasked with numerous operations such as clearing compounds, searching for suspects, and supporting the B Coy Danish BG within our AO.

As a callsign we deployed out on Op TUFAN QI'MAT 6 to assist with clearing routes and compounds and this was where our mentoring and patience were both really tested and came to fruition. Our compatriots took on board our advice resulting in a successful operation, enabling ISAF to regain a presence within the Yakchal area.

Despite initial uncertainty about the exact nature of the job prior to deployment, by giving 100% to the mentoring role we all had a stimulating and demanding tour and have developed as soldiers a great deal from our experiences. We would also like to say RIP to **Jacob Olsen** who was killed by an IED on 06/09/11, he was part of the B Coy Danish BG (ISAF Team 12) and he will be missed by all that worked alongside him.

Main Troop, LASH KAH GAR

Lash-kah-Gar, or Lash Vegas as it is commonly referred to, is known as the MOB that never sleeps and it earned that name several times over. A typical day would involve a 6-8hr radio stag followed by 2hrs in England Sanger to reflect on life and sweat. The facilities at Lash are extremely good with most lads going on 'Op Massive', **LCpl Courtney-Wyllie** certainly spent most of his down time sculpting his body. The cookhouse, or 'galley' as the Marines seemed to call it, was

top notch, regularly serving up some of the best steaks I have ever eaten. Being attached to 30 Cdo Bde meant for us Army boys there was a lot of changes to terminology such as the 8 man rooms becoming 8 man 'Grots' and the toilets becoming 'heads'. Living and working with the Bootnecks (Marines) had been an enjoyable experience for all members and for **Sig Morgan** in particular as he ended up being the only Army rank in what was referred to by some of the Bootnecks as 'Party Grot', having to adapt to the Grot rules enforced by the resident Marines. Working at Lash provided chances to get hands on experience with the 117 TacSat radio and expand my knowledge of Bowman. All in all it was a good tour for everyone and working with the Marines was a experience none of us will forget.



Sig Fraser receives his medal from Deputy Comd Hohne Garrison Col Eaton (late R SIGNALS)

SUPPORT TROOP CULTURAL AWARENESS VISIT TO BERGEN BELSEN - by SSgt Hemming

The Tp assembled in Jerboas (the Sqn welfare café) and under the lead of the QM **Capt Mick Angove** proceeded to learn the history of WWII with a specific focus on the local area and why 7 Armd Bde are based in Hohne. The Tp then watched a documentary on what horrors and problems the Allies faced on discovery of the Belsen concentration camp. With many in the Tp already learning a great deal, we moved to the rail head that was used to transport the Jews to Belsen. Standing inside with the whole Tp we gained a real insight to what horrors the Jews had faced, contrasted with a story of an 18 year old German soldier tasked with disposing of the dead from the wagons, putting into perspective some of the tasks that were faced on a day to day business.

We proceeded to follow the route taken by the Jews to the camp, today marked by a painted white line with comments of survivors painted along side at irregular intervals, hauntingly depicting the memories and fears they faced. There now stands a new building remembering the horrors faced at the site from the first Soviet POWs to the Jews through to the final solution, then the problems confronting the British following the liberation. In a distant corner lies a cemetery for 50,000 Soviet POWs, with a sobering thought



Sp Tp at the rail head to Bergen-Belsen

that names of those buried there are only being discovered today, many researched by local school children!!!! Our education concluded at the museum beneath the roundhouse, a hidden treasure of historical knowledge about the role of Hohne Garrison. With our



new understanding and appreciation of the rich history of the local area it was back to the Welfare Centre for fish and chips and a beer. Thanks go to **Cpl Clegg**, one of our Chefs, for organising the day and the hard work that was put into it.

SPORT AND ADVENTURE TRAINING

SAILING - by Sig Barton

The Sqn has recently pushed hard to increase our involvement in various sailing activities and members of the unit have been fortunate enough to participate in both the Corps Regatta in Kiel and more recently the RSYC sail training week in Gosport. Open to both novices and experienced sailors, the training provided the ideal opportunity to gain competent crew qualification or to build up logbook experience needed for further qualifications such as the day skipper license.

Having arrived in Gosport, **Sigs Bob Harland** and **Dan Coward** were allocated to a boat aimed at qualifying it's crew as competent, while **Sigs 'Mac' McMahon** and **Mikey Barton** were placed on a boat looking to stretch it's crew further in order to give them greater experience and challenges. The young signallers were taken out of their comfort zone almost immediately during an unexpected night sail on their first evening aboard, but they were able to overcome this first hurdle and grew in confidence as a result.

Sig McMahon showed us all that Steve Redgrave he is not after a painfully slow row ashore in an inflatable dinghy for a shower on the second morning. Although not very far as the crow flies, a heavy day of tacking meant the journey took longer than we'd have liked, but consolation arrived at the bottom of a pint glass in the local pub. A second night sail tested us again but we learned a great deal about the various lights and signals used to guide the boats safely across the water. We still have a bit to learn, however, as later in the night we unintentionally negotiated the shallow waters of Bramble Bank; lady luck was on our side though as high tide ensured sufficient ground clearance beneath our keel.

The week ended with an invitation to the Southampton Yacht Club for a meal for everyone involved in the regatta. Soldiers were presented with various awards for sailing and certificates were given to those who had gained new qualifications. Both weeks were great opportunities to test ourselves in an enjoyable environment and I shall look forward to future opportunities to get out on the water.

EXERCISE DIAMOND MOUNTAIN RAT - by LCpl Willis

With bags packed and kit loaded, 12 members of the Sqn set off to the Harz Mountains and after a short 2 hour drive we reached Torfhaus Lodge, our accommodation for the week.

The group was split into 2 syndicates of 6 and for the multi-activity week, during which we would have a go at MTB, Rock Climbing, Mountaineering and Kayaking. Syndicate 2, who obviously required a little more training than the AT Gods in syndicate one, were the first to face rock climbing with the master **WO2 Brandan Randerson**. All conquered the climbs in the end but it was only **Sig Garland Huggins** and **Sig Scott Hymas** who really "owned" the rock.

Syndicate one started with MTB and not long after meeting **Karl**, our German instructor, we soon discovered that his idea of flat and our idea of flat were very different. Only a few miles in and gravity claimed its first victim as **LCpl Jese 'Koli' Kolkata** decided to fly over the handle bars on the first downhill part of the track we had seen all day. It was at this point we think **Karl** changed the route so it was all uphill, including a 2 mile climb on foot with our bikes on our backs.

During the following day's climbing, **LCpl Jack White** created

a new sport, 'Rock Hoisting' needless to say his belayer put in a little more effort than usual. Syndicate 2 were led by MLT guide **LCpl Drons Kumar Nembang** through some atrocious weather and although they did not reach the summit, they did manage to find a café that sold the worst brew any of them have ever tasted.

Day 4 was our turn to walk up the Brocken, the highest peak of the Harz Mountains, but unfortunately at the summit we were greeted with a dense covering of fog, reminiscent of previous visits to Sennybridge. Due to the bad weather, **Sig Paul Jones** took the opportunity to show off his spectacular flips and dives at a local swimming pool. Kayaking for syndicate one resulted in an enjoyable day of games and capsizing in the freezing cold waters of Lake Stausee. The final day of activities saw a return to MTB with everyone's favourite crazy German **Karl** and another chance for mountain goat **LCpl Jhalak 'G' Gurung** to shine during rock climbing.

Before returning to Hohne we visited Mittelbau-Dora labour camp where during WWII 60,000 prisoners from 21 nations were forced to work at the V-2 rocket factory. Our guided tour gave a very interesting insight into the living and work conditions of all the inmates of the camp. A meal in the local bar/restaurant concluded our week of AT and we all left the Harz with memories, a hatred for hills and many photos.



Syndicate 1 atop the Brocken

SPORTING UPDATE

Despite being a minor unit depleted of an entire comms troop, 207 Sig Sqn has continued to hold it's own against major units in a variety of sporting disciplines. The Sqn's football team qualified top of their pool in the Corps 7s in Elmpt, before being narrowly beaten by 11 Sig Regt in the quarter finals. Triathlon continues to grow in popularity as 9 members of the Sqn and Bde HQ competed in a recent RLC event in Hohne, something the garrison hopes to build upon over the winter with a structured training plan in place. The XC season has arrived to BA(G) in earnest and despite a lack of good quality hills for training, **Capt 'Dobbo' Dobson** finished 3rd in his category at the season's opener at "BA(G)'s toughest route" in Bielefeld, whilst **Capt 'He's not human' Newman** skipped his team round to 2nd place in the vets category in the recent XC relay championships. The 0530 PT sessions on Ex RHINO STAFF must be having a positive impact on our legs! Closer to home, the Officers and Seniors recorded their first victory over the Juniors in a closely fought hockey match, the Seniors eventually taking the victory on penalties after normal time ended 2-2. This didn't prevent the juniors winning the overall summer sports title, **Cpl Duckworth** lifting the trophy after strong performances in all 3 disciplines of football, cricket and hockey.





1 MECHANISED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (215) TIDWORTH



OC
RSM

Maj EA Byfield
WO1 (RSM) D Cartledge

The tempo continues at pace as the Sqn begins the exercise season, however we did have a rest during August for Summer leave. We have said good-bye to YofS **Stu Park** who has moved to BOWTAG(N) and **SSgt George Harrison** who has moved to the FALCON Implementation Team. A warm welcome goes to **SSgt Chalky White** and YofS **Chaz Charnley**.

GS FAMILIARISATION COURSE - by Cpl Mark

After the Summer leave period the MT returned to tackle its busy forecast of events for the rest of the year, however without **SSgt Richie Thompson**, **Sgt 'Gaz' Lower** and **LCpl 'Gaz' Donnelly**. We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome **SSgt John McMahon** who joins us from 3 DSR and our newly promoted MT SNCO **Sgt 'Stoppy' Stopforth**.

Prior to the Sqn's busy exercise period we managed to find time to run a 2 week GS familiarisation course. The aim of the course was to give students vital the experience they require before driving on exercise and operations. This kept **Cpl Dave Mark** and **Cpl Lee Leishman** busy with plenty of paperwork and route reces to do prior to the students arriving. The first few days of the course involved death by PowerPoint and some videos, however, all the students took away the vital information from on breakdown and accident procedures, health and safety and driver's hours as well as many others.

Later on into the first week the students were a lot happier out of the classroom and in the vehicles causing havoc on the local roads in Wiltshire. Once the students got used to the vehicle minor driving mistakes were quickly ironed out. However, in the case of **Sig Will Zunde**, he had **Cpl Mark** reaching for the imaginary brake pedal on more than one occasion and after he found the reverse gear at 30 mph which gave a few of us a scare!

The second week started on a high with lessons on convoy procedures, moving into a tactical location and off road driving. The students particularly enjoyed the cross country phase and testing their nerves on the dreaded steep slopes of the 'Seven Sisters' while carrying out stall recovery and hill starts. The students were given an excellent lesson on recovery and were towed by our very own Sqn Recce Mech **Cpl Tim Townsend** who shared with them his wealth of knowledge that will stand them in good stead for the future. This lesson was particularly enjoyed by **Sig Charlie King** who found himself up to his neck in the murky waters of the cross country driving area whilst carrying out a land rover recovery.



Sig Charlie King stopping off for a swim!

By Thursday the course was nearing its end with the students being fully rested prior to their arduous night driving exercise which entailed cross country driving, vehicle camouflage, vehicle recovery and a wheel changing exercise. The students responded to the conditions and continued to show lots of enthusiasm through the night and into the small hours of the morning. On the final day of the course after turning around the vehicles and a debrief, the students were presented with their hard earned certificates and F/MT 600 driving permits.

EXERCISE URBAN WARRIOR 3 - by Sig McLaughlin

Ex URBAN WARRIOR 3 was my first exercise since joining the Sqn from training. Being one of the new guys I didn't know what to expect making me a little nervous, but it was the ideal opportunity for me to sharpen my operator skills and gain knowledge from the more experienced in the Tp. More importantly it was a chance to prove to myself and others that I am confident and capable at my job.

The first phase started with a 2 day PACEX in the garages. A great opportunity to get hands on the kit and gain an insight and understanding of how the dismount kits are set up and how everything connects together and works in a relaxed environment. After successful completion we deployed to Marchwood to establish the Bde Main HQ. For many it was our first time working with DRASH and the world's biggest cam net but everything was kept under control by the 'cam net commander' **Sgt Dee Oakes**. Anyone slacking was kept motivated by **Cpl Tim Kerr** using his excellent motivational methods and at the same time showing his caring side towards the guys. The morale of the troops was high during the build phase; the warm weather and **LCpl Stubbs** winding **Sgt Oakes** up kept smiles on everyone's faces. By Friday the complex was complete, lighting installed, dismounts kit set up and all terminals and UCDs set up ready for the Bde staff to arrive; we just had to pass inspection from the COS. Walking around the completed HQ the first thoughts that came into my head was how busy will this place get over the exercise.



1 Mech Bde HQ Main – URBAN WARRIOR 3

The purpose of the exercise was for HQ Bde staff to see how the Army will operate in the next 10 years, observe what works and what needs to be changed with a view to operations in an urban environment. Our role as operators was to provide real life support and comms to the staff. The exercise was going really well until the second to last night when the wind decided to pick up and attack the DRASH. The only tent that decided to collapse at 0400 was the Bde Comd's, smashing teapots and collapsing map boards!

On completion of the exercise the Bde Comd gathered us all together and thanked us for all our efforts. Overall it was a success and the only thing left for us now was to collapse the complex and the short drive back to camp.



SQUADRON FAMILIES FUN DAY - by Cpl Ollie Holbourn

As I sat in the Sqn Ops room enjoying my brew, the RSM came in with the idea that we need to have a family day and an evening function. Being the only Cpl in sight the RSM chose me from a cast of one. With this task now being set in stone I had the mammoth job to make it into an all singing and dancing event. With a limited budget and only a few weeks to arrange this, the pressure was on!


On 28 July 2011 the families' day went ahead. We had a hands on experience with a variety of reptiles large and small with the supervision of Andy's Aanimal Encounters, face painting and garden games with Jo from It's a party, hand crafted jewellery for the ladies by Bella & Tino, a bouncy castle and sumo wrestling game from Inflatarama, music and BBQ (cheers chefs) and finally (and most importantly), a well stocked bar (thank you **Cpl Amanda Giltrow**). Throughout the day I heard plenty of good feedback from the lads and lasses, the wives were chatting, children entertained and happy, a few drinks and games for the guys... they even managed to "man up" and hold a snake then burn off the adrenaline rush with a sumo wrestling competition.




SSgt Jules Dolan gets friendly with a python

The weather was perfect making the day complete. I would like to thank Tidworth Polo Club for letting us use the pitches and **Cpl Kerr, Cpl Meadows, Cpl Smith, Sig Barnes** and everyone who helped setup and tear down.

The evening function included a charity rank auction, the ranks up for auction were **Maj Byfield, Capt Cameron, WO1 (RSM) Cartledge, SSgt Smith, Lt Arnold, Lt Carr, SSgt Thompson** and Sqn PTI. The auctioneers/comedians; **Cpl Ward** and **Sig Forshaw** were excellent with their great one liners and really got the crowd going. The event was a massive success and we raised an impressive £815.



**19 LIGHT BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS
AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (209)
LISBURN**



OC **Maj Nat Baker**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Ted Page**

EXERCISE PANTHER'S PAUSE – ADVENTUROUS TRAINING IN BAVARIA - by LCpl Ryan Trask and Sig Batham

Rock climbing: At 0930 we arrived at the crag, a steep 40 metre rock face with some obvious routes to climb, with some harder than others. First on the agenda was to do an abseil of around 30 metres. **Capt Alex Glass** RLC showed me the rigging for the abseil and then it was time for me to go down. I didn't enjoy stepping over the edge but once I got past the first stage the abseil was over far too quick. Once I reached the bottom my hand was red hot and so was my figure of eight from the friction slowing me down from landing at the bottom at speed. The most enjoyable part was the climb, I may not have been the quickest but I got there in the end. I found certain parts of the climb tricky and it took me 5 minutes to work out where I was going to place my feet and hands next on a sheer vertical wall. Then it was just a case of **Lt Ali Wall** to lower me down and it was time to head back to the lodge. On the way back we stopped off for a well deserved coffee and currywurst. Overall it was an enjoyable day and it was really good to have the opportunity climb again.



You are holding the end aren't you?

Hill Walking: We signed out the kit we needed and drove to the start point. The first leg of the journey was a bit of a shock for most of us as it was a lot steeper than anticipated. Eventually we got to a hut about two thirds of the way up so we stopped for a breather and then we were faced with my favourite part. The incline was really steep, the ground was loose rocks and gravel, and if that wasn't enough every time



Capt Rob Carnegie, LCpl Ryan Trask, Maj Scott Vardy AGC (SPS), Sig David Nicholls, Capt Gav Hendrie AGC (SPS), Sig 'Batman' Batham

we got to what we thought was the top, we realised there was further to go! We spent a bit of time at the peak having lunch, the weather was red hot which meant **LCpl Ryan Trask** had to hide in the shade as he has the skin of a ginger man while the rest of us soaked up the sun. Once we were all fed and watered we decided to start the long walk back down. This was a massive heartbreaker for **Sig Nicholls** who was suffering slightly from the journey so far. Once we eventually




Lt Ali Wall and Sgt Jay Preston strolling up the Bavarian mountains




got down to the bottom there was a massive sigh of relief from all but everyone was still smiling. We got in the minibus and headed to a nearby town for a drink before driving back to the lodge. It was an enjoyable and good start to the week but we were all happy to take our boots off at the end.

Kayaking: On day 2 **Sig Batham** and **Sig Nicholls** were kayaking with the instructors from 11 Sig Regt, **LCpl Davie Swan** and **LCpl Ray Dowson**. Before getting in the water we were talked through the safety points and once we were happy we went kayaking onto the lake. We paddled to quiet area away from other people and practised rescue drills in the cold water, where naturally we got totally submerged, but we

picked up the drills quickly. **LCpl Swan** decided to go for the self-righting drill which is for correcting yourself once you have capsized - this is an unassisted drill just using just your paddle and body momentum. This proved quite frustrating after a few attempts so it was time for someone else to try. **LCpl Dowson**, **Sig Batham** and **Sig Nicholls** successfully completed the drill after 4 or 5 attempts even though **Sig Nicholls** was more interested in searching for fish! After many hours getting wet and paddling what seemed miles on the lake we gained a lot out of the day, all of us had learned a great deal. Before heading back we tried a local cafe to restore our body temperature back to normal. This was a brilliant day and I look forward to the next time I go kayaking.



16 AIR ASSAULT BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (216) COLCHESTER



OC **Maj M Fayers**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) P Watson**

On the back of summer leave the Sqn has jumped straight into the task of generating our Airborne Task Force (ABTF) capabilities. This wraps up most of the Sqn personnel and equipment, which will be held at Very High Readiness for the foreseeable future. As a result we have been busy rehearsing and exercising our HQ and comms capabilities, in addition to regaining our vital air assault and parachuting skills. The ABTF has not been generated since 2006, so there is lots to learn and update, including applying the lessons identified from Ops HERRICK and TELIC. The chance to do something different is a welcome one after successive HERRICK tours. The resurgence of our ABTF commitment has led to a drive on those attempting P Coy and an eagerness to recall Para Trained ex-members of the Sqn from the wider Corps.

Despite these preparations the Sqn has managed to balance the work/play elements well; winning the Lanyard Trophy, reaching the semi-finals of the Corps' Football Competition in Elmpt and celebrating our heritage at Caythorpe during the Annual Arnhem Weekend the Village holds.

CAYTHORPE WEEKEND - by Signaller Parker

The village of Caythorpe is regarded as the spiritual home for 216 (Para) Sig Sqn due to the villages' support to the 1st Airborne Division prior to their departure for the Battle of Arnhem during Op MARKET GARDEN in September 1944. Every year the village holds an Arnhem Weekend to celebrate these brave men departing on this historic battle and the Sqn is very much part of these festivities. This year it was no different and veterans of the Sqn from all around the country joined the Caythorpe Villagers and serving members of the Sqn to mark this historic event.

For any of you who have attended Caythorpe in the past then you will know format of the weekend well – it always starts with an RV at the village's local Pub, the "Wagon and Horses", where a beer or 2 was enjoyed with old friends recanting tales of years gone by. Following this, and with slightly sore heads, Saturday morning



A Veteran Reminisces about the old kit and equipment

starts early for some in the village hall with an update to the veterans about what the Sqn is up to. This year's presentation was headed up by **Cpl Wood** who decided to show the Sqn's progression from it's beginnings in WW2 to the present day by highlighting the differences in old and new military uniform and kit. There was something for everyone and the veterans were in awe of the kit we get now, a far cry from the putties and Dennison Smocks they used to get!



Members of B Tp waiting for the Caythorpe Parade

Meanwhile in preparation for the afternoon village fete work parties (also with sore heads) set about preparing the Sqn's stands. This year they included the Airborne Sniper Alley, headed up by **LCpls Deegan** and **Lister**; the Penalty Shootout, headed up by **LCpl Fricker**; the Bouncy Castle, the Crazy Crane and finally elements of the Sqn PRI was provided by **Margaret** and **Sgt Griffiths**. There was also the now infamous "Caythorpe Crufts", where **Lt Tom Howley** was asked to be the guest judge. He quickly proved to be in his element and after a long afternoon's judging he has finally given out all the prizes with only the recipient of "Ugliest Dog on Show" being offended when **Lt Howley** ventured the opinion "You know dogs are meant to look like their owners..."! I think you'll have to learn to think before you speak Sir...

The other main event of the village fete is the annual football match between the Sqn and Caythorpe Town FC. Initially the Caythorpe side looked like the clear favourites after taking a early 2-0 lead, however the Sqn team soon settled in and were eventual 4-2 winners. Goals were scored by **Sig McInnes** (2), **Sig Porter** and **Sgt Swan**. The spectators played a big part in this but at times we didn't know who they were supporting, especially because there was much abuse hurled at **WO2 (RQMS) 'Eggy' Henderson** during the match; apparently he was the victim of a "Lets abuse Eggy at Caythorpe" Facebook campaign!



Daytime activities over the Sqn reconvened at the Wagon and Horses, with the exception of the Officers, Seniors and a select few who attended a dinner night along with the veterans, local dignitaries and organisers of the weekend from the village. The dinner provided an ideal opportunity for the Sqn to show its appreciation for the support from the village of Caythorpe. However despite their posh meal everyone ended up in the Wagon and Horses albeit after a quick change from mess kit into maroon polo shirts and jeans.

Finally bright and early (and with slightly sore heads) on Sunday there is the Church Parade where the Sqn marches through the village to the church and a Remembrance Service for all those soldiers who have lost their lives whilst serving with an Airborne Signals unit. This year the name of the late **Cpl Steven Dunn**, who was sadly killed by a roadside IED during the Sqn's recent deployment on Op HERRICK 13, was added to the Role of Honour. After the service it was then back over to the Village Hall for a centralised buffet lunch provided by the villagers then onto the coaches for a well needed rest!

JUMPS – by Sgt 'Mike' Atherton

With 216 (Para) Sig Sqn out of the Op HERRICK cycle, a shift in focus was now aimed at contingency Ops and the ABTF. This meant getting maximum numbers of newly qualified lads on their jumps course and winged up, or for the old and bold one refresher jump to get back in date – and of course to get Para Pay to help us through this financial crisis.

One such jump came about the beginning of Oct when 11 Sqn members including the OC, **Maj M Fayers**, **WO1 (RSM) P Watson** and **SSgt Dougie Porter** carried out a successful descent onto Weston-on-the-Green. Much to the delight of **SSgt Jerry Springett** who managed to navigate his way to the par door along the entire length of the aircraft with his eyes tightly shut only to enter the slip stream in a world of twists.



The Perfect Day for a Descent

This jump, plus several recent successful jumps courses puts the Sqn in good stead to fulfil the manning for the ABTF role. Currently 50+

soldiers are para-trained and 14 people who have recently passed P-Coy and awaiting completion jumps. Well done to the following for recently passing their jumps course: **Capt P Johnson**, **Lt 'Cheggers' Howley**, **Sgt Keith Deans**, **Cpl Nick Grayhurst**, **Cpl 'Romance' Machin**, **Cpl Lee Mason**, **Cpl Micky Sale**, **Cpl 'Griff' Griffiths**, **LCpl 'Drillsy' Davies**, **LCpl 'Mac' McDonald**, **LCpl Max Tyson**, **Sig Matt Parker**, **Sig Ryan Broadhurst**, **Sig 'Nath' Mcinnes**, **Sig Ross Meadon**, **Sig James Harper**, **Sig Aaron Mills**, **Cfn Alexander Diffey** and **Sig Christopher Pollock**.

Now remember you are all now incorrectly dressed, so before the RSM gets hold of you get down to the PRI and get your



Sgt 'Mike' Atherton Preparing Himself for his Jump

Para trained t-shirt and polo shirt!

ALPHA TROOP – by Cpl McGhee

OC **Lt T Draper**
SSgt **SSgt D Porter**

The return from August leave has seen the Tp heavily focused on preparations for the new ABTF. Central to this has been the 3 PARA RLD, headed up by **Cpl Lee Mason**. His team has taken on the brunt of the training bill and are at the time of writing currently enjoying a 2 week FTX in Galloway Forrest. The rest of the Tp has found its time split between MATTs and vehicle prep and will shortly be deploying on a confirmatory ex in STANTA to train and test the Tp's Para Tac and Bde Tac capability in preparation for the Bde's ABTF FOC of 1 Jan 12.

We have said goodbye to 2 lads this month, **Sig Michael Harrage** and **LCpl Shaun O'Mahoney**. The former is posted to 3DSR, while the later goes on to Civvy Street so that he can spend even more time lifting heavy things. New blood has come in to replace the passing of the old, in the form of **Sigs Matt Richards** and **Reg Porter**. Both straight from Blandford, they only spent a few quick weeks in the Tp before being whisked away to Leconsfield to train for their C Licenses; a qualification which I am sure, will be no end of use in Para Tac.

BRAVO TROOP – by Lt T Howley

OC **Lt T Howley**
SSgt **SSgt P Bury**

September marked another busy period for Bravo Tp. Ex EAGLES TALON provided an ideal 2 week period in which we all caught up and conducted MATTs. As a Tp we have been practising the 'ins and outs' of Bde Main HQ in preparation for a busy period ahead of us. Approaching exercises include Ex EAGLES LANDING along with a heavy involvement in the Bde BPX and Bde CASTs. A busy and testing period lies ahead for us, however we feel that we are ready for this challenge.

CHARLIE TROOP – by 2Lt Cotterill

OC **2Lt A Cotterill**
SSgt **Sgt B Wildman**

Throughout the post summer leave period Charlie Tp has been focused on preparing for the Sqn's return to Contingency Ops. This will see the Tp provide both airborne man pack and a wheeled rebro capability, both of which will be tested on EX EAGLES LANDING later this month. This time has also been utilised to catch up on MATTs and to get people away on courses. Both **Sig Baker** and **Cpl Brown** have started their jumps course while **Cpl Pinington**, **Cpl Davidson** and **Sig Jenkins** have started the gruelling journey that is Pre PARA.

Fresh from Blandford **2Lt Cotterill** has been posted in as the new Tp OC and **Cpl Proud** has joined us from PJHQ. Charlie Tp has also seen the departure of **Sig Raey** to 14 Sig Regt and **Sig Glover** has returned to civilian life. We wish both of them the best of luck with their future endeavours.

SUPPORT TROOP – by LCpl Tyson

QM **Capt F Fensom**
RQMS **WO2 (RQMS) P Henderson**

We have hit the ground running over September with preparation for Contingency Op's and ABTF. The preparation has consisted of MATTs and Ex EAGLES



LANDING, where 4 of Sp Tp deployed with Para Tac. The rest of the Tp supported with Bde Main and Ech ensuring the smooth running of the exercise and the step up of the Bde to ABTF in January.

Elsewhere within the Tp **LCpls Doherty** and **Burrows** deployed to Kenya to assist BATUK with Bowman installations. Sp Tp has lost a number of people over the last 3 months with **Sgt Atherton** being re-rolled as Trg Wing SNCO, **Cpl Pritchard** and **LCpl Mason** being posted to Blandford for Class 1 training and **Cpl Appleby** leaving to join the infamous Civ Div. We have had arrivals, **LCpl Mauger** and **LCpl Dodd** from Blandford, I hope to see both on Pegasus Coy at the earliest opportunity.

Sp Tp has had some success with 3 people qualifying from jumps courses, with a number of blokes in the pipeline with 1-3 jumps complete. We have had a number of people attempting Pegasus Coy, but unfortunately we haven't had anyone pass from Sp Tp for months now – come on gents get a grip. Our thoughts go out to **LCpl 'Jono' Johnson** this week on his recovery from a nose job; we all hope it is an improvement.

MT/LAD TROOP – by *Cpl Wood*

MTO **Capt P Jordan**

The last few months have been busy with Tps starting work again after the tour and getting back into a normal routine. We have seen a few people leave, **Cpl Stokes** who went to 10 Sig Regt, **Cpl 'Stoppo' Stopforth** to 215 Sig Sqn, **LCpl 'Little Stu' Urghuart** who is now in civ div and **SSgt Neil Marshall** who has gone to 22 Sig Regt. We have seen a few new faces such as **Cpl Wood**, **LCpl 'Admin' Bagshaw**, **LCpl Gibbons**, **Sig Tranter** and **Sig Lowndes**. We have been involved in the annual Caythorpe weekend running a stand that consisted of a crane and barrels of water. The idea was to get the kids to guide the barrels around an obstacle course and proved to be a popular attraction. Once the day's events were over the festivities began, which carried on into the early hours. The couple of weeks after saw LSI prep and as we all know that means back dating paperwork and late nights! Now we are currently preparing to go on Ex EAGLES LANDING and will be putting up tents like the Signals love to do.



12 MECHANIZED BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (228) BULFORD



OC **Maj S E Irwin**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) D Boughen**

It has been a busy year for the Sqn. Supporting the many Bde exercises has spread the Sqn far and wide across the globe. The outgoing OC **Maj N Stokoe** was treated to a fantastic send off on his final week, with a mixture of events ranging from a special Sqn dinner in his garden to a Juniors vs Seniors football match. The Sqn would like to wish **Maj Stokoe** all the best for the future. After a refreshing summer break the Sqn has come back under the command of OC **Maj S E Irwin** and thrown itself into Mission Specific Training. September through October has consisted of preparing the Sqn to deploy on Op HERRICK 16 next year, and the soldiers have been relishing the chance to refresh their basic military skills. Wales has become our second home after spending the majority of our time on exercise in Caerwent and Sennybridge.

EXERCISE PRAIRIE THUNDER – by *LCpl Tyler*

In March 2011, I and the rest of the Bde Fwd HQ deployed to Canada for 5 months supporting 12 Mech Bdes' Prairie Thunder series of exercises. I was to be attached to Sim Support Group, whose main responsibility was to ensure all TES aspects of the exercises ran smoothly. This involved fitting GPS trackers to all safety and insurgent vehicles required for the ex. Sounds easy enough, however in deep snow and temperatures of -15C, it really wasn't fun! After a few weeks hard graft, **SSgt 'Twiz' Twizell** was also attached to us in time for hands on TES troubleshooting training, after which I was wondering what had I let myself in for. Before I knew it, the snow had gone, the temperature was up and the gophers, snakes and mosquitoes had arrived.



Sig Lockey displaying his natural talent at balancing his body on a rock in Canada

The ex commenced and we found ourselves roughing it out on the prairie with the mozzies, sleeping off the side of the world's oldest Land Rover. We were kept busy fixing faults, however we soon got to grips with the equipment and adopted the nick name "TES Gurus" or in my case "that TES bird". After 2 weeks of torrential rain, getting bogged in overnight and mosquito bites everywhere I was relieved to be reunited with my bed and have a hot shower.

EXERCISE ASKARI THUNDER – by *Cpl Lintorn*

The Sqn deployed to Kenya on Ex ASKARI THUNDER as of November late last year until the end of June this year attached to Infantry Battle Groups. Some of us were placed in RRBs which is where **LCpl Lenton**, **Sig Ralph** and I found ourselves; in the middle of nowhere! We learnt pretty fast that razor wire is an amazing asset after spending one night surrounded by wild hyenas! Fitness is a necessity whilst on a RRB to keep you both sharp and sane. **LCpl Lenton** found himself a training partner in the form of a Giraffe while out running one day. He ran faster back to the Det than I have ever seen him move in his life!

As well as people stagg on radios we were also heavily involved with reces to find out the best positions on the ground to deploy these RRB's. On one occasion I went out on a recce with **Sgt Mulligan** and **LCpl Lane** to site one of these assets in an area locally known as a hotspot for the local lion population. Of course only **LCpl Lane** was aware of this at the



Exercising Troops stack up against the side of a compound during Ex ASKARI THUNDER



time so when both **Sgt Mulligan** and I left the vehicle she locked the doors and laughed as we panicked. Cheers for that! But all in all it was a very successful exercise with all the objectives achieved. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and look forward to our next opportunity to train in Kenya.

MISSION SPECIFIC TRAINING

– by *Sig Seferidis (Attached from 16 Sig Reg)*

Upon arrival at Caerwent on a surprisingly warm evening the first thing that attracted my attention was the fresh smell of manure and sheep. We were then given radios and maps and preceded in our multiples to our patrol bases, where we would prepare for the following days activities.

Sgt Craddock's lesson was first; we were shown the principles of 6 section battle drills and basic patrolling. Patrolling through areas with large holes doesn't help short people like me who managed to fall into one! **SSgt Gallagher** taught us ECM, C-IED and ground sign awareness. He demonstrated this lesson by showing us various examples of disturbances you may see out on the ground in Afghanistan. The phrase 'If you're not in the bubble you're in trouble' (in the best Welsh accent I can muster) was coined to remind us to remain inside the ECM coverage area. **Cpl Shaw** took us through the use of Vallon and Goldie. We were then given an area to practice using the equipment and see if we could locate any IEDs. 'A blind dalek using a metal detector' quoted **Sgt McCaig** on one member of the multiples inability to get Vallon drills correct.



Cpl Morgan and her multiple enjoy a high quality VALLON lesson on MST 1

The final day of exercise was the confirmatory phase which culminated in putting everything we had learnt into practice. These included discovering an IED and putting a 4C's op in place followed by sustaining a casualty due to small arms fire and the CASEVAC that followed. The serials were both extremely challenging and it took a team effort to complete them successfully.



"It's in one of these pouches somewhere!" A multiple takes a breather from the day's events

RANGE CAMP 26 - 30 SEPTEMBER – by *Cpl Hopkinson*

The 228 Sig Sqn Range Camp was set up as a precursor to enable the Sqn to progress onto LFTT the following week. It consisted of 2 Tps; Helmand and Lashkar Gah, with each alternating day on day off the range. The days firing started with grouping and zeroing. The following shoots enabled the majority of the Sqn to complete the ACMT. Concurrent to the shoots taking place was PRC506 training run by **YofS Law**, which was extremely enjoyable. The next day on the range comprised of an introduction to the Sig Sauer pistol followed by the GPMG and finally the moving target range. For some of the younger members of the Sqn this was the first time that they had ever fired a Sig Sauer and the "general". The GPMG range was geared up to enable firers to get used to firing the weapon and practice their individual skills and drills without the pressure of being assessed on marksmanship. The final shoot of the day was the moving target range. The purpose of this was to introduce soldiers to firing at a moving target and to implement the marksmanship principles. Key points to consider were muzzle clearance, effective use of cover and ejected case clearance. This was quite apparent with **Sig Cole**, who managed to forget about muzzle clearance as he got carried away on the range. Needless to say he left his mark and gave his safety a scare.



On the pistol ranges under the watchful gaze of SSgt Twizzel

Friday was a day of practising withdrawing from contact for the soldiers and allowed the training team an opportunity to rehearse their safety roles in anticipation of LFTT. The week was a tremendous success and thanks to the training team.

LFTT – by *LCpl Magee*

We arrived at SENTA at 1800hrs and checked into our 5* accommodation. If we thought the accommodation was top class that was nothing compared to our first evening meal, an egg and a spoonful of chips.

The first day of exercise proper started out with nice weather and lots of cheery people. For many this was going to be the first time they got to complete fire and movement with live ammunition; needless to say there were a few nervous faces



about. The range that the LKG Tp were trained on was uneventful; Helmand Tp where not so lucky, with **Sig Dilinger** managing to kill a sheep with an unfortunate ricochet.



"If you think you can do any better then get in here!" Helmand Tp live firing from sangers

The rest of the week progressed moving from individual fire and movement up to fire team. Thursday morning saw us on the live grenade range where a certain male PTI who does not

what to be named *cough* **Cpl John** *cough* managed to win the girly throw of the day award much to his dismay. Next was the final range of the week; the section in defence shoot. Here we fired from sanger positions (which has come to my attention that the training team built in the miserable wet weather the day before, many thanks for their hard work) which was great fun. We continued the scenarios late into the night which give us all a chance to fire using the HMNVS. As per the Wales exercise tradition once we left the training area the rain stopped and the sunshine began.



Busy day for the Tp Sgt distributing ammo amongst the sangers!

229 SIGNAL SQUADRON BLETCHLEY



EXERCISE JUMPING LYNX – by Cpl Sarah Hales

From 8 – 22 Sep 10 members of 299 Sig Sqn (SC) attended Ex JUMPING LYNX and achieved their Advanced Freefall (AFF) certificate in Perris Valley California organised by **LCpl Phill Kimpton**.

The exercise began at Netheravon with ground training conducted by 2 RAF PGI's where the basics of freefall were taught. The group was in high spirits and excited at the prospect of throwing themselves out of a perfectly operational plane!!

After a long flight we landed in sunny Los Angeles and made our way to Perris Valley, California arriving at the IHOP (International Home of Parachutist) late evening.

The following morning, and feeling slightly jet lagged, all 10 members nervously made their way to the skydiving centre and were met by 100 'uber' serious skydivers there to practice a large scale formation. The day started with refresher training to perfect that all important malfunction drill, which proved to be vital as we watched several malfunctions during the 100-way formation that day. After signing our lives away, one by one we boarded the otter plane and made our way to 13,000 ft to throw ourselves out of it!! We were all buzzing from our first experience, well, apart from **Sgt Kev 'American Psycho' Keenan** who simply shrugged his shoulders and said "it was ok". What do we have to do to make this man crack a smile?!!

The rest of the week followed suit with all members completing 8 levels of the AFF and starting their consolidation solo jumps. The evenings were spent in the Bombshelter Café spinning skydiving stories and laughing at the videos taken of that day, realising that no one is good looking during skydiving!! The week ended on a high with all members boarding a skyvan, where **Cpl Dave Chadwick** needed a little coaxing out of the aircraft!!



The weather proved to be perfect for skydiving in between sunbathing, giving **Cpl Ross 'look at me I have abs of steel' Deakin** ample opportunity to get his top off to flex his muscles at fellow skydiving chicks.

A well deserved 2 day R&R took place in San Diego allowing the group to recover from overdosing on adrenaline during the past week and to see a bit of America from the ground.

The following week continued with enthusiasm with all members completing their consolidation jumps and then jumping for fun.

The last day saw **Cpl Glenn 'The T.O.D' Wainwright, LCpl Phill 'AB' Kimpton** and **Cpl John Robertson** participate in a 12-way formation, whilst the rest of the group made a 7-way cannonball formation into the swimming pool!!

A fantastic and exhilarating time was had by all, with many of the group continuing with skydiving in the UK.



HQ 102 LOGISTIC BRIGADE & SIGNAL TROOP (662) GUTERSLOH



OC **Capt Scott Mckenzie**

The unit has now completed the transition from 262 Sig Sqn to 662 Sig Tp, which has resulted in numerous postings out including: **WO2 (YofS) 'ideas' Lutkin, Sgt Johnson, Sgt Lloyd, Cpl Williams, Cpl Johnson, Cpl Mosforth, Cpl Constatine and LCpl Page.** It's not all bad news however, with some fresh, keen and new faces arriving including in the Tp: **WO2 (YofS) 'I cant speak English' Burns, SSgt (FofS) MacDonald, LCpl Bishoprick, Sig Hilton, Sig Mcintosh and Pte Staley.**

We would also like to congratulate **Sig Innes** after successfully coming off the Sig - LCpl board and are pleased to say he will be remaining within the Tp following his promotion.

Even though 102 Log Bde is now supported by a Sig Tp, the workload has not decreased, with the unit supporting numerous Exercises but still continuing with normal routine, PT and even finding time for AT and charity events.

BIG BADGE APPEAL – GUTERSLOH TO LONDON BIKE RIDE – by Cpl Gray

In October 2010 **WO1 (GSM) Dave Churchward** was diagnosed with oesophageal cancer, he has since made a full recovery. At the onset of his diagnosis **Dave** approached members of the Tp and suggested a charity drive to raise money for Guys' & St Thomas's Charity. He felt very strongly about giving something back and held the professionalism and dedication of all the doctors and nurses as the main factor in his recovery for which we are all very grateful. From this we created the Big Badge Appeal to help our Big Badge (GSM) return the favour to Guy's & St Thomas's by providing much needed funds for research and development for the future.

Over the course of 2010-11 the Tp hosted several charity fundraisers, most notable of which were the two 30 hour phys-athons held in the Gutersloh and Sennelager NAAFI Max and a Zumba day organised by **Sig Ewan Thomas's** girlfriend. All of this was building towards the final challenge, cycling from our home in Gutersloh to the cancer ward at Guys' & St Thomas's Hospital London in July covering some 800 km. I think it only fair that I should thank all those that participated by naming them ensuring they get the credit that they all deserve. So a special thank you to all those who took part:

Cyclists: **Capt Leigh Crossing** (1ADSR), **Padre Duncan Weaver, WO1 (GSM) Dave Churchward, Cpl Donny McClone, Cpl Martin Jarvis, Cpl Andy Williams, LCpl Atunasia Bulivou** (6 Regt RLC), **Sig Ian Innes, Gnr Nathan Jackson** (47 Regt RA), **Pte Scott Ramage** (6 Regt RLC)

Support Team: **Sgt Leon Wilson-Brown** (RLC), **LCpl Martin Lock, Sig James Booth, Sig Zackary Edwards, Cfn Kapeteni Filipe, Pte Jacquelin McArthur** (6 Regt RLC).

The cycle challenge itself would take 3 days to get from Gutersloh to Guy's & St Thomas's cycling from Princess Royal Barracks to Elmpt Station day 1, Elmpt Station to Dover day 2, Dover to London day 3.

Day 1 had a dreary rain soaked start thankfully though this didn't dampen anyone's spirits or deter friends and loved ones to turn out and cheer everyone on their way. With minimal delays or mishaps other than **Sig Ewan Thomas** boosting morale by demonstrating how to fall off at low

speeds everyone arrived at Elmpt Station in one piece and ready for the longest day tomorrow which would throw more hurdles than just distance at us.



Sig Zackary Edwards sporting the team t-shirt

Day 2 started much the same as day one despite **Cpl Jonny Gray's** positive weather briefs. Sadly event organiser and self proclaimed all round legend **Cpl Gray** forgot to put on his man suit after getting a case of the trots and had to resort to sitting in the bus heading up the support team in guiding the cyclists through the first few stages.

All was going well and to schedule until the end of the first stage where **Sgt Wilson-Brown** and **Cpl Gray** handed over control to the next support vehicle manned by **LCpl Martin Lock** and **Sig Zackary Edwards** to allow **Jonny** to do some "personal admin". After several personal admin stops our bus finally caught up with the current cyclists to find that they hadn't seen their support team since they left us over an hour ago. After a quick water stop to replenish their now empty water bottles we got the team on their way guiding them round the few complicated sections of the route, through towns and city suburbs whilst trying to get in touch with the missing support vehicle. After over an hour of trying, we eventually received a call back from **LCpl Lock** telling us the route card was wrong and was in a LIDL's car park where he had watched us drive past him 45 minutes ago! After a fairly strongly worded phone conversation mostly one way from **Cpl Gray** in a roundabout way explaining that the route card couldn't be wrong, as we have followed it to this point! They were told to make best speed to the next change over point and wait there. Not long after things got a little worse as despite the last route recce being completed within 2 weeks there was mass road works between Buggenhout and Dendermonde creating a 60km unplanned detour. Thankfully **Padre Duncan Weaver, Cpl Andy Williams** and **Sig Ian 'Rev' Innes** took it in their stride.



Padre Duncan Weaver, Cpl Andy Williams, Sig Ian (Rev) Innes and Gnr Nathan Jackson





Capt Leigh Crossing, LCpl Bully Bulivou, Pte Scott Ramage and Gnr Nathan Jackson

Day 3 put **Cpl McClone**, **Cpl Jarvis** and **Sig Thomas** to the test with a challenging ride out of Dover. Covering more hills than I'm sure they would care to remember to the point where **Donny** didn't speak to me for a good 30mins! The rest of the journey to the hospital ran like clockwork enabling us to arrive on time to a surprise welcome by the Guys' & St Thomas's staff with friends and family that had made the trip to greet us with balloons, streamers and fanfare to boot. After photos and a well deserved glass of champagne served by **Shadia** and the Guys' & St Thomas's team, it was time to have a brief tour of the outpatient chemo ward. Here we saw firsthand what our fundraising was going to. The experience was humbling to say the least and to have people who are facing death and fighting for their lives one day at a time applauded you was overwhelming and to meet the members of staff who care for and treat these people daily was a huge honour.

EXERCISE FLANDERS – by *Sig Edwards*

On a sunny day at the beginning of June the elite warriors of 662 Sig Tp departed Princess Royal Barracks for a short overnight stop at the holiday resort of Javelin Barracks in Elmpt. Obviously the arrangement of the holiday suite keys had the usual mix up when we arrived and the receptionist at the guardroom endeavoured to sort this out. We arrived at just the right time to miss evening meal so settled into the accommodation for our overnight stay.

The following day we departed for Maille-le-Camp in the Champagne region of France under the direction of 7 Bde. The second leg of the journey was a slightly different story as we passed through the hilly regions of Belgium and France in rather large trucks, I think the French call it escargot pace!! But regardless of the speed we managed to overtake other packets of the convoy through Belgium. This was down to the fact that 7 Bde were 'geographically challenged' and the that **Cpl McClone**, being northern, had the navigational skills of a homing pigeon and took us on the correct routes. The YofS, **Matt Lutkin**, luckily brought a TomTom, which would have been perfect had he not been in the rear vehicle!! It was a delight to find the French keeping to tradition by not offering any resistance as a foreign army crossed their border.

On arrival later that evening we were shown to our 'cosy' accommodation, where we would be spending the night. The YofS promised us all a camping holiday and didn't disappoint us the following day when we were shown the small field where we would be living and working for the next month. I think he mentioned something about a Busmans holiday. The setup of the BNSG (Binational Support Group) HQ was straightforward, which led to the opportunity for some of the troops to take a day out to visit the battlefield of Verdunnes.

Shortly after the Bde Staff arrived to take part in the exercise. The British worked together successfully with their French counterparts ensuring that interoperability was of paramount importance to completing an ex that would have been quite difficult if not for the professionalism of all those involved.

The ex phase was for 2 weeks, but seemed to fly by for some of the contenders for the coveted Golden Blanket award (**YofS Lutkin**, **LCpl Ferrier**) who occasionally popped out of the tents to make sure the system was running smoothly. Conditions were also improved when up at the campsite the resident Class 2 chef **Cpl McClone** and the ex chef (from a previous life) **Cpl Castellari** rattled those pots and pans and threw together a BBQ fit for a King. Sadly we were lacking in royalty so we had to make do with the Bde Staff and the Comms Sect troops. Towards the end the French invited us to a sports afternoon involving an obstacle course, a football match and a cross country run, followed by a 'BBQ' which can only be described as a cold buffet consisting of cold meats, salad and of course what meal with the French would be complete with out petit pain. It also gave us the opportunity to mingle with the French on more of a sociable ground.

As a thank you the Bde Staff organised a G&T evening, which consisted of lots of G&T, beer, food and Karaoke, which incidentally was enjoyed by **WO1 Andy Mills** who delighted us to his rendition of that famous song by Abba – Waterloo!! As you can imagine this song was well received by the French.

After a very successful joint venture with the French, and all the festivities that ensued, the Bde Staff left the next day after many farewells and goodbyes to all within BNSG. The teardown obviously happened much faster than the build, turning kit around as we went along. We were packed up and ready to go before tea time. We moved into the submarine accommodation block that night and got some well earned rest. After this we then began our journey back to Elmpt then to Princess Royal Barracks to a well earned weekend off.

EXERCISE HALBERD TUNA – by *Cpl Hyde*

This years AT, Ex HALBERD TUNA, was held at the Dummersee sailing centre. We set off from Bde HQ on a bright Monday morning for a 2hr coach journey to the sailing centre. With an array of gadgetry and me borrowing my son's iPod thingy I spent the next 2 hrs trying to switch it on.

On arrival we were met by the friendly staff and given the obligatory safety brief, and within no time half the group were squeezing themselves into some figure hugging wetsuits, while the other half of the group raced to the push bikes, especially the tandem that was also on offer.

With near perfect conditions for windsurfing the instruction was going well with a nautical flavour of sailing, and the occasional attempts of a tack thrown in for good measure, until **Cfn Bevan** decided to go towards 2 unsuspecting pedalos and the inevitable happened with the RTA paperwork to follow. Before evening scoff we had a boat trip round the Dummersee on a boat which resembled a schooner. At the helm and skipper was our German friend and guide 'Hans Pugwash'. With a few beers to hand we set off on a steady course. In a relapse of concentration the skipper let us take the helm and on a more slalom looking route off we went. It was time for **Sig Edwards** to take charge and for us to head back to the jetty which meant turning around, a manoeuvre similar to doing a handbrake turn in a boat, members of the group worrying about the spillage of the beer.

Once on firm ground, it was time for the BBQ and more drinks, which would lead to only one thing, **LCpl Lock** in the lake less his clothes.

The following day's activities were much the same, but by late morning the wind picked up to around force 5-6, so all water activities ceased. A quick turn round of the kit and it was time to depart back onto the coach and return back to PRB. Many thanks to the staff of Dummersee sailing club and all involved.



BRUNEI SIGNAL TROOP



SO3 G6 **Capt Mitchell**
OC BST **Capt Hebindra Pun**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Bom**
CDSO **Sgt Smith**

Brunei Signal Tp has continually strived to deliver robust and reliable CIS support for all needed requirements to British Forces Brunei. Secure and secret messaging communications have been delivered via a number of guises including, NSTN, Secure Fax, JOCS, VTC whilst also maintaining a high calibre Military Telecommunication Network and Exchange. Bowman support has also been delivered to the Residential Infantry Battalion, (notably 2RGR's rear party), whilst the main body are still deployed on Op Herrick 14.

Sgt Sun and the rest of his technical support detachment, notably **Cpl Shiva** and **LCpl Sanjay**, were recently tested to the maximum when most comm services within the Garrison were temporarily rendered 'unworkable' after being frazzled by a direct lightning strike hit on the COMMCEN. Getting replacement equipment and spares becomes a dilemma when you are located 8000 miles away from the only authorised distributor, funnily enough which is in the UK. **Sgt Sun**, who was really beginning to feel the heat was fortunately also a subject matter expert, preventing this caper from developing further still and eventually rectifying this act of nature.

An over familiar 'ground hog' style syndrome of daily routine has ensued during the last couple of months, which has proceeded the earlier summers adventure training jolly to Pattaya, Thailand. Days and the accompanying shift patterns bizarrely seem to merge in to one another encompassed by the persistent hot and humid climate that offers not a single day's deviation or respite what so ever. Having expressed this analysis and weighing up the pros and cons of being out here, most personnel are still more than happy to be based here, better the devil you know has never been a truer statement.

A huge Tp heart felt sigh of relief was recently expressed after discovering there were no compulsory redundancies during the recent squaddie cull. The panic attacks have ceased for those on the hit list and the suicide watch has temporarily been stood down, well until next year anyway!

Fond farewells and best wishes are sent out to **SSgt Bharat**, **Cpl Netra** and **LCpl Manoj** who have all recently departed Brunei to pastures new within the wider QGS fraternity. The Tp recently welcomed new arrivals **SSgt Bom**, **Cpl Saroj** and **LCpl's Tikaram** and **Jagat** during a recent 'Tiger session' at the Tp bar. **SSgt Bom** exploded into action, clearly demonstrating



SSgt Bharat and Mrs Mira being farewelled by OC BST, Capt Hebindra and his wife during a farewell function in Brunei

his drinking prowess by nailing his pint of Tiger in one during the (voluntary basis only) welcoming ritual. However, the others failed miserably, managing about half a pint in total between the 3 of them. Congratulations also go out to **Cpl Raghun** and his wife **Sita** after the recent birth of their newest addition to their family, a baby girl.

Organised by **Capt Hebindra Pun** under the scrutiny of his right hand man and function co-ordinator **SSgt Bom**, BST hosted an assortment of varying Garrison personalities during the recent 62nd birthday celebration of the formation of the Queens Gurkha Signals. The superb facilities of the Garrison WO's & Sgt's Mess were utilised for this much anticipated event. Due to the brutal midday sun it was a strange physiological sensation being able to drink and then sweat it out at the same time. The day's formalities went like clockwork adhering to **Capt Hebindra's** meticulously planned forecast of events.

This included a Tp parade followed by various QGS historical speeches delivered by **Capt Hebindra** and **Capt Mitchell** and concluded by another 'one for the archives' birthday photo. A top notch curry lunch followed, washed down by more Tiger beer. Then suddenly the skies darkened and the 'storm of the century' materialised out of nowhere, hell bent on reeking havoc on proceedings. Fortunately it didn't dampen spirits too much and soon passed over, much to the relief of those still there that hadn't already drowned or been washed away.

The Tp also recently hosted a G6 visit by **Lt Col Grant Morley** (SO1 ICS Ops HQ LF CBM/G6) and **Mr Peter Hickman** (DES ISS Service Ops). During their 3 day visit they reviewed the whole CIS capabilities in Brunei Garrison and assessed our preparation for the forthcoming DII(F) and IPLC projects.



A group photograph of QG Signals 62nd Birthday Parade held on 18 Sep 11 in Brunei Garrison



A look foreword to BST's October agenda which includes the forthcoming Dashain celebration where plans have been initiated to ensure this annual event goes down as always with a bang. Then shortly preceding this the Tp will host the QG Signals Commander, **Lt Col R J Watts MBE** and the Gurkha Major, **Dhanbahadur Gurung MVO** on their 3 day visit.

EXERCISE BIRANO DESH TIGER 2011
- by LCpl Rakam Thamshuhang

The Troop organised a Scuba Diving Expedition from 20 - 25 Jun in Pattaya. This expedition was named Ex BIRANO DESH TIGER because it was the Nepali version of saying 'unknown land tiger', due to the fact that we were travelling quite a substantial distance, all the way from Brunei to Thailand. The Ex was led by **Sgt Sunbahadur Gurung** under the direction of Tp OC **Capt Hebindra Pun**. The primary aim of the ex was to build confidence in a challenging environment and to qualify individuals as instructors so that they can organize similar activities in the future. The ex consisted of 13 participants including Garrison QMSI, **WO2 'Taff' Jones**, Medics and HR admin. This exercise for most of us was extremely awaited, as it was our first experience of scuba diving.

On 20 Jun at 1045 we departed Brunei International Airport, heading for Bangkok International Airport. The flight took 2 hours and 25 minutes followed by a 1 hour drive to our final destination, the sprawling coastal resort of Pattaya. We eventually reached our accommodation for the duration of the trip, 'Best Beach Villa' at around 1700 hrs. Subsequently for our first evenings entertainment we were all fairly tired and therefore only managed to take brief walk through Thailand's most infamous area "Walking Street"!

Day 2 kicked off early with a minibus journey provided by the Mermaid Diving Centre, who were responsible for the complete scuba diving expedition package. We had to fill in our individual diving registration documentation as well as participate in intense classroom safety briefings, which lasted the whole afternoon. These were mandatory before going under the waves and they would assess us at the end of every safety briefing module. This was to make sure we were fully aware of the safety procedures and to increase our knowledge and understanding in an underwater environment. At the end of the training day everyone was fully qualified for their first an open water dive.

On Day 3 we practiced our underwater techniques inside a local swimming pool. This progressed to our mandatory swim and emergency drill tests in confined water. We got a chance to familiarise ourselves with various diving equipment and the claustrophobic feelings you can experience underwater with diving gear on. Some of us found the drills easy, whereas others struggled. This I guess was due to our different standards in swimming. At the end of the day we were exhausted but at least fully tanned!

Day 4 was important for most of us as it would be our first ever diving experience in open water. We took a ferry journey to Koh Sak, where the Island diving area was located. The weather was absolutely perfect with blue sparkling water and clean white sands all across the beach; awesome! On this first day's diving we would make 2 dives up to a depth of 9 metres. Forgetting all of the mixed emotions, excitement; coupled with fear and the odd symptom of seasickness, most of us could not wait to jump into the water!

The first dive was quite difficult, we were no longer within the safe confines of the swimming pool. We had to use every skill we had learnt over the last 2 days. It was a really good feeling to see life underwater, so close and real. According to my instructor, every dive is like a new dive because you will never know what you will see next, just as long as it isn't a 20 foot

Great White Shark then you will be fine! By the end of the day we were all confident with our diving equipment and drills. I found myself starting to feel quite comfortable underwater.



Cpl Raghun's first dive under the close supervision of his instructors

Unfortunately the fifth day was our last day for diving as we were flying back to Brunei the day after. It was quite a tight schedule that day as we had to complete 2 dives as well as drive back to Bangkok in the evening. When we got ourselves ready for our third dive I realised the tide and current was very strong. This time we went deeper still, down to 12 metres or nearly 40 feet. By the end of our fourth dive there was a surprise waiting for us when we re-emerged on the waters surface. We were congratulated by our instructor who told us we were all now fully qualified open water divers. After our fourth dive we drove straight back to Bangkok. Due to current diving regulations there was now a mandatory stop of 18 hrs that needed to be imposed between diving and flying, therefore we were not allowed to fly on the same day. Oh well, stuck in Bangkok for the night; what a bummer, not!

On our last day of the trip, early in the morning I sensed a great feeling of satisfaction and recognised that this was indeed one of the best AT expeditions I had ever participated in. We all learnt so much, had the qualifications for our week's endeavours and more importantly, also had so much fun. So in other words by the end of the sixth day our primary objectives for this exercise were all achieved. We had built confidence underwater and were all now eligible to participate in an advanced diving course, which in turn could lead us to eventually becoming a legitimate diving instructor.

JAI BRUNEI SIGNAL TROOP!



Cpl Shiva shaking hands with his instructor deep under water



OTHER UNITS

SANGCOM

INTRODUCTION

As salaam alaykum!

SANGCOM - or the Saudi Arabian National Guard Communications Project Team to give it its full title – continues to expand with the addition of many new locally employed staff and civil servants arriving over the summer period. The military component has also been enhanced with the addition of a full Colonel post. There have been many new faces arriving over the summer and the team are delighted to welcome the following new military team members and their wives, **Col Adrian and Jenny Campbell-Black, Lt Col Ian and Clare Hunter, Maj Andy and Abby Rickman, Maj Frank and Karin Cowan, Maj Scottie and Donna Stevens** and **WO₂ (FofS) Simon King**. The Team also wishes to congratulate **Capt Ian Flannery** on his marriage to **Michelle** and the arrival of **Jessica**.

The programme of work to recommend, field and support the best, affordable Information and Communication Services Networks for the Saudi Arabian National Guard (SANG) continues to develop and a number of new contracts have been placed over the last few months through our Prime Contractor, GPT Special Projects Management Limited. Not least, the satellite communication project which required intensive negotiations and efforts to meet an ambitious timeline but is now on contract. With an expanding team, a diversity of projects and interesting change occurring in the Middle East, SANGCOM remains a particularly exciting place to work. It is not all hard work however and with the addition of new team members there is an anticipation of an increase to the varied team social life and activities.

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY CELEBRATION

The annual Princess Royal Day celebration hosted by the SANGCOM Team took place at the British Embassy in Riyadh on Monday 3 October 2011. We celebrate Princess Royal day when the weather cools off, (to the high 30s from the high 40s of June). The celebration marked one of the first major events of the social season and was eagerly anticipated by the Team. This year The Pipes and Drums of the Royal Corps of Signals kindly made available **Sig Jamie Motherwell** who performed magnificently on the evening. In addition to celebrating the formation of the Royal Corps of Signals the event also recognises the significant contribution of contractors, fellow service personnel and businesses who have supported the Team over the year. This year over 200 guests were invited. The event was the largest Princess Royal Day celebration to date, an indication of the expanding role and influence that the SANGCOM Team is enjoying. **Brig David Hargreaves** addressed the guests and stated that, "It certainly has been another momentous year for the team. We are now 20 months into the National Guard's major new 10 year package of work. Since we last gathered here we have placed orders for new mobile command headquarters, for satellite communication detachments and for a rich variety of other projects. We have begun the process of fibre-ing up the Kingdom and moving to a National Guard IP Network. We've scoped a ground breaking technical institution for the Guard and begun the preparatory work for their new Electronic

Warfare capability. In the first 6 months of the year, 17 contract amendments were placed with our prime contractor, GPT SPM Ltd, and more funds were committed than in the previous 3 years put together. This has been a tremendous achievement and has only been possible thanks to the tremendous hard work across my own team and their opposite numbers in GPT. I would like to thank everyone in both teams who have contributed so much over the last 12 months and I look forward to an even more successful year ahead". **Brig David Hargreaves** thanked **Lt Col Ian Hunter's** operations team and in particular the lead **Maj Owen Finnie** for a well organised and executed event and also recognised **Cathy Finnie, Annie Wild** and **Charlie Richards** for adding the much needed women's touch to the event planning. The event was an opportunity for new team arrivals to mix socially and host some of the key business leaders in Riyadh and everyone enjoyed the occasion. Although there are numerous activities and events planned this winter the next major event on the SANGCOM calendar is the annual half marathon in February and **Capt Ian Flannery** managed to secure a number of sponsors as a result of the success of the Princess Royal Day celebration.



Brig David Hargreaves thanks Sig Jamie Motherwell on his final Pipe set at the Princess Royal Day Celebration in the traditional manner with WO₂ (FofS) Simon King assisting proceedings



British Army Training Unit Kenya

– by Capt Jim Boyden

SO3 G6 Capt Jim Boyden
YofS WO2 (YofS) Bob Lindley
FofS (IS) SSgt (FofS(IS) Grae Tennick

Welcome to what will hopefully be the first of many contributions from the British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK) CIS Troop. The aim of this month's article is to try and inform the wider Corps of what is happening in Kenya and the opportunities available for any soldier who volunteers for an assignment to BATUK.



LCpl Rai enjoying the scenery while supporting Ex ASKARI THUNDER

environment, often as the sole R SIGNALS SME. A variety of ranks and cap badges will seek our advice on all J6 matters, so there's no room for someone who "just does computers". There is the management of a large variety of commercial equipment to contend with which requires a sound theoretical knowledge coupled with an intrinsic desire to know more in order to get the best out of the equipment.

Would I like it? Soldiers with a sense of adventure (and humour!) are most definitely required in Kenya. It is a third world country with all of the associated problems that come with it. Power outages are common and the roads are challenging (to say the least!) and there are all manner of "bitey" things that live in the countryside. That said, if you're the kind of soldier who doesn't mind that your shower water comes out a bit brown sometimes (on the days it comes on at all!) but you have the driving skills required to get your Det across East Africa and you can fight to get comms in at all costs, plus you like the idea of being rewarded by the magnificent sight of elephants and giraffes roaming by your Det as the sun goes down, then BATUK is most definitely the tour for you. There are times when BATUK is hard work but the opportunity to work in a country so beautiful it takes your breath away is not one to be missed.

R SIGNALS soldiers are assigned to BATUK on 6, 12 or 24 month assignments and depending on the type of post can be eligible for LSA, LOA or LOSLOA. For 6 month assignments, there is the opportunity to take up to 2 weeks leave at the Troop Commanders discretion, which can be taken back in the UK or in Kenya.

This sounds brilliant. How do I apply for a post? Six month assignments are boarded via the No 7 Board at APC Glasgow. Every 6 months we need 6 CS Operators (LCpl – Sgt) and 7 CS Engineers (LCpl – Sgt) plus a CIS Storeman. If you're interested and would like to know more, please apply via your chain of command or email CIS_Ops@hqbatuk.com where we would be delighted to give you further details.

What is BATUK CIS Troop?

BATUK CIS Tp are a happy band of 21 mostly CS Operators and CS Engineers (with some RLC and Infantry PIDs) based in BATUK (Rear) in Kahawa Barracks, Nairobi, or at BATUK (Main) at the Show Ground in Nanyuki, just north of the Equator. Our role is to provide ICS support to the 144 Permanent Staff at BATUK as well as the 6 Battle Group Level CT 3/4 exercises held each year called Ex ASKARI THUNDER. In addition, we provide CIS support to 2 Army Medical Services exercises (Ex ASKARI SERPENT) and 3 Royal Engineer exercises (Ex CRABAPPLE, OAKAPPLE and PINEAPPLE) as well as supporting any other task ordered by Commander BATUK.

What happens day to day? On a day to day basis, the CS Engineers can find themselves repairing and maintaining the unique and bespoke IS system in Kenya known as Phoenix Net. This challenging role involves acquainting yourself with the very latest versions of industry software and carrying out essential maintenance and updates to the system. The CS Operators will find themselves extremely busy maintain the 103 strong Bowman FFR Fleet and preparing them for issue to the Battle and Sqn Groups that pass through Kenya as well as administering and maintaining the Motorola PMR system which provides essential safety communications throughout the BATUK AOR. They will also man the Rebro Dets that are deployed during Ex ASKARI THUNDER.

Regardless of CEQ the environment in Kenya demands the very highest trade and soldiering skills as everyone in the Troop sometimes finds themselves working alone in an austere



A/Cpl Bloyce and A/Sgt Suka enjoying some of the African wildlife





JOINT SERVICE SIGNAL UNIT (CHELTENHAM) - BRAVO TROOP



OC
2IC

Capt (TOT) Mark Paveley
Capt Mark Long

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

As the Tp continues to grow we welcomed an influx of Royal Signals talent. Greetings then to **SSgt Barry Sherwin** who has arrived from 22 Sig Regt, **Cpl Emma Bond** fresh from her Class 1 course, **Cpl Steve Russell** on escaping from MIAT, and **Cpl Neil Conner** who has made the arduous journey up from 14 Sig Regt.

There were also a number of fond farewells including congratulations to **Cpl Leon Moxam** (RAF) and **Cpl Mick Rayner** (RAF) who have both left on promotion to join units at RAF Brize Norton and RAF Odiham respectively. We also said farewell to **Sgt Mel Vernon** and **Sgt Dave Shilton** as they embarked on their FofS (IS) course. Also on their way to pastures new were **SSgt Tom Earl** who has joined 14 Sig Regt, **Sgt Rob Agnew** who is off to help the Army recruit the finest people Scotland can offer, **LCpl Claire Luck** who is starting her Class 1 course, and **SAC Tom O'Neill** who leaves to go to RAF Wittering.

Finally the fondest of farewells must be reserved for **Sgt Michelle Watkins** who leaves the Army having completed her 22 years of colour service. Having originally joined the WRAC in 1989, it was 3 years before she joined the Royal Corps of Signals and throughout her career she served in 8 different units and deployed to 4 different theatres of operation. During this time she also represented the Corps in a number of sports, however it was her exceptional basketball skills that saw her selected for the both the Army and Joint Services teams. Both the Tp and the entire of JSSU(Ch) wish her all the very best in her new career.

LOGISTIC SERVICES DONNINGTON



OC
2IC

WO1 (YofS) Clarke Fatchett
SSgt Mhairi McIntosh

INTRODUCTION – by AB Hall RN

B47 is an equipment processing facility for the Armed Forces, being responsible for the Receipt, Issue and Disposal for the tri-service environment directly supporting operations. Within the team there are 2 Royal Signals soldiers, in the form of a WO1 Yeoman of Signals and an SSgt CS Op with the remainder of the 12 staff being industrial grade civil servants.

Here we are nearly at the end of the year and business is running smoothly with the core functions of issues (up 12%) and receipts (up 7%) constantly steaming along. Not only have we had a name change, Delete JSCS Donnington, Insert LS Donnington, we have had a proportionately large turnover of staff. With all the recent stock checks and alignment of business processes, there is never a dull moment. All this is being accomplished against the backdrop of the Stock Transitional Programme which aims to reduce all holdings on the shelves by 30%. The excitement has been only interrupted by regular visits to the masher!



The B47 Team

As part of the ongoing civilianisation of LS Donnington, one of the military positions has been civilianised with the remaining 2 military posts going the next 18 months. This has resulted in the realignment of responsibilities across the building. This has challenged the staff with increased workload whilst maintaining KPI's. This combined with the hope that by the time the winter comes we have our heating working again, it could be another long winter for us here in B47 – brrrrrrrrrrrr.

VISIT

LS Donnington was visited by **Cdre Cunningham**, the recently appointed Head of Logistic Services. He came as part of a morale boosting visit and a chance to meet the troops. He was most amused when **Mr Childley** was introduced to him, and called the Commodore 'young man'. Well I suppose the average age in Donnington is 52!

CHARITY

The building has continued to support the worthy Help for Heroes (H4H) and has now managed to raise a total of £840.26. Further charity boxes have been placed around LS Donnington with the usual H4H trinkets.

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

As the manning continues to grow to meet the demands of the tri-service, there has been an increasing number of new faces. To the command team we would like to welcome **SSgt McIntosh** as the new 2IC and **Mr Gerry Shepherd** as an additional Warehouse Supervisor. We would also like to welcome **AB Hall** (temporarily attached), **Mr Jim Walton** and **Mr Michael Pickett** to be part of the shop floor team.

After 26 years of service we would like to bid farewell to **SSgt Tony Brown** who has left the Army for a civilian life. Having served 5 years in B47 he had almost gone native and was in danger of becoming part of the furniture! Additionally he has recently become a father (again) to a baby boy. Congratulations and good luck!



Lanyard 2011

This trophy was instituted in 1979 by 216 (Para) Sig Sqn and takes its name from the unique lanyard worn by the Royal Signals members of the Sqn originating from the special camouflaged rigging lines of parachutes from the drop zones of D-Day. It is awarded to the team winning the 40 mile endurance march with a minimum weight of 40lbs of equipment. Hosted by the previous year's winning team 22 Sig Regt, the competition took place on the 22nd September 2011 across the Cannock Chase area in Staffordshire.

22 Sig Regt

TRAINING – by LCpl Taylor

The Lanyard Trophy is a 40 mile tab carrying 40lbs in your bergan plus water and combat jacket. Each team is made up of 8 men including a senior and an officer. The teams also had to finish with at least 7 men and one of them had to be either the senior or officer. This was to all be completed in the fastest possible time. It is also a competition which majority of units across the Corps put a team in to. Around 6 weeks prior to the event we started training just once a day under **Sgt Steel**. It consisted mainly of a tab on Monday and Wednesday mornings, with a run Tuesdays and Thursday mornings. After a few weeks we went on to training twice a day; tabs in the morning and runs in the afternoons. Some afternoon or morning sessions included swimming to change it up a bit. With only 3 weeks left before the competition we went to Crowborough for 2 weeks of intense training so the lads could get better with hills and overall time on the legs. The team members, particularly **Sig Thorbinson** and **LCpl Bailey**, who had been to Crowborough before held no punches in their description of their experiences there... the rest of us were worried.

On the first morning we went on a familiarisation run. I knew immediately the lads were not blagging us. There was what seemed to be hills on hills in this place. By this time **Sgt Steel** and **SSgt Jennings** were in their element and loving it. Each night we even had the pleasure of listening to '**Nindick**' trying to play a tune on his guitar only to go wrong half way through and start over again... and again... and again. Gurkhas, **Sig Narendra** and **LCpl Vijay** playing on FIFA where the occasional little girly giggle would come from the room. Later on that week we all took part in a 10 mile best effort tab with the aim to do it in 1 hour 40 minutes. The fastest time was just over 1 hour 20 minutes by **Sig Thorbinson** who it seems just does not stop running. During the second week there was pretty much all of the same training to be done again only longer and harder including an 18 miler; even that was hard work due to the stupidly long hills and rubbish terrain! That afternoon we went to the swimming pool to loosen of the legs and relax a little bit. Unfortunately the water was like water from the tap, cold doesn't quite explain just how cold it was. At last the time in Crowborough was up and there was only a few shake off runs to go and a few stretching sessions before the actual event.

Finally the day of the competition had come round and all the pain we had all just been through was all for this day. We were up at 0245 to get washed and scooped ready for the event start at 0500 on the dot. At the 10 mile point unfortunately one lad had become injured so they had to go on without him. At this point we now knew that no one else could drop out. To everybody's dismay, after leading the race at the 25 mile point another team member became seriously dehydrated and they ended up leaving him at the 30 mile point. The rest of the guys did not want to just quit. They finished the course for themselves especially given the Regt would be cheering them in. All in all its been a good event with some very hard training and we're left wondering what might have been, feeling that we were unlucky to not do better than what we did.

THE COMPETITION – by Capt Ian Burgess 22 Sig Regt

This year's Lanyard Trophy competition took place on 22 Sep 11 and was hosted by 22 Sig Regt. In total 42 teams made the start line as they looked forward to a grueling 40 mile route that took them into the heart of Cannock Chase and Staffordshire. Teams began to arrive on Wed 21 Sep 11 and following dinner and a Captain's brief, teams could plot the likely the route they would be taking the following day.

For many within the Corps this would have been their first visit to MOD Stafford which has been the home of 22 Sig Regt since it's reformation in 2007. The site itself had more than enough real estate to accommodate the teams, plus admin support and visitors and being so close to Cannock Chase was the ideal location to start what is arguably the biggest military event in the Corps calendar.

The preparation and build up to the event had by now run over several months. For the Regt this involved detailed planning of the route (singularly down to the efforts of **Capt Billy Morris**) to erecting a tented village within one of many disused hangars on site (under the watchful eye of QM(A) **Maj Paul Horton**) and ensuring that all participants and visitors were sufficiently fed and watered. In addition, 217 Sig Sqn, along with the Comms Manager for the competition **SSgt (YofS) Steve Moran**, deployed detachments to each checkpoint. Not only were safety comms provided in the form of Airwave primarily and Bowman HF as secondary means, but the soldiers deployed to those checkpoints were responsible for ensuring that each team was correctly processed through and their time recorded.



The early pace setters get to work from the off

So it came to the day of the competition. Bergans were weighed, boot laces double and triple checked and final gulps of water taken as 42 nervous teams lined up in the semi darkness at 0500 for the mass start. The SOinC(A) gave a short pep talk to all teams and wished them luck as he sounded the air horn which signalled the start of the competition. The front runners were already away sprinting off into the distance, while others took a "it's a marathon not a sprint" mentality and focused on setting an even pace which would see them through to the finish line in their target time.





WO1 (RSM) Midgley welcomes the SOinC(A) to the prize giving ceremony

The route itself was tac-signed for the first 10 miles before teams entered Cannock Chase to ensure the safe passage of all competitors while crossing at specific points. Five checkpoints then awaited teams who were required to navigate between them; a task which was made more difficult by the abundance of unmarked paths and deforested areas that didn't appear on their maps. Happily there were no reports of lost teams or competitors – or at least none admitted to it! Finally the teams had another 10 mile marked route back into MOD Stafford and the finish line.

For many the final 10 miles proved to be the hardest part of the route, not just because they had already completed 30 gruelling miles but because it took them along the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal path. At this stage with minds focused on the finish line a long straight, seemingly never ending route greeted them. With no end in sight and a succession of bridges and locks making turning the route into a grotesque Groundhog Day this was as much a mental test as a physical one. Teams were by now on their last dregs of energy and needed to pull together to maintain morale and the will to keep going.

The Regular competition proved to be hard fought and saw the lead swap hands early on between 22 Sig Regt and 216 (Para) Sig Sqn before the latter pulled away in the last 15 miles to finish in a time of 8hrs 55mins. Behind them there proved to be an excellent battle for the other podium places and also the Saxony Trophy - awarded to the team who finished quickest with their full compliment of 8 competitors. What became clear was that the mental and physical fitness required of all the competitors was really put to the test as each team fought hard to the finish line. Eventually 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt A team came second to also claim the Saxony Trophy shortly followed by 11 Sig Regt A Team.

The female competition proved to be equally competitive and after a post race adjudication 11 Sig Regt were confirmed as winners in a time of 10hrs 46mins, a time that also saw them finish twelfth place overall. The TA competition proved to be a battle between the two 63 (SAS) Sig Sqn teams, in which their A Team finished 52 minutes ahead of their B Team. The veterans competition was another keenly contested fight to the end in which 18 (UKSF) Sig Regt won. However, what was most pleasing to see was the sense of accomplishment that came across each face as they crossed the finish line no matter where they finished, it is truly an achievement to complete such an event, a point reiterated by the SOinC(A) during the prize giving ceremony.

On completion all the tired competitors had a short walk or hobble to the tented village where camp cots and a well deserved hot dinner awaited them. They were then in their own time until 0900 the next morning when the SOinC(A) presented the winners with their trophies.

Lastly, a massive well done and thank you should be given to 22 Sig Regt who hosted the event. The consensus amongst the competitors was that the route was a good one, it managed to mix the right amount of navigation with challenging terrain. In addition, the accommodation and feeding arrangements were spot on for such a large scale event. The administration for which was not inconsiderable and required the hard work of a large number of soldiers from the host unit in the weeks prior to the event.

JSSU (Cheltenham)

– by Cpl Andy Peters

For the first time ever JSSU(Ch) entered a team in the Lanyard Trophy competition. Inspired by **Cpl Greg Cole**, a team was formed in early June from the available Royal Signals and RAF personnel who were not due for imminent deployment.

Training time was hard to find due to the high operational tempo of the unit, but the Team 2IC, **SSgt Richie 'Airborne!' Vernon**, made the most of the training time we did have, and always pushed the pace to get the maximum out of the team at every opportunity.

Due to courses, leave and short deployments, the first time we all came together as a team was the morning of 22 Sep 11 on the starting line! The team included **Capt Mark Long**, **SSgt Richie Vernon**, **SSgt Brian Flynn**, **Sgt Martyn Gill**, **Sgt Dave Leatherbarrow (RAF)**, **Cpl Andy Peters**, **Cpl Steve Russell** and **Cpl Martin Tancock**. Please note **Cpl 'The Good Idea' Cole** or as he is soon to be known **Cpl 'the beers are on me' Cole** managed to avoid the start line by craftily getting himself deployed at short notice.

Morale was high throughout, but unfortunately due to a mixture of bad feet and the exacerbation of minor injuries carried into the competition, it was only 10 miles in when we lost our first teammate, followed by 2 more at check points 4 and 5. However the 5 man team continued and finished the race in the modest time of 14hrs 42mins.

Plans are already being drawn up to ensure we enter a team again next year and I think I can say on behalf of all the JSSU(Ch) Lanyard Trophy Team 2011, "Good luck!"



The Joys of Lanyard!



71 Y Sig Regt (V)

– by Sig Morgan

The team from 71 Y Sig Regt was composed of **Lt Roberts** (Team Capt), **Sgt Stabler**, **Sgt Marsh** (2IC), **Cpl Nugent**, **Cpl Sutton**, **LCpl Fox**, **Sig Teslenko** and **Sig Morgan**.

Initial training started 3 months prior to the actual event and was largely based at Whipps Cross TAC. The training and subsequently the Team was led by **Lt Tim Roberts** of 47 Sig Sqn and was made up from members of 68 Sig Sqn and 265 Sp Sqn. Not everyone who turned up for the training could attend the actual competition but still had the motivation to stand up and be recognised as having contributed to the development and morale of the Regt Team. Some had done the Lanyard previously and shared their experiences. They, however, did the right thing by simply referring to it with glazed thousand eyed stares as 'emotional'. In hindsight this subjective, rather than deliberately objective or descriptive single word was a perfect summary; it removed any preconceived ideas that Lanyard was a country jolly through some beautiful countryside followed by cake and medals.

On the first weekend training, the Team gathered on Friday night at the TAC and then up 'early doors' on Saturday to head to Epping Forest. A route had been previously marked by the sterling support team headed by **SSgt Carnegie** but also consisting of **Sig Markham** (Team Medic) and **Sgt Griffiths** (Team driver/chief/bottle washer). The first Saturday saw the team completing 6 miles at AFT pace followed by 12 miles on the Sunday, both with the correct 40lbs weight. The Saturday was a breeze for all other than a few old personal aggravations but on the Sunday the cracks started to show post 10 miles, especially when a detour meant the mileage went up to 14. It was clear that correct pacing and navigation was necessary. Regular independent training for all was also not only advisable but compulsory for personal physical conditioning, especially if we were to stand any chance of greeting the 20 mile mark without hanging let alone to 30 or 40 miles. The subsequent weekends mixed an excellent balance of core training, runs and gym circuits on Saturdays lead by the PTI and shorter tabs in order to assess and improve the team's relative fitness. This was followed by increased mileage on the Sunday tabs around Epping Forest. **Lt Tim Roberts** not only led the team but became the self designated morale officer, putting on a delightful BBQ one Saturday with advice and discussions on nutrition, tabbing tactics and equipment revisited at every opportunity.

As the summer months expired in a flash, the event itself came all too quickly but thankfully the final team of 8 all made it to the start injury free. We set off at 0500hrs in the darkness in an enormous column of multicoloured lights glowing on our bergans. As the night turned to dawn the team spread out and the signposted initial phase turned to navigation. Teams would pass us only to be revisited later on so it was clear that our navigation was in quite good order thanks to the Boss and **Cpl Nugent**. Morale reducing parts were especially prevalent when encountering faster teams on their way back from checkpoints only to know you had to come all the way back the way you came but much later on. This was evident when we passed the first 2 teams whilst on our way to the farthest checkpoint coming back towards us and as it turned out were setting a blistering pace. However, manning up and carrying on was the order of the day and so we dealt with the long arduous rocky uneven tracks that seemed to go on ad infinitum in the afternoon heat.

"Ooooh; aaaargh" groaned the 8 man team on the completion warm down. Soldiers at their near summit of physical fitness now reduced to lying horizontally on fresh dew laden grass, contorted outstretched limbs, the slightest pull of which greeted by geriatric squeaks accompanied by universally sweaty facial expressions of shock and awe. Yet the physically suppressed euphoria of having just completed the 40 miles with 40lbs tab in a little over 13 hours straight tabbing was still very much joyously palpable for all involved.



The Team get into their stride

The congratulatory crate of amber nectar from the CO plonked down in the middle of us had never looked so desirable yet so far away from consumption. First had to come 'oh the horror' of boots coming off, scoff and shower. Only then when the adrenaline died down and lactic acid kicked in could anyone even consider indulging in a liquid reward for their efforts.



Head down, dig in....

It mattered not that the more 'Special' of the Regular and Territorial Regt teams had rolled in 8hrs or that some teams would arrive much later after us in the stealth of evening darkness; teams had assembled from the entire Corps, a one Army and all by the end of it doing the 'lactic acid robot walk' and grinning from ear to ear with nods of communal approval all round.

Once we got back to camp however **Sgt Stabler** was slightly worse for wear and was rushed off to hospital with severe cramp in his muscles. It turned out that he had an infection and was held over in hospital for 2 days! This didn't stop us accusing him of being 'weak' at the time with murmurings of 'call yourself a PTI!'. Still not to be outdone his fellow PTI **Cpl Sutton** thought he would show camaraderie and also complained of having a sore knee – again it turned out that he had an inflamed ligament, but this didn't stop the calls of 'weak' all round!

Joking aside, we started off with the ethos that we had all started training together and that we were all going to finish as a team. The fact that we were one of the few teams to complete the course with all team members intact shows how much team spirit we had.

At the end of the day it was 'emotional'...



The Team going through the finishing line in 13:11:26



10 Sig Regt

Training for the 2011 Lanyard Trophy began exactly 2½ weeks before the event. It encompassed several tabs and long runs around the hills of Aldershot and the nearby training area. At the end of this period the 10 Sig Regt Team all agreed that we were in no way ready to face the 40 mile challenge that lay ahead of us, but that we would certainly give it 100%. I could skip to the 30 mile point, when this decision was being sorely regretted, but there are a few bits to cover first. The team was led by **Capt Simon Pierson** and comprised of **Sgt Richie Eveleigh**, **Cpl Chris Rees**, **Cpl Ajay Gurung**, **LCpl Faz Faro**, **LCpl Rob Felters**, **Sig Nixon**, **Sig Nelson** and myself. We arrived at 22 Sig Regt on the 21st and proceeded to get our bergens weighed several times and set up our camp cots. The event began at 0500 the following day and as I tried to work out how much kit I had forgotten, a horn sounded and everyone rushed off into the pitch black.

We kept a good pace and as dawn broke we estimated ourselves to be middle of the pack. The landscape changed from country roads, to farmland, to country houses and we were all relieved at the lack of hills. We tabbed on through the day, some exceptional map work gaining us a few places in the heathland around checkpoint 3 followed by some less exceptional navigation and a bit of bad luck losing us a few places a couple of hours later.

We arrived at the penultimate check point with our morale a bit low only to get an instant boost as we found that we had not dropped as many places as we had feared. We doubled off down the hill we had just slogged up when tragedy struck and a member of the team let out a yelp and went down like an extra in Saving Private Ryan. We immediately administered first aid and deciding it was serious, we put his boot back on and sent him to a manned road crossing some 2 and a bit miles away. This took some time to walk, despite his best efforts. Sadly this set us even further back in the field but knowing that we had done the right thing by our team member, we pushed on and arrived back at camp as darkness fell, finishing in just over 15 hours in 18th place out of 43 teams. Not a bad effort at all considering our 3 or so hours of delays. All in all, an epic experience and one we will remember as we lick our wounds before applying next year!

37 Sig Regt (V) - by Cfn Seabourne

The 37 Sig Regt (V) team of 8 deployed to MOD Stafford on Wednesday 21 September for the much anticipated Lanyard Trophy. With a 5am start everyone was keen to get their heads down as early as possible however before that we had the weigh in; as usual individuals struggled to get the exact weight and you had to remember that this didn't include water or food. Food parcels and energy drinks then made up, we all slept fitfully that night.

Next morning came around all too quickly with the sound of banging and people moving about completing their final checks. The start line felt like the London marathon but the RSM and CO were there giving support and encouragement; the RSM leading the morning stretches that would reduce the chance of pulled muscles.

Eventually the whistle sounded and everyone was off. Head torches and cylumes were visible as it was still pitch black. Quickly the team was out of the gates and the fields were flying past. As the team reached the first check point we were met by the RSM and CO, everyone felt okay so we were in and out of the checkpoint within 5 minutes. Two members of the Regt, **Cpl Seabourne** and **SSgt Smith**, kindly helped with Admin support; supplying the team with food and water just when we needed it most.

It was regrettable that we didn't have ear defenders as **Sig Cowie** talked all the way from the start but he did provide the much needed morale. Both he and the Adjt had not been able to get any training beforehand and it was the first day we had all walked together as a team. The banter flowed though and before we knew it we were at check point 2. By half way a few of us had hot spots. Check Point 5 represented the 3/4 mark with 30 miles completed. With less than 400 metres to go to the checkpoint we were happily greeted by **Cpl Seabourne**, the RSM and the CO which was a surprise as we thought they were on the plane to Germany. They had decided to stay and meet the team, which was a great surprise and excellent support. We walked through Shrugborough country manor all knowing we were on the final path home. Then we reached the Canal of Death (so named due to its monotony; the same from start to finish). We had to get to bridge 32 as this was the way back up to camp but the canal just dragged on and on. Arriving at bridge 32, it was an amazing sight to see so we had to stop to have a break! We started our final push as everyone had started to feel tired and making our way up a field, to our surprise we could see **Cpl Seabourne** and **SSgt Smith** at the top. We knew there was about 3 miles left to go and we started to pick the pace up as the admin team walked in with us and gave us the extra encouragement we needed for the final stretch.



Quick sock change by Sgt Dan Hine



And everyone's still smiling....

Walking side by side just before entering the gates of the camp, **Cpl Seabourne** and **Staff Smith** kept saying it was just round the corner to the finish. I know I won't trust their judgement again as we went around 5 bends before we saw the finish line. We were greeted by the new OM who was full of joy and we were quickly diverted to get make sure our bags still weighed the 40lbs they were mandated to, happy that we could lose the hump off our backs.

We were all glad to take the boots off our feet as it felt like they had been on for weeks. Immediate thought was I won't be doing this again but I know I probably will get talked into it. I'd be happy to attempt any challenge with this team as we supported each other so well it made each other stronger and the whole experience a relatively positive one!



38 Sig Regt (V)

- by SSgt A Williams

I would like to start by saying that team training began in earnest a full 6 months prior to the event; however, due to other commitments and the geographical spread of the Regt, Dundee to Coulsdon, it unfortunately didn't happen. The first to be recruited was **SSgt (SPSI) Andy Williams** followed by newly promoted and previous RSM of the Regt **Capt Andy Wyatt**. Six other members of the Regt volunteered and pulled out for various reasons. At this point the team was close to collapse but the start of Annual Camp 2011 saw an invigorated push for competitors. Step forward **LCpl Tim Storr, Sigs Griffiths, Dunker and Burden**. During Annual Camp the 6 members of the team together with Admin Support **WO2 Andy Medley** and **SSgt Bedford** RAMC deployed to Feldom Ranges for some much needed team bonding, then there hills and high winds. The week continued with briefs, kit and foot checks. The morning of Wed 21 Sept myself and newly recruited **Capt Dave Alleyne**, who must of said no a hundred times but eventually caved in to pressure, began the journey to MoD Stafford stopping off at Rugby to pick up **LCpl Ian Hackford**. We arrived at Stafford early afternoon, met up with the rest of the team, booked in, weighed in and relaxed, sort of, until the Team Capts' brief. The brief concluded around 2000hrs, the team then huddled around the GS table of knowledge, conducted a map recce and planned the route.

0315hrs, Thurs 22 Sept 11, the team awoke from their slumber, fought through the ablutions and breakfasted like kings after which we donned head torches, snapped a cyalume, picked up our 40+lb bergans and made our way to the start.

A massed 0500hrs start was signalled by the SOinC and amidst the sea of cyalumes teams jostled for positions. We made our way off camp, over farm land and along tracks through the first of 2 mandatory crossing points to CP 1. This saw us at the end of the tac signed route out. We were now on Cannock Chase and were working by map and compass to get around the course. CP 2 came and went with everyone still in good spirits. CP 3 arrived around midday and with it hot food, which was a welcome relief. Now began the hard slog to CP 4 followed by the monster trek to CP 5. The team was now 28 miles into the competition and all were starting to feel the unrelenting pressure on feet and backs. From CP 5 through crossing point 2 to the finish line we were joined by the CO and RSM. The last 12 miles and the never ending canal walk really took its toll and it was with great relief that we welcomed the finish line, 15hrs 49mins after the start. We had completed Lanyard Trophy Competition 2011 in a team category position of 7th place. I see the Lanyard Trophy as a rite of passage, which every officer and soldier in the Corps should endure at least once. The class of 2011 proved their worth and can boast how they never left anyone behind – starting and finishing with all 8!!!



38 Sig Regt (V) 2011 Lanyard Team

Good luck to the class of 2012.....

4 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (204)

- by Sgt Jim Walker

The team of 8 from 204 Sig Sqn consisted of Lanyard veterans **WO2 RQMS Dade** and **Sgt McGillivray-Jones**. The team also had its fair share of Lanyard virgins; **Sgt Jim Walker, Cpl Andy Higgins, Cpl Emma Douglas, LCpl Randall** and **Cfn Kinchin**. The team was led by **2Lt Hutchings**, who joined the Sqn on attachment straight from commissioning (welcome to the Royal Signals, get yourself on Lanyard big fella!). The team felt well prepared entering the competition having clocked up over 300 miles of tabbing across the numerous hills of the North East, but still nothing can prepare you for 40 miles with 40lbs moving as fast as you can physically go.

The day started nice and early at 0300hrs for breakfast, young **Cfn Kinchin** didn't even know that time existed! The mass start for the competition stepped off at 0500hrs. We had a clear goal in mind, to try to create as much distance between us and the masses as quickly as possible. It was important for us to stay as a team and try and be the first complete team over the line for the Saxon Trophy. We managed a very quick start completing the first 10 miles in 2 hours and managed to maintain a decent team pace for the next 20 miles as the various team members hit their personal walls throughout the day. **2Lt Hutchings** and **Sgt McGillivray-Jones** showed some exceptional map reading and their route selection managed to save the team a lot of time, raising our positions by choosing different routes instead of following the masses.

Following a quick start we then hit the slow leg of the canal path, which according to some people ranged from 4 miles up to 10 miles and to be honest I don't think anyone knows the real answer. Across all the competitors that took part that day they found this to be an energy sapping part of the course. Thankfully after that final leg there was a good distance between us and the chasing teams so we didn't have to do a sprint finish and crossed the line with a full team. Our finishing time of 11hrs 37mins was a very respectable time and we finished in 8th overall out of 42 teams. Unfortunately we were not the first complete team to cross the line but we were the first mixed team to cross the line. It was nice to see **Cpl Emma Douglas** was getting handshakes from competitors and spectators at the end out of respect for her carrying the male weight of 40lbs + (the only female at the competition that did). Now that the competition is over the team is still as strong as ever although normal work has resumed and everyone has gone back to their various jobs and departments; strong friendships have formed out of mutual respect for sharing a challenging and at times a traumatic experience. Already people are looking back through rose tinted glasses and are talking about next year's competition before the current war wounds have even healed.

The team and unit say farewell to **Sgt McGillivray-Jones** whose last act at this unit was to get us all through the competition (especially the RQMS) and is departing on his well earned two year holiday tour of Cyprus (a word of warning JCU Cyprus you will be doing this competition next year). Also a farewell to a very brief visit from **2Lt Hutchings** who departs for his Troop Commanders' Course in Blandford, no doubt our paths will cross again at future competitions.



1 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (215)

FEMALE TEAM - by LCpl Sally Wiltshire

It was early in the morning on 22 Sep; a time that birds aren't even awake - 0330! Rudely awoken by the mass sound of alarms ranging from the typical Nokia Tune to Tiny Tempa we rubbed the sleep out of our eyes to look around at our tent erected in a hangar at 22 Sig Regt, Stafford. The team comprised **Capt Emma Cameron**, **SSgt Jules Dolan**, **Cpl Ginge Giltrow**, **LCpl 'Cheese sandwich' Wiltshire**, **Sig Barbie Barton** and **Sig Kate Delauro**. Cheered on by the 'much loved' Admin Team – **SSgt (FoS IS) 'Bordering on Ginger' Fraser** and **Sgt 'Dee' Oakes**.

As we made our way to the mass start line you could feel the nerves in the air as people warmed up. The SOinC started the count down and before we had time to think we were off! Within minutes of starting my back breaking bergen and pocket full of morale (Haribo) were in full swing with my legs. For the first 10 miles we followed tac signs and the 'ant line' of glow sticks attached to peoples bergans. During the first few miles our morale was lifted by the sight of a male 'badmin' team taping up their feet, this gave us the encouragement we needed to push the pace out a little faster.

The first 28 miles was made up of a blur of pain, deep breathing, excitement as we overtook other teams and 'girlie chats'. Then our thoughts turned to the 'bathroom', which of course is non-existent in the middle of a field. Trying to tab with legs wrapped around my head became impossible and I could see the rest of the girls were in exactly the same position, apart from **Capt Emma Cameron**, who must have been taught at Sandhurst how not to pee in public!

The last 10 miles were definitely the hardest feeling sick and faint, even our PTI **Sig Delauro** was starting to suffer. It wasn't helped that 6 of the last 10 miles were along a canal tow path which felt never ending. Thank

God for the Admin Team, without which we probably wouldn't have secured a position of fourth place, in a very respectable time of 13hrs 7mins. Once over the finish line and after catching my breath 2 things were going through my mind, 'I am never doing that again, ever, and I mean it this time!!!' and 'Boss, are we getting the day off for this!!!'



The female team happy to be crossing the finish line!



Smiles all round that the competition is over!

MALE TEAM - by Sig Innes

Volunteers from the Sqn started training for the male team several months before the event, tabbing around Salisbury Plain to build leg strength and endurance whilst carrying weight. Concurrently, we were instructed on foot care and personal admin from **Sgt 'Stoppy' Stopforth**. The training package culminated in a week at Swynnerton Camp for intense training before the event and select the final team. On the 5 days we were there we did 2 tab's of 15 and 20 miles, 2 fast tab's of 6 and 9 miles, and 3 runs, one was about 6 miles and the other 2 were about 4 miles totalling over a whopping 64 miles. This gave us a great opportunity to learn all about the area which would prove beneficial during the competition. There were 11 people going for 6 places in the 8 man team. The Team Officer was **Lt Ross Arnold** and the



The male team on the move

Team SNCO was **WO2 'Dad' Wheeler**. A week after the training week the team was selected and consisted of **Sgt Stopforth**, **LCpl 'Tech' Ambrose**, **Sig Billy Jervis**, **Sig 'Quiet' Stockdale**, **Sig 'Quieter' Davies** and me, with **Cpl 'Vaseline' Hedges**,

who got injured on the training week, and **Sig 'Barny' Barnard** as the Admin Team.

On the day of the event it was a 0330 wake-up, ready for the mass start at 5am. Standing at the start point the pizzas we had the night before and the big breakfast seemed like a bad idea. We had a good start and managed to get near the front of the crowd early on. The first few miles were fast and aggressive as we were shuffling every 100 meters to try and warm up. We did this for most of the first 10 miles which got us to the 10 mile check point in around 2 hours.

The next 20 miles were better as we had all warmed up and we knew the area from the training week, so we always had a rough idea of where we were and where we were going. As we got to the last checkpoint we knew there was only 10 miles to go thinking it wasn't too much considering how far we had already gone. However the first 2 miles we went up another set of soul destroying hills, carving through thick undergrowth. Then we hit the canal tow path! We thought it would be far easier due to it being flat; unfortunately it was possibly the worst part of the whole event. It was long and boring and due to it being so narrow we could only walk in single file so nobody was talking to each other. We got stuck in our own heads thinking of nothing but the pain we were in. There were only 3 or 4 bridges we had to go under but each seemed to take longer and longer to come. After what seemed like a lifetime we were back on roads and paths for the last few miles.

As we reached MoD Stafford's back gate we knew there was only a mile and a half left. We hadn't seen it in the light as it was dark when we set off and thought the final straight was after every corner but it never was! Eventually we crossed the line with a time of 10hrs 11mins, in fourth place and we were all happy that it was over. After stretching off and having a hot shower we went back outside to cheer in our female team.

That night the OC **Maj Byfield** and the RSM, **WO1 'Deano' Cartledge** had been kind enough to buy us a few beers, although not many of us were able to stay up too late too drink them, we went to bed tired, hurting but with an amazing sense of achievement.



11 (RSS) SIG REGT

FEMALE A TEAM - by Sig Roberts

Female Team Winners

Initially I was reluctant to join the Lanyard Trophy Team as it would consist of training Monday and Wednesday evenings, along with Friday mornings and weekend training. I was worried that it might be too much whilst also doing my operator course and syndicate training. I was also concerned about the fact that the furthest I'd ever tabbed was 6 miles.

The first training session was about 6 miles and we carried about 15lbs. We carried on doing between 6-8 miles at CFT pace until everyone got comfortable, then we started increasing the pace and weight slightly each week. As the weeks went on we started getting comfortable with the routes on camp so every Monday we would join the males and go to a hill out of camp and do 'reps' to improve our stamina.

Around 2 months into training we also started doing weekend training sessions. Our first weekend was in Lulworth then off we went to Brecon. On the Saturday we tabbed around 15 miles over the Brecon Beacons and on Sunday we did the SF AFT route twice. This was a tough test but I found it a real good confidence boost.

The big day came and I was very excited. When we got there I was surprised by how many people were there and how big the event was. None of the team got much sleep that night and we were all feeling nervous. At 0430 we headed to the start point. We set off at a good pace and kept to our tactic of keeping a steady pace. At around 20 miles the team started to feel tired but we all kept each other going by talking and telling jokes to try and keep our mind off the aches and pains, also the support of everyone in our admin team kept spirits high.

The most challenging part for me was the last 10 miles. When I reached the last check point I was feeling fine. I think that was down to the fact I knew I only had around another 10 miles left. However when we reached the infamous canal path I think everyone hit a bit of a low. Even though it was flat ground it was the worst bit of tabbing I have ever done as it was boring and seemed to be never ending. We reached the end of the canal and we were told we only had another 2 to 3 miles left. We finally got to the finish line in a time of 10 hours 45 minutes which I was extremely proud of. Lanyard is by far the most challenging thing I've done but one of my best achievements and I'm very proud of myself and my team for winning.

MALE A TEAM – by Sig Farminer

I was interested in being posted to 216 (Para) Sig Sqn so signed up for the Lanyard Trophy in order to gain an insight into tabbing.

The plan was to do a short sharp hill session or speed tab on Monday evenings, a paced longer tab on Wednesday evenings and a light training run on Friday mornings. We trained around our course timetable which meant we were only able to train on evenings and mornings. We often got double 'phys' sessions in a day due to the core PT we had to attend; this was tough and helped weed out those less dedicated. Coupled with the physical training was a number of briefs covering everything from Bergen packing through to an in depth nutrition brief from an accomplished tri-athlete; this undoubtedly helped the whole team and gave us vital knowledge of how to prepare ourselves for the event.

I made it into the A team and being only 18 felt a lot of pressure not to buckle under the strain and was desperate not to let the team down. It was a long journey up to Stafford and an even longer night, we tried to sleep as best we could, but everyone was a mix of nerves and excitement for the next day. The event started before the sun was even close to rising.

After a short speech from the SOinC(A) a quiet hush descended as the countdown neared and then finally the claxon sounded. The first few miles were in darkness so watching the teams slowly stretch out was quite a spectacle. The first 10 miles flew by as we crossed the fields and areas around Stafford. We were relatively comfortable and felt fresh, morale was high and banter was thick and fast. Then came my first low point which **WO1 Stanbury** had warned us that everyone would have; being my first time I worried quite a lot that I couldn't keep the pace for the rest if I continued to feel the way I was feeling, but miraculously a few moments later I felt brand new and understood the idea of the phases we would go through as the miles past. We were on pace and the half way point came within 4 hours, this gave everyone a boost especially as at this point we still weren't far behind the 216 team.

Then came the final checkpoint and we overtook 22 Sig Regt and moved into second place just 12 minutes behind 216 (Para) Sig Sqn. We started off at quite a pace, but what we hadn't bargained for was the soul crushing length of the canal path which was enough to kill anyone's morale, let alone a team who had just completed 30 odd miles of an endurance event.

We all suffered despite much encouragement from the locals.

The final approach into camp seemed to last for ever but as soon as the end was in sight morale sky rocketed. Once we could see the finish line we broke off into extended line and crossed the finish line in 3rd place. I got an overwhelming sense of achievement; the whole experience was amazing despite the pain leading up to, during and after the event. A pain which I'm sure many of us will strangely want to feel again as we undoubtedly volunteer to compete in the future – next time I hope to be in the winning 216 (Para) Sig Sqn Team.



The 2011 11 (RSS) Sig Regt Lanyard Team



3 Div Sig Regt

– by Lt Benjy Brown

All the way back in March, 6 months before Lanyard Trophy had begun, and 3 months before he was due to take over as our new 2IC Regt, **Maj Gary Irwin** sent me an email out of the blue asking whether I was “up for it”.

With two thirds of the Regt deployed to Afghanistan, and the biggest Div exercise for 10 years being run in Germany throughout May by 206 Sig Sqn, training finally started on a hot dusty June Friday morning, with the Regt parading for CO's PT. The new 2IC Regt had now arrived and had fired a barrage of questions to me about how all things Lanyard Trophy were progressing (we had some snazzy t-shirts – more about that later – but that was pretty much it). So after the parade, a healthy number of Lanyard Trophy volunteers stood to one side. As the sun beat down, we decided to kick-off with a steady 10 miles around the Salisbury Plain Training Area and had a brief on what to expect over the coming weeks. After 3 or 4 miles of fast tabbing and running, there was a hazy trail of about 40 people spread across the long transit route we had chosen for our first training session. Things didn't look good, but morale improved when after 6 miles we all convened at what later became the notorious 'Mike-Mike' tank crossing. From here, jaws hit floors as we were told that we were going to “dig in” from here – a 4 mile best effort back in. Well, the intensity didn't change much over the course of training, and numbers dwindled at the impending thought of 40 miles at THAT pace!

As time drew closer to the day, our excellent admin team headed up by newly commissioned **2Lt Sam Marsden** started to shake things about. Vehicles and drivers appeared from unknown garages, compasses suddenly arrived and last minute t-shirt orders were collected from all ends of the country to ensure that on the day all 3 teams were very well catered for. On arrival at 22 SR, I was impressed by the setup – sleeping inside a big airy hangar with good food provided by 22 SR Sp Sqn. After a brief panic about whether we could wear our smart looking red Regt t-shirts, things didn't seem all that bad as the 3 teams went through their rituals of foot taping, map marking and carb loading in preparation for the 0500 start time the following morning. Stood on the start line all the teams wished good luck to one another and there was an eerie anticipation in the air as the dark morning was interspersed by cyalumes and the huddled chatter of nervous teams. Then the foghorn sounded.

THE A TEAM – by Sig Redwood

Saxony Trophy Winners

We shuffled off into mile one of 40, struggling not to race the teams either side of us who had sprinted off. We kept our cool and maintained a steady pace. By the time we had got to the first 10 mile checkpoint, the sun was up we had gone from 8th position to 4th position. After a 2 minute admin stop we set back off and because of good navigation from **Lt Jonny Leigh**, by the time we got to the 30 mile checkpoint we were close behind the leading teams.

The last quarter of the race started well with us overtaking 22 SR who were down to 6 men. Collectively I think we all would have been happy with 3rd place but soon after we saw 11 SR and chased them down. They told us that the leading team from 216 Sig Sqn were over 15 minutes in front, so we kept the pace and finished strongly as a team in 2nd place overall and were the first team to finish with all our members, winning the Saxony Trophy.

THE B TEAM – by LCpl Creber

We set into a steady tab to warm up our legs and in no time dawn was breaking and we were at the 10 mile point. From here we took a less than popular route which felt like part of the Himalayas and certainly got the legs and heart going before we got onto the relatively straight and narrow and cracked on to the halfway point. Everyone (apart from **WO1 Jon Ford** who was feeling his age) was looking strong and in high spirits and it was a boost to start to pass the odd team on the second half of the race. We built up a rapport with the female team of 39 SR(V) with whom we were to-ing and fro-ing for about 6 miles and who eventually finished strongly about 1/2 hour ahead of us. That spirit and camaraderie was a constant between all the teams we met during the whole of competition and is a massive part of the event. After what seemed like an eternal stretch on the canal towards the end of the race, we were met by a few of the Regt personalities who spurred us on and it was only a matter of time before we crossed the finish line (although HOW FAR is it from the back gate of camp to the finish line?!).

THE FEMALE TEAM – by LCpl Davies

Our first 10 miles were set at a quick pace, (probably because we were in the dark and couldn't see what was coming!!). After refuelling our bergans with sweets at Checkpoint 1, our morale was high and we were off again. Unfortunately, this is where the sore feet and aching collarbones started to catch up with us and our pace slowed down (although it was nothing that a bag of haribo couldn't sort out!).

On our way round 30SR were hot on our heels, but we worked hard to keep them behind us and with 10 miles left to push the girls were feeling the pain and really dug in, buoyed by the support provided by some members of the Regt who we dotted along the route to spur us on. Finishing strongly with all our team together was a real achievement, one which all the girls were really proud of.

RESULTS

The Regular Army competition:

1 st	216 (Para) Sig Sqn	8hrs 55mins
2 nd	3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt A team	9hrs 20mins
3 rd	11 Sig Regt A team	9hrs 50mins

Saxony Trophy Winners:

3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt A team

The Veterans competition for teams aged 35 and over:

1 st	18 (UKSF) Sig Regt	10hrs 26mins
2 nd	HQ SOinC(A)	10hrs 45mins
3 rd	USSO Blandford	11hrs 59mins

The female competition:

1 st	11 Sig Regt	10hrs 46mins
2 nd	39 Sig Regt (V)	12hrs 13mins
3 rd	30 Sig Regt	12hrs 58mins

The TA competition:

1 st	63 (SAS) Sig Sqn (R) A team	11hrs 14mins
2 nd	63 (SAS) Sig Sqn (R) B team	12hrs 6mins
3 rd	71 Sig Regt (V)	13hrs 12mins



216 (Para) Sig Sqn

– by 2Lt Cotterill

Lanyard Winners

The time had arrived, 6 weeks of training and preparation had ensured that we were stood on the Lanyard Trophy start line ready to begin. The team consisted of myself, **SSgt (Fofs(IS)) Kay**, **SSgt Cloney**, **LCpl Stokes**, **LCpl Lewis**, **Sig Baker**, **Sig Mills** and **Sig Pollock**, and I was searching for some inspiring words to day when **Col Halstead** did it for me by uttering “They never won it for me when I was OC, none of them got past LCpl, so make sure you win”! With this thought sitting fresh in our minds we set off and the pace at the beginning was lightning; we thought it was imperative that we gained an early lead to set the pace for the remainder of the day. Despite this we were being relentlessly pursued by 22 SR and this ensured we had to move more rapidly than planned, with the unfortunate consequence of **Sig Baker** regurgitating his breakfast several times over! Despite this and after being ambushed by a couple of Ghurkha paparazzi (the flash wasn't too dazzling at 6 o'clock in the morning) we managed to keep our lead and arrived at the first check point in 1 hr 50 minutes; around 5 minutes ahead 22 SR.

To my disbelief this lead had evaporated by the time we reached the second check point, my decision to transverse over Devil's Dumble back fired after 22 SR chose to go around the South West of the hill. By the third check point we were neck and neck with 11 SR and 3 Div who were also pushing the lead teams. At this point we began to feel the effects of fatigue from our rapid start and 22 SR started to gain the momentum which saw them gain a lead of 6 minutes by the time we reached check point 4. With **Col Halstead's** words ringing in my ears and aware that 22 SR were also starting to fatigue we began to pursue them as we moved back across the Chase to check point 5. There was a careful balancing act to be maintained, between the need to catch 22 SR and not going too fast as to cause a member of the team to cramp up. **SSgt (Fofs(IS)) Kay** did a sterling job of holding the squad together through this critical period, ensuring they “constantly grazed” throughout to prevent anyone from suddenly ‘hitting the wall’.

Passing the other teams en-route to the turn around point provided us with regular updates on the time/distance differential between us and 22 SR; “3 minutes”, “2 minutes”, “200 metres” and ever decreasing. The pivotal spike of excitement was evident when **SSgt Cloney**, at the front of the pack, spotted 22 SR's rear man who was clearly suffering, “they're just ahead” were the key words that gave the team the inspiration needed to push the pace. We finally passed them before we entered Sherbrook Valley and gradually increased the lead by check point 5 to around 15 minutes. With this in mind we began to ease off the pace along the ‘never ending’ canal of hell.

We finally entered camp and placed our berets on expecting to see the finish point imminently, yet corner after corner provided a false dawn as it was the best part of another 20 minutes before our salt encrusted faces crossed the finish in first place to the elation of all. It had been a long day and everyone had clearly suffered at some point, but none more than **LCpl Lewis** who had spent pretty much half the race in his own world of hurt. Always the team player though he pushed on regardless, in true keeping with the Lanyard spirit and he like the rest of us was rewarded with the win we so desperately wanted.

The Sqn will be hosting the Lanyard Trophy in 2012 and preparations have started already so watch this space for more details and if you fancy your chances at taking the trophy off us then there is no time like the present to start training.



SSgt Cloney Enjoying his stroll about Stafford



The Lanyard Trophy Winning Team and Support Crew



Royal Signals



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For Further Information Contact

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SSgt Craig Stainer
Tel : 94475 2400 or 01179452700



THE ROYAL SIGNALS FEMALE FOOTBALL TEAM

– by WO2 (SSM) ‘Fozzie’ Foster

The 2010/11 season was our best season since I have been coaching the Female team. We have suffered in the years previous to this with players on deployment or injuries. We play 6 games over the season against the RLC, REME, INT Corps, RA, AGC and AMS. The squad is small compared to other Corps with us regularly only getting 11-15 players per training session. We desperately need depth in the squad so that we can continue the success we have achieved from last season.

If your reading this and you think you can contribute either by playing (you have to be female) or coaching (male or female), now is the time to get involved.

Results:	REME	L	0 – 8	AGC	W	11 – 3	Int Corps	W	14 – 0
	RLC	W	5 – 3	AMS	W	3 – 2	RA	L	3 – 4

MY 10TH SEASON IN CORPS FOOTBALL – by Cpl Jodie Williams

Going into my 10th season of Corps football it was looking to be a great season for us, having a lot of young new players from Phase 2 Training coming through to the team, **LCpl Jenna Wales**, **LCpl Meg Horrey**, **Sig Georgina Watton** and **Sig Shanice James**. I missed the first game of the season, but then I was back for all the rest. As we didn't have a keeper for most of the season myself and **Sig Demi Graham** kindly volunteered our services. I'd played before in nets but for **Sig Demi Graham** it was a first and she had an outstanding couple of games.



Out of all the games we played we had a great season only losing 2 games. It was the game against the AMS that stood out for me as the best overall team performance of the season. Once again we had to search for a keeper and up to the plate the day before the match walked **Sgt Ali Sabiston**, those of you from the Hockey world will know her as the Corps Hockey keeper. Anyway, apparently in hockey, keepers don't pick the ball up much, this we found out when the first time the ball came to **Sgt Sabiston** she booted it halfway down the pitch with the coach **WO2 'Fozzie' Foster** screaming at her to "Pick it up". In the middle of the park **Sig 'Bull' Turnbull** was all over the place putting their midfield under constant pressure. **Sig 'Goochi' Gooch-Hatton** was creating problems for their defence with her change of pace and close ball control. Unfortunately at half time we were 2 – 1 down, but after our inspirational half time chat from **WO2 Foster** and **SSgt Vicky Moran** we went out the second half a completely different team. The energy levels were high, we were winning every high ball. **LCpl Megs Horrey** was literally ripping the defence to pieces with her pace and but for the woodwork would have scored a hat-trick. We were playing great passing football which rightly saw us scoring 3 great goals and winning the game 3 – 2, an outstanding game by the girls who they never gave up.

I'm looking forward going into my 11th season and hopefully bettering this season's 2nd position in the league.



MY FIRST SEASON IN CORPS FOOTBALL

– by LCpl Meg Horrey

My first season playing Corps football has been an emotional rollercoaster. Starting off with a heavy defeat to the REME 8 – 0, to finishing runners up in the league. I have met some fantastic footballers and, more importantly, some great friends.

A few games that stick out are the game against the Int Corps where we delivered a fantastic team performance and the result showered. Also the games against the AMS where we were trailing 2 – 1 at half time but came back to win 3 – 2 and the RA game where we were winning 3 – 0 until we lost **Sig Turnbull** through injury and lost the game 3 – 4.

Over the season we have got to know each others strengths and weaknesses and together we have delivered a fantastic display of



football, demonstrating skill, knowledge and more importantly commitment to the team and each other.

I would like to thank the girls for welcoming me to the team in what was a very successful season. More importantly the men and women behind the scenes **WO1 (CRSM) McBean, WO2 'Fozzie' Foster and SSgt Vicky Moran.**

I am looking forward to the start of the next season not only with the Royal Signals Football Team but also the Army Team which I was selected for at the end of last season.

RSWFA PRE-SEASON TRAINING WEEK 22- 26 AUG 2011 – by Sgt Higgins

As with most things, we must start at the beginning... and as footballers the beginning means pre-season training. This is when we remove the indulgence of the summer from our bodies. It is a painful and sometimes eye opening experience for all players. An experience all players endure in order to improve fitness and sharpness.

Pre-season training was conceived and organised by the current coaching staff, **SSgt Moran, Sgt Smeijkowski and Sgt Higgins.**

Our primary aim was to assess the fitness of the players. To achieve this aim a multi-stage fitness test was carried out. On completion of this test the players moved to the football field, with a sigh of relief.

On the field is where the majority of training would be carried out for the duration of the week. The aim was to create a cohesive and driven team that would be able to compete against a Poole Town FC XI on the Thursday evening.

The attitude and drive displayed by all the players provided a good platform for the team to move forward. After numerous sessions on attacking and defending, retaining possession and set pieces, the ladies were ready to face their nemesis, Poole Town FC.

The match kicked off and the Royal Signals were on the front foot immediately. The Corps created numerous opportunities and dominated the first half, resulting in a 1-0 lead at half time. As the second half began, it became even more obvious that the Royal Signals were a much better team, dominating ball possession and creating chances at will. After many missed opportunities, The Corps finally scored, 2-0. The game continued in the same vein, with Poole

Town having very few memorable opportunities to score, so utterly dominant were the women of the Corps. After a long duration of pressure the Royal Signals scored their third and final goal.

The game ended 3-0, a fine victory against a well trained and organised opposition. The goal scorers were **LCpl Meg Horrey (2s)** and **Sig Christina Watson** (the beers are on you two!).



Olympic Dreams

Cpl Paula Walker

The 2010/2011 bobsleigh season was a rollercoaster of highs and lows for **Cpl Paula Walker** who is currently Great Britains number one bobsleigh driver.

2010 Winter Olympian **Cpl Paula Walker** from 21 Sig Regt was set targets by the British Bobsleigh Association. These were Top 12 in World Cup Races and a Top 4 in the World Junior Championships.



The season kicked off with some great results; a silver and a bronze in Americas Cups. With the team feeling high they headed onto World Cup where the trend carried on, smashing their targets set with continual top 10 in the World.



Unfortunately **Paula** and the team had to pull out of a Winterberg's World Cup due to her father's terminal cancer taking a turn for the worse. She had to make some tough decisions and decided with her father's blessing to head out to the target event which was the World Junior Championships, held in Park City, Utah, USA.

All future funding depended on the outcome of this race, and with the help of her brakewomen **Rebekah Wilson** and ice coach **WO2 Peter Gunn** became the first British Team ever to win the World Junior Champion title.

GB1 then headed back to Europe to compete in the Senior 2011 World Championships where they came in 13th. Not happy with her driving they then entered the Team event. This is a newish event where both men

and women bobsleigh and skeleton each get one run and the time is added together.

Great Britain had a team of bobsleigh drivers **Cpl Paula Walker** and Royal Marine **Cpl John Jackson**. Skeletons **Kristan Bromley** and **Shelly Rudman** and ended up coming 4th in the World.

After the International circuit **Paula** then attended the Interservice Championships held in Konigssee, Germany which she won with **Cpl Alicia Jarmen** as her brakewomen, but sadly had to leave after the first day of competition due to her father losing his fight with Myeloma Cancer.

During the summer months **Cpl Walker** trains twice a day six days a week at Bath University. Her training includes weights, sprints, core, stability and pushing a bobsleigh on a specially designed track which is based a Bath Uni.

Cpl Walker has been setting Personal Bests all summer and recently has come back from the Great Britain Trails which took place in Sigulda, Latvia. Her team which makes up the rest of the Great Britains number one team includes: **Rebekah Wilson** (20), **Kelly Denyer** (21) and **Gillian Cooke** (29).

This coming 2011/2012 season sees **Cpl Walker** in a new sled competing on the World Cup. Her targets which are set by the British Bobsleigh Association and UK Sport are to produce Top 8 in the World Cup and the 2012 World Championships, held in Lake Placid, USA.

The team are now training out in North America before for pre season on ice training. The first World Cup race will be in the first week of December in Igls, Austria. All races will be televised on Eurosport and covered by BFBS.



After 14 years in the Army I'm still a Cpl and if you met me you might wonder why? I sacrificed my career in pursuit of an Olympic medal. Despite not getting one I do not regret a single day spent pursuing my dream. When I joined the Army in 1996 I had not even heard of the sport of Bobsleigh. Now, after participating in the 2002 and 2006 Winter Olympics and narrowly missing out on selection for the 2010 Winter Olympics I wanted to share my story...

I've always been very sporty and when I joined the Army I could not believe the variety of sports that you could get involved in. Being the competitive person I am I was in my element and joined every team I could. I represented the Army in athletics and rugby and it was my goal to one day represent England in rugby. Little did I know that that goal would change and I would be successful in a sport I was yet to even discover. One of the girls in the athletics team competed in the Great Britain Bobsleigh Team. Having questioned her about it and finding out about the attributes required I thought it sounded like it was the sport for me. My "if you can do it I can do it" attitude meant I at least had to try. I was surprised to learn that the Army run an ice camp where you can try one of the 3 disciplines; Bobsleigh, Luge or Skeleton, I had to go. My camp was in Lillehammer, Norway. It was a fantastic experience and I was hooked. Whilst I was there the GB team was training. I approached the team managers and asked about getting on the team and was invited to the trials. Of course I came last and was disappointed, but I wasn't far behind the others. I hadn't realised how good my results were until the



Performance Director told me that the other girls had trained for bobsleigh and some were currently representing GB at athletics. He told me that I had the physical attributes needed; I now just needed to train specifically for that sport. With this in mind I found out what it was I needed to do and I started training so I would never come last again!!!

In my first season I developed quickly, progressing from the 3rd team to the 2nd in just half a season and by the end I was the fastest ranked brakeman. I was invited to train with the Olympic squad at the University of Bath. I was released by my unit to train full time to give me the best opportunity. Olympic season approached quickly and competition was fierce. I stayed on top and was paired with **Cheryl Done** of the RAF. We had very good starts and prior to the Olympics were ranked 7th in the world. In the Olympic trials I was beaten by new comer, **Nicola Minichiello**, who had been seconded from the GB athletics team. I was selected to join **Michelle Coy**, GB2 driver, and we finished 11th, one place ahead of GB1.

My first Olympics were an amazing experience, one I will never forget. Afterwards I felt a huge anticlimax, having worked so hard and then achieved my goal I didn't know what to do with myself. The 2 drivers decided to retire so unless **Nicola** or I wanted to learn to drive, the sport would be over for us. The BBA decided they would set up a programme to develop us as drivers. The first year we

spent mainly training with few competitions, the focus being to learn as many of the tracks as possible and get as many training runs as possible. It was a fast track programme and **Nicola** and I paired up and alternated between braking and driving. This was very demanding but we showed everyone how good the programme had been when in our first European Cup race we finished 3rd and broke the start record.

With the 2006 Olympics fast approaching **Nicola** and I made a huge decision. One of us was going to quit driving to become brakeman for the other. As the fastest 2 athletes we knew that together we could produce the fastest starts in the world and that would help boost us up the rankings. It was decided that **Nicola** would drive and I would be brakeman. The decision paid off. In the 2005 World Championships we won Silver, it was amazing standing on the podium and seeing the Union Flag flying. We did qualify for the Olympics in 2006 and after a difficult season we were disappointed with our 9th place finish. I had previously wanted to retire following the Olympics but knowing that we could do better I just couldn't quit. I decided I would once again try driving. It may seem that I just can't make my mind up but that is not the case, I just wanted to see if I could drive better.... I spent the first season back in the front seat on the European Cup Circuit and had new recruit **Cpl Paula Walker** as my brakeman. We finished 2nd overall and took away an array of medals. It wasn't enough for me though as I knew that the World Cup competition was a lot tougher, as shown when we finished in 14th place in the World Championships in St Moritz.

Trials for the Olympics approached quickly... too quickly! I performed well and was back on form. I achieved personal bests in the push test but it was only enough to come 2nd. Instead of being reserve for GB1 however I was put with **Paula Walker** who was one of our newest drivers, along with brakeman **Kelly Thomas**. It was going to be tough to make the qualifying standard for the Olympics as we had to be ranked top 10 after the first 5 races. It was important that the fastest brakeman raced each week so **Kelly** and I continued to have race offs. Unfortunately I lost to her but only by an average of 3 hundredths of a second. We did make the qualifying standard against all odds but I lost out to **Kelly** in our final Olympic selection again by 3 hundredths.

I was extremely disappointed not to have made it to my 3rd Olympics, however I found myself overcome by a strange sense of calm. I had given it my all and I had achieved personal bests physically. I was in the best shape I had been, but when it came down to it someone else was better. I could not control that but I did control what I had done and I continued to train and support my team right up until the Olympic Holding Camp. I felt incredibly proud of them. The GB2 team was the only Great Britain Team to place finishing a fantastic 11th place.

After 10 years competing for Great Britain I have a cupboard full of medals. The medals however are not the important thing to me. I have had a fantastic journey, full of highs and lows. I have made many friends from various nations and I met my now husband, **Peter**. I have learnt how important it is to set goals not just for sport but in life. I have seen the importance of always giving things 100%, how being determined and motivated can help you perform beyond what you thought was possible.

I am now going back to my career after a long break. Instead of being scared I'm excited to see what is to come and I'm sure this next journey will be just as fulfilling as my last.



32 SIG REGT(V) ADVENTURE TRAINING

Exercise SCOTWEST - Leg 7 - by Sig Campbell

On the 11th of July, loaded with victuals and fully prepared for our voyage, **Capt Affleck**, **WO2 Eshelby**, **WO2 Rutherford**, **SSgt Forbes**, **SSgt O'Mahoney** and **Sig Campbell** drove from Edinburgh to Ardfern, on the West coast of Scotland to board our yacht (a Contessa 38) and start our sailing adventure that was to be Leg 7 of Ex SCOTWEST. The non-sailors among us were assured that nothing but comfort and luxury awaited aboard. However on seeing yacht "Gawain" with our own eyes it became apparent this might not be the case! Still, we loaded up our belongings and food, intending to do a little basic sailing training before heading back to Ardfern for the night.

However this was not to be. No sooner had we raised the sails when Mate **SSgt Forbes** and our Skipper **Capt Affleck** began talking about the possibility of making it to Craighouse on the southern end of Jura by that night. At the start of our journey we had good winds of around 11 knots; little did we know that this would be the last time we would have good wind till the end of the week. We had only been out on the waves for a few hours when the wind dropped and we were forced to drop the sails and switch on the engine. We made it into Craighouse after nightfall, mooring up without anyone going for a swim!



The next few stages of our journey the weather was uniform; blazing sunshine and not a breath of wind. We motored from Jura to Iona, where **SSgt Forbes** performed a heroic rescue in the dingy after a few tins of "refreshment" went overboard. From there we motored to the island of Coll, then on to Tobermory/Balmory the following day. With a bit of wind in our sails at last, **SSgt O'Mahoney** picked up the speed record for the trip at this point, a racy 5 and a bit knots down the Sound of Mull.

The next stage was a gruelling slog into the wind, through rain and mist, toward Loch Aline at the bottom end of the Sound of Mull. The wind died towards the end of the day and we had to rely on our "iron wind-finder" once again to get us to our mooring. The last day started at daybreak, as we had to make it between Scarba and Luing before the tide turned against us. We made good time and were passing the Gulf of Corryvreckan (the home of the third largest whirlpool in the world, in case you're interested) before the tides turned. Even from where we passed it a good three miles away it looked imposing. With the tide against us now it seemed like we were going nowhere, and in fact the GPS told us we were heading backwards! Eventually we managed to crawl out of the grip of the tide and turned North-East back to Ardfern.

A good time was had by all, despite the lack of wind on the water, and the 3 novice sailors (**WO2 Rutherford**, **SSgt O'Mahoney** and **Sig Campbell**) all managed to learn enough to gain their Competent Crew qualification. **Capt Affleck** stayed on for another week to gain his Yachtmaster qualification and **SSgt Forbes** ended up staying, well, just for another weeks sailing!

Award for the week (The treasured Golden Maggot) went to **WO2 Eshelby**, followed closely by **SSgt Forbes**, whose efforts in the pursuit of sleep were an inspiration to all onboard!



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

Royal Signals Sporting Achievements 2011



Corps Sportsman - Maj Tim Wood



Birtwistle Pennant - 11 (RSS) Sig Regt



Corps Coach - Maj Pete Griffiths

Archery

Army Dinghy Championships

Tug of War

Canoeing

Cross Country

Fastnet Race

Football

Hockey

Judo

Orienteering

Rugby

Shooting

Water Polo

Inter-Service Champions

Runners-up

Inter Service Champions/Army Champions/Braemar Games Winners

Team Sprint Trophy winners and Team Marathon Trophy Winners

Army Champions (11(RSS) SR)
Inter Corps Male Junior Champions

Second Service Team

Runners-up Inter-Corps League and Cup (male and female)
Minor Unit Cup Winners - 4 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (204)

Indoor and outdoor Army Champions (11(RSS) SR)
Male and Female Inter-Corps League Winners

Inter Corps Champions

Inter Corps Champions (male and female)
Junior Night Champion (Sig Julian 3DSR)
Ladies Champion (Maj Mel Rayner)

Community Cup Winners (21 SR (AS))

Queens Medal Winner (Sig Sudin Gurung 22SR)
Methuen Cup Winners

Inter Corps Champions



Corps Team - 21 Sig Regt (AS) Rugby



ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION



Col (Retd) Terry Canham
Tel: 01258 482081



Maj (Retd) Ian Greig
Tel: 01258 482082



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President: The Master of Signals
Chairman: Brig NF Wood

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Mr Peter Cuckow
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Branch News. Harry O'Mahoney has succeeded John McIlree as Hon Secretary of the Catterick Branch. Harry can be contacted on 01748-833402.

Discharge. Are you about to leave or have recently left the Corps? The Chairman RSA writes to all soldiers at their last unit a few months before they are due to leave. If this letter does not reach you, may we invite you to get in touch with us at Blandford.

War Graves Mapping. RSA East Kent Branch member Stewart May and his friends spend a lot of time visiting headstones for people who, for one reason or another, can't visit the graves themselves. He takes photographs and logs each grave. He has now plotted all the co-ordinates on 3 maps; Belgium, France and Holland and these can be found on the RSA website under the "Memorials" tab.

New Life Members. A warm welcome is extended to the following recently enrolled Life Members:

Sig Suzanne Allan (Lane)	1986-88	LCpl Kim Hastings (Scott)	1979-82	Sgt John Phipps	1977-90
Cpl Edward Allen	1962-74	LCpl Howard Haughton	1971-77	Sig Paul Quinn	1982-87
Cpl Paul Allen	1988-94	LCpl Rowland Hawkins	1937-48	Cpl Dave Ratcliffe	1992-06
Sig Jay Anderson	2009-date	LCpl Darrin Hayden	1983-89	Sig Ivor Richards	1976-87
WO1 Michael Barstow	1963-87	Sig Mark Henderson	1979-87	SSgt Ron Roberts	1950-85
SSgt Peter Beale	1983-01	Sgt Chris Heyward	1964-88	Sig Kyle Robson	2006-date
Sgt Iain Belshaw	1988-12	LCpl Andy Hill	1978-84	Cpl Lester Robson	1979-93
LCpl Harry Bennett	1948-53	Sgt Martin Johnston	1985-07	SSgt John Rose	1975-99
WO1 Craig Brankin	1986-11	Sig Paul Jones	1995-00	LCpl Stewart Rush	1989-98
Sig Andy Bryceland	1977-82	LCpl Phil Jones	1978-87	Sig Amanda Sadler	2008-date
SSgt Dave Burton	1984-03	Sgt David Kingdom	1963-86	LCPL Peter Scott-Lewis	1976-86
Cpl Ron Campbell	1985-93	LCpl Richard Loughlin	1981-91	Sig David Spencer	1960-63
Sgt Paul Clarke	1972-91	Sig Alistair Macfarlane	1957-63	LCpl Peter Spencer	1956-58
LCpl Dean Clifford	1978-89	Sgt Glyn Marsh	1978-94	LCpl Elsa Stacey (Connolly)	1972-76
Cpl Derek Cooley	1952-72	LCpl Anthony Matthews	1945-48	Cpl Mac Stevenson	1989-97
Sgt Howard Copstake	1969-94	SSgt Billy Matthews	1988-12	Cpl Alex Sutherland	1970-86
SSgt Barry Crosby	1980-03	LCpl Paul Matthews	1978-89	Capt James Tasker	1945-59
Cpl Andrew Cullup	1975-85	Cpl Derek McCulloch	1965-75	Sgt George Taylor	1949-54
Sig Kevin Cunningham	1981-87	SSgt Mac McDougall	1995-date	LCpl Gary Tombling	1979-84
Cpl Graham Davies	1973-93	Sgt John McLaughlin	1962-86	Maj Andrew Tuson	1980-date
Cpl Edmond Davis	1970-97	Sig George McNulty	1971-74	Sig Mark Viagas	1988-00
Sig Brian Dennis	1966-75	WO1 Will Morrow	1980-03	WO1 Paul Walledge	1988-12
LCpl James Farmer	1957-59	LCpl Mick O'Driscoll	1975-89	LCpl Mark Walton	2008-11
WO2 Peter Forster	1963-88	Sig Francis O'Kane	1977-84	Sig Gary Warren	1981-92
Maj Paul Fredericks	1972-06	LCpl Bob Oliver	1973-86	Cpl John Watts	1955-57
LCpl Martin Greene	1981-92	Sgt Samantha Osmond	1995-12	WO2 Craig Wilson	1987-11
Cpl Barry Griffiths	1973-86	SSgt Steven Pattenden	1984-11	LCpl Peter Wright	1988-92
LCpl Kevin Hammond	1974-84	Capt Susan Pearce (Fenney)	1976-85	Cpl Michael Writtle	1957-84
Sig Matt Hartigan	1996-99				



ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS, ROYAL SIGNALS

Based in Blandford Camp, Dorset and starting in March 2012, an Administrative Officer is required to run the "Membership and Records" section of the Royal Signals Association. As the Administrative Officer you will report to the General Secretary and be responsible for all aspects of providing assistance to present and former members of the Royal Corps of Signals.

Working as part of a small team in a mixed military and civilian environment, your main duties will include: enrolment of RSA Life Members, writing to officers and soldiers on discharge, maintaining a database of members' details, dealing with all aspects concerning the death of a member, processing RSA awards, arranging representation of the Remembrance Day parade at the Cenotaph at Whitehall and at the opening of the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey, assisting with the arrangements for the Corps Carol Service, the RSA AGM, the RSA Central Committee meetings and annual reunion, processing donations to the Benevolent Fund, maintaining links with members in the Royal Hospital at Chelsea, liaising with the 69 RSA branches and 29 affiliated assns, assistance with tracing 'old pals', maintaining the RSA website and answering general enquiries on a wide variety of subjects from many sources.

Ideally suited to a former Warrant Officer or Senior NCO, you will have: had a full (or near full) career in the Corps; a good knowledge of the history of the Corps; skills in operating a database and a website; confidence and ability in giving presentations; the patience and understanding to deal with veterans. The successful applicant will enjoy a great deal of "job satisfaction" in helping others.

Salary: £23K per annum.

For further information and to apply go to: www.royalsignalsassociation.co.uk

The closing date for applications is 31 January 2012.

DONATIONS

The Air Formation Signals Association	£23.00
Paul Morris in memory of Sig GTJ Ecclestone killed Tobruk 6 Sep 47	£25.00
Cornwall Branch RSA	£1100.00
In memory of Colin Bunce , cheques totalling 43 (Wx) Sig Sqn (V)	£207.91
215 Sig Sqn	£966.72
From the will of Mr E R Budd	£100.00
Katie and David Cooper	£100.00
Certa Cito Lodge	£20.00
S Clout	£20.00
R Waldron	£20.00

CHESTER BRANCH

It is with great regret we announce the death of **Bill Winder**. **Bill** took ill earlier this year and despite extensive treatment he died on the 18th August 2011. **Bill** had been secretary of the Branch for the past 15 years and his commitment as Branch Secretary could not be faulted, and he was admired by all Branch members for his sense of duty.

Bill joined the Corps at the age of 18 and initially served as a Denbury Boy. Serving in BAOR, UK and with tours in Northern Island **Bill** left as a Sgt in 1983 and served in a NRPS post with the Liverpool UOTC.

Bill is survived by daughter **Katherine** and son **James**.

EAST LONDON BRANCH

Chairman **Maj (Rtd) Paul Burton**
Secretary **Alan Turner**

Earlier this year we were made aware of a new Garden of Remembrance called the "Living Memorial" that had been set up on farm land in Rettendon belonging to **Fran** and **Peter**

Theobald. Our Vice Chairman, **Barry Greenwood** presented them with a tree from our Branch and in May about 50 of us, along with Standards from our Branch, Colchester and the REME, attended a service to dedicate our tree and a similar one from the NE London REME Association Branch. We were all very impressed with the amount of time, money and effort that **Fran** and **Peter** had put into getting the site going. While there, we were very well looked after with a meal and drinks served after the dedication service. We also noted that they had a hall with plaques from various military associations, but not a Royal Signals one. We resolved to put that right and **Brian Streety** picked up one at Blandford when he was there for the Reunion. After getting this suitably engraved we then had to find a suitable time to present it to them, which occurred in August when there was an event for the Borneo and Malayan Veterans which our members also attended. There were around 180-200 people at the event and everyone was given a meal afterwards and plenty of refreshments. **Fran** and **Peter** finance the Living Memorial from profits that they make on the adjoining fields by having car boot sales.

Towards the end of August, along with our friends from the local REME Association, we visited the RAF Museum, Hendon where we had a very good day seeing all that they had to offer. Anybody that has not been to the RAF Museum, note that there is a lot to see spread over a number of buildings and you are unlikely to be able to see everything in one day. There had been concern that we were not doing enough at meetings and after some discussion **John Hopkins** volunteered to run a mini-quiz at the end of the August meeting which went down very well with the members, even if very few people got more than one of his questions right on Royal Signals History. It had also been voiced that we did not know enough about other member's military history and therefore over the next few months volunteers would give a brief talk on their military and civilian experiences where appropriate. Our Chairman, **Maj (Rtd) Paul Burton**, set this off in September on his work in Telecoms both in the Royal Signals and for BT and its predecessors.

We always welcome more members and encourage any potential members living in East London, South and East Essex area to join us. We are aiming to be inclusive and would welcome, as Associate Members, serving or ex-service men and women from other Arms, Regiments and Corps. Our meetings are held in the TA Centre, Gordon Road, Ilford at 7:30pm on the 4th Thursday of each month.



NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

Chairman **Mr Jim Reilly**
Hon Sec **Capt Ian Wolfe**

Health News: After taking ill in February on holiday in Spain, we are very pleased to report that **Jim Brown** has continued to improve to the extent that he is now able to drive again. At our Sept meeting **Jim** exhibited his old enthusiasm for the Royal Signals at Clonaver Park as he gave firm opinion on items tabled, especially the Remembrance Sunday parade. **Ray Cairns**, ex WO2 40 Sig Regt, returned from hospital after recent heart surgery and also attended the Sept meeting. All considered **Ray** was looking very well indeed.

Remembrance Sunday: The decision to continue to carry out our traditional march from Clonaver Park to St Marks Parish Church was agreed after a debate raised by **WO2 Glenn Campbell**, SSM 40(NIH) Sqn and RSA Branch member. Due to low numbers now at Clonaver it is important to get as many feet on the ground as possible. Every effort will be made to encourage attendance by all members of 40(NIH) Sqn; the NI Branch RSA and available ex-members of the Regt.

The Speaker: After the business of the meeting was finished the BIM, **Denis Gilpin**, gave a short talk to members. With the title "Friendly Fire" the members present, ranging over several generations, heard some previous history of Royal Signals at Clonaver and Lurgan TAC, including the Troubles in the 70's and the 40 Sig Regt role in Ex Crusader 80.

Oct Speaker: As we approach our Oct monthly meeting we are looking forward to it for a particular reason. A member of the Royal Signals for 28 years with regular and TA service and also RSA NI Branch membership, **Lt Col (Retd) Jim Brown TD** has volunteered to do a talk with slideshow, entitled:

28 Years with the Royal Corps of Signals
1952 - 1980

An excerpt from the Life Story of Lt. Col. (Retd) Jim Brown TD
Royal Signals TAVR

Another indication of his improving health. The last 2 items are early signs of contributions towards the forthcoming project: "Account of Clonaver Park as a TA Centre", which is now underway.

As usual, we issue an invitation to all serving or ex-members of Royal Signals, regular or TA and ex-members of ATS/WRAC who served with Royal Signals, to join us at Clonaver Park TA Centre Belfast, on the third Wednesday of each month.

READING BRANCH

Chairman **Mrs Pauline Tennant**
Secretary **Lt Col (Retd) Hugh Nealon**

Since our last report Reading Branch has continued with a busy programme. The highlight was the Standard Bearers Competition at the Blandford Reunion, when our standard bearer, **John Mumford**, did well again. Well done **John**. Following on from that we have held a couple of Branch Meetings, a few pub lunches, an outing to the School of Military Music at Kneller Hall, a visit to the Commandants Parade at Sandhurst in August and the Branch BBQ. The latter event was held at a new venue this year - the church

hall of St. Helens in Benson. Gray's elegy came to mind as the cooks toiled over the coals, amongst the tombstones, whilst the rest of us enjoyed an excellent meal inside. A very pleasant evening was had by all who attended. Thanks to the **Verdons** and the **Riddys**, and all their helpers, for getting it organised.



Branch President Brig Verey and Revd Canham

Fifty-two members, their partners and friends attended the Branch Annual Reunion Dinner held at Sonning Golf Club on the evening of Saturday 15th October. Leading the proceedings were the Branch President, **Brig Tony Verey QVRM TD DL** and the Chairman, **Mrs Pauline Tennant**. The Guest of Honour for the evening was **Col (Retd) Terry Canham** and his wife **The Revd Frances Canham**. We were also joined by representatives from neighbouring Branches, **Brig and Mrs Moss**, from Aldershot and **Mrs Percival and Mr Percival** from Winchester. We would like to thank them for also bringing along their standards to grace the dining room. Also on display were the Branch Roll of Honour and the Standard Bearer Trophy. Finally, the Secretary of the RSA brought us up to date on Corps and RSA matters. In essence much change is taking place but the standing of the Corps in the eyes of the Army has never been higher.

A Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year to all.

14 SIG REGT (EW) ASSOCIATION

The 2011 reunion dinner took place on 8th October at the Royal George Hotel at Birdlip in Gloucestershire. Some 20 members and their wives attended. The meal took place in a private dining room and the food was excellent. The courses included smoked salmon mousse, wild mushroom stuffed chicken breast and chocolate truffle torte (with double cream!) followed by a cheese board and coffee. We had wine with the meal and a glass of port for the Royal toast. It proved a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new ones and time flew by. Eventually the Association President **Col Bill Roper** gave a short speech and confirmed that he was handing over his appointment as President to **Maj Gen John Stokoe**. He then introduced **Lt Col Jon Townsend**, the current CO, who gave us a brief unclassified update on the Regt and spoke of the high regard with which it is held within the Army and of the very high calibre signallers that serve in the unit. **Dave Street** spoke briefly about the Legion and encouraged those attending to join.

There was also a discussion as to where and when the next meeting should take place and this might include going to Brawdy at the end of March 2012. Another option suggested was Blandford Camp itself. Details will be published on the website as well as emailed to members in due course. Association members are asked to let the Secretary **Rollo Rumford** know what they would like to do in 2012. His email is rollo.rumford@btinternet.com alternatively check the



Association website which is hosted off the RSA website.
See www.14SigRegtAssn.co.uk



Attendees at the reunion were:

Bill Robins, Rollo and Louise Rumford, Bill and Margaret Roper, John and Jenny Stokoe, Scott and Diane Harvey, Dave and Jacqui Street, Brig Steve and Mrs Michelle Vickery, Lt Col Jon Townsend, Lt Col Steve and Mrs Alison Morgan and Maj Nick Yardley

19 SIG REGT ASSOCIATION

Members of 19 Sig Regt Association, their families and guests, started to gather at the Warwick Hilton on the afternoon of September 9th. We first met at Warwick in 2004 so the staff know us well and we all feel comfortable and 'at home'! We were joined by AFSA Chaplain, **Rev Jim McManus** and his wife **Mavis** and AFSA General Secretary **Dennis Egan** who all wanted to join us on our Saturday morning outing. After an informal buffet dinner the meeting, greeting, catching-up and light-hearted banter continued.

9.00am the following morning and one of **Mr Johnsons'** fine new coaches arrived to take us to Bletchley Park. The arrival at Bletchley Park was slick; volunteers with walky-talkies reported our arrival and our tour guide boarded the coach to tell us what was to happen. After tea and biscuits we received a short introduction to the art of codebreaking and a tour around the outside of the Mansion and buildings to get our bearings and hear about the history of the site.

Our guide stayed with us as we had our buffet lunch and then on our feet again to see the rebuilt 'Bombe' and Colossus computer at work. A quick look at the collection of Enigma machines, the small and sensitive Alan Turing statue made from slate, and time to examine the contents of the shop. There are many other un-related displays on site, a model railway exhibition, toy museum, museum of Churchill memorabilia, museum of cinema film projectors and a collection of vintage motor cars. Even a Harrier aircraft sitting quietly at the side of a field! Your scribe escaped to see the Diplomatic Wireless Service collection and felt immediately at home in that time warp.

At the hotel time for a quick swim and visit to the Sauna before meeting for our reunion dinner. President, **Brig Max Maxfield** welcomed the assembled members with particularly warm welcomes for our latest member, **Trevor Broadley** and his partner **Angela Sarsby** and for **Rev Jim** and **Mrs Mavis McManus** and **Dennis Egan**. As **Trevor** had served at Seletar he quickly found himself sitting with other Seletarites, **John Hill**, **Bernaed Strange** and **Brian Tewkesbury**. The evening was tinged with sadness as **Peter Vass**, very ill but desperately keen to join us, had been admitted to hospital the day before.

Calvert and **Deborah Peters** were with us for the last time before they emigrate to Australia but as Chairman **Pat Soward** pointed out, members had been known to travel from distant

parts to join us in reunion. After the loyal toasts and a toast to 'The Ladies' by Mr Vice, **John Home**, the Chairman announced that after 22 years together **John Home** and **Joyce Thomas** plan to marry in October. That was, of course, good reason for another toast!

The AGM was kept short. Committee members re-elected en-masse and the financial report approved. Treasurer **Bernard Strange** reported that the interest on monies in our current account had earned 10p but the monies transferred to a Post Office Bond had earned £185! His announcement was greeted with a spontaneous round of applause!

The general consensus over breakfast was that this was one of the best reunions in recent years and the theme was carried on at the short committee meeting later. It is so rewarding to see so many people, including the children of members, thoroughly enjoying each others company that all the effort is well worth while. Our 2012 reunion will be our 20th and therefore reason to pull out the stops. The one decision made was that we should return to the Hilton and a proposal for the Saturday visit will be followed up.

254 OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION

Fifty one members of the 254 OBA, together with 29 partners, attended the 2011 reunion at the Aspect Hotel near Tamworth for up to 3 days starting on 29 September. The advance party members arriving on day one comprised chairman **Toby Seymour**, **Mike Bayliss**, **Jim Braid**, **Wally Brown**, **Casey Cole**, **Rusty Davis**, **Ray Evans**, **Brian Fisher**, Chelsea In-Pensioner **Bill Ramsay** and **Ron Shuttleworth**.

The start of proceedings was marred by the sad news of the death the day before of **John Jarratt**, younger brother of **Bob Jarratt** who died earlier this year. Both were ex-boy members of the Association. We also heard from Cyprus the night before our reunion of the recent passing of **Lindsay Smith** who had lived in that country for many years.

Seventy one of our members and partners sat down to a splendid dinner on day 2 of the reunion, having travelled from all compass points of the United Kingdom. The theme at the reunion was in memory of our founder and first Chairman, **George Severs**, who died in February this year. **George** had left a sizable gift to the reunion to facilitate our chairman/organiser in the purchase of champagne for our reception prior to the main dinner on the last night, the ordering of orchid corsages to be air flown from Singapore for our ladies and the provision of a wonderful anniversary cake adorned with **Jimmy** in full colours, our 254 OBA logo and fine words about our beginnings in the Corps.

The main day of the reunion was, of course, Saturday 1st October. It started early when members embarked on 2 coaches to the National Memorial Arboretum. About 9 years ago we had positioned a nice bench and planted a small tree both with our Corps emblems in a very nice strategic location opposite the Armed Forces Memorial monument. Our Chairman had arranged for 2 more plates to be affixed to our bench – the second in memory of **George Severs** and the first a more detailed description of our Corps beginnings.

There ensued a rededication service at our little 254 OBA arboretum site, conducted by the **Rev Sean Robertshaw**, chaplain with 38th Sig Regt (V) with a former Royal Marine Bugler-Major sounding Last Post and Reveille impressively. **Jim Braid** was the very efficient and soldier-like Standard Bearer in attendance. It was a wonderfully poignant service which was also attended by **Margaret Severs**, blind widow of **George Severs** with their 3 sons **Malcolm**, **David** and **Michael**.





The new plates on the 254 OBA bench marking the 20th anniversary reunion and in memory of George Severs, founder and first Association Chairman

Earlier in the year, we had been advised that there would be a large number of 'bikers' attending at the Arboretum on our date and, as it was thought that the crush might conflict with our arrangements, we were asked if we could change our date. We could not agree to that because of all the other arrangements we had made. The motor biker communities had raised many thousands of pounds for the Arboretum over the past 4 years or so and therefore they were very welcome visitors. Right up to the day the estimates of potential 'bikers' had increased from 5,000 to 10,000 to finally settle on 15,000 plus, which was probably the actual final turn-out. As it was they did not cause our party any problems. On the contrary, all of us were very taken by the gentlemanly ways of the huge, hairy, tattooed and forbidding appearances of the biking gentlemen and their ladies, also equally huge, hairy, tattooed and as forbidding at first sight. Wonderful and very nice people. The only consequence being Chairman **Toby Seymour** taking the credit for providing the large motor cycle outrider escorts for our 2 coaches as we motored into the Arboretum area – much larger, hundreds in fact, than that provided for the President of the United States of America!

After the Arboretum we went to a famous old (spit and sawdust) coaching inn and brewery in Derby for a buffet lunch and samples of the local ales including that brewed on site. We then returned to our hotel for rest before the events of the evening.

This started with a champagne reception, preceded by the presentation of the Singapore orchid corsages to our ladies by **Dennis Woodward** and his helpers. The champagne was served by **Gerry Brewer** and his little team. When all glasses were charged the toast was made to **George Severs**, our founder and evening benefactor, by chairman **Toby Seymour**. There followed a ceremonial cutting of the anniversary cake by **Margaret Severs** assisted by her son **Malcolm**. The cake team, ably led by **Bruce Howie**, then distributed slices on napkins of Corps colours, light blue, dark blue and green.

Dinner call then beckoned us to a wonderful meal served by a team of very young and smiling hotel workers. **Bill Ramsay** looked very smart and, indeed, youthful in his full scarlet (not red!) Chelsea In-Pensioner rig. Grace was said by **Brian McDonnell** followed by the spirited singing of that sentimental and traditional reunion song, Comrades, Comrades led by the volunteer singer, **Ray Evans**. After the meal there was a large raffle ably arranged by **Casey Cole**. **David Abercrombie** had the sad task of reading the roll call of those ex-boy chums who have passed away since the last reunion. Chairman **Toby Seymour**, after relaying the

apologies from **Malcolm Peplow** in the USA, **Sheila Leech**, widow of **Bill Leech**, then thanked all for their attendance and support accompanied by words regarding future events and arrangements. All diners then applauded the chefs and waiting staff for their super endeavours and a presentation of a sizable cash, indeed a tray full, reward was given to them. A brief pause was then followed by the entertainment by a nice Tamworth singer and his wife. As last year **Noel Clark** led the dancers, giving his own virtuoso and spirited performance.

We look forward to next year's reunion. It will mark 70 years since the first 254xxxx numbered Royal Signals boy soldier stepped over the Catterick threshold in the first intake of 1942 - on the resumption of boys training after it had temporarily ceased at the start of WW2. What an anniversary!

LAST POST

Name	Years Served	Date of Death
Maj M Allen	1948/85	4 Oct 11
Maj RH Angove	1983/2011	7 Oct 11
Lt Col JJ Bally	1959/84	9 Oct 11
Sig C Belfield	1979/89	4 Jan 11
Col DK Binks OBE	1940/67	21 Oct 11
SSgt I Blair	1961/83	4 Sep 11
Capt C Boldero	1942/47	22 Oct 11
SSgt R Boulton Lear	1957/78	1 Oct 11
Maj Gen AH Boyle CB	1961/96	25 Oct 11
Sgt N Bristow	1960/72	24 Feb 11
Sig K Britton	2007/11	18 Oct 11
Sig PJJ Clifford	1949/73	1 Nov 11
WO2 DA Coomber		23 Oct 11
Sig CJ Dixon	1961/69	15 Sep 11
Cpl WP Dovey	1949/51	14 Sep 11
Sgt A Everson	1962/75	23 Oct 11
Cpl A Gatehouse	1941/44	12 Sep 11
Cpl DP Gittoes	1968/79	??Sep 11
Sgt RC Gordon	1960/78	15 Sep 11
Maj Gen EJ Hellier CBE	1945/81	31 Oct 11
SSgt JT Holtum	1943/68	26 May 11
WO2 AD Janaway	1963/80	11 Oct 11
Sig RFR Jarman	1943/47	25 Oct 11
Sgt JR Jarratt	1946/74	27 Sep 11
Sgt FC Kavanagh	1956/78	26 Sep 11
LCpl D Kenward	1954/57	7 Jul 11
Lt RD King	1945/48	27 Mar 11
Sig G Knibbs	1961/70	27 Sep 11
Sig MW Lush	1944/46	4 Sep 11
Col GJC Moss MBE	1939/70	
LCpl DH Naylor	1941/46	22 Aug 11
Cpl EW Potts	1947/56	17 Aug 11
WO1 RW Price	1950/83	2 Nov 11
Sgt DG Pugh	1962/85	1 Oct 11
LCpl AMD Purslow	1977/91	22 Sep 11
WO1 P Reynolds	1979/94	13 Sep 11
Maj JCW Robinson	1941/61	29 Sep 11
Sgt DW Rowan	1959/71	29 Sep 11
LCpl TJ Rowles	1950/52	7 May 10
Maj RTM Sharp	1939/63	12 Oct 11
Maj WH Shepherd	1926/47	16 Oct 11
Sig RA Short	1971/77	?? Sep 11
Sgt LA Smith	1947/72	16 Sep 11
Sgt E Stanton	1940/46	9 Oct 11
Lt Col AH Symmons	1966/2000	29 Sep 11
Cpl E Taylor	1938/60	22 Oct 11
Sgt RTG Tremelling	1943/53	9 Oct 11
Sig WF Voller-Beard	1980/86	31 Oct 11
SSgt JE Walker	1952/75	20 Mar 10
Sgt G Walrond	1947/65	9 Oct 11
Sig G Williams	1955/57	25 Sep 11



OBITUARIES

ASKEW – Maj William Askew MC died 4 August 2011

The Association learned with regret of the death of **Maj William (Bill) Askew MC**, who died on 4th August 2011 some 3 months before his 95th birthday.

In 1939 **Bill Askew** was a fit young man ready for war – he'd played rugby for his school: King Edward's Grammar, Aston from whence his distinctions at 'Matric' had taken him into metallurgical research and onto a role as superintendent in the casting shop at Hall Street Metal Rolling Co in Birmingham. In 1938 he was offered the editorship of 'Machine Shop Magazine', a job which brought him to London and so, in the run up to war, to the Middlesex Yeomanry into which he enlisted in April 1939 aged 22.

On 1 Sept 1939 the TA, including the Middlesex Yeomanry, was embodied in a General Mobilisation. **Bill Askew's** 'officer qualities' were spotted and in July 1940 he was posted to OCTU in Catterick. He was commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals (Middlesex Yeomanry) in February 1941 and posted to the newly formed 11th Armd Div Signals. In February 1942 he was posted to 10th Armd Div Signals in Egypt. This unit was the former 1st Cavalry Divisional Signals and largely comprised Middlesex Yeomen. It was at the battle of El Alamein that **Bill** earned an immediate Military Cross commanding a line troop. The citation for the then **Lt Askew's MC** reads as follows:

"On the night 23/24 Oct 1942 during the passage of the minefields near El Alamein by 10th Armd Div, Lt W G Askew was in charge of the line party of the signals detachment with the Minefield Task Force. It was the duty of this party to accompany the foremost Engineers and Infantry for the purpose of laying and establishing comms with Div HQ. The control of the movement of the forward troops depended entirely on the establishing and maintenance of these coms; the responsibility thus devolving on Lt Askew was considerable. This officer with his det carried out his duties in the face of exceptionally difficult circumstances. The gaps in both the first and second enemy minefields were swept by enemy small arms fire and the det were under shell fire during the greater part of the operation. It was the first action in which this Officer and his men had taken part. In spite of this Lt Askew showed the greatest coolness, courage and determination. By his personal example of complete indifference to danger he was an inspiration to the men under his Command. That comms were established was largely due to the personal efforts of this officer who displayed outstanding leadership throughout a critical operation."

The citation, recommending an immediate MC, was written by **Lt Col R Coryton**, OC 10th Armd Div Signals, and endorsed by **Generals Gatehouse, Lumsden, Montgomery, and Alexander**.

Bill Askew was not just a courageous leader, but also an officer who genuinely cared for his men. In the record of 9th Armd Bde Sig Sqn (another Middlesex Yeomanry unit), to which he was posted as second in command in February 1943 on promotion, **Capt Askew** is mentioned for giving **Johnny French** who had malaria a half bottle of Scotch. Other Ranks were not allowed spirits on board ship. The record which included this detail of the journey in April 1944 from Alexandria to Taranto written by **Johnny French** - who apparently survived both the malaria and the Scotch - was provided to the Association by **Dick Honour**.

Bill's Mention in Dispatches from the Italian campaign was published in the London Gazette in June 1946 a month after he was demobilised. On his resumption of civilian life Bill returned to technical journalism progressing to be Editor of

'Chemistry and Industry'. This led to a successful career in publicity and publications until his retirement as chairman of the Research Studies Press Ltd in 2005 at the age of 89!

The Association was represented at **Maj Askew's** funeral in Baldock by our President and our Membership Secretary who were both momentarily concerned to see a phot of him wearing what appeared to be another variation of Middlesex Yeomanry Mess Dress. It was, of course, the uniform of a Knight of St Gregory, a significant Papal Order to which **Bill**, a lifelong and active Roman Catholic with a great interest and involvement in education, had been appointed in 1975.

Bill Askew's first wife, **Audrey**, whom he married in 1941, died in 1950. His second wife, **Elizabeth**, whom he married in 1952, died in 2004. He was father to 4 daughters and 3 sons. The Association sends its sincere condolences to his family.

FYFE – Maj James Wilson Fyfe - died 21st April 2011

James, or **Jimmy** as he was known, was born on 19 September 1920 in Glasgow. He had a twin brother who died at birth and a younger sister, **Elizabeth**, who died last year aged 86. He attended Glasgow High School and whilst there joined the Officer Training Corps. He left school in 1938 and worked for a coal exporter until war broke out. In 1939 **Jimmy** joined the TA, 52nd Lowland Div Sigs in Glasgow, as a Signaller and trained as an Operator Wireless and Line.

He was called up on 16 Sept 1939 and his Section was sent to support an Artillery Regt which deployed as part of the British Expeditionary Force initially based at Lille. The Regt engaged on a beach near Dunkirk. Digging a shallow trench he got in and fell asleep. During the night his unit moved and he awoke to find his bit of beach empty. Luckily he got a lift to Dunkirk and returned to England on a destroyer. **Jimmy** spent the next 3 years at various coastal defence locations around the south coast and by 1943 he had reached the rank of Cpl. His unit was then sent to the Middle East by troop ship via Cape Town. However, Rommel's defeat meant a 3 month holiday there and his unit was then sent to India. Serving in Mhow, Chaubatia, Saharapur, Meerut, Sialkot and Delhi, in the rank of Sgt he was sent for Officer training and in Aug 1945 he was commissioned. In January 1946 he had a serious motorcycle accident and in BMH Delhi, he was put in a plaster cast from his chest to his toes. Four months later he was evacuated to the UK by ship. To get to Glasgow from Harwich he was given a 1st Class ticket but the stretcher would not go through the door of the carriage so **Jimmy** ended up on the floor of the guard's van for 15 hours.

In May 48 **Jimmy** was demobbed but with work hard to come by he ended up rejoining the TA and he was granted a Short Service Commission and ended up being posted to 6 (Boys) Trg Regt at Beverley as OC R Tp and it was whilst serving here that **Jimmy** met **Esme** and they were married on 29 Sept 1951. From a small flat above a chemist shop in Beverley they were posted to Herford in Germany and **Jimmy** deployed to Suez in Dec 56 with **Esme** returning to UK to have their son, **Alistair**. Postings to 7 Sig Regt at Catterick, 13 Sig Regt in Germany, where their daughter **Amanda** was born, was followed in February 63, with a tour in Benghazi as OC 245 Sig Sqn.

Leaving Libya **Jimmy** was posted to York where they bought their first house. In 1970 he was posted to 10 Sig Regt in Salisbury where almost the entire 110 members of the Sqn were women. He did not consider this a fun posting. For his final move he was sent to 16 Sig Regt in Krefeld, Germany. Through all these moves **Esme** shepherded the family, made house and ran or helped run the wives club. No mean feat.

Jimmy retired from the Army after 37 years and became Bursar of Reading School where he did a bit of everything,



including changing light bulbs, setting out chairs and dealing with the suicide of the headmaster. Reaching his final retirement age at 65 they moved to Malvern close to **Esme's** sister. After many happy years in Malvern, they moved to Wokingham to be nearer to their daughter, **Mandy**, which was a prudent move. At the age of 15 **Alistair** joined the REME and after 40 years' service, he retires in January with the rank of Lt Col. **Jimmy** was proud of both his children and was a kind and generous man. A number of years ago he was invited to be Honorary Life President by the Beverley Ex-Boys Association, which he considered a great honour.

His funeral was held at Easthampstead Park Crematorium, Wokingham, on 12th October and was attended by **Tony** and **Beryl Hull**, **Alan** and **Jean Davies**, **Tony** and **Pat Hemstock** and **Dick** and **Adelaide Hurel** to represent BEBA. For the family he was a much loved grandfather, father and husband of nearly 60 years. The Beverley Ex-Boys Association extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, **Esme**, children, **Alistair** and **Amanda** and grandsons, **Ben**, **Tom** and **Hamish**.

HOLTUM – SSgt Jack T Holtum died 26 May 2011

Jack joined Boys Service Royal Signals in Catterick in September 1943 with his 2548686 army number uniquely qualifying him for the later 254 OBA. After service in many stations he retired in 1968 for a civilian career in various telecommunication companies.

On his second retirement, he with his wife **Jessie**, moved for a new life in South Africa. Sadly the onset of Parkinson's Disease curtailed his SA ambitions and after nearly 3 years the family returned to the UK. His last years were badly affected by his illness and he passed away in a nursing home after nearly 2 years there.

TREMELLING – Sgt Gerry Tremelling died 9 October 2011

Gerry was justly proud of his Cornish ancestry as shown by his surname. He joined boys service at Catterick in August 1943 with his allotted serial number 2548679. He was stationed in Droitwich for his first mans service tour. This was followed by 2 tours with the West African Frontier Force in Nigeria.

In 1953 he left the Army after 8 years colour service and joined the Cornish Constabulary where he spent a full career. The family settled at Budock Water near Falmouth. He had nursed his wife over many years of severe illness including 5 strokes. In contrast, he remained in good, robust health finally succumbing to a gentle departure at age 84 as he was sitting in his favourite armchair drinking a cup of tea.

BOYLE – Maj Gen Tony Boyle CB died 26 October 2011

Tony Boyle simultaneously held appointments as SOinC(A) and DGCIS(A) from 1992-1995 and was the last officer to do so in the rank of Maj Gen. He was in conceptual terms well ahead of his generation. It was his early vision that prepared the Army and the Royal Corps of Signals for the diverse and detailed responsibilities of communications, information technology, electronic warfare and the electronic means of gathering intelligence required to face in the 21st Century.



He was a man of deeds and was probably one of the first senior officers to remove the new fangled computer from his secretary's desk to his own. He mastered the beast, and its systems, with relative ease to the point where he was able to visualize the military possibilities being offered by the new technology. When he arrived to command the Royal School of Signals, the heart of traditional thinking and 70 year old skills, he declared in 1987 that the future of Royal Signals lay not in communications but in information technology. He concurred that the former remained important but that it was now time to re-focus on the tactical and strategic use of IS

across the battlefield and back to Whitehall. His mantra was "This is the way forward, and I am leading the way". He was right and Commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan have benefitted hugely from his foresight and energy.

After Sandhurst **Gen Boyle** followed a normal young officer's career pattern. He was selected to join the Norwegian Army for winter warfare training followed by 3 years at Cambridge where he read engineering. He then commanded operational troops in Borneo and Bangkok. Unusually he was twice appointed Adjutant—firstly to a Regt in Germany and then to Cambridge UOTC—a singular honour for a member of the more technical Arms of the Army.

He flew through the Staff College entrance exam, attended the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham and then Camberley, where probably for the first time his exceptional all round military talents and suitability for high rank were recognised. Testing staff and command appointments followed and in 1981 he commanded 9 Sig Regt in Cyprus, an intelligence gathering unit at a time of particularly interesting activities in the Levant and the Soviet Union.

Maybe the challenge that interested him most was being selected to head up the MOD's SKYNET satellite project as the British on-board payload specialist involving a NASA space shuttle launch from Cape Canaveral. At the outset he knew nothing about space and satellites but typically, after some training in the US, he became a master of the major facts in a very short time. Sadly his efforts were to no avail when the mission was cancelled after the Challenger disaster.

Gen Boyle was a keen sportsman who played scrum half for his Corps. He excelled at hockey and later became Chairman of the Army Hockey Association. With a good eye for a ball he took up golf and but for his indifferent performance on the greens would have played to a single figure handicap. Indeed his lack of steadiness on the greens often gave rise, humorously amongst friends, to a suggestion that he might not be too steady under fire. A slur he roundly rebuffed when he forced the retreat of a burglar in his London flat with only his wife's slipper in his hand! He was a somewhat reluctant recipient of the CB in his eternal belief that if there was to be such a system of national recognition, then there were others, in all walks of life, more deserving.

Gen Boyle retired to the Welsh side of the Wye valley and for 22 happy years he was a man of considerable ingenuity when hands and head were never idle. Although a communications and IT specialist he always remembered his basic Cambridge University engineering degree work. He built a stand-alone snooker room from odd bits and pieces and a spacious conservatory. His many sheds each had a purpose and all 5 were all designed and built to a 'spec'. He reduced to a pile of rusty bits, and then rebuilt completely, his beloved 1963 orange BMW and an ancient Massey Ferguson tractor. He was his own greatest critic.

Much of what is written here is about **Tony Boyle**, the Army officer and technical visionary with years of service in the MOD, but, he was above all, a man of the people. He loved his soldiers and throughout his career they returned that with loyalty, respect and hard work. He did not have a raucous sense of humour but there was always a twinkle in his eye and a willingness to laugh at other people's jokes. In retirement he visited every outpost of the Royal Signals Association to draw together the Serving and Retired Corps - and was brilliant at it.

As might be expected **Tony Boyle** was a sincere Christian and caring family man. Whilst some officer cadets at Sandhurst were drawn to Windsor finishing schools for well heeled young ladies he was courting **Ann Hatch** at London University's Royal Holloway College. They married in 1964 just before he was whisked off to Borneo for a year's unaccompanied duty. They have one son **Andrew** and 2 daughters **Katie** and **Jenny**.



EXERCISE SUMAN WARRIOR

– by Maj Mike Smith R SIGNALS CAST (UK Ops)



The Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) were agreed in 1971 and committed Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and UK to consult in the event of an attack on Singapore or Malaysia. An annual Land Environment exercise, SUMAN WARRIOR, is held with the location rotating between the members. This is a high profile exercise with a significant diplomatic side. This year, the United Kingdom hosted the exercise in York between 5 – 16 September.

All of the Five Powers are increasingly interested in resilience with concerns raised from recent natural disasters. A resilience theme was therefore selected for SUMAN WARRIOR 11 as it offered the opportunity to showcase United Kingdom resilience best practise.

Comd 15 (NE) Bde was appointed Exercise Director and the Bde provided the overarching direction as well as administrative and infrastructure support. As the exercise was based in the North East of England, a scenario based on massive coastal inundation was selected for the exercise.

The Command and Staff Trainer (UK Operations) planned the training to be undertaken during the exercise and the SO1 was appointed Exercise Controller for Ex SUMAN RESILIENCE, the 3 day command post exercise. CAST (UK Ops) is a small Team with 3 permanent staff, supplemented with one of 2 TA officers for the delivery of exercises. Given the scale of Ex SUMAN RESILIENCE, both TA officers deployed to support the training.

Maj Mike Smith is one of the 2 TA staff officers in the Team. During the exercise, he ran the lower control organisation covering support to Cleveland and was responsible for coordinating the lower controllers from the Australian and Singaporean Battle Groups as well as the Cleveland Emergency Services and Civil Authorities.



Commander in Chief Visits Australian and Singaporean Lower Controllers



Major Mike Smith Royal Signals Briefs the Commander in Chief

The exercise included a deployment phase in which the National BGs, which had been involved in field training in UK, were redeployed to prepare for the emergency, a prepare phase in which the BGs reinforced flood defences and assisted in evacuation tasks and a response phase dealing with the aftermath of the inundation. The exercise ended with the National BGs being relieved in place by UK forces.

In addition to their training tasks, personnel from the exercising Nations had the opportunity to visit the local Yorkshire area and enjoyed a day off where they could travel further afield.

At the end of the 2 week period, the overseas contingents returned to their homes, praising the success of the exercise, while **Maj Mike Smith** returned to his civilian day job as an accountant.



QUEENS' GURKHA SIGNALS 62nd BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND ASSOCIATION DINNER 24 SEP 11

- by Sgt Sanjeev Rai 30 Sig Regt, Cpl Tekbahadur Tamang 2 Div Sig Regt and Sig Pratik Chhetri 22 Sig Regt

Queen's Gurkha Signals celebrated its 62nd Birthday on 24 Sep 2011 at Gamecock Barracks, Bramcote. All QGS personnel serving across the UK and association members were present at the ceremony. The parade was taken by the Gurkha Adjut **Capt Prem Ale** and handed over to the Col of the Regt, **Maj Gen NAW Pope CBE** saheb. The birthday speeches were read by Comd QGS, **Lt Col Watts** and Gurkha Major, **Maj Dhanbahadur Gurung MVO** in English and Nepali respectively. This followed the presentation of awards to individuals for their outstanding performances for the year 2011. **SSgt Devprakash Gurung** and **Sig Sudin Gurung** were congratulated by the Col of the Regt, Comd and Gurkha Major by giving them a *khada* each. **SSgt Devprakash** was the Corps Champion of the OSC Shooting 2011 whereas **Sig Sudin** became the winner of the Queen's Medal in the Army Shooting Competition 2011; first time in the history of QGS.

The Birthday cake was jointly cut by Col of the Regt, Comd Mem Saheb and Gurkha Major. The morning phase of the Birthday celebration concluded with the Regt lunch at the Juniper restaurant.

The second phase of the celebration was the Inter-Sqn sports competition including the ladies sports. The sports included Football, Basketball and Tug of War for gents, and musical chair for the ladies. Everybody seemed to be enjoying and cherishing the moment, this was an excellent initiative of the RHQ QGS to bring out the old traditions of Hong Kong days with a bit of modern glitter to celebrate our birthday, which seemed to work really well. The Tug of War was the event to watch and it was a hard fought competition. Overall 250 GSS became victorious claiming the brand new Champion's Trophy. The birthday celebration came to an end with the Comd Mem Saheb presenting the prizes to the winners of the ladies sports, while the Col of the Regt, Comd and Gurkha Major gave away the prizes to the winning teams and the champion Sqn of 2011.



As CO Mem Saheb cuts the birthday cake, Col of the Regt, Maj Gen N A W Pope CBE and GM Saheb, Maj Dhanbdr Gurung MVO offer help



With winning Trophy and Prize, OC 250 GSS is flanked by Col of the Regt and GM on the right and Sig Uttam and Comd QGS on the left

The association dinner was also held in the same evening. It was delightful to see so many ex commanders and Gurkha Majors; the opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. The Col of the Regt explained on his speech, despite the Regt facing a challenging time, we are still delivering our best to the Queen and the Army, all in all a very enjoyable occasion.

Jai Queen's Gurkha Signals!



246 GSS tug of war team





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