

The Royal Corps of Signals



The Association and Retired
Officers' Newsletter
2016



Major Keith Pritchard



2nd July 1955 – 23rd January 2016



It is with great sadness that this edition of The Wire is being produced without the keen eye and expert hand of **Major (Retd) Keith Pritchard**, The Wire Editor, who passed away suddenly in January. Ironically, the February edition of the Wire was completed by **Keith** late in the afternoon of 20th January as he was due to attend a medical appointment the next day. Even during his last hours, he gave instructions that The Wire was to be out on time and it was for that reason that production was not delayed.

Keith Pritchard was born and educated in Hereford before attending the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst and was commissioned into the Corps in 1974. One of his early achievements in life was that of being a proficient rugby player and it did not take long before he was playing both County Schoolboy and Army Junior level representative rugby. It came as no surprise that his first tour as a junior officer was with 7th Sig Regt where he also represented the Corps at the age of 19. **Keith** was proud to be a somewhat rebellious young officer and time on the rugby pitch was interspersed with time in the Duty Officers' Bunk making amends. He was keen to point out that this pretty much set the pattern for the early years of his career.

A short tour at Shrivenham saw the step up to him playing Army level rugby, and this continued throughout tours with 8 Sig Regt, 3 Armd Div Sig Regt and 30 Sig Regt. **Keith** joked that his lack of technical ability was well recognized by the Postings Branch and

he was set on the route of a number of Grade 3 and Grade 2 Weapons Staff appointments in MoD, the RSS and HQLF interspersed with tours in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, both UN and NATO, Kosovo and Sierra Leone. A 3-year tour followed in Saudi Arabia with the SANGCOM team prior to returning to DE&S, with a tour of Iraq in the middle, before finishing his career at HQ DCCIS/HQ RSS.

Having played rugby throughout his career, playing his final Corps match at the age of 40, **Keith** decided it was time to retire and take up a more leisurely pastime, which translated itself into skydiving, which unsurprisingly he discovered he was also very good at, until he was finally bitten by the golf bug. **Keith** was the lynch pin of Blandford Garrison Golf Society and throughout his time he enabled golf to be played by all soldiers either transiting through or stationed in Blandford Garrison. He also played a major role in Corps Golf where since 2009 he organised and managed the Spring and Autumn Golf Corps Championships. Despite being a keen and talented golfer he would have loved to have taken part in these competitions however he selflessly stood aside to undertake the organising. He was appointed as the Club Captain of Ashley Wood Golf Club, which was another of his defining achievements and this also stood to develop the relationship between the military and the civilian community. His sense of humour shone through in all he undertook and never more so in his sense of dress when attending golf meetings. His trademark coloured trousers became his forte and he imbued this sense of style on his reluctant fellow team mates.

Keith took over the role of Editor of The Wire in April 2010 where he transformed the publication into that we see today. It was clear to all those who knew and worked with **Keith** that The Wire was his passion and this was amply demonstrated by his approach to the very end. Having given 42 years Service to the Corps, we his Corps Family, friends and colleagues are all the better for having had **Keith** in our lives. We thank him for his Service, friendship and loyalty to the end – Certa Cito



THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

ASSOCIATION AND RETIRED OFFICERS' NEWSLETTER 2016

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Report by the Corps Colonel

It has been another busy 12 months with the tempo and variety of operations remaining both significant and dynamic. With an escalation in activity across the Middle East and North Africa coupled with heightened readiness in the UK our soldiers and Officers remain as operationally committed as ever. Needless to say our soldiers are delivering where and when it matters and whether it has been helping to coordinate Defence's response to the Nepal Earthquake or supporting the relief effort in Cumbria the Corps remains right in the thick of it.

Our biggest challenge is recruiting and the forecast for the next 12 months is not good with both our CS Engineer and CS Operator trades forecasting a 50% shortfall against our Phase 2 training target. Recruiting is my Main Effort and whilst we will continue to support Army-wide recruiting initiatives I am continually looking for fresh ideas and broader support; this has to be a "team sport". On a positive note, work is now well underway to create the nucleus of a 4th QG SIGNALS Squadron in Stafford and I remain reassured by the genuine quality and outstanding professionalism that QG SIGNALS bring to the Corps. Officer recruiting also continues to hold its own and in a highly competitive market we are on track to meet our 15/16 targets.



Colonel Simon Hutchinson

The new Corps Assignment Policy, (PDO2) has now been issued. Routinely moving individuals every 2-4 years will no longer be the norm, and certainly where possible and operationally acceptable, we will attempt to reduce familial disruption by allowing individuals to be posted without having to move their families; our concentration in Stafford will do much to help support this. Indefinite postings are now being gradually phased in. However, this is a policy that is still in transition and we will continue to keep it under review so as to ensure that our soldiers retain the best level of support that we can offer.

One of the highlights of last year was awarding Apprentice of the Year to Signaller Morris and encouraging personal/professional development will be one of my themes for 2016. Modern Apprenticeships, Masters Degrees, industrial attachments and cyber challenges will be promoted to try and maximise opportunity and enhance technical proficiency; we are a technical Corps. Work is also underway to continue developing our relationship with WCIT, IET, Bournemouth University and other professional bodies.

My predecessor did much to promote the integration of the Regular, Reserve and Retired cohorts; the 3 R's approach is paying real dividends and whilst we should do more to embrace our vibrant veteran community there is a genuine buzz around the RSA weekend and broader RSA activity. Project NOEL is developing into one of our key "drumbeat" activities in the North and it was genuinely inspirational to see so many sat down for dinner in the Adelphi Hotel last November; numbers were, however, slightly down on previous years so I encourage you to put the date (19 November 2016) in your diary now. Likewise our RSA weekend in Blandford continues to develop and the new Princess Royal day Parade format, which has included our veterans in the march past, is extremely popular. Whilst we were all sad to say farewell to Catterick as the location for our Corps "Northern" lunch, Stafford promises to be an excellent venue and planning is already underway to bring the 3 R's community together in September.

With 1, 16 and 22 Sig Regts now firmly ensconced in Stafford our footprint in Germany has all but gone. Elsewhere a delay to the move of 14 Sig Regt will mean that they remain in their current location for at least the next 3 years but I am delighted to report that our Corps Band is up and running in RAF Cosford. The Royal Signals Motorbike Display Team continue to be at the forefront of our recruiting effort and with their displays becoming ever more exciting I strongly recommend that you try and visit one of their events; they are a mightily impressive organisation.

Our Corps is in good health and whilst there is work to do I am confident that our officers and soldiers will continue to rise to the challenge. We will continue to do our utmost to promote the 3 R's construct whilst embracing our Corps motto. Our centenary is looming and with planning for our celebrations well underway it promises to be a cracking year. But in the shorter term there is still much to look forward to.

Certa Cito.



Corps Sporting Achievements 2015/2016

As another year of sporting activity within the Corps draws to a close it is only right that we look back at some of the years highlights. Within the rigours of daily routine the Corps remains a hive of activity and the much anticipated white space in the calendar has never materialised. Still though our soldiers and officers manage to conduct and support an ever increasing number of sporting disciplines.

There as always are numerous highlights to mention, here are a few examples of what has been achieved. Although unofficial, a young Junior NCO smashed the Army high jump record by some margin at the last Morrison Cup. Now out of the Army Jonathan Dowle was rightly awarded the Outstanding Performance for 2015 at the recent Sports Person Dinner in Blandford. The Master of Signals, Lt Gen Pope completed the Devizes to Warminster canoe race, which as a novice was a real achievement. Another notable achievement was LCpl Hawkes who has become one of the youngest ever members of the Great Britain Judo Team.



WO1 (Corps RSM) RJB Luke

Team sports as ever are getting more and more competitive, with the following notable achievements to report. The Corps dinghy sailing team emerged as the Inter-Corps winners for the fourth year in a row. The Corps indoor hockey team were also crowned the Inter-Corps champions. The previous winners of Sports Team of the Year, golf, found themselves for the third year in a row retaining the inter-corps championship title.

ALPINE SKIING

Alpine skiing at inter-unit level is thriving as the annual training camp and championships (Ex ALPINE MERCURY GLACIER) continues to host in excess of 100 racers, ably supported by a team of instructors and officials from across the Corps.



In the competition, the male individual championship was extremely hard fought between two new Royal Signals talented individuals; Sigs Nutt and Grand, with Sig Grand managing to secure the win overall. Likewise in the female competition LCpl Abel had an excellent season, finishing as the overall female winner at the Corps Championships.

At the higher lever, a number of Corps Units took part in the Divisional and Army Championships in Jan 15. Individuals who qualified for the Army Championships then formed the Corps Alpine Race Team. A particularly noteworthy performance came from Sig Grand who was placed 7th of 111 racers, and was selected for the Army team in his first season. Also, LCpl Abel was selected for the Army Ladies Team.

KAYAKING / CANOE

Royal Signals competition paddlesport has again had an increase in participation, with great results gained across all disciplines. Under the command of Capt Jeyes, surf is definitely on the up. With one training camp completed and a multiple training camp and competitive events forecast for next season, the future definitely looks bright.

The slalom team has achieved their best season to date, knocking the Royal Artillery from their decade long leading position. Well done to SSgt Richardson's and his core of 216 (Para) Sig Sqn paddlers. The Royal Signals achieved 5 of the top 10 positions at the Inter-Corps. Another notable accolade was Sgt Lawson of 22 Sig Regt racing up the national



rankings and gaining a 3rd in the K1 open. Sig Tranter has in his second season, moved on from the novice class and also finished in the top 10 at the Inter-Corps.

Our Corps flat water racing paddlers have again dominated all Army competitions, although after four years of winning all major trophies, the PARA team wrestled the sprint team trophy from the Corps. Strength in depth was demonstrated by 18 Sig Regt winning the Inter-Unit and saw the Royal Signals lifting the team trophy at the Army Descent Championships.

Race the Sun continued to be a showpiece for kayak racing with increased race boat entries. This again was an extremely competitive and hard fought leg at the front end with the four Army paddlers (two cap badges) coming home in the first four places.

The Army surpassed expectation in the blue riband event of UK paddlesport; the 125 mile Devizes to Westminster race. In the Services category first and fourth places were achieved by the Royal Signals crews who also made up two thirds of the scoring boats which enabled the Army to finally achieve the long sought after goal of winning the Open Team trophy. Lt Col King and LCpl Diaper demonstrated fitness, resilience and slick planning by succeeding to gain a second place in the overall Open competition, only twelve seconds outside their race plan after 18 hours and 12 seconds of graft.



CLAY TARGET SHOOTING

The Royal Signals Clay Target Championships were hosted at Brawdy in Pembrokeshire for the final time. With only a small further investment the new shooting ground for the Corps will be at Colerne in the future. This impending move however didn't detract from an excellent shoot with some outstanding results. The end of the competition saw the following results:

- Major Units Winners – 11 (RSS) Sig Regt
- Major Units Runners up – 14 Sig Regt (EW)
- Minor Units Winners – JSSU (Cyp)
- Minor Units runners Up – JFC



The Corps were also runners up at the Army Championships, with SSgt (YofS(EW)) Hamilton named ADS Outstanding Performer of 2015. More fantastic news was the five additional members of the Corps promoted from ADS to the Army Team. The pinnacle of which see's Maj Robinson of HQ Army appointed as the new Army Team Captain. This is a really outstanding achievement and coveted appointment within the shooting world.

Following a number of years without nominating a Corps Clay Target Team, an initiative, which involved the purchase of a new strip, saw the reinstatement of a nominated Corps Clay Target Team, which will only lead to improve the ethos, drive and development of the team.



CROSS COUNTRY

This report covers the major events of the Army's cross country competitive calendar for 2015. The season has seen a step-change in improvement by the Royal Signals. At the Inter-Corps Championships the Royal Signals won the junior men's competition and came third in the senior competition. This performance has built on improvements in recent years. The enduring trend remains that at unit level participation at the regional league events is very good with the Corps' units also taking an active part in hosting the races. In the past two years participation of athletes representing the Corps has improved and some notable new talent identified. Continuing to align the Corps Cross Country Championships closer to the inter-corps event alleviated some of the availability friction of old and identified key runners who were able to compete in the main events. Cross-country continues to be well supported from across all Royal Signals Units, this has led to a strong performance in the Inter-Corps Championships. Eight athletes represented the Army at the Inter-Service Championships, this is an excellent level of representation from one Corps alone. That said, the Corps still have more to offer and is determined to bring home more silverware from the event in the forthcoming seasons. 22 Sig Regt have developed a strong team of runners, dominating the Corps' Championships while concurrently winning the Midlands League and competing well at the Army Championships. Their dedicated training regime is paying off. Still a prestigious event, Ex KESWICK RUNNER continues to be a focus for concentrated training for the Corps' stronger runners and a development period for those more inexperienced athletes. The Sports Persons Dinner in Blandford saw Maj Jefferson become a joint winner of the Sports Official of the Year for her herculean dedication to Corps Cross Country and running a total of ten Ex KESWICK RUNNER.

TENNIS

As with most disciplines, our Corps teams go through peaks and troughs with uptake and personnel able to give one hundred percent dedication. There is a limited squad of players within the Corps but the good news is, it's slowly growing. With our first choice team managing to play every week, we would undoubtedly be successful in the Inter Corps Championships. The identification recently of two new high quality players at this year's Royal Signals Tournament will have a significant impact in the next few years. With the continued progress of our younger players we have identified a further four players who have the ability to progress into the Army Team. The Corps Tennis Singles Tournament was extremely successful, we saw the return of some of the Corps' excellent players and it has set us up nicely for the forthcoming winter season. The primary aim of this tournament is to highlight young, aspiring players who will in turn represent the Corps. Finally a Corps Tennis Tournament will take place in the forthcoming year.

SWIMMING

What a year the Royal Signals Swimming teams have had, with competitions aplenty, and fantastic results, you couldn't have hoped for a better year. All culminating in the Sports Team of the Year accolade being awarded to the Corps Swimming and Water Polo teams at the annual Sports Persons Dinner. The Royal Signals Inter-Unit Competition for 2015 was held in Aldershot and administered by 251 Sig Sqn, 10 Sig Regt. The event was held in an Olympic size pool with professional and official timing equipment and approx 70 swimmers from nine units.





The results of which were:

- 10 Sig Regt – Winners Male Inter-Unit Competition.
- 11 (RSS) Sig Regt – Winners Female Inter-Unit Competition.
- 30 Sig Regt - Winners Inter-Unit Water-polo.

The next event in the Army swimming calendar is the Inter-Corps competition. Building on from a strong performance by the Corps in 2014 the team wanted to win more accolades. This was definitely achieved, the competition saw the Corps Men as the Inter-Corps swimming champions and the Inter-Corps Relay runners up. The Corps Ladies were the Inter-Corps swimming runners up and came third overall in the relay event. The final worthy mention are the outstanding swimmers who swam for the Army this year and gained Army Colours. They are:

- Cpl Hanson - 216 (Para) Sig Sqn
- Sig Kitching - 2 Sig Regt
- Lt Henderson – 11 (RSS) Sig Regt
- Cpl Graham - 10 Sig Regt
- Maj Morris – 71 Sig Regt
- SSgt Peart -10 Sig Regt

GOLF

Last year was a strong year for R Signals golf retaining the title of Army champions, which is the first time that the Corps team has retained the title in our history. So to be able to announce the Corps has done it again is a real pleasure. The Corps were also victorious in the majority of our fixtures; this was done as it was last year with a strong blend of novice and experience allowing maximum participation for all ranks.

The Corps also carried out a mini tour to La Manga in Spain. Eight of the Corps Golfers attended the tour in March of this year, which proved invaluable in their preparation towards the Army Championships.

The Inter Corps Championships follows on from the Individual Army Championships. This year proved to be the most successful individual competition for many years with Sig Morgan being narrowly beaten in the semi-final by the reigning Army Champion. Had he won, the final would have been all Royal Signals as Maj (TOT) Pace had progressed through to the final, sadly ending as runner up. This was a fantastic achievement given the quality of the opposition. Maj (TOT) Pace was further recognised as the most improved golfer at the awards ceremony.

Meanwhile in the Ladies event Sig Kirsty Kennedy of 21 Sig Regt was dominating her event and was crowned as the new Army ladies Champion. Due to a last minute reshuffle, the Corps were able to field an A Team and a B Team for the Inter Corps event. Fortunately, both teams were kept apart in the draw and although the B Team lost their initial match they were able to progress to the final of the plate competition.

The week proved to be hugely successful where R Signals dominated virtually every event throughout the week.

The Corps two Army Championships Teams were:

A Team	B Team
Team Capt - Maj (TOT) Pace	Team Capt - SSgt Murray
SSgt Dickinson	Lt Col Boyle
LCpl Wilson	SSgt Bennett
LCpl Flindall	SSgt Malcolm
Sig Sam Morgan	Sgt Potts
Sig Kennedy	Cpl Innes



SQUASH

It has been an incredibly successful year for the Royal Signals Squash Team. As part of the Royal Signals Open Squash Competition at Imphal Barracks, it was clear that recent investment in the players at unit level have produced some excellent young quality, with 11 (RSS) Sig Regt topping the competition. The top seven seeded were then selected to represent the Corps at the Army Inter-Corps Championships in Aldershot. The Royal Signals Corps Squash Team was settled in third place in the Inter-Corps Competition, this was mainly due to the number one and two seeded players being injured. This year only three corps players were able to represent the Army Squash Team on squash tours to Cyprus, Australia and Nepal.

The Royal Signals Squash Camp was held at Blandford Camp during September of 2015. It was an extremely well supported event, altogether 15 personnel from phase II training and 10 personnel from units around the Corps. The two days were a really worthwhile training camp, with the young and the corps team benefiting. The Royal Signals Open Squash Competition will also be held at the end of 2015, as with last year, the top seven players from the Royal Signals will be selected to represent the Corps team. The Corps Squash Team is still one of the strongest teams in the Army and has an excellent chance of repeating the success of previous years.



BOXING

The Royal Signals Inter-Unit competition was hosted this year by 30 Sig Regt in Bramcote. The end of the competition saw the Inter-Unit Champions being 30 Sig Regt for a third consecutive year, followed very closely by 3 Sig Regt. In all fifty six boxers from around the Corps entered the competition.

The Corps boxing camps, Ex BRAMCOTE BOXER (BB) Seven was attended by eighty six boxers and six coaches. This was an increase of thirty one individuals over previous training camps. This resulted in another increase of competitors within the Royal Signals Corps Boxing Championships to 56 boxers. Ex BB 8 was attended by seventy three boxers and they have begun to really concentrate on strengthening the Corps B Team. Overall we have seen an increase of 41 percent in attendance, this is great news for Corps Boxing

Further news from the Corps Boxing arena has seen the first trial ABA (GB) coaching course for both level one and two coaching. This course was conducted at Bramcote by the ABA (GB) squad, twenty six members of the British Army qualified, including twelve Royal Signals representatives, another superb success.



The Corps achieved third position at this year's Army Boxing Championships, a great result when you consider there were three injuries to the team. The achievement was further highlighted by managing to still achieve success by having forty five percent of the finalists in the competition. We have also increased our footprint within the following areas, the Army, the Armed Forces (AF) and National sides. To really look in depth at the recognition that our Corps boxers have achieved you only need to look at the list below:

- England Squad - LCpl Turbitt (22 Sig Regt)
- Armed Forces Squad - Cpl Martin (EOD) , LCpl Turbitt and LCpl Flynn (216 Sig Sqn).
- Army Squad - Sgt Kavanagh (22 Sig Regt), Sgt Chisolm (3 Sig Regt), Cpl Martin, LCpl Turbitt, and Sig James (37 Sig Regt).



CRICKET

After a year of rebuilding and blooding new talent the Corps team reached the Semi finals of the fifty over Power Cup Competition and also reached the knock out stages of the T20 main competition. The standard of cricket around the Corps circuit has again been of a high standard, with eleven teams represented. There are probably three tiers within the Royal Signals Cricket Club (RSCC) hovering between top and middle third. They were beaten by the RLC in the fifty over format and the Infantry and Royal Engineers in the knock out stages of the T20 competition. These are all top third teams and represents an admirable performance for such an inexperienced team. It wasn't all bad news with notable



wins against the Adjutant Generals Corps, Royal Armoured Corps and Army Medical Services in competitive games. As well as victories against the Intelligence Corps, Welbeck and the Honourable Artillery Company in friendly fixtures. With the intent from the Chairman Corps sport to reach out into the public domain and play more fixtures against civilian opposition, the RSCC played two friendly fixtures against Cattistock Cricket Club and a First World War memorial fixture against Meriden Cricket Club. These games provided a great opportunity to represent the Corps and Army against civilian opposition and engage in a competitive but friendly environment. There will be return fixtures against both sides and they are planned for the 2016

season and RSCC will endeavour to look for more opportunities in line with the intent from Chairman Corps sport. Perhaps the biggest positive for the RSCC during the season was the fact that ten new players represented the club this year, although of varying standards there is definitely a new strength in depth and numbers to ensure longevity. With three level two coaches it is hoped that further development of the new players and the continued performance of senior players can ensure that the RSCC compete for honours in the years to come. The season culminated in a fitting Chairman's v President's fixture at Blandford Oval and then a presentation function at the Crown Hotel. Finally the RSCC was rightly granted permission to tour South Africa, a fantastic opportunity for all of the RSCC players.

KARTING



The Royal Signals Kart Team has entered its first year in the RAFMSA lead Inter-Service Endurance Championship. After purchasing a lone kart at the start of the year, trials were run at the Clay Pigeon Kart Circuit in order to select a team of four drivers. With twelve potential drivers turning up for the trials from various units across the Corps the following were selected to drive:

- Sgt Appleby - 3 Sig Regt
- Cpl Culliford - 21 Sig Regt
- SSgt Palmer - 14 Sig Regt (EW)
- SSgt Earl - 37 Sig Regt

This is a really good news story for a new corps discipline; all of the selected drivers bar one were complete novices that had never raced competitively before. The Championship was run from April until September, racing at six different circuits across the country. Amongst these were some of the best tracks available in the country.

As a new team they hoped to hold their own within the championship. With over forty karts on the starting grid at most races and race lengths varying between 2.5 Hrs and 4 Hrs it will not be an easy job. Although there are many established teams on the grid, it's fair to say that the team was competitive with the mid field having our best result of sixteenth out forty at Fulbeck. Finishing twenty fourth out of forty in the military team championship certainly provides a good framework to build on for the next season.



FOOTBALL

With a large number of teams it is easier to break down the Royal Signals Football Association in to the following categories:

(a) Male Team

The new season started off really well with a pre-season tour to Cyprus. A total of forty four soldiers, twenty eight from the male team and eighteen from the female team competed in a total of six games. The male team won all four of their fixtures, notably beating a Combined Service Cyprus XI. During the season approximately thirty four players were used and they were enabled by eight supporting staff, be that coaches or administration. The team finished fourth in the Massey Trophy League and were narrowly beaten in the Woolwich Cup Final by the Royal Logistics Corps. However, a strong finish to the season culminated in winning all three fixtures in the home Quads, running out as comprehensive winners. Post season has seen the team embarked on a major tour to Washington DC in the United States. The male team were only beaten by a strong professional development team from DC United, but crafted out good wins versus teams from the US Marine Corps, the US Navy and The Pentagon. The current squad boasts ten Army level players and the Army skipper. Of those ten, six were selected to represent the Combined Services.



(b) Female Team

Having also started off the season with an excellent pre-season training camp in Cyprus and a one all friendly draw with the REME, the ladies went into the new season with confidence. During the season the squad of players has grown and strengthened with some additions to the coaching and admin teams. The team results were five wins, three losses and one draw. The team finished as Semi Finalists in the Edward's Challenge Cup losing in extra time to the REME. The team also recorded wins against the Royal Engineers, Army Medical Services and HMS Chatham. The Royal Signals also hosted the end of season tournament; bad weather dictated a change to the format to a straight knock out competition. Unfortunately once again the team were beaten in the semi-finals by the REME, this time losing out on penalties. Post season the team attended the Royal Signals tour to Washington DC in the United States, this also included a number of female reservists. Matches were played against two competitive teams; firstly versus BRYCE Elite Academy, the score at the end being five goals to one to the home team. But they did feature five USA U20 players and one U15 player and finally against Arlington Thunder, with Arlington running out clear winners before bad weather halted play. The current squad boasts 3 Army level players, which is fantastic news.

(c) Reserve Team

The season did start slowly initially due to the lack of teams that could play on a weekend. However five of the players were picked for the Reserve National side and took part in a pre-season tour to Cyprus and one reservist travelled to the United States with the regular team at the end of the year. The team had a number of fixtures arranged against the Royal Logistics Corps Reserve side but unfortunately these were cancelled. Thankfully the team did manage to play in a charity match against Meriden Football Club on behalf of the Army Benevolent Fund and arranged another game against a civilian team called Longlevens from Cheltenham, both matches were won. The team has been supported the whole time by two coaching staff, WO1 (Bde SM) Moore and WO2 (MTWO) Middleton. They have had a regular squad of eighteen players from across 2 Signal Group units throughout the season.

NETBALL

A Corps training camp was held in April which attracted many new players. The Corps funded an England Netball coach for the week to try and raise the standard of training sessions. This was highly successful and received positive feedback from the players. The team has also focused heavily on strength and conditioning; the players were encouraged to maintain this as a discipline in preparation for future competitions (as well as being of obvious benefit for military physical training). For the first time, the team played a couple of friendly fixtures against the REME and the Royal Engineers; winning one and losing one. We entered two teams into the Inter-Corps comp. Whilst the team felt their final standings could be better, the motivation to play netball is spreading and they had four new players selected for Army level training.



This has been a very positive year for Royal Signals Netball whereby regular contact time (through friendly matches, training sessions, inter-unit comp and a tour to Malta) has achieved the goal of establishing a committed base of netballers with a galvanised sense of team spirit. The squad continues to benefit from some exceptional talent; most notably, Cpl Roberts of 30 Sig Regt and LCpl Buckley of ARTD who have been re-selected for Combined Services along side Sgts' Blackburn and Gledhill. We entered two teams into the 2015 Inter-Corps Comp and in both divisions performed exceptionally well. All in all a great year with much innovation and team building to set them up well for future seasons.

SNOWBOARDING

The sport of snowboarding is thriving at unit level and within the Corps. With an increase of roughly ten percent this season, and one hundred and forty six riders attending the Corps Camp, which was a real testament to its popularity. All this and ably supported and enabled by the Corps Committee of just nine volunteers.

Each of the competitions were particularly hard fought and close run, with the highlight again being the SBX competition, during which the competitors show particular courage and skill. Similarly the female competition was closely fought, but being somewhat lighter in competitors was somewhat limited.

At the Army level, the Corps Team again did extremely well finishing fourth overall, with some outstanding individual performances. It should be noted that many of our top riders were not available to attend, so the team finished much lower down the rankings than usual, but still the performance regardless bodes really well for the future.



THE FUTURE

As ever this report has been a small snapshot of what our sporting teams have been up to and what they have achieved over the last year. Their achievements never cease to amaze, with a multitude of representation across the disciplines from Combined Services to Great Britain. The flow of new talent never switches off and it's refreshing that this is still the case. The key to the successes you have read are in the selflessly committed, extremely motivated coaches, trainers and managers, without whom we could not possibly hope for the same success in the arena of sport. This must continue in the future in order to keep Corps sports team at the front where they should be.



Report by The Chairman of The Royal Signals Association

If 2014 was dominated by the remembrance of things beginning and in particular the centenary of the start of the First World War, 2015 was perhaps more characterised by things coming to an end. At a National level, we saw commemorations to mark the 70th anniversary of both VE- and VJ-Days and, on a smaller scale, the 20th anniversary of the end of the civil war in Bosnia.

Closer to home, the Corps marked two significant closures. The first was the demise of the final Royal Signals unit to be based in Catterick. When many of us joined the Army, such a turn of events would have seemed inconceivable, given the presence there of both the mighty Training Group and some of our finest Field Force units. (Indeed, both our President and I had the honour of commanding 19 Mechanized Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron during its time in Gaza Barracks.) But times change and in the Spring I was delighted to take part in a moving service in the Garrison (and former Corps) Chapel. During it a plaque was unveiled to mark the closure of the final unit and the old standard of the Catterick Branch of the RSA was laid up. Surprisingly, this standard becomes the very first ever to be laid up in the Catterick Chapel. For the sake of clarity, I should perhaps add that a few signallers do remain in Catterick, albeit on the establishment of a Military Intelligence unit. I am delighted that they, together with Catterick Branch, have agreed to look after the Corps memorabilia which are still scattered around the Garrison and, in particular, the Wood-Howes Memorial.



Brig (Retd) David Hargreaves

The second notable closure was the withdrawal of the Corps' final unit from Germany. Thus ended what was undoubtedly our longest ever deployment, lasting over 70 years from the dying days of the Second World War. Given its centrality to the development of the Corps, the Cold War and the British Army of the Rhine are remarkably under-represented in the Corps Museum and this is something we are determined to correct whilst we can. The Corps Council and Museum Trustees have decided to mount a major new exhibition to capture the history and essence of our 70 years in Germany, which we hope will open in time for the Corps' centenary in 2020. What was it really like:

- To be manning a Rebro or Radio Relay detachment on the top of the Deister in the depths of a German winter?
- To be constantly ready for immediate deployment to crash sites within hours of "Active Edge" being called?
- To be part of the "hardening-and-reducing" trials, Ptarmigan system upgrades or the introduction of Bowman?
- To be out on exercise almost every month, sometimes for 4 or 5 weeks at a time?

These are not things which are well documented anywhere, but they do currently live on in the memories of many of us who served in Germany. We want to capture these memories whilst we still can and record them as oral history, accessible for future generations. And for that we need your help, both at Branch and individual level. We intend to launch the initiative at the Association's Annual General Meeting and this year's Blandford Reunion weekend. So please, do start dredging your memories, not just for tales of derring do, but also for incidents which typified life both in barracks and in the field.

Of course, 2016 also saw some new beginnings. The Corps' new Midland base reached fruition with the opening in the Autumn of enlarged and enhanced facilities in Beacon Barracks, Stafford by our Colonel-in-Chief. In addition to the three Regiments based in Stafford itself, the Corps Band now operates out of Cosford and both 30 and 37 Signal Regiments continue in their long-standing homes, making this the largest single concentration of Corps units and personnel in modern times. We are looking at ways in which the Association and its members can make use of this exciting new footprint.

Meanwhile we made a few changes to the format of the Blandford Reunion. In particular and in line with the Master's drive to bring the Regular, Reserve and Retired elements of the Corps (the "Three Rs") closer together, we held a combined parade and march past. Some were initially hesitant that we might be shown up by the new recruits of 11 Signal Regiment (or perhaps it was the other way round?), but in the event it all worked splendidly. I for one was proud to take part in this unique event which brought together the Corps' Past, Present and Future. We will as always continue to tweak the format in 2016 to ensure that we give the very best experience to everyone who makes the journey to Blandford, whether for the day or the entire weekend.

Finally may I once again thank all the Branches who have shown such great hospitality to Kathleen and me throughout the year. We continue to be amazed by the sheer variety and diversity of activities laid on by our Branches and Areas. It remains my intent to visit every Branch at least once during my tenure as your Chairman; so, if you haven't seen me yet, you have at least been warned!

May we wish you all a successful and healthy year ahead and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible during 2016.



Report by the Regimental Secretary

A huge amount has happened in RHQ over the last year and I would like to start by thanking those who have helped us move to our new “Subscriber Customer Relationship Management” (Subscriber CRM) system by responding quickly to our requests for updated direct debit mandates and name/address information. It was, as I anticipated in my last report, a mammoth task but I am hugely proud of the RHQ team and the way in which it has dealt with the very busy routine domestic business of the Corps as well as delivering these enhancements and a new RSA/RSBF legal structure. Much of what I have to say in the rest of my report describes our progress but we are not finished yet and I ask that you continue to give the RHQ team your full backing as we continue to develop better and more efficient ways of supporting the serving and retired Corps:



Col (Retd) Terry Canham

- **Subscriber CRM.** We have completed the first part of our development and now have a much more accurate database with updated information on our membership and the removal of tens of thousands of expired records. Most of our working processes are now electronic and it has become far easier to make changes or contact you if we need to. Moreover, our benevolence grant system is no longer paper-based and this has enabled us to respond to Signallers in need much more quickly than ever before. However, Subscriber CRM is not yet web-facing and that remains our target over the next year. We are now moving into a phase where we are starting to test the ability for our members to make changes themselves through our website, www.royalsignals.org, and also to be able to book tickets for Corps events and pay on-line. The aim is to take time to get it right rather than to rush but I hope that, by the end of 2016, we will have a truly digital approach - as befits our Corps.
- **Officers' Subscriptions.** Thank you for your patience as we setup new direct debits and thank you for responding so well to the new approach to subscriptions, enabling you to opt in to just the benefits you want to use. I am also grateful for your acceptance of the new subscription rates – having not reviewed them for a decade, the charity was losing money in every case and this could not continue. In future, we will review rates every 2 years, starting in 2017.
- **Retired Officers' List (The Blue List).** Thank you for your patience in accepting a one-year delay on producing this list while we introduced Subscriber CRM. We have, inevitably, been reviewing the future of the list given the current security situation but it is still our intention, having taken advice from our local MI Battalion, to produce it in 2016. The Blue List is a free publication but, as I highlighted in my report last year, we do need your **updated** approval if you want us to publish your name and details in the next list. This was sought through the returns we sent out to set up the new RO subscriptions so if you have not responded then I'm afraid that we cannot include you. We will be writing to those who have not replied once more and there will be an on-line “tick-box” once we become web-facing. There is one other major change, which is that we will now produce the list in autumn 2016, partly because it seems more logical to send out updated information in the run up to Christmas but also, sadly, because the sudden demise of our Head of Publications and Wire Editor, Maj (Retd) Keith Pritchard, will make the publication of a spring 2016 list unachievable.
- **Royal Signals Trustee Ltd (RSTL).** RSA members will be aware that we have been working to bring the legal relationship of the RSA and RSBF up to date under the governance of a single corporate trustee, RSTL. I am very pleased to report that the Charity Commission gave its approval to the formal registration of the RSA as a charity in November and followed this almost immediately with approval to run the RSA and RSBF together in financial terms under a “uniting direction”. This is a major milestone in an important piece of work I have been pursuing since I became Regimental Secretary in 2010 and means that we are now properly governed for a 21st Century Charity. There has been little impact on the way in which RSA branches operate as was the intent.
- **Legacies.** With a reduced number of serving soldiers, we rely heavily on investment income to enable us to balance our books as one day's pay scheme income is not sufficient to that task. We just about break even most years and, with a volatile stock market, the RSTL Board remains concerned that we are facing a deficit in future years. It was for this reason that we now employ a Marketing Officer on a part-time basis and it is already very clear that some of the biggest donations to the charity come in the form of generous legacies. We advertise this regularly in the Wire and RSI Journal but I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who already plan to remember their Corps in their will and also to encourage anyone thinking about taking this step to do so.

As you can see, we have done a lot in the last 12 months. There is more to do but I believe that we have now a very firm technical foundation on which to run our domestic business in the future and this will make life easier for all of us.



Report by the RSA Admin Officer

The beginning of a New Year heralds in the opportunity to organise the Branch submissions for this publication! They can be found following this report and I hope you will enjoy reading about the meetings, events and reunions which have taken place over the year. A similar programme of events for each Branch, and nationally, will take place during 2016. Their details will be available either on the RSA website, events and notices <http://royalsignals.org/rsa-notice> from your local branch (see the RSA website <http://royalsignals.org/rsa-branches>) or through me - email rsa@royalsignals.org /telephone 01258 482090.

Behind the scenes, over the last year I have become familiar with the new database system which underpins the administration of the association. The system means that I can now print the membership cards in my office and this has resulted in a reduction in the time taken from an application being received here to the membership card being despatched. As is the case with so much technology today, it makes me wonder how I managed without it! Lost membership cards can be replaced on request.

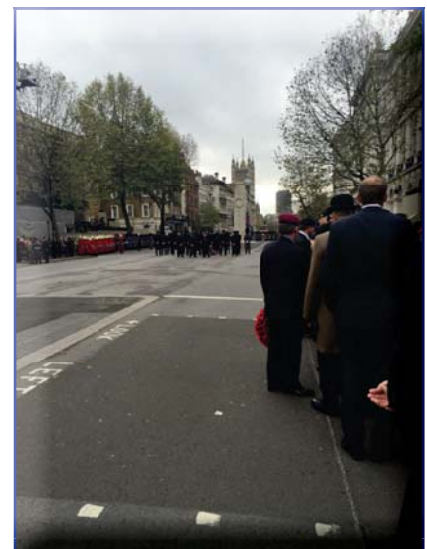
2015 was another busy one both for the Association and me. It began in March with a large gathering of members at the AGM who unanimously adopted the new Rules for the Association and progressed to the first Eden Camp Parade in Malton, North Yorkshire - a really good day out at a very interesting venue! The organising committee are hoping that more members and families/friends will be able to join them this year on 22 May 16.

The start of June saw a beautiful day for the Founder's Day Parade at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. 19 Chelsea Pensioners who served during the Second World War were awarded the Légion d'honneur by HE Sylvie Bermann, the Ambassador of France to the United Kingdom, in a special presentation before the parade. HRH The Duke of York KG reviewed the Chelsea Pensioners at the 323rd annual Founder's Day Parade, which commemorates King Charles II's founding of the Army Veterans' home, the Royal Hospital Chelsea in 1681. Bids for one of the tickets allocated to the Association for this event in 2016 will be requested later in the year.

Blandford Camp hosted the RSA Annual Reunion in June (my report including photographs can be found elsewhere in this magazine) and we look forward to seeing many of you this year (weekend 18/19 June). Exact details of how to apply for 2016, including accommodation/entry etc will be published on the RSA website and sent to Branch secretaries as soon as possible.



Caroline Addison



In July we travelled to the National Memorial Arboretum for the rededication of the Corps Memorial. This year the service will take place on 26 Jul and details will be available shortly.

The autumn saw the Corps well represented at the Opening of the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey and the Cenotaph Parade at Whitehall. To bid for a ticket to either event this year, the Field of Remembrance will be opened on 10 Nov and the Cenotaph Parade takes place on 13 Nov. Please contact the Admin Officer by email (address above) or in writing to RSA Admin Offr, HQ ROYAL SIGNALS, Griffin House, Blandford Camp DT11 8RH, by Mon 26 Sep 16. As in previous years, there are a limited number of tickets and so you should get your bid in as soon as you can.

I send my thanks to the Guernsey, Cambridge, Southport, West London and Liverpool Branches, along with the organisers of the Gathering of the Clans and 1960's 16SR Reunion Dinner for their generous invitations during the year. It has been my pleasure to visit your Branches and meet face to face rather than from behind a keyboard, and I hope to get from behind my desk again during 2016!

Finally, if you would like to submit an article for inclusion in the 2017 edition of this magazine, please send as an email to the Admin Officer [as a .doc or .docx file with any photograph(s) as a separate .jpeg file(s)]. **Submission does not guarantee inclusion and the editor's decision is final.** Final date for receipt is 31 Dec 16.



RSA Awards

Congratulations to the recipients of the following RSA Awards presented during 2015:

Associate Life Membership for outstanding service to their Branch for many years:

Dennis Dodson – Rotherham **Ken Ovenden** – Aldershot

Honour Membership for outstanding service to the RSA over many years:

David Hambidge – Lincoln **Melvyn Mullin** - Liverpool
Clive Howells – Harrogate **Ian Lorimer** - Preston & Blackburn

50 Year Award (in recognition of 50 years combined service: Regular, TA, Reserve, NS, and active support to an RSA Branch):

Abby Abdulrahman – Dorset	David Aldous – Harrogate	Bob Cook - York
Billy Dickson - Northern Ireland	Maurice Elliott - Sheffield	Eddie Harris - Loughborough
Peter Hodge – Liverpool	Gerry Kane - Loughborough	John Loveday - Northern Ireland
Neville Lyons - Aldershot	John McIlree – Catterick	Brian Nesbitt-Clarke -Northern Ireland
Mick Nevill - Dorset/NI	Brian Resoun – Shropshire	James Rodger - Catterick
Charles Speed – Loughborough	Brian Vardy – Brighton	John Waters - Liverpool
Dennis Weir MBE - Langeleben Reunion Club		



Reports From The Branches

Area 3 Report

All the Branches in the area are well supported locally and have loyal members who sustain them and enjoy attending the various meetings and events.

During February I was invited to visit the West London Branch at their different venue, the RBL Club in Helston near Hounslow. This was a very enjoyable event which concluded with bingo. Sadly I did not have any winners!

I have attended other events during the year with my Branch, Bedford, and you can read about these in my Branch report elsewhere in the newsletter.

On 6 September I went to the Royal Hospital Chelsea with West London Branch for the annual parade and lunch. This was as usual a very enjoyable day. The format means that following the parade we join the In Pensioners in the Chapel Royal for morning service and then adjourn to their club for a curry lunch. I am looking forward to being able to go again!

At the beginning of November I visited Colchester Branch and hope to go to see Cambridge Branch early in 2016. I am also looking forward to visiting other Area Three Branches and continuing to represent the Royal Signals Association.

Aldershot Branch

Along with 251 Signal Squadron, we are proud to keep alive the strong links between the Corps and Aldershot. However, our catchment area is defined as covering the GU postal code which contains no less than 24 towns in this part of England. We are immensely grateful to our members who travel to our meetings from places as diverse as Woking, Guildford, Fleet, Farnham and Godalming. It is gratifying as well that some events are attended by members from even further afield. This is undoubtedly based mainly on old friendships but we also like to think that our full and interesting programme encourages attendance.

In the past year highlights have included two “away days” to Mottisfont House near Winchester and to the iconic Bletchley Park, now a major visitor attraction. Most of our meetings now take place in the daytime and lunch is considered an essential ingredient. For our two pub lunches this year we decided on a change of venue to the picturesque Withies Inn in the village of Compton. Our event there in December, including all the Christmas trimmings, was particularly well received and brought the year to a cheerful end, despite much bleak news in the media at that time.

We also enjoyed two morning talks, the second in November by our own Programme Secretary, **Neville Lyons**, being entitled “Leo: the story of the First Business Computer” on which he has become an expert. Our Annual Quiz Night once again took place with 251 Signal Squadron in the barracks in May. It was a vintage occasion as it coincided with a training course being hosted by the Squadron and so included personnel from all parts of 10 Signal Regiment. This was a memorable night for serving and retired members of the Corps.

We approach the New Year confident of retaining the loyal support of our existing members. It would be good to think that our numbers might increase, but on that we are less optimistic. One e-mail just received reads: “I am on your



Members clustered around the Crystal Pool in the grounds of Mottisfont House



membership list, however work full time with a busy young family. Therefore I am unable to make the meetings you arrange. I am very interested though and do plan to get better acquainted at a later date. Therefore the newsletters you produce are much appreciated.” This is a positive response which we appreciate but it neatly sums up the situation faced by younger soldiers leaving the Corps and which we know is a problem right across the Association.

Our programme for 2016 and the winter edition of Mercury (our Branch newsletter) is on our website page <http://royalsignals.org/rsa-branches/item/256> and we would appreciate members from other Branches joining us for any of the events shown there.

Bath Branch

The Bath and District Branch has about 120 members across Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. The Committee is **Howard Ham**, President; **Mike Macklin**, Chairman; **Arthur Threlfall-Searson**; Treasurer; **Bob Vale**, **Dick Hemming** and **Steve Farrow**, Secretary.

We are very grateful to 21 Signal Regiment for their support and in particular to the RSM for permission to use the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess for lunches during the year. We had curry lunches in May and in September after our AGM, and a traditional Christmas lunch in December. The Royal Signals setting and memorabilia make these popular occasions.

The Branch golf match is now an annual fixture and the second one was held in July at Cumberwell Golf Club. This was won by **Alan Eames**. He has volunteered to organise an additional match in 2016 which will be held on Wednesday 25 May 2016 at Cumberwell. The next annual Branch match will be held on Wednesday 20 July 2016 at Erlestoke Golf Club near Devizes. Anyone outside our area would be very welcome at these; please contact **Steve Farrow** (sdfarrow@sfarrows.plus.com) if you are interested.

Twenty members of the Branch travelled to London on 5 August to visit the Royal Hospital Chelsea and the Tower of London.

At Chelsea we were entertained by In Pensioner **Brian Cumming MBE** (ex Royal Signals) who gave us a fascinating tour of the Hospital. He brought its history to life and described the changes that have enabled it to adapt to the present day. We were delighted that he was able to join us for tea for further discussion and anecdotes.

We then moved to the Tower where we were joined by another RSA Branch for an evening tour given by Yeoman Warder **Matt Pryme** (ex Royal Signals). It was marvellous to see the sights and floodlit buildings after the crowds had left. **Matt** entertained us with the history of the Tower and tales of the lives (and deaths) of its famous and notorious



Howard Ham congratulates Alan Eames on winning the golf match. Bruce Avison looks on



Brian Cumming and members of the Branch



Matt Pryme performs his magic



inhabitants. After a buffet supper at the Tower of London Club we had the privilege of watching the Ceremony of the Keys to round off a very special day.

We are very grateful to **Brian** and **Matt** for giving us personal tours of these magnificent places.

Harry Hemming laid the wreath at the war memorial in Bath on Remembrance Sunday. **Alun Stewart** was on duty there as our standard bearer and also took part in the parade through the city in the afternoon.

The Christmas lunch in December was our final event of the year. Forty Branch members, partners and guests including **Ray Williams**, the Area 5 Representative gathered at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, 21 Signal Regiment where we enjoyed a traditional Christmas meal.

Bedford Branch

The Branch membership has changed over the year, with 58 on the mailing list and our visiting officer keeping in contact with 12 widows of former Branch members. Our constructive and interesting monthly meetings are attended by 10 to 15 members. We follow the business of the meeting with a buffet. In February we held our Branch Annual General Meeting which saw a few changes to the Branch committee. The Chairman and Vice Chairman (**Bob Major** and Chairman **Den**) have swapped roles.

The Colonel Brian Prophet Trophy. The winner this year was **Cadet Cpl Hanna Evans**, from the Hertford detachment. The Branch visited the Det on 2 Feb 15 to support Chairman **Bob Major** who presented the trophy in front of **Hanna's** parents and a parade of 24 cadets. This trophy, in memory of **Colonel Brian Prophet**, is presented annually to the most outstanding Cadet Signaller from the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Army Cadet Force. The recipient will have successfully completed the 'Cadet Signaller Course' in Signalling Skills during the previous 12 months.

The Branch Annual Dinner on 21 March took place at the Bedford and County Golf Club. There were 44 members and guests present. The extremely good meal was provided by the new 'In-House' caterers and our guests for the evening were **Mrs Caroline Addison**, Administration and Membership Secretary and her husband '**Doc**'. We all enjoyed the evening and if you would like to join us this year, it will take place on Saturday 2 April.

The very busy month of June saw members of the Branch at the 306 Bombardment Group Museum in support of a group of 40 Americans who were over from the USA visiting their memorial at Thurliegh Airfield. The Branch standard was in the guard of honor during the short service and wreath laying. Later in the day we went on to a Remembrance Service held in the Tree Cathedral in the village of Whipsnade where the trees and shrubs are laid out to resemble St Albans Cathedral. The following week, 6 Branch members spent an enjoyable weekend in Blandford for the Reunion. As part of the Princess Royal Day Parade on Saturday, our secretary joined the inspecting party and helped to present some of the 'Trade Recognition Flashes' (TRFs) to those who were passing out as qualified Signallers. Following the inspection he then joined the parade and carried our Branch standard during the march off. For the first time this element of the parade consisted of the 3Rs of the Corps. The 22nd saw us taking our standard to the Bedford Borough Hall Flag Raising day for Armed Forces week.

Then on 18 July, a group of 27 members and friends enjoyed a really good outing to the Imperial War Museum, and ten days later on the 28th, went to the National Memorial Arboretum for the Rededication of the Corps Memorial. Our standard was one of the 14 at the service. All our members enjoyed this visit to the NMA and we are looking forward to next year.

August is generally a quiet month, but this year saw us taking our Branch standard to be inspected by the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire at the Victory in Japan parade on the 16th in Bedford High Street. This was followed by a service of commemoration, thanksgiving and rededication during the afternoon in St Paul's Church, Bedford. Branch member, **Brigadier Peter Dally** was joined by a young representative from Bedford and gave the Act of Rededication. Branch member **Bob Barker** gave the Kohima epitaph. On the 23rd, during the Ramsey 1940's Weekend, our standard joined 27 others on parade for both the drumhead service during the morning and a sunset service at the end of the day.

On 1 November we attended a service of remembrance centred on the graves of Highlanders at Bedford Cemetery at Foster Hill Road to support the Scots Society for St Andrews. The following week on the 8th, the Bedford Remembrance Day Parade took place at the War Memorial. Our Branch standard was carried by Army Cadet Force **Cpl**



Moore. Then on 11 November, at 1100hrs Chairman, **Bob Barker**, along with **Trevor Holyoake** and his wife **Carol** joined the Royal Anglian Association for Bedfordshire and Herforshire Region at Kempston Barracks.

8 December saw us gather for our Annual Branch Draw. This was a great success, with a total of 41 prizes, 38 of which were donated by members and friends. We managed to sell plenty of tickets and provided an excellent buffet supper for those 30 who joined us for this event. The club we use always extends a warm welcome and invites any members who would like to join the club. Contact the Branch for details.

If you would like to keep up with our Branch and see upcoming activities, the Bedford Branch Newsletter, published three times a year, can be seen on our web site via the RSA website <http://royalsignals.org/rsa> If you would like to join us, we would be glad to see you.

Birmingham Branch

Our Charities Committee has seen a change of personnel this year, but no change in their ability to fundraise. After 3 years of wonderful work in charge of raising funds for the RSBF, **Paul Sowsbery** stood down and **Tony Jacklin** stepped up to the plate. **Tony** organised a sponsored walk over Cannock Chase and gathered £839 into the fund. We give many thanks to all the walkers for becoming involved and collecting sponsorship. It was a wonderful day, walking with 2 routes. We visited the Commonwealth War Graves and German Cemeteries in the morning and the old RAF camp in the afternoon.

Our tech team of **Tony Jacklin** (FoS) and **Ivan Thomas** (TOT) then went on to set up Virtual Pony Racing on the Saturday of Remembrance Weekend which increased funds by a further £601. The vertical display track, public address system, camera displaying the dice throws and the computerised tote betting system looked great and helped make the evening both enjoyable and successful. Special thanks to **Maj Steve Cherry**, OC 48 (City of Birmingham) Signal Squadron and his merry band for their support and participation.

Well done **Tony**, a total of £1440 was sent to RSBF from the Branch; another good year.

Our annual away weekend again took us to Weston-Super-Mare organised by the indomitable **Vi Cannadine**. As always the weather was good and after daytime exploration of the town and local area we assembled in the free bar prior to dinner followed by entertainment. The free bar continued until 10pm and was much used. We all endured this stoically for the 3 nights of our stay, thanks **Vi**.

Our chairman, **George Hedge**, again attended the Project Noel Carol service in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, parading the Branch Standard. He was very pleased to have returned to reading a lesson this year (read by Ken Dodd last year). It's great to see the number of Standards increasing each year. Hopefully this Branch will take a full part in the whole weekend activities in 2016.

Our year concluded with another wonderful evening in the West Midlands Police Sports & Social Club for our well attended Christmas Dinner. The gifts table was again organised by Associate Life Member **Susanne Hedge** (not that she has much choice, being married to the Chairman) and the entertainment this year was provided by **Janice** and **Tony Jacklin**, rekindling our social singing voices with 12 days of Christmas.

2015 was a very enjoyable year for our Branch and we look forward to 2016.

Cardiff Branch

President:	Jim Lister	Chairman:	Selwyn Williams
Secretary:	Bill Davies	Treasurer:	Alan Cole
Visiting Officer:	Gordon Baker	Web Manager:	Darren Perkins
Standard Bearer:	Esme Aviet		

2015 began with the AGM, held at the Earl Haig Club, Whitchurch. The officers and committee were elected as shown above. Our meeting followed the usual format, the usual business was conducted and ended with the Branch President, **Jim Lister**, thanking the committee and members for their support throughout the year.



During 2015, members of the Branch were present at the AGM in March at the Victory Services Club and at the Cardiff City Armed Forces Day in and around the grounds of Cardiff Castle. The day included a parade and drumhead service.

November is always a busy month for us and the Branch was represented at the RBL Annual Garden of Remembrance Service held at St John the Baptist Church in Cardiff city centre. The following week, members paraded at the Cenotaph in Cardiff and chairman, **Selwyn Williams** laid a wreath on behalf of the Branch.

It was decided to defer the Annual Dinner for 2015, planned for autumn, to the spring of 2016. This was done so that the better weather would help those who have to travel a long way so that they can be included.

The Branch continues to hold its monthly meetings at the Earl Haig Club on the second Tuesday of each month and we would be glad to see you if you are in the area.

Darlington Branch

2015 began with the Branch parading our standard at a commemoration of the 70th anniversary of Pilot Officer McMullen's sacrifice. He enabled his Lancaster crew to bail out and stayed at the controls, steering his stricken plane away from the centre of Darlington before crashing on the outskirts. A permanent memorial near the crash site provided the location for the ceremony.

Saturday 17 January was our traditional Burns Night Supper (I have no idea why we started this function, but it is now an annual event in our Branch calendar). Always a popular function it follows, as closely as possible, the proper format for a Burns Supper.

February is normally a quiet month on the social calendar, and this is the month we hold our AGM. Needless to say, the same old faces were all re-elected onto the committee for the next 12 months. We also close off our annual charity collection and the amount raised was £600 for the British Heart Foundation.

Sadly we lost **Jack Dobson** in February. He was one of the members who re-founded the Branch after WW2, and had served as Treasurer for 30 years (1970-2000).

At our March meeting, **Lt Col Keith Ryding** attended and gave us an overview of the work that the Gurkha Welfare Trust undertakes. This will be our charity for 2016.

Saturday 21 March was our next social event with a cabaret night held in the ARC.

Another quiet month in April, but May provided an opportunity to parade our Branch standard on the 8th for a VE Day celebration and the 17th for the RSA parade at Eden Camp.

Into June and another event for our Branch standard on the 22nd Darlington Borough Council's "Raise the Flag" for Armed Forces Day.

Saturday 18 July was our next social function in the form of another cabaret/buffet night in the ARC.

The "Gathering of the Clans" at Hartlepool Branch on Sunday 30 August was our next trip out. Sixteen members and families descended on Hartlepool and were thoroughly entertained and dined. We give many thanks to **Tony Knight** and his team.

September saw our Branch standard back at Eden Camp for their annual "All Services Remembrance Parade" on the 13th, together with 18 members and families. I think the main draw is that afterwards the coach comes back via Whitby for a fish & chip stop!

Another two of our Branch members sadly departed to the "Branch on High" in October, **Maj Bob Jones TD JP** and **Fred Freeman**.

Our main function in the year is our Formal Ladies Dinner Night in October. This year it was on Saturday 17 and we were honoured by the presence of the Regimental Secretary, **Col Terry Canham**. Sadly, his wife **Frances** was unable to accompany him, which was made even worse by the fact that the hotel had put him up in the bridal suite (I'm sure he will mention this story at other functions!!). All in all **Col Terry** reports back that he had a very enjoyable evening



despite the road works on the A1 & M1. We had the inaugural performance of the Corps (Northern) Bands Flute Choir during dinner and our thanks must go to them, as they always support our Dinner Night.

The end of October (31st) saw our Branch standard on parade again for the Opening of Darlington Field of Remembrance. It was officially opened by the Mayor.

November is normally a busy month for members and our Branch standard with all the Remembrance Services. Unfortunately we were unable to parade at the Festival of Remembrance at Richmond School this year due to unavailability of bearers. The Standard was on parade twice on Remembrance Sunday, once for the normal Service in the morning and once in the afternoon at the Commonwealth War Graves site in Darlington West Cemetery. The standard was also on parade at 11.00am on Wednesday the 11th in the town centre.

The last function of the year was our Christmas cabaret/buffet night on Saturday 5 December in the ARC. This was another brilliant night, thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

I would like to end with a few thank-yous :

- to the OC 50 (Northern) Signal Squadron, **Maj Neil Coatsworth MBE** and his team, for allowing us the use of the ARC to hold our monthly meetings and social functions.
- to the members of Darlington branch for supporting the Branch committee by attending meetings and functions.
- to the Darlington Branch committee for giving of their time in organising functions.

And one advert – if you are reading this, live in the Darlington area and are not a member of the Darlington Branch – you can see what you are missing! Why not come and join us. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month in the ARC, Neasham Road at 7.30 for 8.00pm.

On to another packed year in 2016!

Dorset Branch

President **Col (Retd) Cliff Walters**
Secretary **John Drake**

Chairman **Geoff Grover**
Treasurer **Dennis Usher**

The Branch meets every month on the third Tuesday; some of these are supper evenings with wives, girlfriends, partners and friends etc.

Our AGM is held in January, normally on Sunday lunchtime. After the meeting we have a luncheon with our partners. Once lunch is over we have a raffle and a horse race or two to raise funds for the Branch.

Our annual dinner dance was held in April at the Crown Hotel, a very successful evening organised by our social team **Terry** and **Sandy Disney**.

On the last Sunday in July we had our annual BBQ. This year it rained hard and we had to go to an emergency wet weather programme. Thanks to the committee and partners for their efforts in moving everything indoors; and a special thank you to the Blandford Constitutional Club members for allowing us to take over their club for the afternoon. **Martin Prior** and **John Rees** also deserve a thank you for continuing to cook outdoors while everyone else was inside warm and dry. The food was great. Again members donated raffle prizes and then bought the tickets



Abby Abdulrahmen being presented with his 50 Year Award Certificate by Cliff Walters (Branch President), at our annual BBQ



for the privilege of winning back their donation. **Geoff Grover** took control of the horse racing and did a terrific job in raising funds for the Branch ably assisted by **Rene Prior** who ran the TOTE.

It was terrific that **Bob Simpson BEM**, one of the Branch founding members, was able to attend the Dinner Dance and the BBQ this year, the first time in a long time. Also thanks to **Bob McLaren** and **Jenny** for persuading **Bob** to attend and providing the transport to and from Weymouth.

Photographs of both the dinner dance and BBQ are on the Branch website <http://royalsignals.org/rsa-branches/item/269> courtesy of **Andy Soward** our web master.

In September **Ken Whillock** and **Dave Preston** hosted a quiz for the Branch. This was also held in the Constitutional Club. **Terry** and **Sandy Disney** organised a superb fish and chip supper for all the attendees and a good evening was had by all.

East London Branch

The highlight of what was our 90th Anniversary year occurred in April on a lovely sunny day and after nearly 2 years of planning. Around 120 people gathered at St Mary's Church in Wanstead for the laying up of our old Branch Standard and the dedication of the new Standard. As well as our own Branch members, representatives from other local Branches, Royal Hospital Chelsea, Local Mayors, Deputy Lieutenants, The RSA Chairman, **Brig David Hargreaves** and **Lt Col Alan Balsdon** and **Maj Sally Calland** from HQ R SIGNALS, representing the Corps Colonel who had sent his apologies. The service was jointly led by the rector, **Rev Liz Horwell**, and visiting ex-Padre, **Rev David Eaton**, with musicians from the Band of the Royal Yeomanry who were accompanied by a choir from members of the Church. The Old Standard was carried by our Treasurer, **Michael O'Brien**, accompanied by escorts **Maj Barry Greenwood**, **Malcolm Langwith**, **Derrick Manning** and **Ron Batchelor**. The new Standard appeared later in the service and was carried towards the altar by **Rob Dyball** and escorts **Ted Head** and **Steve Foreman** where it was presented and unfurled before being blessed.

Following the service we moved to the Wanstead Golf Club where we heard a few words of introduction from our Chairman, **Neill Keen** and President, **Lt Col Jackie Allan QRVM TD** before **Brig David Hargreaves** gave us a short address where he praised the fact that we had followed the Master of Signals directive by using the three R's, with elements of the Regular Army from Blandford, the Reserve from 71 Signal Regiment and the Retired in the form of our Branch Members, members from other Branches and a contingent from Royal Hospital Chelsea. The Brigadier remarked that we had actually gone one better by involving Royal Signals Cadets!



During the planning stage a year previously, at a committee meeting, we discussed the Replacement of the Branch Standard. Little did we know exactly how much work would be involved, although even at the early stage we recognised that we would need extra help. **Maj Paul Burton**, our ex-Chairman was asked to help the committee in preparing the plans. **Paul** did a sterling job in organising the framework for the service itself, gathering together all involved and also putting together the Guest List. However, there was a lot of work by all of the committee, particularly **Anita Keen**, our social secretary who did lots of rewrites of the service after visits to the church and rehearsals.

The cost of the Standard and the reception did put a severe strain on our finances, but with organised raffles and games evenings plus some very generous donations from our members; we have now met all the costs of the replacing of the standard, much to our Treasurer's delight!

Later in April, we had 30 attending our Branch AGM where there was no change in the committee and the meeting was followed by a group photo and a light buffet.

We are always trying to bring something new to meetings and it was decided for the May meeting that there would be a "Bake Off" style competition with cakes being prepared prior to the meeting, then being judged by those attending, who would be asked to vote for the best looking cake and the best tasting cake. This went down very well with members and while we will not be doing it regularly, we will do this again sometime in the future.

Over the last two years, we have also had a few Indoor Social and Games Evenings. This year they were at our June and November Meetings. Both evenings went down well with the November meeting ending with a light buffet and in the Christmas Spirit, mince pies provided as ever by **Iris Burton**.

At the end of June, members of the Branch marched through Ilford in a Parade for Armed Forces Day. This was followed by a reception in the Town Hall and was also the first outing of our New Standard.

As a change to our normal Formal Dinner & Dance in March, we decided to have a Summer Ball at the end of July in Ilford Army Reserve Centre. It was attended by 65 members, family and friends who enjoyed the evening which was enhanced by a live band.

Instead of a formal August meeting, our Chairman **Neill Keen** and his wife **Anita** held a garden party for all the regular attendees of the Branch Meetings. Everybody brought along enough food and drink and there was enough to supply a regiment!

At the end of November we were delighted to hear that our Normandy Veteran and one of our most regular attenders, **Len Brace** had been awarded the Legion D' Honneur from the French Government. Congratulations Len.

Liverpool Branch

The Liverpool Branch is gaining popularity in the Merseyside Area and is growing in numbers every month as word gets out about our social calendar.

At present we have 140 active members of the Branch. Our members are made up from a mixture of ex TA members, ex Regular members, Serving Army Reserve members and 11 Associate members. We also have 2 members who are blind and are members of the Blind Veterans Association. Sadly we lost one of our staunch members, **Frank Conlan**, in January. The Branch has ten 50 Year Badge and Certificate holders and three Honour Members. As a Branch we parade every first Tuesday of the month and our average attendance at these meetings is 50 members with apologies from those who are unable to attend. We always have a small buffet after our meetings and this encourages people to come even if they have just got in from work.

Our Social Calendar is quite extensive and our entertainments committee, **Alan** and **Karen Stowers**, have worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that everyone is catered for. On 14 March we had a Cheese and Wine event at Alamein Army Reserve Centre, on 25 April we had a St George's Night in the WO's & Sgt's Mess and this was attended by many members, all who turned up in fancy dress and made the evening a great success. We also raised £46.22 for the NCCA charity; £640.00 for the Nepal Appeal and £200.00 was donated to the RSBF.

At our meeting on 2 June a presentation was made to **Mr Joe Harvey**, the old caretaker of Alamein Army Reserve Centre, for his 30 years of service. He was awarded the Imperial Service Medal by the Squadron Commander and PSAO of 33 Signal Squadron, our sponsor unit. Members of the Army Reserve Signal Squadron were present for this



St George slays the dragon!



and it resulted in us gaining more new members from the Army Reserve. Sadly, **Joe** died in December of 2015 and was laid to rest in January 2016.

At the Blandford Reunion over the weekend of 20/21 June we had our largest contingent ever at Blandford with 31 members present. We hired a coach for the journey this year, driven by one of our members, and were joined by members of Southport Branch for the journey down. The changes made for the parade went down very well and all members had a really good time. We even managed to recruit new members to the Branch whilst there! Everyone commented on the accommodation which had been somewhat improved from last year. The Accommodation team from Blandford really did us proud with meeting our needs and a letter of thanks was sent to them. Our Standard Bearer, **Graham Christian**, took part in the Standard Bearer's Competition. He came a respectable 3rd place for the second time, and is hoping to do better in 2016!



Leslie Simpson at the Blandford Reunion

Once back from Blandford we had a few days respite before we were parading again at Exchange flags for Armed Forces day parade. This was also very well attended by the members and we even managed to have an interview with BFPS TV. Afterwards we all met in a local pub for “refreshments” and food.



Peter Ramejkis on Armed Forces Day



The Armed Forces Day parade

On 4 July we laid on a coach to go to the Yorkshire Wartime Experience event at Hunsworth, near Bradford. Thirty of our members attended this event which was an excellent weekend with spectacular battle re-enactments. The weekend was such a success that members want this to be an annual event.

The annual National Memorial Arboretum Trip on 25 July was a huge success with some 45 members attending. On the way back we stopped off at the big Lock Public house for a well-earned buffet and refreshments before carrying on back to Liverpool. Our next event was the Oktober Fest on 10 October which turned out to be a huge success with many members entering in to the spirit of it with gusto! One of our members, **Bernie Meehan**, who is also the Standard Bearer for the Blind Veterans Association, had the



The annual NMA visit



honour of representing the charity on its 100th anniversary on 6 October in Westminster Abbey, proudly wearing his Royal Signals beret.

The Project Noel Festival of Carols and lessons was well attended by members of the Branch with some also attending the events at the Adelphi Hotel later over the weekend.

Our Christmas function on 5 December was well attended and one of our Guests was **Caroline Addison** and her husband, **Doc**. Unfortunately, the Corps Colonel was unable to attend due to personal commitments, but luckily for us the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, Dame Lorna Muirhead, was able to attend instead. We had over 110 members and wives who attended and a good evening was had by all.

We are now looking forward to 2016 and future events, one of which will be our trip to the World War 1 battlefields in France. We cannot finish without saying that the Master of Signals 3 R's, Regulars, Reserves and Retired, approach is working really well here in Liverpool and the ties between the Squadron and the Branch are excellent.



The Christmas function

Northern Ireland Branch

2015 has been a good year for the Northern Ireland Branch of the Royal Signals Association, which has seen it go from strength to strength. There are approx. 80 members, with a regular attendance at monthly meetings of 25 plus. There follow some reports by Branch members on our various highlights of the year.

Blandford Reunion

The Branch once again sent members to the reunion; 5 members travelled and met up with our Branch members from the mainland. The most notable moment of the weekend from our point of view, was the standard bearer's competition where our standard bearer came a very proud 2nd. Roll on 2016 where 1st is expected!

Northern Ireland Branch – RSA Reunion 2015, Blandford Camp 19 – 21 June 2015 – by George Cook

Once again it was time to make the annual pilgrimage to Blandford for the RSA Reunion.

Everyone made their way to the George Best City Airport. The Branch Organiser, **Carole Cameron**, had done the business of sorting everything out for those attending including our 4 overseas (UK Mainland) members. It was more difficult this year as alternative transport was required to transfer everyone from Southampton airport to the camp and back, no easy task.

There was a new format to this year's reunion as everything was to be packed into a single day with an extra Church service on Sunday morning before everyone departed to all corners of the UK. The new format proved to be a great success and looks like it will be repeated next year.

The Branch was represented by **Lynda Whitley**, **Chris Stitt**, **Paul McCann**, **Glen Greer** and **Jim Reilly** our Chairman, who all travelled from Northern Ireland and were joined en route by **Barry Skinner**, **Maurice Stanley**, **Pete Whitfield** and **George Cook** and two new attendees in **Gary Shaw** and **Tommy Johnson**. They thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and will be attending on a regular basis in future.

One of the highlights of the Reunion was the Branch Standard bearer **Paul McCann** who achieved runner up in the Standard Bearer competition, the highest position ever gained by the Branch. **Paul** took over the role quite recently



and learnt a great deal from being in last year's competition. We felt he gave the eventual winner a good run for his money!



Paul McCann with the Master of Signals



It was also a chance for the members to see "Jimmy", George Cook's camper in Corps colours

On Saturday afternoon the Branch were hosted by **Eric Webster** and his wife, former QM 40 SR and **Pete Whitfield** on the caravan site for afternoon tea and a few Gin & Tonics.

The evening in the Sgts Mess went well, a time for catching up with old friends and meeting new ones too. Congratulations to the caterers for the excellent range of curries they served.

Branch Awards

2015 was a great year for 50 Year Awards in the Branch. **Billy Dickson, Mick Nevil, John Loveday** and **Brian Nesbitt-Clarke** were all recognised. These lads have well in excess of 200 years' service between them. Congratulations, well deserved to all.



John Loveday receiving his 50 Year Award from Maj G Stevenson, OC 40 Sig Sqn



Billy Dickson, Brian Nesbitt-Clarke and Mick Nevill with their 50 Year Award Certificates

Remembrance Day

On Remembrance Day, the Branch marched to church with the local Army Reserve Sqn (40 Sig Sqn). Also marching were Air Cadets, Sea Cadets, Army Cadets and 2 Royal Irish making it quite a large parade.

On our return from church the Branch gathered round the RSA memorial stone in Clonaver Park ARC to conduct our small Branch service.



Belfast City Hall, Cenotaph

The Branch was represented by our Chairman, **Jim Reilly** at the Belfast City Hall Cenotaph parade. We are again indebted to him for representing us over the last twenty years and we owe him a huge thank you.

Big Curry Night

Early October saw the Branch hosting a big curry night in conjunction with the resident unit, 40 Sig Sqn. The Sqn and the Branch chose the Somme Nursing Home as their charity this year, and nearly £200 was raised for it at this one event. Later in the month the Branch annual formal dinner took place. This, as usual, was an excellent success and everyone had a really good evening.

Our December meeting was a short affair as we followed it with a quiz night. The ballot raised over £100 towards our chosen charity and we are grateful to everyone in attendance who generously contributed towards the ballot.

Talks Throughout the Year – by Ian Miller, Branch Information Manager

We have had quite a few guest speakers at our meetings in 2015.

In June 2015, the Branch had a most interesting visit from **Canon Blakoe** who spoke about his father, **Cpl Blakoe**, who was called to service at the start of WW2. **Cpl Blakoe** was subsequently captured at Dunkirk and spent the rest of the war in captivity. **Canon Blakoe** had many photographs and documents relating to this period including many fine hand drawings of technical equipment used by **Cpl Blakoe** to actually put other soldiers through trade training whilst in captivity!

I must add that what **Ian Millar** neglected to add in his report about speakers is the very fine talk he gave on swords through history. Well done **Ian**!

In August 2015, one of the Branch members, **Liz Montgomery**, gave a fascinating insight through a presentation about her father who served in the Far East during WW2 with an Artillery regiment that was based in Belfast. **Liz** had some superb photographs and memorabilia relating to her father's time whilst serving in this theatre.

As the Branch heads into 2016 we are going to be celebrating our 60th anniversary. We intend to celebrate this with a formal dinner in March and look forward to another 60 years ahead. Certā Cito

Poole Branch

President	Lt Col (Retd) Bob Peake BEM
Chairman	Mr Barrie Walker
Secretary	Mr Ray Williams

The Poole Branch is still going strongly with our monthly meetings normally attracting some 25 to 30 Full and Associate Members where after taking care of the Admin we had an enjoyable evening playing amongst other things, darts, whist or testing our remaining grey cells with a quiz. But our year started and ended on a sad note with the loss of **Sam Law** in March and **Keith Reynolds** in December.

Our summer trip this year was to the National Trust property at the Vyne near Basingstoke where the weather gods smiled on us and we had a very enjoyable day looking around the house and its grounds. Our Sunday Lunch in August and our Christmas Dinner returned to the Bridge House, Longham after a break of several years awaiting the redevelopment which reinstated their Function Room. At the Christmas Dinner the surprise guests were **Bob** and **Pat Bruce** who had left Poole for Cyprus some three years ago but had returned to England and re-joined our Branch.

And finally, our congratulations go to our oldest member, **Ted Poulton**, a WW2 veteran who has been presented with the Legion d'Honneur for his part in Operation DRAGOON. He was dropped into Le Muy in Southern France with K Section, 2 Independent Parachute Brigade.



Salisbury Branch

The Branch continues to meet on the third Thursday of the month, mostly in the Salisbury Rugby Club, although the location for future meetings remains a topic for debate and other potential venues are being explored. Our regular social events of the year included our traditional spring and autumn Sunday lunches. The spring lunch was again held at the local Grasmere Hotel where it was enjoyed by the membership which turned out in good number and enjoyed a splendid lunch. The lunch was organised by the Branch Social Secretary **Marilyn Offord**, ably assisted by the Branch Chairman **Dick Offord**. Sadly, shortly after this, **Dick** was forced to stand down due to ill health and **Marilyn** also stood down to keep an eye on him! We didn't just lose our Chairman, Treasurer (**Dick** did both jobs) and our Social Secretary; we lost the heartbeat of the Branch. **Dick** and **Marilyn** had been at the helm for over seven years and through their hard work had built the Branch to the high level it is at now. Thankfully, **Dick** seems to have won his battles and it is good to see him with a glint in his eye again!

So we have had to find a new committee! **Ray** and **Connie Patrickson** have taken on the roles of Treasurer and Social Secretary, and **Nigel Cullen** made the schoolboy error of not being at the EGM and afterwards found himself as the new Chairman. We had just started to find our feet when it was time for the main event of the year; the Autumn Lunch at the Legacy Rose and Crown Hotel at Harnham in early November. **Connie**, with the help of **Ray**, did a superb job of keeping the traditional sense of the lunch whilst putting their stamp on it.

We were extremely lucky in that **Brig Alan Hill** and his wife **Carolyn** gave up their time to join us for the lunch. **Brigadier Alan** gave us an entertaining and extraordinary insight into the trials, tribulations and challenges of operating the entirety of the MOD networks in his role as **Head of Operate and Defend** in Information Services and Systems. It was lovely that we were joined by members of the Winchester Branch who once again seemed to disappear over the horizon with many of the raffle prizes. **Colin French** did his usual splendid job of manipulating money from the guarded wallets and purses of those attending and over £175 was raised for the RSBF.

Sadly, we said farewell to **Bill Davison** shortly before the Autumn Lunch. **Bill** was a stalwart of the old BAOR communications network and the initial installation of BFBS TV. His wife, **Brenda** managed to join us for the lunch and it was an ideal opportunity to remember a true gentleman.

Committee wise our changes have not stopped. **John Bryant**, who has been the Branch Secretary for the last four years, has let us know that he is going to take a rest in the New Year. Luckily **Phil Osment** has volunteered to replace him, subject to ratification at the AGM in January. Whilst the Branch has a fairly strong and committed membership now, we are always seeking to expand, so if you live in the Salisbury area, why not come along.

Scarborough Branch

Chairman **Mike Stanger**
Secretary **Steve Jewell BEM**

The Scarborough Branch has twenty active members and continues to meet on the second Monday of each month, except for August. The meetings are held in the Duchess public house, situated across the road from Scarborough Hospital's main car park. The AGM is held in January, and after the meeting we have refreshments and a raffle.

Our well attended social events included restaurant evenings held at the Duchess and the Annual Dinner held at the Royal Hotel. The Branch entertainments committee, particularly **John** and **Linda Pennock** (who supplied the raffle prizes for the meetings), are warmly thanked for all their efforts through the year, as well as **Teresa Jewell** who sold the raffle tickets.

Our most senior member, **Willie Watson**, attended all our meetings and kept a watchful eye on the proceedings. We are sad to report that during 2015 **Jack Halstead** has moved into a care home in York and **Peter Aldridge** has been admitted to Cross Lane Hospital. We also missed seeing **Harry Harper** and **John Pratt** who have been unable to attend Branch meetings due to ill health. All of them are all long standing members who are very much missed.

On 8 November the annual Remembrance services were held on Oliver's Mount and Scarborough sea-front. The following members of the Branch took part in the services around the area: **Mike Stanger**, **Steve** and **Teresa Jewell**, **Keith Parsons**, **Bob McSeveney**, **Peter Muschamp**, **Frank West** and **Barry Moody** in Bridlington.

Finally, we commend **Barry Moody** for his commitment to the Association, the Branch and the Royal British Legion.



31 Signal Regiment Association

The Association held its AGM and annual lunch at the Victory Services Club on 15 May. There were 32 members and guests attending and it was judged a great success, even though one of our members, **Clem Denny**, had a nasty turn getting off the bus at Hyde Park Corner and was taken to hospital for a check-up. Fortunately our treasurer, **Jim Mill** and his wife **Cathy** were on the same bus, so **Jim** remained with **Clem** whilst **Cathy** came to the lunch. This resulted in **Jim** missing the annual treasurer's inquisition from the members. Sadly there are no in-focus photos of the event (wine ??)! Next year the venue for the AGM will change because of refurbishment at the Club, but we hope to return there in due course.

On Wednesday August 5 the Association, through the kind offices of **Yeoman Warder Matthew Pryme** (ex Fofs), attended the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London.

In spite of the tube strike that was held on the same day, some 28 members and their partners formed up at the main entrance for the guided tour and sunset ceremony. We were fortunate to have with us our association historian, **Maj (Retd) Paul Whittle**, who was between cruise lecturing engagements and was able to record the scene. The event also gave the secretary, **Maj (Retd) Mark Zaremba-Tymieniecki**, an opportunity to catch up with those members who missed the AGM and lunch back in May.

We went round together with members of the Bath Branch of the RSA, so it was very much a Signals family evening.

The historical insights were as always informative, amusing and sometimes gruesome as befits the history of the Tower. The setting sun, presented a superb photo opportunity for all. **Mr Pryme's** elaboration on the 'killing field' within a mediaeval gate gave us an excellent understanding of both the science and brutality of medieval warfare.

We then retired to the Yeoman Warders Mess for drinks and a superb buffet dinner. Our Chairman, **Derek Cattrall**, with his customary eloquence thanked the Yeoman Warders for their hospitality and the gathered members for braving the strike.

At the appointed hour we all went outside for the ceremony proper, illuminated both by the Chief Warder's lamp and **Cpl Lady Marie Dawsons'** wheelchair headlights. We then retired back to the Mess for some more drinks and a splendid raffle organised by the Yeoman Warders and thus missed the rush home that evening in a tubeless London.

We look forward to repeating this event in the years to come.



The photo gives a good idea of the occasion



1960's 16 Sig Regt Reunion Club



Did you serve in (or attached to) 16 Signal Regiment at any time in the 1960s?

If so, you are welcome to join our Reunion Club.

Our website, can be found at: <http://www.the-60s-16ers.com/>

For more details, please contact the club secretary, **Mr Kerry Stylianou** at kerrysty@hotmail.co.uk

Royal Signals Chief Clerks Reunion

For the second year running a reunion was held for ex R Signals Chief Clerks. This time the venue was the Reservist Centre at Banbury where 16 CCs and wives enjoyed a most convivial evening catching up with old friends and enjoying the excellent Chinese meal from the local restaurant. The evening was deemed to be so successful that it is planned to hold another this year in October - exact date to be confirmed. Those who are not on the ex CCs SDL held by **Ray Williams** and wish to attend can get more details from him on raymondjohnwilliams@icloud.com



Back L-R: Peter Cuckow, Mike Cole, Willie Craig, Ron Coleman, Paul Burdes, David Woolley, Al Gillard, Michael O'Crowley, Steve Hutchins, Alan Houghton

Front L-R: Ray Williams, Michael Court, Sandy Campbell, Tom Dean, Tim Craven, John Bryant



RSA Reunion

20/21 June



The Royal Signals Association Annual Reunion 2015 took place over the weekend 20/21 June at Blandford Camp. On the Friday evening, despite heavy traffic and tail backs reported on many major travel routes, most of those who had pre-booked their bed space or pitch on the camp site arrived.

On Saturday, 11 (RSS) Sig Regt were resplendent on Hawke Square for the Princess Royal Day Parade. For the first time, members of the Association, including two of our In Pensioners from the Royal Hospital Chelsea, were invited to join the inspecting parties to hand out TRFs to the next generation of newly qualified Signallers. At the given moment, an invitation for RSA members to march on to the square and form up behind the Regiment was extended. The RSA contingent, led by those who had served with QGS, consisted of three large squads of Corps veterans plus their officers and Standard Bearers. The contingent marched very smartly onto the square. They made their way past the memorial and halted behind the Regiment. The whole parade representing the Regular, Reserve and Retired elements of the Corps, were given permission to march off the square under the command of CO 11 (RSS) Sig Regt. All those on parade then took part in a toast to our Corps with the MoS to conclude a truly family event.

After the parade the Corps RSM, **WO1 Rob Luke**, conducted the Standard Bearers' Preliminary Competition. The competition was again overseen by him, assisted by **WO1 (GSM) Sean Wedge**, **WO1 (RSM) Richie Savage**, **Mr Barry Moody** from Scarborough Branch and **Mr John Mumford** from Reading Branch Dinner Club. The final took place as part of the afternoon programme of events on the square followed by the prize giving by the Master of Signals. The results for 2015: 3rd – **Graham Christian** from Liverpool Branch; 2nd – **Paul McCann** from Northern Ireland Branch; and 1st – **Bill May** from Edinburgh Branch. Without the enthusiasm and commitment of the Branch Standard Bearers there would be no competition and we thank them all for their show of skill and coordination.


Current equipment from, and information about, every unit in the Corps was on display all day. The event organising team is very grateful to the Corps Colonel, the Unit Commanding Officers and everyone who made the Reunion possible. Without the wholehearted support and enthusiasm from members of the serving Corps, the grassed arena near the Officers' Mess, and indeed the whole event, would have looked very different. I would






on Weekend ne 2015


by Caroline Addison




also like to thank The Vintage Vehicle display, arranged by **Mr Dave Lancaster**, the Christchurch Cruisers Motorcycle Group, arranged by **Mr Terry Inman**, a display of Warsaw Pact Radio Equipment brought by **Mr Tony Helm**, The Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society RSARS display brought by **Mr Jim Heck**, the AFV 432 and Saracen Command Vehicle brought by **John Davies** and 11 (RSS) Sig Regt volunteers who manned the reception.




On the Saturday morning the DCCT Small Arms Trainer was open for RSA members to try their hand on the indoor range. The Corps Museum opened its doors all day and included an exhibition by Richard Salter, The Army Artist, as well as the opportunity to browse in the shop.




Blandford Camp was again bathed in sunshine for most of the time. The couple of showers which arrived around lunchtime did not dampen the proceedings, and indeed by the time the afternoon programme started there was no sign there had been any rain. We enjoyed music from the bands of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Corps Pipes and Drums, both individually and massed; The Standard Bearers' Competition Final and prize giving; and gasped at the Royals Signals Motorcycle Display Team 'The White Helmets' who showed us how to ride with style and panache. The events on Hawke Square ended with the very moving and historic Sunset Retreat Ceremony.



During the evening, the 11 (RSS) Sig Regt WO's and Sgts' Mess (courtesy of the Presiding Member **WO1 (RSM) Richie Savage**) was open so that we could enjoy a curry supper in the best of military traditions, and meet old and new friends. I am sure we would all like to record our thanks to the Mess Members and Staff for allowing us to use their Mess.



On Sunday morning we went to the Corps Chapel for a service which was conducted by The Blandford Garrison Padre, **Capt Kevin White**, assisted by RSA Honorary Chaplain, the **Rev Peter Clemett**. **Mr Steve Barron** turned the page of the Memorial Book. The collection during the service raised £234.13 for the RSBF.



The official photographs from the event can be viewed via a link on the RSA website, and are free! Next year, the Reunion will take place 18/19 June.



Corps Benevolence and Welfare

The Team



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Swift and sure in serving those who serve, have served and their immediate families

‘Our baby son Alfie’s survival hung in the balance but thanks to a grant from the RSBF we didn’t have to worry about the cost of travel’

Fortunately, the nightmare of those early days is very much past and Alfie is now a healthy, happy toddler.

The RSBF post bag is bulging with Thank-you letters similar to the one from Alfie’s dad. Many comment that, they never expected to need our services but all are mightily relieved we were there for them when they did.

In the last five years the RSBF has granted close to £2million, including £332k on more than 550 deserving cases in the last 12 months.

As a charity we provide financial assistance to those in need, provided they have worn the Royal Signals Cap Badge for at least a day; in some instances we can help immediate dependent family too. Sometimes our help isn’t obvious as we don’t handle individual case work, that is done by any of: SSAFA, The RBL or, for those currently serving, Unit Welfare Officers, but once a genuine need is established we will be approached by them for funds.

Adventure, challenge, heritage

Welfare grants are an important part of our work but we help in other ways: adventurous training, support to units, RSA events, Royal Signals Museum and professional development to name but a few. And of course you help us by raising money too.

‘On y’er bike? It certainly was for 30th Signal Regiment who recently used pedal power to drive their fund raising efforts.’

We’re impressed by the imaginative ways you fundraise to support the RSBF - the climbs and karaoke, the fun-days and football, raffles and marathons, and all those creative challenges that get the tins rattling and sponsors digging deep. It’s great to see units pulling together and pushing out to family and friends, and a relief to see the money rolling in.

Pennants of Merit for Fundraising

And the winners are?

As a charity we recognise just how much energy and effort many of you devote to supporting us, so last year we introduced Pennants of Merit for Fundraising. The very first pennant was awarded in 2015 to 21 Signal Regiment, a worthy winner but a close call from keen competition.

We’ll soon be choosing the 2016 recipients so make sure your Unit or Regiment posts a submission, letting us know what you did, when and where. We know charity begins at home but we understand you are keen to support others too, so we take into account all charity fundraising activity, not just that for the RSBF.

There for you when you need us?

We want to continue to make sure we are there for you, should you need us. That requires sustained help and support - donations, day’s pay giving, legacies and gifts – we rely on your continued generosity and your sublime fundraising efforts.



Whatever you do, please don't stop helping, do continue fund-raising and do keep having fun in the process. We're always delighted to hear about the things you do to raise a pound or three, or thousand or more for the RSBF and we'll do what we can to support you. Remember to let us know – formally, or via Facebook, Twitter, Email – what you are doing to fundraise and wherever we can, we will help spread the word.

RSBF proudly serving past and present members of The Royal Corps of Signals

If you need help or require information about the RSBF and benevolence please contact Linda. Email rsbfgrantscoord@royalsignals.org

To find out more about fundraising, legacy giving, making a donation, how to enter for the Pennants of Merit for Fundraising or for any other matter please contact Sandra. Email RSBFCommunication@royalsignals.org

The Royal Signals Benevolent Fund Incorporating The Royal Signals Association Swift and Sure Help for Signallers in Need

Your legacy can help us safeguard the Royal Signals Community

Every year the RSBF helps hundreds of those who have fallen on hard times. This includes serving Signallers injured on operations, the families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, members of the Corps who need assistance with specialist medical care for their children, or veterans who need help in maintaining their mobility and independence.

Help others in their time of need

There has been a long-standing saying that the "Corps looks after its own" and we help wherever we can. In the past five years the RSBF has granted approximately £2 million to help fellow serving and retired signallers and their families in times of need.

We don't distinguish between Regular, Reserve, National Service, ex-ATS or WRAC who served with the Corps, officer or soldier and their dependants. Any case brought to us will be considered with expert support from SSAFA, The Royal British Legion and the Army Benevolent Fund.

You can help too - by leaving a legacy in your will. It's simple to do and can make all the difference to someone who has worn the same cap badge.

Find out more

If you would like to make a difference please contact the Association. We will be happy to provide information on how to leave a legacy so that others from the Corps might benefit from your generosity.

Contact Caroline on 01258 482090 or email rsa@royalsignals.org
Royal Signals Association



Zeitgeist “Spirit of the Times” by Stuart Brown

Published in England by Skipper Press © 2015 www.skipperpress.com



“**Zeitgeist**” (meaning “Spirit of the Times”) has been commissioned to celebrate the Royal Signals military experience in Germany and covers the BRUIN period through to the modern day. Painted in amazing detail, this picture captures the very essence of what it was like to serve in the Cold War era and beyond. The progression of equipment and soldiers demonstrate the evolving role of the Corps from a defensive NATO position to more expeditionary operations. This stunning print is available in two forms and is available to be posted or collected from Blandford Camp. The Royal Signals Benevolent Fund will benefit from the sale of the print.

Open Print. This print measures 48.5 x 33cm, printed on 350gsm art board. This print has been priced with affordability in mind and is very reasonable at £29.00 (inc P&P).

Limited Edition Print (138 Copies Available). This print is bigger than the open version and measures 69 x 47cm on 350gsm art board. Artist signed and numbered, each print will contain a certificate of authenticity stating the edition size along with an historic description. The cost of the limited edition print is £56.00 (inc P&P). If a specific copy number is required, please contact us to discuss availability.

Ordering. Please download and return the form at: www.royalsignals.org/zeitgeist.

Payment and Despatch. Payment instructions are contained within the order form. Prints will be despatched through Royal Mail and will require a signature.

Returns. If your item arrives damaged please return it to HQ R SIGNALS and we will send a replacement.

All enquiries to zeitgeist@royalsignals.org



Forecast of White Helmets The Royal Signals Motorcycle Display Team 2016 Shows

March

16th Graduation Ceremony Blandford

April

23rd - 24th East Anglian Game Fair Norwich

May

1st - 2nd Harewood House Leeds
7th Sapper 300 Weekend Ripon
21st Hadleigh Show Suffolk

June

1st - 7th TT Races Isle of Man
9th - 11th South England Show West Sussex
16th Garrison Retreat Ceremony Blandford
18th RSA Reunion Blandford
19th Kinver County Fair Staffordshire
25th National Armed Forces Day Location TBC

July

2nd - 3rd Cotswold Show Cirencester
9th - 10th Rempstone Country Show Leicestershire
16th Caithness Show Thurso
23rd Ayrshire Fun Day Kilmarnock
31st July - 1st Aug Turriff Show Aberdeen

August

3rd - 4th Bakewell Show Derbyshire
6th Oswestry Show Shropshire
16th Pembrokeshire Show Haverfordwest
20th - 21st Motor Madness Sandwich
28th - 29th Uffington Show Oxfordshire

September

17th - 18th Royal Berkshire Show Berkshire





SUPPORTING SERVICE PERSONNEL AND VETERANS

CSC

As a Next Generation ICT services provider to Government, CSC is proud to be a corporate member of the Royal Signals Institute, providing JPA services to Defence. www.csc.com



More from Dorset Branch AGM 2016

The 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Dorset Branch was held on Sunday 14th February at the Hall & Woodhouse Brewery Visitor Centre. Immediately after the meeting, the President, Col (Redt) Cliff Walters, introduced The French Honorary Vice Consul for the South West, Mme Josette Lebrat. MMd Lebrat then presented the Legion D'Honneur to founding member, Bob Simpson, on behalf of the French Government.

Bob's history in the Corps began at the outbreak of WW2 when he was called up in November 1942 and left the Local Defence Force which he had joined when war broke out. Following training in Blackpool and Catterick he served with 79 Armd Div (Hobart's Tommies) and landed in France on 8 August 1944. He fought through France and Belgium to the Rhine crossing and was awarded MID. Following discharge from the service on 31 December 1949 he re-enlisted in Shrewsbury on the same day. Bob then served in 1 Commonwealth Div in Korea and was awarded BEM following the crossing of the Imjim River in April 1951. Bob finally left the Army on 30 December 1954.



Mme Lebrat pinning Bob's medal onto his jacket



Legion D'Honneur



Meet old friends
Promote the Corps and Museum
Know you are helping a good cause.

www.royalsignalsmuseum.com

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM

Blandford

01258 482 248

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

Are you able to give us a day every couple of months or so to help keep the Royal Signals Museum open at week-ends and to promote the Corps to visitors ?

The Museum is the Showcase of Corps Ethos and Heritage and relies on the generosity of our volunteers to stay open at week-ends between March and October.

If you can help please phone Dave Walker on 01258 455748 to talk things through or e-mail him on davewalker424@talktalk.net

Registered Charity 1133304 Registered Company 06460179



THE MUSEUM IN 2015

New Acquisitions and Displays

For many people museums are places that just tell old stories and show objects from the past. The Army hierarchy sees this as a wasted opportunity and have tasked the museums they fund to display contemporary service life in order to build links with the general public and support recruitment.

As a result we have been scrounging equipment, introducing new displays and touring the Country to explain what the Corps has been doing, is currently doing and what it will be expected to be able to do in the future. In 2015 we opened 7 new displays where we show just how diverse the expectations on the Corps are and how bright and resourceful modern signallers are. We have received a lot of help from the various units that make up the Corps and are very proud of what we have achieved so far.

We now have displays that explain in simple language the roles, equipment and organisation of the new Signal Brigades and the various Corps specialist units. If you haven't visited the Museum for a few years it is well worth coming back and please bring your families with you. We would love to hear what you think.



299 Signal Squadron Display



Kevin McKee, right, with his fathers' collection on display in the Museum

This does not mean that we are neglecting the past. Recently we have acquired a Clansman FFR Landover, that was once part of the fleet of 249 Signal Squadron AMF(L), as well as more contemporary equipment including Promina, Cormorant and Odette. We are grateful to Chris Durham for his Husky Hunter and Husky Hawk computers, to the late Kenneth McKee for his 'souvenirs' from Hitler's Reich Chancellery, to Patti Lomax, the widow of Eric Lomax the Railwayman, for her continued support and to many other donors for their generosity.

BAOR

For the vast majority of its life, the Corps' has had a significant presence Germany and we feel that the importance of this, and of the BAOR period in particular, has been poorly captured in the Museum. Many people under thirty have no concept of what was achieved in the Cold War. We hope to put this right in time for the Corps Centenary in 2020 and would greatly appreciate all the help we can get from BAOR veterans. If you have any pictures, papers, stories, equipment or memorabilia from the period, that you are willing to part with, then please let us know. You can find out how to get in touch on our website at www.royalsignalsmuseum.co.uk or if that isn't your preferred way of working please call Nick Kendall-Carpenter on 01258 482267. Something that you once considered to be commonplace might now become a gem in our collection.



A camouflaged Ptarmigan Unit somewhere on exercise in Germany



Last Post

Maj R Adams	01-Jun-15	LCpl J Grayson	17-Oct-15	Sig GT Parker	16-Feb-15
Sig FJ Akers	06-Jan-15	Sgt IA Green	15-Dec-15	LCpl RM Patrick	30-Dec-15
Cpl S Alexander	30-Jun-15	Sgt JW Hamer	01-Feb-15	SSgt AF Peebles	29-Dec-15
Cpl JER Anderson	17-Mar-15	Maj RA Hamilton	01-Aug-15	Maj JC Pendock	13-Aug-15
Sgt MF Bailey	12-Aug-15	Cpl DJ Hand	01-Feb-15	WO2 L Perrier	16-Jan-15
Maj Gen PAC Baldwin CBE	15-Sep-15	Sgt RWF Harden	13-Dec-15	Sgt JW Peters	02-Dec-15
Cpl CJ Ballantyne	03-Feb-15	Sig G Harp	14-Mar-15	LCpl JT Piper	14-Nov-15
Pte DR Barber	08-Nov-15	LCpl DB Harries	03-Oct-15	WO2 RG Porter	29-Mar-15
Sig KJ Bausor	05-Mar-15	Sig BW Harrington	07-Dec-15	Sig R Preston	23-Dec-15
Cpl L Beagen	19-Mar-15	SSgt PG Haynes	17-Aug-15	Maj RD Price	06-Jun-15
Cpl DW Beard	20-May-15	Sgt PM Heaton	13-Aug-15	Maj (Retd) K Pritchard	23-Jan-16
Sig PC Beckinsale	03-Oct-15	Cpl R Heightley	18-Jan-15	Sig C Rainbird	04-Aug-15
Maj JF Bedford TD	03-Jun-15	Sig R Hodge	20-Jan-15	Cpl CCS Rawson	23-Oct-15
Sgt H Beesley	09-May-15	LCpl MJ Hodges	06-Feb-15	Sgt K Reynolds	19-Dec-15
Lt Col W Bell	31-Oct-15	Sig RF Hopkins	19-Sep-15	Sig GE Ridley	01-Oct-15
Maj TW Bewsey OBE	13-Apr-15	Cpl LH Horsnell	04-Jun-15	Sgt GWP Roberts	15-Jan-15
Maj T R Blackwood	29-Dec-15	Lt REG Howe	09-Oct-15	Maj FP Roberts	23-Dec-15
Cpl A Bostock	04-May-15	LCpl HA Hulse	20-Nov-15	Sig B Robey	24-Apr-15
Sgt KA Bowker	24-Sep-15	Sgt G Hunter	19-Apr-15	LCpl J Robinson	03-Sep-15
WO1 A Bramhall	22-Oct-15	Sgt MWE Hutchinson	27-Jan-15	Sig R Rossiter MBE	29-Oct-15
Sgt J Brooksbank	20-Jun-15	WO1 N Jacobs	15-Mar-15	LCpl P Rulton	14-May-15
SSgt DR Brown	25-Jun-15	Cpl MG Jarvis	14-Nov-15	Cpl JG Rutherford	15-Jan-15
Maj DE Burt	18-Dec-15	Lt Col JR Jasiok MBE	18-Jan-15	SSgt JP Rutland	28-Mar-15
Sig K Cairns	19-Jun-15	Sig M Jeffrey	03-Oct-15	Col MU Ryan	28-Feb-15
SSgt DA Carrier	09-Sep-15	Maj RE Jenkins	03-Jun-15	Sig KF Sanders	07-Jan-15
LCpl GA Carrigan	02-Oct-15	LCpl S Johnson	01-Dec-15	WO1 H J Saxton	24-Nov-15
Sig G Clarke	04-Jun-15	Cpl R Jones	05-Oct-15	Cpl K Sayers	08-May-15
Sig B Close	13-Sep-15	WO2 FW Jones	23-Mar-15	WO1 M Scott	01-Jun-15
Sgt HG Clucas	18-Dec-15	Sig RV Jones	19-Apr-15	WO1 J Sigston	17-Jul-15
Cpl JW Coglan	14-Jan-15	LCpl AB Kay	29-Apr-15	Maj MCK Smart MBE	23-Jan-15
Maj JE Coney	24-Feb-15	Sig JK Kennedy	08-Oct-15	Cpl A Smith	14-Oct-15
Sgt FJ Conlan	22-Jan-15	SSgt W M Kerr	29-Oct-15	Sig R Smith	19-Jun-15
Cpl DJ Cooley	23-Oct-15	Cpl A King	27-Sep-15	Maj LB Smith	21-Mar-15
WO1 S R Cowton	20-Oct-15	Sgt DG Kingdom OBE	24-Oct-15	LCpl A S Solomons	06-Sep-15
Cpl SJ Cragg	12-Jun-15	Maj JM Kirkman	30-Jul-15	Cpl K Sowter	01-Mar-15
Sig I Crew	28-Jul-15	Sig DB Lang	13-Sep-15	LCpl PF Spencer	07-May-15
Cpl R Cunningham	15-Aug-15	Sig E Lanigan	08-Aug-15	Sig T Stansfield	28-Aug-15
WO2 CG Curtis	04-Aug-15	SSgt B Law	05-Mar-15	Maj CE Stephens	22-May-15
Sgt TW Davies	29-Sep-15	Sig PH Lawrence	20-Mar-15	Maj BF Strange MBE	19-Sep-15
Sgt W Davison	21-Aug-15	Maj JA Lawson TD	30-Jun-15	Maj DW Stubbs	10-Jan-15
Sig G Devey	16-Sep-15	WO2 NHR Leach	07-May-15	WO2 AG Summers	16-Oct-15
Cpl JA Dobson	16-Feb-15	Cpl W A Lindsey	06-Dec-15	WO2 WDB Tatnall	13-Jul-15
LCpl AT Dodsworth	29-Sep-15	LCpl GA Lines	21-Dec-15	Capt H Taylor	17-Jan-15
Sgt C Douglas-Smith	24-Nov-15	Sig CW Little MBE	21-Jan-15	Cpl LS Temple-Cox	02-Sep-15
WO1 RF Drew	24-Aug-15	Sgt F Lock	01-Oct-15	WO1 AWW Timme	06-Jun-15
Lt Col AP Ferris OBE	18-Oct-15	Capt RI Lockyer MM	14-May-15	Sig L Tomlinson	08-May-15
Cpl D Ferris	11-Oct-15	Maj MC Lott TD	07-Nov-15	Maj JE Trotter	18-Jun-15
WO1 A Fiddes	08-Nov-15	Cpl M MacDonald	09-Sep-15	Sgt PA Trouve	17-Jun-15
Maj MVN Finerty	01-Apr-15	Cpl P W L MacKay	02-Jul-15	Maj WH Turney	09-Nov-15
SSgt JE Finister	21-Jul-15	Sig CA MacLean	02-Feb-15	Maj PA Upton TD	23-Sep-15
Sig G Firth	01-Mar-15	Maj EJ Mann MBE	06-Aug-15	Sig W Vickers	22-Nov-15
WO2 TG Fisher	15-Oct-15	UK M Marvin	29-Sep-15	Cpl PJ Waite	02-Oct-15
WO2 OW Fletcher	10-Mar-15	Sgt K Matthews	30-Sep-15	Cpl JM Ward	16-Mar-15
Sgt PM Flint	10-Jun-15	Cpl E McCall	02-Oct-15	Cpl W Wareham	13-Dec-15
Sgt D Ford	03-Apr-15	Sig J McFarlane	17-Oct-15	Cpl EA Warren	15-May-15
SSgt A Forrest	20-Mar-15	Sig C McNally	07-Aug-15	Maj AL Watson	18-Nov-15
Lt AS Forty	19-Dec-15	SSgt IM McInnes	18-Jun-15	WO2 G Watson	21-May-15
Cpl D Fowler	13-Mar-15	UK R Mckay	27-Aug-15	Cpl DR Wenman	18-Aug-15
Sig JA Frangou	17-Aug-15	Sgt WE Metters	02-Jul-15	Col JR West MBE	26-Mar-15
LCpl J Freeman	28-Sep-15	Sig WV Miller	28-Apr-15	Maj BI Weston	09-Sep-15
Cpl J F Frost	20-May-15	Sig S Murdoch	20-Dec-15	Sgt N Wilby	20-Aug-15
Lt Col NG Gallyer	29-Jul-15	Cpl DJ Murphy	04-Jan-15	Sgt R Wilkinson	09-Feb-15
Col JR Gibson	20-Feb-15	Sgt GSF Murray	07-Jul-15	Sgt FH Willcox	22-Jan-15
Col RH Gilbertson	17-Feb-15	Lt Col AJ Murray	27-Sep-15	Sig R Williams	02-May-15
Sig R Gilchrist	30-Oct-15	LCpl R B Newlan	26-May-15	Lt Col RF Williams TD	26-Dec-15
Capt JM Gittins	13-Dec-15	LCpl F Newmarch	14-Jul-15	Maj BF Williams MBE	07-Jul-15
WO1 DF Goodyer	16-Apr-15	Cpl JV Owen	22-Jan-15	Sgt R Williams-Yeagers	21-Sep-15
Brig SGM Gordon	16-Sep-15	Sig I Parker	08-Jun-15	LCpl KA Yates	01-Jan-15
Cpl FG Grace	17-Apr-15	LCpl WE Parker	15-Mar-15		



Forecast of HQ R SIGNALS Sponsored Events 2016

March

3	Spring Corps Guest Night	Blandford	Asst Regt Sec
10	RSI Spring Lecture	Blandford	RSI Secretary
18	RSA Central Committee Meeting	London	RSA HQ R SIGNALS
19	RSA AGM	London	RSA HQ R SIGNALS

April

21	RSI Workshop	London	RSI Secretary
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May

10	Corps London Dinner	London	Asst Regt Sec
22	Eden Camp Parade	Malton	
24	RSI Seminar & Network Evening	London	RSI Secretary

June

17	3Rs Dinner	Blandford	Asst Regt Sec
18	Corps Luncheon	Blandford	Asst Regt Sec
18-19	RSA Reunion Weekend	Blandford	Asst Regt Sec
28	Princess Royal Day	N/A	

July

5	RSI Network Evening	London	RSI Secretary
26	Corps Memorial Rededication Service	Stafford	Asst Regt Sec

August

29	Gathering of the Clans	Horden	
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September

4	Corps Luncheon in the North	Stafford	
17	Colonels Commandant Dinner	Blandford	

October

6	Autumn Corps Guest Night	Blandford	Asst Regt Sec
13	RSI Council Meeting & Autumn Lecture	Blandford	RSI Secretary
20	RSA Central Committee	London	RSA HQ R SIGNALS

November

4	Scottish Dinner	Glasgow	Asst Regt Sec
10	Opening of the Field of Remembrance	London	RSA HQ R SIGNALS
13	Remembrance Day	Various	
17	RSI London Lecture and Dinner	London	RSI Secretary
19	Project Noel	Liverpool	



Report by The President of the Officers' Dinner Club

This past year has seen some significant changes to the Dinner Club and I would like to take this opportunity of describing what functions the Corps will now hold and explain how or why we have moved from recent practice.

The London Dinner remains the most popular and well attended event, The Savoy continues to support us well delivering the style and panache that is the envy of many Regiments and Corps. The dinner will continue for the next few years in the Savoy prior to looking towards our Centenary where for size and demand we expect to use the Grosvenor Park Lane. Because of cost pressures on the Officers Fund the Corps Council have asked me to reduce the Corps subsidy to the dinner over 2 years. This will see a modest increase to individual cost but I am confident it still represents great value for a fantastic evening. 10 May 2016.

The Scottish Dinner had to change for the past 2 years due to the sale of the Western Club dining room. We have enjoyed the hospitality of the Royal Faculty of Procurators with outside catering which has been successful. However, numbers for the Scottish Dinner are drifting downwards and the Council have asked me to look at ways of improving support or considering its demand in the round. To try and counter a clash with Half Term holidays and the availability of the Merchants House Livery Hall we will move the Scottish Dinner to November 4th 2016. In line with overall subsidy from the Officers Fund the cost will rise over 2 years but again represent great value to officers; Regular, Reserve and Retired.

The Catterick Lunch has concluded and the replacement function will be held in Stafford on Sunday 4th September. It is hoped to achieve a strong gathering of Officers and Partners at this first function in Stafford.

The Corps Luncheon now held on the Saturday of the RSA weekend was deemed a success as the lunch attracted over 100 guests in 2015. We will continue with this format for the foreseeable future. This years Corps Luncheon will be held on Saturday 18th June 2016.

Application forms for all of this year's Dinner Club events are at the back of this newsletter.



Brig J E Richardson MBE



ROYAL SIGNALS DINNER CLUB

CORPS DINNER IN LONDON 2016

1. The Corps London Dinner in 2016 will be held at the Savoy Hotel on Tuesday 10th May 2016 at 1900 hours for 1930 hours.
 2. **Attendance.** All Royal Signals Officers, Regular or Reserve, Serving or Retired or former WRAC Officers who served with the Corps are eligible to attend.
 3. **Cost.** (Includes pre-dinner drinks and wine at the table):
 - a. For Serving Officers who subscribe to the Days Pay Giving - £77.00
 - b. For Retired Officers who subscribe to the Retired Officers Club - £77.00
 - c. For Serving/Retired Officers who do not subscribe - £140.00
 4. **Dress.** Black Tie/Ladies equivalent. Decorations or medals are not worn.
 5. **Seating.** At round tables each with 10 places. Everyone attending will be allocated to a table but not to a specific place. The table plan/allocation will be described in an attendance list that will be handed to Officers as they arrive. The Ballroom allows a maximum of 380 (38 x 10) guests to attend.
 6. Units or individuals may reserve complete tables with the details of attendees annotated in full on the return proforma. Bids from individuals are, of course, also welcome.
 7. **Payment.** Please complete the attendance proforma and forward it to the Corps Events Clerk, HQ Royal Signals by post together with a cheque(s) made payable to 'The Royal Signals Benevolent Fund'. Alternatively, those wishing to pay by BACS payment should do so to the following account details:

Sort Code: 30-11-75,
Account No: 01966016,
- Please put 'Savoy Dinner' in the 'descriptor/reference' area and to avoid confusion the name of the individual/organisation making the payment. This process will require the attendance proforma emailed to events@royalsignals.org.
8. **Application Date.** Please note that applications to attend the dinner together with the appropriate payment must be received **Friday 22nd April 2016**.
 9. **Tickets.** Tickets will be issued by the undersigned approximately 14 days prior to the dinner and must be shown upon arrival at the venue, attendee names will also be checked upon arrival.
 10. **Refunds.** Payment for the dinner will only be refunded if non-attendance is notified before Friday 22nd April 2016.



ROYAL SIGNALS DINNER CLUB

CORPS LUNCHEON IN BLANDFORD - 2016

1. The 2016 luncheon will be held during the Royal Signals Association Reunion weekend in the Headquarters Mess, Blandford Camp on Saturday 18th June 2016 at 1200 hours for 1230 hours.
2. **Attendance:**
 - a. All Royal Signals Officers, Regular or Reservist, Serving or Retired or former WRAC Officers who served with the Corps are eligible to attend. In addition, spouses and adult sons and daughters may also attend.
 - b. The luncheon in Blandford, like the luncheon in Stafford, is an occasion when Officers' Widows/Widowers are entertained as guests of the Corps and they are entitled to be accompanied by a companion or an adult son or daughter.
3. **Cost:**
 - a. For Serving Officers who subscribe to the Days Pay Giving - £15.00
 - b. For Retired Officers who subscribe to the Retired Officers Club - £15.00
 - c. For Serving/Retired Officers who do not subscribe - £30.00
 - d. Widows and one individual to accompanying them are guests of the Corps.
4. **Dress.** Lounge Suit/Ladies equivalent.
5. **Seating:**
 - a. All those attending will be allocated to a table but not to a specific place. The table plan/ allocation will be described in an attendance list which will be handed to everyone as they arrive.
 - b. Individuals may:
 - (1) Say with whom they wish to sit.
 - (2) Reserve a complete table in their name; table sizes are 8, 10 or 16 places.
 - c. Officers specifically asking to sit with others must inform those concerned as soon as possible that they will be sitting together. If they are not told they may make their own arrangements.
 - d. Officers reserving tables must fill all places and must inform as soon as possible those they intend inviting to sit at the table.
 - e. Officers who are invited to sit with others and at specific tables must still confirm their attendance by individually completing a proforma and submitting it to HQ R Signals together with their cheque.
6. **Proformas.** All those wishing to attend should complete the accompanying attendance proforma and send it to HQ Royal Signals together with a cheque(s) made payable to 'The Royal Signals Benevolent Fund'. Receipt of payment and seating requirements will be acknowledged by HQ R Signals by letter. **Please submit your proforma by No Later Than Fri 03rd June 2016.**



ROYAL SIGNALS DINNER CLUB

ANNUAL CORPS LUNCHEON IN THE NORTH - 2016

1. The 2016 Annual Corps luncheon in the North will be held in the Beacon Barracks Officers' Mess, Stafford on Sunday 4th September at 1200 hours for 1300 hours.
2. Attendance:
 - a. All Royal Signals Officers, All Retired Royal Signals Officers or Retired former WRAC Officers who served with the Corps are eligible to attend. In addition, spouses and adult sons and daughters may also attend.
 - b. The Luncheon in Stafford, like the luncheon in Blandford, is an occasion when Officers' Widows/Widowers are entertained as guests of the Corps, including an accompanying companion or adult son/daughter.
3. Cost. This includes pre-lunch drinks and wine at the table:
 - a. For Serving Officers who subscribe to the Days Pay Giving - £15.00
 - b. For Retired Officers who subscribe to the Retired Officers Club - £15.00
 - c. For Serving/Retired Officers who do not subscribe - £30.00
 - d. Widows/Widowers and one individual accompanying them are guests of the Corps.
4. Dress. Lounge Suit/Ladies equivalent.
5. Seating:
 - a. Those attending will be allocated to a table but not to a specific place. The table plan/ allocation will be described in an attendance list that will be handed to those attending as they arrive.
 - b. Individuals may:
 - (1) Say with whom they wish to sit.
 - (2) Reserve a complete table for 10 in their name.
 - c. Officers specifically asking to sit with others must inform those concerned as soon as possible that they will be sitting together. If they are not told they may make their own arrangements or be invited to sit elsewhere.
 - d. Officers reserving tables must fill all places and must inform as soon as possible those they intend inviting to sit at the table.
 - e. Officers who are invited to sit with others and at specific tables must still confirm their attendance by individually completing a proforma and submitting it to HQ Royal Signals together with their cheque.
6. Proformas. Everyone planning to attend must complete the accompanying attendance proforma and send it to HQ Royal Signals together with a cheque(s) made payable to 'The Royal Signals Benevolent Fund'. Please submit the proforma by Friday 12th August 2016.



CORPS LONDON DINNER – 10 MAY 2016

‘Please complete in Block Capitals’

UNIT/INDIVIDUAL BID

1. I wish to attend the dinner on 10 May 2016

Regt No Rank Initials Name

Unit:

Address for tickets:

Email Telephone Number

2. I wish to reserve places(s) at a table. The names and Regimental Numbers of Officers filling the places, including myself, are as follows and I have informed them accordingly:

NUMBER	RANK	NAME	INITIALS

3. Individual Returns: Please indicate below If you have a preference of whom you wish to sit with:

We will endeavour to accommodate you accordingly

4. Special dietary requirements for the following personnel:

Name: Dietary requirement:
Name: Dietary requirement

5. I enclose a cheque made payable to ‘The Royal Signals Benevolent Fund for £

6. A BACS payment for the sum of £ was made on (date)

Date Ranks Name Signature

I agree to my personal details being held on a database administered by HQ R SIGNALS, on behalf of the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund, the Royal Signals Association, the Royal Signals Institution and other related organisations.

Please send all returns and payments to:

**Events Clerk, Griffin House, HQ Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset
DT11 8RH**





To: Corps Luncheon Secretary
HQ Royal Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset
DT11 8RH

CORPS LUNCHEON IN BLANDFORD – SATURDAY 18 JUNE 2016

ATTENDANCE PROFORMA

1. I wish to attend the luncheon on Saturday 18 June 2016:

Rank Initials Name Decorations

Known As Address for tickets

Postcode Telephone Number

2. a. I wish to reserve place (s) at a table. The names, forenames and surname of those filling the places, including myself are:

.....
.....
.....
.....

b. I wish to reserve a table for either 8, 10, or 16. The names of those filling the places, including myself are:

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.....
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.....
.....
.....

c. I have been invited to sit with

3. I enclose a cheque made payable to 'The Royal Signals Benevolent Fund' for £

4. If you will require a car pass for entry to Blandford Camp, please list your vehicle details here:

Make & Model: Colour: Registration Number:

Date Signature

I agree to my personal details being held on a database administered by HQ R SIGNALS, on behalf of the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund, the Royal Signals Association, the Royal Signals Institution and other related organisations.





To: Corps Luncheon Secretary
 HQ Royal Signals
 Blandford Camp
 Dorset
 DT11 8RH

CORPS LUNCHEON IN STAFFORD – SUNDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2016

ATTENDANCE PROFORMA

1. I wish to attend the luncheon on Sunday 4th September 2016:

Rank Initials Name

Known As Address

.....

Postcode Telephone Number

2. I wish to reserve place(s) at a table. The names/ranks of those filling the places, including myself, are:*

3. I wish to sit with:

4. I enclose a cheque made payable to 'The Royal Signals Benevolent Fund' for £

5. If you require a car pass for entry to Beacon Barracks, please list your vehicle details here:

Make & Model: Colour:.....Registration Number:

Date Signature

* Officers nominated here must complete the attendance proforma.

I agree to my personal details being held on a database administered by HQ R SIGNALS, on behalf of the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund, the Royal Signals Association, the Royal Signals Institution and other related organisations.





CORPS DINNER IN SCOTLAND - 2016

1. The dinner will be held at the Merchants House Glasgow, 7 West George Street, G2 1BA on Friday 4th November 2016 at 1900 hours for 1930 hours.
2. Attendance. All Royal Signals Officers, Regular or Reserve, Serving or Retired or former WRAC Officers who served with the Corps are eligible to attend.
3. Cost. This includes pre-dinner drinks and wine at the table:
 - a. For Serving Officers who subscribe to the Days Pay Giving - £42.00
 - b. For Retired Officers who subscribe to the Retired Officers Club - £42.00
 - c. For Serving/Retired Officers who do not subscribe - £84.00
4. Dress. Highland Evening Wear or Black Tie. Decorations or medals are not worn.

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To: Quartermaster
32 Signal Regiment
21 Jardine Street
GLASGOW
G20 6JU

CORPS DINNER IN SCOTLAND – 4th NOVEMBER 2016

I wish to attend the Corps Dinner in Scotland on Friday 4th November 2016.

Rank Initials Name Decorations

Tel No

I enclose a cheque payable to 'The Royal Signals Benevolent Fund' for £

Date Signature

I agree to my personal details being held on a database administered by HQ R SIGNALS, on behalf of the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund, the Royal Signals Association, the Royal Signals Institution and other related organisations.

