

THE Wire



February 2016

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The Magazine of The Royal Corps of Signals

NOTICE TO THOSE WHO HAVE TRANSFERRED INTO ROYAL SIGNALS

SERVICE DAY'S PAY GIVING

Transferees into the Corps should note that their voluntary Service Day's Pay Giving (also known as the One Day's Pay Scheme) subscriptions will NOT automatically change to their new cap-badge's charity on transfer. This is an individual responsibility but it has become clear that many people are not aware of this, including some who have transferred from Queen's Gurkha Signals to the Corps.

If transferees wish to change their Service Day's Pay Giving to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund the procedure to do so is straightforward and can be carried out with the help of RAOs. All that is required is that individuals complete two copies of JS Form JPA E014, the first to STOP payment to the old Regiment/Corps or Service (including the Gurkha Welfare Trust for Gurkha personnel) and the second to START payment into the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund. The first form should be sent to RHQ or equivalent of the original Service/Corps/Regiment and the second to RHQ Royal Signals.

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The Wire



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Editor
Mr Keith Pritchard
Tel: 01258 482817

Editor: Mr Keith Pritchard
Deputy Editor: Mrs Steph Hamlett

All correspondence and material for publication in The Wire should be addressed to:

The Wire,
HQ Royal Signals,
Blandford Camp,
Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 8RH

Email: wire@royalsignals.org



Accounts / Subscriptions
Mrs Jess Lawson
Tel: 01258 482087

Contributors
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The Princess Royal inspecting the Honour Guard during her visit to MOD Stafford.



BACK COVER

216 (Para) Sig Sqn "dropping in" on Ex AMARNATE



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NEWS FROM BLANDFORD

CORPS ENGAGEMENT TEAM



Lincolnshire Skills Show 16 – 18 November 15 – by Cpl Horniblow

So it was myself and **LCpl Aaron Mills** who were tasked with attending the Lincolnshire Skills Show and to be honest we were happy with this one. We departed from Blandford Camp at about 1100 hours, (lay in for us) and made our way up to Lincolnshire.

In the Recruiting Team we spend a lot of time in the car and so we decided to make our trip slightly more amusing than it would have been. I egged on **LCpl 'Superstar DJ' Mills** to phone in to BBC Radio 1Xtra to get live on air and play on their game show to which he duly accepted. The next thing we knew, **LCpl Mills** was live on air chatting away to A-Dot (the radio presenter)! So after being able to pick our tune and dancing away in the car to Chris Browns "Run It!", we finally arrived at our destination...Butlin's Holiday Park!

The reason we were so happy to have been put on this job was that we got to stay in one of the Butlin's Gold apartment homes and pretend we were on a classy Butlin's Holiday for the next couple of days. The apartment was cosy and we wasted no time in getting the beers in and some homemade food on the go which was cooked up by none other than **LCpl 'Gordon Ramsey' Mills**.

So after eating and drinking the night away we were up and ready the next morning to start the event, which was a great success. Hundreds of pupils from around the Lincolnshire area attended and we had a lot of good feedback from the students who took particular interest in the Armed Forces that were present at the event.

The event was over 2 days from 0930 until 1430 which was a right touch! So on the second night myself and **LCpl Mills** again cooked up a storm consisting of fajitas and nachos and then made our way down to the bowling alley with a few of the other CET members to take part in a, shall we say, heated game of bowling, which was all free of course!

After the dust had settled from the bowling competition we then made our way back to the luxury of our apartment ready to start the next day.

The last day was much of the same and the resident DJ at the event kept us all occupied throughout. If the opportunity presents itself next year we will definitely be attending again. After the second day had come to a close we then made our way to Birmingham for the start of our next event.

Birmingham NEC, Skills Show 19 – 21 November – by Cpl Horniblow

So we were straight back into the thick of it at the Skills Show Event which took place at the Birmingham NEC Arena. This event was over 3 days and we definitely earned our wages over this period. The team even drafted in a couple of extra soldiers to lend us a hand as we knew the event would be very busy.

Our prediction was right and the NEC began to fill up with different students and colleges from around the Midlands area. Throughout the next few days we had to deal with a constant swarm of eager teenagers interested in pursuing a career in the military. The new Army Recruiting Stand stood in the middle, all new and shiny with multiple flat screen TVs and computers for the



LCpl Aaron 'Gordon Ramsey' Mills getting to grips with the 5 kitchen suite*



Myself and LCpl Mills with Theo Paphitis himself



students to use to search on the Army website for their perfect job. Located around the main attraction the various CET stands all offering their own tailored careers in the Armed Forces.

Again this was a very successful event and over the duration of the Skills Show, the Army stand and the various CETs must have spoken to well over 10,000 students in all.

This event is organised by Theo Paphitis, who has also featured in the Dragons Den series. He made a special effort to come and visit the Army stand and have a go on the Jackal, which was the main Army attract piece.

After the event had finished on the Saturday, before making our way back to Blandford, myself and **LCpl Mills** stalked down Theo for a cheeky selfie as you can see.

Skills Show Scotland - 17 - 19 November 15 – by LCpl Hudson

On 17 November **SSgt Charlie Lister** and I set off on the 7/8 hour journey to ‘not so sunny’ Scotland. We were lucky enough to be staying in central Glasgow, which was a bonus for sightseeing (and a cheeky drink!).

The event was named ‘Skills Scotland’ and having already attended these particular events in the last few months, it made it easier for us to set up and get going with the job in hand. **LCpl Fagan** attended the event with us and this was his last ever one for the Corps Recruiting Team before he headed off to pastures new in ATC Harrogate. So a big Good Luck goes out to him from all of the team.

Day 1 of the event included schools from the local area of Glasgow. Over 100 other companies turned out with their advertising stands with the main aim being to attract young people into gaining a positive and rewarding career after education. Along with the stands there were lots of attraction pieces ranging from robots to fresh cakes being served up. (Obviously we took full advantage of the free food and drink).

During the first few hours the skills show really started to pick up, thousands of students turned up to our stand with questions about careers being offered by the Royal Corps of Signals. The first day was fast paced and we looked forward to finishing at 1900 before heading out for a well-deserved team meal.

Day 2 consisted of the same amount of students, just different schools from other areas of Glasgow. Again the day was very fast paced. We were working with other cap badges such as the Royal Engineers, AGC Recruiting Team and Outreach Glasgow which proved to be a good laugh.

After the final day at ‘Skills Scotland’ and a brilliant two days recruiting, we said goodbye to the other Recruiting Teams, packed our cars and headed off in preparation for our next event. Always on the road...





THE ROYAL SIGNALS MOTORCYCLE DISPLAY TEAM



By Cpl Coughlan

It has been another very busy year for The Royal Signals Motorcycle Display Team. Upon returning from Christmas leave the team welcomed the arrival of several new members. After allowing them to settle in training camp commenced in the last week of Feb at Dalton Barracks in Abingdon. Six weeks worth of arduous training headed up by the newly promoted **A/Cpl Greenhalgh** (Chief Instructor) saw some fantastic development from the new riders. Second year riders weren't let off easy either, spending the first two weeks practicing their reverse riding. This increased the workload for the team mechanics as there were more than a few accidents; however none of these were as spectacular as **LCpl Angels'** accident after attempting the car jump on the Kawasaki KX 250. Fortunately he (unlike the bike) was still in one piece.

With training camp now completed the team's confidence was high and the new team members were in anticipation of the opening show/graduation ceremony in April. Many of the team's friends and families were in attendance to see the opening show of the season. This sees the new arrivals graduate as White Helmets. The Davida helmets were presented to the new riders by the Corps Colonel mid-way through the display. Wearing the new white helmet and full of a new found sense of invincibility **LCpl Angel** then decided he didn't need to tilt his head down when performing the fire jump at the end of the show... leaving him very red faced... literally. After a brief visit to the medical centre he was later found in the bar with the rest of the team for a well deserved pint.

The season kicked off with the Cow Pie Rally, Lingfield, in early May. The riders had become accustomed to riding in some real rather awful weather, so it came as a bit of a shock to a few when the sun made an unfamiliar appearance. This was the first time some of the riders had the 'privilege' of wearing their number one dress in heat.

With the first two shows under their belt, a rather unusual task lay ahead of the team the very next day... They were to perform in front of the camera with none other than Keith Lemon for 'through the keyhole'.

Shortly after appearing on the telly with Keith Lemon the team found themselves in front of the cameras once again. This time filming for the Citizens music video: 'My kind of girl'. The less said about that the better...

With all the new found fame the team then jet-setted off to Sweden for the Swedish International Tattoo in Malmo. Over the course of the three day event the team performed in front of more than eight thousand people!

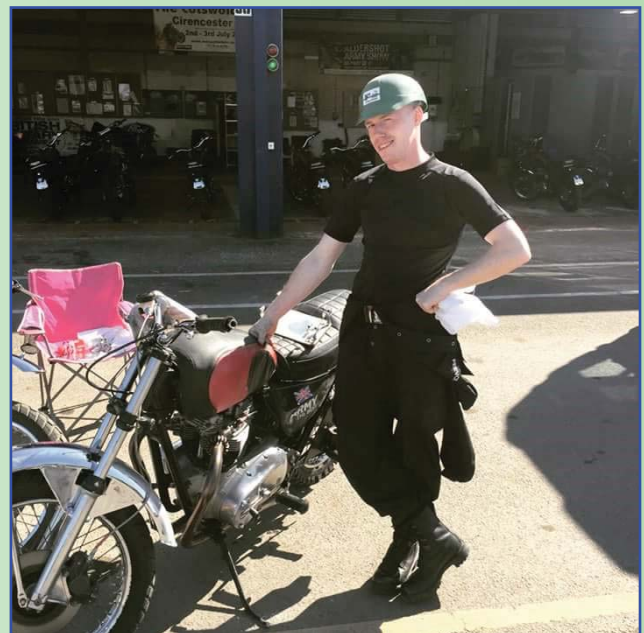
Back on home soil and the team toured around England for several weeks before the annual RSA Parade at HMS Sultan. This show saw one of the standout moments of the season when **A/Cpl Greenhalgh** jumped three cars during the show.

July started off with a show up in Scotland for the Tain Gala. We travelled an entire day with perfect weather, to the tip of the Highlands, for the show the following day. We were rudely woken to the sound of torrential downfall. Eternally optimistic, and with the intent of putting on a show for the people who attended, we decided to stay until the rain cleared in order for us to perform. Unfortunately Mother Nature had other plans and we were unable to perform for the lovely people of Scotland. July also saw us perform many county shows including the Culdrose Air Day in Helston, Cornwall.

Traditionally as a soldier if you're going to Wales then you're usually going to the Brecon Beacons to get cold, wet and muddy while performing back to back section attacks. In August then, it was a relief for the team to be taking the Triumph T140's and performing in front of **LCpl Ray's** friends and family.



Troopies enjoying some time in the sun



LCpl Peavor sporting a new helmet - One of the Team's Triumph Bikes





Cpl Nixon boarding a plane to Sweden



Some Feathered Fans of the Team



Rehearsal of the Sweden Tattoo

It's not all glamorous shows with most team members spending just three years in the White Helmets before going back to the Field Army and as members of the team go, new people need to come in. Recruiting new members from within Royal Signals is a priority for the team and it's something we've had a lot of success with this season. Fourteen candidates for next season's team attended a Selection Course in October. And throughout the two weeks only 7 remained fit to carry on. **Cpl Gooding** was kept very busy filling out Accident Forms (510's) for several injuries including broken wrists, hurt ribs and a hernia to name a few! Still think it's easy in the White Helmets?

The new OC RSMDDT and Team Sgt also attend the Selection Course and **Capt McLelland** was lucky to escape uninjured. Let's just say that it's probably best he'll spend most of next season narrating rather than riding. **Sgt Arnold**, the new Team Sergeant had an entertaining little fall when attempting a trick known as the Swallow. This saw him fall off the back of a bike leaving **Sgt Wynn** 'Supermanning' one of the 750cc Triumphs. Thankfully only his pride was injured! The selection Course also saw **Cpl Huber** take over as the Chief Instructor and **Cpl Frank** hand over the reigns of Troop Cpl to **Cpl Ascott**, both of whom have previously been in the team.



Sgt Arnold taking a tumble!

This was also a period in which we saw a lot of promotions; 3 Signallers promoted to LCpl which was a very proud day for the team. **Sig Fraser**, **Sig Holdcroft** and **Sig Sumpter** were the deserving few. Let's not forget **Cpl Mackie** and **LCpl Peevor**, both of whom transferred from Reservists to fully fledged Regular soldiers.

While the team will miss; **Capt Carr**, **Sgt Marshall**, **Cpl Frank**, **A/Cpl Greenhalgh**, **LCpl Conway** and the newly promoted **LCpl Sumpter**, we also welcome their replacements; **Capt McLelland**, **Sgt Arnold**, **Cpl Ascott**, **Cpl Coughlan**, **Cpl Huber**, **Cpl Potter**, **LCpl Clarke**, **LCpl Goodwin**, **LCpl Wilson** and **Sig Grieve**.



NEWS FROM TRAINING



11th (ROYAL SCHOOL OF SIGNALS) SIGNAL REGIMENT BLANDFORD



CO Lt Col S Short
RSM WO2 (RSM) Savage

2 (CATTERICK) SQUADRON

OC Maj L Kelly
SSM WO2 (SSM) B Sherwin

2 (Catterick) Squadron Remembrance Parade 8 Nov 15 - by Cpl Mitchinson

The annual Remembrance Parade was carried out in Blandford Forum by 2 (Catterick) Squadron on 8 November. After the Regimental Parade was conducted at 1100hrs on Camp, 30 Phase 2 soldiers plus members of the Permanent Staff travelled into Blandford Town to attend the civil service and participate in the march through the Town Centre.

Under the direction of the GSM our soldiers formed up in front of the Corn Exchange and the rest of the participants assembled in their best attire, ready for the parade. The local civil dignitaries then arrived along with the Corps Colonel. Numerous wreaths were laid and the 2-minute silence was observed. After the silence, with the Squadron leading, the parade then marched around the town and into the local church, where the dignitaries and members of the local community held a service.

Unfortunately for the soldiers the church was at full capacity. Instead the contingent showed their support in the Royal British Legion where they had the opportunity to relax and engage with local veterans and community members. A good day was had by all. It was particularly nice to be able to conduct the parade alongside our local community, a first for the junior soldiers from the Squadron.



Maj Kelly leading the Regiment's contingent on the Blandford Remembrance Parade

The Lord Mayor's Show 14 Nov 15 - by Sig Archer

As part of our prize for winning the "Best Section" award at the Gordon's Cup, we received free tickets to go and see the Lord Mayor's Show in London. At 0605 hours on the day I was awoken by **Sig Burrows** informing me that I was late for parade. I slowly rolled over to look at my phone convinced it was 0505 hours but was horribly mistaken. I stumbled around trying to find some clothes to chuck on and eventually I arrived at the bus wearing my hoodie inside out. **Cpl Tyson** sent me away to put on some smart civvies and after getting changed into a shirt and jacket we set off on the journey. One long and tiring journey later we arrived at Chelsea Barracks where we left the mini bus and driver. The weather was grim but we were not going to let that ruin our day. We headed to the grandstand at Saint Paul's Cathedral where we were to be seated for the parade. The problem with the seating was the lack of a roof to keep the wintry November conditions from dampening the mood.

We were stood in a 150 man queue to be seated in the pouring rain; at this point I questioned "is this what it's like to be a winner?" As the parade started to pass however, I realised that we were sat next to a group of civilians who had paid £40 a ticket and I felt a sense of pride, the atmosphere was awesome. The floats ranged from sponsors of the event like Jaguar, charities and local companies from a variety of trade backgrounds. Public services, including our very own White Helmets, were also represented and finally the Lord Mayor himself, in what I can only describe as a Queen's chariot laced with gold which must have cost thousands of pounds. After the parade we grabbed some lunch and had a few well earned drinks. The journey back went quickly as I slept the entire way. It had been an exhausting day with a very early start after all!

Exercise CATTERICK CULMINATION VI 20-22 Nov 15 - by 2Lt J Carter

A vital element of a soldier's training and development is arguably the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience in disciplines not undertaken in the normal training of their trade or cap-badge. Ex CATTERICK CULMINATION VI, undertaken on a cold and blustery November weekend, was a fantastic example of young Phase 2 soldiers of 2 (Catterick) Sqn being exposed to different survival skills and techniques which they undoubtedly will benefit from greatly in their future careers.

The exercise achieved exactly that. The soldiers were introduced to a relaxed and informal learning environment where they could be taught the basics of survival should they find themselves in a situation where help and supplies would be hard to come by. The lessons included fire lighting, water collection, ground sign awareness, animal trapping, live food preparation and natural shelter construction, all delivered to the soldiers by different internal and external instructors. It was reinforced by the Royal Marines Mountain Leader instructors, **Sgt Strickson RM** and **Cpl Mason RM**, that these skills are vital to any soldier who not only deploys on operations but also on exercises, as it is surprisingly easy to



find oneself in a survival scenario. **Sgt Strickson** explained how he came to be in a survival situation whilst on exercise in the USA where one of his team had a leak in a jerry can whilst deploying to their exercise area, leaving them with insufficient water to operate effectively. They survived because of the use of improvised solar stills and water filtration devices using sand and charcoal to drink safely until extraction.

One of the most enjoyable and I believe most rewarding lessons was the live food preparation delivered by **Cpl Mason**. The soldiers learned how to correctly dispatch and prepare live chickens safely and efficiently so that they could acquire essential proteins and energy needed to survive in a hostile environment. They were taught the importance of respecting an animal before preparing it to be consumed and the correct way to turn a live animal into safe nutrition. The techniques taught were also transferable to other wildlife and most importantly it made the vital connection for the soldiers between the killing of an animal and the end product that is their food. Once you have been through the process of killing an animal and preparing it for consumption yourself I believe you have much deeper respect for the process and understand the skill and effort it takes to do it properly.

The exercise culminated in a final confirmation of the skills they had learned, moving from checkpoint to checkpoint around the area meeting different personalities who requested their help to demonstrate the skills they had learned.

Overall the feedback from the Phase 2 soldiers was overwhelmingly positive and they seemed to benefit immensely from the weekend training and enjoyed an exercise outside of normal mandated training.



Some loved their chickens too much to eat them

The HQ Officers' Mess v WOs' and Sgts' Mess Bone of Contention Rugby Match - by YofS (EW) Moucher

The historical yearly Bone of Contention rugby fixture is one that takes place Army wide and marks the beginning of what is commonly known as 'silly season'.

Capt Toby 'impartial' Rowe offered his name up to referee the game and stuck scrupulously to the rules without showing favouritism to either side. His strict adherence to fair play enabled the Officers to take the lead via an outstanding try, followed up by a good conversion by **2Lt Kerrigan**. Officers 7-0 Seniors.

A small blood bath ensued. **SSgt 'Swanny' Swanson** had more claret dripping from his eye than the ref had in his hipflask. However, in the style of Martin Johnson during his famous Lions tour, **'Swanny'** was back on the pitch within ten minutes and straight back into the breakdown. His re-introduction spurred the Seniors on and the forwards used their weight advantage well. **Paul 'Taff' Davies** forced his way over the line for a courageous try. Officers 7-5 Seniors.

The Officers pulled up their socks and from the kickoff were looking for another try. They were quick to the Seniors ball catcher and from another offside position managed to win the ball at the ruck. Halftime was now approaching and both teams wanted a try before the whistle was blown. It was the Officers who broke away with a blistering run from their full back, **2Lt Kerrigan**, whose efforts resulted in another try, followed up by a horrendous conversion. Officers 12-5 Seniors.

Halftime was called and there was a change of personnel for both teams. The RSM of 11 (RSS) Sig Regt came on for the Seniors and with his first touch knocked on, kicked the ball along the ground and then picked the ball up and started running. The crowd went silent, not even the Officers protested to the knock on, and the game carried on with no further mention of the incident. As the match progressed both teams started to tire and high tackles were becoming more and more common with **2Lt Blake** nearly causing the decapitation of three or four unfortunate victims.

The Officers went on and scored a further three tries, taking the final score to 27-5 and winning the 'Bone of Contention' 2015. Certainly, the best team won despite missing their star prop, **Capt Lianne Robinson**.

After the match the Officers were invited into the WOs' and Sgts' Mess and eventually managed to make their way in, having entertained the Seniors with festive songs. They kept their bragging rights to a minimum once inside and proceeded to drink the Seniors under the table. Overall, an excellent day that brought together the two Messes and will be highly anticipated next year.



The Winning Team – HQ R SIGNALS Officers' Mess

3 (HARROGATE) SQUADRON

OC **Maj R Jacques-Grey**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) C Deal**

Welcomes and Farewells

The Squadron has been running with business as usual. Manning is an issue, but we have an influx of Troop Commanders in the New Year. The Christmas festivities have all but finished and training finishes soon for the Christmas Stand Down.



A few announcements are due, firstly to **WO1 (Fofs) Matt Williams** on selection for a LE commission. We welcome **SSgt Frankie Franklin**, **Sgt Pramesh Shrestha** into Technical Training Troop (TT) and **Cpl Nicholls** into Battleaxe Tp. We also say farewell to **Capt Jon McLelland** to be OC White Helmets and **Sgts Mitchell** and **Slade** and **Cpl Russell**, thanks for your worthwhile contribution in the Sqn and the difference you have made to the Phase 2 trainees.

Remembrance Sunday – 3 (Harrogate) Squadron - by Cpl Katie Constable

On Remembrance Sunday, 8 November 2015, 3 (Harrogate) Squadron was fortunate to be invited to exercise their freedom of Swanage and join the Royal British Legion in their remembrance activities for the day. Under the meticulous watchful eye of **WO2 (SSM) Deal**, 50 members of the Squadron led by the Officer Commanding, **Maj Jacques-Grey**, travelled from Blandford to Swanage. The troops were organised and inspected by **SSgt McCreadie** prior to forming up at Swanage seafront, then marched through the town in formation with many other organisations to the Service of Remembrance at St Mary's church.

Prior to forming up **Mr Frank Roberts**, a former Troop Commander in 3 (Harrogate) Squadron, read out the story of the 'Unknown Soldier'. This certainly provided a poignant and moving reminder of why the soldiers of various ages and backgrounds were parading on this particular day. The parade marched through the town to the martial music provided by the Ringwood Pipe Band, who certainly cut a fine dash in their tartan regalia.

The Squadron had many duties in the smooth running of the church service, co-ordinated by **Sgt Milevsky**. For the first time ever the parade marshal, **Frank Roberts**, wanted the wreath bearers to formally parade, including basic drill, inside the church. An epic task handled exceptionally well by **SSgt Sherratt**, the SNCO I/C wreath party.



Maj Jacques-Grey (OC, 3 (Harrogate) Squadron) leads her soldiers through Swanage

On completion of the church service the Squadron formed up at the rear of the parade for a slow march through the town to the war memorial at the sea front. Fortunately the weather remained dry, if not a bit blustery. The parade then partook in the act of Remembrance in-front of all assembled visitors and townsfolk, with **Sig Charnley**, the youngest soldier on parade, given the privilege and honour of laying the Squadrons wreath under the watchful supervision of **SSgt Sherratt**.

The Squadron was then invited to join the members of the RBL for sausage and chips in the Legion. Unbeknown to the parading troops this involved a high speed march back

through the town and up the longest hill in Dorset. A competition rose between **WO2 (SSM) Deal** and **SSgt McCreadie** as to who could call out the pace for the longest time. The aged and venerable battlefield ambulance just about managed to keep up with the marching troops, as opposed to the aged and venerable local photographer, who found it a bit harder to take his shots. Luckily, he had brought a young apprentice who could run forward to get the frontal photographs.

The members of the Squadron were hosted in the manner that you would expect in the Legion, with the exception of the wreath bearer, as he was still a little too young. It also gave a number of the soldiers a chance to renew some acquaintances made when the Squadron marched on the Liberty of Swanage parade earlier on in the year.

Exercise HARROGATE FOLLY - by LCpl King

Pre-deployment checks started on Wednesday afternoon, as all section commanders ran through the usual kit check to make sure that no one was about to bring unnecessary hardships upon themselves due to a lack of preparation. Once the black bin liners and carrier bags were removed the troops were ready to pack their kit onto the truck in order to deploy to Lulworth Training Area on Ex HARROGATE FOLLY. For those unaware, this is a military skills orientated exercise that makes the 5 miler of death look like a steady walk up a very slight gradient on almost arduous terrain. The aim is to improve the skills of the Phase 2 soldiers ready for their PNCO courses at the end of their Class 3 trade training. **SSgt McCreadie** had organised a packed weekend of fieldcraft lessons.

Friday came around in the guise of a beautiful autumn evening; the birds were singing, morale was high, weapons were issued and the transport boarded. On arrival we received the required safety briefs which were made almost interesting by **Cpl Andy Willis**. Then it was time to occupy the Forward Operating Base and prepare to launch into tasks to disrupt and eliminate enemy forces in the area. The sections quickly occupied the site and started pushing out clearance patrols ready to start working towards a complete occupation and getting into routine.

On Saturday we deployed ready to get stuck into the various lessons, instructing skills that would be needed by the soldiers in the near future. On the Casualty Triage stand, it was clear from the beginning they had a good understanding of the basics, so **Cpl Gilbert** RAMC managed to use some really interesting and useful teaching techniques, over and above what they might normally expect. CEFO donned we set off towards our objective, unfortunately an easy patrol turned into a messy affair with one T1 and another T3 on the section's hands to deal with. Fortunately there was no enemy presence at the time so they could quickly establish protection and withdraw back to a safe zone to assess and triage further. Apparently it took some sections quite a while to realise that the first casualty had two arms and that the disembodied arm in the middle of the road had to belong to someone else. Next was the ration replen, which most of us were surprised was not a rapid replen. The idea was that the Phase 2 soldiers would navigate to the given grids and they invariably decided to go direct across a bog which should have taken 15-20 minutes, but ended up taking almost 2 hours.

By now thoroughly moist, we got back into base location ready to redeploy almost instantly to the Advance to Contact stand. Another well prepared and executed stand, the section performed well with a good battlefield discipline, battle drills and actions on showing no need for concern and leaving the difficult task of finding points for improvement.



This slightly offset the fact that the rain was now coming in sideways. Back in the harbour we received orders to move from the FOB into the wood line nearby to test the sections on their admin in the field. With the harbour area occupied each section was given a set of mixed grids to go and complete a Night Navigation Exercise, which the sections had absolutely no problems with whatsoever.



Soldiers from 3 (Harrogate) Squadron withdrawing from contact

Sunday came around and it had finally stopped raining. First up for us was Vehicle Anti-Ambush, run by **Sgt Moran** from 2 (Catterick) Sqn, in which the troops quickly got a handle on the situation, applied the drills taught and successfully extracted from contact. Once we had returned to the base location we were given one last grid ref to navigate to. When we arrived, we came under heavy enemy fire and had no choice but to withdraw. Very soon after withdrawal was called the Section Commander was hit and became a T1 casualty and had to be moved with the section back to the FOB on a stretcher. The only problem was we were almost 2 ½km away, so the troops had to dig in deep. Arriving back at the FOB, which was naturally on a large hill, the exercise was called to a halt. The exercise overall was a challenge and testing time for the troops with no time for mistakes.

November - by Sig Melhuish

November was upon us, and where there is November there is Movember, a global charity with the aim of promoting the health and wellbeing of men both mentally and physically. Since its foundation in 2003, the charity has managed to raise over £402 million, which has funded over 1,000 projects focusing on raising awareness of prostate cancer, testicular cancer, poor mental health and physical inactivity.

One of the main ways the Movember foundation receives its funding and promotes men's health is through the help of volunteers raising sponsorship money by growing a moustache for the duration of the 30 days of November. In order for us to take part in the event we had to carry out three tasks. Firstly we had to register our interest with our Troop. Then we had to register ourselves as 'Mo Bros' on the charities webpage and finally we had the challenge of trying to raise a little sponsor money. Once all that was in order we waited, razors poised, for the first of November to arrive.

15 men from Ulster Troop volunteered. You wouldn't have noticed at first though, for in my naivety when I checked the mirror on the morning of the 1st, expecting to see a long, flowing Hulk Hogan style moustache, I was instead greeted to a faint whisper of a 'tache. Still, everybody loves a trier and

moustache growing is no easy business, just ask **Sig Brogden**, as long as he keeps growing it. I'm sure it should be nearly ready by next year. Everyone else seemed to have the same trouble at first; our top lip companions had not yet made an appearance. That is everybody except **Sig Rabi**, who managed to grow a full one in minutes.

A couple of weeks in and the moustaches were coming in thick and fast. **Sig Funghang** and **Sig Amir** started to look like the Chuckle Brothers, 'me, to you!' **Sig Wray** had transformed into Sheffield's version of Freddie Mercury overnight and **Sig Thirkell's** was full and thick, in places, meaning he had to fill the rest in himself. Nothing a bit of marker pen won't fix!

Since I began my moustache journey I believe I have changed for the better. I now know how to fix a lawn mower engine, I wear a lot more denim and have a constant urge to chop wood. It will be a sad day when we have to get rid of our lip ticklers and having to stop pretending to be Tom Selleck and Ron Burgundy. As a Troop we have managed to raise a fantastic £295 for the Movember Foundation and £150 for the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund.

4 (MILITARY TRAINING) SQUADRON



Ulster Tp 'Movember team'

OC **Maj C Scott**
SSM **WO2 Easterby-Jackson**

Inter Squadron Boxing Competition - by SSgt Lincoln

The start of September saw a hundred potential boxers commence their training in preparation for the Regimental Boxing night. As always, as the training intensity and early mornings increased the boxers numbers decreased. With no boxing night the previous year the need to keep the remaining twenty boxers was essential. Withstanding the training schedule and adding a couple of late injuries gave the event eight bouts of competitive boxing on the evening.

The morning of the event came, the gym hall was dressed to impress and boxers all weighed in correctly, just the pre bout medicals to go. A couple of panic gum shield remoulds and all boxers progressed through the medicals and the final confirmation was to the boxers of who they would be fighting. Now was the time to keep the teams separated!

The arrival of our Commanding Officer, **Lt SJ Col Short**, along with honoured guests **Brig Carmichael** and Tommy Langford (WBO Intercontinental middleweight Champion) on the back of the White Helmets bikes marked the start of the event. After a year of no boxing nights 11 (RSS) Signal Regiment Gym staff had a night set to impress lined up. 2 Sqn in the red corner and 3 Sqn in the blue corner the first





A glancing blow by Sig Williams on Sig Lyons

bout, a light heavyweight bout, between **Sig Williams** (2 Sqn) and **Sig Lyons** (3 Sqn) started the night of boxing. Four bouts down with the blue corner taking three out of the four wins was definitely a good time for refreshments before the final four bouts. 3 Sqn stayed strong in the second half of the night and took wins in the next three bouts. The final bout was between **Cpl Gooding**, White Helmets in red, and **Lt Punter**, Troop Commander in blue. The bout everyone had been waiting for, with the Officers Mess out of their seats cheering for blue and 2 Sqn and the WOs' and Sgts' Mess cheering for the red corner the command 'box' was given. Both boxers kept going until the bitter end, neither wanting to give the bout away. A couple of standing counts through the bout for the red corner saw the lean towards the blue corner. The final bout went to **Lt Punter** in the blue corner. The overall results saw 3 Sqn lifting the trophy for the 11 (RSS)



A solid connection from Sig Tilley on Sig Hall, blocking

Signal Regiment Inter Sqn Boxing Championships 2015. A quick photo shoot for the scrap book and it was off to the Mess to celebrate a triumphant boxing night, with a big thanks to our sponsors, Motif8, Train2Train and Elior who all helped to make the night such a success.

611 (COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING) TROOP

OC **Capt T Eaton**
SSgt **SSgt S Ware**

The Tp remains as busy as ever with no sign of it slowing down. The last few months have seen the routine departures and some new arrivals. We have said goodbye to a lot of valued experience: **Cpl 'Swede' Roberts** and **Cpl Dave Kitchen** have left us for 251 Sig Sqn in Aldershot, **Cpl 'kero' Jamieson**

to 243 Sig Sqn at Andover, **Cpl Katie Evans** to 30 Sig Regt, **LCpl Tammy Williams** to RAF Boscombe Down and **Sgt 'Big Nav' Naivalu** to 14 Sig Regt (EW).

We do however extend a warm welcome and congratulations to our new arrivals who join us on promotion: **Sgt 'Mikey' Milburn** from the PNCO team within the Sqn, and from the RSMdT, aka 'The White Helmets', **Cpl 'Gash' Greenhalgh** and **LCpl 'Rider' Sumpter**. Congratulations are also extended to **LCpl Jonny Scott** who recently gave his life away, we mean, got married, and to **SSgt Stevie Ware** on being presented his 2* AOC Commendation which was announced in conjunction with the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours List.
The Life of a JNCO Instructor in 611 (Comms Trg) Troop



SSgt Stevie Ware receiving his AOC Commendation from Air-Vice Marshal Turner

- by **LCpl Scotty Abel**

As a Communications System Operator who has served in the Army for 4 years, I was delighted to find out that I was to be assigned to 11 (RSS) Signal Regiment, Blandford. As a newly promoted LCpl I felt ready to take on the prospect of instructing in 611 Tp (the old ETT or RADEX Tp as more 'old timers' would know it). I was immediately informed that it should be pronounced 6-11 Tp and not 6,1,1. The name of the Tp was given as Signal Troops are always in the 600's (like Signal Field Squadrons are in the 200s) and the 11 is for 11 Sig Regt.

Being posted to 611 Tp has given me the opportunity to learn the skills needed to be an instructor and how to best pass on my trade knowledge to the students coming through training. On arrival there are several courses which are mandated for all instructors within the Regt. It is a good feeling knowing that the knowledge I have shared is helping other soldiers better their career and further their prospects to other regiments around the Corps.

11 (RSS) Sig Regt is my second posting since joining the Army, my first was 30 Sig Regt. During my tour at 30 Signal Regiment I deployed on various exercises specializing in Skylark and Falcon, I also did a tour of Sierra Leone on Op GRITROCK using Skylark, so going back to Bowman was like trying to write *Wire* notes as a dyslexic person, hint hint!..... Even so, I still got stuck in and it soon came back to me due to the sheer amount of exercises that I have deployed on.

611 Troop is split over two teams; Soldier and Command. Both sides are very busy, whether we are teaching lessons on camp, on exercise, PACEXing or turning around equipment. As a Tp we instruct every trade group coming through Blandford from CS Eng to CLS and RSE to EW Ops. Let alone



every supervisor course, YofS, FofS, FofS (IS) and the three Troop Commander courses every year.

Although there is a bit of banter between the two teams, we would not get the training and targets achieved never mind any leave if we did not work together. This is assisted by the mature, professional and approachable attitudes of each individual in the Tp from LCpl all the way up to the Tp OC. Being part of the Command Team within the Tp is in my opinion the best place to start an assignment here as a LCpl. As the course students are, in fact, SNCO potential supervisors, as I am instructing them they also share their knowledge with me and the team. We all have our own responsibilities such as maintaining detachments and lesson planning, but we all pull together when needed to get jobs done and make every minute count in work time.

As a Detachment Commander I have the responsibility of maintaining 3 detachments that deploy on exercise regularly. I also took it upon myself to help with stores which ended up with me now becoming the Command Team Storeman as well! It is funny how the equipment never comes back off exercise in the same state that it is issued out. This means it always needs repairing and regular maintenance to help keep the exercises running.

Still it's not all work, work, work. We have time to keep developing our own career path, attend courses, deploy on AT, play competitive sport – and attend daily PT lessons. Around other commitments I have managed to attend several Level 2 accredited Health & Safety courses including Fire Safety and Manual Handling, along with an ETL course to assist with the running of Tp PT.

The Troop takes good care of us making sure we stay focused on our job by giving us little breaks to attend AT, which is good as it refreshes our minds and keeps us looking forward to the next time. Plus regular monthly Tp social functions help the team bond outside of the garages and these are enjoyed by everyone. Work hard, play hard as they say.

Bournemouth Marathon 4 Oct 2015 - by LCpl Jonny Scott

Some 6 months prior, our resident and seasoned marathon runner, **SSgt Stevie Ware** posed the question to the Tp, "who wants to be in this year's Bournemouth Marathon team?" Along with Staff there were 3 others who also completed it last year that immediately volunteered, **Cpl Kenyan Worthington, Cpl 'kero' Jamieson** and **LCpl Rob Owen**. I was sat there thinking, if they are all doing it again then it can't be that bad, I will give it a go – how wrong was I! Along with **Cpl 'Rob-DJ' Eyre, Cpl Dave Kitchen** and leading by example, our OC **Tp Capt Tom Eaton** we all signed up for the event.

The months and weeks prior to "race day" whizzed by in a flash due to the busy work commitments and the devised training programme could hardly be stuck to. In the end, the gruelling challenge of unknown distance for some of us was tackled with minimal build up training, taking the phrase "no cuff to tough" very literally. The week before **Cpl Kitchen** pulled the same line as last year that he was "injured" and not able to partake – a bit of a pattern setting there **Dave!** Unlike last year though, there were no last minute reserves to call upon as **LCpl Owen** was actually on the original team sheet this time and he even remembered to bring his running trainers to the start line this year! So, on the day there were 7 of us all kitted up with our RSBF vests on ready to go.

The atmosphere was electric and there was a buzz around the place, with a few shouts of 'Jimmys' from a certain someone who kept telling us to enjoy it and soak it up. For us 'first timers' there was a sense of nerves, but also excitement. The countdown commenced from 10 down to zero and then the

start gun went off - but there was no movement. The sheer thousands in front of us were making their way towards the start line. Ten minutes or so later we finally started moving, crossed the start line and started our 26.2 miles. The streets of Bournemouth were packed with supporters



The 7 'starters' from 611 Tp on a pleasant Sunday morning in Bournemouth

and plenty of cheering and applause. The plan was to all run together in a group, well as we know in the military, no plan survives first contact. **Cpl Worthington** decided he wanted to go off on his own to go for a PB, so off he went. But then so did **Cpl Eyre** who followed him. The remainder of us realised immediately that that was going to end in tears and continued with our mile pacing. Low and behold, 8 miles in and who did we see sat on the side of the road, but '**Rob-DJ**' himself. All burnt out already having tried to keep up with '**Worthers**'. We picked him up and he began to jog on behind us. Unfortunately though, we didn't see him again (until Monday at work). After getting to the 10 mile stage he phoned the wife to come and pick him up!

The course itself was lovely and scenic, incorporating running up and down Boscombe and Bournemouth piers and the promenade all the way up to Sandbanks and back. Not that I remember much from the final 10 miles or so – only **Cpl Jamieson's** Christmas cracker jokes! The remainder of the team all finished together in a respectable time and were met by **Cpl Worthington** who had been there waiting for an hour! Drinks, food, medals and photos were then conducted before departing back to Blandford. The next day would definitely be needed for a recovery day, to get over the blisters, sore knees, cramp and DOMS... But, no – for some of us lucky ones, Staff had managed to get us on an ETL course!

Capt Eaton and I accompanied 4 other members of the Tp for a few days of 'light jogging' and loaded marches! Nothing like a good old shake down to sort the legs out! Now I can assist with conducting Tp PT though, I will make it my mission to try and get **Cpl Eyre** to run further than 10 miles! The marathon was a great experience and we shall see who puts their name into the mix for the next one!

5 (MARESFIELD) SQUADRON

OC **Maj Budding**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Fox**

Welcomes & Farewells

The Squadron has seen changes in personalities in the past month. Firstly welcome to our new members of 5 (Maresfield) Sqn permanent staff; **SSgt Vernon** as the new



FofS, **SSgt Malcolm** joins us as the SATCOM instructor and G4 support, and **Sgt Prakash Ale** as a CNR instructor.

As always with new arrivals we also say farewell to **Sgt Jimee Ghanendrabhadur** recently posted to 2 SR.

Troop Commanders Course 92

- by 2Lt Heslop-Charman and 2Lt Franklin

Lasting a total of six months, The Royal Signals Troop Commanders course strives to develop new officers into capable and knowledgeable communications managers with the skill set to handle the challenges that are associated with everyday troop command. What follows is an account of the course from the perspective of TCC 92, encompassing the experiences, the highs and the lows that have transpired as the course has progressed and developed. It is hoped this article will offer a valuable and interesting insight into the course for all those in the Corps and to those that may be considering joining in the near future.

The first part of this article will cover the trade specific and technical aspects of the course; as well as the various exercises that are designed to test and challenge the Troop Commanders. The second part will cover the non-trade specific aspects of life as a junior officer.

The first week of the course focused on learning the basics of the Information Technology Infrastructure Library or ITIL for short. This was a concept that was unfamiliar to say the least and during the first day it was difficult to understand how and why this was relevant to us as troop commanders. However, as the course progressed and all the business terminology put into a military context its true value became apparent. The key focus and benefit was to give an understanding of managing problems and incidents that arise from working with IT in an efficient and professional manner that ultimately leads to an organisation becoming more productive. In a Royal Signals context this means less down time on equipment and a greater ability to keep the battlespace operationally effective. Understanding and implementing the concepts of ITIL greatly benefits new troop commanders in their ability to manage technical issues that arise, a skill that became more and more prevalent as the course progressed and exercises became more complex.

The course took a natural progression and moved onto an issue which has become crucial to every organisation existing today, this being Information Management. How we control data can seem insignificant but as the case has always been, knowledge is indeed power and this notion in a military context could not be more accurate. The IM segment ranged from accurate filing methods to ways in which organisations protect and disseminate data, an eye opening part of the course which really shows how difficult and demanding IM is on a daily basis.

Moving further into the idea of protecting information, TCC 92 then moved into the area of cryptographic material and gaining qualifications as Crypto Custodians. The primary focus was learning the vast protocol and procedures that are involved when dealing with crypto, culminating in a one day exercise where troop commanders ran a crypto cell. This involved organising transport, the checking in and out of cryptographic material and handling vital security breaches such as the loss or breach of crypto security. This was a challenging exercise and gave a great appreciation of the complexity involved in managing this kind of material. The simplest and most important point taken away was the necessity and lengths that military organisations undergo in order to protect vital information and what a responsibility it is to be part of this protection.

With a new focus on the strategic and planning abilities a

troop commander requires the focus of the course shifted toward gaining qualifications in the use of COMBAT, a military planning tool that took some getting used to and was a far cry from the lumicolours and maps the course were accustomed to. This program allows commanders to track and plan operations simultaneously, allowing for greater control and situational awareness. Due to the complexity and variety of tools available it took some time to grasp the programme but with practise came the familiarity required and although testing, TCC 92 produced strong results for the final exam.

It is of great credit to the Troop Commanders course that all trades are covered throughout the six month time period. This is highlighted within Power Week, teaching the knowledge of how to work with generators and cables in a safe and secure manner. The ability to set up a generator is a skill that a Troop Commander will most likely never require, however it once again provides insight that is vital to the running of a Troop and the effort that soldiers go to.

Considered by most Troop Commanders Courses as the most interesting and unique area of study, Electronic Warfare was no different for TCC 92. It was a genuinely eye opening look into the British Army's EW capability, highlighting the technologies available but also the methods which operators use against enemy EW, a key learning point that will be taken forward by all of TCC92.

Next came one of the key areas for assessed exercises on the course, delving into the details of Trunk networks and looking specifically at Falcon. The content ranged from the capabilities of CPs and WASPs to the planning and siting of detachments through use of profile path analysis, skills that would become vital in Ex MERCURY CHAIN. Once again the level of detail needed and the understanding required needed to be wide and varied and although these are not all skills which the troop commanders necessarily require, the insight into how complex these tasks can be is vital for planning.

Granted a day release from Blandford Camp, the troop commanders were given the opportunity to visit the GOSCC. A worthwhile and insightful trip that taught many lessons about its capabilities and ways in which it benefits us all. The key lesson taken away was that the GOSCC is your friend and is a tool to utilise.

When it came to orders there was a clear sense of déjà vu amongst the course, this is a skill which has been drilled into the Troopies since Sandhurst; however it quickly became clear that this was not the same animal we had tackled so many times. The format was similar but the emphasis was now on communications, making the task much more complex and detailed requiring more in depth thought. This was tested via a three day process allowing for a continuous improvement of the orders given and the development of CIPs, a challenge that was greatly enjoyed and extremely worthwhile.

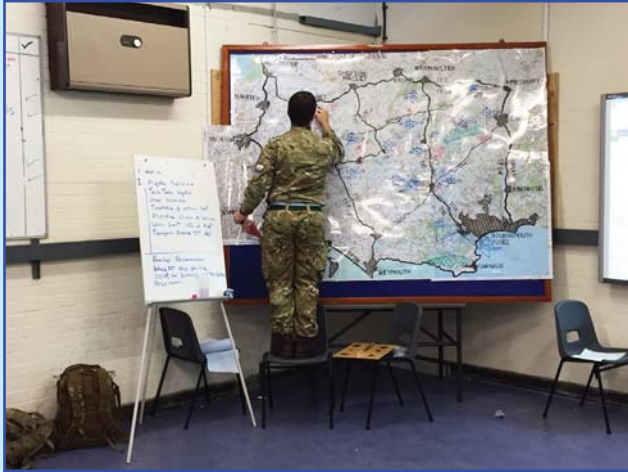
At nearly half way through the course we found ourselves once again with Combat Net Radio, the bread and butter for a large proportion of the Corps. It was time to begin gaining the skill set that would be the staple for a lot of TCC 92. This segment moved through the physical basics of setting up a detachment to putting up masts and then on to the theory side involving propagation and the rules of rebros. This combination of training in a physical and theoretical context gave a total picture of CNR, from planning to set up and was a far cry from the ICS instruction received at Sandhurst.

It had finally arrived, Ex FIRST GLANCE, the initial opportunity for the course to put the CNR knowledge they had attained into action. The base premise is simple, the leap frogging of HQ locations with the inclusion of recce and Staff work tasks.



This ranged from setting up tents and the dreaded cam net, to erecting masts and delivering orders. It was not exercise as the course were used to but it was a genuinely enjoyable experience and not solely because of the kerosene heaters. Surprisingly one of the biggest lessons came from the kit muster upon return to camp, a process which took far longer than anyone has anticipated and was beyond the detail which the course imagined.

At this point in the course, thoughts were already on Ex



2Lt Boyes keeping the map up to date

MERCURY CHAIN; however there were still key systems we needed to know about, the key one being Satellite Communications. TCC 92 was initially taught the theory, from basics of how orbits work to the capabilities that we as a military organisation possess and finally moving on to recess and placement of assets.

Whilst technical proficiency is incredibly important, in terms of understanding both the equipment and the role that Royal Signals soldiers play in delivering capability, the course also focussed heavily on the non-trade specific facets of an officer's role.

This aspect of the course varied from understanding grading boards and promotions and how the finer detail and nuance of report writing fits into that process, all the way to delivery field training to phase two soldiers.

Starting with the basics, we brushed up on key skills and training objectives relevant to a junior officer. As officers inevitably get blamed for all navigational problems in the Army, Ex LUMI BAYONET saw the course checking their ability to identify map features correctly and in particular, how to mark maps accurately. It became clear very quickly that not using a ruler was the devil's work leading to untidy and un-officer like maps. With that lesson learnt and reinforced with reshows for some, we then touched on understanding ORBATs and how they should be interpreted and correctly marked.

With respect of understanding a soldier's progression through the ranks, time was invested by our course officer, **Capt Toby Rowe**, in detailing the ins and outs of promotion. Relevant to us was learning just how important well written reports were in reflecting what a soldier has done over 12 months, how they have conducted themselves and what potential they have demonstrated. For some of us who had had the opportunity to go on longer attachments and sit in on grading boards we had some understanding of this already. For others however this introduction was vital. Our understanding was tested and reinforced throughout the course with mock 1RO and 2RO notes having to be written to

prepare us for the privilege of reporting on our soldiers when we arrive at our future units.

Ex BLUNT BAYONET was a useful and joyous introductory exercise to JSP 101 which linked well with report writing and involved answering very specific questions on how documents should be drafted and written. There were not many laughs when it was noted by a member of the course that JSP 101 is meant to be a guide and not the be all and end all of military writing however.

It was on Ex SHARP BAYONET that TCC92 was tested in delivering a collection of battle lessons and confirmatory exercises to Phase 2 soldiers. It was a fantastic opportunity to emulate the highest standards of training that we had received whilst at Sandhurst and that image was very much in our minds, albeit quite something to live up to. Each budding troop commander had the chance to hone their ability to administrate the day itself and the organisational skills this entails. On top of this, it was a case of testing themselves and their leadership style in front of soldiers when teaching and assessing in the field. For the Phase 2 soldiers taking part, it was a chance to reinforce skills taught during Phase 1 training and assist them before they moved on to their respective units. There were 6 stands in total, each led by two troop commanders respectively covering patrolling, target indication, fire control orders, contact drills and extraction under fire. It was a rewarding and enjoyable day for all and confirmed the ability that we all knew we had, to improve, develop and mentor soldiers.

Throughout the course, a real effort was made to introduce G1 headaches to test our reactions. In particular, G1 dramas were snuck in to exercises such as Ex MERCURY CHAIN to balance the predominant focus on G3 and G6. It was a good reminder of not only the importance of our role in maintaining a duty of care but of the realistic nature of issues which may be encountered either in barracks or on operations and of course the impact that may have on delivering capability.

The culmination of the course both in terms of technical knowledge and general officer ability consisted of Ex MERCURY CHAIN followed by Ex SPEAK EASY, running one after the other, testing everything that has been taught on the course. MERCURY CHAIN was a ten day continuous scenario that involved the G1 – G9 aspects of running an Ops room. Operating in various and ever changing roles throughout the week, from Operations Officer to Troop Commander and even to roles such as Information Manager, TCC 92 embraced the challenge presented and found the whole experience to be a great, all be it simulated source of experience. A key focus was based on the creation and



2Lt Oli Franklin leading the charge



delivery of orders through tele-conferencing and the ability to adapt to a changing G3 picture whilst maintaining a resilient CNR and Trunk network at all times, whilst also managing G1 issues.

Finally the last assessment of many arrived, Ex SPEAK EASY, a series of five briefs on the key areas of the course. The stands were EW, ICS, CIW, CNR and Trunk networks. With twenty minutes to plan and twenty minutes to deliver the pressure is high and the day is intense. Despite this all members of TCC 92 passed every brief first time, allowing for celebrations the same evening.

It would be remiss of us not to thank all of the individuals and "Wings" that contributed to our learning and time on the course generally. Firstly to our OC, **Maj Budding**, our Course Officer **Capt Toby Rowe** and SSM **WO2 Fox** who as a group had such a large impact on our training and delivered it with the upmost professionalism but also ensured a fun learning environment. The same has to be said of all departments we were instructed by; CIW, CNR, EW, ICS, and Trunk Wings all have our thanks. On the social front, life in the Officers' Mess was made comfortable and memorable thanks to **Mr Keith Dawson** and his very able and hardworking staff.

There really is very little more to add apart from a good luck to the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess, who will inevitably be aiming to win back both, yes both, the Cricket and Rugby trophies which currently sit safely and content in the Officers' Mess after spending a long time 'AWOL'.
The Troop Commanders' Course – An international Student's



Gamma-Alpha-Psi

Perspective - by Lt Faisal Saeed, Kuwaiti Army

As international students we have gained many experiences, both military and civilian. During our time here, the most important lesson we've learnt is that of international goodwill. At a time when ISIS is threatening to disrupt the Middle East, the importance of our Western Allies is at its most prominent.

We have enjoyed our lessons because each new thing we have learnt helps us develop our own soldiers back in Kuwait. Whether it is actual British Military Doctrine or techniques British officers use, it is incredibly useful for us to observe all of this and use it for effect in our own country. I have already learnt many useful points to use with my soldiers when I return to Kuwait.

From these experiences we have learned a lot of things but some points stand out, like the British Army learning style and how one would conduct lectures. It is interesting to see modern learning techniques and all that comes with this, such as the use of technology and handouts. An incredibly useful tool which I will take back with me is the use of evidence based teaching as well as and the use of technology to deliver training. Too often in Kuwait, we expect our soldiers to read entire chapters of texts books and know the answers to the questions the next day. I have learnt from the British system that teaching with the aid of example questions develops soldiers' understanding not just their ability to regurgitate information.

In addition to the military benefits of the course, I have learnt a great many things about the social environment of the UK. As well as this I have become lifelong friends with many of my colleagues and will take a great many memories home with me to Kuwait. One of the greatest parts of my exchange to the UK is the relationships that I have developed with my British counterparts. I now have many people that I know and trust who I might work with in the future. These are individuals who I will have lived with for 6 months and who I consider to be family. This, for me, has been the most rewarding part of my exchange so far. In future, if we fight in conflicts together, I have friends who I can call upon and vice versa. Several of my British friends will remain friends with me for life.



Leaving A Gift in Your Will

Many of us will have worked hard to provide a good life for ourselves and for the families we will eventually leave behind. Providing for those we care about is instinctive and will have driven us to make sacrifices and dig in when things have gotten tough. We are, however, part of a wider family, a community of Signallers with whom we have much in common. Many individuals in this group will fall upon hard times and when they do then the RSBF will be there to pick them up. We know this for a fact because we have provided thousands of grants that have removed Signallers and their dependants from distress and despair.

A smaller serving Corps means less subscriptions but the demand for benevolence will likely stay constant. This is where you can help; please consider making the RSBF a gift in your will. Thank you.

For more info please email: rsbf@royalsignals.org



NEWS FROM FORMATIONS



1 SIGNAL BRIGADE



Exercise ARCADE FUSION 15

The time had come for the main training exercise of 2015 for both HQ ARRC, HQ 1 (UK) Sig Bde, 22 Sig Regt and ARRC Sp Bn as well as all the attached arms, including 1 Rifles, 14 Sig Regt (EW), 27 and 29 Regt RLC, 5 Regt RA, 4 MI Bn, 4 RMP and military working dogs to name a few. Ex ARCADE FUSION 15 was an ambitious exercise in the Baltic states (Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia) to test HQ ARRC deployed C2 concepts and act as a test bed for the Very High Readiness Task Force (VJTF). SOIs and TTPs had been refined in South Cerney on DEPLOYEX months earlier and both the Bde staff and the units were keen to deploy and get to work. The exercise was split into distinct phases; the deployment, in-load, build, execution, deconstruct and the redeployment.



The convoys start the long drive from Klapedia to the various exercise locations across the Baltic States



1 RIFLES manning the gate at Main HQ



Kit and equipment being off loaded at Klapedia Port

The deployment into the Baltics started in late September with the Roll on/Roll off (RORO) Ferry being loaded at Marchwood. Personnel from across the Bde and HQ ARRC Enabling Command deployed on 4 Oct 15 and were accommodated at a temporary camp at Kairai awaiting the arrival of the RORO at Klapedia to offload kit and equipment for the in-load phase.

a Staff Working Environment (SWE) for up to 250 users, welfare facilities, 1000 capacity DFAC, accommodation for 1000 personnel, gym, laundry service, force protection CP, QMs department, Postal and Courier service area and ISTAR assets. The speed at which Main was constructed was astounding.

After a series of convoys from Klapedia the build phase commenced with a huge amount of effort from ARRC SP Bn whose main effort was constructing Main HQ, located at Lielvarde Air Force Base, Latvia. Main was constructed in a phased, priority driven manner culminating in the erection of

The construction of locations was not limited to Main HQ; with exercise locations in Riga and Adazi both in Latvia, Vilnius and Gaizunai in Lithuania and Tallinn in Estonia the total build phase was extensive to say the least.



Day one



Day five



Day fourteen



Bde HQ arrived on 24 Oct 15 and assumed command in Theatre. Comd 1 (UK) Sig Bde, **Brig Nesmith**, was keen to see all the exercise locations as soon as possible and started her battlefield circulation across the Baltics, starting with a tour of Main HQ.



Brig Nesmith working in the kitchens at Main HQ during her battlefield circulation

The execution phase commenced in early Nov 15 when the HQ ARRC staff had arrived and the exercise scenario commenced. For much of the 1 (UK) Sig Bde Staff and unit personnel this was routine business as the Bde were not exercise players and were there as enablers to the exercise. The weather was surprisingly mild for November in Latvia and the staff were all accommodated, fed and provided with everything they needed to both exercise properly and enjoy their downtime at the welfare facilities, gym or call home to loved ones.

The exercise finished on 8 Nov 15 culminating in Distinguished Visitors Day where a large number of senior British officers, including the Chief of the General Staff and NATO senior officers were given a tour of Main HQ and a series of stands discussing the exercise.



CGS, COMARRC and Latvian Chief of Defence during a press conference on Ex ARRCAD FUSION 15

The redeployment phase saw all kit and equipment loaded onto the RORO at Riga port in early December after all personnel had collapsed to Riga, Latvia. The few remaining key enablers of 1 (UK) Sig Bde, HQ ARRC and ARRC Sp Bn recovered on 12 Dec 15 back to the UK awaiting arrival of the RORO at Marchwood to recover and reconstitute equipment held at readiness prior to some well-earned Christmas leave.

Overall Ex ARRCAD FUSION 15 was a great success, just over 600 1 (UK) Sig Bde force elements delivered what was

requested and more for both a testing and ambitious exercise deploying HQ ARRC into another NATO country. The host nation support we received was exceptional and without the cooperation of our hosts the exercise would not have been possible. The SWE was excellent and provided all the staff with a comfortable working environment, the communications provision and support provided by 22 Sig Regt was second to none and the real life support provided transformed what could have been an arduous experience into a home from home. Both ARRC Sp Bn and 22 Sig Regt were even able to participate in parades in both Latvia and Lithuania alongside fellow NATO troops.



Latvian Independence Parade in Riga

100 Marathons – ARRC Sp Bn

On 1 Dec 18 runners and 6 support staff set off from Lielvarde and embarked upon a gruelling journey which would see them take in 6 countries and run a distance of 4200km. Over 8 days the team was faced with long days, cold temperatures, aching joints, angry dogs, mechanical problems and much more. The route started in Latvia and went on to Kaunas, Lithuania's second city, before crossing over the Polish border and into Ruciane-Nida. From there the team carried on west across Poland to a city called Bydgoszcz and then onto Kostryzn on the Polish-German border. It was then two days running across Germany, taking in Berlin, Helmstedt, Werl and Paderborn, before the team arrived in Arnhem prior to the final days running to Brussels. On 9 Dec 15, the team ran the final 4 miles into Supreme Headquarters Allied Command Europe to take the total distance covered up to the 100 marathons and to be warmly received by the staff led by SACEUR, **General Breedlove**.

The preparation for the run was undertaken whilst the Bn were deployed on Ex ARRCAD FUSION which meant the majority of training was undertaken in either the dark or in the snow. This was squeezed in amongst the busy schedule of the exercise and the whole team were working hard to train for the run alongside their busy work schedules. All this preparation paid off during the run as everyone dealt well with the pressures of running long distances every single day.



Crossing the finishing line



The run was in support of two service charities; the Royal British Legion and Alabare – a charity local to the unit that provides housing and support to ex-service personnel who are at risk. There has been a great response to our

fundraising so far and the donations are still coming in. If you would like to donate to these charities then please visit www.justgiving.com/teams/100marathons. All donations will be gratefully received.



11 SIGNAL and WEST MIDLANDS BRIGADE



Exercise FLYING FALCON 15: 7 – 24 September 2015

FLYING FALCON was the Brigade's capstone exercise for 2015. Units from the Brigade were deployed across the UK during September with the centre of mass converging on Salisbury Plain. The exercise focussed on information and communication services being provided from detachment to regimental level. 21 Signal Regiment were the unit under the greatest focus for 7 Signal Group and the Brigade as they were being assessed against the Collective Training competencies as directed in the Army Readiness Order.

Concurrent to the main tactical exercise, 16 Signal Regiment led a number of capability development trials with industry partners. These trials included the evaluation of full-motion video through deployed Operational CIS and Tactical CIS along with the demonstration of WiFi within a deployed HQ. Integration trials of the Land Environment Air Picture Provision capability distribution over Falcon took place and 14 Sig Regt (EW) also provided assistance when electronic warfare serials were needed.

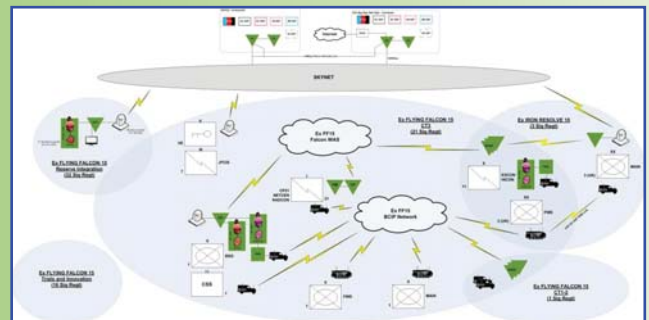
The Reserve units from 2 Signal Group deployed on their respective annual deployment exercises during the same period as Ex FLYING FALCON. This provided the opportunity for Regular and Reserve soldiers to deploy alongside each other. A well-established initiative of pairing between 2 and 32 Signal Regiments was again proven on the exercise with Reservist soldiers from 32 Signal Regiment manning Falcon detachments.

The Brigade units delivered and established a deployed Falcon network, supported through tactically aligned satellite ground terminals, with links through gateways into fixed infrastructure and the wider defence network. It also saw a number of Bowman networks established, not only for engineering, but also command and control from formation to sub-unit levels.

The manoeuvre of wheeled and armoured assets from across Salisbury Plain necessitated the regimental operations teams to conduct both detailed and ad-hoc planning and coordination in order to maintain a robust and resilient Falcon network.



Cpl Timothy Jones Crown Copyright



2nd Signal Group

2 Signal Group was formed in September 2013 under the then 11 Signal Brigade and has seen a significant reorganisation during the subsequent two years. It now has the Royal Signals four Reserve Regiments (32 Signal Regiment, 37 Signal Regiment, 39 Signal Regiment and 71 Yeomanry Signal Regiment) and a hybrid regiment (10 Signal Regiment) under command. Until November 2015 it also had 15 Signal Regiment (Information Systems) under command.

The Group's focus is UK Ops; the HQ is the standing Joint Force CIS (UK) (JFCIS(UK)). In its very brief history the Group has been called upon to support Defence's contribution to high profile events: the Glasgow Commonwealth Games, the NATO Summit in South Wales and the Invictus Games. It has also supported short notice deployments including provision of ICS to Defence personnel alleviating the impacts of flooding in Somerset in early 2014. It maintains constant readiness for several specific operations as well as general Military Aid to the Civil Authorities (MACA) tasks.

As well as UK Operations the Group: provides direct support to Army HQ through 243 Signal Squadron (10 Signal Regiment); holds the majority of Corps' Installation Technicians, in 241 and 81 Signal Squadrons (Regular and Reserve respectively), who are regularly and frequently tasked worldwide; supports specialist UK Operations and ceremonial occasions through 251 Signal Squadron; and has the Army's ECM(FP) specialists, 225 Signal Squadron. Each of



Cpl Timothy Jones Crown Copyright



the Reserve Regiments is also prepared to provide individual augmentation of soldiers to its paired Regular regiment.

Operation FORTIFY, the operation to grow the Army Reserve, has played large in the Group's Reserve regiments. In addition to standard recruiting activity, the Group has undertaken a number of initiatives to further increase its recruiting effort. Pairing with Regular regiments has been a huge success and will hopefully pay dividends for those Regular regiments as Operation INTENSIFY, Regular recruiting, gains momentum. Partnering with industry has also been explored; the established relationship with BT through 81 Signal Squadron continues to pay dividends and a shared training facility in Bicester for all Installation Technicians is the next step. Reserve regiments are now developing mutually beneficial relationships with HP, Vodafone, CISCO and Virgin Media. A number of additional sites are also being piloted to confirm suitability as permanent Royal Signals Reserve Centres.

In addition to its standing commitments the Group will be supporting work to improve the 'Reserve Offer' through broadened roles and improved equipment; this includes the introduction of Falcon training, an ECM(FP) role and development of a comprehensive Equipment Plan to improve support to UK Operations and maximise Reserve employability on contingency deployments.

7th Signal Group

Multi-Role Signal Regiments - The Plan for 2016

7 Signal Group form part of HQ 11 Signal & West Midlands Brigade and command the five multi-role signal regiments (MRSRs) and, since 30 November 2015, also commands 15 Signal Regiment (Information Support). This short note focuses on the MRSR tasks for 2016, highlighting some changes to the previously publicised FORM cycle.

The Army 2020 plan envisaged all five MRSRs moving through a formation readiness (FORM) cycle over a five year period which would encompass providing support to an armoured Infantry brigade for the brigade's three year cycle of Other Tasks, Training and High Readiness. This support to a brigade would be followed by a year in support of 3rd Division's Headquarters and subsequently a 'committed year' which at present covers eleven operations in 14 countries, including Operations TORAL, SHADER and providing signalers to numerous short term training missions across Africa. The re-investment in the 3rd Division has brought an increase in the quantity, complexity and readiness of the headquarters required to support this level of command and The Army Readiness Order has increased the deployability and readiness of lighter forces; these two key tasks have led 7 Signal Group to revise the MRSR FORM cycle. The Group's experience has shown that whilst possible, it now makes it exceptionally challenging to rotate the support at the divisional level. The aspiration to permanently align 3 Signal Regiment with the divisional task has now been formally endorsed by the Army and hence the Regiment have been retitled 3 (UK) Division Signal Regiment (3 DSR) and placed TACOM to GOC 3rd Division, remaining OPCOM to 11 Signal & West Midlands Brigade. 3 DSR will continue to develop, through a range of exercises, the technical capability of all the Division's headquarters from the armoured tactical HQ right through to the large Main HQ. This 4+1 FORM model sees the other four MRSRs focused at supporting brigade level activity, although that too has seen some change.

A number of activities have been ongoing to ensure that each MRSR was structured exactly the same so that they could operate in each stage of the FORM cycle, without having to re-equip or re-train. This requires each regiment to have an

armoured close support squadron, based on the Bulldog armoured vehicle to provide the manoeuvre HQs for both the Division and armoured infantry brigades. With 1 and 16 Signal Regiments now in Stafford, the Group now have four of the five regiments equipped in such a manner.

21 Signal Regiment will continue their support to both 1 Armoured Infantry Brigade and 104 Logistic Brigade in 2016. Having spent a considerable amount of time in Canada (BATUS) with 1 Armoured Infantry Brigade, the Regiment achieved Collective Training competency Level 3 (CT3) on Exercise FLYING FALCON in September and will be at readiness as part of the Lead Armoured Task Force from 1 January 2016. In addition, they are also at readiness to support the Vanguard Enabling Group and will deploy with them on exercise to Jordan in April 2016.

Having returned from Germany over the summer, 1 Signal Regiment have only recently commenced their exercising with 20 Armoured Infantry Brigade and it is with them that they will work throughout the next two years as they form the UK framework nation for the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (Land) 2017 (VJTF(L)17). This will involve exercises in the UK, Germany, Canada and Norway before a final validation exercise back in Germany in November 2016. The Regiment will assume high readiness on 1 January 2017.

16 Signal Regiment having also returned from Germany to Stafford this summer are coming to the end of their high readiness period and are in the process of taking over the Corps' main operational commitments including Operations TORAL, BLANCA and SHADER. They have also just deployed a troop to provide communications to the Falkland Islands. At the same time, 207 Signal Squadron will grow and develop their armoured skills in preparation for deploying with 12 Armoured Infantry Brigade to Canada in August 2016.

One of the key changes seen over the last 12 months has been the increasing utilisation of lighter forces, which didn't attract any dedicated R SIGNALS support in Army 2020. Specifically in 2016 the UK has committed to provide both the framework Bde HQ and the lead Battlegroup for the European Union Battlegroup high readiness force and also a Battlegroup and a small number of UK staff who will form part of the Spanish Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (Land) 16 (VJTF(L)16). To enable this we have decided to delay the armoured conversion of 2 Sig Regt to allow them to support these priority activities and at the same time develop our collective Corps understanding of how we might support a Light Forces Bde in the future. This will see soldiers from the Regt deploying to Kenya throughout the year in support of the Inf BG training and on small scale operations worldwide.

The MRSR plan for 2016 is below – it shows that despite the changes that will undoubtedly continue to shape the MRSR FORM cycle each Regt retains a very busy, challenging and varied role.

2016	ICS Sqn 1	ICS Sqn 2	ICS Sqn 3	Major Activities
21 Sig Regt (BR)	1 Arm'd Inf Bde LATF @R5	104 Log Bde VE Gp @R2/5	Trk & Satcom to enable LATF, VE Gp & CSS Ops @R2-5 Op TURION @R3	Ex SPECULOR Ex SHAMAL STORM Ex TRACTAILE AWA 16
1 Sig Regt (Trg)	20 Arm'd Inf Bde VJTF(L)17 Trg inc BATUS for Ex PRAIRE STORM 1&2	104 Log Bde VE Gp Trg	Trk & Satcom assets to enable VJTF(L) & CSS Gp Trg	Ex SPECULOR (2 nd trg audience) Ex PRAIRE STORM 1&2 Ex VENERABLE GAUNTLET Ex STADP/STCOBALT Ex TRIDENT/JUNCTURE Ex NOBLE LIDGER
16 Sig Regt (Committed)	12 Arm'd Inf Bde A1 X HQ Trg inc BATUS for Ex PRAIRE STORM 3&4	Op TORAL/Op BLANCA/ Op SHADER BFSAI roto 1	Op TORAL/Op BLANCA/ Op DARKLE Maintain Trk & Satcom skills	Ex PRAIRE STORM 3&4 Ex WESEX STORM 5/16
2 Sig Regt (Other Tasks)	4 Inf Bde @R EUBG, Q1/2 Trg, Q3/4 @R2	2 MERCIAN @R VJTF(L)16 @R2 11 Inf Bde Trg VLFG inc CSS Gp Trg Sp to BATUK	Light Forces & Defence Engagement Ops BFSAI roto 2	EUBG CABTS CERTEX Ex ANAKOBA Ex ASKARI STORMS Ex SENTINEL
3 (UK) Div Sig Regt (3XX)	3 (UK) Div Adv & Rear HQ @R2 101 Log Bde Bde HQ @R8	3 (UK) Div Main HQ, RRBs, Trk & Satcom	3 (UK) Div Armd Fwd HQ, Tac HQ and Armd RRBs @R8	Ex GRIFFIN /TRIKE Ex JOINT VENTURE

MRSR plan for 2016



NEWS FROM REGIMENTS



1st SIGNAL REGIMENT STAFFORD



CO Lt Col P R D Muir MBE
RSM WO1 (RSM) J Scott

A Thank You and Final Farewell from Herford



The final farewell

Dr. Peter Böhm, Director of Planning for Stadt Herford formally expressed the city's thanks and gratitude for the sterling work undertaken by **Maj Lawrence Kerr** at an informal ceremony outside Wentworth Barracks.

As Station Quarter Master and latterly Station Commander **Maj Kerr** played a pivotal role in assisting the German authorities prepare for the onerous challenge of Konversion, the task of converting military barracks to a civilian use. The influx of refugees into Germany added an extra layer of complexity and above all urgency to an already full programme. However, **Maj Kerr** ensured that every request for a visit from the various Host Nation ministries and authorities could take place and indeed, he always did his utmost to conduct the visits personally, often rescheduling his diary to do so.

Dr. Böhm presented **Maj Kerr** with a commendation signed by the Mayor of Herford, which merely underlined the importance placed on his advice and support. Dr Böhm wished him every success in his next posting which sees him move to Cyprus. As a token of appreciation and as a reminder of his time in Germany, Dr. Böhm also presented **Maj Kerr** with a bottle of the local brew but with a difference – both bottle and contents were manufactured from chocolate.

*Kindly submitted by Mr K. A. Crichton, Services Liaison Officer,
Princess Royal Barracks, Gutersloh*

Exercise PREMIER FOUNDATION



The Regimental Line-up

Ex PREMIER FOUNDATION was the first Regt CT2 exercise conducted in the UK since the rebasing from Herford and Sennelager to Stafford. Encompassing all elements of the Regt, it was a fast paced and testing period. The following personal accounts depict the story of a very wet and windy exercise...

200 Sig Sqn – by LCpl Thatcher

200 Sig Sqn started the PACEX at Beacon Barracks on 2 Nov and after 3 days, moved to Swynnerton Training Area in order to continue the PACEX in the field.



The PACEX begins

As the forward HQ, we established comms with the various CPs positioned in the Nesscliffe and Leek Training Areas. Additionally a number of the Bulldog crews were tasked to carry out comms reces in the local area. This was a great opportunity for us to function independently from the Sqn.

On 8 Nov we travelled to Nesscliffe Training Area to attend a Remembrance Sunday Service. As soon as the service started, the heavens opened and we were drenched in seconds.



Although we struggled to read from the hymn sheets as the pages were stuck together, the Padre made up for our shortfalls with his great singing voice. After the service, Sp Sqn provided us all with a curry to warm us up before we headed back to the coach.



The Rhino Field Kitchen

201 Sig Sqn - by Sig Houston

201 Sig Sqn were tasked with providing CIS and ICS comms to the various exercising elements of the Regt, ensuring that vital R2 (XBox controller batteries replen. Oh, and food, water, diesel etc) were delivered to exercising troops, in a timely manner. In the small hours of the Monday morning (0700 – we had a lie in!) 201 Sig Sqn deployed out to their respective locations.

Thus the exercise phase had begun and we were in for a long haul until the end. Those supporting A2 Echelon's location at Leek Training Area definitely didn't have to set up their comms in gale force winds and their cam nets weren't flying everywhere!! A mast definitely didn't snap, and there absolutely isn't a resulting video on YouTube called '5 Siggies, 1 Mast'. **Cpl Sutherland**, the Det Commander, gathered his crew to try to secure their mast but it was too late. When trying to tighten the guy ropes, disaster struck and the top section of the mast just about missed all of those involved.



CBRN and Intruders in the Camp

The fight for comms was not lost, however. We outsmarted the weather (waited for it to calm down) and erected our 12m masts. It was only when the actions of an over-excitable enemy force, whose modus operandi was to break in to our base at night and run around looking lost, that our progress was hindered. The enemy were regularly rounded up and arrested and we believe that **Sig 'crated' Harp** may still be in custody somewhere on Leek Training Area...



Fun with Falcon as always

211 Sig Sqn - by Sig Pitcher

211 Sig Sqn commenced the exercise phase at Nesscliffe Training Area with isolated elements deploying to Leek Training Area to provide the RRB function. With 'Misery Monday' being the official start of the exercise, **LCpl Fisher** and I were deployed to Leek Training Area to the windiest, wettest, most barren piece of training area! Our task was to support the CNR network by providing the RRB in the Leek area. We had also been told that we would be co-located with an RRB from 200 Sig Sqn, however on arrival they were nowhere to be found. Once the low cloud base and the driving rain (which had reduced visibility to 5 meters at best) had cleared, we discovered the lost detachment 20 meters to our left.



The darkness did not hamper the enemy's efforts

After 3 days, we returned to CP 211 to the sound of small arms fire. With the sentry returning fire to yet another shoot and scoot attack, our gigantic Troop Commander, **Lt Adam 'bulky' Flewitt**, bounded past shouting a war cry more suited to print in less salubrious publications. Apparently, CP 211 in our absence had been subject to an onslaught of Enemy/Civ Pop serials more akin to Stalingrad than a Royal Signals CT2 exercise. With the most recent G2 update hinting towards a possible enemy CBRN capability and the assessment that at least carrying our GSR's would be a good idea myself and **LCpl 'Hollywood Smile' Fisher** set about ensuring that our RRB was ready to deploy at a moments notice. Much to our delight we soon found ourselves once again co-located with 200 Signal Squadron who had ensured that this time, they had a good supply of Haribo and Starbursts.





CP1/211 after the storm

Freedom Friday was soon upon us and after an in-depth turn around, we were released back into civilisation. Overall, despite the weather, CBRN, locations, food, enemy and Civ Pop serials, it was a good exercise which gave all members of the Regt a chance to build upon and develop our detachment drills and routine.

200 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj N Pryce-Jones**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) D Jackson**

Exercise **STAFF GAUNTLET** - by LCpl Rowden



Preparation is key

Ex STAFF GAUNTLET saw 200 Sig Sqn PACEX and deploy again to Swynnerton Training Area, this time in support of 20 Armoured Infantry Brigade.

On arrival we quickly set up the HQ in one of the buildings on the training area, which once housed a WW2 munitions



The armour on the move, again

factory. It was again a very wet start to the exercise, but the copious amounts of water did not deter us.

Once the Brigade Staff Officers arrived on the Sunday their first task was to assist with a tear down and redeployment of the HQ. Most had no problem getting to grips with the tentage, however it seemed that the finer points of cabling and remoting had understandably never been explained to them, which allowed the SMEs from the Sqn to show them what to do.

The main obstacle of the week was the Bowman dismount kits cabling. It turns out that if you get a cable out in a wet and muddy field, it gets wet, muddy, and tangled in the field. Finding a solution did not take long; by dedicating a Man SV to housing the dismounts and then running the cables straight from it, we were able to overcome the issue. It was a very real fight for comms.

Regardless of the regular moves, poor weather, endless mud, cam cream, the process of moving and setting back up again had become significantly more slick and refined; in no small part thanks to the efforts and the surge in man power we received from the Brigade Staff.

201 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj P Andrews**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) R Horsburgh**

Exercise **STAFFORD TOWN STAG** - by Sig Omari



201 Sqn at Stafford Castle

Ex STAFFORD TOWN STAG saw 60 members of 201 Sig Sqn deploy on 27 Oct on a hazardous mission into unfamiliar and potentially dangerous territory... the town of Stafford! The objective of the day was to become acquainted with local



Marching through the Castle Grounds



businesses in the area in order to show what we as a group can offer to a community like Stafford.

The day began with a trip to the ruins of the 11th century Stafford Castle for a Sqn photograph. After a few choice snapshots, waiting for a clear shot and maybe a bit too long standing around in the morning chill, we redeployed to the next location, the Central Staffs Cross Fit Gym. On arrival at the Gym, we received an introduction to CrossFit and were divided into 3 groups for the session. Joined by the CO and the Adjutant, **Capt L Crane**, the team was ready to compete!



Lessons from a Professional Weightlifter

The first two groups had the hardest time with a gruelling workout. However, as always you get back what you put in. The third group had the easiest time and spent their first session learning how to stretch the body properly before and after a workout:



Stretching and relaxing...

Next stop in the day's activities was a visit to Slater's Brewery. Receiving a tour by one of the head brewers, we explored the family run brewery. Step by step we were guided through the beer making process from the ingredients and the complex brewing process to the rather delicious finished product: Our final destination for the day was Stafford Rangers FC. In



Sampling the end result

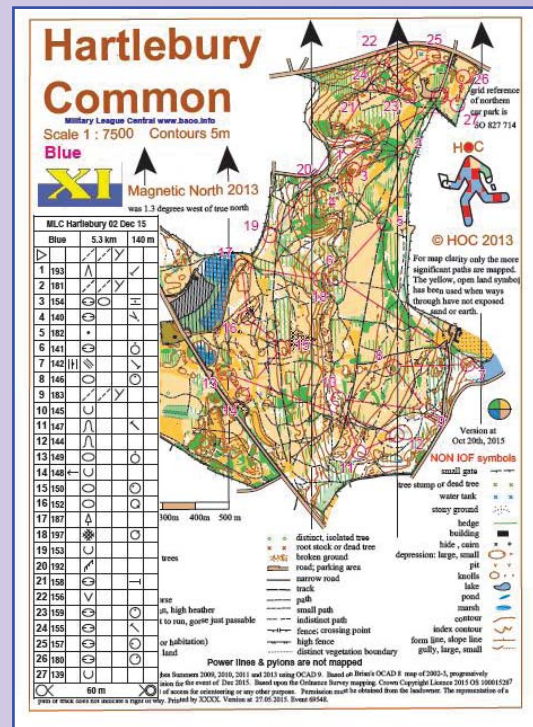
the club's function room after a delicious buffet, we prepared to send off one of our own to better and brighter things at his new unit. The memory of **WO2 (SSM) 'Kiwi' Scarcliff's** firm hand and clear guidance will live on within the Sqn and we now look forward to welcoming **WO2 (SSM) Horsburgh** into the 201 fold.

SUPPORT SQUADRON

OC **Maj J Dempsey**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) J Cordery**

Military League Central Orienteering Event 2

- by *LCpl Bagshaw*



The Hartlebury Common Event Map

On 2 Dec the Regimental Orienteering team consisting of the following 10 runners; **WO1 (Fofs(IS)) Brotherston**, **WO2 (SSM) Cordery**, **SSgt (SQMS) Reddy** (Team Captain), **Sgt Morris**, **Cpls Kerrigan** and **Bonsu**, **LCpls Bagshaw**, **Martin**, **Gubb** and **Collinge**, travelled to the sandy, hilly landscapes of Worcestershire to participate in the Military League Central Orienteering event.

Although there were a few novice nerves within the team, **Cpl Kerrigan** broke the ice by accidentally dropping his mobile phone into the Portaloo. Thankfully for him his phone is waterproof and was not ruined. Once we had all had a chuckle at his misfortune we proceeded to complete our registration, followed by a crash course on orienteering by our team captain, **SSgt Reddy**.

After registration was completed, we proceeded to the start line and all the competitors set off in their own categories at one-minute intervals. After lost trainers, brambles and gorse bushes the team successfully finished the course and even with **Cpl 'Pathfinder' Bonsu** taking a little longer than others, the team still managed to score a number of points from the event and as a result now sit at the top of the league.

A special mention must go out to **LCpl Martin** for winning the Novice category and a big thank you to our team captain.



Regimental Training Wing

Regt Trg Offr **WO2 M Vinten**

Op TEMPERER Training - by Sgt Durham

The Regimental Training Wing from 1 Signal Regiment organised a two week training package over the period 5 – 16 October 2015 to teach, train and qualify 151 soldiers from the Regiment in order for them to deploy on the UK based Operation TEMPERER.

This was a busy time for the Regiment and in particular the Regimental Training Wing. Having recently rebased from Herford to MoD Stafford, the Regiment was spreading itself rather thinly, sorting out offices and work areas, whilst concurrently deploying essential exercises. Trying to fit in this essential TEMPERER training was a challenge.

After a window had been found, it was left to the one-man Training Wing to “put the meat on the bones” and come up with a suitable MEL in order to ensure all critical mandated training was being covered.



Kingsbury Ranges

Support Squadron and 201 Signal Squadron deployed to Kingsbury Ranges to start their training under the watchful eye of **Cpl Stevie Barrett**. BCDT ran concurrently alongside the ranges with **LCpl Robinson** and **Cpl ‘Roger’ Moore** somehow training 151 soldiers in a 12x12 tent in just 4 days.

By the end of the package, 151 1 Signal Regiment soldiers were fully trained, fully briefed and eager to start. After a few more briefs and further information on teams, hub locations and actions on we were ready should the country need us.

Welfare

UWO **Capt M Nowosielski**
Welfare Sgt **Sgt A Morris**

The Mudstacle 10km Run, Weston Park - by Cpl Moore

On 1 Nov, 27 Officers and Soldiers braved the early morning and very frosty weather to take part in a 10km Mudstacle (similar to Tough Mudder) event at Weston Park, Staffordshire in order to raise money for the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund.

When we arrived there were several looks of “What have we let ourselves in for?” and “I would much rather be in bed!” but **SSgt Gaz ‘Rhino’ Williams** provided much morale and laughter as he had turned up to complete it in a full rhino suit.

After a happy snap and a quick warm-up we set off into the mist; fighting through cam nets, trudging through swamps,



One of the trainer eating mud swamps

clearing high walls, sliding down a hill, charging through an American Football team and losing trainers in waist high mud... **Cpl Dave ‘Spiderman’ Kerrigan!** We did all safely complete the course, not only with a Rhino running as part of our team, but also with one in bare feet. At the finish line, medals and t-shirts were presented to the whole team.



Cpl Hawley taking on the American Footballers

Thank you to **Sgt Mandy Morris** for organising this event and we look forward to the next crazy idea she has!



The Support Squadron Team – WO1 (ASM) ‘Deggers’ Dymond, Capt Bob Hoskins, Capt Mark ‘Ski’ Nowosielski, LCpl Lawler, Cpl Allmark, Cpl Sanders, SSgt ‘Rhino’ Williams, SSgt Bill Reddy





2nd SIGNAL REGIMENT YORK



CO **Lt Col I R Hargreaves**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) J B Stephenson**

As the 7 Signal Group lead for operational deployments during 2015, 2 Signal Regiment has been committed to a total of 21 operations with deployments as far east as Nepal and as far south as the Falkland Islands. Having supported anti-Ebola operations in Sierra Leone for a year the last member of the Regiment returned to UK in November marking the end of current deployment to this country for the Royal Signals. The majority of our responsibilities in Kabul and the Falkland Islands were handed over to 16 Signal Regiment in December.

Over the Christmas period we still had soldiers supporting training in Kenya and operations in Kabul, Baghdad, Jordan, Ukraine, Mali, East Africa and Nigeria. Additionally we had personnel at readiness for UK operations and engaged in humanitarian relief in Nepal. 2016 sees continued small deployments worldwide as well as a focus on support to the high readiness infantry brigades and Defence Engagement tasks.

In recognition of some of this work members of 2 Signal Regiment have earned the following awards over the last few months:

SSgt (YofS) Nick Piff led the team on Operation TORAL that won the 2015 Professional Engineering Institute's Churchill Medal.

LCpl Daniella Stewart was awarded the personal commendation of the Commanding General US Special Operations Command for her excellence on Operation SHADER.

SSgt Lee Molyneux received a Master of Signals Commendation for his work with York and Leeds OTC during Operation FORTIFY.

In addition **LCpl Andrew Brabbs** as the best Apprentice Electrician and **LCpl Holly Harris** as the best Apprentice Communications Engineer were shortlisted for the Corps Apprentice of Year Award. However it was **Sig Hugh Morris** as the best Communications Operator that won the overall best apprentice award. All three had deployed during 2015.

Royal Signals Institute Apprentice of the Year Awards - by Sig Hugh Morris

December 3rd saw six hopefuls nominated for the Royal Signals Institute apprentice of the year travel to Blandford Camp, all six of us were the competitors for their individual trade group, and one of who would be nominated as the overall winner. I was fortunate enough to be that person and would, as a result, receive a rather impressive falcon trophy, donated by BAE; however there has been a long road to getting to this point.

My apprenticeship has benefited me in many ways, not least academically; my written skill and mathematical ability have improved tenfold thanks to the workshops run by the NVQ staff. I have even achieved my ICT functional skill qualification; this has all helped to boost my confidence as an individual and as a tradesman, as the apprenticeship fits perfectly alongside my work, both day to day and on exercise.

I feel that my technical ability and thinking has been nurtured and I've been encouraged to grow throughout my apprenticeship, meaning that I will now be a more efficient and competent asset to my unit and in civilian life in the long term.

Overall my apprenticeship has been an encouraging and invaluable experience and has set me off on the right foot for a long career in the Royal Signals.

219 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj I Ahsan**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) N Grainger**

York Minster Development Day December 2015 - by LCpl Purdon

The staff of York Minster provided our Regiment with a full day tour free of charge in gratitude of the services we provide in times of need to the good people of York. The tour consisted of both historical facts of York Minster together with an interesting presentation of the 1944 Battle of Kohima, delivered by our very own Kohima museum staff here at 2 Signal Regiment. The day consisted of detailed walks around York Minster, guided by the volunteer staff who taught us a lot of historical facts on the architecture and sheer craftsmanship of various elements. None of us realised that the giant stain glass windows (the size of a tennis court) took just three years to construct, which by today's standards is very impressive.

During our tour the staff put together a fantastic presentation describing how the great fire of 1829, which burnt the Minster's roof, was in fact arson! Throughout the presentation there was an abundance of laughter as we had to investigate for ourselves what we thought happened. The staff were certainly accommodating to our needs, providing us with endless refreshments. Later in the afternoon, the presentation from our own Museum staff allowed us insight into actual artefacts from the battle and it was an interesting touch on our own historical significance.

Further into the day saw us being allowed up into the rafters to see up close the sheer scale of the ingenuity used to create the marvellous timber framed structure known as the Chapter House roof. The Chapter House roof is enveloped in heavy solid lead yet the smart engineering of the timber rafters put in place by craftsmen many years ago still proceeds to withhold such strength and character in supporting the roof. Should there ever be a fire, the fire service will go there first purely due to the reasons of both its historical and architectural importance in construction. We learned why it is called a Cathedral, in that it holds a Cathedra (Latin for chair). This chair holds place for the Bishop himself so although we refer to York Cathedral as the York Minster, we should never lose sight of this.

The York Minster staff, both volunteers and employed, work extremely hard throughout the year, preserving this wonderful building of worship, and it is indeed a building of wonder. The beauty and tranquil feeling as you first enter will captivate you! The whole day was a lovely reminder of how we are all members of a fantastic historical city, working together to preserve both pride and the things that we believe in.





The 'Minster' on a rare sunny day

2 Signal Regiment would like to give a warm and well deserved thank you to the York Minster staff for opening their doors to us. We walked in as strangers and came out as friends.

246 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj P Whillis**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Gopal Krishna Saru**

With most of the Squadron returned from overseas deployments and operations, the tempo at 246 Gurkha Signal Squadron has not diminished. At the time of writing we are in the process of taking over Falcon and Reacher vehicles, allowing us to follow the lead of 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron and 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron operating the latest trunk area communication systems. This new emphasis has provided clear direction and tasks for the members of the Squadron to focus their considerable efforts towards. Whilst operations continue to provide opportunities for members of the Squadron to deploy, the combination of communications exercises, military exercises and adventure training ensures that the Squadron remain highly deployable and motivated.

Op MARMAT 2 – by LCpl Ram Tamang

OP MARMAT 2 is the second phase of Humanitarian Aid and Relief Operation from the British Government to the Government of Nepal. The main mission of this Operation is to help Nepalese communities with infrastructure projects. A contingent from the Queen's Gurkha Signals deployed on this operation alongside the Queens Gurkha Engineers, assisting with the C3S and G4 support. This was always going to be a different and challenging experience.

The roles and responsibilities that come with C3S and G4 have always been a major part in the success of a mission. Thus,



Sig Buddha, Spr Shiv (QGE) and LCpl Rohan 'the G4 team'

the C3S team led by **Lt Paul Walker** had a very busy task ahead of them, making sure all the task sites were linked and connected at all times. Primarily mobile phones with locally purchased networks were used for communication. However, at times it was very challenging to contact troops on the construction tasks. Therefore it was decided that we should utilise sat phones and HF radios as the alternative means of communications. Besides the communication side, jobs also included tracking all vehicle movement to and from BGN to task sites in Jiri and Netrakali. Furthermore, we also kept a record of any accidents or incidents.

On the G4 front, **LCpl Rohan** and **Sig Buddha** had a very busy start with stores items. However, with support and guidance they were able to ensure good G4 support, taking on this onerous task and succeeding. Their responsibilities were accounting of items, issuing of items, general cleanliness of the store and understanding of items. Other additional jobs also included them being a vehicle commander and sending the resupply of stores and equipment used for engineering



Cpl Yam (kneeling) instructs Sig Buddha on HF antennas

and general purpose forward to either Jiri or Netrakali. The G4 and C3S in this operation has been a success, with constant effort and commitment applied by all those involved from top to bottom. This is indeed a different experience and the sort of challenge I have always wanted to face. It is very fulfilling to give something back to my country; it has



Ground enabling work at Jiri

reaffirmed the meaning of life.

Exercise KHUKURI THUNDER o/1 - by SSgt (YofS) Nick Piff

Following a busy year of operational commitments, including Op TORAL and BFSAL, 246 GSS has re-rolled into a Op CIS Squadron where we have been tasked with the responsibility of holding and maintaining the 2 Sig Regt's Falcon fleet. As a result we must attain CT2 by mid 2016 and in November we set about to achieve this by deploying on Ex KHUKRI





Cpl Santanu briefing the guys on Notice to Move times



Birds eye view of DTA

THUNDER 0/1.

After discussions with 219 Signal Squadron and previous members of FALTAT, it was decided that the first exercise we deployed on would be very much a low level one; learning a system alien to many of the Squadron members. We went back to basics. Special thanks go to **Sgt Jamie Falinski** (ES Tp, 2SR) whose vast amount of knowledge and experience with FALTAT was key as she delivered a week's on-camp training. This consisted of presentations and "hands on" session with the dismantled equipment that was set up in the Training Wing classrooms. This was aimed at those who had not received any previous Falcon experience or training. Concurrent to this we had the Detachment Commanders and their crews out and about annoying the local population by conducting driver training and convoy skills.

This in-barracks exercise prep was followed by a local deployment to Driffield Training Area (DTA). The aim of the deployment was for Troop Commanders (so just **Lt Owain Miller**, K Tp) to gain confidence in Det set-up skills, mast erection skills, cam and concealment, NTM times, crypto orders in the field and all lessons that had been received and conducted by Squadron members during the in-barracks prep. It was an excellent opportunity to learn and refresh their low level Det skills and get familiar with the equipment that is now theirs.


The exercise concluded on the evening of Thu 26 Nov with a low light mast and cam net set-up which all troops completed in a very respectable 45 minutes. Overall the exercise

achieved its aims and has re-focused the Sqn in line with its new tasks; after long periods on operations it's time we got back to basics and we now look forward to more of the same over the coming year.


Dance for Heroes' – Hull City Hall – by Cpl Prem Gurung

On 20 Nov 15 members of 246 GSS took part in the Dance for Heroes Charity event held at Hull City Hall. This event was masterminded by Tracy Milner, a mother of a soldier who was killed in a road traffic accident in May 14. Tracy was inspired by the vast amount of support that was provided to her by the Armed Forces and its associated charities. These helped her in her time of need and this inspired her to undertake charity events in order to give something back.

Members of 246 GSS were invited as guests to this magnificent occasion and were impressed by the support the Gurkhas were given by the local community. This was truly a day to be proud to be within the Brigade. As a gesture of thanks, **LCpl Nabin**, **LCpl Arjun**, **LCpl Sagar** and **Sig Vishwas** performed the legendary Khukuri dance. The thousand-plus crowd were astonished by the performance and stood in admiration, cheering the performers for their hard efforts. This led seamlessly into the main event which was led by Tracy which was a charity dance competition. The event raised a considerable amount for the charities that supported her, including ABF, Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes. We were all impressed at the level of support that was shown on this occasion; it made us proud to be serving in the Gurkhas and the British Army.



**3rd (UNITED KINGDOM)
DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT
BULFORD**



CO **Lt Col A J Smith**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) M Stowell**

This has been, yet again, an exceptionally busy term for the Regiment. The autumn exercise period has fixed much of the Regiment primarily in supporting 3 (UK) Div HQ, both on Salisbury plain and further afield. Each Squadron has been involved in some capacity, reflected in their articles.

Remembrance Sunday also featured heavily in the Regimental calendar this year, embraced with Squadrons venturing out into the community to foster closer links.

The winter sports and adventure training programme has also kicked in, and I expect to report success next time around.

The Regiment will continue to make time for the "fun" activities that complement the exercise periods.

Arguably "fun" includes the Kiwi Trophy – 14 miles across Salisbury plain with a range and small hill at the end. Guests commented how inspiring it was seeing the Regiment complete the event.

Finally, our name has changed to again include reference to the Division, highlighting the connection this Regiment has with the Division and the staff it supports. In practise this sees no change to the Regiments role and we continue to strive to success in everything we do at work and at play.



Kiwi Trophy 2015 – by 2Lt James Raynor

My first day at my first posting: I'm on a Full Time Reserves Contract for a year, fresh out of Sandhurst and ready to live up to the "one pip wonder" status the Royal Military Academy has bestowed on me. I'd met my troop, been to see the Mess Manager and had most of my new kit issued. The morning had gone pretty well until the end of the SSM's interview which went something like this:

"Kiwi Trophy sir?" – **WO2 Kerry Mills** charmingly asked me.

"Absolutely." – I replied.

Little did I know what I'd let myself in for.

The Kiwi Trophy is a gruelling 14 mile march and shoot set over Salisbury Plain. Running anti-clockwise through vehicle training areas, past livestock and across ridges, this course is the pinnacle of 3 (UK) Division Signal Regiment's year in terms of PT. Most people in the Regiment had been in build-up training for months and I had been sitting at my desk in my civvy job. I wasn't totally at a loss though; I've kept up my fitness from Sandhurst and I had the added incentives of a Troop to impress and a CO who values his fitness. I hoisted the requisite 12.5kg on my back, slung my rifle, and set off across the Wiltshire countryside.



Sig Alex Barr of Waterloo Troop, 202 Signal Squadron looking fresh early on – he didn't look so happy at the end

At mile nine I began to wish I'd questioned my Sergeant Major a little more, indeed I began to wish I was standing in my number 2's at the cemetery instead! Give me hours of ironing and bulling instead of this! Having said that I'd started fairly well – a game of cat and mouse with **Capt Josh Parsons** had kept my efforts high, and I was able to catch up with a few of the Signallers in my troop along the way. I let them believe I was walking next to them so I could offer morale, but actually I was in dire need of the rest myself! Eventually **Capt Parsons** had the better of me, and **Capt Andy Walczak** steamed past me at around mile eleven – but overall I was overtaking – things were going well... then the inevitable rain came.



LCpl Gareth Middlecoat of Alpha Troop, 228 Signal Squadron looking slightly worse for wear at the finish mark

The shoot was a wet affair indeed – with steam spiralling off me I'm surprised my spotter could see anything through the haze, but apparently I dropped three shots - not actually that bad compared with some in the unit! I set off up Kiwi Hill for the final push with **Sig Matt Mills** before crossing the line in a thoroughly respectable 2 hours 52 minutes – not bad for a Reservist with 1 week's experience in the Regiment. My dropped shots did cost me but I was still in below 3 hours and for that I was pretty proud of myself.



A shooter from the Royal Signals at mile thirteen. Cpl Patrick Mitchell of 206 Signal Squadron was keeping a keen spotters eye

The winners were as follows:

Junior Men:	LCpl Brunton
Junior Women:	Sig Smith
Senior Men:	Cpl Jowers
Senior Women:	LCpl Barton
Vet Men:	Capt Gard
Vet Women:	WO2 Mills
Super Vet:	WO2 Griffiths



The very best time for the event went to **Cpl Jowers** of 228 Sig Sqn who completed the course in an impressive time of 2 hours 26 minutes.

In the end (and to the delight of **Maj Rachel Limbrey**) 228 Sig Sqn were victorious, with my own 202 Sig Sqn coming in second, ahead of 206 Sig Sqn and Support Squadron respectively.

The run is just one part of the whole event taking place that week. It complements a service to commemorate the sacrifice of one hundred New Zealand servicemen who died in Tidworth and Fargo Military hospitals during World War Two. The Kiwi Trophy was presented 34 years ago by the New Zealand Armed Forces to honour their service and to recognise the historic links to Salisbury Plain – 3 (UK) Division Signal Regiment's home. Representatives from the unit attended the ceremony along with dignitaries from the New Zealand High Commission.

It was great to see the Regiment coming together, not only to honour links we have with New Zealand's Armed Forces, but also to push ourselves physically and be reminded of how crucial fitness is in the work we do. As for myself, I hope to return next year and represent 71 (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment – (my parent unit) and maybe I'll have the better of **Capt Parsons** too!



Lt Col AJ Smith, CO 3 (UK) Division Signal Regiment, leading a final charge up Kiwi Hill

202 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj Russ Moody**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Kerry Mills**

Exercise JOINT HORIZON

Friday the 13th is unlucky for some, for me it was the date of departure for Exercise JOINT HORIZON. Having arrived at unit only one week before this was quite a daunting task as I was going to be deploying with the Land Component Command Forward HQ, and working alongside approximately one hundred and fifty staff officers.

After arriving in the garages at 0800hrs on Friday 13 November and having my bags thrown into the back of a MAN SV, I was told to make my way to the parade square where a line up would begin. Having no idea what this meant I made my way to the square to discover a convoy of six trucks being loaded and having final checks being made. After the convoy flags were put into position and each vehicle was signed off as ready to go, I was directed to a nine-seater minibus to start my journey. The journey down to RAF St Mawgan was pretty uneventful and after approximately three hours we arrived, to find the front gate closed and the back

gate being used for entry. Following an airstrip to the far end I saw a massive hanger with the rest of our Squadron waiting inside for **SSgt Shackleton** and **Sgt Dixon** to give us our next set of orders.

Setting up the HQ took less time than I expected. The DRASH tents we were erecting were a massive difference to the 9x9s and 12x12s I was used to. We were split into night and day shift and told we had twenty-four-hours to establish the HQ. After unloading the SVs we set out the floor plan as previously planned, but the powers above realised that the hanger was bigger than anticipated and the HQ took up less room than previously thought. This resulted in us moving the entire floor plan about 3 inches to the left before knocking off for the nightshift to take over. After returning from the night off we found the HQ had been moved another 3 inches left and about 4 inches forward, as well as having most of the DRASH erected and ready to be filled with TV's, UADS, Projectors, Falcon phones and Magpie phones. At 1600hrs on Saturday the 14th we had the HQ established.



Land Component Command Forward HQ established

Working alongside **Sig Benny 'glassjaw' Halmshaw** and **LCpl Kieran 'Hamilton' Harris**, our main role was to work the service desk and deal with any problems big or small that the staff officers needed seeing to. This ranged from "can I have six notice boards in this cell", "We need a TV in our cell", "I've locked my account out again" to "My chair is too uncomfortable, can I have a jerry can with some cardboard strapped to the top instead", which was a personal favourite. After I had been shown the SOPs on service desk I was given the second job of manning and operating all the VTCs within the HQ. **Cpl Neil 'ESCAL IN' Shelly** showed me how to operate both the NATO secret and UK secret VTCs and the common problems that came with them. What he didn't tell me how to deal with was **Cpl Nick 'Ewok' Matthews** working alongside **Capt Box** powering down the voice servers on the Falcon and shutting down the entire HQ for 10 minutes.

After **Capt Parkinson** had returned to earth and **Lt Buttery** had calmed the Chief of Staff down, we had communications re-established and we returned to routine.

Ex JOINT HORIZON was an exercise designed to test the tactical knowledge and technical operation of multiple HQ components and their support staff. The exercise was fought over the Bafian region testing the interoperability and communication between the different HQ components. There was always a meeting, briefing or VTC happening alongside nine separate cells completing their own tasking. All the while the support staff were working, impexing material, printing signs or unlocking accounts. The exercise concluded on Sunday 6 December with the majority of the staff officers returning to their bases and leaving the tear down and packing of the HQ to the support staff. On the evening of Tuesday 8 December we arrived back in Bulford for turn around and then Christmas week!



206 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj Victoria Maddison**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Matthew Turner**

Remembrance Visit to Awbridge – by Sig Haynes

Remembrance Sunday is, of course, one of the biggest days in the British Armed Forces calendar where we honour the fallen soldiers that gave their lives in the line of duty. It is always on the closest Sunday to the Armistice, on the 11th of November, which is when the hostilities ended in 1918 during World War 1, “at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month”.

This year on 8 November 2015, 206 Signal Squadron made the short trip to the village of Awbridge. We attended on last year's Remembrance Day, so it felt appropriate to visit the same place again as we have already built the foundations of our relationship with the local community in the surrounding area and the village itself is the hometown of our OC Squadron, **Maj Victoria Maddison**.

When we arrived we were marched up to Awbridge Primary School where we were seated with many of the local community for a service from the Reverend. Prayers, readings about remembrance, the importance of this day and the "We Shall Remember Them" ode (from The Fallen) by Laurence Binyon were read, also a few hymns and of course, the National Anthem was sung.



206 Sig Sqn on parade in Awbridge

After the service was over we were then formed up outside the school to which we were then marched about 100 metres to the nearby memorial, set in the centre of the village itself. At this point we were stood at ease while another reading took place and **Sig Connor Burns** read out the names of the soldiers from the village which had served and fallen in both World Wars. As the readings came to an end and the wreaths had been laid, we were brought to attention by our Sergeant Major, a young girl from the village played 'Last Post', and then the 2-minute silence began. Afterward everyone recited the Ode of Remembrance, then the village thanked 206 Signal Squadron for our attendance on this important day.

After the most important part of the day was over, we then marched towards Awbridge village hall where we were greeted by our mascot, Arthur the Goat. We then went inside where there was food and drink available, put on by the chefs from Bulford Garrison. We were joined by several veterans who were accompanied by family members who joined us for a chat and to sample some the food, which we were more than happy to do. Soon after everyone had eaten and socialised for a while, we climbed aboard the coach to make our way back to Bulford.

All in all I think it was a great day and I speak on behalf of 206 Signal Squadron when I say we were more than happy to show our support for the village of Awbridge and those that have lost their lives, not only from the village but for all the soldiers who have fallen in the many wars since.

228 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj Rachel Limbrey**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Niel Cansfield**

WO2 (SSM) Riste has firmly arrived to the Sqn and has hit the ground running, literally, into Kiwi Trophy training. A warm welcome is also extended to **SSgt (YofS) Mathews**, the new Yeoman of Signals for 228, who arrived to us on completion of the Yeoman's course at RSS, Blandford. We say cheerio to **Sgt Ben Coleman**, Sqn Ops Sgt, and we hope he has a great attachment with 1st Bn, Royal Irish. **SSgt Drew McMahon** has taken over as B Tp's Tp SSGt, B Tp welcomes him with open arms.

Remembrance Service – by Sgt Smith



Marching to the memorial

228 Sig Sqn returned to Lyndhurst in the depths of the New Forest for Remembrance Sunday. The Squadron paraded at



WO2 (SSM) Riste setting the standard



the church where the vicar delivered a very moving and visual service. As we left the church the people of Lyndhurst thanked us for our attendance, which made the younger soldiers feel somewhat special in the public's eye.

After the service the Sqn and other formations (including cadets, veterans, Police and Fire Service etc.) marched through the streets towards the cenotaph where the public joined us in the laying of the wreaths. A short walk back to the working men's club saw us being treated to a curry lunch and a refreshing drink. Thank you to the town of Lyndhurst and the Lyndhurst working men's club for a warm welcome and a great remembrance service.

Driver Training – by Lt Lockwood

Now that 3 (UK) Division Signal Regiment has been re-aligned to the division there is a requirement to bolster the number of armoured vehicles in 228 Sig Sqn to become the first fully armoured signal squadron in half a decade. To that end there is a massive requirement to push armour courses to personnel within the unit. To fulfil this mammoth task a series of driver and commander courses have been laid on by the stricken number of DMIs in the Regiment. The first course to kick off was the drivers' course led by **LCpl Williams**; it was going exceptionally well until **Cpl Douglas** kindly stood in to run the batten down driving which led to an unfortunate argument between a bulldog and a tree. Impressively this caused less damage than a stray traffic cone that found its way into the running gear. The drivers' course did possess an impressive talent when it came to breaking vehicles, and by the time they had finished three were off the road. That being said all the drivers that completed the courses passed their driving exam, however, some wanted more time behind the yoke and voluntarily took a few extra attempts. The commanders' course in contrast was largely un-eventful and lasted slightly longer due to the shortage of vehicles.



Commanders course successfully navigating through trees

Kiwi Trophy Winners

The annual Kiwi Trophy march and shoot competition was won by 228 Sig Sqn with a staggering average time lead of 14mins, outshining the other Sqns by miles.

Notable contributions from 228 Sig Sqn were **Sig Walker**, Bravo Troop, **LCpl Elkington**, Alpha Troop and **Capt Walczak**, SHQ; all coming first for their respected departments.

228 Sig Sqn saw a third of its competitors complete the course under the 3hr mark, quite possibly due to the continuous efforts of the Sqn PTIs who have delivered an exceptional build up training package.

SUPPORT (THE SOMME) SQUADRON

OC **Maj Jim Watt**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Stu Welton**

This has been a very successful period for Support (The Somme) Squadron. The Squadron has been dominating the Commanding Officer's Sporting Competition with wins in boxing, hockey, athletics, volleyball and the prestigious Chain of Command Event; here we had a super veteran, veteran and a dwarf take first prize!

As ever the Squadron is at the centre of all Regimental activities, whether in a supporting role on exercise or as the lead for events such as this year's Kiwi Trophy. **SSgt (SQMS) Ghosh** organised the annual 14 mile march and shoot competition and the Squadron demonstrated how it should be done with first, **Cpl Jowers**, and second, **LCpl Brunton**, overall individual placing's and further success with **Capt Danny Gard** winning the Men's Veterans and **WO2 (RQMS) Griffiths** winning the Super Veteran category. The OC, **Maj Jim Watt**, come second.

Congratulations are due for the outstanding success that the Squadron had on the recent A1 board. The SSM, **WO2 Stu Welton**, was successful and has been selected to be the MTO for 1 Signal Regiment. **WO2 (RQMS) Griffiths** is posted as the RSM of 39 Signal Regiment and **WO2 (Fofs(IS)) Smith** was also successful.

Exercise SOMME STIRUP

– by Cpl Langton (Sys Tp) and Sig Kerby (MT)

On a typically wet Sunday morning Support Squadron deployed on EX SOMME STIRUP, a range week at Lydd and Hythe ranges. After a long drive, which included the sights of the roadworks on the M25, we arrived at the rather basic accommodation at Shorncliffe Camp. However, we all still managed to get settled in for the evening and ready for the range activities which were to begin the following morning.

Early Monday morning we were all up and ready to go after breakfast which turned out to be surprisingly good!! First thing on the agenda was to Group & Zero and to complete our ACMT; at this point it was obvious that people were not following the marksmanship principles as the whole process seemed to be taking a lifetime. However, after some persuasive (encouraging) words from **SSgt McCrum** and the mention of late nights our memories were jogged sufficiently so that everyone eventually met the required standards on both of the ranges. Later in the day we moved onto the LNV (Limited Night Vision) shoot and luckily, because of the short days this time of year, we did not have to wait long for the light to fade. There were many of us who were convinced that someone else may have been assisting them to pass! After a long day we were transported back to camp and by 2300hrs everyone was fast asleep.

Tuesday was a completely different day, dry and bright making a change to the usual dour exercise weather. The day's training was going to be concentrating on firing from different types of cover and different fire positions and ranges. This was something that many of us had never done before and at first many found it quite difficult to find comfortable positions to engage the targets. Trying to remember the marksmanship principles and keep muzzle clearance on some of the cover was difficult, especially the dome shaped roof which was found to be slippery and awkward to keep rifles stable on. The SQMS and exercise OIC, **SSgt Ghosh**, ably assisted with **Sgt Mitchell** and **SSgt Bate** debriefed all of us after the different shoots and we took on board all the advice given to us in preparation for the following day's activities.



The IBSR (Individual Battle Skill Range) was booked for Wednesday and yet again this was something that many of us had never attempted before. Advancing towards Figure 11 targets that popped up randomly as we went down the range was brilliant. At first we found it quite disturbing to know that there was someone behind us with a loaded weapon, however the safety staff kept a tight control on everything and we all soon gained confidence and moved up and down the range more proficiently. The need for safety staff became apparent when one of the chefs on the exercise, **LCpl Rideout** - obviously filled with adrenaline - decided to take everyone by surprise and break cover and take on the enemy at close quarters on his own. Luckily **SSgt Bate** and **Sgt Mitchell** were on hand to stop any disasters and to calm down **LCpl Rideout's** killer instincts. It was remarked that if he had a knife he may have caused more damage; he isn't just a chef...

Thursday we completed the same IBSR range; this time there was a vehicle anti-ambush drills element incorporated with

SSgt McCrum conducting the driving. The vehicle was driven down the range and came to a stop simulating it had been disabled by an enemy position - we then had to get out of the vehicle and engage the enemy and start to withdraw to safe cover. We all really enjoyed this as the majority of us had never done anything like it previously. It was here that **Sig 'sharpshooter' Smart** thought he was the greatest on the range until the new sheriff in town, **Sig 'Rambo' Sullivan**, showed how it was really done.

To finish the week, we all had a relaxing evening aiming at different targets, skittles, and had a few beers courtesy of OC Support.

In short this was defiantly a worthwhile exercise, we all learnt a lot from the DS and enjoyed their relaxed attitudes and nearly to a man we agreed that we are looking forward to next year's range camp.



SSgt Clough closely monitoring the fire position on the IBSR



10th SIGNAL REGIMENT CORSHAM



CO **Lt Col B J Fitch OBE**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) J Attwell**

225 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj O Finnie**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) G Moffat**

RSA Weekend, 233 Sig Sqn Visit – by Capt Archambeau

On 3 of October 2015, 225 Signal Squadron (ECM(FP)) and 38 Brigade Signal Troop had the pleasure of hosting 43 veterans of 233 Signal Squadron who used to be based within Thiepval Barracks, Northern Ireland between 1970 – 1980.

On the morning of the reunion all the veterans congregated within the Sergeants' Mess for a fantastic breakfast spread

and to reunite with old friends (some with a sore head having arrived the night before and pulling up sand bags in the bar). Not long after their stomachs were full they were welcomed to Thiepval Barracks by **Maj Finnie** before the tour commenced. Split into two groups it was hard work keeping up with the veterans who were fascinated to see all of the changes that had been made since their occupation of the barracks to present day.

Throughout the tour they received briefs on the current roles of both 225 Signal Squadron (ECM(FP)) and 38 Brigade Signal Troop. Following on from this, they commenced a walk around tour of camp where they were able to visit old haunts such as their old accommodation block, where rooms now house only 2 people as opposed to 12 – too much comment on how different things were “back in their day”! They then moved on to “the strip” which used to host various different



bars and take aways, which has sadly been converted into garages for 2 Royal Irish and various other buildings.

The final stop was the SLAM Block – where the whispers of “it was different back in our day” became loud protests! “Single man rooms?!” , “Ensuite?!” and “No more block jobs?!” – “It was different back in our day!” However they were positively enthused to see that the Army was looking after their soldiers to such a high standard.

That concluded the tour around camp, which gave people an hour to rest before a small presentation by both the veterans and current members of 233 Signal Squadron which rolled into England’s Rugby World cup defeat with a fantastic curry buffet laid out by the Sergeants’ Mess chefs and waiting staff.

The veterans put on a fantastic show and it was excellent to meet so many people who had shared the same troop lines and accommodation as us 35 years ago!



Exercise KESWICK RUNNER – by LCpl Brewster

On day 1 of the exercise we arrived at our accommodation and had a few hours to sort out any last minute admin. This was followed by an arrivals brief which informed participants on how the week was going to pan out, which made us all realise that this was going to be a long and strenuous week.

After breakfast on Monday all participants were revved up and looking forward to a nice easy start to the week, but instead we kicked off with a 5km best effort run, thus giving the DS an idea of our running ability and allowing them to split us down into 5 groups. Having finished the run we were awarded with a short amount of time to stretch off, shower and get fed before going down to the park for a “few exercises”. It didn’t take long to realise that this was actually a pain workshop for our glutes!

Eventually the DS decided they had inflicted enough pain on our glutes, and allowed the staff to take us on a 7 mile “shake out run”, although it didn’t end up being quite as chilled out as we had hoped, thanks to the hilly nature of Cumbria. We finished the day with a relaxation style lesson, which ended in an orchestra of snoring.

After a good night’s sleep and waking up with stiff legs, we took on a pyramid run on the Tuesday morning. We started running laps at a best effort pace, before eventually slowing to a jog for a minute or so to rest in-between. When the interval session finally came to an end we were all feeling stiff and sore. We were given an opportunity to shake off properly by means of orienteering, which may not be everybody’s cup of tea, but all runners appreciated it, as this allowed us to shake out our legs at our own pace. In the evening we were given theory lessons on correct running technique and were also informed that a couple of members of the staff would be giving free sports massages, which had us all cheering with something to look forward to. We had an 11 mile run on Wednesday around a lake, which despite being exhausting had a very nice view, which made the pain bearable. After lunch we then had a series of lessons ranging from correct running form to an introduction to cross fit.

Thursday was upon us and that meant race day, with a 7 mile course for men and a 5 mile course for women. Both courses had a few cheeky hills and all competitors gave it their all in one of the last remaining obstacles of a very tiring week. Once the race was over and stretching was completed, the rest of the day was ours to do with as we wished - most people chose the option of “Egyptian” PT, as we were forbidden from going to any pubs until the knock off brief at 1900. After that everybody went out in force to the local pubs and had a well-earned drink.

Friday consisted of an intro into fell running to the top of Latrigg, where we had a quick photo. On our return, we had a tidy up back at the accommodation, followed by the final knockoff brief and award ceremony. Once these were finished everybody was then free to leave and head home for a well-earned rest.



Exercise SHAMROCK MAYNE – by LCpl Patch

On Saturday 24 September seven Soldiers and one Officer from 10 Signal Regiment participated in the arduous military skills patrol competition, SHAMROCK MAYNE, an annual event organised and hosted by 2 RIFLES in Northern Ireland.

LCpls Billy Jervis, Matthew Roscoe, Jordan Croad, Marc Tunstall, Jake Morris and Jacob Patch from 225 ECM (FP) Signal Squadron and **Lt Henry Thomson** from 251 Signal Squadron set off on the competition on the Magilligan



Training Area in Northern Ireland at 0530hrs on Friday 24 September.

The first stand was orders delivery, including model construction by the patrol whilst the commander prepped his orders. The team then patrolled for several hours to the objective - a close target reconnaissance task. On completion of the CTR, the team moved onto a battlefield casualty scenario.

Until this point, the team had been scoring highly. The event was both physically and mentally challenging; the terrain covered varied and difficult. The team was unfortunate to have been struck with some injuries which sadly resulted in a withdrawal from the exercise. An unfortunate decision, but a wise one on the grounds of safety.

This event was to be a buildup training exercise for the military skills competition Cambrian Patrol that the team took part in in October and provided an all-important Royal Signals presence in brigade level events.



Members of 225 (ECM(FP)) Signal Squadron SHAMROCK MAYNE team conduct preparation for river crossing training

241 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj K Edkins**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) MC Beckett**

Exercise MERCURY SCORPION – by 2Lt Nathaniel Ayling

Ex MERCURY SCORPION was a CT2 level exercise run by 241 Signal Squadron for all available Royal Signals Installation Technicians (Inst Techs) from 11 Signal and West Midlands Brigade. Running 5 – 16 Oct 15, the aim was to develop and enhance the capabilities of the Inst Tech trade group within the Regt and Bde, and to enable Class 3 tradesman progression towards completion of their Class 2 workbook. The exercise also broadened the participants' knowledge of wider Corps taskings with the inclusion of Communications Planning Office (CPO) and Reservist briefs. The exercise was conducted in two phases; the first sought to revise the participants basic soldiering and trade skills in a classroom based learning environment, culminating in the second phase where participants deployed simulating a temporary field installation for up to 150 users.

Phase 1 started with lessons ranging from the basic principles of telephony, terminating Cu panels to warning alarms and chemical safety. The safety of the classroom gave those less experienced the opportunity to practise and refresh previously taught skills and others to exercise their instructional and leadership abilities. The week finished with

fieldcraft lessons and orders to prepare everyone for the insertion in to the AOR where a potential site had been identified for the HQ initial set up.

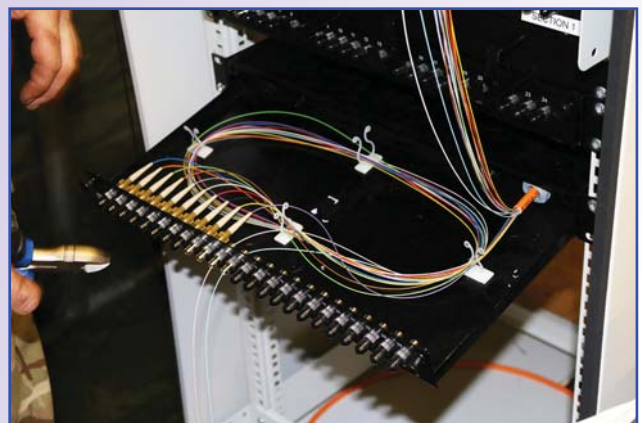
After a nervous sleep we arrived at 241 Sqn lines on a cold Saturday morning for a thorough kit check prior to our insertion. After a tough but victorious fire fight with the OPFOR, the 2 sections under command of **Cpl Georgiou** and **Cpl Dougherty** moved into the designated area for the temporary HQ and began the build phase by erecting tents, something the attached Inst Techs did with impressive ease.



This phase of the exercise was split down into three separate fits, to include the different build capabilities that are utilised on deployments. To ensure that all participants were fully competent at each type of fit the sections rotated every 48 hours.

Initially 1 Section began the daunting task of completing a full internal HQ fit, designed to replicate a live environment of 150 staff users. Installing the fit, **LCpl Jase 'One Man Army' Buley** was lucky to have the wonder team of **LCpl Haughton** and **LCpl Mitchem** running the man management within the tent, and **Sig Mitchell** overseeing the control of the build itself. **2Lt Ayling** was included within the team so he could learn the fundamentals of being a Class 3 Inst Tech. 2 Section focused on a fibre optic installation, which first required the fitting of all trunking. Their fit involved the population of two cabinets with fixed infrastructure in order to create test points for fault finding to prove network connectivity. This testing also helped to demonstrate the benefits of using the lighter, more efficient fibre optic over a copper fit. 3 Section were tasked with installing a structured wiring network as well as installing a large trunk cable connecting their replicated Headquarters tent to the NER.

What could have been simple fits for the experienced Sect Comds became more difficult with the constant probing “shoot and scoots” from the OPFOR and IDF that more often



than not landed around the HQ area. "Stand to" was frequently called, immediately followed by clearance patrols. As the exercise progressed everyone's skills and drills improved dramatically and we were able to deal with any threat that was posed to us in an effective and proficient manner.

Unfortunately on the third day the dress state was ramped up, with the distant sound of mess tins clanging together we realised we were under chemical attack. During the attack 3 section's external cables were damaged and members from each section ventured outside in 4 Romeo to conduct the Battle Damage Repair (BDR) training they had received the week before and restore communications to the notional 150 staff users. BDR is challenging at the best of times as it involves finding pairs of cables and crimping them back together in a very precise manner using specialised equipment which is not easy in a respirator and thick CBRN gloves.



Once the builds were finished and tested, a visit from the Brigade Commander rounded off an eventful 2 weeks. All exercising troops were invited to a BBQ social and were able to reflect on a challenging and rewarding exercise. Ex MERCURY SCORPION was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who took part. All personnel have increased their skills and knowledge, not only in trade but military training in the field.

243 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj E Ballard**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) P Brown**

Exercise TIGER DESCENT - by LCpl Among

On 3 October 2015, members of 243 Sig Sqn travelled to Dalbeattie, Scotland to take part in a highly anticipated mountain biking adventurous training (AT) exercise.

After a long drive from Andover we reached our destination; Thistle Lodge, Sandy Hills. It was immediately apparent that as AT accommodation goes, this was five star. After exploring the premises and surrounding areas we all met up with the lead instructor, **SSgt Darlington**, who then introduced us to the other participants. **SSgt Darlington** concluded the day by briefing in detail a look forward to the evolutions planned for the week.



Thistle Lodges at Sandy Hill Park

Day 1 - The AT package began with a drive to Newcastleton Mountain Bike (MTB) Trail Centre which forms part of the 7 Stanes Mountain Bike Trails. Newcastleton proved to be arduous and consisted of mainly uphill riding followed by some less technical routes. The trail gave us a chance to blow out the cobwebs under the careful eye of **SSgt Darlington**. The day ended with us having notched up a satisfying total distance of more than 16 miles.

Day 2 - Mabie MTB Trail Centre. We were joined by **Cpl Christian** and **Sig Turton** and the day started with **SSgt Darlington** breaking his bike chain before the day had even got underway. To add to this the Scottish weather didn't let us down with a good heavy down pour. Putting the broken chain and heavy rain behind us we focused on our bike skills; mainly control and positioning when riding over obstacles.

Our skills from day two had been assessed at a level that enabled us to up the ante.

Day 3 - Ae MTB Trail. Ae did not fail to live up to its reputation; it was a highly technical route and indeed the best we had ridden so far. The terrain was challenging and took us all outside of our comfort zones. Another excellent trail.

Day 4 - Killoughtree Trail Centre was the next trail we would ride. **Cpl Stewart** and **LCpl Gomes** had arrived the previous evening and they were able to join us for the next couple of days. This gave the MTB Instructors further opportunity to utilise their instructional techniques. Killoughtree boasted narrow, twisting trails with over the half the route being single track with the occasional small rock drop. This trail was a good trail for riders to build on their skills and grow in confidence.

Day 5 - The final day. This involved a short drive to Dalbeattie which offered us varying trail choices from moderate to technical. Dalbeattie has no skills area, but offers good taster loops to trial before attempting the main trail. The trail had plenty of exciting sections, all suitably named ("Spooky Wood 2", "Rock, Don't Roll" and the "Road to Nowhere") which added to the excitement. The weather was brilliant and an excellent days riding was had.





A highlight of the AT was our Michelin Star Chef, **Cpl Webster**, whose cooking skills would easily rival that of Gordon Ramsey. Without his high standard of cooking and quality packed lunches I'm sure we would of all starved - well maybe only a little bit.

Army Arts Society November 2015 – by SSgt Salter

At the start of November **SSgt Richie Salter** and **Cpl 'Dime' Barr** assisted the Army Arts Society with the organisation of its annual exhibition in the John Creasey museum, Salisbury.

The Army Arts Society was founded in the 1920s by two retired officers in London. It was well established in the 1970's, as the Army Arts and Crafts Society, holding exhibitions in London, Catterick and Germany as well as Northern Ireland. After the Falklands War in 1982 the Society was given a boost by Linda Kitson when she was appointed official war artist, and the Society has flourished in the Warminster and Salisbury area since that time.



"The Meaning of Life", Bronze, The National Army Museum collection

The society's main objective is to encourage and support artists and craftspeople whether serving, retired or dependant as well as support art mentoring for injured and ill servicemen and women. The event itself was a success, with the Chief of the General Staff in attendance and Royal Academician Emma Stibbon judging the exhibition. After an entertaining evening she went on to award **SSgt Salter** the AAS First Prize for a Bronze Sculpture which also won the National Army Museum award 2015.

SSgt Salter felt very humbled to have his work displayed on the front cover of Soldier magazine, The Remembrance Journal and The British Forces Philatelic Society commemorative stamp cover.

251 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj G Darke**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) N Cansfield**

After a busy and productive few months for members of the Sqn, we say a fond farewell and best wishes to outgoing Sergeant Major **WO2 (SSM) M Cope** who is off to pastures new at 1 Sig Regt as their RQMS, with his replacement, **WO2 (SSM) N Cansfield**, returning to 251 Sig Sqn after a few years away in the wilderness at 3 Sig Regt. He is welcomed back for his second tour at the Sqn and is already using his prior experiences to hit the ground running.

Winter Ceremonial Season – by Cpl McCarthy

The Winter Ceremonial Season started with the State Visit of the Peoples' Republic of China followed by an evening banquet. This was a very high profile event with lots of media coverage. There were a large contingent of supporters/ protestors lining the route but I'm pleased to say everything went smoothly with 251 Signal Squadron performing to a high standard as usual.

This visit was followed by the National Act of Remembrance, but as not many people know about it, this article will focus on the Lord Mayor's Show.

The Lord Mayor of London's Show takes place the Saturday after the new Lord Mayor is sworn in. The show consists of a procession led by the current incumbent (Lord Mountevans) from the Guildhall to the Royal Courts of Justice in the City of Westminster, where he swears allegiance to the Crown. The Lord Mayor travels in the City of London State Coach which is a lavish carriage built in 1757. This year he was accompanied by the Lord Mayor of Dublin who travelled in his own equally lavish Dublin State Coach. The show combines traditional pageantry with a party atmosphere; there are many participants some of which include the Livery companies, military bands, members of the Armed Forces, charities and schools.

The show is complicated with many moving parts and could not be run without the support of the Armed forces, who provide marshals and support staff. 251 Signal Squadron's main effort is to provide G6 support and situational awareness to the show. This consists of a wide variety of roles and responsibilities from Ops room staff to marshal operators. It's an early start on the morning of the show with the Squadron contingent having to be at the Haberdashers Guild by 0600. On the plus side the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers provide all the servicemen taking part with an excellent cooked breakfast to set them up for the day!

As the Guildhall marshal's operator it was my responsibility to ensure that the start of the procession went off and stayed in the correct order. The bulk of the role consisted in stopping the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment on their markers.



This required some forward planning as it is clearly apparent that unlike the floats and buses, horses do not have brakes. There were a number of the marshal operators along the route who were tasked with the smooth running of the parade through passage of information. The recovery vehicle support performed by **Sig McKeague** was a key role, as a broken vehicle could have ground the parade to a halt. The parade concluded at the Royal Courts of Justice where the last of the Sqn Operators, **SSgt Wood**, was positioned by Mansion House. **SSgt Wood** kept the ops room informed with the status of the parade making sure that all participants had passed his location.

Overall the day went well with the procession moving off in the right order at the right time. The Sqn troops were immaculately turned out as ever and even the rain couldn't dampen the mood or dull the shine of the show.



Lord Mayor of London's Show Team, Worshipful Company of Haberdashers

The Winter ceremonial season will come to a close on December 8th with the Diplomatic Reception at Buckingham Palace, where members of the Sqn will be providing support to the members of the palace household and Ambassadorial staff.

Exercise BRIT IMPERIUM – by Sig Benson

On 23 Nov 15 a chosen few brave souls from 251 Signal Squadron deployed on EX BRITANNIA IMPERIUM to a very cold and wet Aldershot training area. The exercise was a week-long training package designed to put junior NCOs through their paces with regards to command and leadership, which had been primarily put together by 1 Troop OC **Lt Thompson** and **Sgt Sharpe** from the Training Wing. The week's objectives included patrolling, close target reconnaissance, harbour routine, section attacks, combat estimate and orders delivery, model building, and standing observation posts. Rather a lot for so few of us!

Despite the cold of the first night everybody settled into the exercise with ease, apart from maybe **LCpl 'Wet' Adams** whose basha making skills left him a bit soggy. Every morning **Cpl McCarthy** was up well before first light receiving, digesting, and then delivering the orders to his platoon. Every day a different person had the job of making a model to assist the delivery of orders; **LCpl Richie Palmer** and **LCpl Luke Roberts** may have gone a little "Blue Peter" in their approach, but it made for an excellent display anyway.

Tuesday and Wednesday had the sections attacking various positions, culminating in an assault which saw the sections seizing ground up a particularly long and steep hill that left everybody blowing out. Thursday's main priority was to gain G2 on the enemy forces, who looked remarkably familiar, and this was gained from a standing OP which was interesting as this is not something that the Squadron normally practices.

The final challenge of EX BRIT IMPERIUM was an ambush of the enemy forces that turned into a gruelling casualty extraction back to the COY HQ via Caesar's Camp.

The Ex was a good refresher of some basic military skill and also gave a chance for the soldiers to hone some vital skills that will be required for any coming PNCO/CLM courses.

Winter Families Function – by Cpl Bright

It was a mild winter's night on Friday 27 November 2015 when we held 251 Signal Squadron's end of year winter function... in November. The planning phase went relatively smooth with near enough every member of the committee being dragged left, right and centre on every task other than the Christmas function. As a Squadron everyone was pulled in by me to help in some way or another, so a massive thank you goes to everyone that helped.

Getting closer to the event, as in typical Army fashion, the Squadron had planned the annual battle camp to finish on the Friday. As you can imagine the lads were ecstatic to be out in the field in November having very little sleep during the wet and cold week. However, the zest for Queen and country and the warming desires of what lay ahead during the Christmas function kept them going. After the Friday morning final attack, journey back to camp, kit turn around, personal admin and an afternoon nap, when I welcomed everyone entering I was greeted with smiling and full of life faces.

After arrival drinks and a welcome brief the entertainment was unleashed. Ed the Magician (not real name) started his table walk around, unfortunately heading to the worst possible table first with the 1 Troop lads who had no time for magic. The usual level of old-head banter from **Cpl Chris 'Boots' Young** left Ed the Magician in a tender state, although moving on to more welcoming and friendly tables he settled into his routine and performed a fantastic show for all. You learn something new every day as they say; and **Sig Rachel Livermore** absolutely loves magic, with a mind-blown expression for the whole show.

The DJ performed all evening and did well to avoid the classic Christmassy songs that surround at these times. Next up was the photo booth; a brilliant addition to the party used and enjoyed by all allowing everyone to take home a printed copy of their photos. I don't think many were aware that all the pictures will be sent to me via USB, which in turn will be circulated to the Squadron. Embarrassment is an understatement, with future editions of *The Wire* primed for the most special ones that deserve wider circulation.

The raffle went brilliantly with prizes ranging from a River Thames cruise and bubbly to supercar race blast, afternoon tea for two to a London Eye experience. The top prize was a helicopter flying lesson, won by **LCpl Liam 'scared of heights' Ryan**. It was excellent to be involved in managing the event given its success, and I would advise all the Juniors to volunteer for similar events in their Squadrons next year!

81 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj M Arscott**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Blatcher**

854 Troop Tasking - Cyprus 24 Oct – 7 Nov 15 *– by LCpl Thiebault*

A Regular/Reserve hybrid team of 81 and 241 Signal Squadrons deployed to Cyprus on 24 Oct, meeting at Brize Norton for our initial meeting was a chance to break the ice with a trip to the local pub and resulting in a much better understanding of both parties.



Having been to Cyprus as a civilian I had already sampled its warm sandy beaches, so I was looking forward to working in the sunshine as the UK was turning grey and cold. This idea of a warm dry Cyprus was however tarnished by news reports of flooding.

Having arrived we travelled about two hours from RAF Akrotiri to Ayios Nikolaos where we were given a warm welcome by the FofS and given the keys to the accommodation blocks. The following day was a kit check and orienteering day just to get used to the locations. Monday to Saturday was spent on the tasking which involved pulling six coaxial cables and a fibre cable through 600m. As a cabler for British Telecom back in the UK, I have never pulled in that amount of cable in such a short space of time without the use of a winch!

We thought that the incentive for working hard and late, might buy us a little bit of down time. This proved to be a good tactic and a good night out was had by all at the end of the week

Week Two

The tasking for the second week was to pull in twelve drums of coax cable and one fibre drum a distance of about 700m each; a grand total of just over 9km. By now everyone's arms looked like something Popeye would be proud of. We managed to pull all this cable in with some extra help from the guys stationed at Ayios Nikolaos. Without the extra manpower we would really have struggled to complete the tasking.

I would have to say that it was a great effort by all those involved, everyone pitched in and the hybrid deployment was a huge success - not just due to successful completion of the task, but also for the further development of the working relationship between 81 and 241 Signal Squadrons.

854 Tp Study Weekend, York 9-11 October 2015 - by Sgt Brian Tomblin

The Troop conducted a study and development weekend in and around York during 9 – 11 October. Aside from an issue of 'geographical mis-location' from the Tp OC, **Capt Andy 'Goose' Green**, the Troop arrived from all over the UK at Imphal Barracks in good time on the Friday night and settled into their accommodation.

After the opening address from the Tp OC, the Junior Ranks of 854 gave presentations about the Battle of Kohima, York Minster and a military history of York. **Cpl Mick Morrissey** began the presentations with his brief and engaging presentation of military history in York. The Troop could not help but wonder how much better his presentation could have been if he had only taken the slow train from Liverpool to York instead of the express. **LCpl Colin 'T-Bone' Thiebault** was next up. His educational presentation was excellent. His delivery was stereotypical of someone from south London, having clearly taken time to study the millennia of history connected to York Minster. One story stuck in everybody's mind and that was the story of the fabled ghost dog bricked up inside the walls of the Minster, whose "howls for freedom can still be heard today", according to **LCpl Thiebault**.

Next on our busy agenda was a visit to Kohima Museum sited within Imphal Barracks. The Kohima museum truly is an excellent museum to visit, containing hundreds of items donated for the rest of us to see. The museum staff kindly gave up their time to open for us as they usually only open one day per week, for which the Sqn are extremely grateful. Brian, our guide, introduced us to the museum explaining how it came in to being, how it was run and funded and how

veterans' families from the battle have contributed to the artefacts on display through the years. His presentation summarised the reasons surrounding the battle at Kohima, the intent of the enemy and the timeline of events. Of particular interest was just how close the battle was fought, at one point from each side of a tennis court.

After lunch the Troop made their way to the Minster for the next part of the educational visit. The Minster had chosen a guide that was interested in military history, who turned out to be excellent and clearly had a passion for both the military and the Minster. He said it was a joy to talk about the Minster using a completely different approach. It was interesting to see so many people honoured in memorial within the Minster who had a significant bearing in the course of conflict throughout the years. During the Q&A at the end of the tour, on cue up stepped **Cpl Thiebault**, going over his story about the dog "bricked up" in the stone work. When asked if it was true, our guide simply replied "absolute nonsense". The dog in the wall story was now officially dead as the dog itself, or was it? A second fine was duly awarded.

With the tour concluded 854 Tp made their way to the nearest local establishment where Dick Turpin used to hang out for a spot of liquid refreshment, before moving on to watch the rugby world cup in a generic sport bar.

Day 2

Sunday Morning and our last day in York, the Troop was taken on a guided walk of the citadel by York Walks. Again they had been asked to provide a guide with military knowledge of the city in addition to the usual stuff the tourists love. John, our guide, was certainly an interesting character and very entertaining. Our tour took us through many of York's narrow Gates and as we walked John described the historical events which had taken place at each location. Having a guide certainly was an advantage, as John took the group through hidden alleyways and concealed court yards that were rich in history.

81 Signal Squadron would like to thank Bob Cook and our guide Brian from the Kohima museum, John Powell from York Walks and to York Minster for all their help and time in supporting and organising the tours for our study weekend.





14th SIGNAL REGIMENT (ELECTRONIC WARFARE) HAVERFORDWEST



CO **Lt Col Stoter**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Robinson**

223 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj Francis INT CORPS**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Wellstead**

Exercise CAMBRIAN PATROL – by LCpl Buchanan

After putting a team together last minute, and completing 4 days of training, 14 Signal Regiment (EW) were ready to take on the arduous, but equally prestigious, Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL.

Our team consisted of **Lt Tabor**, who was the patrol IC, **Cpl Bartlett** (2IC), **LCpl Lynham**, **LCpl Wood**, **Pte Green** and myself as the patrol radio operator. After a rigid kit check it was time to set off. While the rest of the section moved into a hide, **LCpl Lynham** and I went to the first stand which was a test of the radio equipment and antennas of which we scored the maximum number points available before returning to the section. We then waited in the hide until **Lt Tabor** returned from his O Group to brief us on what was to happen next, at which point we then set about making a model of the ground while **Lt Tabor** prepped his orders. On receiving a set of recce orders we began the gruelling 16 mile insertion tab to the FRV. Once in location **Lt Tabor** and his fire team conducted a recce of the enemy position after which we got our kit on and moved again – this time to a friendly location.

We reached the next target and received another set of orders from our section 2IC, **Cpl Bartlett**, before moving again. After around 4 miles we realised we were lost and, due to it being pitch black and becoming increasingly difficult to navigate, we decided to get our heads down for a couple of hours until first light! First light came and we quickly got some scoff down our necks before setting off again to our next stand. Luckily we hadn't gone too far off track, unlike the RMP section that had the same thing happen to them, but instead of stopping, spent hours trekking up and down the same hills before finding their bearings. We got to the next stand which was weapons recognition and **LCpl Dangerfield** scored maximum points for us on this stand also.

The next stand was the one we had been looking forward to the most, the dreaded tactical river crossing! As practiced, Charlie fire team got into an all-round defence whilst Delta stripped off to our birthday suits, stuck on full goretex and trainers, packed all of our kit into our bivvi bags and tied the four bivvi bags together to make a raft. The fire teams swapped and Charlie did the same. With Charlie keeping an all-round defence, Delta jumped into the freezing water and we made our way across. We then took up defensive positions on the other side and Charlie made their way across. Once completed, we took it in turns to get changed back before setting off for the next stand.

It was now starting to get dark and it felt like we had been patrolling for weeks, but we finally got to our destination which was the CBRN stand. We were read a scenario and proceeded to change into 4-Romeo before beginning our patrol. We patrolled along baby heads for a bit with much slipping and falling everywhere, which was definitely the lowest point for everyone. Using our practiced skills and drills

we completed the scenario and moved into a holding area to get changed and prepared to move again.

We finally arrived at the last stand and were given the final scenario, we had to conduct a FIBUA attack through a village, clear a building and get a hostage out. Inside the building **LCpl Lynham** was "shot" and we had to get him out the building and provide first aid. We then had to CASEVAC him 200 metres across the finish line. After a debrief from two senior officers, we were given a final kit check and that was us finished!

We headed to Sennybridge, had a shower and got a few hours sleep. At the awards ceremony we couldn't wait to hear how well we had done; it was an incredibly proud moment for us all when we were told that we had won a silver medal. Not only had we beaten a few infantry units, but we were the only Royal Signals team to complete the event this year.

Ex CAMBRIAN PATROL is without doubt the toughest thing I have ever done, but it's easily a highlight of my career.

226 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj Watson**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) O'Reilly**

Exercise WESENDORF WARRIOR – by LCpl Pettit

It all started on a Sunday, in Brawdy, a standard grey, damp and windy morning for 226 Signal Squadron deploying on MATTs week, Exercise WESENDORF WARRIOR, with a very wet and windy Sennybridge on the horizon (No surprises there!).

As we were all ushered onto the coach by **Lt 'Big Phil' McKenna**, you looked around and could see the morale and enthusiasm evaporating from peoples bodies at an alarming rate, especially **LCpl 'Hair' Goddard** and **LCpl 'PT Corps' Healing** who had returned from leave early to catch the coach.

Arriving in Sennybridge we were greeted by a chillingly chipper and an enthused bunch of DS. **Sgt 'Morse' Browne** was his usual happy self, ensuring all the weapons were signed into the armoury while **Cpl 'Airborne' Griffiths** and **Cpl 'Fitness' Lambert** circled, waiting to take us to our accommodation.

Monday started with a PFA which was made easier by the horizontal rain driven by a gale force wind, none of which assisted members of the Sqn in achieving the goal required. The day improved for the ever pleasant theory lessons in a lovely warm classroom for the remainder of the day.

Tuesday had an alarming start, the weather on the TV in the cookhouse during breakfast brought tears to our eyes as realisation dawned... We would be on the ranges! It made for some alarming viewing with the presenter promising yet more horizontal rain and gusts of up to 80mph! Passing an ACMT whilst having to aim three full targets off is a hell of a feat. Fortunately **Sgt 'Senior Brecon' Stanley-Davies** was benevolent and due to the weather, sent us home after the minimum amount of firing that was required. Entertainment





226 Signal Squadron on the ranges

from the day included the Supervisors battling it out, **WO2 (Yofs) 'Bowman Yeoman' Brown** falling behind **SSgt (Fofs) 'Left-Eye' Russell** in the final scores.

Wednesday saw the week's theme continue, yet more rain and strong winds which, as you could imagine, the lads were WELL HAPPY with as it was 'Round Robin' day. We arrived at Bivvie site 1 and broke down into our pre-formed LEWTs, immediately forming a waddle like penguins! Our first location was a LEWT stand with **Sgt 'Rich Tea' Blakey** which tested our abilities to set up a covert OP LEWT location to his exacting standards, and a BCDT scenario with **Sgt Stanley-Davies**. The rain fully set in forcing our waddle ever tighter, thankful for our Gore-Tex. We were then greeted by **Lt McKenna** and **Sgt Browne**, smiling with glee as they prepared to inflict CS gas pain in the CBRN phase! We then yomped back down to the bottom of the valley for **Cpl 'Timing' Grochowina's** C-IED stand, finally ending up at Bivvie site 1 for ever important lessons with **SSgt (Fofs) Russell**.

Thursday's weather did not disappoint as we prepared for an AFT in the wee early hours with yet more torrential rain and winds. We like to pride ourselves in the Squadron for taking on exceptional challenges and today was definitely one. Thanks to the illustrious **WO2 (SSM) 'Double hard' O'Reilly** it was decided that we would do the SFC AFT route, which for those who don't know starts uphill.... And keeps going... until you finish at the end... uphill! Fortunately we had **Sgt 'Monster' Jones** to power the lads round with a huge positive presence, and there was a sly smile from **LCpl 'Massive' Wood** as we circled the car park at Dixies' Corner, past the Burger Van, the owner's face lit up as he saw 17 drenched squaddies pass his hatch... some who were already placing orders!

We then boarded the coach and returned to Brawdy having eaten our body weight in cheese burgers. We would like to thank **LCpl 'Happy' Crutchley** from 237 Signal Squadron for his amazing bus driving skills during the week, and all the DS for making it a week to remember....with horror.

237 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj Fogarty**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Peake**

Exercise PRAIRIE STORM 4 – by **LCpl Mitchell-Pickford**

Each year Ex PRARIE STORM is held in Canada's BATUS training area. It is the culmination of a units training to prove they can function as a Battlegroup up to CTC4. It is attended by a whole host of supporting arms and this year making a welcome return to BATUS were thirty intrepid members of 237 Sig Sqn, 14 Signal Regiment (EW).

237 Sig Sqn deployed in support of the Household Cavalry Regiment, travelling from Brawdy in order to supply the HCR Battlegroup with close EW support. On arriving it quickly dawned on us just how big the exercise was – with the first day disappearing in a haze of briefs and kit issues.



On the prairie

The second day surprised us with an opportunity to do some adventure training. Twelve of us jumped on this chance and were transported to 'Trailsend Camp' situated on the edge of the Rocky Mountains. Here we spent five days completing mixed activities including mountain biking, kayaking and hill walking. **LCpl Done** made a name for himself kayaking, shouting 'CONTACT!' upon capsizing into the freezing water. Although we picked up some injuries biking and did some incredibly cold water sports we all enjoyed AT and were more than a little reluctant to return to BATUS – where the rest of our Troop were being thrashed with exercise prep in BATUS's tank park.

Our deployment phase lasted for twenty-three days, including a seven day live fire package. The cold and the OPFOR proved not to be the only challenges we had to endure. Realising that one of our members, **LCpl Doyle**, was vegetarian the Battlegroup supplied us exclusively with Sikh and Hindu ration packs, forcing everyone to put up with inordinate amounts of Vegetable Curry meals for the first week. Dangerous terrain also made night movement especially scary. **LCpl Martindale** had a narrow escape as his Land Rover hit an unseen obstacle in the dark and rolled into a ravine.



A bit of 'down' time between Ops

Despite some definite gruelling moments PRAIRIE STORM 4 did give 237 Sig Sqn some morale-moments. Gopher chasing (a prime pastime for bored soldiers in BATUS) proved excellent entertainment with **LCpl Bolton** coming closest to catching a live Gopher. **LCpl Smith** was discounted because, although strictly speaking he did catch a gopher, he did so by running it over with a Spartan Armoured Vehicle. **LCpl Griffith**



also contributed to the Squadron morale by losing his helmet. To this day a lone Mk6A helmet can be seen wandering aimlessly on the Prairies seeking its owner.

We came off the Prairies with a renewed appreciation for our beds and central heating. After completing a harrowing exercise turnaround 237 Sig Sqn was gradually flown back to the UK amid fierce debates of how much liquor and cigarettes were allowed through customs.

245 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj Hodges**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Craven**

Exercise MOUFLON BLADE 5 – by SSgt (YofS (EW)) Forde

Hot off the back of an enthralling week of MATT training, 245 Signal Squadron deployed on Ex MOUFLON BLADE, a week of survival skills in sunny Scotland. The parade time of 0001 on Monday morning, set by the ever generous **SSgt (YofS (EW)) Forde**, was more than reasonable and saw deploying members of the Squadron arrive fresh and excited about the night of travel ahead! Within 10 minutes, however, any grumbling was replaced by the sound of gentle snoring as the Squadron settled in for a night of sleep on the coach.

Several hours and a couple of loo stops later, 245 arrived at a remote lay-by in the heart of the Galloway National Forest, groggy, bleary eyed and afraid. The weather, sensing an opportunity to depress an already apprehensive group of soldiers, stated its intent for the next 24 hours with a downpour that would have got a mention in the bible! A short infill later, the fun was truly kicked off with a kit inspection. **SSM Craven** and **SSgt (YofS) Griffiths** took great delight in confiscating anything and everything capable of providing warmth, shelter or morale and then we were truly underway. Valuable lessons in shelter erection, water collection and not eating (because the DS had taken away all the food) flowed like rainwater. Rainwater also flowed like rainwater.



Drying the deer skin; nothing was wasted!

On Wednesday, with hunger starting to become a real issue, the DS treated everyone to a feast - of the bush tucker trial variety. On the menu were mealworm, crickets and the biggest locusts known to mankind. The reactions ranged from **Lt Tabor** essentially refusing to soldier, all the way to **Cpl Molton** biting the head clean off a locust whilst failing to see what all the fuss was about.

Thursday kicked off with champion angler **Cpl Bartlett** catching the only fish of the week. The local gamekeeper insisted the Loch was full, 245 remain unconvinced. Next up was the experience of the week. The DS used their incredible tracking and trapping skills to bag a deer; or they bought a pre-shot carcass from a local gamekeeper! We will never know. **SSgt (YofS) Griffiths** gave a lesson on skinning and cutting, in between spinning dits about survival and general darning-do on his part, and everyone ate like royalty.



SSM Craven preparing the carcass

After one final night of hunger and cold, 245 emerged from the wilderness, unshaven, unkempt and unwashed. Much starvation induced soul searching had been conducted and many valuable lessons had been learnt, the most important of which being that you can make anything from 'natural cordage', except morale! Believe me, several people tried.

The final act centred on the greatest service stop in the history of service stops. Burger King literally did not know what had hit them. **Lt Tabor** set the standard, delving deep into his overdraft in order to purchase enough food to feed 5000 hungry soldiers; or just one hungry Troop Commander.

SUPPORT SQUADRON

OC **Maj Wilford**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) O'Connor**

Community Day 2015 – by SSgt (SQMS) Britton

The Community Day is 14 Sig Regt (EW)'s community oriented event which took place on 1 Aug 15 before the Regiment's summer leave period. The event is held on the Brawdy airfield



and takes on a festival feel which is broadcasted by Pembrokeshire radio. It is filled with military, civilian stands and activities, local vendors displaying their merchandises, charities putting out their stalls, and other fun events. All proceeds are donated to The Army Benevolent Fund and Withybush Hospital Special Needs Assessment Playgroup (SNAP).

One of Support Squadron stands for the Community Day was the highly successful Air Rifle Range. The stall consisted of 4 firing lanes with multiple targets for all ranges of experience and age. For those who thought themselves a bit of a sniper there was the competition shoot with the winner being announced at the end of the day. The team consisted of; **SSgt (SQMS) Britton** the head honcho, **Cpls Cook, Dowle and Pieniak** running the lanes. **LCpl Beard, Sigs Clarke-Harding, Edwards and Thomas** were lane assistants and coaching mentors for the customers.

During the rehearsals of the Main Arena and the final checks, the lads being lads decided the air rifles needed testing prior to the general public having a go, all in the name of health and safety of course. To that end it is fair to say things escalated quickly into a stiff competition, with no one wanting to lose after a couple of rounds the clear leaders emerged. **Cpl Dowle and Sig Clarke-Harding** (Two Dads) were neck and

neck. With one final round as the decider things were tense, **Cpl Dowle** looking more tense than normal trying to psych out strawberry blonde **Sig Clarke-Harding** who was looking whiter than white. In the end there could be only one winner and **Cpl Dowle** took the crown.

Once the gates were open a sea of customers flocked to the stand like moths to a flame. It was good to see all different generations having a go and there was plenty of competition going around, it took all of 5 minutes for **Cpl Dowle** to get knocked off the top spot by an 8 year old girl. You would think **Sgt Michelle Steel**, Gold Winner of Corp Small-Bore Rifle Shooting would be able to not get beaten by her sons!! However, I'm pretty sure she did. The Haverfordwest and City of St David's 948 Squadron Air Cadets were in and out of the range all day giving our lads a run for their money also.

The Community Day was a great success, even with the weather being hit and miss; a few showers did not disrupt the proceedings. Of all the competitors, and there was many, the Top Shot of the day went to **Air Cadet Jones** with an impressive score of 49/50. Congratulations to all those involved, the stall raised more than we did the previous year. So hats off to the lads for all your hard work. The money raised is going to some worthwhile charities which are in need of support.



21st SIGNAL REGIMENT COLERNE

CO **Lt Col AEA Corkery**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) G Tiplady**

21 Signal Regiment Football Club Remembrance Day Parade - by SSgt Johnson and Sgt Biggs RLC

21 Signal Regiment have developed a close relationship with Bristol Rovers Football Club (BRFC) after hosting their Youth Development Academy on several occasions. Because of the good relationship between the Regiment and BRFC we were invited to provide a guard of honour on Remembrance Sunday. Straight away the management team of the Regiments Football Club started to whip the squad into shape. Drill, drill and some kit inspections for good measure!

We arrived on the morning of the parade at 1130 to a very warm welcome from the BRFC staff. We were shown to our changing area in the press room where we dropped off our kit. The development squad manager, Paul Hughes, then invited us to the members club bar for a couple of pre-match drinks to calm our nerves. 1300 approached and the team went to change into our N^o2 Dress; walking past the main

stands we could see the stadium was packed out with 7000 screaming supporters!

All the lads got changed quietly and confidently, and **SSgt Johnson** gave us a once over in the changing area to ensure we were all smart. We moved into the players tunnel and waited to be called onto the pitch; the nerves were clearly visible in the guard of honour, and then the moment came.

With the words "Honour Guard, Guard, Quick March!" all the nervous tension was gone. We were on parade; we marched out of the tunnel to 7000 fans clapping and cheering our every drill movement. "Honour Guard Halt, Inward Turn!" We halted, turned smartly inward, faced one another, the officials appeared and then the players followed by the British Legion standard bearer, Club Chairman, and **Capt Thompson**, the Regiments Football Officer. After the Players and Officials had passed through the Guard of Honour onto the Pitch, the Honour Guard was positioned around the centre circle with the players and officials, the last post sounded. **Capt Thompson** and their chairman laid their wreaths as a mark of respect to our War dead.



Honour guard formed up



Honour guard around the centre circle



SSgt Johnson then marched us off the pitch to a standing ovation by both sets of supporters; a truly amazing feeling and one the players will never forget.

At half time **SSgt Johnson** and **Sgt Biggs** were invited onto the pitch by the Club Chairman to present the club with a **Beaufighter**, which is the Regimental emblem, which was warmly received.



Presenting the Beaufighter

All in all, an excellent day for both the Regimental players and BRFC. Through hard work and determination we have forged a strong bond with BRFC through Football, one we hope to maintain into the future.

Royal Signals Mountain Bike Championship - by LCpl Wright

11 (RSS) Signal Regiment hosted the Royal Signals Inter Unit Mountain Bike Championship 2015. We left camp looking forward to the race ahead and how the course was going to ride, especially those riders who had never done anything like this before. Arriving at Blandford we unloaded the bikes and set out to see what the course had to offer.

We had a slow ride around the course, stopping at the different obstacles to explain lines and techniques to the less experienced riders. **Sig Kay** had never ridden a mountain bike before and much to our amusement he did take a couple of falls (head over handlebars!). But after a few more attempts and some helping words he was riding obstacles he never thought he could.

After a blast of the air horn we were off, riders of all abilities battling it out. The race itself was to be five laps, each one taking in the leg sapping chalk hill! The course was presented well with both A and B lines that presented some short but steep downhill sections straight into flat, tight corners. A big congratulation goes to **Sig Bateman** for winning the male under 21 category, this also being his first race.

Overall the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all; the course was a challenge but made well worth it by the enthusiasm of everyone involved. Plus I can say on behalf of everyone that the cakes and biscuits went down a treat! A fantastic end to the mountain bike season and we are all looking forward to the 2016 season.

204 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj D Chamberlain**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) K Stowell**

Exercise RATS MERCURY 3 - by Sig Scoggins

Ex RATS MERCURY 3 was set in the rolling hills of Salisbury Plain where 204 Signal Squadron tested their ability to

provide support to 104 Log Sp Bde using full communications capability incorporating; TacCIS, OpCIS and inter-theatre strategic links.

As all these exercises start, we began with a PACEX which allowed us to iron out any problems before we deployed. Alamein Troop were deploying elements of TacCIS into the HQ and out onto the area as RRBs. It was the first time the Troop had deployed under their new role as a whole and everyone was looking forward to figuring out what our jobs will be supporting this HQ.

After an early start on the Monday morning the Sqn were lined up and ready to deploy alongside 220 Sig Sqn. The move out was pretty straight forward and as part of the Sqn broke away to set up the HQ site on Old Carter Barracks, myself and **Cpl Tait** deployed our RRB out onto Salisbury Plain. Once set up we soon found ourselves in the middle of an armoured engineering exercise but managed to keep out the way!



The VE Gp HQ build in progress

We heard back from the HQ that we had already lost one man, **Sig Barnes**, to a sudden knee dislocation which meant leaving **Sig Baillie** to man two dets! But with the razor wire and tents up they soon got into routine.

We heard rumours from the HQ that they were eating steak whilst we were on ORP, so being brought in for some hot fresh food was a welcome treat – even if it did result in some pan bashing at the end of it. Following some good food we were deployed back out again to test our RRBs on the ground, moving into more challenging areas and using the Recce detachments from Messina Troop.



An external view of the HQ



With the fact that we were deploying on Ex TRIDENT JUNCTURE after leave in the back of our minds – and this was our last exercise before that – everyone was keen to ensure that we had deployed with all that we needed to sustain ourselves and also keep our detachments functioning. We know that you can't just pop back from Spain if you forget something!

Overall the exercise was enjoyable – it was good to experience deploying as the Troop under our new role but also experiencing for the first time what it was like to work attached to a HQ. Everyone left this exercise feeling a lot more confident and ready for the next challenge in Spain.

Army Inter Unit Swimming Championships – by Lt Dornan

21 Signal Regiment recently took part in the Army Inter Unit Championships with a small selection of four individual swimmers, this being only half the numbers normally associated with a full team. The event was seen as a build up to the upcoming Corps Inter Unit Championships to be held on 15 Oct 15.

Maj Psaila got the day started with a solid performance in the 800m freestyle, coming 5th against some strong competition. Despite swimming further than any other member of the Regiment that day and what probably felt like the equivalent distance of an AFT, especially in Aldershot's 50m Olympic pool, he then spent the remainder of the morning playing in the Sp Comd UK South Hockey League.

Lt Wood and **Lt Dornan** on the other hand managed a combined total distance of 600m, swimming the breaststroke and back crawl over 200m followed by 100m respectively. Both achieved competitive placing's and **Lt Wood** enjoyed her day so much she just can't wait to be back in the water at the Corps Inter Units. **LCpl Learman** made up the final member of the small team. Swimming both the 100m and 50m freestyle she finished well under her target times in both events.



The pool

The Regiment is now preparing to send an enhanced team to the Corps Inter Unit Championships, also at Aldershot, with the intention that those who have already swam will be ready and willing to come back for more.

Exercise TRIDENT JUNCTURE 15 - by Lt Perfect

Ex TRIDENT JUNCTURE 15 (Ex TRJE) was a long time coming for 204 Signal Squadron (and for our fellow attachments from 220 Signal Squadron, the LAD and Engineer Troop), but eventually it dawned upon us. Over eight days the Squadron deployed to Chinchilla in south Spain to begin a month long NATO Live Ex, which saw 36,000 troops from 34 countries participate.

The move was like any deployment – long and tiring – but the mood of the exercise was well set with comments such as; “was the film ‘Martian’ based on a true story?”, and “when

the earth rotates it moves the clouds, not the wind.” After a couple of days travelling and a few hours of RSOM the final chalk made it into location by 17 Oct 15. A few days were spent organising the detachments for deployment before Alamein Troop (Out Det Troop) were able to send out the first RRB.



Arrival at the BSG

The first time out onto a new training area can always be interesting, but the AO was described as being “similar to Salisbury Plain but with a few more rocks”, so not to worry. The RRB deployed with a GS alongside another RRB, GS and two Panthers from the Light Dragoons at first light. They had warned us that the ground was a bit “cheeky” up to the RRB site but they had conducted a recce previously so had a route up. This comment was brushed off as being an over exaggeration of something that looked like a fairly easy hill to climb. Once we arrived at the bottom, however, it was a lot higher than anticipated so we swapped the trailer over to the Panther just to be on the safe side before we started up the hill. It was nothing like Salisbury Plain! With the risk of rolling over ever increasing as we climbed the hill and with nervous laughter growing, the entire route up was a little bit more than “cheeky”. With some great skills from the drivers we made it up with only a few twitchy moments – just in time to see the sun rise over the mountains. The Light Dragoons left us to it and fortunately we made it down safely on our own.



RRB being led in by the Panther

With the RRB out providing the vital coverage of the area for both voice and data it enabled 1 Royal Irish Battle Group, the Danish Battle Group and the Italian Battle Group to move out. Soon after this our liaison detachments were required and after some minor teething issues we managed to deploy both the Danish and Italian LO dets. This meant that the Troop Command element became a bit busier with battle space management as we moved our assets around the AO. Before they left the 4X HQ location the dets worked on the most vital parts of their exercise, like how to say ‘hello’ and ‘goodbye’ in their battle groups language.



Shortly after the LO dets were deployed the second RRB moved into location; a much easier deployment this time. Following this people began to adopt an element of normal routine which was a welcomed blessing all round. Eventually we managed to deploy our final LO det, which was re-rolled as our surge det and they moved up to support the Danish CO in his TAC HQ.



RRB

During all this time **Cpl Watt** was busy as the Bde Comd's signaller, fitting his vehicle ready for its purpose. As the Husky wasn't already fitted with the relevant CIS equipment to do the task required, **Cpl Watt** was put to the test to get it ready before the Bde Comd needed it. A challenge he thoroughly enjoyed as he seemed to spend his whole time tending to the vehicle!



Cpl Watt briefing the CO

The first phase of the exercise began to draw to a close after the three battle groups had conducted their training on all three lanes; urban, rural and advance to contact. The battle groups then began to reset for the final phase, a five day Op, which saw the fight for stabilisation across the AO through a mixture of tactical withdrawals, defensive ops and advance to contacts. The buzz in the HQ was electric with the random coordinated attacks on the location contributing to this. During all this we had several visits including our own CO and Bde Comd. The latter visit allowed us to go to the Danish HQ to visit our LO; it was excellent to see how another nation worked and we even got to have a look at their prestigious ISO people carrier.

The final part of the exercise saw the successful defeat of the enemy just in time for the Bde photograph. The tear down phase commenced pretty sharpish with the Troops eager to return to the drier soil of the UK. The whole experience was a mini exercise in itself with everyone from across the HQ



Danish LO with BG

lending their help where possible. With all hands on deck it took only a few days to get rid of the mammoth footprint that was created by the British Forces, leaving no trace of us ever being there.

Overall, the experience in Spain was a new one for everyone, with a lot of lessons learnt. It was a very useful 4 weeks with the Squadron demonstrating their ability to support 4 Brigade Headquarters.

Exercise TRIDENT JUNCTURE 15 - by LCpl Hickman

On first stepping off the plane near Madrid I felt the heat hit me and I wondered to myself why on earth did I bring warm kit to Spain?! The bus journey to Brigade Support Group (BSG) was filled with excitement and fear of the unknown. When we arrived at BSG we were quickly ushered into the main briefing room and our passports and EHIC cards were taken from us for safe keeping. We then received briefs on what the whole exercise was about. It was very exciting to be in the same situation of not knowing with the other 200 people in the room. The food that we were served in BSG was very well prepared and delicious; it was almost like it wasn't army food.

The next morning we made our way to our respective places of work, mine being 4X HQ on the training area. On arrival we received an introduction brief that told us the basic rules of HQ and the do's and don'ts. Relaxation was then over as we quickly went to work in completing the construction of 4X HQ and fitting it out with all the necessary kit and equipment.



Ex TRJE15



The process, as arduous as it was, was completed rather swiftly and only minor titivations concluded over the course of the next few days. The food in 4X HQ was somehow even better than BSG, with a wide variety of mains and desserts, with the chefs coming up with new ways to surprise the patrons every day.

My main role on TRIDENT JUNCTURE was a Housekeeper administrator working under **LCpl Dowd**, who taught me an incredible amount over the course of this exercise. My daily routine would be split across a couple of different duties depending on the day of the week. One day I could be working on the service desk, which would deal with technical issues that users are having with the system and then working on meal time duty ensuring people wash their hands correctly to prevent the spread of germs. The next day I could be on the HQ front desk being the point of contact for anybody inside the HQ with any issues. As the exercise went on through the weeks there were a couple of IDF and stand-to drills, during which I believe the QRF did a fantastic job in the execution of capturing enemy personnel attacking the camp.

The accommodation at HQ was quite basic, but it certainly beats living in a hole under a poncho for four weeks! We were, however, blessed with hot showers, which I found very delightful.

The main role of the HQ was to provide communications for 4 Brigade and the nations that were working with us. RRB stations were strategically placed out onto the area to ensure the entire training area was covered for communications. A Falcon detachment was set up just outside the HQ and was used as a transmit/receive module to communicate between BSG and the Reacher detachment which, in turn, relayed onto a satellite which gave us reach-back services to the UK. This allowed us to employ Housekeeper nodes and terminals out into the HQ which meant that Staff Officers could use DII and JPA whilst in Spain. The task of pulling everything down and storing it back into the ISO container was very smooth and very well organised, headed up by **Lt Dornan**. This task was completed over the course of about three days, which gave everyone a good amount of time to chill out before getting the flight home.



BG HQ Collapse

215 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj J Hooker**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) J Davis**

Since the last round of *Wire* notes, the Sqn has had a change of command team, with a fond farewell to both **Maj Jim Chatman** (to ISS Ops) and **WO2 Tony Gallagher** (to 4 MI Bn). In their stead, we welcome **Maj Jon Hooker** (from CIO) and **WO2 Jamie Davis** (from 1SR). A slightly high paced arrival for the new OC, who spent two weeks gaining his Bulldog Commanders course and then deployed straight into Ex

FLYING FALCON, with a similar welcome for the new SSM who has been on three exercises in three months with the Sqn!

The Sqn has continued to build towards readiness this period, with CT2 and live firing exercises rounding off the Sqn's own training. This then led neatly into the Regimental part of Ex FLYING FALCON, where the Sqn demonstrated its abilities to the wider Regt, Gp and Bde.

This period has also seen the Squadron conducting preparation for Ex SANCTIFY, a mandated exercise to confirm that it, along with 1 Armoured Infantry Brigade HQ, is prepared for its readiness year (which is all too soon). This occupied a significant amount of our time, with the armoured vehicles as ever taking up an inordinate amount of people's time! However, come the exercise we were able to put in a good performance and allow the HQ staff the opportunity to train and assure themselves of their ability to perform come the New Year and readiness.

Exercise FLYING FALCON – by Sig Payne



Stagging on...

215 Signal Squadron deployed on Ex FLYING FALCON 15 to Salisbury Plain Training Area in early Sep 15; this is the capstone exercise for 11 Sig Bde, and this year the Regt was looking for its CT3 sign off and so had much to prove. The Sqn's role was to test the communications systems and setups that would be deployed in support of 1 Armoured Infantry Brigade, our designated supported Command. This was especially important as the unit is moving to high readiness later this year, in line with the Brigade, and needed to prove that we were prepared to support the Brigade should we deploy. The Sqn itself focused on proving our Bowman capability, but also drew in Falcon, Reacher, Housekeeper, DII LD, Magpie and TNG, all aimed to work together and reach back into their respective domains.



Armour on the move...



The Sqn spent two weeks preparing for the deployment, conducting PACEX at camp and some serious maintenance of the Bulldog vehicles ahead of an extended three week period out of barracks. This preparation paid off; the only long term casualty of the exercise was Lilly, the recce Officers' vehicle (some claim that the crew, **Capt Roberts** and **Sig Timmins**, were at fault, but they deny this...). Overall, it was an excellent opportunity to really put the Bulldogs through their paces and get some miles on them.

Day one of the exercise saw us arrive at Old Carter Barracks, ahead of deploying out onto the area. This came soon, on day two, with the armoured Tps being deployed out and beginning to move about the area, establishing HQs and moving between hide locations. Initially our locations were specified by the Regt but for the final week the Bde was dictating where we deployed.

Our current HQ laydown takes up to four hours to establish, requiring a good amount of manpower to fully setup, including electricians for the power, engineers for the more IS side of the HQ setup, and operators for the bulk of the work (including establishing voice and data comms with Bowman). At times during the exercise, we needed to accommodate Falcon and associated OPCIS equipment. This was the first time we had worked together with other Sqns, but it worked well and proved we could plug in OPCIS elements without too much difficulty. Whilst the Tps have plenty of experience of moving around the plain whilst establishing HQs, this exercise allowed for procedures to be tightened up and newer additions to the Sqn to learn the tasks; undoubtedly, the builds became slicker as time went on.

Unfortunately some injuries did occur over the course of the exercise, such as **Sig Atkinson** hitting his finger with a hammer (some people will do anything to get out of an exercise) requiring hospital treatment, and **LCpl Vella** falling from the side of a MAN SV (the second CS Engr this year; remedial SV mounting training required!). Fortunately, nothing serious occurred and there were no outbreaks of the dreaded D&V!

There were two maintenance days during the exercise, which were essential for the armoured Tps as the miles were being clocked up quickly, meaning that mission maintenance needed to take place every week (absorbing up to four hours per Bulldog for the crew). These days also saw showers being laid on for the exercising Tps; a welcome break from living out under ponchos or, for the lucky few, the floors of the Bulldogs. The first maintenance day also saw a service delivered by **Padre Tom**, his first ever, which was well received by the Tps as a moment when thoughts of exercise could be discarded.

Overall, whilst some areas we deployed the HQ to were extremely tight, the Sqn performed well and proved itself to the Regt and others over the course of the exercise. Whilst there were always issues with Bowman, the Tps worked hard to keep comms in and generally had everything in and working throughout the exercise.

The final day saw the Sqn move through the washdown and then load the Bulldogs onto low loaders at Old Carter Barracks; as ever, once back in camp there were hours of work to be done to turn around all the equipment, but the bulk was completed by 2100 when the OC congratulated all of us on our hard work and awarded us the Monday off.

Whilst three weeks on exercise sounds horrendous when living under a poncho etc., it actually wasn't too bad, and the guys learned lessons about living comfortably whilst deployed that you wouldn't learn on a shorter, one week exercise.

Exercise BEAUFIGHTER SURVIVOR - by LCpl Kirkham

Ex BEAUFIGHTER SURVIVOR was a survival training exercise in which soldiers from 21 Signal Regiment undertook basic survival techniques in order to conduct combat survival up until the point of rescue. The exercise was split into two phases; a classroom based introduction to the principles of survival and the dreaded night out!

We departed for Nescliffe Barracks on Tuesday 20 Oct, leaving early enough to get a standard McDonalds breakfast in on the way up, ensuring we had sufficient fat to survive! On arrival we were greeted to the ranges by some ally-looking SFCs. **SSgt Fearn** looked a bit out of place without his para smock and hero sleeves! On the range we were firing standard issue SF weapons, the Dimarco C8 and Glock. The shoot comprised of various firing positions, including a left handed shoot. It's safe to say I was glad there was a brick wall behind the targets to gather up our stray rounds!

Day two started with a cold shower; luckily being at 21 Sig Regt we were all used to that! Then straight into a classroom brief on the principles of survival. This gave us an insight into how to survive and get out of an emergency situation. From the group discussions you could tell who watched Ray Mears and Bear Grylls as a kid (or maybe even now)...



Meat preparation session!

In the afternoon we went out onto the area; there was a round robin of stands including food preparation, traps and snares, shelter building, water collection and cooking techniques. We were shown how to skin and gut a rabbit ready for our breakfast and lunch the next day; something we all looked forward to! Our last task of the day involved making improvised clothing out of rags and sheets the DS gave us. This gave us a chance to hone our sewing and design skills. There was a variety of ideas that came out of it, including a balaclava/gimp mask modelled by **LCpl Hetterley**.

Day three was the second phase of the exercise which began with a surprise kit check where 'contraband' was taken from



Fire building



us. Mars bars, Snickers and biscuits filled the ‘contraband’ bags (then probably straight into the DS day sacks!). Once out on the area the sections cracked straight on with setting up our base camps and planned our evacuations. Materials were salvaged from everywhere, including the farmers abandoned JCB. For food most of us chopped up onions, carrots, potatoes and rabbit and made a broth. I say most of us; "morale" section decided they didn't need to chop anything up and just chucked everything in whole to boil. I heard they didn't eat too well; it may have had something to do with the fact they set fire to everything in sight in order to keep their fire as big as they possibly could!



Good use of natural resources!

As we were in a survival situation we made some weapons in order to defend ourselves and for hunting potential food. As you could imagine there was a wide variety in our "armoury" from axes, bows and arrows, to nun chucks! As night fell and the fires were roaring we were sent on a night nav using maps we had made earlier in the week after seeing the actual map for 60 seconds - we sketched from memory the surrounding area on a piece of cloth. Unfortunately they looked more like a 4 year old drawing hung up on the fridge. It was amazing how useful they were with 3 sections arriving in good time. 4 section, led by **LCpl Giles**, were nowhere to be seen; out looking for Bigfoot maybe? After this, we settled down for the night and got into our bivvy bags wearing every bit of clothing we had brought with us. This turned out to be the most horrible night to date; after getting up every half hour to put wood on the fire, nothing seemed to help our freezing fingers and toes. Morning came and we were still alive; all relieved when the sun came over the horizon.



All the comforts of home...

From me and everyone that took part we would like to thank all the DS for organising this exercise. It was a great insight into survival and has got people excited for future exercises and potential courses available.

Exercise SANCTIFY, Salisbury Plain Training Area - by Sig Atkinson

On 17 Nov, 215 Signal Squadron deployed alongside 1 Armoured Infantry Brigade HQ (1 AI Bde) on Exercise SANCTIFY. The aim of the exercise was to assess the Brigade Headquarters and 215 Signal Squadron's state ahead of readiness in 2016.

The Squadron departed 21 Signal Regiment early on the 17 Nov, heading towards Old Carter Barracks, Salisbury Plain Training Area. Once our destination was reached we began to build our HQ. This was more complicated and troublesome than first expected due to the complexity of the new HQ build (as ever, the design of the HQ had changed since the last exercise!). The size had increased dramatically over the passing months. Once in and ready we called time for the night.

The following morning staff from 1 AI Bde arrived at our location to begin their stage of the exercise; all of the Bde Staff were allocated space in our armoured vehicles, which would become their temporary home for the forthcoming exercise. Part of the exercise was to receive lessons on how to live and operate from a Bulldog Armoured Vehicle and all the safety points required; this was delivered by the Squadrons Driver Maintenance Instructor (DMI), **LCpl Jenkinson**, with the assistance of some welcome RTR DMI's. The Staff also got to grips with how to set up and tear down our dreaded DRASH tents. Overall, once in and working, this period of the exercise was rather quiet for the soldiers of 215, with one **Sig Halford** spending his hours catching up on missed "I'm a Celebrity".



Sabre Troop arriving in location

We stayed in the same location with relative ease until Friday 20 Nov. Following a successful tear down we headed to Larkhill Camp, where we left the vehicles for a welcome weekend stand-down period. However, the drive to Larkhill



OC Sabre getting stuck in



was troublesome, with one of Bengal Troop's vehicles (commanded by the Sqn 2IC) catching fire, thus delaying us considerably. After leaving the vehicles we headed back to camp for the weekend.

After retrieving our vehicles on return to Larkhill (on Sunday unfortunately!) we headed back out onto Salisbury Plain to our new location. The weather was bitterly cold with the duty rumour mill reporting lows of -5. Once again we set up and it all went swimmingly. The next day the staff arrived so all the fun could start again!

This stage of the exercise was more testing and demanding than the last, with multiple moves planned throughout the week - the first of which we experienced on the Tuesday. With all the added help of the Staff of 1 AI Bde, the HQ came down in record time. We packed everything up and all entered our vehicles. After moving off it soon occurred to most of the drivers that it was a dirty trick and we were to set up in exactly the same location! This did not go down well amongst the troops.

Once we had established our HQ in the same location again, everything started to run smoothly. The Squadron was working well with both troops performing during the moves. We experienced a few comms problems within the detachments, where **Cpl Lowery** earned himself the new nickname "Flappy Bird" due to his persistent flapping if everything wasn't all quite to plan. Once all the problems were eradicated morale was once again high amongst the troops.

As time passed and everyone started to settle into routine the exercise seemed to fly by. Our next and final move was on the evening of Wednesday 23 Nov. It was dark and raining cats and dogs; however, eager to get the exercise over and done with everyone worked hard to get everything completed. Once we arrived at the new location the HQ went up in the quickest time of the 2 weeks, proving that the exercise was helping the Squadron make progress. The HQ wasn't due to be used until the early hours of Thursday so we had a relatively chilled night and enjoyed a well-deserved takeaway for a final night with thanks to **Sgt Kirby** and **Cpl Walker** for kindly collecting.

Thursday, the final day of the exercise, and it was a very early wake up call. We were to tear down and move to West Down Camp for ENDEX! As you can probably imagine, everyone really went the extra mile during the final tear down, arriving at West Down Camp still in time for breakfast, which was a very welcome surprise after a few days of hard graft.

To conclude, Ex SANCTIFY was a rollercoaster of emotions for the soldiers of 215 Signal Squadron. We improved our skills,

providing a HQ to 1 Armoured Infantry Brigade that enabled them to both plan and control the current battle effectively. I feel we are now better equipped and prepared for future exercises and any potential operations.

220 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj R Plested**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) N Dinsdale**

Families Day – by LCpl Warren

On 25 July 2015, after an exciting 5 day LFTT package, 220 Signal Squadron organised a stand at the yearly Colerne Station Families Day which invited the local community and families of serving personnel to a fun day out. The event was held on a hot summer's day and involved a range of activities including archery, a hawk display; rock climbing and many other military based stands such as a shooting range and a grenade throw range. 220 Signal Squadron also organised several child-friendly activities including two bouncy castles plus a bouncy castle obstacle course, which proved to be a big hit and left many kids exhausted but smiling.

The highlight of the day was the two inter-squadron competitions organised by **SSgt Walsh** (SSI). The first event was a multi-fitness superstar's competition which involved a 5km row, 200x40kg deadlifts, 200 burpees and a gun run conducted in teams of 8. **LCpl Bohin** and **Sig Motion** were two of the power houses of the 220 Signal Squadron team, with **Cpl Johnson** and **Sgt Marsden** providing encouragement and leadership. The second contest was a tug-o-war competition which saw 220 Signal Squadron put in a good result, finishing second behind 215 Signal Squadron.



Tug of war

The dunk tank also proved a big hit with the families, especially the JNCOs, with **WO1 (RSM) Tiplady**, **WO2 (SSM) Miller**, 204 Signal Squadron OC, **Maj Chamberlain** and the Regimental 2IC, **Maj Psaila**, all taking the plunge to the delight of the crowd.



Current Ops



Overall the day was a great success and left many people with smiles on their faces. It also promoted cohesion between the squadrons and in fact many people are already looking forward to next year's event.



WO2 (SSM) Miller takes the plunge

Exercise SCORPION WARRIOR 2 – by Sig Parsons

The last couple of months have seen 220 Signal Squadron busy with various exercises coupled with social events. In early July we deployed to Caerwent Training Area on Ex SCORPION WARRIOR 2 for a one week Squadron level battle camp. The exercise was organised by **Sgt Heyden** who's planning and coordination had a profound effect on the exercising troops. The troops were responding well to instruction in the field on various lessons. The troops went from strength to strength while acting as a fluid and effective group in various tasks, such as contact drills and recce patrols. They fought relentlessly and by the end were a force to be reckoned with. The sheer force and determination seen that week is a testimony to the high standards of 220 Signal Squadron, as well as the individuals in key appointments who were being pushed to their limits in various appointments. Ex SCORPION WARRIOR 2 turned out to be an excellent insight into where we could look to advance our current level of knowledge and training.

Once the week was over we took the opportunity to take a moment and have a Squadron photo surrounding one of the many burnt out 432 vehicles. Looking back at all we achieved the week had given us all the proof we needed of how well the Squadron has come together as a team. Together we built on the success we achieved and the dedication shown to strive to go that bit further moving into Squadron LFTT training later on in the year.

LFTT Package – by Sig McLaren

On Sunday 19 July 2015, 220 Signal Squadron took part in a week long LFTT package at Lydd and Hythe ranges. The week got off to a great start, getting stuck in a nice long traffic jam on the way down. Once we finally arrived we got things underway with a grouping and zeroing shoot. This should have been quite a routine day but **Sig Kennedy** did not have a great performance! She insisted it was her rifle causing the problems and not the fact that she wasn't a very good shot.

The next day started with an IBSR which involved everyone using obstacles for cover and using different firing positions to fire at the targets in front. Everyone really enjoyed it as some of us had not done anything like that before. We then moved onto pair's fire and manoeuvre to ensure our drills

were slick so we could eventually move on to the live fire-team attacks and withdraws. The day wasn't over as we then went on to the GPMG weapon handling test and the Glock pistol weapon handling test, with **WO2 (SSM) Dinsdale** offering his knowledge and expertise to the Squadron.



GPMG firing over exercising troops

After another great nights sleep in the top-of-the-range 5 star 20 man room, we started the day with a confirmatory shoot with the Glock, which was new to most of the Squadron and a great experience to try a new weapon system. On a blazing summers afternoon we moved on to a multiple target shoot with a fire team spilt down individually into huts, with targets appearing at different times so the fire team commander had a very difficult job trying to issue fire control orders but overall everyone did very well.

The last two days we moved onto Hythe ranges where the tempo stepped up a gear. On the Thursday we went into a simulated street lane with buildings down the side to use for cover. Targets would appear and we fired and manoeuvred in pairs up through the street finishing off with a fighting withdraw. Finally on the Friday we used all of the knowledge we'd learnt throughout the week for a final section attack which was hard work but beneficial.

Overall the week was very enjoyable and was refreshing to do something different due to the Squadron being very busy with Falcon exercises and preparing for other major exercises coming up. The only thing that would have improved the week would have been the company of **Cpl Chadwick**.

Exercise IRON VIPER, Abingdon HQ - by LCpl Pridden

Following on from the initial phase of Ex IRON VIPER, based at Hullavington airfield, I set off for the second phase of the exercise on 24 November. We were now based at Abingdon and were in support of three HQs. This phase of the exercise was a tactical phase. We were required to wear helmets and webbing, carry our weapons at all times, as well as making



Ex IRON VIPER



sure the Falcon and Reacher detachments along with all our tents were well covered with cam nets.

I was again working with the Housekeeper system. The detachment encountered a few problems when being set up; these involved everything from working with individual UADs and DAUs to changing multiple cables and moving around connections. We also had to work closely with Falcon, which annoyed **Cpl Lewis** no end! Being able to work with Housekeeper again, I gained more valuable experience and was able to observe how certain complicated technical faults were resolved as well as picking up several useful diagnostic tips.

Towards the end of the third day it seemed that we had managed to resolve most of the major faults as all the users were able to access their accounts, send emails on outlook and open the defence Intranet. From that point on our main goal was to maintain the network and fix any account or equipment faults that came up.

All in all I feel like we all benefited greatly from this exercise; mainly from the issues that we initially had, as it was through rectifying these problems that we were able to learn more about how each system operates and interacts with one another.

SUPPORT SQUADRON

OC **Maj O McGrail**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) A Stephen**

Obstacle Course World Championships (OCRWC). Ohio, USA
- by Sig Newey



Sig Newey ready for the challenge

“Embrace the not knowing, trust yourself and go” was a mantra I found myself repeating time and time again, before and during the race at the Obstacle Course World Championships (OCRWC) in Oregonia, Ohio. I had never raced at this venue before; in fact, I had never been to America before. The prospect of racing in totally uncharted territory was a daunting one.

I have been obstacle racing for around 2 years now. It started after a friend suggested I try a Spartan Race and I was instantly hooked. I decided to do a charity venture and try and run 1000 miles of obstacle races to raise money for Cancer Research after losing my mum and my grandmother in 2013. Throughout this time I found myself getting quicker and successfully qualified to compete at the OCRWC by winning my age group at Spartan Race UK.

The OCRWC started as a dream by race organisers to unite an industry that was splintered into a few big organisations. The contribution of different races was immediately evident as I read the athlete information pack. Obstacle contributions from Battle Frog (USA) to Toughest (Europe) combined with multiple platinum rigs contributed to an impressive 53 obstacles over a 10 mile course.

Packet pickup for the race was on Friday afternoon. When I arrived the venue was filled with an assortment of athletes from all over the world, with large team representation from the USA, Sweden, the UK, Australia and Canada. In all, 26 countries were represented by over 1600 athletes. I registered and took myself off for a walk around a few of the obstacles that were available for practise before the race the next day. It wasn't the size of the obstacles that struck me the most, it was the calibre of the athletes practising on them. Incredibly athletic individuals sporting their countries colours and all looking very confident ahead of the weekends challenge. Having been on the race scene for a few years I have got to know many of the UK racers; however, being surrounded by athletes I didn't know and being totally unaware of their physical capabilities only served to increase my nerves.

Saturday was race day. The day dawned crisp and cold with below freezing temperatures and never really warmed up due to wind and cloud cover. This played a big role in the race, with several athletes suffering from hypothermia and many struggling with cold hands on the obstacles that required grip strength. After the elite divisions, age group divisions began. All athletes in a particular age group would start together and race directly against one another. OCRWC had eschewed penalties like burpees in favour of mandatory obstacles. You could attempt an obstacle as many times as you wanted but as soon as you gave up your athlete's wristband was removed and you no longer qualified for the monetary prizes. Additionally, for each failed obstacle thereafter a 4 minute time penalty was added to your finishing time. Race officials at each obstacle diligently wrote down bib numbers of racers failing obstacles so that all time penalties could be assessed and time adjusted accordingly after the race.

10:30am came, it was my turn to race and there was still frost on the ground. My goal when I left England was to be within the top 100 females; however, having seen some of the athletes that I lined up with at the start line I began doubting how achievable this was. “Embrace the not knowing, trust yourself and go” I kept thinking over and over again. I knew I had worked hard to get here and just had to run my own race. A brief inspirational speech from Coach Dwayne Pain, the best in the business for motivating athletes, and the starting cannon sounded. We were off!

The pace was fast from the off, a mixture of nerves and adrenaline forced me into a pace that I knew was unsustainable for the duration but I quickly got comfortable as the race settled down. A fairly quick loop through the woodland led to the first obstacles which included monkey bars, a 25kg power bag carry up a very steep hill and “Pipe Dreams”, a rig with 2 pipes that you required pure upper body strength to navigate across. Quite a feat after the power bag carries! From here we went back into the woods for a long and hilly loop that included multiple river crossings. During the first river crossing I took a quick moment to appreciate the sheer beauty of where I was running. Kings Domain in Ohio, infamous for its hills and challenging terrain but absolutely beautiful bathed in autumn colours. I was wading down a freezing river in the middle of it all, oblivious to the challenges ahead. The first trail run brought the runners back towards the event village where several obstacles needed to be tackled within meters of each other. I was greeted by a 30 foot tall obstacle known as the “Castle”. It was a simple up,



over and back down a tall ladder structure, achievable for many but terrifying for some. Next up was an obstacle known as the “Destroyer”, a rock climbing obstacle designed and built in the USA. It requires athletes to perform a kipping pull up in order to pull themselves over the obstacle which stood around 10 feet tall. Finally I reached the “Dragon's Back”, the obstacle that had kept me awake all night after seeing it the day before.



The Dragon's Back

For this obstacle athletes had to jump from a platform and grab a metal bar around 8 feet in front with a steep angled wall as their fate if they missed. However, the bar was at foot level giving the impression of an infinity jump. While this wasn't a hugely challenging obstacle physically, it was an enormous mental one and several athletes hesitated, or over thought it and got stuck at the top for some time. Some of the later races saw a couple of female runners standing there for over an hour rather than lose their wrist bands. Earlier in the day I watched as an athlete jumped and struck her mouth on the bar, resulting in quite a serious facial injury. This did absolutely nothing to help my nerves. I approached the obstacle and pulled myself up on to it. I didn't stop to think, I just looked at the bar and jumped. I had done it. A wave of euphoria swept over me but it was short lived as just ahead of me were the “Incline Bars”.



Wideshot of the incline bars

The "Incline Bars" are a huge set of incline and decline monkey bars built over a pool of water. They stood around 14 feet high. The bars were already slippery from the splash produced by other athletes falling, making this obstacle even trickier. I made it safely through with a steady approach, using my legs extensively to help alleviate the fatigue in my arms. After the monkey bars it was back into the freezing water for an over-under logs obstacle before we headed back into the woods.

The trails throughout the course were incredibly tricky. They were very technical underfoot, often along rocky creek beds



Getting up the incline bars...

(with and without water). The race director had made relentless use of the hills, looping the course up and down them. I don't think I ever ran along anything flat for more than a few minutes.

The next major obstacle I hit was the first that had a significant backlog of runners who were trying desperately to keep their wristbands. It was the “Sternum Checker”, so named because of the impact on the athlete's chest when they hit the log. The idea was to try and jump forwards at speed on to a log too high to reach from a standing jump. The shorter athletes were at a definite disadvantage here; luckily for me I jumped high enough to lever my body over on my first attempt. From here it was along more technical trails to the “Platinum Rig” and it was here that my run of good fortune ended. The obstacle was a large frame with pieces of equipment such as ropes, rings and pipes suspended on chains. The idea is to swing across the rig from piece to piece without your feet touching the floor. Failure at any part of the rig meant returning to the start. This obstacle decimated the competition at last year's world championships. I managed to reach the last section before I missed a ring and swung helplessly without enough momentum to grab it. I dropped to the floor and headed back to the start. Wrapped in a foil life blanket I waited for my turn. Several athletes were in early stages of hypothermia by this point and the marshals' were struggling to get the foil blankets out to people. I waited for around 5 minutes but by this point my hands had little feeling left in them. Rather than wait any longer and risking the cold taking advantage of me, I made the decision to take the 4 minute penalty and started running again.

A few more hills and I arrived at the devilish “Weaver” obstacle. A house roof shape of logs that athletes had to navigate under and over without touching the floor. This was quite tricky as the wood was wet and slippery. Once passed the trail turned back into the dense woodland for more hills and a second Platinum Rig. This second rig was not as technical or as large as the first; however, it was lower to the ground, making an inadvertent ground touch more likely for the taller athletes. Further down the track was the Bucket Carry. A plastic paint bucket pre-loaded with 25kgs of gravel. The carry itself was not too difficult, a short 200m out and back along a fairly flat course. Getting the bucket onto the shoulder proved difficult for some of the smaller female competitors though and regular thuds of buckets hitting the floor rang through the trees.

The remainder of the course consisted of hills, hills and more hills, interspersed with obstacles including a heavy hoist (2 x 25kg power bags for the men and 1 x 25kg power bag for the females), a rope climb out of another pit of cold water and a Tyrolean traverse. Into the last mile and when the crowds in the event village once again become audible, I knew there

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HRH The Princess Royal

1 Signal Regiment, 16 Signal Regiment

On a cold and frosty morning on 14 October 2015, the Signal Regiments of MOD Stafford were in order to ensure the finishing touches were in place for the first Royal Visit to the new Regiments.



Preparation had begun many weeks previously under the careful eye of **WO2 (SSM) Fawcett** during their Number 2 Dress inspections and not a foot out of place in their well rehearsed arrival at the newly constructed Regimental Headquarters of 1 Signal Regiment.

On her arrival at MOD Stafford, accompanied by The Master of Signals, HRH received a warm welcome from **Lt Col PRD Muir MBE**. After reviewing the soldiers on parade, HRH was invited to tour the new Regiments.

Once inside the new RHQ building, HRH received a brief on Project BORONA from **WO1 Fawcett** and the Station Staff Officer, **Lt Col (Retd) Chas Dale OBE**. Project BORONA is a large volume of people who have recently moved in following the rebasing moves to the new office buildings, SLA and SFA accommodation are quite the topic of conversation.

The BORONA brief was followed by a brief from members of The Woodland Trust. The 1 Signal Regiment, **Lt Col S Whitley**, which culminated in the planting of a Willow tree outside the Regiments.

It was then time for the party to move north through the camp to the brand new JAG Mess. She also received a brief from two contractors who had been involved in the construction of the Hub, HRH was introduced to a number of Royal Signals Cadets from the Staffordshire Regiment presented to the Station by The Woodland Trust.



The final stage of the visit concluded with a meet and greet in the Warrant Officers Mess. HRH was presented to members of 1, 16, 22 and 37 Signal Regiments and given the opportunity to present medals and commendations to a number of personnel from across the Regiments. **WO1 Berry** from 1 Signal Regiment. On completion of the presentations, HRH was invited to sign the visitor's books.

HRH final act was to sign the visitor's books of the three Regiments keenly watched by the personnel. She was presented with a posy by **Hollie Scott**, the daughter of **WO1 (RSM) Scott**.



al Visit to MoD Stafford

Regiment, 22 Signal Regiment

afford: 1 Signal Regiment, 16 Signal Regiment and 22 Signal Regiment, rose early in recently re-developed Beacon Barracks.

) **Davies**, who ensured the honour guard did not have not a thread out of line rehearsed drill movements, their task being to greet HRH the Princess Royal on her

ed a Royal Salute which was led by the Commanding Officer of 1 Signal Regiment officially open the Regimental Headquarters of 1 Signal Regiment.

the Station Commander, Commanding Officer 22 Signal Regiment, **Lt Col A** NA is the project designed to expand MOD Stafford in order to accommodate the from Elmpt, Sennelager and Herford. With the Project nearing its final months, ersation in Stafford!

HRH was escorted throughout this serial by Commanding Officer 16 Signal side 16 Signal Regiment's RHQ.

Junior Ranks Hub, where soldiers and their families from 22 Signal Regiment had been responsible for the construction of the new build in MOD Stafford. On leaving rdshire Army Cadet Force who were planting a number of trees that were

' and Sergeants' Mess area of the freshly completed MOD Stafford Combined ests from The Woodland Trust. On completion of the meet and greet, HRH was oss the Regiments. Recipients included **Capt Rowland**, **WO 1 (RSM) Scott** and **Sig** ed to officially open the MOD Stafford Combined Mess before her departure.

d over by the three Commanding Officers. As she left the building, HRH was



wasn't far to go. Then I turned the corner and in front of me was "Pinnacle Hill", a huge climb up a very steep bank. Athletes had to use ropes to pull themselves up it. I was completely sapped of energy and my calves were burning but I knew there wasn't far to go. I reached the top and with a huge sigh of relief carried on running.

Finally at the top I thought "what goes up must come down", and come down it did, in the shape of a super-fast 200m water slide down the hill side landing in a deep pool of water. Finally into the last stretch. Up and over a 12 foot incline wall and a second, smaller sternum checker and then the "Tip of The Spear." This consisted of two incline walls that athletes had to traverse using ropes, with a balance beam in the middle. A definite test of grip strength. Next up was another incline wall (with no ropes this time) and then came "Skull Valley", an obstacle many were dreading, myself included. A line of shivering cold and wet athletes were already there waiting to try and work their way through it. The finish line was in sight! Skull Valley was configured as a short climb and hands only traverse across several rock climbing holds in the shape of skulls. Athletes then had to manoeuvre underneath a cargo net without touching the ground and come up on the other side, swing across a pair of ropes to a platform and cross a cargo net monkey bar section to the other side. Failure at any point meant restarting the obstacle.

I felt quite confident about this obstacle; the race organisers had opened it up for some practise the day before and I had made it across a few times. However, at the end of a brutal 10 mile race and being soaking wet and freezing cold, the odds were not in my favour. My first attempt went well until the ropes, where I missed getting my foot onto the platform.

Many others were struggling here as well. After waiting my turn and huddling under a space blanket I went again. Finally, up and over the final warped wall and down the cargo net to the finish line, where warm, dry clothes, a fire pit and a bottle of American beer were waiting.

This race taxed me like no other has ever done. There is no doubt that I used everything I had on that course. Results took around 24 hours to be populated. I had been aiming for top 100 females and around top 25 in age group. Results show I finished 12th in my age group and 34th female (in the world).

A huge thank you to the Royal Signals, The Army Sports Lottery, The 4 Div Trust Fund and 21 Signal Regiment for all of their support in helping me get to America to compete on the world stage.



Success!



22nd SIGNAL REGIMENT STAFFORD



CO Lt Col A Fawcett
RSM WO1 (RSM) R Gleave

217 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC Maj K Biggins
SSM WO2 (SSM) S Hopkins

Exercise ARCADE FUSION 2015 - by LCpl Yonjan

After two intense preparatory exercises, (Ex JAVELIN POINT and Ex DEPLOYEX) 217 Squadron was finally deployed on Ex ARCADE FUSION 15 in Adazi, Latvia. The location of the exercise was a host nation training camp, using a building as our main HQ. Two Stonebridge tents were built outside of the building by ARRC Support Battalion to act as a resilience support to Main in case of emergency.

On first arriving at the camp the first problem we encountered was that the area was 5km from the city and surrounded with dense coniferous woodland. The trees blocked our satcom bearer line of sight and we were forced to move away from the recce spot to a suitable working spot. Whilst we set about establishing comms, a platoon of Rifles who were attached to us established the security blanket around the base.

Prior to the staff arriving, the real work of setting up the HQ went quickly. The engineering of the primary and secondary links, the physical construction of the headquarters and generation of VTC capability kept us busy and as staff arrival

approached we worked long days chasing down issues in the network to ensure that services would be stable (the civilian leased circuit, being entirely "plug and play", was of course responsible for the largest headaches!) The main role of LOCON RES was to provide ICS support to HQ 16 Air Assault Brigade. The staff arrived and the exercise began, with our hard work during the build phase paying off through stable services during the exercise phase.

Fortunately it wasn't all work. We often used to go to the camp welfare centre for food and drinks and we also played pool, snooker and darts there. The camp gym was located near to the accommodation area which gave us the chance to do exercise and play indoor football and basketball. There was also a big presentation hall which could be booked and we sometimes used to go and watch movies in the hall.

During the exercise there were 3 days of walk out policy. All the LOCON RES personnel were divided into 3 different groups and every group went to visit a local town and the restaurant for food in their respective groups. The A Tp personnel also managed to celebrate Dashain festival by receiving tikka from our seniors and preparing Nepalese food like curry, rice and lentils, which acted as a nice change from the traditional Latvian food to which we became accustomed.

As the exercise drew to a close we closed down our HQ and once our kit was moved to Lielvarde Airbase (a difficult manoeuvre to accomplish in the single 6 tonner that ARRC Sp Bn sent to do it, but we managed in the end) we recovered back to the UK and began the Christmas festivities.



222 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj S Macpherson**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) J Roberts**

Exercise ARCADE FUSION 15 - by LCpl Ben Handyside

222 Squadron deployed on Ex ARCADE FUSION 15 on 16 October to provide ICS support to ARRC Main HQ, deployed at Lielvarde Air Base, Latvia. We left Beacon Barracks at 0100 for a flight planned to leave Brize Norton at 1300 - clearly someone tried very hard to minimise the chances of the troops being sat around. Surprisingly the flight left on time and even more surprisingly landed only thirty minutes later! I was sat next to **LCpl Jack 'Tight-Fisted' Gaffikin** who believed we had arrived in Riga, however it turned out that the pilot had decided to stop in Manchester - I can only assume for his lunch? We eventually arrived at Lielvarde around 2100 local time where we were given all the mandatory arrival briefs and orientation before heading to our accommodation, a lovely 18x24 tent which would be our home for the next six weeks (along with a few dozen mice...).

Day 1 went as you'd expect - being in the Royal Signals, we did what we do best and that's putting up tents! This went on for a couple of days before finally our kit arrived. We proceeded to unload and account for all our equipment before it was distributed around the HQ by the members of I Tp. Concurrently, G Tp began to establish the NER under the supervision of **SSgt Chris 'quick, look busy!' Lord** and H Tp quickly established the Sqns brew tent under the noble leadership of **Lt Sam 'ZZzzzz' Cutting**.

Once the entire ICS infrastructure had been distributed and following successful activation checks at both Regimental and Brigade level, it was time for the staff officers to arrive. They were talked about in hushed tones, not too dissimilar to when discussing Lord Voldemort. Rumours had gathered great momentum as to what to expect from the staff officers and nerves were high amongst the Squadron. However, despite our concerns the arrival of the staff appeared to be relatively simple and the exercising phase was completed without any serious ICS hitches, a testament to the work and preparation the Squadron had put in.

Due to our hard work the main part of the exercise went very smoothly with only a few minor issues. As the exercise drew to a close it was time to find out who had been awarded the coveted 'Commander's Coin'. Although we all worked our socks off two individuals stood out; **LCpl Stephen 'HELEN!' Kent** and **Sgt Alan 'Simmo' Simpson** both earned themselves a nice souvenir. We were all rewarded however with a trip to Riga on the final day before our return to the UK. A good time was had by all as we took in the sights within the city's famous old walls which capped off a challenging yet enjoyable exercise.

248 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj B Price**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) L Rana**

Exercise ARCADE FUSION 15 - by Cpl Sanjeep and LCpl Ashish

In the first weekend of October the first elements of 248 GSS deployed to Lithuania. The exercise being located in the Baltics rather than St Mawgan was a big change for which we were all very excited and a lot of planning had gone on to ensure that it went well... **SSgt Chandra 'what are you doing!' Gurung** was therefore very surprised when his flight landed in the wrong country, but they eventually reached their destination and began delivering services through OLRTs for the staff advance party. Two days later the advance party

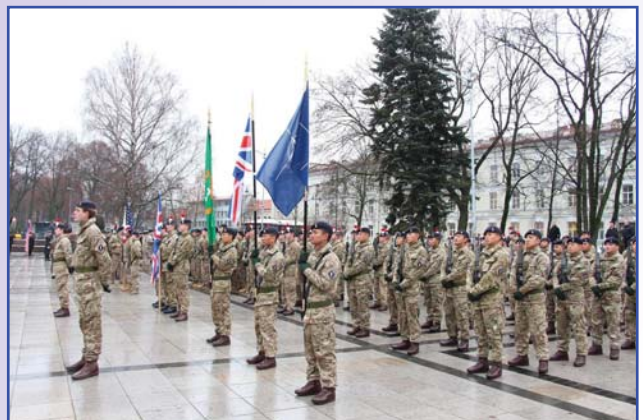
arrived and set up camp in the freezing wasteland of Kairia whilst waiting for the RORO to arrive. Once the off-load was complete, the vehicles were lined up and moved out in convoy to Vilnius.

Arriving in Vilnius, the advance party began building up to support the Table Top Exercise (TTX). Supporting the TTX provided ample opportunity for us to appreciate the breadth of responsibilities that accompany the role of RLS provision that the Sqdn has now adopted. The main body arrived in time for TTX and quickly set about adding the finishing touches to the site build that the advance party had created. All too soon the staff's main body arrived, including three 1*s, and the exercise began, with the staff exploring the VJTF concept and setting the parameters that would later come to define the exercise serials for ARCADE FUSION. After a productive exercise, defined by seamless comms provision, the staff left and we had an evening off to celebrate Dashain before stripping down the TTX and starting the build for the ARRC's Joint Logistic Support Group ARCADE FUSION HQ.



COM JLSG with JLSG Enablers after the TTX

The next week passed quickly and before we knew it we were proceeding through the Activation Parties (who reported that "you've certainly rolled it in glitter") and then the staff returned in force for the main exercise. After the initial staff training period they settled into a work routine and besides the occasional 'unexpected' UAD shutdown we were blessed with minimal technical difficulties throughout. We were nonetheless kept busy with support to visits to the exercise. A further new experience we had was working alongside the Lithuanians who had a concurrent sister exercise running across the corridor which we were also supporting with services. Integrating their systems with ours to facilitate this was a learning experience for everyone, but after many phone calls to SHAPE we managed to successfully deliver the capabilities that they needed. The Squadrons hard work through the exercise was exemplified by COMAARC coins



248 GSS on parade



being awarded to **SSgt Chandra, LCpl Ashish and Sig Raj**. The Sqn are also very proud to have raised over €1500 for charity during the exercise, with a charity dinner night and **Cpl Sanjeep's** hairdressing salon.

As the exercise finished, preparation for the return to the UK began with **Sgt Barun** and his team packing ISOs and preparing for the MCCP inspectors. This was balanced against preparation for the Lithuanian Armed Forces Day parade, with the SSM drilling the troops around the ISO park and practicing his knowledge of Lithuanian drill commands! When the day of the parade came we were bowled over by the occasion and the beautiful setting for the parade, starting in Cathedral Square and then going through the streets of Vilnius. Following the parade we then performed our final pack up and travelled home, proud of our achievements but ready for Christmas leave!

252(HONG KONG) SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj C Raynor**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) B Mclean**

Introduction - by Lt J Gallagher

The final quarter of the year has proven a busy time for 252 Signal Squadron. Changes in the Squadron hierarchy have carried with them fresh impetus and new ideas. **Maj Colin Raynor** took over as OC Squadron in August, alongside him, newly arrived in October was **WO2 (SSM) Brian Mclean**. Despite the busy exercise period 252 have still found time outside of work for sport, courses and, most crucially, entertainment. Autumn saw several Squadron functions come and go, including a racing night, casino night and bingo! All to help raise funds for the Squadron function which will help 252 celebrate the passing year in typical style. A visit by HRH Queen Elizabeth II offered many members of the Squadron a chance to dust off their shiny shoes and have a go at ceremonial duty, providing the Guard of Honour.

Casino Night - by Cpl Robson

With festive season on its way, 252 Installation Techs planned a high end Christmas function. In order to raise funds for the event the Networks department were asked to organise a Squadron function.

To bang out this epic night we received an eye watering budget of £60 along with over 2 weeks of planning time. Thanks to our tip top project management, "*Big Fellas Casino Night*" was born.

Suited and booted, **Cpl 'Robbo' Robson, LCpl Jim Harris and LCpl 'Raging' Roberts** prepared to spread the morale to 252 in immeasurable quantity. To fuel our illustrious guests we provided a Michelin star quality menu of bratties and chips. Then game on! Tables opened for Blackjack and Roulette where everyone competed to be the nights big stake holder.

To round off the night a mystery raffle was held for some quality prizes provided by the various pound stores of Gloucester, there was to be a star prize donated by the roulette croupier, **LCpl 'Raging' Roberts**. Tension built as the tickets were drawn before OC **Maj Raynor's** number was called. He was elated. An "almost new" BMX bike with a flat tyre! He celebrated with a victory lap and an unsuccessful bunny hop up the steps.

After counting the chips, **LCpl Ben Luter** emerged as the Casino King, followed by **Sig Barney Lewis and Sgt Dan Rimmer**. As the tables closed, we headed back to the block to continue the fun!

Royal Visit to Imjin Barracks November 2015 - by Sgt McGinn

On Monday 2 November 2015, my wife and I received an overwhelming offer, one that we could not refuse - we were invited to meet Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, in Headquarters' Allied Rapid Reaction Corp's (HQ ARRC) Officers' Mess. The Queen was invited to Imjin Barracks to visit the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC), the MOD Medal Office and HQ ARRC. Prior to Her Majesty arriving, there was a real buzz of excitement in and around camp. The Queen arrived by helicopter and started the visit at the Medal Office, where medals are issued to the Armed Forces in recognition of service and operational tours. Her Majesty met the team that dispatches medals to Service Personnel, veterans and their next of kin. Her Majesty was then invited to engrave one of the medals using one of the office's laser engraving machines. The Queen next visited the JCCC department who specialise in aiding bereaved families, administrating casualties and tracing fallen comrades from previous conflicts all the way back to the First World War. She was introduced to two Service Personnel who have been helped by the JCCC. The new briefing room within Innsworth House was then officially opened by Her Majesty.



252 Squadron honour guard awaiting the arrival of Her Majesty

It was now getting close to the visit to the HQ ARRC Officers' Mess, where I was waiting to meet the Queen. Members of 252 Squadron provided the Guard of Honour for Her Majesty, the sound of rifles cracking and the National Anthem signalled her arrival. The hall within the Officers' Mess was vast and sound travelled as the selected few murmured nervously awaiting the Queens entrance. We were instructed to continue the chit chatter when she arrived as it would make for a more relaxed atmosphere. The Commander of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, **Lt Gen Tim Evans**, escorted the Queen into the room which immediately fell deadly silent as everyone looked in astonishment at Her Majesty. I remember



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II being welcomed by COMARRC



a very surreal feeling, knowing I was in the presence of our longest reigning monarch. As the chat around the room began to mount up again, the Queen started greeting representatives of the 20 countries represented at HQ ARRC. When the Queen approached me, I remember thinking that she was very elegant and graceful. There was that awkward moment where I nodded, my wife curtsied and reached out a very sweaty hand to her, completely star-struck. With a big smile, the Queen then shook my hand, met my wife and asked what role we have at the ARRC. When she learnt that my wife also serves in the ARRC her reply was "That's awfully fortunate". It was an experience of a lifetime and a great memory to share with the grandchildren.

SUPPORT SQUADRON

OC **Maj N Pollitt**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) C Steers**

St Eligius Day - by Sgt Ash Wheeler

On Wednesday 2 Dec 15, 22 SR LAD joined with 1 and 16 Sig Regt LAD to celebrate St Eligius day, the REME Patron Saint. The first order of the day was the strong man competition; each LAD was required to field a team of 5 personnel to take part in physical events which ranged from lifting dumbbells to dragging a MAN SV. The LAD submitted a formidable team including the likes of **Sig 'Iron' Ryan Hearne** and **Cfn Eddie 'Hero' Seaton**. What followed was a herculean effort



Redhead the builder

involving blood, sweat and tears which resulted in 22 SR LAD being crowned champions. **Sig Ryan Hearne** should be congratulated for his outstanding efforts on the bench press, lifting a 60kg weight 36 times which secured him an individual second place in the competition.

After lunch the next event was the engineering task. Two days prior to the event commencing each LAD was tasked to build a crane which could lift a number of items from a danger zone into a safe zone. So with **LCpl Craig 'Angry' Redhead** at the helm, the music was queued and we set to work fabricating a design from items laid around the Workshop. As the nature of the task became apparent we realised that the design would need some last minute tweaking. We were required to lift 6 items from a danger zone, scoring and losing points for dropping items and time taken. Due to the nature of the items that required lifting, which included an egg and a Land Rover tyre, some inventive ideas were displayed, which included the use of a Hoover attached to a broom handle. After a hard fought competition 22 Sig Regt LAD were once again crowned the champions.



REME egg collector

To end the day we attended a church service and enjoyed a curry tea followed by a lot of liquid refreshment. The day was enjoyed by all that attended and for the 22 SR LAD the day was highly successful.

'Arte et Marte'



30th SIGNAL REGIMENT BRAMCOTE



CO **Lt Col M Fayers**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) M Witham**

Exercise SWAN SPORTIVE 2015 – by Capt TM Collins

The cycling season is peppered with sportives all over the country. I myself enjoy at least 3 or 4 per year and have seen what a fantastic opportunity they are to get out on your bike with a larger group than the normal club runs. This year 30 Signal Regiment held its inaugural Ex SWAN SPORTIVE. The plan was for a 112 mile/180km ride broken into 3 legs, all beginning and ending at Gamecock Barracks; this enables riders to join/leave the sportive at different intervals.

The riders assembled at 0745 on 17 November whereby they were briefed on the rules when out on the road, what the weather and Storm BARNEY had in store for us that day, and most importantly, they were given the opportunity to stock up on nutritional supplements of gels, energy bars,

electrolytes and the cyclists' favourite: Soreen malt loaf and bananas!

At 0800 we set off under the overcast, but dry skies of Warwickshire on the first, 59km leg. The great thing about putting on an event like this it attracts all manner of cyclists, from those that have participated in countless sportives and have raced for the Corps this season, to those that are keen fat wheelers but have now dared to climb aboard the skinny wheels for the first time, to those that have never ridden a road bike before. Particular mention should be made of **LCpl Thulani Matshoba** and **LCpl Sam Agar** who ventured out on a road bike for the first time and found that, in the words of **LCpl Agar** "it is a reet laff this Sir"... although there was certainly a sarcastic undertone!

On completion of the first loop we arrived back at camp to refuel, at which point half the field climbed off and cried "no more"... it must have been the infamous Dobbies Hill Climb...





OC Sp Sqn, Maj M Eastman, towing his SSM, WO2 (SSM) P Munslow, up Dobbies Hill

that and the rain had started to fall! But, with spirits un-dampened, the remaining 9 riders headed off once more on the second, 66km leg. With Storm BARNEY now building, we ploughed on through the headwinds and rain laughing and joking as we went. A particular highlight for all was when, at about 100km, **WO2 (SSM) DJ Seymour** and **Cpl Richie Parr** could not help themselves but to stop for a bag of chips and a jumbo sausage, after which they were ready once more to rip up the road, albeit with new nicknames of **'The Chips'** and **'The Sausage'** respectively.



'The Sausage' and 'The Chips' refuelling

With the weather worsening it was clear that this would, unfortunately, be our last loop and as the rain fell hard, so did **Capt Chris Pain** after he rode over a painted lane marker on a busy roundabout at about 111km. Fortunately he only sustained superficial injuries and keenly rode on. After 125km we rode back into camp and following an obligatory "survivors" photo, we parted ways.

Overall, a fantastic ride out and one which certainly encouraged novice and seasoned riders alike to get out there for a final hurrah of the season.

A massive thank you to **SSgt Rich Gibson** for helping me organise the event and, as ever, riding with such enthusiasm, and to all the riders, thank you for a great ride out and let's make next year's even bigger!



The Starters



- and the Finishers

244 SIGNAL SQUADRON (AIR SUPPORT)

OC **Maj K Simmons**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) DJ Seymour**

Exercise JEBEL SAHARA – by Sig Phipps

Sierra Troop deployed on Ex JEBEL SAHARA for the duration of October and early November. Ex JEBEL SAHARA is led by the Royal Gibraltar Regiment and takes place in Morocco. The Royal Air Force also deploys in order to allow the Puma force to carry out environmental training to qualify for mountain flying and dust landings. This exercise was a great experience for the Troop and was an opportunity to show the RAF the expertise that 244 Signal Squadron can deliver. Our first job was to establish the HQ at Camp RAM-RAM which was located to the north of Marrakech. Being in the Royal Signals, this was second nature to our guys, although the same could not be said for our RAF counterparts! After a very hot morning in the 40^o heat, Sierra Troop had built the Puma force HQ whilst winning a few bets on how fast they could get the job done.

After the initial stages of the set-up we swiftly and surely got ourselves into a daily work routine. Our shifts consisted of a three man crew tasked with monitoring, fault finding and providing technical and tactical ICS to all the force elements in training. Due to the experienced skill set of **Cpl Attwood** the guys were broken down into balanced and enthusiastic crews, working continuously throughout the flying periods. Concurrently we also had a Bowman RRB deployed roughly 60km to the north providing a HF to VHF RRB to the Pumas flying around the training area. This was manned by a crew of two soldiers, who were also accompanied by a 4 man Moroccan force protection team. I could not decide at the time whether it was a God send or not having the Moroccan force with us. After a few days of drinking their mint tea and eating their questionable 'hotpot', my stomach decided to let me know in no uncertain terms the result of my indecisiveness.





The view from the RRB location

It was not just the amazing scenery of the Moroccan desert that was fantastic. Courtesy of the RAF, the hotel we were staying in was excellent and at times you could almost forget that you were on exercise. With the bustling city only two miles away, there were ample distractions to keep us busy in our downtime. Towards the end of the exercise some of the guys were lucky enough to go quad biking and hill walking up in the Atlas Mountains, part of which consisted of stopping for a spot of local lunch. The luxury delights of potatoes, bread and vast amounts of olive oil did not sit well with diet conscious **Cpl Thomas**. Towards the end of the exercise, once the flying had ceased, we managed as a Troop to see some of the local culture. We were able to visit the souks (local markets) of Marrakech and a few of the rooftop bars, which allowed us all to catch up and share our various experiences of this beautiful country and rather unique exercise.



T Tp enjoying some well earned down-time

At the end of the exercise we had the opportunity to stand shoulder to shoulder with the RAF as they celebrated the lives of two of their own; **Flight Lieutenants Alan Scott** and **Geraint Roberts** were sadly killed whilst serving in Afghanistan on 11 Oct 15. The Pilots have a ritual that stems from the Second



Remembering fallen comrades

World War called the 'Piano Burning', in which all the friends of those that have died club together and buy a piano. This is then adorned with pictures and mementos before being set on fire, in this instance, to the sounds of various TOP GUN tunes during a remembrance parade to toast the fallen. This was a sombre but fitting way to end the exercise and the members of 244 Sig Sqn were proud to be a part of it.

Exercise CENTAUR REMEMBER – by Sig Chetwynd

On 2 Nov 15 soldiers from 30 Signal Regiment and 2 Signal Regiment took part in a week long endeavour, Ex CENTAUR REMEMBER in Newcastle. Made up with a large contingent of 244 Signal Squadron's soldiers, the aim was to work with the Royal British Legion in order to raise money for the 2015 Poppy Appeal.

We started early on the Monday and following various briefs and a visit to the Royal British Legion in Newcastle it was time to get to work. We spent Tuesday to Friday walking the streets in various locations around the city; including the Metro Centre, Northumbrian Street and Eldon Square, collecting in aid of the appeal.

We interacted with the public to encourage donations as well as bag packing in a local branch of Asda. On the Friday, between ourselves and the members of the Royal British Legion, we held a charity event at a local working men's club. We had a raffle and charity auction, with all prizes donated by the local community. These included a signed Sunderland and Newcastle football shirt. Kevin Ball, a previous Sunderland manager and player, was the guest of honour. This went down well amongst the predominantly Newcastle supporting guests!



Bag packing at ASDA

Saturday was the day that most of the group were looking forward to. We were invited to watch the Sunderland vs Southampton football game at the Stadium of Light. A number of us formed a guard of honour or marched round the pitch to great applause from the crowd of 40,000. On the



Pte Wright and Sig MacDonald fundraising with friends



Sunday we provided a marching contingency that took part in the Remembrance Parade held in Newcastle city centre.

By the end of the week we managed to raise £87,000 for the Poppy Appeal and the Royal British Legion; an incredible sum considering the most raised on previous years was £34,000. It was a fantastic experience for the soldiers, all of whom were proud to have raised so much for such a good cause. The soldiers were delighted at the public appreciation shown towards the men and women of the Armed Forces.

It was a long and tiring week, but as usual there were a few comical moments including **LCpl Steele** forgetting his bucket on day 1. **Sig Watson** was fortunate enough to bump into Paul Gascoigne... Everyone put in a lot of effort and ended the week feeling happy and proud of their achievements.



Sig Watson and Gazza

250 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj TJC Walton**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Indrabahadur Thapa**

The 250 Gurkha Signal Squadron role is to provide mission configurable ICS support to the Air Assault Task Force (AATF), Vanguard Field Hospital (VFH) and subordinate multinational formations assigned to HQ ARRC when deployed as an NRF, HRF (L) or NFS JTFHQ in order to support programmed and contingent national, coalition and NATO exercises and operations.

The Sqn also continues to provide manpower to Op BACKWELL and SBMA, Tampa and the Sqn is now shaping up to support the AATF, VFH and JFHQ in significant exercises before the year is out. Throughout Nov 15, V Tp will have deployed to St Mawgan in support of JFHQ, providing EXCON to Ex JOINT HORIZON from 15 – 18 Oct and 23 Nov – 6 Dec 15. Between the busy schedules the Sqn has celebrated Dashain and Tihar which are the biggest festivals in the Brigade of Gurkhas calendar and back in Nepal.

Exercise JORVIK LOOK - by Sig Ganesh Dura

Ex JORVIK LOOK is the annual validation of Whiskey Troop's Vanguard Field Hospital at readiness commitment. This year the exercise took place over the period 4 – 26 Oct 15, at Longmoor Training Area. The Tp role was to provide 33 Field Hospital with various ICS Det services which included UK Secret voice, NATO Secret data and Restricted data. This year, 33 Field Hospital was also validating the HAPTIC hospital for the first time in the field. The HAPTIC is the project name for Defence's Chemical, Biological, and Radiological (CBR) protected deployable Role 3 Field Hospital. It has a 4/2/8/48 configuration: 4 emergency departments, 2 surgical tables, 8 intensive care beds and 48 ward beds.

The first phase of the exercise was the build of the HAPTIC hospital infrastructure which includes chemical decontamination facilities, emergency staff accommodation and a fully-protected water supply. These ensure that in the event of a persistent CBR threat the hospital is capable of locking down for several days. Once the HAPTIC hospital built was complete, we set up our NER and started providing ICS services to it. Next phase was a lockdown phase where all hospital staff and six members from our ICS Det were locked inside the hospital for 72 hours. This phase was conducted in order to test the functionality of HAPTIC hospital and ensure the hospital could provide and deliver medical care to our service personnel under CBR conditions. After completion of the lockdown phase we were assisted by some members of 244 Sig Sqn for 48 hours, allowing us to head back to Bramcote for the Dashain celebrations. After Dashain we returned back and started to prepare for the VFH validation phase.

This exercise provided us with the new challenges of providing communications in an environment where there is a constant CBR threat. The overall exercise was successful for both 33 Field Hospital and the VFH ICS Det, although we hope that we will never have to work in the CBR environment on operations.



Members of W Tp after the culmination of Ex JORVIK LOOK

256 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj I Kirk**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Wildman**

Exercise JOINT HORIZON – by LCpl Blackshaw

On 17 Nov 15, 256 Signal Squadron arrived in location at a very windy RAF St Mawgan. The build of the Network Equipment Room (NER) progressed well with few interruptions. **Cpl Gains** was at his usual cruising altitude of around 35,000ft as the build phase commenced. After a horrendous night's



sleep, due to the inclement weather, we were further awoken by **Cpl Bass'** extremely loud snoring. It was then time to take on the challenging task of constructing the HQ and once again **Sgt Bentham** decided not to sleep for the first 48 hours, owing to a willingness to get the job done. Once the build was completed and the IC was content, a Friday night in Newquay was the reward for a job well done.

Monday morning started with the arrival of the Staff. The usual period of test and adjust to our efforts to meet the Staff's taste started what proved to be a very busy week. The previous night's weather continued with winds of up to 45mph battering the camp. On our daily stroll up the hill to the HQ we noticed that more than a few tents had relocated themselves. Our chuckles came to an abrupt end when we spotted some of our own tents sitting on top of the razor wire surrounding it!

After the initial frantic efforts of the first couple of days, the detachment began to get into some semblance of work routine and subsequently many hours were spent attempting to solve the algorithm of the one Rubix cube we had with us. As the week progressed, morale continued to improve, peaking when **LCpl Blackshaw** was mistaken for **SSgt Ward**.

The end of the exercise started to loom large and thoughts turned to the tear down. We had to take down some very broken looking DRASH and erect more in its place. This task was helped with the willing hands of the OC Sqn, **Maj Kirk**, the Tp OC, **Lt Ambrose** and by **SSgt Summerfield**. Fortunately for him **LCpl Baines** arrived just as the last piece of flooring had been positioned into place.

By the end of the exercise, the Troop had braved the continued storms, reconfigured the VTC capability into the safety of the NER and delivered all that was needed by the Staff. We returned to Bramcote in time for the Christmas festivities.

258 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj P Hodgkinson**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Wood**

Exercise DRAGON INCA BEAR – by Lt Miskelly

Ex DRAGON INCA BEAR was a 258 Signal Squadron led expedition to Peru. Consisting of 2 separate day walks followed by a 5 day trek along the Lares Trail, the exercise was a challenging event in somewhat unknown conditions. On arrival in Cusco, some of the 12 soldiers that took part were immediately struck by the high altitude. Heights of up to 3200m had an impact on even the fittest of us. **Lt Rach Smith** adopted an interesting tactic of walking ten paces and then having a rest in order to become acclimatised. During the first couple of days, the guys took advantage of the relaxed pace and went to the highest bungee jump in South



A quiet spot of horse riding

America. Standing at over 120m tall the free-fall jump offered an adrenaline pick me up for those not wanting a relaxing start. For the less adventurous, horse riding proved a more than adequate opportunity to start exploring the Peruvian countryside.

Our gentle introduction to the Peruvian hills came to a dramatic end when we commenced the trek. Climbing two mountains in one day, with heights of up to 4458m, certainly came as a shock to the system. The local guiding us through the passes asked us if we wanted to "challenge the mountain", with the ultimate aim of reaching the summit in less than 45 minutes. Not perturbed by the endeavour, **Sig Laban**, **Sig Price** and **Sig Bennett** put in a sterling effort and reached the top in just over 30 minutes. The three claimed that being smokers gave them a distinct advantage. Continuing the trek the next day and we started to feel that we had underestimated what this trek would entail. After completing a further 20km, we reached the next waypoint in high spirits, although dampened by the heat and humidity.



Waypoint reached

Our trek concluded in the town of Machu Picchu. Wishing for a couple of hours of rest and relaxation we visited the hot springs. Anticipating the Roman Baths of Bath we were left slightly disappointed at what could only be described as a luke warm and smelly bubble bath. Ready for one final challenge 8 of the group chose to climb to the top of Huanya Picchu, a mountain with a 200m ascent in only a distance of 800m. Struggling to the top, and once we had caught our breath, we were once again reminded of the beauty of the countryside.

Ex DRAGON INCA BEAR was a unique opportunity; exploring the Peruvian countryside was an amazing experience. Meeting the locals at every opportunity, we could not feel anything but respect for them to live at such an altitude.



Another day in the office



Although hard work at times, team spirit and the occasional night of sampling the local hospitality in the towns made it an excellent expedition and one that I would certainly do again.



The group at Machu Picchu

SUPPORT SQUADRON

OC **Maj M Eastman**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) P Munslow**

Remembrance Parade – by Sgt Cairns

On Sunday 8 Nov 15 members from Support Squadron took part in the Remembrance Parade held in Nuneaton town centre. As the weather turned for the worse the parade formed up in preparation for the march off. The town hall was our start point, with a 500m march down the road to the memorial ground. So far the planning and preparation had paid dividends and the event was running like clockwork.

Once in situ at the memorial the cannon fired at 1100 to signal the start of the two minute silence. All people, whether they were civilian or military stood peacefully and quiet in the memorial ground as we remembered those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf; those who have protected our freedom, which we enjoy every day.

Members of the Royal British Legion then called for the memorial wreaths to be placed at the Remembrance memorial. The wreaths were laid by military and civilians from across the Nuneaton community. **Capt McBean** and **Maj Toll** laid wreaths on behalf of 30 Signal Regiment and the Queen's Gurkha Signals respectively.

As the parade came to a conclusion it was left to **Capt Fraser** and **WO2 (SSM) Munslow** to march the Sqn back through Nuneaton town to the town hall. The sense of community was ever present as well wishers praised and clapped the



Maj Toll and Capt McBean laying wreaths in Nuneaton

marching troops. The Royal British Legion put the icing on the cake, having served up some much needed food and drink. The Salvation Army were also on hand to swap a few stories, which were greatly received by members of the Sqn.

Once all stories had been exhausted and a couple of well-deserved drinks had been consumed, members of the Sqn took the time to reflect on what had been a poignant Remembrance Sunday.

We Will Remember Them.

SODEXO & 11 SIG BDE CAKE COMPETITION 2015 – by Cpl McDaid

Christmas, as always, crept up on us again this year. Lots of food, fun and family time but it was also a time to stop and think about those less fortunate. So we as chefs once again made the decision to make Christmas cakes to raffle for charity. This year all our donations went to the 'STOP HUNGER' campaign, a charity that sets up different activities such as growing their own vegetables and putting food parcels together.

30 traditional fruit cakes were made by **Cpl McDaid** and distributed out to different units in the 11 Signal and West Midlands Brigade region. The chefs of 30 Signal Regiment worked hard on creating Christmas themed inventions. Likewise all the other units taking part worked equally as hard to produce their end products, with some spectacular results.



A bespoke swan cake in honour of the Regiment

A wise SNCO once told me that just because you are a chef it does not make you a cake maker and just because you are a cake maker it does not make you a chef. However, I must admit I think the chefs did an outstanding job. It did get a bit messy in parts but we had a lot of fun doing it. Even the UCM, **SSgt Johnson**, had a little dance of frustration when his icing kept breaking.

The 11 Signal and West Midlands Brigade competition was held at Donnington Support Unit. In order to prepare for this adequately, the chefs from 30 Signal Regiment organised a cake display. This enabled all members of the Regiment, both young and old, to have a coffee and a mince pie with us, giving us their opinions on the cakes we had made.

Overall our Chefs have gained experience, practiced skills and started the Christmas season with a bang. We are already looking forward to next year!





32nd SIGNAL REGIMENT GLASGOW



CO Lt Col J R Knight MBE
RSM WO1 (RSM) W King

Exercise NORTHERN ATLAS

As part of the Commanding Officer's Op FORTIFY plan, the Regiment has a variety of challenging and diverse AT activities. One of the activities was to trek in the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco to attempt the Moroccan 3 Peaks. Mount Mgoun (4071m), Mount Ouanoukrim (4083m) and Mount Toubkal (4167m). Mt Mgoun is also known as Ighil Mgoun and is located in the Souss-Massa-Draa region of Morocco, which is very remote and hence not many visitors to Morocco attempt it. Ouanoukrim and Toubkal are found in the classic High Atlas and always busy with tourists from around the world.

After months of complex planning and negotiating with various mule teams via our in country fixer, combined with the selection and preparation weekends, we were off. On arrival in Marrakesh we eventually got our transport to the first night's accommodation. We made our way through the high buildings to meet at the door of our Riad Imilchil. The Riad was beautiful, a cultured interior and very deserving of its 4.5 star rating on trip advisor. Dinner was served on the roof terrace under the moonlight overlooking the Medina district. A delightful way to end our first day.

After rousing to the sounds of Morning Prayer the group shook themselves off in preparation for our travels into the wild. Once breakfast was devoured we had a comprehensive brief on the day's activities then headed off. During our 4.5 hour journey to Ait Bougmez we stopped once at a bustling town called Azilal. We were the only western tourists there, so we became a bit of a focal point. The scenery at Ait Bougmez was stunning, snow capped mountains with long lush green valleys that met the contrasting arid desert mountain shrub.

With a starting altitude of 1800m it took us 2 hours to reach our camping altitude of 2347m, where we would stay the night. The thin air caught us all off guard and we now understood the logic of the slow movement and the ridged acclimatisation profile. As we ascended the weather was starting to close in. We quickly made camp and prepared for dinner. After dinner we had a few games of cards taught by no other than the boss man himself, the RSM, **WO1 Billy King**.



The team having lunch after 4.5 hour drive

The small hours of Wednesday morning consisted of the sound of well resting trekkers snoring and sleep talking mixed with the restlessness of broken sleep and the patter of light rain on our tent sheets. We anticipated this being the norm over the duration of the expedition. With everyone's individual morning routine complete and breakfast eaten we were off into the wilderness of Morocco.

The ascent was remarkably more challenging than the previous day, with steep rocky routes and winding paths. How on earth did the "North Face" sponsored mules negotiate their way laden with our heavy bags? Once we hit the pass Tizi-n-Targadit (3400m) we had another enforced rest period to allow our bodies to adapt to the acclimatisation. The views were second to none. We were now overlooking the entire Terkeddirt Plateau and once rested started our descent to our last checkpoint and camping ground for the evening.



Making camp for the night

On reaching the flat and softer plateau, the rain started. The group quickly donned their Gore-Tex jackets and made their way through the refreshing drizzle. The remainder of the afternoon consisted of preparing and packing for the next leg of the journey, the ascent of Mgoun! Unfortunately the heavens opened and a torrential downpour lashed our campsite until the small hours of the morning. It didn't help having to pack all of our sodden gear in time for a 0530 start the next day. 0430 and the sound of alarms could be heard around the campsite. An early start as we prepare to climb our first summit, at a height of 4068m. After a heavy night of rain no one quite knew what to expect as they unzipped their tents in the pitch black. Luckily the rain had stopped but the mud caused by the rain didn't help packing the tents. Though not all was bad, the scenery that we woke up to would take your breath away. The clear sky with all the stars shining brightly framed by the dark silhouette of the mountains.

At breakfast we were told that **SSgt Alfie Adens** and **SSgt Si Hogg** would be joining the mule train and would meet us at the next campsite. This was due to **SSgt Adens** not acclimatising as fast as the rest of the group. By 0600 we were off on our hike, head torches being the only light. As we climbed the sun came up and we could see what lay ahead. The size of the mountains really hit home and in the distance we could see a few snow capped summits. Morale was high,





32 Sig Regt on top of Mt Mgoun

even after a few false summits, but by 1230 we had reached the summit (4068m). The views were unbelievable and after we got a team photo we dropped to 3980m to have our lunch and escape the cold.

We had to descend over 1500m and travel 8km to reach our next camp. We seemed to be going up more hills than down. The rocky ground was tough going which caused some minor niggles. The journey seemed never ending. Energy levels crashed and water levels got low leaving many in the "Red Angry Zone" but with great teamwork and everyone helping each other out we made it to camp by 1800. On arrival there was a great sense of relief as both SSgts had aired and pitched everyone's tents, which was appreciated after an arduous day. After everyone got their admin sorted **WO1 (RSM) King** and **Pte Skye McLeod** were at hand to treat any minor injuries and blisters after the day, not a job for the weak of stomach. A challenging day, with everyone having a great sense of achievement and looking forward to another day.

On day 5 we left the Mgoun mountain range and began our journey onto the Toubkal region. After 12 hours of trekking the previous day the majority of the group had not slept as well as expected, so there was even less excitement than usual at the 0600 reveille. We set off on our descent to Assaka where we would be met by the 4x4 team to take us onto our next destination. The scenery on the trek was stunning as usual and offered plenty of photo opportunities. We were lucky with the weather, no scorching sunshine and no rain, just comfortable walking weather. Spirits were lifted when we reached the village, everyone was fascinated by the culture and the village way of life.

Once we met the vehicles and loaded them, the journey started with a steep descent off the mountain and through wide river crossings and fords which must completely cut the villages off in rainy weather. We stopped at Ait Ben Haddou, where *Gladiator* was filmed. We had a quick photo opportunity before stopping for lunch. Back on the vehicles again for the last leg where we met the new mule team at Tirhaltie. With the mules loaded we put on our backpacks and continued our journey on foot, ascending up and over to Lac D Ifni. Once we reached the top we were rewarded with spectacular views of the lake before the sun quickly set. On the route around the lake to our next camp site the light faded rapidly with the weather changing to rain.

After a while the rain became heavier and so did our moods, thunder and lightning brought even heavier rain. The thunder echoing in the valley walls with the lightning creating a dramatic back drop in the night, adding to the sense of adventure. However, we could not afford to look up for even a split second without risking a fall on the now wet and slippery terrain. Some parts of the path were treacherous

and were being washed away with the heavy rain; an experience of real arduous adventure training.

The thought of having to erect our tents in this weather was dampening our spirits further but when we finally arrived at the camp we managed to get access to some animal shelters where we would be warm and dry. Not having to put up tents made us all very happy. After a quick change into dry clothes and a dinner of dehydrated ration packs, we were eager to get our exhausted heads down in preparation for the following day. Reveille was at 0445, most had slept like babies despite our cattle shed location and **LCpl Serena Murray** shouting, "no it's not" in her sleep. With no tents to pack away we had more time to enjoy the beauty of Lac D Ifni with a sky full of stars reflecting in the turquoise water. Day sacks on our backs we were ready to go with team leaders being swapped to allow a broader view of individuals for the reports. Setting off at 0615, leaving the mules behind, we headed up the valley under torchlight. The sun soon came up lighting the edge of the valley and the eerie dawn chorus of goat calls echoed around us.

The path up the valley followed a river with crystal clear water, beautiful pools and water falls. The serenity and beauty of the trail was soon interrupted by the RSM who declared, "I'll catch you up, I need the loo!" Leaving him in privacy we walked on a short distance and waited, and waited, and waited. Finally he appeared, another victim of traveller's belly!! Moving on up our 1364m ascent, we took it slow and steady, stopping every 50m of ascent for 30 seconds to catch our breath. Our pace was good and at 1300 we reached the Col Tizi-n-Ouanouis (3684m) for our lunch. We had a 15 min break to eat and acclimatise before moving off down the other side through the snow.



Lt Gleizes, WO1 King and Sgt Duncan on Col Tizi-n-Ouanouis

We reached Nelter Refuge at 1445; it was a lovely sight for our weary legs. No pitching of tents was required as we had negotiated a price to stay in the Refugio, so on payment of 360dm (36 Euros) we all found ourselves in a 20 man dorm. After some minor squabbling, bed spaces were claimed and happy faces returned – especially after hot showers, although



a few were not so lucky as the hot water was temperamental. Clean for the first time in days most took to their sleeping bags to rest and relax. After dinner there was a brief on the following day. Most chose to have a rest day but five opted to battle for the second highest peak in North Africa, Ouanoukrim. An early night was needed by most and it wasn't long before we were all snoring and muttering in our sleep after a hard and very enjoyable day.

Sig Jones, the RSM, **SSgt Tinney**, **2Lt Glizes** and **LCpl Martin** sat down for breakfast on day 7 while the remainder claimed a well earned rest day. Unfortunately the RSM opted to return to bed due to a recurrence of traveller's belly, missing out on what turned out to be a Mountain Day not to be missed. We set off on yet another day in darkness with head torches lighting the way. Spirits were high, moving quickly and covering a lot of ground before sunrise. Although the sun had risen the temperature did not and with each metre climbed the temperature dropped, taking with it the morale of the group. During the ascent the wind was blowing snow from the ground in our faces and along with the hail it reminded me of a typical summer day in Glasgow. On one stretch of the ascent there was a small patch of terrain that required three points of contact at all times. Combined with the weather conditions it all added to the sense of adventure. At the summit we all felt a real sense of achievement and were eager to get back to the refuge and gloat to the rest of the troops. When we arrived back the resting troops greeted us cheerfully and helped remove wet clothing and sort our admin whilst we showered. The rest of the day was spent eating, resting, socialising and most importantly taking the SMF written test, which we all passed. This was a great finish to a challenging, yet highly rewarding day.



Ouanoukrim Group

Day 8 was the summit day of Toubkal, which is the highest mountain in North Africa standing at 4167m tall. Spirits were high and everyone was keen to get started. Two of the party (**SSgt Hogg** and **SSgt Adens**) opted to not attempt the summit. The group set off at 0600 in darkness with only head torches lighting the way. There were concerns over the weather conditions before we left, the further we rose these concerns were becoming more apparent with other climbers passing us on their way down having not reached the summit.

As the weather worsened members of the group were starting to feel the exposure to the cold weather. So on reaching 3864m the difficult call to descend due to the weather conditions and experience of the group was made. This was a very unpopular decision within the group at the time as we were all eager to reach the top. With emotions high, the group started the descent back to the refuge and it became apparent on the way down the correct decision was

made. Difficult conditions underfoot meant we had to negotiate the snow fields using a variety of techniques, giving an insight to winter mountaineering. After the challenging descent the group stopped for a group photo at the col before the scree run to the refuge. Once at the refuge the remainder of the day was spent heating ourselves back up and organising kit for the last trek to the village of Imlil, then on to Marrakesh fantasising about which western foods we would enjoy.

The penultimate day started at 0600 with packing our kit for the final trek down to the village of Imlil, where we would have lunch and find our transport to return us back to Marrakesh. We moved out of Nelter lodge at approx 0800 to start our descent of 1467m down through the mountain pass. As we descended we passed through some amazing sights, including some of the clearest water we had seen so far and the shrine of Sidi Chamhardugh, which is next to a cluster of tearooms. After lunch in Imlil we helped Ali the bus driver load the bags and packed into the bus for the drive to Marrakech. We travelled through the twisting mountain roads, slowing at times because of the landslides created by the heavy rains which we had experienced 2 days ago.

Soon we arrived at our accommodation for the night, the Hotel Semiramis in the modern part of Marrakesh. A total contrast to the medina quarter we stayed in the first night. The gardens were really well maintained and beautiful. After a couple of hours of rest and scrubbing ourselves in the shower, we all met in the lobby at 1800 to head out for dinner at a local restaurant. The streets were buzzing with cars, people and bikes of all sorts. We hosted our in-country fixer Ziad to thank him for all his hard work during the trip. For dinner most of us opted for pizza and chips with plenty of fizzy drinks (no alcohol, that was for the hotel). All of us headed back to the hotel, with some wanting to get some fizzy alcohol drinks, others opting for an early night. This evening finished off what was an amazing day and a brilliant expedition.

Once back in Glasgow we returned stores and ensured all photos had been downloaded and a copy given to the Regimental Media Team. A final de-brief with hand shakes and high fives, with life long friendships formed after a most demanding of AT exercises. A big thank you must go to all those agencies that supported 32 Signal Regiment in getting the exped off the ground and those in the background who worked tirelessly to help within the Regiment. A special thank you the Corps funds for giving a generous contribution to the expedition, helping to make it the adventure that it was.

40 (NORTH IRISH HORSE) SIGNAL SQUADRON



SSgts Adens, Hogg and Tinney with water seller in Medina square



OC **Maj G Stevenson**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) L Gamble**

Remembrance Sunday Belfast, 8 November 2015

The annual Remembrance Sunday church parade was held on Sunday 8 November 2015. The parade assembled in Clonaver Park Army Reserve Centre and marched the short distance to St Mark's Church on the Holywood Road. The parade was led by 40 (NIH) Signal Squadron supported by an element from A Company 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment. Also participating were cadets from the Sea Cadets Corps, the Army Cadet Force and the Air Training Corps. There was also a large contingent of the Royal Signals Association members on parade, in all over 120 personnel marched to the church. The Squadron has a strong association with St Mark's Church, the service is very well attended and it was a great opportunity for the military and local community to share in the Act of Remembrance.

After the church service it was back to Clonaver Park for a



On Parade

well-deserved lunch. Fund raising was the order of the day and a ballot was held in support of the Somme Hospital. The hospital is based in Belfast and provides care for ex-servicemen and women and the Squadron provides support on a regular basis – over £120 was raised. Later in the day a special presentation took place with retired Royal Signals veteran **WO1 (RSM) John Loveday** receiving a badge and plaque in recognition of 50 years membership with the Royal Signals Association. After 22 years of service with the Regular Army, **John** continued his military service with the Army Reserve and served in 40 (Ulster) Signal Regiment.

Exercise NORTHERN FROLIC 2, 4 – 6 December 2015



Maj Gordy Stevenson presents WO1 John Loveday with his Royal Signals Association medal

- by SSgt (SPSI) Ian Robson

On a cold, dark and rainy December night, the members of 40 Sig Sqn gathered at Clonaver Park ARC to take part in Ex NORTHERN FROLIC 2. Generator revision training was scheduled for the Friday evening. As the guys gathered in the freezing, morgue like garages, one obvious problem presented itself - there were no generators! After a brief search we found them and cracked on with the training.

By the Saturday morning parade the Squadron was split into two groups. The first group deployed to Ballykinler Training area to conduct cross country driver training with our friendly MT SNCO, **Sgt Wendy Cush**. We even had the privilege of 5 members of 225 Sig Sqn joining us, whilst the second group setup 5 Bowman detachments around the ARC, ensuring that the members of the Squadron had the opportunity to blow off the Bowman cobwebs. The communication plan went smoothly with **Sgt Jonny Booth** and **Cpl 'Jonesy' Jones** on hand to point guys in the right direction. With the return of the troops from driver training in Ballykinler the Squadron reassembled to carry out further comms training but this time with more of a technician feel to it with **SSgt Bob Buckingham** taking the lead. A simple exercise in creating ethernet cables resulted in comments such as "well most of the pairs worked, so is it a pass"?

Sunday morning the Squadron formed up at Palace Barracks to conduct AFT training with our favourite PTI, **Cpl Jonny Colgan**. Several miles later and more than one conversation with the human energiser bunny, **Sgt Chris Collins**, we arrived back at the gym to cool down. Worryingly was the sight of **Cpl Colgan** walking around the gym noting equipment such as stretchers for our upcoming "fun" PT session. All that was left was the soldiers' Christmas lunch, which was served by the Officers and SNCOs. A special thanks to our resident chefs **LCpl Flo Conlane** and **LCpl Dana Jameson** for a superb meal. A very eventful weekend - well done to all those who attended the package.

51 (SCOTTISH) SIGNAL SQUADRON



Christmas Lunch

OC **Maj H Lawrie**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) D Mackenzie**

October saw the ARC hosting Ex PHOENIX ODYSSEY. 5MI Bn set up their Battle Space Management Ops Room for their ADE. It was also worth noting that there were a few non UK accents being heard around the building as 5MI were supported by members of the United States Marine Corps. It was a great opportunity for the CO, **Lt Col Jim Knight** and **WO1 (RSM) John Blowes** whilst visiting 51 Sig Sqn to pop in and get a guided tour of the Ops Room. Thanks to **Capt Iain Affleck** and **SSgt (SQMS) Al Forbes** for assisting 5MI in making their stay as comfortable as possible. Squadron OC **Maj Heather Lawrie** was delighted to attend



Archers Hall launch of The Alliance Trust 2016 CATERAN YOMP. The challenging event covers 54 miles in under 24 hours and is held over 11-12 June. Major General Martin Rutledge, Chief Executive, ABF The Soldiers' Charity also spoke, thanking those that had taken part in the 2015 event and for supporting the charity. He shared the positive news that a record breaking amount of people have signed up for the 2016 Yomp so far. The Alliance Trust CATERAN YOMP has raised a total of £1.8 million for ABF The Soldiers' Charity and The Alliance Trust Foundation since the event was set up 5 years ago. Katherine Garrett-Cox, Chief Executive of the Alliance Trust announced the new Ambassador for next summer's charity event as Micky Yule, a former soldier who lost both his legs in Afghanistan and is now a professional para-powerlifter.

The hugely successful Squadron Recruiting days were held at The Meadows, Edinburgh over 8-10 October. Driven by **WO2 Billy Henderson**, **Sgt Nick Parish** and the RCT along with many Squadron personnel helped out over the week including **LCpl Steph Morris**. The event was again supported by the White Helmets Motorcycle Display Team and thank you to them for taking the time to come up. The CO, OC and **LCpl Morris** were all interviewed by Dreghorn Barracks based BFBS presenter Mark McKenzie. The broadcasts went out over the whole BFBS network so dulcet tones could be heard as far away as Cyprus – all promoting how to join the Army Reserves. The culmination of the event took place at Redhall View ARC where many local units – 106 Bn REME, 5MI, 4PARA, MOD Police etc, joined in the day bringing a variety of displays. The Mobile Military Museum also set up within the Squadron on Saturday, bringing with them a wealth of memorabilia and items of fascinating interest to soldiers past and present, the old and the young. It was concerning when so many of us recognised our old '55 Pattern webbing and got all misty eyed over the NBC roll.

52 (LOWLAND) SUPPORT SQUADRON

OC **Maj R McCartney**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) S Parke**

Remembrance Day Parade, George Square, Glasgow

52 Support Squadron attended the annual Remembrance Day Parade held at George Square, Glasgow on the 8 November 2015. This annual event sees the Squadron participating as a marching contingent which also incorporates units from the city's geographical spread, including a large number of veterans and dignitaries from around the country.

The weather was a typical bleak and dreary west of Scotland day and continued to get progressively worse as time marched forward towards the parade. Once assembled the Squadron had nearly 30 members on parade, which was an extremely good turnout given the fact we had other Squadron members attending 10 other services around the local area laying wreaths from HQ 51st Infantry Brigade & HQ Scotland.

The general public support for the event was incredible. As a veteran of many George Square events I cannot recall a time where I have seen such public support for the day and Armed Forces in general. Despite the weather conditions everyone seemed in good spirits, clapping and shouting words of encouragement as we marched towards the cenotaph, this was well appreciated by all involved on the day. Once our respects were paid we marched off the square with the band leading the way, again great appreciation was shown by the public as we gave the eyes right to the dignitaries on parade. Once at the assembly point it was a quick brief and onto the transport back to the Squadron lines for a glass of port and presentation for the best young soldier award for the training year so far. This award went to **Pte Caitlin Norbury** (AGC).

This came as a bit of a shock to **Pte Norbury** when the Officer Commanding, **Maj McCartney**, called out her name; it was well deserved.

Awards over it was time for the traditional late lunch served by the Squadron chefs under the leadership of the RCWO, **SSgt Steve Tinney**. As usual the spread was to the highest standards and appreciated by all, the turn out back at the Squadron was around 90 personnel, this included family and guests, local cadets and veterans. It was good to see so many different age groups, which only goes to show how family orientated the Squadron has become, all in all a well attended and successful event

Kohima Troop Visit

Little did we know, on that cold, wet, miserable, Friday night, that we would be driving into what was later to be named Hurricane Desmond. As usual we had prepared the vehicles on our Tuesday drill night, in order to deploy out of the gates of Glasgow's Mercury Barracks at 1930.

Morale was high and we were all excited to be seeing more of our Signals troop, Kohima Troop, based in York co-located with 2 Signal Regiment. Donning Santa hats and Sqn polo shirts, we drove through the night, as weather and traffic conditions worked against us. Eventually, we arrived at Queen Elizabeth Barracks in Strensall at 0200.

Reveille was at 0630, to be in the cookhouse for 0700, and then drive to Imphal Barracks to meet up with Kohima Troop. We had not seen members of this Troop since the Annual Deployment Exercise (ADE), so it was good to catch up. The aim of the weekend was for us all to attend a cultural visit of York. Even though we were based at Imphal Barracks for ADE, there was not the opportunity to see York and find out why this city has such a close bond with 2 Signal Regiment, and especially its love of the Gurkhas who received the Freedom of the City in the summer.

To that end we met up on the corner of York Minster Cathedral, where our tour began. Alan Sharp is a local historian and a real character that made our 3 hour walking tour a thrilling and rousing experience. Along our journey we encompassed York Minster and the Liberty of St Peter, the City Walls and Gatehouses, St Mary's Abbey and the Museum Gardens, The Shambles, York Castle, Roman and Viking invasions and much much more. It was a lot of information to take in, and it was particularly warming when members of Kohima Troop said, "I have lived in York for years, and never knew that!"

The wind had died down from the night before, but it was still



The Squadron in York



quite blustery. Subsequently, a trip to York's Christmas Markets for Mulled Wine to warm up, and sample firm Yorkshire favourites like Steak & Ale pie and hot sausage rolls which kept us going. Again, it was amazing how many members from Kohima Troop who live in York didn't know of some of the tasty treats produced locally, especially the Chilli Jam! Apparently it's a "man test" to eat spoonful's of the stuff! After lunch, we had one final tour to fill us with the Christmas "Spirit" – a trip to the York brewery where we

gathered in the brewery taproom bar. Some of us had a little pre-tour drink before we joined one of the excellent tour guides who showed us around the premises and explained the whole brewing process, from grain, to glass!

The whole weekend was a great success, and we will all look forward to 2016, where we can show Kohima Troop around our city of Glasgow.



37th SIGNAL REGIMENT REDDITCH



CO **Lt Col T J Downes**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Morrison**

Post ADE and in the run up to Christmas, the Regiment has maintained a high tempo of activity with a variety of military training weekends, adventure training to the USA (see AT article) and various sporting and other achievements.



Adventure Training in Arizona, USA

On the recruiting front we have just completed another surge period with our paired unit (16 Sig Regt – thanks for the support), and we have run our first large event with Virgin Media, aimed at informing line managers and Virgin Media employees about the Army Reserve. On Tue 20 Oct **Capt Andrews-Reed** supported the "Inspirational Women" event at Kidderminster College in conjunction with Worcester ACC.



Capt Andrews-Reed at "Inspirational Women" event at Kidderminster College

Royal Visit to Stafford - 14 Nov 15

On 14 Nov 15, the Royal seal of approval was given to a £150 million expansion of Beacon Barracks in Stafford when the Princess Royal paid a visit. 37 Signal Regiment have a Troop

from 48 Sig Sqn located at the Barracks in Stafford, alongside our paired Regular unit and members of the Regiment were selected to attend the visit.

During her visit she was greeted by a guard of honour that included 54 Sp Sqn **SSM Hall**, the only Army Reservist on parade. Before she then unveiled a plaque for the new Regimental Headquarters of 1 Signal Regiment and officially opened the new MOD Stafford Combined Mess.

As part of the proceedings, a number of awards were presented by the Princess Royal, including four soldiers that had served in Sierra Leone following the outbreak of the Ebola virus and another award for QM (R) **Maj John Riley** to add to his long list of achievements.



SSgt Paul Hall on Parade at Stafford

Regt Mountain Biking IUMTBXC Round 5, Tidworth - by SSgt Smith

SSgt Cat Smith (Sp Sqn), along with **Capt Lucy Sewell** and **WO2 (SSM) Norm Fowler** (48 Sig Sqn) took part in the final round of the Army Inter Unit Cross Country Mountain Bike (IUXCMTB) Race Series on Wed 2 Sept, organised by the Army Cycling Union and held at Tidworth Garrison. The course set for the day's race certainly felt a lot faster than some of the other courses we'd ridden. The mass start caused the usual excitement at the start, but we managed to just about stay out of harm's way. There were lots of fast sections including the grin-inducing downhill, and then the painful up-hills, that reduced many of the field to pushing their bikes! All three of us successfully completed the 3 laps of the course, totalling about 21km for this round.

A successful season overall for the 37 Sig Regt team; across the whole of this year's series **Capt Sewell** was 1st overall in



the Open Female category, with **SSgt Smith** coming a close 2nd, and while we didn't receive any trophies for it, we were the highest scoring Army Reserve team in the Series.



SSgt Smith (left) and Capt Sewell with Mountain Bike Trophy

54 (QOWWY) SUPPORT SQUADRON

OC **Maj D Dewfall**
SSM **SSgt P Hall**

The pace of life has continued to be hectic, with Support Squadron personnel engaged in a raft of Regimental activities. There have also been a number of significant individual achievements; not least our A/SSM, **SSgt Paul Hall**, passing his Class 1 CS Op course. He is a transferee from the Royal Engineers, but now fully qualified as a member of the Royal Signals. **LCpl Matt Brown** has done exceptionally well to be selected for and pass the entrance tests for the Regular Army Class 1 medic course, a really tremendous achievement. He is still on the course as I write and I look forward to publicising his success in the next edition.

The Sqn achieved an excellent turnout for Remembrance Sunday, their first dressed in Yeomanry garb since taking on the mantle of QOWWY from the disbanded 867 Sig Tp. The day was finished off with a superb curry at the Army Reserve Centre in Redditch (Kohima House) which was attended by family and friends of unit members, as well as the Mayor of Redditch and members of the local cadet forces. A Troop Aid Charity Ball at the National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham was attended by three members of our Squadron who provided a guard of honour. **LCpl Rebecca Abrahams**, **LCpl Darren Roland** and **Pte Clinton Slater** enjoyed their participation in this worthwhile event which was a resounding success.

We have some elite sportsmen and women amongst our ranks, you will read about **Sig Shanice James** boxing prowess in a separate article. **LCpl Darren Roland** participated in the Army Reserve v Icarus (RAF Officers) football match. Despite his team losing he played well and secured his place in the Army Reserve team for the coming season, which will include another tour to Cyprus in 2016.

Wednesday 2 Dec saw 11 Signal & West Midland Brigade hold its Annual Christmas Cake Decorating Competition at Donnington. Competitors were required to decorate a cake with a Christmas theme and with over 30 entries in various categories the judges had a hard task but Sp Sqn AO **Sarah Trout** became the overall winner. **Sarah** will be raffling the cake at the Sp Sqn Christmas party, with the proceeds going to the ABF.



Sarah Trout winner of the Bde Cake Competition

Boxing Success – Sig Shanice James

Signaller Shanice James of 37 Signal Regiment, enjoyed success at the Amateur Boxing Association (ABA) finals in London by winning her bout to become the National Senior Novice B Champion. **Sig James**, who is a former Regular soldier but now a member of the Army Reserve, is the only Reservist in the Army Development Boxing Squad. The final, which took place on 1 November 2015 at York Hall, saw **Sig James** put in a commanding performance. She is now set to join the army Podium Squad in January for hopefully more national success.



Sig Shanice James: ABA National Champion



33 (LANCASHIRE) SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj A Bowdler**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Jolliffe**

Exercise GLOBAL WARRIOR 1: 2–4 October 2015

33 Sig Sqn took the lead with the first Ex GLOBAL WARRIOR of the year for the Regiment. The weekend was designed to accommodate all skill levels and appeal to both the warrior soldier and the not-so warrior soldiers. It also provided a great opportunity for people attending JCLM/SCLM to brush up on their military skills. The training started off with a pyrotechnic safety demonstration after which it was a hands-on approach for everyone to practice firing off flares, smoke grenades, flash bangs and setting up trip flairs.



Setting Trip Flares

Next came the much anticipated bayonet training with SPSI **SSgt Jimmy Bond** instructing. Being up close and personal with the enemy is something that is not normally required for UK Ops and it did raise a few questions with the troops, however, once the PTI (**LCpl Chris Clarke**) had sufficiently warmed everyone up, the controlled aggression soon began to flow through all of the exercising troops. As the tempo increased, so did the aggression, turning mild mannered people into fearless warriors! However war faces still need working on as one of the DS (**Cpl Natasha Pinnock**) said “she has never seen so many smiling faces thrust a bayonet before”.

After the bayonet training, patrolling skills were refreshed as troops made their way along to the next stand. While patrolling it was noted that **Cpl Anthony Stewart** seemed to be missing something? “It’s a new stealth rifle” he said but being unable to prove that a BFA was fitted, it was quickly



Bayonet Training

taken off him. Part of the patrolling stage was to conduct a CTR on the enemy with the troops learning approach methods and observational skills along the way before breaking for lunch.

The rest of the day was taken up covering the 6 Section Battle Drills in slow time then building up to a full section attack. The quality of the instruction from the DS, all of whom were Lance Corporals from across the Regt, was second to none. The application of cam cream did raise a few eyebrows with a few of the troops putting more on the inside of their helmets rather than on the back of their hands! Even **Cpl Hardy** (AKA the Camp Photographer) got cammed up, even though he was not taking part in this stage of the training. Ground appreciation and target indication were the hot topics of discussion for the attacking sections when they had their debrief from the DS. Lessons Identified - there is a right flank as well as a left flank, and if there is a big tree obstructing your view of the enemy then move!, but overall, all of the sections completed their task satisfying the high standards of the DS.

The following day more patrolling skills were conducted with the focus on hand signals. The DS were bemused by some of the hand signals being used but later found out that the troops were fighting off killer flies! The final stand of the exercise was conducted at the bayonet lane and culminated with a very large amount of pyrotechnics being used to create a very realistic battle simulation and an advance to contact. All in all, an excellent and thoroughly enjoyable weekends training.

48 (CITY OF BIRMINGHAM) SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj S Cherry**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Fowler**

A Chef's Tale - by *LCpl Muhammad Imran RLC*

ONE ARMY? Really? Well, Yes! And this is a brief tale – no, not a fairy tale - of how chefs from the Army Reserve and the ‘Regs’ DO work together to feed the stomachs on which Her Majesty’s Army marches!

In August 2015, the Regular RLC chefs attached to 30 Signal Regiment at Bramcote Barracks, Nuneaton, hosted an Army Reserve chef (from 37 Signal Regiment) for two weeks with some interesting results: was there anything a part-timer could teach the full-timers?

During the week I am a secondary school teacher and then, for one or two weekends a month, I don my chef’s whites and become one of her Majesty’s “elite” Army Reserve chefs. Elite? Okay- my RCWO may question the ‘elite’ chef tag I’ve awarded myself – I will admit to over-cooking the occasional sausage at breakfast – but I often DO put in an intense 14-hour shift (alongside the others in our team of phenomenal Army Reserve chefs), serving up three amazing meals. Yes – it is amazing what you can do with compo, some spices and a sprinkle of imagination.

In August the chefs at 30 Signal Regiment agreed to let me become an “embedded” chef for two weeks. I was ecstatic: as a teacher, I was relieved at being able to fulfil my annual Army Reserve commitment to train for two weeks ...and to be able to do it during the 6 week summer break.

Outside of a general mobilisation – managing the day job and Army Reserve commitments is often a precarious juggling act – but hey, that’s how it is for tens of thousands of us up and down the country who make up the Army Reserve. The Reservist has to be a formidable, multi-tasking all-rounder! And, undoubtedly, this is a major part of what the Reservist



"brings to the party". So, would I be able to bring anything to the party at Bramcote Barracks? Or would the professionals be carrying me for two weeks? I did have something to prove!

But the chefs at 30 could not have been more welcoming and it was **Cpl Hollingworth** who, from the start, planted me at the centre of the action as though I'd already been on his team for months. Given this instant gesture of acceptance I was able to get stuck in and help out with the Sergeants' Mess Function. This was an epic 15 hour shift: starters, veg prep, soups, meats, rice, curries, pig-roast, desserts...the menu was endless and all hands were on deck. In this situation, like everything in the Forces, team work was key! Within minutes I felt myself to be part of a well-oiled machine with all its constituent parts purring like a Jaguar sports car. Wow, these guys are good, I thought. And fast! Although I often experience that wonderful team spirit in the Reserve, these chaps took things to another level. "Cheffing" really came alive for me that weekend and over the next two weeks **Cpl Hollingworth** was indefatigable in his efforts to give me a taste of Regular "cheffing": from carrying out stock checks and health and safety audits to checking the field catering equipment and helping out with curry buffets in the Sergeants Mess, I was kept on my toes.

Yet it was the shifts in the Officers Mess that made the deepest impression upon me: working alongside some amazing chefs, I was allowed to experience life outside the "Compo Universe", and have the opportunity to produce bespoke meals that a top-flight restaurant would be proud to serve. Let's be clear, I have always prided myself that we strive to produce top quality meals for all ranks, but cooking in the Officers Mess did allow more experimentation than I was used to, and my culinary eyes were opened even wider. In particular, I became deeply indebted to **Cpl MJ** - a Gurkha chef par excellence, who took me under his wing and revealed to me some mystical top-tips; from here on, my Bombay potatoes will always be spicy and succulent!



"A Chefs Tale" LCpl Muhammad Imran RLC

So, at the end of the two weeks what impression did I think I had made upon my Regular colleagues? What had I brought to the party? Whilst I would be the first to admit that in some areas my technical skills and work rate were occasionally overshadowed, I hope that I demonstrated that an Army Reserve chef can be highly motivated, hard-working and technically competent. Whatever the skill gap that does exist, I'm sure this is something that an extended placement would quickly fix (if ever a mobilisation did arise). Oh, and I did impress several of the chaps with ideas of how to liven up compo!

Without doubt the way forward is partnership. In the words of **Cpl Hollingworth's** boss, **WO1 Dave Courts**, "It's a no-brainer! This is something we need to do much more of." It is unarguable that joint training between the Army Reserve and the Regs allows us to learn from each other and, together, we can build up capacity.

Thanks to all the RLC team at 30 Signal Regiment. I emerged from the 2 week placement inspired, technically improved and optimistic. One Army? Yes, definitely but, like anything, it takes commitment and effort to put theory into practise.

Anyone for Bombay potatoes?

50 (N) SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj N R Coatsworth MBE**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Ross**

Annual Deployment Exercise (ADE)

Stories of ADE 15 are numerous and somewhat exaggerated but in order to dispel the myths and provide at least an element of truth from amongst the confused reporting that followed Ex GLOBAL TOTALso here goes:

Is it true that **LCpl 'Brains' Nixon** inadvertently scraped the remains of his breakfast into the water set aside for soaking utensils? Yes. Is it true that **Sgt 'Walrus' Mason's** snoring ripped the paint from the walls of RAF Honington? Yes. Can **Sig 'Billy Bunter' Scorer-Walton** eat his own bodyweight in just about anything he can stick a fork into? Yes. Does **Sig 'Happy Place' Ogutu** ever stop smiling? No. Can our members play Soft Ball? Certainly not! Can **LCpl 'concentration of a Goldfish' Wright** catch a ball with his face? Yes. Does the Sergeant Major produce some of his best work from the sitting position?.....The photo says it all.



WO2 SSM ROSS "distributing some wisdom"



Joking aside, 50 Sig Sqn members performed brilliantly throughout ADE; utilising the first week to shake off cobwebs, re-hone detachment skills and focus on providing the kind of service we pride ourselves in, ready for the 2 Sig Gp (TESEX) phase of the exercise. Notable performances from **Sig ‘Jamo’ Jamieson**, **LCpl ‘Sideburns’ Forsyth**, **Sig ‘still smiling’ Ogutu** and **Sig ‘this is comfier than a trench’ Stewart** amongst others ensured that 50 Sig Sqn led by example..... Oh yeah; and our "Big Guys" ripped arms from sockets to become tug-of-war champions.....again!

The Royal Signals (Northern) Band

The Royal Signals (Northern) Band had already deployed to Fort Blockhouse in Gosport, Hampshire on their ADE in Aug. During this time the Band completed 4 days intense development and enhancement of musical skills and ceremonial disciplines before performing at Gosport, Shrewsbury, Fowey and Preston festivals. These events provided successful and greatly deserved confirmation of training, especially for the band’s newest members, **Musn Caroline Pounder** and **Musn Fern Welsh**, who were quite literally “thrown in at the deep end”.

We also welcome a number of ex-regulars on board: **SSgt Nigel Hind**, **Sgt Rich Fincham** and **Musn Dan Kolb** on Clarinet, and are equally pleased to have received a couple of transferees. **LCpl David Murray** and **LCpl Gary Glover** join our ranks from the HAC Band and The Band of the Royal Anglian Regiment respectively.

Even more positive news was received following the visit of D CAMUS, **Col B Jenkins** and the Principle Director of Music Army **Lt Col D Wolfendale**, who graced us with their presence to carry out the CAMUS Technical Inspection of the band. I am pleased to report that confirmation of the Royal Signals Northern Band’s “Marching Band” Accreditation Status has now been received. Very many congratulations to one and all.



Royal Signals Northern Band at Fowey

Exercise CAMBRIAN PATROL - by LCpl Myzak

Due to the fact that I was unable to deploy on the Regt ADE in the summer, Cambrian Patrol provided the opportunity for the Sqn to assist with manpower for the Comms element of the Exercise run by 160 Bde and 1 Rifles Sigs platoon and enable me to camp qualify at the same time.

I was the sole representative of the Sqn, and on a (very) early Monday morning set off to the Regimental HQ at Redditch to rendezvous with the other Sqns taking part. In total 7 of us set off over the border for the ride to Sennybridge Camp and after a quick pit stop for an overpriced piece of cake and a can of coke at a country café, we arrived at camp to sunshine and blue skies, something of a rarity in that part of Wales!

On arrival we were greeted by the admin staff and told what our roles would be. Three of us were to be sent out onto the already established Rebro Dets, with the rest working in the stores and Ops Room. I opted for the Rebro and after one night on camp we deployed out to the locations, one being in a field next to a friendly group of cows, one being at the "UN base", a location setup for the scope of the exercise, which quite nicely had showers and hot scoff and my location which was as far from civilisation as possible up in the Black Mountains. Naturally the first thing I did was check for phone signal, of which there was little to none.



“The Det” - Cambrian Patrol 2015

The Rebro Det had already been in place for a couple of days and was manned by a Sgt and a Rfn from the Sigs platoon. As expected of a Rebro Det it had all the creature comforts including a fridge full of bacon, which coupled with a camping stove made two weeks of ORP quite pleasant.

The first teams on the exercise weren’t due to deploy out until the end of the week so it provided sometime for the Yeoman to tweak the comms and get them as good as could be. Thankfully we didn’t have to move! Daily tasks included checking all the kit and equipment and ensuring power was always available to the Det. This wasn’t too taxing as the weather for the first half of the exercise wasn’t too bad, apart from the cold; it was mainly dry with not much wind. However this soon changed and for a couple of days the Gods of Welsh weather unleashed their wrath, at one point blowing the 8 metre mast over (which was back up within ten minutes).

The Sgt left after the first week leaving the two of us to see out the rest of the exercise. A medic call sign was co-located with us throughout the day so they kept us stocked up with bacon and other supplies. In summary the exercise provided a good opportunity to brush up on Bowman/Rebro skills and detachment routine. If the Regt is asked to provide volunteers next year, I can recommend it and it is an ideal opportunity for anyone needing a camp alternative.

64 SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj McHenry**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Howes**

Parish Notes - by WO2 (SSM) Howes

With two ARC locations we are lucky enough to parade in both Nottingham and Sheffield on Remembrance Sundays.



Sheffield's this year saw the Sqn taking more of a back seat roll, following the demise of 38 Sig Regt, as we eagerly passed on the baton of lead unit into the hands of 212 Field Hospital RAMC. We did, however, lend them the experience of **WO2 Barry Baldwin** who guided them through the process of organising it all for the first time.



Remembrance Day Parade

Double congratulations go out to **Cpl Leanne Booth** who now finds herself happily wearing her shiny new second chevron and taking on an FTRS post in Chilwell's Chetwynd Barracks. If she keeps her eyes peeled she may even see **Cpl Jim Fowler** who disappeared there on an FTRS post several years ago and has seldom been seen since! Very well done and good luck to you.

The Sqn is also feeling happy after our recent Commanding Officer's Squadron Advisory Visit. The Regimental team rummaged around the workings of the Sqn to assess our proficiency in a number of areas from Recruiting to Det folders and from the training programme to disciplinary procedures. With only a few things to tweak, we are very pleased with the results we produced; great effort by all involved including our MOD civilians and the ever present G4 team run by **SSgt (SQMS) Paul Ingram**.

Remembrance Day Parade 2015 at Nottingham's Victoria Embankment - by Rct Powell

887 Sig Tp assembled at the Triumph Road ARC, Nottingham, bright and early at 0830hrs in eager anticipation of Remembrance Day Parade. The Troop changed into their smartest uniform and shiniest boots and took care of any imperfections, such as rogue zips sticking out or any unwanted fluff clinging to berets. We were lined up and sized off into marching order then travelled by crew bus to Nottingham's Victoria Embankment, parking close to the starting point of the parade.

No sooner had we arrived than the heavens opened and forced us to retreat for shelter under a pavilion where hot drinks were conveniently being served. After a short wait the Troop fell into our parade position between a platoon of 4 Mercians and the Sea Cadets. Soon after the band started up, the parade began and we started to march off into the rain.

At about the half-way point of the march to the Cenotaph, a certain **Rct Powell** (... erm me), being inexperienced in the art of drill, got in to an amusing muddle and fell into the dreaded tick-tock motion. This did not tickle the funny bone of the Parade Sergeant Major, however, who swiftly issued me with the order to fall out. The Troop rallied around me after the event and cheered me up by "allowing" me to write these *Wire* notes. Thanks...

The parade continued and the Troop marched into their allocated position in front of the Cenotaph and participated in the ceremony which included the National Anthem, The Last Post, prayers and the poem "For the Fallen". It was attended by local dignitaries from Town Hall, the Church, Law Enforcement and the Judiciary. The ceremony was a poignant opportunity for Armed Forces personnel and other attendees present, to pay respects to all the brave soldiers who have sacrificed their lives, fighting for their country in armed conflict.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Troop was well represented by the fresh-faced **Sig Kirk** who laid down a wreath at the Cenotaph, but only once he had convinced the Parade Sergeant Major that he was not in fact a member of the Army Cadets! With the ceremony completed the Troop marched to the finish point of the parade, fell out, got out of the rain and into the crew buses and returned back to the ARC. On our return we were treated to a warming chili con carne and rice that had been kindly prepared by **Sgt Toft**. The Troop rounded off the day with a few raised glasses in the company of Nottingham's RSA members. Remembrance Sunday was honoured for another year.

Exercise STEEL TROT – Strensall Ranges: 23-25 Oct 15 - by Sig Kirk

This saw my first return to Strensall ATU since I had completed my recruit training earlier this year, except this time around I didn't have to stay in the 8 man rooms! The segregated bedroom areas in our accommodation added to the fact that it was arguably the best weekend I have attended yet. Not forgetting that we had a first time opportunity to fire the new service pistol - the Glock.



Ex STEEL TROT "64 Sqn On Point"

Nottingham Troop arrived at Strensall at around 2200hrs on Friday where we were greeted by the rest of the Sqn that had arrived earlier from Sheffield. We retired to our accommodation by 2300hrs to pack our kit ready for shooting on Saturday.

The fun began on Saturday; after all, shooting weekends always go down well. After a quick breakfast we moved to the firing ranges for a long day of turning bullets to brass. The morning consisted of the predictable shooting details that you expect with the L85 A2. The real fun began after a range curry and when we moved on to the biggest reason why I labelled this 'my best weekend'.

After lunch **Cpl Randall**, one of the few skill at arms instructors in our Sqn, handed out a few small black cases around the room. At first it looked too small to contain a pistol so I thought nothing of it. After handing them all out he told us to open up the cases. When I realised what it was a



surge of excitement came over me. He then took us through the weapon handling test for the pistol, then it was on to the ranges for some firing. It was exhilarating after firing the rifle in the morning to be this close to the target. A real insight of close quarter combat and not to forget the sight of **WO2 (SSM) Howes** wearing his full set of "Garry's" although there was no rain to be seen!

After the end of the pistol training it was time to pack up and clean the weapons (the unfortunate downside of shooting exercises). Towards the end of the cleaning **SSgt Mitchell** realised there was something wrong. She had "misplaced" the key to the female accommodation. Me, being one of the slimmer and more nimble members of the Sqn, let's say, and no doubt because I was the only Signaller that attended the

weekend, was tasked with climbing in through the window to unlock the door, so they at least had access to their beds and kit for the night. After these shenanigans it was time to head to the cook house for some well-deserved scoff.

A slightly later start on Sunday due to the clocks going back helped preserve the attention span of the Sqn whilst **WO1 Horton** delivered a lesson on the newly introduced leadership code.

SSgt Hallowell and the rest of the safety team returned to the ranges early that morning in search of the lost key in the hope that **SSgt Mitchell** wouldn't be billed for it. Unfortunately they had no luck and she returned to the ARC later that day a few pounds poorer than she started the weekend!



CO **Lt Col N C Bruce**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) S Tomblin**

53 (WALES AND WESTERN) SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj G Smith**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Knock**

Exercise SALIENT DRAGON

Two members of the Squadron were invited to go on Ex SALIENT DRAGON which was a battlefield study at Ypres. **WO2 Paddy Keogh** and **Sgt Lauren Beardall-Jones** were picked up on the Friday evening. An overnight stay at St Martin's Camp meant a short dash across the road to catch the next train to France. It was only a short bus trip before we got to Ypres and straight into the first part of the battlefield study.

The study was to look at the three battles that went on at Ypres during the First World War. There was a combination of Regular and Reserves, teeth and support arms, young and not so young JNCO's, SNCO's, WO's and Officers. Each cap badge was tasked to research their roles within the battles and to compare the differences to today.

The Squadron members were tasked to look at communications in the trenches. A valiant attempt by **WO2 Keogh** was made to pass on this task to the Royal Engineers; in all fairness, it was the Royal Engineers that had the task considering we had to wait until 1920 to be formed from them. Alas, despite the support from **Sgt Beardall-Jones** to pass it on, they were told to do it anyway. Luckily the Squadron went to France last year and **WO2 Keogh** benefitted from having had to give a similar presentation then for the Somme. Not relying on his luck of the Irish, he double checked all the facts and was able to add to the quality of information.

The study was conducted by all of those in attendance, going through the actions of units and individuals. There were many profound moments when hearing of actual letters of those there, seeing the only headstone with 2 VC's, seeing headstones with the ages of some soldiers of fifteen years old. There was one aged sixteen but, amazingly, at the time of his death he had already been in service for two years.

The pinnacle of the study was the Remembrance Parade at the Menin Gate. Since 1927 the town's local volunteer fire brigade have played the Last Post every evening in all weathers at 8pm. The only time that this was stopped was for four years during the German occupation during the Second World War. Even then the day they were liberated by Polish troops, they played again with the sound of gunfire in the background. This town has shown their respect for all of the British and Commonwealth Troops that fell during the Great War. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Squadron by **WO2 Keogh** with **Sgt Beardall-Jones** acting as one of the escorts.

Monday morning was an early start to get back on the study, this time involving a visit to the German cemetery. By midday it was back to the Euro Tunnel and home by Monday evening.

93 (NORTH SOMERSET YEOMANRY) SUPPORT SQUADRON

OC **Maj A Morris**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Vise**

Medal Presentation

On Tuesday 17 November 2015, the Corps Colonel, **Col S G Hutchinson MBE ADC** visited the Regiment and took the opportunity to present a number of medals and medal clasps to 93 (North Somerset Yeomanry) Support Squadron personnel.

Col Hutchinson was accompanied by the Corps Adjutant, **Capt Bonner**, the Corps RSM, **WO1 (CRSM) Luke**, the Corps Yeoman of Signals, **WO1 (YofS) Binks** and the Corps Foreman of Signals, **WO1 (FofS) Compton**.

After a short Regimental presentation and a tour of the Army Reserve site, all personnel settled into the Junior Ranks Bar to hear the citations and witness the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **LCpl Ratu Damudamu**, the Volunteer Reserve Service Medal to **Cpl Ian Bailey** and the 3rd Clasp to the Reserve Service medal to **WO1 Chris Klass**.

After a short speech by the Corps Colonel in which he praised both the recipients and their families on their long and loyal service in achieving their awards, all retired to the bar for well-earned refreshments and a buffet prepared by our excellent resident chef, **Cpl Emma Fox**.





The medal and clasp recipients with the Corps Colonel

Exercise SOMERSET WARRIOR

After deciding on a hot and sunny day in August to deploy the Squadron into the field to remind and revise tactics, military training and MATTs, the exercise in November did not seem such a good idea. The weather was almost predictably the worst of the year with storms from the east delivering heavy winds and downpours.

Following a Friday evening of First Aid MATT testing by **Sgt Kerry Hill** and **Cpl Ian Bailey**, a Values and Standards lecture by **Maj Andy Morris** and other MATT 6 subjects delivered by **Capt Gaz Topps**, the troops were issued their hexi cookers, ration packs and cam cream and settled down whilst sorting and repacking their equipment ready for an early morning deployment.

As always **Cpl Emma Fox** was on hand to prepare and serve a hearty breakfast for the deploying troops. Considering the weather, it felt like a last supper! Bergens packed and vehicles loaded, it was only a short drive to Chepstow's 25m range to conduct Live Firing practise 4 led by **WO2 'SatNav' Stockwell**, **Cpl Ian Bailey** and **Sgt Steff Sterling**. The weather had not let up at this stage and it made for a miserable shoot, but all managed to pass with some good scores being marked up by **Sgt Luke Cemlyn** and **WO2 (SSM) Rich Vise**.

LF4 complete, the Squadron then had a short ride to Caerwent Training Area to start the tactics phase of the weekend. Support Troop managed to remind and revise how to occupy a harbour area, set up bashers and administer themselves in the field. All these skills were delivered by **WO2 (SSM) Rich Vise**, **SSgt Pete Stainforth** and **Sgt Steff Sterling** in some challenging conditions.

After a pouch of bacon and beans **Capt Gaz Topps** delivered a map reading lesson in preparation for a marching and pacing event. The night navigation event was a 2km route with only a compass, a bearing and a distance for information. Despite the sideways rain, limited information and the complete lack of ambient light, all the troops made it around the course, some with interesting tails to tell. In particular, **Cpl Steve Appleton** and **Sig Griffter Griffey** who had to explain why his rifle muzzle looked like a shovel covered in mud.

The weekend exercise was a complete success, well-pitched and enjoyed by all, with the aims of reminding and revising our tactics and military skills in the field environment being achieved.

94 (BERKSHIRE YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj Paul Ukpai**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Anderson**

For 94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron this has been a busy period, with our foot firmly on the gas with a number of activities taking place and new personnel arriving and old friends moving on.

Officer Commanding HOTO

Maj Justin Harris handed over command to **Maj Paul Ukpai** in October. **Maj Ukpai** was previously SO2 G1/G7, HQ 11 Signal Brigade & Caretaker Squadron Commander at 265 (Kent and County of London Yeomanry) Support Squadron. He said 'It is quite a humbling privilege to be asked to continue my service as Squadron Commander of 94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron. I arrived to find the Squadron in very good order, boasting a thriving "old boys" and girls association, and a highly motivated group of active Signallers ready to take on the challenge of transitioning to Army 2020 force structures. I look forward to commanding the Squadron and feel confident that we will be ready for the challenges that lay ahead.'



Maj Harris hands the Sqn to Maj Ukpai

Maj Ukpai is ably supported by a "seriously" experienced command team: **Capt Dawn Saunders** – Sqn 2IC, **Lt Neil MacInnies** – OC 886 Tp, **2Lt Lawrence Elliot** – OC 885 Tp.



94's "serious" command team!

Staff Movement

The Squadron also waved goodbye to SPSI **SSgt Lee James** who was dined out on 14 November after serving 23 years in the Corp, and PSI (Tech) **SSgt Vicki Charnock**, who was posted to Blandford. Both have been instrumental in the training and support of the Squadron and will be missed. SPSI



(Eng), **SSgt Breden Torode** has been posted in just in time for ECI and RSIT inspections!



Maj Harris wishes SSgt James well for the future

Awards and Recognition

Receiving the Lord Lieutenants Certificate for outstanding contribution to the Reserve Forces, during the Berkshire Awards in October were two of the Squadron's finest: **WO2 Dean** and **SSgt Sterry**.



WO2 Dean receives his award

WO2 Colin Dean runs his own company, has a young family and has served 25 years in the Reserves including tours in Kosovo, Germany, Gibraltar and on operations in the UK. He

said, "I am very proud to receive this award, not just for myself but for the Squadron as well."

Civilian Accountant and Auditor, **SSgt Dale Sterry**, also has a young family and has served in the Reserves for 20 years. An enthusiastic Tp SSgt, driving and navigation instructor, **SSgt Sterry** is definitely an asset on any exercise. Recently changing cap-badge from REME to Royal Signals and now a qualified Bowman Operator, he said, "I am privileged to receive this award, and proud to be a member of the Army Reserve and be recognised for my 20 years of service." Both are very worthy winners and the Squadron was proud to have them recognized and awards presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire.



SSgt Sterry receives his award


At our annual Squadron Dinner in November recognition was also given to **Cpl Brownlees** who was awarded 'Best Shot' of the Year and **A/LCpl Plater**, who received the Yeoman of the Year. **Cpl Brownlees** also received the David Mowart Award, which is an annual award for the best soldier, as voted for by the NCO's.

Congratulations to all those out-standing soldiers, for their dedication and valuable contribution.

Recruitment


Op FORTIFY remains high priority for the Squadron, with **WO2 Matthew Chapman** utilizing every opportunity to recruit.

As part of our recruiting drive, we have now opened Recruiting Surgeries in Camberley Army Reserve Centre and at Brock Bks in Reading, which was previously home to 885 Troop. This expands our recruiting space and footprint across Berkshire and Surrey.



71st (CITY OF LONDON) YEOMANRY SIGNAL REGIMENT

BEXLEYHEATH



CO **Lt Col HJ Scott MBE**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) P Robertson**

68 (INNS OF COURT & CITY YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC **Maj Trelvion**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Cullumbine**
SPSI **SSgt Smith**

The Lord Mayor's Show - by WO2 Paton

The 68 (Inns of Court & City Yeomanry) Signal Squadron Mounted Detachment is a unique ceremonial duty for the Squadron, who represent the Regiment at the Lord Mayor's

Show each year. The ceremonial duty not only highlights the Squadron's heritage, it also provides a great opportunity for community engagement in the City of London. It is also a great opportunity for the riders to enjoy a different aspect of Army life, who in the previous months had been working hard in their roles as Royal Signals communicators, as part of the Regiment in both a UK Ops and tactical communications exercise.

The horses are provided by the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment (HCMR) and riders need to be at a competent riding level before being able to train and take part. Many of the Squadron members had little experience at riding a horse before so jumped at the chance to visit the riding school at



the Light Cavalry Barracks at Windsor to gain the confidence needed in order to pass the HCMR assessment. Fourteen Squadron members were fighting for nine places, so to gain a place individuals needed to be on top form.

The first training session on 3 October at Knightsbridge brought the usual early morning start at Lincoln's Inn at 0600. Hosting the Squadron was the Blues and Royals with one of the instructors, **CoH Mancey**, no stranger to the volunteers from the Regiment. It's important to build a relationship with the horses; riders luckily kept the same horse during practice to help build their confidence. The horses are incredibly well trained, though each one comes with its own personality; each rider had to figure this out, with some learning the hard way. **Sig Foster** was able to get some "air- time" in, when her horse 'Fiona', galloped off and turned suddenly launching her into the side of the indoor training arena. The impact echoed around the walls with a boom that had the rest of the detachment wince. With a helping hand from **CoH Raffle**, **Sig Foster**, still undeterred, straightened herself out, readjusted her safety helmet, climbed back up and carried on. In her eyes, it was no more hazardous than an RF burn!

Over the weeks of training and with the date for the Lord Mayor's Show drawing near, the Squadron riding detachment hopefuls had been whittled down to nine. Veterans **Sgt Warren** and **Cpl Sharp** were happy to step down into a reserve and support position to enable newer members like **Sig Asamoah** to step up to take the honour for the first time. **Lt Levison** adapted quickly to leading the detachment and learning the appropriate words of command to form sections and half sections.

On the morning of the Lord Mayor's Show, 68 Sig Sqn Mounted Detachment were up at 0500hrs for the first inspection and Port Parade by OC Sqn, **Maj Trelvelion**. Then it was all aboard the transport to Knightsbridge to prepare the horses. At 0945hrs, formed up and inspected, we set off, led by the Mounted Band of the Life Guards with the Blues and Royals. Behind us, **Cpl Whiffen** and **Sig Vickers** drove the open top Land Rover, escorting us throughout the parade, along with a mounted detachment of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry.

The Squadron riding detachment had a great support team, headed up by **WO2 (SSM) Cullumbine**, who ensured that kit for our half way admin point was there on time and **WO2 Tear**, who was ready for our arrival at midday.



It's important that rider and horse are looking at moving off in the same direction. "Doncaster!?! Stan's still!!!"

As promised, the weather was wet and breezy, but sitting on top of a huge four legged walking heater made life a little easier. Plus the adrenaline from the parade kept people going. The atmosphere was great and the public spirits were not dampened by the incessant rain.

At the end of the parade the riders tagged themselves onto the rear of the HCMR and set back off to Knightsbridge. The horses, of course, knew that the parade was over and that they were heading back, so keeping them reigned-in was a good exercise for the forearms! Riding back down the Mall towards Buckingham Palace the sight of hundreds of tourists and spectators is quite an experience and it's certainly one that members of the Squadron should be proud of.

Overall the Lord Mayor's Show was a great experience and the Squadron riding detachment got a lot out of the training and the parade. There was lots of hard work from all, with the Junior Ranks notably stepping up to organise themselves and work well as a team.

31 (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY AND PRINCESS LOUISE'S KENSINGTON) SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC	Maj Curtis-Rouse
SSM	WO2 (SSM) May
SPSI	SSgt Smiejkowski
SPSI (Tech)	SSgt Heath

The last couple of months have seen a turn-around for a number of staff. We waved goodbye to **SSgt Tinsley** who has moved on to RMAS. We wish him the best of luck in his new role. We have also said hello to **SSgt Heath** as our SPSI Tech and **SSgt Smiejkowski** as the SPSI.

Throughout the turbulent period the Sqn still managed to have a successful Annual Deployment Exercise, a UK Ops based scenario followed by a tactical communications exercise. This involved being based in various barns and buildings of opportunity, all the while keeping a wary eye open for the "Cumbrian Liberation Front" who were the permanent staff dressed up in mixed garb keeping us on our toes! At the end there was some very much deserved adventure training which was enjoyed by all.

The Lord Mayor's Show - by LCpl Robert Finnegan

A highlight for many was the Lord Mayor's Show on 14 November 2015. 31 (Middlesex Yeomanry & Princess Louise's Kensington) Signal Squadron took part in the Lord Mayor's Show, in support of the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists (WCIT).

68 (Inns of Court & City Yeomanry) Signal Squadron have the honour of being the lead sub-unit every year but this year 31 Sig Sqn were lucky enough to be taking part as the show was celebrating its 800th anniversary.

The Lord Mayor's Show is the longest unrehearsed procession in the world, both in terms of time and distance. When this began it set the template for all future processions. In 1215 King John wanted to see the new Lord Mayor of London so he ordered him to "show" himself. As the main mode of transport at the time, the Lord Mayor floated down the Thames from the City of London to the City of Westminster. In the modern show we "float" along the streets in a procession that is 5 kilometres long.

This year we joined the WCIT, the 100th Livery Company of the City of London who describe themselves as enabling charity, education, industry and fellowship through IT and digital transformation.



The theme of the float was “talent unleashed” to promote WCIT’s support for those transitioning from the Royal Corps of Signals to a civilian career. The transition was illustrated by our troops at the front of the formation and the suited members of WCIT at the rear. It also displayed recruiting information for the Regiment.



Talent Unleashed

The route was lined the whole way by locals and tourists, young and old. It was a bit damp but we kept the kids spirits up with high fives. The adults did not want to miss out either and were keen to furnish us with firm handshakes and gave thanks which we gratefully received on behalf of the whole Army. It is a reminder that the public do not know what we have done in our careers but the uniform we wear represents so much and means a lot to the public we serve.

36 (ESSEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

PARA 10 TAB (Tactical Advance to Battle) 2015 - by Sig Vigor

Members of 71 (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment took part in the 2015 PARA 10 TAB competition which took place in Colchester on Sunday 15 Nov 15. This race saw 472 people, ranging from Regular/Reserve, serving and retired officers and soldiers, as well as members of the public being tested in a mock "P Company" event.

The event is organised by the Parachute Association, who challenge individuals to attempt the 10 Mile "P Company" Cross Country Route, carrying a bergen weighing 35lb (excluding food and water). Competitor’s rucksacks are all weighed before and after the race by officials to ensure a fair competition.

The event started with a light hearted warm up from the APTI’s, which involved a repeated “prone position down” throughout and finishing with a pep talk; “if you feel sharp pains in your chest, loss of vision or hearing, then pull yourself together and get a grip!” Following the warm up all participants were briefed on the route of 10 miles of multi-terrain, with various water stations located along the way. Not forgetting the First Aid Station which was located at Race Control with a roving back up facility for the faint hearted.

The race began for the "tabbers" with a mass start at just past 1100hrs; the weather was great for November and artillery gun fire was used to start the race. The course was arduous from the start, most doubled for the first mile or two with more and more breaking down to a regular tab or walk as the miles past by. The first miles had lulled many into a false sense of security as they were "relatively" flat. It wasn’t until around the 4 mile point that things got worse as from



36 Sig Sqn SPSI's preparing for the off

this point there were two river crossings to negotiate! During the river crossing some slow moving runners and "tabbers" caused a bit of a bottleneck and the people towards the rear had to spend a lot more time in the water getting cold.

From the start, like a ninja, **SSgt Ingoe** was gone; some thought he just hid behind a tree. Behind him was **SSgt Allan** who was unable to keep pace with the clearly cheating **SSgt Ingoe**. Next was **Sig Teslenko** who made a great effort and along with the two SSgts finished the race with "P Company" pass times of less than 1hr 50mins. Still finishing in a good time were **Sig Vigor** and **LCpl Duro** who were disappointed with their times, feeling they should have quad bikes for this kind of stuff. Bringing up the rear and limping due to cramp was **Sig Asamoah**.

A great event and a fantastic effort by all the competitors, we will definitely be returning next year in order to better our times. The finishing times and places were as follows:

SSgt Ingoe:	1hr 32mins, 16 th
SSgt Allan:	1hr 37mins, 37 th
Sig Teslenko:	1hr 45mins, 78 th
Sig Vigor:	2hrs 7mins, 246 th
LCpl Duro:	2hrs 10mins, 277 th
Sig Asamoah:	2hrs 21mins, 347 th

265 (KENT AND COUNTY OF LONDON YEOMANRY (SHARPSHOOTERS)) SUPPORT SQUADRON

OC	Maj Baker TD
SSM	SSgt (A/SSM) Haskell
SPSI	SSgt Donaldson MBE

Officer Commanding Update - by Maj Baker TD

Following on from a successful Annual Deployment Exercise (ADE), in recent weeks the Squadron has focussed on the lessons learnt as well as preparing for the Royal Signals Inspection Team due in December. All key communications assets, procedures and detachment folders, including Bowman, Reebok, CST and TCOPO detachments were



meticulously inspected by the Squadron residential PSI (T) **Sgt Fraser** and the detachment commanders were tasked and supervised accordingly.

There have been a number of key personality changes, including the change of Command of the Squadron on 1 Oct by **Maj Baker TD**. **Maj Ukpai** has left us to command the Berkshire Squadron in Windsor, namely 94 Signal Squadron; we wish him good luck in his new command. Also **SSgt Haskell**, who has taken over the role of Squadron Sergeant Major from **SSgt Griffiths**, and the Squadron are looking forward to his inspirational guidance and direction for the future.

One of the Squadron's recent highlights of the year is a permanent fixture in our calendar leading with the local Remembrance Sunday parade and civic service of remembrance.

The Army Reserve Centre and Reservists are used to host such dignitaries as the Mayor of Bexleyheath and her party including local MPs, Councillors and representatives from the Borough Police and Fire Brigade departments. A considerable amount of cadet units also take part in the parade, ranging from contingents of Army, Air, Sea, Marine, Police and Fire cadets.

The event went very well and concluded with a curry lunch in the Squadron bar which was well received by one and all, including a large contingent of extremely well turned out and immaculately dressed veterans who enjoyed a glass or two of port with the PSAO, **Capt Slaney**. Additionally former members of the Squadron and families of the Reserves were in abundance enjoying the curry served by our mother and son pairing of **LCpl Hirst** and her son **Pte McNally**.



OC Maj Baker TD leads the Squadron to the monument in Bexleyheath to carry out the Act of Remembrance on Remembrance Sunday

Service of Remembrance - The Canadian Memorial at Green Park - by Cpl Broadbent

The Canadian Memorial was unveiled by Her Majesty the Queen in 1994 as a tribute to the 113,663 members of the Canadian Forces killed during the First and Second World Wars. The Memorial is inset with bronze maple leaves with inscription reading: "In two World Wars one million Canadians came to Britain and joined the fight for freedom. From danger shared, our friendship prospers."

As a former member of the Royal Canadian Navy, **Cpl Broadbent** had wanted to attend this service for some time and this year was pleased that a change in timings would make this possible. Immediately following the local parade and service in Bexleyheath, he swiftly changed into his N^o2 Dress and made his way into London, arriving shortly before the service. The service recalled the occasions in which Canada answered the call in the fight against a common enemy, gave thanks for the sacrifices of those who returned injured or those who never returned at all. Wreaths were laid by representatives of the Canadian Government, the Royal Canadian Military Police, the Canadian Forces, the Royal Canadian Legion, the Royal British Legion, the Royal Hospital Chelsea and the Canadian ex-pat community in London.



Cpl Broadbent with the Honourable Gordon Campbell, Canada High Commissioner to the UK

The service was followed by a Reception hosted by the Canadian High Commission to the United Kingdom, his Excellency Gordon Campbell, in the splendour of the newly refurbished Canada House in Trafalgar Square. This gave the opportunity to meet up with a number of the event organisers and former and current members of the Canadian Forces, including Chelsea Pensioners. It also gave the opportunity to see a performance of Contact Unload, a play co-developed by Veterans telling the story of soldiers as they transition back to Canada. An excellent and informative day!



Cpl Broadbent with 2 Canadian IP's, Jim Redknapp MM (L) and Wayne Campbell BEM (R).



NEWS FROM SQUADRONS/TROOPS



16 AIR ASSAULT BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (216) COLCHESTER



OC **Maj Andy Nicklin**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) Niall Marshall**

The challenge is set – a new Brigadier and a more responsive 16 Air Assault Brigade. 216 (Parachute) Signal Squadron goes from strength to strength, continually reinforcing the prestige with which it is held in UK's rapidly deployable Brigade. Every Airborne soldier (whether Parachute trained or not) is charged to deliver this Brigade into battle, with Pegasus as its symbol leading the way. These are dynamic times and the Royal Signals is front and centre in enabling every element of



The RSM getting ready to jump

command and control - from full scale warfighting and joint theatre entry to low intensity capacity building tasks.

This has been a busy couple of months. Parachuting is in no way dead – two significant and sizeable jumps have cemented Squadron capability; a combined UK-French two Battlegroup and HQ insertion in September, with December seeing the largest UK jump for a decade - Manpack Rebro, Tac and Forward HQs all jumped in full overhead assault configuration. This is just one of many means of insertion and all are well drilled in the use of multiple assets to deliver battle-winning command and control enablers to the right place at the right time.

Looking forward, even without a sizeable deployment, this Brigade is exceptionally well postured for all challenges. Outside the usual realm of routine exercises, 216 is developing interoperability with the US and French at pace, consolidating our existing skills, and enhancing and validating our capabilities when projected at extended reach. There is no better place to be and we'd challenge all to involve themselves in the activities we are undertaking – this is a Royal Signals team effort to support efforts at extremely high readiness.

ALPHA TROOP

OC **Lt Charlie Dorling**
SSgt **SSgt Martin Sloan**
Sgt **Sgt Sean Bowden**

Exercise MERCURY DAGGER – by Lt Charlie Dorling

October saw the Troop deploy on a gruelling 5 day LFTT package to Sennybridge. Operating as small, isolated groups in a dismounted close combat environment means these skills form the bedrock of every soldier. Weather was good, neglecting to rain at all, which unsettled some but enabled an excellent package. Progressing from individual battle skills lane to a full section attack in their deployable patrol



configurations, every soldier improved well throughout the week. **Sig 'Platoon' Pattison** made a particularly good impression with a dynamic style and approach that embodies the Airborne soldier. We will continue to build on the lessons, refining our own SOPs to support the introduction of other assets into our patrols.



A Tp LFTT

A Troop - by Sig Jones

216 (Para) Sig Sqn will look very different in 2016 to what it did the year before. At Brigade level we see the return of the iconic Pegasus, a symbol of British Airborne Forces since their inception. This is due to our departure from JHC and our re-subordination to HQ Field Army. The Squadron has restructured to a three operational troop construct, with the long awaited return of Charlie Troop. Instead of providing a troop's worth of manpower for a brigade level exercise, the brigade will be able to have the entire Squadron. We will be better set for extremely high readiness and any contingent task the UK decides to throw at us.

Alpha Troop sees the arrival of **Staff Sloan** and **Sgt Bowden** as the Troop seniors and a mixture of signallers from the old Alpha and Bravo Troops. The role of Alpha is now to provide a scalable Forward Headquarters with an array of communications equipment controlling the battle as required across all functions: Jt Fires, ISTAR, Intelligence, as well as Med, ops, and contingency plans to react to any situation. It is a demanding time and the challenge is set; we have already inserted the HQ via parachute and are working on proving its ability to be delivered in Tactical Air Landing and Rapid Air Landing operations. Enhanced up to an 'old style' Step Up HQ, this will directly enable the manoeuvre fight for the Brigade. Complementing this dynamic and response HQ, Alpha Troop also now provides the Rear Link Detachments supporting 2 and 3 PARA, 2 RGR, and any other foreign battle groups like those from the French 11e Parachutist or the US 82nd Airborne Division.

2016 will give A Troop a chance to excel in its new role and become an integral part of the new 16 Air Assault Brigade.

BRAVO TROOP

OC **Lt Rowan Landon**
 SSgt **SSgt Christopher Ansell**
 Sgt **Sgt Scott Nelson**

B Troop – by Sig Pike

The Squadron has restructured to 3 Troops and has seen B Troop take on the role of providing the Brigade Main Headquarters and the parachutable Brigade HQ reconnaissance patrol. This has been formed by personnel that previously belonged to both A and B Troop. We also welcome **Sig 'Grenade' Dagnall** from 30 Sigs and congratulate him on passing Buckshee Company. We also want to

welcome **Sig 'T-BAG' Windsor**, **Sig Gell** and **Sig Doherty** from Blandford and hope they do well in the future with the Squadron. Last but not least we as a Squadron want to say good luck to the lads on the next P-Coy in January, hopefully we will come away with a few passes!! AB!!

CHARLIE TROOP

OC **SSgt Martin Corbett**
 Sgt **Sgt CJ Woollon**

C Troop – by LCpl Oosthuizen

The Squadron is boasting a new boss, new rules and new dynamics. This month has brought to light some changes to the Squadron, reintroducing the reputable Charlie Troop, with a twist. The Squadron will now be capable of deploying even more forward elements to the Brigade, while of course still retaining its conventional role assisting the 16AA with its HQ element and The Parachute Regiment with any attachments required. Having 3 active Troops in the Squadron as opposed to 2 should allow for the workload to be spread and therefore increase efficiency. Hopefully the Squadron's new framework will fulfil its required role and more in years to come, we all know that we cannot have Brad Carter snap-reps echoing through the troops any longer!

For the new, the present and the aged, the Squadron has undertaken one of the best changes to its identity; the Pegasus has been reintroduced into the brigade replacing the Striking Eagle (more affectionately known as the 'Screaming Eagle'). For those lucky enough to have known 'The Peggy' from the days of 5th Airborne Brigade, before they kicked the bucket, it will be a sigh of relief. The Mythical Greek Stallion hasn't changed in its appearance; instead it boasts some 21st Century synthetics to deal with the immense amount of UV the UK takes in on a daily basis. The men of 216 that have earned their maroon berets are prouder than ever to be wearing the Pegasus, having endured one of the most testing military courses in the world. For those yet to pass, I'm sure they share the same pride.

Before the troop juggles, those that were a part of 'A Platoon' were whisked away on a final troop bonding experience to London courtesy of 'yer man', **Josh Richards**. Apart from having to wake up earlier than anyone else on the planet, the trip down via minibus was invigorating. **Sgt Woollon's** style of driving made sure we couldn't go to sleep and that we all took responsibility for each other's lives by paying our undivided attention to the road until we reached The City, which, as you could only expect brought the maximum amount of stress for any driver and CO-DRIVERS? Road rage, saliva trodden door windows and traffic jams have a very close correlation for some drivers. I'll just leave that there.

Arriving late at Parliament was inevitable; London will always decide when you will get there. For those not trying to crack on to the tour guide, an hour and a half walking around the Houses of Parliament was pretty damn incredible. We were lucky enough to have the MP for Colchester who was kind enough to accompany us round, top bloke. Following on from the visit we caught the tube straight to the Punch & Judy in Covent Garden for a bite to eat. Newly promoted **LCpl Nunn** could not express his new found undying love for sub surface travel. Some say he could be heard begging for "just one more stop, please". Lunch finished, we headed to the Imperial War Museum to soak up the conflicts of the last Century. Again, 'Nunny' just wanted to go trainspotting. After doing as much walking as we could round the museum, we then headed to an all you can eat Brazilian meat buffet.

Aside from 30 of us joining into every single birthday song, turning the restaurant into an atmosphere close to that of a



football stadium. We took it upon ourselves to surprise **Cpl 'Baby Face' Hunter** with a flash fake birthday cake and song, as those who know him could expect. His reaction was a barrage of fufufufufu noises, which we mostly translate into a half laugh and half gratuitous response. Once we were done grazing through an entire cattle farm's worth of meat, we ventured to a pub to watch the England v France football match. Moving to see a packed pub go from a mass of noise and chatter to being able to hear a pin drop, the respect shown well deserved in light of recent events. On return to Colchester town centre, some of the more relentless individuals like me delved into the town to paint it 7 shades of maroon. **SSgt Ansell** however was nowhere to be seen, and still hasn't come up with a good enough excuse for the men.

SUPPORT TROOP

OC **Capt Kevin Read**
2IC **RQMS Emma Stainer**

Returning from Exercise EAGLES AMARANTE the workshops were naturally busy, but with the willpower to play we saw **Sgt 'Blacky' Black** and **Sgt 'Doris' Day** leave the Squadron. **Sgt Black** made sure we wouldn't forget him, presenting the workshops with a montage of himself handing over the title of "best looking bloke" to **Cpl 'Lamby' Lamb**, sadly this title won't be held long as he is to be posted soon also. Welcoming back **Cpl 'Nooooo' Fern** after his Class One, everyone was pleased to see that he had learnt something during his time in Blandford, surprising even himself. We also saw the new arrival of **Cpl 'I'm not Green' Byers** into the 'Doris' PID.

With P-Coy looming in January, **SSgt 'Si' Bird** saw it fit to choose the best the workshops have to offer by running a 3 day "Hell Week", proving that Phase one and two training is

doing its part for the Army, the newest members of the tech workshops (**LCpl 'Smudge' Smith** and **LCpl 'I do triathlons' McNeill**) were chosen to attend the course, with the gypsy's warning of not coming back if they fail. An exercise was also run by **Sgt 'The Whip Cracker' Beckett**, in Friday Woods, which saw everyone available in workshops doing 36 hours of shimfing until the sun went down the next day. Chief shimfer though, goes to **Cpl Byers** who successfully flaked and had to be casevac'd off the area. We wish him a swift recovery.

Cpl 'I'm working, I swear!' Tuddenham, **LCpl 'Joe Ree' Lee**, **'Smudge'** and **'Lamby'** had the pleasure of renovating the Squadron museum piece in the Corps Museum, joined later by **SSgt 'Si' Bird**. A special thanks to Dave, the museum caretaker, for all his help whilst we were there. We can all now successfully recite one of the museums other exhibits VP loops after listening to it for 5 days straight!



Tech Tp at the Museum



BRUNEI SIGNAL TROOP



Melbourne Marathon 2015 - by Cpl Dirga Pun

The Melbourne Marathon was first held in 1978 and has been in the annual calendar since. The 42.195 km run over the traditional marathon distance is the main event in the annual Melbourne Marathon Festival. It featured the famous Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) as both the starting and finishing point. This year the marathon was held on 18 October 2015. Spearheaded by **Cpl Durga Pun**, eight members of British Forces Brunei embarked to take this challenge on 15



Garrison and BFB personnel prior to race start

October 2015. Out of eight, three were from BST namely **Capt Nim**, **SSgt Raj** and **Cpl Durga**.

Needless to say it was the first time for everybody in the town and the first 2 days were spent acclimatising there. Collection of the race kit and visit to the iconic Eureka Tower, the highest public observation deck in the Southern Hemisphere, concluded the first day. The acclimatisation phase continued until the following day with a visit to the Shrine of Remembrance, which was built as a memorial to the men and women of Victoria who served in World War I. It is one of the largest memorials in Australia where annual observance of ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day is held every year.

Around thirty thousand runners from around the globe flocked to MCG on the race day. The route was passing through the mixture of both the skyscrapers and sea side of fascinating Melbourne city, culminating with MCG. The support along the route by the volunteers and public was second to none. All the participants from BFB completed the race well within the cut-off time with **Capt Nim** (OC BST) leading the pack, finishing in an excellent time of three hours and thirty five minutes.

The team also managed to raise the significant amount of £1528.60 for ABF, The Soldiers' Charity and the Multi Neurone Disease Association. Finally, the plain sailing of the whole event from the early training days to the recovery phase back to base along with raising the charity was the brainchild of OC BST.



OTHER UNITS



UK MOD SANGCOM PROJECT TEAM



Programme Director **Brig Pete Drew**

To the Uneducated, an A is Just Three Sticks - by WO1 (FofS) Paul Wright

Whenever I am asked about life in Saudi Arabia, conversation always tends towards how it is to live here and rarely about the work. This is a great shame, because it is when working with a Foreign Signal Corps where you notice the similarities in work ethos, but it also highlights many differences. Probably the largest difference is the lack of a structured career progression; until now that is.

From the moment you join the Royal Corps of Signals, in whatever trade you choose, you are able to map your career progression. You have goals to aim for, they are clear. It has not always been the same with the Saudi Arabian National Guard (SANG). You could leave training as a Technician and never attend any progression training until you reach the rank of SSgt. Fortunately, times are changing and along with a drive from the highest levels of Government, the SANG are embracing training and education.

SANGCOM has numerous projects coming on stream to aide in this regard. We have a project to build a completely new National Guard Signal School, a larger and more modern version of the Trade Training School in Blandford Garrison. We are also building two new regional training schools in Dammam based on the east coast and Jeddah on the west. The most exciting part is that the SANG have embraced the thinking that the new schools are an essential part of the development of the training of soldiers and although having modern, shiny new buildings helps, the focus is rightly on developing excellence in personnel.

All things should start small and the starting place in the Eastern Sector is a new training facility in the remote town of Al Hasa. The MOD team recently visited the construction site to see how the building was progressing and received a warm welcome from the local builders. With only the foundation in place, the site "Foreman" seemed keen to show me the safety certificates for the concrete. I must have missed the day on my FofS course when we learnt about the specific

density of pre-cast concrete, but I duly examined the certificates and nodded sagely so as not to upset him.

Maj (Tfc) Russ Darlington must have also missed the concrete training day on his YofS course, as he proceeded to make his mark on the site by walking through some freshly laid concrete, much to the anger of the worker who had just finished levelling the foundation. Not wishing to cause further damage to the site, we concluded our inspection early and made a hasty exit.



Maj (Tfc) Darlington leaves an impression

We now look forward to the day when we open the new school and the obligatory Mutton grab celebratory meal when we cut the ribbon. These are exciting times for the SANG who have embraced the idea of the new facility and a positive step towards continuation training. For those Royal Signal technicians currently thinking of progressing towards FofS, don't be surprised if one of your fellow students hails from Saudi Arabia. And pay attention on concrete composition... You never know when you might need it.

Corps Colonel Cultural Trip – by Maj Shaun Wilson

For a couple of days in October, SANGCOM were fortunate enough to host a visit by the Corps Colonel to Riyadh. The visit was an opportunity for the Corps Colonel to share the latest Corps news with the Saudi team and keep us up to date with happenings within the Corps. For the SANGCOM team, it afforded us the opportunity to highlight some of the good work we do with the National Guard and just how rewarding Defence Engagement can be. However, no visit to Saudi Arabia would be complete without a cultural event and for the Corps Colonel it was decided that a trip into the desert would provide the most fun.

Accompanying the Corps Colonel were **Brig Pete Drew**, his wife, **Helen**, and a few keen volunteers from the SANGCOM team. The visit took in Diera Souk, a traditional market in the centre of Riyadh, which sells anything and everything. We



Foreman briefing the foundations of workplace safety



also visited Masmak Fort, the site of the battle in 1902 that saw King Abdulaziz retake Riyadh and set the country on its current course. During our time in Masmak Fort, **Maj Shaun Wilson** got extremely excited when finding a large gun; immediately taken back to his Gunner roots.



'Gunner' Wilson getting excited

We then reached Red Sands to undertake some desert dune driving under the control of **Lt Col Stu Gillespie**. In the interests of accurate reporting, it is only right and proper that this article informs all readers of the *Wire* magazine that the only person to get a vehicle stuck in the sand was the Corps Colonel. In his defence, it was his first experience of dune driving whilst most of the SANGCOM personnel have at least some experience of driving in deep sand.

All in all a fantastic visit for which the team in Saudi are very grateful to the Corps Colonel for making time in his busy schedule to visit us.

Princess Royal Day Cocktail Party – by Capt Kieron Scott

Last month saw the SANGCOM annual Princess Royal Day Cocktail Party take place in the gardens of the British Ambassador's residence, Riyadh. The evening was a great success with excellent attendance from the various military and civilian organisations in Saudi Arabia. Some notable



inclusions were a member of the Saudi Royal Family, our Ambassador Mr Simon Collis CMG and his wife Mrs Huda Collis, British Embassy staff, those serving with the British Military Mission, MODSAP, US OPMSANG, Ministry of the National Guard and numerous other distinguished guests.

The Corps Colonel, **Col Simon Hutchinson**, attended the function as part of his visit to the MOD SANGCOM Project Team. On arrival guests were escorted to the gardens accompanied by some fine bagpipe music from **Mr Stuart**



Welcome speech by the Programme Director, Brig Pete Drew



SANGCOM and the Corps Colonel



Walker, who kindly stepped in at the last minute due to some unavoidable visa issues. Thanks are given to **Sig Christopher Dorman** who was stood to, ready to go until the 11th hour. Guests were then greeted and welcomed by our Programme Director, **Brig Pete Drew**, before enjoying the delights of an Arabian autumn evening whilst sampling an impressive selection of canapés.



Bagpiper Mr Stuart Walker

The evening was brought to a close with a brief speech from **Brig Drew** thanking the numerous guests for their attendance and continued support and outlining the reason for the function. The highlight of the speech was when he thanked yours truly for organising the function a second before the microphone died in true Royal Signals' style. Undeterred, he continued his speech in true Army style simply raising his voice.



The SANGCOM Team with the Corps Colonel.



Defence Engagement with our American Cousins.

Thanks are given to the British Embassy for the use of its excellent facilities and assistance in ensuring the success of the evening, Arabian Food Services for the high quality of food, Unique Catering Services for their hard working staff and **Mr Stuart Walker** for his talented musical services.

SANGCOM Royal Signals Association Dinner
– by Maj Shaun Wilson

Following the Cocktail Party, the Saudi Arabian “Branch” of the Royal Signals Association got together to exchange stories of how the Royal Signals has moved on. It was a chance for likeminded past and present members to get together, “sit on sandbags and swing the lantern”. There were a total of 42 members who turned up, some working for industry in Saudi Arabia and those currently serving in the UK MOD SANGCOM Project team.

After a good fill of fish, chips and mushy peas and the initial “I haven’t seen you in donkey’s years”, The Project Director **Brig Pete Drew** introduced the guest of honour the Corps Colonel, **Col Simon Hutchinson**, who very kindly gave a state of the nation address and answered questions from the members.

Questions ranged from “Which supervisory trade is the best and why do we need Foreman of Signals (Information Systems)?” To Yeoman of Signals **Mick Sutton** asking “what is the optimum year I can take over as Corps Sergeant Major?” There were also hecklers hiding in the shadows shouting “Lineys rule, I still have my belt and you’re not taking it without a fight.” Of course there were the clever chaps at the front, Ex TOT **Andy Forbes** asking brilliantly structured questions about Service Management which were met by shouts of “Boring!” There was also a little whisper from the back, barely audible saying “Technical Officers... why do we need those, I am not one and I am doing ok?” The offender ducked and scuttled away before being identified.

The award for chest poking the Corps Colonel goes to **Mick ‘I built the internet’ Culyer** who had a string of animated questions. Ever the consummate professional, the Corps Colonel gave considered and knowledgeable answers which were well received by the Association.

All in all it was a great night and a fantastic opportunity to catch up with friends new and old. A big thank you goes to the Corps Colonel for taking the time to meet the Association. Next year we are hoping for the Master of Signals to be the guest of honour.



ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS HONG KONG TOUR

Introduction

After several years of success at recent Inter-Corps Badminton Championships, the team conducted a tour to Hong Kong to play against some of the best the world has to offer. The first tour in over 14 years served to provide high levels of competition and training and build upon the good level of team spirit and ethos. The competition was to be fierce and the training sessions relentless with a full programme including a total of 4 matches, 3 major training sessions and 2 days R&R during a busy tour.

Squad

Lt Col 'Mr David' Duggan JFC (Chairman)	WO2 (FoS) Paul Cadogan GOSCC, ISS Corsham (Secretary)
WO2 (FoS) 'Mally' Mallison HQ JITG	SSgt 'Mr Dave' Williams 37 Sig Regt (Captain)
SSgt Subarna Gurung 22 Sig Regt	SSgt Dakswor Rai 1 Sig Regt
Sgt Kritipurna Rai 11 Sig Regt	Cpl Krishna Kumar Khajum Limbu 22 Sig Regt
Cpl Ale Magar Nimakaji 11 Sig Regt	LCpl Mohan Gurung 22 Sig Regt
LCpl Subash Rai 11 Sig Regt	Sig Kirsty Kennedy 21 Sig Regt

Day 1 – 3: Meet Up and Travel

The tour officially started on Sunday 4 October with the team rving and staying overnight at the Army Reservist Centre in Uxbridge, where 71 Signal Regiment was kind enough to provide accommodation a short hop away from Heathrow Airport. Early the following morning the flight was in 2 stages; Stage 1 - London to Mumbai and Stage 2 Mumbai to Hong Kong - a total travelling time of 18 hrs. Flights were comfortable and the entertainment package extensive enough to pass the time and the journey went without incident less **Lt Col Duggan** proving once more that the officer fraternity do not like to part with their money by not removing his wallet from his pocket whilst progressing through the scanner.

Arriving at Hong Kong there was widespread relief that **SSgt Williams** had managed to book a "luxurious-ish" bus for the hotel transfer with leather seats, walnut trim, Wi-Fi and, more importantly, air conditioning. Despite the rain, outside temperatures were still in the very high 20s. After checking into the Cosmopolitan Hotel, the hierarchy broke off to conduct initial ground reces of the Hong Kong Football Club - an exquisite leisure facility whose grandeur imposed a sense of the imperial period in Hong Kong with marble floors and expensive wood fitting, and boasting its own swimming pool, golf simulator, indoor bowls green, restaurant and physio department - which was to be our training ground for the next 9 days. Tough eh?

The remainder of the day was covered by admin and food. The latter proved more difficult than expected with language barriers and the failure of the universal language of "point at the picture and indicate how many" resulted in **Lt Col Duggan**, **WO2 (FoS) Mallison**, **WO2 (FoS) Cadogan** and **SSgt Williams** being served up a less than inspiring bowl of chicken bones and sinew. Throughout the head waitress and staff randomly watched on and laughed. Why? We do not know. The group evening meal produced a similar predicament with the team engulfed by a sea of rice and noodle dishes that would have supported an entire squadron - Lesson Learned: order less, you can always order more! And eels in soya sauce (we think??) are tastier than they sound!

Day 4 - 7 October - Training Session 1

The first training session was designed to be a light acclimatisation session involving advanced skills based on the doubles aspect of the game. Run by **SSgt Williams**, the session lasted a challenging 2 ½ hours. Afterwards it was noticed **Lt Col Duggan** had a worrying change in his gait, whereupon it transpired that, despite owning 2 pair of badminton trainers, he had neglected to pack them and only brought his running shoes! The result was hot spots and some major blistering of his feet.

Wednesday night is race night in Hong Kong so **Cpl Krishna Kumar Khajum Limbu** organised free entry and a beer at Happy Valley Race Course. There were no big monetary winners but the atmosphere was electric and the racecourse had an Oktoberfest theme with German band, beer, frikadelle and bratwurst – plus the obligatory 15 minutes torrential downpour! Effects of the local cuisine were equally as swift and **SSgt (FoS) Dax Rai** became the first casualty; fortunately **WO2 (FoS) 'aka The Doc' Mallison** was on hand with the Imodium.



SSgt Dave Williams and Sig Kirsty Kennedy



R SIGNALS BADMINTON

R: 5 – 16 OCT 15

Day 5 – 8 October – Training Session 2

The Second Training Session saw an increase in both intensity and skills, with the emphasis on effective doubles play, turning defence into attack and effective footwork and communication. The temperature and humidity had risen significantly and all players were dripping with sweat after a light warm up. The humidity made the session hard work but despite the odd respite for water replenishment “Authoritarian” **Coach Dave** was unforgiving and after 90 mins of skills development and 60 mins of doubles play even the most hardcore was unwilling to stay on for further practice.

The evening saw the group split with several members strolling the 15 minutes to the Hard Rock Cafe for some extremely good burgers, fajitas and the odd cocktail followed by a visit to the iconic Victoria Peak with its spectacular views over the harbour. The second group hit Victoria Peak first, via the Gurkha Bar in central town, and then did a harbour boat tour to witness the somewhat disappointing “world famous” light show.

Day 6 - 9 October - Ocean Park and Mainland Markets

This was the first much needed R&R day. Several members of the team had family and old-school friends in the area and had arranged to meet up and have some quality family time. For the remainder **WO2 (FofS) Mallison** arranged a trip to Ocean Park – a local major theme park. Ocean Park was amazing with great rides, a giant aquarium with manta ray and sharks, and a plethora of wildlife including walrus and giant panda. A fun time was had by all, topped off when **SSgt Subarna Gurung** discovered his “balls in his neck” after participating on his first ever rollercoaster ride. Later the team decided to visit the famous jade and pearl markets on the mainland. The markets were bustling with energy and the crowds intensified as the evening went on and a few souvenirs later and another “15 minute walk” we were on the return MTR journey back. The R&R Day had consisted for most of 12 hours on our feet and approximately 20 km of walking. With tired limbs and one eye on tomorrow everyone, including the die-hards, retired for an early night.



The Team visit Ocean Park Theme Park

Day 7 - Match 1 - HKFC Badminton Team. (Result – 6 – 3 loss)

The first match was against the HK Football Club Badminton Club. The match format was different to our normal play with the games being decided in 1 end to 31 points; a killer particularly in the single matches. The match consisted of 6 doubles, 2 mixed and 1 singles. The games were fierce and despite an abundance of players our opposition repeatedly fielded their strongest few and future hopefuls in several of the doubles games. Pairings of **SSgt Dave Williams** and **Cpl Krishna Kumar Khajum Limbu**, and **WO2 (FofS) Paul Cadogan** and **Sig Kirsty Kennedy** played particularly well but were unable to halt a loss of 6 games to 3. A few friendly games ensued before the team joined the HKFC team at a local restaurant for a post-match meal where we found out more about the local team. They were made up of a local TV celebrity weatherman, banking magnet and 12 year old “national sports prodigy!!!”



R Signals and Hong Kong Football Club Badminton Teams

Day 8 - Match 2 - HK Correctional Services Division. (Result – 5 – 4 win for R SIGNALS)

The Second Match was to prove just as arduous and challenging, with Lessons Learned from Match 1 reflected by a small switch to the doubles pairings. Today’s format was the standard best of 3 ends with each end being decided by the first team to reach 21 or 2 points clear. Following some epically close games, with **WO2 (FofS) Paul Cadogan** and **Sig Kirsty Kennedy** still remaining undefeated, the match was drawing to a tight close and with the final singles game to play it was 4 - 4. However, **LCpl Mohan Gurung** didn’t buckle under the pressure and secured a superb and highly combative win in a 3-end epic battle, and resulted in our first match win!!



HKCSD proved to be excellent hosts and held a post-match BBQ which included attendance by their family and friends. We were extremely well looked after - the food, the drink and the conversations flowed constantly. A few presentations were made and the son of one of the HKCSD players (**Carl**) who grabbed everyone's hearts. He was presented with a R SIGNALS Badminton Top – it's a little large at the moment but I am sure he will fill it in time.

Day 9 – Lantau Island and Stanley Market

The second of the planned cultural visits was to the Ngong Ping, Lantau Islands Tian Tan Buddha which is 34 meters tall and sits at the top of 268 steps. A Cable Car was the chosen method of transport across the water and over the peaks of Lantau Island providing spectacular views of miles of lush green slopes. The keen eyes of our Gurkha contingent picked up a trail below and given time we would have liked to have completed the journey through the arduous terrain on foot. The views were spectacular and after a bit of souvenir hunting and a few team photos the team meandered down the steps and to the monastery providing an insight into the architecture that is long lost within the city limits.

Day 10 - Match 3- Kowloon City Badminton Club (which included future Hong Kong national team candidates) (Result – 9 - 0 loss)

The morning **WO2 (FofS) Paul Cadogan** and **Sig Kirsty Kennedy** began with a light training session focused on serving, return of serve and backhand shots at HKFC followed by a relaxing swim, jacuzzi and sauna in preparation for the evenings match. We were met by our contact Peter who's limited language skills proved challenging and we went outside to find a lone car waiting. **Lt Col Duggan** and **SSgt Dave Williams** were ushered to the car, which already had two occupants and the remainder were instructed to wait and the car would do shuttles. It was only when the car left we appreciated how crazy the idea was with effectively the Chairman and Team Captain, both in a strange vehicle, disappearing out of sight. A vision of the car speeding to the border and delivering two strategic personnel to the PLA was just one of the thoughts passing through our heads. All were relieved when Peter returned and the remainder of the team was ferried to the restaurant where we found our leader(s) unhurt and tucking cheerily into some local cuisine. With full stomachs (so as not to offend) the team then walked to their hardest match, in more ways than one.

The format for Match 3 was 4 doubles, 2 mixed, 3 singles, with each being decided in 1 end to 21 points. We knew today would be the toughest match and having been introduced to their Coach, **Sun Pun** – previously ranked number 30 in the world for over 10 years - the match commenced. Their Coach was keen to highlight a number of their team were budding national stars or were expected to be in the very near future!! Despite some heroic efforts and valiant displays by **Sgt Kritipurna Rai** and **SSgt Dakswor Rai**, **Cpl Ale Magar Nimakaji** and **Cpl Mohan Gurung** plus **SSgt Subarna Gurung** and **LCpl Subash Rai**, the opposition were just far too strong and the match was lost 9 - 0. After the compulsory few post-match friendly games, play finished after midnight and we bid our farewells (as a group this time!) knowing the next match was due to start less than 12 hours later.

Day 11 - Match 4 - Kowloon Sports Hall

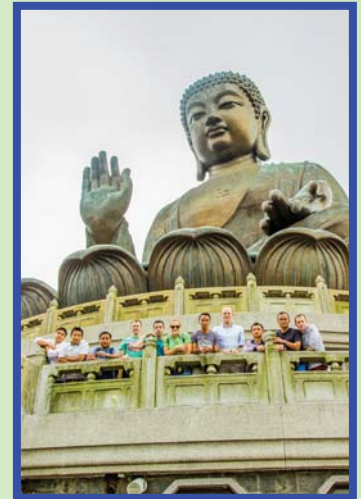
Early the next morning we proceeded to the Hong Kong Sports Hall facility where a little time was spent relaxing in the sun, watching locals carry out the art of Tai Chi and the team tried to get rid of few of its own aches and pains. The Match 4 format was to be 1 game to 21, with 4 doubles, 3 singles and 2 mixed games. The opposition was again, extremely strong and the competition fierce. Despite giving our all and pushing the opposition to their limits, and even our Chairman, **Lt Col Duggan**, and **SSgt Subarna Gurung** completing a hard fought win, the games fell in their favour with the majority going to the line. After the match, teams split off to integrate and form mixed pairs in a plethora of friendly games, which lasted a couple of hours. A happy but very tired team then presented the plaques and tops and we bid our hosts a fond farewell.

A couple of hours later the team departed for our Final Tour Evening Meal via a boat trip to Rainbow Restaurant on Lammar Island; a highly recommended fish restaurant. The food was fantastic and included platters of fresh seafood of snapper, lobster, shrimp and crab to mention but a few - all of which were devoured by the team. Moreover, the team used the opportunity to thank **Lt Col Duggan**, our outgoing Corps Badminton Chairman, for his 16 years support in post and presented him with a signed (and soon to be framed) tour shirt. **Sgt Kritipurna Rai** was presented the award for the **most improved player of the tour** whilst **LCpl Mohan Gurung's** performance against the Correctional Services Division, plus others, earned him the much-deserved **best player of the tour** award.

Overall, the tour was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all - It really was "a once in a lifetime opportunity". The team learnt a huge amount about both their strengths and weaknesses and will seek to apply their new acquired skills and understanding at the upcoming Army Inter Unit, Corps and Inter-Corps Championships.



Evening function with the Hong Kong Correctional Services Division



Visit to the Giant Buddha at Lantau Island



SSgt Williams presents Lt Col Duggan with his signed tour shirt



The Lagos Trophy

On a cold Monday morning in October the Royal Signals Corps dinghy sailing team donned their woolly hats and set out on the grey waters of the Thorney Channel to hone their skills in preparation for the defence of the Lagos trophy to be held later that week. The annual inter Corps team racing regatta is fiercely contested, yet the winning streak from the Royal Signals dinghy team just cannot be stopped, despite other Corps dinghy teams efforts.

As the reigning champions of the trophy, (and the most prepared!) it was of no surprise to the Royal Signals team that they were alone on the water on that Monday morning. With numbers for two teams in attendance it was necessary to ensure that the more confident helms and crew were in the A team to give the greatest possible chance to retain the trophy for the Corps. After a hard days sailing the teams were duly selected - The Royal Signals A team consisted of; **Maj Rachel Limbrey (Capt)** **Sig Emilie Towersey-Veal**, **Capt Rich Greener**, **Capt Alice Thewlis**, **LCpl Chris Eccles** and **Maj Alex Hutton**. The B team: **LCpl Richie Curran**, (Capt) **LCpl Matty Donnison**, **LCpl Gaz Middlecoate**, **LCpl Matty Farrell**, **Cpl Dene Ford** and **Sgt Dale Smith**. Feeling rather chilly from a day on the water, the teams began to contemplate the extremely exciting concept of a hot shower - which has only recently become a real possibility at Thorney Island, due to the million pound new development at the Army Inshore Sailing Training Centre (South).

As a fresh new day dawned and the sun made a surprising appearance lending to the impression of summer in the photos! The team gathered to await the arrival of the team Captain. **Maj Rachel 'crew - that seat is not a seat' Limbrey** turned up full of vigour and excitement about putting the Royal Artillery (among others) on the lower positions of the podium. A day of technical sailing followed, with roll tack and gybes becoming the norm – despite some day skippers not having been on the type of boat without a fridge and a bed before! Tacking and gybing on the whistle, and numerous team races followed with **LCpl Chris 'I don't own a wetsuit' Eccles** becoming slightly disappointed in his choice of board shorts for the training as the day continued.

The day of the Lagos trophy dawned with grey skies and drizzle, 4 teams from the Army had managed to gather together enough sailors to compete – the Royal Signals having 50% of the fleet, with the Royal Artillery and the REME both entering strong teams. The blustery day got off to a fine start with the A team winning all their matches in rounds one and two. The B team were also competitive – with **LCpl Rich Curran** captaining the team to some strong conversions on the water. The REME fought hard to prevent a Royal Signals first and second place and they managed to slip the B team to third position. The final result of the day, Royal Signals A team – 1st, REME - 2nd, Royal Signals B - 3rd and the Royal Artillery - 4th.



ROYAL SIGNALS SWIMMING

The 2015 Swimming session ended on an all-time high with the males winning the Inter Corps Individual Swimming Competition for the first time in the competitions 27 year history and the female Individual Swimmers gaining a second place just behind the AMS.

Royal Signals Inter Units Competition - 15 - 16 Oct 15

In the lead-up to the Inter Corps there was the Royal Signals Inter Units Swimming and Water Polo Competition in the Aldershot Garrison pool with a fantastic admin team from 251 Sig Sqn, 10 Sig Regt, headed up by **Cpl Chris Hardy**. It was two days of action packed fun and competition culminating in the Army Swimming Secretary, **Mr Nathan Pearce**, presenting the trophies. Unfortunately numbers were not great this year, especially with the swimming, with a number of teams dropping out on the day; only 2 teams turned up on the day. There were some excellent and close performances especially, in the 200m IM between **Maj Dave Phillips** and **Maj Owen Finnie**.

Water polo had probably its most successful year in terms of turn out and teams entering, there was definitely some hard fought competition on the second day. The water polo led to some fierce competition with 30, 10 and 3 Signal Regiments fighting it out for the top three places. Ultimately 30SR were the best team in the final.

Results:

Male Swimming - 1st 10SR (110 pts) and 2nd 30SR (97 pts).
Female Swimming - 1st 11SR (71 pts.) and 2nd 21 SR (29pts).
Water Polo - 1st 30SR and 2nd 10SR.

Inter Corps Training Camp – 23 Nov – 1 Dec

With talent spotted at the Inter Units, letters were handed out and we eventually had the best turn out for the pre-Inter Corps training camp held at the pool at Gamecote Barracks; a huge thank you to **SSgt Craig Chilvers** (was 30SR now 32SR in Dundee) for facilitating all the administration on the camp and **Cpl Katie Holden** and **SSgt Sean Peart** for pulling together the swimming and water polo admin, respectively. Ex-Corps stalwart **Mr Pete Griffiths** returned to provide all our excellent swimming and water polo training. Additionally, **SSgt Jamie Masters** (now RAPTC, but ex R SIGNALS) visited for a day to provide guidance and demonstrations on preventing injuries, stretches and nutrition.

The camp consisted of two training sessions a day on each of the two disciplines, with many doing 3 or 4 a day due to participating in both events. Once **SSgt Jamie Masters** had passed on his wisdom, and when all were not in the pool, or the cookhouse, swimmers and polo players could be found in the gym stretching off trying to prevent any injuries. Working on our starts, turns and technique was vital for our teams and seconds were being knocked off everyones personnel bests and the eventual results proved the hard work all put in. A mixed water polo team even got a match against Oxford in the Bramcote pool which got the whole squad participating or supporting. There was even time for a team social in the middle of the first week expertly organised by **LCpl Mike McNeil** and enjoyed by all.



The Corps Swimming and Water Polo Teams



The top 2 Water Polo teams



11SR Female Winning Swimming Team



LCpl Mike McNeil working hard in the pool; leading by example



SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

Inter Corps Championships – 2 - 3 Dec

Once the training camp was over teams were selected and the captains were announced. Huge congratulations go to **Cpl Katie Holden** (female team), **LCpl Mike McNeil** (male team) and to **SSgt Sean Peart** (male water polo) for their captaincy and hard work over the two day period.

An extremely action packed and busy two days were had in the Aldershot Garrison Pool. We may not have won many first or second place medals but our team depth was there; it was to our shock that the Male team not only won, but smashed it in the Individual Championships. Additionally the men drew with the Royal Marines in the relays but just missed out on the trophy due to losing the medley relay. The females managed a valiant second place in the individuals and a slightly disappointing third in the relays. Overall it was a fantastic two days for the swimmers and some heart felt efforts by all. There were some fantastic performances from too many to mention, but 11SR certainly assisted with their fresh Corps blood.

Results :

Male Individual Championships:	Royal Signals – 89 points REME - 69 points RLC – 63 points
Female Individual Championships	AMS – 76 points Royal Signals – 67 points AGC – 54 points
Male Relay Championships:	Royal Marines – 48 points (won due to faster IM time) Royal Signals – 48 points REME – 32 points
Female Relay Championships:	AMS – 44 points AGC – 40 points Royal Signals – 34 points
New Tandem Relay:	Royal Signals AGC RLC

Unfortunately the water polo players did not have as much luck this year with neither males nor females making it to the final. The men finished unplaced and the females managed a 3rd, a slight damper given we won both previously. The spirit and effort however could not be faulted and all worked hard to the end. However, with many new players emerging, further tactics taught and players volunteering to join civilian clubs, there is promising talent for next year. Huge congratulations must go to the following three who were selected to join the Army Water Polo Squad in preparation for the Inter Services in July: **SSgt Sean Peart**, **SSgt Amy (FofS(IS)) Phillippo** and **LCpl Robyn Hurry**.

Overall there is some fantastic talent within the entire squad with a bright future ahead for all the teams. Four trophies were given out at the end of the two weeks for the Female and Male Rising Stars within the pool. These went to **LCpl Robyn Hurry** (1 SR) and **Sig Josh Kent** (30 SR) for Water Polo and **Sig Abby Chetwynd** (30 SR) and **Sig Matt Fitch** (11 SR) for swimming.

A final thank you goes to **SSgt (FofS) Bev Cadogan** for her treasury and kit assistance even though on maternity leave and also turning up for the two days with junior in tow wearing his Corps baby grow.

Should Regulars or Reserves be interested in joining either the Corps Swimming or Water Polo team, then please contact one of the following. We take a mixture of abilities so don't be shy, hopefully we will have a short camp leading in to the summer period, more to follow:

Capt Lianne Robinson (Team Secretary, either event), at DSCIS-11SR-2SqN-ITp OC@mod.uk on 94371 2952 or 01258 482952
Cpl Katie Holden (Swimming POC) at 2SR-ZTP-CRYPTO-PVRO@mod.uk on 94772 2326 or 01904 662326.
SSgt Sean Peart (Water Polo POC) at 10SR-241-LaarbruchTp-SSgt@mod.uk on 94240 3855 or 01869 257855.



Winning Men's Swimming Team



Corps Men's Water Polo Photo – a poolside chat with Coach Pete Griffiths



New Corps swim wear fabulously styled by some team members



EXERCISE DRAGON

Ex DRAGON PHOENIX (Ex DP) was a Level 3 Adventurous Training (AT) trekking expedition to Arizona, USA for 14 personnel over the period 1-15 Oct 15. The exercise combined Regular and Reservist soldiers from 37 Sig Regt and our paired regiment of 16 Sig Regt.

The aim of the exercise was to summit 4 of the 5 Ultra Prominent Peaks within the Arizona State National parks. These included Mt Lemmon (2791m), Chiricahua Peak (2975m), Miller Peak (2886m) and Humphreys Peak (3852m), whilst also spending 3 days trekking deep into the heart of the Grand Canyon. Not only was it a unique opportunity for all those involved, the expedition also provided the Summer Mountain Foundation (SMF) qualification upon successful completion.

Led by **Capt Sandy Hennis** (OIC Exped), **SSgt Dave Graham** (2ic Exped) and **SSgt Sammy Collister** (Chief Instructor) the selection process prior to gaining a place for this "once in a lifetime opportunity" was vigorous to say the least. Training weekends to test physical robustness and to determine any personal "admin vortexes!" were all part of the pre Ex DRAGON PHOENIX build up and some may say, if you volunteered for **SSgt Graham's** Lanyard Trophy team, it carried extra weight in the selection process (one which he strongly denies).

After carefully selecting an evenly balanced spread of quality individuals from within the Regiment and offering our sister Regiment two valuable spaces, the training objectives, kit and equipment requirements and general outline of the expedition was briefed to all those involved.

Capt Hennis (48)
SSgt Whitty (48)
Cpl McGarry (33)
Sig Neely (16SR)

SSgt Graham (50)
Sgt Sweeney (50)
LCpl Baxter (50)
Sig Poulter (16SR)

SSgt Collister (33)
Sgt Shaw (48)
LCpl Booth (64)

SSgt Milton (Sp)
Cpl Barrett (50)
LCpl Earwacker (48)

Make no mistake this wasn't any old AT, this was M&S AT. To have an opportunity of this stature and kudos is very few and far between, every individual embraced this from the very start. Anticipation grew stronger and stronger throughout the weeks leading up to the exped. All kit and equipment sourced from Loan Pool was issued with minimal fuss on the proviso that **SSgt Graham** got it all back - which he did mention on numerous occasions throughout the trip.

The day had finally arrived. Flying out from Heathrow with British Airways the group were particularly excited, none more so than the girls who went for a "makeover" in the airport prior to departure. This was something which confused the male contingent as we were about to cover numerous miles, at altitude, in significant heat with only basic supplies. A trip to the beauty salon was the last thing to be expected. A long flight ensued, however spirits were high and morale oozed throughout the group. Landing in Phoenix, Arizona, the heat could only be described as Bastion-esque, but two fully equipped Suburban's awaited, allowing us to travel in relative luxury during our stay in Arizona, or that's what we thought. Due to the high demand (as the hire car assistant meekly put it) we ended up with two fairly standard, cramped and dated mini vans, something which **Sgt Sweeney** poured scorn on. A minor setback during the trip of a lifetime, the hotel in Scottsdale, Arizona would be the perfect tonic after a long day. Arriving at the hotel, it could only be described as basic, a small criminal gang peering out from the corner of one of many American eateries had the more security minded of the group on red alert. After a little discussion on room allocation and whether the hotel was up to standard (it did have a small pool), the general consensus was "get your head down" and look forward to the days ahead.

Waking up relatively fresh considering the 8hr time difference and induced jet lag, next stop was to source provisions for the duration of the exped. Walmart, the all American one stop shop experience, to purchase everything we needed to survive what lay ahead. For some this was an opportunity to gather much needed rations, camping equipment and other personal items deemed necessary. For others, **SSgt Milton**, **Cpl McGarry**, it was the ideal opportunity to purchase anything and everything which had a discounted offer! Now full of supplies and increasingly cramped in our vehicles, the group ventured into the heart of the Sonora Desert for an informative tour of the local museum. This provided an insight as to what we could expect to come across during the expedition, namely snakes, spiders, scorpions, bears and mountain lions, to name but a few. Educated and excited as to what lay ahead, a fairly short drive allowed the group to arrive before dusk at Rose Canyon campsite, in the heart of the Catalina Mountains.



SSgt Graham leading the way



AGON PHOENIX

– by SSgt Graham 37 Signal Regiment

The days ahead predominantly involved long walks, with early starts, difficult terrain and challenging temperatures. This allowed the group to fine tune their personal admin skills, unless you were **LCpl Earwacker**, who was meticulous with every detail as long as it involved his camera. Maxing out his SD card was the low point of his exped and it was only day three! Slowly increasing the altitude and in the process reaching the summit of Mt Lemmon (2791m) and Chiricahua Peak (2975m) provided a sharp introduction to trekking at altitude. Throughout this amazing opportunity the trails were diverse, offering varying degrees of difficulty, but what did remain constant were the most stunning views at each and every summit. Memories which will be everlasting for all those involved. After a hard days trekking, each evening provided an opportunity for the group to study for their SMF qualification. Hats off to the chief instructor, **SSgt Collister**, as his knowledge and enthusiasm captivated the group in every lesson he taught. Once school had finished, this gave the opportunity for any wannabe “master chefs” to show off their talents, one which **Sig Neeley** was extremely passionate about. His seasoned chard (burnt) chicken was a delicacy to behold, never the less he was removed from post immediately and all future BBQ's were overseen by **Messers Graham** and **Sweeney**.

The midpoint of the exped provided an opportunity for a much needed rest day, where we visited the town of Tombstone, the site of the Ok Corall. It was a day of cowboy hats, quick draw shootouts and live gunfights, something which went down extremely well with the group. **Sgt Sweeney** was crowned quick draw champion, whilst **Cpl Barrett** enjoyed dressing up in traditional cowboy costumes for some strange reason. Visiting a real life working town steeped in historic Wild West tales was the perfect tonic midway through the exped. Once everyone had handed back their stetsons and spurs we headed to Reef Campsite in preparation to tackle Miller Peak (2886m). What we didn't know was that in order to get to the campsite we would have to negotiate what can only be described as one of the 10 most deadliest roads! It was reminiscent of a Peruvian school run. Settling in for the night, the main topic was not one of Miller Peak, but how we would get back down into civilization! This, however, was soon forgotten about once we had set off on our daily trek. The summit was a sight to behold; crisp, clear skies with 360 degree views of both Arizona and Mexico provided the most scenic photo opportunity yet, something which **LCpl 'photo bomber' Baxter** particularly enjoyed.



The group at Tombstone

After leaving Reef campsite with fond memories we headed off to Flagstaff to scale the remaining Ultra Prominent Peak, Humphreys Peak, standing a jaw dropping 3852m, which, when put into context, is similar to putting the three highest peaks in Great Britain on top of each other. Stopping off in Phoenix for supplies the intense heat at a lower altitude hit the group immediately. Time afforded for food and water re-supplies mainly centered round purchasing ice cream and sunbathing in the Walmart carpark! Morale was at an all-time high; even the 5hr road move to Flagstaff could not perturb the group's enthusiasm of an overnight stay in a more luxurious hotel than previously experienced. On arrival the group had a small amount of free time and the shoppers amongst us took in a traditional American shopping mall, whilst the remainder prepared to scale the next peak. Humphreys Peak (3852m) was a significant achievement for the whole group. Staving off the dreaded altitude sickness and battling fatigue, everyone was rightly proud to reach the top, including **Sig Neeley** who had “a moment” on the way up!! While



Flying the flag in Arizona





The Grand Canyon



On the edge of the Grand Canyon

the sun beat down, members of the group took the opportunity for a richly deserved photo, whilst others decided to create 'snow angels', which put into context the altitude that we were all at.

A quick admin stop ensued and then we were off on the last leg of the exped. Last but by no means least, three days trekking into the heart of the Grand Canyon; something which the group eagerly awaited. Arriving late at the Grand Canyon National Park, we quickly pitched our tents in Mather Campground. The next morning the group headed to Grandview point, to experience the vastness of the Grand Canyon. At 277 miles long, 18 miles wide and over a mile deep, it truly is one of the great wonders of the world. Once everyone had taken in the views, gathered photos and mingled with the multitude of different nationalities, we headed down towards Horseshoe Mesa trail. Although the descent was only a few hundred meters, the sharpness of the decent and ruggedness of the trail meant that this was one of the most energy sapping treks we endured. Not to be put off, several members of the group had new found drive and determination; maybe this had something to do with their pre-planned helicopter ride into the Grand Canyon. That evening the conversation around the camp fire mainly centered on the helicopter trip and the scale of the Canyon itself, many of the group still seemed in awe of where they were and what they had experienced.

Our final day in the Grand Canyon saw the group up and out extremely early. Leaving camp at 0430hrs seemed to affect even the staunchest of the group, **SSgt Whitty** having an admin moment and forgetting his head torch, spare torch, batteries and pretty much anything else involved in having the ability to see in the dark. There was method in the madness of this early start, a descent into the canyon to have the opportunity



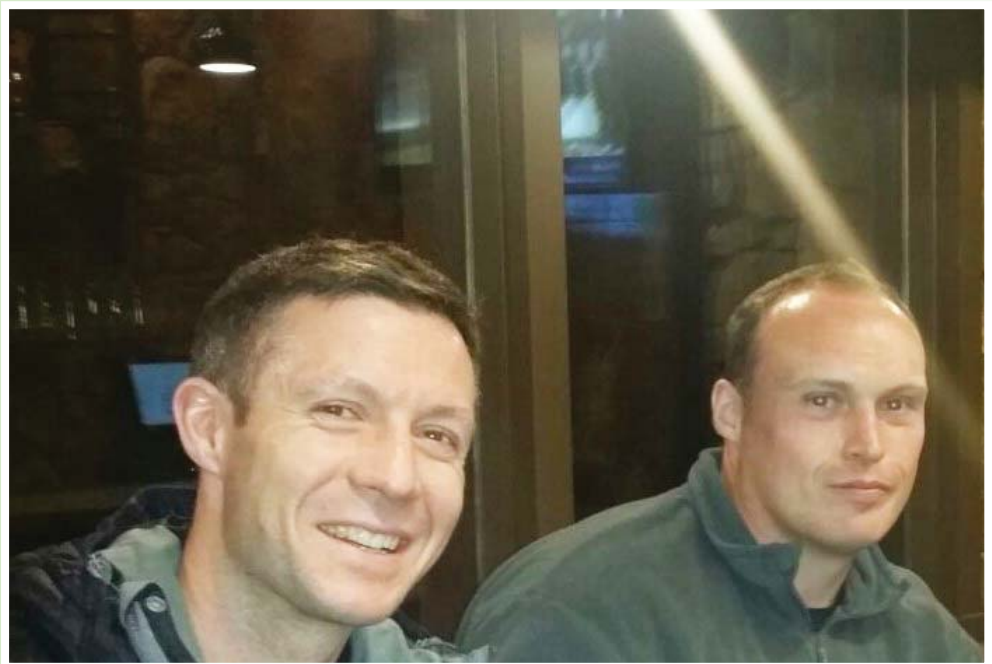
to capture and experience a great natural occurrence, sunrise in the Grand Canyon. The views of the South Kaibab trailhead during sunrise were emotionally moving, and for all that the group had previously done and experienced, this was the pinnacle of the trip for many of us. Once the sun was up, a grueling 6hr trek lay in wait, traversing the Tonto trail, the comedians of the group decided to inject some humour. This mainly focused on slight adjustments of peoples walking poles and the odd redistribution of weight in people's day sacks! I say redistribution, this involved putting several rocks in **SSgt Miltons** day sack and immaturely watching on as he struggled for the next hour! After a long, fun filled day it was back to the campsite to conduct the SMF written exam.

The written test was undertaken in GCSE-esque conditions, with the chief instructor prowling the area and invigilating with the dedication and enthusiasm that he had held throughout the trip. Once the papers were marked, it was confirmed that everyone had passed with flying colours and a celebratory meal at a local steakhouse ensued.

The final 24hrs in Arizona was a mixture of excitement and somberness. Excited to have a little R&R, but sad in the understanding that the exped was coming to an end. The day centered round souvenir shopping and trying to get any form of military discount from our American friends. The evening was a little more diverse. Once checked into the hotel, the group decided on several avenues of entertainment; a handful went to watch a local Baseball game and others headed to a local restaurant. We all however, later met up at the "Owl Sanctuary" for one final cultural visit; sampling the American hospitality in the somewhat odd looking local bar, conversation was vast, with the group reminiscing on past adventures. It was clearly evident that Ex DRAGON PHOENIX had been enjoyed by everyone involved. Waking up on the last morning, a kit check and final head count were conducted, before heading off to Phoenix International Airport for the long flight back to "Blighty".

An amazing experience made all the better by the group of people who took part. Friendships were forged and Sqns bonded during this ultimate Adventurous Training Expedition.

Finally and as a note of extreme thanks, this expedition would not have been possible without the hard work and effort of the exped organisers. Ex DRAGON PHOENIX was the ultimate AT experience, providing leadership and development training for all those involved, as well as bringing together members of both Regular and Reserve units; strengthening our ties by providing strong foundations for future events.



Sgt Shaw



The group photo



Exercise ALPINE MERCURY GLACIER XIX

Ex ALPINE MERCURY GLACIER XIX is the annual Royal Signals alpine ski training camp and race championships, and also the season opener for future ski events. The event was held in Zell-Am-See/Kaprun in Austria and there was an excellent overall turnout from within the Corps. The exercise comprised of three weeks of ski instruction followed by one week of racing. The championships provided an excellent opportunity for skiers of all abilities to really find their ski legs and compete.

Four members of 39 Signal Regiment attended the exercise: **Maj Collins**, **WO1 Richie Ayling** (Team Captain), **Cpl Clara Tier** and **Sig 'Intense Wayne' Corcoran**. Completing our team was our guest member **LCpl 'I'm an actor don't you know' Ford** from the Int Corps.

After a very long drive to Austria, made somewhat easier by a stopover in Strasbourg, we arrived in Zell-Am-See. As we arrived late afternoon Sunday, we headed straight to Eurosport to grab our ski equipment before bedding down for the night ready to head over to the Kitzsteinhorn in Kaprun early the next morning to find our ski legs and prepare for an afternoon ski-off. Our illusions of fresh powder and soft snow to carve up were quickly shattered by the realisation of glacial ice; not a great start. Conditions the first week were sketchy at best with little snow. However, if we could learn to carve on ice, we could most certainly conquer snow.

The purpose of the ski-off was to identify individual ski abilities and assign us to the relevant ski groups. Once we were put into groups, we would then be assigned a ski instructor and that would be us for the next couple of weeks. Our team contained a mix of all abilities ranging from complete novices, intermediates and those skiing at the more advanced level.

After the first week, many were glad to be greeted with the weekend to let our now screaming knees and thighs recover! However, the facilities at our hostel provided too much temptation to rest with bouldering, trampolining, basketball, football and volleyball courts all at our disposal. And if that was not enough, there was the Tauern Spa just a short drive away with its never-ending range of infinity pools, saunas and steam rooms; a little piece of heaven.

The first week was "rocky" to say the least, but come the weekend we were greeted with a huge dump of snow. By Monday morning the Kitzsteinhorn was a whole new ski experience with skiers suddenly carving like they had never carved before and discovering more and more runs which were being opened as the days went by. However, with the good comes the bad. Towards the end of week 2, with heavy snow forecast, visibility and conditions were very poor and **Cpl Tier** came off second best after an argument with a rock face. After an overnight stay in the Krankenhaus she was soon back on the piste in time for race week. **Cpl Tier** also kept a chunk of the rock her helmet had taken out as a memento of the occasion: Cpl Tier 1; rock face 0.

By the end of the second week we were joined by an influx of new teams here to participate for the final two weeks. The realisation of race week was fast upon us and this now was the time to get our race heads on. We had four more days of tuition before seeding on the Friday and racing the following Monday.

The third week absolutely flew by and before we knew it all individuals were donning their lycra ready to shave off those hundredths of a second when competing. The Friday before race week commenced, we started seeding with the aim of placing us in some sort of order come race week. Conditions were cold but good and really got us into race mode.

The Saturday before race week was a well-known tradition in Austria called Krampus, consisting of hairy, scary monsters who parade around whipping people with their sticks. Whipping could easily be mistaken for beating and never before have I seen so many grown men cowering away to the nearest pub for fear of a beating from these Krampus Monsters! However, the glühwein helped to calm things slightly.

Week 4 - Race Week! There was a definite tension in the air at breakfast as we all queued silently to butter our bread and pour our breakfast cereal. Suddenly this was not about how technically brilliant you looked coming down the piste anymore; this was about winning. The ski competition would consist of two disciplines: GS and Slalom. The first two days we would be racing GS and the second two days we would be racing Slalom. All five of our team were fit to compete and as a Reserve Regiment, we did great.

Bringing home the medals were **Maj Collins** who won a total of three: 2nd place veteran in Slalom and Guest (non R Signals) 2nd place in both GS and Slalom. **WO1 Ayling** gained a 2nd place GS in the Veteran category and **LCpl Ford** got 1st place Guest in the GS and Slalom. **LCpl Ford** also combined these medals with an overall top 10 finish and thoroughly deserves to be congratulated on his efforts.

All in all, this was a successful exercise for all that attended, a great way to find our feet in the snow again on the run up to the Regionals taking place in early 2016. To receive three weeks of tuition from top level ski instructors, as well as the opportunity to meet likeminded individuals and make life-long friends throughout the Corps is not something that happens every day. As with all these types of events, there is a lot of work that takes place behind the scenes to ensure the event runs seamlessly, so as a team we would like to thank all those involved in the administration and organisation of such an enjoyable four weeks.



39 Sig Regt Alpine Ski Team and elements of our paired unit, 21 Sig Regt.




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ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION



Col (Retd) Terry Canham
Tel: 01258 482081



Maj (Retd) Mark Tivey
Tel: 01258 482082



Association Office
RHQ Royal Signals
Blandford Camp
Blandford Forum
Dorset
DT11 8RH
<http://royalsignals.org>

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal
President: The Master of Signals
Chairman: Brig DA Hargreaves

General Secretary and Treasurer: Col (Retd) T Canham
Assistant General Secretary: Maj (Retd) M Tivey
Welfare Secretary: Mrs L Sizeland
Membership Secretary: Mrs C Addison

Welfare Secretary

Tel (mil) (9)4371 2089

Tel (civ) 01258 48 2089

Email: rsbfgnantscoord@royalsignals.org

Membership Secretary

Tel (mil) (9)4371 2090

Tel (civ) 01258 482090

Email: rsa@royalsignals.org



Mrs Linda Sizeland
Tel: 01258 482089



Mrs Caroline Addison
Tel: 01258 482090

December 2015 for me was a very busy month, as it is for many of us trying to juggle preparations for the traditional family gathering and finding time to go to work! I hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas and that 2016 will be a good year.

The forecast of events for the year can be found below. As always, further details will be found on the RSA website.

The first event coordinated by me for the Association is the AGM on 19 Mar 16 at the Victory Services Club. I hope that many Association members will be able to be there. I hope to see many of you in London at this important meeting.

Next we plan and host the Annual Reunion at Blandford Camp. Plan to arrive from 1500hrs 17 Jun, the event runs until 1200hrs 19 Jun. All the details including forms to enable you to attend will be on the Association website under the Reunion Tab in due course.

July will see us all at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas for the rededication of the Corps Memorial. At the time of writing, the date has yet to be confirmed. When it has, the RSA website will be updated.

During the year, but by **30 Sep 16**, you can apply by email (rsa@royalsignals.org) or letter (The Admin Officer, Royal Signals Association, HQ ROYAL SIGNALS, Griffin House, Blandford Camp, DT11 8RH) for your chance to join us at the Corps plot at the Opening of the Field of Remembrance in Westminster on 10 Nov 16, or as part of the Corps Contingent at the Cenotaph Parade at Whitehall on 13 Nov 16. Tickets for these events will be sent during October.

You can see from this programme that there are also other events, organized more locally. Details for these can be found on the RSA website under Events and Notices.

At the time of writing I am also in the process of compiling the Branch reports for the Association and Retired Officers' Newsletter. This will be published soon. Hopefully by then the rain will have abated enough to enable us all to dry out. The Newsletter will be on the RSA website for you to download and a link will be sent out to Branch secretaries. If you would like a printed copy, please send A4 SAE with **Large** postage to the RSA Admin Officer whose address is shown above.

Event	Time/Date
AGM Carisbrooke Hall Victory Services Club London	0930 – 1400 hrs 19 Mar 16
Eden Camp Parade, Malton, N Yorks	22 May 16
Annual Reunion Blandford	18/19 Jun 16
Armed Forces Day	25 Jun 16
Princess Royal Day	28 Jun 16
NMA Memorial Service Alrewas	Jul 16 date to be confirmed
Gathering of the Clans, Horden	29 Aug 16
Opening of the Field of Remembrance 2014 Westminster Abbey	10 Nov 16
Cenotaph Parade Whitehall	13 Nov 16
Project Noel VII, Liverpool Cathedral see http://projectnoelfest.co.uk/	26 Nov 16



New Life members. A warm welcome to the following members, enrolled since the last issue of *The Wire*:

Cpl Warren Adkins	1997/10	Capt Geoffrey Guy	1980/94	SSgt Brian Ralston	1977/99
Cpl Brian Bloomfield	1960/62	Sig Anthony Haley	1985/91	Sgt Robert Reid	1987/10
Sig Andrew Bowman	2001/10	LCpl Stephen Hall	1982/90	Sig Michael Simpson	1980/97
Cpl Arthur Box	1940/46	Sgt Shane Hepworth	1992/15	Cpl Stephen Smith	1964/76
LCpl Robert Brooks	1980/92	Cpl Ian Hewitt	1976/84	Sig Alexander Starr	1989/95
SSgt John Burgoyne	1999/15	Sgt Peter Highman	1970/95	LCpl David Stott	1996/02
WO2 James Burnham	1992/15	WO2 Robert Jones	1987/01	LCpl Neil Street	1975/05
Cpl Nicholas Carter	2000/14	Cpl Peter Keany	1970/95	Cpl Christopher Swain	1977/89
LCpl Alfred Clark	1985/97	Sig Ian Keeping	1991/94	Sig Royston Theobald	1999/03
LCpl Kevin Clark	1975/79	LCpl Amanda Kinsey	1992/00	WO1 Carolyn Thompson	1992/15
Sig Ross Conway	1985/90	Maj Craig Kinsey	1988/10	Sig Lloyd Tooze	1976/79
Cpl Richard Cownie	1998/10	Sgt Matthew Knowles	1992/15	SSgt Stephen Vaughan	1970/97
Sig Guy Craker	1987/92	Cpl Christopher Lord	2000/15	Sgt Nicholas Vezey	1976/86
LCpl Peter Cresswell	1958/60	LCpl William Magee	2007/14	LCpl Patricia Wakefield	1961/63
SSgt Sean Fairfield	1984/08	LCpl Jayne McDonough	1977/85	WO1 Donald Walker	1979/01
Cpl Kevin Flinton	1976/86	Sig Vincent McLoughlin	1978/86	Cpl John Walker	1976/84
LCpl Mark Gibson	1975/81	LCpl John Norman	1985/89	Sig Mark Wilby	1980/94
LCpl Gordon Gray	1994/04	Sig Ryan Porter	1993/96	Cpl Paul Wilcock	1987/99
Lt John Green	1953/55	WO2 Kevin Potts	1983/15	Sig Leslie Wooff	1956/59
LCpl Michael Gudgin	1974/89	Sig Brian Prescott	1954/57	Sig Ernest Wright	1948/50

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

Chairman **Noel Moss**
Secretary **Mary Pagan**

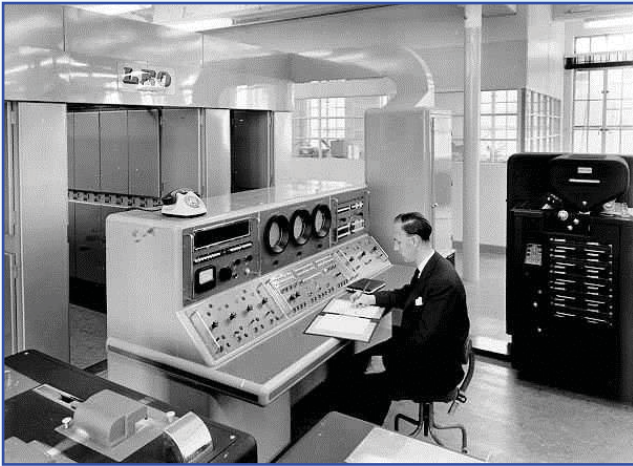
For our September outing, 15 Branch members and guests spent a highly interesting day at Bletchley Park, once "Britain's Best-Kept Secret" but now a vibrant tourist attraction. To start our visit we were given an excellent introductory talk by one of the many volunteers. This was followed by an equally absorbing hour's guided tour of some of the main features on this historic site, including the water tower that housed the original wireless room and the reconstructed iconic code-breaking huts 3 and 6. Our café for lunch was Hut 4, formerly a Naval Intelligence Code-breaking Hut, after which we spent the afternoon exploring other areas of interest. Most of us headed for the Museum (Block 'B') which included a superb reconstructed working model of Turing's famous "Bombe" electro-mechanical code-breaker. And those who fancied a short walk from the main complex visited the National Museum of Computing, where we were able to see a rebuilt working model of Colossus, the world's first electronic computer.



Attendance at our Autumn Sunday Lunch was unfortunately lower than usual, mainly due to illness but we were delighted to be joined by our Area Rep, **Steve Bland** and **Liz**. The Golf Club again did us proud and there was unanimous enthusiasm for the menu and efficiency of service. Our raffle, conducted as always by **Mary Pagan**, achieved its usual success and at the end of the meal, we were able to give a rundown of some unusual Branch events planned for next year, more of which in our future *Wire* Notes.

For our November morning talk we once again assembled at the Parish Hall of All Saints Church in Fleet. Our speaker on this occasion was committee member, **Neville Lyons**. Some years ago he presented to us the full story of the remarkable catering empire of Joe Lyons, to whom **Neville** is distantly related. His further research has led him to the subject of today's talk: The design and manufacture in-house of the very first business computer: LEO, standing for Lyons Electronic Office. One of its first tasks was to automate the huge company payroll. After a development time of less than 4 years, LEO demonstrated that a pay clerk's calculation of 8 minutes per employee could now be accomplished by a machine in 1.5 seconds. Subsequent development led to the sale of many LEO models to a large number of important companies and government organisations. This was well before IBM and other electronics giants reached the UK commercial market. An extraordinary accomplishment for a catering company!





Neville's talk on the subject was well illustrated by photographs and stories of the individual scientists and engineers responsible for the project. The thoroughly enjoyable morning ended with a lively question and answer session, after which some members and guests adjourned for a very pleasant pub lunch.

For our Christmas 2015 event we returned to the Withies Inn in the attractive village of Compton, just south of Guildford. The log fire burning cheerfully in the entrance hall was a welcoming sight and set the tone for the rest of what proved to be a most enjoyable occasion. The pub staff had worked hard to lay the tables complete with crackers and some 30 members and guests took their places for a splendid lunch in the bar room set aside for us. Conversation never flagged and it was well into the afternoon before the party broke up. As members emerged into the winter sunshine, still savouring the Christmas pudding and brandy sauce, there was general agreement that this had been a fitting start to the Festive Season.



CATTERICK BRANCH

Remembrance Parade 2015

The Branch and its standard were well represented at the Garrison Remembrance Sunday parade on 9 November in the Garrison Memorial Church where our old standard has been laid up.

On behalf of the Branch and the Corps the wreath was laid by **Lt Col (Retd) Jim Phillips** and afterwards 12 members of the Branch were invited to the curry lunch in the Garrison Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess by the GSM, **WO1 Nigel Saul**.

We have held a smaller more intimate ceremony for several years now on 11 November at the Howes-Wood Memorial in Gaza Barracks where 9 members of the Branch gathered to pay their respects. We were very lucky to have the Padre from the Light Dragoons support us on this occasion and **Padre Frances** was able to weave the poignancy of the memorial into our small service. What made it an extra special event was the arrival of 7 soldiers from the Royal Signals attached to 1 MI Bn in Gaza barracks.

We were completely unaware that there were any Corps troops of more than a few in number scattered across the Spiritual Home of the Corps. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Branch and the Corps by **Mr Jim Hanifin** and the readings offered by **Mrs Helen Coultish** and **Lt Col (Retd) Jim Phillips**.

Our standard was paraded on Sunday and Wednesday by **Mr John Harris**. After the parade and service we were invited back to the Mess for a very welcome cup of coffee as the rain was typical for Catterick at this time of year being both cold and very wet.

Now we have found that a detachment of approximately 26 provide support to the MI Bn in the form of **OC Maj Dave Smith** and **QM Capt Jim Alger**, along with 24 other ranks providing stores and transport support along with REME soldiers.

Following up from our initial contact we were delighted to see **Maj Smith** and some of his troops and their partners at our Branch meeting on 20 November. The QM gave us an update on the state of play in the Corps and the Signals role within the MI Bn. In line with the 3 R's we have now applied to RSA HQ to adopt the detachment.

It is so good to have the Corps back in our Spiritual Home!

COTSWOLD BRANCH

Chairman & Treasurer	Mike Walker
Vice-Chair	Stuart James
Secretary	Liz Friend
Social	Michelle Welch-Fuller
Wire Notes	Mark Paveley

It's been a period busied as for most Branches no doubt with events focused on the Remembrance period, fortunately amongst those events the Branch also found time to organise a social gathering.

On Wednesday 28 October ten members of the Branch met for an informal lunch at the "Muffin Man" Restaurant in Cheltenham. The meal was most enjoyable; the relaxed atmosphere and friendly service gave everyone an opportunity to have a lively get-together. It was suggested that more events like this should be arranged for the future.

At the official Cheltenham Town Ceremony on Thursday 29 October **Albert Ayres** placed the Wooden Cross on behalf of the Branch in the "Field of Remembrance" in the Promenade in Cheltenham.

On 1 November several members of the Branch attended the Gloucester Festival of Remembrance with performances from Mary-Jess, The Lydbrook Band, Lilli Moore and the Innsworth Military Wives Choir; followed by a traditional Service of Remembrance. As the main organiser of that event I (**Mark Paveley**) was buoyed by the attendance of more people than



last year, somewhat of a recovery over the last 3 years. Always seeking to improve we'll try and make it even better (and shorter) for next year.

I attended the Festival of Remembrance evening performance at the Royal Albert Hall on 7 November, a fantastic festival in a beautiful setting.

On 8 November **Mike Walker**, accompanied by **George Blackwood**, laid the Branch Wreath at the War Memorial in the Promenade. That evening ten members of the Branch attended the Festival of Remembrance in the Cheltenham Town Hall. It started with a concert of music given by the Choir and Band of the Gloucestershire Constabulary followed by the usual Service of Remembrance.

As the attention now focuses on the Christmas festivities our thoughts and best wishes are extended to all other RSA Branches, their members and families.

LOUGHBOROUGH BRANCH

President	Andy Riddell
Chairman	Gerry Kane
Vice Chairman	Chuck Speed
Secretary/Treasurer	Bob White

The Branch was quiet during the summer months for our annual recess and holiday period, resuming activities again in September. Some members did, however, organise a trip and visit to Bletchley Park. This brought back many memories to those that had, at some point during their Army service, attended training courses at the historic location. The Secretary took time out to educate visitors in the reading of Morse code (like riding a bike!!!)

This year has been a little traumatic and emotional. We have lost stalwarts **Jimmy Coglan** and **Lesley Banyard** (wife of **Bernard 'Ben' Banyard**). Although not a Branch member, we have also said farewell to **Paddy 'Bob' Porter** and of course **General Peter Baldwin**, who supported so many of our activities.



Grace said, let us now eat!!

We have successfully planned and executed our annual Dinner and Dance. This was held at Longcliffe Golf Club on 21 November 2015, the second time we have attended this venue. The event proved again to be excellent. Great food,



Jack and Carol Fiskel, Joy White, Guy and Sarah Farmer, Keith Breen, Peter and Eileen Grieve and a shy Debs White



Dave and Brenda Lincoln, Ken Hall, Dave Geere, Jim Hague with guests

great company, and of course, the occasional glass of necessary alcohol to help the evening flow. Over 60 attending made the evening memorable, and proved that the "old and bold" can still shake a leg on the dance floor!!

During the event, our Chairman, **Gerry Kane**, presented our Vice Chairman, **Chuck Speed**, with his well-deserved 50 year Badge and Certificate. Following this the 50 year "Badgers" gathered for a group photograph.



Chuck Speed receiving his 50 year Badge & Certificate

Chris Kent (wife of **Steve Kent**), together with **Jan Hoy** also took the occasion to celebrate their respective birthdays. This is becoming an annual event!!!!

We have had a very successful year on the recruitment side. OC JSSU (V) Digby (Branch member **Maj Graham Barber**) encouraged the long serving and life members of the RSA in his unit to perhaps join us. Gratefully accepted, we hope others will follow suit, irrespective of their location.

2016 will see us hopefully arranging another external visit, and maybe a Summer BBQ and Tombola.

If you are down our way, and want to enjoy excellent hospitality, we meet on the first Tuesday of each month (less June to August) at The Black Swan, Shepshed, start time 1945 hours. All are welcome.





The 50-year "Badgers"- Chuck Speed, Gerry Kane. Bob White, Tom Neal, Dave Geere and at the back, Pete Smith. Missing are Andy Riddell and Eddie Harris. What a motley crew!

TAMESIDE BRANCH

By Derek Fisher

We held a Evening Concert on 8 November 2015 with the Belle Vue Brass Band, The Sapphire Blue Choir (of which I am a member) and three soloists and raised £120.20.

We didn't get quite as many in the audience as we were expecting as once again the weather was so atrocious. However, we had a very good concert. We also did Carol singing with the Choir in our local Asda store at Ashton under Lyne and raised a further £77.95 and a cheque for £198.15 has been sent to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund and I am sure it will be put to good use.

May we wish all Signallers a Very Happy Christmas and New Year.

LAST POST

Pte DR Barber	1942/46	08-Nov-15	Sig J McFarlane	1953/61	17-Oct-15
Maj DE Burt	1945/76	18-Dec-15	Sig S Murdoch	1997/04	20-Dec-15
Sig I Crew	1948/49	28-Jul-15	Sgt GSF Murray	1951/60	07-Jul-15
Sgt C Douglas-Smith	1941/46	24-Nov-15	Cpl D Parker	1950/72	03-Jan-16
WO1 A Fiddes		08-Nov-15	LCpl RM Patrick	1956/58	30-Dec-15
Lt AS Forty	1944/53	19-Dec-15	SSgt AF Peebles	1966/88	29-Dec-15
Sig R Gilchrist	1943/47	30-Oct-15	Sgt JW Peters	1964/86	02-Dec-15
Capt JM Gittins	1951/77	13-Dec-15	LCpl JT Piper	1954/57	14-Nov-15
Sgt IA Green	1942/47	15-Dec-15	Sig R Preston		23-Dec-15
Sgt RWF Harden	1942/47	13-Dec-15	Sgt K Reynolds	1961/86	19-Dec-15
Sig BW Harrington	1951/55	07-Dec-15	Maj FP Roberts	1981/98	23-Dec-15
Capt C Heath	1939/46	06-Feb-13	Cpl BH Sanders	1942/45	07-Jul-05
LCpl HA Hulse	1953/56	20-Nov-15	WO1 H J Saxton	1949/72	24-Nov-15
Cpl MG Jarvis	1967/75	14-Nov-15	Brig MG Taylor CBE DL	1961/98	25-Nov-15
Sig M Jeffrey	1944/48	03-Oct-15	Maj WH Turney	1954/80	09-Nov-15
LCpl S Johnson	1970/79	01-Dec-15	Sig W Vickers	1939/47	22-Nov-15
Sgt DG Kingdom OBE	1962/86	24-Oct-15	Cpl PJ Waite	1949/51	02-Oct-15
Cpl B Lindsey	1939/47	06-Dec-15	Cpl W Wareham	1980/92	13-Dec-15
LCpl GA Lines	1942/47	21-Dec-15	Maj AL Watson	1959/78	18-Nov-15
Maj MC Lott TD	1959/90	07-Nov-15	Lt Col RF Williams TD	1955/92	26-Dec-15

ROYAL SIGNALS REUNION WEEKEND
18/19 JUNE 16

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Royal Signals Benevolent Fund – Grants and Fundraising

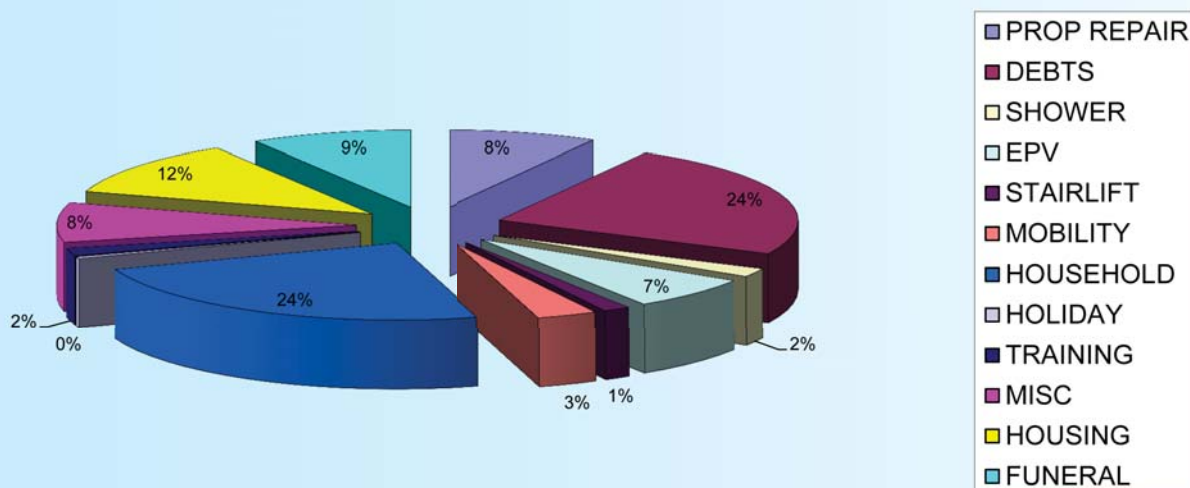
Our raison d'être is to provide grants that remove Signallers, past and present and their dependants from hardship and distress. If you know of a Signaller who is suffering then please let them know of our Charity. Information relating to eligibility, types of assistance along with contact details can be found at www.royalsignals.org. Initial contact should first be made with SSAFA (www.ssafa.org.uk) or The Royal British Legion (TRBL) (www.britishlegion.org.uk) who in turn will forward an application to the RSBF for financial assistance.

We rely heavily upon the casework carried out by SSAFA and the RBL who provide all the relevant information upon which decisions can be made. If necessary we liaise with the Army Benevolent Fund – The Soldiers Charity, The Officers' Association, the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League, Combat Stress, Veterans Agency and many more.

All applications are judged on their merit but in all cases the question of need is the most significant factor. Reaction times are critical when dealing with time sensitive cases and certain applications are fast-tracked so that the solution can be implemented to meet an urgent deadline. It is amazing how one grant at the right time can really make a difference to the quality of someone's life and their future. Grants are not made to individuals direct but through the sponsoring welfare organisation.

All cases for £800 and below are considered on a daily basis by our Assistant Regimental Secretary. Assistance over £801 up to the maximum of £1,500 is considered at the Major Grants Meetings (MG). The MG meetings take place once a month. Over the past twelve months the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund (regular and major grants) provided **£332,280.23** of assistance to **553** applicants, up £1,996.46 on last year. These grants have been instrumental in providing electric scooters, stair lifts and level access showers, all enabling the beneficiaries to retain their independence and to remain in their own home. There are numerous other types of assistance requested such as help with priority bills (rent or utilities), clothing, emergency house repairs etc.

Breakdown of Expenditure for 01/01/2015 - 31/12/2015



For information regarding the Welfare Grant process, please email the Coordinator at: rsbfgnantscoord@royalsignals.org.

We are here for the long run and we plan to meet every legitimate request for support where to do so would remove the individual and their dependants from distress and despair. To do this we need money (we spent £332K last year) and getting this continues to be challenging as the Corps shrinks and thus subscriptions reduce. More than ever before we now rely upon fundraising to balance the books and we continue to strive to increase the size of our fundraising group.

The RSBF has for many years operated in association with the RSA and continues to be very well supported by the many RSA Branches who demonstrate creativity and imagination to produce fantastic results. Again the serving Corps has accepted the fundraising challenge with both individuals and units coming forward to play their part. The RSBF Fundraising Pennant has been created in recognition



of the effort put in by the Serving and Retired community. 21 Signal Regiment won it in 2015 after an outstanding performance across the year and the RSA Pennant will be awarded at the March 2016 AGM. We continue to be impressed with the generosity shown by the Royal Signals community.



We have been lucky enough to gain wide support this year including that which came from the children of two Serving families who ran a number of well-received cake stands and also Bristol Army Cadet Force who undertook a sponsored swim. We have been represented by Barney Barinsavu who flew our colours at the World Cup Touch Rugby Championships in Australia and we plan to have our flag carried to the North Pole in the coming months. The RSBF is truly a Charity to be proud of and we are touched by the support we have received.

Death is not a pleasant subject but something we are all required to face at some point. We are not minded to over-push the legacy invite, we prefer to let individuals draw their own personal conclusion and then we supply the necessary advice and guides where necessary. We have none-the-less benefited from a number of generous legacies and we are indebted to those who felt inclined to leave a gift in their will for Signallers who will follow in their footsteps. Please email us if you would like further information without any obligation.

We continue to be supported through a number of Royal Signals events including Royal Signals Rugby (Army v Navy), the RSA Gathering of the Clans, Project Noel, Eden Camp Project and the RSA Reunion amongst others. We are delighted to be connected with these activities that bring our extended family of communicators together, they all offer something different but are all underpinned by a fantastic sense of camaraderie.

We anticipate that we will be called upon to support many hundreds of Signallers in need during 2016. With your support we can ensure that they receive grants that can relieve them from hardship, despair and distress. Thank you for your continued support.

For legacy, donation and fundraising enquiries please email: rsbf@royalsignals.org





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- NEBOSH Certificate in Construction Health and Safety (10-days)
- First Aid at Work (3-days)
- Risk Assessment (2-days)
- Teacher Training (5-days)

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- Site Management Safety Training Scheme (SMSTS) (5-days)
- First Aid Refresher (3 hours) or Requalification (2-days)
- IOSH Managing Safely (5-days)
- CPR Defibrillator Training (1-day)
- Emergency First Aid (1-day)
- IOSH Directing Safety (1-day)



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Cleethorpes (Lincolnshire)
Chester (Cheshire)

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