



THE WIRE

Autumn 2020

The Magazine of The Royal Corps of Signals



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Corps Motto: Certa Cito

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Autumn 2020

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Front Cover: The new SFC Cap Badge. See page 48.

Back Cover: The Master of Signals with the CO of 13 Sig Regt. Read the full story on page 52.



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52 13 Sig Regt Medal Presentation



Aldershot Branch with 16 Sig Regt

HISTORY OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

To celebrate the Corps Centenary, over the next couple of editions of *The Wire*, we take a look at the history of some of the RSA Branches, some of which have been running since the birth of the Corps. The RSA exists to serve all members and ex-members of the Corps regardless of age. One of the aims of the RSA is to foster friendship among all members of the Corps family.

The first branch we look at is Aldershot, one of the original branches, which has been in existence for 100 years.

The story of the Aldershot Branch over 100 years - by Branch Chairman, Noel Moss

As the largest garrison in the UK and the base of the Royal Engineers units that had provided the Army's communications from the time of the Crimean War, it was unsurprising that Aldershot was in the first wave of 13 Association branches formed immediately after the establishment of Royal Signals. By 1926, as the Association expanded, three of the 39 branches were in Aldershot, representing Command Signals and 1st and 2nd Divisional Signals.

In 1927, these and the many other Corps units scattered throughout the Garrison gave rise to the building of Mons Barracks to bring them together. The number of Association branches then reduced to one, initially titled the 'Aldershot, Farnborough and District Branch'. With Aldershot now the main centre for Corps units, the first Association reunions took place there using the sports ground of Mons Barracks. Their format was similar to latter day reunions including sports, a smoking concert and church parade. The march past after church made a detour through the wagon sheds while the band played "Boys of the Old Brigade" in honour of Association members. Normal branch meetings were held in local hostilities.



Officers Mess, Mons Barracks: Still in use today

On the outbreak of war in 1939 the units in Mons Barracks deployed immediately with the BEF and, after mobilisation, other units staged through the Barracks including those of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals. Officer training also commenced there with the arrival of 151 (Royal Signals) Officer Cadet Training Unit. Association activity ceased and it was not until 9 April 1949 that the "inaugural" meeting of the Branch was held at the Alexandra Hotel which became a regular meeting place. The former wartime Director of Signals, Major General William Fladgate, was elected President. The branch settled down into a regular programme of meetings.

Ramblings of a Past Master



So this is it. After 2,407 days at the helm of our great Corps, it's time to pack my bags and sail into the metaphorical sunset (or wherever retired Generals are supposed to go).

I took over as Master in March 2014 from **Lieutenant General Robert Baxter**, who was in turn preceded by **General Sir Sam Cowan**. I was patently aware that I trod in the footsteps of giants. Unlike my predecessors, as Director Capability and latterly as Deputy Chief of the General Staff, I had the advantage of operating at, or close to, the helm of Army business. So my ability to influence the forward shape and direction of travel of the Corps was made that much easier.

I'll leave you to be the judge on whether we have made positive progress. But what Key Performance Indicators could we use to help us decide?

Goodbyes

- Organisationally, we have said farewell to 2 Signal Brigade, to Hybrid and Multi-role Signal Regiments and to 7 Signal Regiment (the Mighty Seventh).
- Geographically, after some 70 years, we departed Mainland Europe. For the older BAOR warriors amongst us, this was a poignant occasion. Images of snow-clad forests on Exercise FLYING FALCON, and of massive troop movements on Exercise REFORGER will linger long in the memory banks.
- In terms of heritage, many will mourn the departure of the Royal Signals White Helmet Display Team, and of the Corps Band. While there may have been logic underpinning each of these changes, it is hard not to look back with fond sentimentality at their astonishing track-record. For me, the roar of the Triumph engine on Hawke Square, and the image of the lone piper playing the last post framed by the last rays of the dying sun will always be the seminal moments of our annual Corps Weekend at Blandford.
- We mourned the loss of two past Masters, both legends of our Corps. **Generals Ian Sprackling (Sprackers)** and **John Badcock** were irreplaceable. Both were life-long servants to the Corps. We owe them both an immense vote of gratitude.



Hellos

- 3 Division Signal Regiment rose phoenix-like from the ashes. 15 Signal Regiment has been re-branded. The creation of 247 and 249 Gurkha Signal Squadrons strengthened the Corps' close relationship with the Brigade of Gurkhas whilst the return of 280 Signal Squadron showcases our continued support to NATO operations. And the formation of 13 Signal Regiment has provided an Army focus for defensive cyber operations in the land environment. To my mind, these are all positive developments.
- The move of two signal regiments into Perham Down shifts, or maybe splits, the Corps' Centre of Gravity. As a Corps, we need to think through the opportunities that this presents, in terms of individual career management, in terms of equipment husbandry and of optimising administrative support. This is 'work in progress'.
- The unwelcome arrival of COVID-19 opens a new battleground. I have nothing but admiration for the manner in which our Corps has responded to the challenges presented by lock-down and in supporting national resilience measures in proactive, energetic and positive fashion.
- Although COVID placed a damper on Corps 100, we can look back on the Salisbury gathering with enormous pride. And in 'Roger So Far', we have a fantastic publication which I hope will grace the coffee tables of households across the nation. If you don't have a copy, buy one now!

- Finally, we recognised that the demands of the digital age placed a new emphasis on the intellectual and professional character of our Corps. Working under the banner of 'Technical First, Soldier Always', we created the CADUCEUS programme to drive through transformation in the people and training lines of development. At the very top of the Army and of Defence, our Corps is acknowledged as thought leaders in the delivery of people change. And my conversations with many of you at unit level have reinforced my strong belief that; in developing a commercially recognised talent based framework, supplemented by continuous professional development; we are doing the right thing and doing it well.

Permanents

- The superb, unstinting support given by our Corps Headquarters and the RSA to those serving and retired soldiers in time of need.
- Our close affiliations with professional organisations (BCS, WCIT, IEEE and the like), corralled within a shrewd and progressive RSI framework.
- The strong bonds of friendship we enjoy with colleagues from other nations, from other services and from other cap-badge identities.
- The superb support that we continue to enjoy from our Colonel in Chief, Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal.
- The strength that we draw from across our 3Rs community.
- And finally, the contribution that is made by each and every one of you.



Being your Master of Signals has been a singular honour, a unique privilege and a source of great joy to me. My thanks go to you all for your unswerving support.

Salaams and Certa Cito

Nick



New Master of Signals

On 1 October **General Sharon Nesmith** formally took over from **Lieutenant General Nick Pope KCB CBE** at Regimental Headquarters in Blandford although without ceremony due to the current restrictions.

We would like to welcome **General Sharon** and we wish her all the very best as the new Master of Signals.

The opened stainless-steel cube and its contents



233 Sig Sqn Time Capsule Opening



By Lt O Sanderson, 225 Sig Sqn, (ECM(FP))

handle to lift the tightly fitted cube, improvisation was needed to lift it - the use of hazard tape stuck to all four corners worked perfectly as make-shift handles. Once it was out of the ground, **LCpl McGuckin**, with an Honour Guard of **Sgt Wilson** and **Sgt Fenton**, escorted the

stainless-steel cube from the foyer to the outside area; they marched off with **Cpl Beaton** playing the pipes behind.

As part of the Corps Centenary, 225 Sig Sqn (ECM(FP)) had been due to host former members of 233 Sig Sqn with the opening of a Time Capsule laid by 233 Sig Sqn when they were in Northern Ireland during the Troubles. This was put in the foyer of their old building, which happens to be 225 Sig Sqn's current building, in Thiepval Barracks. It was laid by **Maj Gen Tighe**, on 4 Oct 1977. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the big event that was planned had to be altered, but with the backing from Corps HQ, we were still able to hold a scaled-down event with four former members present.

Under the current social distancing rules of two metre spacing, outside the old 38 (Irish) Bde HQ building, 225 Sig Sqn were able to get the largest possible audience given the circumstances. As is so often the case, the weather conditions in Northern Ireland on that morning provided a heavy downpour. However, luckily about ten minutes before the opening, the clouds disappeared and the sun came out.

LCpl McGuckin opened the Time Capsule hole to discover a very dusty stainless-steel cube with an original copy of 'The Life, The Universe and Everything' left on top. Without any

Once they arrived under the gazebo, **SSgt Gardner** was set the task of finding a way into the cube. After a lengthy time with an angle grinder, using almost an entire blade, he was able to make an opening from which **LCpl McGuckin** was able to get out all of the items. These came out one by one, and ranged from: a record, otherwise known as "some kind of CD", a Wire magazine; several undeveloped photograph reels; and some maps and miscellaneous documents from the time. All in all, it was quite a haul of well thought through memorabilia from the time.

After the opening a former member of 233 Sig Sqn read out a poem that he had written for the occasion (see page 5).

Due to COVID-19, it was extremely unfortunate not to make this the reunion that was originally planned. However, after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted the offer will be made again for the former members to return and look at the items once again, and to take part in a fitting social event.

Poem

We were young then, and soldiers
In far off darker days
Harsh conditions, comradeship
Forged strong along the ways

The Radcen, the Comcen
Transmitter site, HQ
Divis Mountain, on the streets
That is what we knew

The 12-man room and sometimes more
The old TV, the smell
You had your mates who had your back
And tales we had to tell

The old Peake Inn, the Plastic Pub
The NAAFI bar as well
Corkins pub in Lisburn town
At closing time we fell

Draw arms, on stag
North Sanger was the worst
2 hours of boredom, couldn't see
Hoping gunfire wouldn't burst

From Belfast town to Crossmaglen
The snipers and the bombs
Comms Troop men took up the task
And provided all the comms

The Comcen Ops, SHQ
Stores and Tech Troop too
All elements of 233
Each one had their jobs to do

Those days are past, the Squadron too
But the memories live on
We were young then, and soldiers
And the tales are built upon



The Honour Guard
awaits the opening



Cpl Beaton with his pipes, who
provided music for the event



The honour guard with the
stainless-steel cube



A former member of
233 Sig Sqn

Charity Cycle Ride

By SSgt David Jarvis

Back in March I was planning to run the R SIGNALS road cycling training camp, Exercise MERCURY RACER 20. This would have been my third successive year as OIC of the exercise but, alas, it was not to be, lockdown took effect and my sport, along with everyone else's, got turned off for the foreseeable future.

So I decided to have a go at things I wouldn't normally have done to test my own physical limits on the bike. This started in May with the Wattbike 5km Challenge. I was hoping to maybe be in the top hundred or so, I didn't expect to be much higher as this event was open to the users around the world; however, on the last of 3 attempts I ended up achieving the 8th fastest time! Thoroughly pumped up from this, I was keen for my next challenge! The lightbulb moment came while talking about the #100for100 event with a colleague a couple of days before it was due to start. The idea being to ride 100km within the confines of Blandford Garrison everyday for the whole of June. I'd never done this for a week let alone a whole month! However, on 30 June I was so pumped about lasting the whole month that I even broke the fastest lap time around Blandford Garrison of 6 mins 16 secs; safe to say that was another limit thoroughly tested!

The total distance covered by the end of June was 3,090km in 110 hours including 43,160m of climbing and raised £1,100 for the Royal Signals Charity. The support I received during that event was overwhelming, particularly the last day when the school came out to line the streets! I got such a positive feeling from having had the opportunity to contribute to the Corp's fundraising efforts for the Royal Signals Charity. This is ultimately what prompted my desire to attempt a further challenge. Having already done the short intense event, then the 100km per day challenge, I wanted to test my endurance limits by seeing how far I could go in a day. The longest I'd previously ridden was 164km during the Jurassic Beast Sportive which took me a little over 7 hours. Having been away from my family throughout the #100for100 event, I wanted to do something in my local area which would also enable me to raise money for my local hospital and community in Banff, NE Scotland and the Royal Signals Charity. Courtesy of Banff Rotary Club, the idea came about to try and complete a lap of the famous North East 250 tourist route that goes around the whole of Aberdeenshire, taking in the North and east coast of Scotland along with the A93 through Balmoral then up the east edge of the Cairngorms, 406km in total and climbing over 4,000m, half the height of Everest over the whole journey. My bike computer estimated the journey would take a total of 19 hours to complete, so I decided to trump that by setting a target of 15 hours; what do computers know?!

Overlooking the valley at
Glenshea Cairngorms



So I already knew I could push intense efforts and ride a reasonable distance repeatedly, but to keep going for an extended period of time would require maintaining an effort level that wouldn't lead to me burning out too early while still achieving the target time. So training involved practising maintaining an average power of 200 Watts for up to 4 hours every day, this kept my average heart rate below 130 bpm and essentially enable me to keep going. To support me throughout the ride, my mother babysat my daughter while my wife and my father would be following in a support car carrying all my nutritional requirements, water, spares and also keeping on top of social media throughout the challenge. In order to get this right on the day, we did several practice sessions including static and rolling replens where food and water would be passed to me from the car during travel; it took a few attempts but eventually we got it right!

The event was set for VJ day, Saturday 15 Aug, starting and finishing from the War Memorial in the centre of Banff, in tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice many years ago. The members of Banff Rotary club committee all came out to wave me off which was incredible given how early I was leaving!

I started at 0400hrs with the aim of being back at the same spot by 1900hrs that evening. The first 150km took me east then south along rolling coast roads; I'm very familiar with these roads as it's my local area and there a several short, sharp climbs on the route, the worst of them being a climb in excess of 23% gradient not far from a village called Pennan. These hills made it very difficult to keep my average heart rate down while maintaining the average speed needed to achieve

my goal of 15 hours. This part of the route took me through some amazing roads and scenery, past the most north easterly point of the UK (Fraserburgh) and then south towards Aberdeen, aka Granite City. Due to ongoing issues with COVID-19, Aberdeen had recently increased it's restrictions, so the decision was made to play it safe, rather than going through Aberdeen, I'd take the hillier option around the outskirts. Yet more hills, deep joy! This took me around to the A93, the road that links Aberdeen to Balmoral and the Cairngorms. A beautiful piece of road that, if I weren't against the clock, I would have thoroughly enjoyed riding along.

The first big stop was set just beyond the halfway point in Balmoral Castle car park. By this point I'd averaged just over 31kph and was ahead of schedule having taken just under 7 hours to complete the first 210km, so everything was going well so far. During this stop I'd planned to change the back wheel, get some decent food down my grid instead of snacks and gels, and change my clothes; the weather couldn't have been better with beaming sunshine all morning, but I was getting a bit sweaty, hence the change of clothes! Rolling out of Balmoral, I had a little over 8 hours to complete the second half. However, this half of the event included two particularly nasty climbs; the first up to Glenshea Ski resort and the second is called the "Lecht" on the way north towards Tomintoul. This was why I changed the back wheel, the difference was a better range of gears for climbing up the steeper gradients. It didn't help! During the first climb from Braemar to Glenshea I was able to maintain my effort fairly well, the climb was steep but fairly constant so my legs certainly felt it but it was manageable. The view from the top

Event summary

- Total distance – 406km
- Total elevation gain – 4110m
- Total calories burned – 9,640kcal
- Cycling/moving time – 13 hrs 57 mins
- Final time (including stops) – 16 hrs 57 mins

Right pic: David with his father while psyching himself up for the next step up the Clegg on the way to Tomintoul
Below pic: Taken just before the start with his father, wife Steph and members of the Rotary Club committee



was amazing, particularly as I was almost 800m above sea level so the low clouds were rolling through the valley. I thought the way back down would give me an opportunity to rest before the next climb; I was wrong. The road was so consistently steep that I couldn't continually hold the brakes and had to just hope the road remained clear throughout the descent. I found out afterwards from my strava account that my maximum speed during the descent was over 91kph! Then came the second climb up the Lecht; it was brutal! No constant gradient this time, it went up in short sharp steps with 20%+ gradients for about 100-200m, then an easy section of about 7-8% for about 300-400m and the steps seemed to just keep coming! By the time I'd reached the top, I'd completed over 300km and had stopped far more than I'd

anticipated, putting me behind schedule. The thought of quitting had crossed my mind several times during this section, my legs had screamed at me to quit throughout, the weather was stiflingly hot, nearly 30°C, the sweat was pouring off me which made it even more difficult to complete the climb AND keep on top of my fluid intake. Luckily my support crew were keeping a check of my intake and giving me constant reminders to get the fuel down my grid!

The final 100km of the route took me through the famous Scottish whisky trail, passing several of the world famous whisky distilleries, Walkers shortbread factory and Baxters soup factory. A bowl of soup or a biscuit would have gone down a treat at this stage of the event! Down to the last 50km, I'd reached the North Coast again. The scenery was the last thing I was thinking about at this point, the sun was coming down and I was on much busier roads so my head was well and truly down, focusing purely on the finish line. I couldn't have been more pleased when I started seeing Banff on the road signs again. When my home town finally came into view, I was absolutely running on fumes, but the pleasure of getting to that point gave me the final drive to the line. I rolled back in front of the War Memorial 16 hours 57 mins after I started, having completed a total distance of 406km with 4100m of climbing and total money raised was £1,000. Unfortunately, I didn't achieve my target time of 15hrs, but at least I proved the damn bike computer wrong! I fully intend on returning to make a second attempt next year with the aim of achieving the target time, anyone interested in getting involved is more than welcome, you can contact me via email: David.jarvis283@mod.gov.uk

For more information on this challenge and the previous challenges, all the details are available on my Strava profile [@ScaleyBackCyclist](https://www.strava.com/athletes/scaleybackcyclist)



Top pic: David also raised money for Chalmers Hospital
Above: Cresting the final hill into Banff at the end of the event
Right: At the top of Glenshea

Charity 40 mile TAB



On 17 October 2020 three NCO's from 11 (RSS) Signal Regiment will be completing a 40 mile TAB with 40lbs on their back. **Sgt Al 'The Goat' Campbell**, **Sgt John 'Late as Always' Wheeler** and **Cpl 'Handbrake' Parnell** will be starting from Studland beach and following the coastal path through to Weymouth, taking in the sights of both Swanage and Lulworth on their TAB.

If you have been to the Jurassic coast you will understand how physically demanding this challenge is going to be. It is extremely arduous terrain with lots of inclines. Luckily it also has some of the most amazing views.

The challenge came about due to the unfortunate cancellation of the Lanyard Trophy due to COVID-19. The NCO's had already started training for the event and thought 'why stop?', so they decided to continue their training and 'up the ante', they hope to raise some valuable funds for the Royal Signals Charity.

Based in Blandford, the home of the Royal Signals Charity, the three NCO'S are aware of the fantastic work that the Charity does for the Signals family (both past and present as well as their dependants). They are also conscious that a lot of people have been struggling due to COVID-19 and the potential increased demand that this could have on the Charity. They want to do their part and help support their Corps family. See the next edition of The Wire to find out how they got on with the challenge.



To donate

Go to: virginmoneygiving.com and search for **Darren Parnell** or use the QR code.



Creative Special

To celebrate the Corps Centenary, soldiers from 43 Sig Sqn, 39 Sig Regt were asked by Bath Radio station to write a poem, putting a Signaller's spin on it. The following poems were read out on air:

Creative talent in The Corps!

A Signaller's poem - by Sig Wareham

You may know us as the IT crew,
we're the ones who wear the jimmy and the beret is blue.
We've done away with bicycles, pigeons and flags.
The new world is electronic, digital, cyber,
And it's all in our hands.

Airborne, armoured, commando and infantry,
we work across the military.
With antennas, codes, frequencies and radio
we reach a space where no man can go.
Wherever needed, we'll be there,
making sure messages get through the air.

The calm head, the vital link in the chain.
For a hundred years,
Signallers have remained the same.
Like our beloved Mercury,
always, to the Corps,
you can expect a Signaller to be swift and sure.

By Sea, By Land, By Air By LCpl Langham

By Sea, By Land, By Air
Comms is what we do,
Soldiers by choice, Jimmys by trade,
Swift and sure but never afraid.

By Sea, By Land, By Air

Frequency's all loaded
Antennas are high and crypto checked,
First class Jimmy boys is what you can expect,

By Sea, By Land, By Air
Weather rain or shine,
We've got the Bowman kit ready for the frontline,
Boys and girls dressed in green,
Mission accomplished that's when we're seen.

By Sea, By Land, By Air We Are The Royal
Signals

Fighting 43 - by Sig Dawes

Whatever the weather whatever the grime
we're always there and we're always on time

Giving you communication and tending your needs
whenever you need us we're the fighting 43

We specialise with many but our comms are the best
don't think of anyone else you can forget the rest

We get the job done and we do it with ease
we're not just anyone we're the fighting 43

We do what others don't and we do it with glee
you've heard of us before we're the fighting 43

Arnhem September 1944 By LCpl Cooper-Collett

My first message to send,
We can't hold the bridge,
Get the message out,
Don't let them hear me scared,

The message to send, I can do
This is me, the link for you,
Get the message out,
I am the Signaller, I will do

Just another message to send,
And then maybe my shift might end,
Get the message out,
Then maybe they might help,

Just one more message to send,
And then maybe I can eat,
Get the message out,
Then maybe it will be time to sleep,

Just a last message to send,
'Out of ammunition. God save the King'
Get the message out,
'Out of ammunition. God save the King'

A Boy Without Wings (Grief)

By Capt Ledgister

I have no wings, I cannot fly
I'm just a boy, who is asking why?
Her life cut short, our time was spent
It hurts too deep, I shall not vent
I'm looking down, before I fall
My thoughts are hidden, my feelings raw
Gods work was done, she's at peace asleep
I'll have to sow, the seeds I reap
At 10 years old, I grew up fast
My life would change, I'd have no past
I'll start again, a boy without wings
To make you proud, and achieve so many things
I miss you, for so many reasons why
I'm filled with grief, I didn't say goodbye.

A Son's loss

If you fancy seeing your R Signals-related poem/story/
drawing in print please send to:
wire@RSignals.onmicrosoft.com
We would love to publish it!

Below is a fictional creative writing piece by **Lt Ben Bolton**,
2 Sig Regt, inspired by his deployment as a MLO for HQ North
West with an interesting point of view from the coronavirus.

A year from now

A reasonable worst-case scenario

Winter 2019/2020

I have studied the human race for an incredibly long time. In doing so I have developed a deep understanding of the species and have identified two key factors that would need to be exploited to ensure the cleansing of the race. Firstly, their ability to communicate ideas and concepts that don't physically exist. This extends beyond their ability to communicate threats and gives them the ability to control large numbers of people through ideological constructs, such as religion. This is how humans ascended to the top of the food chain. Secondly, their intelligence and resourcefulness. Unable to rely on physical traits, they are reliant on engineering and utilising tools which has enabled them to overcome impossible situations. This is how humans retained their position at the top of the food chain. If I could deny either one of these, the human race would collapse in on themselves.

If they see me coming, they would communicate the threat and close ranks, in a decade I'd be little more than an anecdote. The perfect adversary would not prioritise lethality, they would utilise stealth to gain advantage. They would enter whilst the world slept, slowly and precisely moving across regions, to gain a foothold. This is why I was selected. I am the perfect adversary. Under the guise of influenza, I will go unnoticed. By the time they do, it'll be too late.

China, a petri dish of human activity. The benefits of initiating my campaign from such a heavily populated country are unparalleled. Here I slip into the human race and begin to move from person to person. Using every ounce of restraint not to kill my hosts. For over three weeks I roam China uncontested. I infect hundreds, before they impose a lockdown. This was long enough, I was everywhere. The best news was WHO initially deemed there to be no evidence of the virus spreading outside China, and subsequently decided I did not constitute a public emergency of international concern. The decision to announce me a global emergency would come nearly a month after my discovery. I had for a short time circumvented their ability to communicate, not by denying capability, but by being seemingly unworthy of being communicated.

...

He sits down at a desk and starts up the MODNET terminal. Like a character from a children's storybook, the young man wanted adventure. He was fixated on this desire and, at this point, oblivious to the skill set he possessed and the effect he could have.

Half paying attention, he, again, inputs the wrong password and curses. It was late evening and he was not paying attention to the computer, instead he was fixated on the voice coming from the radio blurring headlines of a global pandemic. Two days prior he had been informed that he was being held at readiness to deploy to support the civil authorities' response to COVID-19. Just minutes ago, he had received a message telling him he had been activated and a message sat in his inbox. If he could get the computer to log in, the email would tell him that he would be reporting for duty the day after next.

He enjoyed his job. He felt most comfortable surrounded by his peers and the thought of being separated from his regiment for such a long period of time made him feel uneasy but the promise of being a part of something bigger was too attractive. The grandeur of the task and the true horrors of the virus are lost on him at this point.

Less than 48 hours later he arrives at the Headquarters, there is an air of confusion and unpreparedness within the building. Multiple liaison officers from across the country report for duty, for roles that have just been created. As a cohort they are delivered a short training package before being dispersed throughout the region.

Spring 2020

Thailand, Kuwait, Iraq, Norway, Greece, Brazil, Denmark, Northern Ireland, Wales, England. I was everywhere.

People did what they do best, they panicked. I continued to demonstrate restraint. The aim of the game was not a massacre; it was to systematically induce an incurable chaos. Lockdowns were introduced around the globe and those not yet imprisoned in their homes flocked to shops to stockpile pasta and toilet roll and other 'essentials'. The number of deaths crept up putting strain on death management processes. The requirements of those unable to leave their homes for supplies put strain on the local authority's distribution hubs. The sheer number of cases caused devastation within hospitals. Slowly I ate away at economies, depriving businesses of the public, the oxygen they needed to survive. In the first instance people pulled together. There were large demonstrations of support for key workers. Entire nations adhered to the strict guidelines



imposed by their governments. The same governments they previously condemned as liars and cheats.

I would forgive you for thinking that amid the chaos, mankind was inherently good. But this was an oversimplification. People were scared and they were desperate, willing to do anything for the promise of normality. A normality that would never come. They scrambled towards tales of heroism from the frontline like rats to cheese, desperate to see the best of humanity reflected in themselves. The rat trapped loomed over them, and they were unaware that they were observing the minority. Eventually the trap would snap shut and the world would plunge into austerity as I deprived them of economic growth. This would reveal the majority, a race of individuals driven by self-survival and perpetuation. I would provide an unavoidable reflection of the worst aspects of humanity. This would be the weapon that I would use to deliver the final blow, not a killer virus.

...

He sits in a room with two other MLOs and a team of five planners. All poised with frustration as they listen into the teleconference call connecting them to the strategic coordination group. The frustration stems from the slow progress being made with planning as various groups struggle to overcome initial interoperability issues between governmental departments.

Scribbling away in their notebooks, the team begin to formulate a plan. They identify the following - firstly, existing plans have jumped straight to the provision of 'solutions' without proper analysis, including no assessments of the risk or of current capability. Secondly, they identify that the civil authorities were not accustomed to the tone of military personnel and individuals were put off by what could be perceived as intimidating behaviour. They would have to identify who held influence within the forum and approach these individuals and communicate ideas through them. These relationships would be integral to the success of the team.

After the call, they sit down and discuss how to proceed. The outcome is that the team move themselves to a central location where they have access to many key players within the resilience forum.

Over the next two months the team visited multiple sites developing situational awareness and building relationships. Highlighted amongst them was the heroic efforts of some individuals for working on them. Amongst them was an individual with an almost unhealthy determination to help others working from a food hub, he would take a work phone home and deliver food parcels late into the evening to desperate families.

A year from now

The government knew what was coming and could have stopped me, but they were bound to the present by the grasp of the national media. Others prophesised and planned for the impending troubles, they screamed helpless their voices lost in the vastness of human naivety. Amongst the chaos there was an unwavering denial of how much it was going to hurt as lockdowns were lifted. This encouraged naivety and

"I would forgive you for thinking that amid the chaos, mankind was inherently good. But this was an oversimplification. People were scared and they were desperate, willing to do anything for the promise of normality"

complacency, and this fatal human flaw gave me an invisibility. As the lockdown lifted the human race was exposed to the new world. In the absence of their normal, they return to an abnormal. There were baron wastelands of high streets once home to local retailers, stretching graveyards, the resting place of businesses that didn't survive the virus and once the bustling office blocks were empty shells. There had been no fights for PPE, there had been no scramble for ventilators or hospital

beds. They had cracked it; they had flattened the curve.

But the challenge of rebuilding a nation now lay before them. It had been done before no less than 70 years prior. But people had changed, the ascent of social media, of television, and popular culture had driven the degradation of human behaviour.

As the economy clambers to its knees, people begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel. But as always, I am one step ahead. With another swift and calculated blow, I subject them to a second wave of the virus. The numbers of infected increase rapidly and the economy recoils. Again, there is immense pressure on healthcare providers, but they parry the attack. However, there was no clap for carers this time, no coming together of humanity. There is a deafening silence as the public stand quiet and watch the injured organisations limp away from the encounter. They want to know why it was allowed to happen again. The government should have done more.

A voice of the people emerges, and it preaches to the nation that the 'return to normal' came too soon. Opinions delivered as truth, have proven amongst my most effective tool. So, I manipulate the voice to reveal the greed of politicians, and it uncovers a tale of how they only opened the economy for their own gain.

I watch as the 'one nation' stance I had previously observed disintegrates into scapegoating and finger pointing. Protestors flock to the streets demanding justice for the NHS staff and care workers who made the ultimate sacrifice. The government with reduced capability for suppression are unable to control demonstrations, and some of the protests spiral out of control. I watch as my plan takes life. I couldn't have hoped for better results. Violent protests become propaganda for extremist groups which prey on a society weakened by instability. Many individuals turn to such organisations, for a sense of identity and protection in increasingly xenophobic regions, accompanied by a rise in extreme right-wing groups as the population cling to scapegoats. A similar song is sung in the middle east where inconsistent governance and a focus on combating me, has left organisations such as Daesh unchallenged, and tensions escalate worldwide.

I am not the virus. I am the paranoia in the general public as the government release apps tracking individual's movement. I am the vindictiveness of bicameral politics as parliament destroys every feasible attempt to emerge from the decline. I am the desperation of national economies as states battle for control over markets and pave out a new world order. I am the tens of thousands that die from hunger in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. I am the instability that comes from the hunger. I am the caliphates that monopolise on the instability and I am the subsequent terror. I am the manifestation of the darkest corners of human existence.

There is no poetry in these days, from the start humans were condemned to consume each other.

In the last year I have exposed humanity to both the extreme goods of their character, and the unforgivable evils. I have delivered them an appraisal of sorts and forced them to reflect. Only time will tell if they can make the adjustments to their character, before they consume themselves.

...

As he sits at home dialling into a squadron brief, he contemplates his desire for adventure and balances it with his potential to deliver an effect. The policy and procedure that he once thought restricted him, were no longer chains trying to contain him. They were now a crucial element of a much larger entity. The information he managed day to day was a thought within a much larger mind. The small decisions he

made every day may seem at the time irrelevant. However, in collaboration with the hundreds of others they were the mind of the army, then the mind of a nation and then the mind of humanity. The seemingly insignificant decisions he made could ripple through this mind and as they merged with other ripples, formed waves, that would shape the future of their race. It is through these seemingly insignificant decisions that humanity may save itself.

The laptop beeps as he is connected to the conference.

He shakes his head and the tale of a malevolent intelligent virus falls from his head. There is no external entity that controlled the virus. Just an overpopulated world full of sceptics and optimists, altruists and narcissists, good and evil all striving for perfect equilibrium.

The 2015 BAOR Corps Commission

by Stuart Brown

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Back in 2015 a painting was commissioned to depict the military experience in Germany. Limited edition prints were offered for sale at a cost of £56 and we are now down to our last few. We have reduced the price of these fabulous prints to an amazing £20!

Limited Edition Print: The large print measures 69 x 47cm on 350gsm art board. Artist signed and numbered. The cost of this print is NOW £20.00 (includes P&P).
The small print measures 33 x 48cm and is £12.50.

Ordering, Payment and Despatch: See website royalsignals.org/news/zeitgeist/ for further details. Prints will be sent through Royal Mail and will require a signature.

Enquiries: For all enquiries about the prints contact: events@royalsignals.org

The Royals Corps of Signals 2020 Photography Competition

We need your images to promote the Corps across social media, the R SIGNALS website and Corps publications. The competition is open to R SIGNALS Regular, Reserve, Retired, Cadets and Civilians working within the Corps.

Each category winner will receive a cash prize of £50. Both the video category winner and the overall winner will receive a prize of £250.

There are 6 categories:

- Portrait
- Life in the Field
- Sport and Adventure
- Corps 100 - Ethos of The Corps
- Trade and Engineering
- Videography - 'Showcasing your Corps'

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
13 NOVEMBER 2020

To enter, go to the 'news' tab at:
www.royalsignals.org

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Corps Centenary Celebrations



On 28 June 2020, the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists (WCIT), flew the Royal Signals flag at WCIT hall to celebrate the Royal Corps of Signals on the occasion of its Centenary. WCIT is the City of London's 100th Livery Company and is proud of its long affiliation (since 1992) and activities with the Royal Signals.

WCIT's Master **Ray Long CB** said: "We have the greatest of respect for the significant contributions made by Corps members and its Units to the nation's fight against COVID-19; our thanks to them, one and all. Congratulations once again on such a significant anniversary and we look forward to continuing the close affiliation between our two organisations, with continued joint working, and shared conviviality."



Pics:

Top - Lt Col Histed flying the flag towards Salisbury from Old Sarum on R SIGNALS Centenary day 28 June 2020.
Above - Lt Col Histed halfway through tabbing 100km for the Royal Signals Charity.

Left - The R SIGNALS flag flying at The Worshipful Company of Information Technologists' hall on 28 June 2020.





Lt Col S Clarke with the Recruits and Permanent Staff of Clarke Troop



1 (FOWLER) SQUADRON 2 ARMY TRAINING REGIMENT ARMY TRAINING CENTRE (ATC), PIRBRIGHT

OC Maj E Moore
SSM WO2 D Tuck

Clarke Troop – by Cpl Brad Taylor

After a long time at home due to COVID-19, 1 (Fowler) Squadron formed up on 31 May 2020, where we welcomed a new intake of young recruits ready to take on the transition from civilian to soldier. In a time of uncertainty, we were also able to provide a little piece of history as this was to be the first time that our new troop was to form up; Clarke Troop.

Clarke Troop is named after **Lt Col (Retd) Steve Clarke GM, QGM + Bar and MBE**. Quite a famous name within the Corps and for all the right reasons. **Lt Col Clarke** started his military journey some 43 years ago and Pirbright has a place in his heart for many reasons, so when he was asked if we could name a Troop after him, he was clearly delighted. He spent most of his military career serving with mainly Airborne and Specialists units. This was clearly his forte and for his outstanding work and individual moments at these units, **Mr Clarke** received decorations for gallantry on 3 separate occasions; receiving the George medal and Queens gallantry medal twice and the MBE, a quite remarkable man.

The newly condensed 12 weeks course ran smoothly with only a few minor hiccups along the way. **Cpl Revell** getting lost on the way to Ex FINAL FLING was one of the stand out moments but of course this was not his fault and he blamed poor old **Cpl Truebody** for the mistake. After Ex FINAL FLING came the long-awaited pass off parade, unfortunately families and friends were not permitted on camp due to the current climate, but this was put to the back of the permanent staff and recruit's minds as **Mr Clarke** and his wife **Sue** were able to attend. They both sat and watched the parade and looked on as if they were the proud parents watching their sons and daughters pass off the Parade Square.

After the parade **Mr Clarke** accompanied by his wife, came over to address the newly trained soldiers of Clarke Troop. He spoke to them about his career, gave them a few top tips, and shared stories that will no doubt live with the recruits and added to a special day. Two of the stories he shared that stood out was firstly the unfortunate death of his brother who passed away during Basic Training at Pirbright back in the 1970s and how the honour of having a Troop named after his family name meant the world to him. The second was a follow on to a question as to "Which of his Medals meant the most and the one he was most proud of?" He also spoke passionately about how every time he was having fun in the military, he received promotion or a reward. He had heard the citations written about him but because of their classification,



Lt Col S Clarke with the Commanding Officer Lt Col R Cleland and the Inspecting Officer Maj Gen M Mitchell MBE



Lt Col S Clarke with the first ever Training Team of Clarke Troop



Lt Col S Clarke presenting Rct Mathers with his Best Recruit Award

they will be locked away for 100 years. However, he did mention that most of his medals were obtained and received because he was on his own and did something by himself. But to answer the question, he said his MBE; as this was received because of the support and love of his wife and his family. His biggest take away message to the recruits was to work hard but ultimately have fun with it.

To finish off, **Mr Clarke** presented an award to Clarke Troop's Best Soldier, **Rct Mathers**. A great day was had by everyone involved and it was an honour to meet **Lt Col (Retd) Clarke** who assured us he will be back to visit the next intake and join us on PT. I'm sure he will be able to show the recruits and the training team a thing or two.

Returning to Training - by Cpl Shaun O'Shea

The return to training after the COVID-19 lockdown for 1 (Fowler) Squadron and the Permanent Staff of The Army Training Centre Pirbright was more than just a challenge. It became a culture change, a lifestyle change, and as a training establishment a complete overhaul of the way we instructed recruits. The priority was to complete the training of the recruits who had already started their military journey and were going through a course when the lockdown happened. These recruits were brought back earlier than most to complete a condensed second half of their training. The recruits coming back were now at 50% manning so a 2 metre distance could be upheld when in rooms; meaning they went from twelve-man rooms to six.

As many of you know the cook house in a training establishment, no matter which one you went to is a busy old place. Everyone is back to back like sardines in crammed queues, spinning Ex HALFWAY stories, swapping the scoff house gen of how recruits get bumped every night and generally catching up with people they see around the place but don't generally know. Timings are always tight and troops are inevitably late for their next parade and lessons slip. Now slip in two metre distancing, the queue becomes a monster. However, to their credit the recruits stuck to the restrictions rigidly easing the pressure on Permanent Staff to enforce these rules.

You can imagine the joy on the Corporals faces when they found out about the new programmes, systems and ideas that had been bounded around. But, as always they were able to improvise and adapt, meeting the challenges head on. Skill at Arms lessons were moved outside and were successful, mainly due to the lovely weather. However, if the weather turned then tents were readily available. Exercises were interesting as we had to try and maintain the social distancing guidelines whilst patrolling across the area and the recruits weren't able to share shell scrapes so the harbours were big enough to land a chinook in the middle.

For myself lockdown went on longer than most of my colleagues due to underlying health issues of a family member. It got to the point where I needed to get back to work for my own mental health and I'm sure that I am not the only person that had similar feelings. It took a bit of planning but it was arranged that I could come back to work but only allowed outside with recruits. However, this worked well because it meant that I got to assist on ranges and exercise. I could distance myself from recruits yet still have an input into their training.

BFBS Forces Fit – by Sgt Dan Barron

With a lot of Royal Signals 100 events cancelled due to the COVID-19 lockdown, it was inevitable that members of 1 (Fowler) Squadron would do something to celebrate our Corps 100th birthday once it was safe to go back to work, (all within Government Guidelines, of course). BFBS Radio presenter **Jay James**, who is also known for his appearances on 'The X



Factor' and a member of 'The Overtones', invited **WO2 (SSM) Dave Tuck** to put together a small team and deliver their version of #BFBSForcesFit and put on a short fitness session as part of the RSIGS 100 Takeover. It was an opportunity to do something different and take part in a monster phys session so many people within the Squadron jumped at the chance to get involved.

On a very early, too early for some, morning, armed with a small camera, which would film our session so it could be broadcast on BFBS that evening, 11 members of staff from across the Squadron, including 6 Royal Signals soldiers and the QM gathered with gym mats on the centre of the parade square to follow in the likes of **Dame Kelly Holmes**, **Mr Motivator** and **WO1 Glenn Houghton** (SEAC) to start the #BFBSForcesFit takeover. The fitness session was to be a ton up of sorts which included press ups, squats, burpees and many more. For many people, the Lockdown was an opportunity to make use of daily exercise and get fit. **SSgt Lee Butcher** and **Cpl Ash Hunt** clearly made good use of this opportunity, the same could not be said for **Sgt Dan Barron** and **Sgt Aran Lane** however, both conveniently were unable to finish the ton up due to 'work commitments'. The session was hard work but very beneficial and all that took part got something out of it including the thousands of people that watched on the BFBS Radio Facebook page.

The session, like all the BFBS Takeover events, was a good awareness for fitness and also a great way to celebrate the Corps 100th Birthday.



Squadron Life – by Cpl Ash Hunt

On 5 August 2020, 1 (Fowler) Squadron was able to hold a socially distanced Summer Function which doubled up to celebrate the Corps Centenary. This would have been the second opportunity to celebrate the Centenary as the “Corps” and “The Royal Corps” share two special days. The function was a very welcome break and chance for members of the Squadron to relax during the busy period of training since the restart of Phase 1 training. After a little bit of uncertainty and several weeks at home due to the outbreak of COVID-19 we were able to restart training again, albeit with reduced numbers, bespoke training programmes and green and blue arm bands to ensure social distancing between households. Due to the current climate the function was held outside on Pirbright Green and of course within government guidelines and socially distanced. We would like to take the opportunity to thank The Corps as they gifted the Squadron money to help celebrate the Corps Centenary which was well spent on Dominos and a mix of favourable cold beverages.

The function also allowed us to bid a fond farewell and thank you to members of the Squadron and these included: **Capt Adeney RE**, **Capt Burlton R SIGNALS** as he leaves for civilian street, **Capt Rana R SIGNALS**, **SSgt (SQMS) Callaghan R SIGNALS** on promotion to WO2, **Cpl Barnson SCOTS**, and **Cpl Purja R SIGNALS** on promotion to Sgt. It also gave the opportunity to welcome members of 28 Squadron, Royal Engineers as they joined us following their disbandment and they include: **Capt Armstrong RE**, **Capt Broome RA**, **Sgt Daniels RE**, **Sgt Lane RA**, **LCoH Davey HCAV**, **Cpl Nightingale RE**, **Cpl Nicholson RE**, **Cpl Feeney R IRISH**, **Cpl Morley AGC (SPS)** and **Cpl Boucher RLC**.

The Squadron would also like to welcome the newest members to Pirbright and they include: **Capt Inderwick R SIGNALS**, **Sgt Cook REME**, **Sgt Jones ‘Little’ QRH**, **Sgt Jones ‘Large’ RA**, **Cpl Barlow RLC**, **Cpl Curran SCOTS**, **Cpl Bradford AGC (RMP)**, **Cpl Gurung AGC (SPS)**, **Cpl Melliush RTR**,

Cpl Hodsall RE, **Cpl May R SIGNALS** and **Cpl Robinson REME**.

Finally, we have to say goodbye to our OC Squadron, **Maj Emma Cameron**, who has moved on to her new role at Army Headquarters and we are sure she’ll continue to do outstanding work there. We wish her and her daughter **Imogen**, all the very best for the future. But with her leaving, we now say hello to our new OC, **Maj Elliot Moore** and his family; wife **Lynsey**, daughter **Rhiannon** and son **Dustan**. Welcome - we look forward to working with you and hope that you enjoy your time with the Squadron.

Below: Maj Emma Cameron handing over command to Maj Elliot Moore

Bottom: Waters Troop reflecting on the realities of War during Exercise VALIANT SPIRIT on the Corps 100th birthday



Proud double heritage marked in stone



Online research in lockdown has discovered Second World War gravestones in Italy and North Africa with intertwined cap badges which were first thought to be unique. Subsequent research has shown otherwise.

As is well-known, the Middlesex Yeomanry joined the Corps when the latter was formed a hundred years ago. This is pleasingly recorded in *Roger So Far* as are the two Victoria Crosses that the Middlesex Yeomanry brought to the Corps' history. Perhaps less well-known is that the Cheshire Yeomanry and the North Somerset Yeomanry were temporarily converted to Royal Signals during the war. This temporary arrangement afforded the same intertwined badge privilege for those two yeomanry regiments.

On our Roll of Honour there are currently 133 Middlesex Yeomanry soldiers who served with the Corps during WW2. Of these, 70 are buried in Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries or CWGC maintained areas of civilian cemeteries, the other 63 are recorded on wall panels under the heading 'Royal Corps of Signals'. Usually, WW2 Middlesex Yeomanry gravestones show a single Corps badge. So why are there at least 14 gravestones with inter-twined badges?

Interestingly, a clue can be found from the fact that Middlesex Yeomanry dual badged headstones ceased to be authorised after the end of July 1941 when 2nd Armoured Divisional Signals (MY) was disbanded and the MY version of 10th Armoured Divisional Signals was formally reduced to a squadron of 5 LofC Sigs (Cheshire Yeomanry). From this, it may be surmised that those entitled to the double-badging were soldiers serving in regimental sized units that were primarily of their own yeomanry character. The many Middlesex Yeoman serving across the Corps in other units were not therefore afforded this privilege. The intertwined stones were produced on the express recommendation of RHQ Royal Signals and reflect the value then placed upon the Middlesex Yeomanry by the Corps.

It might be thought surprising that the Middlesex Yeomanry has an interest in detective work. Not so, the Regiment receives a very special mention in the 'Blanchard

Soldier', a story in the *Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes*. **Conan Doyle** did try to enlist into the Middlesex Yeomanry – a story for another day.

One headstone shown here is of special interest in that the soldier concerned was an MP, the eldest son of an Irish peer and a man who commanded what was effectively a Territorial Signal regiment, 6th Infantry Divisional Signals and, later, the 'Regular' 7th Armoured Divisional Signals. While in command of the latter, **Col Somerset Maxwell** died of injuries received from strafing and bombing by ME109s during pursuit immediately following the Battle of El Alamein. As a then serving MP, he is commemorated with the Middlesex Yeomanry badge in a special window in Westminster Hall in the Palace of Westminster. He is buried in Heliopolis War Cemetery in Cairo.

Another Middlesex Yeoman whose headstone bears a dual badge is **Cpl Alf Brunt**. He was killed in action at Mechili when Rommel's Afrika Korps overran HQ 2nd Armoured Division. His troop leader, **Lt Robin Baillieu**, wrote to **Brunt's** widow **Doris** to say that he thought her husband was probably still "alive and well and cheerful and knowing the circumstances I feel as certain as possible that he is a prisoner of war. I can't write the circumstances, it was rotten luck, but the sort of situation that is bound to arise in a war." **Baillieu** mentions that it was also "rotten luck" after **Brunt** had apparently been successfully evacuated from Dunkirk. One can only imagine the extent of **Doris Brunt's** distress and **Robin Baillieu's** mortification once it became apparent that her husband had been killed.

Both **Maxwell** and **Brunt**, like other Middlesex Yeomen, proudly wore distinctive regimental accoutrements throughout their service. For NCOs, these included the cavalry badges of rank that, until recently, Middlesex Yeomen were granted permission to wear. Some readers may recall seeing Staff Sergeants with four stripes training in Blandford. Memorably, the **Duke of Edinburgh**, on an inspection at the Fields of Remembrance at Westminster, expressed his admiration for the four stripes worn then by a female Staff Sergeant from Uxbridge who stood at the front of the MY Field.





11th (RSS) SIGNAL REGIMENT, Blandford

CO Lt Col R Jacques-Grey	RSM WO1 J Watson
2 (CATTERICK) SQUADRON	
OC Maj L Creese	SSM WO2 R Sinclair
3 (HARROGATE) SQUADRON	
OC Maj C Northridge	SSM WO2 S Summerfield
4 (MILITARY TRAINING) SQUADRON	
OC Maj C Anderson	SSM WO2 G Stewart
5 (MARESFIELD) SQUADRON	
OC Maj M Thewlis	SSM WO2 J Blackburn

2 (Catterick) Squadron

SHQ

With the spring upon us and the virus in full effect, soldiers from across the Squadron have been adapting to the new normal. Once the trainees had been dispersed, most Permanent Staff were left to ride out the threat from the discomfort of makeshift offices. However, like every good war story, there is always one man left behind to hold the line. For 2 Sqn, that man was **Capt Andy Kane**, the Squadron 2ic, who has relentlessly ensured that the coffee has stayed dry and the hot water system has been kept legionnaires free. Unfortunately for the Squadron we have had to bid farewell to the 2ic, who has been replaced by **Capt Alex Eveleigh** who has made a flying start to his tenure with coffee making skills that already equal his predecessor. We have also had **SSgt 'eyelashes' Deal** slip off during this quiet time. She has been a rock steady member of the Squadron for some time and we whole heartedly bid her good luck as she now settles into her civilian life. Another departure from the Squadron, this time from the SQMS department was **Cpl 'Johnno' Johnson** a true pillar of the Squadron that will surely be missed.

News from the Troops

Like a biblical exodus we start with even more goodbyes, two Troop Commanders, **Capt 'Shaps' Shapiro** and **Capt Ben Everton**. In good Army fashion we say goodbye to two and get only one replacement, **Capt Andrew Bilton**, although most of us would say one is enough! Leaving us from the ranks we bid farewell to **Cpl Crolla** leaving us on well-deserved promotion but only down the road to DSCIS. **Cpl 'Madman' Tarling** who will be representing the Corps at 33 Eng Regt, which could set back inter Corps relations some years. On another promotion we now lose **Sgt 'Robot Jo' Petite**, replaced by, so we're told **Cpl 'Globetrotter' Cox**, lucky enough to have been quarantined in Florida. Whilst **Cpl Cox's** travels have been extensive, she has still managed to gain selection to the Army Netball Team, well done!!!

Further congratulations go to **Cpl 'XXX' Walker** on successful completion of the 299 Special Communicator course and recent promotion. The congratulations don't stop there, with **Cpl's 'I Know Harry Redknapp' Harling**, **'Beastmaster' Gurung** and **'New Boy' Elsworth** all being selected for Sgt. Another amazing achievement

News from the Delivery Sections

One would think with no students the pace of life for the delivery sections would also subside; how wrong we were! No sooner had the last student left for home, new work strands began appearing, ways to maximise remote delivery where possible, shaving the "fat" off course content where necessary and preparing for the return of students, to name a few. It has been relentless, as soon as instructors begin to understand how to operate under one set of restrictions the Government issues new direction which requires new measures to be implemented. With all this going on the teams have managed to recall in-flight courses and successfully deliver training in order to supply the Field Army with highly

Photos from Sikamat Company

skilled personnel. One such success being the YofS EW course that completed their course in a COVID environment. A big well done to all who have worked so tirelessly in this challenging time.

3 (Harrogate) Squadron

Ulster Tp – by Sgt A Campbell

Things were progressing nicely here in sunny Blandford with the ongoing Training Transformation and the legacy course delivery. This all changed on 28 Mar 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic took hold of the country, the decision was taken that 11 (RSS) Sig Regt could no longer continue with training delivery. As a Squadron we had one week to arrange transport for approximately 350 Phase 2 trainees; with many of them requiring travel warrants to get home this was an administrative nightmare.

With the welfare and safety of the trainees at the forefront of everything we had to do, we arranged for twice weekly phone calls with all the Phase 2 and 3 trainees who had been released. As the weeks passed, the inevitable G1 issues raised their heads and we had to find new ways to provide support to these individuals. Defence Connect became our go to tool and with engagement from the trainees we were able to deliver MATT's and other online training. The 25 trainees who were left in Blandford formed small, family groups within the SFA and paraded under the Troops for taskings twice a day, with social distancing drill as one of their first lessons.

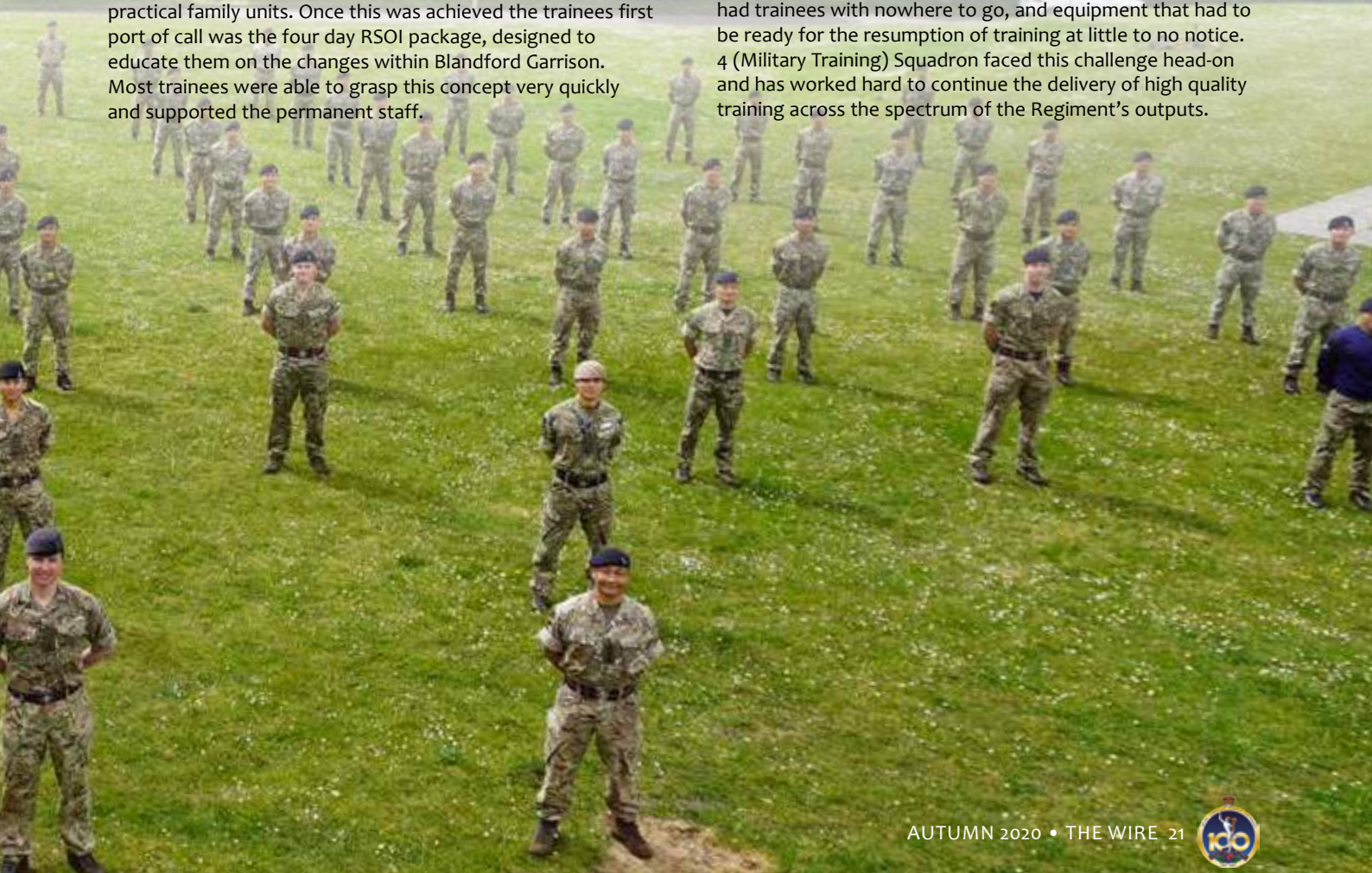
When the training pipeline restarted, the Permanent Staff had to implement an untested recall procedure and once back on camp ensure those who returned moved in to accommodation with the rest of their course, to help form practical family units. Once this was achieved the trainees first port of call was the four day RSOI package, designed to educate them on the changes within Blandford Garrison. Most trainees were able to grasp this concept very quickly and supported the permanent staff.



With a battle rhythm that required the duty of care staff to work six or seven days a week at times, it has been a long and stressful three months. However, the teams have pulled together and supported one another throughout. With remote learning and a compressed training pipeline we are managing to keep up with demand for these young soldiers in the Field Army. The future is bright for the Corps.

4 (Military Training) Squadron

In late March, with the COVID-19 pandemic gaining ominous momentum, training was brought to a halt by the numbers of trainees and staff isolating or shielding. Not everyone was able to step away from their responsibilities, as the Regiment had trainees with nowhere to go, and equipment that had to be ready for the resumption of training at little to no notice. 4 (Military Training) Squadron faced this challenge head-on and has worked hard to continue the delivery of high quality training across the spectrum of the Regiment's outputs.





Jerboa Troop

Jerboa Troop were front and centre, as their fleet of Fitted For Radio Landrovers had to be maintained regardless of the wider impacts on training. The LAD were affected by COVID-19 as much as any other department, but the TacCIS Training Team displayed outstanding commitment to their role by continuing to conduct equipment care in the Troop garages without pause. Close liaison with the REME detachment ensured that fleet readiness was sustained.

The OpCIS Training Team had a different challenge. It became apparent through April that training would have to resume in May. With reduced staff numbers and smaller class sizes, the Regiment needed more technical instructors to assist the Information Technology Fundamentals Section. The OpCIS Training Team had the correct knowledge and skills, so stepped up to help fill the need. This meant a period of learning to teach lessons that were unfamiliar and writing risk assessments for new classrooms in the COVID-19 environment. Once done, they dived straight into lesson delivery for the soldiers that started to get back into trade training in early May.

The greatest impact on Jerboa Troop was felt by the Combat Communicator Training Team. Two weeks into the first of the new Foundation 1 Combat Communicator Courses, the course had to be stopped. After a short stand down through part of April, the team re-designed the course into a two-week programme that removed much of the field exercise elements that would normally take place. This condensed course finishes with a day of dismounted activity to provide some practical experience of their new communications skills. The first of these courses was delivered in May, the second in

“The LAD were affected by COVID-19 as much as any other department, but the TacCIS Training Team displayed outstanding commitment to their role by continuing to conduct equipment care in the Troop garages without pause”

June and these courses are now running almost non-stop. As soon as the situation allows, this course will revert to four weeks and the team are excited by the prospect of finally delivering on their enormous efforts over the last 18 months.

Away from Jerboa Troop, the other teams have also been hives of activity. The Junior Command Training Team were in a unique position as lockdown began. Junior CLM had come to an end, and the Army Leadership Development Programme was about to start. The first Cpl ALDP was due for April. Obviously, this did not happen, as the field exercise could not be run safely in a COVID-19 environment. They were given specific online courses to conduct through the Defence Learning Environment (DLE) and took the opportunity to develop as instructors by conducting courses through the Open University. Once the situation became clearer, they started to plan for training delivery with specific training deficiencies. At the start of May, the team was split into two groups. One group continuing with preparations for the delivery of ALDP and MWBS in a COVID-19 environment. This consisted of producing conduct notes, risk assessments and a risk matrix. The other team was responsible for a newly formed sub-unit called Sikamat Company. Three Sergeants were each given one of the three Platoons and responsibility for delivering Military, SERE and communications training. Also during this period, they improved the various training aides and modal pits, as well as taking a couple of days to travel to the various Training Areas used for Cpl ALDP to build up enemy positions, which should enhance the training experience for all the students on Cpl ALDP. **Sgt Cunningham** earns special mention for facilitating four MATTs courses with COVID-19 approved mitigations, using the remainder of the team for support with delivery where required.

Senior Command Training Team

The Senior Command Training Team have switched fire from the delivery of SCLM to R SIGNALS SNCOs, to the delivery of the new Sgt ALDP to SNCOs from across the field army. This task has, like many others, been complicated by COVID-19. They have developed the course for remote delivery. This was not a simple task, as they had to persuade Land Warfare Centre that it was a viable option. There was significant resistance initially which was only overcome through live lesson delivery to the Training Requirement Authority. After assessing the systems available for use, they carried out further trials using Skype for business and Microsoft Teams, both of which were proven to work well. Each of the instructors took responsibility for specific subjects and external agency liaison. They have written business cases for equipment, rehearsed the lessons with each other, providing critical feedback and honing their online delivery technique. With the first course going live on the 27 Jul 2020, the team have worked hard to ensure that it will be delivered to the highest standard possible.

Sikamat Company

Once soldiers returned to Blandford to resume training, there was a need to provide meaningful employment to the soldiers that were not on courses. There are many reasons for soldiers not to be on a course, and the numbers have steadily dropped from 120, to a far more manageable 40. As more courses resume, these soldiers will all be on courses soon and

Sikamat Company will revert to Kohima Troop under the Regimental Training Wing.

Abided by the Government's, PHE and 11 (RSS) Sig Regt's policies and guidelines, all safety measures and precautions were implemented with strict measures to follow. The company has delivered valuable training to the Phase 2 soldiers under its charge. They have conducted Dismounted Close Combat Training (DCCT) ranges, military knowledge, Bowman lessons comprising of man-pack and vehicle mounted radios, MATTs (less SCR, AFT and ACMT), equipment care, vehicle loading, SERE and more. Online, they have been through even more, such as Literacy, Numeracy, Driving Theory and University Short courses. Topping all of this, they have done three PT sessions per week to stay fit. The company has successfully delivered a huge amount of safe training. This has helped ensure the mental and physical wellness of the trainees, who have benefited hugely from the training provided.

Foundation 1 – by Cpl Newton

Foundation 1 is a new syllabus that has recently been put into place here at 11 (RSS) Sig Regt, delivered by the newly formed Combat Communicator Training Team (CCTT) as part of the newly formed Jerboa Troop in 4 (Mil Trg) Squadron. No longer responsible for the delivery of the PNCO course, training output switched fire to prepare material for this course and upskill instructors, so that it was ready to deliver on 4 Mar 2020.

The course itself was designed to be four weeks in length and every soldier, regardless of trade, would be expected to complete as soon as they arrived in Blandford from their respective Phase 1 training establishments. Similar in ethos to the Royal Engineers Combat Engineer course developing a centralised knowledge base for all Scaleys, before going to learn their specific trades.

The basic outline of the course is designed to build upon the underpinning skills and military knowledge learnt during Phase 1 and add a Royal Signals emphasis, so that every Royal Signals soldier is comfortable at operating in a Basic Close Combat environment with a radio on their back, as well as learning how to be effective whilst operating in a Staff Working Environment (SWE). As the saying goes "Don't just survive.... Operate".

Before we knew it H-hour was upon us and the dream team was ready to start delivering, consisting of **Sgt Jase Cooper**, **Cpl Lee Newton** (myself), **Cpl Aaron Mills**, **Cpl Rajen Bura** and **Cpl Josh Rowe**. The course was going great into

Photos on pages 22 and 23 from Sikamat Company

the third week and we deployed out on the first field phase, Ex MERCURY DISMOUNT.

To set the scene, after a full day of contact drills with our respective sections, BCDT, CPERS, occupation of a harbour and lots of radio traffic sent by the students, we had just completed the wet and dry drills lesson instructed by **Cpl Rowe** in the harbour area when suddenly the course stopped! Due to COVID-19 and the Government's measures issued to the nation, we called check fire on the course and everyone was sent home.

Whilst the majority were working from home we have had to amend the course to fit the COVID-19 restrictions, in order to maximise training output and quality of instruction. This has been another challenge and in order to achieve the required standards, it has involved stripping down the course to 14 days, amending/removing lessons to meet COVID-19 policy and being meticulous in everything we do so that we can continue to deliver training in a safe environment. This means that now as Section Commanders we teach our own sections every lesson for the entire course, with a maximum of 12 per classroom all spread out to ensure social distancing, whilst maximising training value. All the handouts and kit they need are issued at the start of the course and the students use the same desks and classrooms throughout as well as plenty of disinfectant and hand sanitisers available for use wherever you look.

We have just finished the first two week COVID-19 course and currently are scheduled for another nine this calendar year. whilst COVID-19 is a bit of nuisance to us as instructors, everybody here at 4 (Mil Trg) Sqn has improvised, adapted and overcome in order to allow us to continue to deliver high quality training.

With Project CADUCEUS currently reshaping the Corps and how we operate, this is a fantastic opportunity to pass on our wealth of knowledge and experience to build the foundations for many successful careers and the future of the Royal Signals.



4 (Military Training) Squadron and Squadron Op's #100for100 Kayak and Cycle

By SSgt (FofS) Richie Cole

What a day 3 July was, #100for100 completed! The challenge was to complete 100km by any means to celebrate the Corps' 100th birthday, all money raised was to go to the Royals Signals Charity.

The plan was to do 55km in kayaks but due to some unforeseen issues like thick reeds, dams, surprise waterfalls, fences across the river and even a 30-minute sustained attack from a swan; we called time on the kayaking at checkpoint 3 having done 25km. We then finished the distance on bikes. We did however see some amazing wildlife on the kayak leg, otters, kingfishers, fish, herons and many swans, some more vicious than others.

The cycling leg was amazing, we cycled along paths I didn't know existed; as a Dorset boy born and bred, I enjoyed cycling through Christchurch, Bournemouth, Poole and Wimborne, seeing sights I would not normally have seen. The beaches were pretty much empty apart from many wind and kite surfers, the wind being horrific, it felt like I was being sand blasted at times. But an enjoyable cycle (mostly).

We started at 0500hrs and finished at 2030hrs. It was a struggle at times but really enjoyable. It was very arduous at times but I don't think I've laughed so much for a while, not only did **SSgt SSI Ian Ashcroft** and myself complete just over 100k we also exceeded our fundraising target.



We would like to say thank you to our support team **WO2 (YofS) Jim Mackie** and **Cpl 'VanlifeMatters' Tom Julian** who kept us going and supplied us with some good food at the checkpoints and the end. We could not have done it without you, also we would like to thank all those who sponsored us, the money is going to a great cause.



5 (Maresfield) Squadron

Don't adapt, Change the Game! Training Officers and Supervisors under COVID-19

COVID-19 has been both lethal and highly disruptive to how the Army and Royal Signals does business. With Public Health England guidelines necessitating a lockdown, the Defence School of CIS ordered a training pause in late March 20, effectively stopping all routine training. Being blessed with both Warrant Officer Supervisors aplenty and the Information Technology Wing, 5 (Maresfield) Squadron had both anticipated such a measure and planned how it would 'keep calm and carry on', delivering training remotely.

Using CISCO WebEX as a tool of choice, supported by training material hosted on local Virtual Learning Environments and also Modbox and Defence Connect, training moved into the remote arena and within a week, 'normal' jogging had resumed. Remote training delivery comes with its own challenges; about a quarter of the student and instructor body were either shielding or delivering full time childcare due to partner's key worker status. It's resulted in some interesting times, but we have worked through these and there has been no pause in delivery of trained Supervisors and Troop Commanders into the Field Army.

As I write, the lifting of COVID-19 restrictive measures enable the Squadron to return some courses to more traditional training methods. The Troop Commanders Course will conduct their summative exercise in syndicate rooms whereas only two weeks before the Foreman of Signals course had delivered their equivalent remotely. Moving forward, we have learnt valuable lessons. Theory based subjects can be remotely delivered and this offers students and instructors greater flexibility in the future. Every cloud, as they say.

I am immensely proud of the Squadron; they have done a fantastic job, using ad hoc methods and in testing times. Not only have we delivered across all of our key outputs, the Senior Foreman of Signals course have pulled off 'Jimmy in Space' under the watchful eye of **WO1 (FofS) Paul Vernon** and **Lt Col TOT (Retd) Dave Ball**, which featured in the previous edition of The Wire. What a fantastic way to celebrate our centenary! **Sgt Richard 'Rhino' Thomson** has also delivered a

COVID-19 compliant endurance event - the Vital Link Trophy - for the Regiment on our Corps' Birthday with over 20 runners each completing 5 miles to hit the 100 mile total. To me, both epitomise the R SIGNALS ethos of delivering and even triumphing in adversity; 'Find a way, or make one!'

TCC 106 Training under COVID-19

By Capt Tom Davis-Merry

When training was paused across Blandford Garrison a dozen members of the 20-strong Troop Commanders' Course 106 made the Royal Signals Headquarters Officers' Mess their home for the next three months. In true testament to their enduring creativity, resourcefulness and enthusiasm, the course fully exploited this opportunity to develop across a broad portfolio.

Command Instruction Wing swiftly adapted its training material to enable key topics such as Appraisal writing and Defence writing to be delivered and assessed remotely. Quickly transferring training material onto a newly built DLE site and setting up Cisco WebEX accounts ensured that training delivery could be resumed within a week of the training pause. This is not as easy as it sounds. During Ex RICH ORBIT, Command Support Troop delivered blended training to three classroom-based syndicates and a remote syndicate, demonstrating the effectiveness of their flexible and adaptable approach.

In addition to the prescribed program, a series of daily lecturettes was quickly established with the course presenting on a broad variety of topics from Cinematography to the Chemistry of Chemical Warfare by the course's resident chemistry graduate. Weekly film nights and live streaming of National Theatre Live have furthermore ensured that the course remain culturally informed. The course has also kept fit with daily circuits in the Mess garden and socially distanced weekly hill-sprint and track sessions. Out of hours, online learning opportunities abound; a diverse array ranging from Cyber Foundation Courses, Microsoft Azure, PRINCE2 and programming in Python have been fully exploited. With the exception of certain field and practical elements which could not be delivered within COVID-19 mitigation measures, 5 (Maresfield) Squadron has ensured the Troop Commanders' Course remained on course whilst exploiting a unique opportunity to broaden the normal remit of Young Officer training.

Wire Submission Deadline Dates



Spring edition - 10 December
Summer edition - 2 April
Autumn edition - 2 July
Winter edition - 2 September

If you have any problems meeting these deadlines then please contact the Wire Editor at:

wire@RSignals.onmicrosoft.com

Photographs for The Wire



- Please ensure all photographs reflect official dress policy if you wish them to be used.
- All photographs should be high quality JPEGs, preferably over 500kb (over 3mb for front or back cover) and include a caption where necessary.



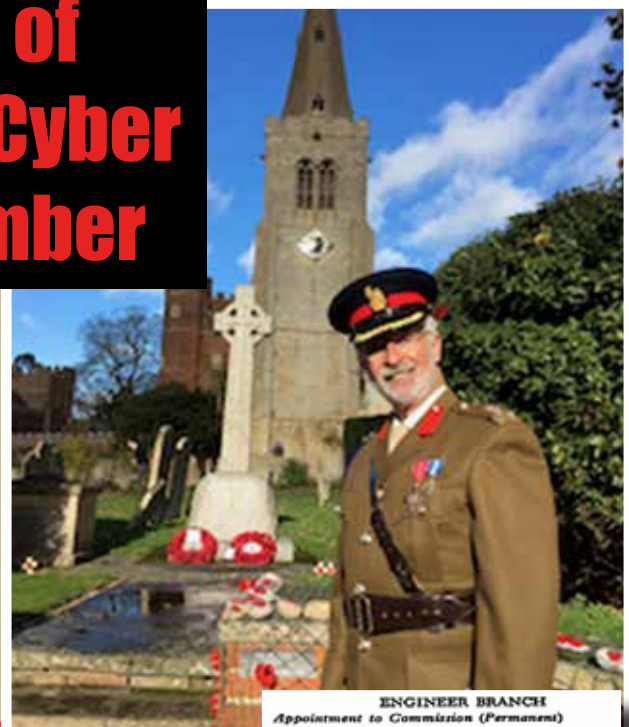
50th Anniversary of Commissioning for Cyber Advisory Team Member

On 13 September **Brigadier Bruce Wynn OBE** Royal Signals (Air Commodore RAF retired!) marked the completion of his 50th year of holding the Queen's Commission.

The London Gazette records his appointment to a permanent commission in the RAF on 13 September 1970. As a CIS Engineer his RAF progression had many 'touchpoints' with a Royal Signals career, and he rose to the rank of Air Commodore, completing his regular service in 2004 as ACOS J6 at PJHQ (during the initial phases of TELIC and HERRICK).

In the civilian world he pursued, in his words "a reasonably successful second career as a freelance Cyber and Informatics consultant on both sides of the Atlantic, as well as in South Africa and Australia". During those 14 years he retained an active involvement in Defence and National Security, including serving for four years as the Special Advisor for Cyber to the Commissioner of the City of London Police, his Economic Crime Directorate, and the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau.

For the last two years he has been a Brigadier with the Royal Signals cap-badged Cyber Advisory Team (part of Defence Digital within UK Strategic Command), providing his unique perspective on a wide range of 'cyber issues' affecting the MOD today.



Above: Brig Bruce Wynn OBE after the 2018 Remembrance Day Service at Buckden's Parish Church, Cambridgeshire

Right: A note of his original commission



At the outset, **Brig Wynn** applied to three, three-letter organisations to be sponsored through university (ICL, IBM, and RAF)....the RAF said yes first. He only ever expected to serve for five years to repay the sponsorship, and for his first tour after the RAF College he:

- Expressed a preference (as an Engineer) for:
 - Yorkshire or Lincolnshire (two thirds of the RAF)
 - Fighters or Bombers (two thirds of the RAF)
 - 1st or 2nd line aircraft engineering (two thirds of the initial posting options for my branch)
- INSTEAD, got:
 - Far North of Scotland (further away from London than the Germany Bases, and no overseas allowances!)
 - Maritime Patrol Aircraft (the first Nimrods)
 - Software Support/Development for the ENORMOUS operational on-board computer (the Elliot 920B - 8k (repeat 8k) of 18-bit old fashioned core memory), programmed in 920 SIR (symbolic input routine) Incidentally, the same machine as used in BATES, the Army's Battlefield Artillery Engagement System
- In three years **Wynn** did many hundreds of hours of operational flying, helping look for Russian submarines, and trying to improve the ability of the computer to find, fix, track, target and engage them, as required
- The ensuing tour was five years real engineering work in the euphemistically entitled world of "Research and Development", centred on the then Royal Signals and Radar Establishment in Malvern, but spending lots of

time elsewhere in the UK, and on the continent. Projects included defining, designing, developing and delivering the UK MOD's first ever high-availability operational system, based on the word-beating TANDEM NonStop Computer series (involving the Guardian Operating System, TAL (Tandem Assembly Language) and esoteric techniques such as interprocessor checkpointing and real-time failovers)

- During Operation CORPORATE, (Falklands - 1982) **Wynn** commanded the UK's long-haul HF anchor station (2 Signals Unit), providing the UK Systems Control point and end of all HF comms from the South Atlantic
- Then he did five years in the Satcom and Skynet domain, initially, (and amongst many other things) involving helping set up and attending the UK's first Spacecraft Operations Officers (SOO) course, centred on The Blue Cube at USAF Sunnyvale, near San Francisco! Latterly, promoted and moved in MOD Main Building as the RAF's 'sponsor' for the MODs space programme.

As you'll note from the 19 years of his service so far, a heavily technical, fairly bleeding edge career, with absolutely minimal (ie ZERO) conventional RAF aircraft engineer activity, but a lot of computer/comms and innovative thinking.

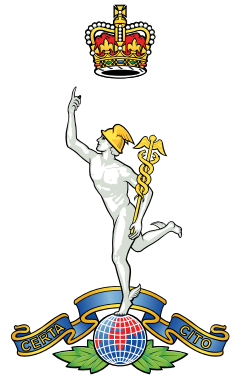
For the next 16 years, the trend continued:

- Three years as an exchange officer on the staff of the USAF's Air Force Communications Command (AFCC) at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois (near St Louis), involving world-wide projects, things like Presidential Special Air Mission ('Air Force One') comms and the White House Communications Agency, and world-wide travel
- After staff college, **Wynn** was sent to command the then 399 Signals Unit (later the Joint Service Signals Unit) at RAF Digby. An exciting time, evolving an RAF Signals Unit into a multi-service, multi-national unit with, at one point, over 1000 RAF, Army, RN, USAF and USN personnel 'under command' - not bad for an OF4 (Wing Commander!). A lasting legacy from that era is the cycle path at Digby known as "Wynn's Way"!
- Promotion to Gp Capt in 1996 followed, with a range of usual assignments (Engineering and Operational Requirements) AND unusual assignments (including as a McKinsay-trained Mentor during the evolution from 'Operational Requirements' to 'Capability Management')
- **Wynn's** first one-star job was as DCIS(RAF) - the RAF's Head of Profession for 8000-plus staff, and the Senior Technical Officer for many RAF systems, both mainline and the more esoteric and shadowy stuff
- The immediate aftermath of 9/11 made **Wynn's** last job in regular uniform, that of ACOS A6 at PJHQ, somewhat busier and more exciting than could have possibly been imagined - the list starts with VERITAS in Dec 2001 (leading to FINGAL and the initial HERRICK (before numbers were applied)), then the initial TELIC (again, before numbers were applied) - these were only a part (a major part, admittedly, but only a part) of a word-wide operational commitment that is reflected in the 16 other operations that were live on his watch'!



Air Commodore Bruce Wynn OBE - Senior British Officer at the ANZAC day commemorations in Thailand's Hell Fire Pass - 25 Apr 2001

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16 AIR ASSAULT BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON (216) Colchester



#100for100 – by LCpl McGinley, A Tp

On my first week at 216 (Para) Sig Sqn I landed straight into a 100 hour continuous cycling challenge in support of the recent Corps #100for100 event. **SSgt Kirby** created the event and I thought it was a great idea, and I loved his enthusiasm, but a lot of sore bums afterwards would suggest otherwise.

Alpha Troop started the challenge on the Monday at 0600hrs and would not finish until 1100hrs on the Friday, which would roll neatly into Squadron Tea and Toast. It was a great challenge for me as I had recently got into cycling and it was a good way to integrate into the troop. Cycling on the platform Zwift was engaging and ended up becoming a challenge as various members of the troop would compete for the fastest time and earning a different coloured cycling jersey (not to mention bragging rights) once their two hour stag on the bike had finished.

There was only one slight accident when **LCpl Limbu** fell asleep on the bike and fell off but, with true airborne grit and determination, he got back on like nothing happened and finished his 0100hrs - 0300hrs shift. My first shift was 0300hrs - 0500hrs and I was buzzing for it; I couldn't wait to get involved, however jumping on the bike at that time and with the air temperature very low my enthusiasm started to waver. In the interest of health and safety a SNCO was always on a watching stag and on this morning it was **Sgt Page**. Luckily, he was on hand to motivate me especially as he ended up with the most hours on the bike, leading from the front like a Troop Sergeant should.

This was a great experience for me having just been posted in from Phase 2 and a great way to integrate into the Squadron and Troop, something that I will not forget for a long time. I think it is great to have challenges such as this as it's a great way to stay motivated and achieve goals. It would be great to see more challenges like this as it's a great way to keep training and stay fit whilst being a very rewarding experience.



The End to End – by LCpl Josh Milligan

Spontaneous ideas don't come better than impulsively buying a road bike and deciding to cycle the length of the country but that's exactly what **Cpl Ben Willett** and I decided to do over the summer of 2020.

After a few months of planning routes, recruiting an admin team (comprising of **LCpl Jack Morgan** and the battle bus along with Smurf and the jam-packed Fiesta) and a few rides, we decided it was time. We set up our just giving page to raise money for PIPS (Public Initiative for Prevention of Suicide and Self Harm) a Northern Ireland based mental health charity, and an animal rescue and welfare charity by cycling from John O' Groats to Lands End.

Courtesy of the global pandemic, finding campsites and B&B's was a task on its own. Between campsites with no ablutions or power to keep our navigation aids alive and the general remoteness of some sites, we found ourselves having to do a day of 140 miles as it was the only campsite on the route. What would an adventure be without the great British weather? When planning the event no one could have foreseen the

worst storms of the summer taking place over most of August. This resulted in a few damp days to say the least, but it was nice to know the waterproof bike packing bags were worth the money.

With just shy of 900 miles to cover in nine days over all sorts of terrain we had set ourselves a challenge. On the crisp cool morning of 10 August, we arrived at John O' Groats, took the obligatory photo beside the iconic sign and started our journey. The trip was on a stunning route with amazing views from the rolling hills of Scotland to the fast and bending road through Cheddar Gorge and we even passed the border into Wales taking us over all three mainland countries on our journey.

After nine days of eating a sickening number of cereal bars, two pairs of tired legs and a rather sore rear end, we crested the valley and had Lands' End in sight and morale was at an all-time high. Crossing the line is a feeling I won't soon forget, the crowds of tourists knew what we had done and even had a few congratulations for us as we opened the celebratory bottle of fizzy and had our photo taken beside the Lands End sign that 9 days ago was only a thought

Project PEGASUS – by LCpl Jones

This term has seen the introduction of Project PEGASUS by **WO1 (RSM) Miller**. Project PEGASUS is an initiative to improve the lived experience for those at the Squadron and overall P-Company pass rates. As part of this project, the Squadron Training Wing has taken the lead in implementing a new Pre P Company conditioning course. This is based on the Army's Physical Training System (APTS) and is designed to follow the principles of periodisation, strength training, development of anaerobic and aerobic capacity. This culminates in those volunteers for the course soldier being fitter and more robust mentally and physically for the challenge of P Company.

Sgt Jukes provided bespoke training and guidance to volunteers over a period of 10 weeks, taking them through a rigorous but progressive training programme. Throughout the working week PT sessions were conducted with a mix of strength training and low impact CV. Tabbings was introduced to the programme gradually; increasing either pace or mileage every session.

At the end of the ten weeks a screening process was carried out. An eight mile tab carrying 36lb and a rifle in a time of 1hr 50mins followed by a 2.4km best effort run under a time of 9hr 45mins. Nine individuals have now completed the first iteration of the P Company condition course and are currently attempting P Company. We wish them all the best in this challenge and initial feedback from those who attend the Pre Conditioning course is that it has prepared them well for the course.

2Lt Williams had this to say about the Project PEGASUS conditioning course:

"This course was not designed to get the participants fit, the directing staff made that very clear from our first brief. You needed to be physically fit to start, this course was instead designed to condition our body and minds to the rigours of the All Arms Pre Parachute Selection Course (AAPPSC), from holding a rifle correctly on a tab to folding your famous 'Noddy Hat'. The course has developed greatly from the old-fashioned myths that I had heard would await me prior to starting, although still exhausting, there is also a great deal of time put into recovery. One instructor, a qualified Physiotherapist would hold stretching sessions every evening



to relax muscles worked the previous day and prepare the ones needed for the next day.

The staff on the course, as a whole, were fantastic, able to tread the fine line of the aggressive PTI which is necessary for a hill sprint session along with approachable coach after the sessions. The conditioning worked from our first 8 mile Tab at the start of the course to our final one at the end of the course there was a drastic improvement in time and discipline. This course really has given the participants the best possible chance of completing the AAPPSC to follow.”

Successful completion of P Company makes you eligible for the Basic Parachuting Course, which brings with it many opportunities. These opportunities include receipt of Parachute Retention pay (£5.63 per day), the opportunity to take part in foreign jumps, as most recently seen on Exercise JOINT ENDEAVOUR, where members of the Squadron jumped into Ukraine (pages 32-34).

Should you wish to attempt P Company and serve at 216 (Parachute) Signal Squadron, please inform your chain of command and complete a PD 206 application form.

Gurkha Welfare Trust – by Sig Rai

In order to raise money for the Gurkha Welfare Trust **Sig Brooks** and myself decided to set ourselves the challenge of running 300km and tabbing 300km (with 30lbs) in 30 days or less. We decided that we would do this on top of our normal working days and use the weekends to recover. Our days started at 0430hrs to enable us to run on average 10-13 miles before starting work, and our days would end usually around 2000hrs once we had completed the loaded March where we would complete another 10-13 miles. We both agreed that the hardest part of the challenge was getting out of bed. We managed to complete the challenge in 24 days.

We are grateful for all our friends and family that supported us and helped raise over £1500 for the Gurkha Welfare Trust.



Sig Rai (L) and Sig Brooks (R)

The Chilly Challenge

Members of our Squadron facebook page including serving, non-Squadron members and veterans were challenged to complete the Chilly challenge. The challenge was simple, just complete 10 miles, however, there was a twist, the cost was £10 and the aim was to raise £2160 with all money going to the Brain Tumour Charity in support of one of our veterans, **Ian ‘Chilly’ Chilcott** who is fighting this terrible disease.



The challenge was duly accepted with most taking part in some way. The money started to roll in and some of the characteristics of what it is to be Airborne were clearly on show! Some ran, some tabbed, some walked, some pedaled, some paddled and one 84-year-old veteran did it over a week. We had a Chelsea pensioner walk around the Royal Hospital gardens, we had veteran **Col Martin** smash it in his wheelchair, a recently bereaved member of a Squadron legend’s family raised nearly £400, **SSgt Bobby Coatsworth** banged out ten ten-milers in ten days donating £100, there were numerous veterans doing 100 miles (just because they could), we had new members of the Squadron getting involved which was great to see.

A special mention must go to **SSgt (Retd) Jack Hawkins** who ran 1000 miles over six months and raised £1673 on his own! All in all, with Gift Aid we’re nearing £5000 raised for the charity but equally important was the fact that when the chips are down, we do what we can to support each other! Stay strong Chilly #GOTOIT

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/team216>



EXERCISE JOINT ENDEAVOUR

By LCpl Dagnall

On Friday 28 August 2020, all members aligned to R1 received a phone call from their relevant chain of command, informing them that they were to return to Merville Barracks on the Monday. The feeling around the blokes was that this would be a trip to South Cerney, a few nights there conducting manifesting and documents checks, followed by a swift return to Colchester.

Upon our return to Colchester, a full PACEX was carried out, which is our SOP when we deploy, however when news broke that we were having to go into quarantine the penny dropped, we weren't just going to check documents at South Cerney, we were actually going somewhere. The assumptions were being made that this would be overseas.

Fourteen days of back to back card games and what seemed like daily COVID-19 tests and everyone was just about ready to find out what we were doing, and where we were going. During this time our PEDs were handed in, a full set of orders were delivered, and we were all in the loop and happy with what the plan was.



Following this, we moved to South Cerney and conducted parachute ground training and mission rehearsals, which were conducted like clockwork from our arrival. From the final checks to see if our wide array of communications equipment worked, to the confirmation that it was all wrapped in something soft enough that impact with the floor post jump wouldn't break the kit into pieces.

Everything was finalised, and after a few shaky moments it was all going ahead as planned. We mounted up onto the C130 knowing we had over five hours with no room on the aircraft, before a parachute insertion into the far eastern side of Europe. The five hour flight was exactly as each of us expected, however, I was fortunate enough to have some on board entertainment via one of the lads sat next to me, white in the face and clearly regretting passing P Company.

The door opened, and with 80kg of kit strapped to us, the relief when the cool air came blasting inside of the plane from the side door was felt around every single soldier kitted up to jump. Thankfully us Signallers tend to find ourselves as 'must go' loads, due to our communications equipment. This means we go closer to the door and usually find ourselves as one of the first five or six out of the plane.



The red light came on, and the sky was littered with parachutists, it really was an amazing sight. After the short time in the air, our feet were on Ukrainian soil, the first wave of 140 soldiers, all navigating to our rally points. After everyone was accounted for at Rally Points, we all moved off the DZ and towards an area near Mykoliav. The following few days, a second parachute insertion came into the country, followed by a Rapid Air Landing (RAL). The RAL gave us a few vehicles, and a small amount of freight, however, predominantly we were self-sustained by the kit on us when we jumped.

The host nation was welcoming on our arrival, we were fed by them and had tents put up to sleep in. We were familiarised on their weapons, with soldiers from 216 and the Brigade firing the whole array of weapon systems employed by the Armed Forces Ukraine (AFU).

During all of this, Forward Headquarters assumed control and reported back to the Brigade Operations Cell (BOC).

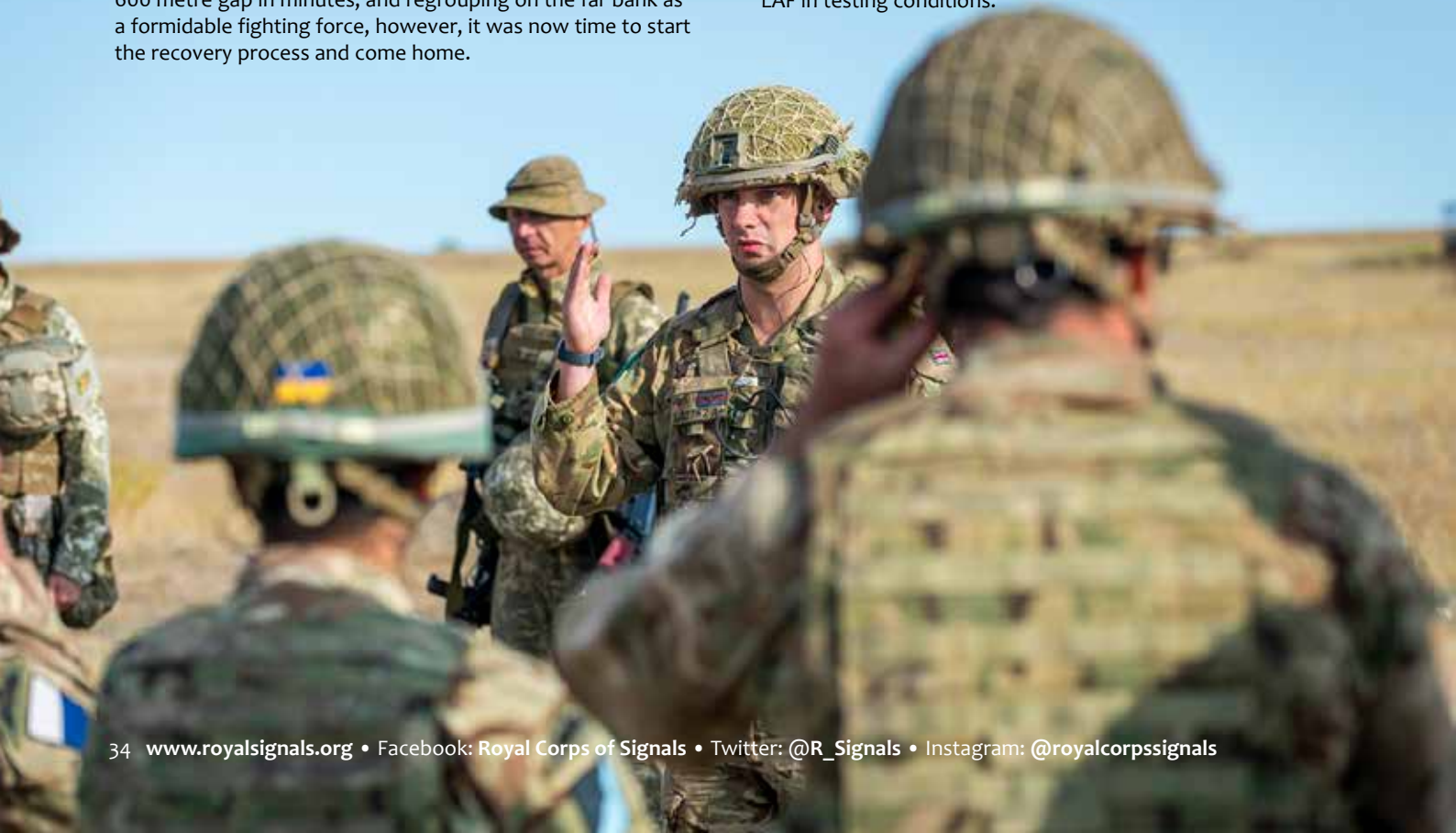
We had embedded with our counterpart, Brigade TAC and MPR and moved two hours by vehicle to an area where we would be conducting a joint demonstration. We had two days of rehearsals followed by the live demonstration that would be watched by media outlets and VIPs. The Ukrainian General leading this phase of the exercise was very specific in the way he wanted it run, and understandably so. He had the President of Ukraine stood next to him on the day and wanted things to be perfect.



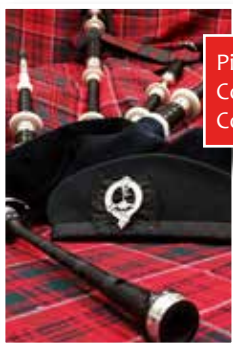


After days of rehearsals, it was time for the final demonstration. With Typhoons from the UK, the Ukrainian engineers building a 580-metre bridge and a whole host of amphibious vehicles crossing the open water, all objectives on the far bank were seized and the exercise was halted. It was an impressive sight to behold, 500 soldiers crossing a near 600 metre gap in minutes, and regrouping on the far bank as a formidable fighting force, however, it was now time to start the recovery process and come home.

After an eight hour coach journey to Kiev, a four hour flight to Brize Norton and a three hour drive back to Colchester we were home. The whole experience was a good one on the whole, and we learned lessons from it. Working at reach is always a good test for high readiness units, and we had successfully achieved our aim in providing robust C2 to the LAF in testing conditions.



Pipes and Drums of the Royal Corps of Signals



Pipe President **Col J Gunning**
Corps Pipe Major **Cpl (PM) M Black**
Corps Drum Major **Cpl (DM) R Grant**

Pipes and Drums in Lockdown

By *LCpl Andy Robling*

As more and more soldiers and civilians return to work, we look back at these strange times to reveal exactly what it is the pipers and drummers of the Royal Corps of Signals have been doing to keep themselves busy.

It is strange to think that a band specialising in a multitude of events involving large numbers of people would remain busy, but this however was indeed the case. We, as a band, have remained in contact and under the watchful eye of new Pipe Major **Cpl Mark Black** and have found ways to keep motivated, practice and bond from a safe distance.

Since the new repertoire has been published, practices took a different turn. Week by week, progress videos were requested and posted on WhatsApp, so even in lockdown there was no hiding. Extra videos of tunes were also requested for country-wide band collaboration events where we played at home and were edited together. These videos included playing tunes for VE Day, Poppy Scotland remembering the 51st Highland Division and the Corps Centenary. The band even gave a salute to the nation's NHS workers, playing the new song 'Everyday Heroes' written by world-famous Scottish traditional band Skerryvore. These videos were shared on social media and proved to be exceedingly popular and also beneficial for the band in both playing and learning.



VE Day remote video

During these trying times, practising and preparing for next year's many engagements were not the only items on the agenda. Band members volunteered to deploy onto UK streets with some of the many COVID-19 Mobile Testing Units. While in the West Midlands, they handed out testing kits, engaged with the public and successfully demonstrated the army's show of force against COVID-19.

Furthermore, two of our members took part in some very special bagpiping competitions... over Skype! In March,



Corps Centenary remote video

WO2 David Mackenzie competed in the grade 1 CLASP competitions. In his first contest in March he was awarded 2nd place in piobaireachd, 6th in strathspey and reel and 4th in the jig event. In June he took part in his second remote event where he was awarded 5th place in the march and 6th in the strathspey and reel category. **Cpl Alasdair Beaton** competed in two online CLASP competitions in grade three. First was the end of season event where he placed 5th in the piobaireachd and 1st for the jig. The second was the World Solo Amateur Piping Competition where he placed 6th in piobaireachd, 1st place for the march, 5th for the strathspey and reel and finally another 1st place in the jig category. A huge well done to them.

After the disappointing cancellation of the Corps Centenary celebrations we can only look forward to our engagements late 2020 and in the coming year. Upcoming events will see the Royal Corps of Signals Pipes and Drums travel all over the UK, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and Italy with more to come. We will compete against all other Army pipe bands at the annual Army Piping and Drumming championships, play alongside bands from all over the world and represent the corps on the world stage. There's a lot to catch up on.

The Pipes and Drums are always recruiting experienced and learner pipers, drummers and highland dancers, both Regular and Reserve. Further details are available by contacting:

Email: rsignalshq-pipesanddrums@mod.gov.uk

Phone: 07976 177667

Facebook: via the [Pipes and drums of the Royal Corps of Signals page](#)

Pipes and Drums Recruitment Cadre 2021

The Pipes and Drums will be running a Cadre for potential recruits. This will be open to anyone from complete beginner to experienced players. If you are interested in joining or fancy giving it a try it will be held at MOD Stafford between 8 – 19 February. It will be run over two weeks and will include an introduction to the Pipes and Drums as well as basic lessons on your chosen instrument or instruments if you want to try both. If this interests you please send your Regimental Number, rank, name and contact details to:

rsignalshq-pipesanddrums@mod.gov.uk





Maj Barstow



Maj Barker

HQ 1 (UK) SIGNS

The summer is always a busy period for welcomes and farewells at Imjin Barracks. The British contingent (known as the Framework Nation or FN) can be seen indulging in a little Schadenfreude as the new batch of international staff (known as the Partner Nations or PN) arrive and attempt to acclimatise to the Great British Summer. Those PN that arrive in the middle of a South-West downpour feel vindicated in their life time of mockery of the FN for defending their rainy little island so staunchly. "The only reason the British haven't been invaded since 1066 is because no one could bear the weather", they joke. And those PN who arrive in sunshine, their hopeful faces turned to the looming clouds on the horizon, are lulled into a false sense of security, "maybe the UK won't be as bad as they said it is..." as the first drop of rain evaporates in a sizzle on the barbecue coals. Either way, the wry smiles of the established Imjin Barracks community (FN and PN) betrays the knowledge that it can only get worse from August.

The socially distanced summer at HQ 1 Sig Bde has seen the turnover of some key appointments and some big characters with it. Amongst the changes have been the creation of a Bde SM role, a new SO2 Ops, handover of SO2 SPS, a passing of the COS baton, and the departure of the man who actually runs the Brigade, Ops Sgt - **Sgt Craig 'Jinksy' Jinks** - causing a mild panic amongst the Ops Room SO3s as they worried what skeletons his handover would uncover! It was only appropriate that we managed to hold a socially distanced breakfast in their honour. An early decision that the presentations would not be made during the breakfast, but

Bde Comd	Brig J Collyer
D Comd	Col H Jenkins
D Comd (Reserves)	Maj S A Smith
COS	Maj J Carey
DCOS	Maj R Seabrook
Bse SM	WO1 C Lord

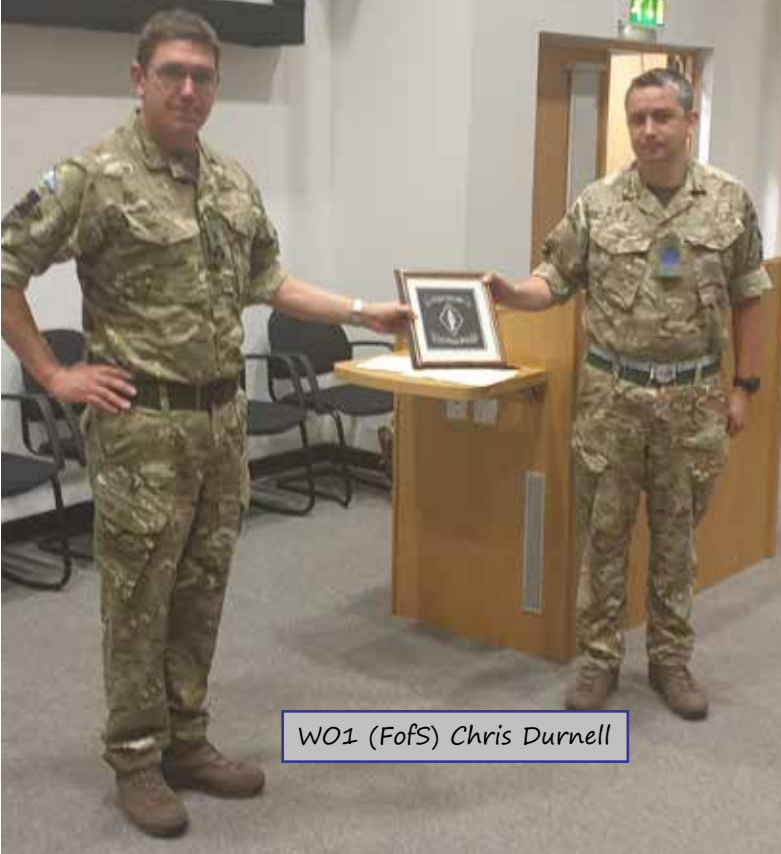
afterwards in the Garrison Theatre (known as the IBC) proved to be a sensible one as the increased noise of people asking each other at a range of 2m, "Please pass the salt", or "Is there any more brown sauce?" (must've been a SNCO), meant any hope of hearing leaving speeches would have been in vain.

The new Bde SM, **WO1 Chris 'Lordy' Lord** took control of the event, fresh hand sanitiser abounded, all of those present were sat at evenly spaced intervals, the door handles were polished and the presentation pieces were lined up in ranks of three. **Sgt Jinks** left amid stark warnings to his successor, **Sgt Marco Barelli**, about the perils of signing over a MODnet laptop to SO3s. He moves on to join HQ 4 Infantry Brigade as their Ops Sgt.

WO2 (SQMS) Kim Ablett Hill (AGC (SPS)) has answered the call to Ops on Op CABRIT. Those of you who have come across her on unit G1As will know that her eye for detail and professionalism have been unquestionable, and is all the more exceptional given her party reputation and the small matter of her boss's admin. Her successor **WO2 (SQMS) Dan Nixon** (AGC (SPS)) has some big boots to fill. In a poacher-turned-gamekeeper-esque move, **WO1 (Fofs) Chris Durnell** has left the Brigade Foreman role to take up the reins as the Regimental Foreman at 22 Sig Regt, His first exercise will be spent executing the plans he has been making for himself for the past 12 months. If that doesn't set him up for a B+ nothing will. He is replaced by **WO1 (Fofs) Marie Oxley** who joins us from ISS. We bid farewell to **WO1 (Yofs) Gav**



WO1 (YofS) Gav Holloway



WO1 (FofS) Chris Durnell

SIGNAL BRIGADE



Holloway who has set out on his post Army career. **Gav** certainly seemed to be enjoying his new found freedom, and even showed off his new laissez-faire attitude by arriving at his leaving do on time instead of 5 minutes before. He is replaced by **WO1 (YofS) Mick Sutton** who has been assigned from his role as Regt'l Yeoman at 2 Sig Regt. SO2 SPS, **Maj Andy Gill** has left his Command and been selected to mentor the G1 staff at ANAOA. Judging by the stories from his G1A visits, a nine month detox will be welcomed! He is replaced by **Maj Steve Barnard** (AGC(SPS)) who joins us from HQ ARRC.

Finally it came to the time to say goodbye to our SO2 G3 Majors **Si Barker** and **Chris Barstow**. As the only department where SO2 work in the same office in the Brigade, the banter that had developed over their assignment had reached a level you would expect from men of their pedigree - one being ex-16 Air Assault Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (216), the other being ex-RAF.

The leaving speeches parried and jabbed at each other on subjects as diverse as fitness, body mass, powered flight and technical ability. It almost looked like they would steal the show until **Sgt Jinks** pointed out that **Sgt Jinks** had beaten them both on a 5km run. **Maj Barker** has spent the last seven months of his SO2 Ops assignment in the chair as COS and moves on to 10 Sig Regt to command 241 Sig Sqn. He is succeeded by **Maj Jon Carey** from 30 Sig Regt where he commanded 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn. **Maj Barstow** concludes his first Army appointment as SO2 Ops and is assigned as Second in Command 3 (UK) DSR, he is replaced by **Maj Sam Rice** fresh from sub-unit command at 2 Sig Regt. We wish them all well.



Sgt Jinks



1st SIGNAL REGIMENT

STAFFORD

CO Lt Col E Mortimore
RSM WO1 M Porter

200 SIGNAL SQUADRON	
OC Maj M Joiner	SSM SSM I Chapman
246 SIGNAL SQUADRON	
OC Maj T Massi	SSM SSM B Chemjong
SUPPORT SQUADRON	
OC Maj W Scarrott	SSM SSM V Harvey

Exercise KHUKURI COMMUNICATOR 1/20

Returning back to work after the COVID-19 Lockdown, 246 Gurkha Signal Squadron were in need of a good welcome back to Army life. What better introduction than a CT 1 Troop level exercise to blow out the cobwebs that had accrued over the long break.

Completely in-house and using an empty garage converted into a spacious classroom the exercise was designed to be a slow time refresher of basic soldiering and communication skills. The aim was to assure the OC and CO 1 Sig Regt that Island Troop were still ready to deploy on upcoming exercises. The whole exercise was two weeks long, split into four phases; basic soldiering skills, Trunk and OpCIS, TacCIS and a confirmatory exercise. Each phase took two days, broken down into a teaching day, then a test day.

The soldiering skills phase re-introduced the Signallers into Army routine very gently. With basic lessons on Platoon Harbours, Target Indications etc. the senior Signallers and LCpls had ample opportunity to instruct, and more importantly have their instruction critiqued by the Troop seniors.

Whilst the test day would normally have comprised of CASEVACs and Section Attacks, this exercise had to be different. Social distancing forced Island Troop to change their thinking thus allowing a creative replacement to be used. Kahoot quizzes and scenarios meant that the Signallers had a competitive and testing end to the first phase. The Trunk and OpCIS phase was a very simple 'remind and revise' of the kits capabilities and how to operate it. A round robin plan, enabling small groups to get hands on the equipment meant that there was very little to no deficiency in understanding or learning.



Above: Falcon AE
Below: Island Troop





Moving into the second week, the exercise's focus shifted to purely TacCIS. Again, the teaching day was a 'remind and revise' exercise, taught by Troop personnel in small groups. It made the training a little slower, but with the relaxed and flexible environment it didn't have much effect.

The end of the test day saw the confirmatory exercise begin. The Troop Commander delivered his deployment orders, outlining the scheme of manoeuvre for the entire final phase. Once finished, it was under the Det Commanders to ensure everything was ready to go.

Once out and established, the young class 3s began ticking off their 3-2 workbooks, but there was little respite. This part of the exercise was going to test Island Troop's ability to deploy Bowman rebros supporting an Armoured Brigade, and therefore everything was going to happen fast. Straight into a move in the dark, the detachments were kept on their toes. During the next day the exercise followed a similar suit. Establishing, maintaining and moving, with other quick serials thrown in to add to the realism. A Brigade level scenario began to unravel over the net, as units moved into locations and prepared for operations. This scenario enabled the detachment crew to be tested on their situational awareness, as well as various briefs to key personalities.

The final day saw the CO and RSM 1 Sig Regt arrive to visit the Squadron. Their visit provided a great opportunity to test the Signallers Commanders Briefs that they had been practising. A final race to tear down and set up saw fierce competition, and much faster times than the first serial 48 hours earlier. COVID-19 did affect training; the smaller groups meant the lessons took longer and some days spilled over into the next. Similarly, the social distancing caused the crews to struggle to work in the close proximity of a Bowman detachment. Therefore, the crews socially distanced in pairs, allowing them to be closer than two metres when they needed to be, but remaining at all times two+ metres away from other pairs.

Overall, the limitations placed on Island Troop due to COVID-19 did not have a large impact on their training. Their creativity, diligence and positive attitude to training made the exercise all the more successful. Developing new skills in the younger soldiers, and fostering an instructional spirit within the more experienced. It allowed the Troop and wider Squadron elements to practice skills not used for some time, and ensured that the Squadron was in a state to deploy ready to support the larger exercises approaching in the near future.



Pics, clockwise from top left:

*Battlefield lessons
Bowman AE
The CO's visit
The garage classroom*

Project Nightingale

By LCpl Rodden, 200 Sig Sqn

In early April during the height of lockdown, a team of over 20 Service Personnel from 200 Signal Squadron were deployed to the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) in Birmingham. The task, to aid in the building of a makeshift hospital, designed to take the overspill of patients from hospitals during the pandemic. The hospital, named Nightingale, was in response to the ever-increasing numbers of cases of COVID-19.

Our role was to accept, organise and distribute the equipment being delivered to the loading area. The plan for the building was to replicate the environment in an actual hospital, and therefore everything you'd expect to be in one was being moved by us.

On the first day of the deployment we left early in the morning raring to go, full of both excitement and nerves at what the day would hold for us. We arrived in good time, eager to be put to work. Sanitisation was our first task. One that was very simple – washing your hands, yet it felt much more important. We were now building what was to rapidly become a very important hospital to house the extremely sick from around the West Midlands. If we were not clean, we could transmit a potential disease causing much more damage to the local area. The irony was very real.

Once we entered, we were quickly directed to the unloading area which was on the far side of the building. After arriving we received a brief regarding the task at hand, to move everything in front of us to the first ward being set up (this turned out to be on the opposite side of the building). It was almost like they thought we enjoyed physical exercise. We began to work, the first task being to make sure each space had a bed in it, and this meant moving over a hundred beds from the



start point over a kilometre to the hall at the opposite end of the building.

Everyone began at a blistering pace trying to get it done as quickly as possible. We very quickly realised however that this was no easy task and would take quite some time to finish. Some slowed but everyone persevered to complete the job. Having completed our first task, and probably due a break we then started moving everything else one after another until the ward was complete. By this point the day was finished and we were all exhausted from what we had achieved.

Everyone was happy with the tasks we had accomplished during our first day but we weren't done yet. Returning the next day, fatigued from our arduous task the day previous, but moral and a sense of purpose keeping us going, we carried on moving equipment around the Centre. Everyone worked extremely hard, focussed on the tasks at hand and in the end it paid off. We had managed to do just as much work as the previous day, if not more.

During our time at the NEC we managed to make a massive difference to the mammoth task that was Project Nightingale. We had got it to the point where the building could begin receiving patients if needed. We were immensely proud with our effort, however Rome wasn't built in a day and Nightingale wasn't built in two. It may not have been used to capacity, but it did provide hope during some dark times. It once again proved the Armed Forces, we, a capable and versatile organisation, are still of use in peacetime. It provided hundreds of people with work in a period where many weren't working and it truly was worth doing, for all involved not just 200 Sig Sqn.

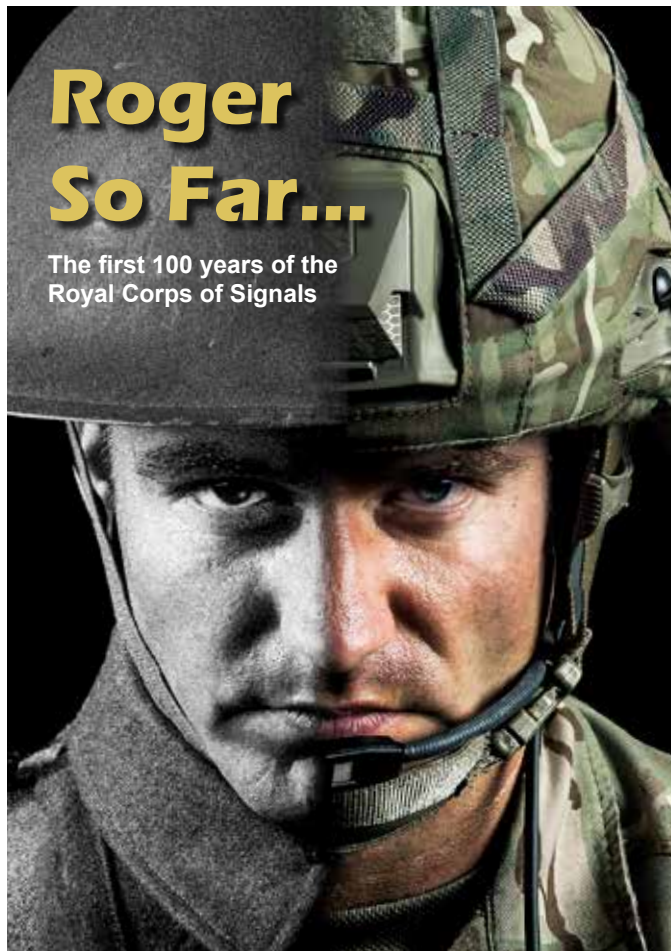


CORPS CENTENARY BOOK

The Centenary book 'Roger So Far...' is out for sale and can be purchased from the Museum Shop in Blandford. It is also available to buy from the Corps Museum On-line Shop royalsignalsmuseum.co.uk. It can be ordered in bulk and collected from Blandford by units to avoid postage costs. The cost during the Corps Centenary Year is £9.99 + £4.20 p&p = £14.19 (RRP £30), to all Regular, Reserve and Retired members of the Royal Corps of Signals/Royal Signals Association, their families and to people who work or volunteer for the Corps or in support of the Corps.

Celebrating 100 years of service, innovation and achievement with the Royal Corps of Signals

From laying telegraph lines across the trenches of World War I to the cyber warfare of today, the goal of the Royal Corps of Signals to maintain the British Army's 'vital link' in communication has never wavered.



Now in its centenary year the Corps is celebrating the crucial service and innovative support their members have given – and continue to provide – across the globe in a new, fully illustrated book “Roger So Far...”

Written by multiple expert authors in an accessible and engaging format, and featuring many previously unpublished images, “Roger So Far...” is both a concise historical record and an archive of memories across all parts of life with the Corps.

Chapters include topics and themes such as:

- Changing technology, equipment and work, from using carrier pigeons and antennas to SIGINT and SOE work to cyber warfare.
- Humanitarian programmes and charity work carried out around the world.
- Sporting achievements, adventure training and family life within the Corps.
- Key military operations, including World War I, the Gulf War, Balkans, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

“Roger So Far...” hopes to inform those who are serving, or have served, as well as to educate those who have not served and those who may be thinking of doing so. One hundred years on from its formation on 28 June 1920 the importance of the Corps is growing because conducting successful operations is becoming increasingly reliant upon being able to operate in a congested and contested electronic battlespace, where the cyber warfare skills of Royal Signals soldiers are vital.

Please bear in mind that because we have substantially reduced the price to the Corps family, past and present, distribution may be a little slower than you would normally expect when buying something online. Units or RSA Branches wanting to buy in bulk should contact Mark Cozens Shop@royalsignalsmuseum.co.uk and arrange collection themselves.





Left to right LCpl Bipin, LCpl Dennison, LCpl Wintersgill, Maj Tudhope, LCpl Gartland and LCpl Larder



LCpl Bipin being handed the trophy on behalf of his team for winning the OC's Technical Challenge



2nd SIGNAL REGIMENT

York

219 Signal Squadron

The Squadron held an awards ceremony in conjunction with the LCpl – Cpl promotion results, highlighting the achievements of our soldiers so far this year. It also provided the perfect moment to present the winners of the OC's Technical Challenge and the inter-department physical challenge that was conducted over the lockdown period. There has been a healthy appetite for competition that has seen some sore legs and tired brains! (More so the sore legs though).

#100for100

The Squadron split into four teams of six runners who competed to run the greatest combined distance over the course of June. The teams comprised of runners from SHQ and Eagle, Falcon and Phoenix Troops. There would also be a prize given to the single runner who accumulated the largest individual distance. The distances were captured on Strava and tallied into weekly leader boards that were then accumulated into the final distances at the end of the month. Whilst there was most definitely a competitive element, the event was also opened to the entire Squadron. Everyone who ran contributed to the collective Squadron distance, which finished at a staggering 3939 km. The 1584 km in week one compared with the 553 km in the final week definitely showed the extent of the aching legs!

CO	Lt Col J Balfour	RSM	WO1 A Naylor
214 SIGNAL SQUADRON			
OC	Maj S Rice	SSM	WO2 S Nelson
219 SIGNAL SQUADRON			
OC	Maj R Tudhope	SSM	WO2 C MacGuire
246 SIGNAL SQUADRON			
OC	Maj T Skinner	SSM	WO2 S Gurung
SUPPORT (JORVIK) SQUADRON			
OC	Maj JA Watt	SSM	WO2 K Hesketh
QM Department			
QM Gen	Maj D Whitworth	RQMS Gen	WO2 R Narantak
QM Tech	Capt J Scott	RQMS	WO2 J Davis

"we managed to raise a commendable £973.80 for the Royal Signals Charity"

There was a strong uptake in participation on behalf of the Corps' Centenary sporting event, and as such we managed to raise a commendable £973.80 for the Royal Signals Charity. SHQ's team clocked the furthest distance covering a total of 898.9 km, with Eagle Troop following closely behind with 801.9km; a massive well done to both teams.

Finally, congratulations to **LCpl Dennison** who ran the furthest distance individually covering an impressive 200.9 km!



LCpl Dennison receiving her trophy for running over 200 km in the #100for100 competition



The #100for100 award for top individual runner



The Merchant Taylor Award addressed to the Commanding Officer

The OC's Technical Challenge

Members of the Squadron were split into teams and tasked with designing a network under specified conditions in order to maintain and build upon existing trade knowledge, simultaneously testing our soldier's ability to work collaboratively whilst dispersed. The assessment focused on key principles in network design, encompassing the group's breadth of knowledge and problem-solving abilities into a 1500 word report in addition to a summative presentation.

The hardest part was definitely combining all of our knowledge and understanding how to divide the workload. This was in part because we were separated all over the country throughout the duration of the assignment, so we had to regularly hold group meetings to iron out any problems. Therefore, we each had our own important part to play which carried through to the final product. We soon realised that we'd done much of the report and presentation individually, which forced us again to become more collaborative. We were told afterwards that the focus wasn't to primarily test our network design skills, but to practice working under the current climate, which ended up being a valuable learning experience.



The Tripoli trophy for the best performing team in the OC's technical challenge

Winners	
Tech winners - Scoring 90/100	Runners up - Scoring 81/100
LCpl Bipin	Cpl McCarter
LCpl Gurung	LCpl Smith
LCpl Thapa	LCpl Rhodes
LCpl Gartland	LCpl Parr
LCpl Cooper	LCpl Cook

A massive well done to all those that took part!

The Merchant Taylor's Award

The Merchant Taylor's Award was awarded to **LCpl Wintersgill** this year for her outstanding work ethic, commitment to volunteering and work within the community. Normally, she would be presented with the opportunity to attend a supper unfortunately, this year's event was cancelled so she will be attending the Livery Dinner in the New Year instead! The criteria for selection, in addition to being a competent soldier, was going above and beyond what is expected of them. The morning itself proved to be a pleasant break before being shipped back out onto exercise!



LCpl Wintersgill receiving the Merchant Taylors' Award



LCpl Larder (left) and LCpl Gartland (right) marching to collect their commendations for their delivery of STEM engagements within schools



3rd (UNITED KINGDOM) DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT, BULFORD

Exercise KIWI TROPHY

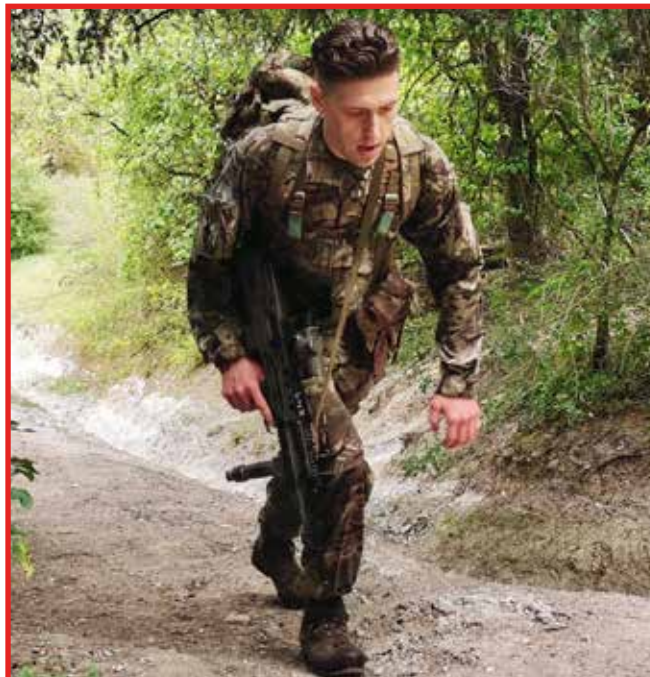
By Sig Suren Jimée

Ex KIWI TROPHY is a march and shoot competition held annually by 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt. The event is named after the large chalk carving on Beacon Hill, Bulford, of a kiwi bird. It was built in 1919 by service persons from the New Zealand Army at the end of the First World War, who were stationed in Bulford, Wiltshire. The event was first organised by 249 Sig Sqn in 1981, however after the abeyance of the Squadron in 2003, the Kiwi Trophy has continued to be run by 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt.

249 (Gurkha) Sig Sqn, which came out of abeyance in Jun 19, coordinated this year's event, taking into consideration the government's social distancing guidelines. The event had 210 participants from across the Regiment and was successfully run despite the challenges and restrictions posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The aim of the event, run as part of the Regiment's celebration of the Corps Centenary, was to challenge service person's physical and mental robustness as well as their marksmanship skills. In the lead up to Ex KIWI TROPHY 20, competitors followed a bespoke solo PT programme and also had the opportunity to group and zero on the ranges.

Usually a 14-mile route, Ex KIWI TROPHY 20 was held on 9 Sep 20 and was shortened to 8 miles, taking into account the lack of opportunity to conduct sufficient build up training due to the pandemic. Despite the shorter route, it was a competitive event, which saw competitors, competing as individuals, tackle the arduous terrain of Salisbury Plain Training Area. After a best-effort TAB, competitors arrived at the firing range where they were given ten rounds to fire at a 30 second exposure; failure to land rounds on the target



'Chalk Hill,' one of the physical and mental challenges that lay along the route

CO Lt Col Tim Cooper	RSM WO1 Paul Steel
202 SIGNAL SQUADRON	
OC Maj Craig Tee	SSM WO2 David Bates
249 SIGNAL SQUADRON	
OC Maj James Corns	SSM WO2 Surendra Limbu
228 SIGNAL SQUADRON	
OC Maj Emma Allen	SSM WO2 Ryan Taaylor
SUPPORT SQUADRON	
OC Maj Brenda Cooper	SSM WO2 Oliver Wood

Top pic: L-R: Maj Kelly (Regt 2IC), LCpl Baker (winner: fastest female), SSgt Prakash (winner: fastest veteran), LCpl Parker (winner: fastest overall), Cpl Mahesh (Ex coord), Maj Corns (winner: fastest Squadron) and WO1 (RSM) Steel.

would result in a two-minute time penalty, for each round, to the competitor's overall time.

After a successful day of hard graft, **Brigadier PS Reehal MBE** was in attendance to present the trophies to all the winners of the event. **Sig Krishna Lama** from 249 (Gurkha) Sig Sqn completed the route with the fastest time of 1hr 16mins, however, **LCpl Parker** also from 249 (Gurkha) Sig Sqn was declared the overall winner of the Kiwi Trophy due to his impressive marksmanship skills and rapid time. **LCpl Baker** from 202 Sig Sqn and **SSgt Prakash** from 249 (Gurkha) Sig Sqn were awarded the fastest female and fastest veteran trophies respectively. The fastest Squadron was worked out as the average timing for the top 33 competitors from each, which went to 249 (Gurkha) Sig Sqn, successfully defending the title from last year. Until next year!



Above: Competitors on the firing point
 Left: Brigadier P S Reehal MBE presenting the trophy for fastest Squadron to 249 (Gurkha) Sig Sqn OC Maj J Corns

Army Cyber Defence Competition - by LCpl Adam Ratcliffe

The Army Cyber Defence Competition (ACDC), hosted by 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt, took place on the week commencing 31 August and brought together competing 'Blue Teams' from across the British Army, including the Royal Corps of Signals and the Royal Dragoon Guards. ACDC's primary goal was to introduce novice teams to the importance of cyber security and was a huge success overall, with teams learning a vast amount.

Day one started with the Blue Teams settling into the environment and learning about the network they would be defending for the next week. By the end of the first day, the Red Team were already exploiting vulnerabilities within the network and the Blue Teams were trying to detect their presence; whilst the Green Team were working to stop the Blue Teams locking themselves out of the system.

The second day brought about briefs on the importance of patching systems and attempts by the Red Team to breach the network through the use of default credentials. By the end of this day there were less instances of teams locking themselves out, which I am sure the Green Team were thankful for!

At the start of the third day, there were further briefs on the practical side of 'WIFI cracking' and the teams were given

malware to reverse engineer. This was initially a quiet day for the Red Team, with little-to-no activity in the morning, but by the afternoon this had all changed. The Blue Teams were presented with huge amounts of traffic coming from inside their network as the Red Team implemented 'man in the middle' attacks. The Green Team worked hard during all of this to keep the network stable during this period of heavy network traffic.



Right: The Royal Dragoon Guards cyber team monitoring the network
 Below: The victorious team from 37 Sig Regt



With the beginning of the final day, the teams were on the homestretch and the end was in sight. As the Red Team came online there was little traffic on the network, apart from the occasional brute-force attack on services and the odd scan. But unbeknownst to us during this time the Red Team were moving through the Blue Teams' network, gaining control over systems. In the afternoon the mayhem began with computer systems being locked out and remotely shutdown, bringing the competition to a climactic end.

All in all, the competition was thoroughly enjoyable, and much was learnt by all the teams participating, preparing them well for Ex ARMY CYBER SPARTAN 4; the next cyber competition, held in late 2020, bringing together 24 teams from across the British Army.



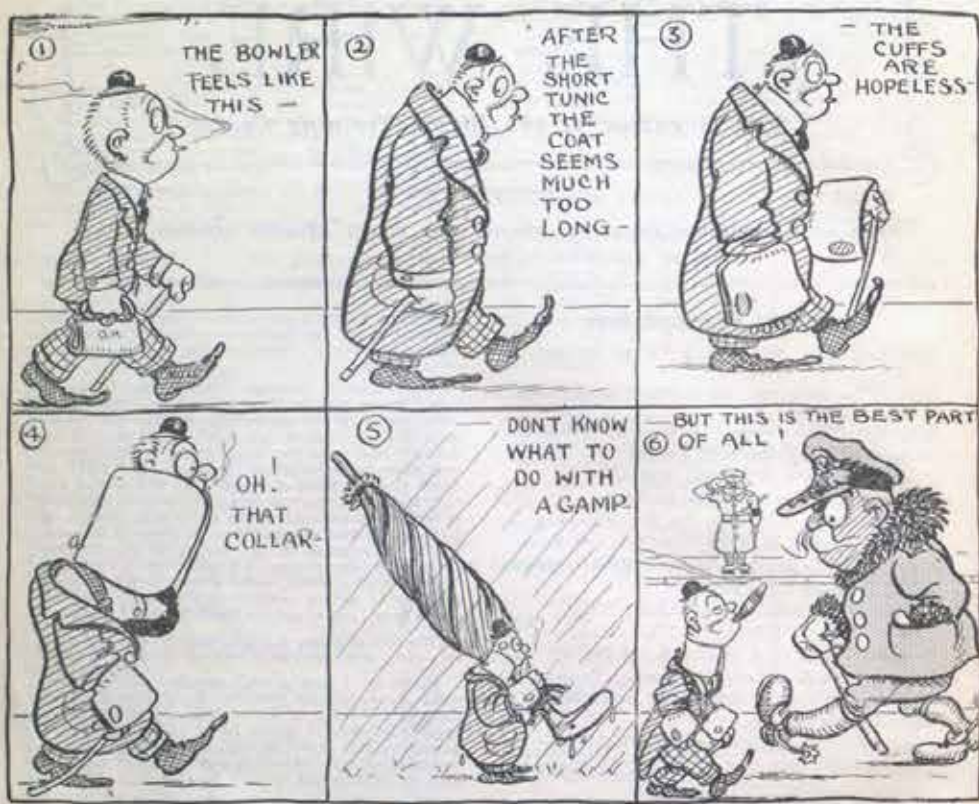
THE PIPES & DRUMS OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS



Do you fancy a very different challenge? How about travelling the world, performing in front of thousands whilst also developing your military career? The members of the Royal Signals Pipes and Drums do just that. This amazing collective of enthusiasts regularly appear at the famous Basel and Edinburgh Tattos and are looking for new recruits; beginners are welcome!

Please email: rsignalshq-pipesanddrums@mod.gov.uk





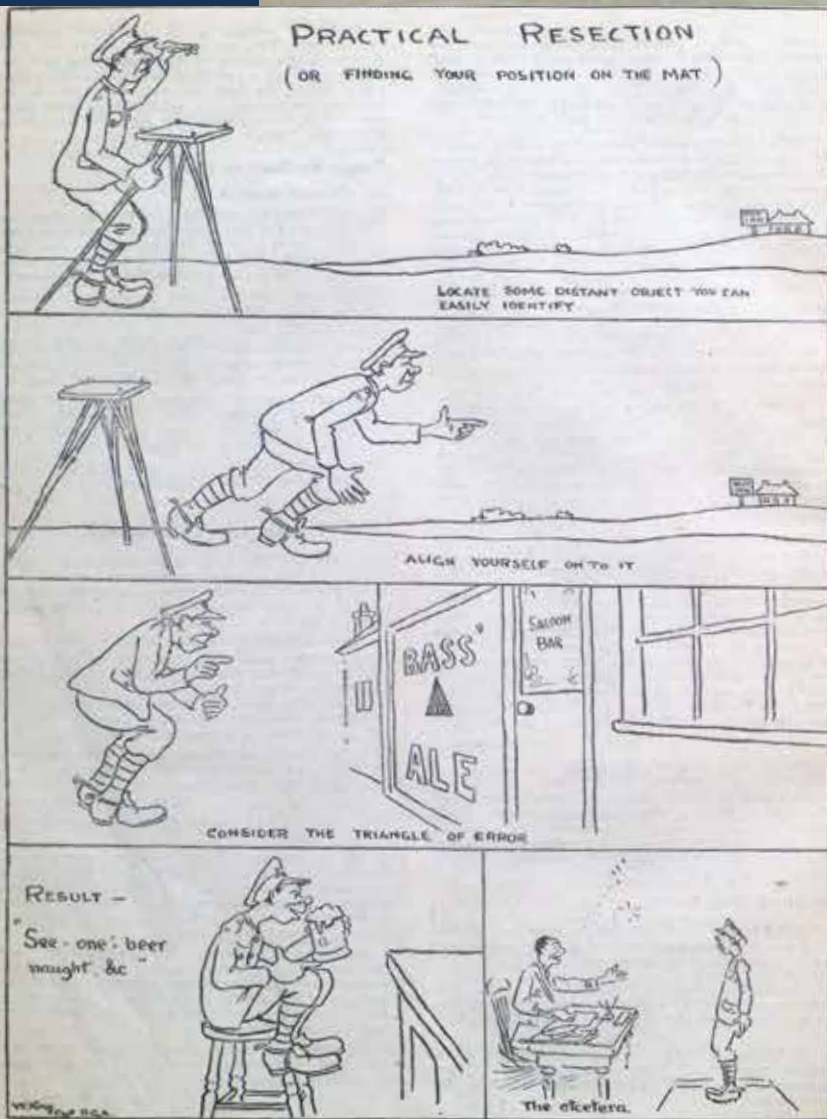
When you get your "Civvies" on again. (By courtesy of "The Daily Express".)



Corps humour - 100 years ago!

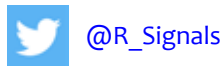


By the courtesy of the London "Daily Express".



THE CORPS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Find us at:



The Master of Signals
Lt Gen Sir Nick Pope KCB CBE
recorded a farewell video
message for the Corps, we wish
him the best of luck for the
future!

The Princess Royal visited Game-
cock Barracks to celebrate the 71st
anniversary of the QGS, meet
soldiers and enjoy some Corps
Centenary celebrations includ-
ing the unveiling of a beautiful
portrait of her.



The Corps wished HRH The Princess Royal a happy 70th birthday and thanked her for her tireless work with the Corps over the last 43 years. Many members of the FB group shared their memories/photos of meeting our Colonel-in-Chief.



New SFC Cap Badge

The new SFC cap badge was endorsed on 18 Aug 20 and was marked by a small ceremony in the church on Stirling Lines by the Unit Padre, with the Master of Signals **Lieutenant General Nick Pope KCB CBE** and HQ 1 (UK) Signal Brigade Commander **Brigadier John Collyer** in attendance.



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Special
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UKSF Briefing and Assessment Course (BAC) Dates:

BAC 7/20 25 - 30 Oct 2020

BAC 8/20 6 - 11 Nov 2020

BAC 9/20 13 - 18 Nov 2020

BAC 1/21 7 - 12 Feb 2021

BAC 2/21 14 - 19 Mar 2021

BAC 3/21 18 - 23 Apr 2021

BAC 4/21 16 - 21 May 2021

BAC 5/21 11 - 16 Jun 2021

BAC 6/21 12 - 17 Sep 2021

BAC 7/21 17 - 22 Oct 2021

BAC 8/21 19 - 24 Nov 2021

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13 SIGNAL REGIMENT *Blandford*

CO Lt Col E Swift	RSM WO1 (RSM) P Baxter-Smith
224 (CPT) SIGNAL SQUADRON	
OC Maj A Cave	SSM (des) WO2 (SSM) Taletawa
233 (GCN) SIGNAL SQUADRON	
OC Maj E Shale	SSM WO2 (SSM) Shackleton
259 (GIS) SIGNAL SQUADRON	
OC Maj Danny Payne (RA)	SSM WO2 (SSM) Sharpe

Regimental Formation – Bicester, Colerne, Corsham and Blandford

On 1 June 2020 the Corps was fortunate to be able to mark the return of 13 Sig Regt to the fold, 26 years after the disbandment of its namesake. As a unit sitting under 1 Sig Bde, it took the Army Cyber Information Services Operating Centre, consisting of 233 (Global Information Services) Sig Sqn and 259 (Global Information Services) Sig Sqn, and the newly created 224 Sig Sqn from the CPTs in 14 Sig Regt, under one banner with the following mission:

To deliver specialist ICS and cyber capability through the evolution and operations of, the Army CyISOC, Cyber personnel and Capability Development in order to deliver success on current and future deployments globally.

The original plan was to celebrate this establishment over the Corps Weekend but, unfortunately, COVID-19 put a stop to that. In its place the skeleton RHQ, consisting of the CO, 2IC, Ops Offr, Adjt and RSM, did a round-robin trip visiting each site, whilst still maintaining the needed social distancing requirements that we have all become comfortable with, visiting the four regimental sites of Bicester, Colerne, Corsham and finally Blandford.

The round-robin started early, with the Command team getting to Bicester for around 0900hrs, with **Capt Chester** (OC LIST) leading the parade on behalf of **Maj Shale** (OC 233 Sig Sqn). To ensure social distancing guidelines were adhered to, about a third of the troop were present to receive their new Brigade flashes. Upon completion of the parade, RHQ was introduced to the site and the troop real-estate.

Fairly quickly the group had to move on to Colerne to visit 224 Sig Sqn where they were met by the OC Designate, **Maj Cave**, and had the great pleasure of welcoming the Squadron into the Regiment. A surprise lunch was provided to help revive the Command team at the half-way point and an opportunity to get to know the troops and understand their current working environment.

At Corsham the CO was welcomed by the Squadron, all on parade 2m apart. Before flashes were handed out, the CO gave a quick speech on what the future of the Regiment would be, with expectations for what should come in the coming months and years. After handing over the flashes the CO had the honour of promoting **WO2 (FofS) Wilson** to WO1, and into the newly formed Regt Ops team as Regimental Foreman. Promotion and flash exchange complete, the CO and his team quickly packed up and shot off on their way to the final destination.



Sgt Nzunga showing off the new Brigade flash



The CO promoting WO2 (FofS) Wilson to WO1 (FofS)



Above: The CO presenting Bde flashes in Blandford
 Right: 259 (GIS) Sig Sqn on parade in Blandford
 Below right: The Wilkinson Sword of Peace

Blandford was the final stop of the day, and almost completely to time, the CO arrived to greet the Corps Colonel and BFBS. After a quick refresh from the long day of driving, the Squadron formed up on the parade square ready to be presented with the new brigade flashes, mission and vision from the CO.



On the parade the Corps Colonel presented the Wilkinson Sword of Peace to the CO; which was previously owned by 13 Sig Regt. The return of this item helped to link the Regiment to its past incarnation and mark the day for all of its soldiers and officers, past and present. This point was made more poignant with the presentation being witnessed by **Col (Retd) Mike Walker**, who commanded 13 Sig Regt from 1981-1983, and who had previously received the original presentation in 1982.



In all, the day was a success and demonstrated the Regiment's ability to come together, whilst simultaneously ensuring that all were sufficiently apart to protect from the viral threat. The future of the Regiment will see it encounter a breadth of challenges and opportunities, and all are keen and ready to embrace them.

While COVID-19 had put a stop to the planned grand opening of the Regiment, the same cannot be said about our output. At a macro-level the Regiment has successfully transitioned to the new brigade, reached Initial Operating Capability and has established the new 224 Sig Sqn to the fold.

Simultaneously, the Regiment has continued to provide specialist support to seven operations including SHADER, TORAL and CABRIT, several different exercises including 16 Air

Assault Brigade and supporting FLEET for Harbour Acceptance Trials. Finally, capability development continues to move at pace, with effects being provided in support of project MORPHEUS, Army Warfighting Experimentation, and more. It is a testament to the Regiment to be able to provide these services, whilst still maintaining protective measures for our soldiers, and a demonstration of how our soldiers have been able to continue to perform under very challenging circumstances.

As a final note, 13 Sig Regt is greatly anticipating the inclusion of 254 (SGIS) Sig Sqn to its ORBAT from 28 September. This inclusion of additional specialist manpower to the DCO fold further reinforces the consolidation of specialist Cyber Capability into a singularly cohered Army enterprise.





Visit of the Master of Signals

On 21 July, 13 Sig Regt had the great honour of hosting the Master of Signals, **Lt Gen Pope KCB CBE**, for a visit to Regimental Headquarters as his last formal visit as Master. This was an opportunity for him to present medals and commendations to members of the Regiment, discuss the development to date and the way ahead for the Regiment, and get his picture taken next to the new Regimental badge.

The following awards were presented:

- **Sgt Holmes** – Campaign Medal – North Africa
- **LCpl Singh** – CGS Commendation for contribution to Army outreach to the Sikh community in Stafford and Recruiting
- **Capt Hedouin, WO1 Preuss, Sgt Bojang and Sgt Lodge** – Master of Signals Commendation for contribution to Exercise ARMY CYBER SPARTAN 3
- **LCpl Roberts** – Joint Commander Commendation; for J2 Op SHADER
- **Maj Payne** – GOC 3 Div Commendation for contribution to digital fires in 1 Arty Bde and 3 (UK) Div

Upon the Master's suggestion, an appropriately scaled aviary is now being designed for installation at RHQ - we just need to entice a local owl to adopt the aviary as its home...



Pics from top to bottom:

13 Sig Regt Medals and Commendations

The Master addressing members of 13 Sig Regt outside RHQ in Blandford

The Master presenting the Joint Commanders Commendation (Op SHADER) to Cpl Roberts

Trial to Assure FALCON using DCC

By Cpl Stewart

Throughout the month of August, 233 (GCN) Sig Sqn were tasked to assist the Cyber Protection Team (CPT) with a Defence Cyber Capability work strand, housed within the Falcon Anchor Point (FAP). The aim of this was to increase the understanding of the equipment as well as create a safe environment to experiment with how the Falcon network could be defended whilst deployed.

In advance to the DCC arrival, Engineers from within the FAP ensured the correct real estate was allocated as well as testing all the connections required to ensure a seamless transition from a cold state to hot (the actual integration of the equipment into the network). As well as the thick Falcon network, it was decided that the FECC (Falcon Early

Entry Capability) would be used to provide both depth to the network, as well as providing an additional training opportunity on an existing equipment (FECC) with a new Defence capability (DCC). To assure connectivity without impacting Defence outputs, Internet Bearer of Opportunity (IBOO) was used, enabling the CPT to access the traffic logs for further analysis.

Building upon this process, the 233 (GCN) Sig Sqn provided the CPT with access to a new bespoke monitoring tool designed by 233 (GCN) Sig Sqn. The tool utilises elements of the Paessler Router Traffic Grapher (PRTG) monitoring tool and enables live management of all deployed Falcon elements. Although the existing building infrastructure created a few issues, the hard work and technical innovation of a few choice engineers enable several systems to be presented, allowing users, managers and analysts to have and provide a high level of assurance and analytical data.

What are Defensive Cyber Operations?

By Capt Will Smith,
224 (DCO) Sig Sqn

You're in the HQ. A staff officer looks up to his screen to see an error message. Reporting it to the service desk, the engineers notice that it starts to spread. More and more angry users report lack of service. You work for hours to restore service, but nobody seems to know what the problem is. What they also don't know is that the plan for an upcoming operation has been compromised, exfiltrated one letter at a time using thousands of small messages. A week later, troops move into planned locations for the operation. The enemy are waiting. A mass fire artillery strike has been pre-sighted...



the Army Cyber Information Services Operating Centre (CyISOC), which is the organisation that will oversee

the defence of the army's operational networks.

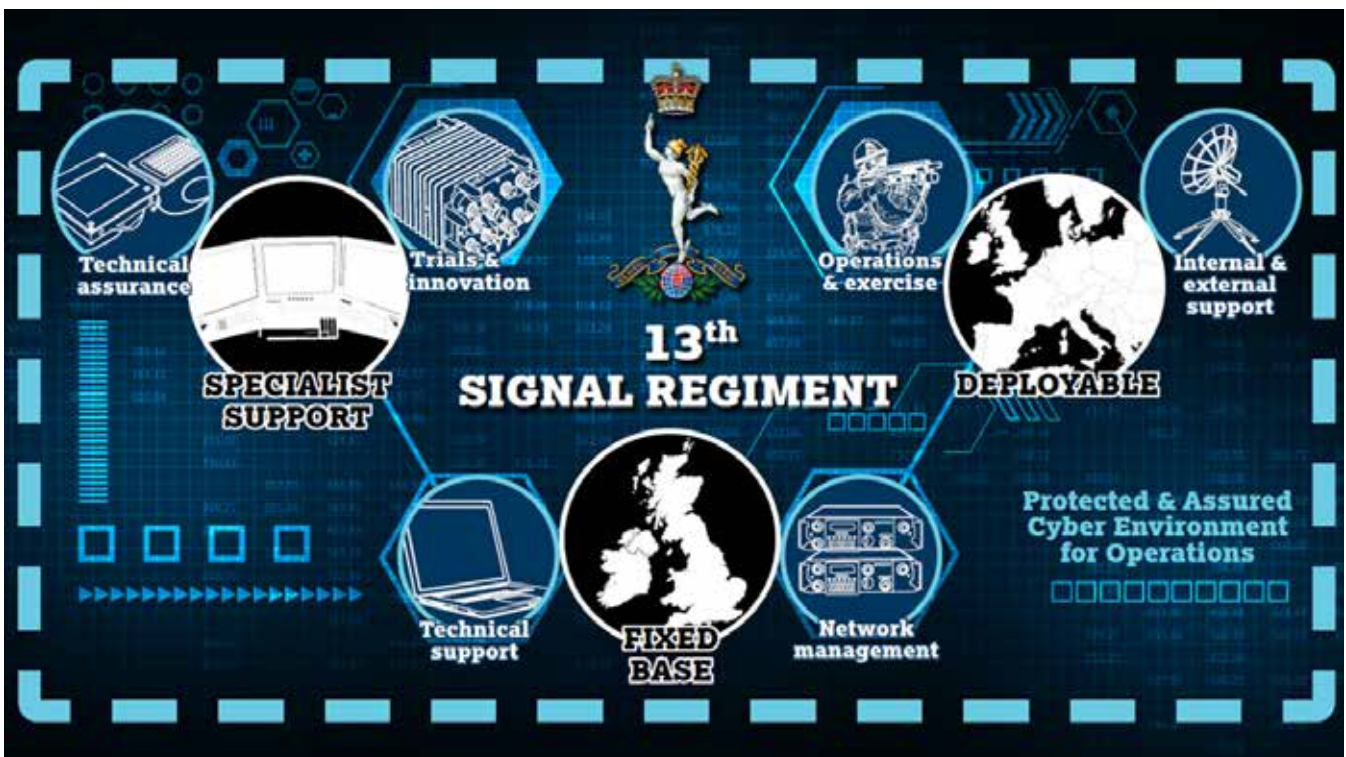
224 (DCO) Sig Sqn are scaled to conduct DCO Tiers 1, 2 and 3. At Tier 1, we understand who the adversary is and what techniques they will pursue when they attack us – such as a lone hacker trying to brute force passwords. At Tier 3, soldiers are looking for unknown threat actors using unknown vulnerabilities against us (such as zero days – named after the number of days they have been known and defended against). To defend a network, you need to understand the network; a successful DCO Operative needs to thoroughly understand our information systems and networking, as well as be right up-to-date on vulnerabilities, threat actors, and offensive Tactics, Techniques and Procedures. Those with the aptitude will benefit from bespoke courses to increase their knowledge.

The Cyber threat is real – do **you** want to be on the front line of the defence?

If you are interested in a role at 224 (DCO) Sig Sqn or 13 Sig Regt, use your JPA PPP and speak to your career manager. Completing the Cyber Foundation Pathway: <https://www.da.mod.uk/colleges-and-schools/technology-school/defence-cyber-school/cyber-foundation-pathway> (most available on DLE) and registering the competencies to JPA will increase your chances.

An imaginary scenario – but one that could have devastating effects. Defensive Cyber Operations (DCO) exist to protect friendly networks from attack, primarily the information and services contained within. The MOD defines Defensive Cyber Operations as “the active and passive measures to preserve our ability to use Cyberspace”. These span from improving the local administrators’ security policy and Cyber Security understanding, to actively monitoring the traffic using specialist equipment, hunting for indicators of compromise, including malware, reconnaissance and other adversary activity on our networks.

224 (DCO) Sig Sqn's (part of 13 Sig Regt and based in Colerne) mission is: To IDENTIFY and UNDERSTAND vulnerability; PROTECT against, DETECT, RESPOND to and support RECOVER from cyber events in order to deliver success on current and future operations globally. This broad mission statement reflects the far-ranging nature and scope of Cyberspace. 224 (DCO) Sig Sqn are unique in their ability to deploy personnel and provide DCO globally in the operational theatre, in real time. We are also mutually supportive of 233 Sig Sqn in the development of



What is the Army CyISOC?

By Maj Shale and
Capt Charnley,
233 (GCN) Sig Sqn

Under Army 2020 Refine it was decided that 13 Sig Regt, inactive since 1994, would be reformed to provide the British Army's first dedicated defensive cyber Regiment. The increasing capabilities of our adversaries, combined with the exponential expansion of connectivity across the globe, require a robust response from Army to protect and secure our vital communication channels. The Army Cyber Information Services Operating Centre (CyISOC) is the key organisation which will ensure the stability and security of Army information flows, both in the United Kingdom and overseas.

Geographically dislocated, the three Squadrons which make up 13 Sig Regt provide outcomes in direct response to both the Land Operations Centre at Army HQ and key Defence cyber security agencies. To enable coordinated effect the Army CyISOC, with the bulk of personnel based out of MOD Corsham, has been tasked to protect and support Land CIS and ICS. These activities feed directly into the Joint Cyber realm and are the Army's contribution to coordinated Joint effect, working alongside the other single Service CyISOCs.

The Army CyISOC is split into two distinct functional areas to enable the mission. The first is the Network Operations Centre (NOC), where current systems such as Falcon and OpNET are managed and assured to enable pan-Defence

exercises and operations. The second is the Security Operations Centre (SOC), whose role is to protect the network or networks, actively seek out likely threats and advise Commanders on the protection of their critical information assets.

Both the NOC and SOC are integrated and dependant on each other, with resources being drawn from across all three Squadrons within the Regiment; 224 (Cyber Protection Teams) Sig Sqn in Colerne, 233 (Global Communication Networks) Sig Sqn in Corsham and 259 (Global Information Services) Sig Sqn in Blandford. Once a threat or incident has been identified, the Army CyISOC will process the event to ensure minimal loss of service and protect Defence's information. Collaboration with various external agencies both within and across Government is key, with industry standards being at the forefront of all decisions and processes incorporated by the Army CyISOC.

In the future, as new technologies are brought into service and connected into the enterprise, the Army CyISOC will expand its remit. Incorporating both tactical and operational CIS and ICS systems, a holistic service support and security model will allow the Army CyISOC to assure services and provide the necessary protection to enable Commanders' freedom of manoeuvre. This is an exciting time for a new and developing organisation, and 13 Sig Regt is actively seeking high-quality engineers and talented cyber-skilled individuals to provide effective incident response and develop information capability for the future.

259 Signal Squadron (GIS) third line support to Fleet

Personnel from 259 Sig Sqn have been busy the last 12 months working alongside the Navy providing third line TacCIS support and upgrading them to BCIP 5.6 and this hasn't stopped over the national lockdown. Ordinarily this took place on board the ships during planned maintenance periods in UK ports but on a few occasions, this took the Squadron further afield to places such as Dubai, Bahrain and America.

The uplifts began with functional tests of the current 5.5 capability followed by the 5.6 equipment, which wasn't always plain sailing! Just trying to navigate the different types of ships and find their Bowman equipment, which was often sited on multiple deck levels, was a challenge, specifically, the Bowman antennas which were not your usual vehicle antenna and were usually sited high above the deck. Fault finding and testing also proved difficult with 100s of metres of cable running the length of the ships to chase, especially when they disappeared into bulkheads and walls. However, once we became familiarised with the ships it was just like working on your typical vehicle platform, just a hell of a lot bigger! It was also really satisfying to finally connect our tried and tested FFR to their ship and get them up and working.

Over the past 12 months we have worked on the vast majority of Naval ships including HMS Queen Elizabeth, Type 45, Type 23 and Vanguard class ships. This has given us a great experience working alongside the Navy and working in a very different Bowman environment which tested our level 3 skills to the maximum.

Top pic: Fleet Assurance 2 Bottom pic: Fleet Assurance 1



Army Warfighting Experiment 2020



The purpose of AWE20 is to identify how the Army can exploit developments in technology in the Agile Command, Control and Communication (Agile C3) space. The goals are to engage with industry technology providers of all sizes to explore what innovative approaches to traditional issues and provide the Army with a competitive edge. It will expose capability and knowledge gaps, explore technology ready for rapid exploitation and create a community of industry partners that will encourage a collaborative approach to problem solving.

AWE20 seeks to answer how technology can improve:

- **Data Exploitation:** To improve our situational awareness and understanding.
- **Decision Making:** Enable us to make faster and better-informed decisions.
- **HQ Resilience:** Reduce the detectability and improve both the resilience and agility of HQs at all levels in order to enhance their survivability.
- **Deployable Infrastructure:** Enable more efficient deployment and employment of our HQs on operations.
- **Dispersed HQs:** Improve command on the move and facilitate dispersed HQs.

CIS TDU has been allocated a large proportion of products which will be experimented upon in AWE20. There are currently 35 products allocated for lead assessments and 20 products in support of other TDU's as the lead assessor. This is a huge commitment for the team, particularly **Sgt Navin Gurung** who has taken the lead in co-ordinating the CIS TDU response. Over the previous months the Troop has provided support to various MOD contractors and industry partners to ensure their products are compatible in preparation for the live experiment in Q4 of 2020.

The exercise will be run for four weeks in an operational scenario encompassing a Brigade operating within a Divisional context, with both dismounted soldiers in the field and Staff Officers working in HQs. Upon completion of the Live Ex, industry partners will be given the opportunity to present their products on the Distinguished Visitors'(DV) Day.

CIS Trials Development Unit (CIS TDU) - by SSgt Swede Roberts

This has been a challenging yet successful period for CIS TDU. Despite the pressures imposed by COVID-19, the Troop has remained open for business, balancing continued support to ongoing commitments whilst mitigating risk to personnel. The main work strands supported during this period included Evolve to Open (EvO) / MORPHEUS development, the Army Warfighting Experiment 2020 (AWE 20) and SLINGSHOT assurance. Alongside these demanding tasks we have also seen a change of command at the helm of the TDU. We say goodbye to our SO3 **Maj Martin Gauntlett**, leaving us on promotion and off to Shrivenham and welcome in **Capt David Keegan**, fresh faced from completing his degree at University; where, he assures us, he didn't partake in the student lifestyle too much...

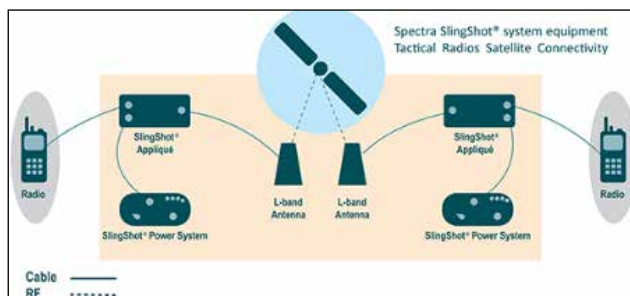
Evolve to Open (EvO) & MORPHEUS Development

Sgt Jay Pateman has been attached to the MORPHEUS Test and Reference Centre (MTRC) to streamline and de-risk our support to them during MORPHEUS development. The MTRC is operated by QinetiQ and Battlefield and Tactical Communications and Information Systems (BATCIS) and once fully operational the MTRC will test EvO and MORPHEUS equipment as these projects mature.

Other ongoing tasks within the team are support to the Battlefield Management Application (BMA) User Acceptance Trial (UAT). BMA is the replacement for COMBAT within the Evo/MORPHEUS project. This will likely consist of Battle Group HQs conducting planning cycles within a CIS TDU controlled environment, with feedback collated to inform future development. Future work strands involve the EvO usability evaluation trial, focussing on MANAGE, the replacement for BCMS. The Trial will focus on current Bowman System Managers and Supervisors providing feedback on the new application.

SLINGSHOT Assurance

In April 2020 members of CIS TDU and the TacCIS Engineer Section from 259 (GIS) Sig Sqn, led by **Sgt Wes French**, deployed to GD MS in Oakdale, to take part in the successful assurance trial for Spectra UKs SLINGSHOT system.



SLINGSHOT is designed to support current in-service tactical radios, extending C2 amongst dislocated troops by utilising Inmarsat's global constellation of geostationary satellites. Notably this enables a simple solution to extend the range for dispersed troops restricted to Bowman radios. It will be deployed later this year as part of the United Nations



Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Despite numerous eleventh hour changes due to COVID-19 restrictions (worst of all seeing the teams being accommodated in portacabins under the Severn bridge!), the trial was a complete success.

Members of CIS TDU and 259 (GIS) Sig Sqn alongside General Dynamics on the SLINGSHOT Trial



The Army Cyber Defence Competition 2020

By SSgt (YofS) Pun,
259 (GIS) Sig Sqn



13 Sig Regt Team – ACDC 2020 (From L to R: SSgt (YofS) Pun, LCpl Hill, Cpl Lamb and LCpl Footman)

“First ever exposure to a Cyber activity, it has been really helpful and made me aware of the opportunity that cyber can create in the Army.” **LCpl E Hill**

The Army Cyber Defence Competition (ACDC) – 2020 was held at PICTON Barracks, Bulford camp 31 Aug - 4 Sep. The event was an entry level cyber security exercise for those with no previous experience. Soldiers and Officers of all skill levels, trades and current employment were welcomed to participate. Ten different teams from multiple cap badges from across the Army, including reserves, were selected to compete on the event.

“I have heard a lot about cyber-security over the last year and felt it was a time to get involved. This was my first cyber exercise and was a great eye opener to how significant the event actually is and became a valuable learning experience.” **Cpl Lamb**

The team, led by **SSgt (YofS) Pun**, consisted of four soldiers from 259 (GIS) Sig Sqn with no previous exposure to cyber related exercises. The event itself was an excellent opportunity for the 13 Sig Regt team to apply their theoretical knowledge in a practical setting and test technical skills learned through ‘Immersive-labs’ provided through

the Army Cyber Association (ACA). The team were given a virtual network which had been compromised by a skilled ‘Red-Team’ using open-source exploits. The team was required to defend the network, including users, from a series of low-level cyber-attacks injected by the Red Team. The goal was to mitigate or limit the impact by hardening the network using firewalls, monitoring tools, and implementing technical configurations.

As a result of their endeavours, this novice 13 Sig Regt team was able to secure this years’ runner-up position.

“This was my first Army Cyber exercise. It was a good opportunity and helped me to pick up new network admin skills.” **LCpl D Footman**

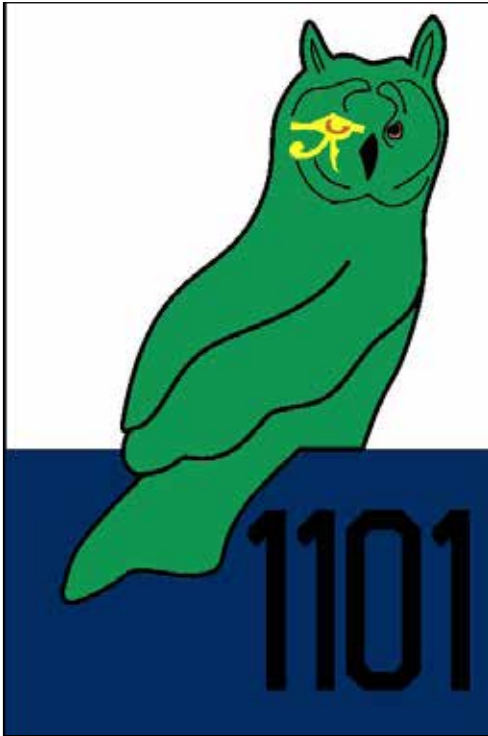
As a Corps we are communications network enablers and responsible for providing communication services to staff officers in HQs. There are very rare events or exercises where our Soldiers and Officers get to practice their technical defensive cyber skills. Many units did not manage to compete in the competition and it is the hope of 13 Sig Regt that events like these are going to be frequent in the future to capture talents from across the Corps. Finally, the team would like to thank the ACA for providing this opportunity and look forward to competing on Army Cyber Spartan 4.

Behind the scenes with 13 Sig Regt's Owl

By Capt Max Shapiro,
11 Sig Regt

How does one go about designing a Regimental Crest? Much the same way one does anything in the Army – keep trying until you get it right!

I thought I'd use this opportunity to give the Corps a behind the scenes look at the development of the Owl and clear up a few misconceptions. The owl began as one of three suggestions given to me by **Lt Col Swift**, drawn from a series of historical touchstones: an owl, the eye of **Horus**, and a boar. On balance, a boar seemed too blunt-force for the Corps' new cutting-edge Cyber Regiment, but the eye of **Horus** is always cool.



The first design for 13 SR's owl

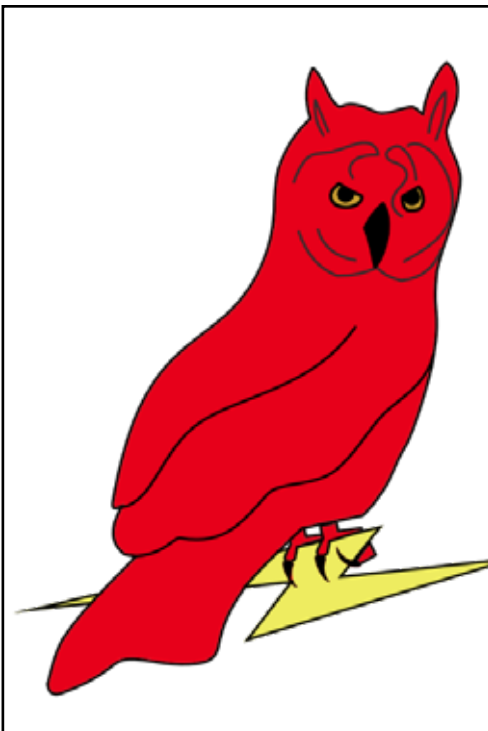
However, an owl seemed very appropriate; owls are watchful, silent predators. As a Regiment operating in the figurative darkness of the various networks that we access and operate, it seemed most appropriate for 13 Sig Regt.

After what I thought was a stroke of genius, I combined two of the suggestions (and chucked the boar) to make the Horus Eye'd Owl. A long-eared owl was chosen, because 13 Sigs is about defensive cyber – so listening is important. For colour, it was decided to use green, because it was the colour used by the previous 13 Sig Regt.

"The owl is great", came the feedback, "but the eye is weird". So the eye was removed. Furthermore, the 'sitting on the Corps colours' element was rejected. The crest should be more stand alone, particularly considering how it would be used on shirts, flags, boards, silver, notebooks and so on. After some back and forth, a lightning bolt was suggested – so our owl got some talons and a fighting red colour scheme.

This was agreed in concept and a tender issued to several professionals to submit an interpretation of my relatively crude design. I was invited to submit a tender; so I did. This time around I was much more practised,

having done more stuff in my own time. Therefore, I decided to drag out the original images I built off for the first draft and gave it another crack.



The agreed concept for the owl



The initial redesign for the owl

He's an angry owl, but I didn't want the Corp's newest crest looking soft and withdrawing. There was more discussion on this edition but eventually some shading and crosshatching was added to make the owl you now see about the Regiment. I am very proud to have contributed in my small way to the history of the Corps. I hope the Officers and other ranks of 13 Sig Regt can be as proud of their watchful, angry owl.





14th SIGNAL REGIMENT

(ELECTRONIC WARFARE)

Haverfordwest

CO Lt Col Fogarty MBE
RSM WO1 Peake



Volunteering for the CSF WAST

By Sig Graeme Smart

After agreeing to volunteer for the CSF WAST (Covid Support Force, Welsh Ambulance Service Trust) the suspense of knowing exactly what the task would entail was vague to say the least. We arrived in Llanelli and settled in, had our briefs and waited for our shift rotas - I started the very next morning. 0700hrs came around quickly with an early departure to Port Talbot Ambulance Station and I was unsure of what to expect. The paramedic I was working with, **Lucie**, arrived and not long after a quick walk around the station and check of the vehicle we'd be using - an RRV (rapid response vehicle), our first call came in.

Kit ready and adrenaline pumping, I drove out of the station and the first words out of **Lucie's** mouth were 'please don't kill me driving'. I confidently replied 'you don't need to worry



about that, I haven't crashed in over 12 years'. The call was upgraded to red level and required driving on blues. **Lucie** and I swapped seats and she took the lead, what I was about to experience had me holding on to the handle above the door repeating to her 'please don't you kill me!'

The patient had collapsed in a Tesco car park and was constantly fitting. Not being able to move him, we started our checks and the heavens opened; not the best of conditions but we carried on regardless. **Lucie** was busy handling things like the BM kit (a blood glucose measuring test) and placing an ECG on the patient to monitor his heart rate, SATs and pulse. We found out that he was haemophilic so we had to watch for any cuts on his head due to the fall. I helped with prepping the flush and administering glucose tubes, as the reason for the collapse was that the patient had type one diabetes and hadn't eaten that day.

On to some of the more traumatic jobs... **Cpl Hussey** and I were first at the scene to a deceased male, where we discovered he had been dead for quite a few days. We only spent about 10/15 seconds with the body after the paramedics declared him dead and we then waited for the police to arrive to ensure it was not suspicious.

After a few weeks dealing with a variety of patients (mostly the elderly and drug overdoses) I found myself working with three paramedics on alternate days: **Glyn**, a keen mountain biker with a wealth of knowledge who taught me a huge amount, **Mark**, a former Royal Marine and **Richard John**, both of whom after a week working with me, nicknamed me a jinx because in those few

days we attended 3 paediatrics cases, 2 of which were 6 week olds and a 9 day old baby boy. They all had breathing difficulties and were all delivered prematurely via C-section... a little coincidental to say the least!

In my first week **Lucie** told me never to run or rush as it portrays a feeling of panic to the patients and their family, so be calm and collected while getting the necessary kit from the car. But when it comes to paediatrics that all seems to go out the window and it's the only time walking calmly turns into running and every sense of emergency kicks in.

After five weeks spent with WAST it has shown me the sheer courage and expertise that the paramedics bring to every scene, it is absolutely mind-blowing. I remember saying to them in one of our many conversations 'you guys must be equivalent to a doctor' because of the wide range of knowledge they require, not knowing what they are going to face day by day. 'Sadly not' they replied, 'our job is simply to preserve life the best we can'.

After this incredible experience, going back to my day job seems trivial in comparison and it has given me a different perspective on life. In the battle against COVID-19, with military support the NHS staff really are the front line heroes.

"After 5 weeks spent with WAST it has shown me the sheer courage and expertise that the paramedics bring to every scene, it is absolutely mind-blowing"





15th SIGNAL REGIMENT (Information Support)

A Regiment in lockdown

It felt like as soon as the Regiment had formed the CO was giving the orders to disperse. COVID-19 had hit and 15 Sig Regt were putting into practise the skills we had already begun to build on with a dislocated Regiment. With 207 and 255 Sig Sqns still in Stafford the move to Perham Down was put on hold and everyone started to adjust to new ways of working.

The start of lockdown saw Regiments assigned as COVID Support Forces and 15 Sig Regt was put on standby. Keen to help where we could, we put our 3D printer to good use for innovation, loaning it out to a skilled designer. The Adjt, **Capt Jess Perfect's** brother, **Joe**, has a plethora of experience with 3D printing and he designed a clip that would alleviate the pressure of masks on the back of our key workers ears. The CO requested that the printer be loaned to enable **Joe** to continue printing these clips en masse, providing them to several hospitals and care homes across the south. To date he has created well over 2000 clips and counting!

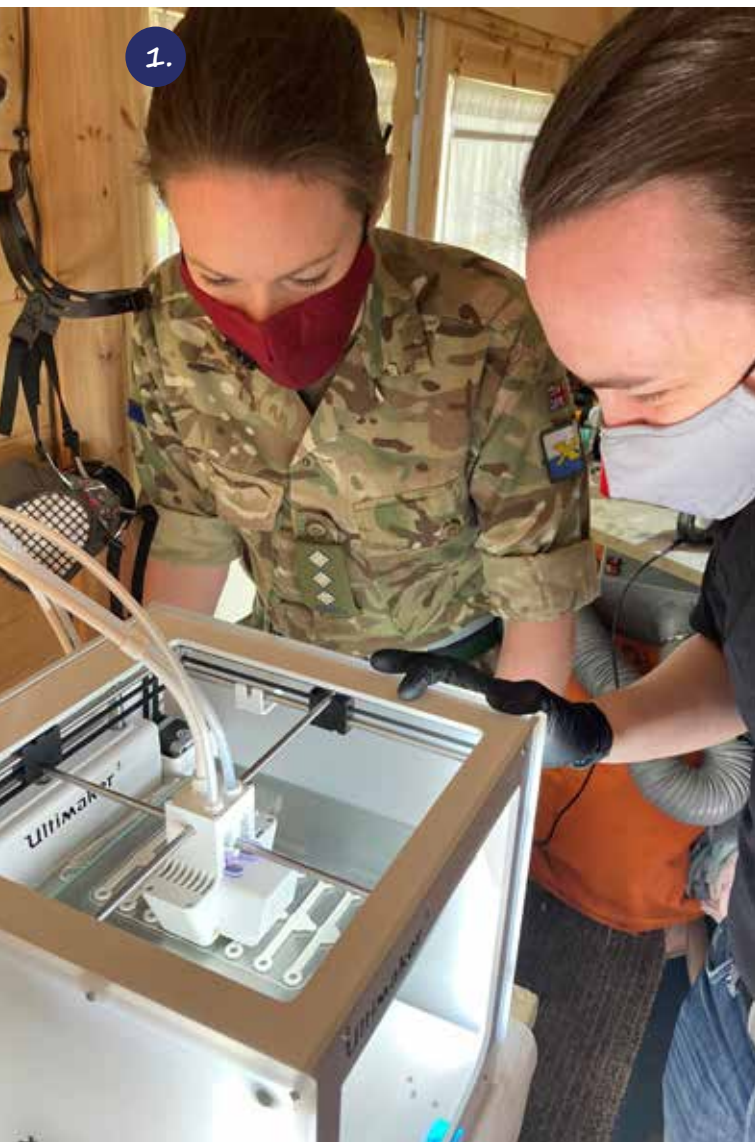
Alongside innovative activity, the members of the Regiment have been thoroughly involved in the Corps #100for100 challenge with our own CO, **Lt Col Matt Bosworth**, racking up

CO	Lt Col M A Bosworth	RSM	WO1 A Jordan
SUPPORT SQUADRON			
OC	Maj T Bickerstaff	SSM	WO2 M Corbett
207 (JERBOA) SIGNAL SQUADRON			
OC	Maj G Davies	SSM	WO2 P Forster
255 SIGNAL SQUADRON			
OC	Maj C O'Brien	2IC	Capt A Boyes

288.7km in June and 1688km in the first six months of 2020! Around the Regiment our soldiers and officers adapted to the situation, using what equipment they had available to them and setting up competitions on Strava!

Testing our communication skills, **Sig Troy McGonigal** from 207 (Jerboa) Sig Sqn hosted a series of Zoom quizzes for his troop ensuring that everyone was keeping well and to create some cohesion during the lockdown. All have made comments on how it has allowed them to strengthen friendship and trust amongst the troop.

Across the ocean our soldiers in BATUK were experiencing a different lockdown altogether with **Cpl Mike Hedworth**



reporting back to the Regiment. On notification of the ongoing measures in the UK, the decision was made to reduce the CIS footprint in Kenya from 54 to 7 personnel. The soldiers had to work tirelessly to strip and account for equipment on over 90 communication platforms.

Closer to home, 255 (Bahrain) Sig Sqn have been keeping on top of their skills with Reacher Training. Even during a period of uncertainty, it is important for our soldiers and officers to keep on top of their skills. Many took advantage of the offers from the CADUCEUS team with many of the Regiment completing their SCRUM Managers qualifications. Overall it has been a testing time for the nation, but the Regiment has stuck together and pushed through this lockdown with everyone looking forward to getting back to normality.

Pics:

- 1. Innovation with printed mask clips*
- 2. Cpl Hedworth in Kenya*
- 3. LCpl Rai on Reacher Training*
- 4. Sgt Edward out completing #100for100*
- 5. Sig Troy Mcgonigal running*
- 6. CO 15 Sig Regt getting the miles in*
- 7. OC LAD adapting to lockdown phys*





16th SIGNAL REGIMENT

Stafford

BikeSafe Course

On 30 September 2020, **Sgt Keith Wilson** of 16 Sig Regt invited Staffordshire Police to deliver a BikeSafe course to members of the Regiment. As a special surprise Staffordshire Police also brought along members of DocBike.

DocBike is a charity which puts a highly trained medic on a response motorcycle in order to deliver injury prevention and roadside critical care to injured motorcyclists. DocBike started as a result of PC25494 **Luke Van De Sande** losing his life in an off duty motorcycle accident in August last year. His mother started a fundraising campaign to raise biker awareness, this quickly grew and joined forces with the Police to create DocBike.

Following on after the DocBike presentation we undertook theory based sessions which consisted of hazard perception scenarios, cornering safety and the importance of taking the correct lines whilst out on the road, ensuring you can see round any bend to ensure it's safe and free from hazards so you can proceed safely.

After lunch it was time for rider assessments, putting into practice what was learnt during the morning theory session. We were partnered with a Police motorcyclist for some real time one on one instruction whilst out riding the roads of Staffordshire. Obviously, I booked the weather as

CO Lt Col PJ Brunton
RSM WO1 Robert Easterby-Jackson

SUPPORT SQUADRON	
OC Maj P Greenwood	SSM WO2 D Beverley
230 (MALAYA) SIGNAL SQUADRON	
OC Maj R Hammond	SSM WO2 M Williams
247 (GURKHA) SIGNAL SQUADRON	
OC Maj A Fitchett	SSM WO2 Rabin

the heavens opened as we started out on our assessment rides.

Each student was closely followed by the police motorcyclist, only stopping at pre-determined points on the 60 mile route for feedback and instruction before setting off again to put the advice given into practice over the next section. The rider assessment lasted for well over two hours covering all aspects of roads and conditions including a small section of motorway riding.

To summarise, this was a fantastic day of informal theory and assessed practical training, which will most definitely make a difference to our riding styles and will encourage safer riding.

A massive thank you to the BikeSafe and DocBike teams for an enjoyable day's training.





#DIGITALARMY

DO'S AND DON'TS

The British Army is keen to support your use of Social Media

DO'S

- Do share good content
- Do consider contributing to and tagging official British Army channels
- Do be savvy about 'fake news'
- Do ensure your posts and videos abide by the Army's Values & Standards
- Do promote yourself, your unit and the Army positively online
- Do act online as you would in person.

DON'TS

- Don't post details about your work that could be used by criminals, terrorists or potential enemies to harm you or your colleagues and the Army
- Don't get drawn into arguments online
- Don't 'troll' line management or peers, it's contrary to our Values & Standards and could be a criminal offence
- Don't assume your 'ordinary' day in the Army seems ordinary to outsiders – post about it.



21st SIGNAL REGIMENT

Colerne

Exercise ALAMEIN STRIKE

By LCpl O'Regan

On 29 June 2020, members of Alamein Troop, 220 Sig Sqn, 21 Sig Regt, returned to work for the first time since the COVID-19 lockdown in preparation for Ex ALAMEIN STRIKE.

The focus of this two week exercise was to establish communications between all the Falcon detachments in preparation for the upcoming Regimental Exercise FLYING BEAUFIGHTER. It afforded the opportunity to refresh skills and knowledge of the detachments as well as being a great learning opportunity for those who have not had hands on experience with the kit before. The start of this exercise consisted of a RTW brief followed by a welfare brief, something that I think most SP needed and appreciated due to the impact of COVID-19 on our daily lives and helped with any anxiety SP were experiencing due to returning to work after such a long period.

For the exercise the troop was split into six sections led by the troop Cpls. Throughout the first week, each section had to complete MATT5 (Navigation) and MATT10 (API), as well as an ACMT for those SP who were out of date. Towards the end of the first week each section Signaller had to deliver a presentation to their section on a topic of their choosing, this was very informative and a great way to get comfortable with delivering briefs in the future.

On the Monday of the second week, the SP from each section had to deliver a lesson to their section, these lessons consisted of: cam of a comms site, security and defence of a comms site, establishing a comms site, sustaining in the field and BCIP. For me personally this was a fantastic learning opportunity in something I have not experienced before, it built up confidence and gave valuable experience in something which will be part of our careers in the Royal Signals.

The rest of the week was mainly focused on getting all the detachments rebuilt after maintenance and gaining communications between them for Ex FLYING BEAUFIGHTER. This was achieved by a lot of hard work and team cohesion, especially under new social distancing regulations. This exercise was a fantastic opportunity to learn and to gain experience in areas certain members of Alamein troop like myself did not have before. I personally learned a lot from this exercise, and I think I speak for most members involved that this was the perfect way to return to work and refresh our memories and skills in certain areas. We worked hard as a team and this was recognised in the ENDEX brief by Lt Oxnam when she thanked us for our hard work and dedication to 21 Sig Regt.

CO	Lt Col BK Jeffery	RSM	WO1 W O'Connor
SUPPORT SQUADRON			
OC	Maj L Tosh	SSM	WO2 R Dowds
215 SIGNAL SQUADRON			
OC	Maj S Pierson	SSM	SSgt S White
220 SIGNAL SQUADRON			
OC	Maj E Vickers	SSM	WO2 A Potts

Support Squadron

Like every other unit, the challenges that presented themselves when the lockdown was imposed on 23 March were new to everyone. Within Support Squadron there were a number of tasks that took priority; the sustainment of camp through combined feeding, introducing a procedure to administrate and isolate personnel with suspected COVID-19 symptoms and the dissemination of information around camp to inform service personnel and their families of how the Regiment were going to tackle these unprecedented times.

With numbers around the regiment quickly reducing due to dispersed working, the decision to combine all three messes to a central feeding plan within the junior's 'colours' restaurant was implemented. This was deemed the best course of action as ESS staff numbers were affected due to suspected COVID-19 reducing the ability to staff multiple dining rooms. The overriding concern was social distancing, personal hygiene and avoiding peak eating times causing



bottle necks in the 'colours' restaurant. This was very effectively dealt with by introducing a simple one-way circuit through the building, hand wash points at the entrance and exit, single spaced out dining tables and an extended and staggered timing schedule for each of the three messes and Squadrons. Other measures including the chefs serving each customer to avoid multiple contact on the serving utensils were implemented.

In the event of personnel showing suspected symptoms of COVID-19, a dedicated isolation block was identified where they would be immediately admitted. The preparation of this facility was the responsibility of support squadron's SQMS, who had to quickly relocate the existing occupants to an alternate block to allow the isolation block to be a sterile environment reducing the risk of cross contamination from communal areas. To approach the challenges of feeding and shopping, a drop off area was created that allowed meals from the 'colours' restaurant or items from the shop to be safely handed over to occupants of the isolation block whilst avoiding any face to face interaction. Each occupant was also tracked via an online tracking tool that monitored the two-week duration of self-isolation that was implemented by PHE. Once the self-isolation period had finished and any negative test results were returned those personnel were free to return to their SLA accommodation or their home address via a direct journey. The isolation block had 17 admissions through the duration of the lock down and is still ready for use.

Like any other situation where control measures are implemented, the most important thing to service personnel and their families is information and advice on what and when the unit is imposing. This was done very effectively through the unit welfare department who organised a leaflet drop to each SFA whilst adhering to social distancing guidelines. The leaflets contained information from the Commanding Officer

on how the unit was dealing with the lockdown. On the return to work the Unit Welfare Department provided a back to work package with assistance from the Padre. They were able to talk about the trials and tribulations of lockdown and address any issues or concerns that personnel may have had.

Below: The dining hall
Far left: The food servery
Left: The hand wash point



ROYAL SIGNALS CHARITY

The Royal Signals Charity can now accept donations via:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

COMMEMORATIVE PRODUCTS



To celebrate the Royal Corps of Signals 100th Anniversary there will be a number of commemorative products for sale.



Wines

A choice of wines with £1 from every bottle sold going to the Royal Signals Charity.



Beer

This beer has been brewed and designed by Crafty Brewing in partnership with the Royal Signals Charity and 10p of every litre sold will be donated back to the Royal Signals Charity.

Gin

Quality gin, produced by specially selected multiple award winning, small batch, craft distilleries. Adorned front and rear with labels to identify the occasion, there are three styles of gin available and all profit will go to the Royal Signals Charity.



For more information and to purchase visit:

<https://royalsignals.org/centenary-events/>



Defence Splunk Challenge Day – 23 Jan 2020

By LCpl Aiden Cassidy

22nd SIGNAL REGIMENT

Stafford



As a unit, 252 Signal Squadron are always on the lookout to explore the ever expanding scope of cyber security. An opportunity arose in Jan 2020, when Splunk announced that it would be hosting the first-ever

Challenge Defence Day at MOD Corsham. With the primary task of Level 3 support to NATO deployed OpCIS, the one-day event fitted the bill to learn about a new system and develop our cyber security skills. When a request to make a four-person team came, I volunteered straight away. If you don't ask you don't get. A few days later the Apps FofS(IS), **SSgt Khem**, received email confirmation and the team started to learn about Splunk in their spare time. That's when I found out that "Splunk is a software platform to search, analyse and visualise the machine-generated data gathered from the websites, applications, sensors, devices etc. which make up the IT infrastructure and business".

On the day of the event, the organising team sent an email to notify that due to overwhelming interest, the event was switched to a 4* hotel in Stanton Manor. After arrival and registration, we were presented with passes and escorted to the Splunk4Rookies classes where the Splunk team member, **Jim**, demonstrated the capability of Splunk and gave us access to their online lab to start analysing the data. The event offered opt-in training sessions for all skill levels and concluded with a Capture the Flag (CTF) competition.

After the brief training designed for a rookie, our team consisting of **FofS(IS) Khem**, **LCpl Dourneen** and I, were let loose in the NOC lab. The game plan was for **FofSIS Khem** to be NOC manager, **LCpl Dourneen** to be threat hunter and myself to be the link man. After 15 mins of hunting, all three members were in our laptop trying to find the flags. After three hours of gruelling hunting the scoresheet was revealed and our team 'TechJimmy', was in second place! The team was awarded exclusive pass access to the next Splunk>live event.

Along with our sophisticated 'Boss of the NOC' badge, we received the typical backpack of conference swag including posters, stickers and a conference T-Shirt. As well as the lectures and CTF, there were chances to network with other professionals from the private sector; a key opportunity to get advice and information from experienced professionals to improve what we can do ourselves in Defence. It was also exciting to see how many current and former members of the Corps were in attendance too. Overall, a fantastic opportunity to be a part of, to learn and develop, not just for personal development but also for the improvement of what we do in ISOC. A true geek fest of the best kind - 80's ballads, technical challenges and intelligent debate, one of the best events of this type I have attended.

RHQ	
CO Lt Col C Dixon	RSM WO1 S Kennedy
SUPPORT SQUADRON	
OC Maj D Lamont	SSM WO2 L Simpkins
217 SIGNAL SQUADRON	
OC Maj S Thorpe	SSM WO2 M Baker
222 SIGNAL SQUADRON	
OC Maj A Rodway	SSM WO2 S Powell
248 SIGNAL SQUADRON	
OC Maj T Collins	SSM WO2 S Rai
252 SIGNAL SQUADRON	
OC Maj G Woolley	SSM WO2 F Kent





HABITS ARE POWERFUL

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Access the app through the Defence Gateway and start learning

 **Defence Gateway**



LEARNING
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32nd SIGNAL REGIMENT

Glasgow

CO Lt Col I Davidson
RSM WO1 (RSM) G Davies

2 Sig Sqn fundraising event

By SSgt SQMS John Castle

I am on the Dundee Football Club Supporters Committee and was asked to help out with a fundraising event to raise funds for the Club itself, NHS and a local charity – Roxborough House.



Above – Fundraising at home
Right – Fundraising on tour

2 (CoD) SIGNAL SQUADRON	
OC Maj P Levick	SSM WO2 (SSM) K McLean
40 SIGNAL SQUADRON	
OC Maj D Irvine	SSM WO2 (SSM) George
51 SIGNAL SQUADRON	
OC Maj R McCartney	SSM WO2 (SSM) C Douglas
52 SUPPORT SQUADRON	
OC Maj D Gordon	SSM WO2 (SSM) A Tochel



I walked from Arbroath to Dundee on Sat 18 July 20 to raise money for the 'Support the Dee' NHS and Roxborough House and raised £775. A large part of this amount was kindly donated by members of 2 Sig Sqn.

I thought about the idea of wearing the Batman suit to raise funds as this was achievable with next to no help and could be completed in a few hours. I knew that the suit was comfortable enough to walk in as I had already worn it before whilst serving on Op HERRICK in 2013. I ran the US Marine Corps Half Marathon in Camp Bastion/Leatherneck to raise funds for the Boston Marathon bomb victims. I was very happy to put the Batman suit on and do my bit for charity and the walk itself was fine.

I have done a lot of running in the past for the Corps, Army and Combined Services so it was nice to do some physical fitness at a slower pace.

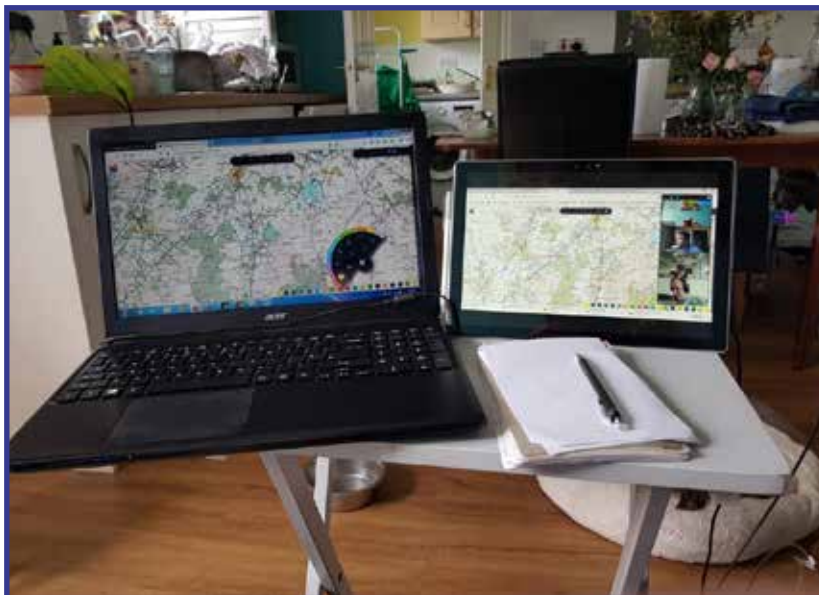
RHQ

This quarter sees the loss of both the Adjt, Capt Catherine Dawes and the QM, Capt Jimmy Scott from 32 RHQ. In their place we have gained Capt Jenni Dornan-Gibson and Capt Jim Mcgrory.

Exercise VIRTUAL THISTLE COMMUNICATOR 1 (Ex VTC 1)

By Cpl Arthur Bernhoff

On 11 July, 51 (Scottish) Sig Sqn held Ex VIRTUAL THISTLE COMMUNICATOR, a Squadron training weekend involving 25 participants and held entirely by video teleconferencing (VTC) and smartphones. The intent of the exercise was to continue enhancing the ability of the Squadron to maintain training standards in a COVID-19 world through developing and practising Signals Operator skills in a virtual hostile environment. Rather than using physical communications equipment in the backs of radio detachments, Squadron members in self-isolation utilised a combination of COTS specialised software running on computers and smartphones, including three different software packages to replace face-to-face interactions (Zoom), to simulate VHF and HF communications networks (Zello), and to monitor and update real-time simulated battlefield maps (Hoylu).



The virtual exercise started in much the same way as a real-world exercise. Squadron members were mustered, received orders from the Sqn OC **Maj McCartney**, extracted orders, and discussed execution of the virtual mission within an overall Squadron VTC. Participants were then broken down into VTC sub-groups as “virtual radio detachments” where they conducted on-line site reces using digital topographical maps. Members used their knowledge of the effects of land features and civilian infrastructure on signal propagation as well as scenario considerations such as electronic shielding from enemy positions, potential resupply routes and escape routes in choosing final detachment sites. Once deployed, participants practiced the R2 and Det SOPs of deployed detachments in the virtual space. The core effort of the day was to establish virtual VHF and HF networks and to practice proper message handling and voice procedure while monitoring and updating real-time simulated battlefield maps.

Throughout the exercise, current affairs were referenced which required participants to analyse challenging problems, to use their initiative and best judgement to respond appropriately, and to carry out their decision(s) to resolve the issue(s) at hand. In one scenario, a detachment in the virtual hostile environment was approached by an apparent civilian carrying an unknown object that he alleged to be a UAV found in a nearby field. Operators had to quickly assess the risks and potential threats, respond appropriately to the “civilian”, to provide a SITREP and to request appropriate assistance (EOD).

Exercise participants found that they encountered many of the same challenges experienced in the real-world including signal loss or interference, high volumes of message traffic, and challenges involved in simultaneously working with several communications networks and subnetworks. As in the real world, members were able to readily overcome those challenges through established loss of comms procedure, exercising network discipline, and employing proper voice procedure, all while maintaining acute situational awareness. The virtual training environment, while not a replacement for field exercises, proved invaluable for achieving Squadron

training objectives in addition to maintaining Squadron cohesion, even in a “self-isolation COVID-19 world”.

Participants also felt that the virtual space provided a more efficient use of training time, allowing them to focus on maintaining and further developing their specific trade skills. The exercise was one in a series of trainings developed by the Squadron for the current pandemic-related training constraints. Overall,

the Squadron has found that member participation in virtual training has increased over the same in-person training conducted this time last year.

Cyber Training

By LCpl Lewis

32 Sig Regt has taken advantage of Project Pedlar, the upskilling of individual Reservists with ‘cyber’ skills, to provide the Corps with a pool of talent to draw upon. A number of soldiers took an online assessment, grading their suitability and aptitude for training; this caused some nervous concern to those of us who work in networking and network security in our civilian roles, but thankfully red-faces were spared! Those who passed began a tailored cyber introduction course tailored for the project, and delivered by, Immersive Labs.

The training covers a wide range of topics, including basic terminology, information security, and a common framework for risk assessment and mitigation, through techniques used to gain intelligence about targets (including lessons on cyber-stalking), leading to hands-on use of tools to attack and defend infrastructure.

The course is varied in approach; some modules and labs are spoon-fed exercises in extracting information from a supplied text; others require obtaining information from external references. The majority of the hands-on tools’ exercises require candidates to learn how to use the tools on the outside of the lab; most of the activity-based labs have no



step-by-step instruction tutorials for the tool being used. For some this might be problematical, but in reality network security engineers should think like 'black hats' (ie "hackers"); an intruder attempting to break into a system has little, if any, prior information, and conducts target reconnaissance to determine what it is, what its comprised of, what each device does and what operating system it uses. The attacker then researches vulnerabilities and exploits with which to attack the system. In that vein, putting students in a situation where they have to learn tools and techniques outside of the training, and often have to think laterally, is shaping the same mind-set as that of an attacker.

As the course progresses, one builds familiarity with network operation and layers, and associated vulnerabilities, exploits and mitigations at each layer; the Linux command line and Bash shell; Linux commands; the Kali Linux penetration

testing operating system; assorted Linux and Windows network and analysis tools such as Wireshark, NetCat, portscanners, OpenSSL; debugging and dissembler/ de-compilers; and numerous Internet tools and resources. For some progress has been rapid, others not so; paradoxically both owing to the effects of COVID-19 with furlough and pressure of work. However, 32 Sig Regt are showing a healthy presence on the Pedlar leader board, and have had considerable success in recent 'cyber' competitions. Immersive Labs offer many free on-line courses, and also have partnered with a Veterans association to provide network security skills to both serving and former Armed Forces personnel. These courses are highly recommended to take advantage of, either via Pedlar or using the free courses available. Regardless of your level of skill in this area, there is always more to learn, even if it's just brushing up on Bash skills, or learning another toolset.

40 Sig Sqn run from VE Day to D-Day for charity

By Cpl Browne



LCpl Phillips with bairn in the pram



Cpl 'Big Carbs' Carberry

With this being the Corps Centenary and many events being cancelled due to COVID-19, 40 Sig Sqn pulled together a virtual relay to raise some funds for local charities that were, and still are, in need of help during this time. Charities across the UK are facing imminent collapse due to the impact of COVID-19 and it is estimated that charities will miss out on at least £4.3bn of income, though the figure could be far higher. Many charities have had to cancel or postpone fundraising events and charity shops are closing due to social distancing measures. Many of them have very little emergency cash to tide them over, and even those that do will run out in a matter of weeks.

Meanwhile, many charities are continuing to help in the current crisis to alleviate pressure on the health service or providing support to people suffering from the economic and social impact of coronavirus.

So, from 8 May - 6 June 2020 (VE Day - D-Day) the Squadron encouraged everyone who was able in the Squadron family to cover the total distance of 555.9 miles (894.63 km), by walking, running or cycling.

The distances covered virtual visits to each Squadron within the Regiment were:

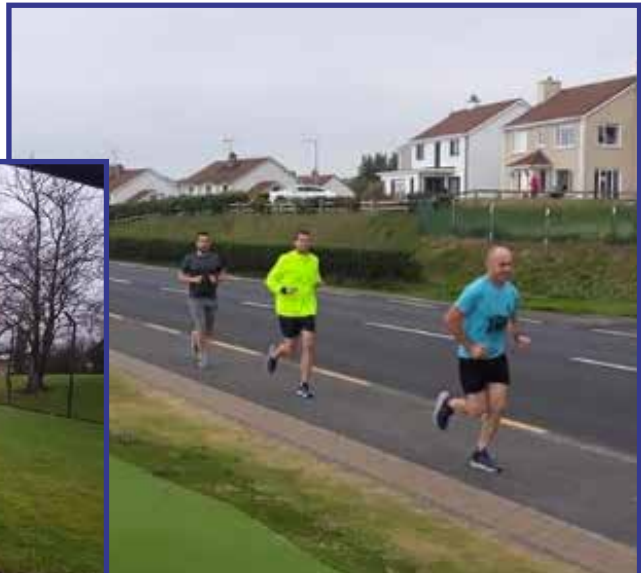
- 40 (NIH) Sig Sqn – RHQ = 133 miles
- RHQ – 51 Sig Sqn = 44.1 miles
- 51 Sig Sqn – 2 Sig Sqn = 56.8 miles
- 2 Sig Sqn – 40 (NIH) Sig Sqn = 222 miles
- Added bonus of the Corps Centenary = 100 miles

By remembering to stick to the current government guidelines and #StaySafe, the troops provided their daily

mileage to **Cpl Browne** who then tallied them up on his excel sheets, keeping everyone up to date. He also set up the JustGiving crowdfunding page: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jimmysboyoys>

It was initially hoped we would raise £250 to help assist local charities and support them during the COVID-19 lockdown. Instead, we raised £622, some 248% over target. Our target of 55.9 miles was smashed by the start of the second week. Despite the friendly rivalry between the three troops (866, 840 and 985) and Squadron HQ staff, we totalled 2680.79 miles over the 30 days.

An amazing achievement by the whole Squadron, well done to everyone who played their part.



Above: Cpl Ricky Clarke
Left: SSgt Robbo Robson (he left the house with an Alsatian)

5k a day in May

By WO2 Les Gamble, Troop Comd,
40 (NIH) Sig Sqn

I set myself a challenge during the lockdown to improve my personal fitness as well as raise some money for charity so as it was coming up to May, it seemed like 5k a day in May was a good idea. I was still working shift work so this was an extra challenge. It being my birthday in May I decided to treat myself to a 10k run that day and another special event was the 75th anniversary of VE Day, so I ran 7.5k that day, so all in all the total miles ran was 162.5.



I managed to raise £1660 with £1000 donated to Air Ambulance NI, £340 to The Royal Signals Charity and £320 to my local community association food bank. Having completed that it was then on to the Commanding Officer's challenge of 100k in June for the Corps Centenary.

52 Sig Sqn – Training in socially distanced conditions

As with the rest of the country, 52 Sig Sqn was affected by the lockdown and social isolation restrictions forced by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in the cancellation of drill nights and training weekends. As a workaround, the Squadron initially used individual on-line training and MATTS from Defence Connect and the DLE sites, combined with self-certified and proven individual physical training to continue meeting Reserve training days during the first six weeks of the lockdown.

A small number of soldiers undertook a networking primer course, delivered using video conferencing. This proved successful, and with the purchase of a Zoom account, the Squadron delivered a programme of remote drill nights, leading to a virtual Regimental Training Weekend conducted via Zoom.

Lessons were delivered by JNCO's, covering a range of basic soldiering subjects including Section Battle Drills, Target Indication and Fire Control, Battlefield Discipline, and more diverse subjects such as Information Security Awareness and AFCOP planning process.

Obviously virtual training delivery has limitations, some obvious – practical activities such as physically rehearsing a section attack are impossible; and some not so obvious - upstream bandwidth from presenter to participants can make or break a call; do not expect to successfully stream audio/video content from another site (Defence Connect, YouTube) to your PC, and in turn present that media to attendees; network latency and upstream bandwidth limitations render it impractical. It is vital to ensure the subject matter and any additional material such as maps or documents, can be viewed by everyone; whilst remote attendance is possible via smartphone, some remote activities are impractical on small devices, especially when screen space has to be shared with a virtual keyboard.



Our experience is that successful delivery of training depends on a number of inter-dependent factors:

1. Be prepared for, and expect, interruptions; participants are at home and often sharing with family and pets.
2. The activity must be enjoyable.
3. The activity must be practical on participants' devices.
4. The presenter's device must be able to accommodate the Zoom interface when presenting.
5. Rehearse the activity and gain familiarity with the Zoom interface; learn how to present, where the key functions and controls are located as they change between 'host' and 'present' mode.
6. When using PowerPoint, use two monitors to ensure speaker notes are visible, or use an off-screen script and cue. When using a single monitor, or extended displays across multiple monitors, PowerPoint will use the entire, now virtual, screen. G-Suite presents similar challenges.
7. Unlike real-world activities, there is no sense of "group" as present in virtual activity. Consider delivering the lesson in a different manner. For example, rather than delivering the six Section Battle Drills in the traditional linear sequence of delivering each slide and testing students at suitable points, involve the participants, i.e. don't teach, ask. This engenders a sense of participation. A quiz is an ideal means of accomplishing this.
8. Always, always, always have a Plan B, another instructor who can deliver the lesson or has another lesson prepared, in case the designated instructor cannot attend.

Farewell to SSgt 'Scottie' Nelson

By WO2 SSM Andy Tochel

SSgt 'Scottie' Nelson was posted into 52 Sp and Sig Sqn as SPSI. His Airborne Signals experience and enthusiasm along with his sense of humour made him an instant hit.

He utilised his experience to develop and enhance our Mil Skills training by nurturing individuals into instructors and then overseeing that instruction in the development of their subordinates. Always up for a bit of phys, **SSgt Nelson** actively encouraged PT within the Squadron and this expanded the number of soldiers participating in the Lanyard Trophy, an event we have entered successfully over the years. He encouraged pride in trade and det readiness and was on hand to offer advice if required. He was also a hit as PMC of the WOs and Sgts mess.

The OC, **Maj Donald Gordon**, and the Squadron, thank **Scottie** for all his efforts in the Squadron and wish him and his family well for the future. We hope his posting on promotion to WO2 in Harrogate is a great success. Onward and Upward.

Exercise TARTAN EVALUATION

As the Regiment gets back to the 'new normal' way of conducting business and with all squadrons getting back into their respective ARCs after a long break following the lockdown period, 52 Sp and Sig Sqn conducted its first in barracks training in a COVID-19 environment over the weekend 8 – 9 Aug 2020 in the form of Ex TARTAN EVALUATION MATTs 1-4. It was a very controlled return with Force Health Protection Briefing by **SSgt Pell**, SPSI Eng, temperatures taken, signing in and out of the ARC, hand sanitising and washing frequently, one way system around the ARC and social distancing at two metres.

The training was conducted in the garage area with seating at a two metre distance and doors open during revision lessons then we split into smaller groups to facilitate testing outdoors in the sunshine.

The highlight of a very good day's training was a visit by the CO, **Lt Col Iain Davidson**, to brief us on the Regimental plan for moving forward and to conduct a very special promotion - **Cpl 'Taff' Williams** to Sgt. Well done on your well deserved promotion.

Centenary Celebrations

Pics show **Peter Halford** from the Manchester RSA Branch celebrating the Corps Centenary.



HISTORICAL RESEARCH

I am looking for old Royal Signals BTA comrades of my late father, **LCpl Roy Eugene Hardy**, who were in Austria and Italy, 1946-1948, as well as Fort Bridgewoods, 1940, and Beaumanor Hall, 1941-1945.

All the lads in the 1940 pic below (**LCpl Hardy** circled) were Experimental Wireless Assistants by day at the secret Fort Bridgewoods listening station, 17-year-old volunteers intercepting and transcribing enemy messages, translating from German to English and sending the hand written messages via motorcycle courier to Bletchley Park for decoding. Then at dusk, the EWAs put on their tin hats and picked up their sten guns, hopped on their bikes for three hour shifts as Chatham Home Guard at the Dockyards, by night.



But as it turned out, the secret Fort Bridgewoods wasn't such a big secret, since the Nazis learned about it soon enough. The ones marked 'X' in the photo were casualties of the Oct. 17, 1940, Luftwaffe incendiary bombing at 9:42pm, a direct hit of the Fort and arriving lorry during shift change, on Day 100 of the Battle of Britain. The reports differ, but up to 11 killed: including the lorry driver and two FANYs, three ATS girls and four or five EWA/Home Guards. Three EWA/Home Guards survived, my father was one of the survivors, yet badly burned while still on his HG bicycle.

Due to the vulnerable location so close to the Channel, Fort Bridgewoods was never rebuilt as a Y-Station for wireless operators, despite the protests of Bletchley Park, who claimed the Fort received the best signals, with clear enemy messages.

So, with the Fort destroyed, the remaining EWAs, the 'Special Y Group', set up their listening station at Chicksands while Beaumanor Hall was being retrofitted with a large DF Hut, 14" concrete roofs on the disguised buildings, perimeter guards with dog patrols, and all amenities required for the next five years of war. The Special Y Group were all billeted at Beaumanor Hall in October 1941 and my father arrived a month later, on 22 Nov, after almost a year of burn surgeries and rehabilitation.

By the autumn of 1945, since the fall of the Reich and the end of the War, the German messages came in more and more infrequently. The Royal Signals wireless operators at Beaumanor Hall were called up,

with colours. It appears they were to set up battlefield wireless communications on the ratlines in Austria and Italy from 1946-1948. Allied troops were then to be garrisoned along the ratlines to hunt down and arrest escaping Nazis for war crimes before they boarded Buenos Aires-bound ships at Genoa, such as **Josef Mengele** and **Adolf Eichmann** did.

At Gordon Barracks and Whittington Barracks, Royal Corps of Signals radio operators trained for this dangerous field work for almost a year before forming the 'BTA', British Troops Austria. In October 1946, the BTA were sent by the British Army on a perilous Signals Intelligence operation in the direct line of fire of experienced, fearless Nazi officers who were running for their lives. After 15 months in Austria, Italy, then Austria again, on 22 Jan, 1948 my father was shot in a right rib, hospitalised for seven days in Austria and on 1 March, returned for two months leave at home in England.

If anyone has any information or photos that they would like to share, including any information with respect to the details of the shooting of our BTA Royal Signals troops in Austria on 22 Jan 1948 then please contact **Sylvia Swan** on: sylvia-swain@hotmail.com



LCpl Hardy, second from right with BTA platoon, Austria



Royal SigInt BTA - LCpl Hardy, third from right with British Army comrades





37th SIGNAL REGIMENT

Redditch

CO Lt Col M Longcake
RSM WO1 (RSM) M Denham

COVID-19 has dominated the past three months and this is reflected in activity that the Regiment has been conducting during these unprecedented times. The main focus has been on supporting Operations, and with over 50 personnel deployed on Op RESCRIPT and BROADSHARE, it has been a busy time for all. Members of the Regiment adapted quickly to new ways of working, including Skype meetings, home working and innovative ways of delivering virtual training.

As restrictions started to ease and Force Health Protection (FHP) measures were introduced, the Regiment hit the ground running with four recruits on the first Basic Training course post lockdown, and a wide range of individual challenges were completed in support of Royal Signals 100for100. Planning has now switched to

54 (QOWWY) SIGNAL SQUADRON			
OC	Capt C Cherry	SSM	WO2 (SSM) C Smith
33 (LANCASHIRE) SIGNAL SQUADRON			
OC	Maj M Hanna	SSM	WO2 (SSM) Wilkinson
48 (CITY OF BIRMINGHAM) SIGNAL SQUADRON			
OC	Maj L Sewell	SSM	WO2 (SSM) Fowler
50 (NORTHERN) SIGNAL SQUADRON			
OC	Maj I Flannery	SSM	WO2 (SSM) Ridler
64 (CITY OF SHEFFIELD) SIGNAL SQUADRON			
OC	Maj A Powell	SSM	WO2 (SSM) Hallewell

training in the new COVID secure environment, and we look forward to getting back to full operating conditions later in the year where possible.

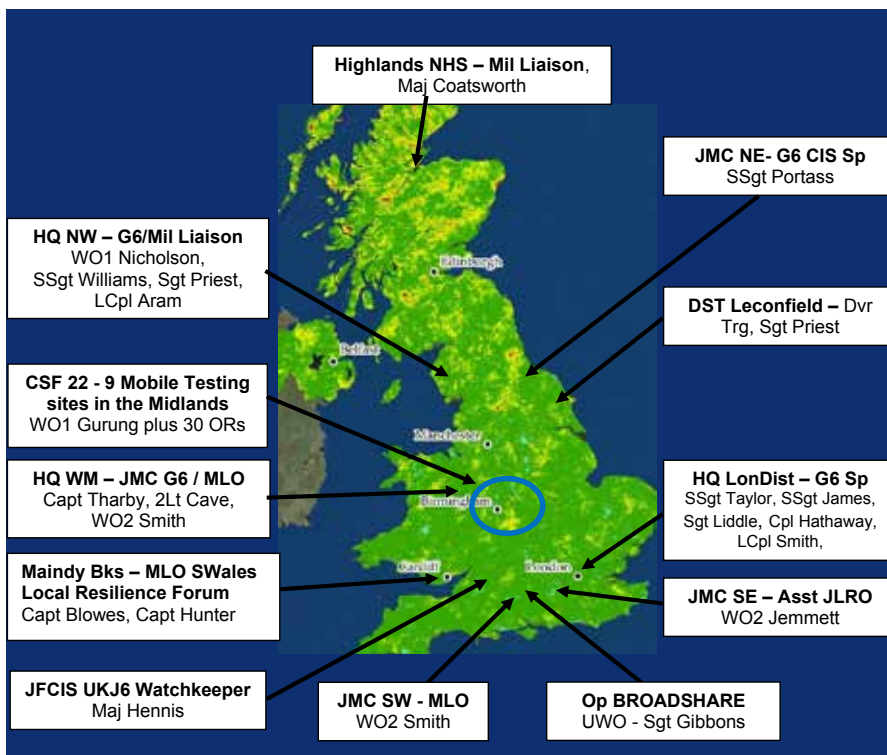
Support to Operations

March 2020 quickly changed routine for us all, as the Covid-19 pandemic gripped the country. As it escalated and lockdown measures were implemented, trawls came into the Regiment thick and fast. Thanks to some excellent pre planning by the Ops Team and the support of wider RHQ and Squadron personnel, the Regiment were able to respond quickly to manpower requests, leading to the first team of five

Reservists heading to London in late March. They were closely followed by a number of Individual Augmentees (IAs) in early April, who dispersed around the country in various G6 and watchkeeper roles; attached to the Regional Headquarters, they were predominantly working to assist the NHS response to the pandemic. The IAs were then followed by Covid Support Force 22 (CSF22), who deployed under 16

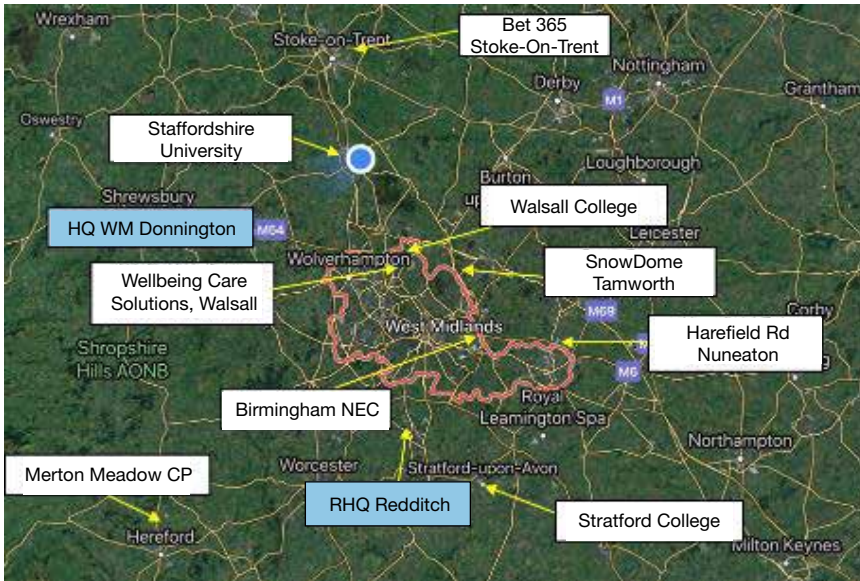
Sig Regt to assist with testing throughout the Midlands region. The CSF Troop was headed up by **WO1 Gurung (SVWO)** and consisted of 30 ORs drawn from all five Squadrons of the Regiment. They came together at short notice and worked with their Regular colleagues at 16 Sig Regt, to provide much needed manpower support to testing.

The map on the left highlights the support the Regiment provided, with individuals spread from Tidworth in the South to Inverness in the North, and some of the activity is captured in the accompanying articles. In June, operational manning requirements were reviewed across the piece and this resulted in CSF22s work coming to an end, as well as a number of IAs returning to their civilian employment. They demobilised in early July, whilst the remainder continued for a few more months, including **SSgt Priest** and **WO2 Smith** who switched roles and relocated. A significant contribution by the Regiment so far and a great effort all round.



37 Sig Regt support to Operations - Mar to Jul 2020

COVID Support Force (CSF) Troop Update



*CSF22 map of testing sites in the West Midlands
(24 Apr - 22 Jun 2020)*

Covid Support Force (CSF) were rapidly force generated under the command of Joint Military Command (JMC) to deliver Military Aid to the Civil Authorities (MACA). Thirty-one Reservists from the Regiment were quickly mobilised and have been out on the ground working with local communities throughout the West Midlands as part of Defence's contribution to HMG's COVID-19 response, Operation RESCRIPT.

Twelve Reservists worked as a Mobile Testing Unit (MTU), initially as MTU08 under 16 Sig Regt, then MTU64 under 32 Royal Artillery Regiment. They were one of the first eight teams to be deployed across the UK, and were a pilot team

for the roll out of the digital booking in process. They worked in conjunction with the Regional Testing Sites (RTS) at Edgbaston and Coventry, going out to communities across the West Midlands. During their deployment they have set up test centres in nine locations, including Hereford, Walsall (2), Stoke-on-Trent, Stafford, Tamworth, Nuneaton, NEC Birmingham and Stratford-upon-Avon. Over the course of three months they helped to test thousands of key workers and their families to support them back into the workplace.

After completing the training package at Grantham, the team collected their vehicles and equipment, and prepared to head out on the road. Whilst on task, each day would start with a visit to one of the main RTS points to collect test kits, before travelling to one of the temporary sites allocated for that day.

The MTU would set up the test centre and equipment in as little as 15 minutes, ready to accept the public for testing. At these sites, the public, who had pre booked online, would arrive in their cars and administer the swab tests on themselves; with instructions and guidance issued by the military personnel on site.

Below - Swab test

Right - WO1 Gurung takes a moment to give a tour of the Walsall College site to local MP Eddie Hughes.

Below right - LCpl Wong preparing test kits



The team would then ensure that the individual's details were linked to the barcodes on the test equipment using the QR scanners, safely collect the samples, and then store them in a chilled environment. The test site would then be dismantled in a timely manner before heading back to the RTS to hand over the completed tests ready for onward despatch to the laboratories.

At the Coventry Regional Testing Site, six Reservists were tasked as testers, who in one day helped test over 400 key workers. In addition two teams of two personnel worked in the Residential Care Response (RCR) teams, where they delivered testing kits to care homes, enabling hundreds of staff and residents to be tested from the comfort of their residences. Overall this was a significant contribution to the COVID-19 response in the Midlands and as the Reservists head back to their various civilian jobs, they can reflect extremely positively on the part they played in helping to tackle the COVID-19 outbreak.



Collection

Army Reserve Signallers volunteer to help battle COVID-19 in London

Soldiers from Army Reserve Signal Regiments were deployed in the heart of the Capital, in support of Defence's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Based out of Horse Guards Parade and Wellington Barracks, these Reservists played a key role supporting not just their immediate colleagues but also indirectly, helping the NHS by enabling them to focus on the task in hand. The team consisted of **SSgt Taylor**, **SSgt James**, **Sgt Liddle**, **Cpl Hathaway** and **LCpl Smith** from 37 Sig Regt, and **LCpl Bertram-Smith**, **Sig Hawks** and **Sig Oldham** from 71 (CoL) Y Sig Regt.

Utilising skills developed in the civilian world they provided technical support to stakeholders at the highest level of command. Their work supported and enabled vital communications, having a direct impact on the Army's efforts in London itself. The team also added value by troubleshooting communication issues and, working on vital, long-term, beneficial changes to the IT systems in London District.



SSgt Taylor from Redditch deployed as the senior Communications Supervisor. He is a Civil Servant working at HMRC and has previously worked as an IT network manager. He said:

"It's been a privilege to be able to use my civilian skills to support this national effort. We were able to identify IT projects where we could utilise the skills of our Reservists to aid staff in the Headquarters. We realised that users would benefit from training on the various software applications available, so we developed a suite of virtual training lessons. The sessions we delivered proved incredibly popular and we soon found ourselves delivering remote training to hundreds of soldiers of all ranks, not just in the Headquarters, but from across defence."

SSgt James, from 64 Sig Sqn, Sheffield is working as the senior technical communication stores accountant in Horse Guards. His civilian employment revolves around purchasing and procurement, including eight years working at Sheffield's Children's hospital. He said:

"I was asked to assist in London as the existing team required support to help with the infrastructure demands of civil servants working from home and units and liaison officers being tasked with various roles and responsibilities in the fight to beat COVID-19. My skills in purchasing and procurement were seen as transferable and desirable for the task in hand; to put this into perspective one aspect of my current role involved procuring, accounting for and then re-issuing over 350 laptops to enable crucial workers to function remotely!"

Maj Blair Addison, the principle Regular Signals Officer within Horse Guards who requested support from the Reserves, said that:

"It is widely recognised that the Army's employment of Reservist Signallers within Horse Guards has been unique and has helped ensure effective communications throughout the pandemic. Their unique skill sets brought from their civilian jobs has been fully utilised. I will be sorry to see them return to their home units once the military's support to COVID-19 concludes but hope we can continue to foster strong working relationships going forward into the future"

Sgt Liddle from 50 Sig Sqn, Darlington, is employed as the technical communication stores accountant. He helped reshape the way that communication equipment is stored and issued within the Headquarters. Working long hours to support users, he found himself going the extra mile on more than one occasion to ensure that commanders had the equipment they needed. This included a last-minute overnight drive to deliver vital communications equipment from London to Glasgow. He said:

"I've loved my time down here, I find it really fulfilling to supply people with the equipment they need to do their jobs. It's also been great using my experience in recruitment and training to help explain the basics to less experienced users"

LCpl Smith from 48 Sig Sqn, Coventry is usually employed as a Reserve Recruiter and was one of the first to volunteer to deploy on Operation RESCRIPT. He said:

"When the opportunity to help with the pandemic came up, I couldn't stand by and do nothing. I had the full support of my partner and our children and deployed within 48 hours to Horse Guards where I have been employed as a communications operations coordinator. This has been a fantastic chance to improve my skills and to show my abilities."

In addition to supporting Operation RESCRIPT, **LCpl Smith** was selected to provide close communications support for the Queen's Official Birthday - guard turnout in Windsor Castle, a very rare and historic opportunity.

Cpl Hathaway from 54 Sp Sqn, Redditch, works for the Reserves and as a part-time landscaper. He deployed as team coordinator responsible for maintaining situational awareness and supporting management of the workload of the communications team. He said:

"When I heard that help was needed to aid the COVID-19 effort, I couldn't help but volunteer. We deployed within 48hrs and I'm incredibly proud of the work we've done. London has been an amazing place to put my skills to the test and I've also had opportunities to deliver trade training to some of the more junior members of the team."



Op RESCRIPT HQ NW - by SSgt Williams, 33 Sig Sqn

At the start of Op RESCRIPT the staff at Headquarters North West (HQ NW) were bolstered by an influx of extra military staff, both Regular and Reserve. As the communication department here did not have any military CIS staff (it's manned purely by five civil servants), a trawl was undertaken and members of 37 Sig Regt were approached. Initially working on RSDs, they were quickly mobilised when it became apparent that Op RESCRIPT would endure. Initially **WO1 (Fofs) Nicholson** (Regt Supvr (54 Sqn)) was drafted in by HQ NW, closely followed by **SSgt (Yofs) Williams** (33 Sqn) as the JFCIS (UK) LO to HQ NW. Their main role was to assess the CIS needs of the Military Liaison Officers (MLO) COVID Support Forces (CSF) who would support the civilian authorities. The Fofs and Yofs were then joined by **Sgt Priest** and **LCpl Aram** (both 64 Sig Sqn). They equipped the MLOs and CSFs with a fleet of laptops, mobile phones, MiFi and commercial radio in order for them to go out on tasks that included local authority planning, oxygen tanker supply, Regional Testing Stations (RTS), Mobile Testing Units (MTUs), and the building of the Nightingale Hospital in Manchester.

Sgt Priest has now been redeployed to assist with driver training at DST Leconsfield, whilst the remainder of the team remain on task supporting deployed troops across the North West and assisting the staff at the HQ in working from home with mobile CIS assets.



NHS Highlands Liason Officer - by Maj Coatsworth, RHQ



In response to one of the many trawls for personnel in support of Op RESCRIPT, **Maj Coatsworth** volunteered for the role of Liaison Officer (LO) and was subsequently selected for the appointment and deployed to Inverness to work alongside the NHS Highlands from 1 June 2020. The overarching role of the LO for Op RESCRIPT in Scotland is to understand the issues, concerns and risks within their respective areas of responsibility, in order to inform Joint Military Command (JMC) Scotland's contingency planning; including the identification of potential MACA requests. The secondary purpose of the role is to support NHS Board planning activity and reassure key staff.

The Highland AOR, whilst not heavily populated, presents some interesting challenges in terms of its terrain and geographical spread. With facilities located from the very tip of Scotland, down to and including Argyll and Bute, the LO role was both interesting and stimulating from the onset. The delivery and distribution of life saving medical supplies, the transfer of critically ill patients and latterly, the facilitation of an area-wide COVID-19 Care Home Testing Programme presented many challenges. During this entire time, the NHS teams and military worked side-by-side to ensure the best possible service was maintained.

Towards the end of June, focus began to switch towards re-establishing NESH services to a level akin to those delivered pre-COVID; a complicated task considering many of the COVID-19 restrictions endured, and the possibility of a second peak remained ever present. This was a huge undertaking and once again, the LOs played their part by supporting several Tabletop Exercises (TTX) and workshops to help test elements of NESH Remobilisation Plan.

Speaking at the end of June, **Maj Coatsworth** had nothing but praise for the NHS staff he was working alongside, stating: "I have met, and worked with some extraordinary individuals, witnessed teamwork and collaboration on a hugely impressive scale and can honestly say that I am proud to have played a very small part in this combined effort".

#100for100 Everesting Cycle Challenge - by LCpl Smith, 54 Sp Sqn

Climbing Mt Everest is regarded as one of the most extreme challenges anyone can undertake, with over 300 people having lost their lives chasing the adventure. Luckily, there is an alternative and on paper an 'Everesting' doesn't sound too difficult; one hill, one day and 8848m of ascent. Up, down, repeat. Since lockdown began, the challenge has grown in popularity due to its simplicity and ability to be done solo and to date there have been 8208 successful attempts (according to the hall of fame website). With the #100for100 challenge I was determined to push myself, celebrating the centenary by utilising the mental and physical resilience the Army has encouraged me to develop, so this challenge instantly appealed to me.

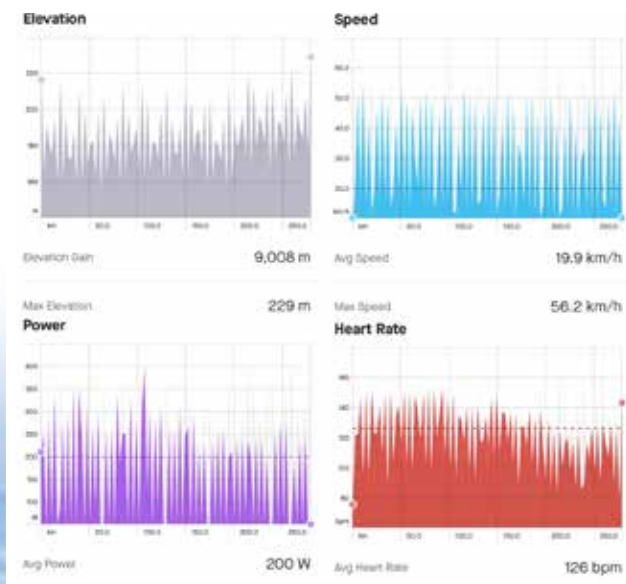
Location choice is key, too steep and you'll struggle to maintain the effort, too shallow and you'll be riding all day! (Un)Fortunately I am surrounded by hills and settled on a quiet road just outside the Cotswold village of Ebrington. Half a mile up, half a mile down and with 56m of ascent I would have to do 155 laps in order to reach the magic number – 8848. With the car packed, bike prepped, and an alarm set for 0430hrs I was ready.

After a big breakfast and strong coffee, I started my effort at 0530hrs, riding into the early morning mist that rose with the sun. My plan was to do 20 ascents per set, climbing approximately 1100m before having a short break, allowing me to control my effort whilst breaking the day into smaller, more manageable chunks. At the halfway point I was ahead of schedule and feeling strong. I was relieved to have some (socially distant) company for the next few sets and the miles ticked away as we chatted about nothing, putting the world to rights as if we were sat in a pub garden. But as they left, I began to feel the fatigue in my legs.

I would consider myself an able cyclist, I've ridden long distance and up mountains before, but this was a whole new level and at 6600m I was tired. Just two more efforts and I would be back home, complete with kebab in hand but there was just the small matter of *two more efforts*. It was a slog to 7700m and as I sat on the bench at the summit, inhaling a bag



LCpl Smith on the up!



LCpl Smith Everesting at 8848 metres

LCpl Smith's #100for100 cycling stats



of haribo, I was greeted by the matching orange jersey and friendly face of one of my civilian team mates. Together we rode the last set, and as the final laps approached the pace quickened, excited that the end was near and at roughly 2100hrs I started my final ascent. Cheering as I reached 8848m I was hit with the rush of endorphins, the kind you're only rewarded with when you've reached your physical limit and kept going, the kind that become addictive!

In total I rode for 14 hours, covering 170 miles, gaining 9008m in elevation and burning approximately 10,000 calories (soon restored with a recovery kebab).

What challenges us is individual, but I would strongly encourage everyone to push themselves, to find out where their limit is and go beyond that. And if you can ride a bike it's just one hill, one day. Up, down, repeat.

Also from 37 Signal Regiment



Pics:

1. **Lt Marshall** has continued to represent the Royal Signals in his Liaison Officer capacity with the Confederation Interallied Officer Reserve (CIOR) NATO organisation. Working alongside their President **Col Chris Argent**, he facilitated a virtual conference from RAF Northolt, bringing together NATO and Partnership for Peace representatives to discuss the future of Reserve Officer Employment on a tri-service global scale. This conference had colleagues from all participating countries dialling in via the RAF Northolt Operations Room; his continued participation in this effort will hopefully see him visiting Estonia later this year. Photo shows **Lt Nick Marshall** (far left) at the CIOR, RAF Northolt.

2. Well done to **SSgt Tim Abbott** and **SSgt Jase Kent**, who chose Armed Forces Day to start a kayak challenge on the Midlands canal network for #100for100.

3a. Four members of the Regt were loaded onto the first post lockdown course that was run at ATR Grantham - Phase One Training. Photo shows **Pte Thurstance**, **Pte Morrison**, **Sig Haigh** (54 Sp Sqn) and **Sig Melling** (33 Sig Sqn).

3b. Having all been RTU'd from the ATR Pirbright Course in Mar 20 due to the outbreak of COVID-19, it was great to see them complete their Basic Training at the earliest opportunity on the resumption of training. Photo shows section attack.



39th SIGNAL REGIMENT

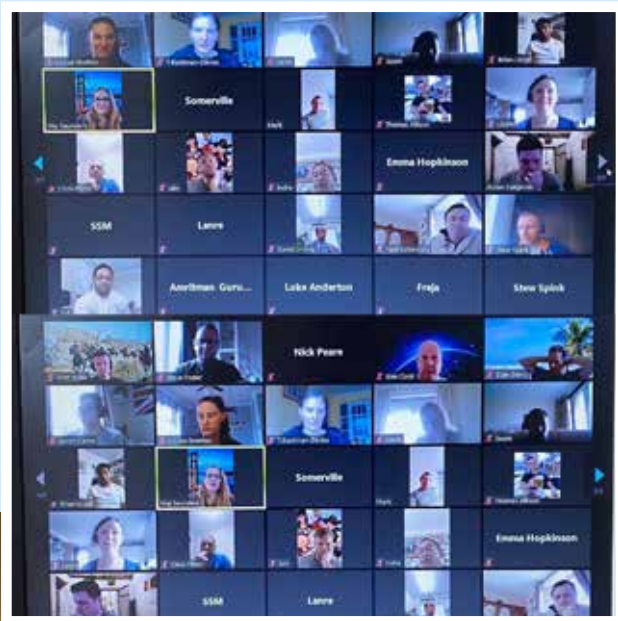
Bristol

Exercise WINDSOR REACT

By LCpl Willis

The Berkshire Yeomanry has adapted well to the change of working practices and the troops are getting used to working over different means, which enabled the Squadron to hold an informative and productive day's online/virtual training on 2 May. This was our third distributed training day since lockdown and something we looked forward to, to keep in touch with the wider Squadron.

After the morning muster was over MS Team, the JNCOs started the day learning about the Army's Organisation from an enthusiastic **Capt Cook**. Revision for some and new content for many of the newer soldiers, including ranks in the other services. Having recently welcomed **LCpl Lafferty** into the Squadron, an ex-Regular HCR, we also learnt about the different ranks in the HCR (apparently their chevrons are not 'the wrong way up') Concurrently the OC briefed the SNCOs on report writing and the appraisal system, just in time for all the Sig and Pte reports!



CO	Lt Col V Connelly TD	RSM	WO1 Flay
43 (WESSEX AND CITY AND COUNTY OF BRISTOL) SIGNAL SQUADRON			
OC	Maj P Rodenhurst	SSM	WO2 Howitt
53 (WALES AND WESTERN) SIGNAL SQUADRON			
OC	Maj S Webb	SSM	WO2 Knock
93 (NORTH SOMERSET YEOMANRY) SUPPORT SQUADRON			
OC	Maj G Topps	SSM	WO2 Vise
94 (BERKSHIRE YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON			
OC	Maj D Saunders	SSM	WO2 Stockwell

The WOs and Class One Operators led by **WO2 Dalgleish**, were busy planning a future virtual Comms exercise, drafting CEI's, Orders, and lesson plans. I have a feeling work is coming my way!

This was followed by the Squadron being split into six teams, working on two different planning exercises. Each exercise was complex and detailed and something many of the troops had never worked on before, they were well received. I found the exercise intellectually stimulating and soon came up with detailed plans to escape the nuclear fallout and get the injured man off the mountain range. After 90 minutes, each team provided a back brief to the group, only to have our plans thoroughly scrutinised by the DS. A good lateral thinking exercise and enjoyed by all.

Next, we had a brief on Leadership within the Army from **Cpl Bastiman-Davies** who was very passionate about what makes a leader and encouraged much group discussion. I had never heard the story of **RSM Lord** before and would recommend reading up on him as a sterling example of Army Leadership. We were again split into teams, to discuss and present our own ideas and examples of leadership.

At 1600hrs, the OC gathered us once again over MS Teams and gave a brief regarding what the next month of training looked like. Her focus was developing and practising our communication skills and the need to be current, in prep for life after lockdown. I was pleased to find that I had some homework set, to plan a lesson for the upcoming training day in May along with some other junior leaders.

In the evening, we had the quiz and the now-obligatory karaoke music round. It is a good stand in for 'opening the bar' as everyone got involved and got behind the spirit of the cohesion event. Special mention is deserved for the five lucky 'volunteers' who sang the music round songs, **Sig Emma Hopkinson**, **Sig Sarah Davis**, **Sig Mark Cuddy**, **SSM Stockwell** and **Cpl Dave Brownlees**, which the rest of the Squadron had to guess. **LCpl Steve Foster** declined but has volunteered for next time. Morale was high after a productive day's working in this virtual classroom, but we hope it won't be too long until we can get in the bar once more at Windsor and share a drink after a good training day there.

Left - The obligatory karaoke music round



EXERCISE WINDSOR RESPOND

By Sig Davis

Ex WINDSOR RESPOND was the fourth virtual weekend the Squadron has run since lockdown. This has almost become the new norm, as we have adapted to logging on, rather than tagging on. At 0830hrs the SSM conducted the routine muster via zoom, with no excuses for being late due to traffic, the kids or the car not starting. The only obstacles being dodgy internet connections, slow connections, power outages, laptop updates and, as more people joined in, windows increasing in numbers.

Our OC rightly points out that we are all becoming experts in using this type of integrated platform, when each week there is more advice when participants find issues, and we all seem to work as a team, even more so, with nurturing encouragement and humour, all contributing to our cohesion. It seems more of us are joining these online virtual training courses, either to break up the routine of lockdown or maybe just curiosity? The great thing is that following virtual training, the virtual socials are really drawing out the characters, wearing funny hats or ridiculous fancy dress! The social media coverage entices the non-attenders to come and see what on earth we are all doing, and catch up with familiar faces, joining in the fun.

Training on Ex WINDSOR RESPOND was no different, although we had a serious training agenda ahead of us. Working through the Operation Performance Statements (OPS), our Class One Operators mentored the JNCOs in preparing lesson plans and materials. **Sgt Sol Tanuku** kicked off the lesson with Siting a Detachment, followed by **SSgt Dale Sterry** who focused our attentions on the set up and Operation of LFG, followed by **LCpl Steve Foster** who delivered part 2 of Antenna Selection, which followed on from the lesson he had delivered on the Tuesday.

After a short break, **WO2 Dalgleish** delivered a lesson on the Principles of EW, which nicely led into **LCpl Iain Hazelgrove's** Voice Procedure lesson. To ensure **Iain** had everybody's full attention, a scavenger hunt was instigated before the serious business of how to transmit and receive basic messages over a radio system was delivered. With plenty of interaction, there was no hiding or falling asleep in this lesson, with plenty of opportunity to practise correct VP. The baton was then

handed over to **LCpl Matt Willis**, who covered Reports and Returns, providing scenario's and rotating the sending and receiving of reports. Everybody had a turn at sending or receiving a report, the improvement in VP already evident!

As the Big BY like to work hard, play hard, following the day's training, we all dialled into Zoom for a fastest finger first five round quiz, ending with a Catch Phrase style tie breaker. Congratulations to **WO2 Aiden Dalgleish** for stealing the show and knowing all the answers!

Squadron socials are always fun, the Zoom social has become the new way to keep up morale, especially since our everyday, for the majority, is so isolated. We have found new

REPORTS AND RETURNS
CONTACT REPORT

Your 8 man patrol has come under contact by 3 enemy riflemen. Your interpreter has been shot and is T3. Your Location is FR 1548,6528. Enemy Location is FR 1549, 6681.

Your intention is to move to the compound between you and the enemy codenamed MANCHESTER.

CONTACT REPORT (SALTA/WALTA)	
Initial	Initial
SW	Strength of Enemy in Contact
A	Ex Activity
L	Location
T	Time
A	Action of FE
Agencies Required	
ICP Loc.	
ICP Safe Route	

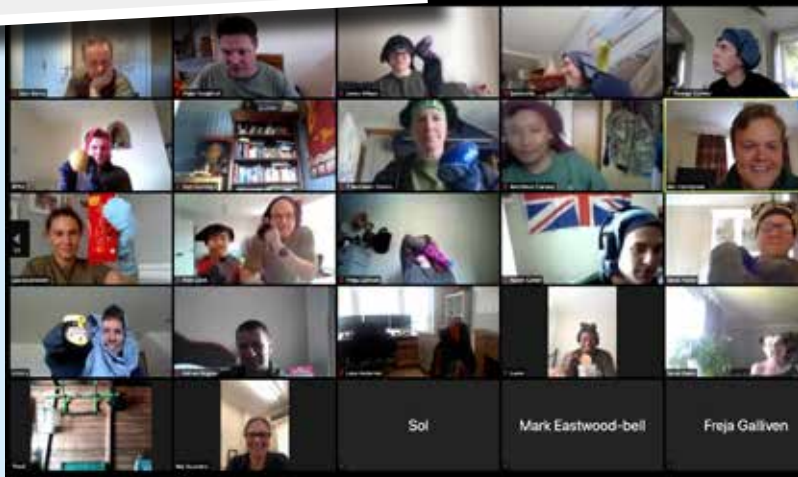
VOICE PROCEDURE OBJECTIVES

Remind and revision on Voice Procedure and how to transmit and receive basic messages over a radio system.

By the end of todays lesson you will be able to:

Send and receive short messages, perform Radio checks, Time checks and request or answer Repetitions over a radio net.

*Left and above - Plenty of on-line virtual training took place
Below - Squadron virtual socials became the new way to keep up morale!*



talents across the Squadron from quiz masters, to singers, guitar players and general knowledge guru's - I am really looking forward to the next training weekend and social!

Although we are all looking forward to getting back to some kind of normal, it has been nice to see my Squadron get to know each other in a different environment. After all, this was why I joined the Reserves, for the comradery. I missed this element from the Army, and right now this is helping me to keep going.



71st (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment

Bexleyheath

CO Lt Col G Darke
RSM WO1 (RSM) L Britton

31 (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY AND PRINCESS LOUISE'S KENSINGTON) SIGNAL SQUADRON			
OC	Maj P Jones VR	SSM	WO2 (SSM) N Scobie
36 (ESSEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON			
OC	Maj D Monk	SSM	WO2 (SSM) T Pun
68 (INNS OF COURT AND CITY YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON			
OC	Maj M Cahill	SSM	WO2 (SSM) C Anderson
265 (KENT AND COUNTY OF LONDON YEOMANRY (SHARPSHOOTERS)) SUPPORT SQUADRON			
OC	Maj D Lakin	SSM	WO2 (SSM) S May

By 2Lt Ian Dawes

71 (CoL) Y Sig Regt remains active in its multifaceted role. With changes in the wider command structure, the Regiment has now faced its refreshed role of supporting 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt with its Bowman capabilities. The Regiment is not confined to this role, however, and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic has shown the potential and capability of the Regiment; with around 50 Reservists mobilising to support a diverse range of tasks to support the Government's response. Those members of the Regiment not mobilised have also made valuable contributions demonstrating innovation and resilience whilst remaining dispersed.

Op RESCRIPT

Our mobilised Reservists included **Sig Oldham** and **LCpl Bertram-Smith** who were based at Horseguards in support of LONDIST. **Sig Oldham** had barely been in the Regiment a year and yet was eager to mobilise, meanwhile **LCpl Bertram-Smith** used his cyber skills from his civilian experience to enhance numerous departments in the Joint COVID-19 Support Force with digital tools. As such, he was deservedly awarded the Standing Joint Command (UK) coin from **Lieutenant General Tyrone Urch** - fantastic recognition. **LCpl Bertram-Smith** and **Sig Hawks** are continuing to add value by delivering online Apps training sessions across the HQ.

Dispersed yet innovative

Following Government guidance, members of the Regiment remained dispersed, however this did not prevent action being taken to tackle the crisis by those not deployed.

One example of innovation and ingenuity was demonstrated by 31 Sig Sqn. **Sig Buckett**, together with

LCpl Ibrahim and others, rapidly devised a plan that took advantage of both the technical skills from Reservists' civilian careers and their wider networks, supporting the national effort at the local level by producing PPE.

With the full support of both the military Chain of Command and the Reserve Forces and Cadet Associations, the Coulsdon

Below: Using the latest technology to create Apps and improve Army processes proved award winning for LCpl Bertram-Smith.

Bottom: Sig Buckett and LCpl Ibrahim dropping off PPE at a care home.





Left: LCpl Ibrahim with one of the finished face shields.

Below left: 31 (Middlesex Yeomanry & Princess Louise's Kensington) Sig Sqn making PPE.

also took it on first hand when he contracted it! Thankfully after self-isolating for the required period **Sig Amado** made a full recovery and returned to work to continue the fight.

Meanwhile, **Sgt Langley**, who coordinates medical training for the Regiment's medics, continues his civilian role of an advanced driver for ambulance crews and continues to provide frontline care. Both are shining examples of all of those in the NHS who are working tirelessly behind the scenes.

Preparing for what's next...

Unprecedented events call for unprecedented changes, the Regiment has undergone many shifts to adapt to these new times. Drill night training has been conducted through online webinars, whilst the planning for weekend training and recruiting events are ongoing to ensure that the Regiment can hit the rest of the training year running.

Although many initiatives and elements of training have been put on pause, the innovation and resilience shown in the first half of the year does not put the second half into question. The Regiment is set to grow into its role of supporting 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt and the acts shown above in the age of COVID-19 have demonstrated how utilising the wide-reaching backgrounds, skillsets and demographics of the Regiment's personnel can be utilised for maximum impact.



Army Reserve Centre is now established as a PPE production facility, producing over 100 face shields per day for donation to care homes, schools and St Johns Ambulance. More than 4,000 sets have been produced to date with funding generated from civilian employers, local business contacts and donations of packaging from the Kent Air Ambulance.

On the Front Line

Amongst the deployments and the virtual training of the Regiment, **Sgt Langley** and **Sig Amado** remind us to not forget the valuable work of the NHS who bore the brunt of the crisis.

Sig Amado, a clinical assistant, in training to become a nurse, took on the virus through his work at NHS Croydon but he

Corps #100for100 event

By 2Lt Sirvan Almasi

Throughout June members of 71 (CoL) Y Sigl Regt were challenged to walk, ride or run in support of the Corps' #100for100 initiative; to raise awareness of the Royal Signals Charity and the Royal Signals Centenary. The results are in, with the Commanding Officer **Lt Col Darke** riding an incredible 850km (528miles). The CO was only trumped by the inspiring and super-human effort of **SSgt Baulch**, for which he cycled over 1000miles (1630km).

Sig Haw from 36 Sig Sqn prevented a 31 Sig Sqn 'top 3' in the run category by running a fantastic 476km (296miles). **LCpl Corfield** beat **LCpl Finnegan** to the run's third position by a mere 0.3 km. A mention also goes out to RAO **Maj Robinson** for competing in both disciplines and therefore coming 3rd overall, and congratulations to **LCpl Finnegan** for raising over £500 by running 100km in one weekend.

Though we haven't been able to track the walk properly (blame Strava), **Lt Col Histed** walked his 100km carrying 10kg; **Sig Jasko** walked an incredible 50 miles in one day; twice as much as the day when **Sig King** got lost on lunch. Though we have only mentioned a few names; a massive well done and thank you goes out to all those who took part.



Normandy Troop Commander
2Lt Louise Tunnickliff

One of the Regiment's rapid deployments for Op RESCRIPT was Normandy Troop. This comprised of 27 Reserve soldiers from across all five of the Regiment's Squadron's, under the command of myself, 68 Sig Sqn Tp Comdr 2Lt Tunnickliff. Normandy Troop were mobilised and held at readiness to respond to whatever tasks were required. After a few months waiting for a tasking, in early June we suddenly received orders for some of the Troop to deploy to the West Midlands to take over the operation of a Mobile

Testing Unit (MTU) whose previous team had to self-isolate. The week before, myself and eleven others from my troop had received training on how to set up an MTU and how to don and doff the relevant PPE.

With three hours' notice, we all dropped everything and deployed to our Army Reserve Centres, collected our kit and moved to the West Midlands where we would take over the vehicles and kit needed to set up for the next morning. Arriving at barracks by 2130hrs we took over various equipment needed for our job (a specially kitted out van, phones to communicate with the public and airwave radios for back up). Having completed this by just after midnight we went back to barracks to be on task by 0800hrs the next morning.

After the first couple of days, the team really settled into the process which involved picking up all our PPE, testing kits and fridges (to keep the tests cool) from the regional testing site, travelling to a carpark in the NEC, Birmingham where we were based, setting up our site and waiting for members of the public to turn up from 1000hrs.

We operated a self-test drive-thru site where members of the public who had registered online came in their cars to get a test. We operated the whole site using issued mobile phones so that members of the public could pick up their tests from the collection point and have the instructions explained to them by members of my team. They'd then drive forward and park their cars to conduct the tests on themselves. If they got into any difficulty one of my testing site team would go and assist them, holding up their phone numbers for the individual to call. Once finished they'd be directed through to the drop off site where their QR codes would be matched with the barcodes on their tests and they'd hand them in.

Throughout the two weeks I watched my team embrace their roles with ease and efficiency, use their

civilian skills to brainstorm and problem solve ways to improve the user experience as well as get to know each other which was incredibly rewarding.

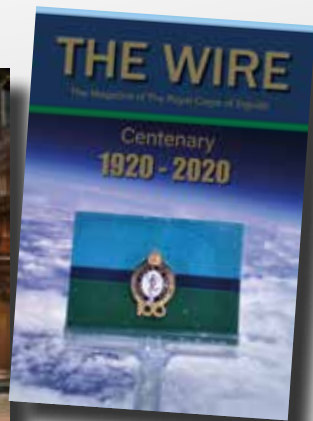
I'm incredibly proud of the way my team conducted themselves, not only when deployed, which they did with utter professionalism; but during the entirety of their mobilisation, responding rapidly when needed but also with patience to an ever-moving situation, ("Remain fluid because flexible is too rigid" was a phrase said all too often), many of whom had never met each other before and who I was unable to meet with in person due to lockdown. Doing this via Skype and Zoom wasn't without its challenges and I definitely used the communications skills I'd developed in my civilian career to full effect here.

Finally, the military and media have been keen to call this the 'battle of our generation'. Whatever, your thoughts on that might be, during our deployment we commemorated another battle close to our Regiment's heart. We were named Normandy Troop because of our Regiment's history as one of the first contingents onto the beaches of Normandy on D-Day 76 years ago. On 6 June, we held a minute's silence at our testing site to remember all those that came before and gave their lives. This also being the centenary of the formation of the Royal Corps of Signals made that even more poignant as well. To end I just wanted to say a MASSIVE 'well done' and thank you to all the team, along with their employers for their efforts and their support.



Above right: Test sample drop off
Right: Collection point

Subscriptions



- The Wire (4 issues per year) - £15
- Royal Signals Institute (includes membership and 2 issues of The Journal per year) - £15
- Retired Officers Club (includes discounts for Corps lunches/dinners) - £10

All enquiries regarding subscriptions should be made to Jess Lawson at:

subscriptions@royalsignals.org

Horsepower for Veteran's Polo

The Horsepower for Veterans Polo Project (V-Polo) is run by Veterans, for Veterans and delivers activity to improve the health and wellbeing of Veterans. It is a two year project that has been co funded by Tedworth Equestrian; the Armed Forces Equine Charity, and the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust Positive Pathways programme.

Why you should join as a Veteran

It could be that you wish to have a social membership and a sense of belonging so that you can gather again with your fellow Veterans and other Armed Forces Community individuals at events and occasions in the beautiful surroundings of Tedworth Park. It might be that you have never ridden or played polo before but want to give this fast, dynamic sport a go. You could already be a polo player who has not had the opportunity to re-engage in the sport as much as you might have liked. You might also be one of those talented polo players that has already represented your service and would like to do so again in a Veteran's team in front of large crowds of supporters. You may have heard or read about the mental benefits derived from the unique bond between human and horse and want to be a part of that. Whatever your ambition the project hopes to deliver it for you.



See <http://tedworthparkpolo.com/veterans-polo/> for more details.

If you are interested please contact the Tedworth Park Polo Club Secretary on:

Tel: 01980 846705

Email: info@tedworthparkpolo.com

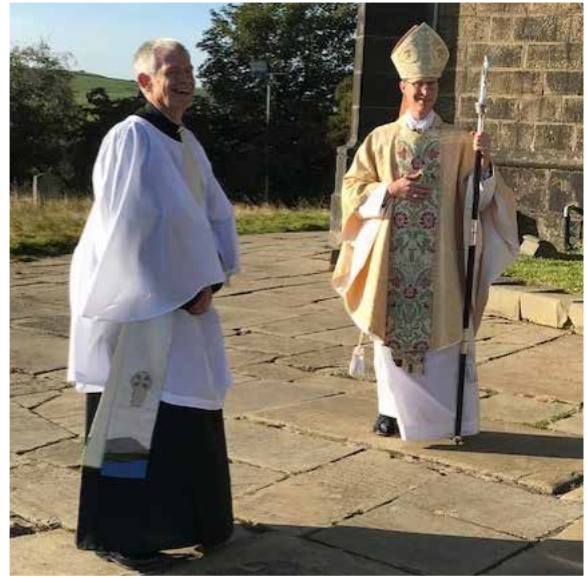


Royal Signals Association

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal President: The Master of Signals Chairman: Maj Gen D McDowall

All I can say is what a strange year 2020 has been, things kicked off brilliantly with the Service of Celebration in February where we experienced all four seasons in one day but it was a lovely, fitting service to start what should have been our Centenary Celebrations.

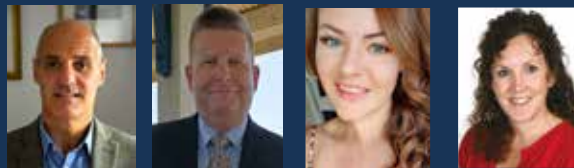
Just before lockdown we held our annual AGM at The Victory Services Club where it would be decided that Affiliations will be welcomed to join as a branch as long as they follow the criteria set out in the rules. We welcomed **Major General McDowall** as the new chairman and said our goodbyes to **Brigadier (Retd) David Hargreaves** for his super work and dedication over the years. **Brigadier Hargreaves** answered a new calling on Sunday 27 September at St James' Parish Church in Haslingden when he was ordained as a Deacon by **The Right Reverend Philip North**, Bishop of Burnley. There now follows a period of further on-the-job training in his new parish before the **Reverend Hargreaves** has a final 'priesting' ceremony.



We are now in the last quarter of the year and looking back so far all events have been cancelled or postponed, we have lost friends, colleagues and loved ones, we have missed family events, national events and association meetings. But what is amazing is the resilience and adaptability of everyone I have spoken to as we negotiate these troubled times and come together.

New Life Members - A warm welcome to the following members, enrolled since the last issue of The Wire:

Sgt Wendy Cush	N/K -13	Cpl Paul Perrott	1989-97	LCpl Peter Smith	1976-85
Capt Antony Mather	1997-03	SSgt Stephen Pulman	1979-79	Sgt Gloria Tharme	1975-82
SSgt Barry Mills	1958-84	Sgt Paul Rutter	1975-92	SSgt Marty Webb	1977-93
Cpl Allan Pearce	1959-68	Sgt James Seymour	2003-14		
Sig David Perera	1979-83	SSgt Malcolm Simpson	1999-19		



Corps Secretary: Col (Retd) Dave Craft
Assistant Corps Secretary: Lt Col (Retd) Steve Lockwood
Membership Secretary: Mrs Amy Thorpe
Grant Co-ordinator: Mrs Linda Sizeland





Aldershot Branch with 16 Sig Regt

HISTORY OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

To celebrate the Corps Centenary, over the next couple of editions of *The Wire*, we take a look at the history of some of the RSA Branches, some of which have been running since the birth of the Corps. The RSA exists to serve all members and ex-members of the Corps regardless of age. One of the aims of the RSA is to foster friendship among all members of the Corps family.

The first branch we look at is Aldershot, one of the original branches, which has been in existence for 100 years:

The story of the Aldershot Branch over 100 years - by Branch Chairman, Noel Moss

As the largest garrison in the UK and the base of the Royal Engineers units that had provided the Army's communications from the time of the Crimean War, it was unsurprising that Aldershot was in the first wave of 13 Association branches formed immediately after the establishment of Royal Signals. By 1926, as the Association expanded, three of the 39 branches were in Aldershot, representing Command Signals and 1st and 2nd Divisional Signals.

In 1927, these and the many other Corps units scattered throughout the Garrison gave rise to the building of Mons Barracks to bring them together. The number of Association branches then reduced to one, initially titled the 'Aldershot,

Farnborough and District Branch'. With Aldershot now the main centre for Corps units, the first Association reunions took place there using the sports ground of Mons Barracks. Their format was similar to latter day reunions including sports, a smoking concert and church parade. The march past after church made a detour through the wagon sheds while the band played "Boys of the Old Brigade" in honour of Association members. Normal branch meetings were held in local hostleries.

On the outbreak of war in 1939 the units in Mons Barracks deployed immediately with the BEF and, after mobilisation, other units staged through the Barracks including those of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals. Officer training also commenced there with the arrival of 151 (Royal Signals) Officer Cadet Training Unit. Association activity ceased and it was not until 9 April 1949 that the "inaugural" meeting of the Branch was held at the Alexandra Hotel which became a regular meeting place. The former wartime Director of Signals, **Major General William Fladgate**, was elected President. The branch then settled down into a regular programme of meetings and events.

In the early 1990s there was a down-turn in branch activity until in April 1993 when the Area Vice Chairman, **Brigadier Tom Wheawell**, organised a re-launch party in the Garrison Sergeants Mess. A good response to this, made it a turning point for the successful rejuvenation of the branch under the Presidency of **Major General Henry Hild**. The records show an array of visits and talks took place over the following years. Themes that became popular included the Commandant's Parade at Sandhurst, Military Band Concerts at Kneller Hall and Christmas lunch at the Catering Training Centre. The longest running of these has been the Annual



Officers Mess, Mons Barracks. Still in use today



The inaugural meeting after the Second World War. General Fladgate is seated in the centre of the front row

Quiz Night in the Garrison introduced in 1995 which is still running.

Regular formal lunches also had a place in the programme, initially held at the Army Golf Club until 2008 and later at the Camberley Heath Golf Club. Some meetings were now in messes including for a period from 1997 in the Garrison Sergeants Mess, thanks to the Garrison Sergeant Major **WO1 Joe Fairbairn MBE** of the Corps. Other regular activities have included participation every year in the Remembrance Sunday service at the Royal Garrison Church, parading the standard, which proudly bears the 50 and 70 Year Pennants, and laying a wreath. For a number of years there was also participation in the annual Remembrance Day ceremony at the Commonwealth War Cemetery at Brookwood.

There were many special events, starting in 1995 with a Corps Band Concert for the 75th Anniversary of the Corps and a dinner in 1999 to commemorate the day of the 50th anniversary of the re-opening of the branch after the War, with **Major General Sprackling**, the Master of Signals, as guest of honour. Other dinners were held in 2001 and 2003.

An important event in 2004 was the presentation of a new Branch Standard in the Royal Garrison Church in the presence of **Major General** and **Mrs Boyle**, **Major General** and **Mrs Bradley** and other local dignitaries along with representatives of neighbouring branches, all of whom congregated in the Garrison Sergeants Mess for curry lunch afterwards. The old standard was later laid up in the Church.

In 2018 an ambitious and highly successful visit was made to the new centre for Corps units at Stafford followed by a day at the National Memorial Arboretum. Members were very well looked after by



The new standard leads the way

the CO and officers of 16 Signal Regiment.

In January 2020 the branch celebrated its centennial and that of the Corps with a Memorial Service in the Royal Garrison Church. The congregation comprised Branch members and the soldiers of 251 Signal Squadron with distinguished guests, led by **Major General Jonathan Cole OBE** previously of the Corps, and representatives of Winchester and West London Branches plus three ex- Corps Chelsea Pensioners. **General Cole** unveiled a brass plaque designed and funded by the Branch. This moving event fortunately took place at the beginning of the year because, within weeks, the national lockdown occasioned by the COVID-19 Pandemic brought a halt to all large-scale gatherings.

Direct linkage with the Serving Corps is greatly valued. There have been Corps units in Aldershot throughout the last 100 years, gradually reducing in numbers until today representation is limited to 251 Signal Squadron. However, there is also a link with Fowler Squadron of 2 Army Training Regiment at Pirbright which is responsible for basic training of Corps recruits. Over 25 years the Annual Quiz Night held in various barrack locations has proved to be a light-hearted and popular way of maintaining good relations with the military and neighbouring branches.

Throughout its life the Branch has responded positively to the inevitable changing social conditions in the country and the Army. Within the Garrison the barracks have been modernised or rebuilt and others sold off for civilian development, with administration progressively handed over to civilian contractors which, along with increased security constraints, has complicated the organisation of events. One result was to move the venue for talks to the Parish Hall in Fleet from 2012. Timings have been adjusted to daylight hours and visits limited to places not more than an hour's drive away as a reflection of the increasing age of members and lack of new ones.

This outline of the story of the Branch over the last hundred years is a record of proud service to the Corps family. The challenges faced throughout have been met by the dedicated work of the committee and the loyal support of past and present Life Members and Associates together with enormous help from RHQ and Corps units in the Garrison. This was amply demonstrated by the highly successful centenary event staged in the Royal Garrison Church this year and so there is every hope that the serious challenges that seem to lie ahead will be met robustly as in the past. The plaque unveiled on that occasion is a permanent reminder of the bonds that exist and of the significant role Aldershot has played in the history of the wider Corps.



The story of the Darlington Branch - the first 80 years

The Branch was first formed in 1936 but for various reasons little is known of the history before WWII. As a result of a letter to the Northern Echo by Lt Col WA Lee, R SIGNALS, a meeting was held at the Imperial Hotel Darlington on 23 October 1945 with the object of re-forming a branch of the Old Comrades Association. Chaired by Brigadier TTJ Sheffield TD ADC it was attended by 43 members or ex-members of the Royal Signals.

The Committee was to obtain the necessary information with regard to the formation of a Branch and to arrange a further meeting in December 1945. A meeting was held on 10 December 1945 at the British Legion Club, chaired by Brigadier TTJ Sheffield TD ADC in the absence, through hospitalisation, of the Branch Chairman Lt Col WA Lee R SIGNALS.

It appears that informal meetings of members were held twice monthly on the first and third Sundays of each month, Committee meetings held monthly and General Meetings quarterly.

In December 1946 the venue for the meetings changed to the Waterloo Hotel and it was voted on 5 December 1946 that in future the Waterloo Hotel be referred to as RHQ.

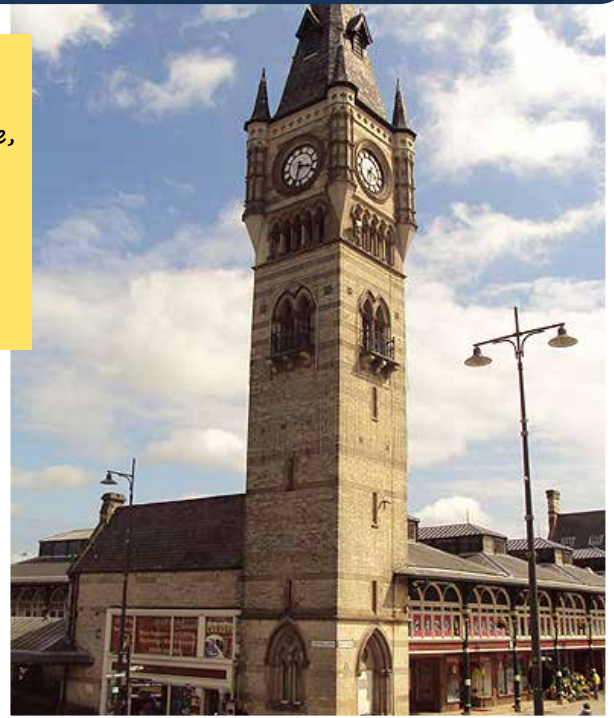
In June 1947 it was announced that The Drill Hall, Larchfield Street, would be available for the Branch to use as HQ which they did for 20 years.

At the Annual General Meeting in February 1967 it was announced that this would be the last meeting at the TA Centre, Larchfield Street. Enquiries would be made into the possibility of meeting at the new TA&VR Drill Hall, Neasham Road, Darlington. This enquiry was successful and the first Branch meeting took place on 6 April 1967. Meetings still continue to be held at this location 44 years on. The attendance numbers have varied alarmingly over the years from as low as 7 (including the Committee) to as high as the mid 30s, there is no apparent reason for these fluctuations.

The first evidence of an appointment of a President is in the minutes of February 1993. Lt Col E Thompson filled this appointment until his death on 6 October 1995. The position remained vacant, due to the Association Rules at that time, until November 2000 when Maj (TOT) R Todd agreed to accept the appointment. He served until February 2009 when he had to resign due to ill health. Mr C Cooke was then elected President of the Branch. Mr Cooke resigned in 2014 and Mr R Botham stood down as Chairman and was elected as President of the Branch.

In 2008 it was decided that the Branch would support a charity each year, starting with Help the Heroes in 2009, and the sum of £1,203 was raised. The following years achieved these results:

2010	Great North Air Ambulance	£700
2011	Macmillan Cancer Support	£700
2012	Star & Garter	£500
2013	Butterwick Childrens Hospice	£600



2014	British Heart Foundation	£600
2015	Gurkha Welfare Trust	£600
2016	ABF The Soldiers Charity	£600
2017	The Not Forgotten Association	£500
2018	NSPCC	£350

On 2 July 2011 a formal dinner was held in the TA Centre Neasham Road to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Branch. In attendance were over 120 members and ex-members of the Royal Signals and their partners.

The Worshipful the Mayor of Darlington, Councillor Lee Vasey and her escort, Councillor John Vasey, together with the Representative Colonel Commandant and former Signal Officer in Chief, Brigadier John Thomas MBE and his wife Janet were invited as guests.

After dinner the Chairman gave a short history of the Branch and concluded by presenting the Mayor with a Corps Plaque. The Mayor responded with her thanks and a short speech, ending with her presenting the Branch with a Ships Decanter on an inscribed wooden base, which was warmly received by the Chairman.

The Brigadier then followed with a brief resume of the state of the Corps and took great delight in being asked to present a 75-year pennant to be displayed with our Branch Standard. He was ably assisted by founder member Jack Dobson to tie the pennant on to the top of the Standard. The Branch President was invited to 'cut the cake' and then light music was played in the background as the evening slowly wound down over "happy memory" discussions.

From its humble beginnings the Darlington Branch of the Royal Signals Association is now a thriving and vibrant concern looking forward to supporting its members and other ex-R Signals, and continuing its involvement in local events such as the Armed Forces Week, the Annual Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Day.

The story of the Loughborough Branch

By Branch Secretary, Bob White

How did it all start? The Garats Hay facility at Woodhouse Eaves near Loughborough was one of Britain's least known SIGINT sites. During the Second World War the neighbouring Beaumanor Hall was used as one of the main Y stations supporting Bletchley Park. After the war the adjacent camp which had grown up around Beaumanor Hall became the training site for British Army Royal Corps of Signals SIGINT specialists. Instruction included languages as well as signals training. Arabic was widely taught at Garats Hay, Chinese was taught at nearby RAF North Luffenham, while Russian was provided at Beaconsfield. Initially known as 10 Wireless Squadron, it became 224 Signals Squadron in 1959. In 1980, 224 Signals Squadron amalgamated with 4 Communications Group (which supported GCHQ) to form Communications and Security Group (UK). One of the units superintended at Garats Hay was the Special Projects Agency.

In 1998, Garats Hay closed and eventually became the new site for Welbeck College. Communications and Security Group (UK) was relocated to Chicksands in Bedfordshire where it became part of the Defence Special Signals School. Chicksands is also the location of the Defence Intelligence Security Centre comprising Royal Corps of Signals and Intelligence Corps personnel.

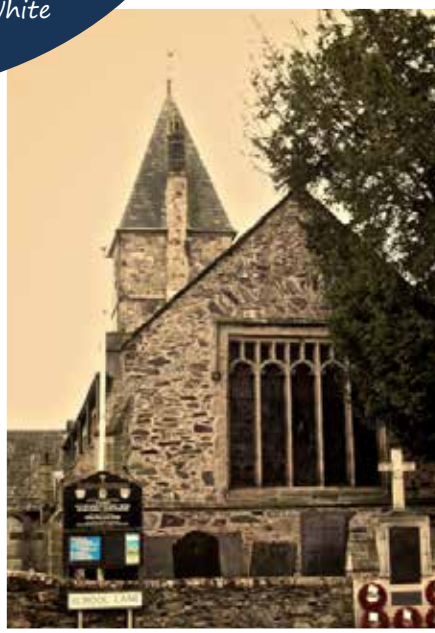
It has been difficult to trace when the Royal Signals Association Loughborough Branch was formed. Older members suggest sometime in the late 1950's, possibly early 1960's but records appear to only commence around 1968. The Branch however, has its second Branch Standard, complete with the 50 year pennant. The old standard is laid up at St Mary in the Elms, Woodhouse, Leicestershire. Why St Marys? St Mary in the Elms has become the "spiritual" home for many Royal Signals soldiers, past and present, many of whom served at Garats Hay Barracks. It is possible therefore that the Branch could have been formed before 1968. A Remembrance Service is held at the church annually. The Branch draws members from across Leicestershire and Rutland, the UK and includes all Corps trades.

As members of the Barracks at Garats Hay completed their service and retired locally, the Loughborough Branch of the Royal Signals Association was formed. In 1968, meetings commenced monthly on an informal basis at The Manor, Quorn, just along the road from the camp in Woodhouse. In the early 1970's the Branch moved to The Greyhound Inn on Nottingham Road, Loughborough. A top floor room was provided for use of the Branch. The

Inn no longer exists now. In 1979 meetings moved to the Territorial Centre (now Army Reserve Centre) on the

outskirts of Loughborough, home then of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment. From there a series of local pubs were used as the Branch became somewhat "nomadic" during the 80's and 90's in its efforts to secure a permanent location. As membership dwindled, the Branch almost closed. However, with the efforts of a few members, a recruitment drive was undertaken, and membership steadily increased. Rooms at various Public Houses around the town enabled meetings to take place.

Finally, in 2016 a semi-permanent location for the Branch was found at The Black Swan, Loughborough, Shepshed. The proprietor was **Keith Breen**, a retired member of the Royals Corps of Signals. Monthly meetings continue here, and an annual dinner and dance is held at Longcliffe Golf Club, Loughborough. Membership is currently a healthy 60.



St Mary's in the Elms, Woodhouse



The TA Centre, Loughborough



The Black Swan, Loughborough Road, Shepshed

The team in front of Vulcan
Bomber XM655



The story of 19th Signal Regiment Association

By Branch Chairman, Pat Soward

19th Air Formation Signals (19 AFS) was formed in the UK, together with nos 11 to 18 AFS, and all were destined to support the invasion of Europe. Come the time the services of 19 AFS were not required in Europe the Regiment moved to the Far East and was based at Comilla in, what is now, Bangladesh. As the war progressed so the unit headquarters moved to Rangoon and then to Singapore (RAF Changi) where it remained until November 1971 when it disbanded.

A small group of wartime members, led by **George Brew**, had the dream of 'getting together again' and by August 1993 had located 66 members. Thirty-seven of these met at the Victory Services Club for an inaugural lunch on 24 August. The last Commanding Officer, **Col Colin Gilbert**, was invited to be our president and **Col David Lynam**, CO of 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support) spoke about the work of our sister regiment at the present time. A committee was formed and the fledgling association was affiliated to the RSA. **Colin Deacon** was appointed newsletter editor and the first edition of 'The 19th' was distributed in March the following year. By 2000 membership numbers had risen to 296

Lunchtime reunions continued to be held at the Victory Services Club when, in 1998, a questionnaire was sent to members. In response to members wishes, the next reunion luncheons alternated between London (the Household Cavalry WO & Sgts mess) and the Midlands (The North Stafford Hotel, Stoke on Trent) until September 2003. Guests

of Honour were invited to our 5th and 10th reunions, **Major General Alan Yeoman, CB** and **Major General Tony Boyle, CB** respectively.

Following receipt of members responses to the questionnaire mentioned above a 'Way Forward Review' chaired by **Brigadier Russell Maxfield** was set up and, on their recommendation future reunions would be three-day weekend events to which wives of members would be invited.

The new format was soon adopted. Meet-and-greet on Friday afternoon followed by a buffet evening meal, a coach trip to 'somewhere of interest' on Saturday and Reunion Dinner in a private room on Saturday evening. Members **John** and **Joyce Horne** found a nearby coach hire company so our first reunion at Warwick featured a coach trip to Stratford (for retail therapy) and to Cadbury World. AGM members voted unanimously to return in 2005.

Our raison d'être

Whilst the Association was primarily formed to facilitate members to meet in reunion, most members do not attend the reunions. They rely on newsletters to learn of their comrades and they, in turn, write of their experiences. Our newsletters therefore, especially the earlier ones, are full of articles of historical interest.

Remembrance is also vitally important. 19 SRA joined an initiative, launched by our sister association, the Air Formation Signals Association (AFSA) in 2002, to create a crescent of nine copper beech trees at the National Memorial Arboretum. This crescent has trees dedicated to the various stages, from October 1917 to recently, of the development of Air Formation Signals from a single RE Company to 19 x Royal Signals and 7 x Indian Signals battalions. 19 AFS is mentioned with two trees - Far East with the Indian units and later as one of the 'big four' 19, 20, 21 and 22 Air Formation Signal Regiments.

This crescent was established in four phases, starting in May 2003, as monies were raised by the AFSA, 21 Sig Regt and 19SRA. The last phase was in May 2008 when a 'rock', from the roundabout at the Blandford Camp entrance, with a suitably worded plaque introducing the crescent, was dedicated.

With its ties with the Far East the Association organised a Church Parade to mark the 60th Anniversary of the 'End of the War' service on Sunday 4 September, 2005, in the Chapel at the Arboretum. Members of the AFSA were invited to join us.

At the Arboretum in September 2010, with financial help from RHQ, the Association arranged for a 'proper' plaque to be installed by the tree in the FEPOW already dedicated to 'All ranks of Royal Signals and Indian Signals Lost in Burma in World War Two'. At the same time an established tree in the HQ FEAF Grove was dedicated to all those who served in 19th Signal Regiment. A full account and photograph appeared in the December 2010 edition of 'The Wire'.

Our members also supported detachments of 21 Signal Regiment on active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan by sending cards and parcels at Christmas and other times. Quite fortuitously there came into our possession a bag of some 20 woollen 'hats' of various bright patterns knitted by a group of ladies in Yorkshire. These were designed to be worn under steel helmets. We sent them to the detachment commander in Afghanistan where our lads wore them, it was reported, with pride and much humour!

Lt Rachael Clayton and **Lt Edward Bodger** (commanders of the 21 Sig Regt detachment in Afghanistan) joined us in reunion in 2008, told us about their work and thanked us for our much appreciated support.

Reunions

The Hilton Warwick has proved to be ideal for our purposes. The staff are always aware of our needs and exceptionally attentive. Nothing is too much trouble. Warwick is an ideal base, within easy travelling distance of The National Memorial Arboretum and from which to sally forth on our Saturday coach outings.

Most of these excursions were masterminded by **John** and **Joyce Horne** but from 2018 the task of General Secretary and

Reunion Organiser has been assumed by **Pam Craven** ably assisted by her father, **John Hill**, who is also Association Webmaster. Our thanks to them for making our reunions so memorable.

Reports of our reunions are printed in The Wire, usually the December/Winter issues. Two were of particular note:

In 2015 we visited nearby Wellesbourne Airfield where a Vulcan Bomber, licensed for high speed taxi runs, was powered up for us and we were able to visit the cockpit in small groups. A full account and photograph is in the December 2015 copy of The Wire. (See pic on page 92).

In 2018 **John Hill**, in his role as webmaster, received a message from Chaplain's Branch, BAOR to say that garrison churches in BAOR were being closed and that they would like to return a plaque dedicated to the memory of **Maj Gerald Funnell** to his widow. **Gerald** had served in Seletar Troop but later died in Germany. Without hesitation it was agreed that **John** should receive the plaque and endeavour to return it to **Gerald's** widow. After some time searching he found that his widow, **Sue**, had re-married to **Brigadier Ian Townsend** (late RA). She, her husband and son, **Ben Funnell**, were promptly invited to join us in reunion as Guests of Honour at our 2018 reunion. They accepted and joined in our activities wholeheartedly.

Before dinner, as it was almost 100 years since the end of WW1, **Sue** read **May Wedderburn's** poem *Paris, November 11th, 1918*;

*I saw Love go lonely down the years
And when I drank, the wine was salt with tears*

After dinner **John** presented **Sue** with her late husband's plaque, now highly polished, and **Ian Townsend** was invited to present **John Horne** with his RSA 50 year badge. As behind every good man, there is a good woman, **Ian** then presented **Joyce** with a fine bouquet of flowers! **Pat Soward** presented **Sue** with a similar bouquet and **Ian** and **Ben** with Association ties. **Ian**, **Sue** and **Ben** have since joined the Association as members.

Committee members

Without an enthusiastic and hard working team of Committee Members our Association would flounder. With members throughout the country and, indeed, the world, Committee members only meet once a year at reunions and so Committee Meetings are held early on Sunday Mornings before we make our way home. **Brigadier Russell Maxfield** is one of our founder members and President. **Dennis Isaacs**, one of our longest serving committee members, is Membership Secretary. He lives in Bournemouth and keeps track of subscription payments. He has regular dealings with our treasurer, **Frank Smith**, who lives in Dundee! **John Horne** is Standard Bearer for the AFSA, a member of the Birmingham RSA Branch and was General Secretary of 19 SRA until recently. **Joyce Horne** is our Welfare Officer. **John Hill** assumed the role of Webmaster and is responsible for creating our website whilst his daughter, **Sue Craven**, has assumed the role of Secretary and Reunion Organiser. **Pat Soward** was elected to post of Chairman when **George Brew** resigned and **Maureen Soward** is Regalia Officer. **Alan Lewis** is Assistant Editor of 'The Bulletin' which **Pat** edits and prints, usually three editions each year.



RSA RIDERS BRANCH

We applied to become an Affiliated Branch of the RSA early in 2017 with just over 100 members and it was approved at the AGM that year. Fast forward to today and we now have almost 650 members worldwide and as of the AGM this year we are now a proper Branch of the Association. We try to attend all Corps functions and events, we also provide funeral escorts for fellow Corps members and attend with our Riders Standard among other rides and days out. But the main purpose of the Branch is to keep the connection of the Corps and motorbikes together.

Bringing you up to date – on the day after last year's Corps Weekend, planning went into setting up a week long Tour of the Corps culminating in over 100 bikes riding through Blandford and into camp for the Corps Centenary Weekend, sadly neither took place. What we managed to organise was a series of mini tours around the UK, Northern Ireland, Germany and Cyprus over what was to be the Centenary Weekend.

In the north three daily run outs were organised:

On the Friday we had four Riders and visited the Barracks of what was 33 Signal Regiment (TA) (now a Squadron), HQ Sqn, 42 Sqn, 59 Sqn and 80 Sqn in Liverpool, Runcorn, Chester and Manchester, also the independent 55 Sqn in Aintree.

On the Saturday we had a dozen riders and visited Catterick Helles, Vimy and Gaza Barracks. We had lunch in Richmond before heading over to Thornaby to visit the Don War Memorial bar which is in the process of moving to new premises but will soon be open and will include a bar museum and rooms to stay over amongst other things.

It was then off to Harrogate and the AAC (AFC). We were then to go to Imphal Barracks in York but the weather



decided to see if **Noah** was still about and dropped enough rain on us to float the Ark.

The Sunday was our birthday, we started the day at Stoke City's ground and a photo with the Gordon Banks Statue, then over to Beacon Barracks for a few more photos and a brew.

Then came the main event and we met up with approximately 35 other bikes for a photo with "Jimmy" at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Elsewhere, **Troy Hopkins** had a mini tour while waiting for the 1500hrs arrival slot at the NMA. He took eight riders to the Triumph Factory at Hinckley then onto a WW2 Y Services listening post, part of the Bletchley Park Network.

It was then onto Garats Hey, home of Comms and Sy group and 224 Sqn. Next, over to Bramcote and 30 Sigs finally joining us at the Jimmy at the NMA. Down south





Richard Craven and approximately fifteen riders had another three days of rides:

On the Friday they visited Greenham Common, Tidworth, Bulford and the Fovant Badges.

On the Saturday they met in Blandford to ride to Swanage for a surprise visit to an 82 year old veteran of the Corps. **Gerald Parkins** doesn't get out of the house much but the highlight of his year is going to Blandford for the Corps Weekend and so he was down in the dumps, we had been going to visit him with approximately 35 riders on the original tour which never happened but **Richard** and a few others made the trip and spent a couple of hours with him talking all things Corps and bikes. Apparently he still hasn't stopped talking about it and is telling anyone who will listen!

We then headed into Blandford Camp for various photo opportunities around camp, ending the day with a ride from Weymouth to West Bay.

Further afield, the Germany Tour got off to a good start with **Paul Atherton** and **Lofty Lofthouse** visiting old Barracks in Lubbecke then heading off to Herford, unfortunately **Lofty's** bike broke down so that was the end of that.

Over in Cyprus **Paul Carter** and a few others visited Dhekelia, the old 262 Sqn bar "The Bitsa Club" and had brunch at CESSAC.

We currently have three Riders out in Somalia providing support for AMISOM Operations. They don't have their bikes with them but they have sent a photo (below) and best wishes to the Corps.

So to bring this to an end we managed to visit more places over three days than what we had planned for the full week tour.



Hope you have enjoyed reading and the photos bring back some memories.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE CORPS!



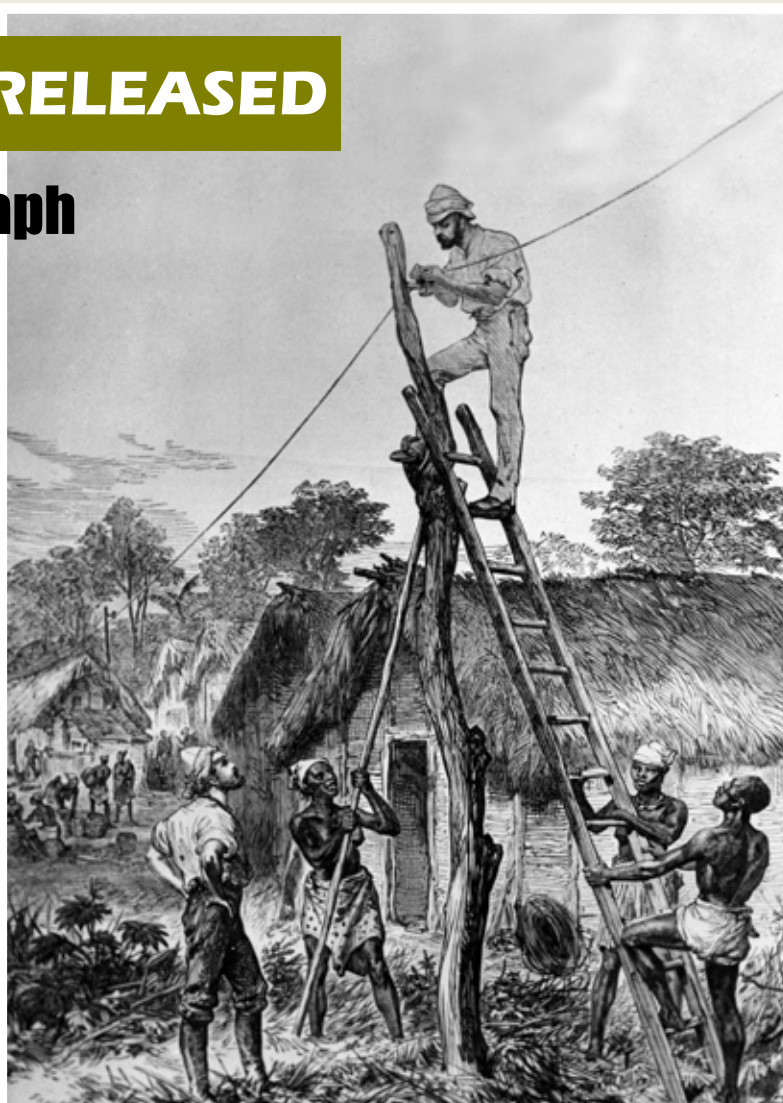
BOOK TO BE RELEASED

Tales of The Telegraph

By Lt Col David Mullineaux

The author of Tales of the Telegraph is a retired Royal Signals officer who has undertaken a detailed research into the origins, outcomes and locations of the various signals expeditions undertaken by Royal Engineer officers of the Telegraph Troop in the latter years of the 19th century. Original sources were consulted and battlefield locations visited over several years to arrive at truly authentic accounts. Articles on his investigations were published in the Royal Signals Institution Journal between 2003-2010, and these have now been collated into book form.

The result is an authoritative, comprehensive and compelling account of the challenges and trials faced by these early officers, many of them very junior in rank, and the significant effect their efforts had on the outcome of the many conflicts the British Army contested throughout this time. Arguably, the difficulties they faced are not much different from those confronting our modern officers. It is thus an indispensable complement to the Corps History, "Roger So Far", and should have a place on the bookshelves of everyone interested in the history of our Corps.



It is intended to publish the book early in the New Year, when it will be available through the Museum shop, at a price expected to be around £10, plus postage and packing. Notification of availability will appear on the Museum website.

Last Post

Sig Andrew Anderson	1959-61	Jul-20
Cpl William (Bill) Barlow	1945-48	Sep-20
Sgt Bruce Bassett	1961-06	Jun-20
SSgt Wally Brown	1945-68	Jun-20
Sgt William Cox	1937-62	Jul-20
LCpl Adrianus Dellius	1976-89	Sep-20
Sig Peter Doughty	1972-85	Jul-20
Sgt Roger Everest	1963-74	Aug-20
Sig Derek Furby	1976-85	Jun-20
Sig Geoff Gardiner	1954-61	Sep-20
Col Peter Garratt MA	1946-85	Aug-20
LCpl Barrie Grace	1966-71	Sep-20
SSgt William Gray BEM	1951-74	Jun-20
Sgt Bill Hills	1945-70	Jul-20
Sig Chris Hoare (Alton)	1963-68	Aug-20

Sig Johnnie Jeffires	1941-47	Aug-20
Sig Pete Line	1973-79	Sep-20
WO2 Michael Matthews	1960-84	Aug-20
WO2 Peter Moulding	1968-90	Aug-20
WO1 Christopher Platts	1967-90	Aug-20
LCpl Michael Preece	1972-84	Jul-20
IP Cecil Robbings	1944-48	Aug-20
Sig Les Simpson	1952-54	Jun-20
Sgt Alfred Spearman	1943-47	Sep-20
Lt Col Godfrey Stephenson	1950-81	Aug-20
Cpl Alfred Sword	1956-78	Aug-20
LCpl Derek Ward	1952-54	Aug-20
WO2 Bob Watson	1960-82	Aug-20
Maj Willie Watson	1943-77	Jul-20
Cpl Tony Wilson	1960-76	Aug-20

Obituaries

SIMPSON - Sig Leslie Victor Simpson died 27 June 2020



Senior Surveyor and Director of Tyson's Plc. He served in this Company for 43 years until he left in 1990 and formed his own business. He retired in 2003 and lived in Ainsdale, independently, until his death.

Leslie lost his sight progressively and became blind. He was a member of the Blind Veterans Association. **Leslie** never let his blindness get in the way of his life and he used to go on holiday to Malta regularly. He attended Liverpool RSA branch meetings regularly and played a full part in all of the Liverpool branch functions, Battlefield Tours and events. He used to attend all of the Corps Weekends in Blandford and will be remembered by everyone there for his wit and charm. He had a gentleness that is very rare despite having a naughty sense of humour, always with a twinkle in his eye.

Leslie was born on 9 October 1931 in Walton, Liverpool. He lived through the blitz in Liverpool and was eventually bombed out of his home. As schools were closed **Leslie** was educated in private houses. His education was very intermittent and he spent time helping the local milkman. When school started again, he was 11 years of age and he left school in 1944 to attend Walton Technical School to study building. He then moved to Tyson's Plc as an Apprentice Builder until he was 21. In 1952, whilst working at Tyson's he studied one day and three nights per week and gained City & Guilds in Brickwork, Quantities and Estimating and a Higher National in Building Studies. He was called up for National Service in November 1952.

He joined the Royal Corps of Signals and was trained as a Radio Mechanic at Catterick Camp until the following June, when he was posted to Korea serving there for 18 months until December 1954. When he was de-mobbed, he returned to Tyson's as a Junior Surveyor and joined the Korean Veterans Association.

Leslie, a very determined man, continued to study and became a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Building. He quickly rose through the ranks to become a



He was very proud of his service in Korea and used to tell our members of his escapades there. He was always very determined, despite his blindness, to attend Remembrance Parades and march with the veterans. He always

marched on the final Parade at the Corps Weekends, albeit supported ably by two members of the branch.

Leslie will be missed by all at the Liverpool RSA branch, and we expect, members of the Corps where he was well known.

Last Post Requirements

In order to publish details in Last Post we require the following information:

Surname, first name, rank, years served and date of death.

An obituary with additional career and life information is welcome.

To inform us of the death please contact:

wire@RSignals.onmicrosoft.com





Regimental Headquarters



13 Signal Regiment

