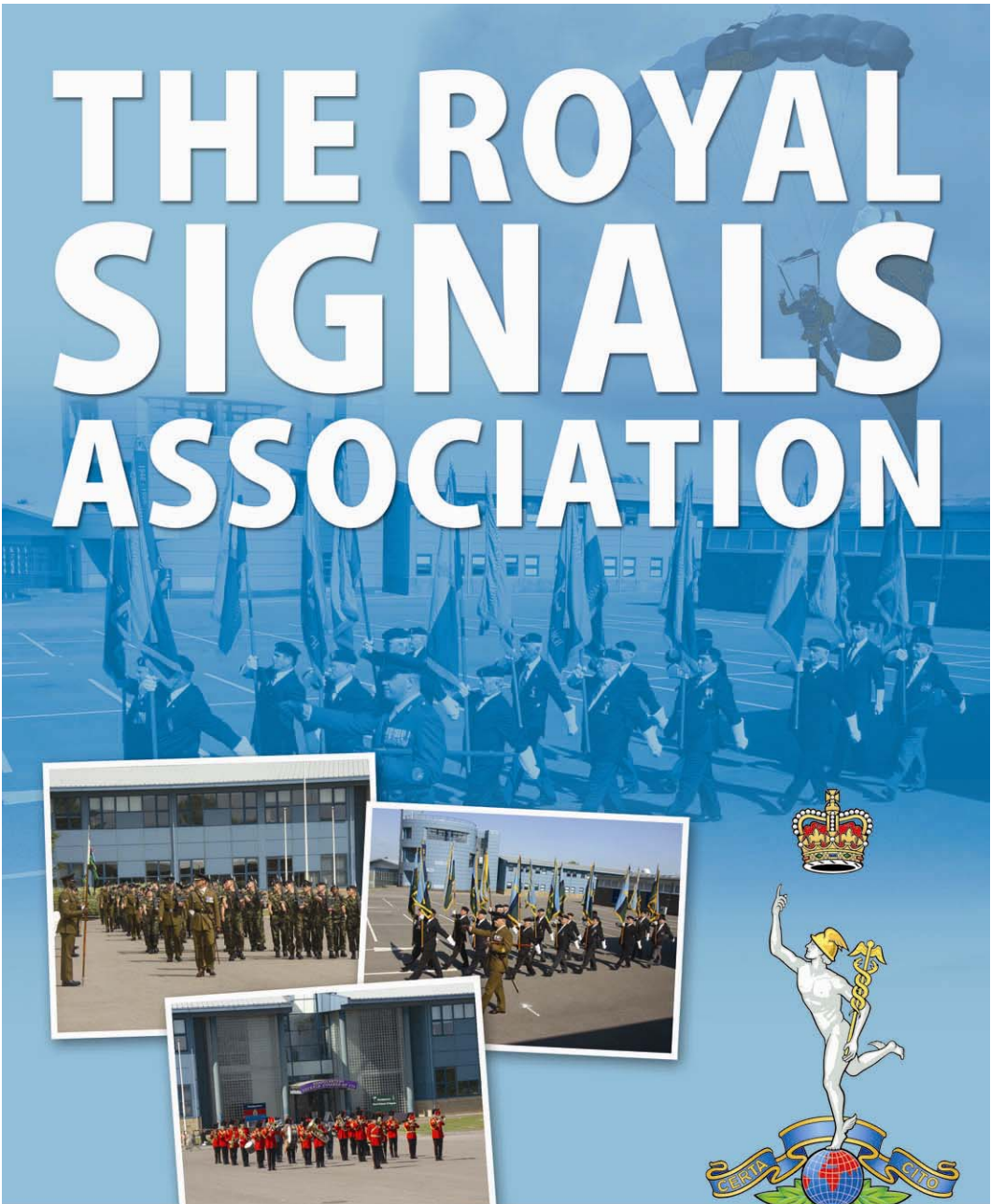


THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER 2010

FOREWORD BY BRIGADIER N F WOOD, CHAIRMAN RSA

The last year has been a varied one as ever. A great sadness was the passing of General Archie Birtwistle, who so many of us had known well. I know that his family greatly appreciated the large turnout at his funeral and the splendid memorial service held in York Minster in September; both events were a huge tribute to a man who was so well admired and loved throughout the Corps. At the end of the year Colonel Carl Conlon retired as Regimental Secretary and on behalf of all members of the Association, I offer him sincere thanks for his fine tenure in the post, and wish him and his wife, Jan, all the very best for a happy retirement.

Once again we were blessed with fine weather for the Annual Reunion at Blandford at the end of June and there was the usual good attendance. It was a little disappointing to see so few officers taking part in the march past after the morning service on Sunday. Bearing in mind how many officers attend the lunch that day, I'm sure we can field more than the handful we had last year. Come on chaps, dig out those brollies and bowlers and join me for the march past – it really is quite painless!

Last year I mentioned benevolence, and not surprisingly we have seen a considerable rise in the amount the Corps has distributed in benevolence during these difficult financial times. I am able to report that the state of the Corps' finances continues to be sound and that our reserves now stand slightly higher than they were 2 years ago when the markets began to take a tumble. We continue to have very generous support from the Army Benevolent Fund, and I do commend this charity to everyone. I encourage all branch officers to notify RHQ of any case that may be in need of benevolence.

Now that I have retired from full time work, I have been able to get slightly further afield in visiting Branches of the Association, and Wendy and I have been given the warmest of welcomes wherever we have gone. Thank you all for your continued hospitality. Unfortunately some of the more recent invitations have had to be declined, owing to Wendy's indisposition, but hopefully we will be able to fulfil our engagements again in the near future.

I look forward to seeing Branch Representatives at the AGM in the Victory Services Club on 27 March, when we will be able to welcome the new Regimental Secretary, Colonel Terry Canham, into post. I also remind everyone that this year's Reunion will take place at Blandford over the weekend 19 -20 June, a little earlier than in previous years.

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RSA ADMIN OFFICER'S REPORT

In January this year, we said goodbye to Lt Col (Retd) Carl Conlon who retired as General Secretary. He handed over to Col Terry Canham. In December we said hello to Col David (Ollie) Halstead as he took over from Col Simon Kidner as Regimental Colonel. Our gratitude goes to Simon and Carl for their tremendous contribution to the Assn over the years and we wish them a long and happy retirement.

During 2009 there were 1268 enrolments as Life Members. Of these some 53 were from the serving Corps. Soldiers arriving at Blandford for their trade training are given a briefing on Payroll Giving (formerly the Days Pay Scheme) and on the RSA. The opportunity is taken to enroll them as Life Members.

During the year several of our members alerted us to the fact that the Corps Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas was in urgent need of repair, as the mortar was falling out from

between the stonework. Our grateful thanks goes to Mrs Vee Moore of the South Staffs branch for arranging for the original contractor to rectify the faults. The branches in Area 3 have placed a bench (complete with plaque) by the Corps Memorial and I understand that Area 1 branches have similar plans.

Around a half of our members have sent me their postings details. If you haven't done so already, may I invite you to send in the details of your postings whilst with the Corps? This service has proven very useful when it comes to tracing former friends. All we need are the unit titles and the from..... to..... years at each. (the relevant sqn, tp, or appt would also be useful). Once your details are registered on the RSA database, I can send you the list of those RSA members who served in your units around the same time. Following on from that, I would be pleased to help you get in touch with any familiar names on the lists.

The RBL issues me with only 30 tickets for the Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph, Whitehall. I maintain a list of those Life Members who have requested a ticket and every year demand exceeds supply. My advice, if you would like to march with the Corps contingent, give me your details as early in the year as possible.

The total amount of donations received in 2009 for the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund was £32,297 broken down as follows:

Individuals	£12740	
RSA Branches	£9164	(Includes £3659 received upon closure of Indian Signals Assn)
Units	£343	
Membership	£1050	
Legacies	£9000	(Mr Kenneth Wills £4k & Col Dennis Thomas £5k)

In line with the Corps current investment policy this sum will be invested on behalf of the Association.

A report on branch activities

The RSA has 68 branches located throughout the UK. They enjoyed a huge variety of events during 2009 and shown below is a small selection as an example.

East Kent branch had a weekend away in Winchester and held several lunches with guest speakers. The Aldershot branch enjoyed a backstage tour of the Royal Opera House Covent Garden. The Salisbury branch attended the annual drumhead service of the Fovant Badges Society. Brig Wood was guest of honour at the Reading branch annual reunion dinner. Members of the branch attended the Commandant's Parade at RMA Sandhurst, a summer concert at the School of Military Music Kneller Hall, the Military Tattoo in Windsor Great Park. Bristol branch held a cheese and wine party, inviting their local REME Assn. They held this, plus their annual dinner in the Mess at the Horfield TA Centre. Trevor Holyoake (Bedford branch and Area 3 Representative on the RSA Central Committee) organised the purchase and siting of a bench at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas. The money was kindly donated by all branches in Area 3. The Bedford branch sent 'goody boxes' to our troops in Afghanistan. Amongst the events held by the Southport branch were a St George's Day Dinner and a cheese and wine garden party. The Catterick branch held a lunch at the Catterick Golf Club, where they joined up with Royal Signals golfers (serving and retired) who had competed in the Royal Signals (North) Spring Meeting that day. Jack Mount (Exmouth branch) and his wife visited Catterick in September and popped in to say hello to the Catterick branch. Jack joined the Corps in 1939 and trained as a DR, Driver and W/T Op at Catterick. He was retracing his old stomping grounds at Mons Lines and Gandale Camp. Most interesting was that the branch had managed to obtain old

maps of Catterick Camp in its heyday. The Cambridge branch ran another successful outing on the Norfolk broads. Members of the Birmingham branch held their annual 'away day' at Morecambe and the Lake District. Photo nights, a BBQ, a treasure hunt and a games night were all enjoyed by the Nottingham branch. Some branch members took their collection of vintage military weapons and vehicles along to the WW2 weekend at Quorn. The Brighton branch continued with its hugely popular coffee mornings, where they also invite retired members from other Arms/Corps. They also held quiz nights and fish suppers. The Harrogate branch held a 22 mile walk through the Dales. The Cotswolds branch held regular skittle and quiz nights. I was fortunate enough to be invited to the highly successful and well attended cabaret night organized by the Darlington branch. Highlights amongst the East London branch's full calendar were a visit to the Royal Hospital Chelsea for their Founders Day, a serving bomb disposal expert as guest speaker at their Sep meeting and a Coach trip to Ypres. On a slightly different subject, Bill Doyle stood down after 25 years as standard bearer for the Lincoln branch.

Being a member of a branch is not a 24/7 affair and your local branch would be very pleased to see you no matter how many of their activities you could manage to attend. Wives and partners are also made most welcome by branches. Most branches have their contact details on the RSA website, but they are also available from Assn HQ.

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REPORT BY THE WELFARE SECRETARY

2009 proved to be a hard year for many people. The tough economic climate and the extreme weather conditions have caused terrible problems. Hopefully 2010 will be much calmer and far more optimistic.

Over the past twelve months the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund provided £406,973 of assistance to 795 applicants. Some of these funds have been instrumental in providing 12 Electric Scooters, 12 stair lifts and 23 level access showers. There are numerous other types of assistance requested such as help with priority bills (rent or utilities), clothing, emergency house repairs etc. All this was possible only with the support of caseworkers from SSAFA Forces Help and The Royal British Legion who provide all the relevant information upon which decisions can be made. If necessary we liaise with the Army Benevolent Fund, The Officers' Association, the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League, Combat Stress, Veterans Agency and many more.

All cases received are dealt with as quickly as possible as timing is a very important factor when dealing with cases of need. It is amazing how one grant at the right time can really make a difference to the quality of someone's life and their future. We receive many cards and letters of thanks which are very much appreciated. A few examples are:

An ex-Corps member who was assisted with the payment of utility debts wrote "I contracted cancer 2 years ago and had to finish working due to the demands of chemo and radiotherapy. Since then our income has decreased considerably. When I joined the Association as a young Signaller I wasn't aware of the wonderful work that goes on behind the scenes supporting those in need and it is only when one requires help that the benefits of the Association are realised."

A 69 year old widow of an ex-Corps member who served two years National Service sent us a letter, "Thank you so much for helping me to get an electric scooter. It has given me a new lease of life. I can now do my own shopping, go to see my friends and drive down to the sea front. Thank you."

A 48 year old ex-Corps member had been sleeping rough since the break up of his marriage. Through SSAFA the RSA was able to assist with getting him into accommodation and helping with the provision of furniture and household essentials. Happily he is now settled he has been able to find work. He wrote; *“This donation was put to good use helping me set up home after a period of homelessness which was leading to despair. Now thanks to your help I can make progress on getting my life back on track and once again gaining employment and therefore contributing to society. It is hard to put into words exactly what this means to me but thank you seems inadequate. I can and will move forward, so once again my heartfelt thanks.”*

Editor’s note: The RSA also supports the following Ex Servicemen’s homes that have former Corps members in residence; Royal Star & Garter Home in Surrey, Bournemouth War Memorial Homes, Broughton House in Manchester and Lady Haig’s Poppy Factory in Edinburgh.

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REPORT ON THE 2009 RSA REUNION

Our front cover shows a picture of the Princess Royal Day Parade, the Corps RSM leading the RSA standard bearers and the Corps Band. Attendance was slightly down on previous years and we believe that the clash with the ‘Armed Forces Day’ events across the country may have been a factor. Nevertheless nearly 700 members enjoyed a warm and sunny weekend at Blandford.

A display of current vehicles and equipment, kindly provided by Exercise Trg Tp and the Falcon Introduction Team was on show at 0900 hrs, along with a splendid collection of vintage and old vehicles arranged by our old friend Len Melling. It was good to see an old “Green Goddess” and several ex Army motor bikes amongst the collection. RSA member Terry Inman once again brought along fellow members of the local ‘Cruiser Club’ with their Harleys, Kawasakis and other big bikes.

The local “Pimpernel (Royal Signals) Beagle Pack (which used to be based on Blandford Camp) was on hand again to give demonstrations of following a scent trail. Half hour details were run in the indoor range, where members tested their skill on the modern SA80 rifle. The Museum opened its doors free to everyone and did a brisk business all day.

The Parade Commander for the traditional ‘Princess Royal Day Parade’ was Maj G Ingram and took place on Hawke Square at 1030 hrs. WO1 (RSM) Mick Yendell (an old friend of the Assn) plus Parade Sgt Major WO2 Ash Doe ensured the usual high standard of drill and turnout. The soldiers did not wear No2 Dress this year as the Army is in the process of issuing a much improved version and for the trainees, this parade fell in the few months between the old being withdrawn and the new issued. The Master of Signals, Lieutenant General R Baxter CBE inspected the troops and took the salute on the March Past.

We were fortunate to have the Corps Band to start the afternoon arena show, as they were detached to Sandhurst, but managed to get back for the day. The Northern Band had hoped to include members of all three Services to swell their ranks, but in the end managed to include a couple of RAF musicians. The Corps Pipes & Drums were on hand to give another stirring performance.

Major Simon Bristow led the Corps Free Fall Parachute Team and all three members managed to land in the centre of the square. The White Helmets could not appear as they had been poached from us to attend an Armed Forces Day event in Cardiff. In their place a re-enactment society gave a splendid display of a Civil war skirmish, complete with muskets, gunpowder, pikes and cannon.

The Corps RSM WO1 Dave Taylor took the branch standard bearers through their paces before the Master of Signals presented the prizes. The winner this year was Bill McNamara from our Glasgow Branch with John Mumford (Reading) runner up. The other finalists were: Keith Bates (Rotherham), Norman Pearce (West London), Bryan Calladine (East Kent) and Dan Millan (Sale). Special mention to Norman, Keith and Dan who took part in the competition for the first time. The Master then presented Wally Cutler with a pennant to mark the North London Branch's 50 year existence. The pennant will now fly from the branch standard. The audience were then treated to a drive past by the bikers and a selection of old civilian and military vehicles, followed by the traditional Retreat Ceremony, which closed the afternoon proceedings.

For many members, the highlight of the weekend is the social gathering in the Sgts Mess and we are indebted to RSM Yendell for opening his doors to all retired members. A good time was had by all with a few members, along with the RSM, lasting until 3 am.

A Drumhead Service was held on the square at 1030 hrs on the Sunday, with the RSA Hon Chaplain the Rev Peter Clemett and Garrison Padre The Rev David Barrett conducting the service. Branch standards were 'laid up' during the first hymn and collected during the last. Our thanks to members of the Newcastle and Rotherham Branches for acting as sidesmen. The collection raised £593.54, which is a magnificent amount given the reduced number in the congregation. The money has been donated to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund.

The Corps RSM then rounded up members for the eagerly awaited March Past. This was (supposed to be) WO1 Taylor's last such parade before moving on and we offer our sincere gratitude for all his support to the Assn over the past couple of years.

Our thanks to all who supported the reunion; members of 11 Sig Regt, Garrison staff and of course all the RSA members and their guests.

RSA REUNION 2010

This year's reunion will take place at Blandford weekend 19/20 June (week earlier than normal). By now the details should be on the RSA website. For those without Internet, the details and forms to order car passes and meals can be requested by contacting Assn HQ. We are delighted to announce that the White Helmets have confirmed that they will be displaying their skills this year.

Those planning to eat in the Regimental Restaurant (Cookhouse to you and me) should note that the Army wide "Pay as you dine" system will be in operation. Basically, all choices are from a "set menu" and members can no longer help themselves to as much food as they want.

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RSA AWARDS

The following well deserved RSA Awards were presented during 2009:-

Honour Membership. (For Outstanding service to the RSA over many years)

Maj Eric le Quesne	Guernsey Branch	Mr David Bichard	Guernsey Branch
Mr Keith Bates	Rotherham Branch	Mr Keith Cleary	Rotherham Branch
Mr Dave Walker	Dorset Branch		

50 Year Badge. (In recognition of 50 years combined service; Regular, TA, NS and active support to an RSA branch).

Mr Guy Turnbull Newcastle Branch Maj Bryan Abbiss York Branch
Mr Bill Verity Sheffield Branch

Associate Life Membership. (Awarded to those who did not serve in the Corps, but give outstanding support to a branch).

Mrs Pat Evans Poole Branch

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A REPORT ON THE SERVING CORPS BY WO1 (CORPS RSM) D R TAYLOR

OVERVIEW

1. Another year has passed in our glorious Corps. All members have again produced some outstanding achievements both on the operational and sporting fronts. Recruiting has seen a huge turn around with soldier recruiting at 100%. Officer recruiting was slightly down but this is not a cause for alarm. The turn around in recruiting is due to the fantastic effort of our recruiters and units. The economical climate has also had an effect. The Corps is still providing quality recruiters and instructors to the various establishments including RMAS. The restructuring of our trade groups is now complete. The first Driver Lineman Storeman course started on the 14th September 2009.

OPERATIONS

2. As of Nov 09 there were approximately 708 Royal Signals soldiers serving on operations around the world. A large proportion of these continue to fight the war against terrorism in Afghanistan. The Corps is still not structured correctly for the campaign and many of you will be aware of the Signal Officer in Chief's vision with respect to Campaign Signal Regiments (CSRs). The Chief of the General Staff is a huge supporter of this plan. Momentum is now gathering to deploy 16th Signal Regiment as the first fully formed CSR. At present 11 Light Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (261) and elements of 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment provide support to the operation. There has been a move of many key organisations from Kandahar Airfield to Camp Bastion. The initial moves to convert from an expeditionary to a campaign footing, including the improvement and future proofing of CIS infrastructure within Bastion Camp. 11 Light Brigade will be relieved by 4th Armoured Brigade and 1st Division by 16th Signal Regiment during the spring of this year. 14th and 10th Signal Regiments are still providing specialist support. 14th Signal Regiment now has a fourth field squadron (224) in order to operate more efficiently within the operational cycle. Our other specialist units such as 18th Signal Regiment and 299 Signal Squadron (formerly 1 Sqn) still provide support albeit whilst suffering major manning problems.

DOMESTIC MATTERS

3. Our display teams are still very popular and highly sought after. Many of you may have heard that the future of the White Helmets was in doubt. Although the future is still uncertain, for the moment they continue to come under command of Regimental Headquarters. The new Regimental Colonel, Colonel Ollie Halstead, continues to fight our corner. Our Corps continues to dominate on the sporting front at both individual and team level. Of note was 3 Div becoming the Army football champions. The Corps also dominates all areas of Tug of War across the Army. Cpl Emma Proctor

from 11th Signal Regiment went on to represent England at the European Championships in the Netherlands where she earned silver. Many other individuals, too many to mention, have represented the Army and Combined Services at a plethora of sports from athletics to volleyball. Many units from the Corps have also been busy on the ceremonial front. 2nd Signal Regiment participated in the Kohima Veterans Day in York Minster, The Army in York Day and Remembrance Sunday. The Regiment also had the honour for the first time since 2005 of exercising its' Freedom of the City of York with over 200 members of the Regiment on Parade ably supported by the Corps Band. 10th Signal Regiment was involved in many events last year including the state opening of Parliament and the Remembrance parade at Whitehall to name but a few. 21st Signal Regiment performed the Queen's Guard during the summer with great success, indeed the SOinC and I stood on the forecourt of Buckingham Palace, with immense pride, as they carried out the changing of the guard. What of Blandford, which I know, is close to all our hearts? The Defence Training Review (DTR) process is still on going and the date for the move to St Athan continues to slip to the right. With the possibility of a new government, this year there may be a complete re-prioritisation of defence spending. DTR aside the home of the Corps will remain in Blandford, as will the museum and Regimental Headquarters. If our training does move to St Athan there is a plan to move another Signal Regiment into Blandford, possibly 14th Signal Regiment.

SUMMARY

4. Every individual of our Corps continues to work at a fanatical pace, along with the rest of the services, but they do so with dedication, professionalism and more notably humour. Pace will not reduce as we continue to support and fight the campaign in Afghanistan. This is our highest priority. We should all feel a great sense of satisfaction for what we have achieved to date. I look forward to seeing some of you at this year's AGM, this will give me the opportunity to show you my new DVD and hopefully get some feedback. *Certa Cito*.

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REORGANISATION OF ROYAL SIGNALS TA UNITS

Six of our 11 TA Regiments will close under the Orbat of Sep 2009. Some have already closed and the rest should close by March. The Editor's much abridged 'interpretation' of the plan is as follows:-

31 Sig Regt(V)	56 Sqn Eastbourne becomes part of 39 Sig Regt (V) 56 Sqn Brighton becomes part of 39 Sig Regt(V) 5 Sqn Banbury, 41 Sqn at Coulsdon & Kingston to 38 Sig Regt(V). 5 Sqn Abingdon closes. RHQ & 83 Sqn go to 71 (Y) Sig Regt.
33 Sig Regt (V)	RHQ, Sp Sqn, 42 Sqn & 55 Sqn to 32 Sig Regt(V) 59 & 80 Sqn close.
34 Sig Regt(V)	49 Sqn Leeds to 38 Sig Regt (V). 49 Sqn Hull closes. 50 Sqn Darlington & 90 Sqn to 32 Sig Regt(V) 50 Sqn Newcastle closes.
35 Sig Regt(V)	48 Sqn to 37 Sig Regt(V). 89 Sqn to 38 Sig Regt(V) RHQ, 58 & 95 Sqn close.
36 Sig Regt(V)	45 Sqn Colchester to 37 Sig Regt(V). 45 Sqn at Ipswich & Southend close. 60 Sqn Aylesbury to 39 Sig Regt(V). 60 Sqn Bedford closes.
40 Sig Regt(V)	RHQ, Sp Sq & 69 Sqn to 32 Sig Regt(V). 85 Sqn closes.

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PTARMIGAN

Many of our members used the Ptarmigan Secure Area Telephone System during their time with the Corps and may be interested in the following messages:-

FAREWELL TO PTARMIGAN

DTG: 221200Z MONTH :JULY YEAR: 2009

FROM: 22 SIG REGT STAFFORD
TO: HQ SOINC(A) BLANDFORD

22 SIG REGT IS NOW COMPLETING OUR FINAL TASKING WITH PTARMIGAN THROUGH 222 SIG SQN SUPPORTING 11 LT BDE'S PRE-DEPLOYMENT MRX FOR OP HERRICK. AS EVER, THE CAPABILITY PROVIDED BY PTARMIGAN WAS ROBUST AND AT NO TIME DID ANY USER EXPERIENCE A SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF COMMS. AFTER 25 YEARS OF STERLING SERVICE, INCLUDING TWO GULF WARS, DEPLOYMENTS TO THE BALKANS AND EXTENSIVE EXERCISES IN THE UK AND GERMANY SUPPORTING CORPS, DIV, BDE AND BATTLEGROUP HQS, PTARMIGAN HAS NOW REACHED THE END OF ITS USEFUL LIFE AND WILL BE TAKEN OUT OF SERVICE. 22 SIG REGT FORMED IOC IN APR 07 AND REACHED FOC AS A GS REGT, LARGELY PTARMIGAN EQUIPPED IN DEC 07, BEFORE RE-ROLLING FOR OP HERRICK WHILST MAINTAINING 248 GURKHA SIG SQN AS A PTARMIGAN SQN IN THE UK. 222 SIG SQN ARE NOW COMPLETING THE FINAL PTARMIGAN TRG SUPPORT TASK AND FITTINGLY, ENABLED BY ELEMENTS OF 217 SIG SQN IN THE FALCOM INTRODUCTION TEAM, WILL BE THE LEAD FALCON SQN FOR THE CORPS – TAKING ONE SYSTEM OUT OF SERVICE AND BRINGING ANOTHER SYSTEM INTO SERVICE IN THE COMING YEAR. TO FORMALLY MARK THE END OF PTARMIGAN, WHICH HAS BEEN AT THE HEART OF OUR CORPS CAPABILITY FOR THE LAST 25 YEARS, OC 222 SIG SQN, MAJ IAN RODGER, ON BEHALF OF THE CO 22 SIG REGT, COL NEIL FISHER, REQUESTS THE SO IN C (A)'S PERMISSION TO CLOSE DOWN THE LAST EVER PTARMIGAN NETWORK. THIS WILL BE CONFIRMED WITH A FINAL PTARMIGAN CALL FROM THE CO ON 24 JUL 2009 WHICH WILL ALLOW 22 SIG REGT TO SWITCH FOCUS ONTO SUPPORTING HQ ARRC AND CONVERSION TO FALCON, LEADING THE CORPS INTO A NEW ERA OF TRUNK COMMS.

CERTA CITO

DTG: 221300Z JUL 09
FROM: SOINC(A) BLANDFORD
TO 22 SIG REGT STAFFORD

FAO: CO AND OC 222 SIG SQN.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SIGNAL S2E/S2G 221200| JUL 09 REQUESTING MY PERMISSION TO CLOSE DOWN THE LAST EVER PTARMIGAN NETWORK. THIS MILESTONE MARKS THE END OF AN ERA FOR R SIGNALS WHICH STARTED WITH THE FIRST NETWORK BEING DEPLOYED BY 1 ARMD DIV HQ AND SIG REGT ON EX HIGHLAND MALT IN MARCH 85. PTARMIGAN WAS THE FIRST OPERATIONAL AREA SYSTEM TO BE DIGITAL, SECURE AND RESILIENT WITH A ROBUST MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. IT HAS PROVEN TO BE A BATTLE-WINNING EQUIPMENT OF WHICH THE CORPS CAN BE JUSTLY PROUD. OUR OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS HAVE ENSURED THAT COMMANDERS, THEIR STAFFS AND UNITS DEPLOYED ON TRAINING AND OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF SERVICE. THEIR LEADERSHIP, TRAINING, TECHNICAL PROFESSIONALISM AND TEAM WORK HAS BEEN AT THE CORE OF OUR SUCCESS. ON

BEHALF OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE CORPS, I SEND YOU MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON DELIVERING OUR PTARMIGAN MISSION TO THE LAST AND GIVE YOU PERMISSION TO CLOSE THE REMAINING NETWORK FOR THE LAST TIME. I REQUEST YOU PASS ON MY SINCERE GOOD WISHES TO ALL THOSE FROM WITHIN THE REGIMENT WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS HISTORIC EVENT AND I WISH YOU ALL WELL AS YOU NOW LEAD THE CORPS IN OUR PROCESS OF CONVERSION TO FALCON.

SOINC (A)

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CORPS BAND – PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS 2010

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
25 Feb	Concert	Milton Abbey School, Dorset
27 Feb	Opening of new Parish Rooms	Blandford Forum
19 Mar	Concert	Shaftesbury School
17 Apr	Concert	Blandford Forum
29 May	Corps Concert	Poole Lighthouse Theatre
6 Jun	Concert	Weymouth/Portland
12 Jun	Concert/Marching Band	South of England Show
19/20 Jun	RSA Reunion	Blandford Camp
24 Jun	Concert & Retreat	Haverfordwest
26 Jun	Concert/Marching Band	Armed Forces Day, Blandford Forum
3 Jul	Concert	Swindon
4 Jul	Service	Sherborne Abbey, Dorset
8 Jul	Retreat	Arundel. (Army Benevolent Fund)
10 Jul	Concert	Old Hill Festival, W Midlands
16-18 Jul	Concert/Marching Band	Kent Agriculture Show
28 Jul	Concert	Kneller Hall, Twickenham
1 Aug	Concert	Exmouth
6-7 Aug	Concert/Marching Band	Taunton Flower Show
13 Aug	Concert	St Mary's Church, Swanage, Dorset
18 Sep	Retreat	Hinton St Mary, Dorset
6 Oct	Parade	Haverfordwest
23 Oct	Concert	Pontycymer, S Wales
20 Nov	Concert	The Exchange, Sturminster Newton, Dorset

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THE WHITE HELMETS DISPLAY TEAM CALENDAR 2010

<u>Date</u>	<u>Show</u>	<u>Location</u>
5 – 9 May	Military Tattoo	Oslo, Norway
12 – 14 May	Balmoral Show	Belfast
29 – 31 May	Liverpool Military Show	Liverpool
19 – 20 Jun	RSA Reunion Weekend	Blandford
3 Jul	Army in York	York
16 – 18 Jul	Kent County Show	Kent
21 Jul	Driffield Show	East Yorkshire
25 Jul	Totnes & District Show	Devon

18 Aug	Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show	Dorset
26 Aug	Melplash Show	Dorset
30 Aug	Glendale Show	Northumberland
3 – 5 Sep	Chatsworth Country Fair	Derbyshire
18 – 19 Sep	Royal Berkshire Show	Berkshire

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FORECAST OF EVENTS FOR 2010

27 Mar	RSA AGM	London
23 Apr	QM/RD Convention	Blandford
11 May	Corps Dinner	London
19/20 Jun	RSA Reunion Weekend	Blandford
20 Jun	Corps Lunch	Blandford
5 Sep	Corps Lunch	Catterick
29 Oct	Corps Dinner	Glasgow
11 Nov	Opening of the Field of Remembrance.	Westminster Abbey
14 Nov	Remembrance Day	
18 Nov	RSI Lecture & Dinner	London
13 Dec (tbc)	Corps Carol Service	London

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NOTICES

Details of the **Army/Navy rugby** match 2010 can be found at: www.royalsignalsrugby.co.uk

Anyone fancy a friendly game of **hockey** at this year's RSA reunion? If you do, get in touch with Brian Mower on: 01258-482366. Brian organizes the now traditional "Seniors v Veterans " match and subsequent BBQ on the Saturday.

Chris Hayles is searching for **poems composed by soldiers** about soldiering with a view to publishing them in aid of Help for Heroes. He is trying mainly to get some from active service such as the Falklands campaign, the Northern Ireland Operation, plus Iraq and Afghanistan. If you can help, please send your item to: crhayles@btinternet.com Please put the word POEMS in the subject line so that the message goes into a special folder.

Request for sponsorship – Team Royal Signals Amundsen Scott 100TH Anniversary South Pole Race 2011

1. I am writing to request your support for the Royal Signals team that will be competing in the Amundsen Scott 100th Anniversary South Pole race in 2011. The race commemorates the original race to the South Pole in 1911 between Roald Amundsen of Norway and our own Captain Scott. We will have a 3 man team competing in the event which involves a 550 mile route dragging sleds, unsupported, to the Geographic South Pole. This year's event has recently been broadcast on BBC2 "On Thin Ice" featuring Ben Fogle and James Cracknell. The team of three representing the Royal Signals will be WO1 (RSM) Billy Morris, WO1Mark Morgan and myself WO2 (RQMS) Sean McIlroy.

2. Last year we demonstrated our commitment and capability by winning the International Yukon Arctic Ultra 100 mile race in Northern Canada. Our aim now is to win the South Pole race which starts in December 2011 and commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Amundsen/Scott race to the South Pole. The South Pole race will be televised as part of a 6 week BBC series and will cover the endeavours of all ten teams.

3. Nothing like this has ever been attempted previously by a Royal Signals team. Our website www.mercurypolar.co.uk provides a lot more information about the team and event. Our financial target to allow us to compete in the race is £90,000. This is certainly a lot of money but we are working hard to raise it through a number of events around the Corps. With help from the Royal Signals Community, serving and retired, we can reach our target.

4. The team can be sponsored via the 'Donate' icon on the website www.mercurypolar.co.uk or a cheque for any amount, however modest, can be made out to "Central Bank BGSU South Pole" and sent to WO2 (RQMS) S McIlroy at; QM Dept, Blandford Garrison, Dorset DT11 8RH. Our aim is to proudly fly the Corps flag at the Geographic South Pole as the winners of the 100th anniversary race. Any contribution that you can make will be very gratefully received.

Sean McIlroy. WO2(RQMS) Tel: 01258 482218. Mobile: 07825 515534. E Mail: seanmcilroy@hotmail.co.uk

E-Mail

Email scams. Some scam emails (always after your money) now mention a connection to the RSA (or other service assn) and may even have your name on them. DO NOT reply to these (even to tell them to "xxxxxx off"), as once the sender has confirmation of your Email address, you may be targetted with even more junk mail. Any email from the RSA will always end with 'mod.uk'. See <http://whatconsumer.co.uk/brainwashed-powerless/> for more information. If you receive an e-mail that contains something that is either outrageous (i.e. the fallacy of Starbucks refusing to send coffee to US Marines in Iraq) or too good to be true (i.e. Samsung giving away free laptops) check out <http://www.hoax-slayer.com/>. If it is on the list of hoaxes, send the hoax slayer link to the senders so that they can be educated not to forward such e-mails.

Still on the subject of e-mail, we are grateful to our member Cliffe Webb (Ex TOT) for the following article:-

"There appears to have been an upsurge in the number of people in the UK distributing emails by what is more commonly know as an "open email" - that is where they send an email to others from their address book using either To: or Cc or a combination of both. When we provide someone with our email address - we do so in what is an unwritten understanding of trust, I am sure you have no desire for your email address to be splattered across the internet without your permission. To do so makes us vulnerable to "hackers attention" with obvious results.

Harvesting Email addresses. If you receive an email from someone that has sent it to a few others (recently I received one that went to 132 other recipients!!) by an "open email" perhaps they were not aware that we can all obtain everyone's email addresses by selecting "reply" - this brings up all of the email address, all you have to do is then right click on each of them to obtain the address. Fortunately for them I am not a hacker, otherwise I could run rife and inject all sorts of Trojans or other nasties !!

Consider the following Scenario

Let us take the case of one of those recipients having let lapse their internet security and Firewall - this makes them more vulnerable to being hacked and in consequence if they have been included in the same distribution as you - they may have been hacked into and your email address "harvested" to be sold on to other sick people. Remember we are all as safe as the weakest link. Yet another reason to subscribe to the security package F-Secure repackaged by the UW as MySecurePC, once you have subscribed to it - you never have to renew your subscription, a big advantage with this package is it also updates all of the security suite with any new definitions hourly (so your computer is always safe)

In the meantime please advise others that you have no wish for your email address passed to others without your permission - otherwise it may be indiscriminately distributed across the internet by a friendly hacker !!. “

Forces Discount Directory. Those of you who have yet to check out the “Forces Discount Directory” may do so at; www.forcesdiscounts-mod.co.uk After logging in, it will be seen that the completion of a ‘MOD Certificate of Eligibility’ should be completed. The General Secretary has authorised the Chairman of RSA Branches and of our Affiliated Assns, to sign these certificates for their RSA Life Members, on behalf of HQ Royal Signals Association. Once signed, the certificate must be retained by the individual as it serves as proof of identification if asked. Those members of the RSA who do not belong to a branch, may send their certificate to Assn HQ for signing. Please remember to enclose a SAE for the return of the certificate and quote your RSA serial number.

RSA car stickers. The RSA car sticker can be obtained by sending a SAE with a 50p coin (for UK addresses) to Assn HQ. It is in colour, with 'Jimmy' in the centre.

Future reunions;

The '**602 Assn of Friends**' will hold their annual reunion dinner on Sat 20 Mar 2010 near Worcester. It is open to those who served in 602 Sig Tp(SC), plus No 1 Sig Sqn in Bletchley. For further info, contact the Secretary, Dennis Addey at: 602.aof.secretary@blueyonder.co.uk or call; 01242-238535.

A reunion for the **Junior Tradesmen's Regt**, Rhyl, will be held over w/e 10/13 Sep 2010 at Bodelwyddan Castle Hotel, Bodelwyddan. More details from Bill May on: 07789-283496.

2010 will be the 60th anniversary of the apprentices who joined **AAS Harrogate** in the two intakes in 1950. A dinner has been organised to celebrate this anniversary at the George Hotel Harrogate on Friday 18 June 2010. Anyone from these intakes is welcome to attend including their wives and partners. Please contact Dewi Treharne on: 01509 218521 e-mail; dewitreharne@talktalk.net Or 13 Hume Street, Loughborough, Leics LE11 1AT.

For those who served in **3 Div Signals** in the 70's there will be a reunion in Liverpool over the weekend 30 Apr-2 May 2010. For further details contact Pete Line at: pmline@aol.com Or Ginge Doak on: 07850-020981.

Can you help? **Bernie Meehan** joined the Corps as an apprentice at Harrogate in Sep 68 and graduated as a RTg in 72. His first posting was to D Troop, 22 Sigs. He went on to serve in a variety of postings, including a total of 10 years with 14 Sigs (EW) before going on the Long Service List as a SQMS with 42 Sig Sqn(V) in Manchester. He is due to be medially discharged in April. He lives in St Helens with Wendy and family. Last year Bernie suffered a severe stroke that almost cost his life, but he pulled through, but is almost blind. Bernie has had few interests in life, as the Army was/is his life. They have just registered with St Dunstan's. Wendy his wife says 'Bernie is so uplifted when he hears from someone in the Corp he has known over the years and it makes such a difference to his day'. If you knew/met Bernie during your career, would you consider taking the time out to give him a call, send him an email or contact him via facebook or even better, pop in and see him? He has had very few people contact him, particularly when you consider how long he has been in the Army. He does not feel sorry for himself, nor does he focus on poor health. Contact details are Tel: 01744 733132 (suggest you phone for address and arrange time if you wish to visit him) or email to wendym_6@hotmail.com

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LAST POST

We pay our respects when we remember the following RSA Members who passed away in 2009:-

<u>Rank and name</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Rank and Name</u>	<u>Service</u>
Sig C D Andrew	1991-96	Sig J Abbott	1945-48
LCpl A H Bradbury	1964-78	Sig D Bowden	1950-52
Sig R E J Burbidge	1950-52	Lt Col L F Ball	1940-70
Sig A G Barrimore	1946-48	Sig S Barsby	2005-09
Sgt R W Barfoot	1953-67	Maj Gen AC Birtwistle CB CBE DL	1947-83
Sig R G Brown	1937-42	Maj C F Bushell OBE	1942-75
Sig W S Belton	1941-46	Sgt N Bell	1944-47
Sig G Brew	1942-47	Lt V L Butcher	1939-46
LCpl V G H Brookes	1947-53	Sig C A Bell	1945-48
WO1 J C Banks	1956-78	LCpl R G Branch	1951-53
LCpl S E Brown	1940-46	Sgt M W Broadbent	1950-60
Maj H J Crocker BEM	1946-78	Cpl R J Cannadine	1947-52
Sig S C Crouch	1939-46	WO1 B P J Claffey	1963-85
Lt Col G N A Curtis	1939-46	Sig M Crook	1942-46
Sig T J Chapman	1939-51	WO2 B J J Chambers	1964-78
Cpl T F Carney	1948-71	LCpl F Crompton	1939-46
Sgt H B Dalziel	1940-46	Sig S Degei	1961-67
Maj G N Downey	1964-93	Cpl B W Dickson	1964-76
WO2 E Davies	1969-91	SSgt J Driscoll	1949-71
SSgt R A M Duff	1952-75	Sgt R Dark	1959-76
Sig A A Doubleday	1959-61	WO2 W Dolman	1939-46
Cpl D Dickinson	1958-62	Sig B G Denniss	1947-49
Sgt J B Donaldson	1964-75	Sgt S Edmonds	1941-46
Sig V Evans	1942-47	Brig P J Evans	1947-86
Lt T A A Elliott	1937-44	Col D B Emley OBE	1941-76
Capt P Gershon	1960-65	Cpl J Gray	1964-74
LCpl V B Green	1984-88	Maj J E Grigsby	1945-85
Sig R Green	1951-56	SSgt L F J Gasson	1936-45
LCpl E R Grady	1960-63	Sig T A Graley	1952-54
Sgt W Glenfield	1952-64	Brig K D Gribbin OBE	1939-69
Sig I A Green	1964-72	Sig N H Hodge	1944-47
Maj R W V Hutley MBE	1943-78	Maj J A P Hoskyns	1939-46
Sig G H Hickmore	1940-46	Sgt R D Howes	1941-46
SSgt L J Hyde	1962-85	Maj J D Heard	1943-85
WO2 P E T Hope	1939-46	Capt J C Knight	1940-46
Sig P J Lewis	1944-48	Brig M J Lance	1963-98
Sgt C A Larkin	1948-66	Cpl I P Loader	1943-52
Sig M H Linley	1966-77	Sgt E K Lakeman	1941-46
SSgt P G Lori	1953-76	Sgt P Laing	1958-76
Capt A M Lea	1943-47	SSgt R J R McArthur	1962-84
Sgt W J Martin	1941-47	SSgt D J MacGilp	1957-82
Sgt T McGreavy	1952-69	Sgt K Male	1972-82
Capt R F McClatchey	1961-70	LCpl R G Moyse	1939-46
Capt J B McSherry	1964-98	Capt A W Medhurst	1946-48
Lt A R D Murray CBE	1940-44	Lt Col J A MacFarlane	1972-98

Sig L C Moore	1940-42	WO1 S R Norris	1950-75
LCpl F C Nippers	1938-46	Sig R F Owen	1942-46
Sig J Owen	1943-47	WO1 W C Offord	1932-51
WO2 E W Osborne	1942-67	Sig W A C Piper	1940-47
Sig P G Price	1944-48	Col M J Pickard	1956-88
Brig O J Peck OBE	1941-75	Sgt D Pudsey	1966-95
Sig R M C Prangnell	1962-71	SSgt A K Phillips	1963-87
Sgt D S Rickard	1964-86	Cpl A D Rixon	1950-69
Sgt C E Ryder	1976-89	SSgt C A J Ridley	1951-75
Cpl A L Steddy	1943-47	Maj C G Sandys	1941-73
SSgt T Stone	1942-55	SSgt J A Streeting	1970-92
Sgt W V Skevington	1955-85	Sig T C Summers	1945-48
Maj F M C Stock	1952-78	Maj D E Saunders	1939-46
Cpl T E Thornton	1952-53	Col D R W Thomas	1938-66
Sig A G Turnbull	1955-57	WO2 D J Tryner	1950-74
Sig P F Tomlinson	1940-46	Sgt D G Vail	1947-52
Sig E J Vincent	1937-46	Lt Col W Weir	1945-85
Sgt C Weir	1973-95	Lt Col G H Wootton	1938-63
Sgt E Walker	1942-54	Maj P D Warren	1942-70
Capt K A W Wills	1940-47	Cpl T Wilson	1936-46
Cpl R I H Wood	1959-68	Sig A Walker-Brown	1940-46
Cpl I R Winstanley	1968-79	Sgt P Whitham	1952-64
Sig D C C Ward	1942-46	Sgt M E Wright	1952-57
Cpl R F Young	1952-55		

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POSTAL ADDRESS

Every year many copies of our newsletter are "Return to sender - person moved away". If the postal address for you on the envelope containing this newsletter is incorrect in any detail, would you kindly inform us in order that we might amend our records. Likewise, if you are moving, we would appreciate your new address so that we can remain in touch with you. Please be assured that members' personal details are never divulged to unauthorized persons.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

President: Lieutenant General R Baxter CBE

Chairman: Brig N F Wood c/o Assn HQ, Blandford Camp, Dorset
DT11 8RH

General Secretary: Col T W (Terry) Canham
01258-482081 E-mail:- rhq@royalsignals.mod.uk

Assistant General Secretary: Maj (Retd) I N (Ian) Greig
01258-482082 E-mail:- rhq@royalsignals.mod.uk

Welfare Secretary: Mrs Linda Sizeland
01258-482089 E-mail:- welfare@royalsignals.mod.uk

Admin Officer: Mr Peter Cuckow
(membership & records) 01258-482090 E-mail:- rsa@royalsignals.mod.uk

Other useful numbers:-

Regimental Colonel: Col D G Halstead
01258-485240 rhq@royalsignals.mod.uk

Chief Clerk: 01258-482161 rhq@royalsignals.mod.uk
Clerks: 01258-482083

Wire Editor: 01258-485249 thewire@royalsignals.mod.uk
Asst Editor: 01258-485248

Accounts: 01258-482087 accounts@royalsignals.mod.uk

Royal Signals Institution (RSI): Col (Retd) Tom Moncur
01258-482647 rsi@royalsignals.mod.uk

Museum shop: 01258-482248 info@royalsignalsmuseum.com

Museum archives: Mr Tim Stankus 01258-482413

Corps Webmaster WO2 (FofS) Andy Soward
01258-485640 webmaster@royalsignals.mod.uk

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