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The Monthly Royal Signals Newsletter

To Unite, Trigger Old Memories, and Record Personal History for Posterity

January 2004

Welcome to the January 2004 edition of the Royal Signals Newsletter, and the start of another hopefully interesting New Year .

Readers can now get this newsletter in two ways, either by collection (as a pdf version for off-line reading/printing) from the newsletter distribution service, and from there they will get regular notification of the same by a brief e-mail, http://groups.yahoo.com/group/royal_signals or now thanks to the efforts of Keith Drummond this newsletter has also been made available on-line within the main RSO site. Look for the respective drop-down menu's.

We still need your participation submissions and feedback, so please send us your stories, concerns and wishes, and please recommend us to your friends and enemies ;-)

This Month's Contents

- This month is virtually a "Looking For Special"
- With many people looking for specific Individuals, friends and information of...
- Looking for Friends of George Holden, (Also Known As "George Kaff")
- Looking for Ex-WRAC / L/Cpl Dorothy Brenda Morris
- Looking for Info about Ex R. Sigs, Ex-P.O.W. (Far East) Cyril Northcott
- Looking for: WO Alex Nichol and Looking for Members of the Boxing Team
- Personal Memories (1954 Forces Newspaper Clip supplied by Len Payne)
- RSO site visitors write: Some Jokes and other feedback and questions received
- Some more "Looking For" request...
- Darran's info about "the menu of a WW2 kitchen" and "Translating by Rank"
- Plus our regular details of Reunions, etc.!
- AND "The "Technology" Volunteer Support Project" (a new idea by Brian)

I want to say thank you to our readers and our contributors, also in the name of Brian Streetly and Keith Drummond

Mrs. Petra Henderson
(Royal Signals 1971-1976)

The Website and Database Site
<http://www.royal-signals.org.uk>
Please visit and check/update your data regularly

The Distribution and Archive Site
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/royal_signals/
To change your delivery of this newsletter visit above.

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Looking For: Friends of George Holden (R.S. 1961-82)

From: edgar weekley
 Location: Norfolk
 e-Mail: edgar.weekley@ntlworld.com

Message: On behalf of George Kaff who served in the Royal Signals 1961-1983 as yet I don't have a list of all his postings but I do know he was at 7th Sigs and at 21 Sigs.

George is very seriously ill and would like to contact a few of his old mates, so is there anyone out there who remembers George, please get in touch.

Update 29th January 2004, (Note the Corrected Surname)

Does anyone have any recollection of George Holden, he was at 7th Sigs in the 70s as a Sgt, George is seriously ill and I would like to contact as many of his old mates as possible.

I'm sure it would be a great boost to him to get in touch with some of his old pals.

regards Edgar

Looking For: L/CPL Morris D.B. (Ex WRAC 1958-1962)

Dorothy Brenda Morris (Maybe now married with new Surname?)

10th Jan 2004

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a Malaysian Indian trying to get in touch with a long lost friend, please help me. It was during my service in the British Army (Royal Signals) in GHQ FARELF Singapore (1956-1963) that I had the opportunity to work with this lady from WRAC in the Signal Teleprinter Room, GHQ Singapore some time from (1958-1962). She was then a Corporal working in the teleprinter room. She is very religious and a kind person. It was on one of those days that she gave me a small Bible that I had misplaced somewhere in my house, but on 31.12.2003 after nearly 40 years I found this bible again. Inside on one of the pages I found a small portion of a torn envelope, which she had used to scribble some biblical quotations. On the reverse side of the envelope there was a postmark MOLD, FLINTSHIRE dated 7 JUNE 1959 with the following name and address.

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L/CPL Morris D.B. (WRAC)
Combined Women Services Display Team
Kingston Gate Camp
Kingston on Thames
Surrey.

This I think was part of a letter from her parents to her when she was working in Kingston Gate Camp, while she was serving in U.K. Prior to my finding the bible she had only been a memory, now I have an address to find her. Forty years have gone by and most probably she might have forgotten me, because after her service in Singapore we did not bid each other goodbye or anything like that, we simply faded away from each other, which I regret to this day. It has been such a long time and most probably she is today around 55-62 years old.

She might have married and moved away from MOLD. Her full name is Dorothy Brenda Morris and her family members might still be living in Mold, Flintshire who can help me, that is if I can get in touch with her or her family members. I am hoping that with this modern human ingenuity computers and internet and most of all with human kindness I will be able to locate my long lost friend.

Would someone please help me?

My name is: K. Thambiraja, (Ex 18th Signal Regiment. C Company. Princess Mary Barracks, Singapore)

My Address:
123 Lrg1, Taman Bunga Raya.
08000 Sunday Patani
Kedah, Malaysia.
Telephone:604-4215405.
E-Mail: thambiraja@hotmail.com

I have tried so many different web pages/web address/ E-mail but alas no reply. If there is some reply at least there is something to go on.

I will be grateful and obliged for you help. Thanking you in anticipation

I remain Sincerely yours

K.Thambiraja.

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Looking For: Info about the Late Cyril Northcott. (Ex Royal Signals 1940-46, P.O.W.-Far East, 1942-45)

Dear Petra, Keith & Brian.

Thank you for your email dated 21st December 2003.

My father was in the Royal Signals during the Second World War and was held in a P.O.W Camp in Thailand for most of that time. I logged on to your web site to see if I could find any information on where my father was held as a P.O.W and if he worked on the railway. As I am thinking of going to Thailand I would like to see where he was held, if possible.

His details were :-

Cyril Northcott. - D.O.B. - 1st Jan 1908.
Seven Kings, Essex. Occupation Surveyor.

- Enlisted, - Royal Signals as Signaller 2357565 on 12th Dec 1940.
- Embarked for overseas - Malaya, Singapore 28th July 1941.
- Singapore - become a P.O.W. 15th Feb 1942.
- taken to Thailand October 1942.
- Only known address was - No.2 P.O.W. Camp. Thailand.
- Chungkai P.O.W. Hospital. - 8th Jan 1944 to 17th April 1944.
- Chungkai P.O.W. Hospital. - 6th May 1944 to 20th Aug 1944. transferred to - Nakom Pathom P.O.W. Hospital. to date unknown.
- Nakom Pathom P.O.W. Hospital. 3rd July 1945.
- (name unknown) Hospital. 7th Sept 1945.
- Embarked for UK - Troopship S.S."P.30" 13th Oct 1945.
- Repatriated - 22nd Oct 1945.
- Royal Herbert Hospital Woolwich. 27th Nov 1945 to 20th Dec 1945.
- Released on leave 26th Jan 1946
- Discharged 11th May 1946.

(The above information came from a War Pension Appeal Tribunal form, which I found after my mothers death in 1971.)

After Demob he returned to work as a Surveyor.

After several periods of illness he died on 21st March 1961, of disease resulting from his time as a P.O.W.

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I am enquiring into whether you or the Royal Signals, could fill in the gaps please,

- Where he was stationed in U.K. ?
- What was his job in Singapore ?
- Do you know where P.O.W. Camp 2. was in Thailand
- and any other location he may have been at.

If you cannot help me do you know where I can get any information from.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Yours Sincerely

Paul R. Northcott. (son)
email - paulrn@btinternet.com
or by Phone 01277 213573

Looking For: WO Alex Nicol or Nichol (Ex SQMS 2 Div, 1974)

I am looking for WO Alex Nicol or Nichol, I last saw Alec when he was SQMS 'A' Squadron 2 Div HQ & Signal Regt. Bunde, West Germany. Back then (in 1974), I was WO2 (CSM) Jimmy Letham Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, accommodation WO and the CSM RHQ Squadron 2 Div Signal Regt. was demobbed in Nov 1974 and came straight to Australia.

I thank you in anticipation, Jimmy Letham

mailto: jimleth@picknopwl.com.au

Personal Memories and info Shared; from Len Payne

Petra,

thought this may amuse you.

Have had this in my wallet for over 50 years,

I cut it from the British Forces Newspaper in Korea in 1954.

Regards Len

ECHO FROM BATTLE OF HASTINGS!

London.—A story recounted at a lunch recently by Mr Henry Brooke, Financial Secretary of the Treasury, will be new to many.

It concerned an Army officer whose promotion was said to be wrongly Gazetted to date from 1054 instead of 1954.

Highly amused, the officer applied to the War Office for back pay and allowances.

The application was considered and the War Office replied that it appeared the amount due was £39,999 18s 5d. The letter added:

"I am directed to invite your attention to para. 764 of King's Regulations of that date (21.6.1054) in which it is provided that officers in command of troops shall be held personally responsible for the loss of arms and equipment.

"On the information contained in your application you are the senior surviving officer of the Battle of Hastings.

"Records department informs us that at the battle the English lost 20,000 men, valued at £2 apiece." Then came the sting: "Your account is therefore debited 1s 7d."

Figure 1 An Article from the British Forces Newspaper, Korea, 1954!

Readers Jokes: (The Wisdom of Keith's many years...)

Remember Sex is like a Petrol Station..... Sometimes you get a full service... but sometimes you have to be satisfied with Self Service.....

Sent in by Keith Lloyd.....

Readers Jokes: (Based on Bob's Own Overseas Experiences?)

A variation on the baptismal joke.....a Missionary is converting the natives.....in the river. he dunks one and asks" Does Ya beleeve?", "Yas Suh Ah Beleeves!" is the reply, he dunks him again(longer this time) And again asks" Does Yah beleeve?" "Yas suh, AH beleeves" is the reply.....On the third dunking, (longer again)the missionary cries....." does yah beleeve?" "yassuh, ah beleeves" he chokes..."What does yah beeleeve?" the missionary, shouts....."AH beleeves, yo' is tryin to drown me.....is the reply.....

Sent by Bob Hedaux.

Reader Searching for: Anyone from Egypt 1950s...

Name: Adrian Williams (Taffy)
Email: adrianandthelma@cogeco.ca
Location: Ontario Canada

Message: I have been looking through postings in Egypt from the years 1953 to 55 and have not found anyone who severved in Tel el Kebir Maybe they don't want to admit to it, it was a bloody lousy place I was the office clerk at 2 sqn detachment 3 L of C signals The Det officer was Lt W.W. Burrows and the Det Sgt was Sgt Scott. anybody out there remember. I know it was a long time ago. A happy new year to everyone

Jim Purdy Responded...

Name: Jim Purdy
Email: jimroyalsignals@aol.com
Location: Swindon, Wiltshire
Message:

Hi all, Just to wish all ex signallers a belated happy new year etc. Great site and congratulations for that.

Have just replied direct to his email address - Adrian Williams (Taffy), who mentioned that he hadn't come across anyone who had served in Tel el Kebir, Egypt. I did - 1955 and served as a young Sgt with 51 Lorried Inf Bde Signal Tp. The OC was Capt Norman Gallyer and the 2i/c was 2 lt Michie. The other Sgt with me was big Bill Leach, and if you see this Bill, best regards etc.

Regards

Jim Purdy
ex 22289283

Looking For: Friends of Peter (Chris) Chatterton

Name: Peter (Chris) Chatterton
Email: pchatterton@dial.pipex.com
Location: Herford

Message:

Anyone recall the following. Col.North, Maj Hammersley, Capt. Powelly, CSM. Knowles, Staff Sgt Spoors, Bill Angel, Johnny Brookman, Brian Callow, Danny Day, PTI Brown. Hope time has treated you well and all those whose names I cannot recall. Best wishes Peter.

Looking For: Members of the R.S. Boxing Team

Name: Harold (Jake) Jones
Email: jonessabdenjake@aol.com
Location: Sabden, Clitheroe, Ribble Valley, Lancashire.

Message:

Sill seeking Taffy Davis, Taffy Raison, Tommy Green, Don Wilkinson, Croft, Meluish, Johnstone, Carr, All member's of the Royal Signal's Boxing Team at Tyersall Camp, Singapore. 1953- 1954, I have found Harry Stevelman, Harry Mclennan, and Duke Cairns, If there is anyone who know the people I am still seeking, please get in touch,

Regards Jake

Reader Searching for: Anyone from Ismalia 1950s...

Name: Robbie Robertson
Email: robertsonrm@blueyonder.co.uk
Location: Edinburgh

Message:

anyone from 2 Agra Sigs ferry point Ismalia 51-54 then Colchester 54-55 I am sure there must be someone out there who was in one of these units? I have been looking for nearly two years without a word from anyone. any takers?

Readers Questions: 237 Signal Sqn Reunion???

Hi, first time user but I heard there was going to be a re-union of 237 Signal Sqn Members. Wonder if you heard anything. I'd be much obliged if you did to let me know of the details.

Thanks. enjoying the site so far.

Colin Gibbon (AKA navillus) navillus@ntlworld.com

RSO site visitor Wrote:

This is a request we received from a service apparently for "Demobing" Service-people, since it is a free service (and we are not entering any commercial agreement, nor receiving any fee for helping the owner) we will make an exception to our strict non-commercial policy and copy the information below as received... The RSO however has not verified this service and cannot therefore make any statement or endorsement about it, good or bad!

I have visited your web site with interest and I am writing to ask if you would consider placing a link to **Demob Job** on your links page. I would in turn place a link to your site on our links page which can be navigated to from <http://www.demobjob.co.uk>

I have supplied the following text if you approve of the above.

<http://www.demobjob.co.uk> **Demob Job** is the future one stop shop for those leaving the Armed Forces, or those that have already left, to resettlement training and employment. Register online and receive early notification of jobs matching your preferred job choice and working region. **Membership is FREE!**

I look forward to your reply.

Adrian (Operations Manager)

T: ++44 (0) 1423 529791
 F: ++44 (0) 1423 529791
 M: 07813 655 898
 E: adrian@demobjob.co.uk

Demob Job | PO Box 435 | HARROGATE | HG3 2ZQ

Darran's Info Pages

Darran who is known to most people regularly on the various signals sites and groups, as the Owner of the two MSN groups "Royal Signals Club" and "Cardiff Royal Signals", <http://groups.msn.com/RoyalSignalsClub/> and <http://groups.msn.com/cardiffroyalsignals> the latter also being the host site for the Sunday night chat, Supplied (*involuntary!*) the following info about "the weeks Menu for a WW2 Kitchen", and "Interpreting Military Jargon by Rank" ...

Menu for a WW2 Kitchen

Below is a sample of a menu from a world war two kitchen. This would feed a family of five for a week on 5 shillings and sixpence per head. As you can see there is plenty to eat!

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Breakfast	Porridge, Fried potatoes and bacon scraps	Porridge, Dripping and toast	Porridge, Bread Marg. and Jam	Porridge, Bubble and Squeak and Fried bread	Porridge, Beef sausages and Fried apple	Porridge, Dripping and toast	Porridge, Bread, Marg and Jam
Lunch	Rabbit pot roast, Parsnips, Greens. Steamed apple and prune pudding	Lentil soup and Bread	Baked Potato and Marg. Milk pudding	Bone and Vegetable soup with bread	Bread and Marg. Cheese, Watercress and Milk pudding	Peas Pudding, Bread and Marg.	Mince and Haricot Pudding, Potatoes, Greens, Piece of fruit.
Supper	Bread, Marg. Jam, Potato Scones	Bubble and squeak, Bread and Cheese, Beetroot	Minced tripe, Potatoes, Greens. Stewed fruit	Fish and Potato pie, Haricot beans, Bread and Jam	Breast of Mutton stew, Potatoes, Vegetables, Jam Tart	Liver hot-pot, Greens, Jam tart	Bread and Marg. Cheese, Celery

EVERYTHING IS RELATIVE - BY RANK

The military has many unique ways of looking at problems. Many times, even though the personalities traits may be identical, they are always relative, by rank. The system seems to handle each one differently. However, the lower in rank you are, the clearer the problem becomes.

BAD ATTITUDE

THE COLONEL - Has his own way of doing things

THE CAPTAIN - Has initiative

THE SERGEANT - Often follows his own course

THE CORPORAL - Is a discipline problem and never follows orders

UNKEPT APPEARANCE

THE COLONEL - Sets a different standard

THE CAPTAIN - Requires improvement in dress and deportment

THE SERGEANT - Is untidy

THE CORPORAL - Is a scruffy bastard

STRANGE DEMEANOR

THE COLONEL - Has a unique perspective

THE CAPTAIN - Is known to be eccentric

THE SERGEANT - Tends to be slightly off track

THE CORPORAL - Is a bloody flake

LOW INTELLIGENCE

THE COLONEL - Possess a different way of thinking

THE CAPTAIN - Has problems with some concepts

THE SERGEANT - Is a slow learner

THE CORPORAL - Has the I.Q. of a garden slug

DOMESTIC SITUATION

THE COLONEL - Interacts well socially with the fairer gender

THE CAPTAIN - Has many female friends

THE SERGEANT - Has been seen in the company of other women

THE CORPORAL - Screws around on his wife

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

THE COLONEL - Loves his men

THE CAPTAIN - Has an alternative lifestyle

THE SERGEANT - Has feminine qualities

THE CORPORAL - Is a screaming, prancing fag

SUITABLE PUNISHMENT

THE COLONEL - A slight reprimand may be necessary if this happens again

THE CAPTAIN - Requires disciplinary action

THE SERGEANT - Should be punished

THE CORPORAL - Should be thrown in a hole and buried alive

AWOL

THE COLONEL - Has taken an extended leave period

THE CAPTAIN - Is on personal administration

THE SERGEANT - Is not at work today

THE CORPORAL – AWOL

Thanks Darran.

UK Signals Reunion Info and Websites

Remember AAS Harrogate?...

Petra,

Grateful if you would kindly include the following.

All intake 59C from the AAS Harrogate. Trying to put a 45th anniversary dinner together at Harrogate on Sat 4th Sep 2004.

All interested parties please contact me.

Thanks, Ian.

Ian Buckley ian.buckley7@ntlworld.com

If you are planning a reunion, please tell us “who, where, when and the relevant contact info”. or tell us if you have other inputs such as “help finding” or details of any R. Sigs relevant Groups or websites, etc.

Your RSO and Ex-Signallers needs you!

The “Technology” Volunteer Support Project...

Brian would like to help connect people with a bit of Computer / Internet / e-mail user experience, with some elderly or novice Ex-Royal Signals members who are considering (or recently have) purchased a computer and want to go “online” You do not have to be an expert, and indeed many times people who have themselves recently learnt are the better instructors, because you know how much the other person is overwhelmed by the process of setting everything up...

Anyone with some spare time on their hands and a willingness to help others in their immediate local area, please write a quick mail to Brian, saying where you live and if you are mobile, and to what radius you might be willing to travel to meet and help other ex-signals people... You can also offer to help others by phone if you are not mobile...

This job has a useless “package of Benefits” then there is zero salary, no travel expenses paid for travel involved and 365 days of “no vacation!” Just the great feeling you have helped others... Darran is currently doing similar work on-line, but there are a lot of isolated and in some cases disabled Ex-Signallers out there whose life quality would greatly increase if someone could help them set up a computer... We will set up a dedicated R.S. Computer Problems” Yahoo Group to help discuss any and all problems and hold useful tips and information to help make this task easier and swap experiences...

Also anyone wishing to donate working but no longer “highest Specification” equipment, modems, printers, etc., can also get in touch with Brian and he will try to find them a new home with such elderly or disabled Signallers via the nearest RSA...

Contact Us

If you have any comments, inputs or events for this Newsletter, please Contact Brian, Keith or myself via the respective royal-signals.org.uk email addresses below.

Brian Streetly	Brian@royal-signals.org.uk
Keith Drummond	Keith@royal-signals.org.uk
Petra Henderson	Petra@royal-signals.org.uk

Thank you (also to all our content contributors) , and until till next Month.

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