



The Shutter Telegraph

Newsletter of The Royal Signals Museum

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D-DAY and DORSET

To celebrate the 60th Anniversary of “Operation Overlord” we have a new exhibition D-Day and Dorset. It covers the role of the Royal Signals and Dorset on D-Day with interactive fun trails, Pathé News films of the assault and a photographic database of Dorset towns and villages showing life during the build up.

See how the plan for D-Day unfolded through the eyes of those who were there, with particular attention to the Royal Signals and their role within SOE, Phantom, SAS, Airborne and Special Services.

The success of D-Day was partly due to the success of the deception plan, which convinced the German hierarchy that the attack would be in the Pas de Calais. Find out about the many methods of deception, which were used, and for the first time the secret role played by the Royal Signals, which is often forgotten.

CAN YOU HELP - What were you doing at or around D-Day, have you any stories, photographs or memorabilia which may help our exhibition or archives? We would like to hear from anybody with a Signals or Dorset connection with any relevant material or recollections.



Web: www.royalsignalsmuseum.com E-mail info@royalsignalsmuseum.com

ROYAL SIGNALS YOUNG OFFICERS' COURSE PHOTOGRAPHS



Lt EJ Hellier is seen here on No 4 Subalterns course in 1952. Major General Jimmy Hellier is soon to retire as one of our Museum Trustees. He and Margo have been heavily involved with the New Museum Project since the late 1980s. For his outstanding contribution he was awarded the RSI Silver Medal in 1997. The Trustees and all staff at the Museum are very grateful for all their friendship and hard work and wish them well for the future.

Every officer recalls stories from the dreaded ‘Q’ Course on which we met fellow officers who became lifelong friends. We have a Museum project underway to digitise our collection of photographs. This will take ‘years’ to complete but already we have scanned nearly every ‘Q’ Course back to 1951. These are scanned at 300 dpi and include the names of those who attended the course. We can therefore offer you a copy of your ‘Q’ Course for only £5 by e-mail or a hard copy by post. For your copy please send a cheque payable to the Royal Signals Museum giving details of your course.

MUSEUM UPDATE
by COLONEL (Retd) CLIFF WALTERS, MUSEUM DIRECTOR

I am pleased to be able to tell you that *your* Museum has had another excellent year. The wider circulation of the Shutter Telegraph in 2003 certainly raised our profile and it has been a great pleasure to be in contact with many more past members of the Corps. Meanwhile, the Museum has made good progress on all fronts. Most important to us is that almost without exception our increasing number of visitors, including children, are very positive about how much they enjoy their time here. We have continued to add to the attractions with new displays of the Band and White Helmets and new lighting for some of the existing cabinets.

For 2004 we have a new display depicting “D-Day and Dorset”. On its 60th Anniversary it will concentrate on the Royal Signals involvement in OPERATION OVERLORD which, as all Signallers will know, is not an involvement that has been well publicised. We also have a lot of work to do behind the scenes due to the enthusiasm of many ‘old signallers’. We have just about filled the archive and artefact store with donations from you all. This year will see us having a ‘reorg’ and expansion of our holding capacity. So, no excuses, you can continue to offer us your Corps memorabilia!

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your stalwart support without which we could make no progress. A special mention must go to the band of volunteers (too many to mention by name) who assist us throughout the year to keep our head above water. I hope you will all see fit to continue supporting us in 2004 so that we can continue to enhance *your* Museum.

D-DAY DECEPTION PLAN - OPERATION FORTITUDE
ROYAL SIGNALS INVOLVEMENT - THE BATTLE OF THE AIRWAVES
By Colonel (Retd) Cliff Walters, Museum Director



1944 Wireless Set No 19 in 15 cwt truck.

The planning for the Allied invasion of Europe, OVERLORD, commenced in Summer 1943. At the same time the London Controlling Section (LCS), headed by Colonel John Bevan, was established. Under instructions from Winston Churchill, it was to devise a series of operations to deceive Hitler into believing that the invasion would be in a totally different place and at a completely different time to that which was really intended. The Royal Signals were heavily involved in the Allied Top Secret deception plan for D-Day. This is an outline of that involvement.

The Top Secret LCS comprised eight of the country's most innovative brains (including the fiction writer Dennis Wheatley) who worked in the Cabinet War Rooms beneath Whitehall. The overall deception plan that they devised was codenamed BODYGUARD within which there were five main elements of deception. One of these was FORTITUDE, a plan to invade Norway (FORTITUDE NORTH) and the Pas de Calais (FORTITUDE SOUTH). The main deception plan, FORTITUDE SOUTH, had six separate interlocking strands with codenames QUICKSILVER I

to VI. QUICKSILVER 1 created the fictitious First United States of America Army Group (FUSAG) under command of General Patton. This was to ‘invade’ the Pas de Calais from Kent. The plan had the support of double agents. QUICKSILVER 2 involved the Royal Signals in a comprehensive wireless deception plan in support of FUSAG. The Signal Corps of other nations also participated. The other four involved a wide range of deception techniques such as bombing, deploying dummy landing craft and inflatable tanks.

To give FUSAG credibility General Patton was chosen as its commander. FUSAG HQ was at Wentworth, Near Ascot whilst his real HQ was in Peover Hall, Cheshire. All units in FUSAG were real but few of them were located where they were being portrayed by the double agents and false wireless traffic. FUSAG comprised 12

assault divisions for the Calais landings and up to 30 divisions ready to follow on. A method of devising realistic dummy wireless messages for about 2 million troops had to be devised. It was known from the ULTRA decrypts of their ENIGMA messages that the German observation and monitoring services were listening to British military wireless traffic from their Calais listening station.

For FUSAG HQ, Peover Hall was connected to Wentworth by line so that live transmissions could be made. This type of arrangement worked well for the higher static HQs but a method representing mobile communications was required for lower units. To achieve this the Top Secret No 5 Wireless Group was established under Lt Col John Morgan with its HQ at Warlingham in Surrey. This was not an easy unit to set up as both equipment and trained manpower were in short supply and needed for the invasion. The mission of the Wireless Group was to provide the wireless transmissions that would support the FUSAG deception plan. Hitler had to be convinced that the Army Group was gathered in South West England with the intention of invading France from the area around Dover. Although transmitting took place mainly in Kent it extended as far north as Scotland.

The first task was to write scripts that would faithfully represent live training exercises, invasion preparation and troop movement of an invading force of this size. This had to include the normal mistakes that would be made such as requests for repeat transmissions and voice procedure errors. If everything was perfect the Germans may suspect that the transmissions were fake. For an Army Group this was a mammoth task.

To simulate the wireless communications of a unit involved monitoring them closely for some time. This was done by No 1 Company of No 5 Wireless Group using specially fitted Lorry Command Vehicles (LCV) which would deploy to the location of the units involved to listen to their wireless traffic, making notes and recordings. The Wireless Set No 19 was used and the exercises were recorded onto the newly acquired 'Recorders, Playback Wire No1'. This was new American technology and it recorded messages onto a thin steel wire about the diameter of a hair. There were about 4 miles of wire on a 4 inch spool which played back for about 1 hour.

To make the recordings the LCV was set up with a Wireless Set No 19, a Recorder and six 19-set microphones: one for the control station operator and five for outstation operators. The microphones were connected through a sophisticated control box which sent a short 'identification current' to the recorder to signify which of the six microphones was being used. Once the recording was completed the wire was handed to a 'Playback' truck which was equipped with a modified Wireless Set No 19, a control box marked SPF and a recorder. The origins of the nomenclature SPF are not known but it may have been an abbreviation of 'spoofer'. The LCV would then deploy to a field location to give the Germans the impression that a real unit was on exercise in Kent. The crew comprised an NCO operator, an instrument mechanic and a driver. Before each message was sent by the No 19 set it would receive the recorder's 'identification current' from the SPF box to identify which of the six operators was transmitting a message. Then, before sending the recorded message, the No 19 set would automatically change power and frequency by a slight amount to a predetermined level for each operator. This gave the impression to the Germans that six different wireless sets were intercommunicating.

One transmitter detachment comprised 62 Officers, NCOs and men under canvas in a field on the cliffs of Broadstairs. They had two 'Playback' trucks and five scout cars with wireless sets. They carried out their task between February and 2nd June 1944 and transmitted the recordings for over four months to a predetermined busy schedule. They then moved to Portsmouth in preparation for D-Day deployment before landing in France at 0815 hours on D-Day where they immediately set up and transmitted fake messages to represent 7th Armoured Division. This was to give the Germans the impression that there was more armour ashore than there really was. The deception plan after D-Day became known as ROSEBUD – but that is another story.

IS THERE A SPONSOR OUT THERE

We are looking for a sponsor for the Shutter Telegraph. Since 1998 when the newsletter was first published the interest and response has been fantastic but we would now like to take the next step and print it properly in full colour. Our printers have agreed to a special price of roughly half the true price but we need an extra £1,500 to afford the full colour printing costs. It may be that two sponsors could share the cost...can anyone help?

The Shutter Telegraph has a print run of 15,000 and is sent to over 11,500 ex-signallers and every Serving and TA Royal Signals Unit. Our Sponsors name would feature within the Shutter Telegraph and space for advertising would also be made available.



D-DAY and the PROMS

Get in the Mood with
1940s Glen Miller swing sound
and experience the
Pride, Passion and Pomp
in this rousing Proms Night

Featuring
The Massed Bands
and Pipes & Drums of
The Royal Corps of Signals

Featuring guests artistes
and Gurkha Dancing

Saturday 15th May
The Lighthouse, Poole
Concert Starts 7.30 pm

**A Charity Fund-raising Concert Organised by the Royal Signals Museum In aid of
The Royal Signals Museum Education Trust Reg Charity 1070420 and The Army Benevolent Fund Reg Charity 211645**

Many congratulations
to all our lucky winners from the
2003 Royal Signals Grand Lottery.

1st Prize	£2000.00	T Magowan
2nd Prize	£750.00	R Coxon
3rd Prize	£500.00	D P H March
4th Prize	£250.00	I Robinson
4th Prize	£250.00	S J Nickless
5th Prize	£100.00	A Campbell
5th Prize	£100.00	D Dew
5th Prize	£100.00	Ankers
6th Prize	£50.00	E W oodmansee
6th Prize	£50.00	J Rotherham
6th Prize	£50.00	M J Hamblin
6th Prize	£50.00	L Hilton

Anniversary Statue:	D H Noden
Anniversary Statue:	A Devey
Royal Signals Ice Bucket:	S Wilson
Anniversary Tankard:	Packham
Anniversary Tankard:	J Mackie
Glass Tankard:	R Simpson
Glass Tankard:	J McAreavey
First Day Covers:	G D Davies
Anniversary Trinket Box:	I Currell
Single Dram Glass:	F Murphy
Single Dram Glass:	V Chambers
Burns Paper Weight:	Dunbar
T-Towel Set:	G Wood

ENTRY VOUCHERS:

Royal Marines Museum:	Davies
Royal Marines Museum:	R Smith
Royal Marines Museum:	B Peake
Dorset County Museum:	M F Kerr
Portsmouth Museums:	J Mackie
Portsmouth Museums:	Cemm
Portsmouth Museums:	Prendergast
Crealey Adventure Park:	Simpson
Fleet Air Museum:	A Allen
Tank Museum:	R Briant
Tank Museum:	L Cooper
Submarine Museum:	Prendergast
Submarine Museum:	Minscall
Submarine Museum:	N Green
Portsmouth Historic Dockyard:	F Robertson
Portsmouth Historic Dockyard:	A Whenlock



Sword Beach - D-Day

FIRST AID NURSING YEOMANRY (PRINCESS ROYAL'S VOLUNTEER CORPS)

The longest established Uniform Voluntary Organisation for Women *by Marianne Yates*



The FANY was founded in 1907 by Captain E C Baker, a former cavalry Sergeant-Major. The experience of being wounded in Sudan with the Kitchener expedition led him to create a small unit of nurses on horseback. They were to provide the link between the fighting units at the Front and the Field hospitals. At the outbreak of the First World War the services of the Corps were turned down by the War Office, but were quickly accepted by both the Belgian and the French armies. The first FANY reported for duty in Antwerp in September 1914.

During the War the FANYs ran Field hospitals, drove ambulances, set up soup kitchens and troop canteens, always under appalling conditions, often in great danger. By the end of the war, FANYs had received French, Belgian and British decorations, including 17 Military Medals, one Legion d'Honneur, 27 Croix de Guerre, one Ordre de la Couronne and two Ordre Leopold Chevalier, as well as 11 Mentions in Despatches.

Between the wars, the emphasis in training shifted from nursing to motorised transport and the Corps became known as the Women's Transport Service (FANY) in response to the Army Council's recognition of it as a 'voluntary reserve transport unit... for service in any national emergency'. It was this specialisation which enabled the Corps to provide 3,000 or so driver-mechanics who formed the nucleus of the newly formed Motor Driver Companies of the ATS.

However, the FANY spirit of independence burned on, and it was this spirit which led many members of the Corps down another path - that of Special Operations Executive (SOE). FANYs were not forbidden to carry or use small arms, as were the ATS and the other women's services. Most of the female agents sent by the SOE to France were FANYs. Thirteen of them died in concentration camps. Three of these women agents won the George Cross, two of which were awarded posthumously. Some two thousand other FANYs provided the backbone of SOE, working in ciphers and signals, as agent-conducting officers, administering the Special Training Schools and, amongst others, with the Jedburgh teams and, latterly, with Massingham and Force 136 and 139. One section of the Corps was attached to the Polish Army for the duration of the war. Yet another, a small unit formed in Kenya in 1935, became the Women's Territorial Service (East Africa), a military unit of the African Colonial Forces. In all, the FANYs served in 44 countries.

MUSEUM GENEALOGIST

Does your family surname romantically associate with an early medieval coat of arms.

Our medieval genealogist will research and hand paint the coat of arms on to embossed parchment paper. Hereditary surnames came into common use only gradually in the centuries following the Norman Conquest. Although some names do appear in the Domesday Book (usually they reflect the families place of origin on the continent), as in de Vere, they are the exception rather than the rule, even among feudal tenants. Because surnames were undeveloped in the earlier medieval period, the only means of distinguishing one family from another was by the seal, crest and arms. The hereditary surname thus later became associated with the coat of arms, as distinguishing one family from another. For more details and prices see the Mail Order Catalogue Page 9.

A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS IN 2003

By Major John Carr, HQ SOinC(A)



This year has been dominated by the preparations for, deployment to and conduct of operations in the Gulf. From the R SIGNALS, 1 Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment, 2 Signal Regiment, 4 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, 7 Armoured Brigade HQ and 16 Air Assault Brigade HQ deployed in entirety. Significant elements of 3 UK Division HQ and Signal Regiment, 14 Signal Regiment (EW), 21 Signal Regiment (AS) and 30 Signal Regiment also deployed. Specialist capabilities have been deployed from a number of formations, including some outside LAND. Central Volunteer HQ R SIGNALS has facilitated the compulsory mobilisation and notification of more than 350 R SIGNALS TA and Reservists. The number of R SIGNALS personnel serving in the Middle East Theatre peaked at 1800. This has been a huge undertaking for both the Army and the Corps, and a challenge to which all members of the Corps involved have risen. Deployment on operations has now started to decrease across the board; R SIGNALS deployment in the Balkans continues to reduce and the Middle East has settled down to a steady state of manning.

At the same time there has been much work in preparing the R SIGNALS for both new equipment and new force structures. As announced by the Secretary of State for Defence at the beginning of December 2003, the Army is to reorganise in order to produce an agile, balanced intervention capability consisting of medium and light forces, underpinned by effective, capable heavy forces able to conduct full spectrum operations. For R SIGNALS this means re-balancing existing liability which is geared for expeditionary operations, structured for the most likely task at brigade level but still able to build up for larger deployments if required. It should lead to a more resilient and robust structure with more predictable tour intervals.

We are entering a challenging period in terms of the equipment programme that will revolutionise the way the R SIGNALS operates. BOWMAN (the new family of radios to replace CLANSMAN) and CORMORANT (the new operational level trunk system) are already having an impact on our units as they are introduced. We must continue to be flexible, professional and imaginative as we seek to maximise the potential of new technology. FALCON, which will replace PTARMIGAN, will also have a significant impact on many Corps units as it is introduced between 2007 and 2010. In addition satellite terminal equipment and electronic warfare capability is being improved and expanded.

Work is ongoing within RHQ R SIGNALS to develop our two primary means of corporate communications: the Corps internet presence and The Wire magazine. Whilst the Corps has a comprehensive web site as part of the Army presence at www.royalsignals.com this needs to be focused more precisely on our external image and place particular emphasis on recruiting and the public image of the Corps. In parallel, we intend to make greater use of the Club Army web site, which restricts access to those who are serving, focusing on internal communications and developing our presence to increase awareness and satisfaction levels among the serving Corps. Much has been done in the course of the past two years to improve the appearance and 'readability' of the Wire. Whilst it serves a number of important purposes admirably, it has become increasingly clear that we are failing to exploit the magazine for its primary purpose – communication with the serving and retired Corps. During the coming twelve months we intend to address this situation by ensuring that every edition of the Wire is 'packed' with informative articles on important and relevant topics that will leave the readership clamouring for more.

Generally the Corps is in good health and full of high-quality, enthusiastic and professional individuals who are enjoying their work, relishing the current challenges and well poised to meet the challenges of the future.

Book Review

THE SECRET WIRELESS WAR by Geoffrey Pidgeon THE STORY OF MI6 COMMUNICATIONS 1939 – 1945

Both Geoffrey Pidgeon and his father worked for Section VIII which was the special communications unit of MI6. Geoffrey joined at Whaddon Hall in 1942 and left the service in 1942.

Section VIII was formed in 1938 by Brigadier Richard Gambier-Parry and the unit handled some of the most important UK wireless traffic in World War II. This book tells, in vivid detail, about its formation and includes diaries of the 'founding fathers'. It reports the earlier days of the original SIS wireless 'Station X' based in Barnes, London. The unit's wireless station at Bletchley Park is described in great detail. It goes on to describe its replacement by the Stations at the nearby Whaddon Hall which then became the wartime HQ of Section VIII.

There are thirty-eight chapters covering 381 pages which describe the complete wartime operation in detail. The whole story is well illustrated with many interesting photographs which have not been seen before. Enigma, spy radio sets, codes and ciphers, black propaganda et al are all part of this story of intrigue. What really brings the subject to life is the personal recollections of many of the people who were actually involved, many of whom were cap-badged Royal Signals, but were not paid from Army Funds. Bob Hornby, Arthur 'Spuggy' Newton, Don Lee, Wilf Neal and Edgar Harrison and many others add their personal contribution. Technicians, operators and engineers all played their part.

This is one of the best researched and most interesting books of its type. It is a *must* for anyone who is interested in WW2 communications and the secret services. It is available from the Museum at £37 including post and package.

THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS by Laurette Burton A PICTORIAL HISTORY

Laurette Burton has put together a collection of the most interesting photographs in the archives of the Museum. Over 200 of these graphic images represent the history of the Corps and its antecedents from the Crimean War to the start of the new millennium.

The requirements of the early static conflicts were met by visual signalling and despatch riders skills of the Royal Engineers or regimental signallers. Today, the highly mobile conflicts require satellite communications, Information Systems and well trained soldiers. This history is traced pictorially and tells of the innovation, courage, skill and dedication of the men and women who in every operation 'go in with the first and come out with the last'.

All of this is set against a backdrop of the Royal Signals family in which Regular, Reserve and Retired Corps members maintain the ethos, heritage and pride of our forbears. *Certa Cito*.

This book is a special edition to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Princess Royal as Colonel in Chief. It is an excellent read at only £14.50 including post and package.

BEARDED BRIGAND

The legendary Long Range Desert group in the Diaries & Photographs of trooper Frank Jopling

The elite Long Range Desert Group operated behind enemy lines and Frank Jopling was with them for the first sortie. His diary is the most comprehensive published account of the daily activities of the military swashbucklers who played a vital part in the Eighth Army's victory over Axis forces in North Africa during World War Two.

BLONDIE

A life of Lieutenant-Colonel HG Hasler DSO, OBE, RM Founder of the SBS and modern single-handed ocean racing.

Commissioned into the Royal Marines in 1932, Blondie Hasler was soon to make his mark as a sailor and fighting man. In Norway 1940 his efforts were rewarded with the OBE, a Mention in Despatches and the Croix de Guerre. His original tactical ideas and leadership were tested spectacularly in 1942 at Bordeaux in the legendary Cockleshell Heroes raid. After his successful escape, his skills were put to use training special forces in Ceylon and he was responsible for setting up the Special Boat Service before retiring with ill health.

D-DAY ~ CROSS CHANNEL SUBMARINE COMMUNICATIONS

The cross-Channel cable connections with the continent were destroyed after Dunkirk in 1940. Discussions began as early as 1942, between the General Post Office (GPO) and the military, on planning the replacement South Coast Submarine Cable Scheme. The distances involved varied from 30 to 200 km and the use of both speech and telegraph circuits were essential. The landing points for the invasion were not known so a variety of alternative submarine cable routes from Dartmouth to Dover were planned.

The GPO had four ships that could lay multiple-core cables which were capable of passing a number of messages at the same time. Loading of the cable ships began in December 1943 and was completed by May 1944. The first cable was laid by His Majesty's Telegraph Ships *Iris* and *Alert* commencing on the 8th June near Bournemouth and landing at Longues on the Normandy beach. On the 12th June three speech and six telegraph circuits connected England with the continent. More cables followed.

From these cross-Channel links thousands of miles of cables were laid to follow the subsequent advance through North-west Europe. Whenever possible existing civilian cables were used. By the end of August there were 27 speech and 39 telegraph cross-Channel circuits available on 4 submarine cables including Swanage to Querqueville.

D-DAY - TELEPHONES, CABLES AND EXCHANGES

The D Mark V and the Telephone F did not provide satisfactory speech beyond about 10 miles. New sets were available by D-Day which included the Apparatus Carrying Telephone 1+1 with a range of 50 miles and the high power Telephone F which operated like a radio telephone. New style Telephones L and J were also developed along with new Field Exchanges.

During the war over 1 million telephones, 4 million miles of cable and 8,000 Field Exchanges had been brought into service. Although telephones were less versatile than wireless sets they played a vital role in the Army's D-Day success.

Poems

This poem was written near La Haye-du-Puits during a short break in the bloodiest battle the author had ever been in.

He and his surviving comrades of the 82nd Airborne Division had just received notice that at some later date they would be pulled from battle and return to England.

At the same time near Sainte Mere-Eglise, they were burying friends he had known and lived with for over 2 years.

A memorial poem dedicated to the men of the 82nd Airborne Division who gave their lives at Sainte Mere-Eglise

We leave them here at Mere-Eglise
Among the Norman flowers,
We wish they could go back with us
To those British friends of ours.

But all who face the enemy
Cannot return back home,
Some had to pay the price supreme
Across the channel foam.

They may have died in drop from plane
Upon the Norman green,
Or died because a glider crashed
At H plus seventeen.

They may have fought for 131
Or on 95 have died,
No matter where they gave their lives
they rest here side by side.

We only hope that folks back home,
Where peace and quiet reign,
Appreciate the life they gave
Upon the Norman plain.

We trust their souls have gone above,
Where all is rest and peace,
And bodies will turn back to dust
Here at Ste Mere-Eglise.

by Milton Chadwick

Thank you very much to Mr Chadwick for sending in this emotional poem .

Please keep your letters, thoughts, experiences and poems coming. *Marianne Yates*