

*Bradbury Mercury*  
1960s 16 Signal Regiment Reunion Club



Issue Number 38

Edited by Iain Haldane  
[www.the-60s-16ers.com](http://www.the-60s-16ers.com)

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### **Then & Now**

Both views are from Duck Bay, Loch Lomond. The mountain is Ben Lomond.



**January 2006**



**July 2016**

### On Front Page:

Then & Now. Ben Lomond viewed from Duck Bay, Loch Lomond 2006 & 2016

#### Editors Ramble.

Hi all youse auld yins. Been a busy few months since the Stirling Recce. Rita & I have been to the US of A, eight days in Las Vegas watching the World Sevens Tournament. Spent some time in New York with family and then two days in Maine with our extended Family (Army Friends). When we got the info about Stafford, we booked our hotel stays in Taunton & Stafford. Well most of you know what happened at Stafford with Rita. She spent eight days in Stafford Hospital I got her back home the following week. Was quite a scare when it happened but Rita is now attending the Warfarin Clinic at the local Health Centre. Was weekly but now she only has to attend fortnightly. Takes a while to get the dosage right as we all are a wee but different re Warfarin. So Rita is doing Much Much better. So Much so she is presently painting her She-Shed. A woman only domain, well I will be allowed in if I am working or bringing in the food and drink. Photographs will be appearing soon but at moment it is a "Work in progress" as the web sites say. Progress for the Reunion in Stirling is good, well I would say that. Only blip is that Wayne & Brenda Edwards who have paid their deposit are now unable to attend due too Family Commitments. I am hopeful that a returning member who has voiced an interest in coming to Stirling will be able to take over the booking. As of the print date we now have 76 attending the Gala Dinner. Do any you get a sore back sitting in front of a computer screen? Well I do and as soon as we have dinner I will be having a soak in the bath with a good book. Well we shower twice a day at the gym and only have a bath at the weekend, showers are nice but there are not many waterproof books. So bye for now see you all in October. Iain Haldane.

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### Our Chairperson's Letter

I hope you are all well, and like me, looking forward to Stirling (do not forget; balance to be paid by 2<sup>nd</sup> September).

The visit to 16 Signal regiment in Stafford was extremely successful and the Regiment had clearly put in a lot of effort on our behalf and the main person responsible (SSgt Dawn Bailey) will be joining us in Stirling. Well done Bill for organizing our end of the day.



In June, the Regiment had its birthday and Hazel represented us at the celebrations and also presented the new trophy from us to the outstanding signaler. This has not cost us anything, as this was a trophy that had become redundant, so we were offered the chance to resurrect it. I am sure Hazel will tell us about her day in Stafford. Thank you Hazel for representing us.

This is my last newsletter Chairman's message to you all. The 60s-16ers is an organization which I am proud to belong to and grateful to have been your Chairman for the last 2 years. I thank you all for your support and look forward to seeing many of you on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

*Peter Crane*

## 16th Signal Regiment

1897	The Electrical Engineers.
1908	London District Signals (Army Troops) RE.
1920	3rd London Corps Signals, TA.
1924	1 (London) Company, 1 Corps Signal SR.
1930	HQ Line of Communication Signals, SR.
1940	2nd Line of Communications Signals.
1940	XII Corps Signals1945.
1942	2nd Line of Communications Signals reformed.
1945	HQ BAOR Signals.
1945	1st HQ Signals.
1946	2nd Line of Communications Signal Regiment.
1948	HQ BAOR Signal Regiment.
1951	2nd Line of Communication Signal Regiment.
1959	16th Signal Regiment (Lines of Communication).
1960	16th Signal Regiment (BAOR).
1960	16th Signal Regiment.

The need to provide an expeditionary force with a Line of Communications organisation had been recognised before 1914, and had been provided for by a mixture of regular and reserve companies. Between 1920 and 1939, the provision of communications for the Lines of Communication was the exclusive responsibility of the reserves. It was not until late 1938 that the War Office contemplated the despatch of an Expeditionary Force to the continent, no regular signals units were organised for this task. As the resources of the Territorial Army were focused on the provision of divisional signals, it fell to the Supplementary Reserve to provide for a range of specialist signal units. This reserve was formed in 1924 to provide reservists whose civilian occupations would be used to the advantage of the army. Upon mobilisation, their skills and training would be used to enhance the support and technical corps such as the Royal Engineers, Royal Signals, and Royal Army Service Corps. Signal companies were dedicated Lines of Communications, Air Formation and GHQ duties. The Corps relied heavily on the staff of the GPO and other telecommunications organisations to provide manpower for the Supplementary Reserve.

Between 1924 and 1939, four companies were formed for LofC duties: No 1 Company at Clapham, No 2 at Preston, No 3 at Liverpool, and No 4 in London. The four companies were grouped together under HQ Lines of Communications Signals, Supplementary Reserve, at Clapham. On mobilisation, the unit would operate alongside GHQ Signals SR. GHQ Signals had been based at Glasgow since 1924, and consisted of No 1 Company in Glasgow, No 2 Company in Coventry, and No 3 Company in Edinburgh.

HQ LofC Signals was mobilised and sent to France in 1939, together with GHQ Signals, which was based in Arras. Early in 1940, plans were made to enlarge the BEF to include 1st and 2nd Armies. This enlargement included a division of LofC Signals into 1st Line of Communications Signals and 2nd Line of Communications Signals. Both units would maintain links between Arras and the HQ of the BEF's rear area at Le Mans. However, these units were not operational for very long when they were forced to return to Britain due to the unexpected success of the German blitzkrieg in the West.

In June 1940, both 1 and 2 LofC Signals were merged into GHQ Signals at Catterick, as 1st HQ Signals. Elements of 1 LofC Signals became a reformed 2 Corp Signals, and elements of 2 LofC Signals became the newly-formed 12 Corp Signals.

A new 2nd Line of Communication Signals was formed in 1942, as part of GHQ Home Forces, and transferred to HQ 21st Army Group in 1943. It would become one of five Line of Communications regiments, which would support 21st Army Group in the campaign to liberate Europe. Three Signals units took part in the battles for Normandy, 2nd, 12th, and 1st Canadian. They were joined by 13th and 17th LofC Signals in the autumn of 1944. (17th LofC Signals was the Cheshire

Yeomanry-q.v. 80 Signal Sqd). By May 1945 the five regiments maintained communications in France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. During 1945, the five regiments were reduced to one large unit, 2nd LofC Signals.

In the British Occupation Zone in Germany, the regiment underwent various changes of name, and was merged into and moved out of HQ BAOR Signal Regiment on several occasions between 1948 and 1951. In the summer of 1945, the regiment merged with 21st Army Group Signals to form HQ BAOR Signals, which became 1st HQ Signals on 10th September 1945, and 2nd Line of Communication Signal Regiment on 15th October 1946. At this stage, the regiment's strength was 2,000 soldiers spread through 73 troops and sections, together with a Line and Cable Squadron. A fourth squadron supported the work of the Allied Control Commission in Germany. By March 1947, the regiment was made up of 60 officers and 1,154 soldiers. On 15th June 1948 the regiment became HQ BAOR Signal Regiment, and part of its work load was devolved onto independent signal squadrons.

Until 1951, the British Army of the Rhine was a static organisation but the formation of NATO and Cold War tensions brought about the establishment of a field force of one Corp and four divisions in Germany. The marked increase in the signals workload became sufficient to bring about a division of responsibility. HQ BAOR Signals Regiment remained at Herford but static rear duties were taken over by the reformed 2nd Line of Communications Signal Regiment at Hamburg.

In August 1952, the Regiment moved to Düsseldorf, from whence it moved to Krefeld in 1958. The Regiment was composed of HQ, 1, 2, and 3 Squadrons. HQ, 1, and 2 Squadrons were based at Bradbury Barracks in Krefeld, No 3 Squadron was based at Emblem, near Antwerp, to support rear units in Belgium, and 4 Squadron went to Bielefeld as HQ 1(Br) Corp Comcen Squadron. 4 Squadron consisted of 5 Medium Wireless Troop, 5 Cipher Troop, 4 Telegraph Operating Troop and 10 Dispatch Rider Troop. On 1st September 1959, the Regiment became 16th Signal Regiment (Line of Communication).

The SR origins of the Regiment were recalled by the attachment, for training of 45th Signal Regiment TA between 1961 and 1967, and that regiment's successor, 36th Signal Regt, after 1969. HQ BAOR Signal Troop, a part of the Regiment, was based at HQ BAOR Rheindahlen. The Regiment underwent a minor change of title in 1960, when it became 16 Signal Regiment (BAOR), but that suffix was dropped shortly thereafter. Some further re-rolling, including the introduction of field radio and cable troops, as well as Radio Stations D11/R230 and Radio Relay Stations C41 in 1964. The Regiment was re-equipped with BRUIN in 1967, and then Ptermigan in 1987. In 1969, the Regiment became part of 4 Signal Group, and remained under command of that group (later brigade) until 1992. As the tasks on the line of communications between Germany and the Channel lessened, the Regiment assumed an increased field role. Simultaneously there was an increase in the number of female personnel employed on the fixed communications tasks. By 1980, the Regiment's organisation had become:

RHQ 16th Signal Regiment	Krefeld
HQ Squadron	Krefeld
1 Squadron (Static Comms)	Rheindahlen
2 Squadron (Field Sqn-CCK)	Krefeld
3 Squadron (Field Sqn-CCJ)	Krefeld
4 Squadron (Static Comms)	Bielefeld
and specialist attachments CDA, BAOR; EST(A); CRIMAT; and detachment 11 Signal Unit RAF.	

The field role of the Regiment was typified by the deployment of personnel to the Gulf War in 1990, and to Bosnia, from 1994, and Kosovo, from 1999.

The end of the Cold War in the early 1990's brought significant changes to the role and organisation of the Regiment. Since the demise of BAOR in 1993, the Regiment has continued to provide static communications for British forces in Germany, and has acquired a new operational role. It is a major component of 1 Signal Brigade, which is part of the UK's contribution to the Allied Rapid Reaction Corp.

As part of this process, the Regiment moved to Rheindahlen in 1994, where it was re-organised. HQ Squadron was effectively disbanded: 1 Squadron became 252 Signal Squadron, with static infrastructure communications role, 2 Squadron became 230 Signal Squadron (Trunk), 3 Squadron became 255 Signal Squadron (Access), and 4 Squadron became 253 Signal Squadron. In 1996, 253 Signal Squadron was reduced to Kowloon Troop at Herford. 230 Signal Squadron transferred to 7 Signal Regiment in 1994, but returned to 16 Signal Regiment three years later, in order to enhance capabilities within 1 Signal Brigade. Specialist attachments remained with the Regiment. By 1998 they were RSSST(G), EST(A), SWS Troop, and CDA North-West Europe. The Regiment is scheduled to move to Bruggen in 2002.

Links:

43 Signal Battalion, US Army, Heidelberg, Freedom of Krefeld 1972

Krefeld Stadt Fahnenband 1992

Heraldry & Ceremonial:

Badge until 1951- White crossed swords on a blue cross surmounted on a red shield (the reverse of 21st Army Group badge).

Badge 1951 to 1958- White crossed swords on a blue cross surmounted on a yellow shield (thought to be based on the Stadt crest of Hamburg) (also the badge of Rhine district).

Badge 1958 to 1962- Rhine Army badge of gold crusader's sword surmounting a red cross on a gold shield.

Badge 1962 to 1999- Crest of the city of Krefeld.

Badge 1999- Crusader's sword on blue and white background.

*Yorky Layton*

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After I left the Army, I became a lorry driver, which I did until retiring on the 4th of March 2012. In 1970s, I was at a company called Baguleys who were Coppersmiths making domestic hot water tanks (where the emersion heater used to be). I was one of three drivers (but the only HGV driver they had) whose job it was to deliver all over the UK. One of my trips in 1973 was a delivery in Scotland; I had one delivery in North Glasgow & another across the Clyde in the south of the city. I completed my first drop off but on my way south through, Glasgow I was unsure which way was best so, I stopped to ask two Policemen who were parked near where I was. They asked where I was going and when I told them they looked at each other and shook their heads, I asked what the problem was; one of them asked if I had heard of the Gorbals. I had not, they told me it was a "very naughty" area and I would have to go through it to make my last delivery. They saw I was a little perplexed as to what to do for the best so they said they would escort me through to the far side of the Gorbals where my load and I would be safe. One of the Policemen got in my cab & the other escorted us in their Panda car until they deemed it safe for me to continue alone. When I got home, I asked a Scotsman who worked with us about the Gorbals and let me tell you, not much scared me in those days but finding out where I had been DID.

*Kerry Stylianou*

## *Quotes Attributed to Phyllis Diller.*

*Whatever you may look like, marry a man your own age. As your beauty fades, so will his eyesight.*

*Housework cannot kill you, but why take a chance?*

*Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing up is like shovelling the sidewalk before it stops snowing.*

*The reason women do not play football is that 11 of them would never wear the same outfit in public.*

*Best way to get rid of kitchen odours: Eat out.*

*A bachelor is a guy who never made the same mistake once.*

*I want my children to have all the things I could not afford. Then I want to move in with them.*

*Most children threaten at times to run away from home. This is the only thing that keeps some parents going.*

*Any time three New Yorkers get into a cab without an argument, a bank has just been robbed.*

*We spend the first twelve months of our children's lives teaching them to walk and talk and the next twelve years telling them to sit down and shut up.*

*Burt Reynolds once asked me out. I was in his room.*

*What I do not like about office Christmas parties is looking for a job the next day.*

*The only time I ever enjoyed ironing was the day I accidentally got gin in the steam iron.*

*His finest hour lasted a minute and a half.*

*Old age is when the liver spots show through your gloves.*

*My photographs do not do me justice, they just look like me.*

*I admit I have a tremendous sex drive. My boyfriend lives forty miles away.*

*Tranquillizers work only if you follow the advice on the bottle - keep away from children.*

*I asked the waiter, "Is this milk fresh?" He said, "Lady, three hours ago it was grass."*

*The reason the golf pro tells you to keep your head down is so you cannot see him laughing.*

*You know you are old if they have discontinued your blood type.*

## Reme's Garden Pictures.



**Reme's garden late spring/early summer. Should any of you be passing by our home do pop in as there is always work to be done especially due to the amount of rain that has fallen in recent months. Reme implies that this is all his own work. Well he says Reme's Garden not Our Garden or Sue & Reme's**

**Garden. Personally I think Sue has a lot more to do with it than just sitting around the Garden in a cocktail dress supping G&T's. Unless of course this could be his neighbours garden and Reme is watching it while the neighbour is away for the weekend. Anyway doesn't he look good**



**with that shovel! Looks like he actually knows how to use it. He has even got it the right way up. Nice garden Reme, I hope ours looks have as good as that when Rita's She-Shed is finished.**

## Then and Now.

Having been fortunate to attend every one of our 20 reunions and with our 21st coming up I would like to forward a couple of photographs as a reminder of how 21 years have passed and how we have aged in such a short span of time. 1st one of the initial reunion held in Southend and arranged by Chris Bartlett (who will never be forgotten). And the other of a very recent one which has



taken both of us into our retirement years at one of our reunions! Yes! I know Sue has aged much worse than I but I still love her and thank my lucky stars that she is still with me! However it is with constant reminders, I tell her how lucky she is to have me!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
**ONLY KIDDING!**  
Where has time gone?????

Regards to all, *Reme.*



With apologies to Lyn Robinson. She emailed me these photos of the Tower of London Poppy Display in Liverpool in January 2016. I thought it was very poignant not realising that Lyn wanted them published in the Mercury. I found that out at Stirling in February. She was very nice about it she punished me by NOT buying me a drink. So this is to make up for the error in my ways.

*Jain Haldane.*

### St George's Hall – Home of the Poppies



Located in the heart of Liverpool city centre, opposite the gateway to the city, Liverpool Lime Street Station, St George's Hall sits proudly within Liverpool's cultural quarter and it's UNESCO World Heritage site. The Grade 1 listed building was built in 1854 and is regarded today as one of the finest examples of neo classical architecture in the

world. This iconic building has long been the place of the people of Liverpool to meet at times of great sorrow and great celebration.



For more information on the Tower of London Poppy Tour you can look up the following web page:-

<https://www.1418now.org.uk/commissions/poppies/>

## Presentation of the Lord Trophy at 16 Signal Regiment – Stafford.

Ted and I arrived at 16 Signal Regt, Stafford, around 1400 hrs to be met at the guardroom by a young PTI called Danny who escorted us round to the gym. We were met by Staff Richards (he of the “just throw the ball through the hoop”). Outside the gym, 3 teams were participating in Ready, Steady, Cook



competition that was to be judged by the Lt Col Stu Whitley and RSM Ian Wells.

Leaving them cooking we went down to the field with “Richie” to watch teams assembling their contraptions they had made to fire a hockey ball accurately and as far as possible.

Then it was time to go back to the gym to meet the CO and RSM at the judging of the cooking.

It started to rain, like a monsoon, good job we were prepared as the RSM invited us back down to the field to watch the contraption competition, which was won by Support Squadron.



Back up to the gym, at least this time we were in the dry, to see the Crusader Shield presented to the overall winner of all the competitions that had been going on all day. This was won by Support Squadron. At this point, both the CO and Staff Richards thanked us for attending the birthday celebrations and reminded the regiment what our club is all about.

We did think as we saw the 3 Squadrons form up that they would be hard pushed to make up one squadron as they were in 16 Sigs during our time.

Louise (S/Sgt) came and introduced herself and she took to the field where they were having the BBQ and entertainment for the families. Whilst preparations were being completed, we were bundled off to Costa Coffee with two young signallers who had orders to look after us (making sure we stayed out of

mischief – think they must have remembered our last visit)! The two young lads who were looking after us seemed very interested in our club and what we did – they commented that it would be interesting to know

how they and their comrades would be doing in 30 or 40 years time!

Families arrived to enjoy the fun in the early evening such as a bouncy castle, slide, and trampoline (for the children). The rain continued to fall but the children did not seem to notice as most of them had wellies and waterproofs on. The rain eased off and the CO invited me to present the Lord Trophy to Cpl Malcolm Barron for his outstanding contribution to regimental life. The CO thanked us once again for attending and presenting the trophy as the regiment really appreciated it. We spoke to Mal after the presentation and he was thrilled that he had won the trophy. For those who visited the regiment previously from the club you will remember that Mal made us the piece of half-track to remind us of our visit. It now sits on our window sill awaiting the next reunion at Stirling.



We spent our last half hour watching the CO, RSM and the adjutant getting a drenched on the ducking stool (What good sports they are). We thanked the CO and RSM for inviting us to the regimental birthday celebrations, said our good byes, and wished them well in their new postings.

*Stafford 20th April 2016*



*16th Signal Regiment  
Past and Present*

# Places to Visit in and around Stirling.

Ok you have set out in plenty of time having worked out how to get to Stirling. You have been welcomed on arrival by a very nice Scottish or eastern European person who hopes you will enjoy your stay at the hotel. Now what? You are British Army (Retired). Remember? Ah Yes, that's right, check room. OK! Now where is the Cookhouse? Sorry, I forgot, I mean the Dining Room. OK Located. What was the last thing? Yes the Bar. So, after you settle in you go and meet all your old Friends. Of course, you make some new friends over a pint or so of your favourite beverage. What to do next?

## What does Stirling have to offer to the Visitor?

### Wallace Monument.

The nearest place to the hotel is the Wallace Monument. You can see it from the back of the hotel. There was a photograph on the back page of the last Bradbury Mercury. William Wallace, remember him, big guy with a huge sword, was depicted on the big screen in Braveheart. Yep that's the one, had a battle with the English in 1297. The Battle of Stirling Bridge. The Old Stirling Bridge is located not far from the Hotel, this is not the original bridge but one built in the same location. N.B. Wallace was defeated the following year at the battle of Falkirk by Edward 1. He brought a bigger Army to sort the Scots out once and for all. Well we all know how that turned out!



<http://www.nationalwallacemonument.com/the-monument/>

### Stirling Castle.

Stirling Castle is one of Scotland's grandest castles due to its imposing position and impressive architecture. The Scenery will take your breath away. There's more than ever to see and do at Stirling Castle. Enter the world of Scotland's Renaissance kings and queens and discover a world of colour, splendour and glorious craftsmanship. Learn about our history, uncover our secrets and be inspired by our gallery of photos and videos. Check web site for prices and fast track entry. Open in October from 09:30 to 17:00 Last entry at 16:15.



<http://www.stirlingcastle.gov.uk/>

### Falkirk Wheel.

About 40 miles and 40 minutes away depending on route and traffic.

Built in 2001 to reconnect the *Forth and Clyde Canal* with the *Union Canal*, it is the worlds only rotating boat lift. Boat trips up on the Wheel take about an hour. Boat trips cost £8.95 adults, £4.95 children, £7.95 concessions. Free entry to the visitor centre / cafe / gift shop. Check the websites below if you want any more info about the wheel.

<https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Falkirk>

<http://falkirk-wheel.com/>

<https://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/falkirk-wheel/>



### The Kelpies Tour



Come and see the world's largest equine sculptures up close - and even go inside to marvel at the complexity and the engineering that created these fantastic pieces of art.

The best way to experience The Kelpies is on **The Kelpies Experience Tour**. Join our 45-minute guided walking tour that takes you through the vision of Andy Scott, the story of the real life working horses of the area, the local history, and the history of the canals.

The pinnacle of the tour is that you get to experience a Kelpie from the inside, and see for yourself the breathtaking engineering and design of The Kelpies.

<http://www.thehelix.co.uk/things-to-do/the-kelpies/>

### David Stirling Memorial.

Sir David Stirling Memorial, Doune.

Sometimes call the SAS Memorial is located only 5 Miles away from the Hotel.

<http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/doune/stirlingmemorial/>

[http://www.rampantscotland.com/visit/blvisit\\_stirling.htm](http://www.rampantscotland.com/visit/blvisit_stirling.htm)



## Visit to the Regiment

We arrived at the Hurricane Premier Inn and immediately bumped into Skip Harding and Bob Cook loitering in the foyer. Skip seemed quite agitated and after asking a few probing questions we found out why. The daft prat had agreed to share a room with Reme. For crying out loud, who, in their right mind (sorry Sue), would agree to such a thing. Well, as you can imagine, we did not waste another minute on Skip and headed towards the one place that we knew the rest of our party would naturally gravitate, the bar at the Shire Horse.

Reme had been requested by Bill to help SSgt Dawn Bailey with the vehicle details for the following day's visit. So, wearing that harassed look that we know so well, he buzzed around like a blue arsed fly. "I didn't want to be the 2ic," he whinged. "Bill knows I worry and I can't find me pen, and paperwork has always been too much for a simple radio op like me." A deep breath and a brave, if somewhat tremulous, smile and he continued, "All this data collation is hard work and what the chuff does "data collation" mean, anyway?"

At this point we would like to say a great big thank you to Bill White for his meticulous planning, couldn't have been easy, Bill, and thank God for SSgt Dawn without whom we'd still be milling around the Shire Horse, thank you, Dawn.

The following morning however, we were met with the news that Rita (Haldane) had been rushed into hospital during the night. We are all hoping that you get better soon, Rita, and every one of us sends you our very best wishes.

At breakfast some of us noticed that a few of the elite members of our party had been given an itinerary. They, apparently, knew exactly what time we were to meet outside the pub and who was going where and why. Syd Wilson knew nothing, so we didn't ask him. I can only assume that all the different times we were given as to when we should muster was a bid to confuse the enemy and not, as Syd inferred, a way of getting rid of the riffraff.

At last we set off and we made it all the way to the camp gates only to find that a much keener guard than we ever produced, barred our entry. Dawn sorted it, though, and at last we breezed into a world that we never thought we'd ever see again.

And oh boy, did we love it. We didn't see too many soldiers around and just assumed it must be NAAFI break. Imagine our amazement when we discovered that there was no NAAFI, there wasn't even a cookhouse, or a

YMCA. To be frank, there wasn't actually anything that we recognised apart from the nick and I'll come to that later.

The scale of the camp completely dwarfed Bradbury Barracks and we had to drive to most of the stop off points. Actually I'm not sure that we *had* to drive or if the powers that be just considered it a safer option. You know bad knees, bad backs, bad hips, bad language etc...

First stop was a large complex and the first thing we noticed was a little corner shop, and then a large cafeteria where the soldiers could help themselves to whatever they fancied, (so long as they paid). We were treated to an exercise type gourmet meal. Those guys certainly gave us something to be grateful for as the meal was delicious and they had even erected a tent for authenticity. They'd also gone to the trouble of displaying present day rations and amongst them we noticed that one thing at least had remained the same. Boiled sweets, would you believe it, except that they come in packets now, and not tins. More than once I heard a muttered, "Them whippersnappers don't know they're born," except, delete whippersnappers and insert, well, something else.

After what I still think of as the cookhouse we were taken on a circuitous route to the gym. It looked more like one of those expensive keep fit clubs that none of us, except maybe Bill White and Bev Robb, attend. It was a new building as was all the kit in it. The primary aim being to keep the soldiers fit, and failing that, to make them fit, and failing that, to rebuild them. They have the technology.

They even have a special kind of exercise bike that can read your every thought and make you well no matter how hard you resist. Truthfully though, this thing has its own computer which can gauge your fitness and advise you as to how many times per week you should ride it, how far and how fast. The sneaky little bugger even has a mobile link to the gym "master" (he was big bloke, a really big bloke) and tells him if you failed to show or are just not trying hard enough. Yeah, honest, it sends him texts. Bloody computers!

After the talk given by the gym "master", did I mention that he was a big bloke? we were allowed to wander around looking at some of the equipment. I tried to talk to one of the PTIs about the fitness regime only to find that he couldn't actually concentrate because of all these old farts messing about with his state of the art equipment, namely, the weights. What especially made his eyes water was when they hobbled painfully up to

the barbells and bent, every move creating its own sound effects, and tried, and tried, and tried again, to lift them. Apart from the moans and groans all you could hear was him saying, “No, no, Sir, you’re doing it wrong. Put them down, Sir, easy, easy. Sir, please don’t... Aw sh\*t! Staff, they’re breaking themselves.”

Much to the delight of Bill (Robbie Robinson), we then visited the nick. Having never visited such a place I can’t tell you how much of an improvement there has been on what we used to have, but I know a man who can, hey Bill. There were an awful lot of metal grills and iron bars and clanging echoes and cracks in the walls. Yep, I know it’s a new build, but apparently builders are the same the world over and new builds come with cracks. Fortunately, since they only had the use of one or two cells, they had not a single prisoner.

Naturally we asked about how prisoners are treated nowadays and our worst fears were confirmed. Human Rights! Prisoners are no longer doubled across the parade square in boots with no laces and nor are they forced to pick up litter. What happens to them now, we asked. Well, nothing really, answered our wonderful provost SSgt. We hold their hands for a wee while and then we let them go. Not true, obviously, but that’s how it must have looked to our Bill who spent a fair amount of his early, army career in one lonely cell or another.

From the Detention Centre we could see RHQ and in front of the main building they have built a small wall not too dissimilar to the wall in front of RHQ in Krefeld which bore the 16 Signal Regiment Jimmy. In fact the Jimmy on this wall is the one from Krefeld, which is as it should be. Behind the wall they have planted a young willow tree and I can easily imagine the soldiers based here now, coming back in years to come and reminiscing about being here when that tree was first planted.

We also visited two different garages and saw the latest technological wonders regarding radio wagons. The first one was the new trucks’ garage, these trucks were bigger than our old 3 tonners, much bigger, but the box body was smaller and it had 3 huge masts. We were shown the new radio/data transmitters/receivers, but were not allowed to go anywhere near them, although I reckon that if they dusted them for fingerprints they’d find Reme and Ted H’s all over them. These garages were immaculate which prompted me to wonder where our friendly soldiers actually worked. “Here”, they said, and when I mentioned the clean enough to eat off floors, the young lass said, “What do you think we’ve been doing all morning?” Now, that took me back.

The second garage was the same size as the first, but with fewer vehicles, there were about three LR’s, one of them big wagons and one a small tracked, radio vehicle used for headquarters in the field. They’d even gone to the trouble of polishing, painting and engraving one of the tracks which they presented to us to commemorate our visit. Thank you, Cpl Barron and your team, it made our day.

Tour over and we all made a mad dash back to the hotel to get ready for the mess dinner. Come 18:30hrs we were scrubbed up and sitting outside the Shire Horse, raring to go.

What a wonderful evening! Thank you, to all of you mess members (everyone a volunteer?) for making our evening so fantastic. Small point; Mr Vice, Lynn Robinson, so not his real name. Thank you, Danny for singing. Thank you, Mess Caterer for a stupendous meal. Thank you, RSM Ian Wells for inviting us into the mess and thank you, Lt Col Stuart Whittley for inviting us onto the camp. Thank you, everyone for putting up with our stupid questions. It was a spectacular visit and something we’ll be talking about for a long, long time. And last, but by no means least, thank you, Reme, for not showing us up, except for that chuffing, white dinner jacket.

*Gwen Theis aka Shades*

taking full advantage of poetic licence.

Hope nobody minds.



*Photographs on these two pages were taken outside and inside the Shire Horse Restaurant on the evening of Tuesday of the 19th April 2016.*



*The Photographs on these two pages were taken after the dinner in 16 Signal Regiment Sergeants Mess of the 20th April 2016.*



**60s-16ers Recce Party  
Stirling Court Hotel, Stirling, 20th February 2016**



**Award of the Freedom of the City of London.**

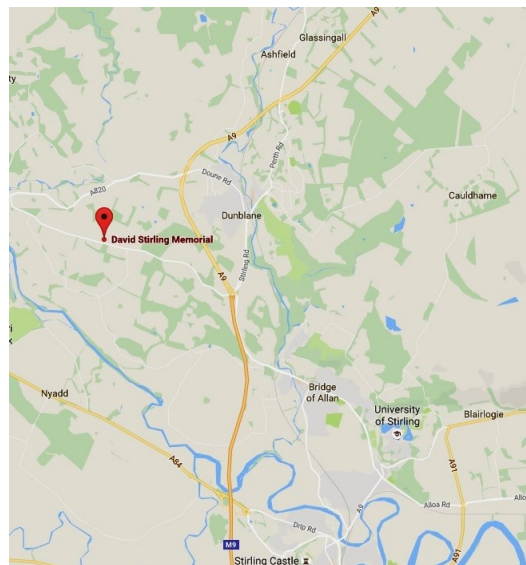
On 14th June this year, I received Freedom of the City of London. My friends and I were shown around the various historical artefacts after a very nice private ceremony. The award certificate is lovely and there is a red bound and gold book, which contains the standards to live by. My sister sent me a fluffy lamb with a shamrock on its nether regions in order to take it across London Bridge without having to pay tax.



Overall, it was a lovely day, which was finished off with an Afternoon Cream Tea at the Royal Society of Medicine (of which I am a Fellow).

## How to Get There

The memorial statue is beside the B824 road between the M9/A9 the main road north from Stirling) and Doune. There is a small car park and a plaque providing information about David Stirling and the SAS.



[http://www.rampantscotland.com/visit/blvisit\\_stirling.htm](http://www.rampantscotland.com/visit/blvisit_stirling.htm)

The words, comments and articles contained in this magazine are written by club members and are for the sole entertainment of club members and in no way reflects, the views or opinions, of the club generally or its officers.

**Any items for the February 2017 edition please submit by 31st December 2016**



**The 1960s 16 Signal Regiment Reunion Club**

Please email or contact the person below with any items for future inclusion.

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