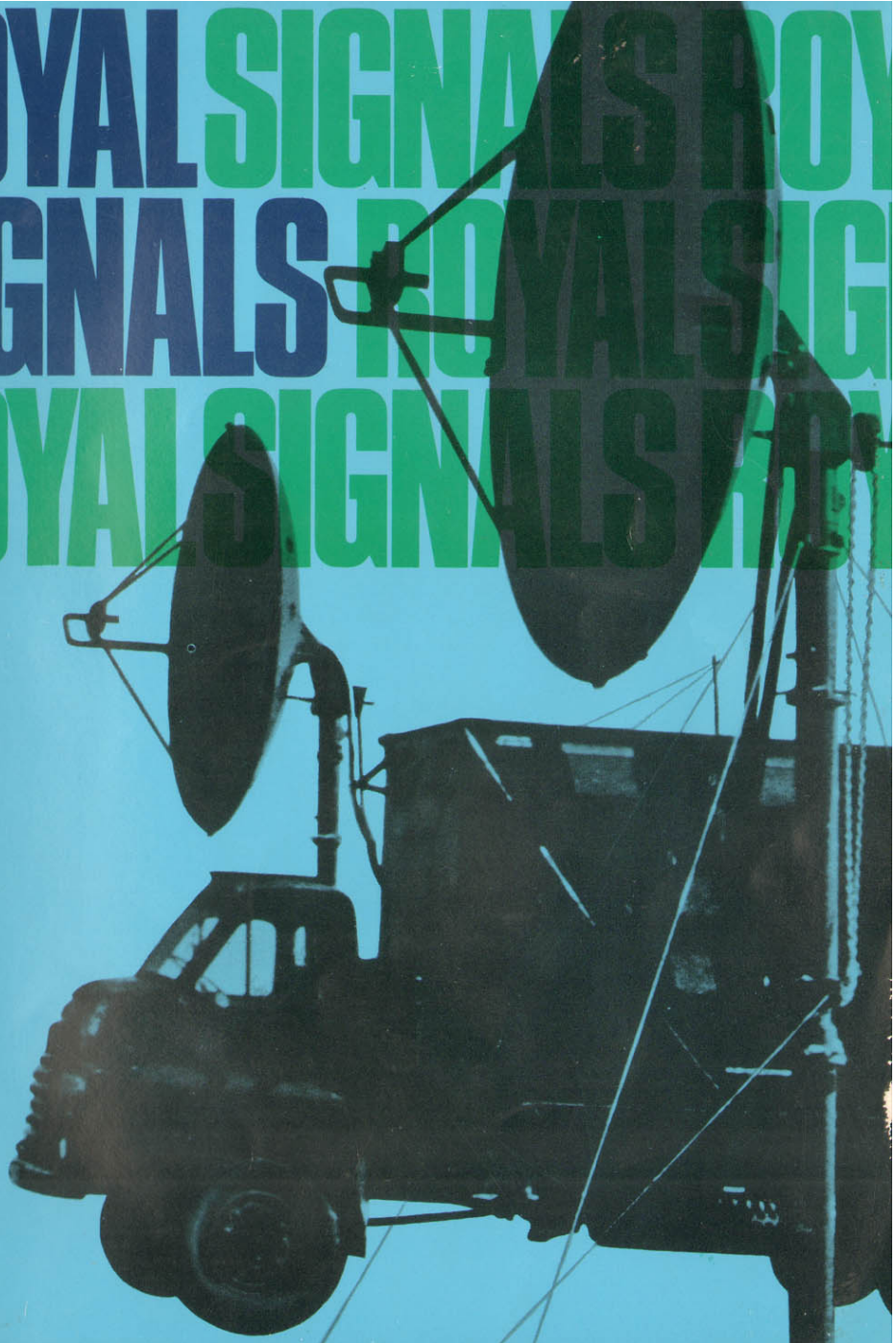


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Royal Signals

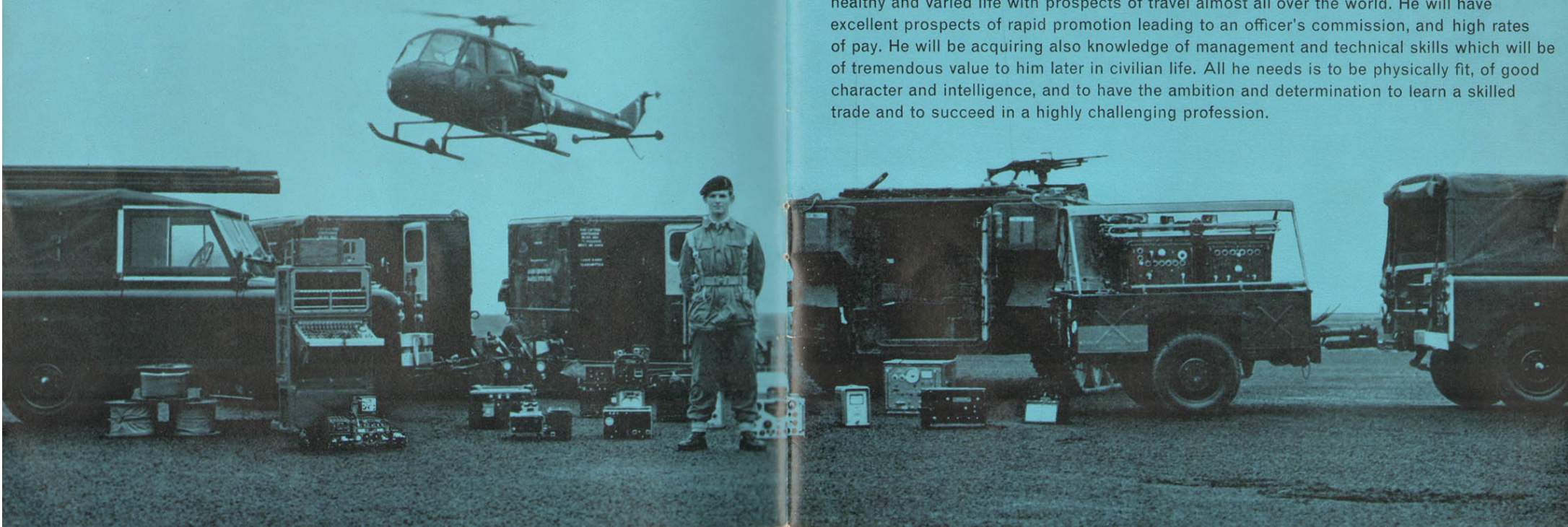
Introduction

This booklet is addressed to all young men who are seeking an interesting, active and rewarding career. It tells something of the scope and fascination, the vital importance and the variety of the life and the work of the soldier of Royal Signals.

Royal Signals may be described as the nerve system of the Army. It provides the means of command and control of the whole Army throughout the world. It links together battalions, brigades, divisions, corps and armies. It links the Ministry of Defence with Army formations throughout the Commonwealth and NATO and with all the Services that are vitally concerned in safeguarding our national, Commonwealth and international interests. As operations have grown in complexity and speed, the means of communication have grown with them and continue to grow. Today a modern comprehensive system has been built up comprising multi-channel radiotelephone and telegraph equipment, closed-circuit television and high-speed computers.

The men of Royal Signals provide, operate and maintain this system. As we reach out into space they will continue to keep pace with the times and will be assimilating the techniques and skills of every electronic advance which will improve the speed and efficiency of world-wide communications.

The soldier joining Royal Signals now has an exciting future before him. He will lead a healthy and varied life with prospects of travel almost all over the world. He will have excellent prospects of rapid promotion leading to an officer's commission, and high rates of pay. He will be acquiring also knowledge of management and technical skills which will be of tremendous value to him later in civilian life. All he needs is to be physically fit, of good character and intelligence, and to have the ambition and determination to learn a skilled trade and to succeed in a highly challenging profession.



Training



Basic combat training

Royal Signals is a combatant arm and its members serve with infantry, armoured, artillery and engineer units, with Parachute and Special Air Service Regiments, with the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. His skill as a soldier is therefore as important as his skill as a tradesman. Thus, training as a soldier is the first step in his military education. He will be trained to drill, to shoot and to look after himself so that he will become a disciplined, self-reliant

and efficient member of Royal Signals—able to play his part when necessary in defending himself and the communications installations which he mans. This training, which lasts six weeks, is carried out at Catterick Camp in Yorkshire, and includes mountain climbing and adventure training in the nearby Lake District. On completion of basic combat training he will go forward for training in the trade of his choice. There are five groups of trades in Royal Signals:



Battle training at Catterick. On the assault course.

Trade training

The electronics group (Technicians)

This group comprises the most highly skilled trades in Royal Signals and the rates of pay and promotion prospects in this group are therefore higher than those of other groups. The various technician qualifications are recognised by the City and Guilds of London Institute for their Telecommunications Technicians course. *In addition, under a scheme recently agreed between the Army and the Electronics Engineering Association, Royal Signals Technicians are virtually guaranteed employment in the electronics industry when they leave the Service.*

Ideally the man most suitable for this group is one who has GCE with an "O" level in Mathematics or Physics, although an intelligent man without these qualifications but with a real determination to learn can be trained as a technician. Tradesmen within this group are known as "T" tradesmen and they enjoy a special promotion scheme in Royal Signals. The general implication of this scheme is that if a "T" tradesman has reached the appropriate grade within his trade and possesses the necessary military characteristics he is promoted on a time basis, reaching the rank of Sergeant after five years of field service as a Technician. From then onwards he will have the opportunity of taking the examinations for appointment into the supervisory grades such as a Foreman of Signals in the ranks of Staff Sergeant and Warrant Officer and from the ranks of which the Corps selects and commissions its Technical Officers Telecommunications. There are now ninety-five of these officers serving in Royal Signals, some as Lieut.-Colonels, all of whom have served initially as Signalmen Technicians.



Top: Technicians carry out repairs to equipment in a Communications Centre vehicle.

Bottom: A Radio Technician checking voice frequency equipment.



The Technician trades are divided into two main categories; those dealing with radio equipments and those dealing with terminal equipments. The training in both categories overlaps to a certain extent, and includes a thorough grounding in the most modern communication techniques. The five Technician trades are as follows:

Radio Technicians (Light and Heavy)

As the name suggests, Radio Technicians are the specialists who maintain and repair the radio equipments used in the Army. The Radio Technician (Light) is concerned mainly with maintaining and repairing the smaller transportable transmitters and receivers, while the Radio Technician (Heavy) is concerned with heavy, static, long-range equipments used for communication with the Commonwealth and overseas commands. Training in this trade lays emphasis on a thorough grasp of the principles of radio, and practical work is introduced at a very early stage in the course.

Radio Relay Technicians

Equipments in the VHF, UHF and SHF band are the responsibility of Radio Relay Technicians. They not only engineer the communication system, but also undertake repair and servicing of both radio and channelling equipments.

The terminal equipments category includes:

Electronic Technicians

These are trained to maintain and repair the line and telegraph equipments in use in the Army. Particular emphasis is laid during training on mastering the complex electronic cipher equipments.

Line Technicians

To the layman this title may be a little misleading. The Line Technician is not directly concerned with telephone and telegraphic lines but with the complex channelling and terminal equipments found at the terminals of modern telecommunications systems.

Telegraph Technicians

As the name implies the Telegraph Technician is concerned primarily with the maintenance and repair of telegraph equipment. In particular he specialises in modern automatic telephone exchange equipment.



Top: A replacement VHF aerial is lowered from a helicopter to an isolated Relay detachment in Germany.

Bottom: A Radio Technician uses a frequency spectrum analyser to check a high power radio transmitter.

The operating group

The tradesmen in this group of trades are responsible for the operation of all the wide variety of communications equipment used in the Army of today. Vital as the skills of the Technician may be in setting up and engineering a communications link, they are of little value to a commander without the skills, resourcefulness and courage of the operator manning the link. When conditions are difficult because of interference from natural or man-made sources, when the enemy is pressing hard or being pressed, it is the skill and determination of the operator on the radio set, the telephone exchange or teleprinter which gets the *vital message through*.

An operator requires intelligence and integrity, patience and perseverance. With these qualities he is assured of rapid promotion through the ranks to the supervisory grades of Yeoman of Signals, from which the Corps selects its Commissioned Traffic Officers. There are now sixty-eight Traffic Officers serving in the Corps who have been commissioned from the ranks of the operating trades.

Special Operators ("A" Trade)

These highly skilled operators are trained to receive morse at 25 words per minute using both British and foreign procedures. They are also taught to operate specialist radio and associated equipments requiring a high degree of skill and care. After training, which lasts 33 weeks, the Special Operator is posted to a unit to use his skills on a wide variety of absorbing and interesting tasks. Owing to the nature of his duties, great emphasis is placed on physical and mental fitness. Because of this, every opportunity is



Middle: Telegraph Operators operating a radio station mounted in a half-ton trailer.

Bottom: A Royal Signals instructor teaching the operation of a medium power radio to a Gurkha student.

given for the Special Operator to take part in all forms of sport, and the highest standards of efficiency are achieved. Ample opportunity is also given to keen operators to reach the upper brackets of their trade, which is particularly valuable, as the trade has a Civil Service equivalent in which many ex-Special Operators already serve and for which pay rates are extremely good.

Telegraph Operators ("A" Trade)

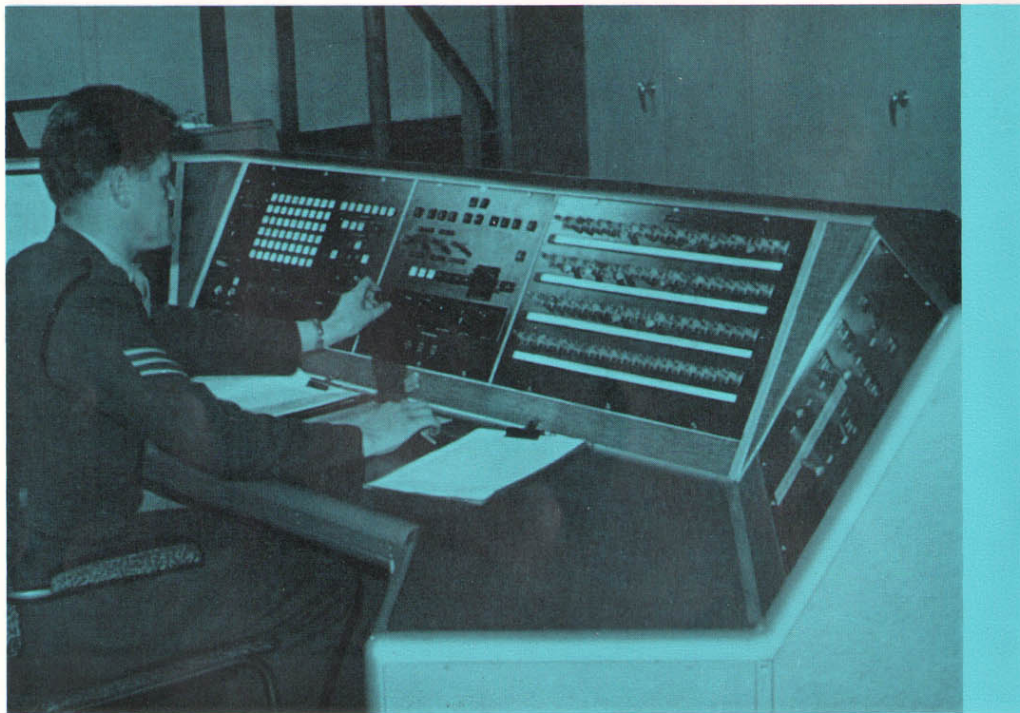
Telegraph Operators are the most highly skilled all-round operators in the operating group. Men selected for this trade undergo a course of training which lasts for 35 weeks, during which they learn to send and receive morse up to 20 words per minute and also to

type. This enables them to operate a teleprinter. They are taught the practical operating of the various types of modern sets in use by Royal Signals and ancillary equipments such as charging engines. It is now Royal Signals policy to select suitable Telegraph Operators during their initial trade training for additional training in driving a vehicle.

It is normal practice for a Lance-Corporal Telegraph Operator to command a mobile radio detachment consisting of three or four operators and a vehicle and equipment worth many thousands of pounds.

Radio Operators ("B" Trade)

Radio Operators normally man the smaller, highly mobile radio sets used in the forward areas at division,



The supervisor's console of Telegraph Automatic Routing Equipment (TARE). A computer which controls the flow of message traffic through a Royal Signals primary relay station.

brigade and battalion level. They are versatile operators similar to the Telegraph Operator but less highly qualified as their training does not include typing and teleprinter operating. They are required to have a good knowledge of morse, voice procedure and radio telephony. Trade training lasts for 17 weeks and as in the case of Telegraph Operators men are selected for additional training as drivers.

Radio Relaymen ("B" Trade)

The functions of Radio Relaymen are basically the same as those of Radio Operators with the exception that they operate the microwave range of radio equipments and its associated speech carrier equipment.

They operate as highly mobile teams of three or four men, often in isolated localities accessible only by helicopter and they need to be tough and self-reliant. Their training lasts seven weeks and concentrates on the practical aspects of setting up and engineering radio relay links, with a knowledge of voice procedure and battery charging. They are not taught morse, but like Radio Operators may be taught to drive a vehicle. Unlike other operators their avenue of promotion is on the Regimental Duty Roster up to Warrant Officer Class I and thence by selection to Quartermaster commissions.

Communications Centre Operators ("B" Trade)

These versatile tradesmen have a most vital and responsible role in the efficient functioning of a communication system. They are personally responsible for handling all the written message traffic which passes over the system. These messages are all vital in one way or another to the efficient working of the Army, and sometimes some of them may even make the difference between winning or losing a battle.

They are responsible for routing this traffic by the speediest and safest means at their disposal. This may be by teleprinter to a terminal a few miles or a few thousand miles away, by facsimile or by vehicle or airborne Signals Despatch Service. They may find themselves working to a Communications Centre manned by soldiers of another Commonwealth Corps, or sharing duties in a centre with Signallers of other NATO countries.

Their training takes 18 weeks and includes touch typing on a special teleprinter keyboard up to a speed of 25 words per minute, telephone exchange operating and national and international operating procedures. There are very good prospects of after-service employment for trained Communications Centre Operators in Government and civilian departments.

Cipher Operators ("B" Trade)

A certain percentage of the men who are trained as Communications Centre Operators are selected for further training as Cipher Operators. These are employed on the handling of all security classified traffic, and because of the particular responsibilities associated with this duty they are promoted to Corporal on completion of their cipher training course.



Top: In a mobile Communications Centre an operator reads a message received on perforated tape.



Bottom: Manning a field mobile telephone exchange.

Lines group

There are two trades in this group—Linemen and Cable Jointers—and these trades have a particular appeal to men who enjoy a tough and energetic outdoor life. Linemen and Cable Jointers provide the intricate network of cables linking up headquarters in the field with speech and telegraphic circuits, providing telephone circuits within headquarters themselves, remote control circuits to radio installations and all the vital line circuits required by the air forces supporting the Army.

Linemen ("B" Trade)

These will be found in the forward areas keeping pace with the rapid movement of our forward troops and are always the most active and hardpressed tradesmen in Royal Signals whenever a move of a formation occurs. They handle a variety of different types of cables, from lightweight cables—paid out from dispenser packs mounted on light, fast vehicles or aircraft—to heavier multi-core field cables. During training, which lasts 14 weeks, they are taught the basic theory of electricity and magnetism to enable them to understand the principles of telephones, switchboards, test equipment, etc. The main emphasis, however, is on the practical aspects of laying and building field cable routes. Selected Linemen are also given a four-week extension course on driving vehicles.

Cable Jointers

Cable Jointers handle the heavier lead-covered and armoured multi-core cables similar to those used by the GPO in underground systems. They are therefore normally employed in the more rearward areas, within the larger and more static headquarters and on airfields. The theoretical instruction during training and the length of the course are virtually the same as those for Linemen, but the practical instruction differs considerably. In addition to learning the practical skills of jointing they are taught how to supervise labour in the construction of cable ducts, manholes and test points, pressure testing and gas indicators. They are also taught how to locate underground cable faults, to maintain records, and, if selected, to drive a vehicle.



A Lineman in Libya.

Driving group

There are two trades within this group—Drivers Royal Signals, and Electrician Drivers. Both are "B" Class trades.

Drivers Royal Signals

The accent during training, which lasts 12 weeks, is to give learners as much time behind the wheel as possible. In addition they learn some mechanical theory, practical servicing and basic knowledge of the internal combustion engine.

But in addition to straightforward driving they bear a responsibility not shared by drivers of other arms of the Service; they are taught to perform despatch rider or courier duties, being directly responsible for the safe carriage of despatches between military formations. Reliable map reading is of course essential for these duties.

Electrician Drivers

A training course for Electrician Drivers lasts 19 weeks. It includes 12 weeks' training as a Driver Royal Signals followed by a seven-week continuation course. The first few weeks of the continuation course are concerned with the theory and principles of electricity and magnetism, and more detailed instruction on internal combustion engines. They are then taught how to apply these principles to the handling of generating and charging sets, the maintenance and charging of batteries and the operation of internal combustion engines.

Finally, men in either of these trades may be selected to drive Royal Signals manned tracked vehicles similar to the Armoured Personnel Carrier shown below.



Top: Despatch riders of the motor cycle display team.



Bottom: An Electrician Driver checks his batteries during an expedition to Socotra, South Arabia.



A Royal Signals armoured personnel carrier.

Administrative group Promotion prospects

In Royal Signals, like any other organisation, there is a need for men trained in administrative duties. There are three trades in the Administrative Group, all "B" Trades, and suitable for men who have a preference or an aptitude for clerical type duties.

Clerk Royal Signals

The efficient working of any military unit depends to a great extent upon the regimental clerks; they carry considerable responsibility and the Chief Clerk in a Signal Regiment is the Adjutant's right-hand man. A methodical and tidy mind is the key to success. Clerical duties include not only typing, but every aspect of clerical work from simple filing and registration to the preparation of complex communications instructions.

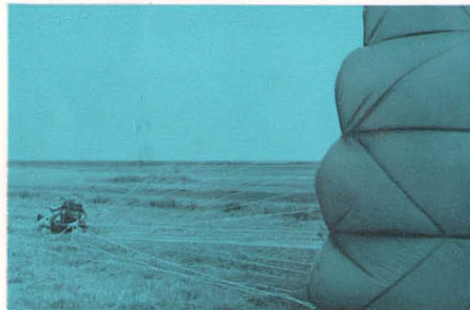
Clerk Technical

The trade of Clerk Technical is essentially a practical one. Training includes stores accounting, maintenance of ledgers and how to compile the various Army forms used in stores accounting. Clerks Technical are taught how to identify and understand the general use of the wide range of major signal equipments used in the Army. Since much of their work involves the completion of vouchers, documents and writing of letters, they are also taught to type at 15 words per minute.

Draughtsmen

Draughtsmen are selected from qualified Clerks Royal Signals and Clerks Technical who have a natural bent towards freehand sketching, writing and printing. During training they receive a thorough training in the making of traces, the production of photo-copies from blueprints and dye-line systems. In addition they are taught conventional signs peculiar to the Army and the art of preparing communication signal circuit and radio diagrams. A draughtsman must have a very well developed sense of responsibility, for his work demands a high standard of accuracy and attention to detail.

The promotion stages of men in the Lines, Driving and Administrative Groups follow the usual pattern, through L/Cpl., Cpl., Sgt. to Warrant Officer. From amongst the Warrant Officers the Corps selects its commissioned Quartermasters of which there are now 111 serving in the Corps in ranks from Lieut. (QM) to Lieut.-Colonel (QM).



Top: A rifle and typewriter have equal place in the work of this Clerk in Aden.

Bottom: Airborne Signals. A Signals Corporal lands during an exercise.

Adventure and variety of service

Because of the wide dispersal of the Corps the man who enjoys travel and variety will find his opportunities and horizons almost unlimited and on completion of initial trade training the majority of Royal Signals tradesmen will be posted to a Royal Signals unit serving overseas. At the present moment the Corps has men serving in at least 30 different countries including such places as Norway, Germany, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Malta, Malaysia, the West Indies, Aden and Hong Kong. During these overseas tours, in addition to broadening his mind by contact with the peoples and customs of these countries, he will be constantly developing new professional skills and techniques through his service with different types of unit and equipments. He may be one of the Technicians on active service in Borneo servicing the equipment of widely dispersed infantry battalions deep in the jungle, and his only means of transport a helicopter. The following month he might have volunteered and been accepted



Watching a blind basket maker at work in Aden.



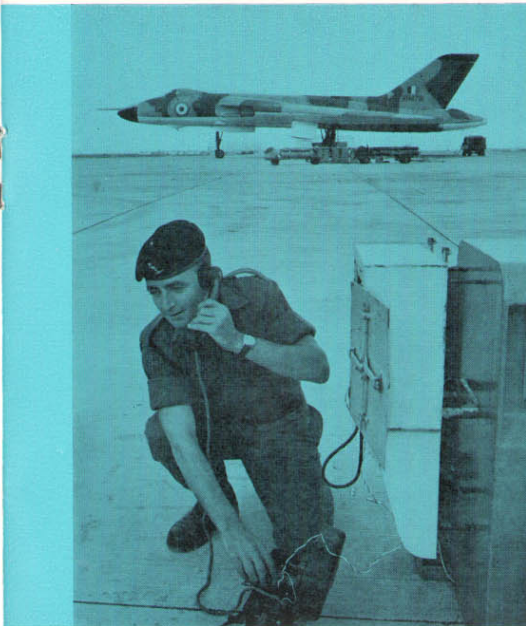
Men of Royal Signals in Bangkok.



Top: Through by radio in South Arabia.
Bottom: A Ferret Scout car manned by Royal Signals Radio Operators is an object of interest to a party of Masai women.

for special service with the Army of the Federation of South Arabia, his normal means of transport a camel. A Radio Operator might do a tour of duty in Germany with an Air Support Signal Unit, when he will be communicating to supersonic aircraft and their bases, and follow this with a tour in a Ships Signal Troop in Far Eastern waters, when he will be working to warships afloat.

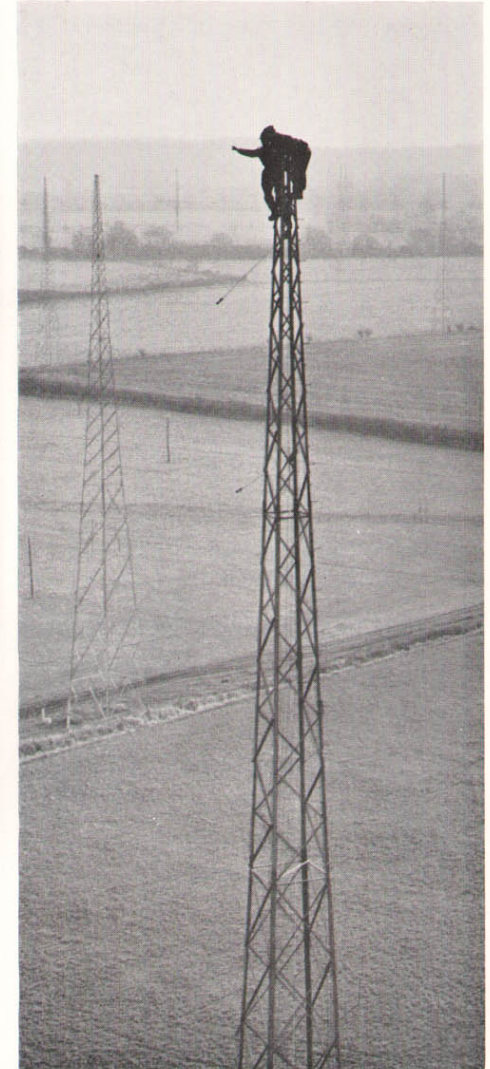
A Telegraph Operator might operate a lightweight 50-watt set in Berlin followed by a long-range 5-kilowatt set in Bangkok. And a Communications Centre Operator might exchange the snows of Norway for an air-conditioned Communications Centre in Singapore. In addition to all these normal routine postings there are opportunities to volunteer for special seconded tours to a variety of "special forces", to the military forces of Malaysia, Kenya, Sudan, Zambia, Malawi, the Trucial Oman Scouts or the famous Gurkhas. Service with these types of force attracts favourable extra rates of pay and allowances.



If further variety is required, an NCO tradesman can apply for training as a pilot of fixed wing light aircraft or helicopters. It is intended that Royal Signals will have their own helicopters flown by Royal Signals pilots for carrying urgent despatches, reconnoitring radio relay sites and line routes, and carrying detachments, technicians, spare equipment, etc., to remote and inaccessible sites. Those Royal Signals NCOs who qualify as pilots of fixed wing aircraft would be attached for duties with the Army Air Corps for one or possibly two years of duty and would then return to their trade employment in Royal Signals.

As the photographs in this booklet bear out, no other occupation can offer one such variety of jobs and opportunity to see the world when compared with life in Royal Signals.

A Signalman tests telephone circuits on a RAF airfield in Malta.

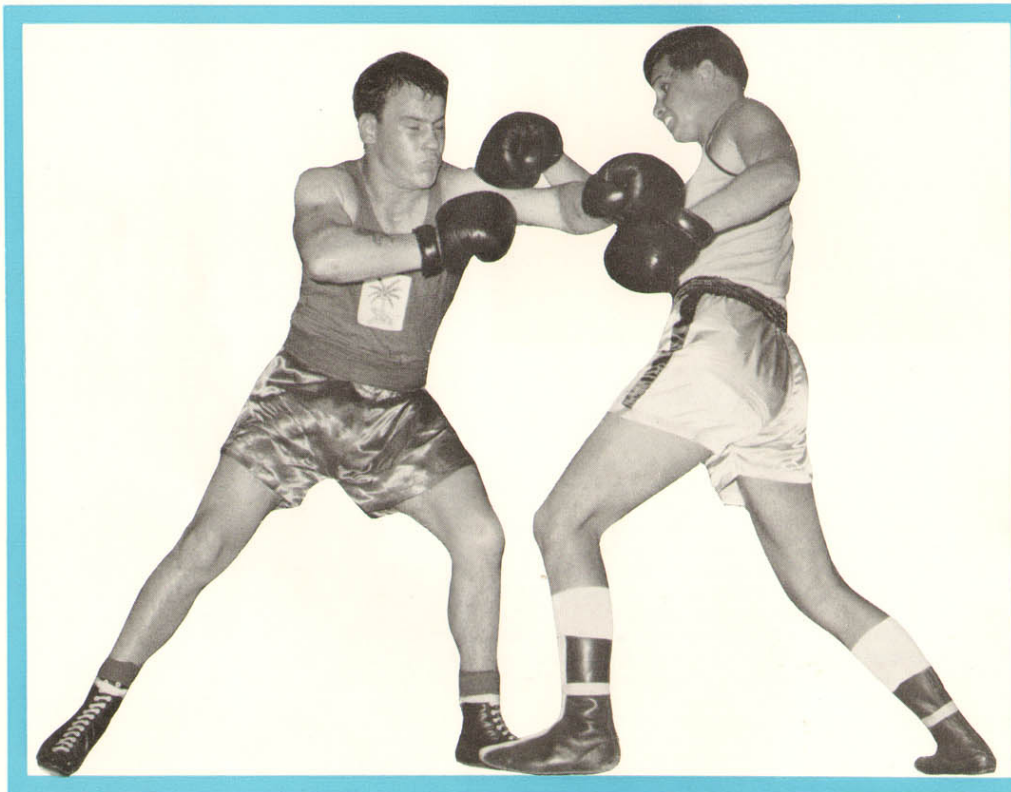


Two aerial riggers working on a 150-ft.-high metal mast.

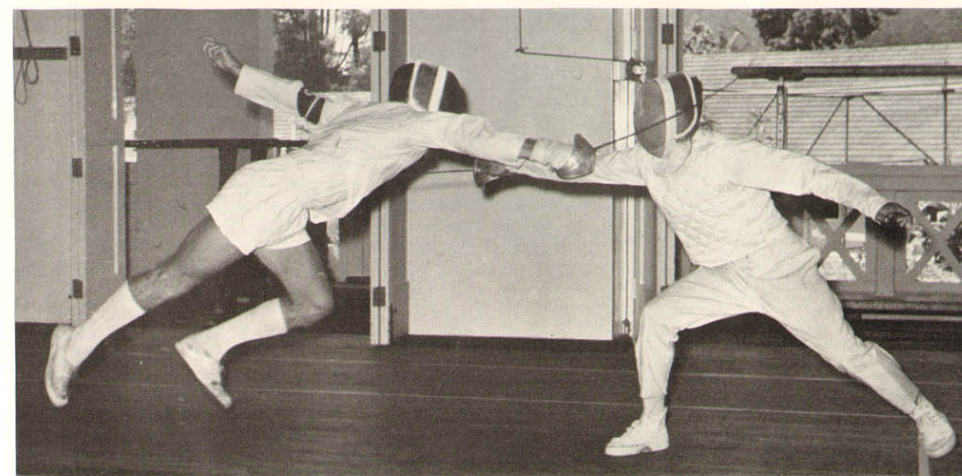
Sport

All Royal Signals personnel are encouraged and actively assisted to take part in all forms of sport and outdoor activities, particularly those of an adventurous nature. The Corps, despite its youth and

multiplicity of tasks, has an impressive record of sporting honours both on the field and elsewhere. One Regiment of the Corps has won the Army Cup for Rugby football no fewer than seven times since the last war, and Royal Signals has the proud record of providing seven International and 30 Army caps. In Association football the Corps can claim two International and 21 Army caps, and at hockey three International and 10 Army caps. Athletics records contain an impressive list of Royal Signals holders of International honours including an Olympic Games representative.



A man need not be a gladiator, however, to enjoy his sport in the Army. He can participate in all forms of sport at Troop level upwards. Whilst training at Catterick in addition to the normal games he can play golf, ride horses, glide, take part in mountaineering and pot-holing expeditions, etc., all at very little cost to himself. When he joins a Regiment he will find that he can join in activities such as ski-ing, canoeing, yachting, cycling, go-kart racing, judo and a host of similar activities. No matter what his interests are in the field of sport he will find the facilities are within his reach.



Top: A Royal Signals ski team.

Bottom: The Far East fencing champion shows his paces.

Top: Learning the joys of sailing.

Pay, leave and conditions of service



Pay in the Regular Army is generous, but because the pay rates vary according to the nature of engagement, length of service, trade group and classification and as they are revised from time to time it is not intended to list them in detail in this booklet. Detailed information on pay can be obtained at any Army Careers Information Office.

When comparing Army rates of pay with those in civilian life you should not forget that in the Army in addition to your basic pay you also get free living and accommodation, whilst single. When you marry you will receive additional generous allowances, including ration allowance if you are not living in army barracks. The present regulations regarding leave allow up to 30 days per year up to the rank of Corporal and up to 42 days per year for Sergeants and above. This is in addition to short week-end leaves and public holidays which are granted at the discretion of Commanding Officers. Full pay, ration allowance and marriage allowances (where in issue) are of course paid during periods of leave, and free travel warrants up to a maximum of three per year are available in Germany and England.

Normal regular engagements are for a minimum of six years, although for certain trades it is possible to enlist on a special three-year engagement. By enlisting on a nine-year engagement you are entitled to a higher rate of pay than if you had promised to serve for only 6 years.

On completion of 22 years' reckonable service you will qualify for a pension and a tax free gratuity.



Top: A young Signals NCO with his family in Germany.

Bottom: The Royal Signals barracks in Singapore.

Junior Regiments of Royal Signals

Entry into Royal Signals through a Junior Regiment offers the young school-leaver aged 15 to 16½ a flying start in his career with the Corps. It is from these regiments that the Corps draws a very high proportion of its senior NCOs and Warrant Officers at an early age, and of these many become commissioned officers in the Corps.

During his period of junior service the boy entrant receives instruction in general military subjects and, depending on the unit concerned, serves an apprenticeship or is trained as a Junior Leader or Tradesman.

Boys may enter Royal Signals through the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, Yorkshire, or the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Signals, Denbury, Devon. In addition, older boys between the ages of 16 and 17 are trained in Royal Signals trades at Army Junior Tradesmen's Regiments at Troon in Scotland and Rhyl in Wales.

Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Signals

The Regiment is stationed at Denbury Camp in the heart of South Devon, three miles from Newton Abbot and seven miles from Torquay. Accommodation consists of comfortable wooden buildings and all the sleeping accommodation is centrally heated. The camp has a church, a cinema, two gymnasia, a swimming bath, a social club and two canteens, one organised by the NAAFI and one by the Church Army. There is also an indoor and an outdoor rifle range and three large playing fields.

A new intake joining the Regiment is held for the first term in Junior Squadron. At the end of the term the boys move to one of the Troops in the Junior Leader Squadrons. Each Troop, which holds up to 50 Junior Leaders, is commanded by an officer, with a specially selected Sergeant as his assistant. Within Troops, the Junior Leaders are allotted to patrols, each of six or seven boys. The patrol is arranged so that it contains one or two Junior Leaders from each



Top: Junior Leaders learning Morse in a specially equipped training room.



Bottom: Junior Leaders learning to use a teleprinter.

term. This enables the older ones to help the younger ones and gives all Junior Leaders the opportunity of acting as patrol commanders in their last term.

The normal daily training programme starts at 8 a.m. and ends at 4.30 p.m. On two evenings a week, however, from 5.30 p.m. until 7 p.m., regimental activities such as the regimental band, highland dancing team, regimental choir, and gymnastics, amateur radio and a large number of other hobbies are available.

The training programme is split into four main parts: Academic Studies; Military Training; Trade Training; Physical Training, which includes Sport and Adventure Training.

The academic studies include instruction for the Army 1st class certificate of education, "O" level GCE or City and Guilds examinations. Military training includes foot and arms drill, and the use and firing of military weapons. Trade training produces qualified tradesmen in four basic Royal Signals trades:

Communications Centre Operator; Radio Operator; Electrician Driver; Lineman

As a general principle the Junior Leader will complete his trade training at Denbury and proceed direct to his Regular Army unit. A certain number of selected Junior Leaders may go to one of the Trade Training Regiments at Catterick for continuation training.

There is compulsory church on Sunday with services for Church of England, nonconformist and Roman Catholic Junior Leaders. The Regiment has its own Church of England padre, and he prepares many Junior Leaders for confirmation.

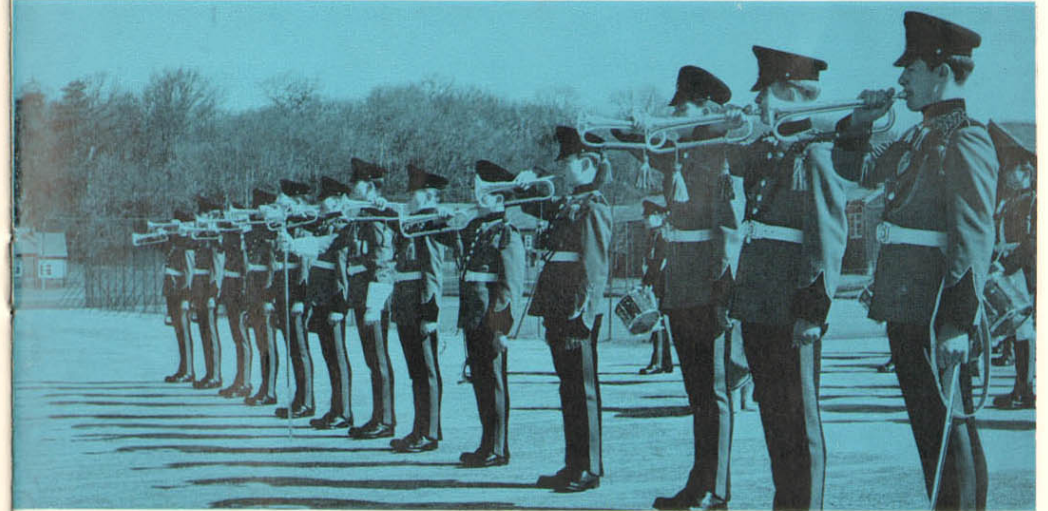
The Regiment works on three terms a year, and all Junior Leaders are given leave and free return rail warrants home at the end of each term. The total leave is 70 days per year, and pay and ration allowance is paid during leave.

At the end of each term a parade is held for Junior Leaders graduating to Colour Service and each of these parades is made the occasion of a Regimental Parents' Day. During the Summer Term overnight accommodation and meals are provided for parents and guardians who wish to stay overnight in the camp. All boys are required to enlist to serve until they are 18 and thereafter to serve for six years with the Colours and six years in the Regular Reserve, or nine years with the Colours and three years in the Regular Reserve.



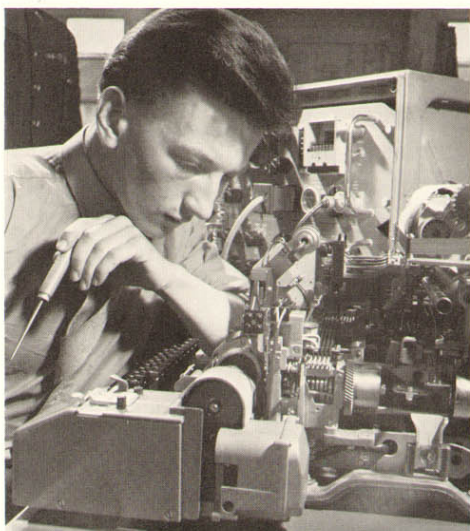
Top: Hobbies—Junior Leaders with a radio-controlled model aircraft.

Bottom: Pot-holing—a Junior Leader is helped to the surface.



Top: Parents and friends watch a passing off parade of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Signals.

Bottom: Trumpeters of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Signals.



The Army Apprentices school, Harrogate

Background

This school was formed in May 1947. In 1959 it was decided that the school should concentrate on the training of apprentices for trades in Royal Signals. At present, technical instruction is provided for Line Technicians, Telegraph Technicians, Radio Technicians (Light), Radio Relay Technicians, Electronic Technicians and Telegraph Operators. The aim of the school is to produce a high grade soldier who is also a well-trained tradesman and fully qualified educationally up to the requirements of WO I rank. He should also have sufficient leadership ability, self-reliance and strength of character to ensure he has a successful career in the Army and

good prospects as a civilian when he leaves it. All apprentices are considered to be potential senior NCOs or Warrant Officers. It is hoped at least one in every ten will reach commissioned rank.

Training

The apprenticeship is planned as a three-year course of technical education and military training. The course for technicians is based mainly on the City and Guilds Telecommunications Technicians' course, covering first year, second year and third year syllabuses. A majority of technicians are expected to gain Intermediate Certificate, which exempts them from taking the Class II Principals Paper for their trade qualification. A number of the more advanced students qualify in third-year subjects and a few of the exceptional students in fourth-year subjects. Telegraph Operators are trained up to Class II standards in operating all the current types of radio and telegraph communications equipment. They are given an excellent start to a career which may lead to promotion to Yeomen of Signals and eventually to a commission as a specialist in communications.

During the first term the apprentice is introduced to the Army way of life and is taught how to look after himself, his clothing and equipment. The emphasis is on basic military training and education. He is brought up to a high standard of physical fitness and covers some of the basic principles of his trade.

During the whole of the first year, raising the educational standard remains first priority. At least 75 per cent of the apprentices should pass their Army Certificate of Education Senior Test in English, Mathematics and Science by the end of this year. In the second and third years the emphasis changes to the more technical subjects and practical work on military equipments. Throughout the apprenticeship, education and trade training are completely integrated and complementary. Unless an apprentice achieves a fairly high educational standard, he cannot absorb advanced technical instruction. Additional studies are available for the apprentice who is already well qualified educationally on entry. Facilities are available for him to study for the ONC or for GCE subjects. Military training, leadership training, games and sports also figure prominently in the training programme. Apprentices take part in organised games on two afternoons a week and achieve a high standard in many team games and individual sports, for which excellent facilities exist at the school.

An Apprentice Telegraph Technician adjusts a teleprinter.

To develop the apprentice's self-reliance and leadership abilities, adventure training is carried out locally on the Yorkshire moors or other suitable training grounds. This type of training takes place mainly at weekends but each apprentice also takes part in at least two five-day adventure training exercises during his apprenticeship. In addition to this a large number of apprentices attend courses at the Army Outward Bound School at Towyn in Wales. Apprentices are also encouraged to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. A number of boys from the school have been awarded the gold medal, and many more hold the silver and bronze medals.

The importance of religious instruction in character training is fully appreciated. A Church of England chaplain is a resident member of the school staff. He and local chaplains of other denominations are responsible for regular religious instruction and church services. All boys attend prayers before work daily and go to church each Sunday.

All the above pursuits help to develop character and leadership, but perhaps the best test of leadership is the exercise of responsibility and authority. Selected

apprentices are given the rank of Apprentice Lance-Corporal. Those who do well are promoted and given heavier responsibilities appropriate to their rank. An outstandingly good apprentice may reach the rank of Apprentice RSM.

Terms of Service/Age Limits

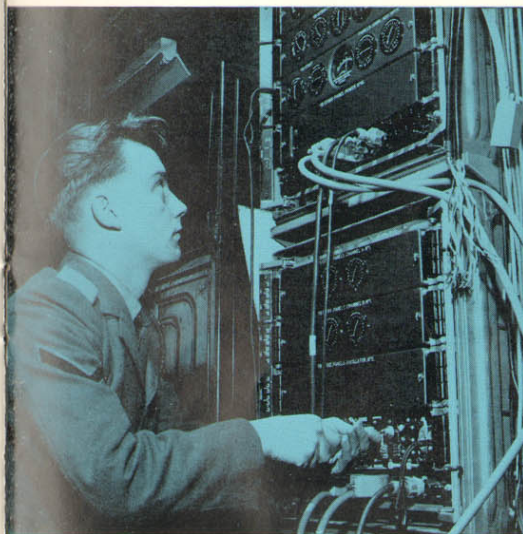
Between school-leaving age and 17 years at the time he joins the Army Apprentices School. Applications should be made as early as possible so that suitable applicants can be given guaranteed places in the appropriate future entries.

Terms of Enlistment

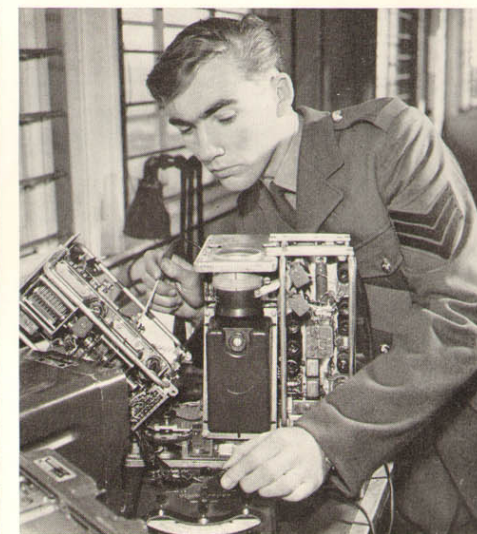
All boys must enlist to serve until they are 18 and thereafter serve a further nine years in the Regular Army, after which they have a reserve liability of three years. After he has reached the age of 18 years a soldier may apply to change his engagement to a 22-year engagement, which is a career engagement carrying with it the right to a pension after 22 years' reckonable service as a man. Opportunities exist for a longer career, beyond the 22-year engagement.

Medical Standards

Boys must be medically fit, at least 4 ft. 9 in. in height and weigh not less than 94 lb.



An Apprentice Line Technician adjusts levels on a carrier equipment.



An Apprentice Radio Technician practises fault finding on a radio transmitter.



How to join Royal Signals

Go to your nearest
Army Careers Information Office
(The address is in the telephone directory
or at any Post Office)

Or
Royal Signals Unit
If there is one in your vicinity

Or
For more personal and detailed information write to

Royal Signals Recruiting Co-ordinator
Room 045, The Old War Office Building
Whitehall, London, S.W.1.



Royal Signals man one of the three air transportable satellite communications ground stations. These stations are taking part in a joint project with American military authorities using a series of near-synchronous satellites launched by America and which started in the spring of 1966. The photograph shows the 40-ft. diameter dish aerial eventually to be installed inside the 60-ft.-high inflatable radome seen in the background.