

BAND - 1963

January



Lt Col AJ Woodrow MBE Commanding Officer of 1 Sig Regt presents a Pipe Banner
Pipe Major Ian 'Picolo' Smith

Graduation Day – Tuesday 9th April 1963



Drum Major Dave Hopkins



Mr James Ramsden MP Inspecting Officer chats with **Pipe Major Ian 'Picolo' Smith**



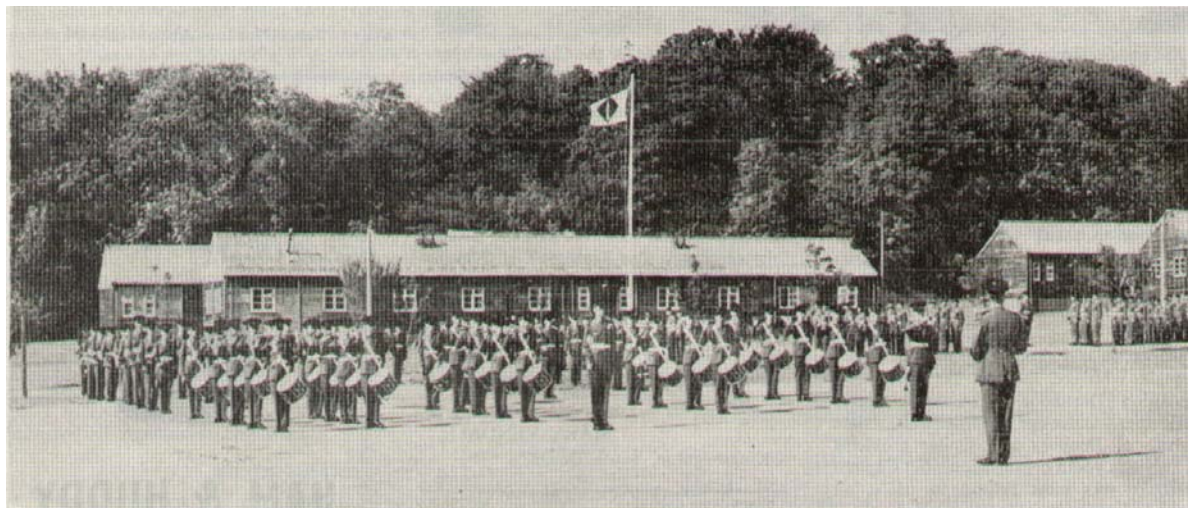
Mel Mullin - **Trumpet Major Ray Fisher**



New Leopard Skin



Drum Major Dave Hopkins leads the Pipe Band at the start of the 25 mile Ladies Walk in Torquay



Extract from the Junior Mercury – Jul 63

HISTORY CORPS OF DRUMS ROYAL SIGNALS

The Corps of Drums were re-formed in 1955 with nine members but soon gained popularity and rocketed to fifty; the present strength is ninety. All drummers are volunteers and few have any musical knowledge at all. We also have a file of Pipers bearing the crests of the local towns and the Royal Banner presented by H.R.H. The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Signals. The drummers were kitted out with Scarlet Tunics and the latest rod tension drums in 1960 and are the only Junior Leaders Regiment to be so equipped.

We have been honoured to play for H.R.H. The Princess Royal and H.M. Queen Juliana of the Netherlands in Nijmegen, and many fetes in Devon, Somerset and Gloucester. The Corps of Drums came third in the All Army Junior Leaders' Bands in 1961, and hope to attain a first before long. As a point of interest somewhere in the world there are over seven hundred ex-band boys from Denbury.

It is hoped that next year the drums will appear in the Royal Tournament "Beating Retreat."

Our Fanfare Trumpeters have for the last five years sounded Fanfares for Her Majesty's Judges at Exeter Assizes. The Regimental Corps of Drums appears by kind permission of Lt. Col. A. Holifield, MC, Royal Signals, under the direction of Drum Major A.J. Yates, BEM. "Drums"

Graduation Day – Tuesday 30th July 1963



SO in C Major General Swainson escorted by the Parade Commander Major John Clapp with the Regimental Trumpeters



RSM D Haughney - **Terry 'Tex' Ellison** - SO in C Major General Swainson - Mr McDonald Bell - **David 'Ginge' Beresford**



1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - Terry 'Tex' Ellison



David 'Jock' Young - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6
7 - Pipe Major Ian 'Picolo' Smith - 9 - 10 - Mr McDonald Bell - Jim Verner - Sgt Ron Mathieson



1 - David 'Ginge' Beresford - Pipe Major Ian 'Picolo' Smith - 4 - 5 - 6 - Terry 'Tex' Ellison - 8 - 9



David 'Ginge' Beresford - 2 - Pipe Major Ian 'Picolo' Smith



Scottish Dancers



Pipe Major Ian 'Picolo' Smith - Eric Hoare - Bill Sharpe - Len Peters and two of the Pamela de Waal dancers



Phil Pearce

(not a colour photo from 1963 but 'created' today by Mike Butchers 61-63 now a Photoshop expert – thanks Mike)

Junior Drum Major Dave Hopkins presents the BAOR Tour 1963



Extract from Junior Mercury – Oct 63

THE CORPS OF DRUMS PIPERS AND HIGHLAND DANCERS

On 1st August, 1963, a total of 78 Junior Leaders and Staff left DENBURY for a ten-day tour of Royal Signals Regiments in BAOR.

The first stop was at KREFELD – 16th Signal Regiment, which was reached on the evening of Friday, 2nd August. Saturday morning was spent in rehearsal and preparation. In the evening the first show was given to an audience of military persons who came from Krefeld and Munchen Gladbach and also a large number of local German civilians. Despite the almost tropical heat, the Beating of Retreat, which was preceded by a display from the pipers and dancers, went well and gave us a good start to the tour. On Sunday we went for a trip on the Rhine in the German Bundeswehr 'Z4' transporters.

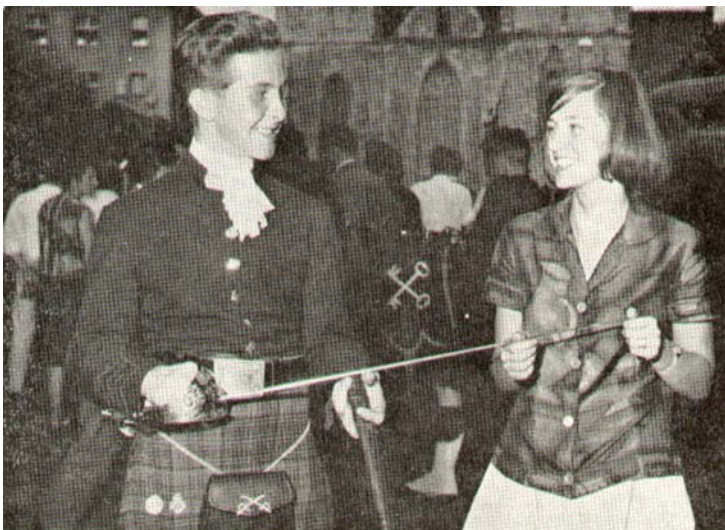
On Monday we travelled to HERFORD where we were accommodated by 7th Signal Regiment. The Tuesday morning was spent swimming and that evening we gave a show for the local population of Herford, which was held in the centre of the town. The crowd gathered quickly, following us as we marched through the streets of Herford. This day had been arranged by 4th Signal Regiment who are also stationed in Herford.

Wednesday dawned – another fine day – and through the kindness of 7th Signal Regiment we went by transport to the 'BLAUER SEE' near Hanover. This is an inland swimming resort with sand, bathing facilities and other attractions! Swimming was most popular and those who had felt disinclined to swim were unceremoniously thrown in, this sport culminating with the triumphant ducking of Jnr Drum Major Hopkins! The evening performance for 7th Signal Regiment unfortunately was slightly marred by a little rain, which held off sufficiently for us to complete the programme.

On Thursday we travelled to VERDEN to 1st Signal Regiment, where unfortunately weather ruined the performance and the Corps of Drums Beat a very hasty Retreat!! We are most grateful to 1st Signal Regiment who laid on a magnificent dinner with ex-boys of Denbury as hosts. Friday saw us on the move to BUNDE, 2nd Signal Regiment, where the pipers and dancers performed at a Regimental Dinner Night in the officers' mess. Saturday morning was spent looking over a layout of equipment and vehicles in use in 2nd Divisional Signals. On Saturday evening we gave our final show, in BUNDE. The weather was not entirely with us but the rain stopped just in time and we had a crowd of about 2,000 both military and civilian.

On Sunday we left Germany and arrived back at Dover as dawn was breaking on the Monday morning. Our photographs show the Corps of Drums and a few of the personalities. The Commanding Officer has received many messages congratulating the Corps of Drums, pipers and dancers, including one from Brigadier ANDERSON, CBE, the Chief Signal Officer BAOR.

The Regiment would like to say a very sincere thank-you to the Royal Signals Regiments of BAOR who did so much to make our visit interesting and enjoyable. All of us were greatly impressed by the kindness and friendship extended to us throughout the tour. We have returned to DENBURY with a better understanding of the life and work of the British Army in Germany and with a greater pride than ever in the Regiments of our Corps.



Leading Dancer Tony Hand
shows a spectator that "they really are broadswords"



Awaiting the arrival of the Burgermeister of Herford

Graduation Day – Saturday 7th December 1963



Major General Sir William A Scott, KCMG, CB, CBE, Master of Signals



Can you help with more photos?