



HISTORY OF SIGNALLING IN 100 OBJECTS
HOO-TANT
A LIGHT WEIGHT JUNGLE VHF ANTENNA



QG SIGNALS provided communications to support the British Army Jungle Warfare courses that were established in Brunei following the withdrawal from Malaysia and Singapore. It was also known as the Training Team Brunei.

The jungle has always provided a challenge to communicators and it was the norm to rely always on HF communications, but these can be extremely unreliable, which is unacceptable within a training establishment, where the Directing Staff have to control the students and supervise the training safely. It was therefore decided that an attempt would be made set up a VHF network for the staff managing these jungle training courses. However, there was no suitable VHF antenna that could be used in the jungle environment. The Adjutant of the Training Team, who was Captain M R Complin QG SIGNALS, developed a cheap, very light weight antenna that was manufactured by the QG SIGNALS operators and technicians. The "HOO-TANT" means "Jungle Antenna". The name was given to it by the senior QG SIGNALS operator, who was Sgt Govinde Gurung.

The antenna could be carried in an operator's pocket and, to deploy it, hauled up a tree using a cord thrown over a suitable branch; the 3 "legs" (shown in the right picture) of the antenna were kept apart with long twigs. It was then connected by the standard coax cable to a CLANSMAN 351 or 352. The Hoo-Tant remained in use for about 20 years. (Data provided by Lt Col MR Complin).