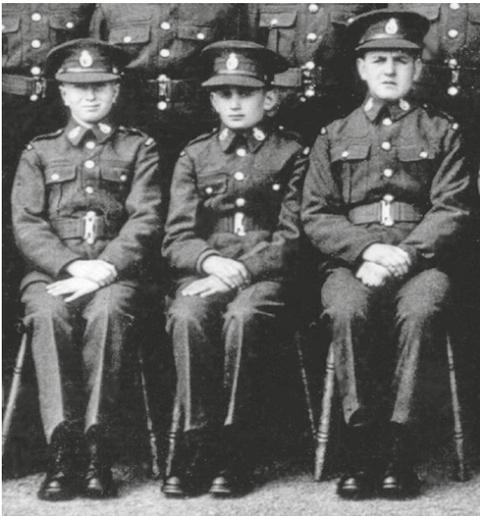




## HISTORY OF SIGNALLING IN 100 OBJECTS CAP BADGE ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL

The Army Apprentices School (later called College) was established at Harrogate in 1947. The concept of training boy soldiers went back much further in time, but Harrogate encompassed a new vision of training designed to meet the demands of peace time soldiering and modern technology. The early purpose of the school was to train tradesmen of the RE, RA, REME and clerks from all Arms. It was not until September 1948 that the first Royal Signals boys arrived at Harrogate, who came from the Boys' Squadron in Catterick. 400 boys and staff were involved in this move. The oldest of the boys went on to pass out on 1 Feb 1949. The late Lt Col Mike Butler MBE, shown (centre) in the picture below was one of the earliest boy soldiers to graduate from Harrogate, having



joined boys' service at the age of 14 in 1945. Mike completed his active service in 1987 and then continued to serve the Corps as a civil servant and then as a Museum volunteer, a post that he held until he died in April 2018 aged 87.

Harrogate continued to produce many Royal Signals senior officers of distinction. These include Major General John Stokoe CB, CBE, who became an apprentice in 1963, graduated as a L/Cpl Radio Relay Technician in 1965 and was selected for officer training at RMA Sandhurst in 1967. See picture far left. He retired from the Regular Army in 1999.

During his service he served with the QGS in the Far East and with the Grenadier Guards. He commanded 14 Signal Regt (EW) in Celle and was Commander Communications BAOR. His younger brother (left), Major Andrew Stokoe followed John to Harrogate, graduating as a Telegraph Operator, later becoming a Yeoman of Signals, was commissioned as a Traffic Officer in 1990 and retired in 2001.



Harrogate closed in 1993 and Royal Signals apprentice training moved to Arborfield, which was re-named the Army Technical Foundation College in Sep 2000 and included 263 (Harrogate) Signal Sqn.