



Standing in Bampton's new bus shelter are Col. Ted Winn, Commander 1st Signals Group, Army Strategic Command, and Mr. Maurice Clack, chairman of Bampton Parish Council. They are seen at the official handing over ceremony on Saturday.

Bampton has shelter from the 'Signals'

Bampton residents, sheltering from the winter weather in their fine bus shelter in Broad Street will always have cause to remember the Royal Corps of Signals.

For the shelter, which was handed over to Mr. Maurice Clack, chairman of Bampton Parish Council, by Col. Ted Winn on Saturday, is a present from "The Signals" to the people of Bampton.

The gift, in appreciation of 30 years' association with the town, was a farewell one, for on Monday the 3rd Squadron, 14th Regiment, Royal Corps of Signals, which has been stationed at the Weald, Bampton, handed over to No. 90 Signals Group, Royal Air Force.

Bronze plaque

The ceremony, which was held in bright sunshine outside the shelter, attracted a small crowd of townspeople. Col. Winn, Commander 1st Signals Group, Strategic Command, unveiled a bronze plaque in the shelter and thanked the people of Bampton for the kindness, hospitality and understanding throughout the years.

"The association has been a long one, for 30 years ago this month the first Royal Signals came to Bampton," he said. "To the many soldiers posted here, their stay in Bampton was a happy one — and some of them even had the good taste to marry Bampton girls."

Local bride

When mentioned Mr. Albert Watterson, who came to Bampton in 1939 with the 50th Division and was the first to marry a local girl, then Miss Janet Poole. He has settled in the town and works at Smiths Industries.

Accepting the bus shelter, Mr. Clack described it as a most generous and useful gift and reminded everyone that the first "Signals" had arrived in Bampton within 48 hours of the onset of the 1939-45 war.

"Since then they have become part of the parish. We shall always remember 'Bampton Signals,'" he said.

Major L. W. Prescott, Officer Commanding at Bampton, Capt. J. S. Howe and a number of the squadron members were present at the ceremony, and Flight-Lieut. S. Hawkes, who takes over as Commanding Officer of the station for the R.A.F. and who will be based in Bampton. He was welcomed by Mr. Clack, who said that he hoped the association with the R.A.F. would be as long and as happy

as that with the unit now leaving.

Among the visitors was Brig. Sir George Walton (retired), a former Commander of the 50th Division and Air Commodore A. S. Ellerton, who lived in Bampton for 17 years before leaving two years ago.

Residents at the ceremony included Mrs. R. A. Colville and Miss D. G. Thomson, both county council and parish council members, Mrs. F. Coles and Mr. L. Hughes-Owens, Witney Rural District Council representatives, Mr. R. Rouse, vice-chairman of Bampton Parish Council, and members Mr. E. Stroud, Mr. R. L. G. Carter, Mr. John Taylor, Mr. Jack Lawrence and Mrs. A. Taylor.

The Royal Signals at Bampton have a fine record of efficiency and have played a big part in providing an excellent communications service to the Army and R.A.F.

during the past ten years, when the need for constant and reliable communications between the United Kingdom and overseas forces has been of vital importance.

Met. information

Although there has always been an R.A.F. element in residence, the primary role of the Bampton station has been that of the main Army receiving station in the United Kingdom, keeping in constant communication with Army formations throughout the world.

In addition, it has had the responsibility for receiving meteorological information and relaying it to the Meteorological Headquarters at Bracknell from stations throughout the Northern hemisphere. This service has been maintained continuously by the civilian contingent, who will continue to operate alongside their R.A.F. counterparts.



