

CASTLE



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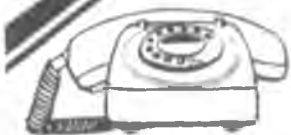
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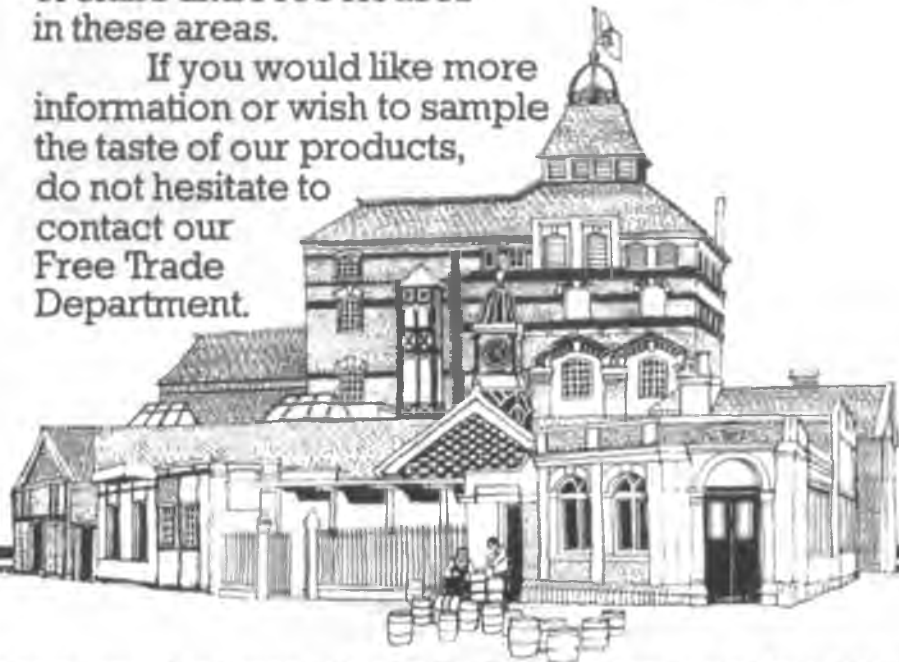
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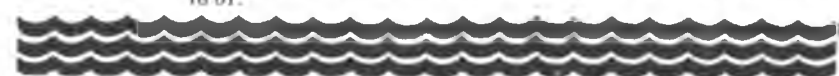
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Castle

The Journal of The Royal Anglian Regiment

1981

Vol. 6 No. 4

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Editor:

Colonel P. D. Blyth, OBE
(retired)

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- „ (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) —Major J. A. Girdwood.
- „ (Leicestershire)—Major J. T. Dudley.

Private Angle

On Horseguards 11 June 1981

There will be no Regimental Reunion at Bassingbourn in 1981.

At 1830 hrs on 9, 10 and 11 June 1981 the eleven Bands and Corps of Drums of the Queen's Division and its affiliated UDR battalions, will parade on the Horse Guards in aid of Army and Regimental Charities.

The 11 June performance is to be sponsored by The Royal Anglian Regiment and will take place in the presence of our Deputy Colonel-in-Chief HRH The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon.

Provided demand warrants it the parade will be followed by a Reception in the ancient Banqueting House which may be attended by any member of the Regiment or our forbears, and their families or guests, provided children are over the age of sixteen. The cost of the evening would be £7 a head, including a £3 seat at the parade, followed by wine/sherry/soft drinks and small eats in the Banqueting House. Regimental readers will already have received this information.

Because of the need to distribute tickets to "the trade" for sale to the public, we need to know by 30 Mar 81 how many seats are required by the Regiment. Tickets would still be available after that date but would need to be obtained by individuals from the Ticket Office, 1b Bridge Street, Westminster (opposite Big Ben).

Further information may be obtained from Regimental Headquarters.

On Deputy Colonels

Major General J. B. Akehurst CBE succeeded Major General R. E. J. Gerrard-Wright CBE as Deputy Colonel for Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire on 1st January 1981.

On Achievements

1st Battalion

Sgt K. J. Bodger: Army Hammer Champion.

Pte D. H. Hurd: Army Open Welter Weight Champion.

Winners, Infantry Nordic Team Skiing Cup

1st Armoured Division Skill at Arms Meeting

Champion Major Unit (11 entries)

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2nd Battalion

Berlin Field Force Inter Platoon Competition

Winners:

First six places. Nine out of first twelve.

Tug-o-War

Berlin Field Force Champions

Runners-up BAOR Championships.

Boxing

Berlin Field Force Team Champions.

Football

Runners-up. The Infantry Cup.

3rd Battalion

Cricket

Winners—The Army Cup

Winners—7 Field Force Sports Trophy

Football—Eastern District 6-a-side

Trophy

Boxing—Eastern District Novices Boxing Team Championships

Training—In Kenya

Operations—In Rhodesia/Zimbabwe.

Three officers and twenty-eight men.

On Zimbabwe

Barely had the lids been taken off the MFO boxes from Belfast in November 1979, when three Officers and twenty eight men found themselves warned to take part in Operation 'Agila', the monitoring of the Rhodesian ceasefire. This contingent was to be the largest from any single unit.

The next couple of weeks, were probably the most frustrating time of the whole operation. Despite the departure to Salisbury of

tion we arrived in Salisbury on 19 December to begin an extensive series of briefings on everything from military intelligence to how to handle the wildlife.

Donning white armbands, deployment forward took place in the early hours of Christmas Eve; but already a change had to be made. The small and overstretched force was obliged to commit the two reserve teams and we were spread over the length and breadth of the country. Small groups of men reinforced the Assembly Place teams at Romeo, Golf and Hotel and the remainder moved to the notorious 'Repulse' Operational area on the South-Eastern border. There Capt David Clements monitored the Rhodesian Army Headquarters in Fort Vic-



Sgt Brandon, Cpl Neville
and the team at
Assembly Place Romeo.

Lord Soames and the reintroduction of British rule, the Lancaster House talks dragged on and hopes were raised and dashed with almost daily changes in the degree of notice to move. The talks finally broke down (with the aid of a radio interview given by Capt Tim Page) and everyone was resigned to a cold English winter. But then on 17th December agreement was reached and we were off!

We formed three teams; the first under Capt Simon Bacon was to set up a Rendezvous Point to collect Patriotic Front forces and the other two teams were initially earmarked as the Force Reserve, acting as a heliborne quick reaction force. After a huge and amazingly successful movement opera-

toria, with responsibility to investigate the numerous breaches of the ceasefire and to monitor the activities of the auxilliary forces. As these proved to be four thousand men in an area slightly larger than Scotland, he and Sgt Matthew Lindsay certainly had their work cut out. Three company base monitor teams were also deployed to Rhodesian forces in Repulse; CSgt Monty Beaumont and CSgt Bill Smith built up very close links through their teams with 2nd Battalion The Rhodesian African Rifles (2 RAR). They soon discovered that although we don't use the same abbreviation this 'RAR' had a lot in common with the Rhodesian one.

The third company base team, Capt Tim Page and Sgt Pasco Pascovitch, mosied



**A Patriotic Front Muster
Parade at Assembly
Place Romeo.**

down to the Mozambique border to monitor the long range mounted patrols carried out by a squadron of the Grays Scouts. There the horse replaced the landrover and, nursing saddle sores, both our intrepid heroes volunteered to monitor a normal infantry unit again.

Meanwhile back in the Assembly Places, including Assembly Place Mike to which the RV team moved at the end of the collection period, the task of collecting, transporting and administering the Patriotic Front forces had begun. Soon the numbers in the Assembly Places far exceeded all previous estimates. However once set up, often in poor conditions, life became monotonous and very frustrating with the demands of the inmates testing everyones patience. It isn't easy to know what to do with two thousand "freedom fighters" for three months. The threat of violence was always present. If nothing else those at the Assembly Places improved their personal fitness and suntans while carrying out a very difficult and often dangerous job.

Those monitors with the Rhodesian Forces had an altogether different reception, although it was often equally frustrating. There was certainly none of the expected hostility from White Rhodesians, and the hospitality received by all was tremendous. After an initial period of hesitancy, both sides began to trust the Monitoring Force and the business of maintaining the ceasefire

went on. This consisted mainly of investigating the endless allegations and counter-claims of breaches of the ceasefire. The investigations, although often protracted, tricky and not a little dangerous were straightforward compared to the process of getting the interested parties to agree to the findings or apportion blame.

The time passed amazingly quickly once a routine had been established, and after a short but very welcome break of R and R at Kariba or Victoria Falls the elections were soon upon us.

During the voting monitors visiting the polling stations were staggered by the numbers of people queuing to vote. One station visited by Capt Clements had fourteen thousand blacks outside before the polls opened and it took some time to clear the area to allow the helicopter to take off again. The result of the election is now well known. To the Pompadours in the country it was probably obvious beforehand. Despite intimidation of the voters the outcome was almost a certainty. This was due to many factors; ignorance; tribal loyalty but above all a heartfelt desire to put an end to the fighting and end the war.

The recovery process took place the moment the election results were announced. This went even more smoothly than the move out and very quickly the VC10s laden with sun-tanned Pompadours, kit, weapons and a host of souvenirs were lumbering into



Captain Tim Page and Captain David Clements fly the Regimental Flag from their mine-proofed Land rover.

the air. All were soon safely back in England with the exceptions of Cpls Harris and McClintock who stayed behind to begin the training of the new Zimbabwean Army and Cpts Bacon and Clements who were forced (?) to stop off for three weeks leave in Mombassa on the way back, joining the rest of the Battalion who were already in Kenya for training.

The memories brought away are of sun and hospitality, a wonderful country, a unique and tremendously successful military operation and the feeling that we were there at, even brought about, an historic event witnessing the end of an era and the end of a way of life.

On Snow Queen

BUT WITH A DIFFERENCE

Picture, if you can, a G3 sitting at his desk in a noisy smoke filled office on the second floor of the Old War Office. He is day-dreaming about...Blast! The telephone is

ringing—more work. His day-dream is shattered.

The telephone call is not the VCGS asking for a brief (it never is), but Ray Hazan asking the G3 if he would like an all expenses paid skiing trip to Bavaria. The G3 thought he was still day-dreaming, but being a simple officer and one who does not pass up free skiing holidays lightly, he accepted the invitation with thanks. It was only later, as he lay in his bath, that he realised the full significance of his decision. He was being asked to ensure that seven blind ex-servicemen, their wives and children, would arrive in Bavaria, have a seven day skiing holiday and return home safely. The next step in this train of thought was to assess his own qualifications for the job. He had only the simplest grasp of "pub German", he had never been in the company of a blind person for any length of time, and he certainly couldn't ski. He hardly appeared to be the Camberley DS solution, but in the true traditions of the Staff he contented himself with the thought that it would be alright on the day.

Departure day dawned sunny and warm and the intrepid G3, equipped with borrowed ski kit, reported to Terminal One at Heathrow. All he now needed was the St. Dunstaners. They soon started arriving, but all was not well as a mini bus containing three members of the party was missing. As time was now pressing a "soviet" made a collective decision—leave their tickets and the remainder press on. This they did and were soon joined by the missing three who had been found by the G3's wife. At last the party was assembled, some young, some thirty and some considerably older, but all in high spirits.

The party arrived at Wertach some five hours later than expected, but this did not worry our intrepid skiers.

To see a man who jumped with the Paras at Arnheim, and is now blind, putting on skis for the first time, to watch Ray Hazan, with all his injuries, skiing better than 90% of the people on the slopes, and to measure the improvements of all the party day by day as they battled with ski bindings, poles and all the paraphernalia was an experience our G3 will never forget.

This determined attitude continued off the slopes too. No one moaned about aching

and bruised limbs. (You try skiing blindfolded and see how often you fall over.) Everyone was too concerned about eating and drinking and this they did to the full.

Our G3 was now totally at ease. He had a group of people who knew their priorities in life, who knew when to say "sit down boy, relax it will all sort itself out", but who also knew when to say "come on, let's enjoy every minute". They were all men who knew how to get the best out of life and who had not allowed their spirits to be dominated by their blindness.

The holiday was a great success due in large measure to the excellent support given by the 1st Battalion, who provided really first class instructors and thoughtful administrative assistance.

Our G3 is now back at his rather tatty desk at Head Office, but he has the memories of what was a wonderful holiday spent in the company of a magnificent group of men who would be the first to pay tribute to the courage and resourcefulness of their wives.

Blast! There goes that damn telephone again.

P.B.

On

Takeover in BAOR

The Commander, 1 British Corps, the Commander 1 Armoured Division, two Regular Battalions and two Territorial Battalions—and all are Royal Anglian. General Sir Peter Leng directed the Exercise, Major General John Akehurst commanded his Division and the 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th Battalions all took part. The Exercise was 'Crusader/Spearpoint'. 'Crusader' was the initial phase, the build-up of reserves from the UK which included our 3rd, 5th and 7th Battalions. 'Spearpoint' was the Corps Exercise.

A remarkable concentration of khaki berets! Perhaps the best account of the exercise is written here by the 7th Battalion. It was a real test of their fitness for their new role in BAOR. Consequently they have been given more space on our pages than the 3rd and 5th Battalions who have seen it all before.

On

Territorial Matters

It may not generally be known that the Regiment has a Deputy Honorary Colonel, retired regular or TA officer, who looks after the interests of our Territorial companies in each county. Recent appointments are:

Norfolk

Lieutenant Colonel A. W. J. Turnbull MC, vice Colonel W. D. Flower TD DL on 1st March 1980.

Suffolk

Colonel C. C. Wells TD MA DL, vice Colonel W. A. Heal OBE on 1st April 1979.

Cambridgeshire

Colonel F. G. Barber OBE TD DL, vice Colonel S. C. Aston OBE TD DL on 21st April 1980.

Lincolnshire

Major General D. A. H. Toler OBE MC MA, vice Lieutenant Colonel B. S. Foster TD DL on 1st April 1979.

Leicestershire

Lieutenant Colonel M. Moore MC TD DL, vice Colonel G. L. Aspell TD DL on 1st April 1979.

Northamptonshire

Colonel R. C. Jeffery TD DL, vice Colonel The Earl Spencer MVO JP DL on 1st April 1979.

Hertfordshire

Major D. W. F. Willard TD JP, vice Colonel R. A. Humbert OBE TD JP DL on 1st April 1980.

Bedfordshire

Lieutenant Colonel C. R. Randall TD VL, vice Major D. T. Tewkesbury MBE DL, on 1st April 1979.

Essex

Colonel G. C. P. Morgan, vice Colonel P. H. A. L. Franklin DL, on 1st April 1980.

On Association Support

Royal Anglian Association retired member's support for, and interest in, annual reunions of both our own Association and those of our County Branches remains insignificant. Perhaps this is not surprising or perhaps the benefits of meetings of Old Comrades are not apparent. Whats in it for me?

I wonder how many serving officers and soldiers read the "Around the Branches" column in this magazine? Our County Branches are in effect the Associations of our predecessor Regiments. You will read of the increasing support by Old Comrades for these Branch Reunions and Dinners. Why?

A quote from the Editorial in the Northamptonshire Regiment Monthly Newsletter of last November....

"It warms the cockles of the heart to see so many Old Comrades get together, to renew friendship and to rehash old times. A common bond motivates these old soldiers, a bond forged by the comradeship and esprit de corps of our Northamptonshire Regiment and tempered in the crucible of war; a bond which withstands the test of time, endured and thrived in times good and bad; a bond more precious than the Golden Fleece.

It is now 40 years since our Regiment was in great demand—fighting in a war for national survival. 33 years since our 48th Regiment was placed in "suspended animation for a number of years" (only a genius could have coined that phrase and he cannot yet be proved wrong), 20 years since our Northamptonshire Regiment amalgamated with the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment to form the 2nd East Anglian Regiment and 16 years since the three East Anglian Regiments combined to form the Royal Anglian Regiment."

It continues, quoting from the Northamptonshire Regimental Journal of March 1960...

"Its not easy to start a new regiment. They won't have any Old Comrades for many years, and the Old Comrade is an essential part of any regiment".

Prophetic words!

The Colonel of the Regiment, through his Regimental Council, has recently increased our awareness of the 'county connection' with the re-introduction of county sub-titles and the wearing of collar badges of the East Anglian Regiments, and in many other measures.

Now it must be up to us, through our Commanding Officers, Company Commanders and Senior NCOs, to impart that intangible spirit, esprit de corps, or whatever in our retiring soldiers. It stems in the case of the 'old' Old Comrades from the bond forged by active service. World War I Comrades are now few; World War II, Korea, Malaya, British Guiana, Cyprus, Borneo, Aden, are now remembered by an increasing number of Old Comrades annually. Why not Northern Ireland in our case?

An imaginative approach please! If you have any ideas please write to the Chairman of the Association at RHQ, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St. Edmunds.

On The Ashburton

CCF Shooting Trophy

Only eight of our sponsored schools entered this year. Oakham achieved the best result coming 8th out of 65 entries with Kimbolton 13th. Both of 2nd Battalion interest—perhaps following in the footsteps of that famous shooting regiment, The Northamptonshire Regiment. Well done Oakham.

On Brigades Return to BAOR

The eight Task Forces of the British Army of the Rhine under I (BR) Corps are to be re-titled as Armoured Brigades from 1st January 1981. At the same time the Berlin Field Force will be re-titled as the Berlin Infantry Brigade.

In 1974, in order to help find the manpower savings then called for, the Army Restructuring Plan abolished the Brigade level of command in the Field Army. Subsequent experience showed however that if operations were to be conducted effectively, then an intermediate level of command between division and battlegroup was a necessity. Therefore, in September, 1979, Task Forces at "one star" (Brigadier) command level were formally established. In effect, although by another name, the brigade level of command had returned—but without restoring the brigade headquarters to anything like its former scale.

Historically, one star formations in the Field Army have been called Brigades. The title is an honoured one and well understood within the Army; it is also a title that is used by all of our allies in NATO to describe their own one star formations. There is no doubt that our re-introduction of Brigade titles will be whole-heartedly welcomed both within our own Army and within NATO.

This re-introduction will involve no internal re-organisation of units or movement of them and no increases in the establishment of either men or equipment. Equally, other than very minimal expenses (arising from such things as repainting signboards), no additional costs will be involved.

So far as the four Field Forces in the UK and the Gurkha Field Force in Hong Kong are concerned, the Army Board has decided to postpone any re-titling until further studies have been completed.

On Sergeants Past and Present

The Sergeants Dinner Club Past and Present

The 13th Annual Dinner was held at the Depot on 25th October. Two hundred and ten members and their guests attended, which included ninety six serving, and seventy retired members. This was a record turn-out and all diners expressed their warm appreciation to Lt Col. Kerry Woodrow, the CO and to RSM Dawe in whose Mess the function was held. The very smart Junior soldiers who waited at table and were much in evidence throughout the evening were a real credit to CSM, SA Pollitt.

The Dinner Chairman this year was Colonel P. Storie-Pugh, MBE, MC, TD, DL renowned for his after-dinner speaking which in this case was full of interest and entertainment. He commanded The Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Regiment (TA) from 1961 to 1964.

The Colonel of the Regiment was unable to accept the invitation to be present this year, but it was good to welcome Lt. Gen. Sir Richard Goodwin once again. During the evening he presented a medal to Staff Sergeant Tom Kelly for wear on all special occasions— fitting tribute to such a worthy defender of the faith.

Due to illness Major Stan Chandler, Jesus Gaught and Bush Tyler, all staunch supporters each year, were not able to attend.

Pensioner Fred Evans came down from London, for there he is resident in the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Next year we must make a big effort to get more of our ex-Sergeant Pensioners to the Dinner.

It appears that several members, past and present, who have moved their home or been posted away from the Regiment are not receiving notification of the Dinner. Although RHQ are informed of extra regimental postings this is often many weeks after the event. The only safe way to ensure a notice of future events is for individual members to write to Major T. C. Warren, 14A, St. Martins Close, Exing, Nr. Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7HQ, or telephone him on Exing 539.

On Junior Leaders

Salamanca Company

Currently among the one hundred and ninety members of the Permanent Staff at the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion (IJLB), there are 8 Royal Anglians.

Lt CR Webster (2nd Battalion) Platoon Commander. Sgt Long (1st Battalion) Platoon Sergeant. Sgt Cook (2nd Battalion) Platoon Sergeant. Sgt Butts (3rd Battalion) Platoon Sergeant. Sgt Shenton (3rd Battalion) SAAW Admin. Sergeant. Cpl Burrows (2nd Battalion) PT Instructor. Cpl Saunt (2nd Battalion) Barrack Room Instructor. L/Cpl Reid (2nd Battalion) RP.

Of the six hundred and forty four Junior Leaders currently at IJLB there are 58 badged Royal Anglians. Forty one are in their first of three terms of training and are not due to pass out until August 1981. They are all proudly wearing their distinct and newly acquired berets, only just having passed off the square. There are seventeen Royal Anglians in our present Term and these are due to pass out in May 1981.

In addition to these figures, already this year thirteen Royal Anglians passed out of IJLB in April and another twenty in August when General Sir Timothy Creasey KCB., OBE., was the Inspecting Officer.

At IJLB besides training the boys up to trained soldier standard and giving them an education relevant to their future careers, the aim is to develop both character and leadership qualities to prepare them for promotion early in their adult Service. As such, the training programme involves long hours and a wide spectrum of subjects. We are always grateful therefore when, upon occasions, we can get the boys away to visit the regular battalions, as beside providing a break from the norm, they tend to learn a lot and it gives them an insight to the goal that they are trying to achieve—to pass out as a trained soldier.

This year we have been extremely fortunate with a whole string of visits that the lucky ones in 1980 greatly appreciated and these are listed below.

JAN-FEB: 3 Jnr Ldrs attached to The 1st Battalion Ski Team.

JAN: 12 Pl Salamanca Company visited 1 Queens at Werl. 13 Pl Salamanca Company visited 1 RRF at Minden.

FEB-MAR: Sgt Long and 9 JLdrs visited The 3rd Battalion in Kenya.

JUNE-JULY: Sgt Cook and 10 JLdrs visited The 2nd Battalion on exercise in the Sauerland and Berlin.

JULY: Four Junior Leaders were amongst a party of 25 that went with 3 Queens from Salamanca Company to Canada.

SEPT: Lt Webster and nine of our JLdrs went on one of BOBC (Norway) special exercises.

In addition to the work and these bonuses sport plays an important role at IJLB and throughout the year 'Regimental members of Salamanca Company have made several of the Battalion's teams. The most notable achievement of all being that of JLdr Graham, who is now with The 1st Battalion; in July, in the Battalion Shooting Team at the Junior Skill at Arms meeting at Bisley, he won the Hotchkiss Cup and the REME Cup, and SMG Championship.

On Education

A BOARDING SCHOOL FOR SONS OF OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS THE DUKE OF YORK'S SCHOOL, DOVER. (FEES: £600 PER ANNUM APPROX)

The Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover, is an independent boarding school for 450 boys aged 11 to 18 years. Officers and Soldiers both serving and retired, who have a minimum of four years service in the Regular Army are eligible to register their sons as candidates for entry to the school. The school is largely financed by the Ministry of Defence.

Entry is at 11 + in September each year and is based on competitive examinations and father's service. Boys may be registered on their eight birthdays and registration for entry to the School in September 1982 closes on 1 November 1981. Boys who are over 11 years but under 12 years old on 1st September 1982 will be considered for entry

in September 1982. Special conditions, including a waiver of fees, exist for boys in compassionate circumstances.

The School is situated in beautiful grounds of 150 acres just outside Dover and offers excellent academic and sporting facilities. It provides a normal secondary education to GCE Ordinary, Advanced and Scholarship levels and on leaving school the boys proceed to university or enter the professions, commerce and industry. To arrange a visit or to obtain a Prospectus contact the Headmaster in writing or by telephone (Dover (STD 0304) 203012 Ext 25).

On Military History

BOOK REVIEW

It is hard to imagine that soldiers of the Regiment ever depended on cow-dung for their survival. But that was how it was in the South African War 1899-1902 in which every former Regiment of the Royal Anglians took part. Frequently they found themselves parted from the extremes of hunger only through gleaning that homely substance from the veldt.

Geoffrey Moore, commissioned in the Northamptonshire Regiment in 1934 has been using his lively pen to record the lives of our foot-slogging forebears. Thus he quotes from the diary of Pte Charles Burgin, a reservist of the Bedfordshire Regt. who wrote in January 1901: "This morning being nice and fine, most of the men are out collecting cow dung, what they can find. This is our worst drawback, for the cooks can't get enough firing...The natives came in with a wagon load and the officer gave them a receipt for it. He then told the cooks how long it would have to last".

All his books have been concerned with fighting, four of them covering campaigns of our former regiments. His books go quickly out of print because there is a whole new generation growing up who want to know what the Army used to be all about.

But three of his recent books, including "Burgin's War" are still obtainable direct from him at 2 Ivelbury Close, Buckden,

Huntingdon PE18 9XE (price £2.50 including post). Another is "Four V.C.s in Forty Months; the proud record of the 6th (Service) Battalion the Northamptonshire Regt. 1915-1918." The Foreword is by Maj. Gen J. B. Akehurst C.B.E. (Late Northants). G.O.C. 4th Armoured Division.

Then there is Geoffrey Moore's own account of the Faqir of Ipi's War 1936-38 on India's North West Frontier (Foreword Brig. D. E. Taunton C.B. D.S.O., D.L.). The 1st Northampton were engaged for 14 months. The author was a platoon commander and part-time B.I.O. The title is: "Just as Good as the Rest". (Price £2.)

On Regimental Secretaries



Lieutenant Colonel Bill Murray Brown became Regimental Secretary after distinguished service in The Royal Norfolk Regiment and the 1st East Anglian Regiment. In the fifteen years he was in the job, he served four Colonels of the Regiment during the formative years of our history. He was involved in such events as the writing of the first ten years of our Regimental History, the organisation of various Freedom parades and the Presentation of Colours to all battalions of the Regiment. The many alarms and excursions dealt with in his inimitable unruffled and charming manner are too

numerous to mention. He has helped create the base on which the Regiment will grow and prosper.

At The Buffet Super party held for members of the Regimental Council and their wives on 3rd December The Colonel of the Regiment presented him with a handsome claret jug from the officers.

We all wish Bill and Monica well in their retirement and hope that Bill will continue to lead our golf team to further success in the future.

Colonel P. D. Blyth replaced Lieutenant Colonel C. R. Murray Brown as Regimental Secretary on 1st January 1981. Colonel Blyth, whose son Seymour is a Captain serving in the 3rd Battalion, was commissioned into the Essex Regiment in 1948. He commanded the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion from 1968 to 1971. He recently returned from an appointment as Defence Attache, Cairo, for which service he was awarded the CBE.

On Dates to Remember

April

- 3 Regimental Golfing Society Spring Meeting, Flempton GC.
- 10 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment Officers' Cocktail Party—London.
- 26 Royal Norfolk Regiment Commemorative Service—Norwich Cathedral.

May

- 1 Northamptonshire Regiment Officers' Lunch—RAF Club London.
- 1 Royal Leicestershire Regiment Officers' Dinner—Army & Navy Club London.
- 7 Divisional Recruiting Meeting—Bassingbourn.
- 15 Royal Lincolnshire Regiment Officers' Dinner—Lincoln.
- 23 Hertfordshire Regiment Dinner & Dance—Ware.
- 30 3rd Battalion Returns from Cyprus. Block leave to 14 June.

June

- 5 Regimental Golfing Society Summer Meeting Royal Worlington GC.
Cricket verses Gentlemen of Suffolk, Bury St. Edmunds.
- 5 Royal Norfolk Officers' Dinner—Norwich.
- 6 Royal Norfolk Officers' Luncheon—Norwich.
- 6 Cricket versus West Norfolk at Hunstanton.
- 9-11 Queen's Division Massed Bands at Horseguards.
- 11 Royal Anglian Evening Horseguards. Officers and Old Comrades Functions.
- 20 2nd Battalion Freedom of Boston.
- 20/21 Royal Tigers Weekend—Leicester.
- 27/28 Northamptonshire Regiment Comrades Assn. Reunion—Northampton.
- 28 Essex Regiment Association Annual Gathering—Warley.

August

- 1 Suffolk Regiment Officers' Dinner—Bury St. Edmunds.
- 2 Suffolk Regiment OCA Minden Day Reunion—Bury St. Edmunds.
- 24 1st Battalion Move to Northern Ireland.

September

- 18/19 Regimental Golfing Society Autumn Meeting Flempton GC.
Golf/Regiment versus Flempton GC.
- 19/20 10th Foot Royal Lincolnshire Regiment OCA Reunion—Cleethorpes.
- 26 Royal Norfolk OCA Dinner—Norwich.
- 27 Royal Norfolk Regiment Association Service—Norwich Cathedral.

October

- 2 Royal Anglian Officers' Dinner—London.

November

- 22 Wreath-laying Ceremony at the Regimental Memorial, Kempston Barracks, Bedford.

MAINLY ABOUT PEOPLE

Honours and Awards

Northern Ireland

OBE—Lt Col. R. J. M. Drummond MBE
Mentioned in Despatches—Col A. J. G.
Pollard, Capt S. J. Bacon, Capt K. M.
Ryan, SSgt M. J. Abbott, SSgt P. A.
Cookson, LCpl M. B. Clarke.

Birthday Honours 1980

OBE—Lt Col L. C. J. M. Paul
Lt Col F. A. H. Swallow
MBE—Maj D. J. W. Browne
MBE—Maj T. T. Taylor
BEM—SSgt E. J. Sennett

New Years Honours 1981

CBE—Col P. D. Blyth (now retired)
OBE—Lt Col P. P. D. Stone MBE
BEM—SSgt J. M. Stallerbrass
BEM—SMI A. Smith (Suffolk ACF)

Commands

Regimental

Major D. W. James to Command 6 (V) Battalion in March 1981.

Major A. E. Thompson MBE MC to Command 3rd Battalion in 1981.

Promotions

To General: 1 Mar 81 Lt Gen Sir Peter Leng to be MGO.

To Major General: 1 Jan 81 Brigadier D. C. Thorne to be VQMG.

To Colonel: Apr 81 Lt Col J. Tadman.

To Lieutenant Colonel: Apr 81 Maj A. J. K. Calder, Maj J. S. Houchin MBE, Maj H. W. Lambert, Maj T. T. Taylor MBE, Maj T. B. Thomas, Maj A. E. Thompson MBE MC.

Commissions

Congratulations to Warrant Officers P. W. Denny, F. C. L. Slinn, D. Taylor, A. R. Ainsworth, C. J. C. Kett on being granted Short Service Commissions. We welcome into the Regiment the following officers who have been commissioned since our last report.

General Sir Timothy Creasey pins the British Empire Medal onto Warrant Officer 'Mac' Sennett, also from the Royal Anglian Regiment, who just finished serving on the Long Service List and has now retired. They served together in Berlin in 1948, Isarhorn 1959 and Aden 1965.



Regular Commissions

M. H. Wenham
A. C. A. Miles
S. N. Miller

Short Service Commissions

P. M. Shorrocks
D. C. Napier
R. D. Dalglish
R. J. O'Dwyer
J. A. Fell
R. J. Clements
S. J. Boast

Retirements

The following officers have retired:
Brigadier D. R. C. Carter, Colonel P. D.,
Blyth, Lieutenant Colonel C. J. Gardiner,
Major R. F. Baldry, Captain R. W. Gordon,
Lieutenants L. H. Pepperell, J. L. Hawkins
(medical) and 2 Lt J. G. Hyde (SSVC)



Major General REJ Gerrard-Wright CBE accompanied by WO2 Spauls inspects the Junior Soldiers of Salamanca Platoon on their Passing Out Parade in April.

PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO THE 7th BATTALION



Princess Alice presents the Regimental Colour

Princess Alice meets the Chairman of Leicestershire County Council, Mr George Farnham and The Lord Mayor, Councillor Bill Scotton with the Colonel of the Regiment, Deputy Colonel, and The Lord Lieutenant, Colonel Andrew Martin.



The Quartermaster, Captain Stan Bullock, lays the New Colours on the piled Drums (the Silver Drums of the 3rd Battalion) in readiness for the Consecration.

**Excellent Museums may be visited in
Northamptonshire at Abington Park
in Lincoln at Sobraon Barracks
and in Leicester at 'The Magazine'.
All are open on weekdays to the public.**



Private Kevin Dingley

Private Kevin Dingley is very much the Poachers' Judo Champion. In April he went to the National Sports Centre at Crystal Palace and after battling through 17 fights won the open competition.

On 24th May he went back to the Crystal Palace and this time won the British Judo Council Lightweight Championship. This very fine performance gained him a place in the UK Judo Team. Pte Dingley was selected to represent the UK against France in Paris but unfortunately the match had to be re-arranged and Pte Dingley was unable to appear on the new date.



ARMY CHAMPIONS 1980

The Pompadours team with CO and GOC Eastern District after triumph in the Army Cup.

**Pte Hurd—Army open
Welterweight Champion
and Combined Services
Finalist.**



For many years of service

Mr C. C. Wells of Bedford, aged 81, was awarded the MBE for his outstanding service spanning fifty years. As the Colonel of the Regiment said in a letter congratulating Mr Wells. "To follow service in the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment spanning two world wars, by extending the Old Comrades Association in Bedford by activity in the affairs of the British Legion and by helping with the housing of disabled ex-service-men, shows an outstanding public spirit."

All of us in The Royal Anglian Regiment would like to congratulate him on a well deserved award.



Lieutenant Colonel D. W. Briggs on the left, was appointed Commandant of Norfolk's 900 Army Cadets at a short ceremony held in Aylsham Road, Norwich. He succeeds Colonel P. W. Raywood.



1st Battalion



The Battalion Shooting Team at the 1st Armoured Division SAAM—Anyone would think that the CO and the 2IC had something to do with it!

1980 has been a good year. Twelve months ago we had just completed a rigorous 4 month tour in Belfast and we were as competent an IS Battalion as could be found anywhere. We were however, distinctly rusty on the mechanised side and much work needed to be done. On return from leave in October we launched ourselves into a hectic cadre programme which finished at the beginning of March with the ARU (annual inspection), run as an inter platoon competition by our Task Force Headquarters and won by 1 Platoon, A Company. From then on, elements of the Battalion were in the field with only one or two very short breaks, such as Easter and Minden Day, until the end of Exercise 'Spearpoint' on 29th September.

After the ARU C Company immediately began preparing for Exercise 'Medicine Man 1' with the 3 RTR Battle Group and disappeared to Soltau for a wet, windy and cold two weeks work up. For the rest of the Battalion the remainder of March and first half of April were spent doing sub-unit training, CPXs, hosting visits from ACFs and potential officers and preparing for the training that was to follow. In April too, we were visited by the Colonel Commandant who as a former Commanding Officer (of some repute!) gave us cause for some special celebration.

In a renewed, burst of activity at the end of April the Battalion deployed almost simultaneously in four directions. Battalion HQ went on two CPXs and the computeris-

ed Battle Group trainer at Sennelager, all in the space of four weeks—A Company went to Denmark for Exercise ‘Odin Anglian’ which went in true Danish style. C Company flew to Canada with 3 RTR and B and D Companies went field firing at Sennelager. Once reassembled at Celle all eyes were focused on the 1st Armoured Division Skill-at-Arms Meeting in which we were not only competing, but also organising. With ten other major units taking part we were by no means certain of victory. In the event, on two boiling days in early June, not only did the meeting run from start to finish with scarcely a hitch but we won almost every trophy for which we were eligible, including all Major Unit Team trophies, Champion at Arms, Champion Class B, Champion Young Soldier and of course Champion Major Unit. Hopes, once again, ran high for Bisley.

With a week to catch our breath we were off again—this time it was the Battle Group work up for Canada, on Soltau, lasting three weeks. Not a single day passed without rain—neverless than the odd shower, but frequently a number of heavy showers and on occasions 24 hours of it without stopping! The word ‘mud’ took on a new meaning, but at least the Soltau mud brushes off quite easily and doesn’t set like concrete as the Salisbury Plain mud does.

For those unfamiliar with the Battle Group concept, the 1st Battalion Battle Group is a formidable force. The grouping is flexible, but for Canada comprised two squadrons of the 14/20 Kings Hussars, 127 Battery Royal Artillery (which also recruits in East Anglia), A Company 1st Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment with two detachments of Tow, a Swingfire Anti Tank Guided Weapon Troop, a Blowpipe Anti-Aircraft Section, a Close Recce Troop from the 9/12 Lancers equipped with Scimitar, an Engineer Troop and a Section of Armoured Engineers. An Immediate Replenishment Group (IRG) was provided by the RCT. Strangely, although we might normally expect two of our own four mechanised companies, for Canada we took only B Company. The Battle Group also took elements of our own Mortar and Milan platoons and a hefty echelon slice. About 900 men strong, less than one third was badged Royal Anglian!.

While Soltau was going on, the Band was conducting (excuse the pun) a most successful KAPE tour in East Anglia with (or should we say, in spite of) assistance from Major Heal and four drummers. As usual the band have had a season as busy as any of us, packed with tours and engagements. They never fail to win the highest praise from all who hear them and requests for

Minden Day—“Nice to see you again Sir.”



Giant Viper exploding prematurely on Ex Talavera in Canada.



repeat performances and re-engagements testify that these are not empty words. A new, and very professional, record was made in February and is already becoming a collectors item.

Once again the Bisley Team came within a hairs breadth of winning major trophies at Bisley. They actually scored the same as the winning Britannia Trophy team but lost on count out, and missed the BAOR Shield to the Worcesters and Foresters by the merest whisker. Three of the team got in the Army Hundred and as usual the Divisional Methuen Team was well impregnated with Royal Anglians.

Minden Day was celebrated in traditional style with a parade, a Minden Fete and an excellent Sergeants' Mess Ball. About £600 was raised at the fete (over £300 of it by the Wives Club stalls) and given to Regimental Charities. We were particularly pleased that the Colonel of the Regiment was able to come out for Minden Day to take the Salute and join in the celebrations with us. The following day the Officers's Mess chartered a boat and spent a few hours picnicking and cruising down the Aller.

On 6th August the Advance Party deployed to Canada to begin taking over from the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. The weather was very mixed, sometimes hot, more often cool and occasionally cold and wet. Unfortunately due to the exigencies of the Service,

namely Ex 'Spearpoint' we had to forgo the R & R and Adventure Training Programme. Our impressions of this vast country were therefore coloured by what we saw of the prairie, fascinating in itself, but only a very small part of the whole. The training in Canada is well described in the C Company notes, but as an all arms live firing exercise, practising all the phases of war, it was an experience which few of us will ever forget.

Although the athletics team failed to make an impression this year, Sgt Bodger won the Army Hammer, came third in the Discus and has recently been given the award for the most outstanding Army Field Event Athlete of the year. Cpl Rambley in his first year came 5th in the Army Hammer and Sgts Jones and Hanniver won the pairs in the Army 400 metres hurdles competition. Pte Hurd, having been narrowly defeated last year, managed to win the Army Open Welterweight Title convincingly and boxed for both the Army and the Combined Services. Most remarkable of all, Lt Marriner led the Battalion to victory at the Army Ski Meeting, winning the Infantry Nordic Team Skiing Cup—a great win! The Battalion skiing hut at Wertach was as popular as ever and was visited by about one hundred and forty soldiers during the season.

On the social side it was good to see the 3rd Battalion very briefly before 'Spearpoint' and to repay a tiny part of the

hospitality they so generously gave us last year. It was disappointing that time did not allow visits from the 5th and 7th Battalions.

A Company in Denmark

Whilst the rest of the Battalion were bouncing around the Canadian or German countryside, A Company proved that, after all the mechanised training, we were still able to use the Infantrymans most important commodity—his feet.

We were invited to the Prinzens Livregiment in Viborg, Denmark. As attachments we had members of 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions and some Junior Soldiers from Taunton. The two weeks began with a quick resume of equipment used by them and us, with a chance to fire each others weapons in competition on the range. Another chance to see the equipment came in the first of two exercises we were to take part in. It was a two sided exercise in a conventional war setting. 1 Company (our hosts) and ourselves acted as friendly (what else) forces operating in concert as enemy for a Brigade Test Exercise.

The second exercise was not so friendly. It was an escape and evasion exercise with 1 Company, Juniors and the Danish Home Guard (plus dogs) acting as enemy. Not many escaped capture and soon found out that interrogation certainly isn't fun!

But life wasn't all hardships as Major Ed Marshall and Lt Peter Ralph, especially, can vouch. Whether the Danes have recovered from their drinking habits we haven't yet discovered! Women and discos were in abundance and hospitality outstanding. The WOs and SNCOs were looked after especially well by Sgts Henning and Fleming—two great characters who typified the mutual respect both companies had for each other and the success of the visit overall.

B Company Bright and Beautiful

1980 has proved to be an exhausting year for the company during which it has undertaken nearly every type of work that BAOR has to offer. We have seen our fair share this year of the Siteguard, Nuclear Escort and ARU routine. After such tasks we were only too keen to start proper soldiering in Mid-June with the Battalion's Pre-Canada Exercise on Soltau, during which it must have



The Battalion Patrol Race Ski Team crosses the finishing line.

rained nearly every day. This training period was the first occasion for a long time that we had worked as part of an all arms mechanised battle group and indeed there were many new lessons to be learned.

It seemed that no sooner were we back from the exercise than the advance parties were leaving for the prairies of Canada and Exercise Medicine Man 5. Many soldiers in B Company would be willing to admit that they were a bit nervous at taking part in a 'live-firing' combat team attack for the first time, but all went well.



The tail end of B Company, and part of the Canadian Company withdrawing across 'Bog Fog'.



**Exercise PRAIRIE
RELATIONS—C
Company Combat Team
opening the new
Soderstorf Bypass on the
Soltau Training Area in
the rain.**

As soon as we got back from Canada we redeployed on Exercise 'Spearpoint'. It, was by comparison with Canada, a less exciting exercise, but a most helpful one which enabled us to run through our deployment drills, and gave us plenty of practice at the good old art of digging!

We did however, hit the international press and television fairly early on with our, now famous, defence of our reserve entry point at 'Smoke Trail'.

C Company East and West

Realism has been the key note to the Company's mechanised training this year and this has been highlighted by two major exercises: Medicine Man 1 at Suffield in Canada, and the 1 (BR) Corps Exercise Spearpoint.

Liason and introductory TEWTs with 3 RTR began in February. It was with RHQ and two Squadrons of that Regiment that we went as a battle group to Canada. The work-up field training with them lasted three weeks in March and April (Exercise 'Viking Ironside') and took place on the live firing ranges at Hohne and on the cold wet expanses of Soltau now so familiar to us all. Training progressed from section up to and including battle group tactics, working in close co-operation with all the other arms of the battle group to achieve that teamwork and team spirit which is so necessary to reap to the full benefits which Canada has to offer.

It caused us no heartache to leave Ger-

many's cold and wet April and to step onto the warm dry open plains of Alberta, where temperatures often reached the high eighties. The magnificent (and tree-less) prairie combined with the live firing made for excellent and realistic training. There was also time for a well-earned and rewarding 'R and R' period which coincided with the Mount St Helens volcano eruption and provided uni-



The ARU—"Got yer wellies bor?"

que opportunities to visit the USA, Vancouver and the Rockies.

No sooner had the Company returned from Canada and taken ten days well-earned leave than it was back on Soltau taking part in Exercises Prairie Dog, Fling, Nosh, Relations and Oyster as enemy for the Battalion Battle Group on their pre-Suffield training and doing its own special training in wood fighting and patrolling which was to stand it in such good stead on Exercise Spearpoint. On this the Company joined 14/20H Battle Group on an FTX for the first time. Because of the varied commitments in August it only proved possible to carry out combat team training with our two tank troops for one day on Hohne before the Exercise began. That day-Exercise 'Viking Hussar'—provided an invaluable baseline on which to build. On 16 September along with most of the rest of the Corps we deployed, by night, to prepare our first battle positions of the Exercise. C Company Combat Team was not in ground contact with the enemy often but in the three major engagements—twice against heliborne forces—it always emerged victorious. The Combat Team hosted a number of VIPs during the Exercise including the CGS who much to the OC's delight reckoned his plan was about 80% right!

In the sporting arena the Company remains at the top winning the Inter-Company and Inter-Platoon Orienteering in October 79, the Tug of War on Minden Day (a fitting tribute to CSM Bowman who left in September to become RSM of HQ NOR-THAG), the Inter-Company Athletics Stan-

dards and has just produced its three platoons in the first three places in the first round of the Inter-Platoon Orienteering in 1980. Will 1981 bring any respite?.

D Company Relaxing

D Company had a relatively quiet 1980. Not for them a two week holiday in Denmark or the rigours of Canada, although they did reinforce C Company with twenty soldiers in Canada. Instead we remained, as always, alphabetically discriminated against in the engine room of the Battalion!

On the training side, the company spent two weeks field firing in Sennelager during May which produced the finest weather of the year. The highlight of this trip was a fleeting affair between the OC's dog and a complete stranger which led to a fruitful conclusion. This field firing was followed almost immediately by the Divisional Skill at Arms Meeting, in which the old and bold in the company, CSM Jones and CSgt Denny, featured with distinction, and a couple of young shots were discovered. In June, each platoon spent a week adventure training in the Hartz Mountains, which was a delightful break, although the weather was extremely wet and cold. The platoon were able to enjoy such diverse sports as pot holing, windsurfing and ice skating.

In July, the company spent a week training on Soltau where we were fortunate enough to have the expert advice of the son of the Commanding Officer of a sister battalion.

The Prairie.





"Thats funny, there should be a bridge here somewhere"—Cpl Brook, pondering.

The Company played a full part in the battalion sports teams, and indeed has six representatives in the cross country team. These include the Coy 21C, Capt Prescott, and a couple of useful young runners, Ptes Regg and Shinton. Lt Beck has been picked for the Divisional Rugby team, and Lt Mariner led the Battalion Skiing team to victory, winning the Infantry Nordic Skiing Cup.

The Drums Platoon has not been idle, and despite the disadvantages of a dual role, and lack of new drummers arriving from the Depot, have had a successful year. They have been in demand at Friendship Parades and similar occasions and have produced some excellent performances, including the KAPE tour of Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, where their stick work was second to none.

Finally, except for the Drum Major, there is now a completely new line up at the top. There have been four new officers, including Capt Prescott, fresh from the Oman, who replaces Capt Simpkin, currently soldiering in Nigeria; CSM K. C. Jones, who went to Zimbabwe in July for six months, has been replaced by CSM Hill, and CSgt Denny took over for CSgt Sykes who has been posted to Chatham as an acting WO2 to add a hint of 'je ne sais quoi' to the Engineers.

Headquarters Company— Puffing and Blowing

What has Headquarter Company done during the past year? It is difficult to summarise the many and varied achievements of such a large departmental company.

The company has been involved, as a whole or just in parts, in all the Battalion's events throughout the year. Perhaps notably on pre-Canada training on the Soltau training area, followed closely by Canada itself. The battle group deployed to Suffield during the middle of August taking with it B Coy, battle group HQ and supporting arms. As it was the Battalion's battle group all the echelons and admin back up were provided from Trenchard Barracks.

On return to Celle came the real test of efficiency with only a couple of days left before exercise 'Spearpoint' was to be declared open. Equipment was still on its way back from Canada. The freight finally arrived, was unpacked, sorted, and then repacked in a avid exhibition of co-ordination and control that had to be seen to be believed.

Throughout both 'Spearpoint' and Canada the service provided by departments has been excellent. In particular the cooks contrive to produce outstanding food with untiring enthusiasm.

The MT Platoon has obviously had enormous problems trying to honour commitments during the recent restrictions. They also "nearly always" produce the right vehicle at the right time.

Turning to the sporting side of life, the company has not been the fat unhealthy organisation that people think, and performed well in the Tickle Fitness competition and winning the non central rifle competition for Match 94. A large cup now resides in Battalion HQ.

Our second success came during the week after 'Spearpoint' Task Force Bravo held a very enjoyable and well run festival of sport for all its units. The highlight of the event, for the Battalion anyway, was the final of the volleyball competition. HQ Company, playing T.F.'B' HQ. and Signal Squadron kept the suspense going right to the end with the lead swapping many times in the last five minutes. The result was a well deserved win for the Company.



LCpl Good and his section live firing at Sennelager.

The Regimental Band —On Tour

The high points of 1980 for the Regimental Band have been the production of the new LP Record entitled "The Vikings" and a four week KAPE tour in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridgeshire.

The LP took a year to plan and involved importing a portable Studio from England along with the Chief Engineer and Producer from the firm "Music Masters" Ltd. The band took over part of the Officers Mess for a fortnight's concentrated rehearsal which culminated in the recording of the complete programme in two four hour sessions on the 18th February—in musical terms this was quite a feat of endurance but one which was well worth the effort and has produced a record of which the Battalion may be proud.

The band celebrated the end of the recording by donning their Combat Kit and repairing to BMH Rinteln for a three day maxi-mash exercise. The morning after our return from three days without sleep was spent in front of the TV cameras in Celle

town centre-providing much interest for the locals who listened to the bands rendition of 'Die Soldaten von Celle' (a quick march), four or five times before the camera crew were happy. These interesting interludes set the tone for the remainder of the year—having all taken place before the end of February.

In March the band made an extremely successful visit to Borndorf in the Black Forest during which our newly formed 'Bavarian Band' performed with great effect for the first time in public. The following morning we were given a champagne reception in the Schloss by the Burgermeister and his committee followed by a very short march through the town to advertise the concert/dance to be given that evening. Over twelve-hundred people attended and the evening was a smash success. As a result of this thirty people from Borndorf are due to visit the Battalion in Celle for the weekend of 14—16 November where they will form a Pattenschaft with the band. This is surely an example of British/German public relations at its best.



The Band on KAPE outside the City Hall in Norwich—5th July 1980.

In mid June the band, along with four members of the Corps of Drums under the command of Major Heal, went to our Regimental recruiting area for a four week KAPE tour. This was a very hectic time and included engagements at two schools a day; a concert in Norwich, Ipswich and Cambridge City and town centres a Special Constables Parade at Martlesham Heath and the Schoolboys Exhibition at The Depot. They also had the honour of playing at a garden party given by the new High Sheriff of Norfolk, Major Jamieson who is the only surviving VC of the Royal Norfolk Regiment.

A final coup for the band on the 18th of October involved the 'Big Band' playing for General Sir Peter Leng's farewell ball at Bielefeld.

The high spot of the evening occurred at midnight where five Major Generals (including Maj Gen Akehurst ex CO of The 2nd Battalion) performed a cabaret—Max Wall will never be the same again!.

We are now well into our two year tour of duty in Londonderry. Names like Spandau Prison, Checkpoint Charlie, Tiergarten and Schulthies will be distant memories. These notes will recall a few of the many activities the Poachers undertook during their last year in Berlin.

The pace of life has not slowed and the many duties and Berlin Field Force commitments have been an ever present drain on the Battalion manpower. This has required careful and detailed planning which has exer-

cised the CSMs throughout the year. We did not have to use wooden replicas in lieu but it was often considered.

The LAD Recovering

The LAD began the year with a completely new management, whose plans were for as many LAD personnel as possible to be involved in as many Battalion activities as possible, throughout the year. The Infantry Combat Fitness Test was not quite what we had in mind but we had a go at that as well.

We did manage to get away on our own for a week down to Bavaria for adventure training where activities ranged from walking thousands of feet above sea level to learning to swim under the sea. Everyone had a very good time in the mountain air. LCpl Alan Hirst saw a little more of the mountain air then he really wanted when he nearly slid off the side of a mountain. CSgt Terry Smith, came with us as a canoe instructor and showed us his skills which were very impressive, especially the Irish technique—underwater!

Elements of the LAD accompanied the Battalion to the four corners of the world. Well to Canada, Denmark, England and a curious place called Blueland. The last one was a bit of a "CRUSADE—R", and we recovered almost every conceivable item from a rifle lost in the frozen waters of a Soltau lake to the Mortar Officer's FV432 in the middle of a lake, with no water in it, in Canada.



THE POACHERS

DECEMBER 1979

It was perhaps appropriate that our last exercise of the year should be Exercise 'St. Nicholas'. On the 3rd December we took to the field as part of the French Brigade, in the annual Anglo-French FTX. Our "task force" comprised of ourselves together with a company of Gendarmerie and a platoon of 4 AMX armoured cars, whilst A Company, under command of Major Gordon Brett, were detached to the 11th Regiment de Chasseurs to give them some infantry support.

The aim of the exercise was to promote mutual French-British understanding at all levels. Marrying up in the concentration area went well enough but we soon encountered our first problem. It took longer than we had expected to locate and then persuade the French Commanders that they were required for an 'O' group! The Liaison Officers prepared themselves for a very active exercise.

The exercise was carried out within a defensive frame-work in an urban and woodland environment. We deployed in the



CSgt Dave Wade and 9 Platoon brave the cold for a victory photo after their success in the Berlin Inter-Platoon Competition.

south of Berlin with the aim of delaying an enemy force who were moving north. It was here that we discovered that our own Gendarmerie Company could be as illusive as the enemy. They were tasked with securing a motorway underpass and late on the first day, firing was heard from their direction. Sometime later they announced that they had been attacked by an enemy platoon and had withdrawn one kilometer north. On receiving the news the CO was seen to give a stoically Gallic shrug of the shoulders and wander off. He was learning something too! Tactical and procedural differences apart the language barrier was largely overcome by using a "French" net, manned by Capt Jim Badger and a Frenchman. They got to know each other quite well!

The exercise gave many of us our first experience of working with our French Allies in the field. Some of the more enterprising Poachers took advantage of the situation and expanded their social calendar. The Anglo-French mixture was repeated again in September 1980 in Exercise 'Concorde' designed as Berlin's answer to 'Crusader.' This time the Poachers acted as a "controlled"(?) enemy but we had learned our lessons well—out came the Gauloises, bread sticks and red wine, berets were turned through 90° and lots of "ullo Tango un ici zero parlez" was heard on the command net.

Any thoughts we may have had of slowing down prior to Christmas '79 were soon forgotten. With the exercise only hours behind us C Company under command of Major Colin Groves, once again found themselves preparing a company defensive position. Together with the assault pioneer platoon and a detachment of the anti-tank platoon they prepared an old factory complex in readiness for a FIBUA symposium to be run by Berlin Field Force.

Several days of very hard work and some 30,000 sandbags later, the position was ready for the critical examination by the many senior officers who came from BAOR and the UK for the Berlin FIBUA symposium.

The Battalion prepared for their second Christmas in Berlin with the usual enthusiasm. Prior to Christmas itself the chefs were as busy and as willing as ever supplying buffets and Christmas dinners for the many company, mess and department parties.

Christmas was celebrated with a Battalion

Carol Service and carols were sung around the quarters on Christmas Eve. The officers and sergeants served the soldiers with their Christmas Dinner and once again, many thanks are due to the chefs who prepared an excellent meal. The generous hospitality of the West Berliners and our own "pads" ensured that many of our single men had Christmas "at home".

JANUARY 1980

The main event of the month, and many would say, the event of the year, was the Berlin Field Force inter-platoon competition.

A total of twenty-nine platoons entered the competition, having trained hard prior to the event. The Grunewald training area and Ruhleben ranges were the scenes of strenuous activity as platoons prepared for the gruelling tests ahead.

The competition was designed to test endurance, night navigation, radio procedure, NBC drills, first aid, fitness, shooting, teamwork and administration, the culmination being the forced march and the assault course tests.

The major part of it was held during the hours of darkness with platoons moving 21 kilometres through the American and British Sectors both in built-up areas and in the forests. As well as the testing conditions of the competition itself, participants found the very low temperatures of -20° on the first night and -13° on the second, an extra hazard to contend with.

At the end of the first day, 7 platoon commanded by Sgt Alf Todd, were in the lead with Lt Roger Antolik and 4 platoon just one point behind. The second and final day brought faster times through the forest by night in the slightly warmer conditions, but not until the penultimate team, 9 platoon, had completed the course was 7 platoon's total bettered. With the scoring so close enthusiasm was high throughout. C/Sgt Dave Wade and 9 Pl were understandably jubilant with their win. The Battalion's overall results were very impressive taking the first six places and all the Poachers' nine platoons finished in the first twelve positions of the competition.

Captain Mike Beard's Signals Platoon was busy running a Standard Two cadre and



Sgt Alf Todd and 7 Platoon setting the pace in the Inter-Platoon Competition.

would-be signallers were often seen forlornly tramping through the deep snow with A41's on their backs. The Mortars and Anti-Tank platoons were each running their own cadres in preparation for their visits to the live firing ranges in March.

For the rest of the Battalion who could not find a cadre to join it was once again time to guard Rudolf Hess in Spandau Prison before handing the task to the French at the end of the month.

Life in Berlin is not all guards and duties, we did find time for some entertainment! In early February the Pioneers transformed the Gymnasium into a theatre. On the 14th and 15th we staged a Poachers' Review, produced by Capt Chris Groom and SSgt Mel Swann, who also played several star roles throughout the show.

Lt Robin Cope was the Master of Ceremonies and his performance had to be seen to be believed! His jokes were the topic of conversation for many weeks after the Review and most of us still do not understand them.

The chance to get out of Berlin for a few weeks is always eagerly anticipated.

The Battalion's period of field firing at Sennelager in March and April provided a welcome break from the Berlin round. Unfortunately the weather was very unkind so we put on our 'waterproofs' and carried on

shooting. We were forced to have a four day break over Easter which was a non-firing period on the ranges. Platoon commanders took their platoons off in every possible direction for an adventure training weekend. They phoned in progress reports from various locations including Arnheim, Mohnesee Dam and some lesser known places (pubs) of historical note! The MT with the aid of the LAD got all the platoons back to Sennelager in time to start our last week of firing. The Berlin Field Force Commander, Brigadier McMicking, paid us a visit but even he could not stop the rain.

The Anti-Tank and Mortar Platoons having completed their respective cadres with a period of live firing at Bergen Hohnhe and Munsterlager rejoined the Battalion at Sennelager to complete their APWTs.

The Mortar Platoon under command of Captain Jim Badger was graded fit to carry out its operational role, after attending the Arty Div Mortar Concentration.

In Berlin the months of May and June are ideal months to hold Audits and Stocktaking Boards. This ensures that all the officers are kept busy and out of the way. The RSM and the CSMs had the rest of the Battalion to themselves for a few weeks to prepare for the two ceremonial "high spots" of the year, the Allied Forces Day Parade on the 17th May and the Queen's Birthday Parade on 7th

June. This year the former proved as popular as ever and thousands of Berliners turned out on a very hot day to watch the parade. Just three weeks later on an equally hot Saturday, the 7th June, the Battalion participated in the Queen's Birthday Parade on the Maifeld which is part of the old Olympic complex. The Berliners have a keen eye for drill and cheer and clap every successful drill movement, no one knows what they do if there is a mistake, and the troops marched off to loud applause.

On Wednesday 18th June Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Stone handed over command of the Battalion to Lieutenant Colonel Roger Howe. Despite the rain the outgoing CO sat on the front of a Landrover and was towed out of camp by the Officers and SNCOs.

A further farewell occurred on Monday 27th July, when (RSM) Alan Ainsworth handed over to (RSM) John Underwood. He moves to 3 Queens, to take up his first appointment, on commissioning, as MTO.

The new CO had been in the chair for only a week and it was time for us to get away from it all once again. The Battalion's second exeat of the year was to the Sauerland. The aim of our training this time was to concentrate on low level dismounted tactics applicable to both NW Europe and rural operations in Northern Ireland.

The first phase was given to company commanders for their own training. During this phase the younger soldiers discovered the value of being able to interpret those little brown lines on the map (Berlin maps do not have contour lines). The second phase of

company training was directed by Battalion HQ which was a valuable lead into the final Battalion Exercise in phase three.

Major Julian Lacey took on the role of Exercise Director for the final phase which was conducted in the main as a free play exercise. Major Colin Groves commanded C Coy with reinforcements from the anti-tank platoon, the drums and half the recce platoon, to provide a powerful and imaginative enemy. During the exercise GOC Berlin, Major General R. F. Richardson visited us and was on hand to see the enemy put in a spectacular heliborne attack onto a bridge. The exercise finished in grand style when the Battalion took on the enemy force with a dawn attack. Sgt "Henirich" Smith of the recce platoon knocked out the enemy headquarters ten minutes before H hour and had time to confirm all enemy positions to A and B Coys as they waited in the FUP. W02 "Ginge" Lloyd then switched on his jammer and Groves' Marauders had met their Waterloo—did anyone expect anything else?

Some very distinguished visitors both military and civilian have visited the Battalions. In February the Secretary of State for Defence made a brief call and must have been impressed because nine days later Mr Barney Hayhoe his Under Secretary, came to see the Poachers. In October the Armed Forces Pay Review visited, to obtain our views. We told them to cut LOA and raise Northern Ireland pay!

General Sir Timothy Creasey Commander-in-Chief United Kingdom Land Forces, came to visit us on 16 and 17 April

"You lead and we'll follow", CSgt Dave Wade and Sgt Alf Todd confirm their plans with a French Tank Commander during Exercise Concorde.



Padre Derek Heaver, Capt Kevin Hodgson and Capt Jim Badger, putting on the style during our Review.



GOC Berlin, Major General R. F. Richardson, under "instruction" from WO2 Mick Draper and Pte Mark Beesley. The GOC asked to have a go during his farewell visit.

and visited the Battalion's Skill at Arms meeting. The Colonel of the Regiment and then Major General and Mrs Akehurst also came to stay during April.

We welcomed Colonel A. G. Wooldridge, OIC Records on his first visit to the Battalion in August. The Officers were also given the opportunity to take advice on their career prospects when Colonel DGB Saunders, AAG AG2 visited the Battalion on 18 September.

Brigadier H. C. Millman, the Divisional Brigadier, made a welcome return to the Battalion in early October. During his stay the Brigadier reflected on the fact that he had been to Berlin before, as a Second Lieutenant in 1948.

We have maintained our close relationship with our county towns. The Mayor of Northampton and the Chairman of Leicester County Council both came in the summer. The Mayor of Northampton was escorted by Brigadier Ted Taunton who commanded the 2nd Battalion The Northamptonshire Regiment when they were stationed in Montgomery Barracks in 1947.



General Sir Timothy Creasey enjoys a joke with some of our senior Poachers during his visit to the Skill at Arms Meeting.



Berlin Field Force Commander presents the Inter-Platoon cup to 4 PL in the shape of Lt Roger Antolick and Sgt Pete Lawson.

BISLEY

Led by the QM, Capt David Greenfield the Bisley Platoon formed up in early March with high hopes of improving on last year's performance.

The platoon worked hard and as their fitness improved so did the results on the range. New talent was extracted from the companies and a few of our younger soldiers did show promise and they were soon fighting hard for a place in the Bisley team.

Our Small Arms Meeting went very well and we expected to do well in the Berlin Meeting in April. We were very disappointed when we could only manage to finish second, behind The 1st Grenadiers. This made the QM and the team even more determined. They shot very well to take first place in the Rhine Area Meeting and in the face of very strong opposition came third in the Eastern District Meeting.

Our 13th position at Bisley was one better than last year. The team shot very well and there were some encouraging results from some of our new B class shots. We look forward to Bisley in 1981 and our aim is to make the "top ten".

Results at Bisley were:-

Army 100—Cpl Anderson—49th, L/Cpl Wilson—65th, Cpl Nunn—68th.

Long Range Target Rifle Team Match (Sniper Rifle)—1st, CSgt Marrison, Cpl Anderson, Cpl Nunn. Long Range Target Rifle Individual—CSgt Marrison—3rd.

GPMG Match—L/Cpl Dixon and Pte Scarboro—15th.

SMG 45—Pte Scarboro—33rd.

RouPELL Cup—Pte Cooper—7th.

Preparing for the ARU on 3rd September and the PRE on 8th September kept the Battalion busy during August. Duties, courses, cadres, and leave of course, went on as well.

From the 4th to 16th August we sponsored the first ever Berlin Field Force Sniper



General Sir William Scotter, C in C BAOR, has an informal chat with C Coy during his farewell visit to Berlin on 1st September 1980.



General Dye with Lt Col Howe.

Course. The three infantry battalions in Berlin pooled their instructors, who under the OIC Course, Capt Corin Pearce, gave their 25 students two very intense weeks of instruction. This was the first course of its kind to be run outside the School of Infantry and those who managed to pass all seven tests are allowed to wear the Army Sniper Badge.

Thirty six would be RSMs were also active throughout August attending our potential NCO cadre.

On the 1st September Lt Paul Zmitrowicz commanded a guard from 'D' Company for a ceremonial guard mounting at Spandau Prison. We took on the dubious pleasure of guarding Rudolf Hess for the last time. When we handed the prison over to The 1st



Captain (QM) David Greenfield and the Poachers Shooting Team at the Berlin Field Force Skill at Arms Meeting 1980.

Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers on the 16th September Hess was still inside!

The Battalion's ARU on the 3rd September gave Brigadier J.A.M. Evans the Berlin Field Force Commander, who is a Sapper, the chance to see the Poachers at work, including an Inter-Platoon March and Shoot competition. This was won by 4 Platoon commanded by Lt Roger Antolik.

The Band were also blowing well by the time the Brigadier got to them. Bandmaster Joe Joseph had all his bandsmen in combat kit to show off their considerable ability at first aid.

After the traditional drink in the Sgts Mess and a light lunch in the Officers' Mess the Brigadier presented Battalion colours to some of our sporting Poachers. The Commander also presented the trophies for an Inter-Platoon March and Shoot competition before he spoke to the Battalion. He was kind enough to congratulate every-one on the high standards achieved for the ARU.

This was no time to sit back and pat ourselves on the back. The start of the PRE was only five days away. While the Battalion busily put the finishing touches to vehicles and weapons the Commanding Officer led a preliminary recce to Londonderry. On their return all members of the recce reported favourably on the normality of life in Londonderry.

Preparing for Londonderry

The Battalion had to re-organise before we could get down to the serious task of training for Northern Ireland. The Anti-

Tank and Mortar platoons moved over to D Company and the Signal & Recce platoons went to HQ Company. On the way Recce changed their name to COP.

By the time the NITAT (BAOR) team arrived on the 30th September our preparations for Londonderry were well under way.

On the 8th October the CO led a total of sixteen officers and SNCOs over to Londonderry for our main recce. The party had a busy four days with 1 Staffords in and around Londonderry. The CO was able to finalise his plans when the recce party returned to Berlin.

Duties aside, the main activity for all Poachers during October and November was to prepare and train for Northern Ireland. On the 19th October, Captain Peter Willdridge took the COP Pl off to Sennelager for twenty days training with the NITAT team.

The Battalion held a NI training day on the 29th October and the four rifle companies each provided a demonstration for the rest. The basic drills and techniques for Patrolling, Riot Control, Cordon and Search and Bomb Incidents were all demonstrated with skill and much enthusiasm. We must say a big "thank you" to the wives who took part in their company demonstrations.

The Battalion moved to Sennelager on the 11th November for the final phase of NI training.

The Battalion's last tour in Northern Ireland was in 1977. When we formed up in January 1981, about 80% were in Northern Ireland for the first time!

The Drums Platoon prepare to make a "snatch" during their Riot Control demonstration.





POACHERS TUG OF WAR TEAMS

Back Row L-R Pte Blackman, LCpl Mann, Pte Jukes, Pte Smith, Cpl Hayton, Cpl Eccles, Cpl Ablitt, Sgt Hefferman, Cpl Bell, Pte Cox, CSgt Wade, LCpl Belham, LCpl Collins.

Front Row L-R Sgt Rook, Sgt Dexter, Cpl Barker, Sgt Upsall, WOII Burton (Coach), LCpl Ford, LCpl Clark, Capt Groom, Sgt Fox, Pte Cooper.

Poachers Tug of War 1980

The teams started training in November 1979 for the 1980 season under W02 (TQMS) John Burton who gradually built up a squad of twenty-seven to compete for a place in the two-8-man teams.

The first event of the season was the Berlin Field Force Championships and we won both the 560 Kilo and 640 Kilo titles. In the 1 DIV Championships our 560 team put in a fine performance to take 3rd place in their class. The 640 Kilo team went one better and the second place gained also gave them entry into the BAOR finals.

Much to the surprise of most of the teams competing, the Poachers were runners-up in the BAOR Championships after a very close finale against 50 Missile Regiment RA. The team was presented with a very fine shield, which was first won by the Royal Norfolks' team in 1946.

After another outstanding performance we reached the Army semi-finals at Aldershot. We lost an exciting match against 3 Ulster Defence Regiment and were 3rd equal with the MCTC. The very fine 3UDR team went on to beat 50 Missile Regiment in the finale.

Cross Country

Despite the impression the name creates of a throbbing metropolis, Berlin is an excellent location for Cross Country. The beautiful

woods, which are so well preserved by the Berliners, offer many testing courses. Every Sunday between September and the following June, various sports clubs organise Volkslaufs—runs open to the general public. The distances vary between 10 and 25 kms and the Poachers can claim to have been in attendance at every race in 1980. Some run to keep fit, tempted by the PRI sponsorship. Others are spurred by the award of medals, and others run to cure hangovers. These events, and the races in the newly formed Berlin Cross Country League, have proved excellent for the Battalion team. At the time of writing the Poachers are well entrenched at the top of the League, and the top four individuals were of the same ilk—LCpl Ford, Cpl Taylor, Cpl Pridmore and Pte Finney.

The Inter Company and inter Platoon Championship was held in Gatow Forest on October 22nd. Three of the stars were absent on leave or duty, and Cpl Pridmore had by then left the Army. Pte Warmington of 9 Platoon C Coy, came in the winner, with LCpl Dale and Pte Sharp, both of C Coy, close behind. The Inter Platoon Championship was won by 7 Platoon and the Inter Company by C Company. Cpl Davies of the Assault Pioneer Platoon won the 'veteran' prize.

Training is now well underway for the Berlin Field Force and 1st Armoured Division Championships.



Poachers Boxers.

Battalion Boxing Notes 1979/80

This year, under the guiding light and Stentonian voice of Sgt Mickey Dowland the team fulfilled its promise.

Realising that, as in most competitions, victors are made out of skill, hard work and self sacrifice with a slight twinge of luck, Sgt Dowland got his team and reserves together some six full weeks prior to the opening bell in the Field Force Competition. Training in the evenings and at weekends the team began to take shape quickly, firstly getting supremely fit and then concentrating on the skills imparted so well by Sgt Dowland that, come the first bell, a new team of novices appeared as if stepping into the ring and going three or sometimes less rounds with an opponent was as natural as downing a bottle of Schultheiss in one.

Even after a resounding win over the Grenadiers, eight to one, Sgt Dowland gave the boxers no respite and training continued apace.

The Final of the Field Force competition saw the Poachers battling once again against the Royal Irish Rangers. In a packed Kuppersaal, home of the 1936 Olympic Boxing Championships, and preluded by the Drums and a rendition of "The Lincolnshire Poacher" by the Regimental Band, the team silenced the Irish pipes and deflated many Corbeens by winning the impressive trophy by seven bouts to two.

Boxers worthy of mention include LCpl Woody Woodcock who bravely outpointed an Irishman of neolithic proportions, Pte Cooper and LCpl Minns who won both of their bouts and Pte Andrews, a heavyweight of real promise. Most praise must go to Sgt Mickey Dowland without whom things would have been so different and not nearly so successful. Watch out Ron Greenwood.

Poacher Football 1979-80

The team got fit—very fit—and a combination of the finest, hard football and a lot of running put them on top of the local league, into the third round of the Army cup and into the quarter finals of the 2 Army Div cup. Here the success story faltered.

A seven day tour of West Germany looked like turning into unrelieved disaster. Pte Steve Moye, our most effective forward and prolific goal scorer suffered a leg injury which put him out of two of the three games and we were unceremoniously tipped out of the Army and 2 Armed Division cups by 4 Division Armed Wksps REME and RAF Gutersloh respectively. These were undoubtedly the best teams we played all season and we learned from them in time for the last match of the tour.

This match saw an inter Queens Division clash with 1 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers acting as our hosts and rivals in the Infantry Cup. The game was played on a sloping

pitch, in a gale, and alternatively in hail and lashing rain. The half time score was 2-2 and the wind had to be faced in the second half. But fitness and a little 'black magic' from Sgt Boyd and Pte Powell saw us run out 7-3 winners.

After the mid-winter snow and frost, the second half of the season brought continuing success in the local league and cup. Our Infantry cup hopes rose after two epic matches with 1 Grenadier Guards in which a total of eighteen goals were scored. The first match was a 3-3 thriller, but the second, won 7-5, was the stuff of schoolboy fiction. Our nerves were hardly settled by the time the semi-final was played against another Queens Division side, 1 Queens, and a 4-3 scoreline saw finger nails again bitten to the quick.

The final, played at Sennelager, against 1 Devon and Dorset was a short affair spoiled by the weather. An early goal, resulting from a cross whipped in by the wind, was enough to decide the matter in 1 D and D's favour and was a major disappointment to our spectators and players alike.

Back in Berlin the final match of the season in the league, against our arch rivals RAF Gatow, had to be won for us to become champions. It was drawn 2-2 and again we were the bridesmaid and not the bride. But we had saved the best to last.

The final of the Berlin Cup was played against 1 Th 1st Grenadiers. The Guards scored first, but a second half of pure magic brought us five goals and our first major trophy. A real happy ending!

Poachers Cricket 1980

All major unit cricket in Berlin is played on matting wickets in the Olympic Stadium complex, and is limited to 40 overs per side. This type of cricket calls for attacking batsman and accurate bowling supported by keen fielding, which is exactly what the Poachers have.

A run of success in July and August enabled the battalion to finish runners-up in the Berlin Major Units League. The side was captained by Major Martin Romilly, who usually won the toss or at least made the opposition do what he wanted them to do! He also kept wicket soundly as well as insisting on a high standard of fielding. The backbone of the batting was provided by 2Lts David Napier and Peter Shorrocks, who played their shots and ran well between the wickets. David Napier's innings of 67 against the Grenadiers was one of the best seen in Berlin all summer. WO2 Halewood always made runs and he made them quickly—a very useful man to have at number 5. Capt Jim Badger and Sgt Ali never really came off with the bat, but they made a very effective pair of opening bowlers. No side mastered Sgt Ali, who when not taking wickets was keeping the runs down. He was well supported by Cpl Taylor who has the knack of producing the unplayable ball, before batsmen have settled in. The slower bowling was in the capable hands of WO2 Halewood, Cpl Mann and Pte Smullen. They all bowled accurately and were supported by a fine fielding side for whom Cpls Taylor, Teat and Fuell were outstanding.

The Poachers Cricket XI.
Back Row (left to right).
 Pte Smullen, Cpl Mann,
 Capt Groom, Cpl Teat,
 LCpl Fuell, 2Lt Shorrocks.
Front Row (left to right).
 Sgt Ali, Capt Badger,
 Maj Romilly (capt),
 WO2 Halewood, 2Lt
 Napier.
 Missing from
 photograph: Cpl Taylor.





POMPADOURS

"Won't it be great to get back to England and settle down!" This was the heartfelt cry of many Pompadours as we reached the end of our nonetheless enjoyable eighteen month tour in Belfast, coming after eight years abroad in Germany and Cyprus. Little did we realise that the period covered by this edition of *Castle* would be the busiest possible year for this infantry battalion, serving operationally in three countries and exercising in three more.

The Battalion moved to our 'home town' of Colchester in November 1979 and celebrated the links with the town by exercising our rights to the Freedom of the Borough. It was a very different experience to walk down a street, in patrol dress with a huge crowd cheering instead of throwing bottles.

The march successfully accomplished, the battalion prepared to go on well earned leave, including for a change Christmas at home. However, no sooner were MFO boxes unpacked than three officers and twenty eight men found themselves warned off for Operation 'Agila'—the setting up of a unique monitoring force to cover the transition of Southern Rhodesia to the independent Zimbabwe. The Pompadours provided the largest single contingent to the Monitoring Force and their tale of the historic operation is told elsewhere.

After Christmas the Battalion got down to serious training for the new role within 7 Field Force. This included numerous cadres and firing the 'David' anti-tank package on Lydd Ranges, and in February we moved to Kenya for a six-week exercise, 'Strident Call'.



Goodbye to all that—
The orders of dress of the
Battalion in Northern
Ireland.

**"Soldiers are great"
say the banners—a far cry
from The Falls Road.**



The opportunities and real estate available for training in Kenya are unrivalled and a tremendous amount of hard and valuable work was put in on a company basis. The climate and the terrain were very demanding but, as events later in the year proved, the exercise provided a solid basis for our conversion to 'real' soldiering after Northern Ireland. The six weeks were split into four weeks military training, one week adventurous training and one week R and R either up country or at the battalion's own leave camp, literally on Mombassa's exclusive Diani Beach.

The Battalion held a simple ceremony in Nanyuki War Cemetery, when wreaths were laid on the graves of three former members of the Regiment who died in Kenya during the last war. Major General Dick Gerrard-Wright, who was visiting the Battalion, laid a wreath on the grave of Company Quarter Master Sergeant Schofield of the Lincolnshire Regiment, Major Tony Downes on the grave of Colour Sergeant Ogothorpe of The Royal Norfolk Regiment and Corporal Wally Ruffell on the grave of Lieutenant Marjoram of The Essex Regiment. All those laying wreaths began their service in the respective former regiment.

As part of the Adventurous Training, over two hundred and fifty Pompadours, braved poor conditions and treacherous slopes to reach the summit of Point Lennana, 16,355

feet above sea-level astride the equator. A dramatic rescue was carried out by the US Air Force when Private Watkins fell seriously ill whilst five days out on an expedition to the remote Matthews Mountains. A helicopter was the only solution, and as those originally allocated to us had gone to Rhodesia the Americans were asked to help. They did so, and, landing by night in an almost impossible position, succeeded in delivering Private Watkins safely to hospital in Nanyuki.

The Assault Pioneers under Colour Sergeant Mick Luckman were kept busy building a new store for Nanyuki Orphanage.

Meanwhile back in Mombassa, Captain Dick Gould and WOII Brian Tunstill were working up a healthy sun-tan while running the leave centre. We don't know if it was the windsurfing, scuba-diving or the topless German tourists that made them rough it for so long but it was also noted that Captains Bacon and Clements also managed to stop off in Mombassa on their way back from Rhodesia!

The Band, after beating Retreat at Nanyuki and playing at a number of engagements up country were also, like the proverbial flies, irresistibly attracted to Mombassa. To give them their due, they proved exceptionally popular and in great demand at the numerous hotels along the



The Assault Pioneers and grateful orphanage staff admire their handiwork.

beach (especially with the German tourists). It is reported that they were seen rehearsing in their swimming trunks knee deep in the Indian Ocean. Playing Handel's Water Music perhaps.

The main event after returning from Kenya was the UKLF Cadet Leadership Camp, when for two weeks in April we played host at Stanford to three hundred members of the Combined and Army Cadet Forces, including a party from Canada. Major Mike Turner forsook the trip to Kenya to mastermind the camp in which cadets took part in a wide range of training including the use of assault boats, motor-cycles and helicopters. The deeper the mud and the wetter they were, the broader the smiles on the

cadets faces and the overall result was a tremendous success.

At the end of April Battalion Headquarters visited the Battle Group tactical trainer at Bovington where, as usual it proved much more frustrating to command imaginary troops than real ones.

As the sunbans faded so the pace of work increased through the summer. In May, a March and Shoot competition was held with platoon teams—and Battalion Headquarters—doing battle over a tough eight mile course. 9 Platoon led by Sergeant Andy Twell came out on top, winning the shooting having already set a record time for the course, and taking a considerable quantity of liquid prizes away with them. Battalion

Sgt Twell and 9 Platoon display the spoils of victory in the March and Shoot competition.





One of many schoolboys visits are shown the Wombat by Sgt Zielk.

Headquarters having survived the course, began to shake out the cobwebs with a series of Command Post Exercises throughout the summer.

To find oneself one day up to the neck in mud with boots full of water and the next day on parade with leather gleaming is one of the contrasts that is said to make the military life more challenging. Thus the Pompadours were able to take the month of June in their stride, with Freedom Marches through our country towns of Bedford, Hertford and Chelmsford, sandwiched between the Command Post Exercise and the Battalion FTX. Indeed it was hard to tell if you could get wetter in a week at Stanford or on a march through Bedford.

Torrential rain at Bedford was a great disappointment but it was more than made up for by the large and highly enthusiastic crowds, in Hertford and especially Chelmsford, where every school in the town had been given the day off. The Battalion, led by the Band and Drums, formed four guards to escort the Regimental Colour carried by Lt Julian Dean. In each town the salute was taken by the Mayor or Chairman of the Council, and each parade was followed by a small reception. In Bedford a small ceremony was also held in which the Mayor returned to the Battalion the "Bedford Train", a solid silver replica of an armoured train commemorating the Regiments part in the Treforce Expedition in China in 1928 which had been loaned to the Council.

After the marches the battalion deployed to Stanford for a weeks exercise practising the framework concept of fighting from

woods and villages. C Company, who are universally acknowledged (certainly by C Company) as the Army's experts on this tactic, demonstrated the finer points of the art to the rest of the Field Force on a study day in July.

A weeks field firing, again at Stanford was followed by the Battalion Skill at Arms Meeting. Held over two days it was visited in turn by General Sir Edwin Bramall and General Sir Timothy Creasey. Lady Creasey presented the Winners Trophy to C Company.

We were on block leave over Salamanca Day this year so we celebrated Blenheim Day instead on 13th August, in considerable style. A large number of past members of the battalion, plus civic guests were entertained to lunch and then joined in the fun at the Fete. The Wives Club made their contribution to the day by taking part in a Sponsored Assault Course, and quickly put an end to the scoffing by completing the course with flying colours.

And so we arrived at what had been the target for all the hard work and training since our return from Ireland—Exercise 'Crusader'. The bulk of the battalion moved



The moment of triumph for the CO as the Officers defeat the Sergeants in the Falling Plate.

via Harwich and Zeebrugge on what proved to be an extremely tedious fifty-two hour journey to Reinsehlen Camp. The move included a very well organised crossing of the River Rhine controlled by the German Territorial Army. The first wet fortnight was spent on work up training including a Battalion FTX. A weekend break allowed some rare liason between battalions when our officers were nobly entertained by the first battalion at Celle and a small party under Lt David Taylor travelled to join the 2nd Battalion and sampled the dubious delights of Berlin.



Get on the boats, Get off the boats...The move to Germany.

The Corps Exercise 'Spearpoint' got under way on Tuesday 16 September with the battalion deployed initially to guard reserve demolitions on the River Leine. Things began to develop into a regimental reunion when we were relieved of those tasks by A and LDY Companies of the 7th Battalion and I Company of the 5th Battalion. We were later joined in our main defensive position by the 1st Battalion. By this time we had four Royal Anglian Battalions, as members of the 1st Armoured Division located within ten miles of each other. We thought this an excellent development but several bewildered staff officers and couriers who arrived at the wrong headquarters probably thought otherwise.

The main battle was perhaps a little disappointing—the enemy really did seem to be going out of their way to avoid our well prepared positions—but was not without moments of excitement. The RSM and Drum Major had their work cut out fighting off repeated attacks on 'Schloss Pom-

padour' a fine 17th Century Castle where Battle Group Headquarters was located. Major Peter Williamson, at A Echelon, awoke one morning to find an SAS 'visiting card' on his sleeping bag. To be told later that it had been placed there by an unscrupulous Technical Quartermaster did little for his blood pressure.

But the long hours of training were paying off. The emphasis placed on NBC defence throughout the year meant that the battalion, although hot and sticky, survived two major chemical attacks with absolutely minimal casualties. The design and expertise in the construction of trenches has also come a long way during the year.

The climax to the exercise was the counterattack phase. Here the Pompadours led the way with a full scale heliborne assault to seize a vital bridge. The operation was an impressive sight with the sky black with helicopters—it was the first and last time that the RAF had used so large a concentration of Wessex. They are shortly to be withdrawn from service. The Anti-Tank Platoon were able to experience the new luxury of being able to use Chinook helicopters on a



COs of the 1st and 3rd Battalions meet on Exercise Spearpoint to discuss renaming the Division 'The 1st (Royal Anglian) Armoured Div.'



The RSM, Drum Major and Battle Group Headquarters Defence Platoon.

drive-on, drive-off basis. Things went exceptionally smoothly, but yet again the enemy ran away and despite a daring coup by Captain Tim Page and the Surveillance Platoon who succeeded in capturing the bridge intact, umpires told us that for exercise reasons the bridge was declared blown. This meant that Colour Sergeant Mick Luckman and the Assault Pioneers had to construct a raft to link the two halves of the Battalion on opposite banks. All credit is due to Cpl

Thomas who swam the murky waters of the River Leine four times during the night to accomplish this task.

Although sometimes frustrating, the exercise was on the whole enjoyable. We learnt a lot from it and seeing the type of ground that we must operate on in Germany makes a great deal of difference to a training area. In short Crusader proved that the Pompadours are now completely prepared for their main role in Germany.



Operation Valkrie—the Heliborne assault—gets under way.



Cpl Nicholls on sentry at Schloss Pompadour.

Despite the busy year, sport has, of course, featured prominently in the calendar. Details of representative sport are given elsewhere but inter-company competitions have been held throughout the season. The muscle of B Company triumphed in the Tug of War and A Company came out on top in the Rugby. Almost the first tackle of the season in the latter competition, resulted in Major Andrew French breaking a leg and Support Company deploying on 'Crusader' minus their Company Commander.

We now look forward to renewing our acquaintance with Cyprus after a gap of two and a half years. The Advance Parties have already left and the Main Bodies follow shortly to begin a six month tour with half the Battalion with the United Nations at Nicosia and half in the British base at Dhekelia. So, another six months separation and another Christmas away from home, Looking back on the past year it hardly seems possible that we have accomplished so much and already some of us are looking ahead to next May and saying "Won't it be great to get back to England and settle down!" I wonder.....

Field Force Sports Festival

On the 22/23 October the Pompadours swept the board at the Field Force sports festival covering eight sports, at which over thirty company teams from the entire Field Force took part.

A company won the Rugby, B Company the Cross Country, C Company were very close runners-up in the Orienteering, Support Company came out on top in the Soccer and Headquarter Company took the Volleyball prize. B Company maintained a high standard throughout the competition and were the overall winners—a great achievement.

Success too in other events; The Battalion came a very close third in the Eastern District Athletics and an even closer second, by one point, in the district Swimming final. At the Regimental Golf Meeting WO11 Clive Mallett won the individual trophy and with Sgt Bill Smith the foursomes.



Capt Phillip Crook receives the 7 Field Force Sports Festival trophy from the Force Commander—who shook hands with a lot of Pompadours that day.



The Wives Club tackles the Assault Course.

POMPADOUR SPORT

Cricket

With the Eastern District and Eastern Area competitions already won the Battalion Cricket Team, led by Major Julian Browne, played the final of the Army Cup at Colchester. In a match that did nothing for the length of spectators finger nails the Pompadours bowled out the Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington for 92, largely due to the bowling of Colour Sergeant Geoff Peck who took 6 for 30 off nine overs. In the Pompadour innings, after losing early wickets, a victory looked certain after a useful stand by Major Guy Hipkin and Staff Sergeant Carl Montgomery had taken the score to 77 for 4. A dramatic collapse to 87 for 9 meant that the winning run was eventually scored with only one wicket to spare, and the Army Cup was ours!

Boxing

Having reported last year that boxing had grown in popularity and strength, we are pleased to say that the movement has continued with the team under the direction of RQMS Ebbens winning the Eastern District Novices Boxing Championship. A close and exciting match against 1 Kings in the first round was followed by a convincing victory over 3 RGJ in the final. So next year who knows?

Soccer

The Soccer team continues from strength to strength, this year winning the District 6-a-side Championships. Cpl Hughes, a stalwart of the team, has been selected to represent the Army.



Blenheim Day Fete: Sgt Dawes is placed first in the Bonny Baby Competition by Miss Pompadour, Beverly Clift.

Depot Queen's Division

Shooting

Royal Anglians continued to dominate both the Depot Permanent Staff and Junior Soldiers shooting teams. Lt (now Capt) Crook, Lt Weigold, Sgt's Watson, Smith, Neal and Bullard and Cpl Rayner swept the board by winning almost all the prizes at the Eastern District Skill at Arms Meeting and acquitted themselves well at Bisley. The Junior Soldiers team achieved a most creditable, (the best result for two years), 4th place out of a total of 13 major units at JASAM. JPtes Lampkin, McCarthy (now 3rd Battalion) and Dove (now 2nd Battalion) won Bisley Medals by being placed in the SLR and SMG Top 30.

As it promised to be, 1980 turned out to be a very busy year, the serious business of training adult recruits and junior soldiers and our domestic annual events being added

to by our participation in Exercise Crusader 80, the Schoolboys Exhibition, and Bisley.

Recruiting has been steady throughout the year though the number of committed recruits is still not satisfactory. The actual number of recruits that will pass out from the Depot will be less than last year because of a reduction in our target due to the current economic problems but the standard of recruit, evident from the last intake of Junior Soldiers in September, has improved considerably.

As is usual, the Passing Out Parades of the Junior Soldiers intake were high points in the year. In April our District Commander, Major General REJ Gerrard-Wright was the Inspecting Officer for Salamanca Platoon. In August General Sir Timothy Creasey took the parade for Somme, Waterloo and Sobraon Platoons

The successful Depot Shooting Team which swept the Board at the Eastern District Skill At Arms Meeting.
Back row: Sgt Neal, Sgt Geraghty RRF, Sgt Watson, Cpl Rayner,
Seated: Sgt Barnes, Capt Crook, QMSI Astle, Cpl Chapman, Sgt Bullard.



and on Minden Day we were honoured by the presence of the Secretary of State for Defence, The Right Honourable Francis Pym who was the Inspecting Officer for Talavera, Busaco and Sevastopol Platoons.

On behalf of the Director of Army Recruiting, the Depot ran the Annual Schoolboys Exhibition on 2, 3 and 4 July. For three days, which were luckily mainly sunny if not always warm, Basingbourn Barracks was invaded by seventeen thousand schoolboys and to the delight of the Junior Soldiers who helped to run the show, some very attractive schoolgirls. Though the show demanded a lot of hard work erecting tents and setting out the arena, the recruiters were delighted with the numbers of direct enquiries from boys anxious to join up.

Crusader 80

The Depot's contribution to Crusader 80 consisted of the manning of the Sea Transit Centre at Colchester by Salamanca Platoon (Junior Soldiers) Commanded by WO2 Spauls, late 1st Battalion, the formation and exercising over three days of two Composite General Reserve Companies consisting of Adult Recruits and commanded by Permanent Staff members and the provision of administrative groups for various "holes in the ground".

Recent visitors to the Depot will have noticed that Monty's Tank and the Saracen ACV at the Main Gate are not the only vehicles historic or otherwise to be on show in the Barracks. Additions to the collection are a Ferret Mk 4, a Humber 1 ton Pig, a Northern Ireland Pig displaying the Londonderry Confidential Telephone Number and a 1935 Vintage Quad Gun Tractor. CSgt Hurrell (1st Battalion) and his team in the MT have been responsible for their renovation and are presently working on a DUKW and a 1 ton box body K9 radio vehicle. The Commanding Officer has only until next July to acquire the illusive AFV 432 to complete the collection.

Sport

There were successes for the Rugby team and for Junior Soldiers Boxing and Football teams.

The Depot Rugby Team had a good run in the Army Minor Units Cup reaching the 3rd round before being defeated by a strong Scottish Infantry Depot team. Seven Royal Anglians were the mainstay of the team which won the Eastern District Cup shortly before Christmas. They were Lt Sam Lincoln, RQMS Keogh, Cpls Holmes, Brothers, Rogerson, Caveliero and McCotter.

The victorious D Company Junior Soldiers Boxing Team pictured with the Commanding Officer, Major Menage and WO2 Spauls at Aldershot after winning the Infantry Inter Company Boxing Shield.



Junior Private Halliday (right), who will join the 1st Battalion in August, winning his bout in the Junior Soldiers Inter Company Boxing Final.



The Regiment is well represented in the Soccer Team by Sgt Watson and Cpls Scales and Dowling. The team has reached the Semi Final stage of the Eastern District Cup which is due to be played in January 1981.

Major Mike Menage's D Company Junior Soldiers won the Infantry Junior Soldiers Inter Company Boxing Competition at Aldershot in November. Junior Privates Attew and Halliday, both of whom are to be posted to the 1st Battalion in August, were the stars of the team which defeated all the other Infantry Depots, IJLB and JSB Taunton on the exciting final day. The team was well prepared and managed by WO2 Mel Spauls. Junior Private Halliday is also a regular member of the Army Youth Football Team.

C Company's Juniors were equally successful on the Football field, winning the Junior Soldier's Inter Company Challenge Cup. The team managed by Sgt Carr (3rd Battalion) defeated Junior Signals Wing Catterick in a hard fought final played at Aldershot.

**DON'T JUST
SIT THERE!
DO SOMETHING!!
THE TA
NEEDS YOU
AND MORE
LIKE YOU**

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

The Fifteenth Annual Report and Accounts were presented to an Annual General Meeting held at Regimental Headquarters, Bury St. Edmunds, on 27th June 1980. Colonel P. E. B. Badger took the chair in the absence of the President.

This report covers the year ended 31st December 1979 in so far as the audited accounts are concerned and is up to date so far as general activities are concerned.

NORTHERN IRELAND

The 1st Battalion completed a four months Emergency tour and the 3rd Battalion an accompanied tour. The 1st Battalion had no casualties but the 3rd Battalion suffered one killed and two wounded by gunshot. An obituary notice for Pte Wright appeared in Castle '80. Both LCpl Clarke and Pte Young have fully recovered. Two soldiers were seriously injured on training. Both have fully recovered.

WELFARE

Inflation and unemployment has inevitably produced an increase in the number of appeals for assistance from Old Comrades. Inflation has also meant the need to provide larger sums of money to alleviate the hardship. The Benevolent Committee has sent grants to forty-two cases at an average of £126.

The Association policy regarding assistance to members who do not, or did not, support the Benevolent Fund when serving through the Days Pay Scheme is that all cases are treated on their merits. However, priority is obviously given to those who do or did support the Scheme. The need to alleviate hardship where children are concerned is always paramount.

THE REGIMENTAL REUNION was held at the Depot, The Queen's Division on Saturday June 7th. Cricket and Golf were played on Friday June 6th as well as cricket again on the Saturday.

Your General Committee discussed ways and means of obtaining greater support from Association Members. At last years Reunion only a handful of Old Comrades attended the Beating of Retreat and evening entertainment. This has been the pattern for previous years but this was because it was assumed Royal Anglian Old Comrades would be more likely to attend the Reunion of the former County Regiment Associations. This did not happen in any significant numbers. In 1978 the Regimental Council ruled that greater publicity be given through county Branches and that the Drinks Party after the Beating of Retreat should be an All Ranks affair. After this Buffet Supper Parties were organised for members and ex-members in the Officers' Mess, the WO and Sgts' Mess and the Junior Ranks Club. These were highly successful but did not attract Old Comrade members. Reports from the County Associations indicate an increasing number attending annual functions. As ex soldiers get older, so do they feel the need to re-join their Associations. These functions have up to now been supported mainly by World War II Comrades. Latterly there have been increasing numbers who saw service in Korea, Malaya, Cyprus, British Guiana and Borneo. Why not Northern Ireland for Royal Anglians?

Your Committee considers that we must persevere and try to build up a stronger spirit of comradeship over the coming years and so develop a feeling amongst a hard core of Old Comrades that they want to come and support Regimental functions and will themselves bring in more members.

1981. Members should note that the Reunion this summer is to be held in London when the Massed Bands and Drums of the three Regiments of the Queen's Division, comprising nine Bands and nine Corps of Drums are to Beat Retreat on Horse Guards Parade on the evenings of 9, 10 and 11 June. The Royal Anglian day will be on the 11 June.

WO/SGTS' PAST AND PRESENT DINNER CLUB

This annual function was held, at the Mess at the Depot, Queen's Division on 25 October 210 members and ex-members attended. A report appears on page 9.

FINANCE

The Association Benevolent Fund is in good shape thanks to the continuing support of a Days Pay per year from serving members of the Regiment. The Fund now has a capital worth of £75,000 which is increased annually by about £5,000 after all grants, loans and expenses have been made. A grant of £3,700 to the Army Benevolent Fund was approved.

Your Committee is guided by an Investment Committee ably chaired by Colonel W. A. Heal OBE, formerly Regimental Secretary at the Suffolk Regiment office. The policy remains to invest, or re-invest, at least 10% of the capital worth each year.

The Audited Accounts were approved.

The A.B.F.

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND REPORT 1979-80

Appointments

Major General Peter Bush has taken over as Controller from Major General Tyacke.

Assistance

During the year £731,761 was disbursed for the relief of soldiers, ex-soldiers and their families. A further £382,375 was provided for compassionate loans.

Northern Ireland

£46,477 was provided for grants from the special Northern Ireland Fund. Since 1971 when this Fund was set up over £267,000 has been given out by the ABF.

Other Grants

The Fund continues to help a very large number of organisations dedicated to helping both the serving and ex officers and soldiers of the Army. Among the most noteworthy are the McIntyre Home for mentally handicapped children, The Holiday scheme for deprived children pioneered by Sir Nigel Pontin, Disabled Servicemen's homes and £30,000 for the Star and Garter Home to assist in the setting up of an Occupational Therapy Department. In all grants of this nature came to £509,192. This included £46,000 to SSAFA and £39,100 to the Forces Help Society.

Receipts

It was a record year for the Fund. Total income exceeded that of the previous year by £150,000.

However, to keep this in perspective it must be appreciated that some events took place like the Wembley Musical Pageant, which are biennial. Moreover, the receipts included £37,000 raised on the initiative of the Daily Telegraph following Warrenpoint.

Corps and Regiments contributing £246,000 to the Fund in the year and the Control Board wishes to express its gratitude for this contribution. At the same time it recognised the excellent work done by Regimental Secretaries on whom it relies for a great deal of its information.

In passing it might be noted that at the request of the Fund the Army Board may shortly be asking RHQs if they could make a periodical check—say every 2-3 years, of the state of the more serious casualties from Ulster.

The Future

All indications are that the demands on the Fund will continue to grow at least until the end of the Century. The ageing nature of World War II veterans and their families will mean a greater degree of help for them and in the immediate future rising unemployment will also give rise to more requests for assistance.

THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

COMBINED GENERAL AND BENEVOLENT FUNDS

Abridged Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1979

CAPITAL OF FUNDS				ASSETS AND LIABILITIES			
1978				1978			
£		£		£		£	
59,994	Balance brought forward	66,346		127	Office furniture at cost less depreciation	109	
4,986	Excess Income over Expenditure	9,020		49,600	Investments at cost	53,575	
				9,508	Case loans/Debtors	11,614	
				4,903	Stock	4,469	
				10,789	Cash at bank and Deposit	11,515	
				52	Cash in Hand	173	
				74,979		81,455	
					Deduct Liabilities		
				9,999	Creditors	6,089	
<u>64,980</u>		<u>75,366</u>		<u>64,980</u>		<u>75,366</u>	

GENERAL FUND

Abridged Income and Expenditure Account

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
1978				1978			
£		£		£		£	
111	Subscriptions	106		76	Admin and audit	96	
462	Profit on sales of stock	635		124	Printing and stationery	172	
241	Refund admin expenses from Benevolent Fund	286		5	Wreaths	39	
114	Investment Income	92		246	Entertainment	269	
—	Deposit Account Interest	8		255	Donations	288	
87	Excess Expenditure over Income	145		—	Regimental Reunion	178	
				309	Postage, Depreciation and stocks written off	230	
<u>1,015</u>		<u>1,272</u>		<u>1,015</u>		<u>1,272</u>	

BENEVOLENT FUND

Abridged Income and Expenditure Account

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
1978				1978			
£		£		£		£	
13,075	Days Pay Scheme	18,726		442	Admin and Audit	539	
3,914	Investment Income	5,249		20	Write off Bad Debt	—	
122	Investment Short Term Deposit	512		3,245	Case Grants	5,707	
313	Sundry Donations and Receipts	1,566		3,000	Donation ABF	3,000	
				3,483	Grants to Outstations	4,297	
				228	Personal Accident Insurance Scheme Premium	1,500	
				1,700	Journal and Annual Report	1,920	
				320	Donations and Appeals	70	
				4,986	Excess Income over Expenditure	9,020	
<u>17,424</u>		<u>26,053</u>		<u>17,424</u>		<u>26,053</u>	

Around The Branches



NORFOLK

Annual Reunion Dinner 1980

The Annual Reunion Dinner of The Royal Norfolk Regiment Association was held in Norwich on Saturday, 27th September, 1980. Brigadier F. P. Barclay, the President of The Association, presided and some one hundred and sixty Old Comrades enjoyed a carnival occasion.

In his address to the Old Comrades, the President referred to the Association's benevolent activities during the past year and he paid tribute to the County branches of the Royal British Legion, SSAFA and other charitable organisations whose members did so much to process the appeals for financial assistance from former members of the Regiment in need. Brigadier Barclay thanked members of the Association for their contributions to the Regimental Benevolent Fund and he drew the attention of the Old Comrades to the contributions being made by the serving soldiers of The Royal Anglian Regiment, who contributed so generously through the "Day's Pay Scheme". Their contributions enabled the Royal Anglian Benevolent Committee to support generously the needs of the Benevolent Funds of the founder Regiments.

All members present warmly welcomed Lieutenant Colonel "Jo" Joanny who made his first appearance at the Reunion Dinner since his retirement as Regimental Secretary in 1977 through ill health.

Annual Association Church Service

At the Annual Association Church Service held in the Regimental Chapel in Norwich Cathedral on Sunday 28th September 1980, The Old Colours of the 4th Battalion The Royal Norfolk Regiment TA were handed over to the Trustees of the Royal Norfolk

Regiment Museum. The Service was conducted by the Reverend Wynter Blathwayt. The Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, Mr Timothy Colman, read the Lesson and the Colours were received on behalf of the Museum Trustees by the Chairman, Brigadier F. P. Barclay. At the conclusion of the Service, the Colours were taken to Britannia Barracks and in the custody of a Colour Party, provided by A(Norfolk) Company, 6th (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, the Old Colours were marched through the new entrance to the Regimental Museum where they have been laid up. The new gates to the Museum were officially opened by the Chairman of the Trustees of the Museum before a large gathering of Old Comrades. The new gates are handsomely embellished with the Regimental Crests of the 'Old' and 'New' Regiments as may be seen in the accompanying photograph.



Brigadier Barclay opens the new entrance gates to the Museum assisted by two soldiers of the Royal Anglian Regiment Information Team.

Officers Dinner Clubs

The 33rd Annual Dinner of the 2nd Battalion "Kohima Dinner Club" was held in London on 30th May 1980. Some 14 officers attended and Colonel Henry Conder presided. On 6th and 7th June 1980 The Royal

Norfolk Regiment Dinner Club held its annual dinner and luncheon at the Norfolk Club, Norwich. These functions were well attended and the guests at the Dinner included Mr Timothy Colman, the Lord Lieutenant, and Lieutenant Colonel Tom Dean, Commanding Officer 6th (V) Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment. It is planned to hold the next Dinner and Luncheon at the Norfolk Club, Norwich in 1981 on 5th and 6th June respectively.



SUFFOLK

Minden Dance OCA Bury St. Edmunds, 1st August, Saturday 2000, Blenheim Camp.

Suffolk Regiment Officers Dinner Club Party, 1st August, Saturday 1930, Angel Hotel.

Suffolk Regiment Annual Reunion, 2nd August, Sunday 1130, Gibraltar Barracks.

O.C.A. Annual Reunion 1980

The Annual Reunion was held in the grounds of Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds on Sunday 3rd August. As usual, the proceedings commenced with a Drum head Service under the trees. The Rev. Canon W. M. Lummis MC took the Service. Canon Lummis is 94 years old and served with the Regiment as a combatant officer during World War I. We were all glad to see him and appreciate the great effort it must have been at his age to come from his home in Wymondham and take the Service which was enjoyed by us all.

We were glad to see the Mayor and Mayoress of Bury St Edmunds, Councillor and Mrs Knight, attending the Drum Head Service thus maintaining our traditional links with the Borough.

After the service General Goodwin gave his customary talk on Regimental affairs. The Suffolk Military Band played at the Service conducted by ex Bandmaster Ray Walker. They then continued to play throughout the

day. We have come to rely upon this band as a permanent feature of the Reunion, and are most grateful to them. They give their services free during the height of their summer season engagements. Their uniform consisting of the old Suffolk Officers Mess Kit provides a welcome splash of Regimental colours.

This year the Reunion was more like one of our old Minden Days abroad with almost non stop entertainment, and continuous sunshine throughout the Day. The weather was very kind to us.

The Sudbury and Gt. Cornard Majorettes gave two sparkling performances of marching and music bringing the old square to life again. I wonder what some of our old Sgt Majors would have thought to see such a glamorous squad on the square—once again the beer tent emptied rapidly when the girls appeared.

The Glenmoriston Pipe Band in full Highland regalia entertained us with some stirring pipe music and marching.

The Band and Drums of the 3rd Battalion (Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire & Essex) The Royal Anglian Regiment gave an excellent Beating Retreat on the square and provided a nostalgic finale when they marched off to a prolonged rendering of "Speed the Plough"—much to the delight of the hundreds of old Suffolks present. All the above entertainers gave their services free.

We are glad to announce that the appeal on Reunion notices for donations to the O.C.A. Benevolent Fund produced £300—our thanks to all donors.

The attendance at the Reunion this year was the largest in recent years. At a rough estimate, about eight or nine hundred were present—our Old Comrades Association goes from strength to strength.

Visit to Suffolk Regimental Headquarters by Herr Fritz Esche

On 10th June an interesting meeting took place at Regimental Headquarters Bury St Edmunds between Herr Fritz Esche and officers of the Suffolk Regiment. Herr Fritz Esche for the past three years has arranged for flowers to be placed in the Suffolk Regimental Chapel in honour of the Suffolk soldiers killed at the battle of Brinkum. The flowers are placed in the Chapel on the anniversary of the battle which took place on

13th to 16th April 1945. He had expressed a wish to meet members of the Suffolk Regiment who took part in the battle and such a meeting was arranged on 10th June. Those present were Lt General Sir Richard Goodwin, Colonel Alan Sperling, Major Hugh Merriam, Major Ron Rogers and Major Arthur Woodward.

The following is an account of the meeting as reported for the E. Anglian Daily Times.

"Thirty-five years after they clashed in fierce house to house fighting—sometimes only 20 yards apart—for the small German town of Brinkum, ex Suffolk Regiment officers met the commander of the German troops which put up some of the stiffest opposition the Suffolk infantrymen had met in the 1939-45 war.

He commanded 240 German troops defending the town as the British troops forced their way into northern Germany in April 1945.

Amongst the ex Suffolk Regiment officers, was Lieut General Sir Richard Goodwin, of Barrow, now Vice Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, who commanded the 1st Suffolks, and Major Hugh Merriam, now a farmer of Wickenham Skeith, Nr Eye. He commanded "A" Company faced with the task of taking Brinkum.

For Herr Esche, who was wounded in the struggle for Brinkum—and lost a leg in later fighting—meeting his old adversaries was the realisation of several years' ambition.

Before leaving to visit another ex Suffolks officer, Herr Esche recalled the "very hard fighting" at Brinkum and, in broken English, added "Forty nine officers and men of my unit were killed, wounded or missing". "It was house to house and hard fighting", he said. "I have all respect for the Suffolk soldiers, that is one of the reasons that I come over here. They were brave and fair". He added, "It is one of the greatest events in my life to meet with the Suffolk Regiment officers". His unit was the SS 18th Training Regiment, the youngest 17 and not 14 as some histories recorded. He believed they were thought to be SS troops because they had sung morale-boosting German marching songs.

Meeting at the Suffolk Regiment HQ in Bury, when over a drink they re fought the battle of Brinkum—but as friends.

As a memento of the visit—and of Herr

Esche's annual tribute to his fallen ex enemies—Sir Richard presented him with an ice-bucket in the form of a Suffolk Regiment drum. One of the battle honours it bears is "Brinkum".

Reunion 7th Battalion Suffolk Regiment—142nd Regiment R.A.C.

The 23rd. All Ranks Reunion took place at the H.Q. The Royal Yeomanry Regiment in London on the 27th of September.

Between forty and fifty members were present, which proved to be 11% of those notified. We have lost touch with many old comrades who have moved from the last known address, and we hope that some will get in touch once again through reading this report.

We have been very fortunate, as a Regiment, in having Donald Roberts who has organised all twenty-three Reunions held since the war, which means that he has sent over ten thousand invitations, which must surely be a record. The Dragoons Room where we met is ideally suited for these occasions, having a well-equipped bar, with a separate room for the very excellent refreshments provided. As cost is a very real problem in these days of inflation, once again we are indebted to Donald Roberts, and the Royal Yeomanry Regiment for keeping the cost down to £3 per head.

This year is the 40th Anniversary since the 7th Suffolks were formed under Col. R. H. Maxwell at Walton Hall in Warwickshire, and it is largely due to his dynamic personality and leadership, with his keen interest in every member of his Regiment, so appreciated by all who served under him, that we still meet in that family atmosphere that he created, e.g. esprit-de-corps.

The Suffolk & Cambridgeshire Regiment TA Officers Club

Annual Dinner 12th April 80

The Annual Dinner was held this year at the University Arms Hotel, Cambridge when 45 members and guests sat down to Dinner.

This year it was particularly memorable occasion as Colonel S. C. Aston is retiring as Honorary Deputy Colonel of the Regiment and this would be the last time he would act as PMC. Also this year we were extremely pleased to have General Jack Dye with us

and also Colonel (Ali) Barber who is taking over from Stanley Aston.

Colonel Stanley Aston enthusiastically proposed the toast to the Regiment and Major Dennis Haslam responded with details of the Cambridgeshire Company from which we were very pleased to hear that it is up to strength and flourishing. He also announced that this year the Annual shoot would be 27th July and he hoped as many old members of the Regiment would come and support them.

Colonel Victor Mapey announced that the Annual OCA Service would be held at Ely Cathedral on Sunday 15th June and finally Colonel Aston installed Colonel 'Ali' Barber in the chair and members retired to the bar.



CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Re-Union and Memorial Service

General Sir Timothy Creasey KCB OBE, Commander-in-Chief United Kingdom Land Forces and Deputy Colonel, of The Royal Anglian Regiment attended the Annual Re-Union and Memorial Service for old Comrades of The Cambridgeshire Regiment at Ely on June 15th.

Old Comrades and their relatives were there in strength not all able to march, but present at the Service and at the Maltings. The Service was led by the Dean, The Very Reverend M. S. Carey, MA and prayers were said by the Reverend Canon G. Youell, Honorary Chaplain to the Forces.

During the Service a wreath was laid in the Regimental Chapel, the lesson was read by our President Lt Colonel E. L. V. Mapey OBE TD, and the accompanying music was played by the Band of The 5th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, doubtless one of the most accomplished TA Bands, under the direction of Bandmaster WO1 B. W. Crossman.

The sun shone and the wind was not too cold, when, following the Service, the Old Comrades led by the 5th Battalion Band, and joined by 'D' (Cambridgeshire) Company, 6th (V) Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, and Officers and Adult Instructors of the County ACF, marched past Sir Timothy Creasey, supported at the Saluting Base by the Mayor of Ely and Lt Colonel E. L. V. Mapey. The sound of the Regimental March made many of us feel inches higher.

At the Maltings an excellent tea was provided by Major Ken Starling and his willing helpers, and a glittering display of Regimental Silver, prepared and "watched over" as usual by Mr H. Taylor, enhanced the scene. Who was it from the Soham gang who plotted to pull the stage curtains?

A tradition of this gathering is the parade of the Veterans of the 1914-1918 War and this year twelve Old Comrades paraded before the Deputy Colonel.

Another Re-Union has passed and our thanks are due to Lt Colonel Wally Badcock for his unfailing eye for details, and our Secretary Mr Roy Stubbings, and all who work to make the day such a success.

Sergeants Dinner Club

A splendid evening was held on Saturday 11th October at the TA Centre Coldhams Lane. Some 106 attended an excellent dinner presided over by the Chairman Mr Easingwood who well reflected the feelings of the guests at seeing the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of D Company resplendent in their scarlet Mess Dress. Major Haslam proposed the toast and gave a most amusing talk. Among the officer guests present were Colonel Victor Mapey, Pat Howard, Sam Bellamy, Jack Ennion, Jim Clancy and Peter Dean together with their ladies.

As usual the dinner organisation by Cad-den Parfit was superb and thanks to Herbie Taylor there was a full parade of Regimental silver which looked dazzling against a background of camouflage nets garnished with sea weed draping the walls and parachute silk suspended from the ceiling. The latter reminded us old 'uns of clothing coupon days and the unmentionable uses to which this material was used!



LINCOLNSHIRE

Membership

It is now over twenty years since the Regiment amalgamated and the number of active members of the Association is still holding steady. However, it is becoming difficult to replace Committee Members of Branches as and when they decide to retire. All Branches are very keen to get some new blood to join them, and to this end would welcome any Royal Anglian chaps who feel that they have something to offer to the Association. Details of active Branches can be obtained from RHQ at Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln.

1980 REUNION

Our Annual Meetings were held at Cleethorpes on the 20th September and, as usual, were well attended.

The Reunion Dinner and Dance was held at the Beacholme Holiday Camp on the evening of the 20th and two hundred and seventy four members and their wives attended. The meal was as always, very good.

Her Royal Highness, Princess Alice was not with us this year, but hopefully she will be honouring us with her presence in 1981.

1981 REUNION

This will again be held at the Beacholme Holiday Camp at Cleethorpes on 19th/20th September, 1981. The programme will be:-

Saturday 19th September 1981

2.30 p.m.—Annual General Committee Meeting. 4.00 p.m.—Annual General Meeting. 7.00 p.m. Annual Dinner and Dance. for 7.30 p.m.

Sunday 20th September 1981

10.45 a.m.—Divine Service.

Accommodation will again be available in the Holiday Camp. Anyone wishing to attend should contact the Secretary of our Lincoln Branch or HQ at Lincoln for further details.

The First Branch Dinner of the American Contingent

On the 7th of June, the Branch held its first Branch Dinner at the Yorick Club in Lowell, with the guests of honour being Major General Sir Christopher and Lady Peggy Welby-Everard, who were visiting Colonel Kehoe for a week.

It was a pleasure to see many of the "old comrades" of the American Contingent, and all were delighted with seeing the General and his Lady once again.

Greetings were received in the form of a telegram from Capt. Alwyn Smith, the Hon. Secretary of our Regimental Association congratulating the Branch on its first Dinner on behalf of all the members of the Royal Lincolnshire Regimental Association.

Sir Christopher made a very fine address and we were lucky enough to have a tv tape made of the proceedings which will go into the permanent library files of the Branch.

The launching of the Branch by our distinguished visitor was another significant recognition of our service during the Bicentennial Era as it was the General who first gave us the permission to form, to represent the Regimental Association in the field from 1968 to 1978, and now, recognized us as the sixth Branch of the Regimental Association with full and equal membership with those who served in the Regiment from Lincoln. This was, and will remain, an unprecedented event and honour given to a unit raised for the Bicentennial, and it must be known that the American Contingent members were the only ones fully recognized by their Regimental Association then and now. Now we are officially members of the Regimental Family as a full Branch of the Association.

Next year's Branch Dinner will again be held in June to commemorate the action of the Light Infantry and the Grenadier Companies at the Battles of Bunker's Hill on the 17th of June, 1775. Those interested in serving on the committee may call Branch HQ.

LINCOLN BRANCH

We are still going strong and have 123 paid up members of our Branch. We also have 30 members who do not live in the area, who pop in when they are in Lincoln.

At our Annual General Meeting held on the 1st September 1980, the following Committee was elected: Chairman—Norman Johnson, Vice Chairman—George Clarke, Secretary—Jack Rothwell, Assistant Secretary—Geoff Simpson.

Wilf Lewin, who has been the Secretary and Treasurer since 1948, has finally "retired". Wilf has been the main stay of the Branch for many years and will be missed by us all.

Tashy Starr has also retired through ill health and we wish him all the best for the future.

Sadly we lost Frank Abbott just before Christmas last year. His death was very sudden and came as a shock to us all.

We had three outings during the past year, we visited a brewery at Luton, very tasty, a nice day in York, and attended the Presentation of New Colours to the 7th Battalion in Leicester. For the latter we offer our sincere thanks for the hospitality extended to us by the Battalion.

This year's Branch Dinner was held in the Silvergate Restaurant Lincoln on the 28th February, 1981.

The facilities of our Club are available to all past and present members of the Regiment and we extend a very warm welcome to all who have the chance to pop in and see us. We had the pleasure of entertaining the 2nd Battalion Tug of War Team recently, which we are sure went a long way to furthering our connection with our serving soldiers.



ROYAL TIGERS WEEKEND 1980

Royal Tigers' Weekend was held this year on 21st and 22nd June and once again was well attended.

At the Annual General Meeting the chair was taken by Major General Sir Douglas Kendrew who thanked the great number of members who had supported our money raising efforts. Our annual sweep was again run on the Grand National and after paying for prizes and administrative expenses a profit of £737 was made.

The A.G.M. was followed by the Annual Dinner and Re-union. We were pleased to welcome Chelsea Pensioners J. B. Clarke and F. Ellerton and many ex Royal Anglians.

At the Sunday Parade Service in the Regimental Chapel we were honoured by the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire and Mrs. Martin, The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leicester, and many other distinguished guests. After the Service old comrades marched past the Lord Lieutenant who took the salute.

After the parade a drinks party was held at the T.A. Centre, Ulverscroft Road, for Old Comrades and their guests, this was extremely well attended and proved to be one of the highlights of the Weekend.

**Excellent Museums may be visited in
Northamptonshire at Abington Park
in Lincoln at Sobraon Barracks and in
Leicester at 'The Magazine'.
All are open on weekdays to the public.**



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

The Northamptonshire Regiment and The Royal Anglian Regiment (Northamptonshire Branch) Reunion Weekend was held on Saturday and Sunday 28th and 29th June 1980—a pleasant weekend and all “go”.

Saturday morning was wholly occupied by the various Regimental Meetings. At 10.00 hrs the Trustees of the Museum met to receive the report of the Curator (Major D. Baxter DL). The Museum remains highly popular with the public and a total of 55,964 people had visited it during the year. There is also a marked increase in postal enquiries from people wishing to trace the background of relatives.

This meeting was followed by those of the Regimental Council and the Management Committee at which it was agreed at the Reunion 1981 should be held on Saturday and Sunday 27th and 28th June 1981.

The AGM was held at 12.00 Noon. Major General J. B. Akehurst CBE presided and 22 Comrades were present (in the adjacent Regimental Club the Bar was doing brisk business—which clearly shows that the Comrades were more interested in getting on with it than discussing it!!).

The Accounts of the General Fund and the Benevolent Fund were presented by the Secretary who thanked Lt Col E. M. Goodale DSO, Major D. Baxter DL and Major P. F. Keily MC for auditing them.

Reunion 1979 had incurred a net loss of £807 and the Secretary anticipated a similar loss this year. These losses are offset by interest on investments, Officer's Subscriptions and a grant from Regimental Funds.

The Reunion Dinner was held in the Regimental Club and was attended by 141 Comrades and friends. Immediately before the Toast of “The Regiment” Brigadier D. E. Taunton was presented with a portrait of himself, in oils, to mark his retirement as President. Brigadier Taunton was commissioned into the Regiment in 1923, serving it with distinction until his retirement from the active list in 1951 since when he has been untiring in his efforts to promote the interests of the Regiment. “A most respected and best

loved Comrade”—he continues to serve as a Trustee of the Regimental Charities.

On the Sunday 107 Comrades formed up for Church Parade and preceded by the Band and Drums of 5th (V) Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment marched to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The Parade was commanded by Brigadier D. E. Taunton assisted by ex RSM Ernie Wilmott. Outside the Church the Parade was inspected by our Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, who had been received with a Royal Salute. The Church Service commenced with the laying of the Wreath. HRH Princess Alice, preceded by Major General Akehurst bearing the Wreath approached the Altar where HRH handed the Wreath to the Vicar, Canon Howard Tibbs who laid the Wreath on the Altar. This Act of Homage to our Fallen Comrades was followed by the Regimental Collect. The Buglers then sounded the Last Post and Reveille.

After the Service the Parade marched past, giving “Eyes Right” to HRH when passing the Dais. The Parade then returned to Gibraltar Barracks for dismissal.

After the Parade the Officers entertained their guests to Luncheon in the Royal Pioneer Corps Officers' Mess, by kind permission of the Commandant. HRH Princess Alice honoured us with her presence as did the Mayor of Northampton, Councillor Miss Mary Finch and her Escort, Brigadier D. E. Taunton. Our guests also included HM Lord Lieutenant for Northamptonshire, Lt Col J. Chandos-Pole CVO OBE JP and Mrs Chandos-Pole, our Deputy Colonel, Major General R. E. J. Gerrard Wright CBE and Mrs Gerrard Wright, Lt Col and Mrs J. A. O. Napier and Lt Col and Mrs P. P. D. Stone.

Meanwhile in the Regimental Club the Comrades were entertaining their guests (and letting their hair down) renewing old friendships. We were pleased to have with us once again In-Pensioner Ernie Denton and his friend, In-Pensioner Bill Nicholls from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

It was encouraging to note an increase in the number of ex Royal Anglian personnel attending this reunion. We have a very good Regimental Social Club in Gibraltar Barracks where all Comrades of the Regiment, serving and retired, are made very welcome.



ESSEX

One of the highlights of the past year has been the pleasure at having the 3rd Battalion stationed at Colchester. This has done much to make the ties between the Old Comrades and the serving Battalion closer. The Battalion has supported the Services at the Chapel, attended Committee Meetings and made the Band available for functions. Some seventy members of the Dinner Club and the Association spent a very enjoyable day with the Battalion to celebrate Blenheim Day on the 13th August 1980. Association members watched the Freedom March in Chelmsford on 19th June 1980, as did some thousands of the townfolk.

Annual Reunion 1980 and Laying Up of the Colours 4/5 Battalion The Essex Regiment (TA)

If unsolicited testimonials are anything to go by the 29th June was another memorable day. The bad spell of weather we had not been enjoying lifted and the day was warm and mostly sunny. In addition to the TA who were in attendance for the Laying Up of the Colours of the 4/5 Battalion The Essex Regiment (TA), there was a record number of Old Comrades, bringing the total of five hundred and sixty plus in the Chapel and for Tea.

The Colours were layed up as the first part of the Service. On the 25th July 1964 new Colours were presented to the 4/5 Battalion at Warley by The Queen Mother and the Commanding Officer was Lt Col R. J. Randall. Sixteen years later Brigadier R. J. Randall received the Colours in the Chapel as Deputy Colonel The Royal Anglian Regiment and this is probably an event unique in military history.

After the Service the usual March Past took place. Major Harry Staff, ninety four this year, acted as RSM and the Salute was taken by Brigadier R. J. Randall and Colonel P. H. A. L. Franklin.

Before the Parade was dismissed Brigadier R. J. Randall presented Mrs Constance Sharman with an antique French Carriage Clock on behalf of the Association and individual subscribers to her retirement present after twenty years of excellent service.

During tea the Band of the 3rd Battalion played and later gave an excellent display of music and marching which all thoroughly enjoyed.

Old Pompadours, who had served in the N. W. Frontier, in 1930 enjoyed looking for themselves in the photographic display, and then compared the modern weaponry with that of their day from the display put on by No. 3 Regimental Information Team.

Regimental Chapel

Sunday Services at 1100 hrs on the first Sunday in the month continue with congregation of about a hundred. Meeting in the Headquarters afterwards continues to be well attended.

After some three years of negotiation the United Reformed Church has decided not to proceed with the purchase of the Chapel. The Deputy Colonel has set up a Chapel Committee, which includes a representative from the 3rd Battalion, to be responsible for the Chapel, in all its aspects, on the assumption that the Chapel will continue to be available to us as far as can be foreseen in these changing times.

Throughout the year there has been a good number of visitors to the Chapel, some to read the Rolls of Honour containing names of relatives and members, others tracing family histories—the Register of Baptisms was started in 1857. Many senior Dutch Army serving officers came because they were trained at Warley in 1945/47 and the Chapel was the place of their first Church Parade. Apparently, with about one exception, all the top ranks in the Dutch Army did their basic training at Warley.

In October the GOC Eastern District, Major General R. E. J. Gerrard-Wright, CBE, attended the Morning Service and read the Lesson.

Officers Dinner Club—3rd Battalion (Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex)

A cocktail party, was held on Friday 18th April 1980 at the Army and Navy Club, London. Over one hundred members attended,

including serving officers of the Battalion and ex members of the former Regiments. Next year the date is Friday 10th April at the same venue.

4/5th Battalion The Essex Regiment Officers Dinner Club

A successful dinner was held at the Royal Air Force Club London on Friday 7th March 1980. Guests included the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Admiral Sir Andrew Lewis and the GOC Eastern District Major General R. E. J. Gerrard-Wright.

BRANCHES

4th Battalion The Essex Regiment

—Secretary: Mr F. C. Hawkins.

Another full year of activities which included an interim Reunion held at RHQ Warley when some sixty members and ladies enjoyed an evening of reminiscences on 21st March 1980. On 23rd March members attended the Cenotaph to honour their fallen comrades.

On 6th June 1980 ex CSM Reg Cox and ex Sgt Bill Hawkins represented the Association at the unveiling ceremony of Field Marshal Montgomery's Memorial in St. Pauls Cathedral by The Queen Mother.

The Annual Dinner and Dance was held on 13th September 1980 at the Masonic Hall in Shenfield, Essex. Loyal Greetings were exchanged.

In October the Annual Memorial Service was attended by many members at the Enham Alamein Church.

It is hoped to organise a trip to Italy in September/October 1981. Further details of this and future events available from the Secretary.

Chelmsford and District Branch

—Secretary: Mr G. Sargeant.

An increase of membership has been one of the main drives of the Committee and at the AGM held in September 1980 it was reported that the total had reached nearly two hundred. Response from ex Royal Anglian Regiment soldiers has not been good but contact will continue to be made.

The monthly dances held at Writtle, organised by Eric Saville and his team, continue to be popular and some £500 has been contributed to Branch funds made at these functions.

A successful day trip to Walton on the Naze for members and families was run by Bill Bridgeman and his team.

The Annual Dinner and Dance was held on 1st November 1980 at the County Hotel, Chelmsford. Some one hundred and forty members and guests enjoyed themselves. Lt Col R. J. Drummond, OBE and his wife Monica were the Guests of Honour.

The Branch supported the Saffron Walden Dance by arranging a coach from Chelmsford for about 40 members.

Southend on Sea Branch

—Secretary: Captain R. G. Turnnidge.

Buffet Dances have been held at Hawkwell Village Hall and although very well supported Bill Appleton and his Entertainments Committee would welcome more Branch members giving their support.

The usual excellent Annual Dinner and Dance was held at the Lindisfarne Banqueting Suite in Southend on Sea on 10th May 1980. Guests of Honour were Lt Col and Mrs R. J. Drummond and RSM and Mrs C. J. C. Kett. Loyal Greetings were exchanged with the Deputy Colonel in Chief, HRH The Princess Margaret.

The Branch loses its President temporarily at the end of 1980. Brigadier K. Burch, CBE is off to India to attend the Defence College for a year and our good wishes for an enjoyable time go to him and his wife.

Saffron Walden Branch

—Secretary: Mr E. W. Elsom.

The Annual Buffet Supper Dance was held in the Town Hall on 20th September 1980 which was enjoyed by about one hundred and forty members and their ladies and friends. A coach from Chelmsford Branch with forty members gave welcome support.

Thurrock and District Branch

—Secretary: Mr T. J. Everett.

The Deputy Colonel, Brigadier Randall and his wife were the Guests of Honour at a very successful Dinner Dance held on Friday 14th November 1980 at Chadwell St Mary's Social Club, with some one hundred and forty members and guests in attendance. Sadly missed was the former President, Major W. A. Mathews, TD, who died on 21st February 1980. 'Bill' was the driving force behind the Branch and never spared himself in his work for the Association.



Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire

Many of those who have served in the past with the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment have been able to attend several functions and Military Ceremonies during 1980; their present-day County Battalion, the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, being at last stationed in England has proved to be most beneficial for such events taking place.

At Ware on 24th May, the Annual Dinner and Dance was attended by two hundred and eighty members of the Association and their wives. An excellent meal, again ably laid on by Stan Mansfield ensured that a happy evening occurred, with "modern" and "old-time" dancing also provided.

On 17th June the 3rd Battalion were exercising their Freedom Rights in Bedford and two days later in Hertford on 19th June. Heavy rain tended to mar the day's events in Bedford, but its sister-town of Hertford was blessed with brilliant-sunshine which allowed a great number of their loyal citizens to line the streets and to give spontaneous acclaims to all in uniform as they proudly marched past their Deputy-Colonel, Brigadier Dick Randall.

Blenheim Day, 13th August, was celebrated with a traditional Sports Day and a Beating of Retreat by 3rd Battalion, "Comrades" from all Regimental Branches were privileged to attend in Meanee Barracks, Colchester.

Later in the year on Sunday 19th October, the Colours of the former Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.) were laid-up for posterity in Saint Alban's Cathedral. Among the 607 present on that occasion to witness the religious ceremonies in the Cathedral were many from the Regiment who had served either in its Regular or Territorial Army Units.

Many known to us over a great number of years for their loyalty to the Regiment and their friendship have passed away during the last year.

Comrades' Branches

BEDFORD—Bedford Branch has increased its Membership during 1981. A very pleasant Social Evening was held during January, and the Buffet Suppers provided by the Staff of the Royal Corps of Signals Detachment were enjoyed by everyone.

Mr "Buster" WELLS, who has been Secretary for 33 years has undergone a serious operation and he is now convalescing well.

LONDON—London Branch celebrated its Annual Dinner and Dance in October. Membership numbers remain good inspite of costs of travel for running of social activities.

WARE—Ware Branch has increased Membership numbers, inspite of the loss of several Members of many years standing.

The Annual Dinner and Dance was attended by over three hundred members on 17th May. Several achievements have also been gained again in the Bowls League.

HITCHIN—After many efforts to obtain a permanent home for Branch Meetings, Hitchin Branch are at last able to find a temporary base for the time being. Numbers of members have again increased due to the enthusiasm of its Chairman and the Honorary Secretary.

WATFORD—Watford Branch has increased its individual membership and are proudly displaying their new Branch Standard as a result of the strenuous efforts made by the Honorary Secretary, Mr Leslie Nunn.

DIARY EVENTS 1981

23rd May—Ware (Hertfordshire Regiment) O.C.A. Annual Dinner and Dance, Presdales School, Ware.

22nd November—Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Regimental Memorial opposite to Kempston Barracks.

5th Battalion

TRAINING

The main emphasis was the build up for Exercise 'Crusader' and all the exercises and field training were directed towards ensuring we could do our bit on the big exercise. We did however, find time to lay up the Colours of the Territorial Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment. No 1 Company also slotted in two battles against the USAF defences at RAF Woodbridge. It was a worthwhile exercise for both participants and ended up with a much photographed and published barbecue. The Officers and SNCOs completed their build-up for Crusader with a study weekend at St. John's College Cambridge. This was a repeat of the weekend two years ago, but this time the WOs and Sgts Mess with their ladies joined the officers and their ladies in a joint ladies dinner night. It was a magnificent evening in superb surroundings—long may the Battalion continue. We could not of course go on Crusader without a visit to the Battle Group Trainer at Bovington. Vividly described by its CO as a BEWD—Battle Experience Without Death, this array of computer terminals, plotters and movers is an absorbing if slightly 'mind bending' experience.

EXERCISE CRUSADER/SPEARPOINT

So much has been written about the great Exercise it hardly seems appropriate to write anything more about it. The Battalion was unfortunate in that it's position was mainly in a wood and so most of our 506 soldiers were cut off from the outside world except for a few Sunday walkers, compared with those Battalions based on villages who had everyday German life to entertain them. We were fortunate that we all saw some battle which many did not. Without a doubt the Exercise was well worth all the preparation and effort with many valuable lessons learnt at all levels. The best point of all was the way everyone buckled down to their tasks on the Spearpoint Exercise in spite of some initial problems. In particular the trenches dug wearing NBC suits in warm conditions were excellent and both the Umpires and Enemy



Presentation of a picture by Lieutenant Colonel Wreford to his predecessor Lieutenant Colonel Swallow.

commented as much. The Battalion returned from Germany in great shape having enjoyed it's annual camp and with a string of good stories to tell for many evenings. Besides local press reporters and photographers, the Battalion also hosted David Forsdyke from Radio Hereward. David's subsequent programme has been submitted as Radio Hereward's contribution to the annual radio awards. We wish them every success.

SHOOTING

Once again No 4 (Hertfordshire) Company dominated the Battalion and Eastern District Rifle Meetings carrying off the major trophies and many individual ones. At Bisley our shooters did not do so well, as in 1979. Competition is fierce and results so marginal that it only takes a slightly weaker performance in one or two events to drop a good number of places on the overall ladder. Once again Sgt Tom Binley of HQ Company was our best Bisley shot.

SPORT

There was little time for any competitive sport except orienteering. Again No 4 Company took the Battalion and Eastern District trophies. Cpls Hedley, Batchelor, and Mike Smith of No 4 Company represented the British Other Ranks 'A' Team at the CIOR

4 Company Orienteering Team receive the Eastern District Trophy from Col Jebbens, Colonel GS.



Events in Montreal and came overall second. The events included swimming, orienteering, shooting, and two assault courses. The Battalion keeps fit by entering all ranks at Camp in the Tickle Fitness Trophy and in which we were overall second in 1979 (1980 results published in 1981). In addition the swimming test is encouraged and we now have to complete the Regular Army Fitness Test within the six month period outside of Annual Camp.



Windsor Davis pays a call on 3 Company to get some tips from WO2 Wilcock.

VISITORS

The Battalion enjoyed hosting many visitors throughout the year. In particular the Colonel of the Regiment visited us one weekend in January 1980 and the Deputy C-in-C UKLF Lt Gen Sir Frank Kitson took a liking to this Battalion and paid us and in particular No 4 Company, several visits during our build up and during Ex Crusader. Shortly after Crusader the actor Windsor Davis called in on 3 Coy in Chelmsford to get a few real tips.

CONCLUSION

Ex Crusader and the build up for it undoubtedly made 1980 a memorable year,



No 1 (Suffolk) Company's Assault! Pioneers take a breather after a hard nights work on Exercise Crusader. From left to right are: Pte Paul Knights, Pte Stephen Burt, CSgt Ian Burnett and Pte Colin Crawford who are from Great Yarmouth.

full of valuable training and certainly one in which our strength in terms of numbers, trained soldiers, efficiency and morale has increased. TA soldiering has many light moments and we will conclude this article with one. During the dress rehearsal for the laying up of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment TA Colours outside St Albans Abbey a little boy approached the Officer Commanding the Guard of Honour



Cpl John Tucker from Hertford studies his map in the middle of the Diester woods on Exercise Crusader.



"The enemy were that close!" explains Cpl Tony Rheel of Lowestoft as this platoon withdrew back from a bridge demolition guard.—What he really was saying is unprintable.



The Battle over, it's time for tea (we hope!). From left to right: LCpl Williams, Pte Grieve, Sgt King and Pte Houle, all from Hertford.

A spearpoint debrief: LCpl Gross, Cpl Hickman, Sgt Verden and 2Lt Walton.



standing out in front with his sword drawn. 'Are you going to be here long?' asked the boy. 'About 25 minutes', said the officer out of the corner of his mouth and without moving a muscle. 'Good then you can look after my bike!'

The following decorations have been awarded during the year:

Officers:

Bar to TD: Major A. W. Petch, and Major P. N. King;
TD: Major C. S. Albany,
 Capt. W. J. P. O'Connor.

Soldiers:

BEM: CSgt D. H. Gridley,
BEM: S/Sgt J. M. Stallerbrass.
LS & GC: WO2 M. E. Watkins,
 Sgt C. G. Makin.
MID: WO2 M. E. Watkins.
EM (TAVR): Sgt R. Eden,
 Sgt G. K. Harrod, (RAPC)
 S/Sgt J. M. Stallerbrass,
 (Band)
 Sgt T. Edge,
 CSgt C. F. Smith, (RAPC).
Clasp to EM: Sgt D. Gurney,
 WO2 R. D. Gratze,
 BdsM D. P. Byatt,
 WO2 B. J. Howlett.

PERSONALITIES

In his retirement speech Major 'Johnny' Bull, the Battalion Administration Officer said that every day of his five years in the Battalion his admiration of the Territorial Soldier increased; however he still thought we were all mad. The decorations given on the previous page are awards for long service so we are looking at some of the 'maddest' people in the Battalion. The Territorial Soldier looks at it differently and as 1980 draws to a close we can look back on a tremendous year. Major Bull has been succeeded by Major Alan Petch who retired from the TA and handed over the reigns of HQ Company to Major Tony Elsey. Other new 'chiefs' are Major Bill Prince and Captain Chris Griffiths who are now ably steering the No 1 (Suffolk) Company ship and Major Ian Arnold who has taken over No 3



Commander 7 Fd Force presents Sgt Eden with his TEM.

(Essex) Company. On the regular side of the Battalion we have a new Training Major—Major John Houchin and a new Adjutant Captain Jonathan Borthwick. W01 Donaldson took over from W01 Dawe as the RSM. On 1st April 1980 Lieutenant Colonel Roland Wreford became the first Territorial CO of the Battalion. Previously he had commanded No 3 (Essex) Company, and is the last surviving officer of those who originally formed the Battalion back in 1967.



Major Bull presented with a picture from all ranks by Commanding Officer.

6th Battalion

It used to be believed that General Reserve Infantry Battalions, with no firm definition of role, required a lower level of commitment from their members than did Battalions with a NATO role. If a volunteers' business or family commitment did not permit him to give the required time to a NATO Battalion, then he might still satisfy the requirements of a General Reserve Battalion. No longer is this so. The Home Defence role is a complicated and demanding one, requiring not only skill in the normal phases of war but also the development of a wide range of other specialist techniques. These require detailed and precise training, and every soldier must clearly understand his tasks, powers and operational procedures. However, since the permanent staff in General Reserve Battalions is so much smaller than in the NATO Battalions, a greater responsibility for administration and the organisation of training falls onto volunteer officers and NCOs.

If the main demands in 1979 were to prepare for a Presentation of Colours, and to carry out a years conventional war training, 1980 was entirely devoted to NBC and Home Defence training, which was designed to come to a climax with Exercise Square Leg in September. This kept us all busy, and three weekends training a month has become the norm for company commanders. Incidentally there must be many TA wives who welcome the restrictions on training caused by the winters financial moratorium, since it permitted them to see their husbands occasionally at weekends.

During the year the Battalion has received, and mastered the operation of Larkspur radio equipment. Although greatly improving the reliability of communications at company level, Larkspur has not got the range required for Home Defence operations, so the Pye Westminster radio has been retained for the foreseeable future, with the result that we hold two complete and different Battalion communication systems, with all the problems that produces. It is probably just as well that we do not have a Signals PSI,

since he would almost certainly have a nervous breakdown at the sight of the signals stores!

The other change is that the established WRAC platoon has now been recruited and, led by Vanessa Bretton, girls are now wearing the brown beret (officially) for the first time. A great job they are doing in Battalion Headquarters and Headquarter Company, and we have no cause so far for regret. There is however a small problem of identification when everyone is wearing NBC clothing on exercises. The IO claims that they can be distinguished by their tracks, but this requires training!

For Exercise Square Leg—the UK part of the mobilisation exercise in September—the Battalion mobilised on the morning of Saturday 13th September. Key parties reached Bodney Camp, Stanford Training Area by first light that day and the main bodies arrived by midday, with a large proportion of the Battalions total strength.

After 24 hours hard digging, mostly in contact with the enemy the Battalion 'O' Group flew to Beckingham and Proteus in the East Midlands to take over from 3 WFR. The main body, without the CO or company commanders, was retained in Norfolk overnight to carry out a first light cordon and search operation, and then moved north by road. Further development of positions in East Midlands followed for a further 48 hours, in the teeth of an increasingly strong enemy. On Wednesday the whole Battalion flew by helicopter down to Cambridgeshire and took over a fresh operational area, again from 3 WFR. After another action-packed and breathless two days the exercise ended. Having recovered and returned all our defence stores, we drove and flew back to Bodney Camp at Stanford. Despite some weaknesses, mainly in battle procedure and lack of equipment it was a successful exercise for the Battalion. Communication worked reasonably well throughout the exercise, and more importantly we realised we could cope with our role as well as or better than any of the other units involved. It was pleasant to



GOC Eastern District Major General Gerrard-Wright presents the Long Service and Good Conduct medal to CSgt Wally Cook at Braintree.

see for a change some support in the shape of Sappers, ADU and support helicopters. Most of all everybody enjoyed it.

During the rest period before the second week of training the Officers Mess shared a joint cocktail party with our sister Home Defence Battalion 3 WFR, at which we entertained the Colonel of the Regiment, the District Commander and Deputy Commander, a number of German reserve infantry officers, and ourselves.

Field firing was the main subject of second week training, when every soldier had the chance to use all Stanfords excellent small arms ranges. During one such day we were visited by the President of the Territorial Association for East Anglia, the Deputy Secretary Colonel Pat Hopper, and all our Honorary Colonels TA, most of whom stayed to dine with the officers at an excellent dinner night, though some of the younger officers had to be woken between courses. Lt David Denson and his platoon secured the march and shoot competition for D Company which pleased the bookmakers.

Training for role is by no means the only call during the year on the time of volunteers. Although shortages of time, money and fuel have caused us to give up some of the traditional, but unmilitary, commitments there are still plenty of demands on companies in the counties. A number of such activities are described in the following paragraphs.

Early in the year D Cambridgeshire Company, organised by Lt David Denson and Sgt Stew Smart, raised £1500 for the Addenbrooke's Cancer Scan Appeal and the children's ward. They did this by the simple if breathtaking expedient of a sponsored abseil down 130ft high wall of the hospital.



Lt Denson teetering on the brink before descending the 130ft wall of Addenbrookes Hospital, to raise money for charity.

A total of 100 descents was carried out, attracting a good deal of public and media interest. This item explains the otherwise puzzling series of DMS bootmarks heading straight up a 130ft blank wall.

Despite the ban on travel overseas for Home Defence Battalions, we managed to send a reasonable number of members of the Battalion overseas to train during the year. These parties included ten, led by Sgt Budds of Norwich who spent six weeks in Kenya with the 3rd Battalion. Then a further ten joined the first Battalion in Denmark for Exercise Odin Anglia. In July our local RAF Regiment Auxilliary Squadron camping in Berlin took a party from the Battalion. It was difficult after this visit to obtain a report of training carried out on this trip, but much easier to hear detailed accounts of the night life of West Berlin. Lastly four soldiers left the Battalion in order to take on a six months short service voluntary engagement, and are now serving with the 3rd Battalion in Cyprus. Sgt Marshall successfully raised, trained and led the Battalions Nijmegen March team all from D Cambridgeshire Company except Cpl Wadman of C Essex Company. A great deal of training on East Anglian roads made sure that there were no problems in Holland, and the heavy flooding of large parts of Holland including their tented camp was of no concern to the fencibles. Also it appeared that they found map reading easier in Holland than they had in Cambridgeshire.

Three stands of our Old Colours of our former county territorial Battalions, which were held by The Battalion, were layed up during the year. On 29th June the Old Colours of the 4th/5th Battalion The Essex Regiment TA were layed up in the Essex Regimental Chapel at Warley, with both C Essex Company and 3 Company of the 5th Battalion involved in the ceremony. The Colours of 4th Battalion The Royal Norfolk Regiment TA were blessed at a regimental service in Norwich Cathedral on 28th September, before being layed up in the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum in Britannia Barracks. The Colour Party was provided by the Norfolk Company. 4 Company 5th Battalion and B (Bedfordshire) Company of 6th Battalion took part in the laying up of the Colours of the former first Battalion The Bedfordshire and Hert-



The Old Colours of 1st Battalion The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment TA are marched through St. Albans Abbey Church to be layed up on 19th October.

fordshire Regiment TA in St. Albans Abbey Church on 19th October.

The improvements in Battalion shooting during the year was a source of pleasure. Detailed results will no doubt be given elsewhere, but in summarises the scores at the Battalion rifle meeting were 20% up on those in 1979. Company teams were well up in the top half of the table at the Eastern District meeting at Colchester, and the Battalion TASAM team managed to climb to about halfway up the ladder at Bisley. Not only the various teams but also the incoming Training Major, Major Willie Hawkins put in a great deal of work to achieve these improved results. RSM Carpenter has the task of continuing the improvement in 1981 and 82.

Permanent staff changes during the year have included the arrival of our Training Major, Major Willie Hawkins, to fill a vacant position. RSM Dear left in August on retirement, and was replaced by RSM Carpenter from the 1st Battalion. In the Companies CSgt Scoles replaced CSgt Bear in A(Norfolk) Company, CSgt Staples replaced CSgt Jones in B (Bedfordshire) Company and CSgt Lewis replaced CSgt McLean in HQ Coy. By the time these notes have been published Major David James will have succeeded Lieutenant Colonel Tom Dean as Commanding Officer—the latter moving to Sennelager Training Centre.

7th Battalion

Since October 1979, the Battalion has had another (is there any alternative!) very busy, demanding but rewarding year. In general terms, the period from October 1979—April 1980 broadly encompassed two separate spheres of activity. Firstly, post camp assessments, general training and polishing up the field military skills and, secondly, in the latter part of the period the preparation for the Presentation of Colours Parade had to take priority. From May 1980 to October 1980, the accent, and indeed the pace, moved from merely top gear to overdrive as preparations and training for Exercise Crusader/Spearpoint in the autumn assumed major significance.

It will be appreciated that a great deal of time and effort is spent by the T.A. in its, apparently, never-ending attempt to obtain and keep soldiers. Thus, in October and freshly returned from Annual Camp, the main activity was to capitalize on the National Recruiting campaign for the T.A. being run in the autumn for the first time. All the companies were committed to open days, local advertising, postal campaigns and local exhibitions. The many recruits which were accepted indicated an encouraging situation. Later in the year, and not including the Depot-run cadres, the Battalion had to run two internal recruit cadres, one of 56 and one of 63 in order to process the influx.

In November, with the pace as frenetic as usual, the annual stocktaking review of all items on charge was completed prior to the annual inspections in January. At least no unwanted or unknown skeletons were found—unless you count the bone the QM's dog found! The annual Remembrance Day services involved each company. At Leicester, and after the parade, the Battalion Officers hosted a party of civic dignitaries. The C.O., thinking that people should not get something for nothing, promptly propositioned the Lord Mayor's Chaplain to join the R.A.Ch.D.. All went well following an enthusiastic response—until the American Embassy found out (too soon!) that one of *their* nationals resident in England wanted to

join the T.A.! Oh well, you can't win them all.

Some drill nights and weekend training do occur in December. Usually, however, leave and other (social) pressures combine to relegate all else into the back-ground. The social round was leavened, somewhat, at Bn. H.Q. by the changeover of training Majors. Major Charles Lumby moved on to the NBC School at Winterbourne Gunner and Major Andy Styles arrived from H.Q. AFCENT. At the Annual Ladies' Dinner Night the Officers' Mess dined out no less than ten Officers—six of whom had been with the Battalion since it was formed in 1971. One of those Officers was Major Bob Thompson—Adjutant from 1971 to 1978 and latterly the Admin. Officer. His encyclopaedic knowledge of 'things' military, sound advice and humour endeared him to all who knew him and the Battalion will be the poorer for his retirement.

The realities of life, both civil and military in January, soon dissipated the euphoric haze which prevails prior to Xmas. The amount of allocated fuel remaining for the last three months of the training year necessitated a reduction in the field training. However, the long preparatory haul of drill, drill, together with the final planning for the Colours Parade compensated in no small way. Nevertheless, all the Companies did manage to complete some shooting for the annual weapons test. Additionally, the Battalion ran a very successful "in house" study weekend at which Mr. Peter Vigor (who spoke about Russia and its people) and Oberst-Leutnant Böhling of the German Army (who spoke about the German Army and its Territorial Element) were guest speakers. At the end of the month the new Admin. Officer—Major John Ashton—arrived, having served previously as an Adjutant and Training Major with a T.A. Battalion and latterly in M.O.D., as replacement for Major Bob Thompson.

During February, B Company planned and executed what has become an annual event—an evasion exercise. The escapees

from A.B. and L.D.Y. Companies were fielded against a pretty skilled 'catcher' force comprised of a strong platoon sized group of RAF Police, the Battalion R.Ps and elements of the local Parachute Company. All those 'unlucky' enough to be caught were turned over to the tender mercies of a Joint Intelligence cell from both the 5th and 7th Battalions. Later in the month a Bn. CPX, covering a fairly large slice of the Leicester countryside, prepared the command elements of the Battalion for the Force CPX later in the year. At the end of the month the Adjutant for two years, Captain Seymour Blythe, left the Battalion. After some well earned leave (his words!) he joined

the 3rd Battalion as Anti-tank Officer. His successor, fresh from "wholly of whollies" at the School of Infantry is Captain Robin Chisnell.

Whilst the planning and co-ordination of events for the Colours Parade have gone on more or less since early 1979, the momentum and welter of details to be settled only really gathered pace at the end of that year. In March, then, the bias had to swing inevitably towards formal practice parades at fortnightly intervals up to and including the Dress Rehearsals on 12th/13th April. Reluctantly (or gleefully!) normal infantry training had to take, temporarily, a back seat.

THE PRESENTATION OF COLOURS



HRH Princess Alice and the Colonel of the Regiment with the Officers of the 7th Battalion at the De Montfort Hall.

The presentation of New Colours to any Battalion is a very special occasion and one of no little pomp and ceremony. For the 7th Battalion—the last of the Royal Anglian Battalions to receive their colours—the occasion was to be honoured by the presence of H.R.H. Princess Alice, our Deputy Colonel-in-Chief. An honour certainly, but a pleasure also in view of her close links with

the counties in which the Battalion recruits and with two of the former regiments which are represented in the Battalion.

For the majority of people who were to be on parade, it was to be the first time they had participated in a major formal parade and few, perhaps, realised the amount of preparation such an event entails. However, with all the rehearsals and sundry other mat-

ters behind us and the C.Os and Colonel of the Regiment's final parades completed satisfactorily, all that was needed was a dry, warm (not hot, please) day. The preceding ten days' weather augured well; but either the Battalion does not employ sufficient ecclesiastical pull or, the various ranking padres forgot their weather indents!!! Certainly the QM denied responsibility! Anyway, what we got was a very cold, blustery and overcast day—but dry. Irrespective of the weather (“...there is no alternative in the event of inclement weather...!!”) the countless hours of planning, discussion and practice were put to the test in front of a knowledgeable audience.

From the march-on and right through the parade to the march-off, everything went very smoothly and the initial ‘pre-show’ nerves had disappeared by the time the Battalion reached the parade area through the imposing War Memorial Arch at Victoria Park in Leicester. The blustery wind did not help; quiet side bets on which VVIP's hat would disappear first!—one or two sets of medals insisted in getting caught up in sword knots—swords which developed wills of

their own—the necessity for words of command to be heard, put several sets of blood vessels at risk. But, even with such minor irritations for which pre-planning cannot eliminate, “...the overall performance of movement, drill and steadiness was of a high standard and created a general impression which was a credit to the Battalion and to the Regiment....” And just as important, the Battalion enjoyed itself on such a proud day.

The occasion was one of pomp and ceremony, yes; an occasion which produced humour, yes; but, the events would not have been as memorable without the efforts of all those people who contributed—whether on parade or behind the scenes. It is appropriate, therefore, to thank publicly the Lord Mayor and the Council of the City of Leicester and the Chairman and County Council of Leicestershire for their continuous support and solid assistance; to thank also our sister battalions, the 3rd and the 5th for their bands and to the many men from the 7th and 3rd battalions for a great deal of hard work behind the scenes. All contributed to making THE DAY a success and a memorable occasion.

**Princess Alice presents
Sergeant Freeman with
the Territorial Efficiency
Medal.**



Throughout the Battalion at the beginning of May a certain lethargy could be detected. This was understandable, perhaps, and not surprising in view of the efforts over some time having been directed towards the colours parade. The early part of the month included most companies holding various social events to celebrate on their "own ground" that event. By some quirk of reasoning(?)—it must be the air or the beer that does it—'A' Coy. held a successful inter-platoon boxing tournament as their celebration!!! (Gets rid of the frustration I suppose!)

Social events aside, however, and now that the No. 2 Dress Uniforms have given way to the more usual Combat Dress, 'B' Coy. again organised—under the general oversight of the Battalion—a most successful recruit cadre. This is designed to clear as many 'B' Coy. recruits from the system as soon after the end of the annual recruiting campaign as possible. This not only relieves the pressure on other cadres elsewhere, but increases the potential manpower likely to be taken to annual camp. This year, as last year, the other Coys. were invited to send recruits and the cadre commenced fifty-six strong. At the end of the highly active and strenuous fortnight, fifty-one recruits completed the course with all but ten attaining the standard required. The prize for the best recruit was won by Pte. Cardy of 'A' Coy.

During the remainder of the month the Battalion ran an FTX at Stamford and all the Companies put in some belated but intensive shooting practice in order to choose teams for the Eastern District Meeting. Unfortunately, but perhaps not surprisingly in view of the lack of consistent practice, neither the Battalion collectively nor the Companies individually attained any notable success. Although, on an individual basis, W.O.II Boss, SP5I LDY. Coy. did gain a creditable fourth equal in the pistol match and so gave the Battalion some standing.

Other than shooting practice, 'D' Coy. took part in the annual South Yorkshire March. This event, organised by the South Yorkshire County Council, was held in the Barnsley area and is over a 28 mile course of moorland. Both military and civilian teams take part. The 'D' Company team successfully finished the strenuous course as a team and were presented with a team shield

and individual medals.

During June the pace of activity within the Battalion slowed down a little. The exception—perhaps surprisingly to the cynics in the rifle coys—being HQ Coy. where specialist training, CPXs, support weapons shoots and driver training were very evident. For the other companies shooting practice prior to annual tests were carried out, as were patrolling skills, anti-tank hunting patrols, individual and section level training, in preparation for ex-Crusader Spearpoint in September.

The Battalion higher echelons had also been under scrutiny and kept busy during a domestic FTX at the beginning of the month and a Force CPX at the end. The former readily identified some gaps in the Company and Platoon level training whilst the latter, following a few months "idleness" enforced whilst coping with the intricacies of drill—also revealed a few wrinkles and lumps still needing to be ironed out at the "centre".

On the social front, the W.Os and Sgts.' Mess held a Regimental Dinner to Dine Out WOI R. Jones on his retirement from the Army, and to Dine In his successor, WO D. Pryce. The evening was excellent for food, wine and company and highlighted by a presentation to Mr. Jones from the WO's and Sgts.' Mess. Also presented to him, by the Officers' Mess and to mark the occasion of the Colours Parade, was a Sword and Scabbard. This is to be handed on to each successive R.S.M. in the years to come. Mr. Jones has left the Army after 3(?)... years and, leave apart, will not be relaxing as he is already a partner in a thriving sports business in Leicester. WOI D. Pryce has joined us from the 1st Battalion (Blimey..not another Viking!!)

The July training cycle started in style with the Battalion HQ group and company HQs travelling to Dorset to visit and use the BAGT trainer. This is a far cry indeed from having to tramp all over 'real' estate to learn a lesson. The general reaction was "expensive but invaluable for training". During the rest of the month shooting practice, adventure training at Lake Windermere and a certain platoon having talked for some time about parachuting, finally put their money on the table and booked for two days' instruction with a civilian club. Unfortunately,

(sighs of relief?) the weather deteriorated and no jumping was possible. Rumour has it that arrangements to complete this at a later date are being made. HQ Coy. meanwhile ran an internal inter-section shooting competition. Rumour also has it that the QM's department—slighted by suggestions that sausages really are not likely to be classed as offensive weapons—promptly swept the board by obtaining the highest scores! They were probably running the butts as well!

During August, the various companies were engaged primarily in continuation training in preparation for Exercise 'Spear-point'. The main item was to have been a Field Force FTX; however, economies in expenditure necessitated the cancellation of that exercise at the last minute. This meant some frantic last-minute rearrangements to produce a Battalion level exercise at Proteus. Whilst the landscape could not, even with imagination stretched to the utmost, simulate a number of German villages and rivers, nevertheless, some valuable practice was achieved. Certainly for A and LDY Coys. the novelty of "Relief in line" soon wore off as the mechanics were fully appreciated.

At the beginning of September a Battalion Recruit Cadre was held for ten days. This was the second cadre run by the Battalion this year and was in addition to the Depot cadres. Of the sixty-one recruits who commenced training, fifty-six finished the short but intensive course—and more surprisingly all but about half a dozen then went with the Battalion to Germany. The reaction of private soldiers to Battalion run cadres is, not surprisingly, one of favour and the retention rate is higher than if recruits are sent elsewhere.

Exercise 'Crusader'

The long build up for ex-Crusader was now finished. Everything was packed and ready to go. Whilst the Battalion Main Party went through a weekend of documentation and background training activities the Advance Party and the Main Vehicle Party had already left. Insofar as the movement went, and whilst criticism could be made, the physical movement of such large numbers of men and vehicles went very well indeed and credit is surely due to the Movements staff.

Certainly for the Advance Party it was a superb sight to be "whistled" through Belgium at a great rate of knots in a convoy of nearly 150 vehicles!

At Rheinsehlen camp, the 3rd Battalion were completing their work up training when the Advance Party arrived—in appalling weather. Nevertheless, not only was the hospitality appreciated but it was pleasant to be working with a regular "sister" battalion and much useful advice was received. By Tuesday, 16th September, at 0830 hours, the 3rd Battalion had moved out to the main exercise and the 7th Battalion had arrived!! The tempo now quickened appreciably, breakfast, quick confirmatory orders; stacking of kit bags and by 1500 hours the Advance Parties had left again for the work up areas, with the main bodies following by 1730 hours. For most of the T.A. element—if not all—this was the first time for training in 443 areas. (German villages with real live people! Shops! Houses! Girls! Children!!!—Hordes of them!) However, the initial apprehensions about "borrowing barns" soon disappeared as contacts were made and it was realised that the general public really were prepared to help in any way possible. (a far cry from some of the British public!)



Ex Crusader affords five minutes for smoke and tea.



CSgt Smith and LCpl Houchin, HQ Coy, meet the Lord Lieutenant at the beginning of the Exercise Crusader.

On Wednesday, the President, Chairman and Secretary of the East Midlands T.A. Association visited the Battalion accompanied by the Colonel (V) 7 Field Force. Each company location was visited after a simple "lunch in the field" and the visitors were able to spend a great deal of time talking to soldiers actually during their training. After the visitors had left, the Battalion moved back into Rheinsehlen for one night to get dry before gearing itself up a notch for the move into the long awaited main exercise.

For the Battalion, the main exercise period ran from late on the 18th September to Tuesday, 23rd September, with Recovery on the 24th. The role for the Battalion meant that its involvement in the middle stage of the main exercise was to be heavy. Equally, as one of only two T.A. Battalions fulfilling a primary role alongside regular Battalions all "eyes" were going to be on us and an inordinate amount of visitors could be expected. With two Coys. deployed forward on bridges initially, the rest of the Battalion moved into the villages and started to prepare the positions. The first surprise soon came—light mobile diggers and medium wheeled tractors!!, needless to say that considerably helped in preparing the trenches. The second surprise came when the line party of signallers fully appreciated the distances, wire and time required to get line communications established. Not only that—but they really worked very hard throughout the exercise in maintaining those lines. Various "nasty" activities by the "enemy" forces kept people on their toes

during this preparatory time. Battalion Headquarters continued to quietly monitor all the activity (thank God for a Gunner Net!) in our own and in the forward areas.

Because of the aims and size of the exercise it was inevitable, perhaps, that the major battle, scheduled for the 23rd, should attract so many V.V.I.Ps. Of course, the presence of so much 'brass' rapidly escalated the intended battle into a very high powered demonstration indeed. Thus, it was disconcerting, to say the least for one Coy., tucked away in some woods, to find the orange forces Commander, various and assorted aides plus umpires arriving on their position to view the effectiveness of what turned out to be a visitors' demonstration!!

Rumour has it that all this was too much for one soldier who decided, unilaterally, that all those people were spoiling "his" battle—not to mention his view! An accurately placed thunderflash, however, apparently soon left him alone on his patch of ground as people took the hint and left—rapidly!!! Despite the light relief offered by the foregoing little show, the presence of so many high powered people, in a "stand", plus many regular officers who had no direct contact with the T.A. before, could only stand the T.A. in good stead—if everything went right! It did! to clouds of smoke, explosives detonating, small arms fire and the thunder of engines on land and in the air. The big demonstration exercise was followed immediately by great numbers of V.V.I.Ps inspecting the Battalion positions of A and B Coys.—(both of whom incidentally coped admirably with the situation). A remark overheard from the Inspector General of the German Army—"Very Good,—I wish the German Reserves were of the same standard".

Inevitably, on an exercise of this size not everybody is going to be in the middle of all the "fun". Equally, there will be periods of hurry up and wait! Those are two lessons which were hoisted aboard. There are many others but the experience was both enjoyable and valuable for all who took part. The Battalion budgetted for just over 500 people for the exercise—in fact the Battalion Group moved from England at 523 strong. From that number, casualties were one badly burned hand and three vehicles slightly dented. The damage control records show

also one telephone cable—nearly cut by a digger (repaired, incidentally, with a battle going on around the Technician) one sewer pipe shattered by a digger, one fence removed and the remainder very minor unit finished jobs it may not be a record but it cannot be regarded as too expensive.

For the Companies October seems to have been fairly quiet. In fact, it is quite a long time since the pace has dropped below the furious level!!! Whether such a state of bliss will last for long is another matter but at least one effect of the economic pressures is to allow Battalions time, limited though it may be, for reflection and forward planning in a somewhat calmer atmosphere than recently.

The emphasis on training for the next few months is to refresh, polish up, and test the individual skills in the Battalion. To this end, after three weeks R. & R. since the end of Crusader, the Battalion concentrated at Beckingham Camp on the Nottinghamshire/Lincolnshire border on the weekend 18th/19th October. Using the range as a 'stand' together with other 'stands' covering most things from NBC (including gas testing) to signals-voice procedure and establishing communications, the Battalion progressed round the circuit in platoon sized groups. The stands were run mainly by the P.S.Is on this occasion, thus allowing the maximum involvement by all the Territorial

element, and whilst the numbers were somewhat down, the weekend proved valuable and instructive.

On another occasion in the month some eighteen soldiers from A Coy. participated in the Annual N. E. District Competition—Stainton Chase. This is a march, shoot and military competition open to all units and sub-units in North East District. On this occasion, against some very formidable regular and T.A. competition 'A' Coy. managed to achieve a position about half way up the table.

The remaining companys were satisfied this month in sorting things out ready for the next series of events. H.Q. Coy., in particular, were still in the throes of final sorting out after Germany. The support weapons, however, travelled to Otterburn (a long-long way) for live firing and, in particular, a mortar illuminated night shoot for the anti-tanks.

Thus, at the end of another twelve month cycle, the Battalion commences its annual Recruiting Campaign. Again, although earlier and more severe than at any time previously, financial pressures necessitate tighter control on all expenditure from fuel to Man Training Days. Nevertheless, the training continues and the preparation for a Variety of Activities in 1981 has already got underway. The situation is....Normal!

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ARMY CADETS

THE ROYAL ANGLIAN (LEICESTERSHIRE & NORTHAMPTONSHIRE) ARMY CADET FORCE

Twelve months ago we reported on the internal re-organisation of our Companies and we are glad that all concerned have settled down in their new Companies.

The constraints of public expenditure cuts are being felt at all levels in our counties and we felt this particularly at annual camp when no military transport was available although this was to some extent occasioned by Exercise Crusader.

Eighteen Cadets of the Kettering Detachment 'D' Company launched a weekend attack in October 1979 on the rubble and tin cans cluttering up Kettering Railway Station Car Park. The Cadets will also be assisting by planting trees and providing at the nearby Detachment Headquarters cups of tea for other workers.

On Saturday 25th November 1979 Cadets of 'A' Company in Northampton assisted the Army Benevolent Fund in its Flag Day and were responsible for collecting £680 plus a further £80 from the sale of militaria making £760 in all. The Army Cadet Force effort in Northamptonshire in 1979 on behalf of the Army Benevolent Fund raised £1,400 when flag day collections in Daventry, Wellesborough and Kettering are taken into account. Cadets in Leicestershire have also assisted in raising funds for the Army Benevolent Fund and collected an amount not far short of the total raised in Northamptonshire. The overall results are a great credit to the keenness of Cadets in our Counties.

In December 1979 Col. R. A. Gill T.D., The Cadet Commandant made a presentation of Awards at 'D' Company's Headquarters in Kettering. Major Keith Beard and Captain Paul Collier both received the Second Clasp to the Cadet Forces Medal whilst Sergeant Major Instructor Jack Wilson-Benn received the First Clasp to the Cadet Forces Medal.

In January 1980, 38 Cadets visited the Depot, Queens Division, at Basingbourn

for weekend training which included a night exercise. In the Eastern District Skill at Arms Meeting Captain Andrew Machin, Prince William School Oundle Detachment 'E' Company won the Adult Open competition.

The Colonel Brown Cup is awarded to the Company having a percentage of Company strength the highest number of Army Proficiency Certificate passes during the training year and this year the cup was won by 'C' Company. Twenty Cadets from 'B' and 'C' Companies formed part of the welcoming party at Leicestershire County Council's County Hall on the occasion of the visit of H.M. The Queen and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh.

SPORT

Four Sport Cadets from Ulverscroft Road Detachment of 'C' Company attended a Physical Training Leaders' Course at the Army School of Physical Training (North). Corporal Thomas was recommended for an advanced course at Aldershot. Cadet Pick of Beaumont Leys Section, Hindoostan Detachment, gained two medals on a physical training course at York including one as the outstanding Cadet on the course.

In the Eastern District Tetrathlon we entered both senior and junior teams the senior team being placed fourth in the overall results and Cadet C.S.M. Howard ('B' Company) being the senior individual champion.

A team of ten from Rushden Detachment 'D' Company took part in the South Yorkshire March. They completed the course in good time and were awarded their individual medals and a team plaque. Another team of one adult and twelve Cadets from the Beaumont Leys Section, Hindoostan Detachment 'C' Company also took part in the march and gained similar awards.

ANNUAL CAMP 1980

For this year's Annual Camp we paid a return visit to Otterburn Training Camp, Otterburn, Northumberland, for the period 9th to 17th August. We were last at Otterburn

ten years ago. Our strength at Camp was thirty-four Officers, fifty five Sergeant Major Instructors/Sergeant Instructors and a record number of four hundred and eighty eight Cadets including twelve girls from Prince William School Detachment Oundle. The Detachment is one of a few closed schools in the County taking part in the two year pilot scheme after which a review will be undertaken nationally on the question of girls in the Army Cadet Force. Travel to Camp was by coach.

The weather on the whole was poor with torrential rain accompanying most training but good drying rooms in Camp ensured that no one suffered from the adverse weather. Our training was geared to Army Proficiency Certificate Star grading. Three Star training was carried out under County arrangements and the pass rate was encouragingly high. Four Star training was under the direction of the Cadet Training Team and of the Cadets on this course eighteen out of the twenty one passed in Four Star subjects.

Mrs. J. McLaren, Mrs. M. Edmunds and Mrs. N. Blunt of the W.R.V.S. again ran and organised a games room within the

NAAFI and during the day they also ran a mobile canteen for the Cadets who were out on training. We are extremely grateful to them. As in previous years our Medical Officer, Colonel N. T. Nicol, was ably assisted by Mrs. A. Collier and Mrs. J. Speechly.

On the first Sunday in Camp our Senior Padre Canon F. Pearce C. F. held an open air Church Service for all in Camp. The Cadet Commandant's Annual Inspection and presentation of prizes took place on the second Saturday and a special presentation was made on behalf of the Cadets to R.S.M.I. J. H. Blunt who was attending his last Camp as R.S.M.I. before retiring from the Army Cadet Force.

Our PRO was telephoned by Radio Leicester at Camp at 7.30 am on the Monday following the start of Camp for a live broadcast.

We only hope it will have helped to make the Army Cadet Force more widely known in Leicestershire. We certainly appreciate Radio Leicester's call.

Many VIP's visited us in Camp including The Lord Mayor of Leicester and The Mayor of Kettering.

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OBITUARY

Brigadier P. H. Gates, OBE.

Philip Gates was born on the 21st October 1897 and was commissioned into The Lincolnshire Regiment in April 1915 from The Royal Military College. He served with the Regiment in the BEF in France and was twice wounded in action.

After the first World War he served with his Regiment in India and after a spell as Adjutant of a TA Battalion and with the 2nd Battalion during a short overseas tour in Malta and Palestine at the time of Mussolini's adventures in Africa in 1935/36, he re-joined the 1st Battalion in India where he was serving at the beginning of the 1939-45 World War.

He was appointed to command the 1st Battalion in October 1941 and took part in operations on the North-West frontier before his Battalion was transferred to The Arakan in Burma in February 1943. There the Battalion has its first experience of jungle warfare at the battle of Donbaik in March of that year. Gate's qualities of leadership were well illustrated during that battle by the following quotation from the Regimental History. "Wireless sets had been knocked out and lines cut. Those who were present will never forget the familiar sound of Colonel Gate's voice booming across the jungle in an attempt to establish contact with his fighting companies."

In April 1943 Lieutenant-Colonel Gates was appointed to command 55th Indian Infantry Brigade and finally returned to the United Kingdom in September 1945. His last appointment was Inspector of Military Prisons and Detention Barracks, which he held until his retirement in April 1949.

He was awarded the OBE in the New Years' Honour List 1946.

He will be remembered for his cheerful and friendly disposition and also for installing hardness and fitness into the men under his command. In India during the inter-war years the Company that he commanded was known as the Iron Company.

He died on 12th January 1979 at his home in Woodbridge after a short illness at the age of 81.



LT. COLONEL P. G. UPCHER, D.S.O.

Peter Upcher was commissioned into The Leicestershire Regiment in 1933 and joined the 2nd Battalion in Londonderry. He was older than the normal Sandhurst entry having started in the Legal Profession in Manchester before deciding that the law was not for him. He died on 29th April, 1980.

He was a fine games player and did much towards the success of the Battalion rugby and cricket teams, both as player and organiser, when they were at their peak in the 1930's. He was also passionately fond of golf, being a single handicap player.

In 1938 he was seconded to the Camel Corps in the Sudan Defence Force with whom he served in the Eritrean Campaign and Western Desert.

He returned to England at the beginning of 1944 and was posted to the 1st Battalion Leicestershire Regiment. He was with the Regiment when they landed in Normandy shortly after D-Day and served with them in N.W. Europe up to the end of hostilities getting an immediate award of a D.S.O. in 1944.

He subsequently commanded the 2/5 Battalion in Austria until they were disbanded and had the distinction of becoming the first Regular Officer to Command the 5th Battalion, The Royal Leicestershire Regiment T.A.

On his retirement in 1957 he took over the duties of Regimental Secretary, a post he held for 14 years. During this period he was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Commandant of the Leicestershire & Rutland Cadet Force and Chairman of the Royal Tigers Association.

In addition to these duties he was largely responsible for incorporating the Regiment into the Royal Anglian Regiment and on the Council of Colonels he stood in for Major General Kendrew as Colonel, The Royal Leicestershire Regiment when the latter was appointed Governor of Western Australia.

There was no doubt he had a tremendous task ensuring that the affairs of the Regiment were properly looked after and he did his utmost to save the "Tigers" when it became evident that the 4th Battalion was likely to be disbanded.

He had a profound knowledge of Regimental affairs and was equally well known and liked by both the Regular and T.A. Battalions. Nothing was ever too much trouble to him concerning the Regiment and he was always ready to give his help and advice to anyone seeking it.

Throughout the many years spent in Leicester he was fortunate in having the able support of his wife Rona who never spared herself in assisting at the various functions and events in which he was so frequently involved.

On handing over his job as Regimental Secretary he undertook the research required for producing the first part of the History of the Army Rugby Union from its inception up to the 2nd World War including the Army Cup Competition. This meant many months of travel and hard work before he finished it shortly before his death and when edited and published, should be a lasting tribute to him.

He will be sadly missed by his many friends and to Rona and his family we extend our deepest sympathy.

A.L.N.



MAJOR J. G. COWLEY

Major George Cowley died quite suddenly at his home in Lee-on-the-Solent on Tuesday 21 October 1980. His Ashes were laid to rest in the Regiment's Memorial Gardens at Kempston, Bedford on Tuesday 18 November 1980.

He was born in 1901 at Stevington, Bedfordshire and joined his County Regiment at Kempston in 1916. He was a member of the 1st Battalion's W.O.'s & Sergeants Mess in 1920; a Company Quartermaster Sergeant in 1924 and Commissioned in 1938 on his return from India.

He served with the 1st Battalion and the Depot from 1916 to 1951; he then joined the Ministry of Defence. He retired from the Regular Army in 1956 and continued to serve in the Ministry in a Retired Officer post until his 69th Birthday in 1970. On retirement from Military Service he continued to serve the Army through S.S.A.F.A. and always gave his support to his Regiment through its Old Comrades Association.

We all remember him for his kindness and thoughtfulness. He was a most respected Soldier and a true friend, sadly missed by his family and his many Comrades.

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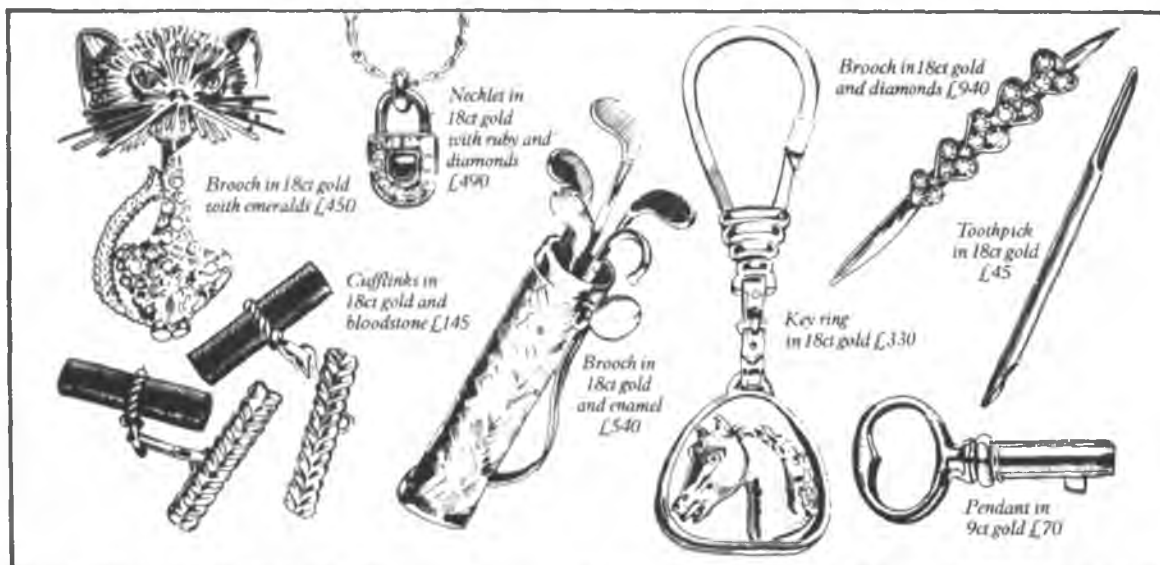
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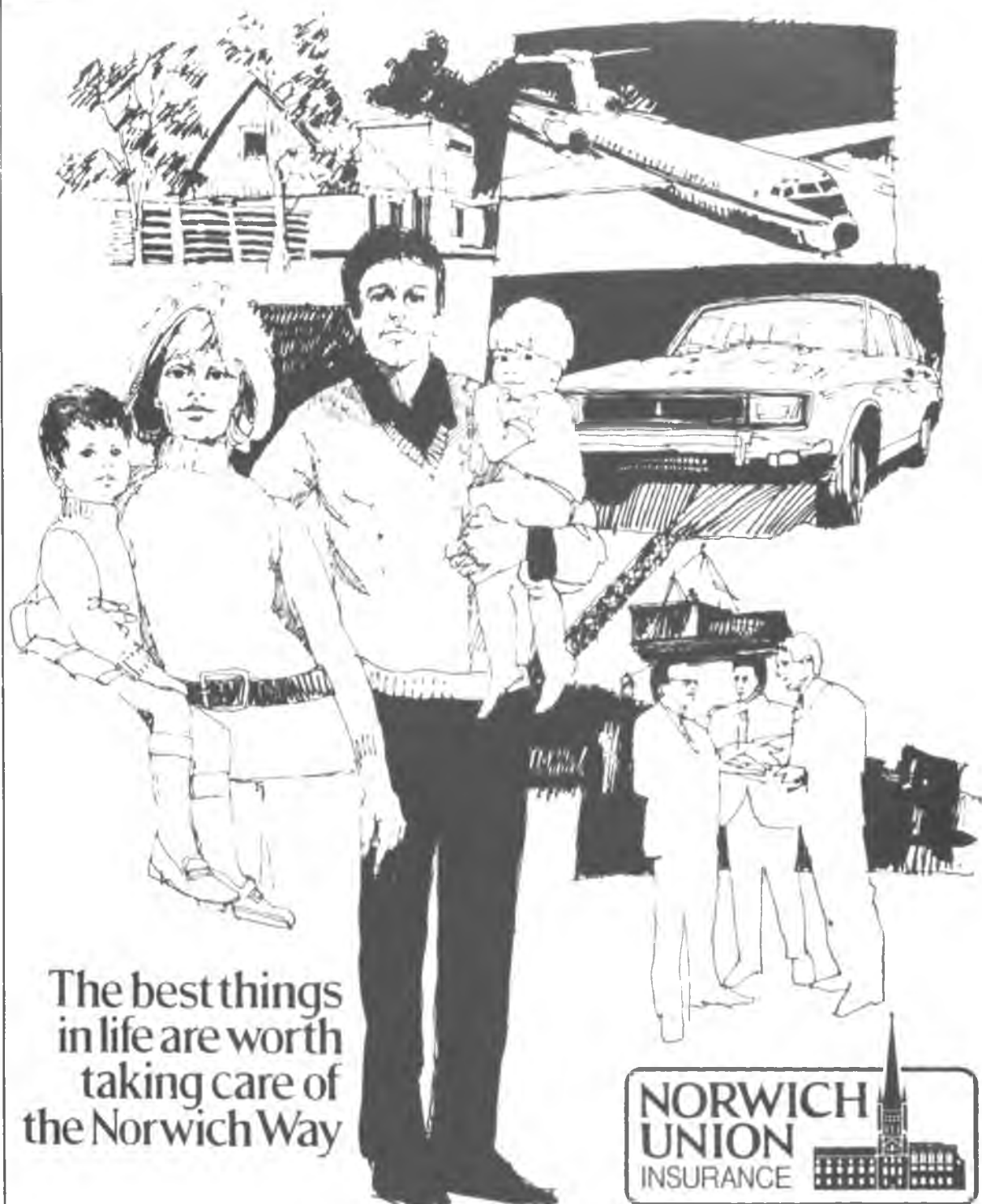
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