

N. Ireland tours for battalions

THIS year will see our three Regular Battalions in Northern Ireland, with the Poachers visiting twice in one year. By 1987 our battalions will have undertaken 18 tours since the start of the emergency in 1969.

The Vikings are more than halfway through their two year tour in Londonderry and are well established in the province. They lead a busy operational life but as a resident battalion, also find time for training, sport, leave and most importantly, for their families who are able to be with them.

The Poachers and Pompadours, both on emergency tours, will travel light and in some cases, live rough.

The Poachers, as Spearhead Battalion, moved over the New Year at short notice for a five week visit, only to start training on their

return for another four month tour as soon as they had finished two weeks well earned leave.

The Pompadours, following a busy training season in BAOR and Canada, will be back in Belfast from Nov 86 — Mar 87.

The pace and variety of life experienced by our regular Battalions continues unabated, and the competition between them will be keen in Northern Ireland this year! We wish them well in all their activities.



Pte Crelighton C Coy the Poachers, rides shotgun.



Pte Fairmiloe of the Poachers Milian PI searches a car near Armagh in typical weather!



Cpl Wagg B Coy the Vikings, on patrol.

General for S W District



Brig Pollard

BRIG Tony Pollard, Commandant of The School of Infantry, has been promoted Acting Major General in command of the British Military Mission Uganda. He will be appointed G.O.C. South-West District in 1987.

Boxing win for Poachers

THE Poachers fought 49 Fd Regt RA in the novices UKLF boxing final at Topcliffe on 13 Mar.

It was a very hard and tense contest, with the Gunners winning the first three bouts and the Poachers the fourth. At the interval the Poachers were 4-1 down and needed the remaining four bouts to win the final.

This they did with everything depending on a very tense final bout.

Our congratulations to all the boxers, who now go on to the Army final in BAOR to meet the winners of the match between 21 Engr Regt and 1 RRW.

Reflecting on Essex history



Seen here examining the barrel of an old 28th Essex Drum at the Thurrock branch of the Essex and Royal Anglian Regiments Association are, from left, Maj Harry Conn, Col and Mrs Geoffrey Morgan, Mrs and Maj Douggle Riches and Maj Ben Tinton. More news of Maj Tinton on Page 2 and more Essex branch news on Page 16. Picture — Thurrock Gazette.

Inside your Castle

People	p.2
Vikings	p.3,4,5
Poachers	p.6,7,8
Pompadours	p.9,10,11
5th Bn	p.12
6th Bn	p.13,14
7th Bn	p.15
Branches	p.16,17
Sport	p.17,18,19,20

Diary Dates

25 Jul, Officers' Club Reception
Duke of Yorks.
27 Sept, Past and Present Dinner
1 Nov, Officers' Dinner.

Mainly about people . . .

WE are very pleased to report that **General Sir Timothy Creasey** continues to make good progress. He is once again visiting RHO and is planning a fishing trip. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

Congratulations to **WO2 C Keightley RAPC**, attached to the 7th Battalion, on the award of an MBE in the New Year's Honours. We welcome from Sandhurst 21st **Michael Dicker (1st Bn)**, **Adrian Gosling (2nd Bn)** and **Roger Knight (3rd Bn)**.

Congratulations to **Lt Shaun Sweeney** on his commission.

We wish the following well on their retirement and hope that we will continue to see them at Regimental functions: **Lt Col Colin Marshall**, **Majs Brian Cridland**, **David Morris** and **Brian Upson**, **Cpts Alan Ainsworth**, **Adrian Duffield** and **Adrian Miles** and **Lt Stephen Brunt**.

Congratulations to **Ptes Allan McConnell** and **Turner** of The Poachers on the award of a GOC's Commendation for assistance to a wounded civilian while in Jamaica.

Maj Robert Pepper has been selected for a Defence Fellowship in 1986 at Edinburgh University where he will be working under Prof John Erskine.

Col Wake Clarke called at RHO on one of his periodic visits to the mainland: he is currently chief executive of the Guernsey Chamber of Commerce.

Lt Col John Higgs is now living in Leicestershire where he runs the Leicestershire Community Rural Council.

Maj Rob Jackson visited RHO and tells us that both he and **Maj Julian Rawlins** are enjoying their

new role as financial consultants: they certainly seem to be getting around the world in their search for clients.

In the Dec 85 Castle **Maj Mike Jones** was shown as working for the International Immigration Institute, Kandy, instead of for the International Irrigation Institute.

Lt Col Hugh Lambert tells us that he is about to leave the army to take up a post with the John Lewis Group in the Bracknell area. Congratulations to **Lt Col Pat Hopper** on his appointment as secretary TAVRA East Anglia.

We are sorry to report that **Brig Peter Barclay** has had a heart attack and that, although better, he has been advised to hand over as chairman of The Royal Norfolk Regimental Council and his other Regimental Committees. **Maj Gen Sir David Thorne** has taken over Brig Barclay's former Regimental appointments.

Capt Adrian Duffield called in on leaving The Poachers for civilian life. We wish him the best of good fortune in the City.

Capt Stuart Watts, lately Bandmaster of The Pompadours, is now Director of Music The Guards Training Band, and is in Swaziland for three months training the Swaziland Defence Force Band prior to the coronation of the new king.

Colin Taylor lately of The Pompadours, called at RHO. He is now running his own computer software company in London.

Congratulations to **Cpl Glynn** of The Poachers on gaining a Distinction on the Milan Detachment Commanders Course.

CSgt Richardson won the Northern Ireland Squash Championship.



Why not join our club?

THE Royal Anglian Regiment Association Club occupies the former dental centre of the old Blenheim Camp in Bury St. Edmunds with two comfortable, well equipped bars, a kitchen and ballroom — cum — function room. The club has successfully entered teams in the local darts, cribbage

and pool competitions and there is always the TV and one-armed bandit to help you relax.

The club is open every evening 8 to 1130 and at lunch-time on Sunday. Why not come along and meet old friends and enjoy the facilities of your club. The beer is cheap, the company is good

Representing the Regiment as Permanent Staff at Sandhurst are: **WO2 Scholes**, **CSgt Twell**, **Maj Longland**, **Capt Beard**, **CSgt Todd**, **CSgt Taylor**, **CSgt Cook** and **CSgt Rook**.

Castle and Location List

CASTLE is published in March, July and November and the Locations List is enclosed with the March issue. They are automatically sent to Serving and retired members of the Officers Club, Serving WOs, CSgts and Sgts who subscribe to the Days Pay Scheme, all other subscribers to the Days Pay Scheme (less the Locations List), any other subscribers.

To save postage, copies for those serving with battalions are sent in bulk to battalions; the remainder are posted individually by RHO. Starting with this issue the Locations List will include members of the Past and Present Dinner Club but, because of cost, it will not be circulated to them unless they subscribe to Castle.

Should anyone wish to subscribe £3 for three issues of Castle a year, together with the Locations List, please write to: The Editor, Castle, RHO The Royal Anglian Regiment, The Keep, Gibraltar, Barracks, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 3RN.

Regrettably some diary dates were transposed during production of the Dec 85 Castle (Page 2) and should have read: 15 Jun Cambridgeshire Reunion, 20 Jun Golf v Queens and RRF, John O'Gaunt, Sandy, 21-22 Jun Royal Tigers Weekend, 29 Jun Essex Reunion and Service of Remembrance

Uniform shop is a success

THE shop set up a year ago at RHO for the sale of uniforms has been most successful. Mess Kit, Service Dress and Blues have been particularly sought after and, provided they have been in good condition, have soon been sold, many to members of our TA battalions. The problem is finding sufficient stocks of the right quality: currently we have some good Mess Kits, SD, Blues and Sam Browns.

The basic rules are:
● All items should be clean and in good condition.

● Owners should indicate the price wanted but RHO will, if necessary, price items and reserve the right to reduce the price of goods remaining unsold after a year.

● Expenses for postage are will be deducted from the selling price plus 10% commission for the Regimental Benevolent Fund, although any offers to donate the full proceeds to the Benevolent Fund will be gratefully accepted. Use the shop and help Regimental benevolence as well as yourself.

Date change for dinner club

The next Past and Present Dinner Club will be on 27 Sep 86 and not 18 Oct as forecast in the last issue of Castle.

Membership of the club is open to all members of the Sergeants' Mess who serve or served in the Royal Anglian Regiment or one of our founder Regiments. Application for membership should be made to: The

secretary Past & Present Dinner Club, RHO The Royal Anglian Regiment, The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN.

From this year the names of members will be incorporated into the Regimental Locations List which is enclosed with this edition of Castle to all subscribers.

Ben visits the sick

MAJ Ben Tinton TD unfortunately has to visit the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich, every week for treatment for a blood disorder but in spite of being confined to a wheelchair, he visits every soldier of the Royal Anglian Regiment at the hospital on each trip and sends a progress report to HQ Warley.

Maj Tinton was commissioned into the 4th Battalion the Essex Regiment in May 38. When the War started in 1939, and TA battalions were called up, he was posted to 24 Essex. During the Blitz he guarded an oil refinery on the Thames Estuary.

From 1942 — 44 he was with 47th London Inf Div (The Bow Bells) on the Isle of Wight. In the last year of the War he was an Intelligence Officer with the 2nd Army in NW Europe. He attended Staff College in 1948 and was medically discharged in 1956.

Ben Tinton now lives in Bex-



leyheath. He is vice-president of the Thurrock Branch of the Essex and Royal Anglian Regiment Association and patron of the Chadwell St Mary Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Our thanks go to **Maj Tinton** on behalf of all those he has visited over recent years.

Maj Tinton has written the history of the Essex Regiment and 3rd Bn Chapel at Warley, which is currently awaiting publication.

Log race victory for Berkhamsted

THE RCO and RITs organised a log race for CCF units visiting Basingstoke with a prize for the winner. Berkhamsted were the overall winners, but all contingents are congratulated on their fine display of determination in carrying the heavy log over difficult terrain.

The result of the competition was: 1st Berkhamsted, 2nd Wymondham, 3rd St Edmunds, Ware, 4th Bancroft, 5th Merchant Taylors, 6th Stamford.

Aldenharn, Bedford, Berkhamsted, Greshams, Haileybury, Kimbolton and Oakham have all recently received training help from our Regimental Information Teams. If other CCFs would like assistance they should contact **Maj Guy Hipkin** at RHO The Royal Anglian Regiment, The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN.



Berkhamsted School CCF — winners of the log race. **CPI John Lewis** flanked by **LCpl Ross Frazer** (left) and **LCpl Tim Hobden**.



LCpls Taylor, Vessey and Ragira of the RIT give a helping hand to the Wymondham team which came second.

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News from The Vikings

Security increased in Northern Ireland



Pte Payne of the Recce Pl.



Cpl Sutton and Pte Boulton of SP Coy at Strabane.



A watchful Pte Owbridge of SP Coy.



Cpl Mc Cartney (A Coy) with Mr John Stanley, Minister for the Armed Forces.



Maj Richard Haes and RSM greet Lt Gen Sir David Mostyn, the Adj Gen.

SINCE the last issue of Castle another Christmas has come and gone and the half way point in the tour has been passed, both auspicious events in their own way.

The Vikings Inter-Company Novice Boxing Competition preliminary rounds have been fought with the final on the 31 Oct. Despite the operational commitment, a capacity crowd witnessed a high standard of boxing and sportsmanship by all competitors.

Many of the boxers were entering the ring for the first time and the spectators were treated to a 'feast' of sheer spirit and sportsmanship. A Coy emerged as the winners and prizes were presented by Brig Mike Scott, Commander 8 Inf Bde.

The CO's Bugle Competition was held on 15 Nov. The turnout and bearing of the competitors was of an extremely high standard, and reflects great credit on them in the light of their busy operational role as a rifle platoon. The results of the competitions were: RSM's, Bulger, LCpl A J Ryan, Adjutant's Bulger, LCpl S R Smith, CO's Bugler, Dmr M J Wildney.

December was a time for visitors. Mr John Stanley, Minister for the Armed Forces, dropped in briefly early in the month, closely followed by Cathy Smith from Radio Cambridgeshire.

On 11 - 12 Dec. we entertained Jill Bennett and Alison Holt from



Pte Howe (B Coy) keeping watch in the Bogside.

Radio's Norfolk and Orwell respectively, and last but not least James Ruddy from the Eastern Evening News was with us 17-18 Dec.

Although these visits were short they managed to see all the security bases in the city and, as a result, interviewed many soldiers and their families, taking back with them a wealth of material for Christmas.

Mid December saw an increase in the security of all bases in the province, with particular emphasis on police stations, which resulted in the deployment of further company's and the cancellation of Christmas leave to the mainland. Christmas activities went ahead as planned and after some 'on-off'

situations, most went 'on'. The Officers' Mess staff party led the way on 6 Dec followed by a successful Christmas dinner in the battalion restaurant on 10 Dec, and the Officers' Mess Ladies Night on Friday 13th - a brave decision!

The children's party was held on 15 Dec, as was the Viking Star Show, a mega-performance of Viking talent, with the MTO, Lt Tony Powell, literally pulling his acts off the streets to perform, only to disappear from whence they came before the finale.

Carol singing round the quarters was a washout, literally, the weather was appalling!

Amidst all this activity A Coy went

Continued Page 4.

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News from The Vikings



LCpl Smith — Adj't Drummer — receives his tankard.



Long Service and Good Conduct presentation in the Sgt Mess. DM Bokenham, CSgt Wharton, CO, Deputy Colonel, CSgt Shrubshaw, CSgt Dowd and WO2 Wilcox.

From Page 3

to Ballykinler over the period 19 — 21 Dec. to complete the CO's Test Exercise returning in time for the Christmas lunch on 23rd — Served up traditionally by the Officers' and Sergeants' Mess members. The Christmas spirit and good will to all men were not the only things 'winging' around in the cookhouse.

The local scene quickly returned to normal after Christmas and A Coy under new management. (Maj Kit Stallard) and only two days into their city tour, supported the RUC in a successful operation on 6 Jan to recover a kidnap victim — both victim and ransoms were recovered untouched.

The battalion cross-country team achieved a notable success in the NI Major Unit Championships when they took the runners-up shield on 25 Jan at Ballykinler.

Lt Gen Sir David Mostyn, the Adjutant General visited the battalion on 5 Feb; he is not unfamiliar with the city, having been a battalion and brigade commander in the Maiden City in the 70's. He was entertained to lunch in the Officers' Mess before being shown Ebrington Barracks by Maj Richard Haes and the RSM.

With spring just around the corner the Vikings are looking forward to some improvement in the weather and to 1987!



Cathy Smith, of Radio Cambridgeshire, with Lt Duncan Venn at Masonic.



Maj Gen Sir David Thorne and the CO with LCpl Weedon in the medical centre.



The three Smiths (unrelated) at Ebrington.



Mr James Ruddy of the Eastern Evening News with Christmas messages.

News from The Vikings

'Wondrous cold' break on Mont Blanc

By Maj Tomlin

AFTER a rigorous month of city duties in Londonderry I was more than ready for a break and had arranged with Lt Duncan Strutt, Queens, to climb the "Eperon du Brenva", the "Old Brenva Route", on Mont Blanc.

We arrived at our camp-site in Montroc, not far from Chamonix, on 11 Aug and set up camp. 12 Aug was a beautiful day with the promise of good weather for our walk up to the Albert Premier hut situated by the Glacier du Tour.

That evening we made final preparations including a brief daylight recon for the first 400 metres of tomorrow's route. Much time, patience and energy can be lost tumbling over rocks in the darkness of the morning!

At 0430 hrs we set off. Under a starlit sky, our torch beams bounced around the rocks and soon we were on the snow for the first time. The mountains loomed ominously above us as we headed up the glacier towards a small island of rocks called Signal Reilly. We roped up and fitted crampons, but two parties were ahead of us, dislodging a torrent of small stones and larger rocks which whistled past us like so many angry hornets. We caught up with a large French Army group who graciously invited us to pass. The Aiguille du Tour is not a difficult climb but a good first route to test the legs. The Aiguille du Chardonnet did, however, look formidable across the glacier and we could see the next day's route clearly.

Everything had gone so well we were back at the hut by 1415. 14 Aug started well and we were on the first slopes of the Chardonnet well before dawn. Here, having decided to "kit up", I suddenly saw Duncan's rucksack sailing past just

out of my reach and into the next huge crevasse. I kept calm! After lowering Duncan into the crevasse from a firm ice axe belay he managed to recover one dachstein mit but all else was lost. Duncan feared for his own safety more than the wrath of his bank manager and we abandoned the kit and the route and headed for the valley where Barclaycard came to the rescue. On 15 Aug, re-equipped, we headed upwards to the hut for a second time.

The next day, on a cool crisp morning, we headed for the North Hut-tress once again. Suddenly, and in the words of Coleridge, "and now there came both mist and snow and it grew wondrous cold". The storm hit us without warning — its approach hidden by the Chardonnet itself. We traversed to the right and hacked out ice bucket-seats.

By 0745 hrs the storm was worse and we started a retreat yet again. Our steps were covered by snow which was blowing horizontally and our ice axes buzzed in our hands from the lightening which was crackling around our heads. By the time we were back at the hut the storm had cleared and the mountain looked beautiful with its fresh covering of snow. We felt frustrated and cheated as we headed for the valley and Mont Blanc.

We took the telepherique to the summit of the Aiguille du Midi, a towering peak above Chamonix. Here we fitted crampons, donned our glasses and began the descent on the far side. The afternoon was sunny and our approach route took us across to the Col du Gros Rognon towards the headwaters of the Arve.

Blanche. (This is a particularly beautiful area. For those without the ability to climb, a cable car runs



Lt Strutt on the summit of the Chardonnet.

from Chamonix to the summit of the Aiguille du Midi and across into Italy. I would recommend the trip to anyone who enjoys dramatic mountain scenery.)

We climbed to the crest of the Arête du Brenva on a 50 degree ice slope. A short descending traverse brought us to a small, corrugated tin shelter. The hut was full (12 people) so we settled down outside to cook our supper and brew vast quantities of tea, before taking up residence inside the hut on a bed of rucksacks, ropes and

After breakfast in the dark we absented the first blift to a couloir and by the light of our torches headed

off across the glacier to the start point of the climb.

The route began at Col Moore, a steep arête below the ridge itself. Duncan led off across mixed ground until a rake to the left indicated the route. As we rejoined the route the sun was rising and a small French party was retreating. The only people we saw all day.

I took the lead and began the long arduous ascent of the snowy arête. By the time we reached the final ice-slope the sun had been at work and a chill wind was blowing.

Sheets of ice to dinner plate size. A short ice slope led to the seracs and a vertical wall of ice. Duncan led

off and on the ice wall began a precarious traverse to the left. I hanged in an ice screw because it became it made me feel happier as Duncan led on out of sight. A shout from Duncan and it was my turn. I left the safety of the stance and ignored the drop to the glacier, some 3,000ft below. It was a good hold lead by Duncan. As I rounded the bulging corner I was met by his smiling face, with him firmly fastened to a superb natural belay. A few feet on and the summit slopes were ahead of us. We shook

vacuum-sealed "hot footings" — exhilaration were short-lived as we were caught in a blizzard so strong

we could hardly stand. We were forced to take refuge by a small group of rocks at 4690m, known as the Petits Mulets, to sit it out for a while. After three hours and two aborted attempts, we made for the Vallot hut.

By 1030 hrs next day the storm had abated somewhat, though the clouds persisted. We headed down by way of the spectacular Besse Glacier.

The next day we rested, but on 18 Aug we again headed toward the Albert Premier Hut and the Chardonnet (never say die!) taking the telepherique to the Col d Balme to halve the slog. An electric storm provided the evening entertainment, but at 0130 am woke Duncan to tell him that the sky was clear and that we should head off up!

Yet again we crossed the Glacier du Tour. At 0400 hrs the temperature dropped below freezing. We began to climb loose rocks although the climbing was not difficult, we climbed in pitch. Somehow I seemed to have lost enthusiasm for this particular mountain! We soon reached the wide ice ridge and Duncan led through an ice-choked chimney. The seracs of the north face we passed and the final ice slog stretched ahead. Five hundred feet later we were on the summit as our efforts were rewarded by the most breathtaking views of the Alps I have ever seen.

The descent from the summit followed the ridge line until two al seils landed us back on the snow below. The last descent of any trip to the Alps is always, for me, a satisfying slow affair.

Next time perhaps the Mont Rosa. That's a good idea — at things are beginning to look up!



Above: Sgt Clarke and his family celebrate Christmas in Londonderry.



Left: The CO presents a farewell gift to Cpl Cox, the last man serving in the Vikings who enlisted as a Suffolk.



Above right: The finale of the Viking Star Show.



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News from The Poachers

Short notice for Ulster

THE last few months have included ceremonial duties, our formal ARU and the assumption of Op Spearhead leading to our deployment to Northern Ireland.

Early November saw the start of Section Commanders, PNCs and RRU cadres and the preliminary rounds of the Inter Company Novice Boxing Competition.

By the time of the finals in Nov C Coy had built an unassailable lead and emerged victorious. From the results of the competition the boxing team was picked and formed on 13 Nov.

On 12 Nov we were on ceremonial duties again, lining the route for the visit of the Amir of Qatar. Ten Half Companies, the Colour Party and the Band, some 230 men, arrived at Horse Guards Parade early in the morning. The Poachers contingent led the parade as we took

Continued Page 7



Above: LCpl Douest of C Coy in County Armagh.

☆☆☆☆

Right: LCpl Backhouse contemplates the future.

☆☆☆☆

Below: C Coy headquarters in St Angelo.



Samantha Fox and members of the Recce Pl.



Maj Alan Behagg, 2IC Poachers, and Lt Col Martin Romilly, CO 2 UDR and a Poacher, exchange mementoes of the Ulster tour.



Cpls Green and Palmer of the Armagh orderley room.

News from The Poachers



GOC EDIST talks to Dmr Baxter during the ARU visit.



Sgt Birkett receives his LS and GC medals.



Sgt Wisener receives his LS and GC medals.



Cpl (now Sgt) Perkins receives his LS and GC medals.



LCpl Smith at bayonet practice during the ARU visit.

From page 6

up our post on Victoria Street. Fortunately the weather was kind and all passed off smoothly.

The end of November saw several exercises, the EDIST GPMG (SF) Match 83 Competition and visits. The 1st Battalion, The Buffs (Apartheid Unit) from 19-21 Nov and emerged unscathed from a succession of nuclear and chemical attacks.

A and C Coys took part in Exercise Pilgrims Progress, a combat survival exercise in Wales, from 24 Nov - 1 Dec. As the Hunter Force they succeeded in catching a record number of fugitives. The battalion had its ARU Staff visit on 19 Nov and the Divisional Brigadier visited us on 22 Nov when he met old friends.

The period before leave, due to start on 20 Dec, included taking over Op Spearhead and our formal ARU visit, but two events provided a diversion.

Samantha Fox became the battalion's official pin-up when she came to visit us on the 10 Dec, the Recce Platoon volunteering to stay behind on a Saturday to be photographed with her, a sacrifice which was generally thought worthwhile! On 13 Dec five drivers went to Leeds on Op Goblet to supply the city with water after a large main had burst and hit the headlines in a "Gowd Samaritan" role. They returned safely after a few days, although the continual flushing of water apparently had an unusual effect on them!

On 16 Dec, the day we started Op Spearhead, the boxing team had a comfortable 7 bouts to 2 win over 45 Fd Regt RA in the preliminary round of the UKLF competition.

On the evening of 18 Dec EDIST Staff warned the battalion of tasks for the formal ARU visit. The next day, after seeing A Coy drilling, B Coy running a Military Skills circuit, C Coy playing pooled sports, D(Sp) Coy vehicles and equipment and HQ Coy's accommodation and personal kit, Maj Gen Charles Ramsay congratulated the battalion on the square and presented Pres Allen and Turner with GOC's Commendations.



GOC EDIST inspects the Quarter Guard on the formal ARU visit.

Both men had been on exercise in Jamaica in June when they found a youth whose wrist had almost been severed by a machete. They applied 1st field dressings and flagged down a passing vehicle which took them back to their base camp where the RMP took over. Their prompt action had almost certainly saved the youth's life.

The parade over, the battalion were looking forward to Christmas and leave, but at 2000 hrs that evening the Commanding Officer received a warning order for the battalion to be deployed to Northern Ireland in 10 day's time.

The news was announced to the battalion at the soldier's Christmas lunch, where it was well received! Training started the next day and continued until midday Christmas Eve, during which time the Recce party visited Northern Ireland and NITAT organised a two day package.

Christmas leave finished midday 27 Dec, which was a bonus for

Continued Page 8

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In Recognition of Duty

News from The Poachers



'I still can't get a line' — Capt Edmondson-Jones during Op Caracara.



Sgt Hart oversees the cooking of St Angelo during Op Caracara.



Defence Secretary Mr John Stanley with members of A Coy.

From Page 7
members of B Coy who would have been on Leading Elements for Spearhead at the time. After the break, training continued until the battalion moved by Hercules and VC10 over 1/2 Jan.

The battalion deployment to Northern Ireland, in response to a spate of mortar attacks on RUC stations, was to allow the resident units some much needed leave and to augment the force level.

The Poachers were scattered from Ballykelly in the north to Armagh in the south, and from Enniskillen in the west to the Maze in the east. Many of those who had been with the battalion in Londonderry were surprised by how much the situation had changed since 1983 with the RUC more to the fore and operationally quieter.

However the work load was much like "the old days" with most soldiers spending up to 18 hours a day on the ground.

Accommodation ranged from a trailer with a row of bunks lining each wall to comparatively comfortable eight-man rooms. Some of the arrangements were inevitably "ad hoc", but, all in all, G and Q



Lt Whitehead boosting his morale during Op Caracara.

arrangements went remarkably smoothly.

We had several visitors including the GOC, Lt Gen Pascoe; the CLF Maj Gen Jeapes; ACGS, Maj Gen MacMillan; the new Comd 19 Inf Bde Brig Toynne-Sewell, and several journalists including Anglia TV. At the end of the tour we were pleased to see our Deputy Colonel, Lt Gen Sir John Akhurst, who managed to meet most of us despite the best efforts of the RAF.

The level of operations on the tour were such that we were kept interested. On 7 Jan 14 pl Murray of B Coy found a 100lb device which consisted of a beer keg full of HME placed inside a dustbin, this in turn was inside a box with a timer for detonation.

On 14 Jan 2 Lt Taylor and a section of SPI were mortared at RUC Carnmore. A single tube had been carried into a field on foot and fired at a range of 125 metres, the round hit a Portacabin but the only damage was a few ringing ears. A C/S from the Milan PI arrested two terrorists wanted by the RUC while on foot patrol having recognised their car. The battalion left the province on 1/23 Feb and rejoined families, relatives and friends who had held the fort back home. We also heard the news that the boxing team had beaten 7RHA 7 — 2 on 30 Jan reaching the Zone A Finals and the UKLF semi-finals. In the semi-finals the team beat 2 Coldstream Guards 8-1 and now meet 49 Fd

Regt RA at Topcliffe in the finals, the winner fighting the BAOR champions in Germany.

Having returned from leave on 17 Feb we took up Northern Ireland training again.

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News from The Pompadours

Work-up for BATUS and Northern Ireland



Assault course on the NCOs cadre — Ptes Dear, Doctor, Gowling and Hazelwood look on anxiously.



The Fire Support Group move into position on the NCO cadre final attack.

RELATIVELY speaking the post exercise period in BAOR is fairly quiet, especially in terms of major commitments. However, it is one of the few periods when the battalion can concentrate on courses, cadres, sport and leave, so few people have been at a loose end over the past four months.

Immediately after Quarter Final, there was the normal clean-up period before the start of the first series of cadres. JNCO Tactics and Standard II Signals and Assault Pioneer Cadres were run with LCpl Comack and Pte Day being top students respectively.

The battalion started their boxing campaign against 4 Arm Div Tpt Regt with a good 6-3 win, especially as many of the squad had no experience from the previous year. The CO inspected C Coy on 6 Dec starting the day with an early morning call and room inspection before putting them through their paces, culminating in a drill parade where the Company Snake mascot was trooped with Pte Keeble as Ensign. Maj Gen M F Hobbs, the new Divisional Commander, paid his inaugural visit with a swift look

THE Pompadours have seen a number of changes since December.

We wish Maj Maps Amberton the best of luck in his new post with the RAMC and Capt Adrian Miles good luck on his retirement to work for Gestetner in the Midlands.

Many new faces have arrived. We welcome Capt Mike Grevitt RAMC, Capt Richard Warden RAC HD, Capt Nick Backhouse and 2nd Lt Roger Knight, the latter on his first posting after Sandhurst.

round the barracks before presenting Ptes Appleton-Kirk and Holohan with Commendations for their actions during a Stalwart fuel fire at Soltau in Jan 85.

Not to be outdone, the ACC team of Cpl Beeston, LCpls Fox, Goodburn and Butters came second in the Divisional ACC Military Skills Competition, a very creditable performance.

This year started at a steady pace with another series of cadres for Signals, Driving and Potential NCO's. The latter was compressed to five weeks because of other commitments and, with the

weather turning especially nasty at times, all those who passed can consider themselves to have performed extremely well.

Of the 42 students that started the cadre, 34 passed with Pte Humphreys of C Coy just beating Pte Garvie of the Recce Platoon for first place.

As on any cadre there were moments to remember: the weather on the final exercise, the Chinook moves and Pte Tich Elliott asking to be taken off the cadre when told he was to be the stretcher casualty on the assault course race.

In the meantime, A and B Coys completed Site Guards and boxers won their divisional semi-final against 10LR. The Pompadour boxers fought extremely well, particularly in the lighter weights with Pte Hope and LCpl Douglas being very impressive.

January also saw Lt Tony Miles complete a Swiss Army tactics course with flying colours, and he reliably informs us that he is fully qualified to instruct on their 23-blade knife!

BATUS is inevitably the main concern this year for the Pompadours.

Continued Page 10

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News from The Pompadours

Quiet times

From Page 9

and it was with this in mind that all of the Medicine Man 2 Battle Group gathered for a study period from 4-6 Feb. The remainder of the Battle Group comes from 4/7 DG, 4(Sphinx) Bty 47 FdRgt, L Bty 4 Fd Rgt, 29 Fd Sqn, 31 Arm'd Engr Sqn, 669 Sqn AAC.

The essence of the study period was to try the new SOI's and to start to understand each other's procedures with a view to standardisation before Canada.

This was achieved by conducting a TEWT with stands run by company and squadron commanders followed by a BGT type battle run from the cinema which the Signal Platoon had equipped as a miniature Battle Group Trainer.

A lot of problems were sorted out and hopefully the first few days at Soltau will not be too chaotic. Credit must be given to CSgt Goodchild and Sgt Langridge plus their staff for organising an excellent lunch and plenty of Glühwein on the TEWT day when the weather was as cold as it has been all year.

Unfortunately, the boxing team's run of success came to an end when the Royal Regiment of Wales visited for the divisional final and won 9-0.

Although the Pompadours fielded an inexperienced team, the Welsh were extremely strong and must have an Army champion side in the making. Particular mention for the Pompadours should go to Pte Havercroft and Pte Leonardi, both of whom put up excellent performances.

In the early hours 10 Feb Battle Group and Company HQs deployed on Ex First Gear, a Brigade CPX, in bitter conditions. Although it was primarily to exercise Brigade and Divisional HQs, it gave the battalion an opportunity to shake off a few cobwebs, having not been in the field since Quarter Final.

Currently, battalion activity is geared towards upgrading training and shooting with the annual ISAAC period followed by field firing at Sennelager with the new SA80 APWT which should prove interesting, even though the weapon is not due for some considerable time.

Field firing should prove especially busy as there are only two weeks available instead of last years three, so there is liable to be some interesting activity, especially when our French exchange platoon arrive.

Most of the battalion will probably feel that they have earned their Easter leave by then.



THERE can be no doubt, that despite its size since the 1964 amalgamation, the Regiment still considers itself to be very much a family affair with many brothers and sons following family footsteps.

There can however, be few cases in

the Army of three brothers serving simultaneously in the WO2's and Sergeants' Mess as with the Baldwin brothers in the Pompadours.

CSgt Clive Baldwin (22 years) CSgt Tony Baldwin (18 years) and Sgt

Lewis Baldwin (11 years) are pictured with the CO and RSM shortly before Clive's return to England to complete his service. The Pompadours will sadly miss Clive's presence as coach of their successful swimming team of the last two years.



Ptes Appleton Kirk and Holohan receive their GOCs Commendations from Maj Gen M F Hobbs.

Ex Snow Queen still a success

One of the major benefits of serving in BAO is the ability to travel within Europe and enjoy many new opportunities during free-time. From this point of view, Exercise Snow Queen has proved an unqualified success for 1(BR) Corps on every occasion that it has run. The exercise provides mainly single soldiers with the opportunity to learn to Langlauf and downhill ski at very low cost and under field conditions, thus easing the financial problems that might otherwise prevent young single soldiers from learning to ski.

Indeed, once the food and accommodation refunds are claimed, the net cost for a fortnight is £25.53 including food, accommodation, travel, ski equipment and passes. This year, the Pompadours hut is at Ottacker, 15km from Sonthofen

and a stone's throw from Oberjoch, Obersdorf and Austria.

Each of the 8 courses can cater for 24 soldiers and families, with many of the rooms having showers and toilets and certainly being far from field conditions. The hut, the Gasthof Zum Lamm, is normally a Gasthaus Pension and thus has all Mod Cons including a bar and TV room.

The permanent staff under Maj Maps Amberion and WO2 Tony Turner start the students on ski-care and fitting, then gradually work them through their programme of learning to Langlauf, and most enjoyable of all, downhill ski. After a hard day on the slopes, the students can watch TV or videos, go to the local ice hockey match or simply discuss the days tumbles over a few beers.

Left: Pompadours prepare for ski-ing on Ex Snow Queen.

Below: Pte Turpin of the Pompadours leads A Coy on a day's Langlauf on Ex Snow Queen.



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Pte Shakespeare explains, the MFDC to the Defence Secretary.

Visit by Defence Secretary

THE speed that Mr Heseltine left the Cabinet probably left little to compare with that at which the battalion went to work when informed that the new Secretary of State for Defence George Younger MP, would visit on 18 Feb.

Flexibility was undoubtedly the key to approaching the problem, especially as the weather was not behaving itself, and gave 3" of snow the night before the visit to test the patience of the helicopter marshalls!

The Secretary, along with his entourage suitably bedecked in parkas, wellingtons and gloves, saw a display of battalion equipment plus a Challenger tank from the Royal Hussars and Lynx/TOW and Gazelle helicopters.

The press followed him closely throughout, anxious to catch Mr Younger in action, which they were able to do as he fired the CPMG (SF) on the 30m range and drove a Scimitar to the helipad for his departure.

Following his departure, the Corps Commander was entertained to drinks in the WO/Sgt's Mess and lunch in the Officers' Mess.

The visit might also have suitably confused the Russians as the Mündener Tageblatt daily paper described the Scimitar as being — mounted with the Milan anti-tank missile!



Mr Younger and Air Marshall Sir Patrick Hine chat about Challenger, borrowed from the Royal Hussars.



Mr Younger talking to members of C Coy.

TV role for Pompadours

WDR TV are making a documentary entitled "For Queen and Country," about the British Army in Germany.

The film is designed to cover all aspects of the British Army's life in BAOR from exercise and ranges to the social and welfare aspects and the Pompadours are providing the main cast.

The stars of this documentary will be WO2 Monty Beaumont, Cpl Steve Arbon, LCpl Ian Lancey, Pte Mark Pickers and Mrs Liz Taylor. Standby for Oscar nominations and "It'll be alright on the night" shots in the August edition.



The CO receives his disc in the battalion cross country.



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News from the 5th Battalion

Training brings hectic start to the new year

NOVEMBER began with Remembrance Day parades in all company locations, with the Band playing in Peterborough Cathedral.

At the end of the month all companies trained at Thelford, with a bonus for the Mortar Pl of a night shoot. Considering this was the first such shoot for several years it was extremely successful.

December is always a quiet month for training with parties in full swing and with WO2 Stubbs excelling as Father Christmas.

January heralded a hectic three or four months training. 18-19 Jan saw a recruit selection weekend with a record 180 taking the written assessment tests. With such a large intake it was possible to be selective and at the end of the weekend 80 had passed. The weekend also saw our two HSF Coys on Colchester ranges and we were pleased to welcome back Capt Freddie Wilde as OC 5 (HSF) Coy at Peterborough.

On the same weekend NBC and First Aid Cadres were held while the Milan Pl with 4 Coy were on Salisbury Plain trying out MIRA, which they soon decided was going to be invaluable, even if something extra to carry!

At the end of January we returned after some 15 months to the Battle Group Trainer at Bovington, which provided a welcome opportunity to practice procedures. We were pleased to see so many of our supporting arms who helped make the training realistic.

At the end of January we welcomed, for the first time, the new Lord Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire, Mr Michael Bevan, who presented the BEM to Cpl Mich Wright and saw HQ Coy on company training.

On 1 Feb all companies entered teams for the Eastern District TA cross country at Bassingbourn with 2 (Northants) Coy and 3 (Essex) Coy coming joint sixth.

On 23-24 Feb the annual Officers' Study weekend was held at RAF Wittering. Maj Bob Pepper came over from BAOR to lecture and we welcomed Brig Greenway and Col Hunt, Commander and Deputy Commander 49 Bde.

A ladies dinner night was held on the Saturday when we were joined by our Deputy Honorary Colonels TA for Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire — Col Dick Sherwin and Col Bob Jeffery.

We also said farewell to Maj Tony Elsey who, after spells as OC HQ Coy and 2 Coy, has moved to 49 Bde. Wives and girlfriends toured Cambridge on Saturday, and on Sunday were given an insight into what we did while they were left at home at weekends!

Currently the RSM, WO1 Smith, is forming a team of 30 to run in a number of half marathons within our area for charity, while at Peterborough the band are busy preparing for a large charity concert, in Peterborough, on 20 Apr.



Ptes Day and Giovanni of the Milan Pl.



Maj Charles Thomas makes a farewell presentation to CSgt Burnett.



Heather Seema and Mrs Crampton sharing a joke.



Pte Carrington explaining the firing part to Mrs Wilde.



Cpl Mick Wright with the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Mr Michael Bevan, after the presentation of the BEM.

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News from the 6th Battalion

Honours shared with good shooting

HONOURS were shared by C(Suffolk) Coy and HQ (Suffolk) Coy in the TA Rifle Association Non-Central Competitions for 1985. Match 1 FTR (Infantry): 1 C Coy; 2 D Coy; 3 HQ Coy. Match 3 Gallery (Infantry): 4 HQ Coy; Match 8 LMG/GPMG (Infantry): 1 C Coy; 2 HQ Coy; 3 B Coy; 4 D Coy. Match 10 SMG: 2 HQ Coy; 3 B Coy. Match 11 Pistol: 2 HQ Coy (after countback for 1st place).

With five out of the six rounds fired in the Winters Small Bore League our results look good.

Div 1 — 2 D Coy; 5 HQ Coy; 6 C Coy; 9 B Coy. A: Div 4 — 1 A Coy. Div 7 — 1 B Coy. B.

Staff changes

There have been many recent changes in battalion appointments.

We wish everyone well, thank them for the work they have done and hope that, where applicable, they will continue to do so.

posts

Second in Command. Maj Bill Lucas has returned to 21 SAS and now works in HQ London District. In his stead we welcome Maj Bill Prince back from 49 Inf Bde.

Training Major. Out goes Maj William Reeve to do battle with the "Crabs" and from RAFC Cranwell comes Maj Mike Willdrudge (with no dog and a newer car!).

OC HQ Coy. Maj Denis Haslam moves to Recruit Reception and Training Team and his place taken by Capt Roger Herriot, formerly his 21C.

21C HQ Coy. In from Oxford UOTC is 2Lt Penny Studholme WRAC.

RSO. Out goes Lt Roger Adey and in comes Capt Mike Veal.

21Cs B and D Coys. Part of the three-way change involving Capt Veal. Lt Adey moves to B Coy as 21C and Capt John Lopes takes Capt Veal's place as 21C D Coy. **OC WRAC/Assistant Adjutant.** 2Lt Felicity Bowden's patience has finally paid off and she takes over the top-gun slot from Lt Susan Foster who has come to Bristol University to study for her PhD.

21C A Coy. Situation now vacant as Capt Ian Wardle departs to Dhufai.

OC Recce Pl. Lt Vince Thirkettle has now moved to Scotland on promotion in civilian life and his place is taken by Lt Julian Rogers.

CSM A Coy. C Sgt Budds moves across to the RRTT and WO2 (CSM) Roy Smith (ex 1 R ANG-LIAN) takes over.

Despite all the moves, life continues at a fairly hectic pace. The recent influx of recruits and the continued expansion of the HSF have meant that the CO's ambition of reaching a battalion strength of 800 is almost realised.

Promotions include the Chief Clerk, WO2 (ORQMS) Andy

Continued Page 14



HQ Coy shooting team: Standing (l to r): Capt (QM) Burch, Cpl Everall REME, LCpl Webb, Ptes Young, Rodway, WO2 (ORQMS) Ranson, CSgt Varney. Kneeling (l to r): Ptes Street, Hayhoe, Holdway WRAC, Try, Cpl Sinclair. Missing: Pte Groves, SSgt Ashley REME, Sgt Hammon.



OCdt Cooper WRAC takes an early morning bath while on the last pre-Sandhurst course run by the battalion. The RSM and CSgt Denis Watson look on and can't see what all the fuss is about.



Cpl Oleaszczuk (CO's driver) takes the staff car for a drink.

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News from the 6th Battalion



Maj Churchill and members of E Coy (HSF) had the chance to use a bit of extra kit found lying around their training area at Basingstoke.



CSgts Eric Morley and John Isom still smiling after all these years.



LCpl Rambo/Ever-ready Plume RAMC proudly shows off one of the recently issued GPMGs.

Competition winners
The last issue's competition was won by LCpl Anstee and Pte To-ville of D Coy. They correctly identified the Training Major and win a weekend for two at STANTA.

From Page 13

Whebb, PSI C Coy, WO2 Ron Mortimer and the ROMSA, WO2 Brian Tunstall. All will now be paying increased mess subs.

A final word to those who think that life and change come all too slowly in their little patch. The battalion has now been issued with the GPMG — just when it looked as though we were going to change direct from LMG to LSW! No doubt LSW will be issued when FIGLAW (first generation laser weapon) is being issued to everyone else?

Home Service Force

E Company is one of the two Home Service Force companies of 6 R Anglian with company HQ and

two platoons in Bedford and a further platoon at Cambridge. When the HSF was on its initial trial, back in 1982, Bedford had one of the original platoons. This was expanded to company strength in 1985. Currently we have 75 soldiers against an establishment of 95. Ages range from 35 to 55 and we have recruited from all three services. No-one is allowed to join unless they have at least two years previous satisfactory service.

We took part in the exercise "Brave Defender" and defended our key point successfully against all comers. A feature of the HSF is their intense keenness, which is demonstrated by their excellent record of attendance.

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News from the Battalion

Brushing up on our skills



The MT HARD AT IT on Ex Mechanical Tiger — Sgt Goodrich, Capt Geoffrey Taylor (MTO), CSgt Bliss and WO2 Culshaw (MTWO) take a breather.



Receiving their Territorial Efficiency Medals from Cpl Jonathan Hunt and watched by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col David Harris and (from left) CSM Peter Slinger, Mr Maurice Slinger and WO2 David Paine.



"Isn't she bee...uti...full" — Sgt Andy Mackay puts the finishing touches.

WITH annual camp now a distant memory the battalion has been turning its attention to individual training with everyone brushing up their skills in order to qualify for bounty.

The Mortar Pl carried out a live firing exercise at SPIA and the Milan Pl made the long journey to Otterburn to join the 2 Inf Div Milan Concentration.

This gave the platoon their first opportunity to use the new MIRA night sights. For company commanders and a few selected officers 49 Inf Bde held a TEWT while the rest of the battalion completed their individual range work and dry training for the year with visits to training areas spread across the centre of England.

All the hard training at camp and dry training has paid off for D Coy who proved their worth by coming 4th in the E DIST TA cross country championships. Cpl Alan Benn covered the six mile course at Basingstoke in just under 34 minutes to take first place ahead of the other 125 runners.

The other eight members of the team packed well, all finishing in

the top 60. Cpl Benn was presented with his gold medal by Brig Peter Williams, Commander 54 Inf Bde. Just to prove that the permanent staff are also fit, Sgt Jim Pancoust, the detachment PSI with B Coy, entered the first Lincoln triathlon. This three-sport discipline which involved an 800m swim, 30km cycle ride and 15km run was a gruelling event and Sgt Pancoust finished a very creditable 7th in 2.22.05 and raised £170 for SSAFA from sponsorship at the same time. Of course, the fitness of CSgt Richard Bonnett, QPSI with LDY Coy, has never been in doubt. In the Infantry Orienteering Championships, CSgt Bonnett added yet another trophy to his already bulging cabinet by finishing 2nd. He is now busily developing orienteering skills within the battalion and we

congratulations go to CSM Peter Slinger, his father Maurice Slinger, and to WO2 David Paine. CSM Slinger joined the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry TA at Retford in 1973 transferring to the Royal Anglian Regiment at Lincoln in 1975. WO2 David Paine's medal was his second bar for 24 years service, having enlisted in 1961 into 863 (Movement Light) Sqn RE in Gainsborough. He became a Cpl two years later and CSM of B Coy from 1983 to 1985. He continues to serve the Coy as RRTWO.

CSM Slinger's father, Maurice, first joined the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry TA in the winter of 1937-38. He was called up on the outbreak of war and first served in the Middle East, taking part in the El Alamein battle. Later he took part in the Normandy landings, landing on Arromanches beach on D-Day. Shortly after landing he received gunshot wounds and was invalided home.

There was a unique occasion in early December at Solihull Barracks, Lincoln, when three Gainsborough area men, including a father and son, were presented with Territorial Efficiency Medals. We believe it is very rare for father and son to receive this medal together and our

congratulations also go to Maj Ed Marshall and Capt Bob Wyllie who received Territorial Decorations from the GOC EDist. As reported in the last edition Maj Marshall is sadly hanging up his webbing after an injury received on exercise nearly two years ago refused to respond to treatment. Capt Bob Wyllie is transferring to 3 Cheshire to raise a new Coy at Macclesfield and we wish him every success.

The new year started with the news that WO2 Ces Keightley RAPC (V) had been appointed to be a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the New Year Honours. This award recognises many years of devoted and loyal service to the battalion.



"I thought barristers had brains,Sir" — the RSM, WO1 Halewood, explains some finer points to Officer Cadet Peter Starcevic.

READ ALL ABOUT YOU



IN YOUR Leicester Mercury

News from the branches

MAJ Charles Britten has recently done some research on nicknames given to the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment. The following is taken from an article prepared for the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association winter newsletter.

"Some of the better known, printable, names the Bedfords have been called are The Peacemakers, The Bloodless Lambs, The Yellow Devils, The Charps and Dills, The Feather Beds and The Honcymooners.

Perhaps the best known of these is The Peacemakers. For the greater part of the Napoleonic Wars the 16th Foot was in West Indies, Surinam and Canada. After Napoleon escaped from Elba in March



BEDFORDSHIRE & HERTFORDSHIRE

1815 the Regiment was ordered back but arrived too late for the Battle of Waterloo ('Ere, where you lot been then?'). Hence they were called The Peacemakers, rather unfair because Surinam became a Battle Honour and the Regiment lost 25 officers and 500 men there.

The Charps and Dills is said to have originated in India when Hertfordshire was added to the Regimental title. The Feather Beds was coined by an envious critic in the last century who

asserted that the Bedfords always enjoyed comfort in their soldiering.

The soubriquet The Yellow Devils was given to 1/5th Bedfords at Suvla Bay in the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915 for their display of sheer guts when they assaulted and took Kidney Hill at bayonet point in the face of persistent machine gun fire.

A senior staff officer, who witnessed their gallantry, observed, with a reference to the yellow flash on their shoulders and steel helmets — 'By Heavens, if I had one or two more battalions with the bravery of those Yellow Devils we would be across and win this peninsula tomorrow'.

The 2nd Battalion probably earned the name The Honcymooners when it returned to the United Kingdom in 1926 after a long spell abroad. Having arrived home many of the bachelors promptly got married. ('Excuse me, may I speak to the Adjutant, please?' 'I am afraid not, he is on honeymoon' 'Oh well, the second in command then' 'Sorry, he is on honeymoon too! etc) Anyone know about The Bloodless Lambs?



ESSEX

ON 15 Aug 85 a part of four from the Thurrock branch of the Essex Regimental Association visited the 3rd Bn in Minden, at the invitation of RSM Sweeney, for the tercentenary and Blenheim Day celebrations on 17 Aug.

It was a nostalgic visit for one of the party, Harry Conn, who as a CSM with 1B Lincoln had taken part in the amalgamation parade with 1 Northampton on the same square at Elizabeth Barracks in 1959.

Sid Gibb, an ex-Guardsman, was impressed by the drill and turnout of the battalion on parade and conceded that he had seen worse at Wellington Barracks!

A marvellous lunch at the Warrant Officer and Sergeant's Mess followed the parade. Then the four were invited to be in the Sergeant's Mess photograph, in which the Commanding Officer, the Colonel of the Regiment and the Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, were also included.

Hearing that Harry Conn

would be going back later on a visit to Holland, Mr Fowler asked if he could help to trace the grave of Mrs Fowler's grandfather, LCpl Cooksley, who had been killed at Arrhem. Harry promised to help and sure enough, through his friends in Holland, discovered the spot where LCpl Cooksley had been killed and first buried and that he was later buried in the Oosterbeek Airborne Cemetery.

John Corderoy, 69, a member of the Thurrock branch, recently received his Defence Medal.

41 years late! He received his other medals for service with 2/5 Essex in North Africa and as a Polar, but despite many requests did not get the Defence Medal until it suddenly appeared through the post. John would like to contact any member of 2/5 Essex. He remembers Maj Hill, a Colchester solicitor, and Lt Perfect.

Harry Conn has also asked for any news of John Hemmings who served with the Mor Pl of 2Essex.



CAMBRIDGESHIRE



MEMBERS of the Cambridgeshire Regiment Association travelled to London with representatives of the Suffolk Regiment OCA for the Field of Remembrance Service at St



Outside the Officer's Mess, Victoria Barracks, Sydney, from left: Hilda Brakewell, Lt Col Phillip Morecambe, Jill Wilkinson, Christopher Wright and Maj Ernie Morgan.

IN Sydney, Australia on 1 Dec. 85, two former members of the Suffolk Regiment, relatives and friends of the Regiment, gathered to celebrate the tercentenary of the Regiment. Mrs Jill Wilkinson, daughter of the late Lt Col Monty Case, organised the reunion which began with a church service in the garrison church near Victoria Barracks. After the service the party retired to the Officers' Mess at Victoria Barracks to celebrate the occasion in the traditional way.



SUFFOLK

THIS chronicle, covering the waning months of 1985 and the first few steps of 1986, is thin compared with that which culminated in the tercentenary celebrations on Minden Day. Nevertheless, it is not without some interesting colour.

The first event of note was almost a non-event: the marking of the 40th anniversary of VJ Day in the British Isles.

In Cambridgeshire and Suffolk we went to some lengths to make sure that it did not pass unnoticed. Members of the OCA travelled to Cambridge to join their friends in the Cambridgeshire OCA in a well-attended social evening at Colindale Lane TA Centre on 16 Aug. Col Victor Mapey gave a moving address which put the significance of VJ Day into perspective.

On 2nd Sept. there was a well-attended VJ Day memorial service in St. Mary's Church. But nationally there was so little.

Of the rest of the year there are perhaps two points to highlight. The first is that Maj FA Godfrey MC has undertaken the task of writing a history of the Suffolk Regiment covering its last 13 years (1946-59).

Bob Godfrey is an experienced historical researcher and writer and will produce a history of which we will all be proud.

It is still not too late to make contributions and any ex-Suffolk who has a story to tell of these years should please do so — and not leave it too long. They should be sent to Britain

nia Barracks, Norwich, from where Lt Col Alex Turnbull will pass it on to Bob.

The second point is that Col Peter Dean has given up his offices with the OCA. We are very grateful for all he has done for our cause. He has been succeeded as OCA chairman by Lt Col Pat Macdonald. His successor as Cambridgeshire editor of Castle and Britannia and Castle is Maj Derek Baldry.

Pat Macdonald joined the Suffolk Regiment in 1949, served in Malaya, Trieste and Wuppertal and was Adjutant of 1 Cambs (TA) 1956-58. His last regimental tour was as 2IC of the Poachers in Munster 1971-73, before he started on two unusual postings in the Attache field, first to Poland and later to Romania.

Events planned for the coming months include the York branch annual dinner on 19 Apr, the Regimental Council meeting at the Keep on 23 Apr, the Suffolk Show 28-29 May and — most important — the OCA annual general meeting at 11 a.m. on 7 Jun, at The Limes, Needham Market.

Minden Day this year will be celebrated on 3 August. We hope to welcome a record turnout of old Suffolk men, East and Royal Anglians past and present — and their families and friends. Gibraltar Barracks is the place: make a date for a day out you will remember.

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Highland tie available

THE 51st Highland Brigade, as successors of the 51st Highland Division, use the famous Divisional Tac sign as its Brigade Tac sign. Hence the Brigade also uses the Divisional tie which is the repeated tac sign on a royal blue background. The tie may be obtained for £3 from HQ 51 Highland Brigade, 7 St Leonards Bank, Perth PH2 8EB.

News from the branches



The 2nd Battalion Drums herald the opening of the Royal Norfolk Military Heritage Appeal display (Eastern Daily Press)

WHEN the Norwich Crown Court moves to its new premises, currently being built at Bishopsgate, the Royal Norfolk Military Collection will transfer from Britannia Barracks to accommodation in the Shire hall. The move is not expected to take place for two years.

The new home for the regimental museum was recently announced by Mrs Gillian Shepherd, chairman of Norfolk Joint Museums Committee, at the Castle Museum, Norwich when she unveiled a display case containing an example of what can be seen at the regimental museum to promote the Military Heritage appeal to raise £150,000 to pay for moving and setting up the display.

Brig Peter Barclay, chairman of the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum trustees, said: "Now we have got a rendezvous, it will make all the difference in the world. It should give added impetus to our appeal which now stands at £50,000. It is a very exciting project. More people will be able to see our collection, which dates back 300 years. We will display material in dioramas — cases with mock-up backdrops of battle scenes." Mrs Shepherd said: "The material, of course, is the property of the regiment and will remain so, but the museums committee feel that the part played by the Royal Norfolk Regiment



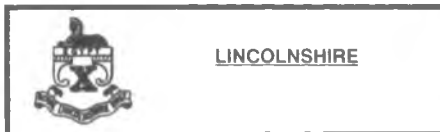
Mrs G. Shepherd, with Brig P.P. Barclay, unveils the Royal Norfolk Military Heritage Appeal display (Eastern Daily Press).

in the military, social and economic life of the county is of vital importance, and that it would be appropriate and of great value for a regimental museum to be set up under the umbrella of the museums service."

A special service was held in Lincoln Cathedral in the presence of HRH, Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester.

Among the capacity congregation were Maj Gen Sir Christopher Welby-Everard, president of the 10th Foot Regimental Association and Col P.D. Blyth, Regimental Secretary of the Royal Anglian Regiment. A large contingent of the 2nd Battalion made the long trip from Colchester and the battalion Band took part in the service.

After the service the 2nd Battalion "Marched Past" and Princess Alice took the Salute before having lunch with past



LINCOLNSHIRE

and present officers of the Regiment. So ended our tercentenary year. We, of the 10th Foot, wish to thank the CO of the 2nd Battalion for showing the flag in our county and for supporting our association functions so heartily. Our Boston branch has been ticking over on one cylinder for quite some time now and it was

therefore decided to suspend its activities. Our Lincoln, Grimsby, Grantham and Spalding branches are going strong. Officers weekend, 26/27 April; OCA Reunion 20/21 Sep. Details of these functions are available from secretary 10th Foot Regimental Association, Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln. LN1 3PY. Tel: Lincoln (0522) 25444.

Sport on camera



The Poachers boxing team.



SSgt Andrews launches an attack against his opponent from 45 Fd Regt RA.



Sgt Nunn (HQ Coy) and Pte Sharp (D (SP) Coy) fight it out in the inter-coy boxing tournament.

Sport on camera



Above: C Coy — winners of the Poachers inter-coy boxing tournament.

Below: The Viking soccer team which drew 1–1 with 3LI in Londonderry.



Sport on camera



LCpl Simpson lands an excellent left against 4 Armd Div Tpt Regt RCT.



CSgt Neil Richardson of the Vikings is the N. Ireland squash champion for 1986.

Regimental cricket team fixtures

WITH the three regular battalions serving abroad it is more important than ever that those officers who can, do turn up and support the Regimental cricket team. Many of the fixtures have been grouped together this year to make it easier for those in the 1st and 3rd Battalions to return for some worthwhile cricket. All our home matches are to be played at Basingstoke by kind permission of the Depot Commanding Officer, and match visitors will be very welcome to pass their opinions on the state of Regimental cricket from a well-stocked bar overlooking the pitch. Anyone interested in playing should contact Lt Col Julian Browne at the Staff College Camberley (Camberley [0276] 63344 Ext 687) or the match manager concerned. Matches for 1986 are:

Pompadours keep busy

DESPITE the weather, there is plenty of sport taking place at present. Indeed many new activities are taking off such as the basketball team, a judo club and indoor 5-a-side league, where the CO and Padre are a formidable pair of the battalion HQ team.

Pte Jim Girdlestone of B Coy won the battalion golf competition with SSgt Greene and Sgt McRobie of the LAD as Greensome Champions.

The soccer team has had a good season, currently being in the Infantry Cup quarter finals having beaten 3 Queens 5-2 and only recently having been knocked out of the BAOR Cup in the last 16 by 16 Sigs 1. Regt after a good run of victories.

After winning their first five matches, scoring 31 goals, the hockey team lost 3-0 in the Divisional semi-final against the very strong 35 Regt RE but are confident of doing well in the league and Infantry Cup.

LCpl Taylor from the LAD and Hertfordshire junior player Pte Higginbotham have been playing particularly well. In the near future the gym will be marked and fitted for indoor hockey which will be invaluable for practice during the winter months.

The squash team lost in the quarter final of the Divisional Major Unit competition.



Viking Ptes Herbert and Foot during the N. Ireland cross-country championship.



Pte Bishop of the Vikings collects the runners-up shield for the N. Ireland cross country championship.

Felsted tour


FELSTED recently had a highly successful tour of Australia playing sides in Western Australia, NSW, Victoria and South Australia, and winning 7 out of 13 matches. Danny Griggs was high in the batting aggregates with 205, while Ben Cooper was one of the most successful bowlers with 17 wickets.



Pte Appleby of the Viking's football team.

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Potential evident in cross-country team

ALTHOUGH the Pompadours cross-country team managed a magnificent effort to overhaul the invincible IPWO in last year's Infantry (BAOR) competition, the loss of Sgt Jones, Cpl Stanley and Pte Mole left some doubt as to the team's ability to repeat its success.

However, the Battalion Inter Company contest saw a one, two, three of LCpl Ryan, LCpl Maynard and CSgt Twell, two of whom were not in BAOR last year, so potential was in evidence.

With cadres and leave, a full strength team was rarely fielded and hopes were certainly not high at the Divisional meeting with Lt Wadman, Cpl Smith, LCpl Maynard and Pte Reid all unavailable, however, a magnificent 6th place by Pte Albert Thornton set the standard and the battalion qualified a comfortable second, 91

pts behind 7 Sigs Regt.

The following week saw the BAOR competition and an almost full strength team taking 3rd place behind 1 Div Sigs Regt and 7 Sigs Regt with Lt Andy Wadman and Pte Thornton being selected to run for BAOR against the RAF as a result.

This result was the incentive to start intensive training for the Army Championship at Twesledown on 12 Feb.

On 28 Jan, although Pte Thornton was unavailable due to injury, Lt Andy Wadman and LCpl John Ryan finished 5th and 27th respectively for BAOR against the RAF. Twesledown on 12 Feb saw a three lap snow covered and fairly flat course, unlike most of the hilly league races that the battalion are used to. Despite this, the Pompadours managed an excellent 5th

place behind 1PWG, 3Para, 2 Div Sigs Regt and 1DWR (with the Vikings 14th. Sorry!) with particular credit to Lt Andy Wadman 19th overall and Pte Mark Reid who as 3rd placed junior will run in the junior inter-services race.

The last main event of the 1986 season was the Infantry BAOR competition at Sennelager on 28 Feb which the battalion won for the second successive year, this year by a convincing margin of 140 points.

Placings were 2nd LCpl Maynard, 3rd LCpl Ryan, 5th CSgt Twell, 7th Pte Reid, 9th Pte Watson, 10th Cpl Coleman, 12th Cpl Smith, 15th Capt Wild, 25th Pte Brown and 26th Cunliff. The first eight team members were subsequently selected for the Infantry squad for the Inter Corps Championship.



Good bunching from LCpl Maynard (behind runner 277), Pte Watson 90, Cpl Coleman 84 and CSgt Twell 83 on the first lap of the Army Final at Twesledown.

Editor: Colonel P.D. Blyth CBE (retired)
Printed by John Pines, Division Way, Bury
St Edmunds, Suffolk. For advertising rates
apply to: Combined Service Publications Ltd.,
P.O. Box 4, Farnborough, Hants.



Pompadours cross-country squad. Back row: LCpl Maynard, CSgt Twell, Cpl Coleman, Pte Brown, Pte Cunliff, Pte Thornton, Cpl Smith. Front: Lt Wadman, Pte Reid, LCpl Ryan, Capt Wild, Pte Watson.



A Coy. boxing champions in the Vikings Inter-Company Novices competition.



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