



CASTLE

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT

JUNE 1991



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1st Battalion
(Norfolk, Suffolk and
Cambridgeshire)



2nd Battalion
(Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and
Northamptonshire)



3rd Battalion
(Bedfordshire, Herfordshire
and Essex)



June 1991

Vol. 8 No. 9

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Colonel C. Dale

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Our cover

Reproduced from the original painting by Charles
C. Stadden of a Regimental Drummer against a
background of the Abbey Gate, Bury St. Edmunds.



Member of the Association of Service Newspapers



Members of the Poachers Ammunition Company display some of the ammunition in the Gulf.
Back row: Pte Clark, Pte Birkin, and Pte Drew. Front: Pte Cooper, Pte Dessour and Pte Berridge.

From the Colonel of the Regiment

WHAT a turbulent world this is! As I look back over a decade as Deputy Colonel and Colonel of the Regiment I see remarkable, not to say astonishing changes in the international scene, two totally unexpected wars, an economic switchback and extraordinary advances in the technology of modern defence.

In the light of all this it is surprising, and not a little gratifying, that the Regiment's organisation and excellence have remained so stable and consistent. I wish I had confidence that the next decade would offer the same stability and unchanging standards. That our regular and TA battalions will continue to be among the best in the Army I have no doubt, but changes are in the wind.

"Options for Change" will soon be racing ahead and although their timing may be influenced by a general election, there is little for us to relish whichever government is in power.

The Treasury seems to be calling the shots and if the media are to be believed there are severe cuts in store and few indications that genuine "peace dividends" are being planned for the Army.

In the meantime, cuts in current spending on defence are causing uncomfortable economies in activity levels with shortages of travel funds, exercises, live and blank ammunition and all the other features which are important to the enjoyment of soldiering and the attainment of high professional standards.

The media seem convinced that there are to be disproportionate reductions in the number of infantry battalions. One hopes that this is not so, and if it is, that common-sense will prevail when decision time comes. Royal Anglians will not need me to tell them who are the first to be called upon whenever there is a job to be done, nor



that the infantry of the line are severely overstretched already, especially with no end in sight to the need for the Army to hold the ring in Northern Ireland.

There is speculation about whether large or small regiments will bear the brunt of cuts. I am quite clear that we toed the line in the sixties and now deserve credit for having done so, but there are plenty of influential people sounding off that the easiest solution is simply to lop a battalion off the large regiments.

To ensure that MPs in the Regimental area (including the Prime Minister!) are properly informed about the nature of their local Regiment when the public debate begins I have written to them all (the letter is reprinted elsewhere in this magazine) and enclosed a copy of the good new Regimental brochure.

Responses have been very supportive and we must now just hope. In the meantime I exhort all those serving not to be depressed and to soldier on until decisions are announced – they may not be nearly so damaging as we fear.

We will all wish to offer our con-

gratulations to the highly successful campaigners in the Gulf War. None of our units was involved but the 1st and 2nd Battalion bands were there and one can imagine the ribaldry in the Messes when they sport a medal that the rest of their unit does not!

Individual Royal Anglians took part at staff and regimental level: all have now returned safely, although Sergeant Smith was wounded in the A10/Warrior incident while serving with the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. Happily he is now fully recovered from his burns. I am sure that everyone who was involved will wish me to record their thanks for the tremendous generosity and interest in our counties who sent so many gifts, and cards and messages of encouragement and support.

Life goes on and with the Vikings and Pompadours in Northern Ireland and the Poachers in Saudi Arabia after a rapid and successful conversion to Warrior, the Regiment continues to be in the thick of things setting standards for everyone else to aspire to.

Our Territorials are equally nervous about what the future holds in store but continue to be the pacesetters for the rest — efficient, effective and well recruited but frustrated like everyone else by the budgetary pressures.

This will be my last opportunity to write the Castle's introduction. I hand over to Major-General Patrick Stone on 1 Nov and must take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Regiment, past and present, for having made the appointment such an honour and pleasure, and so easy.

The Regiment is held in such high regard that I have never had to make excuses or apologise for it and have simply been able to bask in the reflected glory. I wish my successor an equally rewarding and proud tour.

Gen Sir John Akehurst



Colonel-in-Chief

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER

Deputy Colonels-in-Chief

Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon

Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester

Colonel of The Regiment

General Sir John Akehurst, KCB CBE

Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment

The Reverend T B F Hiney, MC CF

Deputy Colonels of The Regiment

Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire: Major General A J G Pollard, CBE

Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire: Major General P P D Stone, CBE

Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex: Brigadier W T Dodd, OBE

President of the Regimental Association

Major General Sir David Thorne, KBE

Deputy Honorary Colonels TA

Norfolk: Colonel P W Raywood, TD DL

Suffolk: Brigadier W C Deller, OBE

Cambridgeshire: Colonel J P Macdonald

Lincolnshire: Colonel W J Gleadell, TD DL

Leicestershire: Colonel W G Dawson, TD DL

Northamptonshire: Colonel P Worthy

Bedfordshire: Major A T Winton (designate)

Hertfordshire: Colonel N H Kelsey, OBE TD

Essex: Colonel P D L Hopper, DL

Alliances

Canadian Armed Forces

Sherbrooke Hussars

The Lincoln and Welland Regiment

The Essex and Kent Scottish

The Lake Superior Scottish Regiment

Australian Military Forces

The Royal Tasmania Regiment

New Zealand

3rd Battalion (Auckland {Countess of Ranfurly's Own}
and Northland) Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment

Pakistan Army

5th Battalion The Frontier Force Regiment

Malaysian Armed Forces

1st Battalion The Royal Malay Regiment

Barbados

The Barbados Regiment

Bermuda

The Bermuda Regiment

Gibraltar

The Gibraltar Regiment

Belize

Belize Defence Force

Civic Honours

The Regiment has been granted the honour of the Freedom of Bedford, Boston, Bury St. Edmunds, Cambridge, Chelmsford, Cleethorpes, Colchester, Dunstable, Ely, Grantham, Grimsby, Hertford, Hinckley, Ilford, Ipswich, King's Lynn, Lincoln, Lowestoft, Northampton, Norwich, Peterborough, Romford, Southend, Grays and Thurrock, Watford, Wellingborough, Wisbech and Yarmouth.

REGIMENTAL LOCATIONS

Regimental Headquarters:

The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN.
(Tel: 0284 752394 / Colchester Military 5138)

Regimental Secretary: Colonel C J Dale

Assistant Regimental Secretary: Major A G B Cobbold

Regimental Careers Officer: Major G W M Hipkin

Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire

Britannia Barracks, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 4HJ. (Tel: 0603 628455)

Area Secretary: Major W H Reeve

Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire

Gibraltar Barracks, Northampton NN1 3RE. (Tel: 0604 35412)

Area Secretary: Lieutenant Colonel J L Wilson, DL

Captain A R Smith (Lincoln)

(Major M Jones designate 2 Aug 91)

Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex

Blenheim House, Eagle Way, Warley, Essex CM13 3BN. (Tel: 0277 213051)

Area Secretary: Major D J Thorogood

Regimental Information Team

Depot, The Queen's Division, Bassingbourn. (Tel: 0763 42271)

BATTALION LOCATIONS

1st Battalion (Norfolk, Suffolk & Cambridgeshire) Colchester.
Fermanagh, Northern Ireland on Op. Banner Tour –
May-Nov 91. To Celle BFPO 23 – Aug 92

Lieutenant Colonel D S B Phipps

2nd Battalion (Lincolnshire, Leicestershire & Northamptonshire).
Celle BFPO 23. Presently in Gulf. To Warminster as
Demonstration Battalion – Aug 92.

Lieutenant Colonel A P Deed

3rd Battalion (Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire & Essex) Ebrington
Barracks, Londonderry, BFPO 807.

Lieutenant Colonel J D Lacey
(Lieutenant Colonel R M Chisnall Oct 91)

5th Battalion, TA Centre, London Road, Peterborough.

Lieutenant Colonel C G Stallard

6th Battalion, TA Camp, Blenheim Camp, Bury St. Edmunds.

Lieutenant Colonel A D Chissel TD

7th Battalion, TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester.

Lieutenant Colonel R E Haes

Senior Regimental Representatives

Depot The Queen's Division: Lieutenant Colonel M J Boocock *(Major D G Ridgway 2 Aug 91)*

Junior Infantry Battalion: Major F J Perry. MBE

RMA Sandhurst: Major K Hodgson *(Captain S T H Andrews 29 Jul 91)*

Mainly about people . . .

Promotions, awards and retirements

HONOURS and AWARDS: We congratulate the following on awards given in the Queen's New Year Honours List 1991: **Col J S Houchin OBE**; **Col N H Kelsey OBE TD**; **LCpl G C D Burrows BEM**, 3 R Anglian; **Cpl M A Lynn BEM**, 2 R Anglian and **Bdsmn J Bendix BEM**, 3 R Anglian (the last three named were given their awards for services during the ambulance drivers' strike).

We congratulate also **Lt Col A Gavin Shorto**, the, now retired, Commanding Officer The Bermuda Regiment, on his award of the OBE. We congratulate **Cpl M J Christian**, 3 R Anglian, on achieving a distinction on the Section Commander's Course, and **Sgt T Jones**, 1 R Anglian, on achieving the same grade on the Platoon Sergeants' Battle Course.

COMMISSIONING: The following were commissioned or had their commissioning confirmed at the Sovereign's Parade on 12 Apr 91 at RMAS. To the Vikings, **2Lt S J R Browne** and **2Lt J A York** To the Poachers **2Lt B M Down** and **2Lt E C Reynolds**, to the Pompadours **2Lt P D Morris**, **2Lt B W Pettit** and **2Lt S C Russell**. We welcome them all into the Regiment. We congratulate **Lt D McCrum** on commissioning on 1 Jun 91, he remains with the Poachers as UFO, also **Lt J J Wilcox** on his commissioning and posting to the 3rd Bn as Training Officer, 3 Mar 91.

DEPARTURES: We have said goodbye to **Capt S J Westmacott** who is now with the AAC. **Capt W J Howard** retired on 1 Jul 91, **Maj W F A Heal** on 2 Apr 91, **Capt J P Sweeney** on 28 Apr 91 and **Maj C J Lumby** on 1 Mar 91; we wish them all good fortune for the future.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS: **Maj Roger Shelmerdine-Hare** represented the army in the inter-services team pistol match and was also selected for the combined services team which shot against the Great Britain team. In the first event he was Army top scorer and in the combined team, second. **Maj Mike Wildridge** is now head of art at Sutton Valance School near Maidstone, Kent.



Poachers' Warriors in Kuwait

CONGRATULATIONS: We congratulate **Col John Wooddise**, Cadet Commandant Derbyshire, on his appointment as DL for that county; **Brig Peter Sincok MBE**, recently DA Saudi Arabia, on being made ADC to the Queen; and **Maj John Perry** of the Pompadours, and now our representative at the JIB, on being selected as one of the 12-man Army golf team.

We congratulate the following on their awards earned during tours in Northern Ireland: **Maj Robert Edmundson-Jones, MBE**; **Maj Mike Chambers**, mentioned in Despatches.

POSTINGS: RHQ have been notified of the following postings: **Brig M J D Walker OBE** to be GOC HQ Nedist / 2 Inf Div on promotion in Sep 91; **Brig C Groves** has been Brig Infantry/Commandant Sennelager Training Centre on promotion since Jan 91; the **Rev Tom Hiney CF MC** is to be Chaplain to the Royal Hospital Chelsea from Sep 91; **Col A Behagg MBE** is now Commander Batus. **Lt P A Cookson** has been back with the Vikings since Mar 91. **Maj J M P Walsh** is now with HQ Sowdhist. **Maj P M L Ferrary** moved from BDLS Canberra and took up the appointment as **SO2 S Man 2(A) 2 Andover** on 27 May. **Maj R J Shelmerdine-Hare** is now with the Vikings and **Maj D J Clements** with the Pompadours.

Maj M J Beard has been the UK exchange officer at US Fort Carson since May 91 and **Capt C J Barnes** has been

posted to 3 RRF from Nov 91 – Jun 91.

Maj R J Edmundson-Jones MBE is now back with the Poachers and **Lt Col R M Brunt MBE** has left them to take up the appointment of MA to GOC (NI) on promotion since Nov 90. **Lt Col P R C Dixon** handed over command of 6 R Anglian and is posted to COS BMATT Namibia since Mar 91. **Lt Col A C Taylor** spent three months in the dungeons of Northwood from Jan – Mar 91 and **Capt M H Wenham** is now **SO3 G1 (MOB M & R)** at HQ D Inf.

Capt M K Flynn is with 2/2 Gurkhas as MTO and **Capt N Spinks** has been with HQ 1 Armd Div in the Gulf from 30 Nov 90. **Capt P D Jones** is posted to 8 Inf Bde as **SO3 G3 Ops/Air** since Feb 91 and **Maj S P M Blyth** has been with HQ British Forces (ME) as a Staff Officer from Oct 90 – May 91. **Capt A J Wadman** is now **SO3 G3 Ops** since June at HQ 49 Inf Bde and **Maj S P B Badger** on rejoining from RARO, has been posted to 5 RRF.

Lt Col R G Greenham is **SO1 (DSO)** German Staff College. **Col A E Thompson MBE MC** will be Commandant of the Small Arms Wing at the School of Infantry in July. **Maj A C Wiles** is now **SO3 G1 20 Armd Bde** and **Lt Col P W Field** hands over as **CO of 7/10 UDR**, Aug 91.

Capt S P Wormald is now at Shorncliffe as **OIC wing** at JIB and **Lt Col M J Boocock** hands over as **CO of the Depot** in Sep and takes up the appointment of **SO1/CI Int Wing** at the School of

Continued Page 7

Mainly about people . . .

Options for change explained to MPs

THE Colonel of the Regiment has sent the following letter to all 90 MPs in the regimental area:

DURING the Gulf War the so-called Options for Change were put on hold but work on them now proceeds apace. We are assured that any Gulf lessons will now be incorporated but there have been no ministerial statements giving hope that cuts in the Army Forces will not be severe.

There is well informed speculation that they will bear heavily on the infantry of the line, and this is bound to generate heated public and parliamentary debate. One of the issues will be the survival or otherwise of "large" or "small" regiments.

I am writing this letter to all 90 MPs from the geographical area in which the Royal Anglians are the "local" infantry regiment. I am not seeking to lobby or raise hares at this stage, nor to argue whether deep cuts in regular or reserve forces are justified or timely. My pur-

pose is simply to ensure that you are well informed about the nature and style of your local regiment.

The Royal Anglian Regiment was formed 26 years ago as a "large regiment" resulting from amalgamation of the regular and TA former regiments from Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

We now have three regular and three TA battalions which, until restrictions on recruiting were imposed by MOD, were fully recruited. They all enjoy a high reputation throughout the Army and this is acknowledged even by those who still bemoan the demise of the former county regiments.

There will be emotional support for the remaining small regiments which each still represent one or two counties only, but I should like to draw two points to your attention.

First, quite apart from the self-evident economies of scale, the large regiment offers far greater flexibility for

deployment, reinforcement, career prospects and taking recruiting advantage of demographic trends.

Second, all regiments at the time of the Sandys' axe in the late fifties were encouraged to become "large". Royal Green Jackets, Queen's, Royal Fusiliers, Light Infantry and we ourselves took this plunge and 26 years on none of us now regrets it.

There are going to be those who suggest that it will be less emotive to lop off a battalion from the large regiments to avoid the loss of a name among the smaller single battalion regiments.

This would be to deny the large regiments credit for having toed the line originally, but more important, to ignore the fact that all our battalions have well established, direct and local connections.

I hope these views will help you to represent your local regiment with vigour and authority when decision time approaches.

If I am merely reciting things of which you are already well aware, I apologise.

From Page 6

Defence Intelligence. Capt N C Crawshaw is with the Army Air Corps and Capt R W H Colgan an instructor at NITAT Baor. Capt S T H Andrews goes to RMAS as Assistant Chief Instructor and Regimental Representative Jul 91. Lt M W Stickland has been posted from the Vikings to 7/10 UDR from 1 Jul 91 - 3 Jan 92.

Lt Col A D Slater MBE hands over Command of 6 UDR on 14 Dec 91. Maj D G Ridgway goes to Depot Queen's Div as OC HQ coy 20 Jul and Lt Col TDA Veitch leaves HQ GLT (BFG) in August.

WO1 M V Beaumont to RSM CUTOFF from 3 June; he will be replaced by RSM A S Twell. Capt N Spinks has left HQ 12 Arm'd Bde and is on held strength of the Queen's Division pending retirement.

REINSTATEMENTS: We welcome back into the regiment Lt M E Robinson, 2 R Anglian, at present attached to 7/10 UDR until Jul 91. Capt R N Goodwin, 2 R Anglian, and Capt R E Eke, 3 R Anglian.

Letters

DURING the Gulf War we received letters from various people sending all the Royal Anglians involved their good wishes. Two are reproduced below. (As to the second letter - how many Viking bandmen replied?)

SIR, I am writing on behalf of all the people in the Borough of Wellingborough.

The Royal Anglian Regiment and its predecessors have a special link with us and as you know were granted the Honorary Freedom of the Borough in April 1985.

We are deeply concerned about the war which has started in the Gulf and we know that officers and men from the Regiment are included in the Allied land forces in the area. We want them all to know that they have our heartfelt support and we send them our good wishes.

We trust that the conflict will be brief and that they will be quickly back home with their families.

Councillor George A. Willmott.

The Worshipful The Mayor of the Borough of Wellingborough.

Sent to the Bandmaster, 1st Battalion

SIR, After watching TV news reports here, the girls at my local hairdressers have written some letters which they would like to be given to some of your chaps over there.

All the girls are around 17/25 and wanted you to know they are all thinking of you and praying for your safe and speedy return to the UK. They were too shy to enclose photos, but they are all 'OK'.

I have not put names on the envelopes, but anyone who has not many letters or none at all can have one I hope.

I do hope you do not mind my writing to you, I was not at all sure who to address these letters to, but after speaking to the Regimental Secretary at Warley Brentwood, he gave me your name and said he was sure that you would not mind.

Barbara Polnik.

Mainly about people . . .

DIARY DATES 1991-92

JULY

- 7 Association Gathering, Basingbourn.
- 12 Queen's Div Triangular Golf Match.
- 21-12 Aug 7 R Anglian block leave.
- 27 Suffolk Regiment Officers' Dinner Club dinner, Bury St. Edmunds.
- 28 Minden Reunion.
- 28-19 Aug 5 R Anglian block leave.

AUGUST

- 3-27 6 R Anglian block leave.
- 6 250th anniversary founding of RMAS.

SEPTEMBER

- 7-21 6 R Anglian Annual Camp, Stamford or Otterburn.
- 8-20 5 R Anglian Annual Camp, Sennybridge.
- 13/14 Reg Association Golf - Plumpton.
- 29-12 Oct 7 R Anglian Annual Camp, Garrolochhead & Cullybraggen.
- 21-22 R Lincolns Old Comrades Reunion, Cleethorpes.
- 28/29 R Norfolk R Anglian Association dinner and church service.

OCTOBER

- 4 3 R Anglian Officers' Dinner Club luncheon.
- 5 Past and Present Dinner, Basingbourn.
- 26 R Norfolk's Dinner Club dinner.

NOVEMBER

- 1 Regimental Dinner and Council meeting.
- 5 Essex Regt Remembrance Service, Chelmsford Cathedral, 1200 hrs.
- 5-7 1 R Anglian return to Colchester.
- 7 Field of Remembrance.
- 10 Remembrance Sunday
- 17 Bedfs & Herts reunion, Kempston.
- 22 R Norfolk Regimental Council meeting.
- 25-27 Queen's Div postings meeting.
- 29-5 Jan 1 R Anglian block leave.

DECEMBER

- 7 R Leicester Officers' lunch, Duke of Yorks.

1992

JANUARY

- 21-26 5 R Anglian block leave.

APRIL

- 10 3rd Bn Officers' Dinner Club cocktail party (RAG London)

MAY

- *14 Regimental cocktail party (Duke of Yorks).

AUGUST

- 2 R Anglian to Warminster.
- 1 R Anglian to Celle.

NOVEMBER

- *6 Regimental Council meeting and dinner.
- * to be confirmed.

Officers' Dinner Club cocktail date announced

THE Royal Anglian Regiment Officers' Dinner Club annual cocktail party took place at the Duke of York's on 3 May.

Some 65 members of the Dinner Club attended as well as guests from The Worshipful Company of Poulterers, Mr Richard Gilpin (junior member of court) who was accompanied by his wife.

We expect to hold the party again in 1992 at the same place on 14 May which is a Thursday.

It is hoped that, by holding the party on this day, more people may wish to come — particularly those working in London — whose one ambition on Friday may be to leave the capital at the earliest possible opportunity.

Best ever prizes for Army Photo Competition

SUPER prizes totalling a record £4,000 in cash, equipment, vouchers and trophies are on offer in the 1991 Army Photographic Competition which closes on 30 Sept. Sponsors are Nikon, Fuji, Ilford, Kodak, Soldier, NAAFI, Defence Public Affairs Consultants, Services Sound and Vision Corporation and Vickers Defence Systems.

Prizes include a Nikon f/801 camera with 50mm lens, a £500 cheque for the best portfolio by an amateur photographer (£200 to the runner-up) and numerous other cash prizes ranging from £50 to £350. In addition, there are NAAFI store vouchers to be won and subscriptions to Soldier.

There are also handsome silver trophies to be awarded and every prizewinner will receive a framed scroll of honour. Awards will be presented at a lunch in the Imperial War Museum, London, on 28 Nov.

Details and entry forms are available now from your local P Info branch or by writing direct or telephoning the competition office at the following address: Army Photographic Competition, P Info HQ UKLF, Erskine Barracks, Wilton, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 0AG.

Mainly about people . . .



Pictured at the back, left to right, are: LCpl P Issitt (2nd Bn), Pte W M Wiles (2nd Bn), Pte L M Warwick (2nd Bn), LCpl D C Watkins (3rd Bn), Pte D J Brown (2nd Bn), Pte G A Wright (3rd Bn), LCpl S Greasley (2nd Bn), Sgt J S Sharp (1st Bn). Front: Maj (ret'd) J Oldfield (late 3rd Bn), Maj F R Antolik (2nd Bn), Lt Col T Longland (2nd Bn), Col P P Rawlins (late 2nd Bn), Maj M J Menage (3rd Bn), Capt M H Wenham (1st Bn), CSgt R L Starbuck (2nd Bn).

Influx at Warminster

Major Mike Menage writes:

HAVING had a lean time in recent years in terms of numbers of Royal Anglians at Warminster, a recent influx has produced healthy numbers from all three battalions. Col Peregrine Rawlins is the most senior member of the Regiment as Chief of Staff in the Directorate where Capt Mark Wenham, and our newest arrival Lt Col John Fletcher, who just missed the photograph, are based.

Lt Col Tom Longland has taken up the post of SO1 All Arms Tactics Wing. Maj Mike Menage runs the Ranges and Training Area and Maj Roger Antolik is the Small Arms expert in the Infantry Trials and Development Unit.

Also missing from the photograph is Maj (ret'd) Nigel Lewis who, when he is not nailing nest boxes for owls and hawks onto trees on the Plain, works in the Directorate.

Maj (ret'd) John Oldfield is the assistant

curator in the Small Arms Museum where he can usually be found up to his elbows in rifle oil.

CSgt Starbuck continues the Royal Anglian tradition as Chief Clerk Tactics and Small Arms Wing which awaits the arrival in the summer of Col Alan Thompson, who takes over as Commandant. CSgt Thompkins, who also arrived after the photograph, is the Signal Platoon Colour Sergeant.

There are Royal Anglians now in nearly every department of the School of Infantry and the Support Unit. Similarly, there is a large number of retired members of the Regiment living in Warminster, the most notable being our Colonel, Gen Sir John Akehurst. The regimental presence is now so strong that a Regimental Association has recently been formed on the initiative of ex-Cpl Ted Wilson.

Sandhurst 250th anniversary reunion

AS part of the celebration to mark the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Military Academy, it is proposed to hold a reunion of former Officer and Gentlemen Cadets of Sandhurst, Mons and Woolwich.

The reunion will take place at Sandhurst on Tuesday 6 Aug 1991. For further details please contact: Capt Sally Morris WRAC, Academy Headquarters, RMAS, Camberley, Surrey GU15 4PQ.

Regular Forces Employment Association

THE Association, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Employment, is part of the Forces Resettlement Service. Our task is to assist all non-commissioned men and women who served with good character for a minimum of three years, or less if discharged on medical grounds, to find civil employment at the end of their engagements.

Our services are free, and we take a long-term interest in ex-regulars.

Our employment officers are situated in branches throughout the UK and they maintain close contact with local employers and Jobcentres. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers; Jobcentres and local telephone directories.

During the period 1 Apr 1990 - 31 Mar 1991, the association assisted 11,322 men and women with their resettlement and placed 4,833 in employment.

Of those placed 2,212 were men and women from the Army and 38 were from the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Mainly about people . . .

The Officers' Association

THE Officers' Association provides services which are available to ex-officers of the Royal Navy (including Royal Marines), the Army and the Royal Air Force, and their widows and dependents, including those who held commissions in the Women's Services.

Although a separate organisation, with its own Royal Charter, council and committees, The Association also bears the title of The Officers' Benevolent Department of the Royal British Legion.

This reflects the financial arrangements that were established in 1921, when the Legion was formed, under which the Association was allocated a proportion of the Poppy Appeal and other donations as recognition of the fact that it discharges that part of the Legion's functions which has to do with officers.

Services include:

Employment – an efficient employment department to assist ex-officers of all ages and ranks to find suitable employment, both those just leaving the Services and those who have lost their civilian jobs. Many hundreds of ex-officers are found jobs every year.

Financial Help – assistance is given in a number of ways such as: cash grants to those in financial distress, continuing allowances to those with very small incomes, help towards home fees to those who can no longer run their own homes and can find no suitable home within their means.

Homes Advice – advice on homes for the elderly.

A Country Home – running Huntly a delightful country home at Bishopsteignton, South Devon, which affords comfort and security for lonely ex-officers at or over the age of 65, both male and female, who do not need special nursing care.

Bungalows – running a 12-bungalow estate at Leavesden, Herts, for disabled ex-officers and their families.

The Association has offices in London and Dublin and the Scottish Branch has offices in Glasgow and Edinburgh. All inquiries should be made to the General Secretary, The Officers' Association, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1 5JY. (Tel: 071-930 0125).

From our Honorary Regimental Chaplain

Belief that surfaces in time of danger

"PLEASE do not walk on the water" reads a notice in the grounds of Bagshot Park. Bagshot is the "Regimental" Depot of the Royal Army Chaplains Department . . . a sort of beatific Basingstoke.

Some chaplains have been tempted to try their luck . . . or faith. One padre thought, wrongly, that he had the answer during the ice-skating season.

Walking on water, changing water into wine, are part of Army mythology, where folk religion might seem to explain away the mysteries of life. Sensible padres are wary of such simplifications. Not far beneath the surface of most members of the Armed Forces there lurks a belief, which surfaces very quickly in times of danger or crisis or difficult decision-taking.

Not for nothing did so many people use the word "miracle" to describe the low casualty figures, on the Alliance side, during the Gulf War.

Leading up to the land battle, all 32 Army padres declared that they had never been so occupied on spiritual matters.



So next time it rains during that outdoor Remembrance Day Service you may find the padre happy to take the blame . . . he of all people knows that God has a sense of humour and that He always has the last laugh . . . with us.

Tom Hiney

Books

Grimsby Chums Battalion

Peter Bryant on behalf of his publishers, the Humberside County Council, has had printed a book which will be of particular interest to former members of the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment. The Grimsby Chums Battalion (10th Lincolnshires) was recruited locally as soon as war broke out in August 1914, initially at the instigation of a group of old boys of the Municipal College who had been members of the school cadet corps.

After training the battalion was posted to France in January 1916 and in the disastrous first day attack in the battle of the Somme the 10th Lincolnshires lost 187 men killed out of a total of 502 casualties.

After reinforcement it was involved in the battle of Passchendaele. The book is extensively illustrated and draws much on the trenchant reminiscences of soldiers who served on the Western front.

The book is available from Humberside Heritage Publications (No. 21) and costs £7.95 with postage extra.

The Last Eleven?

MAJ Mark Adkin, ex Royal Anglian, has gone to print again with a book called *The Last Eleven?*

There is a publishers inset with this edition of the *Castle* which gives the necessary details.

MAJ Alex Greenwood, a major in the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment until 1959, has written a biography titled "Field Marshal Auchinleck", with a foreword by the Right Hon J Enoch Powell MBE.

It is printed by Portland Press and costs £17.50. Maj Greenwood was ADC to Field Marshal Auchinleck in India and a close personal friend of the field marshal for over 35 years. Maj Greenwood now lives in Canada.

Mainly about people . . .



Afcent Infantry diners

Afcent celebration

Col Mike Goldschmidt writes:

NOW that the Cold War is over – a victory achieved without a shot being fired in anger in Central Europe – and because HQ Afcent had not undertaken a meaningful exercise for some two years, it was decided to celebrate the imminent end of the close season for campaigning and the re-emergence of the headquarters on the terrain of the Central region for a period of Battle Staff

Training, by holding an Infantry Dinner.

Two members of the Regiment, Col Michael Goldschmidt (14th from the right, chief of personal staff to Air Chf Mshl Sir Anthony Skingsley, Deputy Cincent, the father of ex-21A Guy Skingsley, sometime of the Pompadours) and Maj Harold Halcrow (8th from the right, 2IC of the UK delegation and support unit) were among the 30 Infantrymen from six nations



WO1 (RSM) R J Allen and members of the WOs' and Sgts' Mess 1st Battalion (Vikings) present a cheque for more than £850 to Mr Alan Crabtree, chairman of the fund raising committee of the St Helena Hospice. The hospice looks after the terminally ill and relies entirely on donations.

OFFICERS' DINNER CLUB LIST

FOR security reasons, we have had to stop printing the old Location List which showed ranks.

However there has been considerable demand to re-introduce a Location List and to this end we have made a start by enclosing a list of all retired and TA members of the Officers' Dinner Club showing no ranks, nor is any reference made on the list as to what it refers. Distribution to those listed only; further copies on application.

LEGACIES

When you make out your Will, do not forget the Regimental Association. The Association spends considerable sums of money helping those in times of need and your bequest would be spent wisely and compassionately on less fortunate past and present members of the Regiment.

**More Vikings pictures —
Pages 14-21**

Mainly about people . . .



Jaguar GR1 of 41 Squadron being prepared for a mission. Note AIM9L AAMs on upper wing.

Jaguars in Operation Desert Storm

Major Pat King writes:

THERE I was in August 1990, 53 years old, sitting at RAF Coltishall as a Ground Liaison Officer with 41 Squadron, the Jaguar Recce Squadron. I had just mentally mapped out my last two years in uniform, and was working on my pre-release courses and the like when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait.

The RAF put Coltishall on standby and then sent them off in a very short timeframe to Thumrait in Oman. The squadron sent was under opcon of 6 Squadron and was reinforced by pilots from 41 and 54 Squadrons. GI Os from 6 and 54 Squadrons departed.

I thought that I had missed out and sat back, watching and waiting. By November, with nothing happening, a roulement was promulgated and I found myself, with 41 Squadron in opcon, heading for the Gull, 6 Squadron having moved to Muharraq on Bahrain Island.

I had last been there with the Tigers in 1969/70 and found the place very changed. Roads and new buildings defied description,

and they had reclaimed a lot of land from the sea by the causeway to Muharraq. The Bahrainis were delighted to see us back.

Due to lack of accommodation, all of us on the squadron were housed in the Diplomat, a five-star Trust House Forte Hotel. Intensive training went on after our arrival. Christmas came and went with the TV carol service and with wonderful parcels from the Royal British Legion and numerous kind souls in Norfolk. We even got a proper Christmas tree donated by a shop in Coltishall village. By this time Saddam had started lobbing Scuds. We masked up and took cover quite frequently. Some hilarious scenes were witnessed with two legs down one trouser leg. One wag even worked out how to smoke a cigarette whilst masked up. Yes, it is possible!

By mid-January things were looking ominous but I don't think that any of us thought that Saddam would see it through. Then we went to war stations four days before the ultimatum expired.

With three days to go we received our war brief. We were all flabbergasted at the size of Operation Desert Storm. It had been

planned by a genius. Fighters, air to air refuellers, fighter bombers, bombers, wild weasels and other specialist aircraft had all been dovetailed together to make the largest raid plan ever seen.

D Day approached. I was woken at D Day plus 1 minute by the first Tornado 8 Ship raid going to war. I leapt out of bed and saw them going out, no lights or beacons switched on.

I got into work at 0400 hrs, just after they had landed. They were euphoric – no losses, and despite heavy AAA and SAMs, they had "wellied" their target, an airfield. We then began Jaguar Ops, flying daylight raids only. We flew two waves daily for bombing missions and then added on recce missions after a couple of weeks.

Great excitement as the first mission left, followed by great tension as we waited for the Inflight report. Euphoria after both waves – no losses, and the last man in each wave had to be grabbed and reminded that he had not put in his mission report.

The euphoria quickly evaporated when it was learnt that the Boss and one of the

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Mainly about people . . .

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other pilots in his wave had both suffered flak damage to their jets. We quickly got into a routine and worked flat out to produce all the information that the pilots needed. I was responsible for tasking the jets. This meant lots of calls to Air HQ at Riyadh.

In addition I was responsible for ground intelligence, and in making sure that all the mapping was up to date. I was helped by my clerk (corporal RCT) a Squadron intelligence officer and an electronic warfare officer.

There were two complete teams as we gave 24-hour cover to the squadron. I covered days and GLO 54 Squadron flew out at the start of the war to cover nights. We were tasked against SAMs, log sites, ammo dumps, numerous artillery battalions and Silksworm anti-shiping missile sites.

In addition we flew in support of Navy ops in the Gulf, and attacked shipping,

including a barge, fast patrol boats and a Polnochny tank landing ship. The Jaguar Squadron was shot at daily right up until the end, and anyone who says that the air war was a doddle was not there.

Scuds flew our way throughout the war and after initial worries over them we took them in our stride. Bahraini civilians carried on as normal, and the streets only cleared when the sirens sounded. All shop and hotel windows were taped. We were all so impressed with Patriot that we reckoned that the inventor should receive a Knighthood.

Integration between the various Air Forces was excellent and all of us worked extremely well together, whether Qatari, Bahraini, US Canadian or French and so on. The skies were always very crowded and yet there were no mid-air, and the plan always worked. The rule book took a back seat for the duration yet everybody flew sensibly.

The resolve of the air crew, whether Tornado, Jaguar or others, was magnificent and their professionalism had to be seen to be believed. The ground crews of both Tornados and Jaguars at Muharrag were magnificent throughout. Morale was always high and there was no lacking in confidence.

I never thought that I would go to war at my age, least of all with the Royal Air Force. Three of us had sons in 7 Armoured Brigade, which was an added worry for us. My son Richard was commanding an HQ in 21 Engineer Regiment.

It was unnerving to know roughly where he was and what he was doing during the land war, and I breathed a hearty sigh of relief when I learnt that he had come through safely.

I have come home greatly impressed by what I saw and by what took place, and I feel very privileged to have been a small part of it all.

The Vikings' legacy on Gibraltar

Capt Christopher Wawn (ex R Anglian) writes:

IT was just over 18 months ago when the Vikings left the Rock, but the Royal Anglian legacy still lives on as many ex members can now be found in the ranks of the Gibraltar Regiment, or in civilian life up and down Main Street.

The two years the Royal Anglians lived on the Rock helped to strengthen the alliance between the two regiments and many life long friends were made.

This will be further enhanced in 1992, when the Gibraltar Regiment will come under the Queen's Division and new recruits from the Rock will find themselves at Basingbourn alongside fellow Anglians.

With the withdrawal of the Resident Battalion on the Rock in March 1991, the Gibraltar Regiment establishment has been expanded to meet the needs of the ground defence of Gibraltar, and in principle will become the new "Resident Battalion", based at Lathbury Barracks.

This new commitment has caused the Gibraltar Regiment to change out of all recognition, as it has had to convert over from an artillery unit to an infantry battalion.

Thompson's Battery with its 105 Light Guns and the Air Defence Troop, with its blowpipes, were disbanded last July, ending 296 years of continuous Royal Artillery service to the Rock.

As a result, the Regiment has been reorganised into an all infantry unit. This reorganisation and expansion has caused many new opportunities some of which have been eagerly snapped up by ex Vikings. The new formation is made up of three rifle companies and a new HQ Coy which will retain the name of Thomson's Battery.

An ex Viking, WO2 Thredwell, has been posted as CSM of HQ Coy on a two-year attachment and it is hoped that many of the UK personnel will come from the Royal Anglian Regiment. It is also anticipated that there will be cross-postings between the two Regiments.

The three rifle coys will be known as G Coy, I Coy and B Coy and they will be on the same establishment as UK Home Defence Coys. G Coy will be manned entirely by regular soldiers, whose overall numbers will jump from 70 to 150 officers and men.

Many of these additional troops have been recruited locally and are now doing

their basic training at Woolwich. Some of these vacancies have been filled by ex Vikings. Two faces already on duty are Pte Collins (ex A Coy) and Pte Herbert (ex B Coy). LCpl Lewis (ex Recce) joined just before Christmas and in March, Cpl Bliss (ex A Coy), Thomas (ex Recce) and Gager (ex Sig Platoon) will also be joining G Coy. A number of Vikings who transferred to the Green Jackets will also be joining the Regiment. LCpl Ryan (ex A Coy) and Cpl Barlow (ex Signal) will join G Coy, while Pte Courtney (ex Mess) will stay as a member of the Mess Staff.

I Coy is the new TA cat 'A Coy and will be manned by part timers who can commit themselves to a two-week camp and 12 other obligatory days. The 2IC of this company is Capt Wawn, A Coy, and 6 Royal Anglian, the only Viking Officer to have stayed behind.

A number of members of the Gibraltar Regiment are Honorary Royal Anglians because of the attachments they have served in the past. The Honorary Colonel, Lt Col D L Collada, OBE, served as a Company Commander with the Regiment in the early 1970s and saw service in Londonderry. Maj A I. Casciaro (Fofi) was Pl Comd in Belfast in the early 1970s.



Vikings



Fast and furious times

THE Battalion has spent the 1990/1991 period after South Armagh preparing for the next Northern Ireland tour. Between was a short period of conventional warfare training.

Activities during this period have been varied, even if dominated by the forthcoming tour. Opportunities for breaks have been greatly appreciated as highlights in a full programme that aimed to prevent boredom through idleness at one extreme and breakdowns through overwork at the other.

Adventure training

Initially there was a brief respite with a concerted effort to involve as many soldiers as possible in company organised adventure training. Support and B Coys organised packages in Tenby, Wales and Penhale, Cornwall respectively. These included events such as canoeing, rock climbing, hill walking, pony trekking and mountain biking. Expeditions were also organised by the companies to enable small groups the opportunity of visiting different countries to carry out their activities.

Support Coy sent 12 Vikings sailing in a 35 metre yacht. They went to Cherbourg and Guernsey but at odds with their name, very few proved themselves competent or comfortable sailors.

A Coy sent a 150-man team, under OC Major Johnny Rollins, to Norway ski-mountaineering in the Jotewtheimen mountains. They were met on arrival by another Viking, Col Tony Calder, currently on the staff at AFNORTH who ensured that the expedition got off to a good start. The team based themselves in a mountain hut in Mjofell Valley. From here they skied and climbed a number of snow and ice routes in the surrounding mountains.

Another 15 man team under Lt Henry Simpson travelled to Turkey. They went hill walking, climbing and abseiling in the Ala Dag range of the Taures mountains.

Members of C and HQ coys under Lt Nick Nottingham and Maj Terry Dempsey (Paymaster) ventured to the south of France.



Pte McKenzie during the 10PI visit to Haileybury College

From here they walked over the Pyrennes to Spain with a short detour into Andorra, under the junior commander's direction, in pursuit of 'La Vie Americaine'. Most encouraging of all, this expedition included one of only two females to be serving with the Vikings, W Pte Squires. She had obviously been sold the idea on the basis of a good R&R package on the Costa Brava.

For some reason this expedition had no problems bidding for and receiving funds!

Inter Company Competition

The final events of the Champion Company 1990 competition were completed. C coy won the March and Shoot competition, with

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News from the Vikings



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Lt Andy Price, 10 Pl C coy, leading the winning team. B coy won the Tickle Shoot and BFT competitions to secure the title of Champion Company 1990 by a convincing margin. The results were as follows:- 1st, B coy, 725 points; 2nd, A coy, 650 points; 3rd, C coy, 530 points; 4th, HQ coy, 515 points; 5th, Sp coy, 380 points.

Events

The closing months of 1990 included some additional events. The Battalion jointly prepared and hosted with the Pompadours a sponsored assault course event. Some 200 members of Barclays Bank were provided with an opportunity of escapism that all relished, even though the bruises and cracked nails may have been rued later.

A week before Christmas leave, the Battalion took over Turner Village Hospital's stage and put on its version of the Royal Variety Show: The Vikings Star Show.

Nearly every company department put on an act, though the fact of participation was no guarantee of quality. For some unknown reason this amazing event was not

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Above: Sp Coy on a sailing escape to Cherbourg and Guernsey. Below: At a Pyrenean summit — Pte Orton, 2Lt Nottingham, Pte Mawbey and Pte Hudson.



News from the Vikings



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open to the public.

There were rumours that, following the event certain members of the Battalion were debating whether extra duties or libel suits would be the most appropriate means of exacting their revenge on those participating and on their scriptwriters.

The Commanding Officer's Bugle Competition was held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. All members of the Corps of Drums took part. The final results were:- Commanding Officer's Drummer, LCpl Tucker; Adjutant's Drummer, Dmr Copsey; Regimental Sergeant Major's Drummer, Dmr Stevenson.

Spearhead

Prior to departing on leave the Battalion assumed the role of Spearhead Battalion which was two weeks early because of another unit's deployment. Of note is the fact that our successors to the role were also deployed to Northern Ireland - Lady Luck was obviously smiling on us for once. The Battalion was deployed only once during its period on Spearhead and that was on the penultimate day, when units from 19 Inf Bde were called upon to assist the local community because of heavy snow. The Battalion helped provide vehicles for a 'meals on wheels' service and cleared the pathways of a nearby old peoples home.

Training

Immediately prior to Christmas leave, the

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Above: Abseiling in the Ala Dag range, Turkey. Below: A Coy training in Turkey — Lt Simpson, mountain hut owner, and Lt Palmer.



News from the Vikings



Above: LCpl Mason, LCpl Bold and Cpl Conner with Bde Commander's commendations for their actions at a road accident in Colchester. Below: Maj Gen Pollard presents medals to CSgt Clarke and Sgt Woods. Right: Capt Rory Milligan receives the GOC NI's Commendation.



News from the Vikings



Left: RSM Allen meets Maj Gen Pollard. Right: Cpl Alsop receives a Long Service and Good Conduct medal.

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training wing ran an LCpl-Cpl Cadre. LCpl Garvie, B coy came first. On return from leave a potential NCOs Cadre of 30 was held. Best student was Pte Robinson, followed by Pte Biddell, both of C coy. Most improved student was Bdr Oliver, C Bty 3 RHA. All four soldiers have now been promoted to LCpl.

Officially training for Northern Ireland started at the beginning of February with the relinquishment of Spearhead duties. In reality, courses and cadres had been running since November. In particular, the selection and training of the Int Cell and COP means that these soldiers will have been mentally orientated to Northern Ireland for over 12 months.

C Bty 3 RHA are now under command of the Battalion although they had been training for the infantry role since Christmas leave under the supervision of Capt Bill Howard and CSgt Godby (converting them from FH70 to SA80). The Bty replaced Sp coy who were disbanded until 1992 and its platoons spread throughout the Battalion.

Training for the province was progressive from team level up to multiple prior to co-ordinated company operations. Heavy emphasis was given to rangework and field firing with much of the training being run

by a permanent range team. The conclusion of this training was a three week exercise run by the Northern Ireland Training and Advisory Team (NITAT). This included rangework, field firing, urban and rural phases designed to continue the soldiers' instruction and confirm that it had in fact been learned. At the time of writing this article, the Battalion has just returned from leave and the advance parties have started to depart. By the time this is published the Battalion will be established in the Province.

Commendations

In the first few months of 1991 a number of commendations have been awarded to members of the Battalion although the events related to stretch back to August 1990. In January Brig Farrar-Hockley, Comd 19 Inf Bde, awarded commendations to Cpl Conner and LCpl Bold, both RP Staff, for their actions at a road traffic accident (RTA) in Colchester in October. He also awarded LCpl Mason, QM Dept, for his actions at an RTA in August while on guard duty in Wiltshire during the Brigade exercise. In March he awarded a further two commendations to Cpl Smith and Pte Kenworthy for their actions at an RTA this year in the Colchester area while on a driving lesson (Cpl Smith being a driving

instructor and Pte Kenworthy a medic).

Subsequently the Commanding Officer awarded commendations to Sgts Cooper, Dawkins, Keeble, Pattison, Windmill and Davenport (C Bty 3 RHA) for their actions at an RTA on the A12 this year.

Visitors abound

The last six months have seen numerous visitors to the Battalion making the most of the opportunity before its departure away from Colchester again. These visits have ranged from lowest to highest potential officers to generals.

As mentioned in the last edition we were graced with the presence of an Australian Officer from August until November. Capt Jim Boubouras from 8/9 Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment, was over here on exercise Long Look whilst Capt James Woodham was away in Australia (his article is included later). Capt Boubouras was taken off adventure training almost as soon as he arrived and joined the Cambrian Patrol Team in Scotland for a short while (a real culture shock).

It was not all play as he had to assist running some of the Training Wing cadres during his time but not to the extent that he was unable to play rugby for the Regimental team. He socialised with a vengeance and

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was a most welcome addition to the Officers' Mess. 2Lt Private Ternynck from the French Army visited for two weeks during February. He was looked after by Capt Rick Beven, not a man known for his linguistic ability — but he does smoke Gauloises. Throughout the period there has been a regular turnover of potential officers, some of whom we hope will be returning to the Battalion on a more permanent basis in the future.

In March the Officers' Mess was used for a dinner for nine headmasters of East Anglian schools. The event was hosted by Maj Gen Pollard and attended by a number of officers, both serving and retired, with local connections.

Maj Gen Pollard in his role as Deputy Colonel of the Regiment, also visited the Battalion during its build up training for Fermanagh. During his visit he presented GOC NI's Commendations for action during the South Armagh tour to Lt Andy Price, CSgt Prime and Sgt Windmill. Long Service and Good Conduct medals were presented to CSgt Clarke, Sgt Sutton, Sgt Woods and Cpl Alsop.

Other visitors have included Gen Sir John Waters the CinC UKLF, Maj Gen Evans, GOC Eastern District, Brigadier Farrar-Hockley, Commander 19 Inf Bde, Brigadier Sutherland, the Battalion's previous Commanding Officer now commanding 8 Inf Bde, and Col Mike Goldschmidt, to give a presentation to commanders about his



Pte Davies keeps a low profile during the 9PI visit to Haileybury College.

experiences in Fermanagh in 1981.

In addition to those listed above, the Battalion has also been joined by a number of officers for the coming tour. Lt Richard Arnold joins from 5 R Anglian and Lt Adam Eaton from 1/2 GR — continuing our unofficial links with the latter. Of the four new subalterns to join the Battalion, 2Lt Mark Strickland goes to 7/10 UDR and we look forward to reading in this magazine his articles about Northern Ireland.

The Gulf

The Band returned safely from the Gulf

in March. Unfortunately the Battalion was away on NITAT training so was unable to greet them back in style. Details of their exploits follow in a separate article.

Conclusion

At the time of publishing, the Vikings will be putting into practice the training that dominated the last few months. The pace has been fast and furious, though not without some periods of leave and respite. The mood now is very much one of "let's get on with it!"

Band mobilised in war role

WO1 Wallis writes:

IN less than a year since the end of Op Orderly, the Regimental Band was mobilised in its war role for the Gulf crisis.

Throughout October our time was spent training both at battalion level, who naturally gave us maximum assistance, and at Saighton Camp, Chester with 33 Field Hospital, the unit to which we would be attached. Particular emphasis was placed on NBC drills.

After a great Viking send off, which we normally give but rarely receive, we left Colchester for Saudi Arabia. The phrase "going off to war" evoked many feelings never before experienced so it is hard to describe the atmosphere as we left. The bus

was noticeably quiet as each man was occupied with his own thoughts.

Having taken off on a crisp November morning we landed at Jubayl airport in 70 deg F of heat/humidity . . . at 2200 hrs local time. After being documented at a Field Records Office we arrived at our "camp", which completed the last leg of the journey.

We were by no means the only Band to be attached to the hospital. Joining us were the Scots Guards, Pegasus Band (Para), the KOBs, Devon & Dorsets and the Green Howards. The KOBs eventually left us to join 22 Field Hospital in Bahrain. Two Bands formed an ambulance squadron while the remainder were assigned tasks within

the hospital, the Vikings being given reception as its main responsibility.

The first priority was to build the hospital, the location of which was on the site of a large tyre warehouse in the heart of the Al Jubayl industrial area. Inside the building a vast labyrinth of tentage was erected into which fitted a chemical-proof inner lining which would enable the staff to work without the encumbrance of an NBC suit.

Around the outside of the building many more tents were put up to house reception, evacuation, wards, offices and the other admin departments needed to service a 600-bed hospital.

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Above: The Vikings Band on Operation Granby. Below: 33 General (Surgical) Hospital at Al Jubayl during Operation Granby.

Even while the outside tentage was being built (the inside having been finished first), the hospital was taking in patients. Medical establishments have to prepare for every kind of injury or sickness, not just those associated with the battlefield.

As soon as the complex had been built a series of exercises was planned to get the staff working together as a team. One of the problems any hospital in the field faces, if not properly dealt with, is "casualty flow". If too many patients get into the system too quickly, the staff cannot cope with the overflow. Therefore the smooth passage of casualties along the chain from reception to the theatres and the wards collapses.

The onus was on the reception staff to document each patient and move them to the various departments at the right pace. It was satisfying to know that we achieved this almost straight away.

As each department was exercised the efficiency of the hospital as a unit grew, and we felt confident that we could cope with most circumstances.

By now we were into December and although, due to Saudi law, no overt displays of Christianity were allowed, we began to enter into the spirit of Christmas and despite the total lack of alcohol we made the best of it. Someone came up with the idea for an "It ain't 'all hot, Mum" type



show. The Bands had their instruments and the staff were dredged for talent. The result was such a success that two extra nights were added to allow more troops to see it.

The onset of the air offensive was for us a tense time, for although bombardments were taking place well to the north, with no retaliation, we had to endure the nightly Scud missile attacks. Up to four or five times a night we had to put on our NBC suits and race to the shelters as the warning sirens sounded. During all this time the only casualties were from traffic accidents, colds and flu, dental etc. etc. – none as a result of the battle.

Even after the ground war began there was no "mass casualty" situation we all dreaded; everything was going too well it seemed, something had to break. Amazingly nothing did and thank God for that!

After the temporary ceasefire had been called some badly injured Iraqi POWs were brought in for surgery, and were cared for as any other patient.

The Band arrived home in the early hours of Sunday 17 Mar, quietly and without fuss, with four weeks' post Op Grandby leave to look forward to. The Band should return to playing music in the regions soon!

News from the Vikings

On patrol with the Australians

Captain James Woodham writes:

EXERCISE Long Look is an annual exercise involving British, Australian and New Zealand armies. It is designed to give participants the chance to broaden their military knowledge and experience by giving them the opportunity to see and work within a foreign army. After spending a lot of time convincing all concerned that I was the man to go, I was accepted as the Queen's Division nomination in 1990.

We flew from RAF Brize Norton on 4 Aug. After brief stops in Dusseldorf, Dubai and Singapore we arrived in Sydney where we were immediately transferred to a training camp about 40 minutes away. It was here that we had the opportunity to meet up with our opposite numbers over a traditional Aussie liquid lunch. Jet lag and XXXX certainly did not mix, however it was good to meet Captain Jim Boubouras who was to take my place in 1 R Anglian.

The next stage was to fly to Brisbane to meet with my host unit 8tb/9th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (8/9 RAR).

I was attached to their one rifle company 'in situ'. A coy. During my time spent with A coy, I was employed as a spare officer and was involved with platoon and company level training.

I first met up with A coy on its defensive position on Shoal Water Bay Training Area, where I was attached to a Musurian unit, who are the official Australian exercise enemy. A coy was certainly playing the part. Whether I was Australian or Musurian it gave me an excellent opportunity to meet and work with the Aussie "digger" (Pte soldier) who proved themselves to be of a very high standard.

After spending a week discovering Brisbane, we deployed on a shooting exercise during which we fired the equivalent of the APWT on all their weapons. 8/9 RAR has not yet converted to the Australian army's new weapon system, which is based on the STEYR and the FN made MINIMI machine gun, which meant we used the old SLR, M16, GPMG.

Although the average temperature in Brisbane during late August was between



Capt Woodham on Exercise Long Look

20-25 deg C. I had a craving for the sun and so decided to fly to Darwin, Northern Territory. The temperature at Darwin airport on my arrival was 34 deg C, which remained par for the course for the rest of my stay. I was hosted in Darwin by Norforce which is an operational unit whose task is to patrol the mostly uninhabited coastline of northern Australia. Most of its work is carried out by small vehicle-mounted patrols which are out for periods of up to a month.

During their work they make maximum use of local knowledge and in some areas use army reserve aboriginal trackers.

When I arrived back in Brisbane, I was whisked away on an adventure training reconnaissance into outback Queensland and subsequently went on a road trip to northern Queensland. This was made possible by the Commanding Officer of 8/9 RAR who kindly lent us his staff car and a guide for two weeks.

The first major stop was beautiful tropical Whitsunday Islands. We chartered a 55ft yacht which came complete with a skipper, cook and two German girls. Needless to say great fun was had by all.

On dry land again and after another day's driving, we arrived in Cairns, a large town in northern Queensland where the reef is at its most accessible. We based ourselves in Cairns and on the first day went white water rafting on the wild Tully river.

Next, some bungy jumping-diving

150ft through the jungle canopy with an elastic band attached to your ankles.

To finish our time in northern Queensland we spent some time marvelling at the underwater world of the Great Barrier Reef before returning to Brisbane.

The Australian army has only one armoured brigade (the 1st) which is based in Holsworthy, near Sydney and during my time in Australia I spent three weeks with them attached to 5/7 RAR, which is a mechanised unit equipped with M113.

After spending a few days seeing the sights in Sydney, I deployed on Ex Predator's Advance, which was a major land cleared exercise culminating in a series of live firing battlegroup attacks on Puckapunyal range in Victoria.

When I returned to Brisbane, 8/9 RAR had started its adventure training period and I felt duty bound to see what the soldiers were having to endure and so decided to go on a diving course. The course was run by a civilian company for which the soldiers paid. The course was a great success and all participants qualified to open water if not advanced standard.

My four months were now nearly over and all that was left to do was to say farewell to the many friends I had made in Australia.

Long Look was an excellent opportunity to see something different and shake off any staleness. If you can be spared to go – leap at the chance.



POACHERS



Unpredictable route to Kuwait

SINCE Christmas, life for the Poachers has been anything but predictable. In mid-December the Battalion was warned that it would carry out an Emergency Warrior conversion ready for Op Granby II training at Batus in April. The conversion would take six weeks instead of three-and-a-half months and would consist of a number of staggered gunnery courses with live firing and tactics packages running concurrently.

Immediately after Christmas leave, work began with gunnery courses running at both Celle and Munster from 11-25 Jan; the normal length of this phase of the conversion is four weeks but with determination and much out of hours practice, all Poachers passed. At the same time a drivers' course was run at Hohne. From 21-23 Jan the Lord Mayor of Leicester visited the Battalion, meeting Leicestershire soldiers and getting the chance to see them training on small arms, support weapons and Warrior itself.

On the 22nd, the Officers' Mess held a Ladies Dinner Night in his honour. The Op Granby II spectre continued to hover over us as the GOC 4 Armoured Division, Maj Gen McKenzie, visited us on 23 Jan to discuss Granby-related matters with the CO.

By 1 Feb the Battalion was ready to undergo a tactics package which comprised a day of stands at Hohne run by AITAT. This covered basics of Warrior tactics such as the new cam net, debussing and stowage of equipment. After that, each Company went through a 48-hour exercise to familiarise itself with the wonderful new capabilities of Warrior with its speed and manoeuvrability.

The exercise was conducted in snow with temperatures reading -20 deg C at night... desert training in arctic conditions! Ironically we were able to provide previously unavailable data on Warrior's capabilities in extreme cold weather.

On 8 Feb the Officers' Mess celebrated Sobraon Day by inviting the Warrant Officers to their Sobraon dinner, which proved to be an excellent night. The



LCpl Coupe, right, and Cpl Grouse ferrying Challenger drivers back to collect more tanks to load on to the ship in the background.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess reciprocated the following night by inviting the Officers to their Sobraon cocktails.

The following two weeks saw the first Warrior live firing take place at Hohne with A and C Coys practising their technique with 30mm Rarden and 7.62mm Chain Gun, the Recce Platoon took the opportunity to live fire in Scimitar at the same time. Brigadier Infantry, Brigadier Colin Groves (late Royal Anglian) visited the ranges on 20 Feb. The frantic lifestyle which we had been living since last August with the

announcement of Granby 1, reached a crescendo in mid-February. Warrior conversions were taking place, guards and duties at Fallingbostal continued in 7 Brigade's continued absence, and the Battalion was formally warned of Op Granby II.

The CO briefed the Chief of Defence Staff designate, Gen Sir Richard Vincent at 4 Armoured Division HQ on 18 Feb about Op Granby and its knock-on effect for the Battalion. The battalion would form part of

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News from the Poachers



Above: Loading Challengers on to a ship. Left: LI Chris Stephenson in an Iraqi MTLB. Below: Pte Botterill at the local sports centre on a day off.



News from the Poachers



Volleyball: recreation at Hola camp.

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11 Brigade along with 2 R Irish, 5 Innis DG and elements of the RH.

February also proved to be a sporting month with our victorious Nordic Ski Team returning having achieved more success than they had hoped for; Pte Cruddace (B coy) was selected for the British Biathlon Junior Development Squad. The boxing team reached the final of the BAOR inter-division boxing championships which they contested on 26 Feb at Minden against 1 Queens. The result was in the balance right until the end, but 1 Queen's finally won 5-4.

As February became March and the land war in the Gulf was won the Battalion underwent an extensive training package for Op Granby II, whilst the final Warrior Gunnery Course got under way.

The Granby training package comprised a series of 2 or 3-day cadres spread over six weeks to bring skills up to speed in NBC, first aid, small arms weapon handling and platoon weapons training such as 51mm mortar and 94mm LAW.

In addition to this, every member of the Battalion completed a BFT and an ICFTT. Despite being completed at a time when it was becoming increasingly unlikely that we would deploy to the Gulf, the training proved to be excellent and timely. As well as this, the Ops officer organised specialist lectures.

March did not simply involve Granby training; the Batus option was still very much on and so planning for Medicine Man II (now June) had to run alongside the contingency for a possible Gulf deployment. In addition to this there were two visits to the Brigade and Battlegroup Trainer at

Sennelager at the end of the month to plan for.

On 11 Mar Capt Richard Kemp, our erstwhile Ops officer, returned from the Gulf with many interesting stories having been Brigadier Cordingley's Tac Ops Officer. The rest of our Granby personnel also returned over the following few weeks full of war stories and sporting sun tans – an article on our Band follows.

After six months of Granby, the Battalion thought it fully understood the nature of the fast ball, but nothing had prepared it for what was to come. On 15 Mar the inevitable happened and Op Granby II was cancelled, but within minutes 5 Ordnance Battalion which had been tasked with the job of cleaning vehicles and ordnance at Jubail, were in touch with the Commanding Officer to ask for a rifle company with a mix of Warrior, Spartan and HGV drivers to assist. A Coy under Maj David Whitehead was tasked and they left in the early hours of 25 Mar, expecting to see their colleagues in other companies four to six months hence.

Having sent the Battalion off on leave, the Commanding Officer relaxed with confidential report writing, only to be rung up after two days to be told the Battalion was on seven days' notice to move to Kuwait. We were to form a battle group with D Squadron 5 Innis DG, and 31 Battery 47 Field Regt RA forming the rest of the Battle Group. Even under normal circumstances this would have been a tall order but with many away in the UK it was made double difficult. Key personalities were recalled by 28 Mar and all other ranks by the 30th. By that date all but four members of the Battalion were back in Trenchard Barracks.

The advance party arrived in Al Jubail on 3 Apr to a temperature of about 30 deg. C, and were taken to the infamous Blackadder Camp where desert combats were issued and initial briefings done. It was here that A Coy was able to rejoin the Battlegroup, as a Company of 2 R Irish had been flown out to replace them with 5 Ord Bn.

The following day the advance party flew into Kuwait where the remainder of the Battlegroup joined them over the next five days. By 10 Apr all personnel were in place at St George's Lines and had taken vehicles over from 3 RRF who were remarkably pleased to see us!

St George's Lines is in fact a huge complex of warehouses on a spur called Doha about 10 miles to the northwest of Kuwait City. It is surrounded by water on three sides but all beaches are still heavily mined so there has been no swimming as yet! When 3 RRF arrived some five days prior to us, the evidence of Iraqi occupation was everywhere, no building had been left undisturbed; they had not disposed of their rubbish and human waste was everywhere.

There was no electricity, running water or accommodation, but with excellent support from 50 Fd Sqn RE there are now enough amenities to allow us to live here indefinitely (apart from the toilets).

At night there is obviously no walking out but the time is taken up writing "blues" or watching films provided by the SSVC Mobile Desert Cinema. In addition we are able to benefit from the countless BFPO 3000 packages which have been sent by well wishers among the British public. They contain small essentials like toiletries

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and biscuits and are very much appreciated. Everybody is now in the habit of going to bed early as Reveille is at 0530 with Battle Group PT at 0600.

After the morning's work a siesta follows lunch in order for troops to keep out of the sun at its hottest; work restarts at 1500. At present most Poachers make the most of the siesta to get some sun-bathing done, although it is getting hotter all the time and it will soon be foolish to stay out during the heat of the day.

During the first week's acclimatisation many Poachers were able to get out to see the evidence of the destruction wreaked by the allies. Almost every soldier paused for thought when he saw the carnage at the gap on the Mutla ridgeline where the Basra road converges.

Hundreds of fleeing Iraqi vehicles were caught in the open with nowhere to hide and it is easy to imagine how terrifying it must have been to be subjected to an air attack of such violence.

Other sights included the famous sand model of Kuwait's defences which appeared on television just after the war – it is in the factory complex next door to ours and the rooms adjoining show evidence of torture and murder. Everywhere are signs of indiscipline with rubbish all over the place and warehouses that have been looted.

Some members of A Coy managed to visit a Kuwaiti information centre, cataloguing the atrocities of the Iraqi occupation; it is not suitable to record details here but suffice it to say some of us saw videoed evidence of appalling torture and murder. One's compassion for those caught at the Mutla gap dwindles somewhat.

Saddam's other legacy, the oil fires, still burn and at night when one looks south from our camp the sky is lit up as if it is sunset with the countless fires raging some 15 miles away.

This sight is complemented by the endless trails of tracer which climb into the night sky from the city itself where rival factions constantly fight each other.

After our week's acclimatisation extensive desert training began. A programme of build-up training started with low level tactics and is going on at the time of writing. The aim is to climax with Battle Group Training, but political events are so fluid out here that future tasks are as yet unclear, and we do not know how much longer "Britfor Kuwait" will remain in place.



Cpl Merryweather, standing, LCpl Greenway and Bandsman Martin enjoy their first breakfast in civilisation for three months.

Band plays to a liberated city

WO1 McCrum writes:

SHORTLY after the announcement that the war had ended, the band sergeant major and I had made arrangements to hitch a lift on a Sea King helicopter to the port of Al Jubail. This was, of course, to collect the band's musical instruments and bring them back to the desert in Kuwait.

Then, on the 8 Mar, the band was air lifted by Chinook to Kuwait City to play at the British Embassy. The band was met by the Ambassador, Michael Weston, and shown around the Embassy complex. That evening, the band played for the Ambassador and his guests totalling 150 and met many of the world's press.

It is quite an important point to note that the Poachers Band was the first band to

play in the city since the liberation a few days before.

After enjoying an excellent buffet and quite a few drinks, the Band was then flown back to its location in the desert, about 60km from Kuwait City.

The next high profile engagement came several days later on the 12 Mar. The British minesweeper Cattistock became the first allied ship to dock at the Gulf port since the Iraqi invasion.

It led the 14,000 ton USS La Salle into Al-Shuaybah port to be welcomed by Britain's Ambassador to Kuwait, and the Poachers' Band. Once again, the world's press captured the occasion.

To date the band have played at present

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News from the Poachers



The Regimental Band outside the British Embassy in Kuwait City.

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tation ceremonies, barbeques, concerts, marching displays and even a JNCO's pass off parade for 2Fd RA. You name it, the

band has flown the flag in all departments to a very high professional standard.

Although our dress uniform, desert combats and floppy hat, were very smart, I felt as if we were a little undressed for sev-

eral of the major events.

The Battalion and the Regiment can be proud in the knowledge that their band, the Poachers, was the first band to perform in Kuwait City.

A visit to His Majesty's Tenth of Foot

2Lt M A Lyne writes:

"THE Tenth of Who" I said as I stood in my Company Commanders' office. "Would you like to visit the Tenth of Foot in Boston, USA, after Batus?" he asked again. Well why not I thought, it sounds interesting.

Before I set off I decided to investigate how we managed to have connections nearly 4,000 miles away across the Atlantic Ocean. Well, whilst the Poachers were based in Berlin in 1980 the then Deputy Colonel of our Regiment, Maj Gen R E J Gerrard-Wright CBE called on Lt Col Stone MBE, at that time our Commanding Officer, to host eight Americans who were interested in our Regimental history, in particular the Tenth of Foot.

The Adjutant, then Capt P Holme, was summoned and asked to prepare a suitable programme for our guests. The visit was a great success and from that day to this we have kept in touch by means of exchanges, my own visit being the most recent.

Having completed Ex Med Man II, I set off to Boston not quite knowing what lay

ahead. On arrival I was met by two very smartly dressed men, sporting 2nd Battalion ties. They were the 'Colonel', Leo Lynch and the Battalion 2IC Jamie Coule. They swiftly took me off for lunch where they explained what they had in mind for my seven day visit. Trips here, there and everywhere.

So the next day we started my grand tour around the sights and sounds of Boston, in particular seeing places of historical regimental importance such as Lexington Green and the famous Battle Road.

In a manner similar to that of the 'Sealed Knot' in England, His Majesty's Tenth of Foot in America re-enact primary battles from the start of the American war of independence, the most important of which has to be the Battle of Lexington Green, where the Minute Men confronted the Regular British forces as they marched to clear the countryside of the revolutionaries.

It was here that the first shots of the revolution were fired and the Minute Men,

heavily outnumbered and outgunned by the regulars, were slaughtered.

The Tenth of Foot take great pride in ensuring that as far as is at all possible they stand on Lexington Green in the same uniform, carry the same weapons, use the same words of command and do drills in the manner of an 18th Century British Regiment of Foot. To be almost right is not good enough for the Colonel. A great deal of time is spent making and buying equipment so as to be correctly dressed on parade or in the final bayonet charge on Bunker Hill.

Each year crowds of Americans and tourists come to see history being made as it were. Great stories are told of members of the audience becoming rather over excited by the whole occasion and joining in!

All in all it was a most enjoyable visit which I shall look back upon for many years, both in terms of learning more about our Regiment and meeting new friends.

If you ever get the chance, have a look round Boston and try and catch the Tenth in action. They may speak slightly different to us but they are on our side this time!



How do you feel about leaving the Army?

As you're well aware, serving in the Forces isn't just a job. It's a way of life. So, it's no surprise, that after leaving, many people feel as though they're high and dry, like a fish out of water.

But there's no need for you to feel this way. It's perfectly possible for you to keep up with old friends, make use of the unique skills you've acquired, and make a vital contribution to the nation's defence into the bargain.

How? Simply by becoming a member of the Volunteer Forces, which make up a third of our Army and represent a significant part of our commitment to NATO.

There are three options open to you.

Firstly, you can join one of the Territorial Army Independent Units based in the TAVRA region in which you have decided to settle. An ideal route for those leaving Infantry or Cavalry regiments.

Secondly, if you are leaving a Corps, you could retain your capbadge and become a member of either an Independent Unit or a TA Specialist Unit. In either, you can maintain and extend the special skills that you have learned.

Thirdly, you could join the HSF, which fulfils a vital

The Territorial Army, Freepost, 4335 (Ref: 9000), Bristol BS1 3YX.

role in our home defence, and in particular is suitable for people with limited spare time.

You can contribute as much time as you want in any one year. The minimum that we ask is that as a member of the Independent TA you complete 6 weekends, a two-week Summer Camp and some weekday evenings. As a Specialist we ask only 15 days training and two weekends.

And, as a member of the HSF, 6 to 10 days training and one evening per month. In return you will receive payment equivalent to the rates paid to Regular Army soldiers plus an annual tax-free bonus.

If you would like more information about how you can stay in the swim of things, write to the address below, giving details of which option you are interested in, your current age and address, your intended county of residence, and of the regiment you have left or are leaving.





Pompadours



Preparing for Londonderry

WHILE the world has been preoccupied with events in the Gulf, the Pompadours sole aim in recent months has been to prepare for their tour in Londonderry. To an outsider this may have appeared strange, and indeed one's civilian friends have appeared mildly surprised to see us still firmly in UK and not fighting for Queen and country elsewhere!

Naturally, the fortunes of friends and colleagues in the Gulf have been followed with keen interest, but otherwise involvement by the battalion has been limited to the deployment of Padre Kevin Savage and four cooks, and assistance by the MT Platoon in BAOR. So we have been able to concentrate on the task in hand, uncluttered by other issues.

The vacuum created by the cancellation of the 4 Div FTX in Germany proved to be a welcome breathing space. Although it was a disappointment not to participate after all the hard work-up briefing of the summer, it did give an opportunity to turn attention to areas which possibly had suffered in those hectic months. And, in case we could not think of anything to do, the Brigade Staff devised a Brigade Sportsfest which ran for the first week in November.

The event was a great success. It involved a great many competitors and revived memories of years gone by when time and commitments allowed such events to be a standard feature in army life. The battalion did well, winning five of the ten events. Sadly 3 RHA had not read the script. They won the other five events, and, after the points for the minor placings had been calculated, finished one point ahead of the Pompadours to take the overall Victor Ludorum.

The period leading up to Christmas was dominated by cadres, principally the Potential NCO Cadre and the Tactics Cadre conducted by Capts Des O'Driscoll and Steve Wormald over five weeks. Everyone that emerged from these will testify to the challenging and rewarding experience. The

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'Lionel' the mascot gets an earful from the post horns when the Band attended the switching on of the Colchester Christmas lights

News from the Pompadours



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NCO cadre resulted in ten immediate promotions to LCpl. LCpl Atter was placed at the top of the order to merit only nine months after passing out from the Depot, demonstrating just what can be achieved with ability and determination.

At the same time, a wide range of other cadres were held, as it was clear that in our future role every four-man team would need to be self-sufficient in driving, medical, signalling and other specialist counter-terrorist skills.

There were not many soldiers who were not dispersed to one of these, leaving platoon commanders somewhat abandoned on their muster parades.

On return from Christmas leave, the battalion adopted the new ORBAT for Northern Ireland. This involved the disbandment of Hy Wpns Coy HQ, with its Mortars, Milan and Drums dispersed to reinforce A, B and C Coys. Recce Pl then formed the basis of the Close Observation Pl (COP) which joined HQ coy.

Despite the welcome upturn in internal recruiting in recent months, the battalion

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Above: The GOC awards LS & GC medals to Sgt Shand and Cpl Armstrong.
Below: Pte Lilly and Seeley during the Potential NCO Cadre.



News from the Pompadours



Cpl Fuller and Pte Noden were awarded Commendations by Commander 1 Infantry Brigade for their actions to detect and apprehend those threatening the security of Roman Barracks. Below: Ptes Madden and Moore assist the Red Cross at Pontins.



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still required further reinforcement for the task in Londonderry, and this will be provided initially by A coy 1 Green Howards.

They carried out a proportion of their training at Catterick, but we came to see and to work with them increasingly as the training progressed.

And by the time of deployment, XIX coy (as they have come to be known to avoid confusion with our own A coy) were fully integrated as a most welcome and professional element of the battalion.

Selection for the COP, further individual skills, cadres and shooting took up the majority of the time in January and February, even though acquiring a target on the ETR ranges during the snowfalls and freeze in February became a curious and often unprofitable pastime. Concurrently, however, the main recee party were able to visit Londonderry followed shortly afterwards by all the platoon commanders and sergeants who would command Team Multiples.

The Battalion moved on to collective in-barracks training throughout March, so that, when we returned from Easter leave, there remained only the culmination of three weeks in Kent followed by one-week rural training at Stanford in April. By this time advance elements were already leaving for Londonderry.

All this gave rise to expressions of horror in some of the darker corners of HQ Coy. "Surely you're not expecting me to do this as well?!" But soon the sight of HQ departments locking up to attend training became commonplace.

To the Band, the shock was not so great. They had been through all that already before Christmas when put on standby for the Gulf - fitness, first aid, NBC, weapon training. In the event the Band was earmarked for Op Granby duties only within UK and was never used. But the training proved to be invaluable later.

Elsewhere the Band continued with its many musical commitments. Engagements at Hemel Hempstead with the BBC Symphony Orchestra in November, at the Sovereigns Parade at Sandhurst in December, and at the opening of Stanstead Airport by the Queen in March were the highlights.

But there were also the multitude of other engagements in the community and the schools, and in support of the

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News from the Pompadours

Two bandsmen awarded New Year Honours

THE Pompadours are proud to report the award of British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours to LCpl Burrows and Pte Bendix. The awards followed their acts of conspicuous conduct at incidents during Operation Orderly, the military assistance during the ambulance dispute of early 1990.

Both soldiers were members of the Band at the time, although since then Pte Bendix has joined the Medical Section. LCpl Burrows was deployed to Bedford, while Pte Bendix supported the Colchester emergency services.

Their medals were presented on behalf of the Queen by GOC Edist, Maj Gen Evans, on a battalion parade during his visit on 26 Mar.



LCpl Burrows and Pte Bendix.

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Association in the Regimental area.

Recent months have been a final opportunity to forge and reinforce links in our recruiting area before our departure. In December we were delighted to receive separate visits by the Mayor of Dunstable and Grays-Thurrock following on from the Battalion's Freedom Marches in these towns earlier in the year.

Also word had got out around the Bedfs and Herts OCA that the WO & Sgts' Mess had a thundering good bar, and, as a result, they could scarcely stay away from the place. However they did manage to see some other aspects of battalion life as well during their visits on 6 Nov and 27 Feb. And a steady stream of school, cadet and youth club visits set the pattern at the other end of the age scale.

As usual, when the weather becomes unpleasant, the community turns to the Army, and members of the battalion were busy once more in the February freeze-up, assisting the rescue services and ferrying the nursing staff of Colchester General Hospital.

The more unlikely contributions were that of Ptes Madden and Moore who found themselves at Pontins Holiday Camp in

Norfolk for a week assisting with 50 handicapped people because of the shortage of Red Cross welfare personnel.

So there remained the packing, handover and farewells.

The programme set by UKLF allowed no time between completion of training and deployment. So both Messes held their farewell parties before Easter, in the case of the WOs & Sgts Mess under the banner of Summer Ball.

Of our members, we had already bade farewell to Majs Tim Page, Dick Gould and Simon Bacon with Majs David Clements and Bill Willmott assuming command of A and B Coy respectively. As we left Colchester RSM Beaumont, who has made such an outstanding contribution in his period of tenure, was succeeded by RSM Twell. Also, RQMS Eke handed over to RQMS Brett.

And so, with the preparations completed, the Pompadours moved to replace 1 R Hamps in Ebrington Barracks, Londonderry, and command passed on 30 May.

To those that have served in the City before there is a visible change and a genuine sense of hope. We trust that our tour here will see yet more changes and some of those hopes realised.

On being a regular for three months

By Padre Michael Woods:

CALLED from the cosiness of a TA Chaplaincy with 7 R Anglian to serve with the Pompadours for three months, I was determined to do my job and then disappear without trace when Kevin Savage, their proper Padre, came back from the Gulf.

Once installed in the friendliness of the Mess, with a car supplied as well as an answerphone at a desk in the families' office block, I was instructed in my duties by the Brigade Senior Chaplain. I found myself sitting pretty. In place of a parish of 20,000 I had one of under 1,000; in place of responsibility for 12 other parishes and 14 clergy I had two senior Padres to monitor my needs and performance with only myself to look after; no meals to cook, no fund raising committees to chair and everyone in the parish having someone else responsible for them at the level of primary

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News from the Pompadours



Padre Michael Woods.

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care. All this advantage and double the pay.

It was a joy to work in the families' office with Sgt Cox, CSgt Dale and Cpl Thorpe. Lt Ted Dexter sent in a constant stream of soldiers who he wished to be put off marriage by a bachelor who obviously

knew how to avoid it.

Living in a regular officers' Mess was a revelation. Why do subalterns need loud music when they bath and shower – what noises are they camouflaging? Who's the nutter leaving tracks in the snow round the Mess from tree to tree? Why do young intelligent men stop thinking at 9 pm and replace 'Mastermind' with videos of gratuitous violence? Is it all just fun and relaxation with nothing sinister to be read into when a senior Major appears one night dressed as Olivia Newton-John?

As time passed I enjoyed being free to concentrate simply on spiritual matters, composing graces for special occasions, marrying couples I had failed to dissuade, leading worship at the Garrison Church (how lovely not to have to shout a staccato sermon into the teeth of the wind at an outdoor church parade), and at the MCTC where the singing is the best that I have heard in any church.

Creative work was required in preparing a service for wives and children to mark the imminent duty in Northern Ireland and Padre's Hours on the power of myth as manifest in Ulster.

Having never worn my uniform for more than two weeks at a time, I came to hate my boots by mid-March. I would have

changed to shoes and barrack dress had not the Adjutant remarked, on the very day I contemplated a change, what a good thing it was to have a Padre wearing the same uniform as the soldiers.

With Kevin returning on 23 Apr. I ended my time with the Pompadours on training in Kent. ("Are you from the marsh?" inquired a native in the Post Office making me feel life a tryffid.) Morale went sky high in response to the very exacting and imaginative training system. But after 20 years of preparing for this particular conflict you would have thought that the accommodation could offer more than brown water baths and the necessity of an early setting on the alarm clock to give the hot water tap time to trickle enough for a shave before breakfast.

I am left with vivid particular memories, such as the odd socks of the Messing Member, the discomfort of the GOC on hearing in the lunch grace that we loved him. My overall impression is one who was invited into a family home and treated with such generous kindness and who witnessed such professionalism that the three months were an unwarranted privilege.

So saying, this elderly tryffid signs off and returns to the quieter tenor of part-time soldiering.

Presentation of Cuneo paintings

THE Pompadours were greatly honoured on Dec 3 to be presented with full size copies of Terence Cuneo's pictures commemorating the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment. These pictures had been commissioned by the OCA to record the exploits of that Regiment's 1st and 2nd Battalion.

The presentation was made by the chairman of the OCA, Brig Robertson, to the CO, with representatives from all ranks of the battalion and the OCA present.

The 1st Battalion's picture is of an episode during the Chindit Campaign and is a cameo of the crossing of the River Indaw Chaung. A former Chindit, Maj West attended the presentation and described his part in the depicted scene.

The 2nd Battalion's picture is of the Battle for Monte Cassino and is an amalgam of several days fighting. We were fortunate



Left to right: Maj West, Col Snape DCM, Lt Col Whittaker and Capt Hollick DSO, flanked by the pictures.

that the then CO, Lt Col Whittaker, and two of his officers, Col Snape DCM and Capt Hollick DSO, were able to attend. The

copies will now hang in the Battalion lines with the originals being displayed in the Luton Museum

News from the Pompadours

Recruiting efforts continue

FOLLOWING the successful KAPE tour and Freedom Marches last year, the Pompadours have continued their efforts in recruiting, concentrating in our three affiliated counties.

The key to this was the close liaison established with all the ACIOs in the area by dedicating a SNCO from the Battalion, Sgt Kiely, to the sole task of visiting the officers to co-ordinate battalion support. To assist the ACIOs, the Battalion produced video tapes and photograph dossiers to portray the reality of battalion life with the emphasis placed on the variety of activities and employments within an infantry unit.

The battalion maintained a display team which visited a large number of schools and cadet training sessions, often with reciprocal visits to the Battalion following.

It is calculated that in recent months the Battalion's soldiers have come into contact with some 160,000 young people during recruiting events, and the Battalion has had the benefit of regular exposure to the local TV and radio audience of some 17 million.

Right: Cadets get to grips with the wall.



WO and Sgts' Mess past and present

FOLLOWING the success of last year's inaugural event, the WO and Sgts' Mess held their second Past and Present dinner at Roman Barracks on Sat 9 Feb. No-one could have foreseen that the date would coincide with the heaviest snowfall for some years.

But the weather failed to daunt the spirit, and the current Mess members were joined by no less than 80 former members and their wives for a memorable and enjoyable evening. Five former RSMs were present, the senior of whom, Tommy Bullock, handed over in 1968 before any of the present membership had joined the Army.

This event is now firmly in the calendar of annual Pompadour events, and with



The RSM and Mrs Beaumont

WO2 (RQMS) Brian Tunstall kindly agreeing to take on the arrangements from 6 R

Anghan, the event is in good hands whilst the battalion is in Londonderry

News from the Pompadours

A winter's tale — of sailing successes

Major Bill Mooring writes:

ONE day to go and I am really not looking forward to this at all. In a rush of enthusiasm back in sunny September I had booked the RCT's 34 ft Westerley, Mariner, for a week's sailing at the end of November, principally so that a number of budding enthusiasts could improve their yachting qualifications; the '91 season would see the benefit, hopefully in the waters around the Western Isles of Scotland.

But now it was November and, as it normally does, the weather had turned decidedly wintry; visions of sparkling waters had long since vanished. Bluntly, it was now throwing it down and blowing the best part of a gale. The last time I'd sailed this late in the season was with the Vikings to Gibraltar.

At Gosport harbour, halyards flapped manically against metal masts, lugging our kit down to the yacht, 300 yards from the nearest vehicle access. We were soon drenched, outside and in. The boat was very comfortable, with Erbspracher central heating, hot water, lots of gadgets at the navigation station and plenty of room for all on board. The first day-and-a-half was to be classroom based to ensure everyone's theory was up to scratch and over the next 36 hours some heavy work went into tidal theory, tide tables, vectors, rules of the road and collision regulations, lights anchoring, flags, radio and ... weather.

Meanwhile outside, the clouds lifted, winds dropped and the sun shone. Out in the Solent a fresh wind was blowing, finding its chill way into imperfectly fitted clothing. But the sea sparkled and Mariner cut along briskly, leaning firmly into the steady wind. We made our way over to Cowes and the Town Quay berths were empty on the floating pontoons where they would be six deep in the summer.

Making fast, a shore party set off for



provisions and sustenance. But serious work was our intention, and after lunch all aboard took turns at the helm tacking to and fro under main and engine getting the hang of picking up buoys at Cowes' entrance ... right under the windows of the Royal Yacht Squadron.

A useful exercise completed, we made out past the Prince Consort Buoy, across the Brambles Bank for Southampton Water and the Ocean Village Marina.

Next morning we reached down to the Hamble and beat our way up into the yachts on their winter moorings.

Mindful that we had a rendezvous with our examiner that evening at the north end of Chichester Harbour entrance we set off down Southampton Water. Hugging the outer edge of the marked channel was prudent; any other course seemed to invite collision with one of the hydrofoils and high-speed launches plying their passages to and from the harbour.

As dusk fell, we entered Chichester Harbour mouth, the entrance to a large estuarine complex.

Northney Marina, the designated RV, proved to be a quiet and uncrowded berth ... hardly surprising so far from the sea and with an entrance not much wider than Mariner's width. We were just finishing the meal when the examiner came on board, calming everyone's nerves with his quiet and friendly manner.

But, someone was soon in the firing line, directed to take us to the old Roman port of Bosham. An exciting night passage ensued. Conditions were perfect, with a

clear, starlit sky, though unfortunately no moon. Navigation was eventually reduced to a form of nautical groping as the yacht nosed forward and eyes strained for marks, charted or not! The sigh of the old steeple of Bosham village church was greeted with much relief.

The next candidate was now put on the spot. Could we get out of Bosham? When would we be able to get out in the morning? The next day we edged out of the quayside pool at 1000 hrs.

The passage downstream showed a totally different view from the night before and, with navigation now merely a question of pilotage, the examiner soon had us jumping about, picking up buoys, taking in reefs, carrying out "man overboard" drills, treating casualties for hypothermia and broken limbs, and dealing with a crippled ship, the engine, steering gear and rigging failure as if we were aboard the Marie Celeste herself. In this way, each remaining candidate was put through the hoop as we progressed downstream, putting into harbours and tying up to buoys as we did so.

Out of Chichester and into the Channel, the last candidate was tasked to take us into Langstone to the West. A strong tide was coming out of the estuary and a growing swell breaking alarmingly on the sandbanks.

For a while we tacked back and forth against the offshore wind until it became plain that we had ceased to make ground on each leg. The trusty "iron donkey" clattered into action, spoiling the idyll of the moment and we were soon making fast to a buoy "to enjoy lunch" at the examiner's suggestion.

This turned out to be his opportunity to grill each candidate in turn in the saloon while the others nervously strained their ears from the cockpit to get a hint of what was to come.

With all candidates having passed the crew were confidently left to take Mariner back to Portsmouth while the examiner filled in the paperwork down below. Refuelling at Camper and Nicholson, we were soon nosing our way back into her permanent berth with tails and spirits high.

Just to make the point that a sailor can never relax his vigil, we gently but very firmly ran aground 20 yards from the pontoon. But the sun was still shining, "pass slips" were in our hands and the examiner dying for a cup of tea. It was all very different from the horrors conjured up in our minds a week before.

News from the Pompadours



Exercise Spartan Hike: (left to right) 2Lt Astley, CSgt Okopskyj, Capt Crouch, Pte Lilley, Cpl Howe and Pte Livingstone.

Alpine racing on Spartan Hike

Capt Tarquin Crouch writes:

DESPITE the lack of any sort of recent experience, the Battalion ventured into the world of Alpine ski racing by competing in the UKLF Championships this year. A ski team was selected by the most dubious of methods, those who could spare the time and the money! After months of planning and asking stupid questions the team left the Alps by Landrover at 0200 hrs on 5 Jan.

High spirits soon collapsed into sleep. The journey, the worst ever undertaken by many of the participants, was made worse by the lack of room in a Landrover with six people plus associated kit for a three-week skiing expedition. The decision had been made not to take a trailer to save a further £50: at this stage we all started to regret it.

Finally the team arrived 24 hrs later after a three-hour detour because the Silvretta pass was closed. The next day we were up and on the slopes by 0900 hrs when the lifts opened. A week of training fol-

lowed under the instruction of CSgt Okopskyj and Cpl Howe with an Austrian instructor hired for two days to teach slalom to the team. It probably would have helped if he could speak English!

Following the failure of the manufacturer to deliver the correct quantity of downhill skis, Pte Lilley and I drove to the Volke Factory to collect three more sets.

The teams all assembled at Galtur on 13 Jan, and a team captains' meeting took place that night. Everyone a little clearer as to what was happening, the team arrived on the slopes on the following day for the seeding Giant Slalom.

All the team managed to improve on their initial seed position, most spectacularly Cpl Howe who rose from 118 to 68. Good performances were also made by CSgt Okopskyj and 2Lt Astley.

The following days saw the team compete in the other Alpine races of the team – Giant Slalom, the Downhill, team Slalom, individual Slalom and individual Giant

Slalom. The team maintained a good performance throughout, although the choice for the team was now limited to five after Pte Lilley broke his wrist in practice.

The Downhill was the most spectacular race and one of the most alarming experiences that several of the team had encountered. Speeds of up to 65 miles per hour were touched and wiping out at that speed, as most of the team found out, hurts!

Pte Livingstone put in a good performance in the Slalom races and pulled his seed position up, resulting in overall team places well up on the initial seed positions. The battalion came 9th overall of the 16 UKLF teams entered, a creditable performance with so little experience.

At the award ceremony it was also satisfying to see our efforts rewarded by the award of the Alpine Combination Novice Cup to Pte Livingstone. An excellent time was had by all and we hope that we can compete next year to consolidate and improve on this experience.

Feature focus

Namibia — adapting to independence

Lt Col Robin Chisnall writes:

THE news that I was appointed to a loan service post in Namibia arrived whilst I was on the prairie in my 'red top' chasing a company on Ex Medicine Man.

The seven month tour was to be my first taste of loan service, one that proved to be of immense interest as well as being a challenge. My initial difficulty was to locate Okahandja on the map, followed by getting some idea of what to expect. At least I was already acclimatised and used not only to the heat but also to the dust!

Namibia is a large country of approximately 800,000 sq km with a small population of only 1.5 million. It is bordered by Angola in the north, Botswana in the east, South Africa in the south and the Atlantic Ocean in the west. Most of the country is an elevated plateau, between 900 and 1200 metres above sea level, with mountain ranges running north and south for most of its length. It is a land of contrasts, ranging from semi-desert to high grass plains.

Namibia gained its independence on 21 Mar 1990. For the past year, BMATT Namibia has been creating the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) out of two recently opposing factions: the Peoples' Liberation Army of Namibia (Plan - military wing of the South West Africa Peoples' organisation) and the South West Africa Territorial Force (SWATF - operated with South African support for much of the 23-year border war).

Home for seven months was to be a small camp in Okahandja, approximately 70 km north of the capital, Windhoek. With a team of 30 BMATT officers and SNCOs, the 2nd tranche tasks for the training element were to develop a military school (which was, ultimately to be run by the NDF), train NDF leaders, in particular, their support weapons elements; confirm support platoon training with a live fire concentration; and test all battalions for operational readiness.

In a sophisticated European environment many of these tasks would pose problems. With a recently created army, a developing logistic system and no dedicated field firing area, difficulties were legion, albeit surmountable. (All officers and SNCOs had to use their initiative, be flexible and persistent as well as patient: the



A Soviet SGM heavy machinegun

hallmarks of loan service.

There were initial problems with acquiring the support weapons and ancillaries in a serviceable condition. Many items were in Angola in a poor condition or recently moved into camps in Northern Namibia. The mix of equipment also caused some difficulties and much was not compatible. In spite of hiccoughs.

The intricacies of a variety of Soviet, South African and Spanish mortars (60mm, 81mm and 82mm) were mastered, including those of the Soviet B10 assault guns and heavy machine guns (SGM) and PKM), and a variety of Warsaw Pact and Chinese-made explosives and grenades. That the training worked is testimony to the BMATT efforts and the NDF soldiers' obvious enthusiasm and willingness to learn.

The culmination of the support weapons training was a heavy weapons concentration for 1200 plus soldiers, comprising all support platoons as well as a logistic group. Platoons were exercised in all phases of war within the framework of battlegroup operations.

During this phase, Maj David Napier (Poachers) managed to get away from his

desk in Windhoek and provide some invaluable assistance.

After subjecting all battalions to operational readiness tests, the finale of the tour came on 21 March with a BMATT assisted colours parade in the Windhoek stadium, in celebration of the first anniversary of independence.

President Sam Nujoma presented the colours to the presidential guard, resplendent in their new red tunics, with President Mugabe as the principle guest. With a full stadium, and television and press in abundance, the presentation proved to be a fitting climax to a busy but most enjoyable tour.

Thereafter there were only a couple of days left to complete handovers and, in particular, welcome the incoming R Anglians (Lt Col Peter Dixon (Pompadours) as CO and WO2 K C Jones (Vikings) for his second volunteer tour within the space of a year!

It was also a time to say farewell to many new friends amongst the NDF. The 2nd tranche left with a sense of achievement and many fond memories of their time in Namibia.

Feature focus

Demanding role for Belize Defence Force

Major George Tomlin in Belize writes:

Lt Col Alan Usher became the first Belizean Commandant of the Belize Defence Force (BDF) to which we as a Regiment are allied, on June 8 1990. Having been here at the conception of the Force in 1978, I was proud to be sitting among the audience observing its birth.

At the same time as Col Alan took over, command of both the Maritime Wing and the Air Wing were handed over to Belizean officers.

This is all a far cry from the early days of 1978. I remember the 3 Jan 1978 when the BDF paraded for the first time. We were a sorry sight but proud and eager to take our first steps.

The BDF was formed in 1978, initially from those people who wished to join us from the Belize Volunteer Guard and the Police Special Force. Both of these organisations were disbanded on the day the BDF was formed. We paraded in whatever uniform we had been able to acquire or civilian clothes. A flag pole had been stuck in the ground in the middle of our camp which was still under construction.

During the first year we continued to build the camp after first filling in a swamp on the proposed site. We had uniforms made in Belize City and purchased weapons, equipment and vehicles from the UK. We also took in our first recruits and designed our own Regular Commissions Board. Gradually the Force began to take on the shape of something military and we were ready to begin sending officer cadets to RMAS and soldiers to Warminster.

The BDF's first test also came in that first year in the form of Hurricane Greta. As hurricanes go it was a small one but the preparations for her arrival and the cleaning up after her departure were a big test. By the skin of our teeth' the 100 of all ranks passed the test with flying colours.

Between 1980 and 1990 the Force has developed enormously. When I left Belize in 1980 the Force had reached its target size of HQ Coy (including Mortar Pl), one rifle company, a training wing and three volunteer companies. Ten years on it now has an



Lt Col A J Usher, our first CO, with air force friend.

additional two rifle companies, a logistics company, which deals with offshore procurement, and support company consisting of the 81mm mortar platoon, assault pioneers and recee platoon.

It also has a Maritime Wing consisting of 2 x 65ft WASP patrol boats for blue water patrolling and several smaller boats inshore. Finally, the Force now has an Air Wing consisting of two Defender Aircraft which are used for logistic resupply, reconnaissance and can be used in the ground attack role. Each aircraft mounts twin GPMGs under each wing. Of course, size is not everything - it is what you do with it that counts. The Force is kept extremely busy.

It now has its own TAOR on the border with Guatemala. The area is patrolled constantly and exercised in annually. Ten years ago British Forces Belize had little to do with us. Today elements of British Forces form part of 'our' battle group and all British patrolling is done in the company of BDF soldiers.

The Force is now very heavily involved in anti-drug operations in support of the police. Belize is on one of the drug routes from South to North America. Cocaine is posing a sinister threat to Belize and its society.

Many Joint Police/BDF operations are mounted by air, land and sea against the narcotics trade. Recently a highly successful operation was mounted jointly with the police. The haul was 600lbs of cocaine, one

aircraft and five 'gentlemen' arrested.

To put the operation into perspective the drugs in their pure uncut state as seized are valued at US \$20 million. On the streets of the US or Europe as 'crack', the value could be as high as US \$60-75 million. Sadly this is not even the tip of the iceberg.

In 12 years the Force has come a long way. That is not to say that we do not have our problems but name me one battalion which is made up of fit young men that does not.

As you might imagine we are now at a period of consolidation as the new Belizean command structure finds its feet. There is no doubt that it is a challenging period for the Force which now has no loan service personnel within the command structure. We are now in the exalted position of advisers.

At the start of 1991 we celebrated our 13th anniversary which was marked by a parade held on 2 Feb. When one considers that many British Regiments including our own have now celebrated their tercentenaries, it puts our achievements into perspective.

Within our own battalions how many times have you heard the CO say, 'Gentlemen, last year we had a demanding and busy time. This year will be no less so.' So it is with the BDF as we enter 1991.

While this article was being prepared we have intercepted and seized two additional drug planes. This year is going to be very demanding.

Feature focus

A Poacher revisits Ruapekapeka

Col Peregrine Rawlins writes:

A WORKING visit to New Zealand would be good news to most British officers, but for a Poacher the chance to visit Ruapekapeka was doubly attractive.

It was therefore with very considerable delight that I learned early last Summer of the requirement for me to head the UK delegation to the ABCA Quadripartite Working Group on Infantry (QWIG INF) meeting scheduled to be held at Papakura in the North Island at the end of November.

The unsteady progress of "Options" work throughout the autumn put my participation in jeopardy until an uncomfortably late stage in the proceedings. It also prevented me from carrying out even a modicum of research into the events of the First Maori War.

However, it all worked out in the end and at 6pm on 26 Nov I landed at Auckland International. In my suitcase I had a copy of Michael Barthorp's 'To Face the Daring Maoris', kindly lent by the Colonel of The Regiment, and in my mind keen anticipation of a private battlefield tour over the mid-confence weekend.

At 6.30 am on the Saturday morning I set off, my early start having been greatly facilitated by the fact that it was RNZEME Corps Day. This was advertised to the entire population of Papakura Camp by enthusiastic EMEs conducting a drag race around the accommodation blocks in unsilenced machines from 4 to 4.30 am.

Ruapekapeka lies some 220 km north of Auckland within sight of the sea on a clear day, near the Bay of Islands. The scene is fairly unspectacular although there is still sufficient of the trench and embankments remaining (the Maoris employed trenches before the generally recognised adoption of trench warfare in the American Civil War) for the site of the Pa to be unmistakable.

It is an isolated spot. The country round about is generally steep and would have been heavily forested in 1846, although most of it has long since been cleared for livestock farming. The steeper



Memorial to the fallen at Okaewai.

slopes though, remain wooded and moving into the remnants of the original Puriri forest that still cling to the slopes behind the Pa, it was possible to imagine the Maoris gathered at their Sunday morning prayers when the British assaulted on the 11th January 1846.

The bloody struggle which the name Ruapekapeka Pa had always conjured in my mind (ever since I first read the inscription on the piece of Puriri wood which was taken from the stockade at the Pa and which now stands in the Poachers Officers Mess) never took place, at least not in the assault on the Pa.

There was, however, a stiff fight to keep the Maoris out once the latter discovered that their fortress had been rushed in their absence at prayer.

Nevertheless, it is pretty clear that the real justification for the battle honour lay more in the significance of the event – it ended the War, at least in the north of the

North Island – than in the feat of arms.

Were valour the sole criterion for the award of battle honours, Ohaewai (pronounced Or-her-why) might have adorned the colours of the 58th rather than Ruapekapeka. However, at Ohaewai the Maoris inflicted an emphatic defeat on an ill-conceived assault (the force being commanded by one Colonel Despard of the 99th, whom New Zealand Army officers still quote as one of the great incompetents of British military history) in which the British contingent lost 100 men killed and wounded in 6 or 7 minutes and the Maoris appear to have suffered no loss at all.

Though nothing remains to be seen of Heke's Pa at Ohaewai, the site is marked by a small church which the Maoris built subsequently and its little graveyard in which they reinterred the remains of the British dead some years after the event.

From there my tour took me to the mission station at Te Waimate, now beautifully preserved by the National Trust of New Zealand. Here can be seen some of the original wooden headboards that marked the graves of men of the 58th who, among others, were brought wounded to the mission after the battle at Ohaewai but did not recover. Inside the mission church is an illuminated board bearing the colours of the 58th and a brief explanation of their part in the early history of the area.

To end the day I drove to the delightful resort village of Russel on the Bay of Islands, formerly called Kororareka. It attracted me particularly as the scene of the outbreak of the First Maori War. The "casus belli" was the repeated felling by the Maoris of the large flagstaff on the lookout above the little harbour, and its re-erection by the British to fly the Union Flag.

It is an extremely attractive place to visit and a fitting vantage point from which to contemplate the extraordinary endurance and fortitude of the tiny force of Britons. The colours that the 58th carried in that war may now be seen in the Auckland City Museum and War Memorial, and a good feel for the conditions and events leading to them being there gleaned from Michael Barthorp's book.

Those lucky enough to visit the area should not fail to look up our allied Regiment, the 3rd Battalion (Auckland, Countess of Ranfurly's Own, and Northland) Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, whose generous hospitality provided a memorable finale to my visit.

Feature focus

The fall of Singapore — 50 years on

We have printed previously, articles by officers who were serving with former Regiments during the Second World War. The following article is written by the Rev Canon F Stallard whose son is presently commanding the 5th Battalion. The article includes reminiscences by various ex-soldiers whom the author knows; it is of interest to note that 18 Division to which Canon Stallard refers, consisted of three brigades within which served the 1st and 2nd Cambridgeshire, the 4th, 5th and 6th Royal Norfolk, the 4th and 5th Suffolks and the 5th Bedfordshire all of whom now form part of the Regiment. The 1st Leicesters were also present in the 15th Indian Inf Bde. All survivors eventually ended up in Japanese prisoner of war camps. The article does not attempt to describe the background to the fall of Singapore but reflects on the grimness of a defeat which no amount of personal courage, in this case, could avert. Canon Stallard's account follows:

WE still have an active Singapore Club in Wisbech. Obviously its members are not as numerous, or as young, as they used to be but we still meet regularly and there is, between us, a bond that could only have been forged by our experience. At our last meeting the conversation turned to what we actually remembered of the moment of capitulation and I have recorded their visits in the article.

All of us had been members of the



Soldiers became living skeletons in the camps. Drawing by the Rev Canon Stallard.

18th Division: I was padre of the 5th Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Battalion in 55 Brigade. We had landed only some three weeks before the end.

Just before 4pm on Sunday afternoon, 15 Feb 1942 I had been called to attend to a gun crew who had spiked their 15 inch coastal guns and come up to take a place in "the line", which Command in Singapore

imagined to exist. Terribly shocked by the sheer force of the explosion which blew the gun breeches apart and threw tons of metal a long way, the gun crew had chosen a clump of bamboo to settle in. They could not have chosen worse as it was a mark for the Japanese guns, and it soon received a salvo. Men were dead and dying all round

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and without a doctor or an ambulance; there was little I could do but pray with the dying.

It was then that the bugle calls sounded. I had always loved the melodious tumble of notes of the 'Retreat' but it is usually sounded in the early evening not afternoon, and I hurried over to battalion HQ to find out what was afoot.

The CO (Lt Col D R Thomas OBE MC) was standing by a tree with a very grey face. To my inquiry he simply said: "We've packed in Padre". I was completely stunned because it was so totally unexpected. I had imagined that the fighting would grow in ferocity until we were in the streets of Singapore. Singapore would then become a fortress like Tobruk, and if we had to abandon it the allied Navy would take off as many of us as possible, as they had done in Crete.

We stood together under this tree in grim silence. Then the colonel sat down with his head in his hands and sobbed. It was rather like striking water from a rock. He kept murmuring "The finest body of men I could ever want to command, and not a fighting chance". One by one we followed suit.

Only the second in command walked up and down dry-eyed. Later, in prison camp, he grew very restless and difficult and attributed this entirely to his inability to weep at that time.

The colonel was a large man and in his tropical kit looked like a giant boy scout. As a great war veteran he had been awarded an MC in Gallipoli when a very young subaltern. He had a damaged right hand and limped. Quite unaffected under fire, he walked round with his tall walking stick giving orders. On the Friday night he had received orders to divide the battalion in half and take his half to the other side of the island. Those who know anything about fighting units know that they do not divide into half for like a human body they cannot be in two places at once.

But Singapore command was obsessed with 'filling gaps' with men in a line' which it believed to exist. The CO had spent the rest of the night trying to find the new brigadier to whom he had to report. When he did find him, in an air raid shelter, it was only to be told in a cow shed that we were surrounded and were to sit out the night before making our several ways back to the city. I went with B Coy and we sat through the rest of the night listening to the enemy

crackling twigs. When morning came there were no Japanese in sight and we learnt we were on the Ayer Rajah road behind the Alexandra hospital. From then on we had several short scraps with the enemy and that night we had our first night's sleep for 72 hours. The next morning, at the Colonel's request, we held a service at which I prayed that in some way we might be given a second chance to prove ourselves. None of us had any idea of the great tests ahead of us that day.

Canon Peter Hartley is now a retired priest but then he was a young sergeant in the same battalion as me. He was in D Coy, one which the CO had taken with him. On the Sunday afternoon, after a short sharp scrap they were ordered to withdraw and he was stationed in an abandoned gun-site at the top of a little hill – about half a dozen in all. Their orders were to cover the withdrawal and wait for a runner with orders as to what to do next.

From this perch they had a good all round view, but although they saw nothing of the Company, they could see that there was nowhere else to withdraw to but the sea. They discussed their situation and realised that there would be no Dunkirk.

(What nobody knew was that General Percival was at that moment discussing surrender terms with the Japanese Commander). They came to the conclusion that their next orders would be to fight to the last man, and the last round on the beach. No doubt it would be a heroic way to die, but as they did not feel very heroic at the time, their talk had only succeeded in making them very frightened!

But as the next order they received, via the runner, was to lay down their arms, perhaps strangely, their first reaction was one of enormous relief. They followed the runner down to join the rest of the company who were standing about in forlorn little groups, their arms in heaps at the side of the road. As the Sergeant, Peter said to the Company Commander: "I suppose this means we are virtually prisoners of war", to which he replied: "Not virtually, Sergeant, you bloody well are." Later this relief turned into a determination to escape as Peter Hartley had no desire to finish in a prison camp either.

Night comes down like a blanket in Singapore at 6pm and by then he had made a plan to go with a young officer who had been in the Palestine police, a quartermaster sergeant and a private who had fought in the

civil war in Spain. Peter had \$85 on him and between them they felt they had enough money to acquire a boat and so they left. (Their further adventures are described in his excellent book "Escape to Captivity.")

The other three in the Wisbech group giving their experiences were Jack Briggs, Len Blower and Benny (Private Bennington) who had been signallers in the 2nd Cambridgeshires in 53 Brigade. Before the division arrived in Capetown this brigade was diverted to Mombassa and taken straight to Malaya.

It was then that the 18th Divisional Commander had begged General Percival to land behind the Japanese forces. But this was not to be and the brigade was sent north into Batu Bahat to go through the depressing experience of holding a position until they were given orders to retire because they had been bypassed by the Japanese. They returned to Singapore Island badly mauled, but after they had given a very good account of themselves.

Back on the island their CO was despatched on an official escape party; the Japanese then occupied battalion HQ of the 2nd Cambridgeshires, effectively wiping it out.

On the 14th, Len Blower, a survivor, was badly wounded by a hand grenade, of which he still has pieces in his abdomen. Jack Briggs, another survivor, carried him about 400 yards to an ambulance which took him straight to the Alexandra Hospital. He had not been there long when the Japanese burst in. Fortunately the Japanese did little damage in that ward, simply taking watches and rings – in other wards they had bayoneted the patients and doctors indiscriminately.

Meanwhile back on the Braddell Road, the remnants of HQ Coy were still in close contact with the Japanese. They consisted of little more than a few clerks, signallers and batmen under command of a lieutenant.

The enemy were just across the road in the storm drains of the cemetery. You could hear them talking and they made moaning noises at night designed to scare the British troops who were unaccustomed to the curious sounds of the tropical night. On the afternoon of the 15th, the lieutenant decided that they had got to go in with the bayonet and the order to fix was given.

Of course all British troops were taught to bayonet dummies in their early training, but somehow nobody thought that cold steel

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Feature focus



Private Bennington when he joined up and later as a Japanese prisoner of war.

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would ever have to be used in modern warfare.

So Jack Briggs and Benny fixed bayonets and waited for the order to attack with some dread; they knew what had happened to the rest of Battalion HQ. It was then that the whistle sounded but instead of it being

the order to attack, it was to cease fire.

The Japanese stood up and cheered. The men of the Cambridgeshire Regiment were ordered to lay down their arms and the Japanese came across and looked them over pointing their weapons at them.

I have included two of Benny when he joined up and when he was in prison camp which shows the privation that we all under-

went. I have included also a drawing that I made - not of anyone mentioned in the article - of one of the living skeletons that were common in the camps.

On 16 Feb 1992 we shall be holding a service of remembrance in Wisbech. It is the dead that we shall be remembering but additionally we retain memories of the fall of Singapore 50 years on.

Pte Thomas Kirby, IRA plant or British spy?

IN September 1990 a well preserved body of a man was exhumed in the state forest at Rossemore, Co. Tipperary, in the presence of Dr John Hollyford and members of the local Gardia. The body was dressed in the uniform of a private soldier of the Lincolnshire Regiment.

Research proved that the body was of a Thomas Kirby, who came from the village of Golden. Kirby served in the Royal Fusiliers during the 1914-18 War and on the 6 Nov 1920, was serving in the 1st Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment stationed in Ireland.

Kirby did not serve in the Regiment for very long; he was listed as a deserter on 3 Jan 1921.

In late March or early April 1921, Kirby was arrested by the IRA who questioned him and then held a trial in a house 105 miles from Holyford. Found guilty of spying for the British, Kirby was executed forthwith.

He died a traitor's death, killed by a single rifle shot at close range through the shoulder blades, his grave in the state forest marked over the years by a simple wooden cross and later by a few stones.

A local historian has no doubt that Kirby was a spy, saying that his desertion had all the hallmarks of a British intelligence operation. 'General' Sean Fitzpatrick, local IRA commander in

1921, gave details of Kirby's execution in an interview with the historian as recently as 1986, just before his death.

Other locals claim that Kirby was known to be an IRA agent, and that a court martial was held in a local school house.

Those who believed that Kirby was an IRA agent reckon he was executed because he was about to give the IRA area commander, Dinny Lacey, information on who was robbing trains and banks locally. The truth will probably never be known.

Thomas Kirby has subsequently been given a Christian burial in a cemetery near to Clonoulty.



Steelbacks



Fighting Fifth at Fibua

WITH the severe weather disrupting the battalion training in February, it meant the CO had to re-arrange the Fibua training which was planned for separate weekends in March. The weekend of 2-3 Mar was to be our first use of the Fibua Complex at Stanta. It turned out to be a very successful one, attendance was average and the CO seemed pleased with what he saw.

Despite the weather, which curtailed two major weekends at the start of the year, company training seemed to go on unabated. The RR & TT have been busy for the first quarter of the year due to the upsurge in recruiting throughout the battalion. As the Gulf War intensified more people seemed interested in joining the TA, but with the end of the war, the numbers making inquiries seemed to have waned.

The number of female recruits have increased tremendously in the past six months. The authorised number of females we are allowed to enlist is 5% of our established strength.

The battalion has given assistance in one form or another to Op Granby. Cpl Smith, a combat medic with 3 (Essex) coy volunteered his services for the Gulf and was posted to 205 Fd Gen Hospital in Riyadh. Some of our vehicles, NBC clothing and signals equipment were also dispatched to the Gulf. Corby and Peterborough TA Centres were used as collection points for parcels to the Gulf.

On 25 Feb the Royal Anglian Band TA gave two performances in the Peterborough City Centre in aid of the Gulf support. A sum in excess of £600 was raised which was divided between the ABF, BLESMA and SSAFA charities. PS and NRPS officers were also on standby as casualty visiting officers for the duration of the war.

Members of 3 (Essex) coy were called out to assist the Essex Police in Chelmsford and Warley during the weekend 8-10 Feb. The assistance was in the form of GS Landrovers and drivers, as police cars could not reach outlying villages due to the snow. The Essex local authority and police were



Members of 2 Coy in action during the Battalion Fibua weekend at Stanta.

grateful for assistance given, and their presence did much to enhance the public awareness of the TA.

Much has been done to strengthen our links with the ACF and CCF. PSIs have been lending training assistance to Berkhamstead, Haileybury and Oundle

School CCFs.

Adventure training has not been neglected. During the Easter break the RSO, Capt Tim Ridley, took a group of signallers to Capel Curig for a climbing and walking expedition. On Good Friday they

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News from the Steelbacks



Above left: Lt Maria Hope of 2 Coy at Fibua. Above right: Capt Clyde Aylin hands welfare parcels to United Carriers for troops on Op Granby. Right: Cpl Spicer of 6 HSF Coy receives his prize at the Battalion SAAM. Below: Gen Sir John Akehurst talks to members of the PS on Middlewick Ranges



News from the Steelbacks



Left: The CO's and PS teams prepare for the falling plate competition in the Battalion SAAM. Above: Pte Hensby HW/HQ Coy — Best Female Shot.

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climbed North Ridge Tryfan as an introductory to mountaineering, and on the Saturday did Mount Snowdonia via Cribgoch with the night out between the Cliffs of Clogwyn. On Easter Sunday they did a route on Clogwyn before returning to base camp at dusk.

Since the last edition of Castle there have been several departures and arrivals. Those departures were: Maj David Winn to retirement after two years as Trg Maj, Capt Anthony Atkinson-Willes Ops Officer to 3 Staffords, Capt Andrew Alexander IO to RARO after 14 years with the battalion, Capt David Bridgland Paymaster to RARO, Capt David Marsden to RARO and Lt Richard Arnold on a SSVC with the 1st Battalion. We wish them the best of luck and happiness.

The new arrivals included Maj John Ross as Trg Maj — he is no stranger to the battalion having served previously as QM, Maj Stephen Card OC RRTT formerly OC 1 (Essex) Coy, Capt Frank de Planta de Wildenberg as Ops Officer, again no stranger to many, including the CO. Our first female officer, Lt Maria Hope, has arrived from the 6th Battalion. She is currently acting as Coy 21C Coy. Finally 2Lt

Simon Watson went to 1 (Essex) Coy on transfer from 3 RRW.

A hearty welcome is extended to them all, and we hope they have a long and enjoyable stay with the battalion. 2Lt Peter Woods of 1 (Essex) Coy is to be congratulated on passing RCB and being accepted for RMA Sandhurst in September.

The officer strength of the battalion is currently at 93% and officer recruiting continues to flourish. OCdt Michael Pape is currently attending Fasttrack 1/91. If successful he will be attending RMA Sandhurst in June.

Following the Easter break, we ran a successful SAAM at Colchester during the weekend 6/7 Apr. The weather was kind to us on both days of the competition, which resulted in good scores all round.

The three highest SLR individual scores were members of the Battalion Shooting Team: LCpl Cullen 145, Cpl Scrivener 137 and Cpl Hyne 133. 16 Pl 6 Coy was the Best HSF Coy and 6 Pl 2 Coy Champion Pl.

The Colonel of the Regiment graced us with his presence on the final day of the competition. This was preceded by his attendance at the Officers' Mess Regimental Guest Night held the previous evening.

Selection of a Coy size group for Ex Lion Sun in Cyprus later this year, depended on the results of the SAAM. Since the competition the CO has chosen 1 (Essex) Coy HQ, a pl of the OC's choice, 6 Pl 2 Coy and the Recce Pl who came first and second respectively.

The Regimental Band continues to perform miracles. The majority of their engagements are normally category 2 and 3. Their musical skills will be put to the test during the Quinquennial Inspection in August.

WO2 (NRPS) Bedding is to be congratulated on his award of the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire Certificate for meritorious service.

Some new faces have come and gone among the PS. We welcome WO2 Morley SPSI 3 Coy, 1st Sgt Hughes QPSI 3 Coy, Sgt Turner Mor PSI and Sgt Almond Recce PSI.

We bade farewell to WO2 Brett, returning to the 3rd Battalion to be RQMS, as well as CSgt Bullard on discharge after 25 years service, Sgt Mallon back to the Poachers and Sgt Hurd on his discharge from the Army.

On the sporting front, the battalion orienteering team under Maj John Ross has

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News from the Steelbacks

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been active in various competitions. The team was runner-up in the Edist TA Championship 1991. Notable performances came from: CSgt Byford - 1st, B course; Cpl Black - 2nd, C course; Sgt Risley - 3rd, A course; Cpl Guinn - 3rd, C course; WO2 Batchelor - 5th, B course; Maj Ross - 7th, A course.

As we approach the end of the first half of the year the battalion continues to endure a hectic existence. Despite the MTD and budgetary constraints placed upon us, every person in the Battalion is still able to play his or her part effectively. We all await with bated breath to find out what the future will hold for us post Option for Change!

1 (Essex) Company

TWO notable events in the last six months were the Remembrance Parade and Company dinner and disco.

Mindful of the eventual relocation of Company Headquarters and 3 Platoon into its new Centre based at Vange, the Company paraded at nearby Pitsea for Remembrance Sunday for the first time.

A little preparation in the way of some foot drill took place on the Saturday, and on the Sunday some 40 of all ranks, along with other service and uniformed organisations, marched firstly to church and then on to a wreath laying ceremony.

The weather was fine and the parade looked very impressive, so we celebrated with a curry lunch. This was attended by Major and Mrs Stephen Card, who were belatedly farewelled by the company.

On an unusually snowy 8 Dec evening the now annual Company dinner and disco was held at Warley TAC. Over 100 soldiers, guests and their ladies were planned for, but due to the freak snow storm a few were unable to travel.

Despite the weather, a thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all. Special guests included Maj and Mrs Duncan Steward, Maj and Mrs John Metcalfe, and Maj and Mrs Stephen Card, all ex officers commanding.

Corby success - 1991 rifle meeting

6 Platoon (Corby), under the leadership of Sgt Bill Kelly, decisively won the Battalion Inter Platoon Skill at Arms Championships at Colchester on the weekend 6-7 Apr 1991.

The platoon also produced the Individual Skill at Arms Champion in LCpl John Cullen.



Col PDL Hopper DL, Secretary of TAVRA and Hon Colonel Essex, with WO2 Cockayne and CSgt Barry Brown after they had been presented with Lord Lieutenants' certificates.

In the Rougell Cup on the Saturday firing at the longer ranges was hindered by strong cross-winds which called for a high standard of marksmanship which the platoon was able to produce.

In the GPMG shoot an average score was achieved by Cpl Duncan Henderson and LCpl Kevin Aitken, but in the final section match Sgt Kelly rallied his men splendidly to achieve a good score and an aggregate overall winning score.

In the individual championships LCpl John Cullen did particularly well to emerge from the company stores, where he is employed, to sweep the board with very little practice.

He drew heavily on his previous Regular Army experience and ability as a natural shot with a vice-like grip of the rifle to display his skill. All in all a splendid achievement by the Corby Platoon.

Two months in the Gulf war zone

WO2 Peter Wilcox of 2 Company volunteered his service for two months in the Gulf as part of a British Aerospace/Joint Service NBC training team to the Saudi Arabian Civil Defence Force in November 1990.

The planning and preparation took

place at BAE HQ Preston under Wing Commander Sutcliffe as Team Leader and WO2 Wilcox as Chief Inspector. Two days were spent at the Civil Defence College Sunningdale on civil defence aspects of NBC and related problems in the civil community.

Further training was received in the UK on living in a Muslim country.

Prior to departure, WO2 Wilcox also visited the NBC School at Winterbourne Gunner and SSVC Chalfont St Giles for training aids and films, as well as last minute advice.

The team flew in to Riyadh via Jeddah initially and was accommodated in the Sheraton Hotel - a considerable improvement on the Army 160h tent!

Three courses were run during the attachment, during which time the NBC gospel according to Winterbourne Gunner was regularly preached. The students were Army, police and emergency services.

During the courses, many invitations to Arab hospitality were accepted with goat meat the main item on the menu accompanied by Coca Cola - sadly no beer!

The training followed a predictable course, apart from one occasion in January

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News from the Steelbacks

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when a troublesome Scud missile upset the team's departure plans and they were treated to the spectacular sight of Patriot missiles shooting down the offending Iraqi surface missiles.

The team eventually flew back to RAF Brize Norton with a feeling of regret, but also of achievement, and settled down to watch the remaining days of the Gulf War on TV.

A glass of English draught beer had never tasted so good.

'S' for successful

PTE Craig Smith of Wellingborough began an eventful period in his career in April 1990, which bore no relation to the humdrum routine of part-time employment. Little did he know at the time of beginning an 'S' type engagement last year that in the space of nine months he would travel between two continents and take part in a major war in the Gulf.

The adventure all began when he decided that as much as he enjoyed part-time soldiering with 2 Company in Wellingborough, he would like to try the real thing with a one year 'S' type.

To our and his surprise he was accepted into a steadfast clan of the British Army – The Royal Highland Fusiliers who happened to be based in Oakington, Cambridgeshire.

He joined with some natural trepidation as an East Midlander with only a very rough imitation of the Highland version of the English language. To his credit, however, he quickly made himself acceptable to his fellow clansmen and now has several good mates in the battalion.

After the hasty issue of tropical clothing and equipment, Pte Smith flew out to Belize and took part in jungle patrol operations to locate temporary airfields used by drug smugglers and to show the flag to the natives.

In October the battalion returned to UK and began training for the Gulf crisis. The battalion left for the Gulf in January and moved up from Saudi Arabia to a location near the Iraqi border where a POW Camp was constructed with the assistance of the Battalion Assault Pioneers. The troops lived in the open with sleeping bags, necessary at night to combat the low temperatures.

The battalion moved up along the MSR as the operation to recover Kuwait began



taking numbers of POWs as the war progressed.

Pte Smith flew out on 11 Apr to return to UK for three-and-half weeks well earned leave and to contemplate the next battalion move overseas. There is a chance of training in Australia, Kenya or the USA in 1992!

The tour with the Royal Highland Fusiliers has been so successful that Pte Smith has extended his engagement.

We wish him every good luck.

Fund raising by Corby Steelbacks

LAST October 6 Platoon at Corby decided to take to the skies in order to raise money for the Kettering Hospital Scanner Appeal. The idea was that of Sgt Bill Kelly, the Platoon Commander.

Under the training and guidance of WO2 Brad Reader from the Flying Dragons' at the Depot the Queen's Division, the boys from 6 Platoon proceeded to Netheravon to complete their first jump. The event raised £500.

The platoon then decided to deliver the cheque in an unusual way – by abseiling down the tallest building in Corby, the

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Above: Three cooks; LCpls Ian Denton and Richard Gunner (both ACC) and Regimental Cook Wayne Upton awarding marks out of ten for the first course at the company dinner. Below: Maj Chris Vince complete with 'newsreaders's tie' looks at the menu at the company dinner.



News from the Steelbacks



6 Platoon Corby present a cheque for £500 to Kettering General Hospital

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Grosvenor, followed by a speed march to Kettering, a distance of about 8 miles, where the cheque was handed over to Dr Louise Shepherd.

The event received widespread local

radio and press coverage and gave the unit excellent publicity.

Parcels from home

DURING the course of the Gulf War 2 (Northamptonshire) Company was

approached by local people in Wellingborough to keep, store and deliver parcels for troops in the Gulf – just a couple of vanloads they said!

Little did we realise how generous the citizens of Wellingborough can be in times of crisis!

Many of the parcels were sensible contributions of paperback books, cassettes, playing cards and tinned goodies, and lots of tea and coffee, but in some cases sponge cakes were included. Whether they survived the journey we may never know! We had to spend a certain amount of time repacking loose items.

The carriage of all the parcels was generously undertaken by United Carriers free of charge.

4 (Northamptonshire) Company

AFTER a good performance at annual camp in October, we returned home very much a team.

Despite pay, budget and ammunition restrictions, a shooting programme, based on Purfleet Ranges, was begun in November. Every soldier's personal weapon was properly zeroed and he was then coached in basic shooting skills over several months, culminating in March in APWT.

In November the company marched through Hertford as part of the County Remembrance Ceremony, followed by a curry lunch attended by the Mayor (and host of the town).

The Inter Section Competition in December produced an amusing evening 'smoker' during which OC 10 Platoon did a ten minute PT routine in full NBC kit, watched, unbeknown to him, by the rest of the platoon pretending to do a ten minute routine.

In March the Company took part in a battalion Fibua attack at the new Stanta complex. After scaling a ladder to enter an awkward first floor window, the Company Commander was not amused to find 'house clear' and the ground floor entrance open all the time.

The Inter TA Centre football match at Haileybury resulted in a punishing defeat for Hertford, with Hemel Hempstead winning 14-0.

At a personnel level, Capt Lacey has become Bn Weapon Training Officer in place of Capt Walton, who is now 2IC. Lt Williams, 2Lt Stirling and Sgt Pearce have taken up new platoon jobs.



6th Battalion



Recruiting efforts pay off

LOOKING back on the old year to chronicle the 6th Battalion's news is no easy task. Since the Castle last appeared much has happened and to isolate the highlights of our life seems trivial when compared with the world stage of Army events.

The post camp period is traditionally a quiet one as the Battalion returns to the start of a new training cycle. The recruit reception teams redoubled their efforts as the Battalion tried to reap the rewards of the TAVRA National Recruiting Campaign.

All companies threw open their gates for open days and the new OC RRTT, Capt Howard Gill, an ex-Poacher, set about rewriting the recruit selection and training process to meet the new UKLF directives. The hard work paid off and in November the Battalion went over strength – a happy state of affairs that still exists.

On the 30 Nov the Commanding Officer, together with Captains John Milward and John Reed, represented the Battalion at SSgt Pilch's Memorial Service. SSgt Pilch RAPC had been murdered at home while preparing to attend annual camp.

As the pace of life started to increase and the Battalion's eyes turned to Fibua training at Eastmere village on STANTA, so the training major was sent to High Wycombe to man the land ops desk. Despite this, or as some say, because of this, the Battalions FTX at the beginning of December was a success.

Nearly 300 members of the Battalion turned out to practise our military home defence skills before moving into a Fibua phase. A, E and F companies prepared Eastmere and Tottington villages for defence under the command of the then Battalion second-in-command, Maj Alain Chissel.

The Commanding Officer with the remainder of the Battalion played the attacking force. The final 2 phase attack on both villages proved a fitting climax to the Battalion's last training of 1990.

As companies returned to their drill hall



Maj J Lopes OC B, with his TAC HQ at Eastmere Fibua village.

locations to prepare for Christmas, functions and stand down, so the permanent staff got sucked deeper into the Eastern District Joint Services Medical plan. D Coy found itself running a Military Administration Officers' (Civilian Hospital) team based at Waterbeach, Battalion Headquarters, and the remaining companies found themselves on the Casualty Visiting Officers' Scheme.

Before Christmas we all found ourselves away on seminars and training days as the plan grew and the potential scale of

the problem became clear. With hind-sight we can see a job well done that was mercifully only tested on a few occasions.

Before Christmas leave we bade farewell to the QM, Maj Mike Page whose history as a Gunner is now legend. (At one stage of his career he was RSM of the Essex Regiment!)

In his place we welcomed that well-known Suffolk and Royal Anglian, Maj Stan Bullock. On 1 Jan, Maj Alan Spearing

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News from the 6th Battalion



Above: The CO and buglers from the 1st Battalion at the opening of the Yeomanry Yard, Suffolks' Depot. Left: Cpl Paul receives his TEM from the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire. Below: Lt Col Dixon hands over command to Lt Col Chissel.



News from the 6th Battalion



Lt Col Dixon is towed out of Battalion headquarters after his last drill night. Right: O/Cdt Wilson tends a casualty at Eastmere village. Below: Pte Howard, HQ (Suffolk) Company receives a section match cup from the GOC Edist.



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assumed the appointment of Battalion second-in-command. Maj Alain Chissel then moved to High Wycombe to start work on the land ops desk while Maj Peter Barnes returned to the Battalion. Lt David Shelton of the HSF went to work in Headquarters Eastern District on the GI desk.

The last weekend of January saw the Battalion crammed into Bury St Edmunds TAC for a cadre weekend. Subjects ranged from hazardous materiel training, first aid, signals, JNCO training and junior officer training. Not only did the Battalion chefs feed the Battalion but also catered for an extremely successful Officers' Mess Past and Present function.

In February we said farewell to CSgt Neal who returns to the Vikings and welcomed CSgt Dowd, another Viking. A Coy staged a very successful charity assault course competition and raised money for the Norfolk and Norwich General Hospital. In all over £1,500 was raised. The competition was followed by a slap-up buffet in the

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News from the 6th Battalion

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IAT' at Norwich. So successful was the event that it threatens to become a regular one.

New equipment

As the financial year drew to a close, the IAVRA treasury department congratulated itself on another thrifty year, but anxious to clear its accounts in the final month, urgently asked for bids to clear its coffers. Thus the Battalion was authorised to spend £3,200 on adventure training stores. Following careful shopping around the Battalion was able to purchase enough equipment to support nine canoeists and 20 rope ropes and abscilers.

The equipment has yet to be used in earnest but with adventure training week ends and a substantial adventure training package for annual camp planned, it will not have long to wait.

The first weekend in March saw the CO's final Battalion exercise as we assembled on STANTA for an escape and evasion exercise. Small teams of runners set off on Friday night to visit a number of agent

checkpoints across private land to the south of STANTA.

On Saturday morning groups of soldiers arrived at the RV and laid up for the day. The following night the runners again set off in large groups to head across STANTA to set up ambush positions for early Sunday morning.

It was fitting that this exercise should produce the largest turn out of any exercise while Lt Col Peter Dixon had been in command. A tired but happy Battalion arrived at Bodney Camp at the end of the exercise.

The following week on 14 Mar Lt Col Peter Dixon handed over command to Lt Col Alain Chissel. The former had only three days to pack his bags and head off into Africa as the Chief of Staff for the Namibia BMAT.

The first major event of the new era was the Bn SAAM at Colchester on the weekend of the 13/14 Apr. Over 400 soldiers attended. Competition for the two day event was keen because, with the cancellation of all other shooting competitions, this was the only chance for our shooting stars to shine. A guest team of Americans from

Lakenheath attended and competed with their M16s and M60. They reached the final of the Falling Plate but were stopped, to the CO's relief, by A Coy.

The weekend was rounded off by the GOC Eastern District presenting the prizes and Territorial Decorations to Majors McArdle and Denson and Territorial Efficiency Medals to Cpls Hill and Goodchild. B Coy emerged as the overall winner.

Since the last edition we have said a fond farewell to many stalwart Battalion figures. From the Officers' Mess, Capt Nick Clapham has gone to 6/7 Queen's, Lt Nigel Palling to 5 Queen's and Lt Maria Hope to the 5th Battalion. The paymaster, Maj Tony Scott, has retired after 25 years' service. From the Sergeant's Mess, CSgt Bond and Sgt Rivett have left. We wish them all well.

As the summer approaches, Battalion thoughts turn to annual camp which will be on us all too soon. The money managers continue to scrutinise our budget and until their work is complete the trainers are struggling to work out our final forecast of events

Coast to coast charity walk

Lt P Chilvers writes:

THE second week in March saw six members of C (Suffolk) Coy embarking on a coast to coast walk to raise money for a local hospital and the Army Benevolent Fund.

After loading our bergans with tents and four days' worth of food, each individual was carrying about 55lb. The transport dropped us at the mouth of the Tyne, and after waving goodbye to the North Sea we set off on the 127km walk.

The route followed the line of Hadrian's Wall taking us over the backbone of England past some of the many historical sites of Roman Britain.

The main object however was to cover the distance in the allotted time and this meant a continuous slog, walking for between 10 and 12 hours per day across the county of Northumberland terrain, which to those who have been to Otterburn will be familiar.

We were fortunate to find good camp-



Early start: Left to right, LCpl Thurston, Ptes Rushmeer, Hammett and Buck.

sites each night with fresh water supplies. Food was eaten, not by its calorific content or energy value but by weight (it's funny though that it never seemed to get any lighter)

After 127kms we reached a weary end. Blisters had come, burst and gone. Pte Buck had spent a relaxing evening listening to the calming effects of the local sewage works, and LCpl Thurston, we dis-

covered, was a 'real laugh'.

We had completed a demanding and rewarding expedition and will hopefully (subject to man training days) take the lessons learned and mount further expeditions in the future.

Not only did the exercise provide a worthwhile challenge and break from military training but over £500 was raised for the charities being supported.



TIGERS



Ready for the challenge

THE Territorial Army in general and the 7th Battalion in particular stand on the brink of a reshaping as dramatic as that of 1967. If anybody yet knows in what form we will emerge they are not telling.

Motivation and enthusiasm have always been the strength of the Territorial and never more so than now. Faced with budget restrictions, ammunition and equipment shortages it will be a severe test of our commitment. We are, however, confident that we will rise to the challenge and like so much of the private enterprise which employs us, will emerge leaner but fitter from these difficult times.

Light relief was provided by the Officers and Senior NCOs serving a superbly prepared Christmas dinner. Before the Battalion adjourned to the cinema for a 'Tigers Star Show'. The entire cast have been advised not to give up their day jobs.

About this time the first of the snow reached us, causing the postponement of the Sergeant's Mess Christmas Draw and its rescheduling to the end of January.

The Gulf build up had already caused the cancellations of the Officers' Mess Ladies Night. These were but shadows of times to come.

By January the Gulf clouds were gathering, and although not directly involved our equipment was being *divided and redirected* to areas of greater need.

Gulf Action Groups, collection centres and their use just as points of information kept TA centres and their staff busy and occupied. The generosity of the public was truly amazing and all concerned were pleased to be able to help. Their efforts did them all credit.

Winter then returned with the snow cancelling our Inter Section competition at Sennybridge. It was now, however, able to keep a good competition down and Ex Mechanical Tigers did run. This driving competition not only counts towards the Inter-Company competition, but also provides valuable driver training.

Run by the MTWO, it has become one



Above: Machine gun platoon in action — Pte Johnson, with the binoculars, and Pte Stancombe. Below: Three Deputy Honorary Colonels — Peter Worthy, Bill Dawson and John Gleadell.



of the competitive highlights.

The training resumed after the weather with Ex Polar Dawn on Thetford Training Area. A more low key affair than usual because of Gulf obligations, but nevertheless still valuable training and a worthwhile

exercise which included a night river crossing by assault boat. Visitors included Maj Gen Evans, GOC Eastern District and Brig Walker, our Commander.

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News from the Tigers



Above: Captain Nick Page and Company Sergeant Major Terheege front the victorious LDY Company Drill pigs Left: Keep smiling. Below: Col Bill Dawson presents Sgt John Leake with a clasp to his TEM.



News from the Tigers



Above: The lucky recipients: Sgt Perks – Territorial Efficiency Medal; CSgt Byers – 2nd clasp to TEM; CSgt Kilbourne – 2nd clasp to TEM; Sgt Clarke – 1st clasp to TEM; Sgt Leake – 1st clasp to TEM; Sgt Smith – Territorial Efficiency Medal; Sgt Lavery – 1st clasp to TEM and Sgt Shand – 1st clasp to TEM. Below: Lt Roger Wiltshire and the Hinckley platoon.

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Company News:

A Company (Scunthorpe). Along with a full and hectic social calendar the company played an active part in supporting the Battalion.

In February the Deputy Lord Lieutenant presented Sgt Owen with a certificate commending his 33 years of service. The parade was attended by the Deputy Honorary Colonel for Lincolnshire, the Commanding Officer and the Mayors of Grimsby and Scunthorpe. Capt Ken Bruton, as ever, ran a very well organised event.

B Company (Lincoln) is now the champion company. Sadly we say farewell to Capt Peter McNaughton OBE who has been our PSAO for many years.

LDY Company (Loughborough) has made immense inroads since its return from annual camp and under a completely new team has achieved some notable fame. It would not be correct to name names and therefore our congratulations must be to the whole Company for the really splendid achievements attained during the last six

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News from the Tigers



Above: Our 44 slightly dazed recruits. Right: Corporal Lowe.
Below: B Coy — Champion Company 1991.



News from the Tigers



Above: The successful team in the Tasteful Tiger competition.
Below: Corporal Sackree and his section.



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months. Despite the moratoriums placed on training and other factors the Company has continued to train fully on all weekends and drill nights and we are supported by a very good recruited strength.

Recruits continue to flock into the centres and we are up to 124% of establishment.

D Company (Northampton) bid farewell and record thanks to WO2 Bob Pochin on his departure following two years as CSM of D Coy and on elevation to executive level in his civilian employment.

As his successor we welcome WO2 'Bomber' Harris on promotion from CSgt and with 20 years of loyal TA service and experience already under his belt.

No stranger to the Company, he is renowned for his amusing anecdotes and expletives, usually in the early hours when the going gets tough. His litany of tales has built up in proportion to his rank, so the men of D Coy can look forward to a veritable combination of mirth and ear-bashing. But they will misconstrue him at their peril! Who said tradition is dying?

Four intrepid men of D Coy, returning to Northampton from a prisoner handling course in Nottingham in the recent snows, got embroiled in a monumental traffic jam on the M1. Only their GS Rover was able to negotiate the drifts.

With no police or other help in sight, they came upon the source of the huge tail-back and set about dislodging it by towing and pushing a multitude of standard cars, vans and lorries. In the process, they ferried a pensioner requiring insulin to the nearby service station along with a mother and newborn baby; a bevy of stranded maidens and a coachload of British Gas workers on emergency call.

For the record, they were Ptes Ansell, Berrill, Bevin, Marriot and McCarthy. They did not complain when they got home ten hours late! Well done lads – who said chivalry is dead?

Recruiting:

Overall the 7th Battalion can be well pleased with its performance of the last six months. Recruiting in most areas continues to flourish, training is still full and interesting and the future is yet bright.

Several notables have made their arrivals or exits.

We welcome Regimental Sgt Maj

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News from the Tigers

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Norman, who has already had an impact, and sadly say farewell to Lt Jeff Wilcox. We thank him and wish him well in his new role with the 3rd Battalion.

We bid farewell also to the following: Maj John Heggs, Maj Dan Sweeney, Lt Brian Lee and 2Lt Phil O'Brien. We welcome into the fold: Capt Neil Marsh, Capt Denny Bryant and Lt Gerald Smith.

Activities

A recruits weekend also took place, although with 58 recruits no-one was sure who was running who. In addition, Col Bill Dawson came along and presented Territorial Efficiency Medals for clasps.

The weekend spent training to fight in built-up areas (known as Fibua) was also of great value, if only for providing photo-call opportunities.

The weather finally relented and we had a full and demanding schedule for the rearranged Inter-Section Competition on STANTA in March. Activities included Recruit Field Craft Training attended by some 44 recruits.

Other activities included a recruit selection weekend with 74 potential recruits, a field cooking and military skills competition, Officer and Senior NCOs' Battle School, a TEWT for Company Commanders, a command post exercise and a hazardous material course.

The weekend culminated in a series of successful competitions, not the least of which was the Tasteful Tiger competition to discover the culinary expertise within the Battalion. The winning team of Corporal Rogers, Corporal Simpson, Corporal Frost and women Private Locke not only swept the board here but then went on to win the Eastern District Competition and are now through to the national final. Many congratulations!

In addition Private Locke was presented with a certificate celebrating the Jubilee of the Army Catering Corps.

The Inter Section Competition was won by Corporal Sackree and his section from B Company. Well done.

Finally, at Colchester on 20/21 Apr the Battalion Skill-at-Arms Meeting took place. We were lucky enough to persuade General Patrick Stone to present prizes.

Despite HQ Coy winning the Inter-Company Shooting Trophy, the lads from Lincoln emerged triumphant as Champion Company overall.



Recruiting officer Lt Sally Forrest.

Tigresses prove their worth

WOMEN have established a firm foothold in the 7th Battalion.

Nine ladies formed the vanguard of female infiltration into the 7th Battalion last September. Now, 29 women recruits and soldiers serve with the unit. Recruiting officer Lt Sally Forrest needs to enlist another 21 ladies before she reaches her battalion target of 50.

On 12 May the 7th Battalion adopts officially the 'Tigers' nickname won by the late Royal Leicestershire Regiment in 1823. Lt Forrest said her 'Tigresses' were proving more than a credit to that legendary title.

The first ladies in last year faced as tough a test as any raw recruits could expect – arduous field exercises in Germany.

Lt Forrest said: "If they had expected an easy time they didn't get it. They had to prove they had a right to be there."

"That test paid dividends. The women earned their right to respect from their male counterparts, some of whom had doubted

their ability".

Eight months on, seven of the original nine female recruits still serve with the battalion. They are being joined by new women recruits at the rate of two a week.

War in the Gulf proved a strong draw for recruitment. Recruit Lorna Johnson (21) said: "I had enormous respect for our soldiers who fought in the desert and for what they stood for – I wanted to be a part of that".

But the telephone saleswoman from Uppingham said her greatest ambition had been thwarted. Her aim had been a place in a recon platoon. The rules forbade it, but she said she was determined to try for mortars instead.

Pte Jacky Locke has proved just what the women are capable of. She was among the first female intake last year. In March, she and three men from HQ Coy teamed up to become overall winners in the battalion cooking competition.

Depot Queen's Division

Uncertainties continue

THE current uncertainties concerning Options for Change and the restructuring of the ITO continue to effect us; one day we are heartened as Maj Gen Johnston (our ITO sponsor as CTAD) visits us and then our hopes are dashed when a team comes to have a look at Bassingbourn as a potential home for two helicopter regiments!

We were also taken aback when the New Management Strategy attempted to get us to open this financial year with a zero balance.

Improvements to the accommodation move ahead steadily, with us now eagerly awaiting the completion of the new Training Support Wing, which has seen the old cook-house being completely gutted and then rebuilt.

We have been fortunate that despite the capping of the number of recruits, we have been able to keep at least four full platoons in training at any one time. However, this meant the Depot orbat has been reduced to two regular and one TA training coy. One advantage is that all our regular recruits are now accommodated in the new Akehurst and Riley blocks and not the energy guzzling H blocks of old.

Although we still do not know how many recruits we will be allowed to train this year, it seems unlikely that there will be an increase over the last.

Our major challenger continues to be the retention of recruits. Despite monitoring and refinement of the training programme and the gradual relaxation of 'pressure' on recruits by reducing the hours worked and increasing fun-type activities, the success rate shows little sign of improvement.

The present Minden Platoon's areas at Warcop and Catterick were cancelled at very short notice when they were invited to join 1 RRF at Fort Lewis in the USA as part of Ex Trumpet Dance. They all had a marvellous time and the Naafi will no doubt abound with tales of the excellent training facilities on offer, the almost unlimited supplies of ammunition, living in snow holes



Pte Sims being presented with a tankard for the best shot on the SA 80 by inspecting officer Lt Col R E Haes, 7 R Anglian.

and skiing in the Cascade Mountains.

They also took R and R in Vancouver, Canada, as the guests of the Royal Westminster Rifles who are allied to RRF. WO2 Sandy Sanderson in the Training Co-ord office is now under pressure from other platoon commanders to provide more of this type of help

The cancellation of the Eastern District

and Regular Army Skill at Arms Meetings has helped take the pressure off of a busy diary this year. We will be having our own Depsaam in June, at Barton Road.

Depot manpower and resources were extensively tasked in the build-up to Op Granby. Col Tony Taylor from Div HQ disappeared into a black hole somewhere near

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News from the Depot

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the capital for the duration of the conflict and Captains Peter Cookson and Graham Taylor were whisked away to help man the Army Casualty Information Cell in London.

With almost every officer and warrant officer standing by to inform either the next of kin or to assist with the repatriation of casualties, life at the Depot became quite hectic for a time.

In camp, the Medical Centre and Quartermaster's staffs took on the task of creating from scratch a Post Acute Care Centre (PACC), and we also became the base for an ambulance squadron.

It was a great relief that almost none of the preparations were needed.

Pte Anthony Perkins, who as a recruit at the Depot suffered a brain haemorrhage in Apr 89, was medically discharged from the Army recently after a long fight to regain full use of his right arm and leg. To help him get around unaided, the Army Benevolent Fund and the Regimental Association have combined to buy him a special type of one-arm driven wheelchair, which was presented to him on behalf of the Regiment at his home in Lowestoft in November 1990.

Since the last issue of the Castle we have said farewell to Maj Ross, now training major 5 R Anglian, Capt Cookson, Sgts Yarham and Sweap and Cpls Anema, Donnolly and Winter to the Vikings, Lt Lyne (after a short convalescence in Bermuda), WO2 Jones, C/Sgt Catton and Cpls Griffin and Murray to the Poachers, and Sgt Couldridge back to the Pompadours. Cpl Braithwaite of the Pompadours also leaves soon but is swapping uniforms to become a policeman in Leicester.

We say thanks and wish them all well for the future.

R Anglian recruits continue to enjoy a fair share of honours for their efforts in training. The following soldiers were selected as prizewinners at their Passing Out Parades:

Best Recruit: Normandy PI – POP 4 Oct 90, Pte Robinson, 1 R Anglian; Minden PI – POP 1 Nov 90, Pte Fatters, 1 R Anglian; Blenheim PI – POP 24 Jan 91, Pte Taylor, 2 R Anglian when Lt Col Julian Lacey was the Inspecting Officer.

Best Rifle Shot: Normandy PI – POP 21 Mar 91, Pte Sims, 3 R Anglian.

Most Improved Recruit: Normandy PI – POP 21 Mar 91; Pte Bishop, 3 R Anglian.



Above: Pte Perkins in the wheelchair presented to him on behalf of the Regiment. Below: Army Veteran Cross-Country Champions: Major Ross, WO2 Haniver, Capt O'Toole (APTC) and WO2 Slevin.



Drill nights attended in nine counties

THE trials and tribulations of visiting over 100 ACF detachments over the winter period is at last over for another year. Nine counties have benefited from having the RIT attend a drill night and by reports received from Detachment Commanders, the RIT are appreciated by cadets and instructors alike.

The Christmas break gave the teams a chance to draw breath after visits by numerous CCFs in October before hosting more CCFs on Field Days in March. The Field Days were, as usual, a great success for the cadets and the RIT extend their thanks to Lt Col Boocock and his willing staff for allowing the RIT to use Depot training facilities.

The annual inspection of the RIT took place on 30 Apr and after completing an arduous and well prepared list of questions from the RCO, the teams were given a clean bill of health and started out on the summer roadshow.

Capt Thurston and Sgt Atter continue to be the backbone of the Depot hockey team and were both instrumental in the Depot winning the Infantry Hockey Cup.

Capt Thurston also plays squash for the Depot and Sgt Atter is to be congratulated on completing the London marathon. Sgt Beagley, a prodigy of Maj Ross, is continuing to make inroads into the world of orienteering.

We have said goodbye to LCpl Taylor and welcome his replacement from 1 R Anglian, Pte Gundry. LCpl Green, having successfully completed SAA and SCBC, has returned to the Poachers and we welcome LCpl & Mrs Vangucci. Sgt Nyszczota has moved to civvy street and is replaced by Sgt Warrenner.

Boxers excel in winning Army championships

BOXING at JIB Shorncliffe started again this year and culminated by us winning the Junior Army Boxing Championships and gaining four Junior Army Individual Champions.

After a successful inter-company competition in November we were able to select a large squad with some good talent, particularly in the light weights.

The first round against JLREE away resulted in a 5-4 win with our captain, JSgt Farrell (R Anglian) gaining an impressive knockout. However, we were not as fit as we could have been and struggled in the heavier weights. The semi-final against JIB Ouston, the holders, at home was a close run affair.

However, we were able to move down some weights and won the first three bouts. Although a struggle in the heavier weights, we won an excellent match 5-4. We were much fitter and perhaps they were over confident.

The final took place in early March against the Guards Depot Junior Leaders at home. The Guards brought over 300 supporters down and seemed confident. We had a disastrous start with Farrell losing to such a controversial decision that even our opponents were left sucking their breath.

However, the team fought back and our new light-heavy stopped a very confident Junior Para in the second round. The score 4-4.

The final fight, the first string Welter was close, but our boxer, JLdr Harris, fought back with skill and determination to win the third round in style and with that the whole competition.

Our strength in depth had much to do with our success which was duly amplified by winning four titles in the Individual Championships. Having got a more positive attitude to boxing at JIB(S) hopefully it will continue.

Poachers at the JIB

WITH only a couple of months to go before passing out, the Poachers are faring very well in terms of numbers. There are two coys due to pass out in June; Cassino and Peninsula. These are the only coys whose Juniors have had their Battalions confirmed.

From Cassino we have nine Juniors destined to be Poachers and from Peninsula seven. We could not help but notice that the Battalion was over-subscribed and some were turned away. Obviously a reflection of the high standard of Poacher permanent staff.

With the two hurdles of the Commanding Officers' Test Exercise and Battle Camp to go, these numbers we hope, will remain unchanged.

On the permanent staff side, the Battalion representative is Lt Davison, who has discovered the Sub Aqua Club and has every intention of making the most of the summer and the short distance from the sea.

Cpl Fisher and LCpl Cooper have just hung their boots up after a successful rugby season playing for the JIB (PS) team. They made it to runners-up in both the army and south east district competition (beating the Pompadours). The Cpl Walkers achieved the same position in the JIB (PS) football team.

There has also been a few sightings of ex or posted Poachers, Maj Kevin Hodgson was seen receiving an RMAS exercise at Stamford and Capt Mathew Ellis was at Lydd ranges organising range teams. Finally we bid farewell to Cpl Bevin who leaves JIB and the Army to start a new career in Her Majesty's Prison service. We all wish him the best of luck for the future.

Vikings at JIB

THE seven young Vikings from Cassino and Peninsula Coys have just completed Ex Arms Length, a five day routine in defence exercise which was conducted on the local training areas overlooking Dover Castle. Although not planned for, sufficient "good infantry weather" was experienced by all exercise participants - a taste of things to come!

With weapons and equipment cleaned and stories told, the Juniors can look forward to a busy two months before passing out on 22 June.

They are scheduled to complete their APWT, carry out adventure/leadership training in Wales, participate in the CO's test exercise (an individual test of skills last-

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Regimental shop
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Junior Infantry Cadets

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ing two days) and finally attend Battle Camp at Stanta.

With Salamanca and Burma Coys there are a further 38 Royal Anglian Juniors, who as yet have not been allocated to Battalions.

At the time of writing, the Vikings are undergoing NI training at Lydd in preparation for their Fermanagh Tour. Sgts Martin and Templeton, along with Cpl Garwood, have gone to assist as members of the PRT.

Under the guidance of Capt Paul Ludbrook and Cpl Garwood, the Junior cross-country team has had a very successful season, winning the youth categories of the Army Inter Unit Team Relays in November, South East District Championships in January and finally in February winning the Army Cross Country Championships.

Meanwhile, Lt John Heap has been getting to grips with the PS Rugby team - The Foxhounds. They were beaten in the semi-finals of the Army Minor Units, but are still doing very well in the district competition.

Cpl Tate who has recently joined JIB and Salamanca Coy is making a major contribution to the Battalion orienteering team. Sgt Martin continues to secure a place in the Battalion football team, while WO2 CSM Wharton manages the Junior squad as well as being PMC of the WOs' and Sgts' Mess.

CSgt Holmes (the oldest Viking at JIB) prefers to continue the more gentle sport of fishing when not engaged in his other duties as PEC of the WOs' and Sgts' Mess. Last, but by no means least, we welcome Cpl Saywell to JIB. Cpl Saywell is currently working in the SAA Wing prior to being posted to one of the training coys.

The Junior Infantry Battalion, Shorncliffe now has a good few Vikings on its strength. Capt Ludbrook is 2IC Cassino ably assisted by WO2 (CSM) Wharton and CSgt (CQMS) Holmes, who started in Londonderry together in 10 Pl, the RSM WO1 Richardson, Sgts Templeton and Martin, Cpls Tate, Garwood and Saywell.

Though life is a little bit out of the fast lane compared with Battalion life, our hearts and minds will be with the Battalion on the forthcoming tour to Fermanagh as we all have friends and in the case of WO2 Wharton, his son in the Battalion. We wish them all a safe and successful tour.

On the JLdr front, at present we have some JLdrs that will be joining the Battalion in July including JLdr Carpenter, son of a Sgt Ron Carpenter.



Lt Commander Lindsey Rooms, the RCO, and log race winners from Oundle CCF.

RCB successes to join Sandhurst in September

The RCO writes:

RCB results

We congratulate Richard Bullock and James Priestman on passing RCB this year. Both young men are joining Sandhurst in September.

Undergraduates' convention

We welcomed ten undergraduates this year. They were Anthony Borgnis, Ian Couch, Gavin Cross, Fred Gray, James Houghton, Alistair Martin, Liam McGrath, Andrew Moffat, David Ward and Gavin Wiedman. Matthew Still sent his apologies again! The Regimental representative at Sandhurst (Kevin Hodgson) now knows the true worth of a Bursary Award!

Presentation

Capt Simon North visited some of our sponsored schools to talk to CCFs about his experiences in the Gulf. This was his last official duty before leaving the 2nd Battalion. We wish him well in civilian life, and thank him for his interesting lectures.

Review Days

Schools held their Review Days (previously

known as Annual General Inspections) as follows: 1 May - **Wellingborough School** reviewed and inspected by the Colonel of the Regiment; 3 May - **Bancroft's School (RCO)**; 7 May - **Bedford Modern**; 8 May - **Berkhamsted Centenary Parade (RCO)**, **The Leys School (Col P D Panton)**, **Bedford School**; 9 May - **Kimbolton School (GOC Eastern District)**; 10 May - **Wymondham College (Maj Gen A J G Pollard)**, **Stamford School and King Edward VI School in Chelmsford**; 11 May - **Loughborough GS (Col G I G Brett)**; 14 May - **Ratcliffe College**; 15 May - **Greshams (RCO)**; 20 May - Col P P Rawlins presented the Tiger platoon shield to **Uppingham School CCF** and the cadet forces medal to Captain E J R Boston.

Commissions

The following are due to be commissioned on 6 Aug: James Bowes to 2nd Battalion, Stephen Gandy to 2nd Battalion, Lance Gerrard-Wright to 2nd Battalion, Roger McClure to 1st Battalion.

A soirée was held at RMA Sandhurst on 11 April; the Colonel of the Regiment and Major General P P D Stone hosted a

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Cadets

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very pleasant evening for the Sandhurst cadets prior to the Passing Out Parade. Gerald Corkery was listed from SGC 903.

Joining RMA Sandhurst

In September the following potential officers join for training at RMA Sandhurst.

SGC 913: M P Still (Matthew) for 2nd Battalion, J C A Veitch (Jonathan) for 3rd Battalion, R W Wooddisse (Ralph) for 2nd Battalion, S Arbutnot (Stephen) for 1st Battalion, A D Martin (Alistair) for 3rd Battalion, J R B Middleton (James) for 1st Battalion, I Couch (Ian) for 1st Battalion, N P Mawer (Nicholas) for 1st Battalion, D J Ward (David) for 2nd Battalion and J D Priestman (James) for 3rd Battalion.

All graduates will be commissioned in April 1992, attend PCBC after some leave, and then join their respective battalions.

SMC 913: R E Bullock for 1st Battalion. He will be commissioned in August 1992.

Headmasters' dinners

Two successful dinners for sponsored school headmasters were hosted by Maj Gen Pollard and the 1st Battalion. The first dinner was held in Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester, on 5 Mar and headmasters from the following schools attended: Culford, Felsted, Framlingham, Haileybury, Ipswich, Kings School, Ely, Kimbolton, The Perse, St George's Stowmarket and Woodbridge. The second dinner was held on 10 May at the Norfolk Club and Headmasters from Norfolk and Suffolk were invited. We were delighted to see so many headmasters and appreciate their attendance in what is always a busy life for them.

Potential officer visits to battalions

We very much regret having to cancel potential officer visits to the 2nd battalion this summer due to their sudden posting to Kuwait. We hope to reorganise these visits next year. We thank the 1st and 3rd Battalions for hosting visits prior to their postings to Northern Ireland. It should be noted that reports can now be sent to the RCB, at Westbury at the discretion of Regimental Headquarters.

The 1st Battalion are inviting visits to Colchester this summer. Details will follow soon.



Assault course raises money

FOUR Woodbridge School sixth formers – Marcus Stapleton, John Edwards, Joshua Brown and Edwin Bowden (pictured above) – have raised £240 for the charity ME Care which helps sufferers from Myalgic Encephalomyelitis.

All members of the school's Combined Cadet Force, they secured sponsorship from pupils, staff and parents for 50 continuous

laps of the school's assault course, which they completed in 4 hours 10 minutes.

The £240 was sent to ME Care, which will use it to assist local ME organisations and to fund research. The sixth form also sent a Christmas present, including a giant Teddy Bear, to Lisa Dummett, a former pupil of the school who has been bedridden since she contracted ME in 1985.



Woodbridge School CCF — a briefing before an initiative exercise

Cadets



The highest scoring Royal Anglian Regiment ACF team entering the ACF national team small-bore competition in 1990 was the Ulverscroft Road Detachment, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire ACF. Team members, pictured above, were: LCpl Howard, LCpl Lal, Cdt Patel and LCpl Dimesh.

The cup was presented by Capt P G Collier. The trophy is known as the Dalkeith Cup and was originally presented by the Earl of Dalkeith to the 4th Battalion the Northamptonshire Regiment in 1904. This Cup has been generously donated to the Army Cadet Force Association Shooting Committee by the Royal Anglian Regiment HQ (Northamptonshire).

Olympic aim

Christian Johnstone, a potential officer for the Regiment and now at Kimbolton School, has set his sights on the Olympics after being chosen for the under 18 English Small Bore Rifle shooting squad. This makes Christian one of the top 12 marksmen from his age group in the country.



Rushden Scouts and Northampton Cadets joined forces recently for the first time at the Rushden Scout Headquarters for their presentation evening. The Lord Lt of Northamptonshire Mr John Lowther presented the Queen Scouts Award, to four venture Scouts and the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award to seven cadets from the Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Army Cadet Force. The Venture Scouts were Sadie Goodman, Jennifer Pratt, Alan Avey and Andrew Becks with the army Cadets Daniel Wood, Ranjodh Grewal, Navdip Grewal, Daniel Paton, Ruth Desborough, Sadie Taylor and Anthony Steel.

Cadets

Rebadging at Loughborough



Above: The RCO and Capt David Horwood with Nick Ward (brother of David Ward who is going to RDA Sandhurst on SGC 913). The Guard of Honour is on parade in the background. The occasion was the rebadging parade at Loughborough on 8 Nov.



Right: The cadets march past the dais on the occasion of the rebadging parade at Loughborough Grammar School.

Around the Branches



THIS time last year there was a feeling in the air of excitement and anticipation as everyone started to think and worry about the opening of the Regimental Museum in the Shirehall on the 20 July.

Now we can report that since the opening, it has had 21,000 visitors and the latest change of pricing of entry ticket due to come into force on 1 May will mean the same charge will be made for both the Castle Museum and the Regimental Museum.

If you have not yet been to see the museum, get your passport out, come to Norwich and visit what is reputed to be the best Infantry Museum in the British Isles.

Elsewhere in the county old comrades continue to gather and mardle, polish their medals and wear their Royal Norfolk ties with pride.

The King's Lynn Branch has continued to grow, and more and more of its members are attending the Royal Anglian gatherings at Royston and Bury St Edmunds. At the annual dinner a number of the 6th Battalion members attended which is a particularly encouraging sign for the future.

The annual dinner of the 4th Battalion took place in Gorleston on Saturday 20 Apr when some 84 dined. Again, a very strong contingent from the 6th Battalion were made particularly welcome.

The 4th Battalion Officers' Dinner Club held its annual dinner in the TA Centre, Aylsham Road, under the chairmanship of Lt Col Cyril Grant, on



Steve Chapman and Ted Shepherd with the new Waziristan medal. Picture: Eastern Daily Press

19 Apr – there were so many the Chillianwallah Table was completely filled.

The Commemoration Service was held on 21 Apr, and conducted by the Rev Canon Wynter Blathwayt. The

address was given by the Rev A R Astin. Coffee was taken by the worshippers in the Priors Hall afterwards and rumour has it that next year Mr. Eaton will be providing a marsala as an

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Around the Branches

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additional stimulant for those to attend.

And now a little story from the Eastern Evening News, about Steve Chapman.

"They clapped, they cheered and even cried a little, when the remarkable Steve Chapman, now aged 91, was honoured. He was enjoying himself at the weekly gathering of the Hellesdon Friendship club when he got the shock of his life.

Visitors arrived at the Community Centre to present him with a medal to replace the one he lost somewhere at St Faiths way back in the early 1920s.

"It made his day and I admit there was a tear in my eye," said Ted Shepherd who helped to get the medal for Steve.

From 1919 to 1921, Steve served with the Norfolk Regiment in India at Waziristan on the North West Frontier – and was awarded the General Service Medal. But soon after he returned to Norfolk, Steve lost his medal and tried in vain to get a replacement. He never gave up hope and many years later he bumped into ex Sgt Maj Ted Shepherd, of the same Regiment, and got thinking about that medal again.

Ted took up his case with SSAFA Secretary, Wing Commander Bob Jefferies and Major William Reeve, the Regimental Secretary. Slowly but surely the trio cut through the red tape and finally got another medal for Steve.

They kept mum until the Friendship Club meeting, when the three of them turned up out of the blue to present Steve, of Middletons Lane, Hellesdon, with it. He had been persuaded to put on his Regimental tie and blazer by eldest daughter Monica, who told him 'some important military men' were visiting.

At an emotional ceremony Steve, now looked after by two wonderful daughters, thanked them all for getting another medal. He was overwhelmed.

"If it hadn't been for Ted, this wouldn't have happened" said Steve – a happy man.



Major D T Smith and Mr F Price in Pusan cemetery, Korea.

Finally, Maj David Smith and Sgt Fred Price, both of whom served with the Regiment in Korea, returned in September last year. They laid a wreath on behalf of the Regiment in the UN Cemetery in Pusan, and by all accounts had a very worthwhile visit.

Gorleston and Gt Yarmouth & District Branch:

OUR second annual meeting on 31 Oct was well attended with most members present. All committee members were returned for another year.

George Long's Herring Night on the 3 Nov was a very enjoyable evening. Unfortunately this was not well attended owing to several members going to previously arranged early Guy Fawkes night celebrations. However, those attending had an enjoyable evening and good food prepared by George, so much so, we all agree that George should have been in the Catering Corps and not the Infantry.

On Armistice Parade, held this year on 11 Nov, nearly 30 members marched behind our Standard paraded

at Great Yarmouth for the first time. We were all disappointed that distress rockets are no longer fired owing to cost and supply factors.

Great Yarmouth having been one of the few places where this double 'boom' could clearly be heard, before and after the period of silence.

A grand time was had on 23 Nov when some 67 members and guests attended our combined annual dinner and Christmas draw at St Edmunds Hotel, Gorleston; with Major Willie Reeve, area secretary (Norwich) having the honour of being dinner chairman this year.

It was also very pleasant to see old friends from the 1st battalion days attending as guests. Don and Mary Martin (Bury St Edmunds), Colin and June Willmott (Hertfordshire), Bob and Grace Huxtable (Harleston) and Brian and Rose Shanks (Newcastle).

Our thanks go to all committee members and to Geoff Smith and Ray Pillar in particular for their organisation, not forgetting John Morley who joined in with the group and

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Around the Branches

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entertained us on his harmonica.

There was no formal meeting in December this year with the event falling on Boxing Day. However, this did not deter the hard liners who met at the White Lion Hotel for drinks.

For the January, 1991 meeting we held a games night which was well attended and enjoyed by all. We intend holding another such evening in the near future. Owing to the very bad weather and many members suffering ill health, the February meeting was rather quiet and poorly attended. However, a total of £120 was raised thanks to Tony Waters, Bert Major, Gt Yarmouth working Men's Club, Gaeto's Turkey Draw and Club Funds for the Gulf Appeal. However, by the time all the cash was collected, hostilities had ceased, so the money was sent to I R Anglian for the Regimental Band to spend on either a 'Coming Home Party' or how they wish.

March was a very enjoyable meeting in the company of Police Constable Ted Woods of the Norfolk Constabulary who gave an interesting insight into police life and crime prevention. Poor Ted still had questions being fired at him long after the meeting had ended.

In April we were looking forward to a games evening against the Royal Engineers OCA (Norwich branch) on the 15th and General Jack Dye's visit to our meeting on the 24th. On 12 May a trip (combined with the Beccles Branch Suffolk OCA) had been arranged to Stanford Battle Area where Lt Col Paul Long was due to host us.

Since our last report we have only been able to welcome one additional member to the branch, Bert King being member number 50. We continue to meet at the White Lion Hotel, Gorleston (junction of Upper Cliff Road/Cliff Hill) on the last Wednesday of each month and would welcome any new members or visitors from other Branches or any personnel still serving.

Further details from: Bob Waller (chairman) Tel: Gt Yarmouth 669961

or Ben Turner (treasurer) Tel: Gt Yarmouth 600070.

It is with deep sadness that I have to report the death of Frank Taylor on 27 Dec. Frank, a World War Two driver in the Royal Norfolk Regiment, had only been a member of our branch for a few months before being rushed to hospital on the day of our November meeting.

Sadly we also have to report the death of Heather, the wife of Chip Orriss, who suddenly passed away in early December.

At the time of writing our thoughts go to our members Henry Snowling, who is recovering in hospital after suffering a stroke; and to Ernie Leggett who has been ill for some time. We wish you both a speedy recovery. Hope to see you back in the fold soon Snowy so that you can give us part two of 'Life in the Gt Yarmouth Home Guard'.

Mr O A (Ben) Turner



OCA Reunion:

Our annual reunion was held at the Beacholme Holiday Camp at Cleethorpes on the weekend of 22/23 Sept. Our new president, Maj Gen Gerrard-Wright presided. In addition to our usual attenders, Col Robin Drummond and Lt Col John Barstow came with their wives, a first time for them all.

A total of 220 sat down to dinner on the Saturday evening but unfortunately Lady Welby-Everard was unwell and unable to come, the first reunion she has missed during the past 24 years. We also welcomed members of our new branch which has been

established in the Midlands. They already have 25 members. We wish them the best of luck and hope that their numbers will increase as years go by.

The 1991 reunion will be held at Beacholme on the weekend of 21/22 Sept.

Officers' reunion:

The Sobraon weekend will be held in the Officers' Mess at Sobraon Barracks on the weekend of 27/28 Apr 1991. Details will be sent out to those on the mailing list in due course. Anyone not on the list who would like to attend should write to Capt Alwyn Smith at Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln.

Herouville:

The trip to Herouville in June was very successful and a bronze plaque was presented to the Mayor of the town by Maj Gen Sir Christopher Welby-Everard, who was commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion when it liberated the town in 1944.

Among those present at the ceremony were Maj Gen Gilbert, Lt Chambers, Maj Colvin, Captains Bennett, Baptiste and Boys, plus a number of our Normandy veterans.

Retirements:

Maj Charles Macklam retired from his appointment of chairman of the executive committee and ex officio trustee of the Association with effect from 1 Oct 1990.

He had held these appointments for over 21 years and we thank him for his stalwart work for the Association and wish him well in his well earned retirement. Col Robin Drummond has taken over the vacancy left by his retirement.

Deaths:

Since last going to press the following have passed on: Mr Alexander, Mr G W Carey, Mr Daybell, Brigadier Dolphin, Mr H Griffin, Mr C King, Mr E Kirk, Mr F Lilly, Mr W Parke, Mr T Potterton, Mr A E Rose, Maj G Spratt and Mr P White.

Around the Branches



THE annual reunion was held at the TA centre, Kempston on 18 Nov 1990. Attendance at well in excess of 500, set yet another record. We were equally pleased to note that included among that number were our two oldest members, Frank Haines who was 99 last May, and Bill Evans a lively 95-year old. Both took part in the parade.

The day began with a Service of Remembrance followed by a wreath laying ceremony. In the absence of Canon Peter Hartley who was indisposed, the service was ably conducted by Maj Donald Girdwood, our deputy chairman.

The parade, led by the band of 3rd Royal Anglians, and Commanded by OC B coy, 6th Royal Anglians, marched past when the salute was taken by the chairman of the association, Brig Angus Robertson CBE, MA, who was accompanied on the dais by Lt Col W A Whittaker, our president.

Over 300 people enjoyed an excellent lunch and a very pleasant musical recital by the band in that part of the Keep which was once the Quartermaster's store of the Regimental Depot.

The painting of the 2nd Battalion, the 16th Foot, attacking at Monte Cassino was on display in the hall. The picture was of particular interest to our president, who commanded the battalion during the battle, and also to a number of comrades who were there too.

The Chindit and Cassino paintings: On 3 Dec 1990 a ceremony took place before a small audience of all ranks in the Sergeant's Mess of 3rd Royal



Bedford Branch party at Roman Barracks, Colchester.

Anglians when reproductions of the paintings by Terence Cuneo showing the 1st/16th Foot during the Chindit campaign, and 2nd/16th Foot during the Battle of Monte Cassino, were presented to Lt Col Julian Lacey by Lt Col W A Whittaker, president of the 16th Foot Association.

Before the presentation, Brig Angus Robertson CBE, MA, chairman of the association, explained that members felt at least one of the fine achievements of the 1st and 2nd Battalions should be recorded on canvas as a reminder to future generations. He added that it was appropriate that the original paintings should be permanently displayed in the Regimental Section of Luton Museum in Wardown Park where they could be viewed by a larger audience, and that identical reproductions should become the property of the Pompadours.

Brig Robertson went on to express his delight that our president was able to be present to make the presentation as he was in command of 2nd/16th Foot during the battle for Monte Cassino. Equally, he was sad that Col John Barrow DSO who commanded 1st/16th Foot during the Chindit operations and who was our president until his death in 1989, could not be with us.

He added that it was fortunate that

others who had been present at the scenes depicted were able to attend. They were Maj Andrew West, 1st Battalion, Capt Hugh Hollick DSO (who won his decoration during the Battle of Cassino) and Bill Haines who was a Sergeant.

After a pleasant lunch in the Officers' Mess Lt Col Julian Lacey reiterated his gratitude at receiving the two pictures, then presented a small reproduction of the Cassino painting to Lt Col Whittaker and a similar one of the Chindit canvas to Maj West for later presentation to Mrs Averil Barrow at her home.

Visit to 3rd Royal Anglians: When members of the association visited the 3rd Battalion at Colchester on 27 Feb they expected to see weapons and equipment of improved capabilities than those they knew forty years ago. Even so the sophistication and efficiency of the weapons they saw far exceeded their expectations; they were impressed also by the high standard of training necessary to get the best out of them.

The demonstration of the firepower of an infantry section was most impressive and they were very pleased to be given an opportunity to fire the .22 ver-

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Around the branches

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sion of the SA80 on the indoor range. There, a group competition for the highest total score was won by Watford and Hemel Hempstead branch.

After a very full day of visits to stands and demonstrations we enjoyed a welcome cup of tea and a biscuit in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess during which several presentations took place; Tom Morley gave a photograph of the meetings of the 1st and 2nd Battalions at Locre, near Ypres, on 14 Nov 1914 to the RSM Brig Robertson CBE, MA gave pictures of Colchester Castle to the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes as a memento of the battalion's stay in that town, after which Maj Thorogood presented a glass riding boot bequeathed by the late Mrs Osborne to the Officers' Mess.

Finally, the RSM gave a 10 inch bronze statue of a drummer of the 3rd Battalion in appreciation of all that has been done to foster the good relationship between the 3rd Battalion and the associations of the 16th Foot and the Essex Regiment.

The day ended with a splendid band concert followed by the Regimental Marches of 16th Foot and Essex Regiments. Bill Evans, our last surviving "Old Contemptible" was given the privilege of conducting the last named March, a task he carried out with great enthusiasm.

This was a day which we had enjoyed every minute and will never forget. We are most grateful to all those who did so much to make our visit so successful, especially A Coy whose soldiers carried out most of the displays and demonstrations and acted as our guides. Their courtesy and understanding towards us was impressive and much appreciated.

Annual dinner dance: This was held at Selle School, Hertford, on 23 Mar and was attended by over 230 members, their families and friends. We were pleased to welcome the Mayor and Mayoress of Hertford, Miss



Clifford Camp with the new Herts Regt OCA Standard and Harry Walking with the standard of the old Ware branch.

Jacque Gudgin and Mrs Anne Hunter, a party of nine serving Royal Anglians and some 20 members of the Essex Regimental Association.

The evening began with the march into the hall of all ten branch standards to the tune of the Regimental March. After an excellent dinner Brig Angus Robertson CBE, MA, read the reply from her Majesty The Queen Mother, our Colonel-in-Chief, to our message of Loyal Greetings.

After greeting the guests, he spoke of the continuing strength of the association and its close ties with the Royal

Anglian Regiment. Finally, he thanked Stanley Mansfield for once again organising such an event so efficiently.

In reply Brig W T Dodd OBE, Deputy Colonel, thanked local people, the Women's Institute and Hertfordshire and Essex newspapers for their wonderful efforts in raising nearly 1,000 parcels for the troops in the Gulf.

The Band of 3rd Royal Anglians played magnificently throughout the evening and did much to make the evening the memorable one it turned out to be. Many people thought it the best such event for years.

Around the Branches



Annual reunion dinner: This was held in the County Hall, Hertford, and was attended by 120 members and their wives. Guests of honour were Col N H Kelsey TD, MA, Hon Col for Hertfordshire who proposed the toast to the Regiment, and Councillor Jacqueline Gudgin, Mayor of Hertford, who responded to the toast to the visitors. Ex officers present included Brig G W Peters CBE, DSO, MC, Col Alan Andrews DSO, OBE, DL, Col Ivor Watkins TD, DL, Col M V McArthur OBE, DL, Col Stanley Burr TD, president and Maj Vernon French.

Dedication of new standard: On Sunday 14 Apr a new standard of the Hertfordshire Regimental Association was dedicated by the Rev Hugh Wilcox at St Mary The Virgin Church, Ware.

At the same time, the Standard of the Ware Branch was laid up. The sermon was preached by the Rev Simon Godfrey, padre of 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, the Royal Anglian Regiment. The lesson was read by Col Stanley Burr TD.

Over 120 members attended this ceremony including Mrs Janet Coombs, widow of Drum Major Claud Coombs. It was Mrs Coombs wish that instead of flowers being sent to her husband's funeral donations should be made to the association. As a result of this wonderful gesture and the generosity of Drum Major Coombs' many friends, the new standard was purchased and presented to the association in his memory.

Immediately after the ceremony, Maj John Allen of the Hertfordshire Cadets presented the association with a

Union Jack Standard to pair with the new standard of the association.



Corby Branch; Secretary: K R Fordyce. Tel: (05363) 2761.

WE still keep up our ties with Warmington RBL and they visit us from time to time. Mrs Gilder dedicated a new standard for their branch and we paraded our standard at the dedication, carried on this occasion by the secretary. Sid Gilder, an ex-Northampton, had been a member of our branch before his death.

The branch dinner was a great success, our first in the TA Centre, Corby. Our thanks to Alf and the staff. Our standard was on parade at the Peterborough reunion, carried again by the secretary as a last minute replacement.

At the Armistice Parade, Cpl Mutch, a serving member of the Royal Anglian Regiment, carried our standard and was proud to do so.

We were pleased to help one of our widows gain admission to the Shire Lodge residential home on a permanent basis. All the widows received their usual Christmas bonus from the branch, most said it was very nice to be remembered.

Our diaries went very well, thanks mainly to Sandy McArthur who sold the bulk of them on other clubs in the town. Our Christmas draw in the club was very successful, thanks to the usual hard core of members.

Saturdays have been rather hectic for the secretary of late assisting SSAFA to receive and pack "goodies" for the forces in the Gulf, ably assisted by two of his grandchildren.

We adopted two local lads out in the Gulf, who use the club regularly when on leave, and the secretary has been corresponding with them regularly. Their letters are posted on the club notice board and make excellent reading. Cpl Joe Geekie, RE and Gdsm Duane Ashworth are the two concerned; hopefully we will see them soon and have a pint and a blether with the returned warriors.

Peterborough Branch; Secretary: D Allen. Tel: (0733) 810311.

AS we reach the 250th anniversary of the Regiment I am pleased to present my report to the branch for the last 12 months.

The membership has increased and the attendance at our meetings and annual dinner continues at a very good level and the enthusiasm and comradeship within the branch is, I believe, at the highest level for many years.

Inevitably we have lost several members in the last 12 months but happily we are finding new and younger members to take their places and join the Regimental family which they regarded so highly.

Our programme has followed the pattern of previous years and has proved to be both successful and enjoyable for members – the reunion at Huntingdon, attendances at Regimental gatherings, the autumn visit to Windsor, the summer barbeque and October dinner have all made splendid occasions that were well attended and great fun.

We have kept our strong links with Corby and are doing all we can to foster and improve links with the Royal Anglian Regiment and encourage members to our functions.

We continue to benefit from the excellent venue at Stanground which is now home to other ex-service organisations and we do thank our hosts Peter Newton and his wife for the excellent hospitality.

My thanks to our hard working secretary and his wife for their big con-

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tribution to the success of the branch and the many hours put in by Sam Bloye and his escorts in parading the branch standard on many occasions during the year.

To you all my thanks for the tremendous support you give to the branch and to me as your president which I hope will continue as I approach the 20th year as your branch president.

The Peterborough Branch would be pleased to welcome any Northamptonshire Regiment Comrades to the following social functions:

18 July – a barbeque in conjunction with the Cambridgeshire Regiment Comrades at the Woolpack Public House, Stanground; 8 Sep – a visit to the Duxford Imperial War Museum. A bus will be laid on; 19 Oct – Branch annual reunion dinner at Peterborough.

Maj Richard K Hill TD

News Jottings:

BRIGADIER and Mrs R P S Erskine-Tulloch celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 15 Aug 1990 with a luncheon party for their family and old friends, given by their daughters at Aliwal House, Tidworth Garrison. Among the 46 present were, from the Regiment, Col and Mrs G V Martin, Mrs C J Gardiner, Maj and Mrs H R Johnstone and Maj and Mrs T R Molloy, Maj P H Erskine-Tulloch, 2nd Gurkhas (formerly 48th/58th) and Mrs Erskine-Tulloch were also present.

In her will, the late Mrs Ursula Mary Danby very kindly made a bequest in support of the Comrades Association Benevolent Fund.

We have heard from ex C/Sgt GRF (George) Grazier who in addition to notifying a change of address, informs us that on 28 Oct 1990 he was the sole representative of the Regiment at the British ex-servicemen's annual dinner and dance held in Perth, Australia.

Our best wishes for a full recovery go to ex Sgt A F E (Porky) Bennett who suffered a stroke in December 1989. He writes: "I'm strong enough to

walk around the local park and hope to make the reunion again". We hope so. As Boy Bennett in the early 1930s he was a boy lightweight boxing champion of the 58th.

Readers of the Daily Telegraph of 15 May 1990 will have spotted the picture of a Dunkirk Veteran wearing the cap badge of our Regiment on his beret. It was that of ex 5885292 Pte J W L Tyler, who served with the 58th.

The observant will also have noted that among Mr Tyler's medals were those issued for the Korean War. Our curiosity whetted, we contacted Mr Tyler, and an interesting story emerged.

In 1942, just before the departure of the 58th for Madagascar, Mr Tyler, a former miner, was released from the Army and sent to work in the mines. That appeared to be that. Imagine then, his horror and dismay when on the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950, he was recalled as a reservist and sent with the Gloucesters to Korea. But this was not all; signaller he was sent as a reinforcement to the Ulsters, who had sustained severe casualties and in the subsequent fighting was captured and spent the next two and-a-half years as a POW of the Chinese.

Mr Tyler who has become a life member of the Comrades Association, is currently recovering from heart surgery, and according to him, is "progressing nicely". We send him our best wishes.

Ex WOII Robert (Geordie) Lomas who enlisted into the Regiment on 3 Jan 1933 and served until being discharged to pension on 8 June 1955, was admitted to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea on 28 Jan 1991. For a number of years "Geordie" was secretary of the London branch of the association and will no doubt renew many old friendships. His address is: In Pensioner 318 R Lomas, c/o The Royal Hospital, Chelsea SW3 4SR.

We have heard from Mr W T Reid (5880796) who pre-war served for 12 years with the 48th – "And not one moment do I regret". Recalled for War

Service in 1939, Mr Reid was posted to the RASC, with whom he was promoted to CSM. Now 83 years of age, Mr Reid is confined to a wheelchair and regrets he is no longer able to attend reunions, particularly this 250th anniversary reunion. He has many happy memories and well remembers going to Iraq with the 48th in June 1932. Mr Reid who lives at 37 Lancastrian Way, Prospect Estate, Worksop, Notts, sends best wishes for a happy reunion and would be delighted to hear from any of his former comrades.

An up to date report on former Band S/Sgt W J (Bill) Phillips, BEM, who for many years has been footloose in the Far East, commuting mainly between Hong Kong and Thailand (Pattaya & Bangkok). He is currently (March) in Hong Kong, his travels suspended as he awaits the renewal of his British Passport – staying pro team at the YMCA Hostel, International House, Waterloo Road, where, he informs us, a single room costs £50 per week.

Bill, a bachelor, is fit and well and is thinking of returning to the UK – possibly applying for admission to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, as an In-Pensioner.



THESE notes are written during the period when preparations are being made for the annual reunion and cover the period from October to May. This is the time when other reunions take place and this year was no exception. The 1st (formerly 8th) Battalion held their reunion as usual at the TA

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Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester.

Ex RSM Dixie Dean reports that there was another good turnout and the numbers have certainly not decreased. We are very grateful to the RSM and members of the WOs' and Sgts' Mess of 7 R Anglian for continuing to allow this reunion to take place in their Mess.

The Hindoostan Club held its annual dinner in November and Lt Col Spike Nichols was the main guest. Again we thank the TA Battalion at Leicester for all their help in organising this function.

The Hindoostan Club is an important part of the association and it is pleasing to be able to report that the club flourishes.

Now that the 50th anniversary of the Second World War is well under way there has been a general increase in battlefield visits. The 1/5th Bn returned to Norway in May of last year and a party from the 2nd Bn, led by the vice-chairman of the association, has recently set off for a return visit to Crete. Hopefully a report of this visit will be published in the next edition of the Castle.

It has been a very busy period for the benevolent committee. It is significant that during 1990, 102 cases were considered by the committee, a considerable increase on previous years. A total of £7,544 was given in grants during the year. Benevolence continues to remain the most important part of the work of the association and we continue to be most grateful to The Royal Anglian Association and the Army Benevolent Fund for their considerable financial help given to the association during the year.

The following dates will have events later in the year. Further details can be obtained from the secretary of the association on Leicester 622749 (pm only).

22/23 June – Royal Tigers Weekend, Leicester; 26 Oct – 1st (old 8th) Bn reunion, Leicester; 2 Nov – Hindoostan Club dinner, Leicester; 7 Dec – Officers Lunch, London.



The Essex Regiment Old Comrades on the steps of the Memorial at El Alamein.

Finally and sadly, we have to report the deaths of 37 members of the association during the last 12 months. Among the names was Maj John Dudley, a previous secretary of the association. An obituary appears elsewhere in the journal.



THE Essex Regiment has been well remembered in the past by the City of Chelmsford with the Freedom of the City and the housing of the Regimental Museum. The Regiment was further honoured in a dedication ceremony held on 14 June 1990 at which part of the new A130 bypass, a brand new dual carriageway, was named The

Essex Regiment Way.

The dedication was performed by The Mayor of Chelmsford, councillor Mrs Felicity Strutt, with other dignitaries from the council, members of the association and the press in attendance.

The dedication made, the president of The Essex Regiment Association, Col GCP Morgan DL, replied on behalf of the association. The party then drove down The Essex Regiment Way before continuing on to the Regimental Headquarters at Warley for luncheon.

After viewing the Freedoms and other memorabilia in the public rooms the party adjourned for an excellent luncheon, which was attended by the Mayor of Chelmsford, the president of The Essex Regiment Association, the Regimental secretary, the editor and Mrs Jones, Maj D Smith MBE from Eastern District, Maj W Burford from 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment and civic dignitaries.

Old Comrades Association: The Old Comrades Association of both The

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Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and The Essex Regiments had a splendid day out at Colchester hosted by the 3rd Battalion on 27 Feb 1991 when a representative party ranging in age from 95 down to mere lads in their 50's were given an in-depth tour of the battalion and the equipment currently in use. An excellent lunch was provided in the Sergeants' Mess and an excellent Band Concert ended the proceedings.

One more senior member of the association was quite horrified when he realised that the modern equipment is no longer blancoed and was almost rendered speechless when his host did not know what he meant by blanco!

4th Battalion: Thirty-three Old Comrades, wives and friends made the pilgrimage to El Alamein where the object was to attend the annual memorial service at the Common-wealth War Graves Cemetery at El Alamein and thereafter to visit the battlefields where 1st/4th Battalion fought and distinguished itself. These sites included Essex Ridge, part of the Ruweisat Ridge, where the main German advance was halted, and Point 63 on the same Ridge where A coy counter-attacked and retook a position that had been overrun by the Germans. After halting a further attack the Germans sent an officer forward under a flat of truce offering A coy the chance to surrender or be annihilated and insisting that the officer concerned be allowed to return to his own lines. He was but via Turkey.

Finally on to Rahman Track where the battalion with the Rajputana Rifles launched the final attack that opened the gap through which the armour and mobile groups poured to begin the end of the North African Campaign.

The battalion served with 4th Indian Division in Eritrea, North Africa, Italy and Greece.

The trip finished with a tour of Cairo and Alexandria – no doubt somewhat different to those undertaken by the Comrades when they were young..

Thurrock Branch: The branch has had a successful year with visits within the county and to Holland to take part in the 45th anniversary of the liberation. This tour included visits to and parades in Arnhem, Nijmegen, Zetten, Ede, Haarskamp and Wogeninggen.

The final event was a concert at Arnhem Church to commemorate the liberation of that town by 49th West Riding (Polar Bear) Division in which the 2nd Battalion The Essex Regiment served.

The branch was well represented at the opening of The Essex Regiment Way; the annual reunion held at Warley; the massed bands of the 1st and 3rd Battalions together with the Pipes and Drums of King Edward VI School Cadets Beating Retreat at Terling Place; The Freedom of Thurrock conferred on the 3rd Battalion and to take part in a Memorial Service to celebrate the liberation of Wurstwezel, Holland.

In all a good active year spoiled by the loss of two members of the association but enhanced by the addition of three new members from the 3rd Battalion.



Leiston and District Branch:

Mr Smith writes: The annual meeting of the branch was held in the LTAA Club room on 6 Mar with a good number of members in attendance. Opening the meeting, the branch president, Capt John Perrett, congratulated the branch on a very successful year and look forward to it continuing.

He made special mention of the

recently successfully concluded Desert Storm in the Gulf and we were proud that around 20 service persons from the area covered by the branch had been involved in the conflict. He congratulated the Branch for its freely donated £50 to the RBL Gulf Christmas Fund.

The treasurer reported a very satisfactory balance account for the year with a membership of 67 at the end of the period. The chairman thanked the branch officers for their work and support for the year, especially the entertainment committee which had taken over during the latter part of the year and organised the visits to other branches.

It is pleasing to see 'young' members – two National Service and one post war TA – ready to shoulder burdens of organisation (incidentally all three run their own small businesses).

All branch officers were reappointed for the current year although Wilf has asked for a younger person to take on the burden of treasurer. Wilf has been a key member during the formative years of the branch, especially as the link man with the LTAA who now provide us with our meeting place. We very much hope that Wilf will be able to continue providing this vital link.

Branch major events for 1991 were agreed and other branches are asked to note the dates: Annual buffet dance in the LTAA Club, Sat 1 Jun, tickets £3.50; branch fete at the Red House, Leiston on Sat 24 Aug, 2.30pm; branch dinner dance, LTAA Club, Sat 5 Oct.

The usual coach will be run for Minden Day on 28 July. Further details may be obtained from branch secretary, Ron Thompson, 46 Saxon Road, Saxmundham (Tel: Saxmundham 602509).

Members enjoyed visits to three other branch functions during recent months, namely the Beccles buffet dance at Lowestoft, Felixstowe dinner dance and Ipswich buffet dance. This branch thanks the three branches concerned.

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We have recently lost two members through death. In February ex LCpl Gibbins died at his home in Dennington. He served with the 4th Bn during the War and was a POW in Singapore. He rejoined the 4th Bn on its reformation and served for some years as a cook.

Another Far East POW member, Jack Plant, died on 29 Mar at his home at Farnham, aged 71. His funeral at Farnham Church was well attended by ex-members of both branch and regiment in a packed church. He was given a full Royal British Legion funeral with four Standards in attendance.

In February, during the bitter winter weather, I had the pleasure of delivering a lecture on 'The History of the Suffolk Regiment' to the Southwold Archaeological Society in St Edmunds Hall, Southwold. The distinguished audience included a number wearing the Regimental tie. The chairman for the meeting was Major Dennis Curnock who served in the Regiment during the 39/45 war and is now president of the Beccles Branch. I apologise to the old soldiers attending for over-running my allotted time, but you all appreciated that it is impossible to squeeze 300 years of illustrious history into 45 minutes.

We have had a couple of welcome visitors since the last report. In October John Fenn and his wife called in during a brief holiday in East Anglia. John served in the 1st Bn in France and Germany. On Easter Saturday I had a visit from ex-Sgt J Isaacs who was on holiday from his home in Bristol.

Sgt Isaacs was transferred to the 1st Bn from the South Wales Borderers as reinforcements for Palestine. He served in the battalion for about a year in HQ Coy.

The purpose of his visit was to try and establish the names on the Sgts Mess photograph taken at Ismalia in October 1946 – a copy is reproduced in the 1946-1959 History. I could only

help him with a few – mostly the Regular Soldiers – but if anyone could help him further, or would just like to contact him, his address is: 11 Glenroy Avenue, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 1DZ, tel: 0272 675885.

Finally, I would like to record the branch's thanks to our President, John Perrett, for so successfully getting reports of our activities into the press so regularly – he must know the editors.

Felixstowe Branch:

Mr E Roworth writes: Our annual meeting last October was well attended. Sam Keeble retired as chairman, having completed a two-year period in Office. Eric Roworth was elected as the new chairman and he thanked Sam for his efforts and service to the branch during his term of duty.

The Hon Sec, Mr N Buckingham and committee members offered their services for another term, and were all re-elected.

The Hon Treasurer, John Westren's report showed a healthy financial position. Unfortunately, due to ill health, John retired as treasurer, having served the branch from day one. Due to a lack of volunteers, the post of treasurer was temporarily taken over by the chairman.

Branch membership is still in the 50s and attendance of our open evenings averaging between 20 and 30. Membership is still our main priority and all efforts are continuing to recruit Royal Anglians living in the area.

Our open evenings so far have included a wine tasting competition, a musical sing-a-long, a film slide show of branch social events, and all have enjoyed a free glass of wine and snacks. The dinner dance in November was again a great success, over 90 members, wives, friends and comrades from Ipswich, Bury and Leiston, made the trip to support us. Our sincere thanks to them.

Our first OCA car boot sale was on Apr 28 followed by our annual tea

party on 18 May and branch coach trip on 8 Jun. News and details of these in next issue. Our dinner dance this year, has been brought forward to 27 Sep, details to branches at a later date.

Several members attended the Ipswich buffet dance and the Bury dinner dance. Both branches made us very welcome. Our thanks to them for their hospitality and comradeship, we thoroughly enjoyed both evenings.

Bury and District Branch:

Mr W E Martin writes: Our monthly meetings have been very well attended in spite of the cold weather. We have been lucky enough to find some new members, so our membership is still in a pretty good shape.

We attended the Beccles Branch social and dance which took place on 26 Oct, 1990 at the Lowestoft Town Football Social Club, Lowestoft. We were all made very welcome. The buffet was very good and so was the raffle (some of the prizes came our way). The evening passed all too quickly and we soon found it was time to say our farewells to all and make our way back to Bury St Edmunds.

On 2 Nov some of our members attended the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Corn Exchange, Bury St Edmunds. This was their fifth year and followed closely the format of previous years.

Once again, on the 8 Nov, we made our way by coach to Westminster to take part in the service at the Field of Remembrance close by St Margaret's Church. As usual, we stopped at Cambridge to welcome aboard our friends from the Cambridgeshires. After the service, all went their various ways. We all met up at 6.30 pm to board the coach and make our way home.

On the 10 Nov we went to Felixstowe to attend the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance which took place in the Spa Pavilion. This is a very popular event with tick-

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ets rationed out to various organisations; we managed to obtain 20 tickets. Our party left Bury early for Felixstowe to enjoy a good meal in a nearby restaurant before taking our seats.

As usual, the Felixstowe R B L put on an excellent show and we are looking forward to 1992 when we will have another chance of attending.

On 23 Nov we were making our way to Felixstowe once more, this time it was as guests of the Felixstowe Branch to their annual dinner and dance which took place at the Marlborough Hotel. Guests from other branches were also present. We enjoyed a very good meal, a good natter with old friends, and of course the dance. We also did very well in the raffle taking some very good prizes back with us to Bury St Edmunds.

Our last meeting of the year on 27 Nov was our Christmas Draw. We had just over 100 prizes which were purchased by the branch treasurer and secretary in a local supermarket. As usual we had a full house and Marjorie did us very well with the refreshments. All the committee was involved to make sure that everyone had an enjoyable time.

Our first event in the New Year was an invitation to a buffet dance at Ransomes Social Club, Ipswich on 23 Feb which was very well organised by the Ipswich Branch.

On 6 Apr we had our annual dinner and dance. This was held at the TA Centre, Newmarket Road, Bury St Edmunds. Col W A Heal did us the honour of accepting our invitation to be our dinner chairman. A total of 75 members and guests sat down to an excellent meal; this was our lowest number for some time owing to the fact that our date clashed with the Cambridgeshires who also had a dinner date on the same night.

The band Gracious Manner who we had last year, did a very good job of ensuring that everyone had a very good time. We have just had our annual

meeting and there are no changes so Jack Gingell is still chairman, Mary Martin is treasurer and Tiddler Martin still secretary.

Stowmarket Branch:

The Stowmarket Branch has around 50 members and keeps growing each year. Last November we all enjoyed our Christmas dinner dance which is already booked for this year.

We are now making plans for the coming year including trips to Bassingbourn in July for the Regimental Gathering and Minden Day at Bury, also in July; a mystery tour in August; and our Christmas dinner in November.

We are also inviting another branch in the area to one of our monthly meetings for a get-together and social evening.

We are organising a trip to Weert in Holland for September 1992 which will be five days. Last year we went to Normandy in France for three days and visited the Hillman Memorial.

At our March meeting, the chairman brought along some sunflower seeds and we paid 10p for five. Later on in the year they will be judged and the person with the tallest plant will win a dinner out for two.

Hemel Hempstead Branch:

Ray Picton reports: Ron Wingfield collected £1,039 and Ray Picton £912.61 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal so I do not have to say what a good working branch we are at Hemel Hempstead. We received letters of thanks from the RBL HQ in London, but we hope to do better next year.

The branch had its Christmas social night at the TA Centre. It was a good turn out and a good night it was too. Once more on 25 Jan 91 it is the branch annual meeting so we look forward to a good year in 1991.

The branch is looking forward to a day out to Hastings with a visit to its

RBL at night. We did visit the club last year and it is one of the best clubs we have been to. The members of the branch then hope to visit the Dutch War Graves at Mill Hill, London, on 5 May. The Suffolk annual meeting is on 22 Jun. We hope to make a day and night of it in Bury St Edmunds. It is hoped to have about 57 members with us.

On 7 Jul the branch will visit Bassingbourn; we will miss the thunder flies if they are not there this year. We then look forward to the Minden Weekend at Bury St Edmunds and hope that it will be as good as last year, but with no-one going out feet first. Then it is one more trip to Holland with a stay in Nijmegen.

On the 28 Sept we have the Hemel Branch dance at the TA Centre (Tickets at £3.50). We will have 120 tickets and they will soon go, so get your bids in as soon as you can.

On 26 Oct 91 we have the CESA dance at the Pavilion, Hemel. This is always a good night and we have 400 tickets and they all go. What we make on this is always split three ways for ex-servicemen's charities.

The news of Mick Murphy and Harry Allum is not all that good and we hope that they will soon be a lot better and back at the meetings.



THE first 50 copies of the Chapel Guide have been run off at a cost of £20 and they are to be placed in a fixture, to be provided by Major Starling, from which copies can be taken and paid for on the spot. It is

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hoped that they may be on sale in the Cathedral shop.

The redrafted copy of the Rules was agreed incorporating the suggested amendments. Lt Col E L V Mapey OBE, TD was elected patron and Col W F Page, MC, TD, president.

The treasurer reported that the balance at 31.8.90 had reduced from £142.94 to £137.56. There had been a cost for engraving and for wreaths but £91.55 had been received from the reunion. The benevolent account was £1,866.93 including interest.

Lt Col J R Ennion reported that the Chapel Endowment Fund had attained its object and now stood at £10,543.00.

Annual meeting: Our annual meeting was held on 4 Dec 1990. Among the subjects discussed were the regimental archives, the reunion at Ely, and arrangements at the recent Remembrance Sunday at Cambridge. Mr Cohen had laid a wreath for the branch. The committee and officers were re-elected, with the addition of Maj M Veal OC, D Coy and Capt J S Cook.

Members are reminded that this concise History of the Regiment is still available, price £2.00 including postage.

Ely Museum contains a well presented display of Regimental items, including the Singapore Drums.

Central Archives: The archival material in our possession is the result of the interest taken by Roy Stubbings in preserving the collection of the late Col J G A Beckett, as well as the response of many old comrades to

appeals in successive newsletters.

The Regimental History: In 1947-48 Col Clayton formed a Regimental history committee to produce a 1938-1945 history. The members were Maj F Few and Col J G A Beckett. A short history was produced and included as Chapter 7 in Col Nicholson's history of The Suffolk Regt.

In addition, much work was carried out and material collected for a history of our own. This survives in some 250 typescript pages (unbound), plus a considerable amount of supporting material and contributions for other sources.

This written history does not include the captivity for as Col Beckett explained in a letter, there were so many camps and so many experiences that no man could write a balanced account on his own, as could be done for a battle from war diaries. However, much material exists from several contributors, enough to give a 'picture' of the period.

There is still a good collection of photographs to be catalogued and identified.

Two of Col Beckett's films have been transferred to video and copied for archives by the University of East Anglia. In addition, a film of Camp 1929 was supplied from their archives in video format. Some more films are likely to be available from a relative of Col Beckett.

Copies of With The Cambridgeshires at Singapore, by M W Taylor, Line of Lost Lives, by Mr J Cosford, and Battalion at War, by Michael Moore have been purchased by courtesy of Cambridge branch.

The Regt Council have decided

that the archives shall be placed in the County Council Archives at Shire Hall, Cambridge, with possibly some material copied for the National Army Museum.

Any new material would be welcome. Personal accounts are particularly welcome. Seemingly unimportant details, not always of battle, all help to fill in the picture.

We are grateful to the many old comrades who have loaned material and photographs, and who have patiently answered my questions.

Whittlesey & Peterborough Branch:

OUR Old Comrade Tant Hillaim, who had celebrated his 100th birthday in September, died on 10 Oct. His family did not want a military funeral but 12 of his Old Comrades attended. Lt Col G C Stallard represented the 5th (V) Bn Royal Anglian Regiment. The coffin was covered with the Regimental flag and carried a branch poppy wreath.

A moving sermon was given by Tant's friend, Canon John King, who highlighted various events in his long life, particularly his time in the trenches during the first World War. As CQMS, he was responsible for getting the rations and ammunition up to the trenches, and as his old friend Bill Scarr said, "He never let us down once." So we said farewell to our oldest member and probably the oldest serving member of the Cambridgeshire Regiment.

Sad to relate, our last surviving First World War member, William Scarr, died at the age of 92. Bill died at his home at Charlton Court, Peterborough on 16 Dec 1990. He had not been in good health for three years.

Ex Pte William Scarr served in the 1/1st Bn Cambridgeshire Regiment first as a bandsman and then in France as a stretcher bearer. He was mentioned in dispatches for carrying a wounded comrade on his back for nearly two miles. He was wounded

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FUTURE EVENTS

Event	Date	Time	Location
Regimental Gathering	Sun 7 Jul 91	-	Bassingbourn
Minden Day	Sun 28 Jul 92	-	Bury
D Coy Open Day	Sun 18 Aug 91	-	Barton Road, Cambridge
Sgts Dinner	Sat 21 Sept 91	7 for 7.30	Coldhams Lane
Regimental Council	Sun 29 Sept 91	10 am	Waterbeach
OCA AGM	Sun 29 Sept 91	2.30 pm	Archer House, Ely
Field OD Remembrance	Thurs 7 Nov 91	-	Westminster Abbey

Around the Branches

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and sent back to Blighty for convalescence, then returned to France and spent a year with the Army of occupation.

The funeral took place at Longthorpe Church and 14 branch members formed a Guard of Honour with the branch regimental standard carried by Cpl Paul Watson of the Whittlesey Detachment of the 3rd (C) Bn Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force. The coffin was draped with the Union flag and carried a single branch poppy wreath and Bill's First World War medals.

The branch held its annual regimental dinner on 9 Nov when 50 members and wives sat down to a traditional dinner. The guests of honour were the retiring Battalion Commander of the Peterborough Detachment 5th (C) Bn Huntingdon & Peterborough ACF, Maj Les English and Standard Bearers Cpl Paul Watson (Whittlesey) and Cpl Paul Bogole (Peterborough). The raffle raised £40 and was given as Christmas presents to widows of former branch members.

The annual meeting was held on 21 Mar when, there were 25 members present. President Tom Miles took the chair which was vacated by chairman Alf Gray. The president opened the meeting by thanking all the officers for their loyal service and by saying how impressed he was by the number of new members.

All the officers were elected en bloc for a further year, and the office of assistant secretary/treasurer was filled for the first time by Peter Garford. Lt Col G C Stallard and Canon Arthur Ludlow were elected vice presidents. Lt Col Stallard, was presented with a Cambridgeshire Plaque for the Officers' Mess at London Road, Peterborough.

Canon Arthur Ludlow agreed to become branch padre and led the members in prayer. Refreshments were provided by the family of the late Bill Scarr.

Future events include a barbecue

on 18 Jul at the Woolpack, Stanground with the Peterborough branches of the Northamptonshire and Royal Anglian Associations and the jumble sale at Peterborough Market on 24 Jul. It is planned to have an outing to the Royal Tournament and also the Annual Memorial Service in Whittlesey Church during the summer.

We look forward to seeing our comrades from the other branches at the Ely reunion.

The appeal to raise funds for a headstone for the unmarked grave of Pte Samuel Stephenson (see previous edition of the B & C) has so far raised only £125. This falls far short of the £500 required and the appeal will stay open until the end of 1991. If by then the necessary amount has not been forthcoming the appeal will be abandoned and the donations received returned.

Donations can be sent to: Jesse Matthews, 62 Lincoln Road, Peterborough. All letters answered.

The annual dinner was held on 6 Apr at the Cadet Headquarters, Waterbeach with over 40 officers attending.

The chair was taken by Col Pat Macdonald and Mr Vice was 2/Lt S Lack.

Messages of thanks for telegrams of loyal and humble support were received from Her Majesty the Queen and Her Majesty the Queen Mother. For the first time for many years a toast was drunk to our Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The Princess Margaret.

The new Company Commander of D (Cambridgeshire) Coy 6th Royal Anglian, Maj Mike Veal, gave a full and interesting account of the company's progress during the year, but reported that due to cutbacks the future was uncertain and that this year's annual camp had been changed to reflect this.

Obituaries

Mr Cecil Ayres died at Home Haslington, Crewe on 6 Jan 1991 aged

79. He was with the Transport Section of the 2nd Bn Cambridgeshire Regiment and was a Far East POW.

Mr H A (Sandy) Sandeman died in Newmarket Hospital during December 1990. He served in the Malay Regiment and was attached to the 2nd Bn after the surrender.

His all-weather humour and assistance gave us a Malay and Tamil linguist who will not be forgotten. His widow lives at 1 Kings Road, Bury St Edmunds.

Mr William Scarr died at home on 16 Dec 1990 aged 92. Bill served in the 1/1st Cambridgeshire Regiment as a stretcher bearer and was twice wounded and also mentioned in dispatches.

Sgt Ronald John Chapman died on 18 Dec 1990. Ron was one of the last of the 'old school territorials' who made up the backbone of the 1st Battalion, Cambridgeshire Regiment.

He joined the TA in 1930 and at the outbreak of war, in 1939, was a Sergeant in the MT Platoon, later becoming Platoon Sergeant. In his time he was accepted as being one of the best shots in the battalion, the winner of a number of trophies, a real 'Bisley Man'.

Very approachable, he was well respected and a friend to all members of the Transport Platoon and indeed to anyone with whom he came into contact. With the rest of the Cambridgeshire Regiment he left the United Kingdom for the Far East in October 1941 and subsequently spent three-and-a-half years a POW of the Japanese.

The little chapel at the Cambridge Crematorium was filled to capacity for the funeral service on 29 Dec 1990. A number of his comrades formed a guard of honour and his coffin was draped with the Regimental Flag.

Ron would have been 80 on the 29 Dec. He had not been well for some time but endured the conditions of his failing health and dignity and courage.

Sport

Powering Britain's bobsleigh challenge

CPL Lenny Paul of the Pompadours, on conclusion of the summer season with the British Athletics team, turns his attention to the winter sports season. But in this case, not for the gentle delights of the ski slopes; instead it is the raw strength, skill and courage of the bobsleigh track. For Cpl Paul is currently a member of British two-man and four-man teams.

His driver in both events is Sgt Tom De La Hunty of the RAF, and in the four-man crew they are joined by LSgt Dave Armstrong of the Grenadier Guards and civilian brakeman Len Murrain.

The first significant competition of the season was the British Championships at Winterberg in mid-October where, against 15 other teams, both two-man and four-man teams successfully defended their title from the previous season.

At the end of the month the crews were in Calgary, Canada for their first World Cup event of the season. This was their first return to Calgary since the Olympic Games, and they faced a formidable field of 40 teams, many of whom had benefited from much more ice-time in their build-up. So the positions of 15th in two-man and 10th in the four-man were quite satisfying at this point in the season.

The team spent the first week in November training at Altenberg in what used to be East Germany. Altenberg would be the venue for the World Championships later in the season, and it seemed sensible to get some practice beforehand on this track which had a reputation for being very technical and hazardous.

Then back to Winterberg for another World Cup race. Here melting ice from the warm conditions and a late draw made life very difficult for the crew as the state of the track was so poor. Nevertheless they achieved 12th and 9th positions, again in a large and competitive field.



CPL Lenny Paul, right, uses his speed and strength.

After a week's training at Albertville, France, in December, the teams dispersed for a month over Christmas, which gave Cpl Paul the opportunity to work on his athletics training and to sharpen up his competitive edge on the indoor athletics winter circuit.

In mid-January the teams reassembled at Cervinia in Italy for the European Championships. Here all the hard work and training began to pay real dividends. 7th in the two-man and 6th in the four-man reflected considerable inroads, as progress up at the top ten is always the hardest to achieve. Naturally the team were delighted and really buoyed up for the World Championships back at Altenberg a week later. Here again 8th position in both events in the more competitive field was very encouraging and confirmation of the teams' excellent current form.

Finally it was back to Albertville for a last World Cup race. And what better way to round off the season than with 4th and 6th position – especially as Albertville is to be the venue for the Olympic Games bobsleigh next year.

As the team, who are sponsored by the Sports Council, Stella Artois, Gore-Tex and 3M, continue to improve steadily on their performances, medals at the Olympics must now seem a real possibility.

So, many congratulations to all the team for a determined and successful season. As for the immediate future, Cpl Paul now returns to the athletics track where we wish him every success for the coming season with the British squad. And you can be sure that all members of the Regiment will be following with keen interest the exploits of GB I next season.

Sport

Pompadours' programmes restricted

ON the sports scene, naturally many fixtures suffered due to commitments, in most cases those of opponents. League events were badly hit. The Inter-Coy Sports Competition culminated on the last day before Christmas leave with A and B Coys winners in hockey and cross-country respectively.

But this still left HQ Coy clear winners of the overall competition, once again fuelling grumbles about unfair advantages due to its size!

The Battalion football team had reasonable runs in the cup competitions reaching the quarter finals in the Army Cup where they were beaten 6-3 by 1/3 Trg Regt RE.

Rugby activity has been confined to support for the Regimental team which reached the semi-finals of the Infantry Cup. The battalion's close links combined with Maldon RFC, for whom eight members are now regular players, has meant the friendly match, won this year by Maldon, seems to



A football team, pictured, average age 43, comprised of players from the purple period of success in the 1970s, assembled to play the current Pompadours Battalion team. These were the men who had won the Infantry Cup four years out of five in the glory days of Battalion football. The visitors ran out 2-0 winners.

be a regular fixture now.

Despite the loss of some key players since the previous season, the hockey team did well, becoming Eastern District Champions. And congratulations to Sgt Milgate on selection as Army goalkeeper.

The squash team were strong this year, but could not find many opponents. Those that appeared were roundly beaten, and this team also emerged as District Champions.

Finally, the cross-country team performed well, despite rarely fielding a full strength team. They won the District Championships and runners-up in the league. In the zone final, the team lost to the Guard Depot, but six members still qualified as individuals to the Army finals. Pte Thomas is to be congratulated for his selection for the Army in the junior division.

Orienteering flourishes

Capt Rowland Ladley writes:

THE 1990/91 season looked like becoming the best in recent years for the Pompadour battalion orienteering team. After qualifying for the UKLF Championships in 1989/90 and with a recent surge in talent, the prospects were good.

Our hopes were confirmed. In September the team won the 19 Brigade Championship, beating the Vikings into second place.

Much of the credit should go to Capt James Harris who beat CSgt Bonnett (a consistent Army runner) into second place in the individual placing. But the depth of ability in the team led to a well deserved victory.

Sadly the league events have been devastated by Op Granby and other commitments. However, on the individual front Capt Roland Ladley and CSgt Thomas have both represented the Infantry.

Also WO2 Pallant, a newcomer to the

sport, looks destined for a place in the Infantry team.

The highlight of the season was the Edist Londist Championship at Longmoor. A drizzling, cold day, knee-high heather and four technically difficult courses made it a challenge.

Once again the Battalion beat the Vikings and hoped to win the Major Unit prize but the MOD beat the battalion into second place.

Due to commitments, the team is unavailable to go on to the UKLF Championships this year, but the strength and depth of the team bodes well for future years.

It would be wrong to finish without mentioning the stalwarts of the team: Maj Frazer MacDonald has consistently produced the best overall results on the long courses; WO2 Rouse and CSgt Thomas have run consistently well and have got the team to the right place at the right time.



LCpl Elliott in action for the Regimental Rugby Team.

Sport

Vikings achieve top class results

DESPITE the emphasis on training during these last six months, some members of the battalion have still managed to produce some commendable results on the sports field.

The Vikings rugby team has had an excellent season with six wins out of six reaching the quarter finals of the Brigade Sevens Competition. A number of Vikings have been playing regularly for the Regimental Rugby Team, with Lt Nick Palmer and LCpl Bold also representing the Infantry.

Greatest success was achieved by the cross-country team which reached the Army Championships where they were placed 7th among the Major Units. During the season they won all but one of the Eastern District league events, winning the competition convincingly. They were runners-up in the Eastern District Championships but progressed to win the Eastern Area Championships as a qualifier for the Army Championships. Of particular note was Pte Bates who was selected for the Army Junior Cross-Country Team and subsequently awarded his colours; Pte Wiltshire was a reserve but did not run.

The new MO, Capt Fiona Holden, won the Women's Eastern Area Championships with ease but was unable to compete in the Army finals due to injury. It is worth noting that four of the highly successful Depot team are Vikings, proving the depth of ability available to the battalion.

Orienteering continues to be a source of success. The Vikings team yet again won the Eastern District Winter League, with WO2 (TQMS) Bonnett as the Individual Champion, a position he confirmed at the Edist and Londist Championships in March (his 3rd consecutive year as champion). The battalion was unable to release all its runners from NI training so only managed



3rd place. We will do better in 1992.

The hockey team proved that running is not the only sport at which the Vikings can achieve results. Even allowing for a number of players in the Band being unavailable, the team was runner-up in the Eastern District Winter League. Capt Edward Thorne represented the Infantry both indoors and out but because of courses and injury only played for the Vikings once.

The Viking Golf Society met for its spring meeting at Stoke-by-Nayland Golf Club on 17 April 1991. There were some 36 Vikings serving and non-serving, who took part in the day's golf. The guests included:- Maj Bullock, 6 R Anglian; Maj Rourke, 7 R Anglian; Capt Spalding, 5 R Anglian; WO2 Todd, 7 R Anglian; WO2 Cutter, 5 R Anglian; Sgt Smith, Cpl Chamberlain, LCpl Allett, Mr Shaun McAnally and Mr Brendon McAnally, all Depot Queens Div.

A great day was had by all and we all look forward to our next meeting and a proposed tour in Scotland. The following are the winners of prizes presented by the Commanding Officers:-

Individual Stableford Serving Vikings: 1st - Lt Col Phipps, 37 points; 2nd - Sgt Woods, 34 points; 3rd - Capt Jones, 30 points.

Individual Stableford Guest Vikings: 1st - Sgt Smith; 2nd - Cpl Chamberlain.

WOs' and Sgts' Mess Individual Championship: 1st - Sgt Woods, 34 points; 2nd - WO2 Adcock, 29 points; 3rd - WO2 Bonnett, 27 points; 4th - WO1 (RSM)

The Viking cross-country team at the Army finals in February. Below: LCpl Evans in the Army cross-country finals.



Allen, 26 points.

Mess Triangular Match: 1st - WO's and Sgts' Mess; 2nd - Offrs' Mess; 3rd - Cpls' Mess.

Pairs: 1st - Sgt Wilson and Shadow; 2nd - Brendan McAnally and WO2 Todd; 3rd - WO2 Taylor and LCpl Howard.

Best Improved Novice Golfer: LCpl Surtees.

Nearest the Pin: Capt Cookson.

Longest Drive: Mr Shaun McAnally.

Sport

Poachers tackle Nordic skiing

Lt Kelleway writes:

NOVEMBER saw the start of the training and selection cadre for the Nordic Ski Team. The aim was to win as many of the novice prizes as possible and hopefully to qualify for the National Ski meeting in Zwiesel, Bavaria.

To this end, we started with a three-week selection phase. This was to ensure that we got a physically fit team, which was achieved as the Bn cross-country meet showed with seven of the top ten being members of the selection squad, all of whom were chosen to go skiing in Norway.

It was in Norway that Sgt Stones, Cpl Gray and Pte Petty, as the Battalion's Nordic instructors, were to lay the foundations for an excellent season. Among the snow cloud peaks they instructed us on how to go up hill, and then how to come down.

Despite spending much time falling about, the only injury was to Pte Newby's fingers which became a little frostbitten. Despite comments about amputation he was back to normal within a few weeks.

The team of ten took only five days' Christmas leave and then, by means of the PRI minibus, moved down to Zwiesel, Bavaria to take part in the Infantry Ski Meet.

Although the snow was poor, enough was about to provide some long gruelling courses, on which the fitness and aggression of the Poachers thrived. This was reflected in the results.

Infantry Meet: 10km; 1st novice team; 2nd open skier, Pte Petty; 2nd novice skier, Pte Thorne; 3rd novice skier, Lt Gladwyn; 15km; 1st novice team; 3rd open skier, Cpl Gray; 2nd novice skier, Pte Cruddace.

And so we moved away from the green fields of Zwiesel and on to La Grand Barnard in France. It was here that we had to do well to qualify for the National meet. We expected to have our work cut out and that proved to be the case with, due to Op Granby, two divisions combining at the same place and doubling the teams racing. Snow conditions here were superb with the track cutters being extremely good. These conditions enabled the team, despite hot competition, to come in as the second open

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Above: The team. Below left: Cpl Gray arriving on firing point for the 4x7.5 km biathlon at the British National Finals. Below right: Pte Petty after the 30 km patrol race at the divisional meet.



Sport

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team and the first novice team overall in the Armoured Division.

Individual performances of note at the Divisionals were in the 10km; 1st novice, Pte Thorne; 3rd novice, Lt Gladwyn.

However it was not the whippets who qualified us for the Nationals but a constant 100% effort by those not always winning, such as LCpl Van Gucci and Pte Financed-Oldenburg.

The divisional meeting over, we then drove all the way back to Zwiesel to participate in the National meeting.

Snow conditions had picked up but were still poor and we realised just how good France had been.

It was during this meet that Pte Cruddace was selected to attend further selection courses for the Great Britain Junior Biathlon Squad, and everybody in the team wish him the best of luck in the selection process.

Incidentally, Pte Cruddace was the 1st Junior Army Novice in the 10km race.

Overall, there being no novice category for teams, the team came 12th overall at the Nationals and 10th in the Army.

So in our first year of competition with only three men who had skied Nordic before, we managed a creditable record.



Lt Kelleway rounds a bend in the 20 km Biathlon. Below: Poachers squash team: Beaten finalists in 1 Armd Div Championships. Back row: (l. to r.) Capt Fisher, Cpl Brearley, Sgt Dale (APTC). Front: Capt Dawson, Pte Brown.



Sport

Depot takes cross-country titles



Depot runners and Commanding Officer.

THE Regiment is well represented in the gymnasium where Cpls Steve Patten, Nigel Hagon, Jock Bruce and Charlie Brown all play a very active part in getting the recruits fit whilst still managing to find the time to represent the Depot at various sports.

Cpl John Dunn, who is now back with the Vikings, had a particularly good season in the boxing ring where he represented the Army four times, losing one and winning three bouts. The sailor he beat in the Army v Navy Match has since moved on to become an ABA finalist; testimony indeed as to the quality of opponents Cpl Dunn has been meeting.

The cross-country team lead (or was it driven) by Major John Ross, had an outstanding season winning the Eastern District and Eastern Area Championships, the Eastern District League and coming second

to FOD Dulman in the Army Minor Unit Championships. Capt David O'Toole APTC, who is OC 2 CTT here at the Depot, Major Ross and WO2s Mick Slevin and Martin Haniver, beat Hereford Garrison into second place when they won the Army Veterans Relay Championships.

Individual congratulations are in order to WO2 Haniver for winning his Army Veteran's Colours after coming 36th overall and being ninth veteran to finish in the Inter Services Cross-Country Championships at Blackdown, and Cpl Dean Marshall for being awarded both his full Army and Combined Services Colours. Cpl Marshall ran against the Royal Navy, RAF, and TA for the Regular Army and against several civilian clubs for the Combined Services.

The soccer team under the watchful eye of Capt Peter Cookson retained the Eastern

District Minor Units Cup and the Orienteerers, with Capt James Hart very much to the fore, hope to add to their success in winning the District Minor Units Championships. The hockey team, having swept all before them, completed their season in fine style by retaining the Infantry Cup when they beat 1 Cheshire 4-0 at Aldershot on 17 April.

On the same cold blustery day, the Depot's golf season started well, when we won the Edist team championships at Bury St Edmunds golf club. After a face lift in the winter months (which has included the planting of 250 trees) the reconstruction of the first green and the placing of two very large bunkers on the 8th fairway, the gull course is now considered by most to be a fair test of golf and not the par three hack it once was.

Sport



Depo Army runners and Commanding Officer

Murton wins golf society's opening meeting

THE year's golfing season for the Regimental Golfing Society started with the spring meeting held on 26 Apr at Flempton Golf Club. The weather leading up to the day had been atrocious but the angel IC weather, who must be a past member, saw fit to give us a most beautiful spring day.

The course, as usual, was immaculate and all 30 members who played thoroughly enjoyed the day.

The prizes were won as follows: Medal – first, W L Murton, net score 64!, second, CSgt Thomas, third Shaun McAnally. The Stapleford handicap – first Maj Guy Hipkin, second, Capt Dave Davidson and third, Mr G Peck.

The afternoon foursomes – first Shaun McAnally partnered by CSgt Thomas and runners up Lt Col Harold Moore partnered by Maj John Perry.

Birth and marriages

VIKINGS

BIRTHS: **Bold** – To LCpl and Mrs Bold a daughter Bryony Louise; **Bonham** – To Cpl and Mrs Bonham a son Sam Thorne; **Clarke** – To LCpl and Mrs Clarke a son Kyle Patrick; **Keeble** – To Sgt and Mrs Keeble a son Adam James; **Page** – To Cpl and Mrs Page a daughter Jaimie; **Pilsworth** – To Sgt and Mrs Pilsworth a daughter Leigh Ann; **Rawlins** – To LCpl and Mrs Rawlins a daughter Ruth; **Shelmerdine-Hare** – To Maj and Mrs Shelmerdine-Hare a son, Rayer; **Warnes** – To Cpl and Mrs Warnes a daughter Leanne Katie; **Winters** – To Cpl and Mrs Winters a son Thomas; **Wood** – To Cpl and Mrs Wood a daughter Faith Hannah Tricia.

POMPADOURS:

BIRTHS: **Adamo-Stanger** – To LCpl and Mrs Adamo-Stranger a daughter Demi;

Alderson – To Cpl and Mrs Alderson a daughter Amy; **Bentley** – To Pte and Mrs Bentley a daughter Zoe; **Dixon** – To Maj and Mrs Dixon a daughter Isobel; **Dowling** – To CSgt and Mrs Dowling a daughter Helen; **Harman** – To Cpl and Mrs Harman a son Adam; **Macey** – To Cpl and Mrs Macey a son Thomas; **Milgate** – To Cpl and Mrs Milgate a daughter Abigail; **Morgan** – To Pte and Mrs Morgan a daughter Stacey; **Oxby** – To Cpl and Mrs Oxby a daughter Bobbie; **Parkinson** – To WO1 (BM) and Mrs Parkinson a daughter Sophie; **Smith** – To Cpl and Mrs Smith a daughter Tyler; **Sykes** – To Cpl and Mrs Sykes a daughter Kelly.

MARRIAGES: **Baker - Vinter** — On 23 Mar 91 Capt Baker to Miss Louise Vinter; **Bent - Metzger** — On 29 Dec 90 Pte Bent to Miss Alice Metzger; **Brown - Harris** — On 30 Mar 91 Sgt Brown to Miss Kila Harris; **Cater - Costello** — On 15 Sep 90

CSgt Cater to Miss Patricia Costello; **Cowan - Elliott** — On 8 Dec 90 Cpl Cowan to Miss Amanda Elliott; **Dilley - Saunders** — On 23 Feb 91 LCpl Dilley to Miss Selena Saunders; **Dungate - Guys** — On 24 Nov 90 Pte Dungate to Miss Joanne Guys; **Grady-Attridge** — On 8 Dec 90 LCpl Grady to Miss Jacqueline Attridge; **Hewson - McConnell** — On 2 Mar 91 Pte Hewson to Miss Jacqueline McConnell; **King - Warren** — On 22 Dec 90 Pte King to Lisa Warren; **Okopskyj - Morrison** — On 2 Mar 91 CSgt Okopskyj to Miss Maria Morrison; **Riley - Ferguson** — On 24 Nov 90 — LCpl Riley to Gina Ferguson; **Smith - Maiden** — On 11 Mar 91 Cpl Smith to Miss Tracey Maiden; **Wilton - Mills** — On 26 Jan 91 LCpl Wilton to Miss Amanda Mills; **Willmott - Macpherson** — On 16 Mar 91 Maj Willmott to Miss Joanna Macpherson; **Wolfe - Pass** — On 17 Nov 90 Sgt Wolfe to Miss Barbara Pass.

Obituaries

Brigadier R H L Oulton CBE



BRIGADIER Ralph Henry Lefroy Oulton died peacefully on 2 Feb 1991 in a Residential Home at Farnham. He was approaching his 87th birthday and for some time had been failing in health.

Brig Oulton was of Northern Irish descent and was educated at the Royal School in Armagh. In 1921 the family moved to Greystones in County Wicklow.

Ralph Oulton joined the Lincolnshire Regiment (as it then was) in 1924 from Sandhurst and served initially with the 2nd Battalion in India, Sudan and the UK. In 1936 he was appointed PA to the CIGS and subsequently attended the Staff College in 1938.

After various staff appointments he commanded the 2nd Battalion of his Regiment for the first time but eight months later he joined the Infantry Directorate and later served in Australia before being selected to command the 1st Battalion in the Far East in 1946.

Owing to the reduction of Infantry battalions at this time he returned to UK in 1947 and after a short period in command of 1st Battalion Royal Leicesters he was reappointed to com-

mand 2nd Battalion Royal Lincolns in MELF which was renumbered 1st Battalion in 1949.

As a result of all these moves and postings, Brigadier Oulton had the unusual distinction of commanding each of the regular battalions of his regiment twice.

After his Regimental service he was promoted Colonel and after 18 months as Deputy Military Secretary in MELF he was appointed Inspector of Physical Training in the rank of Brigadier.

Finally he became Provost Marshal in 1954, an appointment which he held until he retired in January 1958.

He became the last colonel of the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment in December 1958 and then the first and only colonel of the 2nd East Anglian Regiment.

On the formation of The Royal Anglian Regiment in 1964 he became Deputy Colonel of the Regiment.

He was appointed OBE in 1950 and promoted to CBE in 1958.

Ralph Oulton was essentially a Regimental Officer of the old school. Steeped in the traditions of his Regiment he was meticulous and thorough in all he did and was an authority on Regimental History. He was a keen and competent athlete and games player and was above average at tennis and particularly golf.

After his retirement he lived for a time in the Aldershot area and having never married he later moved to his old family home at Greystones in Eire to be with two of his sisters.

In spite of having a leg amputated he continued to visit the UK regularly every year to attend Regimental reunions. Later, for family reasons, he moved to The Home in Farnham.

C E W-E

Major John Thornton Dudley

IT was with very great sadness that we learnt of the sudden death of Maj John Dudley on 5 Nov 1990, in Norfolk.

John was born on 19 Sept 1916 and was educated at the Royal Masonic School. He joined the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment at the begin-

ning of the Second World War and later transferred to the Royal Leicestershire Regiment.

During his military service he served in Germany, Egypt, Sudan, Cyprus and the UK until he retired in 1962 when he was appointed assistant regimental secretary at RHQ in Leicester. He was further appointed regimental secretary (Leicestershire and Rutland) in 1971.

He served for 19 years at RHQ in Leicester. For a considerable portion of this time he also served in 5 R Leicesters (TA).

He retired at the age of 65 in September 1981. As a mark of his long and outstanding service as secretary of the Royal Tigers Association he was made an honorary life member of the association.

During his period at Leicester he was, for very many years, the honorary county secretary of SSAFA in Leicestershire. Soon after his retirement he returned to his native Norfolk, living in Thornham.

John will be remembered with great warmth and affection by his numerous friends. A man with a lovely sense of humour, he was a companionable, sincere and loyal friend.

He was highly respected for his integrity, helpfulness and wise counsel by all who knew him. Above all, he was a family man.

He adored his family and to Hanne, Michael, David, Carmen and Sarah we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

JLW

DEATHS: We record with regret the deaths of the following: **Pte Michael T J Linney**, 3 R Anglian, while training at Colchester. **Col G M Saunders TD DL** on 7 Nov 90; Col Saunders will be remembered as the Commanding Officer of 4/6 Royal Lincolns and Colonel Commandant of the Lincolnshire Cadets. **Maj E G Elliot**, R Anglian, on 9 Jul 89; **Capt D W Robinson**, 1 E Anglian, 2 Jun 90. **Col J C Preston MBE**, late Bedfs & Herts on 15 Feb 91. **Lt Col E R Daghish**, late Suffolks, May 91. **Lt Col C D J A Tempest**, 28 Jul 90.

We extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to their families.

REGIMENTAL SHOP

All items badged Royal Anglian

	* Prices each incl. VAT	* Prices each incl. VAT
ASH TRAYS - clear glass - badge in centre	£2.20	
BADGES		
Blazer	£6.00	
Cloth	£0.40	
Collar Officers 1st, 2nd & 3rd Bn.	£10.65 pr	
R Anglian Collar	£2.50 ea	£5.00 pr
Lapel - R Anglian Association	£1.00	
Mini Cap - clutch or brooch pin	£0.95	
Officers Cap	£2.50	
BELTS - Casual Trousers - sm. 31/34", med. 35/38", lge. 39/42"		
	£2.15	
- Key Ring - to match above belt	£0.90	
- Buckle - R Anglian - leather reversible, black/brown	£9.15	
- Stable - sizes med. & lge.	£7.45	
BOOKMARKS - leather in assorted colours	£0.40	
BUTTONS - Blazer - in polished gilt - lge. & sm.	£1.30 ea	
- Side Hat & Mess Kit (Offrs)	£2.95 ea	
CASSETTES - Regimental Bands - Beating Retreat	£4.00	
CLIP BOARDS in blue - gold badge	£4.30	
COASTERS - blue leather - gold badge	£0.60 ea	
Set of 6	£3.60	
COLOUR PRINTS - set of 8 comprising 7 founder regts. in period dress + R Anglian drummer		
	£5.20 set	
Single Prints	£0.65 ea	
Large R Anglian drummer	£0.50 ea	
COMB/NAILFILE SET in leather case		
- various colours	£0.65	
CREDIT CARD HOLDER - black leather		
- badge in silver	£2.70	
CRICKET SWEATERS - Longsleeve, 40", 42", 44"		
	£36.25	
- Slip-over, 40", 42", 44"	£31.25	
CRICKET CAP	£14.45	
CRICKET TIE	£10.50	
CUFF LINKS in polished gilt	£7.00 pr	
DIARY PLANNER CASES - blue plastic	£0.40	
Inserts	£0.50	
DISPLAY BINDER - A4 12 pockets - blue with badge ..	£5.60	
DUSTERS - yellow - blue badges in centre	£0.75	
FIGURES		
Bronze - SA80 & SLR (special orders)	£38.50	
Pewter - combat dress with SLR, SMG or SA 80	£21.55	
NI Cop with telescopic rifle	£23.10	
<i>(All types with regimental badge on hat & base)</i>		
FLAGS		
Regimental all Bns., numerals in top corner	£27.50	
Regimental - plain	£20.00	
Storm Flag (18" x 12")	£27.70	
GLASSES		
Beer Mug - 1 pint	£1.30	
GOLF UMBRELLA	£12.55	
HATS - floppy - sml., med. & lge.	£1.20	
HIP FLASKS - leather case in navy with badge	£7.60	
HOLDALLS - canvas, water-proof lining	£6.15	
ICE BUCKET DRUM	£14.40	
KEY FOBS - leather - assorted colours	£0.40	
KEY RINGS - match casual belt (slip onto belt style)	£0.90	
MEMO PADS - imitation leather - badge in silver	£5.70	
- Refills for Tubby Memo Pads	£2.70	
MUGS - Coffee - white, badged in yellow & black	£1.15	
- China - white - blue badge	£2.15	
PEWTER TANKARD - 1 pint		
R Anglian badge	£8.00	
1st, 2nd & 3rd Bn badge	£18.30	
REGIMENTAL RIBBON - 1 1/2 in. wide	£1.50 mtr	
<i>(same design as stable belt webbing)</i>		
REGIMENTAL HISTORY		
Crater to The Creggan - hardback	£3.00	
- paperback	£1.00	
RUBBERS - white with blue badge	£0.25	
SHIELDS (plaques)		
Wooden hand-painted	£14.50	
Larger wooden hand-painted	£13.75	
STICKERS (plastic)		
12"	£1.85	
6"	£1.25	
4"	£1.00	
2"	£0.65	
SWEAT SHIRTS - Navy, white printed badge on left breast sizes 36", 38", 40" & 44"		
	£8.10 ea	
Navy, embroidered badge on left breast sizes sml., med. & lge.	£10.80	
XL	£11.20	
SWEATER		
Lambswool, machine washable, embroidered badge, sizes 38", 40", 42", 44"	£20.40	
TABLE/DINNER MATS - prints of founder regiments & drummer with dark blue border (set of 8)		
	£28.00 set	
T-SHIRTS		
White, blue badge, sizes XL	£3.85	
lge., med., sml.	£3.45	
Childs 26" 28" & 30"	£2.00	
Navy, white badge, sizes XL	£3.85	
med. & lge.	£3.45	
TEA TOWELS		
Irish Linen	£1.00	
THIMBLES - bone china, gold rim, badge in blue		
	£1.60	
TIES		
Regimental R Anglian (dark blue, red castles)	£4.70	
Regimental Association - Silk	£13.25	
- Polyester	£5.00	
Past & Present Dinner Club	£3.55	
TIE PIN - badged	£1.75	
WAX JACKET (Barbour type) sizes lge only	£32.90	
WRITING CASE - blue leather, gold badge	£10.75	

Notes:

- Orders, together with remittance, cheques/postal orders made payable to "The Royal Anglian Regiment Association" to RHQ The Royal Anglian Regiment, The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN.
- Postage extra for overseas orders, rates on application to RHQ.

* All prices include V.A.T. and are subject to manufacturer's increases.

THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
General and Benevolent Funds
(Abridged Balance Sheet as at 31 Dec 90)

CAPITAL OF FUNDS		ASSETS AND LIABILITIES			
1989 £		1990 £	1989 £		1990 £
295,543	Balance brought forward	331,960	841	Office furniture at cost less depreciation	838
21,474	Excess income over expenditure	29,572	268,854	Investment at cost	273,331
14,943	Profit on disposals	2,267	37,292	Cash loans/debtors	42,473
			12,838	Stocks	16,498
			38,613	Cash at bank on deposit	57,544
			26,478	Deduct liabilities, creditors and case loans	26,885
			<u>331,960</u>		<u>363,799</u>
<u>331,960</u>		<u>363,799</u>	<u>331,960</u>		<u>363,799</u>

General Fund
(Abridged Income & Expenditure Account)

INCOME		EXPENDITURE			
£		£	£		£
13	Association Subscriptions	13	366	Administration, printing, stationery and audit fees	518
92	Investment income	92	218	Postage and sundries	560
886	Profit on shop sales	980	—	Write offs and	
196	Refund of administrative expenses	268	2	Depreciation	58
	Funded Charities grant	250	601	Excess of income over expenditure	467
			<u>1,187</u>		<u>1,603</u>
<u>1,187</u>		<u>1,603</u>	<u>1,187</u>		<u>1,603</u>

Benevolent Fund
(Abridged Income & Expenditure Account)

INCOME		EXPENDITURE			
£		£	£		£
52,171	Days pay scheme	55,622	456	Administration and management	484
19,212	Investment income	20,751	13,172	Case grants	16,222
1,379	Interest from short term deposit	4,257	7,500	Donation to ABF	8,000
10	Sundry donations and receipts	262	5,600	Grants to outstations	6,500
			1,500	Personal accident premium	1,500
			9,472	Grant to Journal	8,408
			585	Donations & appeals	348
			196	Refund association admin expenses	269
			5,500	Transfer officers' half days pay to subs and silver	6,800
			2,117	Grant to Regimental Image	387
			2,900	Queen Mother's reception	—
			1,606	Recruit visits	—
			1,295	Regimental Gathering	1,834
			—	Association Club	315
			20,873	Excess of income over expenditure	29,825
			<u>72,772</u>		<u>80,892</u>
<u>72,772</u>		<u>80,892</u>	<u>72,772</u>		<u>80,892</u>



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