



# CASTLE

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT

DECEMBER 1991



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ESTABLISHED  
**1809**



**1st Battalion**  
(Norfolk, Suffolk and  
Cambridgeshire)



**2nd Battalion**  
(Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and  
Northamptonshire)



**3rd Battalion**  
(Bedfordshire, Herfordshire  
and Essex)



December 1991

Vol. 8 No. 10

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Colonel C. J. 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



The Poachers in Kuwait.

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# From the Colonel of the Regiment

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I took over from General Sir John Akehurst as Colonel of the Regiment on 1 Nov. As I write, we are to lose a Regular Battalion in mid-1992 and the future of our 7th Battalion is in some jeopardy, our masters in Whitehall yet again appearing to wish to ignore logic in pursuit of their own mysterious ends. On the question of the Regular cuts, our case has been fought long and hard by Gen John and our Deputy Colonels, but it is now clear that there is to be no reprieve. I do, however, remain cautiously optimistic that the fight for the 7th Battalion can be won.

Before turning to what I believe are our real priorities, we are all aware of the continuing argument in ministry and government circles to increase overall infantry numbers, an argument on which many regiments in our position are still pinning their hopes for reprieve.

In the event that the government should decide to do this, and I cannot see this being seriously considered by any government this side of a general election, we will of course enter the fray once again to try to re-establish a third Regular Battalion. However, in my opinion this is a quite separate fight, which we may or may not have to address some time in the future.

Our clear priority now is to implement the reduction in overall regular numbers with which we are faced, in as fair and equitable a way as possible. To do this properly it is essential that we do all we can to retain the loyalties, traditions and history of our three current Regular Battalions, so painstakingly built up over the last 27 years, and recreate them in two fine new battalions.

It can be done, and indeed we owe it to the 3rd Battalion, which sadly will have to bear the majority of the early pain and disruption, to ensure that it is. If in the process of achieving this change, the separate identities of Viking, Poacher and Pompadour are lost sight of, then in my opinion and that of

the Regimental Council of Commanding Officers, this must happen. Should any of these historic identities re-emerge over the next few years, as a natural and widely accepted consequence of what we are attempting to do, then so be it — but first, the formation of the new.

None of this, I hope, will come as a surprise to you. Gen John has insisted on wide consultation with the serving members of all our Battalions prior to any decision making and I can promise that this policy will be carried forward into the implementation stage.

When the future of our Territorial Battalions is at last agreed, we will then be able to weave them more firmly into the overall plot for the Regiment's future. As things stand, I can see our two new Regular Battalions handing over the main mantle of county representations to our Volunteer Battalions, with each Regular Battalion assuming a lesser, but still vital association with each of our nine counties. The details of this and many other associated changes will be published as soon as this last piece in the Options 'jig saw' is in place.

There will I know be much disruption and change over the next year as the 3rd Battalion ends its tour early in Londonderry and moves to Colchester for a short period before dispersing to Osnabruck and within Colchester. The 2nd Battalion will be mov-

ing from Celle to Osnabruck in the late summer and the 1st Battalion will be preparing to accept soldiers and their families from both.

This is inevitably going to be a difficult and stressful period, when it will be all too easy to lose sight of what for better or worse, we must achieve — and that is the creation of two new Regular Battalions, with as much understanding and co-operation as we can muster and as quickly as we are allowed to do so. There will be no time for looking over shoulders for the next year or so.

I have purposely refrained from entering into too much detail in this my first introduction to the The Castle. I have also left out much other information on battalion and individual achievements that would normally feature in an introduction such as this. These are difficult times and I have purposefully concentrated on the future and the need for all of us to understand where we are going and why.

However, I cannot close without paying tribute to my predecessor. Gen John has served as Deputy Colonel and then Colonel of the Regiment for a total of 10 consecutive years, of which the last, due to Options for Change, has been intensely busy. Although his campaign to save our 3rd Battalion was not to be successful, we could not have been better represented nor our case supported and fought so tenaciously. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Gen John; he has been an inspiration to us all and we wish him a happy and fulfilling retirement.

Finally, I wish all ranks of the Regiment and their families and our Allied Regiments, a happy Christmas and hope that our endeavours in the New Year will be successful and rewarding, regardless of how daunting they may seem from this point in time.

**Major General P P D Stone**



**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**

Major General P P D Stone, CBE

**Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment**

The Reverend T B F Hiney, MC

**Deputy Colonels of The Regiment**

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

Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire: Brigadier C Groves

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: Colonel T A Winton

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, Great Yarmouth, Grimsby, Hertford, Hinckley, Ilford, Ipswich, King's Lynn, Lincoln, Lowestoft, Northampton, Norwich, Peterborough, Romford, Southend, Grays and Thurrock, Watford, Wellingboroug and Wisbech.

## **REGIMENTAL LOCATIONS**

### **Regimental Headquarters:**

The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN.  
(Tel: 0284 752394 / Colchester Military 5138 Fax: 0284 752026)

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

Major M Jones (Lincoln)

### **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.	Lieutenant Colonel D S B Phipps
2nd Battalion (Lincolnshire, Leicestershire & Northamptonshire). Celle BFPO 23. To Osnabrock – Aug 92.	Lieutenant Colonel A P Deed <i>(Lieutenant Col J C McColl Sep 92)</i>
3rd Battalion (Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire & Essex) Ebrington Barracks, Londonderry, BFPO 807. To Colchester and Osnabrock – Aug 92.	Lieutenant Colonel R M Chisnall
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: Major D G Ridgway

Junior Infantry Battalion: Major F J Perry, MBE

RMA Sandhurst: Captain S T H Andrews



## Mainly about people . . .

### Promotions, awards and retirements

**HONOURS and AWARDS:** We congratulate the following on awards given in the Gulf War list: **Maj Gen M J D Walker CBE**, **Maj A P Domeisen MBE** and **Sgt T H Smith QGM**. We congratulate **Sgt Smith** also on his complete recovery from his wounds.

We congratulate the following on their promotion: **Brig M J D Walker CBE** to **Maj Gen** and **COG North East District/2 Inf Div 30 Sep 91**; **Lt Col T Longland OBE** to **Brig and Comd 3 Inf Bde 9 Dec 91** and **Lt Col J D Lacey** to **Col and COS HQ North East District 28 Oct 91**. **WO1 T D Smith (305)** has been promoted from **Depot UDR** to **5 Queens** as **RSM 22 Jul 91**; **WO1 P S Drewry** from **Nite** to **7/10 UDR** on promotion **22 May 91**; **WO1 S A Taylor** from **5 R Anglian** to **Superintendent Clerk D Inf 19 Jul 91**; **WO1 G I Hoyles** from **Depot** to **HQ Queens Div 20 May 91**; **WO1 R T Grenfell** from **1 R Anglian** to **1 Queens** **Nov 91** and **WO1 W H Eke** from **3 R Anglian** to **6 R Anglian Jun 91**.

We congratulate the following on their selection for promotion to **Lt Col** in 92: **Maj D J W Baylis**, **Maj K Hodgson** and **Maj K M Ryan MBE**.

The following were commissioned or had their commissioning confirmed at the Sovereign's Parade on 6 Aug 91 at **RMAS**: **2Lt J N D Bowes**, and **2Lt R L Gerrard-Wright**, both to the **2nd Battalion** and **2Lt R McClure** to the **1st Battalion**. In addition, **S M Gandy** was commissioned to the **2nd Battalion** at the Sovereign's Parade on Dec 13. We welcome them to the Regiment.

**REINSTATEMENTS:** We welcome back into the regiment **Maj R J C Goodin**, now serving with the **1st Battalion**.

**DEPARTURES:** We have said goodbye to **Capt W J Howard** and **Capt N Spinks** on 1 July 91 and **Maj A I James** on 19 Oct.

**POSTINGS:** **RHQ** have been notified of the following postings: **2Lt M W Stickland** with **Lt M A Lyne** are both with **7/10 UDR** until 31 Jan 92. **Maj M P Holme** leaves **2IC 2 R Anglian** to



Secretary of State Tom King addresses the Battle Group in the Gulf.

become **SO2 Inf** at **Sennelager Training Centre 16 Dec 91**. **Lt M D P Parry** is now at the **Depot** and **Lt P D Bailey** at the **JIB**. **Maj W Burford** has now been **QM** of **7 R Anglian** since 2 Dec and **Maj J S J Rourke** goes to **BMATT Zimbabwe 8 Jan 92**; **Capt M H Wenham** returned to the **1st Bn** on 21 Oct 91 and **Capt S T H Andrews** is now our **Regimental Rep** at **RMAS**. **Maj T M T Power** goes to **HQ EDIST R & L Staff** on 6 Jan 92; **Lt M B Sturgeon** is now with **1 Queens**. **Capt R A Knox** has left **7 R Anglian** for **42 Inf Bde** as **SO3 G3** and **Lt R C Stoddard** has just finished an attachment with **7/10 UDR**. **Col A C Taylor** is now the **DA** in **Nigeria** and **Capt D J Gregory** goes to **BMATT Zimbabwe 15 Jun 92**.

**Maj J B C Prescott** hands over as **2IC** of the **1st Bn** and goes to **SO2 Mil Sec HQ 1 BR Corps 23 Mar 92** and **Capt R G J Beven** is now with **6 GR**. **Lt Col P W Field** has finished command of **7/10 UDR** and is now **SO1 (W) Project Libra**; **Maj B McDonnell** leaves the **2nd Bn** for **Gibraltar** as **SO3 Fortress Headquarters 24 Jan 92** and **Capt A C E Marinos** has taken over as **Adjnt** of the **5th Bn**.

**Maj J A B Borthwick** takes over as **2IC** **Queen's Div Depot 13 Jan 82** and **Maj W R Mooring** as **SO1 G3 (PINFO)** on promotion in the same month. **Col K Woodrow** completed his tour of duty as **DA Brussels** on 22 Nov 91. **Lt M C Dixon** and **Lt R J Latham** are now back with the **3rd Bn** and **Maj D I Napier** returns to the **2nd Bn** on 13 Jan 92.

**Maj F M Froud** returns to the **2nd Bn**

as **Coy Comd 6 Jan 92** and **Capt D M Harding** hands over as **Adjnt** of the **5th Bn** before going on **Depot** held strength **30 Dec 91**. **Capt J M H Heap** has left the **JIB** and is back with the **1st Bn**; **Lt Col T D A Veitch** finishes his stint of duty as **SO2 Army Band Review RMC Music** on 31 Dec 91 and will be **Regimental Project Officer** to assist **RHQ** with the merger. **Maj R J Kemp** completes his year at the **Staff College** and goes to **HQ NI** as **SO2 G2 10 Jan 92**.

**Lt A B Beart** is now at the **Depot** and **Lt B A Runciman** is **ADC** to **Maj Gen Walker**. **2Lt L I Bristow** is now with the **2nd Bn** and **Maj C A Cocker** leaves **HQ BAOR** on 3 Feb 92 to become **2IC** of that **Bn**. **Maj S I Porter** returns to the **3rd Bn** as **Coy Comd** on 27 Jan 92 and **Capt J C D G Pollard** returns to the **1st Bn 10 Feb 92**. **Capt C S Calder** completes his tour as **ADC** to **Maj Gen Pollard** on 2 Mar 92 and returns to the **1st Bn**. **Capt A J C Wild** goes to the **Australian Staff College Jan 93** and **Capt P D Jones** **Div 3** of the **Staff College** at the same time. **Capt S B Brunt** reports to the **2nd Bn** as **Coy Comd** on 26 Jan 92 and **Capt A M Wylie** leaves the **1st Bn** to become **SO3 MO2 (B)** at the **MOD** on 8 May 92.

**Capt T J Smith** returned to the **2nd Bn** on 3 Nov 91 and **Capt J J Hart** to the **1st Bn** from the **Depot** on 9 Dec 91. **Maj R J Clements** leaves **39 Inf Bde** to become a **Coy Comd** in the **Junior Leaders Regiment RA** on 26 May 92. **Col T T Taylor MBE**

*Continued Page 7*

# Mainly about people . . .

## General Sir John hands over duties

**GENERAL** Sir John Akehurst KCB CBE, handed over his duties as Colonel of the Regiment to Maj Gen P D Stone CBE on 1 Nov 91. Brig C Groves took over as Deputy Colonel from Maj Gen Stone on the same day; our Colonel-in-Chief has also approved the appointment of Maj Gen M J D Walker CBE as Deputy Colonel in succession to Maj Gen A J G Pollard CBE from 1 Apr 92.

Brig W T Dodd OBE will remain as Deputy Colonel until completion of the merger of the 3rd Bn in about Aug/Sep when his appointment will lapse.

We congratulate Col T A Winton on his appointment as Deputy Honorary Colonel (Bedfordshire) TA.

From Page 6

goes to AUS Policy MOD on 23 Dec 91.

Col Richard Wilkes OBE TD DL has been selected as the Master of the Chartered Accountants' Livery Company from 25 Sept 91 for 1 year.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** We congratulate Peter Wilcox, now serving with the 5th Bn, for his award of the TA Efficiency Medal for services while part of the team which trained the Saudi Civil Defence during the war in the Gulf.

We all congratulate Cpl Lenny Paul of the Pompadours who has had another successful season on the athletics track. He only just missed selection for 4 x 100 relay squad in the world championships but did represent the UK in Moscow. He has achieved 100 metres at 10.24 seconds which is only 0.4 seconds slower than Carl Lewis' world record. He is now training with the national bobsleigh squad representing Great Britain in both the two-man and four-man events for the Winter Olympics.

We congratulate the 6th Battalion ETR rifle team on winning the team competition at the RFA Royal Ordnance Skill-at-Arms meeting from 31 Aug - 1 Sept. We particularly congratulate Cpl Rolf for winning the ETR rifle individual and coming 2nd in the converted gallery rifle competition. In the latter competition WO2 Smart also of the 6th Battalion, came third.

## DIARY DATES 1992

### JANUARY

6 1 R Anglian returns from Op Banner - block leave.

### FEBRUARY

26 Stage 1 redundancies announced.

### MARCH

10 3 R Anglian Officers' Dinner Club cocktail party.

29 5 R Anglian 25th Anniversary celebrations.

31 Latest date appeals against redundancies Phase 1.

### APRIL

1 Undergraduates' gathering, Bassingbourn.

4 Cambridgeshire Regiment Association dinner.

10 RMAS Sovereign's parade.

10 Golf - spring meeting, Flempton.

25-26 Sobraon weekend, Lincoln.

### MAY

1 Northamptonshire Officers' luncheon, London.

2 Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Association dinner.

27-29 Queen's Division postings meeting.

14 Regimental cocktail party, Duke of Yorks.

TBC Suffolk Regiment council meeting.

### JUNE

\* 5 or 12 Regimental annual golf meeting, Stowmarket.

5 Royal Norfolk Regiment Officers Dinner Club dinner and luncheon.

\* 27-28 Royal Tiger's weekend, Leicester.

28 Essex Regiment reunion, Warley.

### JULY

4-5 Annual Regimental weekend, Northampton.

12 ASSOCIATION

### GATHERING BASSINGBOURN.

11-12 TA Bisley.

13-10 Aug 6 R Anglian block leave.

17 Queen's Division triangular golf match, Bury St Edmunds.

### AUGUST

1 MINDEN DAY

1 Annual Suffolk Regiment Officers' Dinner Club dinner.

2 Suffolk Minden Day reunion, Bury St Edmunds.

TBC 3 R Anglian return to UK, 2 R Anglian moves to Osnabrück Formation of the new two battalions R Anglian.

### SEPTEMBER

1 28th Anniversary of founding of the Regiment.

5-19 6 R Anglian annual camp, Warcop.

6-20 5 R Anglian block leave.

11-12 Regimental autumn golf meeting. Match v Flempton.

19-20 Royal Lincolns Old Comrades' reunion, Cleethorpes.

26-27 Royal Norfolk Regiment reunion.

### OCTOBER

2 3 R Anglian Officers' Dinner Club luncheon.

### NOVEMBER

5 Field of Remembrance, London.

6 Regimental dinner and council meeting, London.

8 Remembrance Sunday.

15 Bedfs & Herts reunion, Kempston.

18-20 Queen's Division postings meeting.

### DECEMBER

5 Royal Leicesters Officers' lunch, London.

\* to be confirmed.

## Mainly about people . . .

### From the Padre

## The fault of being parochial

EVEN from the lofty pinnacles of Wren's masterpiece at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, it is easy to share the common fault of being parochial.

The local newspaper, rather predictably, fell into the same trap. When Thomas More, who lived round the corner, was canonised not so long ago, the headlines were, "Chelsea man made saint". Some might have wondered why a local footballer had gone to Southampton.

Either way it was fairly parochial.

In our spiritual lives, nowhere is this more evident than in the matter of forgiving and being forgiven. We tend to look down at the small print of controversy, score up real or imaginary wrongs, and wait for everyone else to say "Sorry".

There is no real excuse for Christians to behave in this manner, although we do. God has made it quite clear that "trespassers will be forgiven". He expects us to forgive others. The supreme example He gave was on the cross when He prayed for his executioners . . . "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

This is part of the good news of Our Lord, and he repeated it in some immortal



parables.

We are bidden to accept this good news gladly; to know that we ARE forgiven by God, not to wallow in self pity and then in our turn to forgive others.

This is a very liberating experience and it frees us also from the charge of being parochial, whether we live in Chelsea or Southampton, or even Colchester.

Tom Hiney

## Officers' Club dinner

THE Officers' Club Regimental dinner was held at the naval and military club on 1 Nov 91. The dinner was of particular significance because it was the first at which our new Colonel of the Regiment presided.

It also gave all those present – some 110 in all – an opportunity to say thank you and farewell finally to Gen Sir John Akehurst who had completed his tour of duty as Colonel of the Regiment the day before.

We were delighted to see as guests the master of the Worshipful Company of Poulterers, Mr David Kemp; the upper warden, Dr Colin Juniper; the rector warden, Mr David Butcher; and the past master Mr Ambrose Keevil.

After the reading of messages to and from Her Majesty The Queen and Her Majesty The Queen Mother our Colonel-in-

Chief, followed by the loyal toasts, Gen Sir John Akehurst was invited to explain events which had led to the Ministry of Defence decision that the Royal Anglian Regiment was to decrease by one regular battalion and that that battalion was to be the Pompadours.

The Colonel of the Regiment, in his speech, stated that for the future, the Regiment would form two new battalions incorporating the best traditions and esprit de corps built up over the past 27 years. Gen Sir John was then presented with his leaving present consisting of a desk chair and table; after Gen Sir John had received a standing ovation from all those present, guests and members of the dinner club retired to the bar to continue what was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

## New Area Regimental Secretary appointed

THE Area Regimental Secretary Lincoln, Capt Alwyn Smith, has retired and Maj Michael Jones has replaced him.

Capt Alwyn Smith retired from the post of Assistant Area Secretary after some 15 years in which he saw many changes in both the Old Comrades Association and the Army as a whole.

He started his military career as a Bevan boy being ordered down the pits in 1944. On being released, he joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and was demobilised in 1948. He re-enlisted in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in 1951, being transferred to The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment the same year.

Thereafter he served with the 1st Battalion on active service in Malaya and at the Depot until, on being promoted to WO1, he moved to The Essex Regiment TA on posting as RSM in 1965. Following the reorganisation of the TA, he was posted in the same appointment and rank to The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment TA in 1967.

He was commissioned into the 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment in 1970 and retired in 1975, having commanded 13 Cadet Training Team, in Lincoln, to join Regimental Headquarters.

His experience and knowledge of matters regimental will be sorely missed, but as he lives in Lincoln all is not lost. We all wish him and Ushi well in their (his anyway) well earned retirement.

We in turn welcome Michael Jones who was commissioned into the Essex Regiment in '54, served with the Northamptonshires, the 3rd East Anglian Regiment and finally with 1 R Anglian. He is now firmly in the chair in Lincoln and hopes that it will not be long before he and his wife Catherine set up home in Lincoln. We welcome them both.

## Mainly about people . . .



Pictured are, l.to r. (Back): 2Lt Trigg, OCdt Ward, 2Lt Still, 2Lt Paterson, 2Lt Couch, OCdt Bullock, 2Lt Gandy; (Front): Cpl Shaw, Cpl Green, Sgt Smith, Capt Andrews, Maj Hodgson, Maj Kemp, CSgt Lambert, CSgt Soanes. At RMAS but not in photo are 2Lts Veitch, Woodisse and LCpl Miller. At Staff College but not pictured are: Lt Cols McColl, Bailly and Greenfield.

## Changing faces at RMAS

THE new team started in September and has seen a few changes in the Regimental representation. Capt Burrell has moved onto RMC Shrivenham as part of the Staff College programme and is replaced by Capt Andrews from the 2nd Battalion.

WO2 (RQMS) Denny from the 1st Battalion has now departed to BAOR as an estate warden, and CSgt Soanes has arrived from the 1st Battalion and is presently working in the Skill-at-Arms wing.

A crop of young probationary second lieutenants and officer cadets are presently going through the system. The next man to pass out is 2Lt Gandy for the 2nd Battalion at Christmas. The majority currently here are due to pass out in Apr 92. We are also well represented at the Staff College with Lt Cols McColl, Bailly and Greenfield in staff roles, with the new Maj Richard Kemp as a student. Maj Max Marriner is also there but now with the RAPC.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE CASTLE

ALL officers and soldiers subscribing a day's pay to the regiment and paid up members of the Officers' Dinner Club receive, as part of their dues, copies of the Castle magazine.

If anyone else wishes to subscribe to the Castle they should contact RHQ who will send them the necessary bankers order.

### Lake Superior association appeal

THE Lake Superior Scottish Regiment Association wants to add former members of the Regiment to its mailing list.

All former members please send their name and address to: The Secretary, The Lake Superior Scottish Regiment Association, 26 Manion Street, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada P7A 6Y6. Tel: (807) 345-0888

### Regular Forces Employment Association

ARE you being made redundant under Options for Change or leaving the Services at the end of your contract? In either case, RFEA is ready to help you with your resettlement in the UK and, in particular, to help you find suitable employment.

If you have served with good character in the non commissioned ranks for a minimum of three years, or less if you are being discharged on medical grounds, the Association's services are available to you at no cost.

We are part of the Forces Resettlement Service and, with over 100 years of experience behind us, operate through 40 branches throughout the UK where our employment officers are in close contact with employers.

If you need our help, fill in the card which will be with your discharge documents, or make earlier contact with the branch in your area of interest.

Branch addresses and telephone numbers can be found from unit ship resettlement officers, regimental, corps and services associations, Jobcentres and local telephone directories.

## Mainly about people . . .

### Clearing up minefields in Afghanistan

DAVID Moore served with the 2nd Battalion and wrote this article from Kuwait about his time in Afghanistan if only to prove that civilian life is not necessarily 9-5 and lacking in excitement:-

THE company I work for is called Clearway Explosives based in Aberdeenshire and I am particularly involved in minefield clearance itself. In Afghanistan the Russians laid minefields by the score while they had a military presence for 12 years in support of the local communist government. (Additionally there was always the hazard of mines that had been removed by the Mujahadeen and then relaid in haphazard manner.

In the main, mine clearance is carried out by a flail machine.

The British Army had four such machines during the Kuwait/Iraq war which are now back in Afghanistan.)

In Afghanistan, the majority of men doing minefield clearance are ex-forces drawn from all three services. Hand clear-



David Moore, left, with Afghanistani counterparts.

ance was often necessary, done by ourselves helped by Afghans. Life in Afghanistan was dangerous because technically the Mujahadeen were and are still at war with the communist backed regime, and anyone seen to help them in any shape or form was fair game for bombing.

This happened to us on three separate occasions: the first from high altitude and the last one as recently as 6 May 91 (far too close for comfort and, disgracefully, while we were taking our mid-morning cup of tea).

We heard the aircraft, rushed outside to see two MIG 21's on very low level attack - the 500 lb bombs released and seeming to point straight at our house.

Needless to say we took cover at remarkable speed while the aircraft made four runs at our workshop, one at our house and one at the Afghan training centre compound.

Afterwards we salvaged what we could of our belongings and started our two day journey back to Pakistan.

Life in Kuwait, on the whole, is quieter!

## A view from the bedside at Warley

**Maj David Thorogood, now feeling much more comfortable, writes:**

ONE of the nice things about my job is that I get asked to attend interesting meetings and meet some smashing people. I was at the Shire County TA and Cadet committee meeting recently, attended by the Lord Lieutenant and lots of other splendid blokes.

Before the meeting they have a lunch, which they are all determined to enjoy. They stand on their heads and drink vast quantities of wine, not necessarily in that order, and one is obliged to go along with them (well, what else?) Glad to see splash splash that you splash splash are the sort of chap who enjoys a glass of wine Thorogood splash splash. Here, have

another glass.' Either they have all got drivers or they have been hobdayed and the wine ends up in a plastic bag in their pockets.

I have to drink 14 cups of coffee later during the meeting and then hung about for another three hours before I dare drive my car. My neighbour at lunch, who had just had the operation, asked me if I was having my hernia done both sides. At the time I thought this remark highly amusing but later discovered that that was precisely what was to happen.

I had the operation on 5 June.

At the appropriate stage of a young man's life those two little things that lie in the scrotum move from somewhere near the kidney through a canal to where they are going. In order to get there they must

pass through the wall of the abdomen and there is, from that time on, a potential weakness in that area. That's what the surgeon told me anyway.

The only important thing in hospital is whether your bowels have moved. It goes something like this:

Sister (entering busily). "Good morning Mr Thorogood. Have your bowels moved this morning?"

Sell (painfully). "No Sister, but my stitches have burst.

Sister (sternly). "Well, go and try again."

Leaving hospital is rather like leaving the Army. After all you have been through you think you should have a full Band and Corps of Drums. All you get is someone asking if you have paid your bill.

## Mainly about people . . .

### Sergeants' dinner success

WO2 Gillie Banthorpe writes:

I WAS one of the 232 guests, including three pensioners from The Royal Hospital, Chelsea, to be entertained in the Sergeants' Mess at Bassingbourn Barracks on 5 Oct 91, the occasion of the 24th annual dinner club, under the chairmanship of Maj Gen Sir David Thorne KBE.

Congratulations are in order for all who helped in the organisation of this dinner. The reception area was very efficient, the back-up of recruits acting as guides to show the guests to their sleeping accommodation, was excellent.

During the top quality dinner we were entertained by the Volunteer Band, whose skills were much appreciated. Congratulations to the solo bandsman who played the Post Horn Gallop with such vigour. The playing of the Regimental Marches after the meal was terrific, it brought memories to most and in some cases, tears to the eyes.

In closing I would like to say "thanks a lot" to Capt Tom Bullock and his committee for all their hard work. Finally, next year's club dinner will be the 25th anniversary and will be something special.



Bill with his final prize!

### Ex-Poacher wins medals at US veterans' games

ONCE again Bill Henderson, an ex-Poacher who is a paraplegic, was chosen by the British Ex-Services Wheelchair Sports Association to represent Great Britain in the Paralysed Veterans of America National Games in Florida in June this year.

Bill, who lives in Corby, was helped by the Regiment in some of the expenses incurred. In the games Bill won a gold medal in the basketball, a silver in the target shooting and a bronze in the discus.

What a wonderful effort - we take our hats off to you Bill, a true Poacher.

### Abbassia School

Dear Sir,  
THIRTY-FIVE former pupils of Abbassia Garrison School, Cairo, Egypt, have made contact after more than half-a-century and wish to extend the search before arranging a reunion.

It is very likely that the parents or grandparents of some of your readers were in the Abbassia Garrison (before the Second World War of course) and may be able to help

Bob Carrington,  
19 Highfield Avenue, Aldershot,  
Hampshire. Tel: 0252 20575.

### Bury Association Branch welcomes members

THE Royal Anglian Regiment Association Branch Club, Bury St Edmunds, was formed in 1971 by a few members and ex-members of the Suffolk Regiment, the East Anglian and Royal Anglian Regiments. The president of the Royal Anglian Club is Maj A G B Cobbold who took over from the club's first president, Lt Col Murray-Brown DSO in 1980.

Qualifications to join are that you have served in the Suffolk Regiment, the Royal Norfolk Regiment, the Cambridgeshire

Regiment, the East Anglian Regiment and any of the three battalions of the Royal Anglian Regiment. Any serving member of the Royal Anglian Regiment will also be very welcome.

A new club house is to be built very soon near the TA Centre on the Newmarket Road. It will have a function room, bar and kitchen; it will also have its own car park. For further information, please write to club chairman, Mr P Ward, 7 Severn Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP32 6NG.



The next Royal Anglian Association Gathering is Sunday 12 July 92.

"WHO are they and where are they now? We know they were members of the 142 Regiment RAC (7 Bn The Suffolk Regiment)"

# Regimental Gathering

## Bassingbourn crowd urged to help cause of Regiment

THE fourth Regimental gathering at Bassingbourn was again a great success – well supported by a crowd of some 1,400 in hot and sunny weather.

The programme was much the same as the year before starting with a drum head service conducted by the Honorary Regimental Chaplain Tom Hiney.

With Options for Change imminent, the Colonel of the Regiment urged everybody present to help the regiment's cause. Because Gen Sir John Akehurst had to relinquish his appointment as Colonel of the Regiment on 1 Nov, it was sadly his last appearance at a gathering in that appointment.

Accordingly Maj Gen A J G Pollard CBE, Deputy Colonel The Royal Anglian Regiment, thanked the Colonel of the Regiment for his dedication during the previous five years and in particular thanked him for all efforts he had made to represent the Regiment's stand point in these difficult times.

He finished by leading us in three cheers for the Colonel of the Regiment, which was then followed by the march past.

Once again, the heat of the day, to say nothing of emotion, drove people in flocks to the beer tent where the NAAFI administered to our thirsts.

It was a very successful and enjoyable day and we were all grateful to the commanding officer of the Depot, Lt Col M J Boocock, and his staff for all their hard work and excellent administration.

A particular word of thanks must go to Mr Francis and the Volunteer Band and Drums of the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Encased in uniforms which would have kept them warm at either the north or south pole, they played admirable music during the Drum Head service, the march past, the lunch and early afternoon and finished off with a first class band display to close the proceedings.



# Regimental Gathering







# Vikings



B Coy 5 Platoon await Tiger helicopter at Grosvenor Barracks.

## Fermanagh 10 years on

THE Vikings returned to Fermanagh almost exactly 10 years after their last tour here and 15 months after their tour in South Armagh. Although much had changed over the intervening years, some aspects such as the base at St. Angelo appeared no different to its already dilapidated state in 1981.

For a number of the more veteran members of the Battalion, both officers and senior NCOs, the chance to retell tales of living in sandbagged PVCs was not to be missed, although all agreed that the improvements still did not constitute agreeable living and working conditions.

Some of the personalities who have returned and their former appointments are given here. Maj Jeremy Prescott, the Battalion second-in-command, was second-in-command of the ground-holding

Company based in St. Angelo. Maj Simon Lamb, OC B Coy based in Lisnaskea, was the Company IO based in the same location. Maj Roger Shelmerdine-Hare, OC C Coy, was a platoon commander in A Coy.

Capt Peter Cookson, OC Echelon in St. Angelo, was based in the same location as CSM of COP. Capt Tony Jones, Company Ops Officer, was a platoon commander in the St. Angelo ground-holding Company and one of four senior NCOs in that Company who subsequently became RSMs.

WOII Donnelly, the Battalion Ops WO, was a corporal in COP and has the distinction of having served with the Battalion during every single tour of the Vikings in the Province.

CSM Steffenetti, CSM for Echelon, was

a corporal also based in Angelo. WOII Taylor, the Battalion SFA, was the CSM of B Coy based in Aughnacloy, then St. Angelo, and now completes his sixth tour of Northern Ireland with the Battalion having missed only the Belfast tour in 1979.

### Departure and arrival

THE last article for Castle was written as the Battalion began the move to Fermanagh. The final days in Colchester were the last that the Battalion had together as a complete unit before being split up across Fermanagh to the different locations.

As ever with such events, the first month passed in a flash. The Advance Parties spent about a week taking over from the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment

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## News from the Vikings



Above: 2Lt Browne with his gunners immediately before the team attack shoot during mid-tour training. Below: Two members of A Coy dominating the ground during one of the secure operations on the Derryvullan border.



# News from the Vikings



Above: Cpl Price and Lt Nottingham boosting morale after the St Angelo mortar attack. Below: The remains of the lorry used in the attack.



Battalion 2IC promoting his role as security officer at St Angelo

From Page 14

before the arrival of the main body and assumption of command.

Then everybody was fully involved in putting our training into practice, adapting our pre-conceived ideas about Fermanagh to actuality and getting stuck in to this latest role as the Fermanagh Roulement Battalion (FRB).

## FRB TAOR

THE Battalion's TAOR consisted of most of County Fermanagh and a portion of County Tyrone, including the town of Clogher, where A Coy was based.

B Coy was based next to the RUC station in Lisnaskea as the ground-holding company responsible for manning a number of PVCs and RUC stations in the east of the TAOR. C Battery was the other ground-holding unit responsible for the western part of the TAOR.

Other elements of the Battalion were based in Grosvenor Barracks, Enniskillen and St. Angelo a few miles north of the town. Initially this left the Battalion in the slightly strange situation of having its Tac HQ, Echelon and two sub-unit headquarters based outside of its TAOR.

During the tour the reorganisation of the UDR reared its head and introduced some significant changes. The most immediate was brought on by the amalgamation of 4 UDR with 6 UDR to form 4/6 UDR.

As a result of this there was a rationalization of the FRB/UDR TAORs which has led to the roulement battalion assuming operational command of the whole of County Fermanagh and part of Tyrone.

The Battalion already had three UDR companies under command but from mid-September this increased to five. To minimise confusion the TAOR was split into FRN East and FRB West with A and B Coy making up the former and C Battery and 'E' Coy 4 UDR the latter.

There were a number of part-time UDR companies supporting the Battalion as well as C (Ops) Coy providing the CO's reserve.

With the rearrangement of boundaries the FRB TAOR now encompasses some 800 square miles with over 100 miles of border. A significant proportion of the county is covered by loughs and this combined with one of the highest levels of rainfall in the UK, gives rise to the saying that in summer one third of Fermanagh is under water whilst in winter one third of Fermanagh is above water.

## News from the Vikings

# Community relations and attack by terrorists

THE concept of operations in Fermanagh was similar to that adopted by the Battalion during its South Armagh tour. There was an overriding emphasis upon community relations, and unequivocally unbiased approach to all sections of the community and the battle for "hearts and minds" as the way forward.

To this was added the proviso that when required the response to enemy action would be immediate and decisive. The aim being to avoid encouraging more people to join with the terrorists, rather persuading them that the terrorists' aims are inconsistent with those of their community, whilst at the same time projecting ourselves as an efficient force capable of dealing with any threat the enemy might produce.

Beyond the broad concepts of approach there were a number of differences. The population in Fermanagh is split approximately 40/60 Loyalist/Nationalist and is on the whole much more receptive to a Security Force presence. The whole of the South Armagh TAOR could be fitted 3.5 times inside that of the FRB. The RUC plays a much greater role in the fight against terrorism, patrolling much of the TAOR with and without Army cover.

In Fermanagh the UDR is an integral part of the Security Forces, unlike South Armagh where they are absent. The static observation towers that overlook the border in South Armagh do not serve the same functions as the PVCs in Fermanagh.

The PVCs were originally introduced to control access into the Province thereby reducing the vulnerability of "soft targets", off-duty RUC and UDR personnel from attack across the border by PIRA. The PVCs are more vulnerable to attack but conversely allow the soldiers to be in constant contact with the local population.

It is the PVCs which will dominate most soldiers' memories of Fermanagh, especially those in the ground-holding com-

*Continued Page 18*



Above: Guarding vehicles involved in the the clearance of the tractor bomb targeted on Annagmartin PVCs. Below: Clearing the 8,800lb aborted bomb.



A member of A Coy gets stuck into his job

# News from the Vikings



Cpl Cox, Ptes Chandler and Whybrow relax in the accommodation at Grosvenor Barracks, Enniskillen.

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panies – B Coy and C Battery. Even though the number of PVCs has been reduced and steel plate and concrete have replaced the sandbag emplacements, conditions in them are grim.

The combination of long hours, cramped living conditions and a monotonous routine of monitoring the local pattern of life has tested the leadership qualities of the multiple commanders and the ability of their soldiers. Not that their periods out of the PVCs on patrol were any less arduous – Sgt "Geordie" Pattison's multiple managed over 400 hours patrolling during the month of May!

During the tour the companies were involved in the full spectrum of rural operations. These included patrolling, searches, monitoring and VCP operations. There was a wide range of transport employed: helicopters, boats, landrovers, civilianised vans and bipedal locomotion; the infantryman's stock in trade for crossing bogs, ditches, rivers, fields and blackthorn hedges.

Fermanagh introduced the Battalion to a peculiarity of its environment – the Border Closure Operation. The task of maintaining the security of the border was the Battalion's

responsibility and because of its political significance dominated much of the Battalion's activity during the tour.

Invariably as the Battalion closed one illegal opening, elsewhere another was in the process of being opened or was already open. Some border crossing points (BCP) for reasons of local significance, political importance, terrorist or farming considerations, were reopened more times than others. The Derryvolan BCP was opened and closed six times, each closure operation involving at least a company deployment.

Whether involved in operations or framework patrolling, the soldiers worked at an intensive rate. Most considered themselves lucky if they managed more than two 24-hour periods in a base within any given month.

A typical example of the level of operations is that of a C Coy multiple under Sgt Huddleston who, during the first month, spent over 15 days deployed before they returned into a base. They did see St. Angelo but this was only from the inside of a helicopter as they only stopped off for long enough to deposit their dead batteries, get fresh ones and receive a new issue of Compo.

The restrictive routine of the PVCs and

the high level of operations gave multiples very little opportunity to maintain the skills they had learnt during training.

The introduction of mid-tour training as a compulsory facet of a six-month roulement tour, although complicated to set up, was an invaluable break for the soldiers.

This two-day period allowed a multiple at a time to get away from operations and move to an environment where they could revise their techniques. There was a range-work package that included rezeroing and firing their weapons, firing the .50 Browning and the Rifle Launched Grenade (RLG). In addition there was practical first aid, some physical fitness training and the opportunity to have a few drinks and a barbecue in a relaxed environment.

## Incidents

PRIOR to this tour the majority of the Battalion, if questioned, would have commented on Fermanagh having a "sleepy hollow" image that was occasionally interspersed with terrorist activity.

In fact during 1991 the FRB TAOR has seen enough incidents of magnitude and variety to put it well over the rate of South Armagh in scale and intensity.

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# News from the Vikings



Above left: Cpl Spinlove, Signals Platoon. Above right: Cpl Wright of B Coy in intense conversation with Lt Adam Eaton and the Battalion 2IC during mid tour training. Below: Pte Carter — the smallest man in NATO.

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During the Battalion's tour PIRA engaged the Security Forces in our area with almost the complete range of weapons available within their arsenal.

An attempted attack on St. Angelo failed when the baseplate vehicle carrying ten to twelve Mark 10 Mortar tubes exploded without any landing inside the base. A Coy, whilst on a border closure operation, were ineffectively engaged by a Mark 12 Mortar from across the border, whilst a Mark 13 "Spigot" Mortar parked immediately beside RUC Belco failed to do any damage.

Gunmen along the border were engaged by the Battalion on a number of occasions. The first incident involved members of a patrol who engaged a number of gunmen in the vicinity of the border near Rosslea.

The second incident involved two soldiers in a B Coy multiple at Killyvilly PVCP who engaged two gunmen whilst they were moving into a position to attack them as they allowed a car through the PVCP.

A combined rocket and machine gun attack on C Battery's Mullan Bridge PVCP saw rounds being rapidly returned at the firing point from two of the sangars. Towards the end of the tour gunmen sniping at the

rear sanga of RUC Belleek, guarded by C Battery, had rounds being returned at them before they had finished firing.

The same occurred when rounds were fired at a B Coy multiple that was checking the state of the Derryvolan BCP. As a result of the covering team's excellent dominating fire position the enemy were engaged immediately they opened fire.

One incident made more media impact than any other: the 8,800lb tractor bomb attack on Annagmartin PVCP. This involved over 20 PIRA personnel, many of whom were armed; three house takeovers; at least one illegal VCP and the largest ever device in the recent troubles.

The next largest device had been a 3,500lb proxy bomb also targeted at Annagmartin in 1990. The explosive in this latest instance was compacted into a number of steel drums, wrapped around with detonating cord and covered with additional fertilizer bags on top to make up the weight. Had the device detonated it is possible that the PVCP would have sustained extensive damage, there would have been a large crater and considerable devastation throughout the surrounding area.

The fact that the tractor became stuck in a drainage ditch was a stroke of luck that



the troops in the PVCP, less than 800 metres away, will be forever thankful for.

One of the more unique incidents of the tour involved an attack upon two Wessex helicopters in the area of Kinawley in south-west Fermanagh. There were sightings of a

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# News from the Vikings

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vapour trail passing in between the two aircraft as they flew near the town. Subsequently PIRA stated that they engaged the aircraft with an RPG 7 and machine gun fire.

A few weeks later a subsequent search found the tail fin of a SAM 7 missile to the north of the town. There was no proof that the two were connected, especially in the light of the statement, but it did create massive media speculation that PIRA might now have the capability to attack and destroy military aircraft of all varieties with this weapon.

As well as direct attacks upon Security Force operations and bases there were other incidents. Early in the tour an off-duty reserve RUC constable was killed by an under vehicle booby-trap (UVBT) and an RUC Inspector was injured by gunmen whilst working in his garden at home. Both incidents involved elements of the Battalion during the follow-up operations.

On two occasions bombs were detonated within the TAOR against wholly civilian targets. The second occasion involved two explosions, one of which destroyed one of the two bridges crossing Upper Lough Erne.

## Finds

DURING the tour there were two finds of significance. The first came at the end of a series of joint RUC and Army searches near the republican stronghold of Donagh. It yielded the biggest arms find in the area over the last decade. The arms cache included 2 AKM assault rifles, a Mini Ruger rifle, a Spaz automatic shotgun, a .38 pistol a number of magazines and a quantity of ammunition.

In conjunction with this operation the RUC arrested a significant number of people from the local area, subsequently charging some of them with terrorist offences.

The second find came about as a result of an operation organised by A Coy. During the operation it stopped an HGV which contained an amount of the illegal food substitute drug known as "Angel Dust" with a value of £10,000 and other contents that had been incorrectly labelled to reduce their taxable value.

Customs and Excise investigators believe that the smuggling operation could have been handling around £750,000 - £1 million with links throughout the whole of Europe.



Major General Pollard chats to the Drums Platoon at Glogher SF base.

## A steady flow of VIP visitors

DURING the tour the Battalion received a large number of visitors. They came to visit the Battalion, the PVCs, scenes of terrorist action, the border and the UDR, RUC and local communities.

There were over 30 VIP visitors who required formal briefing, escorting and protection. In addition there were almost daily visits from various departments and organisations in 8 Brigade and Headquarters Northern Ireland.

From the Regiment came Gen Sir John Akehurst, Maj Gen Tony Pollard and Brig John Sutherland, Brigade Commander of 8 Infantry Brigade. General Tony visited both ourselves and the 3rd Battalion to discuss options within the Battalions. Gen Sir John also visited both battalions. His visit was of particular interest as not only did he come to talk about the proposed changes to the Regiment but it was also his farewell visit as Colonel of the Regiment.

A number of ministerial level visitors made their way to the western regions of the Province. Those who visited the Battalion

included the Earl of Arran, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Armed Forces; Lord Belstead, HM Paymaster General and Deputy to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland; Mr. Moray Stewart, 2nd Permanent Under-Secretary to the MOD; and Mr. John Ledlie, Deputy Secretary NIO.

Military visitors came from throughout the UK. Both the GOC, Lt Gen Sir John Wilsey, and CLF, Maj Gen Thompson, visited twice to welcome the Battalion and say farewell.

Others included Lt Gen Sir Michael Wilkes, Commander UK Field Army Brig Farrar-Hockley, Commander 19 Infantry Brigade and Brig Jenkins, Director Military Operations.

Towards the end of the tour the Battalion was visited and interviewed by a number of reporters from East Anglia. The first visit was by the East Anglian Daily Times, Colchester Evening Gazette and Yellow Advertiser who concentrated upon soldiers

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# News from the Vikings

Lt Col Phipps presents Minden roses to the TAC HQ on Minden Day



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from the Colchester, Essex and south Suffolk communities. The second group represented papers from the Viking heartland and consisted of the Eastern Daily Press, Bury Free Press and Lynn News.

During the tour a number of officers joined the Battalion, one for a second time, and some departed. 2nd Lt Stephanie Lack joined the Vikings from 6 (V) R. Anglian on a Short Service Volunteer Commission for a year and has assumed the post of Assistant Adjutant as well as carrying out watchkeeping duties in Tac HQ.

Second Lt Roger McClure joined C Coy straight from Sandhurst and the Northern Ireland Commanders Cadre, taking over 10 Platoon from Capt Andy Price who departs in an attempt to join the Army Air Corps.

Maj Robert Goodin has made a welcome return back to the fold after the experience of civilian life and is preparing to take over A Coy from Maj Johnny Rollins once he has moved on to the post of Battalion second-in-command.

Capt Rick Beven has disappeared off to the Far East to learn Gurkhali and serve time with 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles, whilst 2nd Lt Mark Stickland, after a matter of weeks with the Battalion, went east on a short attachment to 7/10 UDR, from whence he returns in January.

## Echelon

ECHELON was based in St. Angelo under command of Capt Peter Cookson and CSM Steffenetti. It was of considerable amusement to those in Echelon, though only later, that the 'Base Rats' were some of the first to come under attack.

The explosion that destroyed the mortar baseplate positioned some 100 metres from the perimeter fence rocked the base and scattered shrapnel all around the area. One piece went through the Officers' Mess roof, landing on the table in front of the seat normally occupied by the Commander of C Battery, Maj Matthew Sykes.

## Rear party

REAR Party was commanded by Capt Rory Milligan for the majority of the tour before handing over to Maj Robert Goodin. Much of their work has revolved around overhauling and maintaining the Saxons and preparing the barracks for the Battalion's eventual return.

The Families Office under the able control of Capt Paul Smith and Sgt Groom have laid on numerous activities for the wives and families, varying from visits to zoos, airshows and museums.

The highlight of their events was the Families Minden Day celebrations. Maj Gen and Mrs Pollard attended the festivities and presented prizes.

The hard work and enthusiasm of the Families Office and the Wives' Club

helpers, although largely unseen, were undoubtedly invaluable assets to the success of the Battalion's tour.

## Minden Day

ALTHOUGH circumstances were not ideal for Minden Day celebrations, the Battalion did so in traditional style. Soldiers were woken with the statutory mug of "Gunfire", whether wanted or not. Roses were presented and the Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major visited all locations. C Coy even managed a full company parade with the Drums Platoon providing the necessary accompaniment.

In the evening the Band beat retreat at St. Angelo. During their week long visit they played a concert at each of the company bases, the first time that many of the Battalion had seen them in 18 months since their involvement in the Gulf.

## Education

DURING the tour a number of NCOs were able to continue their work towards EPC qualification. The flying tutor visits were anticipated by one and all; a smile goes an amazingly long way after four months, particularly on the face of a member of the opposite sex.

Distinctions were achieved by the following: CSgt Page, Military Management; Cpl Conkie (REME), Military Management; and Pte Beal (ACC) Army in the Contemporary World.





# Poachers



## Readjusting after Gulf tour

THE second half of 1991 has seen the Poachers complete their emergency tour in the Middle East, find time for a month's post Op Granby leave and readjust to life in BAOR with a hectic autumn "silly season" of training and exercises.

The second two weeks in April involved low-level company training in which everybody got used to the new skills required for operating in the desert, such as frequent vehicle maintenance and navigation with satellite systems (known as Satnav).

These can give a 10-figure grid of one's position at the flick of a switch – sounds simple, but to navigate they must be given the correct information by the user. One sergeant was heard to remark that he had found a new creature more dangerous than a platoon commander with a map ... "because now he thinks that he can prove he knows where he is!"

Training was interrupted at the end of May when the Battle Group received a warning order for a move to Al Jubayl as all British Forces were to leave Kuwait by 5 May.

However, by 3 May – the date of Cdr Britfor Kuwait's "Farewell to Kuwait" dinner – nobody had announced a move-by date. For about a week there was no certain information regarding our role or length of stay, but eventually rumours of the Secretary of State visiting on 20 May began to abound and it became apparent that our future lay in Kuwait after all, at least for the time being.

The Battle Group duly redeployed into the desert to continue training in mid-May after a two-week period in St George's Lines involving a "Kuwait Garrison" sports week and the launch of Sniper and RRU Cadres.

On 20 May Tom King MP, Secretary of State for Defence, did indeed visit us in the desert with an entourage that included General de la Billiere. Any Poachers who had hoped that this visit would at least give us an end of tour date were disappointed as



*Continued Page 24*

Northampton soldiers in the Gulf. Picture: *Northampton Evening Telegraph*.

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## News from the Poachers

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Above: C Coy in Kuwait, before the July explosion. Below left: Sgt Bell and Sgt Maj (WO2) Pancoust after being presented with LSGC medals by Brigadier Rodney Walker, Cmd 22 Armd Bde. Below right: A member of the Battalion Sniper Cadre.



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## News from the Poachers

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Above: The issue of kit at Blackadder Camp. Below: A mixture of the 3 Support Platoons on an MCTS.

*From Page 22*

he could tell us nothing. It was apparent, however, that his negotiations with the Kuwaitis bore fruit, as our return date was announced shortly afterwards, just as the training culminated in excellent live firing packages for A and B Coy/Squadron Groups.

These involved artillery support and masses of ammunition and was as realistic as any peace-time training could be, especially as the Mortar Platoon managed to score a direct hit on an Iraqi artillery dump in the vicinity of one of the attacks – some troops were able to say that they had removed pieces of Iraqi shrapnel from their vehicles!

Sadly, the training could not lead on to a Battle Group Exercise as we had to move to Al Jubayl to perform security duties for the logistic recovery operation there which was nearing completion. As a political concession to the Kuwaitis, one Armoured Infantry (Warrior) Coy would remain in Kuwait at St George's Lines on a rotation basis, with each company spending approximately two weeks there.

Conditions improved rapidly with the introduction of air-conditioned mobile cabins and the opening of the nearby Doha Port

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# News from the Poachers

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*From Page 24*

Above: Gen de la Billière meets the Recce Platoon. Below: Ptes Hunt and Home are briefed by LCpl Baines on the RRU Centre.

for swimming in – a portable swimming pool even arrived from Bicester just as the tour was drawing to a close.

In mid-June we said goodbye to 31 Battery RA and D Squadron, The 5th Royal Inniskillin Dragoon Guards, our supporting sub-units in the Battle Group, and on 9 July 'D' Coy returned to Celle in time to take over rear-party duties when the main body returned.

Meanwhile, life in Al Jubayl went on. When not escorting vehicles or guarding compounds, the recreation facilities were excellent and included a sports centre, a beach and R and R trips to Bahrain where it was possible to drink the odd beer.

With our return date to Celle set for 23 July we thought that we had come through the tour unscathed when on 11 July potential disaster struck. St George's Lines was practically destroyed when C Coy was there, after an American ammunition accident. A separate report of this incident follows.

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# News from the Poachers

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The Battalion returned to Celle on 24-25 July and went immediately on four week's post-tour leave; well deserved, especially as the initial operational deployment had incorporated a recall after two days of Easter leave.

### **BAOR Exercise**

On our return in early September we were all in for a rude awakening as the harsh realities of BAOR's exercise season became startlingly apparent.

The second two weeks of that month involved the Brigade and Battle Group trainer at STC, while the command elements took part in 1 RTR's and then our own Battle Group's exercises.

Just to keep us on our toes, the middle weekend saw a surprise visit by a Soviet inspection team, who seemed to be rather taken aback by the fact that everything remotely of interest to them was shrouded with a white sheet.

### **Ex Sweaty Palm**

Meanwhile, D Coy began to prepare for Ex Sweaty Palm as hunter force for a neighbouring unit's escape and evasion exercise. B Coy were becoming involved in a demonstration for the JSDC on Soltau and the whole Battalion was preparing for a lengthy stint in the field doing a series of Brigade exercises during October and November.

As we move towards Christmas, the plan is to go non-operational in about April 1992 as we prepare to hand over Trenchard Barracks to the Germans before our move to Osnabruck in August next year.

Top left: 2Lt Johnson of A Coy takes time out to entertain the girls from the CSE show. Bottom left: Pte David (C Coy) at the dangerous closed area to the north of Kuwait City.



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## News from the Poachers



Cpl Pirie surveys the damage caused by the explosions of 11 July.

# The biggest contact of Operation Granby

### Capt Tim Dawson writes:

ONE wonders whether the events of 11 July 1991 were a subtle attempt to thwart another Combined Services entertainment show or a crude attempt by "Uncle Sam" to demonstrate to the world what could happen if he really flexed his muscles.

However, picture the scene at approximately 1030 am with a crowd of American soldiers non-chalantly ambling away from their vehicle park towards the British accommodation. One of them waved over his shoulder at a single burning vehicle in the centre of the hard standing, with the now immortal words:- "Er, it's only a small one, but I think it's under control." Thirty seconds later the base was rocked by a huge dull bang as the first of the 96 shells exploded on what turned out to be a fully loaded ammunition carrier, sending shrapnel and orange flames skywards.

I had never seen so many Americans move with a common purpose and at such speed - they certainly left us "Brits" in the blocks! The expression "I heard the bullet twice, once when it passed me and once when I passed the bullet" sprang to mind as

the dash for cover began. What followed was a mass exodus of troops, some seminaked or in swimming trunks and flip-flops striding towards cover and eventual escape over the perimeter wall

For over two hours the explosions continued like an elaborate fireworks display, as white phosphorous, artillery delivered cluster-bombs and TOW missiles exploded randomly. The fires continued for over five hours and were still smouldering 24 hours later, preventing any attempt to re-enter the camp. The British suffered only six casualties, largely due to flying glass, whilst the Americans had over 40, three seriously.

By dusk, all 100-odd British troops were in a warehouse at the nearby deserted Doha Port where the bewildered CSE party improvised a stage and performed, before all troops were moved to the RFA Sir Galahad at Shuaiba Port to sleep. At least the priorities were clear for once!

The ensuing days saw the clearance of the camp which had been totally devastated. Fortunately we spent only a few days aboard the Sir Galahad before our return to BAOR on 24 July.

## Recreation around the beaches of Saudi Arabia

### Capt Gosling writes:

IT WAS not all work in Saudi Arabia and despite the religious laws people still had fun. A wide range of facilities were available ranging from a gym on camp to a leisure centre and a couple of beaches in the local area.

The outdoor pool at the leisure centre was very popular, even if the top diving board was out of bounds. (Using it would cause soldiers to expose their armpits to those walking past, thus incurring the wrath of the Religious Police!).

When time permitted, a trip to the beach proved an ideal way to relax with some excellent opportunities.

Sgt Carter and L/Cpl Johnson were forced to live on the beach. This was not the easy option they first expected but through a lot of hard work and deals Arfur Daley would have been proud of, they kept the speed boats, windsurfers and Bosun dinghys operational at all times. Sub-aqua

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Cormorant and Pte Whitworth pictured at Ras-al-Ghor beach.

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## News from the Poachers

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A camel introduces himself. Picture: *Northampton Evening Telegraph*.

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was also available at Ras-Al-Ghar beach and again was very popular, despite the threat of sea snakes.

Twice a night Sgt Smith organised buses to the local towns, and between prayer

times a lot of water money was spent. Everyone soon became experts in haggling and some very interesting bargains were made. Not all the Rolex watches on Poachers' wrists are real though.

Trips were also organised for the Companies to go to Bahrain for some R and

R and beer. I am sure these were successful, judging from the blurry eyes, headaches and groans of returning soldiers.

All in all some excellent facilities were available and many people tried new sports and saw some wildlife they would not normally experience.

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## Gulf cruising aboard a minehunter

Sgt R Beswick writes:

I RECEIVED a phone call from the Adjutant on 24 May asking if I would be able to take part in an exchange cruise with the Royal Navy. Having decided to go I was then made aware of the fact that the other members of the party would be two members of the Royal Army Medical Corps and two Royal Engineers.

We were transported by Land Rover to Al Shuaiba the main port of Kuwait where we were embarked on board HMS Brocklesby.

The ship's captain, Lt Cdr Chambers, welcomed us aboard. The party was then given a guided tour of the ship which did not take very long as the Brocklesby is a mine hunter and only 60 metres long. However the vessel costs £65 million, making it the most expensive vessel per yard in the Royal Navy.

As might be expected on such a small vessel, living conditions are quite

cramped, indeed they resembled the living accommodation in Crossmaglen. The rest of the day was spent socialising with the crew and learning how various parts of the ship operated.

The party quickly gained their sea legs – some more quickly than others! At 6am the next morning we transferred by Gemini to HMS Bicester, which was to become our home for the next ten days. To the unaccustomed the journey was exhilarating as the wind was blowing 20 knots and the waves were between six and ten feet high. The Navy gave us one-time use survival suits, just in case we capsized – a great morale booster!

Lt Cdr Curd welcomed us aboard HMS Bicester and introduced our party to the ship's crew before we went below decks. During the three day voyage south towards the United Arab Emirates we were shown how various equipments operated and I was lucky enough to be

allowed to steer the ship, although I suspect it was on automatic pilot!

On docking in Abu Dhabi, we were united to take part in all the social and sporting events the ex-patriots had organised for the ship's complement. The Hash race was most enjoyable, if confusing. The stay in Abu Dhabi was over all too soon and we set sail on the re-run journey after four days ashore. I spent the next four days learning about the Sonar and other parts of the ship's equipment but alas all good things come to an end and after transferring to HMS Heda, the hydrographic survey ship, we docked after ten days with the Royal Navy.

The whole voyage was most enjoyable and gave us an insight into how the Royal Navy live and operate.

My conclusion is that if you are offered the opportunity to sail with the Royal Navy – accept it!



## News from the Poachers

### On exercise with the Bermuda Regiment

#### Lt Lyne writes:

"BERMUDA", the CO said, "two weeks' time – they fly you out there and back. All you have to do is turn up". An offer I could scarcely refuse. After doing a bit of research into what I was letting myself in for, I discovered that I was to be attached to the Bermuda Regiment for the duration of their yearly overseas exercise which was to be in North Carolina, USA.

After some particularly rapid packing and the nightmare of being Parade Commander on my recruits' passing-out parade at the Depot duly completed, I was finally set to go. Off I went to Heathrow, picked up my tickets and boarded for the 11-hour flight.

All too soon the air hostess was nudging me awake and the plane was coming in to land at Bermuda. I recovered my luggage and when immigration finally released me, I was met by the Regiment's Adjutant, Henry Campbell, who took me up to the barracks.

As we drove around the island, I could just imagine relaxing by the sea, gin and tonic in one hand and a bevy of beautiful girls attending to my every need. However, I could not have been further from the truth as I found out on my arrival at RHQ: "You're due to fly to Carolina tomorrow", I was told. Great, I thought, loads of time to settle in. Off I traipsed to the QM's to draw the necessary kit, that G and T now firmly pushed to the back of my mind. Another rapid packing session, followed by the chance meeting of the two SNCOs with whom I would be working, Sgts Rayner and Rogerson, both of whom looked as though they had been on the island for six months rather than three days!

On arrival in Carolina we were briefed by Maj. Kevin Ryan of the 1st Battalion and WO2 Brian Hillier of the 3rd Battalion on exactly what we would be doing over the next month or so. By now the Poachers' reunion was complete as WO2s Pete Smith and Steve Catton arrived to supervise their



The three attached Poachers, l to r, Sgt Rogerson, Lt Lyne and Sgt Rayner.

companies through the package of ranges, battle exercises and the final exercise.

My role was to instruct all soldiers on map reading during the range package as well as running the APWT; I would then be a platoon instructor during the exercises. The first phase went well, apart from the odd drama during the night navigation exercise and the Bermudan soldiers' aversion to anything that crawled.

Finally we were all set to go on the final exercise which was quite testing and used some of the excellent facilities at the nearby US Marines base, Camp Lejeune. Examples were an assault river crossing using the "Recon" Battalion's dinghies (very hush-hush), and a company river crossing in LVPT7, or "Amtrack" amphibious personal carriers.

A couple of breakdown incidents involving Sgt Rogerson soon convinced me that even the US Marines have mechanical

problems with their APCs.

As one company finished the second arrived and the programme was repeated, but 18 map-reading lessons, a multitude of ties and a rather interesting spider bite later, all was finished and I could hear that G and T calling me from across the sea.

On my return to the island I was able to relax and do a bit of sightseeing and a lot of sunbathing.

Overall I had an excellent time and was looked after extremely well by the Regiment throughout my visit, particularly on my return to the island.

Unfortunately all good things must come to an end and I had to start packing again (although at a more leisurely pace this time) in preparation to rejoin my Battalion in Kuwait.

I will certainly carry happy memories of my time in Bermuda, and I would recommend an attachment to anybody.





# Pompadours



## Return to Londonderry

LONDONDERRY has been our home for six months now, and the Saxons, Roman Barracks and the scramble of events in Colchester now seem to be a distant memory. Our role here has called for just as much hard work, the difference being that as Resident Battalion work has been more measured and defined. The word "predictable" springs to mind, but here that is one thing that we try not to be.

The older soldiers among us are no strangers to the city. For them much has changed, and some things have not altered at all, most notably the weather. That it was always on the hot and sunny days we were kept busiest (steaming up and down in our flak-jackets against the swift-footed and lightly-clad youth of the Creggan) might have given us the false memory of the weather being quite reasonable.

We were soon disabused of this notion as we were reminded of the astonishing capacity of the Donegal hills to dump water on Londonderry.

A mere glance at a map of the city will tell you how much change and expansion has taken place. Huge new areas of housing have appeared on both sides of the River Foyle, most notably on the West bank. Carnhill and Shantallow were not fully completed estates when the Pompadours were last here. Now they are well established and have been joined by new names such as Ballymagroarty, Foyle Springs and Galliagh, together with the Springtown and Pennyburn industrial estates.

Old Pompadours will be interested to learn that, although the Bogside is very different, our old friend the Creggan has changed little. Estates have also sprung up on the Waterside, and the industrial areas, which used to feature little more than the DuPont factory, now stretches for three miles back towards Ballykelly. And one of the most visible additions to the landscape is the elevated sweep of the new Foyle Bridge some two miles downstream from the Craigavon Bridge, which used to be the only link across the river.



Pte Rawlings makes sure that no-one tries to steal the Guildhall.

Life in the Rifle companies is like a carousel. They rotate through each of the Battalion's main tasks as either East of Foyle or West of Foyle Ops Coy. West of Foyle at first glance seems the hardest task, as the area now includes all the city, new estates, border enclave and checkpoints. (Interesting when one thinks that the Pompadours once maintained two companies in the Creggan alone.) For this, a company lives and works out of Fort George, Rosemount, Masonic and the checkpoints.

East of Foyle Coy one might think has a less arduous time, as it "works from home" and only has the predominantly loyalist areas to patrol. However, it rarely works out that way, as with this task also comes a plethora of escort and the dreaded guards and duties commitments. Many conclude that they would prefer to be across in the city.

So the soldiers have been working extremely hard and long hours. But there is the compensation of regular and reliable

periods of leave, which are taken in every cycle by the uncommitted company. The accumulated wealth of many weeks at work is often blown in spectacular fashion, but everyone returns refreshed and all the better for it. Two weeks in each cycle are also spent on refresher and update training. Pre-operational department training (or POD) provides a welcome (and probably the only) opportunity to get the company together to train together – and possibly have the occasional party!

A Coy 1 Green Howards (or XIX Coy) has played an invaluable part as the reinforcement company for us. Apart from its mid-tour leave period, its platoons have been deployed continuously in support of West of Foyle Coy, while the Coy HQ has been allocated individually to a wide range of other tasks and projects. It was here as a complete battalion not so long ago, so we found its recent knowledge of the geography and methods of operating very useful in

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# News from the Pompadours



Above: Top Cover. Ptes Hutchinson and Adams. Right: "Is that the RMO? Good morning, Sir. It's Mr Schwartz speaking. I seem to have got a finger stuck in my right ear." Below: LCpl Clarke finds something to smile about at the end of a patrol.



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the early stages. Ever since there has been an excellent spirit of co-operation and comradeship with it. So, as it hands on the baton to its D Coy, we thank its platoons for all the efforts and wish them a most enjoyable and well-earned Christmas leave back in Catterick with their families.

The unsung heroes as usual have been the stalwarts of HQ Coy. From the outset

their numbers in each department have been pared to the bone to give maximum manning in the Rifle companies. Unlike the Rifle companies, this has to be taken on a trickle basis, hence further reducing the numbers on duty. It has not been easy to carry out the normal functions as well as meeting a wide range of additional guards and escort commitments. In addition they are tackling the difficulties and challenges associated with drawdown. As usual they

are approaching all these tasks with the customary Royal Anglian professionalism and cheerfulness.

The other major contribution to the Battalion effort has come in a curvy form. The Pompadours have included a lady assistant adjutant and a lady doctor at various times, but not 32 all at once. Although the WRAC Platoon and the Pompadours each sized up the other with due caution at first, a

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# News from the Pompadours



Above: Lt Tom O'Driscoll's instruction on the climbing wall was just one aspect of the children's summer activities. Below: A sangar's view of a border VCP.



Pte Hitchcock prepares to fire the Rifle Launched Grenade.

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mutual respect was soon established. Now our WRAC, resplendent in Eagle and Garter on their pullover, are fully integrated and playing an invaluable part in many areas of battalion life.

Operationally, much effort has been expended to counter the recent upsurge in sectarian violence with some success. Patrols continue to encounter sporadic "aggro" and are now used to dealing with bricks, bottles and pain bombs as well as the more sinister petrol and coffee jar bombs and an anti-armour weapon. There have also been a number of finds of weapons, explosives and hides.

A key operational weapon has been the Battalion's PR campaign to win the hearts and minds of local residents. We cannot expect them to be pro Army but there are signs that they are turning increasingly away from the men of violence. It is a delicate business and our young soldiers need to be as relaxed and friendly as possible, yet alert to what might happen at any moment.

Meanwhile, our families have put on a brave face to the constant comings and goings. It is difficult for the wives to get together because of the Londonderry-Ballykelly split of our quarters, and the distance out to Ballykelly is a constant irritation to those without cars. But the Wives Club committee were soon very active and well organised. Regular activities take place at both centres of habitation, aug-

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## News from the Pompadours



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Above: Tense final moments before the children's fancy dress competition at the families' fete. Below: The CO assisted by Lt Maggie Hall presents Eagle and Garter pullover insignia to the WRAC Platoon.

mented by a range of excursions on shopping, visits, beach parties etc. Their funds are increasingly healthy due to the energetic fundraising efforts, of which the summer fete is merely one successful example.

It has been most important to provide the children with enough to do, especially in holidays. Youth Clubs flourish at both Londonderry and Ballykelly, which lay on numerous visits to zoos, theme parks and sports/leisure centres throughout the Province. Also, in the summer holidays there was a wide range of youth activities run in conjunction with 1 King's. These included two camps as well as a host of leisure, hobbies and sports in the local area.

The sports scene has been rather quiet. All our bases have apparatus (if not always much space) to keep up fitness and provide some recreation. But formal team sports have suffered somewhat in the settling-in period. To raise a team, find some opponents and then carry out clearance procedures for the pitch (which is not in a secure area) is quite a performance. But we are getting used to it, and the winter season will have seen our teams being much more active. Once again we expect to field a powerful cross-country team in particular.

However, come what may, the Officers-v-Warrant Officers and Sergeants cricket match could not be ignored. The history



books will record that in a thrilling and closely-contested match, the officers lost narrowly by 10 wickets! Maybe it would have been better that this match had been quietly forgotten after all.

But we have been successful in getting people away on various pursuits. WO2 Rouse ran a successful week of sailing from Gosport, whilst CSgt Barry took the under-

18's to the Highlands for 10 days' adventurous training and well-earned break. Lt Mike Dixon persuaded his OC that his assistance to 3 Queens for three weeks in Kenya was quite indispensable, and Capt James Harris has teamed up with Maj Richard Clements to lead a canoeing and mountaineering expedition to South

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# News from the Pompadours



Above: Lt Col Lacey hands over command to Lt Col Chisnall on the helipad.  
Below: RQMS and TQMS lead the way as Lt Col Lacey is pulled out of camp.



Exercise Kittiwake was a sailing expedition in August on the Solent and along the south coast. The yacht Janthina was chartered by the Pompadours from the Sailing Centre at Gosport. Pictured above are part of her crew.

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Georgia. These exploits are elaborated on in separate articles.

The Band's routine has probably not been one that they would have chosen, but they have played their part manfully. Many of the official engagements throughout the Province fall to them and, being up here in the north-west, that involves much travelling. By necessity, a hefty slice of the duties in camp falls to them as well, leaving a perplexed Bandmaster wondering when his next full Band practice will take place. However, a ray of hope and excitement is provided in their UK tour planned for the spring.

It's nice to know that one is not forgotten, as we have had plenty of visitors. On the operational side, we have seen all the "headshed" from Lisburn at one time or other, and we have had the opportunity to entertain separately the Colonel of the Regiment, Gen Pollard, Brig Dodd and Brig Groves. Naturally Brig Sutherland, as our Commander and co-habitant of Ebrington, is no stranger to us, and he shows a keen and welcome interest in everything that we do.

Since the last edition we have welcomed three new platoon commanders - 2Lts Morris, Pettit and Russell, and we have said a few goodbyes. Maj Bill Mooring has relinquished after a marathon stint as 2IC. Maj Tim Power has gone to pass his eye over our future recruits, and Maj Bill Burford adjourns to Leicester after years of invaluable service as QM. Bill has the distinction of having served under every CO since the formation in 1964 and, as the oldest member of the battalion, still records a time of 9.40 for his BFT.

Finally we bade farewell to Col Julian and Diana Lacey at the change of command on 7 Oct. We shall miss them both for their tireless efforts and caring approach for each and every Pompadour during Col Julian's command. We all wish them much success in York, and we now welcome aboard Col Robin and Jo Chisnall.

So as 1991 draws to a close there is much to reflect upon. The tour in Londonderry has begun well. The city is generally quiet (but it "bubbles" below the surface), and the level of terrorist incidents recently has been low. That is not to say that we have not been kept very busy. The current situation could only be achieved by a lot of thought and hard work by our sol-

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# News from the Pompadours

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diers, both to win over the general public and to deter and defeat the terrorist.

But it has not been without its moments. The most bizarre incident was probably the recovery of a stolen hearse. (Rumours that Cpl Doherty could catch it only because it was travelling at a mere 5 mph with 300 mourners behind it are totally unfounded).

DIY prize goes to Lt Mike Dixon for his

reorganisation of Fort George Ops Room. With the reassuring words, "It's all right, my Uncle is good on electrics", he collapsed the entire communications with one ship – obviously a trick he picked up in Kenya!

Noisiest day of the tour was 10 Aug, the Apprentice Boys Marches, featuring in all 167 bands but with no one tune discernable in the general din. Most encouraging day for the city was 1 July when 8,000 kids

from all parts and persuasions of the city packed into Guildhall Square for the Radio One Roadshow. It seems that Jason Donovan has rather more popular appeal than the terrorist these days.

As we look forward to 1992, everyone is very positive both towards our task here and towards the future Regiment. Yes, there is plenty to smile about, to be proud of and at which to be optimistic.

## A letter home from Derry

Dear Mum,

Well I've got time to write now and I've settled in on my first city tour. The town isn't as big as I thought it would be, a bit smaller than Chelmsford, but the river is a bit wider. The town is in two pieces. Our side is OK, a bit like Chelmsford, but with plenty of posh houses near the river. The other side is better, a bit of a cross between Romford shopping centre and Basildon. A few miles beyond the town you can see the rest of Ireland.

When we arrived three months ago it was raining; it still is. My sergeant told me it was the monsoon season, I wonder when it's going to end? Everything here is almost like home but not quite, Wellworths as well as Woolworths and fast food joints that aren't fast. Oh well, mustn't complain, the scenery is nice and the money is good.

In camp we have the NAAFI and Ebrington's answer to "Dukes" and the Windmill called Club 19 where you get a chance to meet the local girls, or Coleraine Commandos as they're called in Gaelic.

If we want to go out, we have to sign about 100 pieces of paper and then drive up to Coleraine and further. Sometimes we go and see films at Ulster's answer to Disneyland.

I saved up my money and bought myself a motor. It's a really cool Capri with tinted windows, front and rear spoilers and afterburner from Bob Mullan's! I've taken off the Riverside 101 sun strip and put mine and Sharon's on instead. It's a great runner, I've only spent £400 on spares this month. It was a bit difficult getting some of the parts

since the other garage insisted the rear of the car was in fact a Vauxhall Astra cross welded with a Montego. They must be incompetent, the mechanics were probably on one of those YOB schemes.

What is a "mongrel car" anyway? The new garage really like me, they always smile and call me by my Gaelic name which is "eejit".

Driving over here's a bit strange because the law is different. If you see a speed limit sign you're only meant to drive at half that speed and you mustn't indicate when turning, although using your four-way flashers is acceptable. If you see somebody you know it is traditional to stop your car in the middle of the road and have a chat, and it's OK to park tractors on blind bends or in dips in the road.

I am sure I will get the hang of it eventually, after all I did in Germany (by the way I have nearly paid the fine off now – anyway it was crazy of them to drive on the wrong side of the road).

I've been keeping up with my fitness here as usual. They were all raving on about aerobics. I don't rate myself. The other day I sat down with one of those aerobic videos, but I didn't feel any fitter at the end of it. There is a great sunbed here. Tell Sharon that as soon as the blisters and the temporary blindness get better I'll be looking like a bronzed god (just like Corfu, before the unpleasant incident with the swordfish, the harpoon gun and the water skier). There's a great weights room here although some of the meatheads who could lift a ton but not spell it keep nicking the gear.

The job here is different from

Germany and Colly, but pretty good still. All the kit is named after comics – Hotspur, Simba, Jocker and so on. We've all learnt pretty quickly an x-ray isn't anything to do with hospitals and mortar isn't what you stick bricks together with.

The locals are good at painting on the walls, although nobody seemed to know anything when I did "Ask about Dessie Ellis".

Most of the locals are OK; and don't worry about me Mum, the Creggan's safer than "Tots" on a Saturday night. The terrorists are a bit odd .. they pack their rockets out with biscuit wrappers and chuck Nescafee jars about the place. I told my OC that I reckoned if we bought up all the stocks in town, we'd solve the problem.

Anyway must go now, I'm still a bit dizzy running around the Fort and I've got to explain to the RUC why my Capri has three different chassis numbers.

Give my love to Brutus the Pitbull and tell him never mind the muzzle and having to be neutered, it's all for the best. Tell Dad sorry about the wiring on the Black and Decker I acquired for his birthday. I must be colour blind, anyway I'm sure he'll be better in time for Christmas.

Love Stevie.

PS. Have you got me a set of house keys yet? You kept forgetting to send me some after you last had all the locks changed.

PPS. The PC said that if I keep on the way I've been going I'll probably get six months in Colchester – so that will be nice.

## News from the Pompadours



Maj Richard Clements, left, and Capt James Harris.

### South Georgia expedition hits severe weather

MAJ Richard Clements and Capt James Harris combined to plan and lead a 12-man expedition to South Georgia. The party arrived on the island in mid-September and established its base camp at Grytviken.

The team is divided between the canoeists – Clements, Jervis, Willis and Waghorn, and the mountaineers – Harris, Allison, Bliss, Gill, Hall, Jennings, Pattison and Stephenson. The canoeists are hoping to circumnavigate South Georgia (over 200 miles in the most treacherous seas) whilst the mountaineers sustain the canoeists by crossing the glaciated island and dropping caches of food and equipment on the shoreline.

The canoeists are having a difficult time, they have covered approximately 60 miles in three weeks and have been slowed by severe weather and huge swells. It is frightening to imagine a capsize in arctic conditions, although we know Richard Clements has already had to right himself on one particularly nasty occasion.

The mountaineers have also been struck by bad weather. Only a handful of explorers have ever crossed the comparatively thin but extremely dangerous



mountain range that dominates the backbone of this slim, crescent-shaped island. They have made snow-holes and positioned caches in strategic locations, but as yet have not penetrated across to the western shoreline – the vital link with the canoeists.

The expedition's UK agent, so to speak, is Capt Roland Ladley, Adjutant to the Pompadours. He receives a weekly SITREP by signal and passes information on to the team's families. The last signal received before the "Castle" deadline was on 20 Oct, upon which this article is based. At that time the canoeists were having tremendous difficulty in rounding the cape at the south-east end of the island, and they were down to half rations.

Clearly there will be quite a tale to tell on their return, and a full account of the expedition from beginning to end will appear in the next edition of Castle.

## Scaling the heights of Mount Kenya

**Lt Mike Dixon writes:**

WHILST sitting in the Ops Room, working far too hard but thinking of leave and exotic places, I happened to glance through Part One Orders and noticed on the last page in small print that 3 Queen's required a Joint Services Mountain Expedition Leader (JSMELE) to accompany them to Kenya for three weeks.

So now I have to persuade the people that matter that I was the only man for the job. Fortunately my OC was happy to get rid of me for three weeks and he helped to convince the Battalion 2IC. The "Doc" pumped me full of numerous injections and sugar cubes and within a week I was on route to Heathrow to meet up with the 10-man team from 3 Queens.

The primary aim of the expedition was to climb Mount Kenya, followed by camping and safari. The expedition leader, 2Lt Jason Taylor, explained the "arduous itinerary" and admitted that without my previous knowledge of Kenya and my mountaineering experience their expedition would have been renamed "Cyprus Monyatta" rather than "Kenya Monyatta".

Spirits were high, bergans were heavy and the flight was a nightmare. I would advise those going abroad never to travel by Bulgaria's airline Balkan Airways and certainly not to go to Sofia Airport. However, we all got to Nairobi in one piece and were greeted by members of the British Advisory Team and Liaison Staff of Kenya (BATLSK) and taken to nearby Kahawa Barracks, which was to be our base.

After settling in I began to earn my keep by planning the first part of the expedition, to climb Mount Kenya up to Point Lenana, which was relatively easy having done the climb before including Point Batian as well. Soon we were off for the Naro Moru river lodge at the foothills of the mountain.

The route we were to take, known as the Naro Moru track, passed through different types of tropical forest to the

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# News from the Pompadours

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Meteorological Station at 10,000 ft. and then onto the "Vertical Bog" and finally the beautiful Teleki Valley full of rock hिरax (large furry coypu like creatures whose closest relative is the elephant!) and giant groundsls (triffids). Our primary camp was at Mackinder's Hut at 14,000 ft, at the base of a large screen slope leading to the summit.

Arriving there late afternoon, we set up camp, keen to continue to the top several hours later. The best time to make the ascent is during darkness using torches, to catch the clear weather and the spectacular dawn views at the top. I started guiding my 6-man team at 0200 hrs but by 0600 hrs I had managed to gain another 30 people either lost en-route or wanting my free guiding services, rather than pay for the Kenyan goat-like guides.

We arrived at Point Lenana via the Austrian Hut (15,600 ft.) without mishap at 0700 hrs. Despite the cold, it is an exhilarating experience to be 16,355 ft closer to the gods. The walk down flew by and no sooner had we blinked than we were back in Kahawa Barracks preparing for phase two – an eight day safari of the Maasai Mara, the Rift Valley lakes, Lake Victoria and the Kericho tea plantations.

The Maasai Mara National Reserve is one of East Africa's most famous game parks. It has beautiful scenery and a wide variety of animals and birds (including the "Big Five"), and is particularly renowned for the annual wildebeest migration, when the great herds follow the rains and fresh grass up from Tanzania via the Serengeti and cross the Mara River.

We travelled by two white civilian Land Rovers lent to us by BATLSK. The route took us through the southern part of the Aberdare highlands, giving us spectacular views of Maasailand to the SW and Mount Kenya to the east. Despite a tiring journey, with rough tracks and numerous upturned lorries, we arrived safely at the park in the late evening. That night we had our first taste of camping in the bush, surrounded by thousands of hungry eyes and eerie calls

Camping in the bush is an experience not to be missed, especially when you are on a constant lookout for thieving monkeys, deadly snakes, creepy-crawlies and hungry cats. We managed to survive them all except for the mosquito (thanks "Doc" for the tablets!) and we had time to enjoy the wonders of the reserve before setting off for



Above: Lt Mike Dixon (left) with his party on Point Lenana.



Left: Kenya and the route taken by the expedition.

the north and Lake Victoria.

We stayed next in a bush camp 20 km south of Kisumu on the shores of the muddy, vast Lake Victoria. We paid some local Nyanza fishermen to take us in small paddle-driven fishing boats to see the crocodiles and hippo basking in the shallow waters – at times only 5 ft away – another unforgettable experience!

From Kisumu we travelled to the Great Rift Lakes via Kericho (one of the main centres of Kenya's tea production) where the locals see few white people and treated us as royalty. Lake Nakuru was the most interesting of the four great lakes with its own national park, 2 million pink flamingo and a variety of other large birds and animals.

We also put in a detour loop to take in the famous Thompson Falls in Nyahururu at the northern tip of the Aberdares. The falls

are 75 m high and extremely impressive, despite being surrounded by hundreds of tourist shops. And having travelled 2,000 km and stayed in bush campsites for eight days, we decided to spend our last few days on the coast in Watamu near Malindi.

Overall the expedition was a great success and tremendous fun. I am most grateful to the team for taking me along and especially to BATLSK, without whose support the expedition would have not been possible. Kenya really is a beautiful country with spectacular scenery and friendly people. Well worth a visit if you can persuade your CO that you need a break. If anyone else is thinking of mounting an expedition to Kenya and needs a JSMEL, you will always find me available!

Moral: It sometimes pays to read Part One Orders – even the small print on the last page!



## Feature Focus

# Taking time out to explore Zimbabwe

**Bob Stallard, one of our potential officers, now at Oxford Polytechnic writes about his 'gap year':**

THE vast majority of students on "years off" tend to go to Australia, Thailand or India and for this reason we decided to go to Africa. We started our journey in Ethiopia and travelled to Zimbabwe spending some time in Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia on the way. The journey to Zimbabwe took five days as we caught the Tazara train from Dar es Salaam to Lusaka, which cut out most of the distance but restricted our view of the countries we went through.

We arrived in Harare and decided to use it as our base, returning there after each trip. One of the first trips was to Rhodes Matopos National Park. This is where Cecil Rhodes was buried. He was the founder of Rhodesia and did much work to build the country into a prosperous nation. After the war of independence the name was changed to Zimbabwe, but the influence of Rhodes can still be seen.

One of the highlights of the whole trip

was a canoeing safari up the Zambezi which lasted five days and was approximately 150 miles. We would start canoeing at dawn which was a good time to see game such as hippos, crocodiles and elephants.

Sometimes we would stop to swim on sand banks or link up with the other canoes to drift down the river. At night we would set up camp on the river bank, sleeping under mosquito nets. At the end of the trip we were flown out of Kanyemba as the road was impassable.

The last trip was to the Chimanimani Mountains on the Mozambique border. We started with an 18 km hike to base camp and a two-and-a-half hour climb up the mountain to a hut used by hikers. From there we walked along "Skeleton Pass", a path which is used by gun runners into Mozambique.

After nearly two months in Zimbabwe we hitched back to Kenya via Malawi. We arrived back in England three months after we started having met a wide variety of people and with a good knowledge of the countries we had visited.

## Summer attachment in Cyprus

**FRED Gray and Liam McGrath's summer attachment to 3 Queens, Episkopi Garrison, Cyprus, 8 - 22 Aug 91. Written by Fred Gray who is an Army scholar.**

THIS summer four potential officers were fortunate enough to go out to Cyprus on a summer attachment with 3 Queens. In total our party comprised of two Royal Anglian sponsored undergraduates (myself and Liam McGrath) along with two Queens sponsored undergraduates.

All the stories of sun and sand seemed to be confirmed. The very afternoon we arrived our host, 2Lt David Juxon AAS, whisked us straight down to the beach. Within six hours of leaving RAF Brize Norton we were sunning ourselves.

Despite various rumours to the contrary we did not spend the whole of our two weeks down on the beach and the

time was spent getting to know about our hosts and the job they were expected to do in Cyprus.

A briefing by the battalion ops officer left us in no doubt as to the high level of diplomacy and co-operation that is needed if a satisfactory working relationship is to be maintained between the British Security Forces and the local civil authorities.

Whilst being given both our weekends off to "explore" the island, we did manage to see the battalion at work and spent one of these working days being hosted by the Squadron of Royal Hussars.

Overall the attachment was a lot of fun whilst at the same time like being both interesting and informative. I would like to thank Lt Richard Graham for organising such a varied programme for us and 2Lt David Juxon for being such a superb host.

## Training NRA officers in Uganda

**Capt S D Etherington writes:**

IN April 1990 a signal from DMAO arrived in the Battalion requesting a JDSC trained captain volunteer to fill an instructor's post in Uganda later that year in the Short Term Training Team (STTT). The signal was passed to me by the CO and I put my name down for the post.

At that time my knowledge of Uganda consisted of knowing where the country was geographically, of the Israeli raid on Entebbe in 1976 and of Idi Amin. Further research revealed that no British Army expeditions/adventure training took place in the country, and that normality was only just returning after many years of troubles since independence in 1962.

Uganda is approximately the size of the UK. It has no sea coast but a stretch of shoreline of Lake Victoria is within its borders. It is bounded by Kenya in the east, Tanzania and Rwanda in the south, Zaire in the west and Sudan in the north. The equator crosses the country about 40 miles to the south of Kampala.

### Deployment

HAVING secured the job, work began to put the course together. This took place at the end of July and into August at JDSC Warminster. The team was to consist of a chief instructor, Maj Jim Tanner Staffords, three captain DS and a WO2 chief clerk. The remit of the course was to teach the British junior command and staff course to selected officers of the National Resistance Army (NRA).

Although there had been two previous STTTs, the material which had been left was in need of a major overhaul. Everything which would be required had to be taken out there. This included all stationery, all the JDSC precis, paper, video recorders, OHPs and other sundry items (11 large MFO boxes in total). At the end of

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# Feature Focus

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two weeks the freight was packed and we departed on pre-embarkation leave.

The team re-assembled on 14 Sept at Heathrow to catch a Sabena flight to Entebbe. The flight was delayed, but the airline assured us that the second leg of the flight from Brussels to Entebbe would be held until we arrived. This of course was not the case!

We finally arrived in Entebbe on 18 Sept and were met by an NRA liaison officer, our driver for the next four months – Sgt Godfrey Mubira, and a British High Commission 110 VB Land Rover.

From the airport we were driven to Jinja, about 80 miles away, passing the old airport which was the scene of the Israeli raid. Jinja would be our home for the next four months. Our first two nights were spent in a hotel as our 'house', the 'Nile View' was not yet fully completed.

When we were taken there we were amazed. Jinja used to be the industrial and business area of the country and clearly was once beautiful; lying on the shores of Lake Victoria and beside the source of the river Nile, the location is idyllic.

Our house had been renovated to something approaching its former glory; it was a beautiful 15-bedroomed house with a flat roof overlooking the Nile, and came complete with six servants – for five of us!

Having sorted out our living quarters, we went to see our working accommodation. Titled Colonel Qadhafi Barracks (formerly belonging to the Kings African Rifles), the buildings were on top of a large hill overlooking Jinja and the Nile. The barracks can best be described as dilapidated but functional. We established ourselves in the JDSC block and set about preparing for the course.

The course was to consist of 50 students divided into three syndicates, which is a high student/DS ratio. Instruction was to follow the British JDSC model, although less emphasis was placed on detailed knowledge of organisations. Having allocated students to syndicates, prepared the book packs and the first week's lectures, we awaited the start of the course on 24 Sept.

## The course

THE first thing of note to happen was that the chief instructor received a signal returning him to his unit to take over the duties of second in command for the Gulf. MOD successfully found (at three days' notice) a



The author with his term two syndicate.

replacement, Maj Bryan Cooke RE, who arrived on the Wednesday.

I shall not wax lyrical about the course. Suffice it to say that teaching JCSC was hard work, and a challenge to not only one's patience but also to one's powers of expression and improvisation. It is easy to think of the plush facilities at Warminster with purpose-built lecture halls and syndicate rooms; in Qadhafi Barracks there were barely enough chairs to go round and often the video, OHPs and photocopier were run on our own petrol generator because of regular power cuts.

Despite a number of students leaving the course to take part in the unofficial invasion of Rwanda by a minority element of the NRA, syndicate numbers stabilised at about 14-15.

As at Warminster, two terms of five weeks' duration were taught, syndicates changing at half-term. The break was marked by a long weekend which allowed the students to visit their families, and the team to explore the northern parts of the country, in particular Murcheson Falls on the Nile.

Evenings were spent marking scripts, preparing lessons and rehearsing presentations. Although this meant that work could continue into the early hours, it did allow for free weekends, the majority of which

were spent in Kampala with the defence advisor and his family. This provided an excellent break from the course and much sailing and fishing was had on Lake Victoria – I even learnt to water-ski!

The last weeks of the course were hectic, with the added burden of reports to be written. Nevertheless, all was completed and the course finished with an impressive lunch and an address by the Army chief of staff.

Whatever frustrations one may at times have had, one could not help but admire the determination and positive attitude with which the students approached the course; this aspect alone made it all worthwhile.

## Post-course leave

With the administration complete and the Nile View reluctantly handed over, the team bade its farewells and split up. I must thank my CO, Lt Col Julian Lacey, for some post-course. With it I was able to see more of Uganda, especially the old safari lodges.

## Conclusion

THIS was my first taste of loan service; I hope it is not my last. Most articles in this magazine end by recommending such service, and I will not differ. To anyone in a rank eligible for loan service, and who has the opportunity, I say take it!

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## Feature Focus

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# Surviving escape and interrogation

### Lt Robert Blades writes:

AFTER three weeks in the 1st Battalion I was put forward to do an escape, evasion and resistance to interrogation course in Germany.

There then followed a journey by car, plane, train and minibus before arriving at the NATO long range reconnaissance patrols school in Wilderstein.

My fellow course members were a lieutenant from Norway, two Belgium paras, a Turkish sergeant and several Americans from various units. I discovered that amongst the 30 on the course there were four other British personnel: two para corporals, a corporal from the Queen's Regiment and a pilot from the RAF.

Knowledge about and preparation for the course varied immensely. The Belgians arrived with a car-load of ready homemade kit, whilst the Turkish sergeant had been expecting to do a totally different course.

The next morning we were up at 5 o'clock and away to a local pool for the swimming test. Following this came breakfast, then a series of short lectures on what we would be doing in the next fortnight, the subjects we would be taught and the standards expected. Following lunch came the running test, four miles with 45lbs. Two miles as a squad, two miles individual best. We then went into our first section of lessons; navigation by the sun and stars, identification of north without the aid of a compass, route selection and how to make a compass and map.

### Basic survival

The next two days were spent attending lectures and practical demonstrations on various skills and techniques. This included the erection of a shelter, the procurement and storage of water, tracking, identification of edible plants and fungi and basic survival first aid.

The evenings were spent making home-made equipment which included sleeping bag, bergen, trousers, jackets, hat, gloves, a cooking vessel of sorts and an improvised weapon. The materials for these were scavenged from the local town.

The last two days of the first week were spent out in the field in a static survival

location. Here we were able to put our newly learnt combat survival skills in to use to see how we coped.

A practical on the capture and butchering of small animals sticks in my mind. I had shot rabbits before, but when you have to hold a live one down while it squeals and batter it across the head with a club things become a little more personal. Various methods of cooking were shown to us, boiling being the preferred since this method retains most of the goodness.

Monday morning was spent on the use of dogs to capture people on the run and how to avoid detection by them. There was a practical demonstration on the use of dogs. For some reason it was only the officers on the course who were used in this demo. The final afternoon was taken up with a three-hour lecture on resistance to interrogation.

### Formidable force

Finally, we received our exercise brief. We would "escape and evade" in pairs. Our task was to reach a number of RVs at certain times during the next five days. The hunter force was a detachment of RAF Regiment, roughly 100-men strong. They had dogs, Land Rovers and a helicopter at their disposal. They were to prove a formidable force.

As darkness fell we were loaded into a truck with all our kit, driven to a large derelict house and strip searched.

At this stage we were put into our pairs. My partner for the escape was the Turkish sergeant. He understood more English than he spoke so in the next five days we got along by me putting the options to him and he would then answer "yes" or "no". We were then driven off into the night and dumped out in the middle of nowhere.

Our first 24 hours went well. We made good time during the night and laid up near the first RV until the given time. Our progress during the second night did not go too well. Our home-made compasses differed by a good 90 degrees as to the route we should take. We wasted valuable time and energy walking some 10 km more than we needed. Come daylight we were still well short of our next RV, so we had to

move during daylight. Luckily none of the enemy appeared to be in the area.

By our third night out we tired and hungry. We had managed to find some apples in an old orchard which had not quite rotted away and had also made a "stew" out of some swede type roots that we had dug up. This third night was our worst; we were caught by the enemy forces just after midnight, stripped naked and made to lie in the snow for an hour face down.

Then we were thrown into the back of a Land Rover, driven 5 km back along our route and bundled out onto the roadside again, to begin retracing our steps.

The end of the escape and evasion phase came at the end of day five. Everyone was directed to be in a certain wood at a given time and all were captured. From here we went into the resistance to interrogation phase. This went on for 24 hours.

We were blindfolded and lead into a large cold room. We were put into various different "stress" positions and subjected to white noise above which nothing would be heard. From time to time one was dragged away and sat in a small bright room. Here you were faced with various interrogators.

This 24 hours was the longest of my life. Sometimes it would seem hours between my "interviews" whilst other times it only seemed I'd been back five minutes before I was dragged off again.

### Mental limits

Mentally I tried to keep busy, keeping alert, planning my life ahead, what to do next leave, how to spend next month's pay cheque, which young lady to invite to the next ladies night.

The end of the exercise was a great relief.

Looking back at the course it taught me a great deal about myself. The limits, mentally and physically, to which I had been pushed I do not think I had ever reached before, especially during the interrogation. I had kept a fairly good track of time, but towards the end had definitely begun to hallucinate. Overall this was an experience which I am glad I went through and one that I would recommend to anyone, but not one I would repeat in a hurry!

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## Feature Focus

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# Weapons and wilderness in Australia

### Maj Peter Ferrary writes:

IN Oct 88 I was lucky to be posted as an Exchange Officer to Canberra in a Weapons Techint job in the Australian Defence Intelligence Organisation (DIO). Weapons technology is constantly progressing and a rapid amount of relearning was required on arrival in Oz. This task was made all the more difficult by the vast range of weapon systems originating in many different countries (western, eastern pact (that was!) and regional) which proliferate in the region and which our small team was required to study.

Australia in 1988 had recently undergone an important defence review which refocused its defence efforts towards a home regional defence posture. This overcame the problem that had plagued the Australian Defence Forces since their withdrawal from Vietnam, of identifying a suitable role.

New emphasis was given to defending the maritime gap to Australia's north and it was thought unlikely that the country would ever again involve itself in a large scale conflict overseas. This tends to make the Army a poor relation compared to the RAN or RAAF and reports of new MBT developments in regional countries arouse little excitement in Canberra!

Nevertheless Australia's penchant for involving herself in various UN operations worldwide kept our small Army Techint Section busy and interest climaxed during the Gulf War as many equipments of interest to us existed in the Iraqi inventory.

My job at DIO was largely deskbound and I was disappointed on arrival to find we had little contacts with agencies outside Canberra. I quickly made it my business to visit and establish contacts with a number of arms schools / training centres and R&D establishments, which later proved very useful.

These visits to Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Puckapunyal were all done by car which enabled me to see some of the country. Ironically, my only major official trip was as part of a two-man Australian delegation to the annual Land Warfare Techint Conference – in London in May 90.

On the domestic front, the whole family thoroughly loved their time in Australia. We enjoyed the country with its huge expanses of wilderness (which the



'The Pommie side of Oz': Peter and Mary Clare Ferrary with fellow exchange officer Maj Nick Borwell DWR and fiancée.

Australians themselves are only beginning to discover and appreciate) and we enjoyed the relaxed and informal lifestyle. Though our daughters were at boarding school in the UK where they were happily settled they took to the international commuting very well. They loved their hols in Oz.

Though we were unable to cover all of Australia – it is a huge country the size of Europe and internal air travel is expensive – we managed trips to the "Red Centre", Alice Springs and Ayers Rock and twice to the tropics of Far North Queensland (where the topography is similar to Belize, Barrier Reef, rainforest and cool tablelands.

On our first trip there we stayed at an Army leave centre where by a happy coincidence we met Mark and Penny Wenham and celebrated Minden Day in very pleasant tropical surrounds. We liked north Queensland so much we returned in our second year, this time courtesy of the RAAF including a last leg to Cairns by Caribou Aircraft!

Canberra itself is a beautiful city, clean and carefully laid out with huge expanses of

lakes and nature parks.

The "wilderness" can be found literally within minutes from the city. In our last six months, having been extended in Oz and at the same time having had the lease on our house terminated, we were extremely lucky to find a small property just outside Canberra to look after for the owners visiting the UK.

This proved a high point of our tour and we thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to play at being "bushies". Though the house itself was modest the swimming pool, tennis court and the 70 acres of "bush" that surrounded the house more than compensated. No wonder that, even now, several months after leaving Australia, we are suffering severe withdrawal symptoms in our MQ in Andover.

There are some 90 tri-service exchange jobs in Oz. Of these about a third are Army and there must be at least five to six jobs, excluding staff colleges, which are "open" to Infantry officers. If ever the opportunity presents itself for a tour in Australia then my advice is to jump at it.



# Steelbacks



## Mastering the 5.56 Rifle

FROM an author who is about to leave a battalion he has grown up in, writing Castle notes at this time, with the perceived sword of Damocles hanging over the head of the Territorial Army, one might be forgiven for being a touch melancholy.

Not a bit of it! The TA, as a whole, does have a future and the 5th Battalion has served its purpose well; some will say better than most. In addition, notwithstanding relatively minor changes in the long-term, the challenge of the future remains and we can serve still.

Since the last notes, the Battalion has been gently busy. In July we took our muskets to the Lydd and Hythe for a tremendous live firing package organised by Maj John Ross, our training major. The weekend was very successful. Most had never fired the south coast ranges before, and certainly not the particular configuration chosen. For many it was an eye opener, and for all a farewell to the SLR.

On return to TAC, QPSIs were busy ensuring that weapons were properly cleaned before handing in. SA80, sorry, the rifle 5.56 mm, had arrived! This represented something of a fillip to the Steelbacks, though a headache for the trainer. A rewrite of the camp programme was urgently needed to accommodate conversion to the new weapon, and with block leave just around the corner.

Sennybridge at any time of year can be daunting. Sennybridge in mid to late September could just see the turn of the weather for the autumn season. Maybe the Padre's presence helped – maybe not.

We were extremely fortunate in that it only rained; no let's be honest – it poured, for perhaps 10 hours on the final exercise. Just sufficient some might say to satisfy that masochistic need to suffer. But this is galloping ahead. We have not covered week one yet.

A conscious decision to conserve the MTD budget during the first half of the financial year determined that camp would



SPSI Davies with two young Steelbacks during the CQB pairs.

be slightly shorter than usual. Rather than move on a Saturday, companies found their way along the A40 on Sunday 8 Sept. That evening the usual settling-in process took place, and by Monday the Battalion was up and running.

The new week one programme required each company and department to undertake conversion to 5.56 mm training, an APWT and subsequently field firing on IBSR. CQM (pairs) and section attack ranges. What a difference the SUSAT makes, and what confidence the Battalion rapidly began to exhibit! Even the author, not noted for his shooting skills, knocked them down at 300. Everything we had heard was true, and a revitalised interest in that most important infantry skill was happily evident. In addition, Rifle companies were introduced to the (new?) 51 mm Platoon Mortar.

Talking of Mortars, three support platoons attended camp this year. (More of the fourth later.) In addition to conversion the

Mortar Platoon, under command of the new Mortar Officer, Lt Mark Baker, took itself off to carry out live firing and other exercises. Never a demonstrative organisation, it quietly and efficiently got on with its business.

Having been one of few platoons to fire all its heat ammunition during the Milan Concentration at Otterburn in mid-summer, Lt Adrian Williams and his men from Hemel Hempstead embarked on dry 'specialist training'. At least that is what he told battalion HQ!

The highlight of the Milan Platoon camp was the BHE. Locations were reced, the platoon put in place and the Milan officer proudly walked the ground with his commanding officer, describing the tableau about to be portrayed. A shame the men and the Platoon Commander were in different locations. There but for the grace ....

Lt John Allcock and the Machine Gun

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## News from the Steelbacks

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Above: CSgt Salter feeds the hungry officers and SNCOs of 2 Coy. Below left: Members of HW/HQ Coy seen firing on the range during the LSW phase at annual camp. Below right: The CO flanked by the MTO and MTWO.



# News from the Steelbacks

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Platoon carried out normal SF training and LLAD. Much to the chagrin of the MATS team, seven targets were shot out of the sky. The platoon has another trophy for the bar, and (at the time of writing) Match 83 to look forward to.

The Battalion ran a recruit cadre at Sennybridge. Although we have recruited female soldiers for some months, this was the first long-term experience of a mixed battalion. All recruits took to the programme with alacrity.

The first week was also visitors' week. On Tuesday the Battalion was visited by GOC Eastern District, Maj Gen Andy Evans who lunched with the officers in camp. On Tuesday evening, Brig Johnny Walker, Cmd 49 (Inf) Bde, dined in the officers' mess, to which even the warrant officers were also invited.

Next day the commander visited the Battalion on range packages, taking a picnic lunch en-route. On Wednesday evening, the commanding officer and the second-in-command dined with Colonels Pat Hopper and Paul Raywood, Secretary (and Dep Hon Col Essex) and chairman of TAVRA East Anglia respectively.

On Thursday, they joined Col Nick Kelsey, Deputy Commander 49 (Inf) Bde and Dep Hon Col Herts, for their visit to the Battalion.

That night the officers held a Regimental dinner.

In Germany last year, the warrant officers and sergeants were invited to the officers' mess. With a nonchalance borne of prescience, in that the officers knew they would lose, that invitation was reciprocated by the officers being challenged to a games night. Mind you, the officers gave the sergeants a run for their money. After a jolly good curry and a few more drinks, the bridge and the engine-room of the Battalion finished week one.

The middle Saturday was officially 'off'. Most of the Battalion invaded Swansea, others took themselves elsewhere to reflect on the first week, whilst some prepared for the second. Sergeant Neil Oram even had a visit from his wife. Lindsay and children who were in transit to visit relatives elsewhere in Wales.

The range packages were completed on the middle Sunday, and were followed by a short field service conducted by the Padre, the Rev Simon Godfrey. After that began the preparation in earnest for the FTX. As



Sgt Turner Mor PSI receives his LSGC from the GOC Eastern District.

troops packed bergans with 24-hour packs and generally prepared for three-and-a-half days on the training area, so the clouds thickened. We had been lucky thus far. Would it last?

Needless to say, it did not. The rain lashed down overnight on friendly and enemy forces deployed to drop-off points to RV at hide locations. Bedraggled but reasonably happy the next morning, the red and blue forces took toll of each other, patrolling the perimeter of the impact area towards respective objectives.

On Tuesday night, blue forces undertook a live firing night ambush, supported by the Machine Gun and Mortar Platoons. Not only was this part of the exercise spectacular, but it was also successful. The Mortar Platoon did particularly well, firing illumi-

nants cold, with no ability to adjust, prior to the event

The exercise finished early on a chilly Thursday morning. With dawn breaking over Dixies Corner, unexpended ammunition was handed in and the Battalion marshalled for its move back into camp and a good fresh breakfast

The pace did not slow after that meal. The A & Q behind moving the Battalion back to IAC's next day took on a life of its own. The flurry of activity was only interspersed by lunch and a short Battalion Parade post. The CO made the following presentations on parade:—

The CO's Certificate - CSgt Slater, 2 Coy; Best Recruit at Camp - Pte Worsell, 3 Coy; Most Improved Recruit at Camp -

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# News from the Steelbacks



GOC Eastern District talks to QMs Maj Chris Kett and Roger Eden.

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WPlte Garfield, 4 Coy. This was followed by presentation of plaques and Marksman Badges to our two German guests, Maj Max Ahrens and Capt Michael Schwalbe. That was the last collective event of the Steelbacks. All that followed simply took account of an unexceptional move back.

With little respite, the next week saw the commanding officer, the second-in-command and the adjutant moving to Germany as part of the 49 (Inf) Bde BBGT (N) Recce Team. That must have been the very last trip that 5 R Anglian will ever make to BAOR.

After four days, sitting 3 Rifle Companies, finding that we will have the dubious pleasure of being co-located with Bde HQ for the exercise at the end of October, a trip down the River Weser on a M2 bridging rig, collecting duty free and being the victim of a delayed flight, the team returned to pick up the reins of normal life.

For a civilian, and having spent three weeks away with the Army, that can be a challenge.

But it doesn't stop. The officers' mess hosted a cocktail party, which was very much a parochial affair. All former commanding officers were invited. Unfortunately only Lt Col Harold Moore,

the Battalion's first commanding officer, and Lt Col Tony Swallow, who commanded the Battalion in its mid-life, could attend.

However, they and other 'old and bold' invited, witnessed the Band and Drums Beating Retreat.

On 8 Oct. Maj Chris Vince, OC 1 (Essex) Coy, his Coy HQ, 3 Platoon, 6 Platoon with some members of the Signals Platoon and the Recce Platoon, formed 1 Coy GP to take part in Ex Lion Star, a 10-day package in Cyprus.

A separate article will appear in the summer edition of Castle.

## Personnel changes

THIS year sees a number of changes in the Battalion. Maj Charles Thomas TD is succeeded in the appointment of second-in-command by Maj Nigel ffitch, erstwhile OC 2 (Northamptonshire) Coy. His slot is taken up by Maj Tom Dormer, at the time of writing in the vanguard of a valiant rearguard battle to save the loss of (TA) Infantrymen from Northamptonshire.

Also leaving is Maj Peter Horrell TD. Majors Thomas and Horrell will continue to serve, though neither are sure where yet. Maj Grant Peakall TD handed over 4 (Hertfordshire) Coy to Maj Geoffrey Walton TD during camp.

Maj Chris Vince moves to an appointment as SO2 (V) at the School of Infantry

on 1 January 1992. We welcome Lt Philip Vaughan, formerly of 1 Kings Own Border, who will command the Machine Gun Platoon, vice Lt John Allcock.

Recently commissioned are 2Lts Michael Pape and Clive Trott. On the permanent staff our previous Adjutant, Capt David Harding, has just left for the Depot Queen's Division (HS) and we wish him well in the future.

In his stead we welcome Capt Marionos from the 3rd Battalion. With options for the TA around the corner, he will barely find time to settle into the job.

## Valedictory

THE Battalion faces changes under Options for Change in the future. It has always attempted everything that has been asked of it with as much professionalism as it could muster, considerable at times, and certainly always with that awful but true cliché of the TA, "enthusiasm".

It has achieved much, and in whatever shape it is in the future, it will continue to achieve. It does its job and it does it well.

## No. 2 (Northamptonshire) Coy

THE highlight of the period was annual camp at Sennybridge. Because we have a large (30-strong) platoon going to Cyprus on Lion Star III next month (October 1991) our numbers in Wales were inevitably low.

Most of the training was dedicated to conversion to the new rifle, which was enthusiastically received by young and old alike, including some old soldiers who had been brought up on the 303 No. 4 rifle.

During the day's R & R in Wales, some of the company went hill walking, while others spent the day in the local Brecon area.

A company smoker was held in a local pub at the end of camp.

This was the third and last camp under the command of Maj Nigel ffitch and he ended it by gallantly commanding the enemy force, assisted by two reserve army officers from Germany, Maj Max Ahrens and Capt Michael Schwalbe.

Maj Tom Dormer from Rushden, ex Mortar Platoon Commander, assumed command of the Coy in October 1991.

A successful farewell dinner for Maj and Mrs ffitch was held at Wellingborough on 27 Sept 1991.

In August the Coy travelled to Snowdonia for an adventurous training

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# News from the Steelbacks

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weekend planned and led by Maj Nigel Ffitch and Sgt Richard Moore. Despite the rather damp conditions, the weekend was much enjoyed.

A very successful family sports day and barbecue was held on Sunday 25 Aug. Six-a-side football, tug-of-war and family races, together with an inter-platoon raft race on the river Nene, were the highlights of the day. Over 100 people attended.

Sgt Douglas Anderson of 6 Platoon (Corby) has been preparing for his Senior Brecon Course in October 1991 - his track-suit has been much in evidence!

CSgt Kelly and the composite platoon for Cyprus (Ex Lion Star III) completed a successful pre-exercise training weekend at Stanford PTA on the last weekend of September.

Two of our three female recruits passed their WRAC basic training course at Guildford during the month.

We welcome Pte Tracey Langdale on transfer from 6 R Anglian who is to fill the post of Company Clerk.

## No. 4 (Northamptonshire) Coy

SINCE the cold start to the year things have hotted up for 4 Coy. A combined total of 28 years of undetected crime, apart from a letter from the Thames River Authority about spending, was rewarded for 2 and 4 Coys officers. Capt David Marsden and the now Maj Geoffrey Walton received the TD from Col Panton.

Pte Dear passed out as best recruit on his cadre and enjoyed it so much he immediately went off to Sennybridge and Cyprus.

The training for the last six months concentrated on basic tactics, with some interesting lessons on night navigation being learnt by Cpl Grey and others. The July FTX was a time of farewell to the SLR and GPMG for us. The dawn attack was more difficult than recce reported it would be as reinforcements, from other units, arrived giving more depth to the position.

The arrival of the rifle L85A1 has been welcomed by those who have mastered the vagaries of the sling. The conversion cadre run for the commanders before camp was a particular success with the Cpl Woods range flags being the best produced by any of the instructors.

Camp in Sennybridge was experienced by all, and enjoyed by some, particularly those who returned from Cardiff by taxi



SPSI WO2 Watson at Sennybridge shows Lt Maria Hope how to improve her shooting with the new rifle.

after their R & R. The first week concentrated on converting the troops to the new rifle with a comprehensive progressive range package which culminated in a live firing night ambush. The instruction given by Sgt Butler, Cpls Tippet and Russell, and LCpls Colbey and Stiles was of an extremely high standard and highly effective. Cpl Russell, on attachment from the Royal Australian Defence Force, proved particularly good at silencing sentries but did he have to weight the body down on the bottom of the river?

After the first week of camp the Coy Commander, Maj Grant Peakall, handed over the reigns to Maj Geoffrey Walton and retired gracefully. He is now rumoured to spend his time poring over coin catalogues, when not on sales conferences in the Mediterranean, rather than Pamphlet 21 and MTD budgets; such is the stress of life outside the TA. The new OC is joined by Lt

Sue Smith as 2IC. Sgt Montague is a welcome return to the fold after a three-year spell with the DSTT.

## No. 6 Coy HSF Adventurous Training

ELEVEN of our HSF soldiers got together with 13 civil servants from the DSS for a weekend team-building and adventurous training at Rothbury in Northumberland (near Otterburn). This was a practical MACA exercise, over the weekend 6-8 July 1991.

In teams of eight the group tackled a series of outdoor activities which included navigation, Burma Bridge river crossing, abseiling, building a bridge, wheel change on a Land Rover (without a jack) etc. The idea was to stimulate individual skills, both physical and mental, and to use these in a team context - the key element was team building without which the tasks would not

# News from the Steelbacks

From Page 46

have been completed.

On the third day (Sunday) a competitive element was included with orienteering and problem solving. If you solved the problem first you got a lift to the next task, if you were second you used mountain bikes, if you were third - you walked. This led on to a raft building task to cross the Fontburn reservoir in Harewood Forest.

The HSF members were from Hertford,

Vange and Colchester. The DSS people came from offices in Newcastle, Blackpool and London. Tasks were set in a way to draw on skills at all levels and included every member having a go at leading the group.

Mixing the two groups - we are not sure at this stage if the HSF lads will be clamouring to join the civil service and how many civil servants are already enlisting in the TA!

## Lt Tuvey in TA winning golf team

TED Tuvey, who commands 6 Coy's HSF Platoon at Vange (near Basildon), was part of the TA team of 12 which played against the Regular Army at Tidworth Garrison on Sunday 1 Sept. The TA won with Ted winning both of his matches.

Ted had previously won the Regimental Poacher cup some two years ago.

## Three weeks on a staff course in France

Capt Frank de Planta writes:

**THE** French Staff College holds its annual course for reserve officers in August. As Parisiens made a rush for the coast, I and 120 French students descended on an empty city. Fortunately I had lived in Paris in the mid-70's when my father had attended the regular staff course, so I was not entirely new to the French Army's Mecca in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower.

For the first time the British had been invited to send an officer and I was the guinea pig.

The French approached the course in their usual relaxed manner. Their excellent field lunches and drinks parties were living proof that it is possible to enjoy oneself and still be extremely competent.

Only the French could plan a helicopter reconnaissance around the need to have students in the right place for easy access to an excellent restaurant. If it means putting the landing pad within spitting distance of the food, then so be it.

Only the French could plan a scenario to be fought over their best champagne country. The reconnaissance naturally had to include the viability of champagne cellars as Command Posts.

My instructor was the embodiment of all that I had thought French officers



Capt Frank de Planta and his French counterpart in class.

to be like from reading about Algeria and Indochina. Tall, tanned and very fit, Col Forceville was as sharp as a razor but at the same time extremely casual in his approach to problems. He insisted on working me hard so there was little time to stare out of the window at the Champs de Mars and wonder at my good fortune.

I was appointed Head of Intelligence for the Division during the final CPX, so I was grateful that I had struggled to stay awake during JDSC 'Threat' lectures. I think that they went away with the impression that I knew something about the Soviets.

Conscious that three weeks was a long time to wear uniform, the staff insisted on the students taking a four-day break. I took the opportunity to hire a car and spent three days wandering round the ghoulis battlefields on the Somme. I followed the route of the Norfolk and Suffolk Battalions that

formed part of the successful 18th (Eastern) Division and visited the more remote graves that remain beautifully kept, even after 75 years.

I studied the terrain over which both armies fought and wondered at the bravery of the troops. The ground favoured the defender and it was easy to see why the British suffered such enormous casualties for so little gain.

How the troops still pushed on in the sure knowledge that the ground would afford them no cover whatsoever from the multitude of interlocking and overlapping German machine guns, defies belief. *Stabilis* and all that.

As I reflect on my short time in the TA, I cannot help but note the superb advantage in that you can pick and choose the parts that bring out the best of military life. The moral of the tale is to learn another language, stay by the telex machine and extend your shirt cuffs.



# 6th Battalion



WO2 Smart briefs LCpl Fuller and Pte Smith, both of A Coy, during live firing at Otterburn.

## Uncertainty at time of change

SINCE Castle last appeared events in the Battalion have been dominated by three themes. We wait with anticipation the announcement on TA Options and as expected there is much speculation on how this will affect the Battalion.

We have also enjoyed our major training event of the year with over 340 soldiers attending annual camp in Otterburn for a package of live firing and adventure training.

Finally the introduction of NVS and MTD restrictions have to a certain extent curtailed our activities, but enabled us to plan better and budget for our 'slice of the cake'.

The first effects of Options for Changes were felt when, as the result of the Regiment losing one regular battalion, the regular permanent staff started studying the terms of redundancy. Meanwhile certain changes affecting the TA have been

announced and we know that we will certainly lose one rifle company but the cuts could be even deeper.

A questionmark also hangs over the Home Services Force. Having been involved in the pilot scheme, and with our two HSF companies fully recruited to establishment strength, it will be a great pity if we now lose them. They have integrated fully into the Battalion and their enthusiasm for training is an inspiration to the rest of the TA.

One of the early training highlights was Ex Executive Stretch. The exercise sponsored by TAVRA had been cancelled and resurrected on more than one occasion. It was a fast ball that hit the training major's desk when the exercise was finally confirmed. For the uninitiated Executive Stretch is a high profile TAVRA exercise designed to enhance the image of the TA with local businessmen. Fifty-five hopefuls

turned up at West Tofts Camp on the evening of 15 June. All (with the exception of Mrs Barnes who was pressed into filling a last minute empty slot) were, as the name suggests, young executives who had either volunteered or been volunteered to enjoy a weekend of mental and physical stretch.

The scenario of the exercise required groups of eight students to complete a series of stands to gain information and equipment in order to discover the formula of a secret nerve gas of a foreign power.

Stands included damaged vehicle recovery, abseiling into a quarry, command tasks and a helicopter recce of their night objective. Despite the inclement weather all remained cheerful and conducted successful reces.

On Sunday morning the exercise was visited by the executives' bosses. They arrived to see their fledglings on the

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## News from the 6th Battalion



Above: HQ Coy recruits at annual camp, Otterburn. Rear: WPte Poole, Pte Head, Pte Jakes, Pte Penfold. Front, l. to r: Pte Fountain, Pte Dowling, Pte Moore, Pte Sparu (champion recruit). Right and Below: A Coy members preparing for Platoon attack, Otterburn.



## News from the 6th Battalion



Above: Young executives at the vehicle recovery stand on Ex Executive Stretch.  
Below: The Commanding Officer, Lt Col A D Chissel TD, and Capt Stan Contradez of the USAF Security Police Lakenheath, exchanging plaques at Bury TA Centre.

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STANTA confidence course. After a wash-up and change into dry clothes a curry lunch was enjoyed by all as they watched the video of their efforts. After lunch the training major presented certificates to all participants including his wife. They are now back on speaking terms!

The two training themes for the year have been 'Back to Basics' and FIBUA. In the first instance we have concentrated on battle procedure and patrolling skills and then incorporated the lessons learned into a FIBUA training package. This package staffed with basic FIBUA drills and BEs at Copehill Down on Salisbury Plain in June and was reinforced by a commander's TEWT at STANTA in early October.

The training culminated in a FIBUA FTX for A and D Coys at STANTA and B and C Coys at Longmoor over the weekend 25-27 Oct. This training coupled with the extensive field firing package at camp stands the Battalion in good stead for 1992 and all that it has to offer.

Budgetary concern has never been far from the minds of those organising the training programme, and in an attempt to save at least a few pounds, annual camp was

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## News from the 6th Battalion

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Above: Three members of HQ Coy winning team in the National Small Bore Rifle Association team competition 1991 — Sgt MacLoughlin, Sgt Sinclair and WPte Gallagher. Right: CSgt Stollery and Cpl Taylor on the CQB. annual camp, Otterburn.

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reduced to a 13-day stint at Otterburn. The package of live firing and adventure training proved very popular and this, coupled with reasonable weather, ensured a very successful camp.

A last minute juggling of the programme even allowed the Gaza Cup inter-coy competition to be run. Inspired no doubt by the presence of their newly appointed Deputy Honorary Colonel (Col Winton), the event was won by B Coy much to the dismay of Maj McArdle whose C Coy had been the winners for the previous six years.

As in previous years we hosted two German reservists, and we were particularly pleased to have with us this year four members of the Metropolitan Police from Dagenham and Barking who joined us for

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# News from the 6th Battalion



Above: The training major plans Ex Executive Stretch . . . for Mrs Barnes to participate!

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four days. All made major contributions to the officers' mess bar profits as well as participating in some training.

With EDSAAM and Bisley cancelled this year, there was little opportunity for the Battalion to prove itself at shooting until the RFA Ordnance International Skill at Arms Meeting at Pirbright on 31 Aug - 1 Sept 91. Teams from eight nations took part in the competition and battalion personnel took 1st place in five of the nine shoots, with 2nd place in two others. The most successful individual was Cpl Rolph of A Coy and he was duly selected to represent the TA against the National Guard in America in October.

At the Eastern District driving competition held at Colchester on 20/21 Jul 91, the Battalion team of Sgt Hughson, Sgt Donaldson, Cpl Moon, Cpl Green, LCpl Newlands and Pte Keating, gained a creditable third place, at the same time qualifying for the UKLF championships.

LCpl Newlands won the award of best

heavy goods vehicle driver.

The introduction of NVS with 54 Bde piloting much of the work on Opeval, has as expected had an effect on events within the Battalion. Remaining within one's set budget, but at the same time ensuring that no unnecessary cuts are made, has created additional work for both trainers and administrators.

Cutting out paid training on one evening of each month was the first step in MTD savings, followed by a reduction in the number of Friday night starts. If the training major and AO have got their sums right, we should be able to see the rest of the training year out without further changes to the programme.

Recruiting continues to go well and the Battalion is still over strength. However we cannot afford to sit in our laurels and Bn RRTT teams are kept hard at it! We have said goodbye to 2Lt Stephanie Lack WRAC who has joined the 1st Battalion on a SSSVC.

The same week WO1 Powley handed over to WO1 Eke as the RSM. Maj Lopes has handed over our B (Bedfordshire) Coy

to Capt Andy Stewardson and Maj Peter Akister has handed over A (Norfolk) Coy to Capt Robert Keron. We also welcome CSgt Conopo from the 3rd Battalion and wish CSgt Bines well on his return to Londonderry.

The Adjutant, having convinced the CO that his presence would not be missed over an eight-week period duly departed at the beginning of September on the Royal Anglian Expedition to South Georgia. The weekly bulletin assures us that all is going well and that with a bit of luck he should be back with us by 18 Nov. By that time his tray should contain sufficient work to tide him over until he leaves the Battalion in a year's time!

For some months the Battalion has been forging links with the USAF Security Police at Lakenheath.

They have attended many of our training events including annual camp, and in a heart stopping final threatened to win the Battalion falling plate competition. The good relations between our two units were

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# News from the 6th Battalion



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recognised by an exchange of plaques at Bn HQ on 5 Aug.

Notwithstanding Options for Change, the future for the Battalion looks exciting. In December we will be concentrating on qualifying as many soldiers as we can for Bounty as well as enjoying the festive season.

The New Year, however, offers the greatest challenge – SA80 conversion.

On current plans we expect delivery in January 1992 and by the end of March hope to have the whole Battalion converted and APWT complete. We can then forge ahead into 1993 – provided we are still on the TA ORBAT. Watch this space for further announcements.

## Patrol medalists

THE Battalion Cambrian Patrol Team comprising Lt St John, Cpl Hill and Ptes Pagnillo, Reilly, Henderson, Coull, Ranson, Buck and James, all of C Coy, has just gained a bronze award in the competition held on 26/27 Oct 91.

Eastern District driving competition July 1991. LCpl Newlands, Pte Keating, Sgt Donaldson, Sgt Hughson, Cpl Green and WRAC LCpl Moon. Below: Running repairs: The medics team tends to LCpl Starie of HQ Coy on a training weekend.







# Tigers



## Campaign to save our Battalion

EVEN as I write I can hear the noise the winch makes as it slowly lifts the large sword of Damocles into place above our heads. There can be few now who do not know that the writing is firmly on the wall for the 7th Battalion.

Having had the opportunity to digest the changes to the Regular Army structure and the proposed changes to the Territorial, one can be forgiven for thinking the whole thing is an exercise in cynicism. It appears that someone has identified the most successful and best recruited battalions, both TA and Regular, and marked them as victims on the basis that more money is saved by disbanding a strong battalion rather than a weak one.

However, we have learnt from our Regular counter parts that obedience and loyalty are not well-rewarded so are mounting as large a local campaign to 'Save our Tigers' as we possibly can with a lot of high priced and well heeled support. Watch this space!

One of the most notable highlights of the year came on 12 May when the Battalion held a parade to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Battalion and to adopt the nickname of The Tigers.

In glorious weather and in front of a crowd of civic and military dignitaries, and many old comrades, two guards and a colour party paraded at Ulverscroft Road in Leicester. The Colonel of the Regiment, Gen Sir John Akehurst, took the salute with the Lord Mayor of Leicester beside him on the dais.

Also present were the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, the Mayors and Mayoresses of Hinckley and Bosworth and Charnwood, Maj Gen Patrick Stone and Brig Johnny Walker (Commander 49 Infantry Brigade), to name but a few.

After the parade lunch parties were held in all messes – particularly the Tigers bar. The day was a resounding success and much enjoyed by all Tigers old and new.

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Eyes right . Col Richard Haes leading the parade at the Tigers naming ceremony.

# News from the Tigers



Above: Gen Sir John Akehurst with Col Richard Haes and the Lord Mayor of Leicester, Peter Kimberlin, inspecting the parade at the Tigers' naming ceremony. Below: The colour party at the present.



## News from the Tigers



Above: The start of the 7 R Anglian fun run at Catterick. Below: Private Thomas Pick and Cpl Brian McConnell with the new SA 80 and the old Lee Enfield rifles.

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The nickname of Tigers was won by the Royal Leicestershire Regiment after 19 years service in India, and was born when King George IV declared the Regiment's colours would bear a figure of the Royal Tiger with Hindoostan written across it as a lasting testimony to the exemplary conduct of the Regiment during the period of its tour in India

The weekend 19-21 July saw the Battalion at a tented camp in Catterick on a basic military skills competition, during which much of the annual bounty testing was carried out.

Over 300 soldiers turned out for the training which was visited by the Commander-in-Chief (UKLF) Gen Sir John Waters. The visit proved a great success and the C in C spoke with many of the participants as he visited the stands. The good weather allowed a series of noisy company parties on the Saturday evening.

The arrival of the SA80, the new rifle, also created much excitement, not least from the media. Old soldier Pte Thomas Pick (70) who last held a rifle in 1946 when he was with the old Leicestershire Regiment, was invited to try out the latest weapon

He said, "It's certainly different to the old Lee-Enfield rifle I used"

Annual camp this year was a Cadre Camp on Scotland, split between Cultybraggan and Garelochhead. An excellent programme of cadres was presented.

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# News from the Tigers



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Above: The medical room at war. Below: Mortar PI at Warcop.

including signals, fieldcraft, NBC, recruits, medical, snipers and Junior NCOs, but the cadre that stole the show was the Combat Survival Cadre.

This proved to be an extremely testing and arduous cadre with the students living off the land for eight days, eating and wearing anything they could get their hands on - literally!

The cadre like all the others culminated in a four-day escape and evasion exercise. Scotland, true to its reputation, threw in some pretty filthy weather but much was achieved and a good base of knowledge acquired.

During camp we entertained a large number of notables including Gen Andy Evans, Brig Johnny Walker, Brig Peter Stevenson, Cols Hilton, Dawson, Gleadell, Harris and Kelsey.

Whilst all this was going on we were also running an Assault Pioneer Cadre at Halton in Lancashire, the Mortar and Milan Platoons were conducting live firing at Otterburn, whilst the GPMG (SF) platoon were doing their thing at Warcop. A fair

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## News from the Tigers



Above: Cpl Mick Cox inspecting the paint brushes. Below: Women Ptes Cheri Duguid and Annie McDonald getting more paint on themselves than the fence.

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few miles were covered over the fortnight.

Prior to camp, and to continue with the Tigers theme, an unusual request captured our imagination at Whipsnade Wild Animal Park. The general manager, Capt Chris Webster, ex Adjutant 2 Royal Anglian, called up the Tigers when his refurbishment plans ran into a cash crisis.

Fifty soldiers, both men and women volunteered to paint the tiger enclosure and did just that one weekend in early September. Codenamed "Operation Stripe" some 450 metres of fence was painted. As a reward Chris laid on a barbecue for the workers and we have now adopted a tiger cub named Solo.

Another service to the community was the assistance to a local theatre cast.

Another memorable event, this time by the Signal Platoon was a bike ride from Lands End to John O'Groats, via a number of 'IA Centres.

This took place between 12-14 May and was in aid of charity, the main beneficiary being Marie Currie Cancer Care. LCpls Whittall and Grey are to be congratulated for the professional manner in which this

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# News from the Tigers



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worthwhile event was executed.

Congratulations are also due to CSgt Denis Nelson for organising a team to participate in the UK military skills competition.

Our golf team of Maj Tony Powell, Capt Clive Mallett and Sgt Wightman also triumphed in August, by winning the annual Leicestershire Inter-Services golf championships, not only beating the Leicestershire teams of the Fire Service, Ambulance, Prison and Police, but also providing the individual winner in Clive Mallett.

That is really just a taste of what the 7th Battalion has been up to, a commendable mixture of work and play all achieving distinction and confirming our status as one of the leading Territorial Army battalions.

Currently under way we have a good representation at the Cambrian Patrol competition and we wish them luck.

The HSF go from strength to strength

under the new leadership of Maj Gervase Smith and his able assistant Sgt Maj 'Uncle Dick' Rowlett. They are gearing themselves up for the 54 Brigade HSF competition in Lincolnshire in November, where they will be tested in their operational role. We wish them luck too.

Socially it has been just as good a year with a party at every opportunity. The officers held an outstanding ball in the glorious setting of Belvoir Castle, whilst the WO and Sgts Mess were not outdone at their Summer Ball.

So we await with baited breath the results of our political masters decision-making process. In the meantime the lobbying goes on.

On merit there is no doubt that this battalion would be one of the last to fall. However, since there seems to be no logical guidelines for this decision-making process, either operational or geographical, it would seem that our fate is to be decided by a roll of the dice.

Above: HQ Coy soldiers take part in a sponsored cycle from Lands End to John O'Groats. Below: Actor Graham Cleaver gets an earbashing from Colour Sergeant Mal Picker.



# Depot Queen's Division



Lt Col Mike Boocock with the Royal Anglian prizewinners of Blenheim and Quebec Platoons after the Passing Out Parade. L to r: Pte Worledge, Pte Panter, Lt Col Boocock, Pte Crowe, Pte Coe, Pte Evans. Lt Col Boocock was the inspecting officer for the last passing out parade in his tenure as Commanding Officer of the Depot The Queen's Division.

## Concern over effects of cuts

THE effects of cuts in the Queen's Division and Royal Pioneer Corps has been a cause for concern amongst the permanent staff here at the Depot just as it has everywhere else.

Despite the stability of two years' recruit training, there is unease over the uncertainties of future postings and what may be on offer at the end of the tour. As for the future of the Depot, it is likely that it will become an Army Training Battalion (ATB), taking regular recruits from all branches of the Army, including WRAC, through Phase 1 Basic Training.

There are other variants being studied, but by 1993 the role of Bassingbourn for the immediate and medium-term future will have been established.

The measures we have been taking to reduce wastage without abandoning the standards laid down by D Inf, are at last bearing fruit. We are 0.7% away from meeting D Inf's management plan target of 28%, for intakes leaving the Depot in the last six months.

It is likely that the allocation of recruits to the Depot will fall next year so this success is all the more important.

We continue to take up any opportunity of sending recruits on overseas exercises and hope that Minden Platoon made the most of its attachment to 7 Para RHA in Canada on Ex Pond Jump West, 12 Sept to 16 Oct

The platoon was under Command Salamanca Coy JIB Shorncliffe, together

with a platoon of the Prince of Wales' Division Depot

The Depot Skill-at-Arms meeting was held this year in June, there being no Eastern District meeting. The weather was showery in the morning but warm and dry in the afternoon and provided the permanent staff with a good opportunity for an entertaining day out, away from recruit training.

We have the makings of a very strong team for Bisley next year, and before that competition fades into history we intend to compete to win.

Depot sportsmen continue to excel, especially in hockey, athletics, cross-country running and tennis.

The hockey season eventually ended

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# News from the Depot



Lt Col M Boocock being pulled out of camp on his last day as Commanding Officer.

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with the Depot capturing the much treasured Eastern Counties Services Championship from all RAF, Police and Army Units between Lincolnshire and Essex.

The athletics team, determined to win the Army Minor Units Championship, sailed easily through the district and zone competitions. We were, therefore, hopeful but not over-confident of success at Aldershot on 17 July. The result was finely balanced right up to the last race, but due to some individual personal best performances, we triumphed over our old adversary FOD Dulmen, winning by seven points. Depot POW Division ran us a close second until meanly disqualified in the 4 x 400, the last race of the day.

The tennis team retained the Eastern District Cup for the third year in a row and reached the semi-final of the Army Cup before being defeated by three rubbers to two by 42 Survey Group RE.

It is hardly surprising, with our own golf

course improving all the time, that this minor sport has become increasingly popular amongst the permanent staff. The standard ranges from genuine 'hackers' through 'bandits' to recognised golfers. There can, however, be no truer test of ability of character than the officers versus WO's and Sgts annual tournament.

This year the match was sponsored by Greene King, which put heavy drinkers at a distinct advantage at the first tee. Grudgingly, but eventually with grace over a delicious curry, the WO's and Sgts conceded defeat.

The Commanding Officer won the best officer prize for keeping his ball on the fairway more often than he said he would and RSM Trevor Gedge the best senior rank prize for failing to lose as many balls as he had forecast.

The Depot continues to host a wide range of activities. Some of the most successful have involved schoolboys and girls attending a series of three-day 'Look at Life' visits. These have been run by our RITs and have attracted extremely enthusiastic

responses from the schoolchildren. The Royal Anglian RIT, upon which most of the work has fallen so far, has been outstanding. No more so than on the day that we ran a day of tests and competitions for the Boys' Clubs and Youth Clubs of Hertfordshire in June.

Hopefully, the number of young men and women applying to join the Army will increase as a result of these types of activities. They are every bit as beneficial as the Army Exhibition for Schools which runs at Bassingbourn for three days in June each year.

We also hosted the Regimental Gathering on 7 July which is reported on elsewhere in the Castle.

The 27th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Anglian Regiment was celebrated at the Depot on 30 Aug.

On Saturday 5 Oct the 24th annual dinner of the Royal Anglian Sgts Past and Present Club was held at Bassingbourn Barracks. Some 240 members and guests attended the dinner in the Roysia Restaurant, followed by drinks in the Sgts' Mess. The meal was excellent as was the music provided by the Band of the 5th Battalion.

The dinner chairman was Maj Gen Sir David Thorne, who gave a stirring address on Options for Change.

## Personnel changes

JULY saw the arrival of Maj David Ridgway who took over as OC HQ Coy. Lt Marcus Parry arrived soon afterwards followed by Lt Paul Beart. Notable other rank arrivals include CSgt Malcolm Clarke (Pompadours) who arrived on 8 July after two years as a QPSI with the 5th Battalion and WO2 David Wharton (Vikings) who is here for his last six months of service.

Our most notable departure was on Friday 2 Aug when we towed Lt Col Mike Boocock out of the barracks after two-and-a-half eventful years at the Depot. We were sad to see him go and wish him well at the School of Intelligence, Ashford. Command has now passed back to a Fusilier and we welcome Lt Col Jerome Church to the Depot.

Other departures include Lt Richard Latham who has returned to the Pompadours; Pte Churn to the Vikings on promotion; Sgt Keegan, Cpl Brown, Cpl Pattinson and LCpl Percival who are now all active members of civvy street. We wish them well.



# Junior Infantry



The JIB team that won the Junior Soldiers Championship, collecting seven trophies along the way.

## Shooting team wins championship

THE JIB shooting team for JSAAM 91 was yet again well represented by Royal Anglians. The team was led for the second year running by Capt Jon Heap, who had excellent assistance from Cpl Martin Christian. After 12 weeks of hard training the team won the Junior Soldiers Championship, collecting seven trophies on the way. A very high standard of shooting was achieved by J.LDR Taylor (now 2nd Battalion) who finished runner-up in the individual competition and J.LDR McMillan (now 3rd Battalion) who finished fourth overall.

The Battalion inter-section assault course competition completed a successful 12 months training for Capt Heap's platoon. The platoon's three sections achieved first, second and fourth.

An attachment to 7RHA for six weeks saw members of JIB depart from England for Canada on Ex Pond Jump West C. The

purpose of the trip was to continue Junior Soldier training as per the syllabus and to carry out some exhilarating adventurous training. After two days' settling in', the Junior Soldiers, along with adult recruits from the Depot, carried out a testing defence exercise, with temperatures dropping to  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  at night.

Once the exercise was completed and everyone had thawed the Junior Soldiers took part in a challenging live firing package which lasted seven days.

The fun' part of the exercise in Canada proved to be the adventurous training in the Rockies, with white water rafting, horse riding, canoeing, rock climbing and water skiing all being available to the soldiers.

Capt Heap, Cpl Tate and Cpl Hazelwood along with Junior Soldiers and adult recruits from the Depot who are soon to join the Regiment, had an excellent and challenging time.

### Vikings

In true Viking spirit, Minden Day was celebrated at JIB(S) with "Roses" proudly displayed. The Viking Permanent Staff and all Royal Anglian Junior Leaders assembled in the Battalion restaurant at 0700 hrs. Maj John Perry had suggested to Capt John Heap that it would be seen as a career move if he provided "Bucks Fizz" for the early morning celebration.

With glasses filled, WO2 Dave Wharton read out to the J.LDRS the exploits of those gallant men of the 12th Foot as they occurred on 1 Aug 1759.

Regardless of the uncertainties of the future due to Options for Change, Minden Day is firmly embedded in the minds of all the J.LDRS and rightly so. To complete the day's celebrations the RSM - WO1 (RSM) A J Richardson kindly hosted a Minden dinner in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess, which was

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# Junior Infantry

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attended by all Vikings. Also at the dinner were a couple of ex-Vikings – WO2 Sean Hempstead, who is now on the L3 List and working at ACIO Ashford and WO2 Paul Boucher, who remained in Gibraltar with the RGJ and is now stationed at Dover. Both send their regards to their friends in the 1st Battalion.

Since the last edition of Castle, Sgt Darren Caesar has joined the ranks of Vikings at JIB(S) and is the Pl Sgt of 12 Pl, Cassino Coy. Cassino Coy has now become the Queen's Division Coy which those who served at JIB(S) in days gone by will remember was the role of Salamanca Coy.

Sgt Phil Martin came fifth in a battalion cross-country race on 3 Aug.

Sgt Gary Templeton beat off stiff competition to win the "Banner" drill competition with 15 Pl.

All Viking JNCOs (Tate, Saywell, Garwood) are actively involved in getting the last intakes of JLDR Royal Anglians through their training before the move to Bramcote in August next year and JIB(S) ceases to function as a Junior Leader training establishment.

## Poachers

SINCE the last edition of Castle the two summer intake companies at JIB (Cassino and Peninsula) have undergone a radical change.

They have now formed into Divisional companies. This has resulted in a good proportion of Poachers finding themselves in one of the four Cassino Coy Platoons. At present Lt Davison is, at least on paper, commanding 9 Platoon. However, much of his time (when not attempting to shoot his suicidal Juniors) seems to be spent attending to his extra curricular responsibilities, the Sub Aqua Club.

Lt Bailey arrived in the Battalion after what appeared to be a photo assignment in Belfast with 7/10 UDR. Not content to appear only on the front of the Royal Anglian recruiting poster (of which he seems to have endless supplies!), he concentrated most of his efforts towards starring in the UDR publicity/PR campaign as well.

This it must be noted was with his partner in crime Capt Mark Robinson, perhaps the most unphotogenic man in NATO! We are now watching his first tentative steps as OC 11 Platoon with some interest.

Lt Gladwyn has been keeping a rela-

tively low profile since his arrival in May, however, some sign of life is expected to show as the year draws to a close and conversations turn to External Leadership II and the severe lack of ski instructors in the Battalion. Cpl Limb arrived in the Battalion in time for the July intake. Congratulations are in order for him and Rachael, who in early September gave birth to a healthy baby boy (Ryan).

Cpl Fisher, in the first match of the rugby season ('friendly' against the local police), spent too long at the bottom of a ruck, and consequently sustained two broken ribs and a badly battered pride. Cpl Curtis arrived in the Battalion last May.

As far as Junior Leaders are concerned, there was quite a large intake of Royal Anglians in July. This has dwindled slightly with medical and voluntary discharges taking their toll. However, at this stage the figures are better than last year. As to the Poachers amongst them, those that come from the three counties have been educated in the best Poacher traditions.

## Pompadours

RECENTLY the Battalion reformed to make Cassino Coy the Queen's Coy, which brought a few members, including Boogy Boulton and Jock Brownlie of the Pompadours, together in the same company.

Hopefully, the Battalion is happy with Sgt Boulton's last intake. Sgt Boulton has been made responsible for Regimental history for all 3 Royal Anglian Juniors.

Cpl Brownlie is now a spare NCO and is being kept busy helping 6 Royal Anglian on its SA80 Conversion Cadre and sampling the Juniors from Dover Royal Engineers. His great success with his last platoon was winning the banner competition.

Cpl Markham has spent most of his time here as a tea boy and 'sweeping up the training wing' attendant but with the reforming of Queen's Coy has joined 11 Platoon and is now happy teaching junior.

However, with the arrival in July of his son Ryan Paul, he tends to get confused between the mental and physical ability of his son compared with his ten-man section (the baby comes out best every time).

## Salamanca Coy

Chunky Hazelwood has taken up the triathlon and spends a lot of time training with the JIB team where he has had some success.

# Cadets

## Ten potential officers pass RCB in the year so far

### RCB results

SINCE last writing we congratulate the following potential officers on passing RCB:- Antony Borgnis, Ian Poole, Richard Potter, Nigel Hazell, Garin Wiedman, Richard Beardsall, Oliver Cane and Daniel Hatfield.

A few more candidates are due to go to Westbury before Christmas. So far 10 potential officers have passed RCB this year.

### Battalion visits

BECAUSE all three regular battalions have been out of the country recently we were unable to send all our potential officers on visits this summer.

However, we do thank 3 Queens for hosting Liam McGrath and Fred Gray in Cyprus, and 1 R Anglian (Rear Party) for looking after five potential officers in Colchester.

Potential officers visited Regular battalions as follows:- Stuart Hall, Peter Detton and Richard Dullock to the 1st Battalion; James Priestman, Raywood Meehan, Maxwell Yorke and Euan Donald to the 3rd Battalion.

As usual we thank battalions for hosting visits during another busy year. Potential officers are queuing up for visits in 1992 (dates please!)

### Field days

THE RCO, ARCO and the RITs hosted the following sponsored and affiliated CCFs to the Depot in October/November, and a challenging and varied programme was enjoyed by all the cadets, particularly the paint ball exercises which were a huge success.

Oundle, Felsted, Merchant Taylors, Bedford, Greshams, Ipswich, The Leys, Woodbridge, St. Edmunds College, Kimbolton and Langley. Oakham and Stamford CCFs have already booked in for March 1992.

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# Cadets

From Page 63

## Log Race

We congratulate Greshams School on winning the log race. The RCO will be visiting soon!

## RMA Sandhurst

Nine graduates are now undergoing training on SGC 913. We welcomed Jonathan Trigg to the course. Two cadets are also attending SMC 913.

Maj K Hodgson handed over duties of Regimental representative to Capt Simon Andrews in August.

## Undergraduates Convention

The next convention is to take place at Bassingbourn Barracks on Wed 1 Apr 1992. A note for your diaries please!

A good attendance is expected, especially by those undergraduates who have not been before. Further details will follow in the New Year.

## Ashburton Shield

SPONSORED schools and affiliated CCF's are to be congratulated on their final positions in the Ashburton Shield 1991.

Results were as follows (66 schools entered this year):-

4th	Greshams	— 499.27
11th	Berkhamsted	— 495.25
13th	Oakham	— 493.31



## Chosen to shoot for England

**CHRISTIAN** Johnstone, 16, (pictured) at Kimbolton School and a sponsored potential officer, has been picked for the Under 18 English small bore rifle shooting squad.

This made him one of the top 12 marksmen for his age group in the country. Christian took up shooting just two years ago and we send him our congratulations.

20th	Uppingham	— 485.32	35th	Woodbridge	— 470.19
21st	Kimbolton	— 485.31	42nd	Bedford Modern	— 464.15
24th	Oundle	— 485.27	46th	Bedford	— 454.05
26th	Wellingborough	— 482.22	55th	Haileybury	— 433.12
28th	Merchant Taylors	— 479.25	56th	Framlingham	— 433.06
34th	The Leys	— 471.23	59th	Stamford	— 430.10



The Ratcliffe College contingent was visited on 15 May by the GOC, Maj Gen W A Evans, seen here inspecting a Guard of Honour on his arrival. The RCO and the CO of the Tigers were in attendance. This year's annual camp was at Paderborn.

## New CCF centre is opened at Brentwood School

THE new CCF Centre was opened on 10 May 91 by Brig H H Kerr OBE, AFC E Anglia, and the CCF now operates out of a purpose-converted gymnasium with offices upstairs and a store downstairs.

The building was converted through the assistance of E Anglian TAVRA.

As well as the normal display of CCF activities, there was also the RIT with a Saxon plus a static display and also 45 (Essex) Signals Squadron providing a display.

The Brigadier inspected the CCF Guard of Honour and then went on to tour the displays.

# Cadets



## RCO takes salute at Loughborough rebadging parade

A FEW words of introduction about the newest contingent to come under the broad umbrella of the Regiment.

The contingent, as a combined unit with RN, Army and RAF sections was formed in 1956 and the Army section wore the Tiger cap badge of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment.

After 1970, the Army section rebadged Royal Signals. As the squadron to which the contingent was affiliated grew to regiment size, and its technical duties became increasingly time consuming, it became clear that the excellent relationship with the 7th Battalion in Leicester and Loughborough should be formalised.

On 8 Nov 90, the RCO took the salute at the formal rebadging parade to mark the contingent's affiliation to the Poachers.

Above: The Corps of Drums marching off after the contingent review. Below: Wheel assembly of 3.7 ins Mountain Howitzer going over aerial ropeway.



Older officers at the school had to dig deep to find their old Tiger buttons to sew back on again!

The contingent is established for 240 volunteer cadets in all, 180 of whom are in

the Army section. It takes part in all aspects of cadet training and is actively supported by the headmaster and parents. Visitors from the Regiment and association members are always welcome.

# Cadets

## Forces medal presented at Uppingham

COL Peregrine Rawlins was invited to Uppingham School CCF on 21 May, to present the Cadet Forces Medal to Capt E J R Boston (Eric), for 13 years' loyal service to the contingent.

He also had the opportunity to present the new Tiger Platoon Shield to Sgt Llewellyn, having inspected the 23-strong platoon on the headmaster's lawn.

It was a beautiful day for the presentations touched with a degree of sadness for it was to be the headmaster's final appearance with the CCF before he moved to become the headmaster of Harrow. Mr Nick Bomford will be missed at Uppingham very much.

The new headmaster is Dr S C Winkley from Winchester.

The annual CCF inspection was on 10 Oct. The RCO and No.3 RIT were in support providing weapons and flank for the Tigers. The Tiger Platoon shield this time was won by Sgt Gladhill. Lt Alex Beart, an old 'Uppinghamian', attended the AGI and had time to brief the Tigers on his Army experiences.



L to r: Mr N R Bomford, headmaster, Maj R A S Boston, Cadet CSM of RM, Col P P Rawlins, Capt E J R Boston with the medal presented to him, and the RCO.

## Limitations of space

THE editor wishes to thank the following for their articles for the Castle for which sadly there is insufficient space.

In particular:-

1. We are very grateful to Cpl Graham Davis of 6 R Anglian who sent an account of his trip to Nepal which consisted of 10 unforgettable weeks and an immense amount of foot slogging. His route took him from Dumre up to Pissang Peak at 20,000 ft through Thorung La, 17,500 ft through the deepest gorge in the world at Koligondoki back to Pakkhara. In recognition of his achievements he was invited to a Royal Garden Party on 18 July and was able to talk to HRH Prince Phillip about his expedition log and photographs which form part of his Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

Graham Davis would be happy to let anybody see the expedition log; he can be



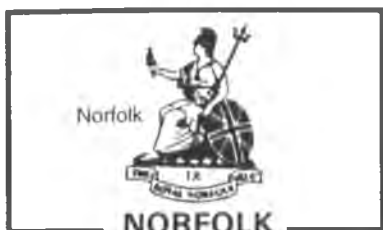
The first British ascent of Bratchanka Peak.

contacted on 0223 833395.

2. 2Lt A C Arthur of the Cawston College CCF went on a trip with Cawston College Cadets to Siberia. They were the first Cadet party to be allowed in the country and were told that they made the first British ascent in the Munkusardy Range. 2Lt Arthur takes cadet expeditions every

summer which have included Malaysia, Turkey and Peru. The Castle magazine reprints photographs of the Siberian trip. Once again Mr Arthur would be happy to share the information that he has with anyone interested; he can be contacted at Cawston College, Cawston, Norwich and his telephone number is 0603 871341.

# Around the Branches



IT has been another year of non-stop activity at Regimental Headquarters handling anything from squirrels in Mr G A Fisher's loft at 10 War Memorial Cottages, to arranging for all those cottage and bungalow occupants who wanted to go on holiday, courtesy of the Army Benevolent Fund and Pontins.

For those of you who have yet to visit the Regimental Museum at the Shirehall, opened on 20 July 1990, you have been overtaken by some 50,000 others who have done so. This represents a major achievement in "gates" and compares very favourably with some of the very much larger military museums.

The annual dinners in Kings Lynn, Norwich and Gorleston again show the figures of those attending are growing, which says much for the enjoyment and hospitality offered. The 4th Battalion dinner at Gorleston on 20 Apr attracted 74 diners with a strong contingent from the 6th (V) Battalion being particularly welcome.

The 4th Battalion officers' dinner club held their annual dinner in the TA Centre, Aylsham Road, under the chairmanship of Lt Col Cyril Grant on 19 Apr - there were so many, the Chillianwallah Table was completely filled which was a very encouraging sight.

On 20 Apr the London branch held a buffet dance at the Florence Nightingale, Westminster Bridge.

There were 33 present and a most enjoyable evening was had by everyone attending. On 28 Apr the London branch laid a wreath on the Cenotaph on behalf of the Regiment.

The 2nd Battalion Kohima Club held its annual dinner at the Norfolk Club when Col Henry Conder OBE presided. Wives of the members dined elsewhere then subsequently joined their husbands to hear yet again the deeds of the 2nd Battalion.

The annual dinner and lunch of the Officers' dinner club was held at the Norfolk Club on 7/8 June respectively. Maj Gen Sir David Thorne presided at the dinner which was attended by some 43 members including two guests. On 8 June some 40 members and their wives enjoyed the annual luncheon.

In Norwich, Mr Paul Boxall has been recruiting members for his new branch. So far he has some 20 members who meet regularly at the TA Centre, Aylsham Road, usually in the morning on the last Sunday of the month.

On Sunday 14 July the annual cricket match between a scratch Royal Anglian XI and a team raised by Mr Edward Evans Lombe, was held at Marlingford. The cricket was greatly enjoyed by both players and spectators as was the performance by the 1st Battalion Band which had recently returned from the Gulf.

Once again a thoroughly enjoyable day and the Regiment again expresses its grateful thanks to our most generous hosts - Edward and Marilyn Evans Lombe.

The Association dinner was held once again in the TA Centre, Aylsham Road, Norwich when a record number of diners, at 183, enjoyed an excellent meal prepared by Messrs Banthorne and Sons.

On the first day of the Norfolk Show the Regimental tent was used by

the Deputy Colonel to provide entertainment for headmasters and potential officers who were happily hosted by Regimental personalities. The second day was, as usual, rather quiet. Again, the Association has to express its warmest thanks to Mrs John Davidson and Mrs G Sanders for the beautiful flower arrangements.

## VC picture

WE are now able to report that the Jamieson VC picture, commissioned by the 1st Battalion with support from Lord Tollemache and family, painted by Peter Archer, is on loan to the Regimental Museum until the 1st Battalion re-claim it after their return from Fermanagh in November, when it will hang in their officers' mess at Colchester.

## Benevolence

THE Regimental Benevolent Committee much appreciates the assistance it receives from branches of SSAFA, The Royal British Legion, FEPOW and other charitable organisations which continue to process the requests from former members of the Regiment for assistance.

## War Memorial cottages

THE Cottages at Norwich and Kings Lynn continue to be occupied by former members of the Regiment and their families. Since my last report Mr & Mrs J Blyth have moved into No.4 Bungalow.

## Regimental Chapel

ON 21 Apr 91 the annual commemoration service was held in the Regimental Chapel. The Rev Canon Wynter Blathwayt conducted the service, the lesson was read by Maj Gen Sir David Thorne and the address was given by the Rev A R Astin.

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# Around the Branches

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Coffee was taken afterwards by the worshippers in the Prior's Hall. The Regimental Chapel committee is again very grateful for the efforts of Mrs Rosemary Barclay who continued to provide and arrange flowers.

On 29 Sept 91 the Vice-Dean dedicated the new Regimental Altar Frontal together with the two Regimentally badged 'drops'. The drops will be present on the altar for Regimental services. Mrs Jeanette Durrant has worked on the frontal and drops and the finished product has met with popular acclaim. The chapel was picked for the occasion with distinguished donors coming from as far away as America to see the altar in its new glory.

## Museum

SINCE opening, many minor improvements have been initiated using money raised by the generosity of individual donors and organisations. These enhancements include the procurement of medal cases for the medal collection, the purchase of the Betchelder Picture, and a computer for the Curator. Work in hand consists of the movement of the important library books down to the Shirehall, more graphic panels and a chronological display case to go under the chronological graphic. The reprinting of Tim Carew's History of the Royal Norfolk Regiment should be available by Christmas.



LINCOLNSHIRE

## Sobraon Reunion

OUR officers' reunion was held over the weekend 27/28 Apr 91 in the TA Centre Sobraon Barracks by kind permission of the officer commanding B

DIARY DATES	
REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE	Lincoln Cathedral - Sunday 10 Nov 91
SOBRAON WEEKEND	Sobraon Barracks - 25/26 Apr 92
REUNION WEEKEND	The Beacholme Holiday Camp, Cleethorpes - 19/20 Sept 92

Coy 7th Battalion.

Thirty-seven officers were present at the dinner held on the Saturday evening at which Col Gleadell presided. Amongst those present were Maj Generals Sir Christopher Welby-Everard, Gerrard-Wright, and Spacie. Maj Pratt, late Coldstream Guards, was welcomed as PSAO on rebadging and Maj Jones as Regimental Secretary designate.

Farewells were said to Capt Smith for all his hard work as Regimental Secretary and Capt McNaughton the Outgoing PSAO.

The members were well fed and watered and most returned the following day with their wives to enjoy a curry luncheon. In all, 50 guests sat down and at the conclusion of the luncheon it was agreed that it had been a successful weekend.

## OCA Reunion

THE Old Comrades met at the Beacholme Holiday Camp over the weekend 21-22 Sept 91. Prior to the evening dinner we held the annual general committee and annual general meetings. OCA business was discussed and such matters as arose were speedily dealt with.

The dinner went well and after the blessing and before getting down to the business in hand the Roll of Honour of those that had died in the previous 12 months was read out.

A total of 201 members, wives and guests attended including In-

Pensioners Gustard and Scott, both of whom were in excellent form.

As in previous years we were well fed and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Following the meal and toasts the president, Maj Gen Gerrard-Wright, read out the message of loyal greetings that we had sent to Her Majesty The Queen together with Her reply.

He mentioned Options for Change and the difficulties these might cause for the regular battalions and concluded by giving on behalf of the association gifts of Poachers suitably inscribed to Maj Charles Macklam for his sterling service as chairman of the executive committee over the last 25 years, and Capt Alwyn Smith for his devoted service over the last 15 years as regimental secretary.

Both will be sadly missed but happily live in Lincoln so their wisdom and experience will not be lost to their successors.

Sunday dawned bright and clear and before the Drum Head Service at the Beacholme, conducted by Canon Oakes, most took a turn along the Cleethorpes front which was very clean and well maintained.

The service was followed by a luncheon which was attended by 23 officers and their ladies who had a final chance to catch up on the gossip and doings of others before departing vowing to return next year.

## Crete revisited - 50 years on

Ex RSM TJ Marston, MBE MSM writes:

ON 14 May 91 five members of the 2nd Battalion The Leicestershire Regiment made the pilgrimage to Crete 50 years after the 10-day battle in defence of the island

The date was significant, for it was 14 May 1941 that the 2nd Leicesters

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# Around the Branches

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sailed from Alexandria to the Island of Crete.

On the 1991 party's arrival at Heraklion Airport, we were ushered to the VIP lounge to be welcomed personally by the Mayor of Heraklion.

Our first ceremony was at the Crete National Monument in Heraklion on Sunday 19 May 91. This was a UK Crete Veterans' Association parade supported by the Greek services stationed in the city, in conjunction with the dignitaries and the people of the area. Mr Norman Swift and Mr Bob Staley were escorts to the UK National Standard.

After the service, all members of the Association and their ladies had lunch in the Town Hall and the members of the CVA were presented with a gift of a splendid briefcase containing books of the history of both the battle for Greece and the battle for Crete as well as a medallion. In the briefcase was a collection of copies of photographs gathered from world sources made up into a folder. This was a very fine gift from the people of Heraklion.

Before leaving, the party paid a visit to the British Cemetery that contains the remains of about 200 British servicemen who died during the latter part of the 19th century when the Turkish occupation was coming to a close. A wreath was laid on the Monument.

Then followed a week of pilgrimages to island War Monuments raised in the towns and villages where battles and atrocities took place during the first 10-days and later years. The UKCVA was represented on all these occasions and Mr Norman Swift was able to attend all but one. Other members of the 2nd Battalion were able to attend most of them.

The most notable ceremony, however, was the parade of veterans and service personnel of all the countries that took part in the battle for the defence of Crete. This was held in the capital, Heraklion on 23 May. Bands

and service detachments from Greece, Australia and New Zealand took part. At the march off, the UK Crete Veterans' Association members, following The Greek Army Band, headed the parade with their Parade Marshal. Mr Tom Marston gave the salute.

Afterwards a splendid supper was provided in the Town Hall for all who had taken part.

The next day, Friday, was a day of two parades. The morning service at the Town War Monument of Souda was attended by a strong contingent; no-one was younger than 70 years of age. At noon on the same day the weather was brighter for the service in the naval barracks to the Unknown Sailor. This was a most impressive Greek naval ceremony.

We were all invited to the Officers' Mess for refreshments. On Saturday 25 May, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent attended a gathering of UKCVA members and their ladies at the Panorama Hotel and met and talked to most members.

Later at the same meeting Earl Jellicoe, KBE, DSO, MC, FRS, the president of the UKCVA presented a cheque to the Greek Red Cross for £5,000. This money had been collected from members of the UKCVA in appreciation of the bravery of the Crete people who helped British servicemen during the war years, feeding them and helping them to escape after the fighting had ended in 1941.

On Saturday evening at Suda Bay Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery the commemoration service for the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Crete (20 May - 1 June 1941) was held in the presence of His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent.

Mr Tommy Pick, 2nd Battalion Leicesters, laid the wreath on behalf of the Royal Tigers Association.

In closing this report the ex 2nd Battalion Leicesters members who fought in the Battle for Crete and attended the 50th anniversary on the island wish to express their sincere

thanks to the Royal Tigers Association Trustees for the financial support received and also to the Association for supplying the wreaths.



WHEN Mr Frank Ames of Kempston, Bedford celebrated his 100th birthday on 21 May this year he became only the second member of this Association to become a centurian within living memory.

Frank attempted to enlist in the Regular Army in 1910 only to fail the fitness test, but was accepted by 5th Beds TA shortly afterwards and went to the Dardanelles with 1/5 Beds where he was badly wounded on 15 Aug 1915; he was not expected to survive.

However, after six months in hospital he recovered and was discharged from the Army with the advice that he should not work for at least another year. This advice was ignored but he contracted tuberculosis within a few months. Although very few people recovered from this disease in those days he was pronounced cured after two years.

In accordance with his wishes that there should be "no fuss" and in view of his somewhat frail condition, celebrations were kept to one or two small parties, the main one of which was a visit from the Mayoresses of Bedford and Kempston, together with a few members of Bedford Branch.

Much against his wishes and protesting strongly that he could still look after himself in his flat he was persuaded to move into an old people's

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## Around the Branches



L. to r: Maj Jack Douglas, Maj Frank Sutton MC and Col Frank Snape MM at the handover of the Cuneo paintings.

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home after receiving an assurance that he could take his stock of spirits with him.

He is now perfectly happy there and is said to be the life and soul of the place.

### **Cuneo Paintings**

AT a simple but impressive ceremony on 1 Aug the originals of the Cuneo paintings were deposited in Luton Museum for display in the Regimental Room. Those present were welcomed by the Secretary who also thanked Maj Andrew West for his excellent work in building up our display to its present eminence. He further announced that a memorial to Lt Col Tom Adlam VC had recently been erected in his home town.

Brig Angus Robertson then thanked councillor Selles, chairman of Luton Borough Council recreation committee, and the Friends of Luton Museum who had arranged this ceremony and provided the buffet lunch. He went on to say that several subjects had been

proposed for the 1st Battalion painting including its part in the siege of Tobruk, but the Chindit Campaign won the day because of the sustained effort over such a long period.

Mrs Averil Barrow, widow of the late Lt Col John Barrow DSO who commanded the battalion during the campaign, then unveiled the painting.

Before unveiling the 2nd Battalion painting, our president, Lt Col W A Whittaker, who had commanded during the battle paid tribute to the late Lt Col Barrow and the achievements of his battalion in Burma.

He then gave a brief but vivid account of his own battalion's part at the Battle of Cassino which began with a river crossing against fierce opposition during the night of 11/12 May 1944.

It then held a bridgehead against frequent counter-attacks for four days, which enabled a Bailey bridge to be built so that armour and other troops could cross. On 16 May the battalion successfully attacked the high ground to the west of Monte Cassino,

exploited its success and cut the road. The route to Rome was thus opened.

Among the spectators were a number of Association members who had taken part in the actions portrayed in the paintings. These included Col Frank Snape DCM, who won his award for a single-handed attack on a M G post, Maj Jack Douglas and Maj Frank Sutton MC, who were with the 2nd Battalion, while Maj Andrew West was with the 1st Battalion.

Finally, in accepting the pictures on behalf of the museum, councillor Selles said how proud the town was to have these paintings of its county regiment in action on display in the museum and thanked Brig Angus Robertson for his efforts and drive to have them done.

### **Memorial window**

ON 28 Oct 90 a memorial window was dedicated at St Mary's Church, Ripple – "To the Glory of God and Memory of Brig Peter Young DSO, MC, MA, FSA 1915-1988".

The local congregation, where he had worshipped for many years, was swelled by large contingents of The Sealed Knot Society which Peter Young founded, resplendent in their period dress, and Old Comrades of the wartime commandos proudly wearing their green berets.

The Association was represented by Maj Robin Medley and ex-CSMs Jack Leech MM and Jim Dix MBE, the latter two wearing their commando berets with glittering Bedford cap badges.

### **3rd Battalion Dinner Club**

THE autumn luncheon was held at the Duke of York's headquarters on 4 Oct this year and was acclaimed as the "best yet". With some 60 members and their guests attended it was certainly the largest so far held.

We were delighted to see among the guests Gen Sir John Akehurst KCB CBE who, at popular request, gave a short resume of the forthcoming changes in the structure of the Royal Anglian Regiment.

## Around the Branches



ON 9 May 91, 44 members of the Hertfordshire Regiment Association together with wives and friends set off on a five-day tour of the Normandy beaches where on 6 June 1944 the 2nd Hertfords landed as part of the allied forces.

The main objective of the tour was a visit to Gold Beach where the battalion landed, and in particular, the town of Ver-sur-Mere where it was the Core unit of No.9 Beach Group and was responsible for clearing some 12,000 mines and feeding supplies through to the forward units at a rate of 1,500 tons a day.

Although the battalion was in the area for a little over eight weeks, such a rapport developed with the townspeople that they decided to honour it by naming a street after the commanding officer, Col J R Harper, and erecting a monument to commemorate its stay.

The latter, which was designed and made by Mr William Andrews, a Hertford stonemason, is of solid stone and 8 ft high.

On one face it bears the Hertfordshire Regiment badge below which are the words - "In gratitude to the troops, who, in the course of the liberation of the world, freed our commune on 6th June 1944, and in memory of the stay here of the 2nd Battalion of the Hertfordshire Regiment under the command of Colonel J R Harper, until 31st August 1944 during the battle for the liberation of France."

On the Sunday morning the party attended a service in the Roman



L. to r: Messrs Trevor Powell, Norman Herring and Eric Moore in front of the monument to the 2nd Hertfordshire Regiment at Ver-sur-Mere.

Catholic Church with the Association Standard which stood beside nine Standards of French ex-servicemen's organisations. The mayor and mayoress and the town dignitaries were also there.

The deputy chairman of the Association, Col Nick Kelsey OBE, TD, made a speech of thanks to the Mayor and people of the town for their wonderful hospitality.

Following the service two ex-members of the 2nd Battalion laid a wreath of poppies on the memorial and the chairman read the exhortation. Two floral tributes were also laid by French ex-servicemen.

The remaining days of tour were spent visiting Arramanches to see the Mulberry Harbour, the Bayeux War Graves Cemetery where crosses were placed on the graves of five men of the Hertfordshire Regiment. They also visited Caen, Sword and Juno Beaches and last, but not least, Paris.



### Annual reunion

THE annual reunion was held on Saturday and Sunday 29 and 30 June. The various regimental meetings and the dinner were held on the Saturday and the Comrades church parade and officers' luncheon on the Sunday.

The AGM was held at noon on Saturday. Twenty-two members were present. A total of 220 Comrades and ladies attended the dinner in the drill hall, Clare Street. Gen Sir John

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# Around the Branches

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Akehurst, our president and colonel of The Royal Anglian Regiment presided and proposed toasts of "The Queen" and "Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, our Deputy Colonel-in-Chief."

Gen Akehurst said that messages of good wishes for a happy evening had been received from Her Majesty The Queen and from HRH Princess Alice, in reply to loyal messages sent earlier.

In his speech, Gen Akehurst said how glad he was to see such a large gathering – a remarkable lot – in recent years numbers have steadily increased. (Comrade David Deacon had once again organised the attendance of 30 of his contemporaries – what it must have cost him in telephone calls is anyone's guess - Ed.)

The General, after thanking Lt Col John Wilson, Maj Tony Amos and their staffs for all their hard work in mounting this reunion, referred to the printed souvenir menus produced to mark this 250th anniversary year.

Gen Akehurst then commented on the proposed cuts in the strength of the armed services. It would appear that in future we are to rely on the treasury for the defence of our nation. We (Colonels of Regiments) are trying to impress on the government the necessity of maintaining the strength and effectiveness of our armed forces. We, as a nation, are proud of them and of their achievements in Northern Ireland and, more recently, in the Gulf.

The General commented sadly on the large number of our comrades who had passed on since the last reunion, among whom were Colin Blackburn, late Bandmaster of the 1st Battalion, Capt Roger Hughes MC, who had been awarded the MC whilst fighting with 48th in Burma, and Col "Reggie" Denny, who was to have been present with us that evening. The General extended his good wishes to Brig D E Taunton, Col J T Ennals and the many others whose health prevented them from being present.

Gen Akehurst said that present, together for the first time since the end of the War, were five captains who had fought with the 58th in Italy at Anzio and in the "Fortress". They were Capt A C Garner MC, H T G Gill, L H (Paul) Robertson, R O Tear and J H York.

Referring to the church parade the General said that HRH Princess Alice, who will be 90 on Christmas Day, was to be with us and inspect the Comrades. He hoped that maximum numbers would be present on parade. The Band and Drums of the 5th (V) Battalion would be present to play for us and that those unable to march were invited to join the parade outside the church. Printed orders of service to mark the anniversary would be available and the Rev Tom Hiney MC, a former officer of the 'Tigers' who had been awarded his MC whilst serving in the Congo with Ghanaian Forces, would preach for us – a soldier preaching to soldiers.

The General ended by proposing the toast of "The Regiment".

Despite the threat of rain the church parade was well attended and at 10.30 am under the command of Col Peter Worthy, the parade, headed by the Band and Drums of the 5th (V) Battalion marched off to the church of the Holy Sepulchre where they were joined by a few unable to march.

At 10.45 am HRH Princess Alice accompanied by Gen Sir John Akehurst arrived at the dais and after being greeted with a Royal Salute, inspected the Comrades. At the start of the service, HRH Princess Alice and Gen Sir John Akehurst, bearing the Regimental wreath, advanced to the altar where HRH handed the wreath to the chaplain, who after placing the wreath before the altar, said the Northamptonshire Regiment Collect. Then HRH and General Akehurst, having returned to the pew, RSM David Knight recited the Exhortation followed by that inscribed on the Memorial at Kohima.

The buglers then sounded the Last Post and, after a silence, the Reveille.

The lesson, Psalm 19, was read by Gen Sir John Akehurst. The address, captivating and enlightening, was given by the Rev T B F Hiney MC CF. Very opposite for the occasion it caught the mood of the congregation.

After the service the Comrades marched past their Deputy Colonel-in-Chief en-route to Gibraltar Barracks for dismissal. The officers then entertained their guests at Simpson Barracks. The Comrades retired to the drill hall where they were entertained by the Band and Drums who, by all accounts, gave a magnificent performance. This 250th anniversary reunion will long be remembered for the happy event it so clearly was. But for many the celebrations were tempered by the enforced absence of so many well-loved Comrades who could not be with us. Their absence was keenly felt and commented on. Our thoughts were with them and many a glass was raised in silent toast as we relived earlier reunions and reminisced. To each and every one of them we send our very best wishes for the future.

## Peterborough Branch

I AM glad to tell you that the branch meetings at the Woolpack in Stanground still continue to go from strength to strength. Most importantly, we are now seeing new faces of Royal Anglians who are regular attenders at our meetings and clearly now enjoy to take part in the regimental comradeship which we have offered here through our branch since its' formation.

Over the summer months we have held our reunion in Huntingdon – always a popular function and well supported. Maj Harry Pallash and Maj Ted Overall who, over the past years have played such an important role with that branch, were present on the night.

Sadly, Prime Minister John Major,

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in whose constituency headquarters we now hold the event, could not be with us, sending our chairman his apologies and good wishes for the night! The buffet supper turned out to be very sparse so our quartermaster on the night quickly re-scheduled the meal to a fish and chip supper which really made the evening.

A large number of members joined with the local branch of the Cambridgeshire Regimental Comrades for the annual summer barbecue in July. The Regimental repartee and exchange of memories was soon in overdrive and all made for a memorable night.

Branch members attended the annual reunion at Northampton and the regimental day at Bassingbourn and Sam Bloye has continued to parade and fly the branch Standard whenever the occasion has arisen.

The branch I can report is in good heart and as I personally approach the 20th anniversary of my appointment as president in Peterborough. I hope I shall see the enthusiasm and growth of the branch continue and grow.

## 5th Battalion, 78th (Battleaxe) Div reunion

BARNSLEY Lodge, Rutland Water, Oakham, was the venue of 19 May when 73 Comrades and ladies assembled for their annual luncheon. On arrival each lady was presented with a small posy, Maj "Donald" Girdwood welcomed the guests and was then presented with a suitably engraved tankard for all his efforts "On behalf of all the lads", by ex RQMS Dick May, who in turn was himself presented with an old 58th Regiment silver tankard.

In his speech at the luncheon, Maj Girdwood spoke of the pleasure it gave to all present in seeing Mrs Florence Cox, widow of the late Albert, who still attends our reunions. He also said how pleasing it was to welcome Mrs Pat Parr (daughter of the late RSM "Bob" Surkitt DCM) and her husband,

Denis. Maj Girdwood also thanked Gordon Isom and his brother Bert for all their efforts in ensuring the success of our reunions. Toasts of "The Queen", "Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester" and "The Regiment" were followed by a toast to "absent friends".

After the lunch Maj Girdwood outlined the programme of events for the afternoon and informed the Comrades that the luncheon in 1992 would be held in the Duxford area of Cambridgeshire.

On behalf of the Comrades Albert Smith (42) thanked Maj Girdwood, Gordon Isom and Wally Ball for the well-organised event and the benefactor who made this reunion possible.



AS promised in the last issue of the Castle, a report on The Visit to Crete 50 Years On, by ex-members of the 2nd Battalion, appears elsewhere in this issue. We are all delighted that the visit was a success. Having welcomed them back from Crete, Royal Tigers Weekend was soon upon us.

The weekend was held on 22 and 23 June at Leicester. The format was unchanged. Firstly, on the Saturday evening, the AGM was held in the TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road. A total of 53 members attended and Col W G Dawson, the chairman, took the chair. The AGM was followed by the annual dinner, which was attended by 264 members and their ladies. I am pleased to report that the dinner and the reunion afterwards was as successful as usual.

On Sunday there was again a good turnout for the annual parade service,

held in the Regimental Chapel of Leicester Cathedral. The Provost of Leicester officiated at his final parade service before his retirement and the Venerable Hugh Jones, Archdeacon of Loughborough, preached a memorable sermon. After the service, the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, supported by Maj Gen Pollard, took the salute at the march past of the Old Comrades.

The normal Sunday reunion at Ulverscroft Road took place after the march past.

The normal Sunday reunion at Ulverscroft Road took place after the march past. The Officers' Mess, Sgts' Mess and Tigers' Bar were all functioning and it was a fitting conclusion to a successful and enjoyable weekend.

It cannot be emphasised too strongly how much we, as an association, owe to 7 R Anglian for all its help and support for the mounting of Royal Tigers weekend. In simple terms, without 7 R Anglian there would be no reunion – certainly not at Ulverscroft Road.

The reports we are now reading in the media regarding the effect of Options for Change on the TA in Leicestershire fill us with the very greatest gloom. We, as "old and bold" can only shake our heads in amazement at the possibility that there will be no Territorial Infantry from Leicestershire in the Order of Battle of the British Army. The fight to save 7 R Anglian will surely succeed, supported as it is by all who matter in the county.

One thing is for certain, the Royal Tigers Association will not be disbanded, amalgamated or placed into suspended animation. We will continue to survive, having our reunions, continuing the benevolence work for all ex members of the Regiment and their families, running the Regimental Chapel, Regimental Museum ... etc.

We know that we will get strong support from our successor Regiment,

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who themselves have taken severe knocks in Options for Change so far announced. Having suffered from disappearing into a large Regiment and then being disbanded as a regular battalion, we realise the anger that they feel. The Royal Anglian Regiment needs, and certainly gets, all the support that we as an Association at this particular time can give.



CONSIDERABLE activity has centred around the Essex Regiment Museum and our Curator, Ian Hook, has been busy designing and installing new displays.

A special collection of Home Guard uniforms belonging to the late Lt Col A Leggett was presented by his daughter Mrs Baker who also presented the glass case in which the display is housed. We have been fortunate to acquire some interesting sets of medals including those of Col R W Wren TD, the last Commanding Officer of the 6th Battalion, The Essex Regiment.

Much more memorabilia can be accommodated so if the whereabouts of any is known, please contact the museum.

An excellent reunion parade took place at Warley on 30 June. This was preceded by a memorial service in the Regimental Chapel. We were fortunate that the rain kept away. The band of The King Edward VI School from Chelmsford played for the parade and also beat the retreat.

Their performance was immaculate and appreciated by all.

Sadly Jim Tarbutt, one of our oldest

members, died on 27 July. Jim was originally a member of the 4th Battalion TA and then served as a regular with the 2nd Battalion. Our president Col G C P Morgan DL was amongst the large regimental contingent at his funeral.

## 4th Battalion

MEMBERS of the 4th Battalion Association are spread over a wide area of the country but despite this the Regimental Council meets regularly to decide on policy. Two or three newsletters are sent out each year to its 200 members.

Activities this year have included a garden party which was judged to have been a great success. This autumn the usual dinner dance was held in the TA Centre at Warley and in March next year there will be an interim reunion.

In previous years a parade has been held at the Cenotaph in Whitehall to remember comrades who fell at Gaza in the First World War and at Casino in the Second. In future this will be changed to a service in our Regimental Chapel and indeed it will be held there on Sunday 22 March 1992 at 3 pm.

## Chelmsford and District

ALL social activities were reported as being highly successful. On 29 Sept a dinner dance was held at Chelmer Village Hall and some 85 members and friends enjoyed a good evening. The guests of honour were Col and Mrs Morgan. By coincidence the date of the occasion was significant. Fifty-one long years ago the 1st 5th Battalion were enjoying the luxuries of the western desert at a place called Bagush.

The 1st 5th Battalion's crossing of the River Trigno in Italy in 1945 will be remembered at a special dinner to be held at the TA Centre in Chelmsford on Nov 9.

## Thurrock Branch

A SUCCESSFUL recce visit was made to Normandy by Harry Conn and Eric Rolls. This was to prepare for their forthcoming visit in 1992. Tours of the

beaches and war cemeteries were made. They also visited the Merville Battery. This was captured by a party from 9th Para, formerly 10th Essex, under command of Major A J M Parry.

The two old Comrades were reported to have had an excellent time at the Pegasus bridge café.

On to Bayeux and Caen and finally home on 9 June.



## Leiston and District Branch Mr A Smith writes:

MEMBERSHIP for the current year is slightly down on 1990 but this may partly be our own fault for not following up lapsed membership with sufficient vigour. This will be high on the agenda for 1992 and hopefully we shall also find more R Anglians as well.

We have had a change in the treasurer's office and our new man, John Richardson, is now well established. We wish him well and know that our finances are in good hands.

We also have a new and young social committee headed by Teddy Stebbings and John Bye, both ex National Service who served with the 1st Battalion in Malaya. Meetings continue to be held on the first Wednesday of the month in the LTAA Club with a regular attendance of 15 to 20 members.

In July we had a good attendance for the trip to Bury for the Minden Reunion, picking up our friends from Woodbridge en-route. All enjoyed another great day out and thanks to Capt Stan Bullock and his small dedicated team for their hard work. Those

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who knew him were very sorry that Jack Gingell missed the reunion for the first time for many years as he was still in hospital recovering from his horrific car accident. Our next main event of the year was our garden fete in the grounds of our president's farmhouse residence on August Bank Holiday Saturday. Unfortunately John was rushed into hospital a week before the event to have his appendix removed.

He was back home in time for the fete but could only direct operations from his bedroom window.

The fete was again a financial success thanks to the dedication of the few, especially the ladies and the family of our president who interrupted their annual holiday to give a helping hand. Thanks also to those who donated gifts and produce for stalls and the draw and the many cakes for the cake stall.

In September, 15 members journeyed to Lowestoft for the Beccles Branch buffet dance. By all accounts they had a very enjoyable evening. Unfortunately, for varying reasons, we were unable to get any representatives to the Felixstowe Branch dinner. Our apologies.

Our own dinner dance was held in the LTAA Club on 6 Oct and again this proved a great success. Unfortunately it clashed with the annual FEPOW get-together in London which meant some of our members had to give the dinner a miss.

We were delighted to welcome Brig and Mrs Deller as our guests for the evening and thank them for making the long journey.

We were also honoured with the presence of the Association's assistant treasurer, Mrs Cilson-Taylor. Those of us who are privileged to know Anstice know what tremendous work she does for the regiment, not only as assistant treasurer but also her involvement with our Regimental Chapel.

Our thanks to Tony Cooper and his catering staff at the LTAA Club for

again providing a marvellous dinner.

The Branch extends its sympathy to Felixstowe Branch at the sad loss of their late president, Maj Cubitt in Canada.

As this will be the last Castle in 1991 we take this opportunity of wishing all branches and friends a happy Christmas and a very successful 1992.

## Ipswich and District Branch

**Mr A E Stollery writes:**

FIRSTLY may I take the opportunity to apologise for the omission of news from Ipswich in the June supplement of Castle.

Our monthly meetings have been well attended and luckily for us we have been able to recruit some new members. We hope that they will feel welcome and able to attach themselves to us on a permanent basis. Sadly a number of faces have been missing mostly through illness, among them that old soldier George Harrison suffering from severe angina, may it be soon when you and your lady will be back into the fold.

Also Fred Fox who is showing signs of making a good recovery and Bob Barker who has recently suffered a very severe stroke. Good luck to you all and may you all soon be back in the fold.

On 23 Feb we held our buffet dance. As the TA Centre was not available for this date it was necessary to hire Ransomes Sports and Social Club. This proved to be an ideal venue for this event. Our one big worry was the weather at this time of the year and loe and behold a week before the event heavy snow storms left us with about 1 ft of snow the day before.

We took a risk by not cancelling the dance and fortunately the snow had completely disappeared by the evening of the dance allowing our friends from Bury St Edmunds, Felixstowe and Leiston to travel safely to Ipswich.

With well over 100 guests attending the evening turned out to be quite a successful occasion and may we take

this opportunity to thank all those members from other branches who gave us their support.

An evening coach tour was arranged on 8 May calling in at the Tunstall Green Man public house coupled with a scheduled visit to the ever popular Angel Inn at Woodbridge. This trip was very well supported.

On 18 May, invitation was received to join Felixstowe Branch at its annual tea party and concert and after the 1990 party we knew we were in for a very enjoyable time, this is how it turned out. Thank you Norman Buckingham and the members of Felixstowe Branch for their hospitality.

On 1 June, several of the Ipswich Branch members spent a very enjoyable evening at a buffet dance at the invitation of the Leiston Branch. It turned out that just to try the buffet was most certainly worth the journey.

For quite a few years now we have been attending the Armistice Day Service at American War Memorial at Martlesham Heath alongside a detachment of the USAAF, Felixstowe Squadron of the ACF and RBL with all Standards. A very impressive parade. Our members look forward to this event each year especially when we march on and off to the Band playing "Speed the Plough".

We then received an invitation to attend a service of dedication and commemoration to a new war memorial erected alongside the USAAF Memorial in memory of all RAF personnel who served or gave the supreme sacrifice during their service at RAF Martlesham.

The invitation was accepted, along with a detachment from RAF Wattisham, the Felixstowe Squadron of ACF, the RBL and a detachment of the USAAF Woodbridge all with Standards. A very impressive parade was held; the dedication was performed by the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, the Rev Lillingstone assisting. The memorial

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was unveiled by the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, Sir Joshua Rowley. After the parade all guests were invited to tea cakes and sandwiches in the Post Office experimental station canteen. A very memorable day indeed. Well done Ipswich.

On 27 July, Minden Day was reported as being one of the best ever, especially as my daughter, a sergeant instructor at the TA Centre, Ipswich, won the large teddy bear. Apologies from our chairman Reg Sayer who had to attend a prior engagement at Orpington.

On 27 Sept invitation was received from Felixstowe Branch to attend their dinner dance at the Marlborough Hotel, Felixstowe. Several members took the opportunity to attend along with myself and a very enjoyable and pleasant evening was had by all who attended. Thank you Norman for a well organised and successful event.

Another trip by coach to pay a visit to the Angel Inn at Woodbridge was held on Oct 17 and again there was a great welcome to all from the landlord and landlady with eats and good beer.

Finally, 10 June 91 was a very sad day for the fortunes of the Old Comrades Association with the sudden death of Maj Herbert Duncan Sutor, a man well respected and held in high regard by all who got to know him. He will be greatly missed.

I have been given the privilege of writing these few words for the Ipswich Branch. Not only was he our branch president but a man we could talk to and discuss any problems we may have had. His interest was most certainly in the welfare of the members of the OCA. I can only add that we were proud to have Duncan as our president.

## Hemel Hempstead Branch

**Mr R Picton writes:**

WE start on a sad note with the loss of three members of the Branch; Mick

Murphy, Harry Allum and Mr Harlow. The Branch will miss them all.

Then spring came and Minden Day was on the way and so were reinforcements and the numbers of the branch keep going up, following the advert we put in the British Legion News we have had calls from all over England with a lot from the ex-70th Battalion.

To start the year's entertainment, the branch went out for the day to Hastings. At night we were invited to the Royal British Legion. With Tony Rogers on the organ and Burney Kelly singing it was a good night and we all had a good time. There were 57 members out for the day.

Then came the spring Bank Holiday. We had six Dutch members from Beek, just outside Nijmegen Holland, visit us at Hemel Hempstead. On the Sunday at mid-day they came to the Royal British Legion Club where they presented the Hemel Branch with a photo of a grave of a Suffolk soldier killed there in 1944 and a statue from Beek which is now in the Legion Club. We had a farewell night for them in the RAF Club and at the club that night they handed me two books – one in Dutch and one in English, about the battle of their town.

A total of 57 members attended the annual meeting at Bury St Edmunds on 22 June. It was a good meeting and when it was over we had the rest of the day in the town and as it was carnival day all went well. At night we were invited to the Royal Anglian Club and Tony and his boys put on the music. It was good to meet the members of the club and we got on well with them.

The day out at Bassingbourn was again a good one. The weather was good and they did not run out of beer this year. The service was good and we look forward to next year.

The Minden weekend at Bury was attended by 70 members of the branch.

On 27 July we were at the Bury Branch dance in the TA Centre. We have been going to this dance each

year for a long time and always have a good night. We get on well with the Bury Branch, and Tony's music sees that it is a good night as always.

On 10 Aug we had a dance over at Watford, then on 28 Sept we had the branch dance at the TA Centre Hemel Hempstead. The tickets went well.

On the 26 Oct we had the combined ex-services dance at the Pavilion Hemel and all that we make on this is put to three ex-Services Associations. We should make about £1,000 or more and on this occasion we had the support of the Royal Anglians from Bury St Edmunds. It was good to have them with us for the night.

Ron Wingfield and his wife will be out on the street with the poppies again this year – they did so well last year.

Members were on their way to London Westminster on 7 Nov and it is always a good turn out for that.

In December we have the branch Christmas party at the TA Centre Hemel Hempstead.

Before I close I would like to wish, on behalf of all our members, a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year to all our friends. In particular to Jack Gingell on a speedy and full recovery.

## Bury St Edmunds and District Branch

**Mr W E Martin writes:**

OUR AGM was at Felixstowe. This was a tea party organised by the Felixstowe Branch with plenty of entertainment. This took place at the Royal British Legion Club on 18 May and was very well supported.

On 30 May, Jack Gingell, our chairman, was involved in a motor accident which left him in hospital fitted up with a weighted head clamp. He was in this condition for seven weeks flat on his back with only the ceiling to look at. During his time in hospital members from various branches visited him and kept him up to date with news from the branches.

I am pleased to say that Jack has

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progressed and is now out of hospital. He is now wearing a soft collar but his left arm which was broken is still causing some concern, but with physiotherapy it is hoped that full use of the arm will soon be possible.

On 1 June, 22 of our members went by coach to Leiston by invitation of the Leiston Branch to enjoy a very good night at their annual buffet dance. Several other branches were represented, so it was a good opportunity to meet old friends.

On 9 June some of our members made their way to Ely to take part in the Cambridgeshires' Service of Remembrance at the Cathedral. This was followed by a march past. Unfortunately it started to rain as we started to march, but we soon dried out in the Haywards Theatre enjoying a nice cup of tea.

The annual meeting of the executive committee of the OCA took place at the TA Centre, Bury St Edmunds on 22 June. It was a very good meeting and was well attended but one individual whose absence was very much noticed by all was that of Maj Duncan Sutor who was secretary of the executive committee. Among the many things that he will be remembered for is that of his deep concern regarding welfare.

On 7 July some of our members attended the fourth Regimental gathering at Bassingbourn. It was a very good day; the weather was good and the interest in the event was shown by the very good attendance by past and present members of the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Our Minden eve buffet dance on 27 July, which took place at the TA Centre, was very well attended especially by members of the Hemel Hempstead Branch. Tony Rogers did a very good job providing the music and the buffet was provided by Derreck and Marjorie Johnson. It was a very good get together by old friends coming from various distances to take part

in the following day's Minden celebrations.

On Minden Day, 28 July, the weather was very good and I am convinced that the attendance was a near record. Members from other branches took an active part in the various jobs necessary to make sure that the day went smoothly. Our thanks go out to all who helped to make the day a very successful one.

On 21 Sept some of our members went to the Cambridgeshire annual sergeants' dinner which took place at the TA Centre, Coldhams Lane, Cambridge. This is an event that we have always supported. The food has always been good and so has the company.

On 27 Sept, 26 of our members went to the Felixstowe Branch annual dinner which took place at the Marlborough Hotel. It was very good to see Jack Gingell present.

It was arranged, with the help of the Felixstowe Branch, that a presentation should be made to Jack for all the work that he has done for the OCA and to show our pleasure at seeing him well on the road to recovery.

So Jack was presented with a bronze statuette of a soldier in full battle order by the vice-president of our branch – Len Keeble.

A basket of flowers was also presented to Bette Brafield for the help she gave to Jack, especially in the early days when he was unable to feed himself.

This is about all that I have for this issue, so in signing off I wish, on behalf of the Bury and District Branch, all members everywhere a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

## Felixstowe and District Branch

**Mr E Roworth writes:**

SINCE my last report we have enjoyed a reasonable summer period.

In May we held our annual afternoon tea party, with live entertainment. We had hoped for a better attendance but numbers were down. However it

was an enjoyable afternoon.

In early June, we had our branch coach trip which this year was to Yarmouth. The weather was fine and we all took advantage of it, especially the ladies who made a bee-line for the market and shops.

At the Minden reunion, the branch was again well represented and we all enjoyed the well arranged day. I certainly felt that the extra help from the branches was very worthwhile. All the members who volunteered to help deserve a big thankyou.

Membership has declined slightly, the branch losing three members due to death since January.

Finances of the branch remain sound and have shown a small but steady increase due to the OCA car boot sales, which are our main source of fund raising and have contributed almost £200 to our funds this year.

In May we visited the Leiston Branch buffet dance and in September attended the Beccles buffet dance. Our thanks to them both for two very enjoyable evenings.

In June a number of members from Beccles visited Felixstowe and several of our members were able to meet them for lunch at the British Legion Club and spent a pleasant two hours in their company.

Our dinner dance on 27 Sept was once more a success. Numbers were down on last year. We were very pleased to be able to accommodate our friends from Bury in their presentation of a statuette to Jack Gingell, and a lovely bouquet to his lady. How nice it was to see him on his feet again and looking so well.

It was with great sadness that we learnt from Canada of the sudden death of our president, Maj "Cubs" Cubitt.

As the festive season draws nearer, it remains for me, on behalf of the Felixstowe Branch OCA to wish all other branches, old comrades, friends and ex-Suffolks wherever you are, the seasons greetings and a prosperous New Year.



# Around the Branches



## Old Comrades AGM

**Reunion:** Special thanks were recorded to Jack Cosford who, for a number of years, has produced the tickets free of charge, and to Mrs Connie Lawrence who has regularly run off 500 copies of the service sheet with no thought of profit, also to Maj K Starling and Mrs Nancy Slattery and their helpers, not forgetting the ACF. The local City of Ely Military Band is also a great asset as an affiliated organisation.

**Regimental Chapel:** Flowers are maintained so far at no cost and silk artificial ones are being considered for use in winter. The RBL wreaths are made good use of and one usually remains in-situ during the year, while the others are placed on graves of former members.

The Endowment Fund now stands at £13,161 and Capt P M Clayton has covenanted an amount sufficient to cover the cost of renovating the Colonel Clayton Memorial Slab which has been carried out by David Kindersley.

The new Dean the Very Revd Michael Higgins has become a trustee and improved lighting is expected shortly. The Waterloo Helmet, Body Armour & Halberds have raised a lot of interest lately.

**Ely Museum:** This is in some financial difficulty as it relies on the local authority. So far the OCA has not contributed funds but it may have to be considered.

A change in the items exhibited would be preferable to create interest for repeat visitors. In this respect it is known that a Wisbech organisation

would be prepared to offer financial assistance in setting up a Museum at Wisbech if accommodation can be found. Peckover House is a possibility.

**Accounts:** At 31 Aug the general fund stands at £205.05 including a contribution of £164.08 from the reunion. The Benevolence Fund balance was £1,986.34.

**Regimental Silver:** This is now under new trusteeship, which is arranging insurance cover. A small fee to cover this will be made when silver is required at outstations.

**Regimental History:** Bound copies covering the period from 1920 to the formation of 'D' are to be kept in safe conditions at the Cadet HQ at Waterbeach. This is the excellent work of the late Maj D E Hutt. Capt J S Cook has now been appointed Archivist.

## Whittlesey & Peterborough

THE reunion at Ely on 9 June was as always the highlight of the branch year. The service in the Cathedral, although simple, was at the same time magnificent. The parade afterwards was a glorious sight to see, headed by the City of Ely Military Band and followed by the branch Standards and marching troops of D Cambridgeshire Coy, 6th Royal Anglians followed by the Old Comrades of both the Cambridgeshire and Suffolks.

Sadly it rained but we all dried off in the Hayward Theatre and enjoyed our char and was prepared by Nancy Slattery and her helpers and supervised by Maj Ken Starling.

A special mention must be made of our General Secretary Roy Stubbings. He does a lot of work that nobody knows about as he always stays in the background. Well done Roy. Also thanks must be made to the local Army Cadet Force who help in so many ways.

We held our jumble sale on Peterborough Market on 24 July which raised £76 for our branch Benevolent Fund. Thanks are due to Sylvia and Jesse Matthews, Eddie Davies, Don

Poole, Jimmy Carter and Peter Hall.

The barbecue held in conjunction with the Northamptonshire & Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Peterborough Branch) at the Woolpack, North Street, Stanground, Peterborough on 18 July. It was a great success, over 80 people partaking. The next barbecue will be held on 16 Jul 92.

On 16 Aug the branch heard of the sudden death of one of its youngest members, Peter Hall aged 57 years. Peter had attended the monthly branch meeting the previous evening. We paid our last respects to Peter at his funeral at the Peterborough Crematorium on 23 Aug. Our branch Standards and escorts were present at March Branch's annual church service on 18 Aug. Attendance was low; this service could be better supported by the Association.

Our annual church service took place at the United Reform Church on 29 Sept. The service was conducted by the Rev Norman George and the readings were read by our oldest Comrade, Tony Laud. Cpl McKee from the Corps of Drums 5th (V) Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment sounded the Last Post and Reveille.

After the service refreshments were served by the ladies of the church. Twenty members of the Whittlesey Detachment Army Cadets attended the service under the watchful eye of the Detachment Commander Capt John Watson.

Around 20 Old Comrades attended the service combining the young and the old and this service will be one of the main items in our yearly calendar of events, but it is hoped that the Association will give more support.

The branch regimental dinner took place on Friday 4 Oct at the Dog-in-a-Doublet, North Bank, Peterborough. A total of 39 people sat down to the traditional roast dinner. The table wines were decorated with various pieces of ACF silver and candelabra. The grace and 'absent comrades' were read by

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# Around the Branches

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branch Padre Canon Arthur Ludlow and the loyal toast was proposed by branch president Tom Miles. The toast to the branch was given by Capt John Watson. The guests for the evening were Maj Stuart McLoone, battalion commander 5th, Huntingdon & Peterborough Battalions; Army Cadets and Lt Nancy Slattery from Cambridgeshire ACF HQ; Cambridge and Cadet Sergeant and Major Paul Watson, the branch's Regimental Standard Bearer from Whittlesey ACF. The party afterwards broke up at around 10.45 pm with promises that we will meet again, same place, same month, in 1992.

May we wish all our friends a happy and joyful season's greetings and all health and happiness in 1992. As the Bishop of Peterborough, the Right Rev William Westwood said in a letter to me the other day: "There are not many of us left." To our sister branches Cambridge, Ely, March and Wisbech, all our best wishes, see you all next year.

## Wisbech Branch

ALL the officers were re-appointed at the AGM and a dinner was held on 12 Oct. The usual rounds of social activities have taken place, including the visits to the Royal Tournament and Minden Day at Bury St Edmunds. The branch is alive and in good heart.

## March & District Branch

THIS has been a good year financially and socially. A party in April was well attended and 47 members and friends had a holiday together in May. Five coach trips took place.

The annual service of Thanksgiving of 16 Aug was not well attended as it clashed with D Coy shoot. Some regrets have been expressed that VJ day – the end of the Second World War – was apt to be forgotten.

The loss of Bill Taylor was deeply felt. On the welfare side, help had been obtained for a number of cases.

## Ely Branch

THE branch has experienced another quiet year, being somewhat short of active local members. However, those scattered in Norfolk, Suffolk and even Wales have enabled attendances to be kept up at most Regimental functions including Minden Day, the Service of Remembrance at Westminster (where the Queen Mother paused to speak to Roy and was captured by a camera in the act), the Ely reunion when special thanks were recorded for the efforts put into this, and in which Ely members are happy to take a leading part.

At the AGM there was a request from the vice-chairman for a Cambridgeshire Badge for presentation to the Micleburgh Collection at Weybourne, which is a museum. This was made and chairman Mr Legge and the secretary presented it to the curator, Sq Ldr Savoury, on 21 July when they started up three tanks specially for the benefit of our party and entertained us in a most welcoming fashion.

Members from a wide circle in East Anglia and Wales attended the Ely reunion and Minden Day and a few attended the VJ Service. The branch is particularly concerned about Len Gilbert and wishes him well.

## Cambridge Branch

THE chairman, Mr H S Taylor, reports that under the guidance of Maj D F Hutt, until his recent death, the branch had functioned very satisfactorily as always.

There had been a Christmas party and attendance at the St George's tide Eucharist in the Regimental Chapel with the get together afterwards at Archer House.

A fair attendance was put in at the Royal Anglian Bassingbourn open day and at Minden Day and D Coy shoot in August. Special thanks are due to Maj M Veal and D Coy. The attendance at Maj Hutt's funeral was very gratifying and there were many members and friends there and long lines of Cambridgeshires and ACF formed the

Guard of Honour before and after the service in St Peter's Fordham on 30 Aug.

## Ely 1991

THE Cambridgeshire Regiment Old Comrades Association held their annual parade and memorial service at Ely again this year. We are delighted to report the great success of the reunion.

The best sign of interest is the great encouragement given to us by D Coy of the 6th Royal Anglians. They seem keen that the traditions of the Regiment should not be forgotten.

Ely Cathedral itself is so large and awe-inspiring that a congregation has to be large to prevent it being lost entirely. We were of course dwarfed by the building, one always is. But it was a congregation that would have found it difficult to fit into a large parish church and the singing of the hymns to the Ely Military Band sounded magnificent.

We were delighted by the presence of the Bishop of Ely, showing that he wishes to keep up the habit of his predecessor. The Rev Simon Godfrey, vicar of All Saints Northampton and Chaplain to the 5th Royal Anglians preached a very moving sermon, finishing by quoting a poem by Woodbine Willie.

## Obituaries

WE regret to report the following deaths:-

**Jack Dolby** died in Peterborough District Hospital on 5 Oct. **James Peter Hall** died suddenly in the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough on 16 Aug aged 57 years. **Maj D E Hutt** died in Addenbrookes, Cambridge on 24 Aug after a short illness. **Maj C E Johnson** died 1 June, aged 84. **Capt J W Lambert-Bellamy (Sam)** died peacefully on 14 Sept at Manor Farm Residential Home, Ingoldisthorpe, Norfolk, aged 86. **CSM W Taylor** died on 3 July. **Alfred Withers** died peacefully on 19 May, aged 72 years.

## Absences hit cricket results

RESULTS did not match up to the very successful 1990 season. Nevertheless 15 matches were played despite the less than suitable weather in June. With all three Regular Battalions out of the country, the pool of players was somewhat reduced, and match managers had many problems – but always in the end succeeded in producing sides.

To all of them grateful thanks for their hard work. Thanks are also due to Col Mike Boocock for allowing us to use the Depot for our home matches.

The fixture list was much as has become traditional – playing the schools during their summer term, with a tour in early August. This year, additional, we took on Woodbridge and the Queen's Regiment, but sadly rain prevented completion of these games.

On 14 July one special occasion was marked at our annual match against Edward Evans Lombes' XI at Marlingford; from subscriptions from club members, Edward and Marilyn were presented with a bench and a pair of engraved glass goblets by our president, Gen Sir David, as a token of appreciation for 10 years of delightful cricket and generosity.

Having toured Berlin for the two previous summers, this time three matches were played in the Salisbury area, starting with a game against Gen Tony Pollard's South West District XI – which was dutifully lost. Morale was, however, restored by the most generous hospitality of Gen Tony and Col Martin Romilly afterwards.

The tour party then took on Longparish, a strong village side, and finished with a win, in foul weather, at Robert Mackintoshes' ground on his farm near Sherborne. Jim Badgers bowling for the opposition gave him our 'man of the match' award – but to be fair to him, he was only hours off a plane from Canada. With Graham Duthoit and Andy Foster just back from Lesotho and the Gulf respectively, and Sam Sangster, a recruit from Australia via Felsted, there was a cosmopolitan air to the squad.

Individually, stalwarts performed as before: Guy Hipkin hit a century against the Perse, Mike Scragg was very consistent with the bat, and a number of half centuries

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### RESULTS 1991

<b>28 Apr v Rugby School</b>	
Rugby School 198–7 dec; The Regiment 199–8 (Steele-Bodger 55*)	WON
<b>5 May v The Leys Wyverns</b>	
The Leys Wyverns 215–6; The Regiment 178–8 (35 overs match)	LOST
<b>12 May v Haileybury College</b>	
The Regiment 123; Haileybury College 125–7	LOST
<b>19 May v Oundle School</b>	
Oundle School 219–2 dec; The Regiment 139	LOST
<b>26 May v Perse Pelicans</b>	
The Regiment 256 (Hipkin 128); Perse Pelicans 242	WON
<b>2 June v Harrow School</b>	
The Regiment 127; Harrow School 131–1	LOST
<b>9 June v Felsted School</b>	
The Regiment 152–9 dec; Felsted School 153–3	LOST
<b>16 June v Uppingham School</b>	
Uppingham School 157; The Regiment 97–8	DRAW
<b>24 June v The Queen's Regiment</b>	
The Regiment 53–5 (abandoned, rain)	DRAW
<b>26 June v Greshams School</b>	
Greshams School 192–7 dec; The Regiment 171 (Pattinson 61)	LOST
<b>1 July v Framlingham College</b>	
The Regiment 209–8 dec (Hammond 59*); Framlingham College 211–5	LOST
<b>14 July v Edward Evans Lombes XI</b>	
The Regiment 187–8 dec (Heal 55); Edward Evans Lombes XI 190–5	LOST
<b>THE TOUR</b>	
<b>8 August v GOC South West Districts XI</b>	
The Regiment 129–7 dec; GOC South West Districts XI 130–4	LOST
<b>9 Aug v Longparish CC</b>	
Longparish 250–7 dec; The Regiment 158–9	DRAW
<b>11 Aug v Robert Mackintoshes XI</b>	
Robert Mackintoshes XI 151–7; The Regiment 154–5 (Brooks 74*) (40 overs match)	WON

### LEADING AVERAGES 1991

#### BATTING (4 Inns min)

	INNS	NO	RUNS	HS	AVE
Scragg	6	2	157	40	39.25
Hammond	7	3	148	59*	37.00
Bird	6	0	174	46	29.00

#### BOWLING (5 Wkts min)

	O	M	R	W	AVE
Russell	12	0	79	5	15.80
Latham	32.2	5	98	6	16.33
Brown C	22.4	2	98	5	19.60

# Sport

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were scored; bowlers chipped in but there were no really devastating performances. The leading averages are shown below. Graeme Bird recorded his 50th wicket for the Regiment - Martin Romilly and Graham Duthoit their first (and some have said, last).

For next summer we hope to have the services of players from at least one of the Regular battalions, and the plot will be much as before, with hopefully a tour again in late July / early August.

Finally a reminder to all; players of whatever rank, whether serving or retired, are always most welcome to play for the Regiment, please do not be shy and miss the opportunity for some excellent cricket in good company on some lovely grounds. Contact RHQ if you want to know more.

**MEMBERS** of the Cricket Club will be saddened to hear of the sudden death of our umpire for the 1990 season - Desmond Best, who died on 4 Oct.

He served with the Royal Norfolks in Normandy and later lived in Bungay. We send our warmest sympathy to his family.

## Vikings represent Infantry teams

ALTHOUGH facilities in the PVCs for fitness training were extremely primitive, there were opportunity for those based in company locations.

Football, volleyball and touch rugby were played and accounted for a number of injuries amongst headquarters personnel. Capt Vincent, TQMS Bonnett and Sgt Dawkins returned to England, where they met up with CSgt Callaghan already back on a course, to compete for the Infantry in the Inter-Corps orienteering and Capt Thorne represented the Infantry in the Inter-Corps hockey.



Cpl Paul pushes Linford Christie hard in training.

## Cpl Paul runs for England

CPL Lenny Paul of the Pompadours has had another successful season on the athletics track. He has maintained his position at the forefront of national sprinting both at 100 metres and 200 metres, and he only narrowly missed selection for the 4 x 100 relay squad in the world championships in Tokyo.

He reached the finals of both events in the national championships and he ran 100 m individual for England in several international matches and a 4 x 100 relay for GB in Moscow.

His most satisfying achievement of the season was to captain his club Belgrave

Harriers to victory in the GRE Gold Cup (the club championships) at Gateshead in August. Despite a broken toe, he personally won both sprints, and in so doing set a personal best (PB) of 21.08 secs in the 200 m. His PB for 100 m set at Haringey stands at 10.24 secs

Cpl Paul is now training with the national bobsleigh squad, where he hopes to repeat last season's achievement of representing Great Britain in both events. With the Winter Olympics at Albertville in France a matter of weeks away, we wish him and the team every success.

THERE'S NO DRAM LIKE

**DRAMBUIE**

Stqueur



# Sport



Depot athletics team 1991

## Depot athletes excel

THE Depot team had an excellent season on the athletics front, culminating in winning the Army Championship for the first time.

The team and individual results are as follows:-

Team - 1st DQD, 75 points; 2nd FOD Dulman, 68 points; 3rd Depot POW Div, 65 points; 4th Gord Bn, 63 points.

### Hockey

The Depot hockey team finished its season in fine style. After winning the Infantry Cup with a 4-0 win over 1 Cheshire, the team then went on to win the Eastern Counties Central Division League and the Eastern Counties Services Hockey League Championship on 25 Apr 91. It also finished EDIST Minor Unit's runners-up.

The hockey team achievements for the 90/91 season are as follows:- 1 - Infantry UK Champions; 2 - ECCDL Champions; 3 - ECSHL Champions; 4 - EDIST Minor Units Runners-up.

The breakdown of results are as follows:- Played - 31; Won - 20; Drawn - 8; Lost - 3; For - 57; Against - 20.

The team also played in the Eastern

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Depot golf team which won the EDIST inter-unit championship. L to r: Capt Taylor, D/Maj Thomas, Lt Col Pretsell RADC, Capt Bromfield, Queen's/late R Anglian

# Sport



The Depot hockey team with the CO and RSM.

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District 6's competition on 19 Sep, coming a creditable third.

## Golf

The Depot golf team has had a fairly successful summer, with the QM(T) Capt Graham Taylor, Capt Charles Bromfield – Queens, (although late R Anglian), D/Maj

Andy Thomas and Cpl Sean Chamberlain as regular members of the team which won the EDIST team championship and went forward to the Army inter-unit competitions at Catterick on 12 and 13 Sept 91.

Unfortunately they met the eventual winners, the Royal School of Artillery in the first round.

In the plate competition they beat the Para Depot convincingly but lost by the narrowest of margins to the UDR in the final. In the Anglian Services Golf League they actually managed to avoid coming last for a change! The most successful player throughout 1991 has been Andy Thomas whose handicap is 9.

## Steelbacks running club flourishes

THE Steelbacks have been active on the sporting front. Apart from the occasional stroke to the River Nene by the Commanding Officer, the Training Major took the M40 title in the Infantry Orienteering Competition in May. He is also active with the Battalion orienteering team in the Eastern District League.

## Running Club

THE Battalion running club continues to flourish, mainly through the older stalwarts,

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The Steelbacks Running Club

## Sport

# Vikings win golf trophy

THE annual Royal Anglian Regiment Golfing Society meeting was held at Stowmarket Golf Club on 1 June in glorious summer weather. Twenty-eight members took part and the prizes were won by Capt David Davidson – The Isham Salver (scratch); Maj Roy Jenns – the Pompadour Cup (handicap); ex WO2 Geoff Peck – the Suffolk Cup (Stableford); ex Sgt Steve Horton partnered by ex CSgt Coltman won the Ponsonby Cup (Stableford Foursomes). The Inter-Battalion Trophy was won by the Viking Team.

On 12 June the Regimental team consisting of Lt Col Harold Moore (Capt), Lt Col John Wilson, Majors Roy Jenns and John Perry, CSgt Andy Thomas, Capt Mike Edwards, ex WO2 Ken Taylor and

Geoff Peck, Capt Dave Davidson and ex Sgt Shaun McAnally, won handsomely. The team scores were R Anglian 640 points, Queens 608 and RRF 596.

On 13 Sept we were back to our favourite course, Flempton to play the autumn meeting. Twenty-four members played and once again the sun shone through the day. Prize winners were Medal – Maj John Perry; Stableford – ex Sgt Ken Rowe; Foursomes – ex Sgts Horton and Rowe.

The next day it was our annual match against Flempton Golf Club. It was a very hard fought and close match with the majority of the matches going to the last hole. We congratulate the club for winning by 6 to 4.

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RQMS Alan Dent and CSgt Ted Preston, but recent results in the Eastern District cross-country league and local events suggest that new talent is developing.

The team currently lies second in the Eastern District cross-country league, and a recent team third and two veteran prizes in the TA half marathon championships held on a stiff course at Melton Mowbray, suggest good times ahead for the club.

The team also supports local charities and has raised almost £750 for the Peterborough special baby care unit in the London marathon.

The TA cross-country championships are next on the agenda in January 1992, and we look forward to challenging our TA neighbours in Eastern District with relish.

## Rugby

AFTER the last two seasons, which have been disappointing in terms of results, but encouraging with regard to the increase in standard of play and the enthusiasm of the players, the 1991/92 Steelback rugby squad looks to be a much more organised affair.

The hunt for rugby talent within the battalion has been fruitful indeed, with HQ Coy at Peterborough fielding six players of good ability, although the majority are still from 3 and 1 Coy.

Last season the team had to scrounge for fixtures against a mixture of club sides,

although we did manage to play an historic match against the 3rd Battalion. Historic, because it is the first recorded TA v Regular fixture by our Battalion and also because it is unlikely that we will be able to give the Pompadours a rematch, due to Mr King's folly.

A great shame, because although we lost the match 32-4, the lads were a great credit to the battalion, the Regiment and the TA in the way that they refused to give up, and for their excellent social spirit in the third half.

This season is already well under way by the time you read this article, and the team has played 4RGJ and 8QF in the London District Army and Reserve Units League.

The squad won its match against 4RGJ 18-0, with tries from LCpl Burford, Pte Slater and Sgt Cullen, with three conversions from 2Lt Norman.

Forthcoming fixtures include the London Scottish on 17 Nov and the HAC on 9 Feb.

Prospective fixtures against 21 SAS, the RNR and the US Marine Corps remain to be confirmed but details are available from 3 (Essex) Coy on 0245 251151.

Notable achievements from the squad: Four members of the team, 2Lt Norman, Sgt Cullen, Sgt Oram and OCdt Ferry have been chosen to take part in a trial match for the national TA team. Sgt Cullen has also been selected to captain a London district TA XV to play the RRF touring team in April 1991.

## Obituaries

Colonel J C Denny OBE MC



Colonel Reggie Denny, the last Colonel of the East Anglian Brigade and subsequently the first Regimental Colonel of the Royal Anglian Regiment in 1964, died on 26 June 91.

He was a most remarkable man. But why should John Collingwood Denny be known as "Reggie"? I do not know the answer to that, but as I was considering beginning this piece by describing him as the epitome of the dedicated, devoted, totally loyal Regimental officer, it occurred to me that he might have been nicknamed, as so many pre-war officers were. Reggie might well have been short for "regimental". True or not it is certainly appropriate.

I understand that his reputation in the Somerset village to which he retired has been that of a quiet man, keeping a low profile in his many good works, seeking neither praise nor recognition, but throwing himself wholeheartedly, as he did into everything, everywhere, into village life, especially the Royal British Legion and the Conservative Association and taking immense trouble over involving everyone, organising, writing newsletters, keeping in touch when people were away, talking to lonely people and so on and on.

Not that he wasn't regimental there too. I hear that people joked that when he walked through Batcombe they should stand to attention "because the Colonel was carrying out his inspection."

But 'quiet' is not the impression that lingers in the Northamptonshire Regiment.

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# Obituaries

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Here was a vibrant, vigorous, dominant, even rumbustious character. When I first met him in 1951 he came to visit the 1st Battalion in Trieste, itself not exactly a quiet station, to join in our annual celebration of the battle of Talavera.

He and his friend Rocky Roche descended on us like whizz-bangs, turning the place upside down during their short stay with hair-raising exploits and very noisy parties. By that time he was well known, even notorious, in the Regiment for the way in which he lived life to the full.

He had joined in 1936 in Northern Ireland and stayed two years before going to the staff of 8th Division in Palestine and North Africa. There was a short spell with 2nd Sherwood Foresters before rejoining the 58th (2nd Northampton) in Italy.

This battalion was in the severe fighting at Anzio, suffering many casualties, and Reggie earned a most gallant MC while crossing the river Moletta as OC A Coy.

Apart from a short spell as second in command of 16 DLI he remained with the 2nd or 5th Battalions of the regiment until finishing the war in Austria.

In 1950 he became an instructor at Sandhurst and during his tour there married Billie on 22 December 1952. After nearly 40 years of happy marriage our hearts go out to Billie and the family in their sad loss.

After Sandhurst, Reggie went to Germany and then with the battalion to Korea soon after the war ended. It was here that one of the legendary stories found its origin. I tell it because it tells us something about the man.

In Pusan he found himself responsible, amongst other things, for a great pile of the sort of clothing and equipment that is left over after a war. Three times he signalled headquarters asking for disposal instructions for this heap of stores taking up space and needing guarding.

Then he signalled: "If I get no reply within seven days I shall burn it." Answer came there none. Now many people try on this sort of dire threat ploy. Reggie was different. To the horror of many onlookers he burnt the lot. Headquarters went berserk but he was unmoved.

From 1955-57 he was the AA & QMG at HQ 17 Gurkha Division in Malaya, where his talents and energy were tested to the full. That they were not found wanting may be gathered from the award of the OBE. At this time he was promoted to

Brevet rank, a custom now extinct in the Army but it meant being earmarked for early further advancement.

In 1958 he took command of the TA battalion of the regiment based in Peterborough and this was probably his most fulfilling job. Everyone knew him as "Master" and Master had the most tremendous energy and drive.

The Volunteers had seen nothing like it and it went totally against the fashion of the time of treating volunteers with kid gloves lest they vote with their feet.

Such was his leadership that despite working them very hard indeed (I was his Adjutant and never worked so hard in my life) the volunteer strength nearly doubled during his time in command. It was a tour de force and I have a clear memory of a peer of the realm asking me how "that tiger of a CO of yours" was.

The Territorials were devoted to him because it was not only good soldiering, imaginative, creative and successful; it was also the greatest fun. I can see him now, greeting one with palms raised and "Ah, dear boy" in prelude to issuing the most daunting and demanding instructions.

I did not see him for some time after that. I believe he had a less than happy time in the Ministry of Defence, working for a man with whom he did not hit it off.

Next, in 1964 he became Colonel. The East Anglian Brigade, at that time comprising four East Anglian regiments who had found it difficult to cope with the process of amalgamation. By sound staff work and great persuasive powers he cajoled these regiments, with great traditions and loyalties of their own, to come together to form The Royal Anglian Regiment, the first and one of the most successful of the so-called Large Regiments.

Reggie is a leading light among the founding fathers of The Royal Anglian Regiment and we all have so many reasons to be grateful for and proud of his achievements for us.

Tours at the Regular Commissions Board and command of the Cadet Training Centre at Frimley ended his distinguished career and in retirement he worked for a while in recruiting.

We have lost a great regimental officer who leaves behind as an enduring memorial a great British Regiment. A man of loyalty, dedication, restless energy and total integrity, but also a man of humility, kindness and understanding. He had the com-

mon touch, able to talk with soldiers with familiarity and humour but never losing their respect and admiration. **JBA**

## Lt Col D W Browne MC

Lt Col Desmond Walker Browne died in the Westminster Hospital on 6 June 1991 after a long and courageous fight against cancer.

He was born in Dublin on 31 Mar 1920, and in 1937 entered RMC Sandhurst on a King's Cadet Scholarship.

He was commissioned into the Essex Regiment until he was evacuated with the rest of his company after the fall of Dunkirk. He returned to France on D Day, landing with the 2nd Battalion and spending most of the rest of the war in command of B Coy through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. He was mentioned in Despatches in 1940 and awarded the Military Cross in 1945.

Desmond attended the Staff College at Quetta in 1945 and saw service in India, Egypt, Germany, Mauritius, Malaya, Singapore and France before returning in 1963 to command the 1st Battalion Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment TA in Hertford.

After retirement he was for seven years secretary of the Royal Thames Yacht Club. He later served as a retired officer in the Special Air Service Directorate before a heart attack forced him to retire completely in 1982.

Desmond was a most sociable and hospitable man; generous, warm hearted and with a lovely Irish sense of humour, always ready to encourage, support or sustain.

He died relatively young, the last few years of his life punctuated with poor health. Yet he never failed to make light of the ravages of a vicious cancer.

He leaves behind a host of friends and an adoring family. **DJWB**

**DEATHS:** We record with regret the deaths of the following: **Maj Duncan Sutor**, ex Suffolks, 10 Jan 91; **Lt Col (Hon Brig) F W Clowes**, ex R Norfolk; **Lt Col Francis Donald Coburn**, ex R Leicesters, 9 Oct 91; **Capt R E M Hughes**, ex Northampton, 5 Jun 91; **Pte Michael T J Linley**, 5 Apr 91 while training with the 3rd Bn in Colchester; **Junior Leader J S Windsor**, on 12 Sept 91 while on training at Shorncliffe.

We extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to their family and friends.



# Births & Marriages

## VIKINGS

**BIRTHS:** **Adan** – To Pte Adan and fiancée Michelle a son Brian; **Berry** – To LCpl and Mrs Berry a son Lewis Andrew; **Brown** – To Cpl and Mrs Brown a son William James Andrew; **Cavilero** – To Pte and Mrs Cavilero a son Scott Liam; **Eccles** – To Pte and Mrs Eccles a son Casey; **Edwards** – To LCpl and Mrs Edwards a son (as yet unnamed); **Ellis** – To LCpl and Mrs Ellie a daughter Rebecca; **Hampson** – To Pte and Mrs Hampson a son Daniel; **Howe** – To Cpl and Mrs Howe a son Scott Rupert; **Jones** – To Pte Jones and fiancée Sally a son Antony; **Patten** – To Cpl and Mrs Patten a daughter Rachel; **Pattison** – To Sgt and Mrs Pattison a daughter Nicola Yasmine; **Prescott** – To Maj and Mrs Prescott a son Christopher; **Waller** – To LCpl and Mrs Waller a daughter Rebekah Holly-Anne; **White** – To LCpl and Mrs White a son Aaron Sergio.

**MARRIAGES:** **Botley – Wright** — On 16 Mar Cpl Botley to Miss Allison Elizabeth Wright; **Bridges – Clements** — On 27 Aug Pte Bridges to Miss Elizabeth Clements; **Brown – Green** — On 6 Apr Pte Brown to Miss Louise Green; **Cook – Townsend** — On 6 Apr Capt R A Cook to Miss Celia Townsend.

## POACHERS

**BIRTHS:** **Brunt** – To Capt and Mrs S B Brunt a son Harry Steven. **Haycock** – To Sgt and Mrs Haycock a son Lee Steven; **Somerton** – To Pte and Mrs Somerton a daughter Sindy-Lea Kirsty; **Howard** – To Cpl and Mrs Howard a son Matthew James; **Sweap** – To Bdms and Mrs Sweap a daughter Amanda Jane; **Warner** – To Cpl and Mrs Warner a son Timothy Anthony; **Jolley** – To LCpl and Mrs Jolley a son Kevin Carsten; **Pearson** – To Cpl and Mrs Pearson a son Adam James; **Norman** – To Cpl and Mrs Norman a daughter Michelle Lorraine; **Askin** – To Cpl and Mrs Askin a son Sean Lee; **Dodd** – To Sgt and Mrs Dodd a daughter Diane Lorraine; **White** – To Cpl and Mrs White a son Daniel Paul; **Fraser** – To Cpl and Mrs Fraser a son Aaron James; **Woods** – To Pte and Mrs Woods a son Lewis David; **Bryant** – To Pte and Mrs Bryant a daughter Abby Nicole; **Lobley** – To Pte and Mrs Lobley a daughter Francais Veronica; **Clark** – To Cpl and Mrs Clark a daughter Holly Jaine; **Gifford** – To Cpl and Mrs

Gifford a son Darren Ian; **Gregory** – To Cpl and Mrs Gregory a son Erin Wayne; **Taylor** – To LCpl and Mrs Taylor a son Aaron Paul; **McCourty** – To Cpl and Mrs McCourty a daughter Nicole Mary; **Briody** – To LCpl and Mrs Briody a son Kevin David; **Headland** – To Pte and Mrs Headland a daughter Jade Amanda; **Mahoney** – To Cpl and Mrs Mahoney a daughter Sara Victoria; **Kirk** – To Sgt and Mrs Kirk a daughter Melissa Elizabeth; **Leddie** – To Pte and Mrs Leddie a son Callan; **Hannant** – To Bdms and Mrs Hannant a daughter Sophie Ann; **Ingliss** – To Pte and Mrs Ingliss a daughter Natalie Louise; **Dorman** – To Cpl and Mrs Dorman a son Philip James; **Booth** – To Pte and Mrs Booth a son Jayson Liam; **Clarke** – To Pte and Mrs Clarke a daughter Amy Yvette; **Thorne** – To Pte and Mrs Thorne a daughter Michelle Dawn; **Gardener** – To Pte and Mrs Gardener a son Wayne Neill Lewis; **Roberts** – To Cpl and Mrs Roberts a son Callum; **Day** – To Pte and Mrs Day a daughter Lauren Rachel.

**MARRIAGES:** **Faulkner - Mosley** — On 5 Jan 91 LCpl H M Faulkner to Miss Susan Jane Mosley; **Foster – Berkham** — On 10 Jan 91 LCpl A R Foster to Miss Ruth Berkahn; **Symon – Krock** — On 30 Mar 91 Pte T Symon to Miss Claudia Krock; **Tysoe – Van Dijk** — On 2 Apr 91 Pte R J Tysoe to Miss Tjitske Van Dijk; **Spiller – Brand** — On 2 Apr 91 Pte A E Spiller to Miss Britta Brand – **Cotgrave – St. Laurent** — On 31 Aug Pte M E Cotgrave to Miss Kay Lesley St. Laurent.

## POMPADOURS

**BIRTHS:** **Baker** – To Capt and Mrs Baker a daughter Charlotte; **Betts** – To Pte and Mrs Betts a daughter Yasmin; **Boulton** – To LCpl and Mrs Boulton a daughter Jane; **Boulton** – To Pte and Mrs Boulton a daughter Bethany; **Driver** – To Cpl and Mrs Driver a daughter Elsie; **Edwards** – To LCpl and Mrs Edwards a daughter Jasmin; **Essai** – To Cpl and Mrs Essai a daughter Chloe; **Hardie** – To Cpl and Mrs Hardie a son Ian; **McGregor** – To Cpl and Mrs McGregor a son Liam; **O'Dell** – To Sgt and Mrs O'Dell a daughter Catherine; **Wale** – To LCpl and Mrs Wale a son Michael; **Wolfe** – To Sgt and Mrs Wolfe a son Reuben.

**MARRIAGES:** **Mackain–Bremner** –

**Conington** – On 11 Oct 91 Col A F MacKain-Bremner OBE to Mrs Dawn Conington; **Adams – Dunford** — On 27 Apr Cpl Adams to Miss Tracy Dunford; **Bredin – Hines** — On 31 Aug 91 LCpl Bredin to Miss Marie Hines; **Bull – Pagent** — On 8 Aug LCpl Bull to Miss Bernadette Pagent; **Clark – Richards** — On 27 Apr 91 Pte Clark to Miss Stephanie Richards; **Doherty – Bruce** — On 2 Aug 91 Cpl Doherty to Miss Paula Bruce; **Drewery – Hart** — On 17 Apr 91 Pte Drewery to Miss Serena Hart; **Gadsen – Robson** — On 30 Apr 91 LCpl Gadsen to Miss Diana Robson; **Gelder – Humphries** — On 7 Sept 91 Pte Gelder to Miss Rose Humphries; **Jones – Stewardson** — On 1 Aug 91 Cpl Jones to Miss Julia Stewardson; **Kendall – Holohan** — On 27 Sept 91 Pte Kendall to Miss Janet Holohan; **Leversedge – McGill** — On 4 May 91 Pte Leversedge to Miss Marie McGill; **Magee – Keating** — On 20 Jul 91 Pte Magee to Miss Johanna Keating; **Morgan – Harrod** — On 3 Apr 91 Pte Morgan to Miss Carolyn Harrod; **Murton – Maskell** — On 29 Jul 91 Pte Murton to Miss Michelle Maskell; **Norman – Wingfield** — On 8 Aug 91 Pte Norman to Miss Louise Wingfield; **Rainbird – Fitzpatrick** — On 21 Sept 91 Sgt Rainbird to Pte Jane Fitzpatrick WRAC; **Rawlings – Gilmore** — On 1 Apr 91 Pte Rawlings to Miss Tina Gilmore; **Robinson – Keogh** — On 30 Mar 91 Pte Robinson to Miss Sharon Keogh; **Smith – Craven** — On 9 Mar 91 Pte Smith to Miss Frances Craven; **Turner – Moses** — On 24 Aug 91 Pte Turner to Miss Naysha Moses; **Watts – Black** — On 4 May 91 Pte Watts to Miss Charlotte Black; **Wright – Able** — On 24 Aug 91 Pte Wright to Miss Maria Able.

## STEELBACKS

**BIRTHS:** **Davidson** – To Lt and Mrs Davidson a son.

## DEPOT

**BIRTHS:** **Brown** – To Cpl and Mrs Brown a daughter Karyn Rachel.

**MARRIAGES:** **Hardie – Fuller** — On 17 Aug 91 Pte Hardie to Miss Michelle Fuller; **Warrener – Ilse** — On 14 Sept 91 Sgt Warrener to Miss Martina Ilse; **Franklin – Graham** — On 30 Sept 91 Pte Franklin to Miss Carol Graham.

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Large R Anglian drummer .....	£0.50 ea	
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