



CASTLE

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT

JUNE 1992



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to

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1st Battalion
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2nd Battalion
(Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and
Northamptonshire)



3rd Battalion
(Bedfordshire, Herfordshire
and Essex)



June 1992

Vol. 8 No. 11

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Colonel C. Dale

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Our cover

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



Member of the Association of Service Newspapers



On patrol in Fermanagh at last light.

From the Colonel of the Regiment

THE last six months have not been easy for the Regiment as on top of busy schedules the realities of Options have started to bite. The process is sadly due to accelerate over the next few months and it will be some time yet before all the pieces are rearranged and the two new Regular Battalions emerge in their own right.

The merger of our three Regular Battalions will take place in October. There are some I know who would wish to continue to pursue the spectre of last minute salvation on the back of rumours of a revised Options package. Whether this eventually happens or not, the political realists amongst us will realise that even if the Government is of a mood to release extra resources, the Infantry is currently not necessarily at the front of the queue. Furthermore, few believe that any change could ever be in place in time to influence the reductions planned for this October.

In my own and many others' opinion, pursuing this hope at this time in our history can but raise false hopes and further confuse the merger process. I am relieved that this is the opinion of all Commanding Officers and the majority of the Regimental Council, who have agreed that the successful creation of the two new Regular Battalions is and must remain our priority. I have, however, written to the Chief of the General Staff expressing our concern at the impact of these endless rumours on the merger process and seeking his clarification as to the future of the Infantry.

None of this makes the next few months any easier, particularly for the Pompadours on whose shoulders the majority of the disruption will fall. All of us understand the significance of Eagle, Sphinx and Britannia: purple, red, yellow and black: much loved nicknames, which in some cases have carried battalions on for two centuries or more. All of these elements are firmly woven into the fabric of the new Regular Battalions, and as



important, our three TA Battalions. But, as soldiers and their families move from Derry to what for many can only be viewed as a not entirely welcome new start, the extremes of current battalion identity must be subdued until they have had a chance to establish themselves and to contribute their own ideas and culture to the new.

The main parameters of our future were set a year ago by my predecessor, a soldier of immense wisdom and guile whose blueprint we are currently implementing. However, whilst acknowledging that the merger process is still to come, I am nevertheless very aware of the requirement to start placing one or two beacons along the way now, to guide us into the next decade.

For example, we need to clear our minds on the regimental policy regarding arms plotting. (Do we, or don't we, wish to hang onto Colchester as our permanent UK base?) We need to look again at our regimental recruiting policy in the light of the plans emerging from the Ministry of Defence. At the risk of pre-empting the debate, this appears to be a watered down version of the old system which spectacularly failed to produce enough recruits for the Regiment despite two recessions in the last decade. We must complete the process of agreeing the

realignment of our county affiliations after the October mergers and I will be discussing this with Commanding Officers over the next few months. We must also remember the vital role played by the Associations of both our former regiments and the Royal Anglian Regiment in the life of the Regiment and ensure their interests are properly represented in our affairs.

These then are a few of the areas on which I will be starting to gather views over the summer in preparation for the Regimental Council meeting in November. Until then, the opinions of serving and ex-serving members of the Regiment and indeed our former regiments are most welcome. Either write to Regimental Headquarters or do come and lobby me at the Regimental Gathering at Bassingbourn on 12 July.

Yet again I have failed to mention the considerable achievements of all our Battalions during the last six months. This is not because they go unnoticed, merely that during the last year I have chosen this introduction to cover more fundamental matters. All our not inconsiderable successes are I know recorded elsewhere in this edition and I will not attempt to describe them here, other than to re-emphasise the huge reputation both in the operational and sporting fields that the Regiment continues to maintain. For me, the saving of the 7th Battalion, particularly as so much of it was due to their own and their affiliated counties' efforts, must remain the highlight.

Finally, as we approach the run up to October, I would ask all members of the Regiment to continue to approach the merger of our three Regular Battalions in the spirit of co-operation and trust which has carried us so successfully thus far and to throw their energies and support into ensuring the two new Battalions grow and flourish.

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, CB CBE

Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment

The Reverend T B F Hiney, MC

Deputy Colonels of The Regiment

Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire: Major General M J D Walker, 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 B D Long, OBE
Suffolk: Brigadier W C Deller, OBE
Cambridgeshire: Colonel J P Macdonald
Lincolnshire: Colonel D K Harris, OBE TD ADC
Leicestershire: Colonel W G Dawson, TD DL
Northamptonshire: Colonel P Worthy
Bedfordshire: Colonel A T Winton (designate)
Hertfordshire: Colonel N H Kelsey, OBE TD
Essex: Colonel R C Tomkins, OBE TD 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, Grays and Thurrock, Great Yarmouth, Grimsby, Hertford, Hinckley, Ilford, Ipswich, King's Lynn, Lincoln, Lowestoft, Northampton, Norwich, Peterborough, Romford, Southend, Watford, Wellingborough 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
(*Lieutenant Col R M Chisnall OBE 5 Oct 92*)

2nd Battalion (Lincolnshire, Leicestershire & Northamptonshire).
Celle BFPO 23.

Lieutenant Colonel A P Deed
(*Lieutenant Col J C McColl 19 Sep 92*)

3rd Battalion (Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire & Essex) Ebrington
Barracks, Londonderry, BFPO 807.
To Colchester and Celle – Oct 92.

Lieutenant Colonel R M Chisnall, OBE

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

Lieutenant Colonel C G Stallard
(*Major P G R Horrell TD Oct 92*)

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 M L Colville

Senior Regimental Representatives

Depot The Queen's Division: Major J A B Borthwick

Junior Infantry Battalion: Major F J Perry, MBE

RMA Sandhurst: Captain S T H Andrews

Mainly about people . . .

DIARY DATES 1992

JUNE

3-5	Queen's Division postings meeting.	11-12	Warcop/Otterburn. Regimental autumn golf meeting. Match v. Flempton.
5	Regimental annual golf meeting, Stowmarket.	19-20	Royal Lincoln Old Comrades' reunion, Cleethorpes.
5	Royal Norfolk Regiment Officers' Dinner Club dinner.	26-27	Royal Norfolk Regiment reunion.
12	Royal Lincolns Officers' Luncheon Club, Grantham.	26-10 Oct	7 R Anglian annual camp, Oakhampton.
14	Cambridgeshire Regiment service of remembrance and reunion.		
20-21	Royal Tigers weekend, Leicester.		
28	Essex Regiment reunion, Warley.		

JULY

4-5	Annual Regimental weekend, Northampton.		
11-12	TA Bisley.		
12	ASSOCIATION GATHERING, BASSINGBOURN.		
17	Queen's Division triangular golf match, Bury St Edmunds.		
18-2 Aug	5 R Anglian annual camp.		
19-10 Aug	7 R Anglian block leave.		

AUGUST

1	Minden Day.	18-20	Queen's Division postings meeting.
1	Annual Suffolk Regiment Officers' Dinner Club dinner.		
2	Suffolk Minden day reunion, Bury St Edmunds.		
5-2 Sept	6 R Anglian block leave.		
7-24	1 R Anglian block leave.		
23	3 R Anglian returns to Colchester.		

SEPTEMBER

1	28th anniversary of founding of the Regiment.	May 7	Northamptonshire Regiment Officers' lunch.
5-19	6 R Anglian annual camp.	June 26-27	Royal Tigers weekend.
		July 3-4	Northamptonshire Regiment regimental weekend.

OCTOBER

2	3 R Anglian thanksgiving parade, Colchester.
3	3 R Anglian lay up colours, Warley.
3	Officers' Mess ball.
5	Formation of new 1st and 2nd Battalions.
29	Regimental investment committee meeting, London.

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.
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1993

May 7	Northamptonshire Regiment Officers' lunch.
June 26-27	Royal Tigers weekend.
July 3-4	Northamptonshire Regiment regimental weekend.

Promotions awards and postings

WE congratulate the following on their awards in the recently published Northern Ireland List: Col J D Lacey OBE, Lt Col P W Field OBE, and Lt Col A D Slater OBE.

We also congratulate the following on their awards in the Queen's Birthday Honours List this year: Lt Col R M Chisnall - OBE for services in Namibia; Sgt D J K Saunders - BEM for meritorious services in 6 R Anglian.

The following three NCOs are congratulated on awards given after explosions in the St George's Lines in Kuwait in July 91: Cpl P A Plant - QGM; WO2 (CSM) F N Rimmer QGM Queen's commendation for brave conduct; Sgt A R D Johnson - joint commanders' Middle East personal commendation.

Meanwhile, Brig D J W Browne MBE is now on the held strength of Depot Queen's Div and Brig A J H Calder OBE has taken over as Commander 54 Bde in Colchester. Col T B Thomas OBE and Col P P Rawlins MBE have just completed a course at the NATO defence college and the latter goes to HQ LONDIST HS pending his next appointment 17 Aug 92.

Col G I G Brett has moved to Brussels as Col (W) Projects IMS. Lt Col A P Domeisen continues with his German language training which should be completed Mar 93.

Lt Col P B D Long OBE leaves Stanford PTA and goes to Depot Queen's Div held strength on redundancy 17 July 92. Lt Col R M L Colville took over as CO 7 R Anglian from Lt Col R E Haes 8 Apr 92.

We congratulate the following three officers on their appointment as Deputy Honorary Colonels TA: Col D K Harris OBE TD ADC TA, Lincolnshire; Col R C Tomkins OBE TD, Essex; Lt Col P B D Long OBE, Norfolk.

Commissioning: We congratulate the following on their selection for commissioning in 92/93: WO1 R J Allen; Lt D G Goude MBE who is now training officer with the 2nd Battalion and WO1 N J Richardson who will be commissioned on 6

Continued Page 7

Mainly about people . . .



The epitome of Londonderry. For more pictures of the Pompadours in Northern Ireland see Page 22

From Page 6

Sep 92 and will be posted to 2 RRF.

The following were commissioned or had their commissioning confirmed at the Sovereign's Parade on 10 Apr 92: to the 1st Battalion, 2Lts I Couch, J P Trigg and D J Ward; to the 2nd Battalion, 2Lts G T Corkery, A D Martin and R W Woodisse. We welcome them all into the Regiment.

We welcome into the Regiment Lt A E Eaton on transfer from 2/2 GR.

Postings: Regimental headquarters has been told of the following postings at ERE: Capt T L Crouch left the 2nd Battalion and is with the Junior Leaders Regiment RA as Company 2IC and Capt N Crawshaw is now with the NI Regiment AAC as a Gazelle pilot.

Maj K Hodgson is on the held strength of the Depot having left RMAS and Maj J F Macdonald is with 1 TDU in Warminster.

Lt M A I. Lyne is at Depot Queen's Div

and Maj G J W Baylis has left AFNORTH and is now on the held strength of the Depot. Maj S R H Underwood has taken up the appointment of Instructor Ecole D'Infanterie Mont Pellier. Lt P J Shear-Simonds is now at the Depot.

Lt N A Johnson has nearly completed a tour with 7/10 UDR and Maj S W Lamb is with 54 Inf Bde as SO2 G1/G4 Drawdown. Capt T E O'Driscoll is with Britcon Ukikom.

Capt B A Foster takes over as Adjutant of the Depot on 17 Aug 92 and Maj G F Tomlin leaves Belize to become SO2 G3 Arms Control at HQ NORTHAG on 7 Aug 92.

Capt M M McGowan becomes QM of 4 UDR on 21 Sept 92 and Capt P L Ludbrooke QM of 5 UDR on 17 Aug 92. Maj R J Clements is now on a Parachute Regt course and Maj J G G Ross moves to the Depot as QM on 14 Sep 92. 2Lt C R Moore goes to JIB (RA) Bramcote on 7

Sept 92. Maj F Fisk goes to the 5th Battalion as QM 2 Nov 92 and 2Lt J N D Bowes leaves the 2nd Battalion for RMCS Shrivenham IT Course 24 Sep 92 - Jul 93.

WO1 R P Grenfell leaves 1 Queens to be RSM the 1st Battalion Sept 92 and WO1 A E Todd from the 5th Battalion to be RSM the 2nd Battalion Jul 92. WO1 B G Hillier will be RSM the 5th Battalion in June 92 and WO1 K P Brett RSM the 6th Battalion in Sept 92.

WO1 P J Pacey is posted from 6 UDR to be RSM of the 7th Battalion in Sept 92 and WO1 R J Cook moves from HQ Chilwell Garrison to take up the appointment of RSM 5UDR in July 92.

WO1 W H Eke is posted from the 6th Battalion to become RSM Cambridge UOTC Sept 92 and WO1 D B Parr from 8 QF to be RSM Chilwell Station Jul 92. WO1 A F Twell moves from the 3rd Battalion to become RSM of HQ AFCENT in Dec 92.

Mainly about people . . .

Regimental dress changes

FROM 5 Oct 92 the following changes to Regimental dress will come into force:

Pompadour Eagle. This is to be worn on the right sleeve of No. 1 and No. 2 dress only. (The design has yet to be finalised.)

Regimental Lanyard. Both regular battalions and the 6 (V) Battalion are to wear a Regimental lanyard, basically comprising the black and yellow of the Bedfords. The design has yet to be finalised. The 5th and 7th (V) Battalions will continue to wear lanyards now in use.

Badges of Rank. There will be no colour backing to badges of rank.

Collar Badges. The 1st and 2nd Battalions will continue to wear their collar badges, Britannia & Castle, and Sphinx and Talavera respectively. Members of the 3rd Battalion at "E" posts will continue to wear the Eagle & Garter until posted to one of the Regular Battalions when they will have to change. Collar badges in TA Battalions will be decided at the next council meeting on 6 Nov 92.

Minden Flash and Black Bar Sleeve Flashes. To be worn by the 1st and 2nd Battalions respectively on the right sleeve of combat jackets only.

Officers' Canes. These will no longer be carried.

Stable Belts. The buckled stable belt will be phased out and a new one with straps and buckles will take its place. The belt is to be worn with the buckles on the left side with the straps pointing backwards. All officers and WOs are to wear the new belt from 5 Oct 92 and others as their present belt wears out.

There are no other changes to dress regulations laid down in Regimental Standing Instructions – soon to be rewritten. The Colonel of the Regiment wishes it to be known that he expects all ranks, wherever they are serving, to see that their uniforms are correctly emblazoned on 5 Oct 92.

From the Padre

Light at the end of the tunnel

DURING a recent pilgrimage to Italy, I was struck by the tension between pomp and humility which exists at all levels in every church and empire. After visiting Assisi where St Francis established his way of poverty and humility, we went to Rome. I found myself sitting, like Gibbon, amidst the ruins of the imperial might of past glories and pondering on the passing of such things.

There were no tigers or sphinxes in Rome that day, but my mind turned to the Royal Anglian Regiment and to Warley in particular. This came about by the chance glimpsing of the former Roman symbol, an eagle, by the side of an ancient castle. It struck me anew that we are all inheritors of ancient traditions and tensions common to all humanity. Things do pass, but somehow out of the ashes new things emerge. Not only in empires and churches, but with regiments and individuals too. How we deal with change is what matters.

Rudyard Kipling, whose works are enjoying a revival themselves these days, spoke of triumph and disaster as two imposters. His words, like his tales of the British Army in India, ring true. Who is there, reading these columns, who has not experienced failure and rejection, yet out of this experience, not seen fresh hope and vision? Life itself is a risk and requires us



Tom Hiney

to launch out into the deep. (That is what lies behind the early church symbol of a ship, seen in the picture of a 13th century mosaic from Venice.)

These words are being penned on Good Friday which might account for their ruminative nature. But this Easter season is a reminder of how God works. It is a reminder that after the fast comes the feast and that not even recession can quench the light at the end of our own particular tunnel.

T.H.

Photograph prizes to top £4,000

WHAT are you doing on 26 Nov 1992? If you enter for the Army photographic competition you could be attending a lunch at London's Imperial War Museum to collect a share of the £4,000 worth of prizes on offer.

Prizes this year include a superb Nikon camera and 50mm lens to the Army Photographer of the Year; £500 in cash (£200 to the runner-up) for the best amateur portfolio; numerous other cash awards ranging from £50 to £250; plus £250 worth of NAAFI store vouchers (just the job for Christmas fare); together with silver trophies and framed scrolls of honour.

And you don't need to be an expert pho-

tographer – the majority of competitors are amateurs. The competition is open to members of the Regular Army (including UDR) and Territorial Army, MOD (A) civilian personnel and Army families.

It may be that you already have a potential award winning entry, if not there is time before the closing date for receipt of entries at HQ UKLF on 30 Sep 92.

Entry forms / details are available from your local P Info office or by contacting: Mr T Clark, Photo Competition Manager, G3 P Info, HQ UKLF, Wilton, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 0AG. Tel. (civ) 0722 433345 or Salisbury Mil 3345

Mainly about people . . .

Presentation of Colours

A DATE to remember! We hope to be presented with new Colours for our two Regular Battalions on 1 Sept 1994 a date which coincides with the Regiment's 30th anniversary.

Departures

SINCE the last issue of the Castle we have said farewell to Lt Col R Jon Mosse on 8 Mar, Lt J M Chapman on 7 Apr and Maj J M P Walsh on 18 May.

We wish them all the best of good fortune for the future.

Ordination

MARTIN Franks whom many will remember as RQMS and RSM of the Poachers and QM of the Pompadours, has been ordained as a Roman Catholic deacon in the Diocese of East Anglian. Frank's church is now Our Lady of English Martyrs in Cambridge.

Lords Taverners

MANY congratulations to Col Pat Shervington on his appointment as the director of the Lord's Taverners.



Lenny Paul came close to winning a medal for Britain with the Winter Olympics Bobsleigh team. He tells of the highs and lows on Page 80



Michael Linley commended over prowler incident

IN the previous issue of the Castle we recorded the sad death of Pte Michael Linley while on training. Before his death he received a Commendation because of his alertness while on prowler sentry spotting a man taking video pictures of the camp. Michael Linley reported the matter immediately and subsequently a man was arrested and charged; he was found to have in his possession a replica pistol, flick knives and an aerial photo of the camp.

The picture above shows his parents SSgt and Mrs Linley receiving the Certificate of Commendation from Bng Farrar-Hockley on 20 Nov 91.

Writing a history of the Gulf War

Mark Adkin writes:

JUST a line to let you know that I am busier than ever as a military author. My present task is to write the story of the Royal Scots battlegroup in the Gulf, from the time of the scramble to get ready until they drove into Kuwait. I have just had two weeks with 1 RS at Fort George, and am awash with papers, notes, maps and photographs. It has all the makings of a fascinating story.

There also seems a chance that I may get the task of writing a final regimental history for the 14th/18th Royal Hussars before they disappear from the Army List. What about one of the highlights of the old Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and Essex Regiments I wonder?

My latest publications are firstly 'Goose Green', due out on 28 May, the tenth anniversary, which looks at the controversies of this battle with the assistance of 45 veterans who fought there. It has been chosen as the choice of the month for June by the Military Book Club.

Secondly, 'The Bear Trap', written in partnership with a Pakistani brigadier, is the inside story of how the Mujahideen were trained, armed and controlled by Pakistani military intelligence in their struggle against the Soviets in Afghanistan.

If any reader is interested in purchasing either of these books direct from me I Mark Adkin, 34 Putnoe Lane, Bedford MK41 9AB they cost £18.50 each, p&p free

Mainly about people . . .

Ladies of the dulcet tones

THE Regimental secretary has been asked on a number of occasions to whom the dulcet tones of the ladies answering RHQ telephones belong. The answer is probably Mrs Joan Bithray who has been at RHQ for 13 years. Or it might be the chief clerk Mrs Deirdre Meddings.

The two ladies are seen, right, enjoying refreshments at an Association gathering with John "Blondie" Goodfield who cleans the offices.

Not shown is Mrs Iris Tillyer who operates the word processor, and if the truth be known is the only person who really understands it.



Officers' cocktail party success

A very successful officers' cocktail party was held at the Duke of Yorks, Chelsea on Thursday 14 May. More than 80 attended.

It would seem that numbers have increased because the party was on a Thursday rather than a Friday and we may try the same again next year.

We were delighted to see as guests Doctor and Mrs Colin Juniper, the Master of the Poulters with Mr and Mrs PC Keevil and Mr MB Savoury

Sergeants' Past and Present Dinner Club

THE above function will be at Depot The Queen's Division on Saturday 24 Oct 92. The name of the dinner club was changed to Royal Anglian from East Anglian 25 years ago and therefore this will be the Silver Jubilee dinner.

Anyone man enough to celebrate the occasion should note the date in his diary.

THE National ex-prisoner of War Association reunion and annual general meeting will again be held at the Warners Holiday Village, Hayling Island, Hants on Oct 23 to 26 1992. For full particulars please send a SAE to C Jago, 74 Norfolk Road, West Harnham Salisbury SP2 8HG.

Permanent memorial for the 'Forgotten Army'

ONCE called the 'Forgotten Army' the British 14th Army has at last found a permanent memorial in a new gallery at the National Army Museum.

The war against Japan began disastrously with the evacuation of Burma and the fall of Singapore and Hong Kong. However, British and Commonwealth troops came to terms with the difficult conditions in which they fought and appreciated that the Japanese were not invincible. Chindit raids against Japanese supply lines boosted morale and proved that the jungle was indeed 'neutral'. Under General Slim the reorganised 14th Army beat back the Japanese at Kohima and Imphal and fought their way south towards Rangoon, which

they entered in May 1945.

The exhibition will include original artefacts from the museum's collections. These include the Victoria Cross awarded to Lt Col Cumming (who rescued his men from a Japanese ambush and later led an escape through Japanese lines) and the 17th century sword belonging to the Japanese General Honda who surrendered it to Maj Gen Crowther at the end of the Second World War.

A number of full-scale reconstructions will show the varied terrain over which the war was fought and reflect the contribution made by people of various nations to the defeat of Japan. The reconstructions include a booby-trapped bridge.

HUNTLY – The Officers' Association Country Home

MANY may not know that the Officers' Association and Officers' Benevolent Department of the Royal British Legion run a retirement home called Huntly at Bishops Teignton, Teignmouth, South Devon.

The home is intended for single elderly ex-officers, both male and female of all three services.

Details about the home can be obtained from the General Secretary, The Officers' Association, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1 5JY. Tel: 071 930 0125.

Mainly about people . . .

First reunion of Band Association

IF you have served as a Bandsman in either the Royal Norfolk Regiment, the Suffolk Regiment, the 1st East Anglian or the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment, you are automatically a member of the First Royal Anglian Band Association (FRABA).

A reunion is being planned for 1992 in Colchester.

Would any former members of those hands who wish to attend please contact the Band Sergeant Major (FRABA), 1 Royal Anglian, Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester, Essex CO2 7TB. Tel: 0206 783236 (office), 0206 760121 (home).

Poachers' open day

THE Poachers will be holding a Battalion Open Day on Saturday 25 July 92.

All ex-members of the Battalion and those Poachers posted away are welcome to attend.

The day is yet to be finalised but will consist of a drill parade in the morning and a Battalion fair in the afternoon. For further details contact: Maj Harrold, OC B Coy.

Second retirement

MAJ Peter Purdy has finally retired from his second career (as a school teacher) and wishes to be remembered to his friends; he now lives at Brampton.

Regimental Lists

Readers will note that we have recommenced printing the list of members of the Officers' Dinner Club and of Officers and Warrant Officers serving with our six battalions; our apologies to members of respective Sgts' Messes below the rank of warrant officer but it has become impossible to maintain an accurate up to date list.



A team from the Regiment, pictured, has been exploring the hostile Antarctic island of South Georgia. For their story, see Page 32.



The mayor with Col Dale, town clerk Mr Douglas Moulson and Capt Thurston. *Photo courtesy of the Southend Evening Echo.*

TWO Royal Anglian officers made a courtesy visit to the Mayor of Southend to tell him the latest news from the Regiment. The Regimental Secretary and Capt Paul

Thurston, OC the Regimental Information Team, let Mayor Geoffrey Ayre know of changes brought by the merger of our three regular battalions.



Vikings



Almost there! Left to right:- LCpls Robinson, Plant, Preston and Curtis.

Return from Fermanagh

THE Battalion returned from Fermanagh during the very beginning of November. The handover to 42 Commando went very smoothly, although as ever the period was extremely hectic, the Vikings keen that every ounce of their knowledge amassed over the previous six months should be handed on. The main body departed over a two-day period: B Company and C Battery 3 RHA on the first, followed by A and C Companies on the second.

The Vikings said goodbye to patrolling, permanent vehicle checkpoints, the border and its constantly reopening illegal crossing points and began to settle back into a life that included wives, children, beer and time off.

The Battalion worked in barracks for four weeks on return in order that the post tour leave would encompass the Christmas and New Year period.

The Battalion moved from the old Fermanagh orbat to a new orbat that included a reconstituted Support Company. Apart from such post tour administration the emphasis was very much on sport and winding down after the tour.

There were two long weekends. Soldiers visited various museums such as the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum in Norwich. Many of the traditional Christmas activities were brought forward to November. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess only managing to defeat

the Officers' Mess at football by the narrowest of margins: 3-1.

Post tour leave

ON 29 Nov, the Battalion dispersed for five weeks' post tour leave. It was the first Christmas period that the Battalion had spent in England free from any major commitments since 1983. Vikings went literally all over the world: Cpl Garvie trekked in Nepal; Capt Gregory toured New Zealand and Capt Woodham and Lt Jackson scuba dived in the Red Sea. Many, however, remained in the local area, particularly those with families and children.

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News from the Vikings



'Private' Dennis Curtis (Food Guide) approving the menu.

Chefs entertain television food guide team

CHEFS from the Army Catering Corps cooked up a feast to win themselves a spot on the small screen. Anglia Television's Food Guide team filmed a programme on the trials, tribulations and pleasures of catering for troops in the field.

The Battalion chefs found out the pros and cons of being film stars as they spent a day in Friday Woods near Colchester setting up a field kitchen.

A Section, commanded by Cpl Garvie from B Company, staged an exercise for the benefit of the cameras. They emerged from a Saxon with a new team member, the Food Guide presenter Dennis Curtis who was entering into the spirit of being a Viking.

Sgt Mackillop, Cpl Evans and Pte Rimmer fed members of B Company as well as an extremely hungry film crew. Delights such as pilchards mornay, beef wellington and curry followed by fruit pancakes and chocolate truffles were on offer. All originating from a ten-man ration pack! The Viking chefs took the limelight on Anglia Television in February - are TV contracts just around the corner?



Above: Cooking in the limelight. Below: 'Private' Dennis Curtis with Pte Rimmer, Cpl Evans and Sgt Mackillop.



The Adjutant helps add the finishing touches to Dennis Curtis.

News from the Vikings



Above: The march and shoot competition. Below: Straining! LCpl Nicholls (left) and Lance Bombardier Johnson (right) on the monkey bars.



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Training

THE Battalion returned to work on Monday 6 Jan. The combination of the Fermanagh and South Armagh tours has meant that the Battalion has spent very little time recently in the conventional role. The Battalion started training in earnest.

Training is following very progressive stages. The initial emphasis was on individual skills moving through section level to platoon training in Cyprus on 1 x Lion Sun. The Battalion will be exercising as a battalion in time for the 19 Brigade Exercise in August.

Each of the three rifle companies carried out training in STANTA prior to Ex Lion Sun. Both A and C Companies participated in Ex Lion Sun in Cyprus. Elements from Support Company and B Company in its entirety were split between the two. Apart from military training, each soldier had the chance to participate in a number of adventurous training activities, including sailing and sub aqua. A full report will appear in the next edition.

The rifle companies along with the rest of the battalion took part in the various Army individual training tests, including NBC and first aid. Sgt Canmer APTC

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News from the Vikings



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ensured that all personnel completed their BFTs and CFTs. The inter company competition remained an integral part of military training. There have been three events so far: Support Company won the shooting; A Company the BFT and B Company the cross-country.

There were numerous cadres too. The Training Wing under Capt Tony Jones ran a lance corporal to corporals cadre. The cadre was designed to prepare JNCOs for the junior Brecon course. The cadre involved various exercises in and around Colchester, a gruelling march and shoot competition, live firing practice and a final exercise in Thetford.

Having completed the seven weeks' training, the successful candidates are thoroughly prepared for all that Brecon can throw at them! LCpl Robinson was placed first.

Away from the rifle companies there were many cadres. The reconstituted Support Company, under Maj Mark Wenham, ran numbers cadres for Milan, Mortars and Recce. Mortars, Drums, Recce and Milan Platoons were able to live fire in Salisbury Plain, Warcop, Lulworth and Otterburn respectively. Signals Platoon ran

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Above: LCpl Curtis in action on the Lance Corporal to Corporals Cadre. Below: Sgt Jones briefs the cadre.



News from the Vikings

From Page 15

an RRU and Standard II cadre. L/Cpl Ward was top student on both.

The return to the mainland has seen the return of the RAAT task. These are too numerous to mention and involve anything from one or two men to most of the Battalion. A and C Companies spent a week on Salisbury Plain assisting the TA Company Commanders course on Ex Red Shank.

The majority of the battalion has acted as CIVPOP for units about to go to Northern Ireland. The knowledge of Support Company was particularly valuable for the Staffords who were about to move to Fermanagh.

C Company has had the privilege, many would argue dubious privilege, of trialling the new combat fitness test: starting with two ICFTs on consecutive days, one with 66 lbs, the second with 33 lbs. There then followed eight weeks of training culminating in the final phase of two 20km marches on consecutive days.

Personalities

THE last six months have seen a number of changes within the battalion. The battalion 2IC, Maj Jeremy Prescott, has moved to 1 (BR) Corps and has been replaced by Maj Johnny Rollins.

Maj Rollins' place as OC A Company has been taken by Maj Bob Goodin. Maj Frank Froud has replaced Maj Simon Lamb as OC B Company. Capt Peter Cookson has taken redundancy and his place as OC HQ Company has been taken by Capt Julian Pollard.

In all 23 Vikings have been made redundant. They include the QM (T) Capt Rory Milligan and the MTO Capt Bill Meen. Capt Dick Cook replaces Capt Alan Wylie as Adjutant, who moves to the MOD. Capt James Hart is taking over as Ops Officer.

The Band

THE Band has continued its usual hectic routine. Recent assignments have included playing for the mentally handicapped patients of the Turner Village Hospital. The Band toured the various wards.

It provided the music for the switching on of the Colchester Christmas lights. Finally on Christmas Day itself the Band played Silent Night as part of the Noel Edmunds Christmas Presents broadcast.



Mr Buckerfield (ex 7th Bn), Maj Jamieson VC, Maj Walker (ex 7th Bn), Capt Hammond (ex 7th Bn) and Col Raywood (trustee). *Picture courtesy of ECN.*

Victoria Cross holder visits Colchester

MAJ David Jamieson VC was entertained for lunch in the Vikings Officers' Mess on 3 Apr. Maj Jamieson won his Victoria Cross as a Capt while serving with the 7th Battalion of The Royal Norfolk Regiment.

He was visiting the Mess to mark the unveiling of a painting commemorating his gallantry. The painting, by the artist Peter Archer, was commissioned jointly by the Jamieson family and both former and serving soldiers from the Regiment.

The lunch was attended by Maj Gen and Lady Thorne, Maj Gen Dye, serving Viking officers, members of Maj Jamieson's family and former colleagues. Maj Jamieson made a short speech concerning the events that earned him his VC.

Capt Jamieson was awarded Britain's supreme award for gallantry following the breakout from the Normandy beaches in August 1944. Capt Jamieson's company had established a bridgehead over the River Orne, just south of Grimbosq.

The Germans made numerous attacks against the company. Each time the attacks were repulsed under the leadership of Capt Jamieson.

Despite being wounded in the arm and face he refused to be evacuated. At one stage he even stood on the back of a tank in full view of the enemy in order to direct fire. The official citation records that "there were times when the position appeared hopeless, but on each occasion it was restored by his coolness and determination."

News from the Vikings



Above: Suddenly Maj Gen Evans realises that Capt Heap is standing next to him. Below: Maj Gen Evans with Mortar platoon.

A farewell from Maj Gen Evans

THE General Officer Commanding of Eastern District, Maj Gen W A Evans, paid a farewell visit to the Battalion in January. He saw a wide range of training taking place before completing his tour with drinks in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and lunch in the Officers' Mess.

The outgoing Brigade Commander, Brigadier Farrar Hockley MC addressed the entire Battalion in November and thanked them for their work during the last two years.

The new Brigade Commander, Brig Webb-Carter OBE, visited the Battalion in Colchester for the first time and followed a very similar programme as that of Gen Evans.

From within the Regiment, the Battalion hosted the Colonel of the Regiment, Maj Gen Stone CB CBE, and the outgoing Deputy Colonel, Maj Gen Pollard CBE. Gen Pollard presented LSGCs to CSgt Webb, Cpl Hurran and Cpl Skate.





Poachers



Back to training in the rain

Capt Andrew Foster writes:

SINCE the last issue the Battalion has been as busy as ever, being involved in major exercises, demonstrating and site guards as well as finding time for considerable sporting success.

The first three weeks in November saw the entire Battalion on exercise at Soltau. This consisted of a series of exercises building up to the 22 Armoured Brigade exercise Highland Monarch. The first four-day period was a dismounted defensive exercise run at Battalion level in order to remove cobwebs (and sand!). Movement restrictions over the weekend meant that we were able to practise routine in defence; this was the sign for the rain to start. It was destined not to stop for two weeks, literally washing away any thought of desert tactics!

After a small period of Warrior work-up training, the Battalion acted as enemy to 1 RTR before roles were reversed for our own Brigade Test Exercise. We thought that by now we know all possible variations on the theme of battle group exercises on Soltau, so everyone was taken aback by being directed to carry out a dismounted final attack on Area 3b at night . . . and it was still raining!

After a day's rest began the next exercise, a Brigade CFX involving all command vehicles from platoon HQs upwards, conducted in the Celle and Gifhorn area.

On the Battalion's return to Celle, administration took over as PRE inspection time was upon us. Once this had been successfully completed Christmas was arriving with its endless celebrations, before some leave. Just as leave began it was announced that the Battalion would be providing a composite platoon for detachment to 1 SG for an Op Banner tour of Belfast. It was to be commanded by Lt Chris Stephenson.

The New Year began early for C Company who returned from leave on 30 Dec to prepare for a site guard in the first week of January. On the return of the rest of the Battalion there began a series of



Lt Col Deed presenting Bandsman Fitzpatrick with his Gulf Medal.

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News from the Poachers



Above left: WO2 (CSM) Rimmer QGM receiving his Queen's Commendation for brave conduct from Lt Col Deed. Above right: Pte Whitcomb receives the GOC's commendation from GOC 1 Armd Div Maj Gen RA Smith, for his actions at the scene of a road traffic accident. Left: Pte Donovan — a true Poacher?



News from the Poachers

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cadres: Warrior Gunnery, Warrior D and M and Junior NCO refresher training to name but three. Towards the end of January there was heavy Poacher involvement in Ex Morning Glory, a divisional CFX in which the Battalion provided not one but two battle group HQs as 1 SG was otherwise engaged with its Op Banner training.

At the beginning of February the Battalion finally discovered that the rumours concerning its location after the merger were true and that it would be staying in Celle after all. This was good news as there is no doubt that Trenchard Barracks is far better than Carver Barracks, Osnabruck, and that Celle is by far the nicer town, especially as we will now be the only military presence there.

It was in mid-February that the Battalion achieved two notable sporting successes. The Nordic ski team returned from the national championships as Infantry champions with an overall eighth placing in the competition. They had started training in late November and by early February they were the eighth best team in Britain. A full report appears elsewhere in this issue.

Not to be outdone, the Battalion boxing team contested the BAOR Grade 3 novice championships against 2 Royal Irish on 21 Feb, winning handsomely and earning a place in the Army finals in Celle on 3 Apr. The Colonel of the Regiment was present to see the match and whilst visiting the Battalion he was able to present LSGC medals in the Sgts Mess and attend the post-boxing function in the officers' mess.

March was a comparatively quiet month with A and B Companies away on leave at the beginning of it. The only major external commitment was the provision of a Battle Group Headquarters as a Locon for 22 Brigade's visit to the Brigade and Battle Group Trainer at STC in the middle of the month. On 24 Mar the Milan Platoon began an internal cadre to build up to its annual live firing at STC on 13 Apr.

On 3 Apr the Army boxing final took place at Trenchard Barracks between the Poachers and the Green Howards. As with the BAOR final, the atmosphere in the gymnasium was incredible especially as the Green Howards had brought a 150 strong contingent with them. After an outstanding night's boxing, the Poachers came out winners by seven bouts to two. A full report on the season's successes appears elsewhere in this section.



Above: Cpl Rouget having a well earned brew after the Milan live firing. Below: The Poachers' successful boxing team 1991-2. More pictures in sport on Page 78.



News from the Poachers



Poachers afloat: Back Sgt Gasgoine, LCpl Plaskitt, Cfn Beer, Pte Sutton, Pte Ennis, 2Lt Down; Front: Pte Boyd and Pte Pulfrey.

Roller-coaster crossing on HMS Hermione

HMS Hermione is a leader class frigate with a primary roll of anti-submarine warfare. When the group of Poachers joined her she had just finished the Armilla Patrol in the Gulf and was on her way back to Portsmouth via the Med. The eight Poachers who were to join the Hermione for the next two weeks were Lt Down, Sgt Gasgoine, LCpl Plaskitt, Ptes Boyd, Ennis, Sutton, Pulfrey and Cfn Beer.

We left a wet Germany and UK behind us heading towards Cyprus and hopefully some warmer weather. Arriving at Limassol airport Cyprus on a warm sunny afternoon we were not disappointed. The coach that took us to the ship drove through orange and lemon laden groves along dusty roads in March, a very welcome sight.

Having arrived at the Hermione we were welcomed on board and shown to various bunks, messes and wardrooms. Although there was not much space we were made to feel instantly welcome. The Hermione at this time was going to be moored here for four more days so once settled in it was fine for the first "run ashore", a naval term for a night on the town, with the sailors our eager hosts.

Over the next four days we were given a brief tour of the ship – we would learn more

about it later. The rest of the time was spent ashore. Various trips to places of interest were arranged and sport played against Cyprus based units. In the football versus RAF Akrotiri, Ptes Boyd and Pulfrey played helping the Hermione to a 5-2 victory. Their help was much appreciated.

We sailed from Cyprus on the 10th and the next three days would be spent steaming towards Catania, Sicily, our next port of call. Whilst on board the Poachers visited various departments of the ship in more detail getting a feel for the work of their naval counterparts.

Whilst on this leg of the journey the ship carried out a replenishment at sea, a naval rolling replenishment only, it lasted one hour and involved steaming next to a support ship whilst fuel was taken on board. This was done at a distance of 25 metres.

We arrived in Catania, Sicily on a very warm afternoon, with the snow capped Mt Etna in the background. We were to spend four days in Sicily and again a number of trips around the island had been arranged as well as two days skiing on Mt Etna.

From Sicily we steamed to Gibraltar. By now all the Poachers knew their way around and were mixing in with the ratings each day working on the ship. We stayed

for two days in Gibraltar whilst six members of the Poachers took part in the rock race.

Having departed from Gibraltar we set off on the longest single leg of the journey which was also to be the roughest. We were to cross the Bay of Biscay, renowned amongst sailors for its roughness – and it was.

The waves at times were the height of Hermione and with the whole bow disappearing under water it was like being on a roller coaster for three days with no way off. The ship often fell 15-20 ft at times into troughs leaving you with a feeling that your stomach was still somewhere above you.

Crossing the bay accomplished it became smoother as we sailed up the Channel and into Portsmouth with a Royal Marine band playing on the quayside and all the families of the sailors there to welcome them home.

That marked the end of our attachment to the Hermione. The ship's company showed the Poachers every hospitality and made us feel welcome. I feel we all left with a much enhanced view of the Navy. As to whether anyone would transfer, I think the trip across the Bay made most minds up.



Pompadours



A Company watches over the city and the Bogside.

Striking a balance

THE Battalion has now spent almost a year in Londonderry and as such has suffered and experienced a myriad of terrorist related incidents from minor aggro through to rocket attacks. The dilemma for our soldiers, however, has been maintaining community awareness whilst being prepared for the unexpected and potentially very dangerous.

It is a great credit to our soldiers and junior commanders that on both counts the Battalion has displayed a cheerful and co-operative attitude to every day life on the streets, and have time and again shown resourcefulness, courage and professionalism when dealing with the enemy.

The effect of the forthcoming merger has tended to stretch the administrative tail whilst generally leaving the operational side

of the Battalion untouched.

Administratively, Londonderry is not an easy TAOR. Most major resupply begins in Belfast or Lisburn and once at Ebrington the movement to Fort George, our major SF base, and in particular the border posts, is difficult and dangerous. Merger and redundancy has tended to strip departments of manpower and left the remaining having two major trains of thought. As always the old and bold plus the "A" chain, under the capable hands of the Adjutant, Capt James Harris, have responded extremely well to the challenge.

Incidents

THE level of violence across the Province has shown a significant increase in the past eight months. Londonderry has reflected

this trend, with the number of incidents across the TAOR showing a marked increase.

In the run-up to Christmas and for most of January, PIRA took their war to the city centre. Seven explosive devices created serious difficulty in business and shopping communities within the TAOR.

Also on 8 Jan a 150lb proxy device was left outside the main RUC station in the city. The explosion produced a lot of collateral damage, but, thankfully, no injuries.

PIRA extended its wave of disruption on 23 Jan by detonating a device under the main Belfast to Londonderry railway, just outside the city. Damage put the line out of use for three days.

On the same day a small device in the

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News from the Pompadours



Above: A Coy routine VCP on Craigavon Bridge. Left: A Coy helping keep the streets safe. Below: Equipment and rations are checked in at SF base Fort George.



News from the Pompadours



Above: OC B Coy – Maj Bill Willmott in an aggressive mood after another MK15 attack. Right: LCpl Lawrence, B Coy, helping keep the streets safe. Below: LCpl Bull (A Coy), showing the much appreciated "Have a Nice Day" approach.



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main bus station and two overturned buses hit public transport further. Most of the explosive devices are linked to secondaries designed to catch the troops in cordon positions.

For the past three months PIRA has switched its campaign back to attacks on SF. Since early February there have been numerous Mk 15 Coffee Jar type devices thrown at our patrols, none causing injury.

A newly arrived subaltern took command of his platoon in Rosemount SF Base only to have a Mk15 detonate in the courtyard within 20 minutes of arrival. A record we think! Bomb hoaxes, minor aggro and co-ordinated PR traps have also typified this busy period. Paint bombing creates a hazard all of its own.

Finds and arrests

IT has, however, not all been one sided. The level of violence and its failure to injure members of the SF in Londonderry, combined with some excellent arrests and finds, is testimony to some major progress and achievement in the city. Whilst maintaining the "have a nice day approach",

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News from the Pompadours



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which has so successfully brought Londonderry almost back to normality, aggressive reaction, deception and good intelligence have enabled us and the police to keep the upper hand and keep the terrorist "off balance".

The large-scale finds in Donegal by the Garde have helped reduce the overall PIRA arsenal over the border. These have been complemented locally by three smaller, but equally important, SF finds.

On 13 Feb a car was intercepted carrying five incendiary devices. Later in the month Pte Adam Scott (A Coy) discovered an incendiary device well concealed in the Creggan which, save for a minor alteration, was in situ to surprise an unsuspecting patrol. On 28 Mar, with Londonderry PIRA increasingly under pressure to gain an SF "hit", two terrorists were arrested trying to plant a command wire device near Masonic SF Base in the city centre. This foolhardy attempt by the terrorists, disguised as workmen, was carried out in daylight, and reflects poorly on PIRA and has caused them to undertake yet more security assessments.

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Top left: Pte Phillips, A Coy, after a post paint bomb.
Above: LCpl Port and Pte Adam Scott (right) kneeling over the hide that contained an anti-patrol incendiary device.
Left: The extent of Pte Adam Scott's find.

News from the Pompadours



Above: OC B and CSM B (WO2 Pallant) aboard SS Sormovsky. Below: Former Secretary of State for Defence Tom King speaks to members of A Coy.



Pte Eiffert, C Coy, receiving his GOC's commendation.

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Community relations

PIRA's operational failure in Londonderry has been accompanied by the significant progress the Battalion has made in community relations. The Battalion is the only unit in the Province which has direct links with a Peace and Reconciliation Group (PRG). Monthly instructional visits by the group to pre "city tour" companies allow exchanges of ideas and feelings that helps both sides appreciate each others difficulties and dilemmas.

The group maintains a daily link with Battalion HQ as it continually monitors community feelings and gives on-the-spot reaction to specific events. This heart and minds policy has gradually eroded the enemy's hold on the once hard line Catholic community.

Past, present and the harbour

THE Irish preoccupation with the past, sometimes with good cause, can allow the enemy to capitalise on situations in commemoration of particular events. The 20th anniversary of Bloody Sunday on 26 Jan was one such case. Media hype stirred old and waning hatred and a massive rally was expected to descend on the city. The Battalion prepared itself for a torrid day of minor aggro and PR traps.

The Commanding Officer and the local police commander adopted a seemingly low profile approach to the day albeit there were considerable assets available.

Thankfully they were not needed and there were no noteworthy incidents. It is however a sign of progress that the rally drew only a fifth of its expected turnout.

On 9 Apr the general election created problems of its own. With 28 polling stations to oversee, all ideal static targets, a carefully planned and non-aggressive operation maintained tight security and persuaded the enemy that any form of attack would prove fruitless. The electorate were thankful for the low key presence and the day, operationally, was seen as a great success.

On a lighter note, one of the more interesting aspects of a city tour is the occasional "ship" search in Londonderry's not so busy harbour. B Coy have become our resident experts and rumour has it that with OC B's taste for vodka, it is Russian ships only!

The biggest, SS Sormovsky, skippered by Capt Sheriagin, was a breeze and the

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News from the Pompadours



Above: PNCOs Cadre passing out parade with Londonderry city as the perfect backdrop. Left: CSgt Wood receiving his LS & GC from The Colonel of the Regiment on his recent visit. Below: LCpl Main being congratulated on becoming Top Student on the PNCO Cadre.



News from the Pompadours



The Band in combats!

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4,000 ton Black Sea freighter was searched in under three hours. No kalishnikovs were found amongst the animal feed!

Visits, visits and more visits

AT the end of the cart-track that they call the A6 is Londonderry, the last military outpost. This "out of the wayness" has its effect on potential visitors to Northern Ireland.

Since 1 Dec the Battalion has hosted some 25 senior visitors including the outgoing Secretary of State of Defence, Tom King, the GOC (twice), the CLF (thrice), parliamentary undersecretaries, senior civil servants as well as an American General.

These visits, the outside world's short glimpse of the Pompadours, require careful

planning from a security viewpoint. One of CLF's visits came complete with his O Group and created some difficulties as five APVs negotiated the Londonderry rush hour!

The recent visit of the GOC enabled him to present Pte Eiffert (C Coy) with his personal commendation for saving the life of a would-be suicide victim. Pte Eiffert showed great resourcefulness and initiative by pulling a woman off the ledge of the Craigavon Bridge, just before she was about to jump.

Fortunately, we have also managed to host our own. We have had the pleasure of visits from the Mayor of North Bedfordshire and the Mayor of Hertford, who brought with them local journalists. Brigadier Bill Dodd (our Deputy Colonel) came for his last operational visit in April and we were delighted to host the Colonel of the Regiment, Gen Patrick Stone, in March. Their visits were very much appre-

ciated during this "our last lap".

The Battalion has also managed to maintain its training standards. CSgt Kretay has run a successful NCOs Cadre in Province and our congratulations go to LCpl Main for finishing "top student".

Capt Stoddart, back from six months with 7/10 UDR, ran a NCOs tactics cadre in January in England. Although administratively difficult, its success was guaranteed by its location and those NCOs that passed now have a much better grounding for SCBC.

Beyond the operational fringe

THANKFULLY, battalion life has not been all work and no play. The Band, one of only two in the Province, has managed two

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News from the Pompadours



The Colonel of the Regiment being briefed by Maj Clements and Lt Schwartz.

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weeks away on a very successful KAPE tour.

The highlight of the tour was a charity concert in Hertford's Castle Hall which was a sell out by all accounts.

Not to show any national bias, the band trumpeted the Battalion out of its beds on St. Patrick's day and not content with a rude awakening, the Quartermaster, Capt Mac McGowan, finished off the rest of us with a tot of rum at breakfast. The tradition goes back to 1848.

The Chief Clerk, CSgt Paul Hallybone, had an extended working holiday in Antigua, helping the local defence force establish a coherent and workable orderly room in the sun. It is understood his sea-fishing techniques also received a considerable boost!

Leave, for most, has been a quiet and relaxing affair. However, Ptes Patrick Kelly (B Coy) and Nigel Boulton (HQ Coy) have obviously not been satisfied with the operational demands of Londonderry. Both received press acclaim by apprehending local hoodlums. Pte Kelly, using his ID card only, arrested two criminals breaking into a church and Pte Boulton pinned down one of two men robbing his mother's house. Criminals of East Anglia – beware!

The adventurous

THE Battalion has tried hard to continue with its emphasis on adventure training.

The Regimental expedition, co-led by Capt James Harris, is an extraordinary tale of courage and leadership in very difficult conditions. A separate report is included. To complement this mammoth expedition the Battalion has also sent teams skiing and sailing.

Lt Ian Astley led the Battalion ski-team to a commendable 13th position in the Army ski championships, its best place so far.

WO2 Steve Rouse skippered a team of 11 intrepid yachtsmen and women on a six-day training exercise in the Solent and the Channel.

The 55 Nicholson was more than a match for some appalling conditions, although it is rumoured that not all stomachs could weather the storms!

In addition, a small ten-man team led by Lt David Schwartz, has recently flown to Bermuda, via New York, to combine some serious scuba diving with a little R and R. We await a full report!

Finally, we say farewell to Maj Frazer Macdonald who has commanded C Coy for the first half of the tour.

He leaves for a weapons staff job in Warminster and we wish him and Rosemary every success.

His replacement, Maj Simon Porter, joins us from the interesting IS Theatre of Hong Kong to the more down to earth problem of terrorism in Londonderry. We await plans that include heavily armed motor patrol boats and electric fences with gun towers.

Crystal ball watchers and the art of NITLA

THE Intelligence Platoon is commanded by Capt Howard Newson. The majority of the Platoon live and breathe in the city, based at Fort George SF Base.

Their particular arts are TR (oh, here we go) and NITLA (Northern Ireland Three Letter Abbreviation) which is rapidly overtaking Esperanto as the European Common Language.

Reports produced by the Int now come dressed as follows:- "The threat of a HTO followed by a CQA on an ODSF by a UK member of PIRA who is OTR in the ROI is current."

In addition to this innate ability to confuse everyone, their TR (terrorist recognition) is now so acute that the ultimate sighting of a terrorist's dog by LCpl "Battle Gunner" Hill is recognised as a landmark in TR across the Province.

They are also not ones to shirk danger.

Although B Coy remains "Contact Company" with OC B Maj Bill Willmott the only Pompadour to loose off a round at a terrorist on this tour, the Intelligence PI is very good at stealing C Coy's contacts.

The rocket attack in Shipquay Street and the Mk15 in the Brandywell were both in C Coy's tour and both were Int PI contacts. The sight of WLCpl Keith running after two terrorists while in "hot pursuit" armed with a Nikon is a memory to savour.

The Intelligence PI is not all work, however. It has many battalion sportsmen, including our skier (LCpl A Lilley), two hockey and three rugby players.

News from the Pompadours

A Coy tests new urban camouflage

“IT is remarkable” states the IO, Capt Howard Newson. “It is all in the quality of the merchandise” replies OC A Coy, Maj David Clements.

A Coy, in addition to its tasks of defeating terrorism and hosting yet more visitors, has successfully trialled the new urban camouflage.

The pictures show the quality of the Army's new cam and how it can be used effectively. What will they think of next?



Above: A Coy prepares the APV for its urban camouflage. Top left: The IO shows the APV pre-camouflage. Below: The APV post camouflage.

News from the Pompadours



Final day's sailing: WO2 Rouse (left) relaxing on the foredeck after days of hard sailing. Cpl G Smith overseeing his watch.

Heavy weather sailing in the Channel

WO2 S Rouse writes:

EXERCISE Arctic Tern was a sailing exercise conducted on the Nicholson 55, Lord Trenchard, in the Solent and Channel. The exercise started on Monday 9 Mar amid calm weather and sunny conditions and was to finish on Sunday 15 Mar.

Those that thought sailing was just a jolly in the sun with the skipper and the mate sailing the boat whilst all others sunbathed were to be severely mistaken. On Tuesday 10 Mar the crew of five women and six men set sail after briefings for Portsmouth Harbour entrance. The novices and inexperienced members of the crew then underwent training in putting sails up and general boat handling in a growing force 7 to 8 wind. What they were unaware of was this was to be their baptism of fire.

That night was spent in Cowes on the Isle of Wight. The crew was woken at 0400 hrs to set sail for the Needles in a force 8 gale. Once at the Needles, the decision was made by the skipper to attempt a Channel crossing with a number one JIB and a mizzen sail only, hence the baptism of fire. We made the journey to Cherbourg in record time with most of the

girls and some of the male novice crew getting their introduction to sea sickness out of the way.

Once in Cherbourg the boat was cleaned up and mopped out and the crew settled for the night. First thing in the morning a shore party consisting of Sgt Sue Whittington and the skipper went ashore to purchase cheese, wine, paté and order the duty free goods.

With the weather worsening to force 9 the decision to stay in Cherbourg was made. After a rather eventful night out on the town sampling French hospitality, some of us returned to the boat at 0200 hrs only to set sail at 0500 hrs in a force 8 gusting force 9 gale back to Poole.

Again the trip was made in record time, six hours from Cherbourg harbour entrance to Poole fairway buoy. Again Lt Hall, Sgt Whittington, WLCpl Bengé, WLCpl Harrington, WPte Josh, Pte Mackness and Pte O'Connel demonstrated their skills at producing green matter.

There were a lot of relieved faces as we entered Poole harbour to tie up for the night. All of a sudden faces that were green around the gills came to life and started racing around the boat to prepare

her for coming alongside.

After a nice night in Poole we set sail at 1000 hrs for Gosport. It was the calm after the storm. We took a slow sail down to the Needles in poor visibility, wind force 3 and screams and cries of pleasure from the girls brought the rest of the crew rushing up from below.

We were greeted by the sight of three or four dolphins swimming alongside the boat. It was nice to be able to watch in a calm sea, much different from the day before when sailing in horrendous seas we heard on the radio of the tragic loss of life on another military boat. This just brings home to everyone that although sailing is fun it can also be a very dangerous pastime. The skipper's great wind-up was to get the girls to make scones for the crew on the final leg down the Solent. Some girls refused and some produced button sized scones with sandwiches and biscuits complete with candles for the skipper.

We thank the skipper and WO2 Ron Smith from the Depot Queens Div for making it all possible. The novices really did get their baptism of fire. All the crew deserve a well done for sailing in such arduous conditions.

Feature focus

Exploration in South Georgia



Major Richard Clements writes:

"THE inner parts of the country were not less savage and horrible. The wild rocks raised their lofty summits till they were lost in the clouds and the valleys lay covered with everlasting snow. Not a tree was to be seen, nor a shrub even big enough to make a toothpick. Lands doomed by nature to perpetual frigidness never to feel the warmth of the suns rays, whose horrible and savage aspect I have no words to describe."

This was how Captain James Cook described South Georgia when he first discovered it on 14 Jan 1775. He was not impressed with what he found.

It was to South Georgia in September 1991 that a 12 man expedition, seven from the Regiment came. Our aims were to canoe as much of the previously unpaddled coast as time and conditions allowed and to explore the largely uncharted south western end of the island.

To achieve this the party divided into two groups, four men canoeing and the other eight being land based. The land party travelled by ski and flex trac (small snowmobiles) and placed food caches for the canoeist. Detailed studies of the weather patterns had indicated that the islands Antarctic weather was consistently at its mildest early in the austral spring: this would allow canoeists the best opportunity for paddling while also having the added advantage of snow cover down to sea level and so allowing easier land travel. This was the theory, the practice was to prove markedly different.

The land party disembarked from RFA Grey Rover on 16 Sept onto the beach that lay at the base of the Ross Glacier. Four tons of stores had to be ferried ashore in rigid raiders. With the winds reaching 70 knots this was an exciting exercise. However, all were safely landed, the only drawback being that because of the deteriorating weather, the Flex Tracs were landed on a virtually land-locked beach.



Having helped the land party ashore the canoe party was returned by ship to the small garrison at King Edward Point, which was to be the start point for their trip. Never before has the South Georgian coast

been canoed. The sub-zero water temperatures, the weather that deteriorates into storms in minutes and the limited landing

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Feature focus



Above: Ferrying equipment, with the snout of Ross Glacier in the background. Inset: (Top L to R) Pte Nick Bliss, Capt James Harris, Spr John Allison, Lt Cmdr Clive Waghorn, Cpl Owen Jervis, SSgt Steve Willis, WO2 Mike Jennings; Middle row, Lt Chris Stevens, Capt Richard Pattinson, Bottom row, Petty Officer Tim Hall, and Capt Roland Gill. See expedition leader Maj Richard Clements on page opposite.

Left: Canoeing amongst the ice. The 18 ft canoes carried food fuel; and equipment weighing over 200lbs.

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spots make canoeing both challenging and potentially hazardous.

The 18ft sea canoes weighed over 200lb each and sat low in the water as the party set off across Cumberland Bay in glorious still clear conditions, which allowed the group to settle down and gain confidence as it went.

The first excitement of the trip came the following day when SSgt Steve Willis, in a moment of lapsed concentration, capsized his canoe in a heavy swell. Despite several determined attempts he was unable to execute an eskimo role and came out of his boat. The penalties of spending long periods in such waters, even with a dry suit, are dire: with at least a mile to the nearest landing spot the situation was interesting. Fortunately, training had catered for this and Lt Cmdr Clive Waghorn and Cpl Owen Jervis righted the vessel and Willis completed the final mile in record time.

Camp spots varied. Several were in long abandoned whaling stations whose only human occupants were those souls filling the grave yards. The most luxurious venue was the old British Antarctic Survey (BAS) hut at St Andrews Bay which had been occupied by Annie Price and Cindy Buxton who found themselves inadvertently caught up in the 1982 war when Argentina tried unsuccessfully to claim the island. This was at the head of the beach which housed the island's largest King Penguin colony amongst which lay seals all living in harmony.

Three days paddling found the mountaineers and canoeists reunited. Things were progressing well with Capt James Harris' party of Pte Nick Bliss, Petty Officer Tim Hall and WO2 Mick Jennings having overcome extreme difficulties and successfully extracted the Flex Tracs from a virtually land-locked beach by winching the machines up vertical ice cliffs and skiing and driving over 80km across the crevassed terrain of the Hindley and Ross Glaciers. The expedition was now well poised to move onto its second phase.

The mountaineers' immediate objective was to establish a major food and fuel depot at the head of Ross Glacier. This involved moving several tons of food, fuel and equipment up the glacier about 15km to a height of 3,000ft.

The first major blow to these plans came when the gear box of the Flex Tracs broke irreparably. This meant much reduced



safety margins for the remaining vehicle and much hard work manhauling equipment in pulks. Some days, travel was impossible as winds of 100mph forced men to crawl. Tents could not stand up and snow holes were the only viable accommodation. Temperatures plunged into the minus 20s, but occasionally rose above freezing just long enough to allow clothing and sleeping bags to become soaked, and would then plummet, freezing everything that was damp. One team member spent five weeks with a permanently frozen sleeping bag.

While the land party battled to establish the depot, the canoeists continued on, often in marginal conditions that tested skill and nerves to the full. When paddling they stayed relatively warm, once landed the sweat that had formed inside the dry suits would freeze. The transition from canoeing clothing to land clothing was done as fast as

humanly possible.

Despite good equipment and thorough personal administration, all four men suffered cold injuries during the course of the expedition. The second and final capsizing of the trip happened when Maj Richard Clements went over while looking for a suitable landing spot in Wirke Bay. He very much regretted discarding a dry suit for more conventional temperature climate equipment, but fortunately had learned from Willis' earlier experience and after briefly examining the local aquatic wildlife rolled back up.

Meanwhile the land party was struggling on to establish a forward depot on the Spencley Glacier. By now the second Flex Trac had died, mainly as a result of self-inflicted breakdowns brought about by inad-

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equate servicing. Everything had to be man hauled in pulks; for the uninitiated it is difficult to understand and appreciate the full significance of this, it simply makes life very very tough.

By mid-October they had successfully established the second depot and were poised to make an attempt on the previously unscaled Mount Patterson and to resupply canoeists who had been on half rations for some time and were getting hungry!

By mid-October the canoeists had reached the most south western tip of the island. Progress had been intermittent because of the consistently bad weather. Much of the time paddling conditions were marginal, indeed they would probably have been considered unacceptable in the UK. The 11 days' rations which each boat had been carrying when they left base camp had been eeked out for 21 days and were virtually at an end. The prospect of surviving on penguin meat until November was not particularly attractive and at this stage the expedition was taking on the aspect of a rather elaborate survival exercise.

The 13 Oct dawned clear and calm, the canoeists were on the water and backtracking to make a rendezvous with the mountaineers at Brandt Cove.

To the relief of all, the two parties successfully met up later that day. James Harris, Tim Hall and Richard Pattinson had made an epic journey of 70km hauling the rations across unmapped glaciers, living in snow holes and often travelling in white outs. This was a considerable achievement by any standards.

The second half of October allowed the canoeists to move little and despite several attempts by the mountaineers there was no real opportunity to climb any major peaks. Early November was spent recovering the mountaineers back to Little Moltke Harbour for pick up by MV Oil Mavier.

This article gives a brief overview of the Royal Anglian South Georgia Expedition. Had the weather not been so unkind more would have been achieved. However, a large part of the island's coast was canoes for the first time and the mountaineers travelled routes which have only been traversed once before.

The expedition was a major undertaking and it is gratifying that the Regiment found suitable personnel and learnt its unstinting support to us. Our thanks are due to may of you for your help.



Top: Preparing to go afloat. Above: Rough water paddling.
Below: Canoeists among the King Penguins at Gold Harbour



Feature focus

Into Africa – and setting up a staff course

Maj David Napier writes:

IT was a particularly humid Wednesday morning in headquarters 1st British Corps. It was late August and most minds were on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, if not that then certainly Friday.

The MS chap chose to tell me that I was going to Namibia for six months.

Well I knew a little about southern Africa, for instance where Namibia was and why we were involved. And naturally I'd read Wilbur Smith, so I had to be approaching expert level. A glance at the map confirmed my dim recollection that Namibia was a small country on the west coast of southern Africa.

Convincing the family that Africa needed me was only successful when the Loan Service pay was discussed. "We should at least be able to save something up for a good holiday at these rates", I declared (how many times have I said that!); agreement was reached, I'd write often and save money. A hectic week followed while I cleared my desk and read all I could on Namibia. I said goodbye to the dog, promised the kids I would shoot a lion for them and promised the wife that I would not really. Travelling light, I was off on another Army sponsored adventure into the unknown.

My first impressions of Namibia were of vast size, dryness and heat. The climate was wonderful, clear blue skies almost every day except for the short but violent rainy season in February/March. The heat was dry and very comfortable, hovering between 25 and 30 deg. C, just right for starting the day with a splash in the garden swimming pool. I reckoned I was in for a hard time.

Namibia, formerly South West Africa, had gained its independence in March 1990 after being ruled by South Africa since the end of the Second World War.

The transition to independence was overseen by the UN, including some British



The author posing at the Zambesi.

Army signallers. After multi-party elections the South West African Peoples Organisation (SWAPO) were elected to government.

The establishment of the Army started at that time and the first tranche of BMATT started to train and deploy; four infantry battalions, a logistic battalion, an Army HQ as well as set up a MOD.

The training and establishment of the Army was complicated by the troops being drawn from the two opposing forces from the border war. On the one hand the majority of the troops were drawn from the Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN); and on the other from the South African trained and sponsored South West African Territorial Force (SWATF).

PLAN was a rural guerrilla army which had received arms, training and support from most of the Marxist states throughout the world, including Cuba, U'SSR, GDR, North Korea and China.

SWATF was a more conventional counter-insurgency army with South African equipment, training and leadership. Both these forces were drawn from the same population and it was not uncommon for men from the same village to have been on opposing sides during the struggle.

The job of reconciling these forces and standardising the training was given to the

British Army following an invitation from the president, Sam Nujoma. The first tranche of BMATT Namibia arrived in the country in early March 1990 and set about the task of building an army and military infrastructure from scratch under the command of Brig Tony Ling.

My job was a little daunting at first; advising the Chief of the Defence Force (CDF), a General who had commanded PLAN for 20 years and had received all his training in communist countries. He spoke little English and one of my tasks was to teach him for an hour a day, which was very useful for getting to know him and gaining his confidence.

I had taken over from a very competent gunner who had largely completed the organisation of CDF's office so I concentrated on advice to the MA and ADC, but started to look around for a more challenging role.

It was not long before I found it. There were plans for a staff course for the more senior members of the MOD and Army HQ and with the rest of BMATT busy advising and training, the task of designing, organising, setting up and running the staff course was given to me.

It was one of those opportunities that

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come along so rarely in the Army, the chance to see a project through from start to finish, with very little supervision. We ran two courses, one of four weeks in November and a second of five weeks in February 91. The course content had to be written and designed to reflect the requirements of the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) rather than try to force a British staff system onto the Namibians. Both courses were very successful, both hard work but popular and very rewarding.

There was little operational staff work taught, rather we concentrated on the administration of the army and how the army fits into a democratic society. Concept such as the Rule of Law, military/police co-operation and military aid to the civil authorities were very new to them.

Every now and again I was able to get away to try to help out at the military school which was being run by Lt Col Robin Chisnall. These were welcome and refreshing breaks from the paper war and the ministry into the more easily understood and familiar world of company attacks, fire-planning and zeroing practices.

Any article on loan service would be incomplete without mention of the travel. Namibia is mainly desert and bush. The scenery is quite breathtaking. Trips to the Etosha Plan allowed me to see African wildlife ranging from lions to elephants, cheetahs to ostriches.

The arid Skeleton Coast showed just how savage nature can be. This desert coastline is one of the most inhospitable places on earth. I climbed the biggest sand dunes in the world and found the oldest plant in the world, the *Weltwelschia*, a strange looking plant that lives off the moisture in the sea fogs that roll in off the Benguella.

I went white-water rafting on the Zambesi in Zimbabwe and witnessed some sadly dilapidated reminders of former British glory in Victoria Falls. I also got a fairly respectable tan, developed a healthy respect for the camouflage and concealment skills of the lion and finally contracted typhoid.

All in all I made lots of new friends, did what I consider to be a worthwhile job, had a great time, saw nature at its most savage and at its most beautiful and came back wanting to do it again.

Oh, and I never did manage to save very much – plus ca change.



Col Peter Dixon, centre, with Col Richard Abbott (ex Viking) and WO2 'KC' Jones.

Namibia – an update

WO2 "KC" Jones writes:

HAVING read the excellent article by ex WO2 Dave Moore in the last edition of the Castle and knowing his love for paperwork, I decided to follow his example and put pen to paper.

It is not intended to give an in depth report on the role in Namibia as this was covered by Lt Col Robin Chisnall in the June 91 edition. It will suffice to say that progress has continued at an excellent rate. The lessons learnt by training teams throughout Africa have served as a solid foundation for the task in hand. Self-sufficiency is now very much a realistic goal for the army in the near future, and Namibia stands as an example to all.

The R Anglian commitment continues to be very much "Die bejaarde en die vrymoedige" in the shape of Col Peter Dixon (Pompadors) in the role of Commander and yours truly (Vikings) as the Training WO at the military schools. Perhaps shape is a bad choice of words as tribal customs in Africa have a great respect for the well built, being a sign of affluence and age of wisdom. This may well account for the extensions – how wrong can you be!

During the past year we have had the pleasure of Operation Raleigh, now to be known as Raleigh International (operation being a sensitive matter when it comes to border crossings) which descended upon Namibia.

We have also had a number of visitors: in the role of QM was WO1 Derek Lancaster ACC formerly Ginge who served

with the Vikings in the early 70s. He was followed by Col Richard Abbott, now with the AAC but very much an ex Viking, who limited in his role at DO (MEA). At this stage, the Commander, somewhat concerned at the potential Viking build up, decided to retaliate and we had the pleasure of seeing Brig Colin Groves (Pompadors) on route to Zimbabwe on holiday. It was good to relive old memories whilst sampling the local brew.

Namibia is an unbelievable country. It is the land of the unexpected, the land of startling contrasts. I have hiked through canyons, seen game in its thousands, climbed giant sand dunes, swam in hot springs and all at a cost of living that makes Eno's as important as Paludrine. Whilst the country is steeped in history, it has also got a modern infrastructure the equal of anywhere. It has been referred to as 'Africa's undiscovered gem'.

The three tours in Namibia have been an unexpected bonus for me. After moving on to the Long Service List at the end of a splendid 22 years I had resigned myself to perhaps more mundane posts; it shows how wrong you can be and it pays to keep it.

Most loan service articles end with the author recommending everyone to give it a try. I reiterate this recommendation. However, these golden opportunities can only be taken if battalions make it possible.

I would finally like to take the opportunity to thank all who have served with me during my time in Namibia and send my regards to all who know me.

Feature focus

Acquiring a taste for Ex Bacardi Challenge

A TEAM from 2 Platoon A Company of the Pompadours escaped from the winter's rain in Londonderry (this is very similar to the summer's rain in Londonderry) on a two week diving expedition to Bermuda.

To help finance the expedition its leader, Lt David Schwartz, approached Bacardi Rum. Many see Bacardi and coke as the typical drink of Essex Man and it therefore seemed fitting that they should sponsor their county regiment. Bacardi agreed and provided generous cash support and clothing for the team.

As Bermuda is one of the best areas for diving in the world, two diving instructors – SSgt Watkins RAVC and Sgt Culling RMP – quickly offered their services and carried out an intensive pre-expedition training programme.

The party of ten left the Maiden City on 2 Apr and could not resist a weekend stopover in New York City on the way to Bermuda. The New York Police Department had agreed to host the visit and provided a weekend every bit as interesting as the diving!

The team was met at JFK airport by Detective Chuck Bennet who ushered them through the various immigration formalities with a wave of his badge and then transported the group to their Manhattan hotel complete with police escort! A heavy programme of hospitality, visits to the FBI, a SWAT team, police helicopters and launches and more hospitality left the group in no state to start diving.

The expedition was met in Bermuda by a rainstorm – after Londonderry this was not supposed to happen – but the weather soon improved. The team was accommodated at the barracks of the Bermuda Regiment which, as always, provided excellent support to members of the Regiment. The first few days were spent carrying out familiarisation dives along the sheltered coastline close to the camp.

Bermuda is surrounded by treacherous



Top: The expedition with NYPD emergency squad. Above: LCpl Langhorne.

reefs and there are, consequently, more shipwrecks around the island than in any other similarly sized area in the world.

The expedition's main dives were onto a First World War ammunition ship called the Pollock Shield which sank in 1917 and a cargo ship the Constellation which sank in 1943 and which was featured in the film *The Deep*.

By chance the headquarters of Bacardi International are situated in Bermuda and the company invited the expedition along to look around and to sample its product

Bacardi makes a wide range of drinks never seen in the UK, including a very potent rum with an alcohol content of 75% and what appeared to be a hazard warning symbol on the label.

The group also held a farewell barbecue to thank all those who had helped them during their time in Bermuda before, somewhat reluctantly, returning to operations in Londonderry.

The thanks of all are due to NYPD, the Bermuda Regiment and Bacardi for making a most successful and enjoyable expedition.

Feature focus



CSgt Hallybone cools off after a hard day's work. Right: The Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force on Remembrance Sunday.

Advising Antigua on filing systems

CSgt Hallybone writes:

No-one was more surprised than myself to be selected to visit Antigua and advise the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force on clerical administration which included the setting up of an integrated filing system.

I arrived in Antigua with CSgt Barnfield 2 RGJ on 3 Dec 91, courtesy of British Airways 747 (club class) after a seven hour flight from Gatwick. On stepping out of the plane I knew immediately that my Barbour jacket, essential in Londonderry, was redundant. The temperature was nearly 90° and the Caribbean sun was beating down.

The first noticeable thing about being in the Caribbean for the first time was that it gets light and dark at nearly the same time each day, regardless of the time of year. The daytime temperatures were in the high 80's unless it rained and at night it was in the high 60's or low 70's. Paradise, at least climate wise. The main drawback was lack of rainfall and water shortages, this island having no natural reservoirs, being only 10 x 12 miles in size.

We were met at the airport by the Quartermaster Sergeant of the Defence Force who, after dropping our bags at the

hotel, gave us a quick tour of the capital, St. Johns. Before returning to the hotel we knew where Vivian Richards Street was and were in possession of some refreshment - one case of cold beer and a bottle of Cavalier 151% proof rum. (This proved our undoing as by 1800 hrs we retired, overcome by the mixture of jetlag, sunshine and drink.)

The Monday was spent meeting the officers and men of the Defence Force and personal administration. Thereafter, work started to implement the clerical procedures required.

The filing system consisted of the CO, Ops Officer and Admin Officer each having two files, incoming and outgoing! I set about stripping all files down (each was 2-3 inches thick), allocating subjects by looking at every letter, organising the lists made into G1/G2/G3/G4 subjects and then helping them to file them with folio sheets being kept to help find letters quickly.

This part of the visit took up nearly three weeks. An extension was required and we were granted two more weeks. The extra time enabled me to train the Defence Force personnel in basic letter writing formats and

making sure that they knew how the filing system worked.

Needless to say we managed to squeeze in a bit of R & R at weekends and the odd afternoon - indeed it was hard work trying not to get sunburnt. However, with the help of some Factor 30+ sunscreen for the first two weeks I looked no different

I then risked Factor 10 and thanks to a day's sailing on a catamaran ended up coloured, albeit as red as a lobster. We also managed some sub aqua diving with one of the part time Defence Force officers. We were then plunged in at the deep end, literally. Having had only 10 minutes talk-through of the basics and emergency drills, we were straight in, none of the poolside lessons which tourists have to do! This was the first time for both of us but probably the last for myself unless I find somewhere again where the water is as warm.

Then at the end of the fifth week it was time to return to the real world once more and face the dark and dampness of Londonderry. We were seen off in grand style by many of the ex-patriots living on the island who had made our stay an enjoyable one.



Steelbacks



The mortars drive past during the parade through Peterborough to celebrate 25 years of the Battalion: LCpls Land and Green.

Time of fundamental change

THE last six months has seen a time of considerable and fundamental change for the Steelbacks. The scope of Options for Change is now well known to all and we are currently coming to terms with the reality of the metamorphosis to the Territorial Army of the 21st century.

As a result of considerable Regimental debate the county affiliation of the three territorial battalions have now been redrawn.

The 5th Battalion will lose 1 and 3 Companies in Essex to the 6th Battalion and 2 Company in Northamptonshire to the 7th Battalion.

In exchange we will absorb the Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire Companies from the 6th Battalion. Once complete these changes will see the

Battalion in its new '490' orbit of 3 Rifle Companies and a Headquarters Company. At the time of writing, the fate of the Support Platoons remains unsure but we remain hopeful of keeping these important assets largely intact.

On 1 Apr we said goodbye to our NATO role as a reinforcement battalion with 2 Infantry Division in BAOR, and adopted the new mission of a National Defence battalion within the reformed Eastern District.

As part of this transformation we exchanged the Polar Bear of 49 Brigade for the colours of the new 54 (East Anglia) Brigade based at Colchester. On his farewell visit to the Battalion in February the Brigade Commander of 49 Brigade, Brig Walker, was the guest of honour at an

informal supper held at the Depot Officers' Mess.

The next day he watched the Steelbacks being put through their paces at the Depot on an individual skills weekend. This included stands covering 94mm indoor trainer, bayonet fighting, grenade throwing, assault course, NBC training and gas chamber.

On questioning one soldier how he fared with the eight mile ICFT held the previous day, the soldier lamented that he had failed to finish in the required time as he never had enough time for fitness training.

Brig Walker enquired what type of civilian job kept him so busy, to which the sol-

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News from the Steelbacks



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Above and below: On exercise in Cyprus as part of Ex Lion Star III

dier earnestly replied that he was unemployed!

March was a busy and significant month in the Steelbacks calendar. Not only did it mark our 25th anniversary (of which more later) but it also saw the departure of 2 (Northamptonshire) Company to 7 Royal Anglian, a major Brigade FTX, Polar Dawn and the end of the Home Service Force.

HSF goes down fighting on Ex Polar Dawn

OUR final annual 49 Brigade Polar Dawn FTX was held at STANTA over the weekend 13-15 Mar. Support helicopters were promised (as always) and the Battalion prepared to fly in for a dawn advance to contact from Bassingbourn Depot.

However, plans had to be redrawn as the available helicopters dwindled to a single Puma and Chinook. To give commanders at all levels the experience of leading fully manned sections, platoons and companies, the Battalion was formed into two full strength composite companies with command appointments rotating during the exercise.

Thus it was that the exercise began with a long advance to contact which included an assault river crossing. The first platoon



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News from the Steelbacks



Above: The colour party after the Peterborough Cathedral service. Below: HRH Princess Alice is bade farewell by the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire.



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over came under immediate enemy fire and the problems of command and control during such a difficult phase of war soon became apparent. These were not the only problems encountered. Lunch became a fond memory when the conflicting timetables of the Battalion's rate of advance and STANTA's POL opening times proved completely incompatible for the CQMS vehicles.

Enemy forces were provided by the HSF who took advantage of its last weekend before disbandment to pull out all the stops and prove what a determined and tough force it could be. Indeed in the long and bloody dusk battle for Frog Hill extra reinforcements had to be drafted in from echelon before victory could finally be claimed. That night saw the companies deploy forward to locate the final enemy strong points for a dawn attack. As the weather broke the cold rain fell on tired soldiers as they lay waiting in assembly areas or probing defences in four man recon patrols.

However the rain lifted as the dawn broke and the final attacks went in. Again the HSF extracted a high price from its attackers before submitting to the inevitable. The exercise finished on a high note with the companies being airlifted back to the Battalion area for a well deserved hot breakfast.

So it was that we bade farewell to the Home Service Force. Its members have now been 'absorbed' into the Territorial Army to serve out the remainder of their reduced commitment. Those soldiers who are eligible have the option of transferring to the TA and many have already volunteered to continue serving.

Whatever their choice we wish them all well and offer our thanks for their many years of loyal service to the Battalion and the Regiment in the defence of our country.

Exercise Lion Star III

LAST October 1991 a composite company of 115 all ranks deployed to Cyprus under the command of Maj Chris Vince to take part in Exercise Lion Star III. The two week training consisted of a range and field firing package to complete the conversion training to the new rifle 5.56, upgrading training, a three-day company FTX and watersport adventure training.

Undoubtedly the high spot was the beach assault from RCL landing craft at the

News from the Steelbacks



Above The Band and Drums lead the way through the centre of Peterborough. Below: The march past.





How do you feel about leaving the Army?

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

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

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

There are two options open to you.

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

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

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

In return you will receive payment equivalent to the rates paid to Regular Army soldiers plus an annual tax free bonus.



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

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

News from the Steelbacks



Capt Harding hands over to a Steelback lanyard to the new Adjutant Capt Marinos.

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beginning of the exercise. The hot and dusty conditions proved taxing but not unsurmountable and there were no serious casualties. The company was well supported by the Royal Hussars and the RAF which supplied a helicopter lift in the final phase of the exercise.

All those who took part enjoyed their exposure to the distinctive food and drink of Cyprus and came back enthused with the experience. It is to be hoped that now that we have lost our NATO role and the chance to train in Germany, more of these morale raising overseas training exercises will become available.

25th anniversary

THE Steelbacks reached their 25th anniversary on 29 Mar and to mark the occasion there was a Drumhead service and march past with our Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, HRH Princess Alice taking the salute.

The service was held at Peterborough Cathedral in the presence of HRH Princess Alice and the Colonel of the Regiment, with the Battalion Chaplain, the Rev Simon Godfrey, officiating. After the short service of dedication, the Battalion reformed outside the Cathedral in 4 Guards to exercise its Freedom of the City by marching with colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed.

Led by the Band in full dress uniform, the Battalion marched through the centre of Peterborough finishing outside the Town Hall where HRH Princess Alice took the salute. Afterwards the official guests joined

the officers for lunch at the Town Hall, while the remainder of the Battalion went back to the TA Centre for their own well deserved lunch.

The celebrations were well supported by the Standards and Old Comrades of the Regimental Associations of the Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex and Northamptonshire and Royal Anglian Regiments. Together they formed the Number 3 Guard and we were proud to share the day with those who had been so instrumental in making the 5th Battalion what it is today.

The various messes had also been holding their own celebrations of this important landmark. The Warrant Officers' and SNCOs' Mess held a Regimental Dinner in March and 4 Company held a combined officers' warrant officers' and SNCOs guest night at Fanhams Hall which was attended by the Mayor of Hertford. The officers' mess has commissioned a local artist to record the event on canvas with print copies being available for general sale.

We look back with pride at our achievements of the last 25 years of NATO service and look forward to the next 25 years with great enthusiasm, confident that whatever the task, the Steelbacks will not be found wanting.

Battalion annual skill-at-arms meeting – Colchester

THE day dawned bright and sunny for our annual gathering at Colchester ranges for the Battalion SAAM. Would the new rifle

5.56 finally be allowed a more even spread of prizes, or would the established 'shot artists' prevail yet again? Only time would tell.

This was also the first opportunity for our new Battalion Weapon Training Officer, Capt John Allcock, to show what he was made of. The weekend was a great success with everyone enjoying some excellent shooting. The sun shone all day on Saturday, which saw the bulk of the matches shot.

Sunday was a different story with overcast skies, strong winds and a considerable drop in temperature. Still, at least it was not raining – yet. The Sunday also saw two visitors to the Battalion, Lt Col Finstead the Norwegian Military Attache, and Brig A J K Calder OBE, commander of the newly formed 54 (East Anglia) Brigade. They were able to watch the final shoots of the section match and then the hotly contested falling plate competition.

This year the officers confounded the spin doctors and swept the board with the commanding officer's team beating the RSM's team and the officers' mess beating the WOs' and SNCOs' mess. Perhaps the new rifle was making a difference after all.

Brig Calder kindly presented the prizes after which the Band played while the officers, warrant officers and SNCOs forgot their differences and shared a buffet lunch. Right on cue the rain started as soon as the RSM gave the order to drop tents and another training year had run its course.

Mainly about people

THERE were a crop of Steelbacks appointment changes towards the end of last year. Amongst those saying goodbye were the Adjutant, Capt David Harding, who handed over to Capt Tony Marinos; Maj Charles Thomas, Battalion 2IC who handed over to Maj Nigel Ffitch; Maj Chris Vince OC1 Company who handed over to Capt Terry Game; Maj Grant Peakall OC 4 Company who handed over to Maj Geoffrey Walton and Capt Clyde Aylin PSAO 2 Company. We wish them every success with their new appointments.

Other appointment changes included Maj Tom Dormer assuming Command of 2 Company from Maj Nigel Ffitch and Maj Ken Lacey taking over command of Headquarter Company from Maj Peter Horrell who has moved temporarily to Brigade Headquarters. However, we will soon be welcoming him back again as our next Commanding Officer in October.



6th Battalion



C Company trying not to look too pleased with themselves following the issue of the 5.56mm rifle.

The start of a new era

LIFE in the 6th Battalion has been driven by two important events. Both signal the end of an era but equally herald the start of new ones. The reorganisation of the Battalion and the equipping of the Battalion with the 5.56 rifle have both meant that we have, or might soon say goodbye to old friends. But equally we believe that both events point to a better future that we can tackle with enthusiasm.

The arrival of the 5.56 rifle was yet another fast ball but one that we were considerably more pleased to respond to than some requests that arrive at short notice.

The Battalion was originally not scheduled to receive the weapon until late this year and it was therefore a surprise for both the QM and training major when short notice collection and training programmes had to be produced.

The initial issue arrived in mid-January. There then followed an intensive "training the trainer" period as PSIs set about teaching our skill-at-arms instructors on how to use the weapons.

By the first weekend in February the instructors were ready to implant their new-found knowledge on the Battalion. Two

weekends of conversion training followed, and such was the enthusiasm for the new weapon that attendance at both was exceptional. With TOETs behind us, the first rounds were fired at the beginning of March under company arrangements. Weapons were zeroed and elementary application of fire shoots completed. This steady progress of training was rewarded when on the Battalion organised APWT shoot some 270 soldiers achieved a pass on their first attempt. In all respects, the Battalion pack-

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News from the 6th Battalion



Top left: Pte Frusher of D Company receives the Champion Company Shield.
Above: Another routine deployment — or the event of the year. Bottom left: Cpl Rolph of A Company receiving another prize on his way to becoming champion shot. Below: Peter and Joyce Beamish with the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk following the presentation of their certificate in recognition of service to the Battalion.



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News from the 6th Battalion



54 East Anglian Brigade: Cmdr Brig Tony Calder, major TA units including 5 and 6 R Anglian, Lt Col Kit Stallard and Alain Chissel. Present is Maj Taff Price OC 3CTT.

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age was outstanding and the results achieved were a credit to the training staff and their efforts on our behalf.

Shooting has been a key training issue for this year and after conversion we took full value from the Lydd and Hythe complex for a weekend. With confidence we went on to shoot the Roupell Cup and Gun matches in preparation for the Battalion skill-at-arms meeting.

On the weekend of 25/26 Apr the Battalion were at Colchester for the Battalion SAAM where a carefully constructed programme of competitions allowed for individual champions, fire team, section, platoon and company winners. The competition was based on the Roupell Cup shoot and the section match. It is a mark of the accuracy of both weapon and firer that fire teams were all able to compete in these difficult shoots and achieve scores that were not just acceptable, but above average.

At the end of the weekend Cpl Rolph of A Company emerged yet again as the best individual shot and in a very close competition C Company took the fire team, section and platoon prizes. But the overall champion company was D company from Cambridge. We are fully confident of imminent success at both EDSAAM and at Bisley.

Planning for the reorganisation has not been easy and although the results of the Options for Change study is now well known, it is worth looking at how the Battalion will be affected.

The first to feel the thaw of the Cold War were our two Home Service Force companies. Having been told that they could not recruit and that extensions to current run out dates would not be allowed, both companies paraded as formed bodies for the last time at the end of March.

On 1 Apr this year, individual soldiers were posted to non-established jobs attached to the rifle companies and to a small number of posts in HQ Company. Those soldiers who wish to remain will do so until their run out date but effectively E and F Companies have passed into the annals of the Battalion's history.

A few days later the WRAC was disbanded which led to the 60 women who were attached to the Battalion being transferred to their new employing Corps. In some cases this meant transfer into the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Before the next edition of Castle we will have completed an exchange of companies with our 5th Battalion and reduced our establishment by one rifle company and overall from 583 to 490. We will of course be sorry to say goodbye to B (Bedfordshire) and D (Cambridgeshire) Companies but we look forward to welcoming the Essex Company that will join us.

Amid all the upheaval and toil of this reorganisation there is a genuine feeling that we will emerge as a strong and cohesive organisation. The Battalion will be well recruited and the new layout of the companies will make for far better communication, administration and indeed for the career prospects of territorial officers and

soldiers. Additionally we look forward to working alongside the Steelbacks as part of the new 54 (East Anglia) Brigade.

Other events although less momentous than the conversion package, should be mentioned.

In December the Battalion converged on Bodney Camp to take part in Ex Bounty Hunter. This exercise had two principle aims and it was at times difficult to determine which was the most important. On the face of it qualifying for bounty would seem the more important but the weekend will be remembered for the Battalion smoker on Saturday night. A total of 270 soldiers tackled a series of stands that ensured they passed tests in first aid, NBC, TOETs and fitness.

Saturday morning was also our entry into the TA UKLF tickle competition where we achieved a 100% pass rate and subsequently won this Army event; no mean achievement. After a rewarding day's work the Battalion relaxed. Firstly over a Christmas dinner served by the officers and SNCOs and finally over a series of sketches. The CFT on Sunday morning cleared most peoples heads!

In the last six months individual contributions to the Battalion have been recognised. Sgt Saunders of F (HSF) Company received a British Empire Medal in the new year honours list. Such is his commitment to the many organisations that he works so tirelessly to support that the arrangements for the presentation are proving very difficult. The caretaker and cleaner at Bury St Edmunds, Mrs Joyce Beamish and Mr Peter Beamish were awarded Lord Lieutenant's Certificates in recognition of their 15 years' service. We congratulate them all.

Not only is the shape of the Battalion changing but there have also been the inevitable comings and goings of individuals. We have 12 regular soldiers attached for their last six months' service, the majority of whom are leaving on redundancy and we wish them well in civilian life.

Changes in regular staff mean we now have three new PSIs at Norwich, Bedford and Ipswich. We welcome CSgts Davis, Okopkyj and Page and with a new training major in the chair, Maj Peter Barnes handing over to Maj Seymour Blyth, there is a new face to the Battalion's trainers.

Already they are planning annual camp and preparing, as we all are, for the challenges of the next six months and maintaining our position at the forefront of TA Infantry Battalions.



Tigers



HQ Company winners of Exercise Tasteful Tiger (the cookery competition).
Left to right: Cpl Simpson, WPlt Myners, Cpl Rogers and Pte Botting.

Rejoicing and relief at reprieve

FROM July onwards, there was much speculation and uncertainty about the survival of the Tigers. There was reason to believe we were destined for disbandment and we stood on the burning deck wondering if the Sword of Damocles would drop. If so we were to go down with drums beating and colours flying!

Until December there was a period of intense lobbying in particular by the Regimental Hierarchy, to get us reprieved. There was much rejoicing and relief when the Secretary of State announced that we were to remain in the order of battle!

Indeed, we have much to be grateful for and we thank the Regimental Elders including our own Colonel, Lt Col Richard Haes and everyone else involved for their sterling efforts on our behalf.

However, structural changes were ordained reducing the Battalion from four to three rifle companies and from 720 to 490 all ranks. In early April A Company at Scunthorpe merged with B Company at Lincoln, whilst 2 Company of 5th Battalion merged into D Company at Northampton. (No more motorbike and sidecar for D!) The three remaining rifle companies are thus retitled A (Lincolnshire) Company, B (Leicestershire) Company and C (Northamptonshire) Company.

Sadly the Home Service Force (HSF) elements were disbanded and men absorbed into HQ Company and A (Lincolnshire) Company until their run out dates.

The new Battalion order of battle based on 490 all ranks is to be in place by April 1995 and indeed is now operational. In the

meantime we will overbear and reduce strength largely by natural wastage

Battalion activities

FOR the purpose of this publication we refer to all five companies prior to the new order of battle

The Battalion GPMG (SF) team came 2nd in the 1991 UK I match 83 competition, just pipped to the post by 4 Kings Own Border. In the last four years we have achieved two wins and a second place, reflecting great credit and dedication to Capt Pete Slinger and his talented team. Sadly we say farewell to Capt Slinger, his expertise and humour will be missed by all. Good luck for the future

Company Cambrian patrol teams

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News from the Tigers



Top left: Dining at the annual Christmas dinner held at Beckingham. Left to right: Cpl Waller, Cpl Drake, Cpl George, Pte Dabell, Pte Simpson and WPte Jennings. Above: Lt Col Richard Haes explaining the SA80 to the Bishop of Leicester, Right Reverend Thomas Butler. Left: Lt Col Richard Haes handing over command to Lt Col Murray Colville. Below: Recipients of the Territorial Efficiency Medal. Left to right: front – SSgt Kostrzewski, Sgt Wells; rear – Sgt Tillyard, SSgt Felstead and Cpl George.



News from the Tigers



Left: "Now my son, one or two?" The Bishop of Leicester, Right Rev Thomas Butler serving Pte Drake Christmas dinner. Right: 'New Boys on the Block' serving up dinner. Maj Burford and Capt Goodwin with looking on Regimental Sgt Maj Norman.

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returned from Brecon on 3 Nov in fine fettle following two weeks of intensive and challenging training in lieu of annual camp. Spirits were exceedingly high with most of the participants proclaiming it was the best two weeks of their TA service.

The Battalion held a highly successful bounty weekend at Beckingham during December. The Bishop of Leicester was the prime visitor who took a keen interest in all the activities. On Saturday night a traditional and high spirited Christmas dinner was served to the men and women by the officers and SNCOs.

This was followed by an hilarious professional cabaret in the camp theatre, with a contingency plan in case the bishop chose to meet the actress! He prudently departed early.

In January the Battalion concentrated at STANTA to rotate companies through the excellent new FIBUA complex. The last weekend in January saw company teams competing in exercise Mechanical Tiger; a challenging and strenuous test of driving and military skills.

It was a close run event won by HQ Company followed by B, A, D and LDY Company teams respectively.

The Battalion concentrated at Proteus on weekend 22/23 Feb to embark on four separate training activities involving every level of command. Prizes were awarded by the

Commanding Officer on Sunday which was a glorious day and a fitting climax to an arduous but rewarding weekend of intensive training. The training activities which took place are summarised as follows:-

Exercise Tenacious Tiger. The annual inter-section competition in which each platoon entered one complete section, to be put through its paces by day and night followed by a forced march and assault course. The winning section came from B Company led by Cpl Chutkhan, second LDY Company led by Cpl Purtell 17 and third HQ Company with Cpl Marriott.

Battle School. A combined FTX conducted by the Adjutant for junior officers, officer cadets and SNCOs, concentrating on patrolling, occupation of a hide position and a forced march followed by the dreaded assault course.

Exercise Tasteful Tiger. The annual cookery competition won this year by HQ Company followed by D, A, B and LDY Companies. The winning team representing the Battalion at the Eastern District cookery competition.

Field Officers Training. Conducted by the Commanding Officer and including company 2 ICs. Activities included revision of personal skills with SA80, NBC and Signals, a withdrawal test and finally a night orienteering competition won convincingly by the Battalion 2IC Maj Allan Hemmings.

Personnel changes

THIS year sees a larger than normal number of changes. Maj Murray Colville is succeeded in the appointment of Second in Command by Maj Allan Hemmings TD, erstwhile Officer Commanding HQ Company. Also, Maj (QM) John Rourke leaves for a three-year posting in sunnier climes, joining BATT Zimbabwe. We welcome in his place Maj (QM) Bill Burford from the 3rd Battalion (at last a Pompadour).

Capt Robert Knox departed to take up post with 42(NW) Brigade Preston. We welcome his successor Capt Nigel Goodwin of the 3rd Battalion (another Pompadour, it gets better). Lt Col Richard Haes handed over command on 8 Apr 92 to Lt Col Murray Colville. We wish Col Richard every success in his new job and every happiness with his pending marriage to Julie Massingham.

Other notable members retiring are Maj John Barrell, Maj Ken Slatter, Capt Danny Bryant, Clive Mallett and Pete Slinger, good luck to you all.

Under Options for Change regular forces we say goodbye following redundancies recently announced to five battalion PSIs: WO2 Clive Rook, CSgt Clive Brazer, Sgt Les Dodd and Sgt Ossie Osmond, all of the 2nd Battalion, and CSgt Ginger

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News from the Tigers



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Strickland of 1st Battalion.

Above: The victorious D Company overall champion company shooting, with some of their 'booty'. Below: UKLF Match 83 medal winners. Runners up LCpl Martin, Pte Ashmore and Pte Quantrill.

A (Lincolnshire) Company

THE Company has been in a double dilemma for the past six months. It was at camp Cultybraggen that Options began to show its ugly head. Whilst most companies only had the one task in hand, that of the survival of the Battalion, A Company not only had that battle to fight but also the stunning news that the Company would go even if the Battalion survived.

Immediately Maj Szabo began a two-field defence of both the Battalion and the Company. Numerous telephone calls were made and letters written. The Company decided that if we were going it would be in style. On the training front it soon became clear that the Company could in fact produce a champion company if everyone pulled together.

The first weekend of December saw 80 men of the Company turn out for the annual bounty tests. Everyone who attended achieved the result.

The next thing on the agenda was to be the final Christmas party held at Scunthorpe. Organised by Capt Bruton, it turned out to be one of the most lavish and entertaining of a whole list of parties that the Company has held.

January saw the cold realisation that the

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News from the Tigers

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demise of the Company was only some three months away. The next competition was Mechanical Tiger. A great deal of preparation went into this under the auspices of the 2IC. The result was a creditable second by the team consisting of Cpl Boam, Cpl Reid, W/Pte Cook and LCpl Robertson. This enhanced the position of the Company in the champion company stakes. The morale of the soldiers remained high on the basis that again if we were to go it would indeed be in style.

Preparations were made for intense training for the section competition and the BSAAM. The section competition came and went without individual sections managing to achieve a first three place but overall the Company again came second.

Tasteful Tiger was run at the weekend. It seemed ironic that should the team win then it would have difficulty in being put into the Eastern District Competition. This was an academic exercise since it managed a creditable third. Again the points boosted the champion company race.

On the social side the momentum began gathering pace. The annual officers' and sergeants' dinner was held at Scunthorpe at the end of February. The Company said farewell to Maj Szabo, WO2 Stephenson, CSgt Masniuk and Sgt Lake all of whom had been with the Company ten years plus. A tribute was paid to Mrs Szabo for all her help over the years. A most emotional evening ended on a high note.

By now snippets of information were beginning to reach the Company as to the future of various personnel. The Company was to amalgamate with B Company in Lincoln and would be assured of the title A (Royal Lincolnshire) Company. Most of the soldiers would be absorbed into the new company with a platoon at Scunthorpe and, with much relief, a platoon at Grimsby. The future of Maj Szabo was unclear at the time of writing "a job at Battalion". Capt Freeman, the 2IC, was to move down to Leicester as 2IC HQ Company. The standing joke became that it would be unusual to see mobile command posts with mounted GPMGs.

Again the final company bash loomed up but not before Cpl Hobson of I Platoon found time to become engaged. The usual platoon party ensued. The Company party outlived all expectations with many former members attending. It was estimated that some 300 people came to the wake.



Cpl Fox and Pte Wong, best individual skills winners BnSAAM Colchester.

One might get the impression that it was all parties but not a bit of it. Following the Company motto of work hard play hard, the following Tuesday saw the final drilling by WO2 Stone CSM for the standing down of two Infantry Divisions at York.

If anything this parade showed the tenacity of the TA. A Company was part of No.5 guard consisting of A Company the 7th Battalion, the Royal Anglian Regiment, 5th Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment, The Fusiliers and the Staffords. This gathering represented 49 Infantry Brigade.

They had never met before let alone trained together. Yet by 1600 hrs the same afternoon this guard put on a tremendous display of drill. So much so in fact the Commanding Officers complimented them on their bearing.

Much of the credit must go to WO2 Stone who gripped the guard. The Commander was Maj Szabo assisted by Capt Freeman.

Finally to the last weekend at Colchester. Sixty men and women turned out for the 200 mile journey with the hope of taking the champion company prize. A great deal of good shooting took place and the sun came down on the Champion Company. A Company marched off into the sunset.

B Lincolnshire Company

B COMPANY has had a busy, but in many ways a sad, three months since the Christmas break.

Training during the period has as usual been dominated by major milestone events; the inter section competition, Polar Dawn, our annual Battalion test exercise and sadness at the impending closure of the Gainsborough Platoon, a victim of the much publicised re-organisation of the TA.

January found B Company Catterick based on two separate weekends. First practising FIBUA skills at Whinney Hill, then at Feldon live firing on the ranges in preparation for BSAAM in April. The range weekend was for many the first real opportunity to become familiar with the IW and ISW on snap shoots.

February proved hectic for our inter-section competition teams with three consecutive weekends leading up to and including the weekend of the competition. The effort was rewarded, however, with first and fourth place.

March saw a firing and testing exercise Polar Dawn, practice for BSAAM at Colchester and a joint B and D Company enemy force commanded by Capt Brian

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Barger for CUOTC. Six of the force were from HSF (Lincoln) Platoon and it was their last training weekend together before absorption in B Company.

Wednesday 1 Apr, inappropriately, was the last Gainsborough Platoon drill night. A sad end to what at one time was the most successful and best attended platoon in the Battalion. Current and former 5 platoon members gathered for a wake, a night of reminiscence and (most!) watched the platoon bar close for the last time.

Capt Pete Slinger's dining out from B Company was on 15 Feb. After far more years' service than Peter would willingly admit to, he now plans to devote his time and effort to work, fishing and family (though not necessarily in that order!)

The end of the training year was also the end of the HSF and Ian Alexander's platoon said goodbye to the still young Home Service Force in appropriate style with a dinner in the Offr/WO/Sgts mess at Lincoln Drill Hall in March. We hope to see them all in their new role as part of B Company in the new training year.

The new training year holds lots of surprises not least the amalgamation of the old B and A Companies with headquarters in

Above: The now disbanded A Company goes out on a high by winning overall champion company 1991/92. Below: Capt Brian Barber and Sgt Walker individual winners at BnSAAM weekend Colchester.



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Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln. A formidable force within the Battalion.

B (Leicestershire) Company, formerly LDY (PAO) Coy

IT was with great relief when we received the good news that we were to be saved as a Battalion, but more especially for this Company in that although we were to lose the LDY (PAO) title, an honourable gain of the Leicestershire title was to replace it and we were to be known as B (Leicestershire) Company.

Major changes in direction will no doubt be felt and we suspect there will be more news on this front after these notes have been penned.

Social events: During the period of this report the following social events were held.

Company social at Loughborough: Well attended as usual and was a fine tribute to the Company for 1991.

The Officers and SNCOs of LDY Company dinner night 28 Feb, which was attended by 97 mess members of the Company and guests. On this occasion we said farewell to our Commanding Officer Lt Col Richard Haes, in the traditional style by presenting him with a copy of the "Norrie - LDY Mounted Charge" something we have always been good at (charging forward). We also said a sad farewell to our Company 2IC, Capt Danny Bryant ("I'm really a Pompadour"). He was presented with a copy of the "Norrie - LDY Mounted Training" in recognition of his excellent contribution to the Company training during his stay. At the same time we paid tribute to our attached medical officer, Maj Andrew Hall ("I'm only here for a year") who has left us to go back to 222 Field Ambulance - a better trained officer we hasten to add. This event, being the last of its kind as LDY Company was notable for the attendance of five ex-Company Commanders and two ex-CSMs, Majs Marshall, Hunt, Smith, Mee and Heywood; CSMs Gould and Terheege.

Following the LDY Company dinner weekend, 4 Mar saw the Battalion WOs' and Sgts' Mess at Loughborough for its annual dinner night and was well attended by 140 members and their ladies.

The 20 Mar saw again at Loughborough the Field Officers' dinner being held in the Mess with some 90 members and their ladies in attendance.

During the quieter periods of these din-



Runners up Section Competition led by Cpl Purtell of LDY Company.

ners the annual LDY Company race meeting was held at the Leicester race-course for which annually the Leicestershire Cup is the main event. Some 30 members of the former Regiment, boosted by regular serving and TA members took to the boxes and lost considerable sums of money.

Mainly about people: The Company strength and turnover precludes everyone going or coming to be mentioned but to name a few:-

Farewell to Sgt Cousings, our imported Poacher (Jock to his friends) departed back to the 2nd Battalion. We enjoyed his stay and his expertise, his welcome change and we have no doubt that on his present form he is going to succeed in the Army. We expect to see him back again on promotion as we hear that he would like to settle around this area.

Congratulations to Lt Trevor Terheege on his commission to Lt and Officer Commanding ATK Platoon. As our previous CSM we are justifiably proud that he should be the first WO2 in LDY Company to be commissioned and hope that we are setting a trend.

Welcome to WO2 (CSM) Simon Barnes who has replaced Trevor Terheege.

Welcome to Sgt Dodd our new PSI.

Other congratulations on promotion: 2Lt Wiltshire on promotion to Lt; 2Lt Windbank to Lt; Cpl Lowe to Sgt; LCpl Gant to Cpl; Pte Roffey to LCpl; Pte Boettcher to LCpl; Pte Cox to LCpl; Pte Dodd to LCpl; Pte Szarvas to LCpl.

Hot news is the announcement of redundancies which affect this Company. Both CSgt Strickland and Sgt Dodd have been selected and we wish them every success for the future.

D Company

FOR many years the former D Company at Northampton was the only rifle company without a substantial detachment. The Daventry Detachment was never able to recruit or sustain a full platoon. Consequently the Company suffered primarily from attendance and related problems and hence the standing joke about the company moving to training weekends on a motorbike and sidecar.

Its fortunes have turned dramatically and immediately with the merger. At the Bn SAAM held at Colchester on 4/5 Apr, the new C Company took all but one of the matches with first and second highest platoon scores qualifying as outright champion shooting company.

In March the Company small bore team won a divisional match against 12 contenders in the small bore league and are geared for the finals with every intention of winning.

The newly constituted C Company held its first training night on 7 Apr when a carefully prepared presentation was given to no less than 108 of all ranks. The largest attendance in over ten years!

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News from the Tigers



D Company on a FIBUA Exercise STANTA.

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The new Officer Commanding, Maj Tom Dormer (former officer commanding of 2 Company 5th Battalion) and each member of the permanent staff in turn, gave a detailed description of their individual roles and aspirations.

This, together with the excellent shooting results, went a long way towards consolidating and motivating the men of Northampton and Wellingborough, from the

start in a remarkably effective way.

Headquarter Company

ALTHOUGH HQ Company will be the last company to know how Options for Change will affect it with regards to its support weapons platoons, the dreaded and much mentioned Sword of Damocles has to all intents and purposes been sheathed without crashing down upon the Company. This left a much happier Company to get back to the job at hand, namely keeping the rest of the

Battalion on its toes with a renewed vigour.

January saw the Company down at STANTA for a FIBUA exercise with two of the rifle companies. The weekend proved that we could match the rifle companies at their own game and also that members of the MT Platoon would be removed from their vehicles without suffering permanent injury!

Headquarter company normally does well in the Inter-Company Competition and this year has been no exception. After an indifferent start to the competition, victories for the Company in the Intersection Section (much to the annoyance of the rifle companies), the Tasteful and Mechanical Tiger Competitions left us in second place overall with just the BSAAM to go.

Despite a sterling effort from the Company, notably the LSW pair of the Signals Platoon, the Recce Platoon for producing the best junior and senior ranks shots and Combat Support Platoon which finished joint second in the champion platoon competition, we could not improve upon our second place, falling short of A Company by 10 points in 1000.

The Company has seen a fairly radical change personnel wise. Maj Allan Hemmings has moved upstairs to the dizzy heights of Battalion 2IC, Maj Mike Prebble takes over as Company Commander. The Company 2IC Capt Nigel Pennington, the CSM WO2 Simmonds, the RQMS WO2 Blanchard and the SPSI WO2 Leyland have all handed over the reigns to new blood, their successors being Lt Andy Jacques, WO2 Trowell, WO2 Martin and WO2 Isom respectively.

Farewells from the Company: Maj John Barrel, WO2 Simmonds, WO2 Leyland and RQMS Blanchard.

Welcome to the Company: Capt Roy Smith (Paymaster), Lt Mike Richards (OC Recce), WO2 Trowell (CSM), WO2 Martin (RQMS) and WO2 Isom (SPSI).

Congratulations to 2Lt Guy Thornton on his commissioning. We wish him well as Officer Commanding Combat Support Platoon.

Congratulation also to SSgt Felstead and Kozrzewski, Sgts Wells and Tillyard and Cpl George for their TEMs (1st Clasp for SSgt Felstead).

The past few months have been good ones for the Company and we look forward to what the next training year has to bring. Mortar Platoon we understand, has a new compact platoon field kitchen to look forward to!

Depot Queen's Division

Bassingbourn to be a new unit

THE decision on the future of the Depot has now been taken and in January 1993 Bassingbourn Barracks will become Army Training Regiment (ATR) Bassingbourn. The function of the new unit will be to train soldiers for the Queen's Division, the Royal Engineers and the Royal Signals in the ten week Common Military Syllabus (Recruits). On completion of this our soldiers will go to the Infantry Training Wing at Ouston for the second phase of their training.

Whatever we may think of the decision we now have to make it work and a great deal of staff work is going into the establishment of the new organisation.

It is a sad fact that since the initial amalgamations we have lost or reorganised our depots three times. Nevertheless Bassingbourn will be the place where our Regimental recruits serve initially and the new unit will need all the Regimental support it can get. Despite the forthcoming change the Depot has continued with business as usual and will continue to do so until the end of the year.

The uncertainty over people's futures was reflected in the long lines of permanent staff waiting to see their respective commanding officers at the November postings meeting. Despite all the midnight oil burnt in Regimental working groups, little could be forthcoming. As a result the June postings meeting is eagerly awaited.

Christmas saw the usual round of pre-leave gluttony prior to departure on block leave for more of the same. The soldiers' Christmas lunch was an occasion enjoyed by those who sat down and those who served. This was a pleasant change from the poor behaviour which sometimes characterises these occasions in Battalions and proved, if proof were needed, that a food fight is not a necessary part of enjoyment of Christmas lunch. On arrival back after leave in January the gymnasium staff soon had the over-indulgents wishing that they had moderated their behaviour.

January also saw the start of the serious work towards the creation of the Army Training Regiment. So far the impact has largely been felt by the staff in Depot Headquarters. However, the second half of



Maj Gen Pollard talks to a recruit during the Passing Out Parade of Rhine Platoon.

the year will see the effect becoming more widespread.

The Depot Skill-at-Arms meeting was held on 14 Mar. The highlight was undoubtedly the inter-Regimental falling plate event. Regrettably we were knocked out by the Fusiliers in the first run down. It was unfortunate that the entire team were Pompadours. The shouts of encouragement from the Vikings and Poachers on the sidelines faded and turned to condemnation of the unfortunate team. All of this merely confirmed the prejudice amongst the other Regiments that we are in fact a loose confederation of warring tribes! Long may it remain so.

Capt Paul Thurston and the RIT have been very active on behalf of both the Regiment and Depot, running a number of 'Look At Life' visits. During these the potential Army of the year 2000 looks at the Army of the 1990s.

It is to the great credit of all members of the RIT that they have put across such a positive line during the difficult and uncertain period of the last months. March was a particularly busy month with visits by ten CCF detachments from schools sponsored by the Regiment. Although the future of the

RIT is uncertain, for the moment it is business as usual.

The Depot has played host to 5 R Anglian twice in the last few months and it has been a pleasure to see the training facilities used with such enthusiasm. After July we will be unable to accommodate visitors in the camp due to the rebuild. However, that should not discourage the TA Battalions from making use of the excellent training facilities available at Bassingbourn.

D Company has continued its varied and complex life with TA cadres, pre-PSBC, pre-SCBC and potential JNCO cadres throughout the period. As ever it has been a pleasure to see the enthusiasm of the TA recruits and also to see old friends again as they come through on their career courses.

Maj Gen Pollard visited the Depot to take the Passing Out Parade of Rhine Platoon on 28 Nov. As he relinquishes his appointment as Colonel Commandant of the Queen's Division we thank him for his support to the Depot throughout the period.

This winter has been an excellent sporting season for the Depot. Outstanding results have been achieved in hockey and cross-country running. More details are included in the Regimental Sports Section.

Junior Infantry

Adopting a defiant pride in appointed battalions

SINCE the last edition of Castle, the Junior Royal Anglians forming Intake 15 have been told where they are going on completion of their training in June. It is amazing how quickly they become defiantly proud of "Their Battalion".

At present there are 12 young Vikings from Cassino Company looking to arrive at Colchester between July and August. Some will first go to Bassingbourn for the Army Schools Exhibition whilst others will go to selected ACIOs as part of the Satisfied Soldier Scheme on route to the Battalion. This will leave at JIB nine young Vikings who are in Salamanca Company as part of Intake 16. They will pass out on 31 July and will join the Battalion after leave.

All of the juniors have attended a 10-day skiing package in Bavaria – some went back for a second trip. They gave assurances it was for the skiing! Anyway they all managed to obtain the JSDS Bronze Award (for skiing) for their efforts.

CSgt Phil Martin not only won the last ever Battalion cross-country race to be staged at JIB (the Bn junior cross-country team was not competing that day) but now regularly represents JIB at orienteering. At least that's where he claims to be on a Wednesday.

Cpl Saywell plays table tennis for JIB and has recently gained fame by winning the Divisions 2/3 singles title at the Folkestone closed table tennis championships, which was held on 15 Mar.

Under the guidance of Capt Paul Ludbrook, the Battalion junior cross-country team had another successful season, winning the youth categories of the Army Inter-Unit Team Relay Championships, SE District Championships and the Army Cross-Country Championships.

The squad consisted of a good selection of Vikings – JCpl Anderson, JCpl Horn and JLdr Clothier. JLdr Clothier is to be congratulated on a most successful season – he became the SE District youth champion,



JLdr Clothier (1st Bn) JCpl Anderson (1st Bn), JLdr Nightingdale (2nd Bn), all members of 12 PI Cassino Company, show their trophies for cross-country and boxing.

Army youth runner-up and was selected as part of the Army junior squad in an inter-service competition.

Cpl Garwood, who is now back with the Battalion contributed a great deal of time and effort during the early part of the season, which I am sure played an important part in the later successes.

Maj John Perry became the junior football team manager at the beginning of the season, and too, has been extremely successful. His team, of which JCpl Horn is part of, has already won the under 17½ years Challenge Cup and reached the final of the Army Junior Cup (up to 19½ years) which was played on 10 May.

JCpl Anderson represented the Battalion in the finals of the Army Novice (Junior) Boxing Championships on 5 Mar against Depot Guards. JCpl Anderson gained a well deserved victory at L/middle weight; his accurate left jab finding his opponent with alarming consistency, scoring sufficient points to ensure a win.

He went on to compete in the Army Individual Championships, this time winning a silver medal. A most commendable performance.

Whilst Options for Change continues to create a great deal of uncertainty for many, this is not so for Maj John Perry and CSgt Stu Holmes, both of whom are due to leave the Army in the next few months.

CSgt Holmes will have completed 23½ years service by the time he leaves in November. He and his family are intending to take up residence in the Peterborough area.

Maj John (Methuselah) Perry has served a magnificent 40 years and must be one of the few serving Royal Anglians to have been in Korea with the Royal Norfolks. An extremely competent golfer, I am informed that once retired he will be residing with his family at Dymchurch, but continuing to live on Littlestone golf course.

In both cases – good luck for the future and many thanks for all that you have done over the years.

Congratulations to WO1 (RSM) N J Richardson on receiving a commission. Mr Richardson is to be posted to 2 RRF in Ballykinler, in September in the role of Families Officer. His tour with Junior Soldiers should have prepared him well for his forthcoming post!

Cadets

Six potential officers visit Cyprus

The RCO writes:

Battalion Visits

1 R Anglian: We are very grateful to the 1st Battalion for allowing us to send six potential officers to Cyprus in April on Ex Lion Sun I and II. They all thoroughly enjoyed their visits and the exercises!

Further visits to Colchester in July follow and so far all visits are nearly full of applicants. The following potential officers visited Cyprus: Paul Myers, Kieron Howe, Edward Bastow, Gordon Bryant, Oliver Cane and Neil Hazell.

2 R Anglian: Nine potential officers visited the Poachers in April and May and judging by the letters received at Regimental Headquarters they all benefited by the Celle experience. The following attended, Christopher Leach, Christopher Blencowe, James Booth, Simon Vincent, Daniel Kirk, Jonathan Fisher, Michael Penrose, Adrian Pettitt, Pilot Officer David Gledhill and Clive Baynton. Further visits follow in July.

Cadetship and Bursary attachments are also being organised for the autumn. Kenneth Copland and Liam McGrath are to visit 2 R Anglian from 1-14 Sept and Fred Gray will be visiting 1 R Anglian from 26 Aug to 8 Sept.

RCB Results

Sadly no potential officer has yet passed RCB this year. The percentage pass rate Army wide has now decreased to about 44%.

Simon War (Framlingham) and Rupert Whitham (Roundwood Park) were both awarded Army Scholarships and we warmly congratulate them on a fine achievement.

Brig Bill Dodd interviewed them both in London recently.

Undergraduates convention

We welcomed 13 undergraduates to the Basingbourn convention this year. The following attended and enjoyed their visit. Antony Borgnis, Oliver Cane, Kenneth



The Greshams School log race team members were presented with prizes on 12 Feb 92 for being the winning team. The picture shows: LCpl Daniel Jackson, LCpl Simon Child, LCpl Sam Gough, Cdt Prasertchoung and Cdt Alex Forsyth. Absent are: Sgt Boocock, LCpl Raker and Cdt Cotterill. LCpl Simon Child is next to the RCO. The son of John Child, he played cricket for the Regiment in 1991.

Copland, Freddie Grounds, Neil Hazell, Jamie Heath, Liam McGrath, Andrew Moffatt, Steven Cox, Richard Potter, Neil Whithear, Gavin Wiedman and Fred Gray. Regimental speakers included Gen Sir John Akehurst talking on "defending defence" and giving his personal view on the way ahead.

Capt Richard Pattison gave a very colourful tale of his exploits in South Georgia which all the audience thoroughly enjoyed. If schools are interested in hearing this most descriptive of talks, supported with excellent colour slides, then they should please contact the RCO at RHQ.

Review Days

Schools held their review days (previously known as annual general inspections) as follows: 23 Mar - Framlingham College reviewed and inspected by Maj Gen M J D Walker; 1 May - Bancrofts School, Lt Col G D Duthoit R Anglian; 6 May - Wellingborough School and Berkhamsted School; 7 May - Ipswich School, Brig A J K Calder OBE; 8 May - Stamford School; 9 May - Loughborough Grammar School, Brig J F Deverell (DAR); 15 May - Woodbridge School, Brig A J K Calder OBE; 21 May - Felsted School, Col G I G Brett; 28 May - Oundle School, C in C UKLF.

RMAS

Col G I G Brett represented the Colonel of the Regiment at the Sandhurst Passing Out Parade on 10 Apr.

We were sorry to hear that both Matthew Still and Jonathan Veitch resigned their

commissions while undergoing training at Sandhurst.

Other News

Marcus Parry, a training subaltern at the Depot, revisited his old school Oundle on 28 May when he became ADC to the C in C UKLF for the day. It was a particularly nostalgic trip down memory lane for him and he was also lucky enough to see his younger brother on the passing out parade. The review of Oundle School CCF went extremely well.

Late News

WO1 (SSI) O R Levet BEM is due to retire from Oundle School CCF. There is a vacancy for a new SSI at the school. Names of anyone interested to RHQ Asp!

Lt Col Roberts dies

IT is with great sadness that we report the death of Lt Col Gordon Roberts MA, who was the effervescent commanding officer of Bedford Modern School CCF for so many years.

He died suddenly and unexpectedly on 21 Dec 91, having suffered a severe heart attack. He will be a tremendous loss to the School and to the CCF.

We send our warmest sympathy to his devoted family.

A memorial service was held for Gordon on 15 Jan at St Paul's Church in Bedford.

Cadets

Ratcliffe pupil to sail in Tall Ships Race

A POTENTIAL officer from Ratcliffe College has been picked to sail across the Atlantic in the Tall Ships Race after only four weeks of training. Edward Belderbos was picked from more than 600 hopefuls.

The 17-year-old student will be part of a 15-strong crew for the London Sailing Project. But he needs to find sponsors to assure him of a place in the final leg of the transatlantic race from Boston, USA, to Liverpool in July.

"I need to find at least £600 to cover the basic costs of clothing and equipment necessary to make the journey", he said. "Even in July the weather in the mid-Atlantic can turn inhospitable so good kit is essential.

"Many of my fellow crew members have been lucky in finding a sponsor. I hope local businesses, societies or clubs will be able to help me."

Edward of Ratcliffe Road, Thrusington added: "There are always more candidates for the final leg than any other and frankly I didn't expect to be selected. Having been chosen I'm thrilled to be taking part."

The novice sailor was selected after a rigorous weekend of physical and initiative tests at HMS Baedulus in Portsmouth – even though he has had only four weekends of sailing tuition.

"I have only a limited amount of sailing experience but the selection panel were more interested in things like teamwork and initiative", he said.

This year's race, from Britain to Costa Rica, then to America and back to Britain, is timed to coincide with the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's transatlantic trip.

Edward is a watch leader with The London Sailing Project, a registered charity which each year gives 500 hundred young people their first taste of sailing.

Last year he received its Amory Award presented in recognition of outstanding contributions by crew members.

Winning the award allowed Edward to become a candidate for the Tall Ships race.

Anyone wishing to help Edward with sponsorship can contact him on Rearsby 424853.



THE winner of the Royal Anglian shield for the December 1991 military skills competition was Sgt Tim Groves, the son of Brig C Groves. The shield was presented by the commanding officer, Lt Col H Nye. We sent Tim our warmest congratulations. Well done!



GENERAL Sir John Akehurst was the inspecting officer at Wellingborough School CCF on 1 May last year. Richard Potter, an old boy from the school, will be joining the Regiment in 1994 after completing the Sandhurst Common Commissioning Course.



Framlingham College CCF Field Day

Around the Branches



WITH half of its staff new, RHQ at Norwich has been busy explaining to Mrs Lindsey Westwood the new administrative officer and Mrs Liz Reeve (no relation) the part-time typist, the difference, apart from their noise level, between a Major and Major General – of which there are some seven on our computer. Anyway, the “newish team” has been “up and running” since August last year and is now very capable of coping with customers’ requests.

Since the December Castle edition the notable events have included the unveiling of the David Jamieson VC picture on 3 Apr in the officers’ mess of the 1st Battalion. This happy occasion allowed Maj Jamieson to be as usual self-effacing about his act of gallantry. The occasion was made more happy by the attendance of former 7th Battalion officers including Paul Buckerfield, Arthur Hammond, Jim Walker and William Morris.

In the Regimental Museum, which has now been visited by some 82,500 visitors since opening, the new chronological display case has been purchased and installed, some additional graphics have been added to assist visitors and progress has been made with the organisation of the archives and the library.

The 50th anniversary of the fall of Singapore was marked by services all over the three counties and in Norfolk these were held in St Peter Mancroft when a memorial was dedicated and in East Dereham. To those of us who



Maj David Jamieson VC CVO with the recently commissioned picture of his action at the Battle of the River Orne 7 Aug 1944.

were children in 1942 the sight of so many old FEPOWs gathered together was a moving occasion.

The 4th Battalion dinner at Gorleston on 25 Apr attracted 60 diners with a strong contingent from the 6th (V) Battalion. The 4th Battalion Officers’ Dinner Club held its annual dinner in the TA Centre Aylsham Road under the chairmanship of Lt Col Cyril Grant on 10 Apr and once again the Chillianwallah Table was almost completely filled.

On 11 Apr the London Branch held a buffet dance at the Florence Nightingale, Westminster Bridge. There were 32 present and a most enjoyable evening was had by everyone attending. On 26 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 on 8 May.

Mr Paul Boxall has the Norwich Branch now organised and meeting on a regular basis at the TA Centre, Aylsham Road and designs for a Branch Standard are currently being discussed.

Gorleston & Great Yarmouth OCA (Ben) Turner writes:

THE Branch membership is slowly increasing and we still meet regularly at 2000 hrs on the last Wednesday of each month at the White Lion Hotel, Gorleston.

In addition to the monthly meetings, the branch has had representatives at the joint services’ meetings and social events held at Tiffney’s on Great Yarmouth sea front, where the local branch of the Royal British Legion is trying to form a servicemen’s/ service-women’s club.

At the time of writing we are hop-

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ing to appoint one or two of our own branch members to the joint services steering committee.

In any event we thank Bert Thompson of the RBL for getting this additional venue off the ground and wish it every success.

The cabaret cum social was a very enjoyable event where we were able to socialise with many members of other local service organisations whom we normally see only very briefly on annual armistice parades.

Over the past few months we have been fortunate in having a variety of guest speakers at meetings and our thanks go to the following, who all gave splendid talks, some with videos, covering a wide range of topics: Gen Jack Dye; Skipper Woodhouse – of TV "This is Your Life" fame; Sub Officer Dwayne Barker (Norfolk Fire Service); Mr C Humphrey, a Coastguard officer and Bob Durrant (Durrant Diving Services).

Thanks also go to the following: Lt Garry Turner, Norfolk Army Cadet Force, for arranging a very enjoyable shooting competition against the Gorleston A C F Detachment which resulted in an honourable draw (we now look forward to another competition; this time against the Great Yarmouth Detachment). To Mrs June Pillar for sewing both the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Badges on each side of our Standard. Had we had the badges purpose-made a large sum of money would have been involved. As the centre of our Standard is a large Royal Anglian Badge, it was found that the normal blazer badges were of ideal size when displayed one each side of the centre badge, especially if a margin of black edging was left around each badge. This has made our Standard look even more effective. To Paul Boxhall for his kind donation towards standard accessories. We wish Paul every success in the formation of the Norwich Branch which we hear is now progressing very well. To Lt Col Paul Long and his staff for the excel-

lent day had by all on our visit to Stanford training area. Thanks to Tony Waters of the Sienna Lodge, Great Yarmouth for donating the two Royal Norfolk blazer badges for the Standard.

Other enjoyable events were both the games nights against the Norwich Branch of the Royal Engineers OCA, at home and away, where it was found that the Infantry were still the better shots, even with darts. Another great event was when the Luton and Dunstable Branch of the Bedfordshire Regimental Association visited us during their day trip to Lowestoft on what was possibly the wettest day of 1991.

The third AGM held in October was very well attended with most members being present. Bob Waller, our chairman since formation decided to stand down and let new blood take the helm.

The full committee is now as follows: Ray Pillar, chairman; Bob Waller, vice-chairman; Stan King, secretary; Ben Turner, treasurer; John Wells, membership secretary and book member; Geoff Smith, Christmas draw and John Morley, draw member.

As usual, the main event of the year was the annual dinner and grand Christmas draw held on 30 Nov at the St Edmund's Hotel, Gorleston. Our dinner chairman this year was Lt Col Paul Long (commandant Stanford Training Area) accompanied by his wife. Other guests included: Lt Col and Mrs Paul Garman, Maj and Mrs William Reeve (Area Secretary – Norwich), Lt and Mrs Turner (Norfolk A C F), John Smith, Steve Hamilton, Geoff Rhodes, Bob and Mrs Drummie Huxtable, Paul Boxhall (Norwich Branch) and Gilly Banthorpe (Norwich Branch).

All enjoyed the excellent dinner and most were lucky enough to win at least one prize in the draw. The laugh of the evening that had many in stitches and brought back happy and in some cases best forgotten memories was the impromptu cabaret by John Morley, Ray Pillar, Geoff Smith and Ben Turner in the "Life and Times of Private John Robin Morley", better

known as "Celle – Deutschland, NoneSeen, Hounded, Thumpt and Hidden".

We send best wishes and hopes of a speedy return to good health for Snowy (Henry Snowling), Brian Becket, Ernie Leggett and George Long.

It is with deep sadness that we have to report the death of Leslie Plummer who passed away in the James Paget Hospital, Gorleston on 30 Jan. Many readers will remember him as a sergeant in India with the Royal Norfolk Regiment before the Second World War and as a sergeant in both the 1st and 2nd Battalions during the war.



A SERVICE of Thanksgiving for the life of Mrs Richards, widow of Brig EFO Richards MC DL JP, was held in Lincoln Cathedral on 10 Apr 92.

Lincoln and District Branch

The Lincoln Branch, after an in-depth reappraisal, has closed its club and reverted to a standard type of membership.

The members have been given access to the Volunteers Bar of A (Lincolnshire) Company at Sobraon and celebrated their new image by a most successful luncheon at Sobraon for 85 members, wives and guests which raised £105 for the HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Gate Appeal.

Spalding and District Branch

Remembrance Sunday 1991 saw a morning parade with both a Royal British Legion and a local band and a

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crowd of 400. The evening service was held at St Mary and St Nicholas Parish Church which in addition to the memorial service also saw the rededication of St George's Memorial Chapel for those who fell in the First World War, by the Bishop of Grantham. Capt Bray, chairman of the branch was one of the principal guests, having fought on the Somme in 1915.

A memorial plaque dedicated to the fallen of the Second World War was erected in the drill hall, Spalding in 1952.

Following the disposal of the drill hall, permission was given for the plaque to be removed and it has now been re-erected in the new office buildings of South Holland District Council.

Mr A Waterfall, the branch secretary, was knocked off his bicycle and received injuries to his right hip and leg. Thankfully no bones were broken and he is now on the mend.

Grantham and District Branch

The branch is in good order and now has a membership of 48. The annual dinner is to be held in the Kings Hotel, North Parade, Grantham on Friday 15 May 92 and initial response has been very good.

On 28 Oct 91 the town mayor, Councillor Jane Porter, supported by the Charter Trustees, welcomed the committee of the Grantham Branch and their wives to the Mayor's Parlour. The occasion was the presentation by the branch chairman, Mr Oliver Hardy, to the mayor of a regimental plaque to

Grave of Bandsman Thurgood 2nd Battalion The Lincolnshire Regiment

AFTER much interesting correspondence between Professor IB Copley, Head of Neurosurgery at the University of Southern Africa, and the Area Secretary (Lincolnshire) and a handsome donation from the 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, a new gravestone was made and erected for Bandsman Thurgood to replace the badly weathered and damaged original put up by the Band in 1900.

We are most grateful for Professor Copley's interest in the matter, not only for the discovery of the grave but also for his interesting research of the Lincolnshire Regiment's battle against the Boers at Silkaats Trek. Unfortunately we do not have the space to print Professor Copley's excellent and interesting paper on the



subject but it is available at RHQ or at our area office in Lincoln for anyone who might like a copy.

commemorate the association of The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment with the town.

In his presentation speech the chairman gave a brief history of the Regiment, highlighting the more memorable campaigns and actions and the connection with both the regular and territorial battalions.

In her speech of acceptance the Mayor promised to find a suitable place to display the plaque in the parlour.

Grimsby and District Branch

At the October meeting of the branch it was decided that in addition to a wreath bearing the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, a further wreath would be ordered on behalf of the Royal Anglian Regiment to emphasise continuity. The standard was paraded and the wreath laid at the Cleethorpes Cenotaph by Mr G Kirk and the new wreath laid at the Grimsby Cenotaph by Mr R Fletcher.

Midland (Birmingham and Coventry) Branch

The branch has found a permanent venue, the Ivy Leaf Club, Sheldon, Birmingham and has a healthy membership of 42. The senior member joined the 4th Battalion in 1932. It is planned to dedicate the Standard in 1992 and details will be circulated to branches when details have been finalised.

Grimsby's Own – The Story of The Chums

Amongst the many books that have recently been written about the First World War there is an exceptionally well researched and presented book on the 10th Battalion of The Lincolnshire Regiment, popularly known as the Grimsby Chums, written by Peter Chapman.

The author has gone to considerable trouble to illustrate his text from the raising of the Battalion in August 1914

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DIARY DATES

**Royal Lincolnshire Regiment
Officers' Reunion Luncheon**
Friday 12 June,
RCT TA Prince William of Gloucester
Barracks, Grantham.

Regimental Reunion Weekend
19/20 Sept 1992,
Beacholme Holiday Camp,
Cleethorpes.

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until disbandment at 8.00 am on Friday 11 May 1918, it having been reduced by casualties to a non-effective force.

He has successfully managed, after a considerable lapse of time, although the last survivor only recently died, to fill out the starkness of the horror and camaraderie that were found on the Western Front.

A good and at times emotional read that is strongly recommended to all students of the period and especially those who hail from the Lincolnshire.

Grimsby's Own, The Story of The Chums by Peter Chapman £6.50 from either The Grimsby Evening Telegraph or the Hutton Press Ltd., 130 Canada Drive, Cherry Burton, Beverley, North Humberside HU17 7SB.



YET again we were blessed with fine weather for our annual reunion and Service of Remembrance held on 17 Nov 1991 at the TA Centre at Kempston.

It is a constant source of surprise and pleasure that the number attending this function has shown a steady, albeit small, increase over each of the last five or six years in spite of the increasing age of our members. This year was no exception, the attendance estimated at 575 including relatives and friends. Even more surprising was the increase in the number of members who took part in the parade which was in excess of 150.

The day began at 11.20 am with a pleasant programme of light music played by the Royal Anglian TA Band

outside the TA Centre after which the Branch Standards, led by the new Standard of the Hertfordshire Regiment OCA, took up position at the memorial.

The parade under the command of OC B Company and comprising B and E (HSF) Companies, 6th Royal Anglian Regiment, 16th Foot Association and detachments of Bedfordshire ACF and Police Cadets, marched to their positions facing the memorial.

The remembrance service was again very ably conducted by Maj J A Girdwood and was followed by a wreath laying ceremony during which the Destiny Waltz was played. This was the last piece of music played in the officers' mess of the 1st Battalion The Bedfordshire Regiment on the night before it left for France in 1914 and has been regarded ever since as sacred music only to be played on special occasions.

The parade then marched past to the Regimental March, Mondolinata, the salute being taken by the Deputy Colonel, Brig W Dodd OBE who was accompanied on the dais by the president, Lt Col W A Whittaker and the chairman, Brig Angus Robertson. In an informal address the Deputy Colonel explained and commented upon the imminent changes in the composition and organisation of the Royal Anglian Regiment.

An excellent lunch was enjoyed in the Keep which was again full to capacity as was also the TA Drill Hall where many members ate a packed lunch.

Our second centenarian

We were surprised and delighted to learn through the kindness of WO2 Little of the Army School of Ammunition who wrote to the Regimental Secretary early this year, that we have a second centenarian in the person of Mr Christopher Magee of Rushden, Northamptonshire who became 100 on 13 Feb 1992. At the

celebration of this occasion he was presented by his son, S/Ldr M F Magee MBIM on behalf of the Regimental Association, with vols 1 and 2 of The Story of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, a gift that has given him tremendous pleasure.

Mr Magee was born at Irchester, Northamptonshire on 13 Feb 1892 and enlisted at Kempston Barracks in the autumn of 1909 where he underwent a strenuous six months' recruit training course at the end of which recruits were given the choice of joining any regiment or corps they wished. Mr Magee joined the 1st Battalion The Bedfordshire Regiment and later that year took part in lining the route for the funeral of King Edward VII. He remembers clearly seeing the Kaiser who was riding between Lord Kitchener and Lord Roberts. The following year the Battalion took part in the coronation of King George V.

The next year he volunteered for service with the 2nd Battalion and went with it to Bermuda and in 1912, to South Africa. The Battalion returned to England in 1914 and proceeded to France where it went into action in late September.

He does not recall the meeting of the 1st and 2nd Battalions at Locre but it seems probable that he was present at it. He was wounded in late October when Brig Foss, then Adjutant, called for volunteers to drive out a party of Germans who had infiltrated the Battalion position. After a long period in hospital in England he joined the 3rd Battalion at Felixstowe where he resumed his civilian trade as a cobbler until he was discharged from the Army in 1919. He then joined a firm which made high class shoes and remained with it until after his 80th birthday.

Visits of the Mayors of Bedford and Hertford to 3rd Royal Anglian Regiment

WITH the disbandment of the 3rd Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment

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appearing to be only a matter of a few months away it was felt appropriate that the people of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire should, before it is too late, see their County Regiment at work through the eyes of the Mayors of Bedford and Hertford. Accordingly, the Regimental Secretary, Maj David Thorogood, accompanied Councillor Janice Lennon, Mayor of Bedford and Councillor David Slaughter, Mayor of Hertford to Londonderry on 7, 8 and 9 Jan and 3, 4 and 5 Mar respectively.

They saw the Battalion at work and were extremely impressed by its keenness and efficiency. They especially enjoyed meeting men from their town and county and both expressed their pride in them and the work they are doing.

Full accounts of the visits have been published in the Bedfordshire Times on 17 Jan and the Hertford Mercury of 13 Mar. Both accounts described in graphic detail the patrol work being carried out and the dangers being faced throughout each day.

3rd Battalion Dinner Club luncheon

THE 3rd Battalion Officers' Dinner Club cocktail party was held at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, on 10 Apr and was, as usual, a great success. A total of 66 members and their guests attended a most enjoyable evening.

Membership

We are very pleased that the membership of the association has risen steadily each year from 476 in 1986 to 652 in April this year.

The reasons for this are difficult to define with any certainty – the extra publicity received during Tercentenary year in 1988 undoubtedly had a positive effect.

However, the development of The Newsletter into a first class means of obtaining news of old friends and comrades is thought to be the largest single factor in attracting new members.



Above: The Branch Standard marching to the Regimental Memorial. Below left: Mr Chris Magee, 100 on 13 Feb 1992. Below right: Mr Frank Ames, 100 in May 91, enjoying lunch at the annual reunion



Members of The Hertfordshire Regiment Association on parade at the Service of Remembrance on 10 Nov 1991

Around the Branches



Annual dinner 1991

THIS event was held on 26 Oct. Despite the fact that attendance was considerably lower than in previous years it was a most enjoyable evening. Our guest of honour was Councillor Roger Martin, chairman of East Herts District Council, who was accompanied by Mrs Martin.

His after-dinner address provided a real tonic to all of us and demonstrated that his generation really did appreciate the sacrifices made by those who served in the 1939-45 War.

It was pleasing to be able to welcome Brig and Mrs "Bill" Peters who had travelled from east London to be with us.

Remembrance Day

THIS was probably the best attended Service of Remembrance we have had in recent years. It was also the first occasion on which we had paraded our new branch standard in Hertford. After the ceremony held on 10 Nov, many of us enjoyed our traditional curry lunch in the drill hall.

Membership

Our membership continues to increase! A gain of 19 last year has brought the total to 343.



Corby Branch

A VERY successful branch meeting was held in June. Two of our members

were presented with tokens of appreciation from the branch on their retirement from active business life. A raffle was held for branch funds and our friends from Warmington R.B.L. helped to make it a very pleasant evening.

The branch diaries sold out quite quickly this year from which we assume they are a very good buy even though we make a small profit on the sales.

Five of our members attended the Peterborough reunion. The secretary carried the standard and transport was very kindly provided by W MacNeil, an ex Royal Anglian member.

Rod Ross, another former Royal Anglian, has assumed the duties of branch standard bearer and welfare officer. He carried the standard at the Remembrance Day parade.

Thanks to donations from members, friends and local firms we made a sizeable profit from the Christmas draw, held at the TA Centre.

At the recent branch annual dinner, P Huckle, our chairman, said that sadly, due to expected cuts in the TA this could be the last dinner to be held at the TA Centre as it might be closed within the next year. We hope that this does not happen as we could not expect the high standards set by Segasby and his staff to be provided in other premises. Whatever happens, the branch will "soldier-on".

Our elected wheelchair has been allocated to an old soldier who has had a leg amputated. Although only a small branch, we are still very much in the welfare business. At the last branch meeting letters of appreciation were received from widows who had received Christmas gifts from the branch. The gifts, some to outlying districts, had been distributed before Christmas by P Huckle and A Ness.

Peterborough branch

Maj Richard Hill writes:

We saw in 1991 the 250th anniversary of the forming of the Regiment, a continuous upsurge in the membership and

the attendances at meetings with our regular meetings never falling below 20 and our other main activities were well supported.

The reunion in Huntingdon in the spring was a great success as was the joint barbecue in the summer shared with our friends in the Cambridgeshire Regiment and the autumn outing to RAF Duxford.

The branch was represented at the reunion celebrations in Northampton and at the Depot at Bassingbourn and the branch standard was to be seen proudly paraded and escorted at many other events in the city and elsewhere thanks to Sam Bloye and Fred Smith.

Hard work again by the core membership ensured the great success of our annual dinner attended as it was by Gen Sir John Akehurst. We were able to show that this branch is still continuing the high ideals of the Regiment and at last we have a number of Royal Anglian members sitting down to dinner with us and a fine commemorative dinner menu given to all those who attended including the Band and Corps of Drums made a fitting memento for the occasion.

Our branch widows were not forgotten of course and letters of appreciation have been received in for our gifts at Christmas.

This year ended with a very well attended meeting when a talk was given by Fred Beales on his unique collection of badges and buckles. This was followed by a splendid refreshment provided by our host, Peter Newton, and it concluded a most successful year and I hope will be the first of further meetings involving a speaker. What of the future? We must continue our strides forward to encourage those with regimental connections to join us at regular meetings and at our dinner.

On 29 Mar we had the opportunity of joining with 5 Royal Anglian at its Cathedral service in the presence of HRH Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester to celebrate 25 years of the Battalion.

Around the Branches



A Living Memorial

ALL readers of the Castle Magazine will be fully aware that the period of the 50th anniversary of the Second World War is now at its halfway stage. Many members of the Royal Tigers Association have made anniversary battlefield visits, both individually and in groups.

Also, over the years, the association has made financial grants to the erection of memorials and also to upkeep and maintenance of memorials and churches both in the UK and overseas. Examples include the Slim Statue, the Bellenglise memorial, the Afghan memorial, St George's Church, Ypres, the Forces Chapel, Rangoon and the Wingate memorial. There are many others.

In Leicestershire there are memorials in most towns and villages and, of course, in the churches of the county. However, the general committee of the association has had placed before it the germination of an idea for a living memorial to our Regiment.

There is to be, on the sites of the two ancient forests of Needwood and Chamwood, the New National Forest. The area chosen covers 194 square miles and, of course, includes a large area of Leicestershire. The trees in the Forest will be predominantly native broadleaved varieties.

As far as the association is concerned, it is proposed that we have our own wood as part of this new forest. It will be located within the county. The president, chairman and all members of the general committee are enthusiastic about this idea. They feel that all members of the association should be given the opportunity to subscribe

towards what will be a living memorial to our Regiment.

We have established that the cost of such a memorial would be £1.80 per tree. We will need a lot of trees. No other costs, such as maintenance or stewardship would be involved. To this end we are proposing that planting of trees should not be started until next year. By then we will know the exact location of the wood, the number of trees that will need planting and hopefully the name of the memorial. Should it be "Tiger Wood", "The Royal Leicestershire Regiment Memorial Wood", or something else? The trustees of the association have intimated, in general terms, their financial support to the project. Although we are aiming at 1993, or even later, we have already received initial donations, simply as a result of discussion amongst the committee.

This is a magnificent opportunity to mark, in a tangible way, nearly 300 years of service to the country by the 17th Foot (The Royal Leicestershire Regiment). If any member of our successor Regiment should wish to contribute to this living memorial to one of the former county regiments, the secretary of the association will be delighted to receive donations.

Cheques should be made payable to Royal Tigers Forest Fund and sent to the secretary RTA, TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester LE4 6BY.

Benevolence 1991

Last year was our busiest year for benevolence. Seventy-nine cases were considered by the general committee of the association during 1991. A total of £5,360 was given in grants during the year.

In addition grants totalling £3,826 given by the Army Benevolent Fund to ex Tigers and their families, were disbursed by the association.

Benevolence continues to remain the most important part of the work of the association. Both the army benevolent fund and the Royal Anglian Regiment benevolent fund give consid-

erable financial help to the association and we are most grateful to both organisations.

Visits to the battlefield of Princeton

Maj Gen A J G Pollard CBE, writes: I had a very good visit to Princeton and the battlefield. Although the re-enactment was curtailed because of foul weather, in fact a large number of people turned out to hear about the battle and to re-enact parts of it. There must have been 50 representatives in full period dress from the re-enactment group despite the bad weather.

After a talk on the battle we all had lunch in the Thomas Clark farmhouse around which the battle was fought. On display there were three muskets of the 17th Regiment and many other contemporary artefacts. During lunch the re-enactors gave short demonstrations of arms drill and the firing of cannon, one of which was an original captured from the British in 1777.

After lunch there was some speechifying and I was presented with a plaque made from part of the oak tree under which the rebel Gen Mercer was killed by the 17th Foot during the battle.

I presented the commemorative pill-box to John Mills, the curator of the museum who is also the caretaker of the battlefield. He lives in the Thomas Clark house. He is a delightful man and it is only through his hard work that anything actually happens in Princeton!

After the speeches, wreaths were laid by the daughters of the American revolution and the daughters of the British empire and by me for the 17th Foot.

In the afternoon my ADC and I walked the route taken by the Regiment during a torrid day's fighting. Although the Americans would not agree, the 300 men of the Regiment fought with great distinction, losing about one-third of their number killed.

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wounded or captured. The remainder marched and rejoined Howe.

We paid a private visit to the grave in which the soldiers of the Regiment are laid together with the Americans who died in the battle.

That evening members of the Battlefield Society gave a dinner at a private club in Princeton. Again speeches were made and I presented Capt John Baker, the president of the Battlefield Society, with the other commemorative pillbox. We were looked after with great generosity and consideration. The whole visit was much enjoyed.



SINCE our last Castle notes the news regarding the 3rd Battalion has been received. A lot has been written and a lot has been said but suffice it for now to say how sad we shall be to see the Battalion dispersed and the ending of the obvious county connections. As an association we have been very proud of the Battalion and its fine performance and it has indeed been a worthy successor to its founder Regiments. We must now look forward with enthusiasm to the formation of the two new battalions and give them our assurance that they will continue to receive our support and encouragement in all they do.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Deir-El-Shein. On 1 July 1942 the 2/5th Battalion The Essex Regiment fought with particular distinction marking the turning point of the desert campaign in that year. The actions of the 2/5th Essex were recognised by the award of a Battle Honour to the Essex Regiment.

A committee has been set up to plan how the 50th anniversary of the battle should be commemorated and it has been decided to hold a reunion for all ranks of the battalion at Warley on 4 July 1992.

The reunion will start at 3pm, tea and bar facilities will be available and proceedings will end with evensong in the Regimental Chapel at 6pm. Wives, widows and other relations will be welcome to attend.

It is hoped that there will be a good turnout for this unique occasion. Tickets will be issued and those wishing to attend are requested to apply direct to the Regimental Secretary at RHQ Warley. The cost will be £2.50 per head.

The annual reunion of the association will be held on 28 June and full details will appear in the next issue of the newsletter.

Sadly Maj Maurice Phillips died in November. For some years he had been suffering from ill health, stoically nursed by his wife Gwen. He was 85.

The funeral took place on 22 Nov at Chelmsford Cathedral and family and friends were accompanied by a large representation from the Regimental Association. The coffin was draped in the Regimental flag and escorted into the cathedral by the president of the association Col Morgan.

Members present scanned almost the entire military career of Maurice, from the time he was MT Sergeant with the 1/5th Battalion, through his wartime service in Italy, to India after the war and back to the depot.

In his time he had been a keen sportsman and played hockey and cricket to a high standard. He was particularly proud of having been one of the only two members of the Regiment to have served in Kenya during the Mau Mau uprising.

Our thoughts go out to Gwen, Peter and the family.

The Area Secretary and the writer had the pleasure of lunching with two of our In-Pensioners at the Royal Hospital just before Christmas. Both

Bill Hutchings and Cyril Spencer made us most welcome and I am pleased to report that they are both in fine form.

Subsequently the writer spent an excellent evening in their club when invited to their band and carol evening. Unfortunately our third in-pensioner, Charles Langley, was not fit enough to attend either function as he is confined to the infirmary. We shall be trying to arrange an association visit later in the year to attend their chapel service.

Our Regimental museum in Chelmsford is well worth a visit. It now has some excellent displays and is well patronised by visitors. Ian Hook, the keeper, is always on the lookout for Regimental memorabilia, collections of medals etc.

Thurrock Branch

THE branch has arranged a very interesting trip to Normandy from 14 to 24 June. Visits will be made to First World War cemeteries at Arras, Beaumont, Hamel and Theipval Memorial. Names to Harry Conn, please, for a place on the coach. Harry is also arranging a visit to Holland in 1993, France in 1994 and Holland again in 1995.

The French trip will commemorate the 50th anniversary of D Day and the branch will parade with other units of the 49th (Polar Bear Division). There will be a reception and memorial service at Lingrevers where the 50th Northumbrian Divisional Memorial is situated. Essex Wood and other places of interest will be visited.

Again the 1995 trip to Holland will commemorate the liberation of that country 50 years ago. The branch will team up with veterans of the Canadian Army with parades in Wagenningen and Utrecht where the Polar Bear monument was unveiled by Prince Bernhard in October 1991.

Anyone interested in attending these anniversaries contact Harry Conn on Brentwood 0277 201244.

A full diary of events will be published in the Regimental newsletter

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4th Battalion Comrades Association

THE association has had many and varied activities during the past year. In March 1991 we held our usual interim reunion at Warley and the parade in Whitehall the following Sunday was very touching. The police, as usual, held up the traffic whilst we marched to the Cenotaph, said a prayer and marched back. Needless to say a crowd soon gathered to watch and ask questions.

In July we did something we had not tried before – we had a garden party on the lawns at Warley. It was a tremendous success and everybody asked for a repeat this year.

In October, the usual dinner and dance was held in the TA Centre, again at Warley. Needless to say it was enjoyed by all present – 120 members and wives.

Things have changed slightly in 1992. Instead of the interim reunion and parade in London we are holding a service in the Regimental Chapel with refreshments after. It appears, from our numbers, that this will be another successful venture.

The garden party will again be held on the lawns and our dinner and dance will be held on Oct 24. This date has been selected to commemorate the Battle of Alamein. This year being the 50th anniversary, a period in our lives that will be remembered by us all.

Southend-on-Sea and District Branch

THE Southend and District Branch formed in 1958 is now feeling the effects of the age of retirement, its members having served in the Second World War, many of whom have moved away from the area.

Gone are the days when we could muster 150 for our annual dinner and dance.

However, although very thin on the ground, the branch held a dinner at the White Horse Hotel, Southchurch, in

March of last year. During the evening branch chairman Charlie Harrod presented, on behalf of the branch, an engraved Essex Regimental plaque to Capt Ron Turnidge in recognition of his 17 years loyal service as branch secretary and treasurer. Since his retirement Ron spends much of his time outside the UK and so had to tender his resignation. He is succeeded by Bill Appleton of 60A Station Road, Leigh-on-Sea.

Chelmsford and District Branch

REGRETTABLY, but possibly understandably, social events for the year were not great in number. Nevertheless we can assure all members that the committee is keeping the branch ticking over and we are always available to help those in need of support, financial or otherwise.

We would emphasise the need to inform us of any such situation arising. The welfare side of things is still in the very capable hands of Charlie Meekins, who is currently recovering from an operation he had before Christmas. It is reported that his drinking arm was not affected.

The AGM was held on 16 Sept. No changes were made to the committee which remains as follows: president C Gibbs, chairman J Harrington, vice-chairman E Saville, secretary Sheila Ostler, treasurer G Gilder, committee Messrs H Ling, W Brown, H Penson, H Adams, W Bridgeman, D O Smith.

Social events proposed at the meeting were a social evening to be held at the RAFA club on 11 Oct and a Christmas lunch at the Beefeater Inn Chelmer Village on 8 Dec. Only the latter event took place and it was judged to have been a great success.

Trigno night on 9 Nov was well supported as usual and we were pleased to welcome Col Morgan, Maj Lyster and Capt Kaye.

A sad postscript to Trigno night was that Ron Sparrow, who many will remember as a "regular" to the reunion, passed away the following morning. A further recent casualty was of course

Maj Phillips who will be remembered by all for his support and assistance during the early years of the branch. The funerals of both were on the same day and representatives of the branch were in attendance.

Our next committee meeting will be on 2 Mar at the RAFA Club in Chelmsford.

GBW



Ipswich and District Branch

Mr A E Stollery writes:

SINCE my last report "a not very exciting period during the last six months", attendance at meetings has been good. Those who have not been on sick leave have made a good effort to attend.

The sick parade has been the cause of many of our regular members being unable to attend meetings. Maj Taffy Williams has had a very trying time since the beginning of December 1991 but now seems to be much improved although still being confined to quarters on cold days. Bob Barker recovering after a very severe stroke is now living in a nursing home and quite comfortable. Ron (Freddie) Fox has been a long time away after a visit to Papworth Hospital. Branch members send their best wishes to those and others and God speed may we soon see you all back with us.

On 30 Oct we saw the first of Remembrance Concerts in the Corn Exchange.

Ipswich was represented by the Band of the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment in conjunction with the Ipswich Royal British Legion Band. The bands amalgamated for

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part of the performance at which there was also the Royal Holbrook School choir. It was a tip-top show supported by many members from several branches, not forgetting our standard bearer David Gillingham who seems to have made the job his with his smartness in turnout and bearing.

Our meeting on 1 Nov was well attended when a video of the parade and service held at Martlesham Heath to dedicate the new RAF memorial (as reported in the December issue of Newsletter) was shown.

The film was loaned to Maj Williams for the branch to see. Video equipment was kindly lent by the officer commanding the drill hall, Ipswich, which caused branch matters to be dealt with on a very brief basis. Thank you Maj Williams.

The 9 Nov saw approximately 60% of our members off to Felixstowe for the annual Festival of Remembrance Service at the Spa Pavilion, always a very memorable occasion with al

l Standards on parade.

On Remembrance Day, 10 Nov, the Branch was at the war memorial in Christchurch Park, Ipswich. I quote a small piece from the Ipswich Evening Star of 11 Nov 1991: "This year there were more Regimental standard bearers, including two from Ukranian Regiments, two from American Squadrons at Bentwaters and for the first time one non-regimental standard bearer, Mr David Gillingham, 25, of Tuddenham Road, Ipswich. Mr Gillingham wearing the uniform of the Suffolk Regiment, was standing in for the Regiment's Ipswich branch standard bearer who was ill.

"He and Miss Marie Taylor, 24, of Seven Road, Ipswich have become the Regiment's unofficial mascots for their work over the past five years, collecting for the Royal British Legion's poppy appeal said Mr Driver" (parade marshal).

Miss Taylor attended the service wearing an ATS uniform from the Second World War to the delight of her

grandmother who was in the ATS herself.

The afternoon of Remembrance Day we descended on Martlesham Heath for the annual parade at the American and RAF War Memorial Remembrance Parade and service. Again there was a very good turnout with David Gillingham doing the honours for us once more.

Saturday 30 Nov 1991 was a very enjoyable afternoon spent with the Felixstowe Branch at their headquarters being entertained to a very nice Christmas tea and concert.

Our next meeting was on 7 Feb 1992 and it was then that a final decision was taken to make a presentation to Mick and Margaret, "mine hosts" of the Angel Inn, Woodbridge. It was agreed by all to present them with a Regimental plaque to be placed in a prominent position. This would also ensure any ex-Suffolks residing in Woodbridge who visit the Angel Inn would know that the Suffolk Regiment OCA is still very much alive.

Saturday 15 Feb saw us off to Bury St Edmunds for the dedication of the memorial to those who suffered so much whilst held as prisoners of war by the Japanese during the Second World War. It was a very moving and lovely service.

At our next meeting on 6 Mar the main item was to get our buffet dance finalised. The chairman also reported on the OCA executive meeting held on 19 Feb and spoke of the comments of both the president, Brig Bill Deller, and Lt Col Pat Macdonald, on the very impressive manner in which David performed his duty as our standard bearer at the dedication of the memorial to prisoners of war of the Japanese in Bury St Edmunds.

On 4 Apr our buffet dance took place with great success after a lot of behind the scenes activity in getting the band, catering and venue. Unfortunately the drill hall was not available to us but luckily we were able to get Ransome's sports and social club premises again. We would like to

thank Felixstowe and Leiston branches for their support and all those who assisted in selling tickets and donated such wonderful prizes for the draw.

Before closing I would like to welcome two old soldiers but new members to the branch, namely Mr Brian Dyer and Mr Tom Benham. Tom of the 1st Battalion joined at the beginning of the war at the Depot and has been a regular face at Minden.

If you are looking for records this could be it. George Lummis is a very happy man these days having just been sent his Territorial Proficient medal awarded on 19 Mar 1945 and which was received on 2 Apr 1992.

Stowmarket Branch

GREETINGS to all our fellow branches and a belated best wishes for the year. All our readers will be pleased to hear that the Stowmarket Branch at its AGM once again unanimously voted in Paul Sykes as chairman and Mrs Jan Firmin as secretary. What a relief to have them back guiding the branch from strength to strength with Mrs Denny keeping tight control of our funds.

Despite the winter weather the monthly meetings have been well attended and our thanks go to the Stowmarket RBI for allowing us to use their comfortable club room and bar. Gerry Stribling really needs special mention for the unflagging way in which he organises our various and interesting outdoor activities such as the London lights trip, the mystery tour, barbeque and of course the forthcoming spring buffet and dance in the Stowmarket Football Club rooms.

We are now looking forward to the visit to Weart and Overloon 16-19 Sept arranged by none other than Gerry.

Before this date, however, there are a number of activities arranged, one of which is the longest scarlet runner bean competition. Judging takes place on 26 Aug. If you can beat 24 inches, why not bring your bean?

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Leiston and District Branch

Mr A Smith writes:

THE period since the last issue of Castle has been a quiet one for the branch with no organised functions to fill the gap. Monthly meetings have gone on with a steady attendance which fell away during the cold months but is now picking up again.

At our February meeting we had as welcome guest Lt Nicholas Nottingham along with his parents, Maj and Mrs Nottingham. Lt Nottingham gave a very interesting talk, illustrated with slides, covering the 1st R Anglian's recent tour of Ireland. This was very much appreciated by all present and our president gave thanks to Nicholas for making the long journey to be with us for the evening especially as he was off on an exercise in the early hours of the next morning.

Four or five members, unfortunately, have spent periods in hospital including one of our oldest and much respected member and a former Company Commander of the Leiston Company of the 4th Battalion, Maj Sam Flick. We understand he is now back home and we wish him well.

Roy Boast has had at least two periods in 'dock' recently and Eddie Jones underwent major surgery just before Christmas. This has meant Eddie having to take early retirement but thankfully he can now get about.

Our membership secretary, John Bye, also slipped away for some surgery without telling too many people about it. We believe he must have taken his word processor with him judging by the 'subs due' reminders that went out about that time. We wish all our invalids a quick return to full health. Vic Kettle, ex Japanese POW, has now had to move into full care accommodation. Monty Fisk has kindly offered to visit Vic to keep an eye on him on behalf of the branch.

On 15 Feb a small contingent from the branch attended the dedication of

the memorial to those who gave their lives in the defence of Malaya and Singapore and those who subsequently died as POWs placed on the screen in the Regimental Chapel.

We were disappointed at the small support from ex-POWs from the branch, but they must have all had their reasons. They missed a very moving dedication service with a large congregation graced by many dignitaries from the county.

On 4 Mar the branch held its annual meeting in the LTAA club with a reasonable support from the membership. Unfortunately our branch president, Mr John Perrett, was unable to attend due to a business appointment. The chairman gave a resumé of the past year's work and the branch treasurer, John Richardson, reported the funds to be in a sound position at the end of the year. This had allowed us to make a generous donation towards the memorial in the Regimental Chapel on 15 Feb.

All officers of the Branch were re-elected for a further term of office with thanks from the members. John Bye was confirmed in the position of subscription secretary with thanks for the excellent job he had already done during the current year.

An almost completely new entertainments committee was formed with 'Toddy' Stebbings as its chairman. It is particularly pleasing to see that this committee is composed almost entirely of ex-National Servicemen with one 'golden oldie' Charlie Johnson, being added to keep a fatherly eye on the proceedings.

The branch also made a donation towards the proposed headstone for the late Samuel Stephenson (see previous issues of Castle) and it was pleasing to see our old friend and branch member Stan Airey of Woodbridge playing an important part in raising funds for the projects within his own area. It is understood that the £500 needed for the project has now been reached. Congratulations Whittlesey and Peterborough branch.

It is sad when one hears of old sol-

diers – or sailors or airmen – passing away penniless and forgotten and the final humiliation of a pauper's grave.

A case occurred recently in this branch area when an old soldier passed away penniless and was down to be buried in a pauper's grave. Although he was not an ex-Suffolk it was pleasing to hear that it was a member of this branch, realising what was about to happen, set the wheels in motion with the result that the case was reported to me by the undertaker to say that the funds available to bury the old chap decently fell short by only £32. I was pleased to say that my branch of the RBL did not hesitate to provide the extra required.

Others also contributed – the vicar waived his fee and allowed the coffin to enter his church and the organist also waived her fee and played his two favourite hymns. And so the old chap went to his grave with dignity.

So please, let us all resolve that there are no more forgotten Samuel Stephensons.

Our own annual buffet dance on 30 May will have come and gone by the time this Castle reaches members. Our dinner dance has been arranged for 10 Oct in the LTAA club at which Lt Col and Mrs Pat Macdonald will be our chief guests.

The Branch autumn fete will again be held in the grounds of the Red House, Leiston by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Perrett, at 2.30 pm on 5 Sept.

When our lads returned from the horror of the Japanese camps after the War, a Union Flag was brought back by those from Leiston – chief amongst them being the late Herman Baily and Wilf Goddard. It is alleged that the flag had flown from the mast of the notorious Changi Jail when the Japanese capitulated.

Prior to that it had been used on numerous occasions at the burial of those who died as POWs. During the mid-1950s Hermy and Wilf organised a public appeal to raise sufficient funds

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to have the flag permanently encased in a plate glass frame with the wood surround taken, I believe, from old supports from Felixstowe Pier.

It was certainly made by a Felixstowe firm of builders. It was then put on permanent display affixed to the wall of the old C Company TA Centre, First War hut. When the old hut was replaced with the present brick building the memorial – for that is what it is – was placed on the wall of the main hall. There it remains today.

With the falling off of public access to the TA Centre these days – it is solely used by Cadets – the branch feels that we should now look to finding a more public place for this beautiful memorial to be displayed. This is to be a project undertaken by the branch this year.

Felixstowe and District Branch

Mr D Archer writes:

THE Branch AFN held in October resulted in one or two changes. Eric Rowarth stepped down from branch chairman and was succeeded by Norman Buckingham. Mr Rowarth takes with him our sincere appreciation for his efforts on our behalf during his term in office. Norman brings many years of branch and committee experience, recently as a most efficient branch secretary.

Dennis Young 'volunteered' and was gratefully elected as branch treasurer. Other committee members elected were: G Shimmon vice-chairman; S Keeble; J Emmerson; D Kidd and C Warner. We were delighted that Charlie Smy was able to continue his own role as branch standard bearer.

The branch was well represented at the annual service of Remembrance in November and afterwards at the seafront memorial, when a wreath was laid by Tommy Cheale.

Our chairman party held at the Royal British Legion club had a good attendance of 85, who had not lost their appreciation of char and wads! Party

games were enjoyed by all and a fine sing along was led by an electric organ and our own compere, Dennis Young.

We remain very active in support of a variety of "Dos" including some evenings of wartime music and songs by local groups at the Spa Pavilion, where our standard was borne on the stage.

Branch 'open' evenings include cribbage, dominos and darts, and bingo for the ladies!

Some of our best recollections are of the warm welcomes and splendid hospitality received when visiting functions at other branches.

The branch anniversary tea party in April again proved very popular. Enthusiastic participation in competitions and games with a sparkling programme of service songs and music by the local operatic company gave a memorable afternoon to all.

Car boot sales still prove to be effective fundraisers together with raffles on most occasions. We have several members who are becoming most adept at these activities with subsequent benefit to branch funds. Our appreciation is expressed for all their efforts.

We now look forward to our summer outing. This year, we journey to Sherrington in Norfolk (well it is a different sea and they say the local brew is very good!) with a trip to the steam engines and organs at Thursford.

In a happy mood of anticipation, we wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Hemel Hempstead Branch

Ray Picton writes:

AS we start the new year we would like to wish all members of the Suffolk and the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment a happy new year and hope that it will be a good one for the OCA. Look back to 1991 and think of the members that passed away. We will not forget them.

Still in 91, we had the branch dance at the TA centre, Hemel Hempstead. As always it was a good night thanks

to Tony Rogers and his boys. It was good to have members of the Royal Anglian Regiment Associations with us for the night.

Our next event was the dance at the Pavilion in Hemel when once more we had the Royal Anglians with us and we thank them for their support. With the proceeds from that dance we sent £1,400 to the poppy appeal, £1,200 to the Star/Garter Home and £300 to the Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association.

Members of the branch were out on the street selling poppies and they did a good job for the town collecting £21,892, £2,000 up on last year. The Branch had its Christmas party and raffle in the TA Centre which was enjoyed by all who attended. It was good to have Jack Gingell with us at the Pavilion and to see Jack on the dance floor.

On 31 Jan the Branch held its AGM. The weather was bad that night with freezing fog but still they came, two from Bedford, and that is what they call good Suffolk members. The meeting went well and all branch officers were returned to their jobs. We still have new members coming in to the Branch. When the Branch treasurer, John Frawley, reported that the Branch had given out over £500 in welfare in the last year, you know what a good branch that you are a member of. In the Hemel branch we only go for the best and in a "foreign legion" branch of the Suffolk Regiment you can only have the best (Hemel Hempstead)!

On 31 Jan the Branch honoured Ken Bunce. Ken is the branch standard bearer and has done such a good job that the branch presented him with the N/Service Medal. Ken is one of the best and all we have to do is ask him and he is there. He has always been a good member and worker for the Branch and we thank him so much.

At this time we have Sid Fox in West Herts Hospital and we wish him well and hope that he will soon be

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home and back at the meetings. We also have Ray Hosier who has his ups and downs and has a lot of visitors to see him.

Bury and District Branch W E Martin writes:

ALL is well with Bury and District Branch. Our membership has dropped slightly but we are hoping to make that up by encouraging some ex-members of the Royal Anglian Regiment to join up with us.

Our meeting place, the Royal Anglian Association Club has been promised to be allowed to continue in its present form for a further five years. Jack Gingell is very much improved from the accident he had last year and we are very glad to see him back in business again.

On 5 Oct 1991 about 25 of us went by coach to a buffet dance at Leiston which was very well organised by the Leiston branch. We all had a very enjoyable time.

As usual we went to Westminster to take part in the service at the Field of Remembrance, adjacent to St Margaret's Church on 7 Nov and as in the past, members of the Cambridgeshires joined us at Cambridge on our way through from Bury to London.

The following day a coach load of us went to Felixstowe to attend the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance which took place in the Spa Pavilion.

Our branch standard was in attendance. This is always a very good show; it is considered to be one of the best organised events of its kind in East Anglia and tickets are very much sought after. The following day saw some of our members taking part in the Remembrance Day service at St Mary's Church, followed by a march past in which our standard was present.

On 26 Nov we had our Christmas draw. The prizes, numbering 120, were purchased from the local super-

market by our treasurer (Mary Martin) and our secretary (Tiddler Martin) from money paid in by members during the year. This was the last branch meeting of the year; the attendance was very good and I am sure that all present had a very good night.

On 4 Apr 1992 we had our annual dinner dance in the TA centre, Bury St Edmunds. Lt Col E L V Mapey OBE did us the honour of being our dinner chairman. A total of 89 members and guests sat down to an excellent meal. It was unfortunate that Ipswich had their annual buffet dance on the same night. We hope that next time the dates do not clash.

On 28 Apr we had our branch AGM. Col W A Heal OBE our branch president was present. In his address he gave thanks for the hard work that the chairman (Jack Gingell) and his committee had done on the branch's behalf; this was very much appreciated by all those concerned.

The result of the election at the AGM remains the same as before, Jack Gingell (chairman), Mary Martin (treasurer) and Tiddler Martin (secretary).

In signing off I wish all old comrades everywhere the very best of good health, hoping very much to see some of you in the very near future.



Memorial service at St Peter's, Wisbech

FEW towns were as hard hit as Wisbech by the fall of Singapore on 15 Feb 1942. We have a flourishing Singapore Club of those who were there, although the years take a steady toll of our numbers. Alongside it we also have a healthy Old Comrades Association of the Cambridgeshire

Regiment and both clubs work closely together sharing the same president and some members. When the Singapore Club finally runs out of time we hope the OCA will take over.

Over a year ago we thought that we could not let the 50th anniversary go by without some kind of recognition. At first we met with opposition as there were people who did not want to know. But as the idea of a memorial service took shape rather than a show of military pageantry or a protest at our treatment, everyone we approached felt it was a good idea.

In the event it was a fine occasion without pomposity. Both church and state were well represented by the Vice-Lord Lieutenant, The Bishop of Ely, senior army officers, mayors and councillors. Well before the service began we were bringing in chairs from outside and there was standing room only.

Bishop Darby, who had been a prisoner, gave a moving and apposite address in very down-to-earth terms. The band of the 5th Volunteer Battalion of the Royal Anglians played and the singing was magnificent. Our memorial was decorated with Singapore orchids and the silence after the wreath laying and the Last Post was too poignant for most of us but we felt that our debt to those who died was recognised if not repaid.

Whittlesey & Peterborough Branch

ON Sunday Nov 11 1991 I stood on Horse Guards in London and thought about those from Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Regiments who never made the journey home from the Far East and other theatres of war. I thought also about the eight branch members who died last year. My mood after the parade was very solemn but changed immediately when I spotted six Old Comrades wearing the Cambridgeshire Regiment badge and I knew that I was amongst friends

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Around the Branches

FUTURE EVENTS

Event	Date	Day	Time	Location
Whittlesey & Peterborough Branch Barbeque	16 July	Thurs	7.30pm	Woolpack Stanground
Jumble Sale	22 July	Wed		Peterborough
D Company Open Day	23 Aug	Sun	10am	Coldhams Lane
Regimental Council	27 Sept	Sun	10am	Waterbeach
OCA AGM	27 Sept	Sun	2pm	Ely
Whitt & Pet Branch Thanksgiving Service	27 Sept	Sun	6.30pm	Reform Church Whittlesey
Whitt & Pet Branch Annual Dinner	2 Oct	Fri	7pm for 7.30pm	Dog & Doublet Peterborough
Sgts' Dinner	10 Oct	Sat	7pm for 7.30pm	Cadet HQ Waterbeach

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and that the Cambridgeshire Regiment Old Comrades Association was still alive.

It has been a very quiet winter for the branch as we do not now hold meetings during December, January or February as we are all growing older and are wary of the weather at that time.

The president, Tom Miles and welfare officer, Don Poole, attended with the secretary the funeral of ex Sgt Len Gilbey DCM of the 2nd Battalion in February at Soham. Len will be sorely missed by the association and did a lot of work behind the scenes. Letters of thanks were received from the wives of former members for the £10 Christmas gifts.

The AGM was held on 19 Mar at the Woolpack when there were amongst the 23 members present, the president Tom Miles, vice-presidents Lt Col Kit Stallard, Lt Col Derek Bristow and Canon Arthur Ludlow. Outgoing chairman Alf Gray handed over the chair to the president who in making his report mentioned the numerous events that the branch had participated in, referred to the deaths of eight members, thanked the branch Regimental standard bearer cadet CSM Paul Watson for carrying out his duties

with dignity, especially at the funerals, and also thanked all the branch officers for their work during this difficult year.

Maj A Y S McLoone and Capt John Watson were thanked for making their HQs available for meetings and Les English and Tommy Barnett for running the bars.

Outgoing chairman Alf Gray stated in his report that he had enjoyed his third term and thanked all the officers making a special mention of Don Poole the welfare officer and the secretary Jesse Matthews whose efficient agendas had made the job of chairman so much easier.

In presenting the accounts, secretary treasurer Jesse Matthews reported that they were on a sound footing although they were down on last year's due to the purchase of six extra poppy wreaths and three extra £10 Christmas gifts. Most of the income comes from the monthly branch raffles and the annual jumble sale. It is expected that the expenses for the coming year will be less.

The secretary in his report thanked especially Alf Gray, Don Poole and Eddie Davis for putting their cars at the branch's disposal and also Don Poole, welfare officer and CSM Paul Watson, standard bearer. The president thanked the secretary treasurer for his work.

The following officers were elected for 92/3:- chairman A Gray; vice-chairman, left open owing to the indisposition of W Paterson; secretary treasurer J Matthews; ass sec treasurer P Garford; welfare officer D Poole.

It was unanimously agreed that Maj (rtd) Les English be asked to become a vice-president and in accepting Maj English said that he was honoured and proud to accept. An inscribed tankard was presented to the branch regimental standard bearer CSM Paul Watson for his service to the branch and on accepting this CSM Watson said that he was honoured to serve and wear the Cambridgeshire Regiment cap badge.

The evening was rounded off with a light buffet provided by mine host Peter Newton and his wife Margaret and the raffle raised £22 for branch funds.

The Samuel Stephenson headstone fund

THE appeal, launched by the branch in 1990, to provide a headstone for this ex-Cambridgeshire who was buried in a paupers grave in Peterborough needed £500 to reach its target.

This has taken two years to complete and the last £25 was received during April this year. The headstone will be made by a local stonemason to a design similar to those used to mark the graves of the Cambridgeshire Regiment buried in the Far East.

The branch would like to thank all those who contributed and especially Stan Airey, late of the 8th Ban Suffolk Regiment who at the age of 85 drummed up so much support from the Suffolk OCA and the Army Cadets of the Whittlesey Detachment who raised £122 with a sponsored run.

It is hoped that the headstone will be dedicated in October by our branch chaplain and all those who contributed are to be invited.

Regimental museum: The sub-committee continues to explore possible sites.

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Around the Branches

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Regimental History: One copy is to be deposited with the county archivist and several options are being considered for presenting it in a more condensed form.

Regimental Silver: Several items no longer thought to be required are being sold off to anyone interested. Contact Cadet HQ, Waterbeach.

WARMINSTER

This is the first report from the Warminster Branch. The author is Ted Wilson whom many Poachers will remember as a member of the Recce Platoon.

AS was reported by Maj M J Menage MBE in last year's edition of the journal, the numbers of R Anglian in Warminster go from strength to strength, and our branch has concluded its first year very successfully.

A chance meeting in 1990 between Ted Wilson and Gen Sir John Akehurst has resulted in the forming of the Royal Anglian Association's newest, and as far as we know, the only branch outside the Regimental recruiting area.

We started on the 4 Sept when 11 serving and ex-serving members of the Regiment gathered at the United Services Club for a bit of a "wet". Gen Sir John had to cry off, unfortunately unwell and spending a short spell in RAF Wroughton Hospital, but the outcome of this casual gathering was the formation of the Warminster Branch.

During the Branch's first year we held our inaugural dinner. It was well attended by our local branch members, the Regimental Secretary Col Dale and many interested serving and ex-serving soldiers from near and afar attended. Gen Akehurst as Colonel of the



General Sir John Akehurst gives Ted Wilson a hand with the new Standard.

Regiment presided. The evening was a great success enjoyed by all, offering many the opportunity to reaffirm old friendships.

We represented the Regiment at the Remembrance Day parade in Warminster who have held many fund raising events (some more successful than others) and several more are planned for the forthcoming year. Having attended the Regimental Gathering last year as a branch, sent a team of 'strong drinkers' to the past and present dinner at the Depot and more than a dozen members to the 2 R Anglian reunion at Felixstowe in October, we are attempting to let everyone know that we are an active branch and keen to join in association events.

The highlight of the year was the acquisition in December of our branch standard. So many members throughout the branch have given much time and effort to ensure our success at all of our fund raising events; to obtain our standard within the first year of existence is, we believe, no mean feat. Perhaps now is the time to make a special mention of CSgt Tompkins, the engine driver behind so many, in fact almost all, of our fund raising events. He said from the start that we would have our standard within our first year. True to his word, we now have. For all of your efforts throughout the past year – well done Laughton.

At the time of writing these notes,

preparations are well under way for our second annual dinner to be held in the warrant officers' and sergeants' mess and the service of dedication for our standard in the Garrison Church of St Giles.

It is already known that our dinner is to be very well attended with members travelling from all across the Regimental counties. It is hoped that a large number will stay the night and help fill the Garrison Church for our service of dedication at which the Rev Tom Hiney as Regimental Chaplain, has very kindly agreed to be the guest preacher.

To date, we have approximately 80 members on the books, both full and mailing members. We seem to be top heavy with Poachers and would very much like to see more Vikings and Pompadours at our meetings (held on the first Monday of each month at 1930 hrs in the Imber Club). Any ex-serving officers or soldiers, or even those on a course at the School of Infantry, are very welcome and if interested please contact WO1 Simon Taylor or CSgt Laughton Tompkins (0895 214000 Exts 2211 and 2413 respectively) at the school or give me a ring on (0895) 219273.

As our first full year as a branch comes to a close, few would have predicted the success and achievements thus far. It is our resolve to strive for the same, or perhaps even better, throughout our second year.

Sport

Viking competitors impress

THE Vikings entered a team in the UKLF Ski Championships in Champex Lac (Switzerland) under the leadership of Lt Nick Nottingham. After a week's expert tuition under Bombardier Naylor, from C Battery 3 RHA, the squad entered teams for the slalom, giant slalom and downhill events and finished in a healthy 18th place out of a field of 28.

Capt Andy Price was also awarded the Commander-in-Chief UKLF prize for Best Novice.

Vikings teams have won a number of competitions within Eastern District. The Battalion squash team of Maj Shelmerdine-Hare, Capt Gregory, Lt Nottingham, CSgt Garner and LCpl Allen are the Eastern District Squash Champions. The Battalion orienteering side, under CSgt Bonnett, were the comfortable victors of the London and Eastern District Championships.

During the 19 Infantry Brigade sports week, the Vikings were placed first in the orienteering, rugby, cross-country and the clay pigeon shooting.

The Battalion Rugby XV has produced some excellent results this season, culminating in a victory by 13 points over 39 Engineer Regiment. The 39 Engineer Regiment were Army quarter finalists and had only lost by a single point to the eventual Army finalists.

The Battalion rugby squad is now some 65 strong and is attracting some high quality players for the coming season. In addition the Battalion has won the 19 Infantry Brigade Sevens Tournament with effectively a company side, which indicates the current strength of the players. Recruiting continues relentlessly and some hard fixtures early in the 1992/3 seasons are being planned.

A six-man team was entered for the Tough Guy '92 competition in aid of local charity. The 12 mile cross-country course hampered by obstacles and mud proved a taxing challenge for the team. But they came through it with credit and smiles on their faces.

Indeed Sgt Cranmer achieved an excellent 31st place out of 200 competitors. The New Year has also seen the return of the Battalion 'fun run'. Although not as arduous as the Tough Guy's race, it has certainly proved to be as muddy and fiercely competitive.



Top: And they're off ... the start of the Inter-Company Cross-Country race. Above: The happy faces of LCpls White, Turney and Plant (l to r) on the Eastern District orienteering competition. Below: The Eastern District Rugby Seven Champions



Sport



Left: Pte Payne winning his fight in the Army Championships. Right: LCpl Lewis receiving the BAOR Championships trophy.

Poachers boxers win Army novice finals

Maj David Whitehead, Poachers OIC Boxing, writes:

THE boxing season culminated in the Battalion winning the army Grade III Novice Boxing Finals. The Battalion fought the following units: 9 Dec 91 – 1st Bn Scots Guards in Celle, 8-1; 23 Jan – 1st Bn Royal Welsh Fusiliers in Berlin, 8-1; 21 Feb 92 – 2nd Bn Royal Irish Rangers in Celle, 7-2; 3 Apr 92 – 1st Bn Green Howards in Celle, 7-2.

The team comprised the following: WO2 Dowland, coach; Sgt Heycock, assistant coach; Cpl Askin, light heavyweight won 1 lost 2 and upgraded; Cpl Knott,

lightweight unbleeded this season; LCpl Batty, light welterweight won 4; LCpl Lewis, heavyweight won 3 lost 1 and upgraded; Pte Berridge 75, middleweight won 3 lost 1 and upgraded; Pte Berridge 94, welterweight unbleeded this season; Pte Farrell, featherweight won 4 and upgraded; Pte Groom, light middleweight won 4 and upgraded; Pte Kilsby, light heavy lost 1; Pte Lobley, light middleweight unbleeded this season; Pte Mallett, welterweight won 2 lost 1; Pte Ogden, featherweight unbleeded this season; Pte Payne, lightweight won 4; Pte Sanders, welterweight unbleeded this season; Pte Sheerin, bantamweight won 4 and upgraded and Pte Whitsey, welterweight

won 1. Apart from the outstanding success of the boxers on the night, a considerable amount of dedication and effort was shown throughout the season by those boxers not selected to box in the competitions.

It is true to say that the hardest fights any of the team had were during hard-sparing sessions in training.

Our boxers were fitter, more skilled and more determined than the opposition. These factors coupled with outstanding support from all ranks of the Battalion gave us all memorable nights and in some cases mornings to look back on.

We look forward to the next season with great enthusiasm.

Sport



Left: L Kelleway after another gruelling race. Right: The Poachers Nordic team

Nordic skiers finish as top Infantry team

THE dawning of November saw the Battalion cruising around the red areas of Soltau training area. This curtailed the pre-snow training to a mere five days. Despite this shaky start the team departed for Norway in good spirits on the 22 Nov.

On arrival in Nordseter in Norway, a small, sleepy Norwegian village, the snow

conditions were found to be excellent. As last year we managed to stay almost accident free, with the exception of Pte Thorne who managed to fracture his wrist. It was done skiing!

The evenings were spent preparing for the next day's skiing as well as undertaking a comprehensive programme of upperbody work under the ever-watchful

eyes of Cpl 'Yakker' Wright and Lt 'Robot Ron' Leslie. The return from Norway was made on 22 Dec arriving just in time for Christmas. After the rigours of the training in Norway, the four day stand-down was most welcome followed by a week's in-camp training.

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Battalion rugby squad tours Lincolnshire

THE Battalion rugby squad rounded off the season with a very successful tour of Lincolnshire. This was a good combination of rugby and meeting new faces in the clubhouses!

The team was captured by Cfn Congreave and the tour manager was 2Lt Bowes. The Poachers touring side, strongly supported by the LAD, departed Celle in two PRI minibuses at midday on 15 Apr. Our base for the tour was RAF Conningsby, kindly organised by Sgt Glover of the Army careers office in Boston.

Playing against Bourne RUFC in the early evening of the 16th helped blow the



cobwebs of the journey. We lost 28-0, a score line due partly to the effects of the journey and the Bourne tactic of opening the bar one hour before kick off.

Game two against Boston RUFC saw the Poachers playing some good rugby against an evenly matched side. Ten minutes before the whistle we were leading 6-4 due to two penalties from the boot of 2Lt Bowes. Yet again we 'narrowly snatched defeat from victory', losing 16-6!

After a rest day spent in Boston, the final game was played against Sleaford. The outcome was blamed on the ale houses of Boston but in reality we were totally outclassed losing to a very well drilled side. The final score was 58-3.

Although we did not win any of our games, we could not have rounded the season off in better style. The Poachers made a lot of friends at the three venues and are welcome to return

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We now approached the moment we had been training for – the races! The racing kicked off with the Infantry ski meeting at Zwiesel in Bavaria. As in Norway the conditions were excellent with some extremely demanding courses bringing out the best in the team. To gain experience a novice team was entered which promptly cleaned up all three novice team prizes. The three trophies for the 10km, 4x7.5km biathlon and a 15km patrol race.

In the 10km excellent performances were put in by all, but of note are: 2nd Novice – Pte "Ripple" Mayall; 3rd Novice – Lt Leslie; 4th Open – Lt Kelleway and 6th Open – Pte Cruddace.

From Zwiesel we moved on to Le Grand Bornard where the divisional meeting was held. A small first generation ski resort, it was blessed with some excellent snow although the courses were not of the demanding nature as were those in Bavaria.

It was here that we entered an open category team for the first time. This resulted in a spirited battle with the Queens own Hussars for second place in the Division; unfortunately 1 ADTR eluded us this year. Overall we managed to hold off the QOH and take second place.

This ensured that we qualified to go through to the national championships back again in Zwiesel. Back in Bavaria it was no holds barred to get the best possible results. Throughout the national championships we maintained a steady eighth place overall which equates to seventh in the Army. In addition, we managed to come through as the best in the Infantry, there being seven Infantry teams that qualified for the nationals.

An excellent performance for only a second-year team. Special mention must go to Sgt Stones who, despite only joining the team after the training in Norway, still managed to battle his way into the A team. Also to Pte Forman for his outstanding performance whilst taking part in a French 10km biathlon race where he managed to beat off strong local competition to collect the individual bronze medal.

Overall a very good season with 50% of the team under 20, which promises well for the future. Planning has already started for next year's season.

Just a split second from Olympic glory

Cpl Lenny Paul writes:

HAVING completed a relatively successful athletics season for both my club and the Army team, I was a little disappointed not to make the UK team for Tokyo. However, beating our North London rivals Haringey in the GRE Gold Cup more than compensated and it was a memorable moment in my capacity as team captain for Belgrave Harriers.

So with that all behind me, I set off for colder climes with the rest of the provisional Olympic Squad, from which the final three bobsleigh teams were to be selected.

We started off at a training camp in Oberhaf which is in the former East Germany. Whilst there, it was established that Tom de la Hunty, a good friend of mine from the RAF whom I had pushed since 1988, was unable to compete due to lack of financial backing. I was approached by Mark Tout (2RTR), who I pushed in the Calgary Olympics and accepted his offer of joining him, George Farrell (R Sigs) and Paul Field (a civilian).

There were two ways to secure a place at the Albertville Olympics; either finish in the top six in the first half of the World Cup, or win the British Championships in January. We decided to put all our efforts into the World Cup Circuit, having learned about leaving things too late at the '88 Olympics when we suffered the pressure of a last minute race-off. Our efforts were rewarded with pre-selection for the Olympics and by the time we returned to England we were lying in first and second position in the four and two man respectively.

We boarded the plane for Albertville as potential medal winners. Despite all the hype and media attention initially the whole affair felt rather flat; this was the Olympics I was flying to, but that exhilarating feeling had not yet arrived. At Lyon airport we experienced delay after delay, missing luggage, a two hour bus ride, six hours of aggravation and only two phones in the whole village. By the time we went to bed it was 1 o'clock in the morning; disillusion-

ment is an understatement.

Not until the opening ceremony did I actually feel that I was part of one of the most prominent and popular sporting events in the world.

Monday was the first day of training. It was a nice feeling to get back on the ice after ten days of dry training. Now the excitement and tension was beginning to mount among the other teams as many of them would be racing off on Wednesday. Mark and I had the satisfaction of knowing we would definitely be competing on Saturday or Sunday in the two-man.

The race-offs came and went leaving many disappointed bobsbers, who had come all this way only to find they were now unable to compete for their country. Our training was going exceptionally well and our confidence was boosted by the fact that on the last day of the training we had the fastest time of the day. Friday was a rest day on which the draw for the order of bobbing was made. We were given a good draw of No.3, which meant we would be going down fairly clean ice.

Saturday was the first day of the two-man competition. We rose at 5.30am and went for a walk before breakfast. Not a lot was said – we knew what we had to do and felt we could do it. The Americans and the Swiss preceded us in the bobbing order.

The surprising factor for me at this stage was the mediocre start by the USA 1 Team, which had drafted in Herche Walker, a Minnesota Viking football player.

I wanted to produce a fast time, which I did. Mark followed this up with superb, smooth driving. It was fast, very fast, but didn't really have any bearing as yet because all the other teams were yet to push.

However, at the end of the first runs we were lying in first position. At this stage there was excitement but no direct pressure. The second run went well but in retrospect could have been a lot better.

Even so, at the end of the two runs we were still in first position and went to our beds that night with dreams of a gold medal.

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Sport



Cpl Paul – UK Bobsleigh breakman.

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If one can have a perfect day of competition, that was it. Everything had gone to plan.

One can dream of, train for, and try to be prepared for this eventuality, but in reality the euphoric feeling overrides all good intentions of containing the excitement of impending immortality.

We rose at 5.30am again on the Sunday morning and tried to emulate all we had done the previous day. It was difficult, snow was falling heavily so there was uncertainty as to what time we would start. We were eventually given a start time of 1000 hrs which meant that we would be riding at about 1020 hrs.

We timed our warm-up to finish exactly at this time. We knew the run was going to be the critical one but as long as we could sustain a decent run we would still be in the running for a medal at the start of the final run.

This, unfortunately, was not to be! We came out of the warm up hut as planned and stripped down to our race suits; we were ready. We waited for the green light – it didn't show. We were told by the chief starter that there was a hold on the track,



and at the same time someone else was telling us we'd be off in 30 seconds.

Finally, we were told to put our warm clothing back on. Seven minutes elapsed, people were milling about frantically whilst we attempted to retain our composure. This delay was not like a false start in say, athletics, where you can at least leave your blocks and then start again – this was more like taking a penalty in the FA Cup, and just as you are about to kick, somebody shouts "Stop, you can't kick yet", and then "OK, yes you can!"

When we eventually went off, it just didn't feel right. We had 19 corners to negotiate and I could tell from the bang on the first corner that this was going to be a bad run. All the way down, I could see our position deteriorating and the gold medal slipping from our grasp. We knocked corner 14 very badly. I became disorientated and made a mental note to tell Mark later that he had driven it like a can of worms – in doing so I lost concentration in counting the corners and raised my head a corner too early.

This bad run left us in sixth position and unfortunately the fourth run, which was reasonable, was not good enough to bring us back into the medals.

We thought our prospects were even greater for the four-man because that was

deemed to be our strongest event. But I think the two-man used up a great deal of our energies which was unfortunate for the other members of the crew, George and Paul, who were in top condition both mentally and physically.

Mark and I were dejected and exhausted. We managed to start really well, but as Mark later stated himself, he was "trying too hard and did not let the bob ease into the corners". After three mediocre runs and one brilliant run, we finished in a creditable but disappointing seventh position.

Up to now, no-one knows why the Swiss clock malfunctioned when it did and what effect the delay may have had on our performance, but I won't dwell on that. I'm proud to have played my part in bringing British bobsleighting to the forefront of the winter sports scene. I now know what true champions are made of and hold the utmost respect for those who are able to sustain their highest level of performance whilst under pressure. I hope I have learned from this experience.

I shall be leaving the Army in September and I would like to make known my thanks to the CO, OC and Adj of 3 R Anglian who have all given me nothing short of 100% backing; for that I am very grateful.

Thank you.

Sport

A test of nerve on Alpine skiing slopes

Lt Ian Astley writes:

EX POMPADOUR Peake was initiated in August 1991 with a letter from HQ UKLF asking the battalion if it wanted to send a team to compete in the 1992 Skiing Championships, Ex Spartan Hike X. Having been a member of last year's team which was the first to enter from the battalion for many years, the newly self-appointed skiing captain (me) decided it would be nice to give it another go.

Although busy in Londonderry I thought that life can never be too hectic to arrange some skiing, and I was right. With invaluable help from OC PRI, MTO, QM (Tech), QM and financial advice from the Paymaster and SFA, by the end of November we had a minibus, some skis out of mothballs and a CILOR cheque in the post!

Financial support came from those going on the exercise, HQNI, Company funds and the Battalion. The latter, although starting off as an 'honest con-job', ended up almost being mistaken for the Brinx-Mar and Great Train Robberies rolled into one!

With an aim of improving on our 1991 results and introducing new blood to the sport of Alpine Racing, the team of five comprising a range of skiing experience, departed "sunny" Londonderry on 4 Jan for a long drive to Champex in southern Switzerland.

I was told by a reliable source that the minibus was not up to much and could take a bet (because everyone else had) that we stood more chance of seeing the three headed man-eating sea devil beast of Aberdeen than we did of getting to Champex without breaking down. Well I am pleased to report that I did take note and at 1630 on 4 Jan it paid off. About 40 miles short of Newbury, from where we were to pick up the Thatcham 'planks', all gears except fourth up and left us. This resulted in an unscheduled weekend in Newbury, two days lost training and a delicate problem for the Paymaster.

Once we did get to Champex the accommodation I had booked for our week's train-



The Pompadour ski team.

ing was small but tidy enough. Pte David: "I've done a week's skiing but I'm very good - really". Franklin made an excellent job of the evening meal on a couple of occasions. Unfortunately Champex is very small with quite limited skiing, which is not particularly good covering of snow did nothing to improve.

Thus we ended up driving the 15 miles to Verbier each day for the remaining three days of training. The only inconvenience in this was that the RAC were holding their Championships there at that time. This left us no local instructors to hire and teach us some racing techniques.

On 11 Jan Ex Spartan Hike A began, a full programme of racing had been planned to include three giant slalom races, one super giant slalom, a downhill and three slalom races. In the end the limitations of the mountain and poor snow towards the end of the competition meant that the super GS and one downhill had to be cancelled.

The first race began on 12 Jan with nagging memories of painful crashes for me, nervousness for most and an overwhelming desire to beat the Vikings for all! Until now our most experienced skier, Sgt Bob Wolfe, had been in bed with flu. Thus his first outing in skis for two years and first race ever was the giant slalom.

This was a good introduction for the team to the workings of an Alpine race and an indication of what was to come over the next 10 days. It also proved that however bad one is there is always someone worse!

At the end of each race a 'mathematical mystery' based on what time you finished in, what number you started at, your race

points, your seed points, your star sign and the date of the next full moon, came up with your start position for the next day's race.

Our relatively inexperienced team worked hard at each race and while still dogged with flu, did not move up the ratings much at the beginning. However with persistence, enthusiasm and wonderful lessons in mountain cafe relaxation by Cpl Ian Roach, placings improved over the last couple of races.

LCpl Lilley should be congratulated for a very good performance in the downhill. Having missed the downhill training days with flu, he had not skied the course before the race, so finishing 56th after an initial seeding of 106 (gaining the fastest time of all the Royal Anglians) was a good effort indeed.

At the end of Ex Pompadour Peak I felt we had achieved our aim. We improved on last year's results by coming 12th out of 30 teams (as opposed to 1991's 11th out of 16). We also introduced new blood to alpine racing (almost literally at times).

I know many people would consider the skiing Championships as a swan, but I would argue that it is adventure training at its very best.

Apart from testing my organisational and leadership skills and introducing us all to a new part of the world, when you fall over on a narrow mountain track during downhill training doing 50mph with a 30 ft drop only inches away from where you land after tumbling 100 m and know that you must get straight to the top of the mountain and do it again, I suggest that one's metal is certainly tested.

Sport

Pompadours overcome difficulties



Left: Pte Humphries in the Battalion's major unit triumph over Lisburn Garrison. Right: The unbeatable cross-country team.

IT is hard to imagine the difficulty that most units in Northern Ireland have when trying to mix sport with a busy operational programme. The Pompadours, however, have done better than most and achieved some notable successes.

The rugby team were runners-up in the major units' knock out competition and the hockey team did one better after a hard match played on Lisburn Garrison's astro turf against the Lisburn team. The Pompadours won the major unit championship after a belated sweet goal for Maj Roland Ladley as the whistle for full time was about to be blown. This particular success was made more gratifying in the knowledge that the Garrison team chooses its players from a large stable workforce.

It is, however, in cross-country where the Battalion has excelled. Not only did WO1 (RSM) Twell's fine, if under-trained team, mop up both the NI League and individual major unit championship against PARA opposition, they also went on to be placed fifth in the Army championships. This is the best result the Regiment has ever had and was a superb achievement against teams that have full time training. Runners deserving particular note are LCpl McGrath, Cpl Watson, LCpl Wilcox and Sgt Ryan. All have operational jobs but ran well consistently.

However, it is Pte Thomas's individual ability that deserves highlighting specifically. Not only was he our best runner, but he was selected for the Army Team and ended up the third junior in the Inter Service Cross-Country Championships. He was awarded his army colours and he clearly has an excellent future.

Although he is often in the news, it would be wrong not to mention Cpl Lenny Paul who has in the last 12 months represented the UK as an athlete as well as competing in the Olympics for the UK two and four man bobsleigh. We all wish him well for the summer Olympics in Barcelona and for his retirement from the army.

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Sport

Maximum entries for Flempton golf meeting

THE Regimental Golfing Society spring meeting took place on 10 Apr at Flempton Golf Club. Golf in the Regiment is becoming a very popular sport and as a result the meeting was over-subscribed and several keen members were unable to play.

The fortunate ones thoroughly enjoyed playing on this superb nine hole course in perfect golfing weather.

There were the usual three competitions: Medal, Stableford, in the morning and relaxed rye-greensome Foursomes after a very convivial lunch. The results of the matches were:- Medal winner - ex Sgt S McAnally; runner-up - Sgt T Wightman; third - Maj C Ladley. Stableford winner - Lt Col D Phipps; runner-up - ex Sgt K Rowe; third - Maj J Perry. Foursomes winner - Maj C Kett and CSgt A Thomas; runners-up - Sgt T Wightman and ex Sgt S McAnally; third - Capt G Taylor and ex Sgt K Rowe.

The next meeting at Flempton is the autumn meeting on 12 Sept and the following day we play the club and it is our turn to win.

Steelbacks orienteering success

THE Steelbacks continue to do well in the various orienteering competitions.

The permanent staff team of Maj Beagley were runners up in both the Eastern and London Districts League and the Eastern District Championships, thus qualifying for the Army Championships in June.

In addition, Maj John Ross came first in the over 45 category to become the Eastern and London District league champion.

Well done John and good luck to all your team in June.



The Depot hockey team seen here with the CO, Lt Col J W Church MBE RRF.

Depot hockey excels

Hockey

AN outstanding season for the Depot hockey side which has produced a string of competition successes.

First place was gained in the EDIST Minor Units League, with an unbeaten record, and also in the Eastern Counties Service Hockey League.

In the Army cup the Depot beat 1st Infantry Brigade 5-0 to go into the semi-final against Depot The Light Division. In a hard-fought game the Depot won 3-2 and earned a place in the final against JCU Northern Ireland.

The final was played on 25 Mar and resulted in a 2-0 win for the Depot. The team then travelled to Germany to play the BAOR champions, Moenchengladbach Station, winning 2-1 and collecting another trophy. Sgt Tony Dade (Viking) was one of the goal scorers.

The Infantry Cup Final was played against The Royal Irish Rangers. The result was a 2-0 win for the Depot with WO1 Billy Eke scoring one of the goals.

Football

A successful season in which members of the Regiment were fully involved. Despite an early disappointment in the EDIST six-a-side competition the record by the end of the season was 15 games played, 12 won with 2 drawn and 1 lost. From this the team emerged as EDIST Minor Units League champions.

Judo

Congratulations to Cpl Brown, runner-up in the Harvey Sword event of the senior open individuals judo championship 1992.

Depot cross-country

The team's aim this season was to retain or improve our position of second place in the Army championships. Alas the team was beaten into second position by a strong Fud Dulman on 5 Feb 92 at Longmoor. A very good team effort. A well done to Cpl Marshall for gaining seventh position.

Again the Depot entered a veterans team and retained its first position from last year. WO2 Haniver and SSgt Baker gained selection into the Army Veterans Team, which took place at RAF Halton on 14 Feb 92.

Results

Army inter-unit cross-country championships, 9 Nov 91: Veterans - winners; **Eastern District cross-country championships**, 11 Dec 91: Depot - winners; **Army cross-country championships**, 5 Feb 92: Depot - runners up, Veterans - winners; **Veterans Team**: SSgt Baker, Capt Campbell, WO2 Slevin, WO2 Haniver; **Inter-services cross-country championships**, 14 Feb 92: individual Veterans - WO2 Haniver 8th, SSgt Baker 10th; **Para 10**, 8 Mar 92: individuals - Cpl Marshall 3rd, 1st Army runner, WO2 Haniver 29th, 1st Army veteran, WO1 Fryer, 42nd, WO2 Slevin, 100th, SSgt Duncan, 166th.

Births and Marriages

VIKINGS

BIRTHS: **Goodin** - To Maj and Mrs Goodin a daughter Georgette; **Shepherd** - To LCpl and Mrs Shepherd a daughter Lucy.

MARRIAGES: **England - Lake** - On 9 May Capt England to Miss Elizabeth Lake; **Johnson - Pererano** - On 26 Mar LCpl Johnson to Miss Maria Pererano.

POACHERS

BIRTHS: **Foster** - To LCpl and Mrs Foster a daughter Rebecca; **Milnthorpe** - To LCpl and Mrs Milnthorpe a son Aaron Michael Andrew; **Bonfield** - To Cpl and Mrs Bonfield a daughter Hannah Charlotte; **Conway** - To Sgt and Mrs Conway a son Adam Peter; **Athroll** - To Sgt and Mrs Athroll a son Daniel Alexander; **Grant** - To LCpl and Mrs Grant a son Simon Marc; **Symon** - To Pte and Mrs Symon a son Andrew Peter; **Berridge** - To LCpl and Mrs Berridge a daughter Sheri Joy; **Smith** - To Sgt and Mrs Smith a daughter Josie Louise; **Creighton** - To LCpl and Mrs Creighton a son Blake Steven; **Gault** - To LCpl and Mrs Gault a son John Barry; **Browne** - To Pte and Mrs Browne a son Thomas Leigh; **Smith** - To Pte and Mrs Smith a daughter Sarah Louise; **Hannant** - To Bdms and Mrs Hannant a son Toby Christopher; **Morrissey** - To LCpl and Mrs Morrissey a son Adam; **Hayes** - To LCpl and Mrs Hayes a daughter Samantha Jean; **Ensor** - To LCpl and Mrs Ensor a daughter Yasmin Lauren; **Owen** - To Cpl and Mrs Owen a daughter Marie Therese; **Barlone** - To Pte and Mrs Barlone a son Anthony David; **Brent** - To SSgt and Mrs Brent twins Alex and Nina; **Tate** - To Pte and Mrs Tate a son Kyle James.

MARRIAGES: **Combes - Letts** - On 21 Oct 91 LCpl A Combes to Miss Jane Letts; **Ogden - Pridhohl** - On 25 Oct 91 Pte K Ogden to Miss Francoise Pridhohl; **Cochrane - Babke** - On 28 Nov 91 LCpl G Cochrane to Miss Manuela Babke; **Kirwin - Mear** - On 30 Nov 91 Pte C Kirwin to Miss Vanessa Mear; **Fitzpatrick - Lemmon** - On 30 Nov 91 Bdms Fitzpatrick to Miss Zoe Lemmon; **Jackson - Wilton** - On 7 Dec 91 Pte J Jackson to Miss Tanya Wilton; **Ringer - Cooke** - On 23 Dec 91 Cpl S Ringer to Miss Karen Cooke; **Gosling - Duberry** - On 27 Dec

91 Capt A Gosling to Miss Beverley Duberry; **Knott - Hall** - On 28 Dec 91 LCpl G I Knott to Miss Maxine Hall; **Martin - McGuire** - On 28 Dec 91 Pte G J Martin to Miss Helen McGuire; **Stanton - Taylor** - On 7 Jan 92 Pte K Stanton to Miss Amanda Taylor; **Hewitt - Cutts** - On 18 Jan 92 Pte D Hewitt to Miss Shelley Cutts; **Hill - Stanneforth** - On 18 Jan 92 LCpl N Hill to Miss Ira Hanneforth; **Marshall - Pearson** - On 14 Mar 92 Pte W D Marshall to Miss Pamela Pearson; **Cotton - Docking** - On 21 Mar 92 LCpl Cotton to Miss Jacci Docking.

POMPADOURS

BIRTHS: **Kretay** - To CSgt and Mrs Kretay a daughter Emma; **Harvey** - To Cpl and Mrs Harvey a son Liam; **Hart** - To LCpl and Mrs Hart a daughter Jessica; **Brown** - To Sgt and Mrs Brown a son Liam; **Grady** - To LCpl and Mrs Grady a daughter Samantha; **Mutch** - To Cpl and Mrs Mutch a son Kieran; **Cowan** - To Cpl and Mrs Cowan a daughter Hayley; **Taylor** - To Cpl and Mrs Taylor a daughter Rachel-Anne; **O'niions** - Sgt and Mrs O'niions a son Marc; **Bishop** - To Pte and Mrs Bishop a daughter Amy Louise; **Thorpe** - To LCpl and Mrs Thorpe a daughter Katie; **Sanham** - To LCpl and Mrs Sanham a son Marc; **Goodman** - To LCpl and Mrs Goodman a son Jason.

Marriages: **Bird - Riley** - On 31 Aug 91 LCpl Bird to Lena Michelle Riley; **Simmons - Roberts** - On 20 Nov 91 Sgt Simmons to Sarah Jane Roberts; **Blakeley - Grout** - On 27 Sep 91 Pte Blakeley to Dawn Theresa Grout; **Livingstone - Joyce** - On 21 Dec 91 Pte Livingstone to Jacqueline Joyce; **Yeomans - Moss** - On 21 Dec 91 Cpl Yeomans to Julie Moss; **Penn - Kampf** - On 11 Jan 92 Cpl Penn to Margaret Victoria Kampf; **Penny - Lightfoot** - On 18 Jan 92 Pte Penny to Tracey Karen Lightfoot; **Bartlett - Challis** - On 8 Feb 92 LCpl Bartlett to Jane Belinda Challis; **Turner - Louise** - On 1 Mar 92 Pte Turner to Anne Louise; **Lawrence - Nolan** - On 5 Mar 92 LCpl Lawrence to Eileen Nan Nolan; **Smith** - On 4 Apr 92 LCpl Smith to Jocelyn.

DEPOT

BIRTHS: **Goodrum** - To LCpl and Mrs Goodrum a daughter Tara Jane.

MARRIAGES: **Shea-Simonds - Hagger** - On 1 Jan 92 Lt Shea-Simonds to Miss Louise Hagger; **Beart - Cooper** - On 11 Jan 92 Lt Beart to Miss Lucy Rose Cooper.

STEELBACKS

BIRTHS: **Grey** - To Cpl and Mrs Grey a son Stuart John; **Davidson** - To Lt and Mrs Davidson a son Benjamin.



The RIT on show. Back row: LCpl Tebeli, LCpl Vangucci, LCpl Jones. Second row: LCpl Simons, LCpl Goodrum, LCpl Jones, LCpl Keer, LCpl Stringer, LCpl Bishop, LCpl Turner. Front row: Sgt Beagley, Capt Thurston, Maj Hipkin, WO2 Barker, Sgt Henson and Sgt Warrenner

Obituaries

Colonel Patrick Desmond Blyth CBE

COLONEL Paddy Blyth died at his lovely home in Walsham-Le-Willows, Suffolk on 12 Apr 1992 after a long fight against cancer which he had faced with immense courage and cheerfulness. His death at the age of 63 has deprived the Royal Anglian Regiment of one of its most loyal and devoted servants.

Paddy attended the first post-war course at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and was commissioned into the Essex Regiment in 1948. After service with the 1st Battalion in Colchester and Germany he was appointed adjutant of 4 Essex in 1952. He rejoined 1 Essex in Hong Kong as signals officer in 1954 and was subsequently an instructor in the Signals Wing of the School of Infantry. In 1959 he completed the staff college course at Queenscliffe in Australia.

Paddy married his wife Ina in 1951 and, while in Australia, they indulged their love of travel by touring the outback extensively in a Morris Traveller, sleeping in a small tent. His next posting took him to the Far East in 1960 on secondment to the Malaya Military Forces where he was initially responsible for the introduction of the pre-staff college course at the Armed Forces School of Instruction in Malacca.

Later that year he became the SO2 training in the Ministry of Defence in Kuala Lumpur. While in that appointment he contracted leptospirosis and awoke from a coma to hear a parson administering the last rites.

After a tour with the 3rd East Anglian Regiment in Northern Ireland and Berlin, Paddy returned to Sandhurst as a college chief instructor; an appointment he held from May 1965 to June 1967. He then went to Germany as the DAMS of 1 (BR) Corps before being appointed to command 5 R Anglian in October 1968.

On relinquishing command in February 1971, he became the GSO1 of the Australian, New Zealand and United Kingdom (ANZUK) Force in Singapore. He left that appointment on promotion in July 1973 to become Colonel GS in the Combat Development Directorate of the Ministry of Defence.

His final appointment as a serving officer was as the Defence Attache in Cairo where he was involved in the military aspects of the Camp David talks. For his work in connection with the talks he was



Colonel Patrick Desmond Blyth

awarded a CBE in 1981. By then he had taken early retirement to become the Regimental Secretary of the Royal Anglian Regiment, a post which he held with distinction for eight years.

However, even in retirement, he continued to serve the Regiment as chairman of the Royal Anglian Regiment Association. His service to the Forces as a whole continued through his chairmanship of SSAFA for Suffolk.

He was also a Freeman of the City of London and treasurer of his Parochial Church council.

A man of great integrity and unshakable strength of character, Paddy always maintained the highest standards of personal conduct. Nevertheless, he was a very human, patient and understanding officer with a delightful sense of humour and abundant charm.

A keen sportsman, he had represented the Regiment at rugby, hockey, squash, shooting and athletics. He also enjoyed sailing and took great pride in his garden. But above all, he was a devoted and much loved husband and father. His son, Seymour, has just taken over as training major of 6 R Anglian.

The very high regard in which Paddy Blyth was widely held was reflected in the large congregation at his funeral on 21 Apr 1992. The mourners included the Colonel of the Regiment and the lesson was read by the former Colonel, General Sir John Akehurst. Paddy will be greatly missed by his many friends in the Regiment which he served so well.

GCPM

Major C E 'Monty' Howard

'Monty' Howard died aged 76 at his home at West Chinnock in Somerset on 17 Apr 1992. His funeral was held in Portsmouth on 24 Apr and Maj Peter Griffiths represented the Regiment.

Monty served with both regular battalions in the Royal Norfolks, service with the 1st Battalion in Korea as RQMS earned him a Mention in Despatches. He was known for the expression "We haven't got it, and even if we had, you couldn't have it."

He was posted as QM to the 4th Royal Norfolks in 1954 on commissioning and then served with 1st East Anglian Regiment in the early 1960's. After that he was posted to East Anglian Brigade Depot Bury St Edmunds whilst his last job, prior to retirement, was on the staff at East Anglian District from 1966-68.

He leaves a wife and two children Susan and Michael to whom we extend our deepest sympathy. His brother, Maj Bandy' Howard MBE also served in the Regiment.

W H R

Deaths:

WE record with regret the deaths of the following: Lt Col A J M Parry MC ex Essex Regiment and 3 E Anglian on 20 Jan 92.

Maj P L Philcox MC R Anglian on 24 Mar 92 Col (Hon Brig) D E Taunton CB DSO DL ex-Northampton on 16 Nov 91.

Maj Aubrey d'Appleby Moore MC TD ex-Royal Leicesters 10 Apr 2. Maj Moore was the last surviving officer of the Royal Leicesters who served in the 14-18 War. He was awarded the MC at the Battle of the Somme and subsequently served in the 39-45 War. He was 92 years old.

Brig N J Dickson DSO GM (ex Northampton) on 18 Jan 92. Brig R G W Melsome MBE (ex-Northampton) on 3 Nov 1991 (col The Earl Spencer MVO DL JP ex-Col The Northamptonshire Regiment (Territorial) and Dep Hon Col R Anglian (TA), Maj R G Coleman TD (ex R Leicesters) on 29 Mar 92 Maj A G De A Moore MC TD (ex-R Leicesters) on 10 Apr 92. Capt P E Pickering (ex-R Leicesters) on 4 Mar 92, Lt G W Hart (ex-R Leicesters) on 2 Feb 92, Lt R I Fulcher, 1st Cams on 15 Jun 91 and Sgt Len Gilbey, 2nd Cams in Feb 92.

We extend our sympathy and condolences to relatives and friends.

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Navy, embroidered badge on left breast. sizes sml., med. & lge.	£10.80	
XL	£11.20	
SWEATER		
Lambswool, machine washable, embroidered badge, sizes 38" & 42"	£20.40	
TABLE/DINNER MATS - prints of founder regiments & drummer with dark blue border (set of 8)	£28.00 set	
T-SHIRTS		
White, blue badge, sizes XL	£4.00	
lge., med., sml.	£3.60	
Childs 26" 28" & 30"	£2.00	
Navy, white badge, sizes XL	£4.00	
med. & lge.	£3.60	
TEA TOWELS		
Irish Linen	£1.00	
Cotton showing all cap badges of the Army	£2.05	
THIMBLES - bone china, gold rim, badge in blue		
	£1.60	
TIES		
Regimental R Anglian (dark blue, red castles)	£5.00	
Regimental Association - Silk	£13.25	
- Polyester	£5.00	
Past & Present Dinner Club	£4.50	
TIE PIN/SWEETHEART BROOCH		
- gold enamel badge	£6.90	
WRITING CASE - blue leather, gold badge	£10.75	

Notes:

- Orders, together with remittance, cheques/postal orders made payable to "The Royal Anglian Regiment Association" to RHQ The Royal Anglian Regiment, The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN.
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* All prices include V.A.T. and are subject to manufacturer's increases.



LCpl Robinson of the Vikings fights his way over the last obstacle – the scramble net.



Left: The Mayor of Hertford entering into the spirit of things on his recent visit to the Pompadours.
 Right: The IO, Capt Howard Newson, briefing The Colonel of the Regiment from the city walls.

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