



CASTLE

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT

JUNE 1993





1st Battalion



2nd Battalion



June 1993

Vol. 9 No. 1

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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



LCpl Ogden of the Poachers during a VCP Operation in Cappagh. *Picture courtesy of Mr John Callon.*

From the Colonel of the Regiment

AFTER the traumas of the last two years, culminating in the sad loss of the 3rd Battalion last October, I really had hoped that we might have reached a plateau in the wild rush to reduce, reorganise and reassess which has so gripped our military and political masters of late; we certainly need some calm to fully consolidate and clear our thoughts for the future. However, the fault lines in the original options blueprint, so clearly evident to many, are now developing into cracks as the international situation obstinately refuses to conform with the wildly optimistic forecasts made in the wake of the ending of the cold war. It is now clear that the 'smaller but better' model, which by all appearances seemed to have been designed to meet treasury rather than the military criteria, is likely to continue to be fiddled on a crisis management basis until this Government addresses the problem of our vague 'try and please everyone' defence policy. Not easy I accept, in these difficult times.

The first evidence of these stresses was the reinstatement to the order of battle this February of two infantry battalions previously earmarked for amalgamation. Whilst clearly welcome, and of indirect benefit to all infantry battalions, the criteria used to select the battalions to be saved were those of July 1991. It will come as no surprise therefore to learn that no large regiment battalions were considered for reprieve.

My main concern, however, lies in the wake of this decision, as compensating reductions are sought to pay for the expansion. I fear the the spotlight might well swing back onto the Territorial Army — there are already ominous rumblings in the better informed media about this — and that having just fought off the last attempt to reduce our Territorial Battalions, we may well need to fight this battle again. I need hardly remind readers of this journal of the potential damage to our influence in our nine counties at this point in our history, of any reduction in our territorial presence.



Our three Territorial Battalions, largely through their county identified Companies, anchor the Regiment to its historic birthright, allowing the two Regular Battalions to superimpose their presence by association with all our counties along the geographic dividing lines agreed last November, rather than the direct affiliation of the Territorial Battalions. Any reductions in our territorial strength could therefore seriously damage these already delicate links and possibly cause serious long-term problems to the viability of our Regiment as the natural home of the Infantry in our nine counties.

So what can we do about it? First, I do not believe that we should wait for any formal announcement. Normally by the time these are made, military and political minds are set and one ends up shouting against the wind. (July 91!). What we can do, is try to create a bow wave of concern ahead of the decision making process, that will hopefully have some influence on it. All of us know someone, either in our counties, or within the military community, whom we can inform of our concerns and the disproportional impact any territorial reductions will have on our Regiment. Do try to get this message around. I can assure you RHQ will be doing so over the next few months.

Secondly, the case for the Large Regiment, and in particular the key factor that its territorial and historic links with its counties are no less in any way than those of the single battalion regiment, needs shouting from the rooftops. I am grateful for

the persistent but rather lonely voices in support of this simple truth. It is, however, high time that there was roar from the body of the kirk, particularly where there is a chance that such luminaries as Directors of Infantry and members of the Army Board might by chance catch an echo.

Leaving aside threats imaginary or otherwise to our future, there have been huge achievements in the Regiment since October. The reforming of the two Regular Battalions has proceeded more smoothly and with greater goodwill on all sides than most would have thought possible this time last year. Professionalism of the highest order and our overriding interest in the common good of the Regiment have provided two Regular Battalions whose reputations is already second to none. On this basis, I was happy to comply with their Commanding Officers' wishes to reinstate the names Viking and Poacher within months of the merger. I am not however, prepared to release our most historic nickname, Pompadour, without further consultation and clearer indications of how any future structural changes might impact on the Regiment.

I am writing this foreword as I return from visiting the 2nd Battalion in Northern Ireland. I had forgotten the intensity of operations there and the close confines under which all our soldiers live for six months with little or no break. As usual I am left with an overwhelming impression of good humour, pragmatic common sense and professionalism, which as a Regiment we seem to have been able to produce with a consistency over the years which has completely defeated others. We do it because of the character and quality of our officers and soldiers, assets which we take for granted at our peril.

My sincere thanks to you all for your continued hard work. I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Association Gathering at Bassingbourn on 29 August.

Maj Gen PPD 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

1st, 5th (V) and 6th (V) Battalions: Major General M J D Walker, CBE

2nd & 7th (V) Battalions: Brigadier C Groves

Colonel D K Harris, OBE, TD, ADC

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 T A Winton

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

The Royal Tasmania Regiment

Australian Military Forces

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

New Zealand

5th Battalion The Frontier Force Regiment

Pakistan Army

1st Battalion The Royal Malay Regiment

Malaysian Armed Forces

The Barbados Regiment

Barbados

The Bermuda Regiment

Bermuda

The Gibraltar Regiment

Gibraltar

Belize Defence Force

Belize

Civic Honours

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

REGIMENTAL LOCATIONS

Regimental Headquarters:

The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN.
(Tel: 0284 752394 / Colchester Military 5124)

Regimental Secretary: Colonel C J Dale

Assistant Regimental Secretary: Major A G B Cobbold

Regimental Careers Officer: Major G W M Hipkin

Area Office, Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire

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

Area Secretary: Major W H Reeve

Area Office, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire

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

Area Secretary: Lieutenant Colonel J L Wilson, DL

Major M Jones (Lincoln) (Tel: 0522 525444)

Area Office, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex

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

Area Secretary: Major D J Thorogood

Regimental Information Team

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn. (Tel: 0763 242271)

Captain J J Wilcox

BATTALION LOCATIONS

1st Battalion, Colchester. Northern Ireland for 6 months from Dec 93.

Lieutenant Colonel R M Chisnall, OBE
(*Lieutenant Colonel R M Brunt MBE Oct 93*)

2nd Battalion, Celle BFPO 23. Returns from Northern Ireland Jul 93.

Lieutenant Colonel J C McColl

5th (V) Battalion (Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire & Cambridgeshire), TA Centre, London Road, Peterborough.

Lieutenant Colonel P G R Horrell TD

6th (V) Battalion (Norfolk, Suffolk & Essex), TA Camp, Blenheim Camp, Bury St. Edmunds.

Lieutenant Colonel A D Chissel, TD
(Major C A F Thomas, TD 22 Nov 93)

7th (V) Battalion (Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire), TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester.

Lieutenant Colonel R M L Colville, TA

Regimental Representatives

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn: Major J A B Borthwick

Infantry Training Battalion, Ouston: Lieutenant M A L Lyne. After Sept 93, Major B McDonnell

RMA Sandhurst: Captain D G H Hunter

Mainly about people

Congratulations and farewells

Retired

THE following have retired from the Army: Lt J Gladwyn – 10 Dec 92; Lt Col D H Greenfield MBE – 24 Jan 93; Lt Col J D Fletcher – 27 May 93; Capt P D Thurston – 19 Apr 93; Lt Col M W Stickland – 14 Dec 93; Maj I W Jefferson – 11 Mar 93; Lt Col A R A Veitch – 31 Mar 93; Capt R C Stoddart – 4 Apr 93.

We wish them all the very best of good fortune in civilian life.

Congratulations

WE congratulate the following on their awards in the Queen's Birthday Honours 93: Lt Col R E Haes – OBE (ex CO 7 R Anglian); Maj D C Coe – MBE (ex QM 3 RRF); WO2 K C Jones – MBE (ex BMATT Namibia).

We congratulate the following on their awards in the Northern Ireland List September 92: Brig J C B Sutherland CBE; Lt Col D J Clements, MBE. Mentioned in Despatches: Capt D P O'Driscoll; Lt Col M Chisnall OBE, Capt P D Jones; Sgt R J Smith; Maj W A Willmott. GOC's Commendation: WO2 P P Cater, Sgt D J Elliott, LCpl Golubovic; Maj R J Ladley.

Newly commissioned

WE congratulate the following on commissioning: 2Lt C P D M McLay – Dec 92, now with the 1st Battalion; Lt A F Iwell – 6 Jan 93, now serving with 2 PWRR; Lt R G H Bilner – 12 Apr 93, now with 1 PWRR; Lt A E Todd – 16 Jun 93, serving with the 2nd Battalion; Lt C C Scoles MBE, now serving with 1 RRF and trans-

ferring to that Regiment.

Redundancies

THE following officers have been selected for redundancy this year under Phase 2 (Options for Change). Brig D J W Browne MBE; Col J R Hart MBE; Lt Col D R Baily MBE; Lt Col T D A Veitch; Maj S P B Badger; Maj J R Edmundson-Jones MBE; Maj J Fisk; Maj G W M Hipkin; Maj J C D G Pollard; Maj T M T Power; Capt G D Cattermole; Capt T L Crouch; Capt S Dixon MBE; Capt P Jackson; Capt P L Smith BEM.

Staff pool promotion

WE congratulate the following on qualifying for the staff pool from Dec 92: Capt E A Eaton and Capt J P O Driscoll.

Below is the text of a letter the Colonel of the Regiment sent to Sir Martin Gilliat on 26 Jan 93:

"THE merger of the 3rd Battalion with the 1st and 2nd Battalions was completed on 5 Oct 1992 and I thought it appropriate to inform Her Majesty The Queen Mother, our Colonel-in-Chief, how matters now stand. Our two Regular Battalions, the 1st and 2nd, are stationed in Colchester and Celle, Germany respectively; the 2nd Battalion are presently on a six-month unaccompanied tour in East Tyrone, Northern Ireland.

"The merger was marked on 5 Oct 92 by a parade by the 3rd Battalion at Colchester at which there were some 1,500 spectators, made up of association members of the former Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex Regiments and friends and relatives of the soldiers on parade.

"It was my privilege to be the Inspecting Officer and I took the opportunity of reading out to all those assembled, our Colonel-in-Chief's most welcome and sympathetic message. On the following day, the 3rd Battalion laid up their Colours in the Essex and Royal Anglian Regiment chapel at Warley. As

Keeping the Queen Mother informed of developments

may be imagined, both events, although tinged with sadness, were executed with pride.

"I can report that the merger has now been successfully completed and all ranks – particularly those from the 3rd Battalion – have undertaken their tasks in their new Regular Battalions in a cheerful and positive way.

"This is of course most heartening, and I have to record my feeling of pride at the way the new 1st and 2nd Battalions have deported themselves during what has been a difficult past 12 months.

"Our Colonel-in-Chief will know that our three Volunteer Battalions remain intact although, in common with

all other volunteer battalions, their strength has been reduced. There have been some minor county boundary adjustments but this has in no way affected their professionalism and continued pride in county affiliations.

"I can therefore report to our Colonel-in-Chief that the Regiment is in good heart with interesting roles to fulfil and with well recruited battalions. Their morale is high and their professionalism and dedication to duty as exemplary as ever."

We subsequently received the following reply from Sir Martin on 29 Jan 93:

"I write to thank you for your letter of 27 Jan which I have laid before Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

"Queen Elizabeth much appreciated your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and was very pleased to be brought up to date with the affairs of her Regiment.

"It is a source of especial satisfaction to the Colonel-in-Chief to know that the delicate operation of "the merger" went off so successfully – a great tribute to all concerned.

"The Queen Mother sends to you and to all ranks a message of her warm good wishes."

Mainly about people



Cpl Lazic (right) with some Moslem children in Bosnia.

Viking returns from Bosnia

CORPORAL Lazic returned to work with the Vikings in February after three months away with the United Nations in Bosnia.

A fluent Serbo-Croat speaker, he was

used as an interpreter and was able to visit some of his relatives in Knin.

He had a comparatively quiet time, although he did come under small arms fire in Vitez.

Regimental benevolence

SITTING in your slit trench in the middle of Salisbury Plain with the driving rain just starting to run down your back, the breakfast fry-up just a memory, your concentration on the suspected enemy's line of approach may wane and your thoughts turn to "How am I going to spend all that money that gets paid into my bank each month?"

You see in your mind's eye your statement and then you start to wonder about that deduction for regimental subscriptions. "Am I the only bloke paying it, what's it all about and what's it for?" I will tell you.

You are one of the 99 per cent of all ranks in the Regiment who pays a day's pay, deducted quarterly, so that it is not such a big shock, into the Regimental Association Benevolent Fund. The money you Day Payers pay amounts to £55,000 a year. "What a large sum!" you say. "how on earth is it spent?" Well like this.

Firstly, and the lesser cost, the Regimental Journal that all subscribers get free twice a year and the group accident insurance policy premium which covers all subscribers for accidental injury or death whilst not on duty for £1,000. Secondly, and more importantly, the greater part is spent on financial help to serving and ex-members of the regiment who fall on hard times and are in desperate need of help.

Of course we the Regiment also support the Benevolent Funds of our seven former Regiments who look after their old and bold but have very little income, having given most of their capital to us on formation in 1964. Without being too much of a bore I would like to tell you how we dished out your money on benevolence last year.

Former Regiments received £11,600.00, the Army Benevolent Fund was made a grant of £9,000.00 and finally £16,106 was spent on 78 of our own cases. A lot of these cases were ex-members who, having left the Regiment were unable to get work and needed help with heating and light bills.

We helped disabled soldiers purchase wheelchairs and adapt their houses to accommodate these chairs (stair lifts, widening doors etc), rehabilitation grants, and clothing children, the list is endless. What is left, and there is not much, is reinvested to make more money to help more members.

None of this could be done without your day's pay. A very big thank you from all those that you have helped. **A G B C**

Mainly about people

The Royal Cambridge Home for widows

AS the title suggests, this is a residential home for the widows of soldiers who served some time in the ranks of the Army. It is a peaceful and pleasant house with its own large garden only a field away from the towpath near Hampton Court.

There is accommodation for some thirty residents who have their own bed-sitting rooms and choose their own lifestyles in a safe, warm and comfortable environment, with expert care staff on hand if required. Medical, chiropody and hair-dressing services are available on the premises.

The Royal Cambridge Home is a registered charity and its charges are well below those of other homes and certainly within the limit of statutory support benefits.

There is nothing in the least military about the way the home is run, but its association with other Army charities has resulted in treasured privileges - invitations to the Royal Hospital Chelsea, the Festival of Remembrance, etc.

Residents maintain their independence and have every opportunity to involve themselves individually or in groups in life outside the Home.

For information write or telephone the Superintendent, Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows, 82/84 Hurst Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9AH. Telephone: 081 979 3788.

Sniper research

MR N T Greenaway of 16 Hazel Drive, Wythall, Birmingham B47 5RJ is writing a book about British Snipers and Sniping with the emphasis on firsthand accounts from snipers who served in Britain's many conflicts from the First World War to the Falklands War. If anyone feels they have anything to contribute to Mr Greenaway's book they should write to him at the address above.

DIARY DATES 1993/94

JUNE

- 18 Regimental annual golf, Stowmarket.
- 18 Royal Lincoln Officers' luncheon, Duke of Yorks.
- 19/20 Royal Tigers weekend.
- 24 16th Foot Officers' lunch, Chicheley Hall.

JULY

- 3-4 Northamptonshire Regiment regimental weekend.
- 9/11 TA Bisley.
- 16 Queens Division triangular golf match, Bury St Edmunds.
- 17-6 Aug 7 Royal Anglian block leave.
- 19-9 Aug 6 Royal Anglian block leave.
- 31 Suffolk Regiment Officers' Dinner Club dinner.

AUGUST

- 1 Minden Day.
- 1 Royal Anglian and Suffolk Regiment reunion, Bury St Edmunds.
- 1-31 5 Royal Anglian block leave.
- 29 Association Gathering Basingstoun.

SEPTEMBER

- 10/11 Regimental autumn golf meeting, Flempton.
- 11-25 7 Royal Anglian camp, Warcop & Otterburn.
- 25/26 Royal Lincoln reunion, Lincoln.

- 25-10 Oct 5th & 6th Royal Anglian camp, Sennybridge.

- 25-26 Royal Norfolk Regiment reunion.

OCTOBER

- 1 3rd Battalion Officers' Dinner Club lunch, London.
- 2 Royal Lincolns Malaya reunion.

NOVEMBER

- 4 Field of Remembrance.
- 5 Regimental dinner and council meeting, Colchester.
- 14 Remembrance Sunday.
- 21 Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment reunion, Kempston.

DECEMBER

- 1st Battalion to Northern Ireland.
- Royal Leicesters Officers' dinner.

1994

FEBRUARY

- 12 Royal Anglian (Lincoln) reunion.
- 23 1st Battalion Band concert, Warley Chapel.

APRIL

- 15 3rd Battalion Officers' cocktail party.

MAY

- 6 Northamptonshire Regiment Officers' lunch.

Mainly about people

Dinner Club celebrates silver jubilee anniversary

Ex WO2 (Tich) Watson writes:

THE 25th anniversary of the Past and Present Dinner was a great success and was enjoyed by all of the 240 who attended.

The dinner chairman was Maj Gen P P D Stone CB, CBE, the Colonel of the Regiment, who after the dinner made a presentation to Mr D Richardson of a beautiful crystal glass and tray set for his services over the past 25 years as the Dinner Club's treasurer.

Also present were two members of the Bermuda Regiment who were presented with the Past and Present Club ties by the dinner chairman.

A note of thanks goes to the Bandsmen and women of the Vikings Band, who entertained the members throughout the dinner, finishing by playing all the Regimental Marches of all former regiments and the Bermuda Regiment.

Appreciation was also shown to the waiting staff for the splendid food and wines and for the young and junior soldiers who served the members so well. Thanks are also due to the Depot staff for the organisation, and the bar staff who served members throughout the evening, night and on until the early hours of Sunday the 25th.

The whole organisation could not have been better with thanks to the efforts of the club's chairman, Capt Tom Bullock MBE, who earns our heartfelt thanks.

The date of the 1993 dinner is to be Saturday 18th Sept at the ATR Bassingbourn.



Above: a. Ex WOII D Richardson, having completed 25 years as temporary treasurer, receives a gift from the Dinner Club of tray, decanter and glasses presented by The Colonel of the Regiment. Below: The Colonel of the Regiment together with two Sergeants' Mess members of the Bermuda Regiment having received a Dinner Club tie each from the Dinner Club chairman



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

Our services are free, and we take a long-term interest in ex Regulars so they

Regular Forces Employment Association

are available to them throughout their working lives.

Our employment officers are situated in branches throughout the United Kingdom and they maintain close contact with local employers and Jobcentres. Their

addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers. Jobcentres and local telephone directories.

During the period 1st April 1992 - 31st March 1993 the Association assisted 12,179 men and women with their resettlement and placed 4,495 in employment. Of those placed 2,358 were men and women from the Army and 50 were from the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Mainly about people

The life of a defence attache in Lagos

Col A T Taylor writes from Lagos:

WHEN I told a group of officers in Bassingbourn that my next posting was as DA Lagos they asked what I had done to deserve such a fate.

Nigeria is about four times the size of the UK, with a population of about 90 million. The terrain varies from mangrove swamp and tropical forest on the coast through Savannah grassland to semi-desert on the borders with Niger and Chad. We

have toured less than we would have liked but hope to cover more of the country before we leave.

The nature reserves do not compare with those in southern Africa but they are unspoilt and we have experienced the thrill of seeing animals in their natural environment and the panic of coming face to face with a bull elephant on a narrow bush track.

In a short article it is impossible to describe the job of an attache/adviser because it will vary from post to post. In my

case the majority of my time is taken up with arranging UK courses for members of the Nigerian Armed Forces, arranging and hosting visits from UK (RCDS, RN Ships, MOD visitors etc), defence sales, visa matters and providing information to the Nigerian Armed Forces in response to requests.

It is varied and interesting particularly as the key military officers with whom I deal on a regular basis are those who have also been running the country for the last seven years. The military have pledged to hand over to a democratically elected civilian president on 27 August 1993.

Previous elections in Nigeria have often been marred by violence and rigging so the current transition process is being followed with keen interest.

West Africa was once known as the white man's grave. With modern medicine this is no longer the case but for the African majority, who do not have ready access to adequate health care the odds are still not good.

Typhoid and yellow fever epidemics are common but malaria remains the biggest killer. Aids is not thought to be the problem, it is in Southern Africa but no-one really knows because the public health sector is very run down and statistics are not available.

Nigeria can be a violent place. In the last 18 months relatively localised disputes have resulted in many hundreds of deaths in at least three separate areas.

The level of violent crime is generally high and firearms are commonly used in the course of robberies, particularly in Lagos.

We have not had a flood of visitors wishing to take advantage of our posting in the tropics which is perhaps not surprising. However, despite the problems, I am enjoying both being part of the life of the biggest UK diplomatic mission in Africa, and also the job itself which brings me into daily contact with members of the Nigerian Armed Forces who have always treated me with great courtesy and friendliness, and some of whom have become very good friends.

Under Options for Change some attache posts have been cut, so the opportunities will be less in the future but there will still be some interesting jobs to be filled and I would advise any suitably qualified officer who is looking for something a bit different to consider applying.

Regimental Gathering

29 Aug '93

The Regimental Gathering will be held at Bassingbourn on 29 Aug '93. The format will be:-

1130	Drimhead Service
1215	March Past
1230	Bars Open & Lunch
1330	Shooting and Static Displays
1500	Band Display

We hope that even more Association Branches will attend with their Standards and increase the 1200 who were present last year. If you would like to join us for our annual family day, please contact your Area HQ if you belong to an association, or direct to RHQ, using the application form below.

Regimental Gathering Bassingbourn 29 Aug '93

(Please complete and return either to your OCA Branch or to RHQ)

1. **Attendance.** I/We would like tickets for the Gathering on 29 Aug '93.

2. **Food.** Please reserve box lunches at £4.50 each for which I enclose a cheque for £ made out to 'RHQ R Anglian'

Name & Address
(IN BLOCK CAPITALS)

.....

..... Post Code

* There will also be bars and stalls for hot dogs, ice creams etc. and a picnic area if you prefer to bring your own food.

NOTE: Would OCA Branches please send consolidated returns through Area Secretaries at Lincoln, Norwich, Northampton and Warley as appropriate who will coordinate contingents from their area

Mainly about people

Supervising a ceasefire and election in Cambodia

**Capt Tom O'Driscoll in
Cambodia**

Following agreement in 1991 on a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian conflict, the United Nations sent a force, The United Nations Transitional Authority (UNTAC), in order to oversee the ceasefire and forthcoming elections. Capt O'Driscoll, of the Vikings, was deployed as one of the 50-60 British servicemen working as UN Monitoring Observers (UNMO). He writes:

OUR role as UNMOs was to supervise and monitor the withdrawal of foreign forces, the ceasefire and other related measures such as the disarmament and containment of the warring factions. We also worked in conjunction with the civilian agencies and police in order to ensure that the registration for the forthcoming elections in May 1993 was allowed to go ahead unhindered.

As a UNMO, I worked as a member of a



Capt O'Driscoll of the Vikings in Cambodia.

four-man team with a Bulgarian colonel and American and Russian captains in the village of Phum Sampou in Battambang Province in the North West of Cambodia. We were responsible for disarming the local Cambodian Regiment, 67th Tank Regiment.

In order to both promote confidence in the UN and show a presence in remote areas we conducted patrols on a daily basis. They consisted of four to six men with local guides and liaison officers. Considerable tact and diplomacy were required to deal

with the problems caused by numerous ceasefire violations and the mistrust and suspicion endemic in the country after 20 years of fighting.

The six month tour with UNTAC was an extremely interesting and rewarding experience. As well as working in a multinational environment we saw at first hand how a country has been ravaged by over 20 years of civil war and how the UN is trying to remedy this. I thoroughly recommend this posting!

From the Padre

Rejoice in the achievements of 1944

A MOST agreeable feature of being the Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment is the chance to travel in the Regimental area. The occasions for this opportunity are the various services which we hold in the shires. Each service is also a challenge to keep up to date with fast-moving current events and also to become acquainted again with the regimental history of our former Regiments.

Conscious always of the Regular Battalions' involvement in Northern Ireland and no doubt in many peace-keeping areas in future, I find it a great source of strength and encouragement to be reminded of the sterling work of our military predecessors. As a theologian, I find it makes sense to draw on this past history. The Church's cal-

endar is peppered with the examples of good and heroic saints. God works through us all insofar as we allow him, but

He works especially through the saints. Their achievements, like those of our Regiment, are inspiring. At a time when newspapers and television like to point to



Tom Hiney

bad things, it is refreshing to be reminded of good things.

It is easy for the Church as well as the Army to get a bad press. Single incidents are magnified and long years of loyal service are usually not covered.

But they far outnumber the bad things. God knows this. You and I know this. Let us remember it often and draw strength from it.

And as we prepare to recall constructively the 50th anniversary of so many regimental events in 1944, let us rejoice in the colossal achievements of that time, and determine once again to be worthy of the freedom gained at so great a cost.

T.H.

Mainly about people

High standards in the French army

Maj Simon Underwood writes from Montpellier:

I WAS surprised when PB2 asked me if I would like a tour as the British Liaison Officer at the French School of Infantry. The School of Infantry (l'EAI) is situated at Montpellier and, as well as being LO there the post is also that of LO to the Parachute School (l'ETAP) at Pau. I was assured that being a non-parachutist was no problem. Thus reassured, and tempted by the opportunity to do something a bit different, I said that I would like the job.

The administration involved in moving here seemed rather complicated at first sight, but with the assistance of the British Embassy in Paris, who administer the LOs in France, it passed fairly painlessly. The MOD allocated some money for Barbara-Jane and I to purchase some language tuition, which was badly needed and eventually we set off for France in early July.

Unfortunately this posting date happened to coincide with the French lorry drivers' blockade of the road network and the major towns. As a consequence I saw most of France whilst en route to Montpellier.

Warm welcome

However, July turned out to be not too bad a month to move since almost all French Army postings happen between late June and early September and consequently activity at French military schools is at a low ebb. This allowed the family and I to find our feet. We received a very warm welcome, both at Montpellier and Pau, and we found, to our considerable relief, that people were very tolerant of our efforts to speak French. There are two other liaison officers, an American and a German. The American was taking over as I arrived, and the German had been in post a couple of months. A new Canadian exchange officer was also taking over as I arrived, so there was a completely new group of foreign officers on the staff.

The French School of Infantry (EAI) is more compact than our own and does not lie on the edge of a major training area, although there are training areas within an hour's drive. The school is divided into different "groupements" but liaison officers are mainly concerned with the company commanders' and platoon commanders' groupements, where we give lectures on our

own armies, concentrating on battalion and company level organisation and operations.

We are also involved in language teaching to the platoon commanders. The French Army takes learning foreign languages, particularly English and German, extremely seriously and it is compulsory for all cadets at St. Cyr and all officers on their YO courses to undergo language training.

Impetus has been given to this by the increased number of multi-national operations in recent years, which is reflected in the increased number of exercises having a UN scenario and in the increased involvement of LOs in this training.

The courses themselves are different from those at our own School of Infantry or Combined Arms Training Centre. The company commanders' course lasts ten weeks and is almost wholly conducted through lectures and TEWTS. The platoon commanders' course lasts ten months and includes much of what we would expect to do at Sandhurst, since most of their time as cadets has been devoted to academic studies.

The first six months of the course is common to all the officers, and at the end of that period they choose their specialisation and regiments according to their position in the order of merit.

The course then splits to allow specialised training such as motorised, mechanised, mountain or parachute troops, with everyone now having to be dual trained, so that all units can participate in UN operations. The course then reunites for everyone to attend a course at the National Commando Training Centre (CNEC) in the Pyrenees, a school to which I have just received an additional accreditation as LO, and for a final exercise.

My other main role is as the BLO to the Parachute Forces School (ETAP), at Pau. Again here the LOs give lectures on the parachute forces of our own countries to the officers and NCOs posted to the French parachute forces. There are also a number of British parachute exercises based at Pau each year, which involve a reconnaissance beforehand and liaison during the exercise. ETAP is a small, but very busy school. Some 12,000 recruits do parachute courses there each year and about 100,000 parachute jumps of all types are conducted.

Almost the first question that I was asked on arrival was, "When do you want to jump?" My reply that I was not actually a

parachutist was greeted with some surprise, as the vast majority of French officers are parachute trained and it is regarded as a perfectly normal thing in the French Army. The next cry from ETAP was along the lines of, "No problem, we'll train you to parachute." Thus it was that in November, having obtained permission from MOD, I found myself jumping out of aircraft and gaining my French wings.

As to my impressions of the French Army, they are varied, but almost entirely favourable. Plainly the national service element does not attain a high degree of professionalism in only ten months. On the other hand there are entirely professional regiments, whose standards are extremely high. The officers whom I meet are dedicated and hard working. The same can be said for the NCOs. Physical fitness is taken very seriously, with PT at both EAI and ETAP from 0730 to 0900 each morning. Furthermore, cross-country is for all those not on essential duties, it is announced at EAI and it is programmed into the courses.

Humanitarian operations

Overall it has been a thoroughly interesting first nine months. The French, with their deployments in many parts of the world, have maintained a wide spread of military interests. Many French officers are looking to the next 20 years as a time for essentially light forces to be deployed in multi-national peacekeeping and humanitarian operations around the world.

Living here is also proving to be fun. I took over my predecessor's house, a very pleasant, if somewhat idiosyncratic villa on the western edge of the town and only some ten minutes from work by either car or bicycle. The town itself is very pleasant, with an attractive centre. The sea is only about 20 minutes away, and inland there are many interesting places to visit. There are good recreational facilities at the EAI for the whole family, with free coaching available in some sports. On the downside, the standard of driving in this area is awful, akin to that in Riyadh.

All urban speed limits are totally ignored and use of indicators is obviously considered to be cissy. The area also attracts many tourists. Apart from these hazards it is a very good posting, which I can heartily recommend to anyone who wishes to do something a little different.

Mainly about people

Formation of the London Regiment

**WO2 (ORQMS) P W Burton
writes:**

I WAS posted to 8th Battalion The Queen's Fusiliers (City of London) in February 1991. I arrived not knowing what to expect having never served with a TA unit and armed with the usual stories of what other permanent staff had experienced in other TA units. Needless to say most of these stories now seem totally unfounded or highly exaggerated.

I settled in well into a friendly and well run organisation. I was situated in Battersea to the south of the river and my accommodation was in the north of London. A one-way trip of anything from one to two hours, depending on London Underground and British Rail.

I was not the only Viking as there were already two Vikings serving with 8 QF(V) - WO1 (RSM) Parr, and on attachment was, and still is, Cpl Dave Norman. Also attached to 8 QF was LCpl Micky Baxter of the 3rd Battalion.

All was going well and then Options for Change was announced. 8 QF(V), was one of the lucky TA units, not only had we survived but we were to expand to a 4 Rifle Company unit with a change of name. The



Cpl Dave Norman, on the left, shows the Royal Anglian cap badge.

new unit proposed was to be called, after a lot of discussion, The London Regiment and the four rifle companies were to each have their own identities from their former regiments. Each rifle company had a different cap badge with associated dress of RRF, PWRR, London Scottish or London Irish.

The Battalion was keen to form and reorganise as soon as possible and on 1 Apr, 1992 the London Irish and The London Scottish came under command of 8 QF(V), pending formation of the London Regiment. The official name was approved just in time for annual camp in Oct 92. This was held at Wathgill Camp near Catterick. This camp was made more interesting because with the normal cap badges of the four rifle companies we also had several attachments and foreign visitors. In all, 16 different cap badges were worn on camp.

The official date of formation was to be 1 Apr 93, but this slipped to 20 Apr. Unfortunately, only one Viking remains with the London Regiment, I having been posted to SWW Netheravon on 13 Apr a week prior to the formation date, and WO1 (RSM) Parr who was posted to Chilwell station on Minden Day 1992 and Micky Baxter to Depot Queen's Div in July 1992. Cpl Dave Norman, who remains, will retire from the Army after 22 years' service in October 1993.

I wish him well as I suspect do all Vikings.

In conclusion my time with 8 QF(V) was a happy and memorable time and I shall miss the staff, both military and civilian with whom I worked. But I shall always remember being there at the birth of a new regiment.

THE Royal British Legion's Pilgrimage Department is involved in the planning for several 50th anniversary pilgrimages in 1994, to remember many of the milestones of that momentous advance to victory in the critical year of 1944. In addition, the 80th anniversary of the 'first action' fought by the British Army in the First World War falls in August 1994, and we are including a visit to Mons in our programme.

We are pleased to announce that bookings are now open for these pilgrimages - five in all - but because demand will be keen (remember Alamein 1992!) you are urged to secure your place as soon as possible. Appended overleaf is a simple advance booking form - if you wish to apply please fill it in and return it with a registration

Anniversary pilgrimages 1994 —

**Kohima/Imphal —
Cassino/Anzio —
Normandy — Mons — Arnhem**

deposit of £25, payable to Pilgrimages Worldwide. The subsidy for War Widows travelling under the Government's Grant-in-Aid Scheme will apply.

The travel arrangements will be made by 'Pilgrimages Worldwide' (a trading company of Sunspot Tours, ABTA No.

71769, ATOL No. 1631). We will send confirmatory details about all the pilgrimages as soon as these are to hand but your advance registration securing your place will be acknowledged.

Kohima & Imphal (N.E. India) — 50th Anniversary: Ten Days in Mid-April 1994 (Cost: Circa £1800)

Cassino & The Anzio Break-out — 50th Anniversary: 12-19 May 1994 (Cost: Circa £595)

Normandy — 50th Anniversary: 5-8 June 1994 (Cost: Circa £285)

Outbreak of the First World War — Mons — 80th Anniversary: 21-24 August 1994 (Cost: Circa £225)

Arnhem — 50th Anniversary: 15-19 September 1994 (Cost: Circa £295).

Mainly about people

Attending staff college down under

Maj Alasdair Wild, a student at the Australian Command and Staff College, Queenscliff writes:

IT was not until the airline tickets arrived from the SBC in London in October last year that the realisation that we were about to move to the other side of the world struck home.

After a final furious week at Shrivenham, Annie and I decided to make the most of things and take our time getting to Queenscliff, even if it meant being homeless at Christmas – again.

SBC was most amenable to our proposed route, which involved a week in Hong Kong and a further stopover in Brisbane prior to arriving in Melbourne. After a splendid three weeks touring Queensland in a camper, we eventually arrived in Melbourne to be greeted by a most unusual sight: soldiers in uniform at the airport.

Word of Regimental history had obviously made it to Queenscliff as our house is a pale shade of Pompadour Purple and utterly different to anything we have ever lived in. It is all wooden with huge expanses of glass and is very bright and airy, though prone to serious bouts of creaking during inclement weather. Yes, for those of you who thought Australia was all swimming

trunks, Queensland may be, Victoria is not. Our stretch of coastline has a clear view to the Antarctic and as a result it can be 40 deg one day and sideways rain the next.

The Staff College and accommodation (90% private) are in a major holiday area known as the Bellarine Peninsula some 75 minutes from Melbourne around the western side of Port Phillip Bay. The area is very busy during the summer and over public holidays and lovely and peaceful the remainder of the time. The college itself is a major tourist attraction and National Trust area as it is located in an old fort constructed during the late 18th century to protect Melbourne from a possible Soviet invasion. The perimeter contains all of the old gun emplacements and a black lighthouse as well as having a magnificent sea view. There is no security to speak of, indeed there are guided tours of the fort three times a day.

There are 81 students on the course of whom 60 are Australian Army and the remaining 21 drawn from the RAN and RAAF, US, Canada, New Zealand, Pakistan, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and UK.

Following a fairly gentle 'guest student week' for arranging complicated things like cars and medical cover, we got underway at

a fairly severe pace. The workload is heavy with a lot of emphasis on oral presentations but also a steady amount of written work that has been a time consuming as I adjust to the nuances of Australian staff duties. The overseas students also need to spend more time reading on defence policy and other issues that are second nature to the Australian students.

The level of experience among the other students is interesting – most of the Australians are between 34 and 37 years old and have commanded sub-units. Many will leave directly to SOI appointments though these are lessening as their Army 'down-sizes' (almost as bad as 'draw-down'). Probably 50% of them have UN experience from Cambodia, Iran, Sinai and Western Sahara and many have been attached to British units at some stage in their careers.

The operations side of the course varies from low level conflict up to full blown joint operations, indeed it is policy that there is no such thing as a single service operation in Australia. The advantage of the joint operations emphasis is that we go on lots of interesting visits to submarine and air bases as well as army establishments.

Much of the tactical doctrine is similar to ours, even the enemy, the Musorians and Kamarians bear a remarkable resemblance to the Fantasians. If there is a major difference, it is in the approach to logistics which appear to be given more emphasis due to the harsh conditions and enormous distances that embrace potential operations.

The sporting scene is fairly active; the Bellarine Peninsula seems to have a high concentration of 'fitees' with the roads being awash with lycra clad runners, cyclists and triathletes. Sport at the college offers plenty of variety. The BFT here is not for wimps either and involves sit-ups, dorsal raises, heaves and a 5km run.

Finally, the Royal Anglian connection lives on — I spotted the photographs of fresh faced Maj's Behagg and Groves in the Hall of Fame, indeed Col Jeff Mack (now Director of Studies at the College) sends his regards to Col Alan from the course of 80. Lt Col Matt Beattie (NZ) also sends his regards to Craig Cocker.

On the basis of my experience to date, I can thoroughly recommend this as a posting as long as you are not under any illusion about having an easy ride — off to the yard to crack another slab of Blue.

To: The Pilgrimage Department, Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NX.	See story on Page 13
From: Mr/Mrs/Miss	
Address	
Post Code Tel. No.	
'Enclosed is my cheque for £ to cover place(s) on the Anniversary Pilgrimage to over the period 1994 for the following people:	
Signed:	Date:
(The Royal British Legion is a Registered Charity No. 218276)	
Thank you very much for your contribution to the Pilgrimage Worldwide.	

Mainly about people

THERE have never been so many ways in which you could invest your money. A quick look through the weekend personal financial pages or the quality press will make that clear, if you harbour any doubts. While the huge range of choice is to be welcomed, it does make the decision about the right investments all the more difficult. Indeed, it could almost be said that the increased options mean a greater opportunity to take the wrong investment choice!

Unfortunately there is no short cut to investment planning. The answer a good financial adviser will give to the "what shall I do with £5,000?" question is "I don't know."

Investment decisions cannot be made in a vacuum. In spite of what the press advertisements might suggest, there is no such thing as an investment which suits everybody. The investments which are right for you need to take account of four main factors which are personal to you:

Investment goals

Why are you investing? On the face of it, that may seem a strange question to ask, but in practice many would-be investors fail to think about, yet alone answer it. Are you investing for income, capital growth or a combination of the two?

All too often people invest for income when they do not need it. The income their investment produces is ploughed back or, worse still, is paid into the current account and then frittered away. As income is taxed more heavily than capital gains, the result can be a bigger tax bill than is necessary and thus a lower overall investment return.

Timespan

How long is your investment horizon? In answering the above, you should have given some thought to the matter of timeframe. Put at its most basic, there is no point in placing your money in a high return ten year investment if you know you will need funds after eight years. Unscrambling investments prematurely can be very costly – ask anyone who has been caught out by a 80 day notice building society account!

If you have no specific timeframe in mind, then do not fall into the trap of

How to invest money wisely

thinking that everything must be invested for the shortest term.

It is all too easy to do this, refusing to forsake the instant access building society or bank account.

Why keep all your cash readily available if you will never need it all at once? The answer to the question of an uncertain timespan is to build in flexibility to your investment strategy.

So, for example, you would leave some of your money where you can reach it quickly to pay for emergencies. The balance can be invested with a longer timeframe in mind, with perhaps the top element tied up in a fixed term investment. This approach would allow you to invest longer term, free from the possibility that the unexpected will hit your returns.

If you are considering shares, unit trusts or other equity-based investments, you ought to have a timescale of at least five years in mind. This will give your investments time to grow and should mean that short-term market fluctuations have little impact. Although short-term investment in shares can be very profitable, it is strictly for the professionals and carries high risks.

Tax

What will you get from your investment after the taxman has had his share? Whether you like it or not – and few of us do – tax cannot be ignored when it comes to making your investment decisions. When comparing the return you receive from different types of investment, it is the after-tax figure you must look at.

If you pay tax at 40%, then 8.5% nett is better than 10% gross. Alas, it is not always easy to make the comparison, not least because there is not much consistency in the way returns are quoted.

These days building societies quote their interest rates gross, whereas before just over two years ago, they quoted rates nett of basic rate tax.

Whatever investment you choose, you should make sure how it will be taxed in your hands before parting with your money. It may even prove to be the case that you would be better to transfer the investment to your spouse if they pay a lower rate of income tax, thanks to independent taxation.

One rule which is frequently overlooked is that you should never invest for tax reasons alone. With few exceptions, the government does not provide tax advantages without good reason.

Normally tax relief is a form of encouragement to do something that otherwise you might not want to – buy a pension or invest in a high-risk business start up, for example.

Risk

What investment risks are you prepared to take? Risk is a much misunderstood word which frightens investors. It is usually interpreted as the chance that capital values will fall.

However, investments where there is a guarantee of no capital loss, such as bank deposits, are still at risk because of the effects of inflation. As we have seen in the last few years, there is also the risk that deposit returns will drop, leaving those dependent on the interest with a much reduced income.

There is no denying that shares and other equity-linked investments do carry a higher risk than the likes of building societies.

However, the corollary of risk is reward. In theory, the greater the risk you take, the higher the potential reward. Over the long term the stockmarket has proved this to be the case, in spite of some sharp short-term fluctuations. If you see a higher than normal return that is apparently risk-free, then be suspicious. As in the case of Barlow Clowes, if it looks too good to be true, it probably is!

If by this stage you are becoming less certain about your investment decisions, please do not fret. In the final analysis the best approach is always to seek independent investment advice, such as NAAFI Financial Services provides.



Vikings



The PNCO cadre.

Christmas on standby duty

SPEARHEAD and two other standby commitments dominated the festive season. The Battalion did not deploy, but there remained training at Lydd and Hyde, the preparation, practice callouts and the reduced states of readiness for all. Despite Spearhead, the Vikings were able to celebrate Christmas with the usual seasonal activities, such as the traditional football match in which the Warrant Officers and Sergeants beat the Officers 8-3. The children's Christmas party was a great success with Father Christmas, alias the RSM, arriving on a dog sleigh.

Training continued throughout the period; in particular the potential NCO cadre finished in December. After a testing

three months, members of the cadre held a small parade in which the Commanding Officer took the salute and presented the top student, Drummer Self, with his first stripe.

Airmobile conversion

THE Battalion commenced a hectic six month period of airmobility training in January. The culmination of this training was a week brigade exercise in Norfolk during May and June, which will be covered at length in the next edition.

At the end of April, the Battalion exercised as an airmobile battalion for the first time on STANTA during Exercise Gryphon's Lift. Traditionally this is a teaching exercise. However, the progressive and

intense nature of the training since the New Year enabled the Vikings to exercise as a battalion, initially flying out to a block position before dealing with counter-descent operations.

Each company has spent considerable time on sub-unit level training. During March, the three rifle companies spent time on STANTA concentrating on NBC, live firing and dry training. On several occasions, the companies were able to exercise with RAF chinooks on the local Friday Woods training area in Colchester.

The command elements of the Battalion have been busy too. Battalion HQ participated in two airmobile CPXs with the assis-

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News from the Vikings



Above: Airmobility '93 (Courtesy of East Anglian Daily Times).

Below left: Company live firing in Thetford.

Below right: Preparing vehicles as underslung loads.



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tance of personnel from 24 Airmobile Brigade. Both battalion and company levels were exercised at the Battlegroup Trainer in Catterick during the beginning of May and subsequently during June. Several study days have been held in order to reinforce airmobile training. The new terminology and abbreviations alone are considerable: LPC, RMCA, 'G' and 'L' hour, to name but a few.

B and Fire Support Companies have been particularly busy. B Company, as the Battalion's 'Aviation Company' attached to the 9 Regiment AAC Battlegroup, has exercised independently with the AAC in Dartmoor, Sennybridge and Yorkshire. Fire

Support Company has seen little of Colchester. During March, both Fire Support Company complete and the Milan platoons from each of the rifle companies spent two weeks on Salisbury Plain participating in numbers cadres. Support Company, less Recce Platoon, also conducted live firing on Otterburn. The Drums Platoon has been equally busy and the hard work was rewarded with victory in the UKLF Match 83 GPMG (SF) shoot with the fourth highest recorded score.

Individual training and cadres have been conducted throughout the period and serve as the basis for all training with all ranks learning to use a Milan. A measure of the commitment is that at least 40 NCOs have

been attending School of Infantry courses and cadres have been conducted as far afield as Dorset. All ranks have completed their shooting, fitness, NBC, first aid and security annual training tests.

The Commanding Officer, RSM and the Company Commanders have all participated in motorcycle cadres because motorcycles are a primary source of mobility for the command elements once deployment by helicopter has been completed. Other specialist airmobile cadres such as those for rigger marshals and landing point commanders have been conducted by the Training Wing.

The period has also seen a plethora of

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News from the Vikings



Above: A mixed reception at the children's Christmas party. Below: Lt Gen Wilkes talks to Cpl Neal on the STANTA battlerun. W02 Brookes soaks up the atmosphere.



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more conventional cadres including those for Standard II signallers, RRUs, snipers and assault pioneers.

In addition to the normal round of external courses, such as those at Brecon, many Vikings have also attended helicopter handling courses.

The Battalion has undergone a rapid and progressive conversion to airmobility; a new and exciting role placing the Vikings at the forefront of the Multinational Rapid Reaction Corps.

Change of Brigades

THE Battalion moved from 19 Infantry Brigade to Airmobile Brigade during March. A Company participated in 19 Infantry Brigade's farewell parade on 5 Mar. The outgoing Brigade Commander, Brig D B W Webb-Carter OBE, visited the Battalion during the month. His farewell visit included the presentation of Saudi Liberation of Kuwait medals to those members of the Band who had served on Op Granby.

A very real sign of the move to airmobility was the final departure of the Battalion's Saxons for Catterick and the Green Howards. A team under Sgt Richardson had spent considerable time preparing the Saxons for handover.

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News from the Vikings



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Above: The Battalion motorcycle cadre. Below: The PNCO cadre in action.

Visits

THE Battalion has hosted many visits. The Commander of the UK Field Army, Lt Gen Sir Michael Wilkes KCB CBE, and the Deputy Colonel, Maj Gen M J D Walker CBE both visited the Battalion at different times on STANTA. Maj Gen B H Dutton CBE, Director of Infantry, visited the Battalion in Colchester. After presenting awards, including MIDs to Capt Eaton and Pte Sibley, he spoke to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and lunched in the Officers' Mess.

International visitors included two Swedish officers who inspected the Battalion as part of the agreement reached in the Vienna Accord. The Vikings also hosted two French officers on an exchange visit.

Liaison with the local community

THE Battalion has concentrated on maintaining its excellent links with the local community. During January, a number of top police officers from the Essex Constabulary visited. After being briefed by the CO, the officers were shown a selection of training before lunching in the Officers' Mess.

The Battalion donates any money raised

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News from the Vikings



Above: Band members with their Saudi 'Liberation of Kuwait' medals. Below: The Saxon team being filmed by a crew from ITV.



News from the Vikings



Above: The Director of Infantry after presenting awards to: (l. to r.) LCpl Shoesmith, Capt Eaton, Pte Sibley and Pte Waldron. Left: The most recent addition to the Battalion's silver, presented by Lt David Schwartz. Yes, it is silver!

Below: Maj O'Hagen presenting his father's sword to the RSM, watched by Maj Thoroughgood representing the Essex Regiment Association.



News from the Vikings



Sgt Gray with Rachel Garley and Joanna Lumley. (Courtesy of Soldier magazine)

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for charity to the Mayor of Colchester's charities, which include a combination of both local and national charities.

The CO presented the Mayor with a cheque during a lunch in the Officers' Mess on 17 Mar.

The lunch itself commemorated the Bedfordshire Regiment's association with St Patrick's Day.

A number of individuals have made sterling efforts in raising money for charity. The LAD and ACC held a Christmas party in December.

Local shops and businesses were approached and asked to donate prizes for the raffle, which raised £145 for charity. Lts Roger McClure and Mark Stickland donned fancy dress and manned a stall in Colchester High Street.

Work with the Regimental Associations

THE Battalion has continued its links with the Regimental Associations. Maj O'Hagen visited and presented the Battalion with his father's sword.

His father belonged to the Essex Regiment and was presented with the sword on commissioning in 1931. The sword will be used by the RSM.

Media Vikings

SEVERAL Vikings have been seen in the media over the last few months.

A crew from Anglia Reports filmed Sgt Richardson and his crew handing over Saxons. Milan Platoon practising firing drills and A Company on Fingringhoe Ranges, in order to use the resulting footage for a programme on redundancy in the Army.

Sgt Gray represented the Battalion at a promotion held in the Imperial War Museum to advertise both an exhibition at the Museum and a book by the actress Joanna Lumley on the subject of 'Forces Sweethearts'.

Sgt Gray was photographed with both Joanna Lumley and Page 3 girl Rachel Garley, a former Miss Viking.

Mainly about people

CAPT Rick Beven, now with the Gurkhas in Hong Kong, visited the Kohima battlesite and laid flowers at the Royal Norfolk plot. The Norfolk graves include that of Capt Randle VC.

News from the Vikings

Learning lessons on Long Look at Australia

Capt Charlie Calder's Long Look 1992:

It came as a great surprise to learn that I had been entered for Exercise Long Look 92 and an even greater surprise to find that I had actually been given a vacancy.

For those who do not know, Ex Long Look is an exchange with the Australian Army that runs from July to November every year. I was fortunate enough to be posted to the 8th/9th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) who form part of 6 Brigade at Gallipoli Barracks in Brisbane. In return Capt Neil Schwebel was posted to I R Anglian as my replacement.

On 16 July, I and about 120 others set off in an RAF Tristar bound for Australia. We must have been flying for at least 20 minutes before turning back due to engine trouble. This epitomised the rest of the journey and we eventually landed in Sydney over 24 hours late. Phileas Phogg in his epic journey did not have as many equipment problems, and he went by balloon.

It was with great relief that I eventually arrived in Brisbane. 8/9 RAR is a 'Ready Reserve' Battalion. Ready reserve is a new scheme in Australia where a soldier serves one year as a regular and then a minimum of three years in the reserve. In return the soldier receives a job search package or qualifies for a further education grant. The majority of the command structure is, however, Regular Army.

The Battalion were not unfamiliar with Royal Anglians as Capt James Woodham had been attached to it two years before. I was looked after extremely well by young officers who went to great efforts to show me around. At times I wondered if the exercise should be renamed 'Long Drink'. It was with great pleasure that I learnt that Neil Schwebel had had to cope with a similar assault on his liver.

I took part in a number of exercises with the Battalion most notably I was fortunate to deploy to the North Queensland Jungle to provide enemy for the Australian SAS. This



Capt Calder on the Great Barrier Reef

involved living in the jungle for three weeks and setting up a guerrilla camp which the SAS then had to find.

Also I deployed on the Battalion exercise which took place in Shoalwater Bay, Queensland. I was employed as 2IC B Company. The exercise involved a live firing package, 2 Company clearance operations and a final battalion attack. The most important lesson I learnt was how to operate at company level and above in close country and jungle.

Although the Australian Army is based on the British Army, I found that there were a number of differences. The standard of soldier coming in under the Ready Reserve scheme was very high with a number of applicants for each vacancy. I was also impressed by their approach to field exercises where they carry out operations within a realistic time frame and allow a lot more free play; they are of course aided in this by

having vast training areas.

In addition I believe that there was much better Tri-service co-operation than one would find in the UK. Overall I saw the Australian Army as a very capable force with the means to operate in conditions from jungle to desert. There is much we can learn from an Army that has no specific threat but remains extremely professional.

Long Look is not all work and I was fortunate to be able to go skiing in the Snowy Mountains, New South Wales for a week and also to attend an open water diving course at Byron Bay, the most easterly point in Australia. Overall I travelled as far north as Cairns and as far south as Canberra and sunbathed on a fair few beaches in between.

Long Look is a fantastic exercise and is one of the few 'jollies' left in the Army. I hope that it continues so that others can enjoy the experience of working with the Australian Army.



Poachers



2Lt James Bowes on patrol in Dungannon. *Picture courtesy of Mr John Callon.*

Testing time in Ireland

THE last six months have certainly tested the mettle of the Battalion, and have seen the new Poachers increase in strength as a result of the merger. Since the last Castle the Battalion has, for the most part, put aside its Warriors, and deployed on a six-month tour in Northern Ireland as the East Tyrone Roulement Battalion.

Towards the end of last year the Battalion changed roles from Armoured Infantry to the familiar NI role. The merged Battalion has terrific strength, talent and depth of experience, all the prerequisites for an excellent tour. The months training at SOTAT posed few surprises for the more experienced but still proved to be challenging and demanding. After a brief period of leave the Battalion deployed to East Tyrone over the Christmas period. Those on the

advance party will not forget the gym at 0700 hrs on boxing day morning. Ho....Ho....Ho...!

Any ideas that East Tyrone was a sleepy country hollow were quickly quashed when during the handover a joint 1 Coldstream Guards, 2 Royal Anglian patrol was given a Christmas present of a tin of Quality Street containing 2.2 lbs of semtex. Luckily this did not explode. We took command of the TAOR on 30 Dec and A Company saw the New Year in clearing a device in Dungannon town centre. The operation was complicated by the local tradition of dancing a conga around the square at midnight just as the clearance was underway.

In the first five weeks of the year there were a series of sectarian killings with five people killed by the PIRA and UVF. The

terrorist activities were not all directed towards civilians with the Battalion being tested with a series of hoax bomb calls and two small holdall bombs in Dungannon. Also in January through alert routine patrolling, Pte Mallat found a 200 kg culvert bomb buried in a wheely bin, complete with a command wire and a detonator. A find which undoubtedly saved lives.

In February there was little respite for the Battalion with the busy pace of life continuing. The month started well with a routine RUC patrol finding two handguns in Gookstown. B Company was also involved in what turned out to be an elaborate hoax involving the hijacking of a car and reports of a suspicious package. The two subsequent clearance operations found a small

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News from the Poachers



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device containing 750g of explosives and declared the car clear.

February was not all work, the officers managed to celebrate Sobroan Day in some style with a Dinner Night. All present, especially the RUC guests, enjoyed the night, and it made a welcome break. The R and R programme also started in February giving some of us a much needed short break whilst also being a positive sign that the tour was passing by.

March, in contrast, proved to be a relatively quiet month, the soldiers having adapted to the pace of life were still managing to produce the intense amount of patrol coverage despite the R and R programme. There were, however, two incidents involving the Battalion; the PIRA tried to assassinate an off-duty soldier and in Dungannon a patrol was attacked with a Mark 15 coffee jar grenade which failed to explode. The RUC also had success, finding a rifle in a car in Dungannon as the car manoeuvred suspiciously to avoid one of our VCPs.

April has been marked by some success-

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Above: 2Lt James Bowes and his team take a break at RUC Quarry Lane: (l. to r.) Lt Bowes, Ptes Mead, Strang and Clark. Below: Pte Clark on patrol in Dungannon. Pictures courtesy of Mr John Callon.



News from the Poachers



Above left: Pte Eaton tries out his boots in Aughnacloy. Above right: Lt Raif Woodisse and LCpl Ogden compare notes during a rural patrol. *Picture courtesy of Mr John Callon.* Below: Sgt Walker writes another set of patrol orders.



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ful finds. These included home-made detonators, an improvised Mk14 grenade, some bomb making components and six commercial detonators. Also found was a recently constructed pipe hide, buried in a river bank.

These were all found during routine operations or low level searches and are a clear indication of the need for alert inquisitive patrolling. During the month each multiple also deployed on mid-tour training. Multiples spend a day completing an APWT, a BFT, ECM and medical refresher training. Then after a few drinks in the evening returning for ops in the morning. This has been well received generally and provides a welcome respite from the patrols.

The Rear Party is extremely large and busy coping with fast ball commitments from BAOR, Phase 3 redundancy, training and Warrior maintenance. The Training and Warrior Wings have both been busy running various cadres including Warrior gunnery, Warrior driver maintenance and a sniper cadre. All the cadres passed off smoothly, due entirely to the hard work of the staff. A great deal of the Rear Party manpower is swallowed up by the need to maintain the Battalion's fleet of vehicles, and also in generally upgrading the Barracks.

Also in Celle, the "Poachers Platoon" has been training hard preparing to deploy to NI with the Grenadier Guards in the near

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News from the Poachers



Above: Lt Raif Woodisse and his primary team: (l. to r.) Lt Woodisse, Pte Tracey, LCpl Ogden, Pte Marshallsay and Pte Sheerin. *Picture courtesy of Mr John Callon.*
Right: Pte Birkin on the front gate in Dungannon. *Picture courtesy of Mr John Callon.*
Below: Lt Steve Russal in "Tin City", Sennelager.



News from the Poachers



Above: LCpl Jackson briefs Ptes Kilsby and Goodey.
Below: Pte Staniszewski on patrol in Dungannon.



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future. They also deployed briefly in April to East Tyrone to cover the mid-tour training cycle.

The Battalion has received a large number of visitors ranging from Gen R N Wheeler CBE, GOC NI, to Prof Fred Alder, investigating the effectiveness of search equipment. Regimentally we have seen Maj Gen M J D Walker CBE in his capacity as ACGS and on going to print we are expecting Brig C Groves (Brig Inf BAOR and Deputy Colonel to the 2nd Battalion) and the Colonel of the Regiment in the near future. So far the Adjutant has managed to keep one step ahead and all the visits have gone smoothly.

On the sporting front, due to deployment, the Battalion has been unable to field any teams. The Battalion did, however, run a "fun run" during the pre-tour training in Sennelager. The only notable exception to this is Pte Mayall who represented Great

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News from the Poachers



Above: D (Sp) Company soldiers return to Aughnacloy after another operation. Right: LCpl Heap dominates the high ground. Below: Pte Bridge, "On stag again!"



News from the Poachers



Above left: "It's a barren wasteland out here!" (l. to r.) CSM Lonsdale, Maj Richard Clements and Maj Simon Porter. Above right: Pte Sellars in the gym. Below left: Sgt Smith "Cycling back to Germany!" Below right: The Battalion "Fun Run" at Sennelager.



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Britain as a member of the British Junior Biathlon Team in a number of international events. This is reported in detail elsewhere.

As these notes are being written the tour is just over halfway through and already thoughts are turning to training at BATUS, Canada in September.

Hopefully the second half of the tour will prove as successful as the first. We are all looking forward to returning to Celle in July and reconverting to the Armoured Infantry role.

Finally the Battalion lost 61 members on redundancy. All ranks of the Battalion wish them well for the future.

News from the Poachers



The Band in the studio: (l. to r.) Cpl Merryweather, Bdsman Wood, Sgt Adye, Cpl Whitehurst and Bdsman Gaskin.

Band busy in Germany and with new recording

Bandmaster WO1 C Shearer writes:

THE Band has had a particularly busy start to the year with, in addition to many performances all over Germany, a new recording. The recording was done at Peppermint Park in Hanover, a new and very modern studio with a vast array of hi-tech equipment and facilities, which were used to great effect, especially in view of the nature of the modern material recorded.

The recording sessions were extremely long, working through to the small hours every night. Once it was "in the can" we started on the equally long task of mixing the 48-track recording, not easy by any means. However, expert help was provided by Wolfgang Sick, the sound engineer at Peppermint Park.

Whilst this was happening the printing elements required were being attended to, and thanks should go to artists Sgt Dave

Jones and Mrs Sam Hannant for their help.

After the rigour of the recording and all the other work done in the crotchet factory, a large element of the Band took part in exercise Snow Queen. All those that took part came away with at least one qualification. However, the most important thing for most was the introduction of the sport.

A sad point for the band is that CPl Mick Gorman will be leaving us on phase 2 redundancy. He will be missed by all in the Band and our best wishes go to him, his wife Mitch and their family.

The diary for this summer is full and contains many interesting venues including Denmark, France, Vienna and a vast array of places in Germany, from the Island of Nordeney in the North to Stuttgart in the South.

Although the future of Army Bands hangs in the balance, it continues to be business as usual.

Gold award for Pte Green

PTE Green has recently qualified for his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. This is a testing award, for 14 to 27-year-olds, covering fitness, community service, a skill and an expedition. The award is the equivalent to an A level in outdoor pursuits.

For his skill, Pte Green concentrated on .22 shooting and reached Bisley standard, coming 92nd in the .22 100 shoot. The fitness part of the award involved weekly circuit training culminating in an assessment.

For the expedition Pte Green's four-man group went to the Brecon Beacons and navigated themselves along a demanding 50 mile route. The most time-consuming aspect of the award was the community service which was spread over a one year.

The highlight of the award was the presentation at St James Palace by the Duke of Edinburgh.

Overall Pte Green says the award was hard work but fun, and would recommend it to anyone.



Steelbacks



Still business as usual

DESPITE the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, our new National Defence role and the prospect of further reviews of 'Options', it has been business as usual for the Steelbacks.

The first quarter of the New Year is traditionally the busiest time in the TA calendar and this year was no exception. In addition to dedicating ourselves to work up training for the Brigade Military Skills competition, time had to be found to fit in the remaining bounty tests and plenty of range work in preparation for the Battalion SAAM and EDSAAM meetings.

Much pride was at stake as our new formation of old and new companies flexed their muscles and honed themselves to a fine fighting edge. The forthcoming competitions would be the first opportunity for the companies to prove who really was 'the best'.

Despite thorough preparation the overall performance at the brigade skills competition was disappointing. There were a variety of reasons for this. Certainly a more robust interpretation of the rules would undoubtedly have led to greater success.

However, congratulations to Lt John Davidson who, with a mixed Headquarter Company platoon made up mostly from his own Mortar Platoon, was the highest placed Battalion team. It was the final day which showed his team in its finest form. An aggressive performance on the assault course and a literally blistering time for the speed march capped by an excellent shoot ensured their victory over the rifle company platoons.

Shooting – the eternal mystery

IF it's blowing an icy, bone numbing, gale force wind with horizontal snow then you can be sure of two things: it's winter and the Steelbacks are on a rifle range somewhere in England. Despite the exhaustive explanations of learned colleagues versed in the mystic runes of shooting lore, we still cannot really understand why we have to do all our shooting when it is so miserable! The winter is great for field training and exer-

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Above: Sgt Norman Greeves (left) and Cpl Tony Keen (right) of the Recce Platoon compare notes. Below: Battalion 2IC Maj Nigel fitch, Adjt Capt Tony Marinos and Ops Officer Capt Frank de Planta ponder the finer points of orienteering.



News from the Steelbacks



Above: The women's falling plate team: (l. to r.) Pte Alison Roberts, Pte Helen Griffin, Capt Maria Hope and 2Lt Charlotte Bendy. Right: Ptes Alison Roberts and Helen Griffin (right) cheer as HQ Company wins the falling plate competition. Below: The new Bandmaster Sgt ERB Schofield.



News from the Steelbacks



Above: Looking confident the CO's high power falling plate team: (l. to r.) Capt Robert Facer, Lt Col Peter Horrell, Brigadier Calder and Maj Ken Lacey. Below: Maj Gen Walker presents LCpl 'Bomber' Brown of HQ Company with his prize as champion LSW shot while runner-up LCpl Newland of 3 Company waits in line.



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cises, and even for Brigade competitions, but not for shooting.

In the summer it is warm, the wind is less and range days become a pleasant and rewarding experience with the famous soldier's V neck and straight line across the forehead, a source of endless amusement in the office on Monday morning. Still, as a non shootist I will shut up and accept that Sergeant Majors really do know best.

As a battalion, shooting is one of the things we do best. The soldiers enjoy it and even though we have had our new rifle for 18 months now, I can still barely contain my wonder at being able to consistently knock down targets at 300m, even when wearing a respirator! I remain convinced that the sight of hordes of Russian divisions scuttling back to the motherland is due to leaked reports of mine and many others new found ability to finally understand that targets really do fall when hit!

Still, all those freezing range days finally had a chance to prove their worth as the weekend of the Battalion SAAM dawned. 3 Company had joined us from 6 Royal Anglian with a tremendous shooting pedigree. 1 and 2 Companies also had some excellent and well established shootists. Clearly HQ Company was going to have its work cut out if it was going to remain in contention for the crown of champion shooting company.

As expected it was a fiercely contested competition with the result in doubt right up to the final shoot. In the end, HQ Company came in by a short head to take the champions cup. WOII Hedley Batchelor from 2 Company won overall champion rifle shot with Pte Hales from HQ Company as runner-up. 3 Company walked off with the top team trophy assisted by the steady eye of their hot shot OC Maj Mike Veal. Champion LSW shot was won by L/Cpl 'Bomber' Brown of the Recce Platoon with LCpl Newland of 3 Company as runner-up.

On the Sunday we had three VIP visitors to watch the fun of the falling plate competition which, as usual, produced the best entertainment of the competition. Maj Gen Walker, Deputy Colonel of The Regiment, Brigadier Calder OBE, Commander 54 Brigade and Col Winton, Deputy Honorary Colonel for Bedfordshire, all took time from their busy schedules to visit the Battalion.

This year the RSM, WO1 Hillier, was out for revenge at his double defeat last year by the CO's and Officers' Mess teams. This

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News from the Steelbacks



Above: Maj Gen Walker presents Cpl Tony Keen of the Recce Platoon team with their falling plate trophy. Right: Maj Gen Walker presents Capt Paul Neal of HQ Company with the champion shooting company cup. Below: LCpl Green of HQ Company receives his winnings from the Pool Bull competition.



News from the Steelbacks



Above: Lt John Davidson and his platoon which came top in the Battalion in the Brigade Military Skills Competition.
Below: HQ Company — 1993 winners of the Champion Shooting Company Cup.



News from the Steelbacks



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year the CO again enlisted the help of Brig Calder to add authority and weight to his team. However the RSM refused to be intimidated. In addition the PSIs took on a ladies team under command of the RSO, Capt Maria Hope.

The RSM could finally breathe again as his teams cleared the board, although the PSIs were pushed hard by some excellent shooting from the ladies which had everyone on the edge of their seats. After all, how would you like to explain to the RSM that you had just been beaten by an unzeroed scratch team of ladies!

Ultimately it was the Recce Platoon which stormed to victory and its falling plate win finally clinched the champion company cup for HQ Company. Maj Mike Veal was left quoting Wellingtons famous speech after the battle of Waterloo, it had indeed been a damn close run thing – perhaps next year.

The prizes were awarded by Maj Gen Walker and the day was finished off with an excellent lunch with our Regimental Band aiding the digestion of the Quatermaster's much heralded dumplings; and it didn't snow once!

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Above: Maj Mike Veal and No.7 Team, this year's Battalion SAAM champion team winners. Below: The Recce Platoon looking for business.



News from the Steelbacks



Above: 'Uncle' Ken Lacey, OC HQ Company, with his goddaughters Hayley and Lyndsey Batchelor, who were there to cheer their dad WOII Hedley Batchelor on to victory as champion rifle shot at the Battalion SAAM. Right: Maj Gen Walker presents Sgt Catton of 3 Company with his TEM. Below: Maj Gen Walker presenting WOII Hedley Batchelor with his prize as champion rifle shot at the Battalion SAAM.



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Support platoons complete reorganisation

THE support platoons have been in a state of flux recently with the final phase of the Steelbacks' withdrawal from its old empire. The change over of the Milan Platoon to its new role as the Machine Gun Platoon has gone well and some new faces have joined the support platoon line up.

In October 1992 Lt John Davidson assumed command of the Mortar Platoon and has recently completed his Netheraven commanders course. In March this year Lt Tim Seal handed over 9 Platoon in Wisbeach to Officer Cadet Paul Poster and took over command of the Recce Platoon at Peterborough.

Having shed our Northamptonshire company under the 'Options' reorganisation back in April 1992, April 1993 saw the move of the Signals Platoon from its old base at Corby in Northamptonshire to its newly completed home at Peterborough TA Centre.

Despite a move of 30 miles most of the platoon have made the transition and

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News from the Steelbacks



LCpl Les Blandford of the MT Platoon, left, and CSgt Larham of 3 Company, right, receive TEMs from Maj Gen Walker.

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recruiting for new signalers is now actively underway at Peterborough.

Mainly about people

THERE has been a spate of new officers commissioned or joining the Battalion from other units. Congratulations go to 2Lt Godfrey Shaw of 1 Company on his Commissioning and to Mr Bullard and Mr Spring of 3 Company on their appointments as Officer Cadets.

In addition three officers have joined from the OTC. 2Lt Charlotte Bandy of HQ Company from SUOTC, 2Lt Phil Birch from CUOTC and 2Lt Andrew Barton from EMUOTC, both of whom joined 3 Company. 1 Company at Bedford now has a new OC, Maj Nick Goulding, who joined us from 1 Wessex in Devizes.

In Hertfordshire, Maj Stephen Card took over command of 2 Company from Maj Geoffrey Walton who takes over command of the RR & TT. Our congratulations also go to our Training Major, Dougie Coe, on his award of the MBE in the New Year's Honours List. Maj Coe, accompanied by his wife and daughters, received the medal

from Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace in February.

On the permanent staff front Colour Sergeant Garner has joined 3 Company from the 1st Battalion as their new SPSI, and Mr Jethwa has joined as the new Battalion ORQMS taking over from WOII McKeown RRF as Chief Clerk. Mr Jethwa is an ex WOII and has served previously with the 5th Battalion as Chief Clerk some seven years ago.

The Band of the Royal Anglian Regiment (TA) which is based at Peterborough, has recently made Regimental history and appointed a new female Bandmaster.

Following auditions held by the Director of music south, Sgt ERB Schofield who was already a member of the Band was selected from three high grade applicants to be the new Bandmaster. Sgt Schofield is a music teacher in civilian life and has been with the Band for 3 1/2 years. This is the first time that a Territorial Regimental Band has had a female Bandmaster.

In February the Officers' Mess held a ladies' dinner night at Fanhams Hall in Hertfordshire and dined out Maj John Ross,

our late training major and long time old friend of the 5th Battalion. We wish him well in his new post as Quartermaster at ATR Basingbourn.

We have also recently bade farewell to Capt Adrian Williams, who is moving to Scotland and will transfer to the Lowland Regiment. We wish him luck and look forward to receiving a picture of him in his kilt!

Unfortunately Capt Colin Albany, PSAO of 2 Company at Hertford, has been taken seriously ill. He is now beginning to recover from his operation and the Battalion sends its best wishes to him and his wife Renee for a continued speedy recovery.

There has been a spate of Territorial Efficiency medal presentations with Col Macdonald, Deputy Honorary Colonel TA for Cambridgeshire, presenting medals in March to WOII Reed, WOII Dilks and Sgt Harrison of HQ Company, Pte McPhie of the Drums Platoon and Bandsman Wellard.

Later in April, Maj Gen Walker presented medals to CSgt Alec Larham of 3 Company, LCpl Les Blandford of the MT Platoon, Sgt Catton of 3 Company and Sgt Rogers, also of 3 Company.



6th Battalion



Lt Nigel McCallum receives the Brigade Champion Platoon Trophy from Brig A J K Calder OBE.

Forging ahead after transition

THE end of last year was marked by the formation of the new Battalion. Our Bedford and Cambridge companies transferred to the 5th Battalion and we welcomed a combined Essex Company with its four TA Centres.

The transition has gone extremely smoothly and we are forging ahead with our new ORBAT.

At the same time we created a Battalion Support Group under the command of Maj Robert Keron.

The Recce Platoon, Machine Gun Platoon, Snipers and Assault Pioneers have now come together and exercised in one form or another, with the Mortar Platoon live firing on four occasions on Salisbury Plain.

The Battalion's key personnel attended a HQ 54 (EA) Brigade National Defence

Study Day in October, which gave us a sound insight into the Military Home Defence (MHD) aspect of the National Defence spectrum.

We followed this up with our first Battalion MHD FTX at Stanford. An exercise with 21 SAS in the same month was no less successful.

The year closed with the relatively short training month of December. The Battalion was again at Stanford for a cadre weekend which included the annual all ranks Christmas party.

Considerable restraint was shown by the Training Major, Adjutant, RSM and both HQ Coy PSIs (all ex Pompadours), as cries of 'all the fours' indicated the arrival and presence of our new Essex Company.

January and February was inevitably a busy period in preparation for the forthcom-

ing brigade military skills competition and the training dovetailed nicely with our individual training cycle for Bounty qualification.

During the two-day Bounty assessment testing, 230 members of the Battalion completed and passed their BFTs, and it is hoped that we will retain the UKLF Tickle Fitness trophy which we won last year. At the same time we sponsored pre-SCBC training which was open to all Queens Division TA Battalions.

Much of the instruction was carried out by the Commanding Officer and RSM, which set the level of importance placed by the Battalion on this form of training.

March was dominated by the 54 (EA) Brigade Military Skills Competition held at Stanford. Each company in the Brigade

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News from the 6th Battalion



Above: Sgt Pocock leads by example.

Left: LCpl Warren at Copehill Down FIBUA Complex using SAWES.

Below: B Company plans the advance using US MILES equipment.



News from the 6th Battalion



Left: Smiling through the pain. Right: The strain tells on the river crossing for LCpls Jones and Garrick.

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entered two platoons and over a hectic 4-hour period they competed in subjects ranging from section attacks, signals and command tasks, to river crossings, vehicle maintenance and driving, map reading and NBC.

After a demanding day, four-man teams completed a night navigation course in bitter conditions which was followed by a march and shoot competition the next morning.

The Battalion led from the outset and it soon became clear that we were competing amongst ourselves for the top honours.

As it turned out in the event, the Battalion took five of the first six places with the top three positions being evenly

distributed between the three rifle companies.

The results of the Brigade Competition were as follows:

- First – 5 Pl B Company;
- Second – 7 Pl Company;
- Third – 2 Pl A Company.

Not letting the grass grow under our feet, we now look towards winning further laurels at EDSAAM in May by keeping a firm grasp on the majority of the silverware.

A summary of our shooting successes since the last issue of Castle Magazine are as follows:

UK non-central matches

I.S.W match: B Company – winners; NBC match: B Company – 2nd; Rifle match: HQ

Company – 2nd; B Company – 3rd.

Match 118 smallbore final.

HQ Company – 2nd; A Company – 5th.

Reserve Forces Association SAAM.

Skill at Arms: 6 R Anglian – 2nd; Individual 'honours only' champion: Cpl Rolph – winner, Sgt Sinclair – 2nd; champion 'honours only' team: 6 R Anglian – winners; ETR match individual: Sgt Sinclair – 2nd, Cpl Rolph – 4th; Team result: 6 R Anglian – winners; Coveted Gallery Match Individual: WO2 Smart – winner, Cpl Rolph – 2nd; Team result: 6 R Anglian – winners; Moving Target Match: 6 R Anglian – 2nd; Champion Rifle Shot: Cpl

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News from the 6th Battalion



The Commanding Officer addresses the Battalion.

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Rolph – 2nd, WO2 Smart – 3rd; Team result: 6 R Anglian – winners; SMG Match: Sgt Sinclair – winner; Team result: 6 R Anglian winners; Pistol Match: Sgt Sinclair – winner, Cpl Rolph – 2nd; Team result: 6 R Anglian – winners.

Our sportsmen continue to flourish having qualified for the UKLF cross-country finals, and the rugby team recently beat the US Marines.

Training

THE Battalion continues to send personnel abroad for training.

The two most enjoyable locations have

been taken by Lt Douglas Flemington who had three weeks in Belize as an umpire on Ex Toucan Blade, and by Lt Stephanie Lack who is spending five months in Zimbabwe with Op Raleigh.

Mainly about people

OVER the past six months there have been a number of personality changes among the permanent staff. WO2 Cater (ex Pompadour) replaced WO2 West as SPSI HQ Company who returned to the Vikings as RQMS, and Sgt Lade (ex Pompadour) arrived as the SF Platoon PSI.

We were delighted to welcome Capt

Paul Thurston (ex Pompadour) who has recently taken up the newly created post of HQ Company PSAO after his highly successful tour with the RIT at Bassingbourn. Within the TA we welcome Maj David Winn (ex RRF) and Lt Ian Gowdy (ex Pompadour). Sad farewells were made to Majs Alan Spearing and Dougie Birch who both left the Battalion after many years of service.

The Battalion now looks forward to Ex Vikings Pleasure, the 54 (EA) Brigade Concentration at Sennybridge, which promises to be a thoroughly enjoyable two weeks training.

This will round off what has been another hugely successful year for 6 R Anglian.

News from the 6th Battalion

Developing leadership skills in Namibia

2Lt Cathy Flack writes:

I flew to Windhoek in Namibia on 10 Jun 92 as part of a Raleigh International Expedition, the aim of which was to develop the leadership skills of the international venturers through conservation, community and adventure projects.

Namibia itself is an arid, vast and mostly desolate country, which gained independence from South Africa in March 1990. Covering an area approximately four times the size of the UK the country has a diversity of people, places and wildlife.

But first the work! Field Headquarters were set up at UisMyn, approximately six hours drive along dusty tracks from Windhoek. Final preparations were made for the six projects that were to be completed during the expedition. For four days the venturers learnt basic skills that would help them to cope with the following three months — campcraft, map reading, communications and the rations had to be sorted. My group consisted of 14 young people aged between 18 and 24 years; 12 from Britain, one from Hong Kong and one from Namibia.

They came from various backgrounds and each had different expectations of the next three months.

Our first project was on the Skeleton Coast, aptly named because of the treacherous shores and the countless shipwrecks there. Beginning 3km south of the town of Swakopmund, we were to assist the Fisheries Department and Nature Conservation with tagging fish, counting sand mussels and monitoring litter along the beach.

Armed with rods and other fishing equipment, tents and rucksacks, we spent 12 days getting cold and frustrated. Our lack of fishing technique, the miserable weather and the small amounts of mussels, all added up to a memorable period. The group built up team spirit and nights were spent around huge, warming camp fires.

Having completed this phase we moved inland to Waterberg Plateau Park; a



2Lt Cathy Flack with friends in Namibia.

National Park for Namibia's endangered wildlife species which include the only breeding colony of Cape vulture. The spectacular, rugged sandstone formations were a far cry from the misty shores of the Skeleton Coast. The 8km trail that we cut through the bush was tough going. It was to be used for anti-poaching horseback patrols, as well as guided hiking trails by Nature Conservation Rangers. As we managed to complete the task in six days we had time to see a little more of the park.

From Waterberg we travelled east to Okakarara where we were involved in a community project. Completing a water reservoir in five days was physically demanding, made more difficult under the sweltering sun. Working closely with the local residents we quickly became the focus of attention and were cajoled into playing football, volleyball and frisbee with the children.

The Kunene River separates Namibia from Angola and was the setting for our adventure project. Arriving at Ruacana after two days of travelling made us eager for this phase to begin. The project was to consist of three phases, the first being a 140km canoe on grade 1 and 2 rapids from Hippo Pools to Epupa Falls. The second phase was a 90km trek along well defined tracks and paths from Epupa Falls to Onvesu and finally we completed a 35km trek over Otjijhoa to the Marienfluss.

The six-day canoeing trip in two-man inflatable canoes was excellent fun. We encountered numerous tribal people along the way, all of whom were friendly and inquisitive. Himba children often sat with us

around the camp fire at night while we sang and clapped. An invitation also came to join in the all night celebrations of the circumcision of two boys.

We found Epupa Falls to be a most spectacular series of waterfalls, surrounded by palm trees, mountains and serenity. We were soon on our way with 18 days of rations and little else in our rucksacks. Luck was not on our side as after the first day of the trek, one of the group became very ill. The medic suspected malaria, so a decision was made to take him back to Epupa Falls where he could be evacuated to the nearest hospital some 250km away.

Our faithful PRC 320 also decided that it had had enough and we failed in our communications to FHQ. After a very frustrating four hours of trying from various locations we borrowed a land line and spoke to FHQ by telephone. Due to our lack of radio contact we could not complete our trek through the mountains and had to stay at Epupa Falls until the next changeover.

A fortnight later we returned to the Skeleton Coast and the wetlands of the Huab and Ugab rivers. My group was to complete an ecological survey of the Uniab Delta and to construct a bird hide.

With the final project complete we made our way back to FHQ at UisMyn. I spent most of the three-hour journey in silent reflection. It seemed only yesterday we had been taken to the coast for our first task. Not everything had gone smoothly, but it all added up to a memorable experience. 'People, Places, Purpose', is the Raleigh logo. For all concerned, each of these words had a very different meaning.



How do you feel about leaving the Army?

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

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

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

There are 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.



Tigers



Consolidation and achievement

THE last six months has been a period of consolidation, progression and achievement following a year of speculation and change. The Battalion has emerged from Options in good shape, transformed by its new Orbat and reconciled to its new National Defence role in a much shorter period than anticipated. A chronological narrative of the notable events of the last six months follows.

The Battalion concentrated at Lydd & Hythe at the end of October to be put through its paces on the Centurion Package. The specialist ranges, including urban CQB, gave every soldier an opportunity to practice his shooting skills under the most realistic and demanding conditions.

Exceptional attendance figures so soon after our successful annual camp at Okehampton are ample proof that good solid training remains one of the main criterion for enthusiastic attendance, retention and morale.

November

REMEMBRANCE Sunday saw the companies on parade at their respective TA Centres preparing to march with local branches of the Veteran Associations to their local Church and Cenotaph. This is now the only local ceremonial event in which the TA participates each year and usually culminates with the 'Old & Bold' being invited back for drinks and a bit of lunch. This year C Company had a record 300 guests back for a curry lunch.

In early November the Battalion embarked on Exercise Polar Challenge, a brigade inter-section competition at Catterick. This turned out to be a challenging test of fortitude combining basic military skills, minor tactics and live firing. C Company produced the best Infantry Section followed by A, HQ and B Companies respectively.

The Wellingborough Detachment hosted a Charity Band Concert, courtesy of the Regimental Territorial Army Band and Drums of the 5th Battalion.

An entertaining evening in the Wellingborough TA Centre resulted in over £1,000 being handed over to the Army



2Lt Declan Woods (C Company) and Lt Mike Rickards (OC Recce Platoon) deep in thought before the officers' study day at Beckingham.

Benevolent Fund. A Company entertained over 800 local people to a bonfire and fireworks display at Sobraon Barracks. The hotdog and gluhwein stand did a roaring trade providing a much needed boost to company funds.

December

THE Tigers centralised at Beckingham Camp on 5/6 Dec to conduct upgrading and bounty tests. With the Battalion all together and in festive spirit a traditional Christmas dinner was served by the officers and senior ranks on the Saturday night, followed by a very entertaining if noisy cabaret in the

camp theatre. Any over-indulgences were greatly regretted the following morning when the Battalion orienteering competition got under way.

On aggregate C Company just managed to pip A Company at the post, closely followed by B and HQ Companies. That extra helping of plum duff just may decide the results of the champion company competition.

Over the period 5 - 19 Dec, 2Lt Robin Atkinson, Sgts Alan Taylor, Bill Murdock and Dick Moore took part in a two week exchange exercise with the Belgium Air

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News from the Tigers



Above: Brigadier Biggart Commander 49 (East Midland) Brigade has a friendly chat to the latest batch of recruits. Right: Maj Tom Dormer (OC C Company) briefs the CO and the Trg Maj. Below: 2Lt Andrew Croft (C Company) and 2Lt Robert Harrison (C Company) debate the merits of heading west nor west.



News from the Tigers



Above: The Commanding Officer giving OC C Company a hard time.
Below: C Company FIBUA training at Northampton TAC.



From Page 46

Commando at Koksijde Air Base. Two weeks of arduous but enjoyable training culminated in a field firing exercise using a variety of weapons including grenade and 66mm A Tk.

Having passed all tests with flying colours the section was presented with black berets by the Base Commanding Officer.

January

ON the first training weekend of the New Year, A and HQ Companies were at Whinney Hill, while B and C Companies headed for STANTA to train on the excellent FIBUA facilities at both locations. The final weekend of the month was spent in practice for the forthcoming Battalion Skill at Arms Meeting. A Company won the 49 Bde Match 118 (Smallbore) competition and went through to the Eastern District final where they finished in a credible fourth position.

Between times the Commanding Officer and his team conducted Exercise Checklist,

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News from the Tigers



Cpl Andy Riley (C Company) mustering his Pot recruits for a dawn BFT at Beckingham.

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the annual inspection of each company in location. Few stones were left unturned.

February

THE inter-platoon competition at Catterick turned out to be a challenging test of both stamina and leadership under the most arduous alpine conditions.

The scoring system at each stage indicated much level pegging with 3 Platoon of A Company (Lt Andrew Balsillie) emerging the winners only after the final event. 7 Platoon of C Company (2Lt Andy Croft) was a close runner-up and 9 Platoon of C Company (2Lt Mike Pape) held on to third spot. On aggregate C Company was declared champion company.

On 20 Feb, C Company provided the instructors and supporting team for a charity event in aid of the Spastics Society. It took the form of a spectacular 180 foot abseil down the BT building in Kettering by 50 civilian and C Company volunteers.

Thanks go to the meticulous planning

and expert tuition by Sgt Richard Moore (RRTT), the event was executed without a hitch, attracted a great deal of local media coverage and raised some £5,000 for this worthy cause.

The 49 (East Midland) Brigade sports day was held at Nottingham on 21 Feb with all companies entering teams in the various events.

Designed as a series of knock-out competitions, A Company walked away with the volley ball, B Company the hockey and C Company the football. For good measure the Battalion squash team took on and beat all colours. At the end of the day, A Company emerged as the stars of the show lifting the Brigade Shield, and the 'Tigers' returned home with the 'lions' share of the trophies.

March

THE Battalion FTX took place at STANTA on 13/14 Mar. The exercise included the occupation of hides, recce patrols, advance to contact, river crossing and dawn attack.

All in all a tough demanding weekend of conventional training which appeals so much to the TA soldier.

On 21 Mar the Eastern District orienteering competition was held at Wakerley Great Wood, over an intriguing course which demanded much more than the ability to run and read a map. C Company team finished in third place, qualifying for the National TA Championships in May. A particular mention must go to Pte Dave Whitworth on winning the under 19 section at his first attempt.

A splendid result for a hastily prepared ad hoc team.

The Battalion ops cell, in its new role of TAOR HQ (Northants), took part in Exercise Polar Dawn at Northampton TA Centre. Designed to practice all aspects of command and control, the exercise was deemed a success with lessons learnt and valuable experience gained.

On 23/24 Mar the Ford Motor Company sponsored the Mondo Services Challenge

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News from the Tigers

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Competition in the grounds of Althorpe House. It was a two-day charitable event which also served to launch Ford's latest Mondeo saloon car, and took the form of a seven-part knockout competition. Teams were entered by the Police, Ambulance Service, Fire Brigade and US Air Force Police.

The MoD had originally agreed to provide for an Army team but withdrew support at the last moment. The sponsors, in desperation, appealed to C Company for assistance. Not wishing to let the side down W02 Dick York (SPSI C Company) hastily raised a Battalion team including W02 Jim Dixon, CSgt Andy Deller, CSgt Tony Glynn, Sgt Stephen Buzzard, Sgt Ian Kelly and Sgt Red Smith.

The feminine touch was provided by Mrs Sue McTaggart (Admin Officer C Company) and WPte Karen Willis (C Company). On the first day the Motor Rally was won comfortably by the Battalion team with CSgt Deller at the wheel of a Mondeo, directed by Sgt Steve Buzzard reading a multitude of maps. This attracted a £1,000 donation by Radio Northampton to the Children's Yellow Brick Road appeal.

Day two comprised a six-part knockout competition in the grounds of Althorpe House. This included a wheel changing race, manual towing, obstacle course and loading relays. The Battalion team led all the way to the final general knowledge quiz, losing out only by a whisker to the team from the Fire Brigade.

The two-day event, which was well supported, attracted a great deal of local media coverage and culminated with the presentation of a gleaming new Ford mini bus to a local hospital.

April

THE Battalion Skill at Arms Meeting took place at Colchester on 3/4 Apr. All those attending shot their APWT in addition to those selected for the shooting teams.

The trophy for best rifle shot went to Cpl Alan Chester (A Company) with Cpl (Andy) Marriott and LCpl (Andy) Johns (HQ Company) taking the LSW pair prize. The best team match 31A was won by Recce Platoon with 3 Platoon (A Company) lifting the match 37 falling plate trophy. 3 Platoon went on to win the champion platoon skill at arms prize with A Company being declared the champion company at skill at arms. The trophy for the overall champion company for 1992/93 went to C Company.

Hail and farewell in year of change

MAJ Tony Powell departed in March after three busy years as the Training Major. He will be remembered for his relentless drive to improve training standards; for his uncompromising demands on leaders at every level and for his unstinting personal contribution to this Battalion. We thank him for all that he has managed to achieve and wish him well on his return to more familiar haunts in Rheindahlen.

In April we said a fond farewell to Maj Alan Hemmings the Battalion 2IC who departed after 21 years' continuous service with the Battalion. We wish Alan all the very best in his new appointment as the Training Officer with 250 Field Ambulance based closer to his home in Hull.

W02 John Isom (2nd Battalion) came to the end of his regular service after four sterling years as SPSI of the former D Company and latterly with HQ Company. He certainly left his indelible mark on both sub units and along the way has earned the respect and appreciation of his superiors and subordinates alike. We wish him and his family every success for the future.

In December, Cpl Freddie Footitt, the longest serving soldier in the Battalion, finally decided to call it a day. After some 20 years loyal service as a TA soldier, the majority of it in the post of Officers' Mess Steward, Freddie handed in his bedding. We thank him for all the late nights and early mornings and in particular for his cheerful and willing assistance over the years. We wish him all the very best in his well earned retirement.

B Company said farewell to CSgt Ken Starbuck who will be remembered for his service with the 3rd Battalion and his A Tk days. Ken rounded off his career as CQMS of B Company and we wish him well for the future.

Farewell also to Sgt Robbo Robinson (3rd Battalion) who departed on posting to the School of Infantry Brecon after a short spell as a PSI with B Company.

Four members of the permanent staff volunteered for Phase 2 redundancy and three were successful in being selected. Sgt Ian Keily (2nd Battalion) Mortar Platoon PSI HQ Company, Sgt Steve Buzzard (2nd

Battalion) PSI C Company and LCpl Steven Chew (2nd Battalion) the CO's driver. We thank them for all their hard work and effort in the past and wish them and their families bon voyage and good luck for the future.

Arrivals

WE offer a warm welcome to Maj Simon Bacon who joined us in March as the Training Major. As an ex Adjutant of the 5th Battalion he is no stranger to the TA. He arrived by bicycle at a low level strafing height, landed on his feet and at the double, and has been accelerating ever since.

He managed to pay a visit to all our far flung outposts, from Scunthorpe in the north to Northampton in the south, pop into Brigade and sort out their Opeval statistics for them, completely rewrite the instructions for an overseas exchange, call in at Sainsburys for some coffee filters, and still be back in the office before lunch. Watch this space; either keep up or get outa the pool!!

We extend a welcome to the new 2IC, Maj Martin Mee, who joined us in April from the Brigade Selection Training Team.

We welcomed Capt Terry Hope who joined us in January in the new post of Unit Admin Officer. Since his arrival our peace has been shattered by the reverberating sounds of carpenters chipping, electricians clipping, contractors drilling, typists shrilling, computers whirring, painters stirring, printers clattering, clerks nattering and boxes big and small being delivered almost daily.

Sgt John Davies, the new NRPS Service Funds accountant joined us on 1 Apr 93. He immediately joined Capt Hope and Sgt Wightman downstairs in the rapidly expanding Unit Admin Office empire.

They seem to spend most of their time staring at flickering screens, poring over dusty old ledgers, producing reams of statistical data and communicating in veiled speech.

We should have been saying a fond farewell to CSgt Barry Lincoln the Battalion Chief Clerk who completed 23 years regular service on 30 Apr 93. Alas it

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News from the Tigers



B Company officers gather for a drink to say farewell to Maj Richard Cole.

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was not to be. From a short-list of hundreds, and after a close run thing, he managed to convince a Brigade selection board that he was just the man for the new post of NRPS Chief Clerk.

The next day he was safely back behind his desk, clutching his key to the NRPS ablutions, and moaning about not getting his terminal leave.

Anyone daft enough to swap his terminal leave for the Chief Clerk's post at Ulverscroft Road must be terminal.

HQ Company welcomed W02 Jim Dixon (1st Battalion) who arrived in March as SPS1 on his first tour of duty with the TA. Sgt Red Smith (3rd Battalion) arrived in December as a PS1 with B Company on posting from the School of Infantry Brecon.

To them both we extend a warm welcome.

Internal moves

IN January Maj Richard Cole handed over

command of B Company to Maj Neil Marsh and moved across to Battalion HQ as Battalion Recruiting Officer.

In September, Maj James Freeman assumed command of A Company while vice-Maj David Livingstone departed for the unposted list. In April, Maj Freeman was on the move again, this time taking over command of HQ Company vice-Maj Mike Prebble.

Maj Rod Burns returned to us from taking a year's rest with the 2nd Battalion, just in time to assume command of A Company. Maj Prebble dons his new hat as Paymaster.

Maj Charles Szabo departed the fold in April to take up his new appointment with the Brigade Selection Training Team.

Honours and awards

THE Quartermaster, Maj Bill Burford MBE, accompanied by his family, attended an investiture at Buckingham Palace on 16 Mar where he was formally invested by Her Majesty the Queen, as a Member of the

Order of the British Empire. Our heartfelt congratulations to Bill and family on a splendid achievement and a well deserved award.

Not to be outdone, the Commanding Officer presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to the Chief Clerk CSgt Barry Lincoln and CSgt Mick Thorpe QPS1 A Company.

Promotions and appointments

CONGRATULATIONS are in order to: Rob Burns on his promotion to A/Major and his appointment as OC A Company. Lt Trevor Terhegge on his promotion to captain and his appointment as 2IC B Company; Sgt Robert Burrows (CQMS B Company) on his promotion to CSgt; Cpl Peter Kwiatkowski (PI Sgt B Company) on his promotion to Sgt; Cpl Ian Sackree (PI Sgt A Company) on his promotion to Sgt. Also OCdt Chris Irvine, OCdt Russ Parr and OCdt Mark Scattergood on successful completion of DAB.

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News from the Tigers

Five-a-side football as combat training

FITNESS training at Ulverscroft Road takes the form of a daily game of what is politely described as indoor 'five-a-side football'. The players are drawn mainly from a hard core contingent of the permanent staff, with guest appearances from the Commanding Officer, and other poor unfortunate individuals who just happened to be passing through and do not know any better.

A team should ideally consist of five players but anything from three to seven is just as acceptable. A goalkeeper is not obligatory, in fact anyone stupid enough to position himself between the posts is just asking for trouble.

Matches are played with a soft soccer ball, over-inflated to bursting point, and with all the bounce and flexibility of a shot putt. The game itself seems to be derived from a mixture of Australian Rules Football, Rugby League, Thai Kick Boxing and good old British Bulldog. As there would appear to be no rules, or none that I can determine, there is little or no need for a referee.

Any request for the protection of one is met with howls of derision from the macho regulars. Players should ideally possess a good eye for a ball, but a tenth Dan Akido or any other recognised Martial Arts qualification would be preferable to any degree of soccer skill.

Kick off is usually at 12.45, there is no half-time, and a game can last anything up to two hours, or until two or more players from a team have been taken to Leicester Royal Infirmary, or three players from either team collapse on the pitch suffering from total exhaustion.

As with the rules of the game, the mode of dress can best be described as relaxed. The younger members, those under 45 waist, tend to favour the usual poseur attire of the Gazza England Squad football stripe and Reebok training shoes. The more mature senior squad, 45 waist and over, lean towards the Ollie North, CFT look, with green sweat rags and brown canvas pumps (size 9) much in vogue.



LCpl Szarvas attempting to orientate his map during JNCO training.

While the more civilised and sensitive members of the staff stuff their ears with cotton wool, eat their lunch and try to get on with their work, the competitors take the field of play. Soon the whole building will reverberate to the bash of ball on wall, the lash of leather on flesh, the crack of boot on shin, the groan of knee in groin and the crunch of elbow in ribs.

The new arrival at Ulverscroft Road wishing to survive until Friday should take note of the following: On receipt of the ball the novice player would be well advised to, (a) get rid of it immediately, and (b) adopt the parachuting into trees position.

If attack is indeed the best form of defence the novice would be well advised to put his legs into the arms of his shirt, wear his shorts on his head, and adopting the Fig 11 position run around gibbering like an idiot. The principle being that nobody will pass the ball to a madman, thus assuring long periods of relative safety.

The only other survival techniques I can think of are to bring a note from your Mum, or feign an injury on the pitch. Be warned that unless one has lost total control of the bodily functions or splinters of bone are actually protruding through the flesh no one will believe you.

Clutching one's chest, holding the breath and turning the lips blue will only result in being ordered into goal for a five minute respite.

Playing in goal is not for the faint hearted. Being smacked around the head

and body by a very hard leather projectile travelling at Mach 2 is not my idea of a fun thing to do. I am well aware that there are those who enjoy being smacked with a leather object. It is just that I did not expect to find any on the permanent staff at Ulverscroft Road.

Manage to score the odd goal and survive intact for more than one week and one could find oneself being invited to turn out for the first team.

You could end up joining such celebrated players as Maj (Cosy) Powell, Capt (Jolly nice chap) Goodwin, Capt (Shin Stomper) Cunningham, Maj (Watch the Bounce) Burford, CSgt (Terminal Case) Lincoln, LCpl (The Chest Freezer) Chew, WO2 (Despot) Dixon, WO1 (RSM) (Pump Action) Pacey and of course guest appearances weekly from Lt Col (CASREP) Colville.

Are you fed up with the same old routine fitness training? Do you find jogging a joke, does calisthenics leave you cold? Is stock car racing a drag? Does doing push-ups on your own leave you frustrated and bungee jumping leave you high and dry? Would you like to get your own back on some of the senior permanent staff in the Battalion?

You would, then come along any weekday afternoon and do not just "get fit to fight", get stuck in and "fight to get fit" with the Leicestershire Tigers indoor five-a-side football club. New blood, and lots of it, always welcome at Ulverscroft Road.

ATR Bassingbourn

The birth of a new regiment

THE first day of January 1993 witnessed the demise of The Depot, The Queen's Division and the birth of Army Training Regiment Bassingbourn. The Queen's Division, and therefore the Regiment, continue to train recruits at Bassingbourn for the first 10 weeks of their Army life. During this period they undergo the common military syllabus (recruits) in common with every other soldier joining the Army.

One result of the influx of personnel from the Royal Engineers and the Royal Signals is that the number of men from the Regiment has declined rapidly, and is set to fall further.

Nevertheless, key areas remain in Regimental hands. The Quartermaster's department is a stronghold of the Vikings and Maj Ross and WO2 (RQMS) Duncan firmly in control of all matters 'Q'.

In Regimental Headquarters, the Second

in Command, Maj Borthwick (Vikings), Adjutant Capt Foster (Poachers) and Trg WO, WO2 Rouse (ex Pompadours), all ensure that the regimental stamp is placed on the running of the new unit.

In the remaining Queen's Division Company, Capt Byrne (Poachers), the Company Second in Command, is starting resettlement and we wish him and his wife Sheila the best of luck for the future. His replacement will be Capt Newson (ex Pompadours) for six months prior to joining the Tigers.

The first few months of the year have seen a disappointing number of recruits arriving at the ATR. This is not due to any lack of effort by our recruiters, but is the result of recruit capping in the last quarter of the financial year 92/93.

Fortunately the bulk of the Queen's Division recruits allocated for the year had

already been trained, however from the ATR point of view it has been a disruptive factor during the work up of the new unit.

Although Bassingbourn is no longer our Depot, with all that implies, it is nevertheless the unit which will start all Royal Anglian soldiers on their Regimental Life. To that end the support we receive from Regimental Headquarters is greatly appreciated. Additionally we would welcome visits from the Battalions in order that they can see the new recruit training system in operation.

The Regimental Gathering and the Sergeants' Mess Past and Present Dinners will continue to be held at Bassingbourn for the foreseeable future. Whatever evolution the training organisation goes through in the post Options Army, there remains a strong geographical and historical link between the Regiment and Bassingbourn.



Regimental Information Teams

The three RIT teams after their inspection by Divisional Colonel, Col Robinson.

THE RIT is now into the summer season of events, travelling all over our county areas. Col N G D Robinson MBE inspected the RIT on 29 Apr 93 and pre-

sented Sgt Beagley with his Regimental certificate prior to him leaving the Army. We also say farewell to LCpls Simons and Goodrum who have taken redundancy.

Cadets

Inspections of CCFs

MAY is the month when CCFs are inspected. The RCO and inspecting officers visited schools as follows:

Wellingborough – Inspected by Mr G Garrett MA the headmaster, his last inspection before retiring to Cambridge.

Loughborough GS – The RCO presented the Field Gun Competition Shield.

King Edward VI GS – Inspected by Brig A J K Calder, OBE.

Cawston College – Inspected by Lt Col B H M Davenport.

Greshams – Inspected by Brig A J K Calder, OBE.

Kimbolton – Inspected by Capt R G Lockwood RN.

Bancrofts – Inspected by Lt Col R M Chisnall, OBE.

Rugby – 1st Battalion band in attendance for RSM WO1 J W Potter's final parade.

Berkhamsted – Inspected by Col J D Lacey, OBE.

Ratcliffe College – Inspected by Brig D A A Biggart – Comd 49 Bde.

Langley – Inspected by Lt Col R G Greenhouse RRF.

Bedford Modern – Inspected by Col J S Houchin, OBE.

The RIT visited schools/camps to give training assistance to Kimbolton CCF at Leek Camp, Brentwood School and to Berkhamsted School for their Inspection day.

Visits to Battalions

The following potential officers enjoyed their visits to regular battalions:

I R Anglian: Stephen Hudson, James Taylor, Rupert Whitham (AS), Desmond Corrigan, Jake Hart, Edmund Parker (Bursar), Ben Tull, Neil Finch, Adam Dormer, Michael Walden, Simon Kendall, Simon Ball, Edward Bederbos, Bevis Allen, Ivan Howden, Philip Birch and James Walters.

This was a record number of PO's to visit a regular battalion in a year.

CCF field days/Salamanca Shield Competition

The following School CCF's visited the ATR Bassingbourn for field days in March: Haileybury, The Leys, Felsted, Oakham, Ipswich, Berkhamsted, Bedford, Kimbolton,



The RCO talking to a potential officer at Felsted School

Ratcliffe College, Stamford, Woodbridge, Brentwood, The Perse, Wellingborough and Bedford Modern.

They all participated in the new Steeplechase competition. The Salamanca Shield was won by Perse School (4 mins 20 secs) with Stamford 2nd (4 mins 34 secs) and Ratcliffe College 3rd (4 mins 41 secs).

RCB results and awards

WE warmly congratulate the following potential officers on their passing RCB and their awards: Stephen Hudson, passing for an SSLC; Stewart Whithear, Army Scholarship; Stephen Romilly, Bursary; Edward Osborne, to RMA Sandhurst on CCC 941 via Rowallan Company and ASE Beaconsfield.

Justin Hughes and Simon Vincent for CCC 932 (May 93), the latter passing RCB for a Regular Commission. Mark Sheath for also passing PODC prior to RCB and to RMAS.

School news

Loughborough GS

We belatedly congratulate Maj G Beazley on his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. George was at RMA Sandhurst in 1962 and was commissioned into the York and Lancaster Regiment before going to university and taking up a career in teaching. No one could keep him away from CCF!

Felsted School

Mr Edward Gould the headmaster of Felsted School will be moving to Marlborough School as headmaster in September. We thank him and Jane for their support to the regiment and wish them great success with the new challenge. The new headmaster of Felsted will be Mr Steven Roberts from Oundle school.

Kimbolton

Twenty-five miles in one day? Try marching 50 miles in two days. That is what a team of cadets from Kimbolton School Combined Cadet Force did at the weekend, 17/18 Apr 93, when they took part in the Swanton Morley two-day march. This march is a qualifying event for military teams taking part in the International four-day marches at Nijmegen in Holland this summer.

The team, lead by Lt Sue Camp and WO1 Roger Watson, covered the distance in 13 hours taking the prize for the Best Cadet Team, the first time it has been won by a non-ATC team.

Lt Sue Camp has also been chosen to lead the British Military Cadet Contingent at the opening ceremony in Holland.

Sporting achievements at RMAS

We congratulate OCdt Freddie Grounds on being selected as captain of the 1st XV Sandhurst rugby team and OCdt Matthew Thomas on playing hockey for the 1st XI and to Liam McGrath on playing soccer for the 1st XI. All very fine achievements. Well done.

Around the Branches



HAVE you ever wondered what those mice think as they run endlessly inside their spinning wheels? Well for those of you on the outside, it is all so very orderly and leisurely whereas on the inside it varies from being hectic to really hectic.

Fortunately, certain of our office disciplines have been immeasurably improved with the introduction of the computer. This has allowed articles for the Newsletter for instance to be typed on receipt and then stored, whereas in the past it all had to be typed on to a special template at the time.

The other great use we have put the machine to is in the production of address labels which used to take our typist one month each year to do. Now each committee's members are separately coded as are all of the other special event mailing lists so at the push of a button the labels come rolling off.

And now to update you on the progress of Volume IV of the 'Regimental History 1951-69.' This is progressing with the selection of photographs from the Cyprus and Korea service now complete. The book will be published by Christmas.

In the Shirehall preparations are in hand to change the current exhibition on the Far East to The Tibetan Younghusband Expedition 1903-1904, planned to open on 21 May. This will be a major event with the Dalai Lama's representative coming from London to open the exhibition. Enhancements continue with plans to improve the dis-

play case in the foyer, to position a painted cut out life-size soldier on the pavement outside the museum and to introduce a brochure. The charges have now been amended to £1 (concessions 70p and children 50p) which gives access for two days to this and other Norwich museums. Since opening in July 1990 the museum has seen some 150,000 visitors.

The 4th Battalion again held its dinner at Gorleston on 17 Apr where there was a very good turnout, whilst the Officers' Dinner Club seated some 20 members to its dinner in the TA Centre, Aylsham Road, Norwich on 23 Apr.

The London Branch attended the Field of Remembrance Service at St. Margarets Westminster in November when the Queen Mother had a few words with those members at the Regimental Plot.

Gorleston, Gt. Yarmouth & District Branch

By O A (Ben) Turner:

OUR fourth annual meeting held in October was well attended and most of the committee were re-elected. Ray Pillar remains as chairman, Geoff Smith replaces Bob Waller as vice chairman, Stan King remains secretary, Ben Turner as treasurer and John (Striker) Wells as membership secretary. Brian Beckett took over from Geoff Smith as Christmas draw member and also has a new responsibility for welfare. Mick Ellis replaces John Norley as draw member.

The Armistice Parade in Great Yarmouth was again well represented by the Branch, but unfortunately, for the first time ever, no band was available to lead the Parade. Being the improvisers that we are, music in the form of whistling popular military tunes helped to keep our group in step, assisted amicably by Jim Culley banging his walking stick every other pace.

Unfortunately, the pace on returning from the War Memorial in St Georges Park was too brisk for Jim, resulting in the Parade Commander (our own Ray Pillar) nearly getting a whack from Jim's stick.

Due to hotel bookings, our annual dinner and grand Christmas draw was held a little earlier this year in mid-November, again at the St Edmunds Hotel, Gorleston. As usual it was a great success with 58 members and guests attending and we had the honour of having Maj Gen Jack Dye, CBE, MC, DL as dinner chairman. He was surprised to meet again so many members that he already knew, many of them having served under General Jack when he commanded the 1st Battalion during the Radfan Campaign. Even our cabaret artist, "Dumpling George" (Ben Turner) was one of General Jack's corporals at the time and doubtless to say, was much smarter dressed in those days. Guests this year included Roy and Pat Sharpe, Maurice Eke, Geoff and Mrs Rhodes, Stewart and Mrs Hamilton, Alan Cole, Brian, Sylvia Shanks and son, Bob (Drummie) and Grace Huxtable, WO2 Steve and Mrs West, Lt Garry and Michelle Turner, Mervin and Janice Smith.

Diary date for those wishing to attend our 1993 dinner is Saturday, 20 Nov, again at the St Edmunds Hotel. Regular attenders will receive the normal proforma. Any other reader interested in attending please contact either Ray Pillar (0493 601131) or Ben Turner (0493 600070) by 15 Oct at the latest to enable the details and proforma to reach you in time, as final figures must be confirmed by 12th November.

As in other years there was no meeting in December. However, welfare gifts in the form of cash were presented to all our Branch members on

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Around the Branches

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long-term sickness, including those resident in hospital and nursing homes.

The New Year started off with our now annual games night and buffet. Jim Culley, with his many partners won the crib and Pauline Turner (a non-dart player) somehow won the singles darts knockout.

At our February meeting it was most welcoming to see WO2 Steve West visit us again and we wish him well on his appointment as RQMS of 1 R Anglian.

For the March meeting, Jim and Irene Culley organised a partner quiz and buffet night which proved to be very popular. Brothers Terry (Wally) and Tony Waters were the overall champions, winning the first quiz and scoring well in the second. For this they were presented with an aptly worded trophy donated by member Reg Underwood. Stan King and Mick Ellis won the second quiz, the Branch having donated a bottle of wine for the gents and a box of chocolates for the ladies winning each round. However, no team with a lady in won a round and which of the gents kept the chocolates is still a mystery.

Thanks go to Ray Pillar for making a new larger base for the gavel and for the way in which he decorated it, by spacing equally a Cap Badge of each former County Regiment, now forming part of the Royal Anglian Regiment, around its edge. Also to Mick Ellis for the Regimental Bugle complete with braid which he presented to the Branch.



Regimental reunion

BECAUSE the continued existence of the Beacholme Holiday Camp is in

DIARY DATES

Grantham and District Branch Dinner

Friday 14 May 1993,
Kings Hotel, Grantham

Royal Lincolnshire Officers' Reunion Luncheon

Friday 18 June 1993,
Duke of York's Headquarters, London

Royal Lincolnshire Regimental Reunion Weekend

25/26 Sept 1993, Sobraon Barracks
and The Assembly Rooms, Lincoln

Malayan Reunion

Saturday 2 Oct 1993,
Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln

Royal Anglian Regiment Reunion

Saturday 12 Feb 1994,
Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln

Lincoln and District Branch Luncheon

Sunday 27 Mar 1994,
Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln

doubt, a resolution was passed at the annual meeting that, in future, reunions would be held in Lincoln.

In order to continue the well tried and proven format, the annual committee meeting followed by the annual meeting will be held in Sobraon Barracks and the dinner in the assembly rooms on Bailgate on Saturday. The Sunday Morning Service will be held in St. Nicholas' Parish Church in Newport.

Royal Anglian Regiment reunion

FORMER members of The Royal Anglian Regiment, who had seen service in The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment and The 2nd East Anglian Regiment, felt that they would like to hold a reunion for those living in the county as close as possible to Sobraon Day. Much hard work was undertaken by the ad hoc committee and the evening was a great success. A total of 88 former members of the Regiment

and guests appeared at Sobraon Barracks on 13 Feb and many was the retold memory suitably embroidered by time!

Lincoln and District Branch

THE Branch continues to show an increasingly healthy membership which now totals 44. Activities so far this year have seen the first outing of 53 members and guests on 17 Mar to the Granada Television Studios in Manchester. It was a good day and most sampled the delights of a pint of Newton and Ridley in the Rovers Return.

The annual luncheon, held at Sobraon Barracks on 4 Apr was well attended by our own members in addition to those of the other branches who were very supportive. A good turnout meant we were seating 98 and the whole affair was ably assisted by the Sea Cadets who provided the unglamorous side of serving and clearing away.

Spalding and District Branch

THE Branch is in good order and recently paraded to celebrate the first anniversary of the erection of the Branch Memorial Plaque in its new location in South Holland District Council Offices. Capt Guy Bray, now 98, was able to attend and the Branch was provided with refreshments afterwards by the council organised by Capt Bray's eldest son, councillor Tom Bray.

4th Battalion Mortar reunion

A 4th Battalion reunion was held in the latter part of last year in Birmingham for all those who had served in the Mortar Platoon. The scope was widened to include all those who had served in the 4th Battalion and there was a good turnout, many being reunited with old comrades they had not seen since the end of hostilities and subsequent demobilisation. Promises were made of a return match next year and the date will be announced in the local press.

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HM Tenth of Foot in America

WHEN the American Branch was first raised in 1976 to take part in the celebrations to mark the Bicentennial of the American War of Independence, the founding father, Vincent Kehoe, had a set of Colours made which were carried on parade. These Colours were subsequently loaned to the Regimental Museum, which is now part of the Museum of Lincolnshire Life, and displayed there.

Following a request by the current commanding officer for the return of the Colours, a ceremony was held in the Castle at Lincoln at which the Old Comrades paraded and Standards from the Lincoln, Grimsby, Spalding and Midlands branches were carried, ably supported by those from the Dunkirk Veterans, Normandy Veterans, Burma Star Association, Korean Veterans, Royal Signals and RBL Winterton Branches. The parade started at the museum and marched to the castle behind the Army Cadet Force Band.

The parade was reviewed by our president, Maj Gen Gerrard-Wright CB, CBE, and the Colours were handed over to Lt Col Amsterdam and Capt/Lt Smick, all of whom were resplendently accoutred. After the march off, the county council hosted the participants and their guests to lunch in The Lawns.

Dedication of the grave of Pte Denis Dempsey VC

AFTER much research and searching the unmarked grave of Denis Dempsey, winner of The Regiment's first Victoria Cross, was finally located in old St Michael's Cemetery, Toronto, Canada.

Paul Culliton, the public relations officer of the Catholic Cemeteries, Toronto, whose great grandfather was sexton at the time of Dempsey's death had arranged for a bronze plaque to be erected and dedicated by the Archbishop of Toronto, The Most Reverend Aloysius Ambrozic. Nothing is known of Dempsey's movements after he was discharged nor his reason

for going to Canada although there has been much speculation.

Burma Star Association of British Columbia, Canada

THE Burma Star Association of British Columbia, instrumental in creating the Charles Ferguson Hoey VC Park in Duncan, British Columbia visited Lincoln on 26 Apr so that members could lay a wreath in the Cathedral on 27 Apr in memory of Maj C F Hoey VC MC who was born in Duncan, British Columbia, and was commissioned into The Lincolnshire Regiment and was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his action on Point 315, Arakan Campaign, Burma, on 16 Feb 1944 whilst he was commanding B Company 1st Battalion.

The ceremony was attended by members of the Lincoln and District Branch and the Last Post and Reveille were played by Sgt Smiley RAF.

Veteran departures

IT is with deep regret that we announce the death of ex-Sgt Heggs who died shortly after his 100th birthday. Mr William Melhuish who died shortly before his 100th birthday, and in-pensioner W H Gustard of the Royal Hospital Chelsea. Both Sgt Heggs, a regular with the 2nd Battalion and Mr Melhuish with the 10th Battalion, The Grimsby Chums, had served throughout the First World War.



A message from our president, Lt Col Derek Milman BT, MC:

AS a comparative newcomer to the Regiment, having joined it from the Indian Army in 1950. I was very hon-

oured to be elected president of the Regimental Association. Thanks to the efforts of our chairman, Brig Angus Robertson CBE and the management committee it is in a flourishing condition and attendance at all our functions is excellent thanks to the support of all our members.

Last year was a sad one with the amalgamation of the 3rd Battalion with the 1st and 2nd Battalions, and the loss of direct county affiliations which this has entailed. This does not mean that the close ties with the Royal Anglian Regiment should be weakened. In a letter to Brig Angus Robertson, Maj Gen M J D Walker, deputy colonel of the Royal Anglian Regiment, writes:- "At the Regimental Council Meeting on 6 Nov, it was agreed that the former Regimental Associations and the Royal Anglian Regimental Association should maintain close links with our Regular Battalions. The 1st Battalion, with the 5th and 6th Battalions, is to be associated with Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex.

"At the same meeting, the responsibilities of the deputy colonels were clarified and mine are the 1st, 5th and 6th Battalions, the area offices at Norwich and Warley and the associations within the six counties.

"This close liaison was underlined by the presence at our November Remembrance Parade of Brig Colin Groves, Deputy Colonel, Royal Anglian Regiment. We should do everything we can as a Regimental Association to foster and maintain these links.

"With best wishes for 1993 to you all."

Presentation to Lt Col W A Whittaker

WHEN Brig Angus Robertson attended the annual reunion of the 2nd Battalion 1939-45 Officers he used the occasion to present an old 2nd Battalion silver goblet to Lt Col W A Whittaker in appreciation of his tenure as president of The Regimental

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Association. The inscription on this fine old piece rendered almost unreadable by nearly 135 years of cleaning shows that it was presented by Lt R F Johnstone in 1860 on joining.

A new inscription on the foot reads – "Presented to Lieutenant-Colonel W A Whittaker, President, The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regimental Association 1989-1992."

Our oldest member

CONGRATULATIONS to Chris Magee who celebrated his 101st birthday on 13 Feb this year. We are very pleased to be able to report that he is still very active and enjoys good health. May we have many more happy years. We still hope to see him at one of our reunions.

Remembrance service and reunion at Kempston

NEARLY 600 Association members, their wives and friends, enjoyed a very pleasant day renewing old friendships and making new ones, when they attended the annual reunion and remembrance at Kempston on 15 Nov 1992. This was a noticeable increase on the previous year's attendance although the number of those taking part in the parade was less.

After arrival members were offered coffee in the Drill Hall and Officers' Mess kindly provided by B Company, 5 Royal Anglians, and at 11.20 the Royal Anglian T A Band began a programme of light music on the square which was much enjoyed. At 11.55 the parade, under the command of OC B Company and made up of B Company, 16th Foot Comrades, Bedfordshire ACF and Bedfordshire Police Cadets, marched to its position on the road facing the memorial.

The service was again ably conducted by Maj J A Girdwood, deputy chairman of the Regimental Association, and began with the Bidding and a poem, "To Them a Vision Came." After this wreaths were laid by Brig Colin Groves, deputy colonel, 2nd Royal Anglians, the presi-



The 16th Foot war memorial at Kempston

dent and chairman of the Regimental Association on behalf of the Royal Anglian Regiment, The 16th Foot and the Association.

Lt Col C S E M Bagstaff then read the Exhortation after which the Last Post was sounded and was followed by the Silence and Reveille. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, the 16th Foot B Company, 5 Royal Anglians, and each association branch. Finally, wreaths were laid on behalf of a number of individual members and on behalf of Bedford Borough Council by councillor Victor Jones. During the laying of wreaths the Band played the Destiny Waltz.

The service ended with the Regimental Collect, the Grace and the National Anthem, after which the parade marched past Brig Colin Grove who then gave a short address in which he stressed his regret about the demise of the 3rd Battalion and expressed the hope that the strong relationship it, and the 16th Foot before it, had built up with its counties would be continued through our Territorial Battalions.

Once again, an excellent lunch was enjoyed in the Keep, the large dining room of which was packed to capacity. We were very pleased to see that the late Mr Frank Ames, who would have been 102 on 21 May, was fit enough to be present.

The Bedfordshire Regiment Cottage Homes

TWO cottages in Oakley near Bedford were presented to the Regiment in 1906 by the Duke of Bedford for the use of its ex-soldiers.

Since the end of the war it has become increasingly difficult to find suitable tenants, in addition to which the cost of repairs, maintenance and rates have increased, in recent years, far beyond the income generated. A few years ago these factors forced the trustees to decide to sell both properties as they became vacant.

In May last year the occupants of one of the houses moved into sheltered accommodation and it was duly sold at the then going price for such properties and with the sad death of Mrs Stead in November the other one became vacant and will be sold in due course.

The 3rd Battalion Officers' Dinner Club cocktail party

A HIGHLY successful cocktail party was held at the Army and Navy Club on Friday, 16 Apr which was attended by 78 members and their guests, who had come from all parts of the country. Some had even come from abroad, one such being Lt Col D J Clements who is commanding some 400 UN observers in Bosnia and had flown over espe-

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cially for the occasion and planned to make an immediate return. Others present included Maj Gen M J D Walker, deputy colonel The Royal Anglian Regiment and Mrs Walker, Maj Gen and Mrs Ward-Booth, Brig and Mrs Angus Robertson and Lt Col C C Norbury, chairman of the Dinner Club, who commanded the 3rd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment Ballykinler in 1962/63.

The Regimental Museum

GREAT progress has been made in the development of the Regimental section at Luton Museum. Luton Borough Council has given clearance for a large amount of money to be made available for the refurbishment of our newly enlarged display area which is to have new show cases and other improvements.

Already on display is part of the 16th Foot silver together with Gen Jackson's medals and regalia, some VC's and other medals, in a purpose built showcase.

We are very sorry to have to report that Mr Frank Hackett has just retired. It is due to his tireless enthusiasm, determination and sound guidance that so much has been achieved with such limited resources. To mark our gratitude a glass goblet, suitably inscribed, was presented by the regimental secretary, Maj David Thorogood and Maj Andrew West, chairman of our museum sub-committee.



The Hertfordshire Regiment

MEMBERSHIP is maintaining the steady growth shown over the past few years – long may this continue. Interest

in, and attendance at, the many functions organised by our Association, The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regimental Association and the Royal Anglian Regiment remains encouragingly high.

In November the annual lunch and band concert was a great success and was attended by 150 members and their guests. The fact that this function has been changed from an evening affair to lunchtime has proved very popular, and no doubt influenced the high attendance.

Some 36 members spent a most enjoyable five days at Barton Hall, Torbay, an old wartime haunt, which proved so popular that a repeat visit has been arranged for November this year.

Every Christmas we distribute food parcels to our more needy members and widows and last year 16 such parcels were presented by the committee, the members of which will be grateful for details of deserving cases.

The Northumberland tour of old "battlegrounds" at Rothburg in 1990 was so successful that a repeat visit has been arranged for May this year when 27 members will be spending five days at the Coquet Vale Hotel.



Corby Branch

KEN Fordyce, our vice-president, has taken over as secretary again until such time as a suitable replacement can be found. Eighty members attended the Peterborough reunion and an excellent meal and entertainment was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Our standard was carried by W MacNeil, our chairman, at the function and it

was clear that he is thoroughly conversant with the job; after all he carried the Queen's colour for the Corby RBL. The chairman and secretary delivered the widow's Christmas boxes and cards. After a lot of hard work the Christmas raffle made a substantial profit which helped greatly towards the widow's Christmas boxes. The TA Club regretfully closed at the end of March but our chairman, who is on the RBL committee, has negotiated the use of the RBL Club to hold our meeting.

The main branch have assisted us again to alleviate some of the burden placed on the family of one of our widows, our grateful thanks to all concerned.

Eighteen members and guests sat down to an excellent five-course dinner in the TA Club on Friday 5 Mar. I am sure it is the last regimental type dinner with all the ceremony and excellence as only Alf Seagsby, Terry Colegate and Billy Paterson know how to accomplish. Two of the guests were Mrs Betty Williams and Mrs Ada Hogg, widows of the late "Bill" Williams and Captain Jack as they were affectionately known to us all.

Regimental Museum update

The builders have now completed the major repairs to the Abington Park Museum. We now await the go-ahead (and the money) from the borough to do the new layout, and it is hoped that we shall be open for business again in early 1994, although dates have been altered in the past! In the meantime we heartily thank all those who have supported us with covenants and donations up to now.

We were sad to lose Molly Hartridge, who did our typing and Peter Wilson, our storeman who retired at the end of 1992 and thank them for all their excellent work. We are most fortunate to have Di Thompson, late of Simpson Barracks and George Durrant, storeman at Wellingborough Drill Hall for 16 years, as their replacements.

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48th Officers' Burma dinner

On 17 Apr 1993, exactly 46 years on from that day on which the final command "48th dismiss" was given at Talavera Camp, Northampton, the 48th (how very apt) and final annual dinner of the officers who fought in Burma with the 48th was held in the Officers' Mess, Simpson Barracks, by kind permission of the Commandant, Royal Pioneer Corps. Our guest for the evening was Lt Col Phillip Woods RPC.

After toasts to "The Queen", "Our Colonel-in-Chief, HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester" and "The Regiment" (the 48th), Lt Col Jack Britten rose and proposed a fourth toast – to all those who had ever served in the 48th – many still surviving, but so many, sadly, gone to wherever they go; for ever – "The 48th".

Peter Keily then rose and gave news of those unable to be present: Gordon Adnitt, Michael Hall, Ted Gallop, Michael Nott, Stanley Hincks, Wilf Morris and of the recent sad demise of Graham Pile.

Peter expressed our debt of gratitude to the officers and the Royal Pioneer Corps who since 1961 had extended the hospitality of their mess for our annual dinners, also to Sgt Black and the Mess staff who, for so many years had unfailingly and cheerfully attended to our every want.

Terry Molloy then rose and on behalf of the members, presented a silver tankard, suitably engraved, the engraving surmounted by a miniature Regimental Capbadge, to Peter Keily, who for the past 31 years had liaised and organised this annual dinner. Peter made a suitable reply.

The gathering broke up at a late hour, most of those present staying overnight in the Mess.

Those present for this final dinner were: Lt Col Jack Britten, Reggie Clayton, Victor Harding, Michael Haselhurst, John Hopkins, Peter Keily, Ted Kelly, Keith Malby, Charles McFettridge RA, Terry Molloy, Peter



Gen Sir John Akehurst KCB CBE, presents the Imperial Service Medal to Miss M O Hartridge at Northampton on 14 Apr.

Noakes, Arthur Spencer, "Tiny" Webb and John Wilson.

70th Battalion first reunion dinner

Eighty comrades, ladies and guests were present at the Conservative Club, Kettering, on 9th Oct 1992 for the first reunion dinner of the wartime 70th Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment. The choice of venue was very appropriate, the Battalion having been formed at Kettering in December 1940. The principal guests were the Mayor of Kettering, councillor Joan Gosland and her consort – her husband, – who had been mayor four years earlier. Other guests included Lt Col W W Holland, a former adjutant of the Battalion and Lt Col J L Wilson.

The chairman for the dinner was Jeffrey Brown Esq. who welcomed all those present and proposed toasts to "The Queen", "Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester" and "The Regiment".

In a short speech following the toasts the Mayor said how pleased she was to welcome the comrades to Kettering and how delighted she was that Kettering had been chosen for this first reunion dinner of the 70th

Battalion. She recalled with warmth the goodwill and affection shown by Kettering when the Battalion was formed in those far-off war years and ended her speech by very generously inviting those who had travelled some distance to be present to a reception at the council chambers the following morning.

Dennis Walden then gave news of comrades who could not be present and read messages of goodwill he had received from the Mayors of Truro, Newquay and Helston, all of whom expressed their affection for the Battalion which had such close affiliations with Cornwall during the war years. Dennis asked comrades to consider the viability of holding a reunion in Cornwall at some future date.

It was mildly, and very pleasantly surprising, to discover that most of those present, having served in the 70th Battalion, had been posted, mainly via the 6th Battalion, to our 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Battalions. For many it was a reunion within a reunion; the delight at meeting spontaneous and infectious.

After the toasts and speeches Mrs Dennis Price presented the mayor with

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a lovely floral bouquet draped with the Regimental Colours.

This first reunion dinner was an outstanding success and Dennis Walden, whose brainchild it was, and his organising committee, comrades Len Carr, Len Cotton, Dennis Price and the late Eddie Worthington, are to be congratulated on their initiative, hard work and the very professional manner in which the event was conducted.

We hope this will be the first of many.

4th Battalion (1939/46) officers' reunion

When it became obvious that after 45 years the 4th Battalion (1939/46) officers' reunions had "reached the end of the road", it was decided to mark our long association with the Royal Pioneer Corps by presenting the Mess Sergeant, Sgt D Black, with a farewell gift to acknowledge his cheerful and efficient attention at our reunion dinners over many years.

A regimental shield bearing an appropriately engraved brass plate was obtained and an informal presentation party was arranged at Simpson Barracks in December 1992. Peter Scopes was received by the CO, Lt Col P Woods, the PMC, Adjt and Duty Officer and after Sgt Black joined the party in the CO's office, sherry was served.

Peter Scopes then presented the shield to Sgt Black and thanked him for all he had done for the 4th Battalion (1939/46) officers. Sgt Black suitably replied and said the shield would have pride of place in his house.

The party concluded with Peter Scopes being invited to lunch in the Officers' Mess where we had spent so many enjoyable evenings.

A happy event, saddened only by the fact that we would not be holding any more 4th Battalion reunions at Simpson Barracks and our long association with the Royal Pioneer Corps, dating back to 1966, had finally come to an end.



President of the Royal Tigers Association

COL T Holloway is retiring as president of the Association after Royal Tigers weekend this year. With the unanimous approval of the general committee, Col Holloway has invited Maj Gen A J G Pollard CB, CBE to take over as president on 1 Aug 1993. Gen Pollard has accepted with great pleasure.

Royal Tigers' Wood

IN May 1992, the president and general committee of the Royal Tigers Association, the Royal Leicestershire Regiment launched an appeal, within the Association, to raise money for a living memorial to the Royal Leicestershire Regiment as part of the new National Forest. The response from members of the Association has been extremely enthusiastic and positive and over £5,000 has already been donated.

A steering committee, composed of members of the Association headed by the chairman, was formed and considerable progress has been made as a result of meetings and site visits by the committee with all interested parties. The progress is summed up in the following press release which was issued in March 1993: "National Forest Becomes a Roaring Success."

Thousands of pounds raised by the Royal Tigers Association – retired soldiers from the now disbanded Royal Leicestershire Regiment – have helped the Woodland Trust buy 85 acres just outside the Leicestershire village of Bagworth where a new wood for The National Forest will be created.

Part of the site – about 36.5 acres –

will be known as Royal Tigers Wood and be planted as a living memorial to the Regiment. In time, the Regiment will erect a commemorative memorial amongst the trees made from local stone.

In addition to money raised by the 'Tigers' help has come from the Countryside Commission, Leicestershire County Council and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. Local people have also rallied round to help raise the amount still outstanding.

"Bagworth has become our second major site bought specially for creating new woodland", said forest director Susan Bell. "This will be a great opportunity for people to witness the forest taking shape."

The woodland will be designed and managed to enhance the local landscape, encourage wildlife and provide new opportunities for public enjoyment and access into the countryside. It will be a significant amenity for the Bagworth area and the forest as a whole.

The Royal Tigers Association has pledged £15,000 towards the purchase and planting of Royal Tigers Wood and we need to raise a further £10,000. So far those who have donated are, in the main, members of the Association but we believe that there are many more families, commercial enterprises and other local organisations in Leicestershire who have long and strong ties with the Royal Leicestershire Regiment who would wish to have the opportunity to contribute.

ARC Central Quarries, Shepshed has already offered to donate a large piece of local granite for the commemorative stone on which a suitable inscription will be engraved.

During the next few months the Woodland Trust will be drawing up plans for establishing the Royal Tigers Wood, which will include a small car park and footpath so that eventually the living memorial will become accessible to all.

During National Tree Week in

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November 1993 it is envisaged that the first major plantings will take place. All those who have contributed will be invited to plant a tree at this time.

Lord Mayor's reception

IN 1940, the 1st/5th Battalion of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment took part in the ill-fated Norwegian campaign. A reunion of the forces that took part in the campaign was held in the Town Hall, Leicester in February 1993. It was organised by ex petty officer Jack Briggs of Plymouth and hosted by the Lord Mayor of Leicester, councillor Robert Wigglesworth. (He was a national serviceman in the Regiment in 1955-7). There were some 100 people present, including a smattering of wives and sons, representing the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, The Royal Leicestershire Regiment and the Sherwood Foresters.

Amongst the Tigers there were several rather dramatic reunions of men who had not met since 1940. In two cases both thought the other dead! It was good, too, to meet members of the Sherwood Foresters who were on the May 1990 Pilgrimage to Norway.

After a buffet supper there was a conducted visit to the old assize court and the city's silver collection where the guide was enlightened with the history of the silver tiger. We are all grateful to the Lord Mayor for his hospitality and giving us the opportunity to meet and remember the events of 53 years ago.

Benevolence 1992

THE general committee of the Association considered 71 cases for benevolence during 1992. A total of £4,952 was given in grants during the year. In addition grants totally £3,776, 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 considerable financial help to the Association, and we are most grateful to both organisations.



OCTOBER must have been the busiest month for the Association for a long time. Members turned out to support the 3rd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment exercising their freedom rights in Colchester, the Thanksgiving parade, and the laying up of colours at Warley.

Everyone was intent on showing their admiration for a fine Battalion and to wish the best of good fortune to those who were merging with the newly formed 1st and 2nd Battalions.

No-one could have failed to have been impressed with the professionalism and the fine soldierly bearing of those on parade and Association members were extremely proud to have been invited to take part in the final march off.

Also in October, 17 members joined the in-pensioners at the Royal Hospital Chelsea for morning prayer. The parade was inspected by the Adjt Col Allen OBE and two of our Essex pensioners were in chapel, Bill Hutchings and Cyril Spencer. The service was taken by Rev Tom Hiney MC, Chaplain to the RHC and Honorary Chaplain to the Royal Anglian Regiment. Tom, incidentally, is one of our greatest supporters who does all he can to encourage the interests of the Association. A further visit has been arranged for 10 Oct 1993 and members should submit names to their branch secretaries or HQ Warley.

Whilst on the subject of the RHC we are sad to announce the death of our third in-pensioner, Charles

Langley. He was 95 and had been in ill-health for some time. He was interred with military honours at the RHC section of Brookwood Cemetery. The Association was represented.

We have been busy re-designing our newsletter in future to be known as the Eagle Newsletter. Members will recollect that the journal of the Essex Regiment was simply called the Eagle. It is appropriate to try and recapture the old style in a new style and we hope members will enjoy the content. In it you will find details of all coming functions including this year for the first time an Association dinner and dance on 23 July. Tickets will be limited to 180 so apply early! The reunion will be held at Warley on 27 June and your application for this will be found in the newsletter.

Thurrock Branch

OUR last entry in the Castle ended with the Regimental reunion at Warley in June 1992. This was followed by members and wives of the Thurrock and 4th Battalion comrades branches going by coach to the Bassingbourn gathering, and a good day was had by all.

Then there was 2 Oct when we journeyed to Colchester, a sad day, but a wonderful parade. Of course I am talking about the 3rd Battalion R Anglian farewell parade. Top marks to the people who organised it, I am sure with the duties they have it was a very busy time. Then there was the laying up of colours in Warley Chapel. It was grand to see the chapel with so many young soldiers in uniform.

On Oct 11 a party of Thurrock and 4th Essex Comrades travelled to London, destination Royal Hospital Chelsea, to attend morning service with the in-pensioners at their chapel. This was followed by a very enjoyable time in the in-pensioners club bar. Our thanks to Gordon Wren for making the arrangements.

November saw our branch dinner dance, 136 people attended, including the mayor and mayoress of Thurrock.

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Col and Mrs Morgan, also Maj and Mrs Riches our branch president. Some members of local associations were also present, 4th Essex Comrades, NVA, Burma Star, Royal British Legion, RNA and RAFA. All agreed it was a good evening with good music from 'Two's Company'.

Chelmsford Branch

VISIT any Monday or Friday morning at the Regimental Museum, Chelmsford, to ensure an enjoyable natter with the two volunteers recording and updating the history of Essex men. You may find your own details in the index system with name, number, rank and company, or check if somebody you knew has slipped through the net. Well worth a visit! Believe it or not they are still dealing with the First World War so they would be very pleased to add to the Second World War records from those who took part. I called on them recently and they were updating records of seven of our members who passed away in 1992.

The Trigno night annual gathering in November '92 was well supported from far and wide, and it is a fact, although it seems impossible, none will see 70 again!

4th Battalion Comrades

THE Battalion has once again had a very active year. In March we had our usual memorial service in memory of those who died at Gaza in the First World War and those who died at Cassino in the 2nd. I say usual because this was our second service and the third is already earmarked for 1993.

In July we had our garden party. Rather spoilt by torrential rain, but everybody retired to the TA Centre at Warley and though a bit cramped it was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

In October we celebrated the 50th anniversary of El Alamein at our dinner and dance. On this occasion the standards were marched in accompanied by the flutes and drums of the Essex Corps of Drums. This was very inspiring.

Through the good offices of our chairman, Capt George Green, a party of us visited Westminster Abbey for the service of commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein. That was something not to be missed.

Our membership is still 215. This is something we are rather pleased about.

E B H



Leiston & District Branch

Arthur (Smudger) Smith writes:

THE Branch held its AGM at its regular meeting place, the LTAA Leiston on 3 Mar. The Branch president welcomed the good turnout and both he and the Branch chairman, in their address, thanked all Branch officers for their hard work which had resulted in another good year. The membership was thanked for their continuing support, especially those attending meetings on a regular basis and also those who continued to subscribe through their membership knowing that they can never get to monthly meetings for varying reasons – chiefly through distance or work. All officers were elected and dates agreed for the main events of the year.

The greatest event of this first half of the year has been the successful move of the Second World War Japanese horror camps from the Leiston Cadet Centre into the award winning Leiston Long Shop Museum. At their meeting in mid-January, the museum trustees agreed to accept the flag on permanent loan for display. There can be no doubt that we owe our Branch president, who is also Hon Secretary and a trustee of the museum,

a great debt in persuading the trustees to take this step.

A gun metal Suffolk Cap Badge which is mounted centrally over the frame together with 15 wooden plaques, each bearing one of the major battle honours carried on the Regiments Colours and painted C.1935 by a Leiston member of the TA, has been fitted to a wall adjacent to the flag. In the meantime the small museum staff kindly fitted up a light directed onto the flag to ensure it is fully illuminated at all times. It means that the old and the young can easily read the immortal words that precede the history of the flag:

*"A moth eaten rag, on a
worm eaten pole,*

*It does not look likely to stir
a man's soul,*

*'Tis the deeds that were done
'neath the moth eaten rag,*

*When the pole was a staff and the
rag was a flag"*

The museum has been furnished with a short history of the Regiment appertaining to the battle honour plaques. There is a history of the long connection of the Garrett family, founders of the Garrett Engineering Works of which the Long Shop, which houses the museum, was an important part, with the local Volunteers and, later, the Territorial Army going back to the Napoleonic wars. Later we hope to put together a short history of the building of the Burma Railway so that visitors can remind themselves just what this flag is a memorial to.

Toddy Stebbings just cannot stay out of this news. In January he and wife Pearl celebrated their pearl wedding and decided to throw a party for their many friends. Admission was 'a plate of food or prize for the draw'. Around 100 prizes were on the draw table which raised over £130 which Toddy and Pearl promptly donated to

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Branch funds. Thank you both for your generosity

Whilst on the subject of wedding anniversaries we must record that Branch member - and our oldest soldier - Stan and Eunice Airey celebrated their diamond wedding on 27 Mar. Congratulations to you both and we wish you many more years together. Stan is one of the last survivors of the 2nd Battalions' Shanghai Defence Force.

Our other project, a Branch standard, is now 'on the stocks' so to speak. We hope it will be ready by Minden Day but we cannot guarantee that.

Sadly, we have to report the loss of three stalwarts of the Branch during the last six months. Les Wright, Roy Boast and 'Ginger' Finch had been strong Branch supporters since it was formed. The Branch was strongly represented at all funerals. Although not a Branch member, we were sorry to hear of the death of another old 2nd Battalion member who served with the Shanghai Defence Force, 88-year-old Carroll Brown.

Our summer fete has been brought forward this year and will be at The Red House, Leiston on 19 June. Unfortunately this clashes with the OCA annual general meeting which is most unfortunate and regretted but could not be avoided. Our dinner/dance is a little later this year, Saturday 23 Oct. Our chief guest is to be Norman Scarfe, a member of the R A Regiment in support of 3 (British) Division on D Day and writer of 'Assault Division', a history of the 3rd Division from the invasion of Normandy to the surrender of Germany.

Beccles and District Branch

OUR newsletter in this issue is overshadowed by the sad and unexpected death of our chairman, Fred Taylor on 16 Jan. Active until the very end Fred was known to a great many people for his unfailing good humour, his organising ability and his complete lack of pomposity.

It was of Fred's instigation that Beccles and District Branch was formed in 1987. His tireless planning and practical involvement at all levels insured that the Branch continues to flourish.

Fred's funeral took place at St. Michael's Parish Church, Beccles on 22 Jan. Just about every member of Beccles and District Branch was in attendance and the congregation also included our president, Maj W D Curnock and our vice-president, Mrs L Moriarty. Brig W C Deller, president of the Suffolk Regiment Association was represented by Capt John Perrett, who also attended on behalf of Leiston Branch.

Sadly, we also report the death of our oldest member, First World War veteran, Mr Billy Self. Billy, who was 93 years of age, died on 22 Nov. A regular attender at meetings and a tireless worker as hospital visitor for the Royal British Legion, Billy was active until a few months before his death.

We are indebted to committee member Doug Adams for compiling an up-to-date list of members, complete with addresses and phone numbers. All branches will have received a copy of this list.

Our autumn buffet/dance was quite successful, with encouraging support from Leiston and Felixstowe branches. We have supported a number of ex-Service parades within our area, including the Norfolk Area Desert Rats October parade.

Other events that come to mind are the Normandy Vets carol service at St. Stephen's Church, Norwich on 17 Dec, Beccles Traders' Street Party on 12 Dec, a cold but profitable occasion for the Branch, and the highly successful - and free to members - Christmas Social.

Once again we were able to provide Christmas Benevolence.

Our guest speakers continue to entertain us with topics ranging from nuclear power to the more humorous side of the East Anglian dialect. Our first Standard parade of 1993 took place on 7 Mar when we supported the

Coastal Forces Veterans' Association annual church parade at the Bethel, Lowestoft. Our annual meeting has just taken place and we welcome as our new chairman, Gordon Broughton. Gordon was a unanimous choice from all present at a well attended meeting. We wish him well in the task that lies ahead.

Felixstowe and District Branch

Don Archer writes:

OUR annual meeting, held in late autumn, resulted in the prompt re-election of Norman Buckingham as Branch chairman with Dennis Young as treasurer. Diminishing health caused Sam Keeble, founder member and past chairman, to stand down from committee work. His place on committee was taken by Basil Harper.

Charlie Smy handed over his duties as Branch Standard bearer to Cyril Warner, who proved a very apt pupil of Charlie's expertise.

Members of our Branch were honoured this year with attendance at a wreath-laying Remembrance ceremony at Westminster on 5 Nov, by H M The Queen Mother. The afternoon was occupied with a boat trip on the River Thames to complete an enjoyable and memorable day.

Our Branch Christmas party in December was well attended by more than 80 members. It proved to be one of the best we have enjoyed. Our own (home grown) entertainment of songs, dancing and various competitions was greatly appreciated and a really splendid buffet tea, provided by our ladies, made the whole event a "right royal do."

New members to join include George Lon, Len Faiers and John Watling. John is ensconced in the Museum Rooms at Landguard Fort at Felixstowe. An ex 1st Battalion member, he will be pleased to meet any visitors to that establishment.

During the past few months we have been particularly pleased to support functions organised by sister branches. Buffet dances, dinner dances

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and formal dinners have all been thoroughly enjoyed at Ipswich, Leiston, Bury St. Edmunds and Stowmarket.

As we progress into this current year we are commencing our preparations for the annual outing and other notable events. This year we hope to include a boat trip on the Norfolk Broads with a coach tour and a visit to Gt. Yarmouth for tea. Other projects include a sizeable float in the local carnival and various fund raising evenings with either raffles or housey-housey.

We are saddened to report the death of Ted Topple (ex 8th Battalion) and Derek Hockley (ex 4th Battalion), both of Felixstowe. We extend our sympathies to the members of the Beccles Branch of OCA on the recent death of their chairman, Fred Taylor. He was a regular visitor to many of our functions and had become quite well known to a number of our Felixstowe members.

Hemel Hempstead Branch

Ray Picton writes:

THE Hemel Branch of the Foreign Legion Suffolk Regiment OCA had its AGM on Friday 29 Jan. There was a good turnout and all committee members were re-elected plus two new members. We thank Ron Wingfield for taking on the job of social secretary.

The Branch is still looking good with members continuing to come in to swell our numbers. We are looking forward to the outings to Yarmouth, to Duxford and the War Museum in London. The Branch is booked up for a dance and social night at the TA Centre at Hemel Hempstead for the 25 Sept.

The Branch is looking forward to the Minden weekend with b&b already booked for 65 members and with more coming by car. We all look forward to the Bury Branch dance in the TA Centre the night before.

We are also looking forward to Bassingbourn for a good day out and the members that took part in the field events hope to take part this year with our No.1 John Frawley, but without the assistance of Alf Jones like last year.

Members of the Branch were out on

the streets selling poppies and collected £21.20, £1.50 more than last year - not bad for a lot of old boys. Mr Gilbert of Berkhamsted got a few ambulance nurses to do a charity walk and with the help of the Hemel Branch and the RBL have raised £2,800 for the Berkhamsted Hospice.

In September a number of our Branch are going over to Holland to visit Overloon and Venray but we hope to cover more of Holland as we will be there a few days longer than last year. The trip is run by the Hemel Combined Ex-Service Association who will also run the dance at the Pavilion Hemel to make a few more pounds for the Poppy Fund and SSAFA.

Members of the Branch were sad to hear of the death of Fred Taylor. We all knew him as a good friend and chairman of his Branch. We will all miss him. As chairman of the Hemel Branch I would like to thank the committee and all members of the Branch for all the help that I have had from them in the last year.

Dedication of Memorial

Mr A Stollery writes:

ON Saturday 21 Nov 92, at St. Matthews Church, Ipswich a Memorial to Far East Prisoners of War was dedicated by Canon Godfrey and Canon E Wells who was Padre at the Ipswich Hospital for many years.

A large congregation was made up of ex POWs, widows of FEPOWs, Suffolk Regiment OCA, members of other associations and friends.

The Mayors of Ipswich and Hadleigh also attended in an unofficial capacity. The reading was read by an ex-POW of the 5th Battalion the Suffolk Regiment, Mr A R Jarvis BEM of Hadleigh, Suffolk. After the singing of a hymn the actual dedication of the Plaque took place. Following the dedication and act of remembrance, a floral wreath was laid by Mrs G Garrod a FEPOW Widow whose husband Ivan died last September. He was a member of the RAMC Fd. Amb.

The sermon was preached by Canon R Godfrey.

Colleville-Montgomery Honours the Suffolk Regiment

FORTY-eight years after the D Day landing, the village of Colleville-Montgomery honoured the Regiment by naming a road "Rue du Suffolk Regiment". On 6 June 1944 1 Suffolk, the reserve battalion of 8 Brigade in 3 British Infantry Division, liberated Colleville-Montgomery (then known as Colleville-sur-Orne) and captured the four-gun battery known as Morris and the heavily fortified position of HQ 736 Grenadier Regiment known as Hillman.

The road leading to the bunker forming part of Hillman, which is owned by the Regiment, has now been named after the Regiment. A handsome stone has been set up bearing the 3 Division sign, the Regimental Badge and the name of the road "Rue du Suffolk Regiment" with the arms of Colleville-Montgomery.

The stone was unveiled at a simple ceremony by the Mayor of Colleville-Montgomery held on the bunker. Brig Deller responded to the inspiring address by the Mayor. Overhead flew the yellow and red regimental flag with Castle and Key and XII. Two drummers from 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment sounded Last Post and Reveille after wreaths were laid before the memorial plaque on the bunker.

Those present were also able to inspect the panoramic table presented by the Regiment showing the extent and details of the strongpoint and the direction and distances to other points of interest at that time. The table is on a plinth with a red and yellow surround erected by the municipality.

The ceremony ended with a vin d'honneur for those present at the bunker. A coach load of 50 Old Comrades and their wives had travelled over the day before. It included "Tich" Hunter who earned the DCM in the capture of Hillman. Also present was the Military Attache from Paris. Several other veterans from other units of 3 Division were also present.

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The day ended with a splendid meal organised by 'Les Amis du Suffolk Regiment'. The atmosphere was extremely friendly and the generous hospitality of the people of Colleville was very much appreciated.

The next day the Suffolk Old Comrades were able first to visit the site of the battle for the Chateau de la Londe where the Battalion suffered over 160 casualties. A pleasant surprise awaited the party. At the end of the visit the whole party was invited by the son of the owner of the Chateau to his house to drink a glass of Champagne. (The owner who has welcomed many Suffolk soldiers in the past is now 92 and was not well.)

The Suffolk party went on to pay respects to fallen comrades in the war grave cemeteries at Douvres-la-Delivrande and Hermanville before returning via Sword Beach to Ouistreham for the ferry back to Portsmouth.

Those present had a memorable weekend and were enthusiastic over the reception and hospitality of the local inhabitants.

James II and the Earl of Litchfield's Regiment 1688:

WEBB'S History of the 12th (The Suffolk) Regiment contains an account of the well known incident when the Earl of Litchfield's Regiment (later The Suffolk Regiment) was paraded before him so he could seek their support in abrogating the religious tests (the Test Acts). Those who did not wish to comply were directed to lay down their arms. To his dismay the whole Regiment with the exception of a few Roman Catholics grounded their arms.

In Webb's account the Regiment was selected because of the number of Roman Catholics in it. For a regiment largely recruited in Norfolk and Suffolk only three years previously it seems unlikely that it would have had more Catholics than those recruited from areas with a higher Catholic population e.g. Staffordshire, Lancashire.

A study of Roman Catholicism in Norfolk has shown that the number of centres in Norfolk fell dramatically in the 17th century - from 160 in 1603 to 38 by 1680.

By that time the number of Catholics in the county was only about a fifth of that in the country as a whole. Other studies have shown that there were not more than 1,000 to 2,000 Catholics in the Army altogether and that the average in each regiment could not have been more than 20 to 25. This would seem to give little reason to pick Litchfield's.

On the other hand the proportion of officers who were Catholics and were supporters of James II was fairly high. Litchfield himself did offer allegiance to William III and five out of the ten ordered to raise companies in 1685 were specially exempted from the Test Acts in that year and all followed James into exile as did the Lieutenant Colonel who acted for the Duke of Norfolk in raising his company.

Three other company commanders may have been Catholics or came from families with Catholic sympathies. Two other officers were Catholics and followed James into exile and others with sympathies in this direction did not continue serving after 1688. There was thus a very high proportion of officers who would have been sympathetic to James's views, perhaps nearly 50 per cent.

It is therefore possible that James picked the Regiment because of the number of officers on whom he felt he could rely, most of whom had had some previous service on the continent. If so, it is clear that they had little influence on the feelings of the rank and file.

The other possibility is that the Regiment was selected as the nearest available. It was Macaulay who first appears to have written that the Regiment was picked because of the number of Catholics in its ranks. Since he also seemed to think that the Regiment was raised in Staffordshire, his accuracy as historian cannot be depended upon.



CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Whittlesey & Peterborough Branch

LAST year's Service of Remembrance and reunion was well attended by the Branch and Old Comrades who have made the supreme sacrifice in two world wars and those who have passed away since were remembered with affection.

The annual barbecue was held at the Woolpack on 16 July 92 in conjunction with the Northamptonshire and Royal Anglian Regiment Associations. We hosted it this year and it was attended by some 80 people. The excellent fayre was produced by Peter Newton and as it will be his last time he was presented with a regimental tie and Old Comrades badge by Branch president Tom Miles.

Owing to the illness of the branch secretary's wife Sylvia, it was not possible to hold the jumble sale last year which was a loss to branch funds. Also one of the main helpers, Peter Hall, had died.

The Branch Service of Remembrance was held on Sunday 27 Sept at the Queen Street Methodist Church, Whittlesey.

It was well attended by members and the normal congregation joined in. The service was conducted by Mr Arnold from Wansford as the Rev Norman George was ill. Lessons were read by Tom Miles and Maj Les English.

For the first time, the Branch were unable to send a delegation to the OCA annual meeting on 27 Sept as it clashed with our Service of Remembrance. We very much regret

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this as the annual meeting is most important as it spells out the format to be taken for the following year.

We could not have chosen a worse night to hold our annual dinner on 2 Oct as the rain was like a monsoon. The venue was the Dog-in-a-Doublet, North Bank, Peterborough which is stuck right out in the fens alongside a tidal river, but there was a good turnout.

The guests were The Lord Lieutenant Mr James Crowden, a good friend of the Regiment, and the Branch Standard Bearer, Cadet Company Sergeant Major Paul Watson. Toasts were proposed by Eddie Davis and Jesse Matthews, and the silver was loaned by the Whittlesey and Peterborough ACF and the port was donated by Capt John Watson.

The raffle raised £45 which was used to give widows a Christmas present.

There was a good turnout for the Remembrance Day services and parades and for the first time a Suffolk OCA poppy wreath was laid on the Peterborough War Memorial by Claude Feethan and will be an annual event. The Cambridgeshire wreath was laid by Maj Les English. Jimmy Carter laid the wreath at Whittlesey.

A social evening was held on 2 Dec at the WO's & Sgts' Mess, London Road, Peterborough.

The Branch annual meeting was held on 23 Mar 93 when the officials for the year were elected en bloc. President: Tom Miles; vice-presidents:

Maj Bill Grogan, Maj Les English and Lt Col Kit Stallard.

A buffet was held afterwards which was supplied by S/Sgt John Samuels and his wife who were thanked by the president.

Officers' Dinner Club

ON Saturday 3 Apr 93 some 60 members and wives attended the annual dinner at the Cadet HQ, Waterbeach. The guests of honour were Lt Col E L Mapey, the president of the Regimental Association, and Mrs Mapey.

The president of the regimental associations, Col Walter Page, presided and Mr Vice was 2Lt Birch of 3 Company 5th Royal Anglian.

In replying to the toast of the Regiment, Maj M Veal the Company Commander of 3 (Cambridgeshire) Company 5th Royal Anglian, informed us of the achievements of the Company over the last year.

Telegrams were read out from Her Majesty the Queen, Her Majesty the Queen Mother and Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon.

OBITUARY Sylvia Matthews

MRS Sylvia Matthews passed away on 23 Sept 1992. Sylvia was the wife of Jesse Matthews, secretary of the Whittlesey & Peterborough Branch. Mrs Matthews took an active part in the activities of the Branch and greatly helped with raising the money needed to purchase and dedicate the Branch Standard.

FUTURE EVENTS

Event	Date	Day	Time	Location
Reunion Service	20 June	Sun	2pm	Ely
Minden Day	1 Aug	Sun	am / pm	Bury
Regimental Gathering	29 Aug	Sun	am / pm	Bassingbourn
Regimental Council	19 Sept	Sun	10am	Waterbeach
OCA AGM	19 Sept	Sun	2pm	Archer House, Ely
Field of Remembrance	4 Nov	Thurs	11.15am	Westminster

Sport

Wide range of events dominated by Vikings

THE Battalion's sporting success continues. During December, 19 Infantry Brigade organised a sports competition, in which each company competed separately, a total of 17 teams competing for each event. Battalion teams won seven of the 14 events, and came second or third in all but one of the others.

A Company won the shooting and water polo; C Company potted sports and cross-country cycling; Support Company rugby and HQ Company cross-country and orienteering. C Company received the Victor Laudorum prize as the winning team.

This success has been matched throughout the period and the Battalion has completed a uniquely successful winter sporting season. The Vikings have dominated the local district competitions. Teams were first in the following district events: orienteering, league and championships; cross-country, league and championships; hockey, league and championships; rugby championships and squash championships. Indeed the only team that was not first was the cross-country B team, which was placed second behind the Battalion's A team.

In the Infantry competition, both the orienteering and cross-country teams were first and the hockey team is awaiting its semi-final match.

Last summer, the Battalion athletics team was fifth in the Army championships. This success at Army level has continued during the winter with the hockey team reaching the quarter finals of the competition and the orienteering team being placed fourth. The greatest achievement was the cross-country team's second place in the Army championships in February.

The team was a close second to what was in effect the Royal Signals team.

Individually, Cpl Marshall has had an exceptional season representing both the Army and Essex.

Sport



Above: Sgt Cramner of the Vikings (143) competing in the Army cross-country championships.
Below: A gaggle of Vikings hockey players during a half time team talk.



Sport

Mayall makes international mark

Lt Martin Kelleway of the Poachers and currently OC British Junior Nordic Biathlon Team writes:

Pte Mayall has now represented the Regiment, the Army and Great Britain at three international biathlon competitions at Junior level.

This is a remarkable record for someone who is not only in just his second year of skiing, but is also from an active unit. The majority of those racing at this level are junior soldiers/leaders who have more sporting opportunities.

The events in which Pte Mayall raced are as follows:

The World Junior Biathlon Championships. These were held in Ruhpolding, Bavaria. A total of 26 nations took part. This was a large improvement on last year when the field consisted of only 13 nations.

As expected the competition was of a very high standard with approximately 100 starters in each race. Pte Mayall raced in the 15 km team biathlon and also the 15 km individual biathlon. In the latter Pte Mayall was the highest placed British athlete coming 74th.

Two Europa Cups. These events are junior versions of world cups. They take place all over Europe and are a useful training tool for young athletes helping them gain competition experience.

The first of these events was at Bayer Eisenstein in Bavaria. Six nations took part with around 50 starters.

Here in the 15 km individual biathlon, Pte Mayall was placed 36th, whilst in the 15 km biathlon sprint he was placed 42nd. The second meeting was in Andermatt, Switzerland.

This is a pleasant, but expensive, holiday resort high in the Swiss Alps. Again the two races run were the 15 km individual and the 15 km sprint races. In a field of 50 starters Pte Mayall came 42nd and 45th respectively.

Pte Mayall's progress from novice to international athlete has taken only two seasons.

This has involved a steep learning curve and a great deal of hard work. Pte Mayall should be commended on his zeal and positive approach, well done.



Pte Mayall at the Army Championships.



Steelback runners at the National Championships.

Golfing prizes keenly contested

THE spring meeting of the Golfing Society took place at Flempton Golf Club on Thursday 22 Apr. Twenty-eight members took part and judging by the noise during the super lunch provided by Mrs Brown, the club stewardess, everyone was thoroughly enjoying themselves. The weather was again just right and the course in tip top condition; the addition of a couple of lakes made for even more interest.

The scores were well up to standard and the prizes were keenly contested with some scores being very close.

Capt Clive Mallett, however, ran away with the Medal with a net score of 65 (5 under par!), runner-up was Capt Jeff Wilcox with a net 68 and third was Capt Graham Taylor with a 69. In the Stableford, WO2 Geof Peck was first, Capt David Davidson was runner-up and third was ex WO2 Roy Templeman.

After the lunch and fortified with refreshments unsuitable for golf the Foursomes were played and the results were: first Capts Graham Taylor and John Fisk, runners-up, Maj Guy Hipkin and ex CSgt Andy Thomas and third Capt Clive Mallett and Les Missen.

We are now looking forward to the annual meeting at Stowmarket on 18 June.

Steelback runners perform well

THE Battalion Running Club has met with a certain amount of success this year, primarily during the cross-country season. WO2s Dent and Pallant were always seen running in the Eastern District League events throughout the year, at a variety of venues, in the Black and Red colours of the Steelbacks.

The highlight of the year has to be becoming runners up in the EDIST (TA) cross-country championships held at Basingbourn Barracks on 12 Dec.

After a magnificent performance the team failed by four points to overhaul the

eventual winners, 100 Field Regt RA.

Consolation came with WO2 Dent becoming the veteran champion for the third time in six years.

The team went on to participate in the UK (TA) National Championships at Rhyll on 13 Mar, and came a very creditable tenth from 25 teams, behind the strong Welsh and Combined University teams.

Our sights are now firmly set on the next major event which is the Welsh 1,000 Peaks Race being held in Snowdonia on 5 June and hard training for that event is well underway.

Regimental Cricket Fixtures 1993

Sunday 13 June	v Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment	(Colchester)	1400
Sunday 20 June	v Brentwood School	(Colchester)	1400
Sunday 27 June	v Bancroft's School	(Colchester)	1400
Monday 28 June	v Framlingham College	(Framlingham)	1130
Tuesday 29 June	v Woodbridge School	(Colchester)	1400
Wednesday 30 June	v Gresham's School	(Holt)	1130
Sunday 11 July	v Commander 54 (EA) Bde XI	(Colchester)	1400
Tuesday 13 July	v Perse Pelicans	(Cambridge)	1400

Anyone wishing to play in any matches should contact RHQ.

Births

1ST BATTALION

BIRTHS: Tysoe - To Pte and Mrs Tysoe a son Ezra John; Dyson - To Pte and Mrs Dyson a daughter Kimberlee Louise; Connolly - To Pte and Mrs Connolly a son Damien Lee; Wilson - To Bdsman and Mrs Wilson a daughter Denise Christine; Derbyshire - To Sgt and Mrs Derbyshire a daughter Stacey Anne; Shand - To Sgt and Mrs Shand a daughter Melissa Amy; Smith - To Pte and Mrs Smith a son Shane Paul; Couldridge - To Sgt and Mrs Couldridge a son Matthew Thomas; Bell - To Pte and Mrs Bell a son Andre Paul; Wallis - To Pte and Mrs Wallis a daughter Marcia Antonia; Johnson - To LCpl and Mrs Johnson a daughter Sammy-Jo; Tufnail - To LCpl and Mrs Tufnail a daughter Chelsea Erica; Kirkby - To LCpl and Mrs Kirkby a daughter Charlotte Louise; Gregory - To Cpl and Mrs Gregory a daughter Tasmin Maria; Wallington - To LCpl and Mrs Wallington a daughter Hayley; Cotton - To Cpl and Mrs Cotton a son Ryan John; Bradley - To Pte and Mrs Bradley a daughter Selina Lorraine Elena; Kavanagh - To LCpl and Mrs Kavanagh a daughter Yazmin; Bredin - To Cpl and Mrs Bredin a son Zak James; Fradgley - To Sgt and Mrs Fradgley a son Jacob Harry; Drake - To Pte and Mrs Drake a son Damien; Wolfe - To Sgt and Mrs Wolfe a son Micah Janek; Gardener - To Pte and Mrs Gardener a daughter Tamazin; Bannon - To LCpl and Mrs Bannon a son Sean Christopher; Cheffins - To Pte and Mrs Cheffins a son Jamie Darren.

MARRIAGES: Horne - Cornes - On 10 Oct 92 Pte D Horne to Miss A Cornes; Parris - Price - On 25 Sep 92 LCpl D Parris to Miss C Price; Marshallsay - Hill - On 22 Aug 92 Pte Marshallsay to Miss D Hill; McCrystal - Say - On 8 Aug 92 Pte McCrystal to Miss J Say; Pearce - Pearce - On 11 Apr 92 Pte Pearce to Miss K Pearce; Hughes - Tranter - On 17 Oct 92 Pte Hughes to Miss S J Tranter; Shearer - Gould - On 17 Dec 92 WO1 Shearer to Miss V Gould.

2ND BATTALION

BIRTHS: Hunter - To Capt and Mrs D G H Hunter a daughter Imogen; Beard - To Maj and Mrs Beard a daughter Philippa.

ENGAGEMENTS: Crouch - Capt T L Crouch to Doctor Lindsay Anne Dean.

Obituaries



Maj Bruce Lee

MAJ Bruce Lee was a member of a well-known Grantham family and after attending the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, was commissioned into the Lincolnshire Regiment just before the outbreak of war in 1939.

He was posted to his Regiment in India and, in 1940, he volunteered for parachute training. He was a pioneer in helping to form a new parachute battalion which was later to become part of the Parachute Regiment.

During the war, after leaving India, he served with several parachute units in the Middle East, Italy and the UK, and, in 1950, he was selected to attend the Staff College. Subsequently, he served in

Malaya during the troubles in that country, first with the Gurkha Brigade and then back with the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment.

During this period, he was mentioned-in-Despatches. During the last ten years of his military service, he held staff appointments including further service in the Middle East with the Trucial Oman Scouts and the Federal Regular Army in Aden.

He retired from the Army in 1965.

After his retirement, Bruce very soon became involved in public service and local government in Lincolnshire.

He served on the Kesteven County Council until the re-organisation of local government in 1974. Subsequently, he was a member of South Kesteven District Council for 11 years and was Town Mayor of Grantham in 1983/84.

He was elected to the Lincolnshire County Council in 1981 representing the Folkingham Rural Ward.

He served on innumerable committees especially concerned with education and the Youth Service, and was on the governing bodies of many schools.

He represented Lincolnshire County Council on the East Midlands Further Education Council in which he had a particular interest.

He never lost interest in his Army career and was a devoted supporter of the Royal British Legion in Grantham.

In both his contribution to the Army and to local government, Bruce Lee showed himself to be dedicated to his work and devoted to his duty in every way.

C E W-E

Trevor Armond Nightingale

MAJ Trevor Armond Nightingale TD, JP died at Whips Cross Hospital on 21 June 1992.

All of his friends knew he had been ill, but the extent of the illness was unknown to even his closest friends. It was typical of Trevor that he did not want to cause any fuss by confiding in others what he must have known was his approaching death.

Trevor was born in 1941 and attended the Royal Masonic School in Bushey, Hertfordshire.

He was to continue his association with the school right up to its closure. He also became a Mason in his early 20's and continued his association with them until his untimely death. Trevor joined the 4th/5th

Battalion The Essex Regiment TA at the old TA Centre in Gordon Road, Ilford, where he served as a platoon commander eventually becoming RSO with the Battalion before it went into "cold storage" in the first round of Options for Change for the TA.

In April 1967, the 5th Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment was formed and Trevor joined 3 (Essex) Company that was to become the central focus of his life for many years.

In October 1971 he became OC of the Company and served in that appointment for nearly four years. He was an exceptional company commander and led the Company through what must have been its golden years.

He took the Company to, amongst other

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Obituaries



Maj Trevor Armond Nightingale TD

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places, Cyprus, Warcop and BAOR where he helped to enhance the reputation of the fledgling 5 Royal Anglian.

Whilst Trevor served with the 6th Battalion in a variety of posts, and as a liaison officer in Belgium, his first and real love was his Essex Company.

He took an intense pride in his ability to detect potential, and there are many officers in both the TA and the Regular Army that

owe their start to Trevor. Amongst those can be included the present CO and CO designate of the 6th Battalion.

He was an intensely private man, with deep religious convictions. He was the benefactor of numerous charities and a member of many different committees, as well as being a Justice of the Peace.

His devotion to the TA and the community marked him out as a true Territorial. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

DEATHS

WE record with regret the deaths of the following:

Albert Jones, Sgt ex Essex Regiment on 12 Mar 92; **Maj P L Philcox MC**, R Anglian on 24 Mar 92; **David Swann**, ex Essex Regiment on 4 Mar 92; **D D Smith MM**, ex Sgt Essex Regiment on 24 Aug 92; **Capt J Cooper MC**, ex Essex Regiment on 14 Jul 92; **John Lear**, ex Essex Regiment on 29 Apr 92; **Lt Col D E Long-Price OBE**, ex Essex Regiment on 5 Aug 92; **Percy Ward**, ex Essex Regiment on 14 Sep 92; **Maj Trevor Nightingale**, ex Essex

Regiment on 21 Jun 92; **Maj E I Watson**, ex Essex Regiment on 9 Jun 92; **Charles William Langley**, ex Essex In-Pensioner on 21 Jan 93.

Also **Officer Cadet T L A R Salter** in a motor accident in Suffolk on 2 Apr 93.

Captain G W C Squirrell

CAPT Squirrell died on 18 Dec 1992 aged 77 years. President of the family firm of C K Squirrell & Sons of Bildeston, Suffolk he was commissioned and joined the Cambridgeshire Regiment in 1940 serving in Singapore and the Far East.

WO2 PR Taylor

WO2 Phillip 'Fee' Taylor died as a result of a tragic accident in Colchester on 20 Mar 1993. His death at the age of 45 robbed the Vikings of its longest serving member.

Fee Taylor enlisted in the 1st East Anglian Regiment in 1964 as a member of a group of friends from Kings Lynn. His career included considerable operational experience in Aden and the Radfan and a total of 55 months in Northern Ireland.

He served around the world in posts as diverse as Germany, Cyprus, Kenya, Norway, Jamaica, Nigeria, Canada, Bermuda and Gibraltar. On completion of his 22 years, he was selected for extended service and moved to the RAPC on condition that he would remain with the 1st Battalion as the SFA.

His distinguished 30 years of service was recognised in 1992 with the award of the Meritorious Service Medal. He was presented with the highly deserved award by Maj Gen Walker in front of the assembled Battalion.

Fee was a total professional, a man of principle and a staunch supporter of the Battalion. His considerable experience made his advice invaluable. He was an institution in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, to which he had belonged since 1969. **Fee** was greatly respected at all levels within the Battalion and his loyalty to the Vikings was an example to all. He was a tremendous sportsman and in recent years progressed to coaching, officiating and organising. Golf was his passion.

He leaves behind his much loved wife, **Audrie** and his daughters **Tracie** and **Donna**. He was a very special Viking who will be sorely missed. We were privileged to know him as our colleague and friend and we extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to his family and friends.



Picture focus



Above left: Pte Strang of the Poachers on patrol in Dungannon. Above right: LCpl Ogden "Looking for trouble?" *Pictures courtesy of Mr John Callon.* Below: The Steelbacks Officers' Mess falling plate team in relaxed form prior to doing battle with the WOs' and SNCOs' Mess team. L to r: Capt Paul Neil, Lt Nigel Brown, Maj Nigel flitch and Capt Tony Marinos.



REGIMENTAL SHOP

All items badged Royal Anglian

* Prices each
incl. VAT

* Prices each
incl. VAT

ASH TRAYS - clear glass - badge in centre £2.20
ASH / PIN TRAYS - china, white, blue badge £1.80

BADGES

Blazer £7.10
Cloth £0.50
Collar Officers 1st & 2nd Bns £14.50 pr
R Anglian Collar £2.50 ea £5.00 pr
Lapel - R Anglian Association (boxed) enamel £4.75
Lapel - R Anglian Association £1.30

BELTS - Casual Trousers - sm. 31/34", med. 35/38",
lge. 39/42" £3.00
- Buckle - R Anglian - leather reversible,
- Stable - sizes med. lge. & Xlge £7.35

BOOKMARKS - leather in assorted colours (old style) £0.40
- leather (drummer in colour) (new style) £0.66

BUTTONS - Blazer - in polished gilt - lge. & sm. £1.30 ea
- Side Hat & Mess Kit (Offrs') £3.10 ea

CASSETTES - Regimental Bands - Beating Retreat £4.00

CHRISTMAS CARDS (Regimental Badge on front) £0.37 ea

CLIP BOARDS in blue - gold badge £4.30

CLOCKS - wooden, octagonal, silver badge in centre £13.20

COMB/NAILFILE SET in leather case - various colours £0.65

CREDIT CARD HOLDER - black leather - badge in silver £2.70

CRICKET SWEATER - Longsleeve, 40", 42", 44" £36.25

- Slip-over, 40", 42", 44" £31.25

CRICKET CAP £14.45

CRICKET TIE £10.50

CUFF LINKS in gilt polished £8.25 pr

DINNER MATS - see table mats

DISPLAY BINDER - A4 12 pockets - blue with badge £5.60

EGG CUPS - white - blue badge £0.85

FIGURES

Bronze - SA80 & SLR (special orders) £40.25

Pewter - combat dress with SLR, SMG or SA 80 .. £24.50

NI Cop with telescopic rifle £24.50

(All figures with regimental badge on hat & base)

FLAGS

Regimental all Bns., numerals in top corner £50.55

Regimental - plain £50.55

Pennant Flag (18" x 12") £27.70

GLASSES

Beer Mug - 1 pint £1.50

Whisky £1.00

HIP FLASKS - 6oz leather case in navy with badge £9.30

HOLDALLS - canvas, water-proof lining £6.15

ICE BUCKET DRUM £17.85

KEY RINGS - leather - assorted colours £0.40

- mock padlock - gold coloured £4.50

MEMO PADS - imitation leather - badge in silver £5.70

- Refills for Tubby Memo Pads £2.70

MUGS - Coffee - white, badged in yellow & black £1.25

- Coffee, China - white - blue badge £2.30

PAPERWEIGHTS - 1st & 2nd Bn badges

(made to order) £25.95

PENDANTS (enamel, R Anglian Badge) on chain £3.60

PENS - ball point - camouflage design £4.00

- ball point - Royal Anglian Regt - dark blue £2.25

PEWTER TANKARD - 1 pint

R Anglian badge £8.55

1st & 2nd Bn badge £18.80

PRINTS - Colour - set of 8 comprising 7 former regts.

in period dress + R Anglian drummer £5.20 set

Single Prints of above £0.65 ea

Large print R Anglian drummer £0.50 ea

REGIMENTAL RIBBON - 1 1/2 in. wide £1.50 mtr
(same design as stable belt webbing)

REGIMENTAL HISTORY

Crater to The Creggan - hardback £3.00

- softback £1.00

RUBBERS - white with blue badge £0.25

SHIELDS (plaques)

Wooden hand-painted £19.10

Larger wooden hand-painted £13.75

STICKERS (plastic)

12" £1.80

6" £1.25

4" £1.00

2" £0.65

SWEAT SHIRTS - Navy, white printed badge on left breast

sizes 36", 38", 40" & 44" £8.10 ea

Navy, embroidered badge on left breast.

sizes sml., med. & lge £11.75

XL £12.25

SWEATER - Lambswool, machine washable,

embroidered badge, sizes 38", 40", 42" & 44" £26.80

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

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 - Polyester £13.25

Past & Present Dinner Club £4.50

TIE PIN/SWEETHEART BROOCH

- gold enamel badge £6.90

WRITING CASE - blue leather, gold badge £10.75

Notes:

1. Orders, together with remittance, cheques/postal orders made payable to "The Royal Anglian Regiment Association" posted to RHQ The Royal Anglian Regiment, The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN.
2. All prices include VAT and are subject to manufacturer's price increases.
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