



CASTLE

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT

DECEMBER 1993





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 TAVHA 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 captaincy 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 learnt.

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.



1st Battalion



2nd Battalion



December 1993

Vol. 9 No. 2

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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



The Poachers on patrol in Northern Ireland

From the Colonel of the Regiment



TWO matters have dominated regimental thinking since the last edition of *The Castle*: the future of our territorial battalions and the future of RHQ and its outstations.

I outlined our fears concerning the future of our territorial battalions in my last introduction. We still await the outcome of the current study into the future establishment and role of the territorial army and until this is to hand it would be unwise to speculate on exactly how this will impact on our own battalions and their current deployment. However, in the meantime we are wasting no opportunity in reminding those whose duty it will be to endorse the recommendations of the report, that as the infantry regiment representing the largest cohesive geographic area in the country, we have more to lose than most in any reductions in our territorial battalion numbers. We have three excellent territorial battalions of the highest reputation and it remains the Regimental Council's firm intention to fight to retain all three.

Efforts to rationalise and reduce infantry RHQs are no less invidious in our attempts to maintain a strong presence in all our counties. RHQ and our outstations act as the focal point between the three branches of the Regiment; the regulars, the territorials and the members of all our associations. All of these need to support and help each other; together they maintain and foster the history and traditions of the Regiment and gather and distribute benevolence and assistance to the old and the needy, who have served either in our former regiments or as Royal Anglians. After three separate studies, the Ministry of Defence seems no nearer to announcing its intentions. I take some comfort from the fact that the Director of Infantry would appear to be recommending a far less draconian saving

regime than that of the more extreme study. The end result will no doubt involve some reduction in RHQ's resources, but, again, it is difficult to make any firm judgements until the details are announced. The Regimental Council is, however, quite clear that our main objective must be to retain as many outstations as we can. In my view, centralisation to one location, runs completely against the ethos of contact and caring which is the central plank of regimental cohesion. I can assure you all that any move towards this solution will be strongly resisted and I am deeply grateful for all the letters I have received supporting this view. Sadly, I believe some rationalisation is inescapable, but I simply will not contemplate a total centralisation on one site.

I would now like to turn to more positive things – and there are plenty of those to choose from in the Regiment at the moment. Plans for a Royal Anglian museum have progressed steadily this year. In brief, the Imperial War Museum at Duxford have offered us a prime site in the middle of their land air warfare collection in the vast new hangar they have built to contain what must be one of the finest collections in existence. This is a unique opportunity for the Regiment. It is however going to cost money, and we will be launching an appeal to raise in the region of £200,000 in the New Year. Plans for this are now in hand and you will no doubt

soon be bombarded with information and requests to help. The Regimental Committee enthusiastically endorsed the concept and the appeal at our meeting in November. We now require every one of you to help us reach our target by both contributing and assisting in other money raising efforts. If all goes well we would be in a position to open the Museum in the spring of 1995.

As I write, the 1st Battalion is in its final stages of preparation for its forthcoming Northern Ireland tour, maintaining the Army tradition of deploying over Christmas! All our best wishes for a safe and successful tour I know go with them. The 2nd Battalion's tour in support of the UN in Bosnia in May also looks more certain as the time draws nearer. I can think of no more severe test of our professional excellence at all levels than attempting to assist the poor benighted citizens of that sad country; nor do I have any doubt of the Poachers' ability to excel in this most difficult of tasks.

Despite the confusion over their future, all three of our territorial battalions have excelled in their various spheres this year and, with our associations, continue to ensure that our presence is felt in all our counties. Our association membership continues to grow and as is important, plays an active role in the life of the Regiment.

Yes, there are troubles and battles on the horizon, when weren't there? But the heart of the Regiment is as strong as ever and we must all ensure it stays that way. My best wishes to all members of the Regiment and their families for a safe, prosperous and happy 1994.

Maj Gen P P D Stone



Colonel-in-Chief

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER

Deputy Colonels-in-Chief

Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon
Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester

Colonel of The Regiment

Major General P P D Stone, CB, CBE

Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment

The Reverend T B F Hiney, MC

Deputy Colonels of The Regiment

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

President of the Regimental Association

Major General Sir David Thome, 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,

Leicestershire: Colonel W G Dawson, TD, DL

Northamptonshire: Colonel P Worthy

Bedfordshire: Colonel T A Winton

Hertfordshire: Colonel N H Kelsey, OBE, TD, ADC

Essex: Colonel R C Tomkins, OBE, TD, DL

Alliances

Canadian Armed Forces

Sherbrooke Hussars

The Lincoln and Welland Regiment

The Essex and Kent Scottish

The Lake Superior Scottish Regiment

Australian Military Forces

The Royal Tasmania Regiment

New Zealand

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

Pakistan Army

5th Battalion The Frontier Force Regiment

Malaysian Armed Forces

1st Battalion The Royal Malay Regiment

Barbados

The Barbados Regiment

Bermuda

The Bermuda Regiment

Gibraltar

The Gibraltar Regiment

Belize

Belize Defence Force

Civic Honours

The Regiment has been granted the honour of the Freedom of Bedford, Boston, Brentwood, 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, Fax: 752026 / Colchester Military 5124)

Regimental Secretary: Colonel C J Dale

Assistant Regimental Secretary: Major A G B Cobbold

Regimental Careers Officer: Major R C Gould

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.

Lieutenant Colonel R M Brunt MBE

2nd Battalion, Celle BFPO 23.

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 C A F Thomas, TD

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: Captain B A Foster

Infantry Training Battalion, Ouston: Major B McDonnell

RMA Sandhurst: Captain D G H Hunter

Mainly about people

DIARY DATES 1994

JANUARY

- 11/12 Queen's Division postings meeting.
29 Official tree planting Royal Tigers' Wood, Bagworth.

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

- 17 Colonel Commandant's meeting, Tower of London.
29/30 Undergraduates' convention, Basingbourn. (TBC)

APRIL

- 14 Golf spring meeting, Flempton.
15 3rd Battalion Officers' cocktail party.
16 Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Association annual dinner.

MAY

- 6 Northamptonshire Regiment Officers' lunch.
12 Royal Anglian Officers' Club regimental cocktail party, Duke of York's.
27 Queen's Division triangular golf match, Canterbury.

JUNE

- 1st Battalion returns from Northern Ireland.
3 Royal Norfolks Officers' Dinner Club dinner.
10 or 17 Annual regimental golf meeting, Stowmarket. (TBC)
18/19 Royal Tigers' weekend.
26 Essex Regiment reunion, Warley.

JULY

- 2/3 Northamptonshire Regimental Association reunion.
5-6 Queen's Division postings meeting.
10 Association gathering, Basingbourn.
22 Essex Regiment association dinner.
30 Suffolk Regiment Officers' dinner.
31 Suffolk Regiment reunion.

AUGUST

- 1 Minden Day.

SEPTEMBER

- 1 50th anniversary of founding of the regiment.
9 Autumn golf meeting, Flempton.
10 Annual golf match v Flempton.
11 Royal Lincolns' reunion, Lincoln.
24 Royal Norfolks' association dinner.

OCTOBER

- 7 3rd Battalion Officers' Club lunch.

NOVEMBER

- 4 Royal Anglian Officers' Club dinner.
10 Field of Remembrance.
13 Remembrance Sunday.
20 Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment association reunion.

DECEMBER

- 3 Royal Leicesters Officers' Dinner Club luncheon, Duke of York's.

Promotions awards and retirements

Congratulations

WE congratulate the following on their awards in the Northern Ireland list this year – all Mentioned in Despatches – Capt D P O'Driscoll, Lt Col R M Chisnall OBE, Capt P D Jones, Sgt R J Smith and Maj W A Willmott. We congratulate also Lt Col A P Deed on his award of the OBE and Maj G F Tomlin of the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List this year.

Lt Col A P Deed OBE, Maj R E Harrold and Maj B McDonnell have been selected for promotion.

We congratulate Lt Col C T Page on his promotion and assumption of command of 1 Cheshires. We offer our congratulations to Richard Hill Esq DL and Maj Gen R E J Gerrard-Wright CB CBE DL on their appointments of Deputy Lords Lieutenant for the county of Cambridgeshire and Col W H Kelsey OBE TD on his appointment as ADC to The Queen.

Congratulations go to 1 Cpl A J Bartlett on his award of GOC's Recommendation in Northern Ireland while serving with 1 SG.

We congratulate the following on their appointment to WO1 (RSM): WO1 G L Cutter – 2nd Battalion, WO1 G J Goodchild – Netheravon and WO1 M J Todd – Warminster Training Centre.

We congratulate the following on passing the staff selection test / IPSE: Capt N A Baker, Capt S D Etherington, Capt J J Hart, Capt T J Smith, Capt C J Barnes, and Capt J M H Heap, Capt R J Latham, Capt N F C Nottingham and Capt H T Simpson.

Newly commissioned

WE welcome into the Regiment 2Lt F J R Grounds and 2Lt L S F McGrath on commissioning from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on 6 Aug 93. Both are now serving with the Vikings. We welcome also 2Lt K R Copland, posted with the Poachers.

Departures

WE have said farewell over the past six months to Lts C R Moore and T J Schwartz

Continued Page 7

Mainly about people



WO2 Steffanetti of the Vikings meeting HM The Queen at Bisley.

New colours postponed until '95

THE 1st and 2nd Battalions are entitled to new colours in 1994 but, because of operational and training commitments this will have to be delayed until 1995.

We are planning to hold a Regimental parade, preferably on 29 or

22 Apr 1995 (of which the 29th is the preferred date) in Colchester. We aim to involve all our Volunteer Battalions, the Regimental Association and former Regiment Associations.

Please note in your diaries.

From Page 6

on 10 Aug, Lt Col T D A Veitch 14 Sep, Maj R J Edmundson-Jones MBE and Maj T M T Power on 31 Oct, Maj J Fisk, Capt P L Smith, Col J R Hart MBE all on 1 Nov. Capt M E Robinson retired on 11 Nov and Capt M C Dixon retires on 12 Dec. We wish them all the very best of good fortune in civilian life.

Transfers

Lt J C Jackson and Lt P J Cross have both transferred to the Royal Irish Regiment; we wish them all the best of good luck in their new Regiment.

Postings

RHQ has been informed of the following postings: Brig J C Sutherland CBE takes up the appointment of DMS (A) MOD in Feb 94, and Brig A Behagg MBE is now the Commander, Training Command (Germany).

Col N H Kelsey OBE TD will be Col TA at RMAS from 1 Jan 94. Col R G Greenham is now SBLO (Combat Arms) Heeresart, Cologne. Lt Col M D Chambers MBE now commands Queen's University OTC in Belfast. Lt Col G D Duthoit takes over as commanding officer of ATR Basingbourn 14 Mar 94. Lt Col R M Chisnall OBE has handed over command of

the 1st Battalion to Lt Col R M Brunt MBE and is now posted as SO1 AG2 at the MOD.

Lt Col C A Cocker has taken over command of HQ UKSC (Fwd) in Germany. Lt Col K M Ryan MBE now commands the Support Unit at the School of Infantry in Warminster and Lt Col C G Stallard has recently taken over as DA Vienna.

Lt Col D J Clements MBE is now MA to GOC HQ Northern Ireland and Lt Col R E Harrold SO1 G4 (O&D) in the same theatre. Maj P M L Ferrary was attached to 1 NAMIC Cambodia until 1 Dec 93. Capt W J Saunders is now an instructor at the School of Infantry. Maj G F Tomlin MBE has gone as chief instructor CMTT Ghana. Capt H T Simpson is now adjutant of the Bermuda Regiment and Lt J N D Bowes is studying for an in-service degree in information technology at RMCS Shrivenham.

Maj R J Kemp leaves HQ NI and takes up command of a company with the 2nd Battalion 4 Jan 94 and Maj S B Brunt is now with D Infantry in Warminster.

Maj R C J Goodin takes up the appointment of SO2 Land Operations in Gibraltar 4 Jan 94 and Capt N A Baker is now with NITW. Maj P D Jones has left the Staff College and is back with the Vikings as a company commander and Capt A C Wyles has rejoined the 2nd Battalion.

Maj A J C Wild has left the Australian Staff College and is now with the 2nd Battalion as a company commander. Lt P J Shea-Simonds is posted from the ATR Basingbourn to the 1st Battalion. Lt P D Morris is presently attached with 1 Gren Guards until Apr 94. Maj P M Holme goes to HQ UKSC as SO2 Trg Sp Comd on 20 Oct 94. Capt G D A Vincent will be SO3 G3 OR Training 17 Jan 94 and Maj J E Harris goes to the Staff College via RMCS Shrivenham 27 Feb 95. Lt A G Grinonneau is now a platoon commander at ITB Ouston and Capt R N Goodwin leaves the 7th Battalion to command a company at ITB Strensall on 31 Oct 94.

Capt J M Woodham takes over as adjutant of the 5th Battalion in Apr 94 and Capt H Newson adjutant of the 7th Battalion 14 Mar 94. Maj J F Macdonald becomes training major of the 6th Battalion 4 Apr 94 and Maj D C Napier leaves the 2nd Battalion to take up the appointment of 2IC of the 1st Battalion on 4 Apr 94.

Short service limited commission

We welcome into the Regiment 2Lts S D Wilson and S A Hudson on a SSLC. They were posted to the 2nd Battalion on 4 Nov 93.

Mainly about people

New divisional colonel appointed

WE now have a new Divisional Colonel, Col M J Ball (pictured).

Col Mike Ball was born in Staffordshire in 1946. Educated in the West Indies and England. He was commissioned into the 1st Battalion the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) in 1966. He served with them until they became the 4th Battalion of The Queen's Regiment as a platoon commander in Northern Ireland, Cyprus and England.

In 1969 he was posted to Colchester as the ADC to GOC Eastern District (Maj Gen J B Dye) which was followed by a two-year secondment to the Sultan's Armed Forces in the Oman, where he served as a company commander in the Dhofar War.

On his return to the UK he was appointed adjutant of the 1st Battalion of the Queen's Regiment and this was followed by a tour as GSO3 Operations in 5 Airportable Brigade. In 1977 he joined 3 Queens as the operations officer and on promotion to major, commanded a company in Northern Ireland, Cyprus and England.

In 1979 Col Ball went to Canada on exchange and served as the SO2 Operations in HQ Mobile Command in Montreal. After this he was a company commander at Sandhurst and in 1985 was appointed the commanding officer of 1 Queens, serving in Gibraltar and Northern Ireland. In 1988 Col Ball was posted as a member of the directing staff at the Staff College in Zimbabwe.

On his return to the UK he ran a special project (Options for Change) for the director of infantry before assuming the appointment of commandant Support Weapons Wing at Netheravon.

Col Ball assumed the appointment of



divisional colonel on 10 Sept 93.

He is married with two daughters.

We wish Col Nigel Robinson, from whom Col Ball took over, all success on his retirement and in his new appointment of bursar and assistant headmaster of a comprehensive school.

Appeal for news of war victim

MAJ Geoffrey Thorneycroft, 38 (Berlin) Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, BFPO 45 has asked for information about his uncle, Pte S W Thorneycroft, who was killed in fighting with the 2nd Lincolns in

Kervenheim/Winnekenonk action on 1st/2nd March 1945.

Would anyone who remembers Pte Thorneycroft please make contact with his nephew.

Officers' Club diners hear success of merger praised

THE Officers' Club Regimental Dinner was held at the Moot Hall, Colchester, on Friday 5 Nov. Officers of the Regiment attended. Our guests were Mr David Butcher, the Master, John Butcher, the Renter Warden and Mr Clement Keevil, all from the Worshipful Company of Poulterers, along with Maj David Burch, the CO designate and Maj Patrick Outerbridge, 2IC designate of the Bermuda Regiment.

The Colonel of the Regiment said how successful the merger had been, which was almost entirely due to the positive and sensible attitudes taken up by serving officers and soldiers. He outlined the Imperial War Museum at Duxford project and warned everybody present that an appeal would shortly be launched to raise a minimum of £200,000.

He expressed the hope that it would be possible to present new Colours to the 1st and 2nd Battalions in Colchester during the last fortnight of April 1995. This would make a marvellous Regimental occasion.

After a resume of achievements in our five Battalions, the Colonel of the Regiment presented a framed bandstand banner to Maj Guy Hipkin in thanks for his 11 years as Regimental Careers Officer at RHQ and two silver candelabra to Maj Tony Cobbold who has served 17 years as Assistant Regimental secretary. (See Letters — Page 11).

Past and Present club president hands over

CAPT Tom Bullock has handed over as president of the Royal Anglian Regiment Sergeants' (Past & Present) Dinner Club to WO2 B Tunstill who is at present serving as RQMS with the 6th Battalion in Bury St Edmunds. Tom Bullock has done a splendid job as president and we are sure that all readers will want to say a heartfelt thank you and wish him good health.

Mainly about people



The Infantry Trials and Development Unit (ITDU) has 2 R Anglians on its staff – Maj Fraser Macdonald and CSgt Tony Black are shown here with a prototype turreted Saxon which they are developing.

Col Greenham takes up senior British Legion job in Germany

COL Robin Greenham writes to say that he moved on 1 Oct from the German Armed Forces Staff College at Hamburg to become the senior British Legion officer in Germany, located at the German Army office in Cologne with command over the British liaison officers at the various arms schools in Germany. The German Army office is the executive arm of the army staff located at FMOD Bonn.

The liaison officer at the German Infantry School at Hammelburg near Würzburg is another Royal Anglian, Lt Col Tony Domeisen.

When one includes the Defence Military Attaché in Bonn, Brig Peregrin Rawlins, one could say that the Royal Anglian Regiment has got Germany sewn up!

Band reunion

THE Poachers Band 2nd Battalion will be holding a final reunion on the 18-20 Feb 1994. All ex-members who served in the Band, plus wives, are welcome. A bus has been laid on to and from Celle.

Inquiries to:- SSGT J Milgate, Band HQ Coy, Trenchard Barracks, BFPO 23.. Tel Celle, Mil 302 Ext 209 From England: 01049 5141 302-209.

From the Padre

Words of encouragement for uncertain times

"WHERE" asks the theologian, "can words of encouragement be found?" In the Bible, certainly. Also, it must be said, in the obituary columns of the newspapers. The end of a career seems to declare a truce. Criticism of everyone and everything is so widespread now, that it is a relief to see praise given. Because The Royal Anglian Regiment is the inheritor of so many famous county regiments, it is not surprising that there crops up now many former members of our county areas in East Anglia and the Midlands.

One notable example occurred recently.

The career of Lt Col Dudley Coventry of The Royal Norfolk Regiment was described. He became a "veteran Special Air Services Officer and international clandestine operations specialist". It was above all his spirit which remained undimmed during a military career which did not end until 1987 at the age of 72. In that year, armed only with a walking stick, he directed the fire of his commandos in central Africa. As a young man, his wartime service was one of panache and courage. To avoid a desk job, he joined the French Foreign Legion for a spell. He was still parachuting

on active service well into his 60's.

His life is a triumph of spirit and in the best traditions of the Army. When so much press coverage is to do with cuts and uncertainties, it is good to recall the Army at its best and to know many have served since Coventry and serve now with just as much spirit.

Meanwhile, the Bible is always with us and is the supreme collection of words of encouragement. Let us end with some of Our Lord's: "Come unto me all you who are burdened and heavy laden ... I will refresh you"

TH

Mainly about people

Regular Forces Employment Association

ARE you being made redundant under Options for Change or leaving the services at the end of your contract? In either case, RFEA is ready to help you find suitable employment.

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

We, in conjunction with the Officers' Association and the Services Employment Network, are part of the overall network of Forces Resettlement and, with over 100 years of experience behind us, operate through 40 branches throughout the UK where our employment officers are in close contact with employers.

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

Branch addresses and telephone numbers can be found from unit/ship resettlement officers; regimental, corps and service associations; Jobcentres and local telephone directories. Or, write to us at Head Office, 25 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2LN.

Codebreakers

FOR the first time the men and women who worked at Bletchley Park during the Second World War have broken their silence. In *Codebreakers*, published in the summer, they reveal what it was like to be part of this top-secret enterprise. They describe their recruitment and training, their feelings and activities, and their successes and failures.

Bletchley Park was the most successful intelligence agency in world history. Churchill described it as the 'secret weapon' that 'won the war', breaking some 4,000 German signals a day and almost as many Italian and Japanese.



CSGT Elba-Porter, an Ex Viking, with Brig Oliver DCOS G1/G4 HQ ARRC, after receiving the award of a clasp to his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal for 31 years' service. He joined the Army in 1962 and was awarded the BEM for gallantry during the Aden and Radfan campaign. He was accepted on the Long Service list in 1984 and has recently joined HQ ARRC as the Officers' Mess manager in Bielefeld.

Anglians in merger with chaplains?

The following letter appeared in the *Wiltshire Times* on 15 Oct '93:

"I AM the secretary of the Warminster branch of the Royal Anglian Regiment Association, and I was slightly annoyed when I read in your newspaper last week that you had put councillor Rodney Clark into a new regiment, The Royal Anglians.

I know with all the army cutbacks there are a lot of disbandings of regiments and mergers, but the Anglians have not yet joined with the Royal Army Chaplains Department or any other church.

In fairness, since the Regiment was formed some 30 years ago, we have been called by various strange names -

Anglicans, Angle Irons and so on - in the past so I will put your error down to a minor spelling mistake.

In the meantime, if there are any ex-Angle Irons, Anglicans or even Royal Anglians living in the Wiltshire area who wish to renew the comradeship of the Regiment, do not hesitate to call me on 0985 219273.

Ted Wilson,
103 Boreham Field, Warminster."

The paper added: "We do sincerely apologise for the slip of the typewriter that both created a new regiment and shed fresh light on the old term church militant."

Residential care at Fellowship Centres

THE Ex-Service Fellowship Centres runs two residential care homes for ex-service men and women, ex-merchant seamen and their widows/widowers. New Belvedere House in Stepney, East London, for 29 male residents and Hollenden House in Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, for 44 male or female residents, including married couples and 18 disabled persons. Residents, who must normally be of pensionable age, have their own

rooms in comfortable buildings and may bring some of their own furniture if they so wish.

Fees are maintained within the limits set by DSS local authorities. Those interested should write to: The Administrator, Ex-Service Fellowship Centres, 8 Lower Grosvenor Place, London SW1W 0EP. Telephone: 071 828 2468; Fax: 071 630 6784.

Mainly about people

Territorial officer awarded Saudi medal for Gulf War

COLCHESTER-based territorial army officer Capt Anthony Fairbanks Weston, 32, has been presented with the Saudi Arabian 'Liberation of Kuwait' medal for his services during the Gulf War.

The presentation was made by Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley, now the general officer commanding the Army's Eastern District but formerly the commander of the 7th Armoured Brigade – the famous Desert Rats, with whom Capt Fairbanks Weston served during the war.

Capt Fairbanks Weston is a member of the specialist TA pool of public information officers and was chiefly responsible for escorting the official war correspondents serving with the front-line media reporting teams, including the BBC's Kate Adie.

After the Gulf War, Capt Fairbanks Weston returned to the Middle East to take part in the Kurdish Humanitarian Relief Operation.

Capt Anthony Fairbanks Weston after receiving the Liberation of Kuwait medal



Adventure training in Morocco

EX Sgt John Taggart has written an article about his adventurous training expedition to Morocco which included trekking in the high Atlas Mountains.

Unfortunately there is not sufficient space in the Castle magazine to reproduce

the article but should anyone be interested they could contact John Taggart by writing to his address at 11 Salcombe Close, Devon Park, Bedford MK40 3BA; John would be delighted to hear from anyone thinking of an expedition of the same kind.

Did you serve with Fijian soldiers?

MR David Tuff of 3 Meehan Gardens, Griffith, 2603, ACT Australia is writing a book to record Fijians who served in the British Army.

He has tracked down Sgt Asesela

Waqairoba who served with the Royal Anglians until 1983, but would like to hear from anybody who served alongside Fijians in the Royal Anglian Regiment, whether it be Sgt Asesela or others.

St David's Home for disabled sailors, soldiers and airmen

St. David's Home is an excellent nursing home, set in delightful surroundings in west London. It has 54 beds. The home is supported financially by the Army Benevolent Fund.

It currently has a very short waiting

list and is looking for others to add to it.

Anyone wishing to register with the home should either write to the Nursing Manager/Administrator, Mr Tom Connell, at the above address or telephone him on 081 997 5121.

Letters

Candelabra will bring back fond memories

From Maj A G B Cobbold, Assistant Regimental Secretary, RHQ

Dear Colonel of the Regiment,
THANK you and the officers of the Regiment for giving me such a splendid pair of silver candelabra as a farewell present at the Officers' Dinner Club dinner at the Moot Hall on 5 November 1993.

They will always serve to remind me of the many happy years and many friends that I have made during my time at Regimental Headquarters. This beautiful pair will always hold pride of place on our dining table.

When I took over the job in 1976 working with Bill Murray-Browne and Gen Sir Ian Freeland it soon became apparent that I was going to enjoy working for the Regiment and I have not been proved wrong.

I have seen its reputation go from strength to strength as second to none; it has maintained its high standards and has set an example hard to follow for the rest of the infantry thanks to the high quality of our officers and soldiers.

Thank you once again and my best wishes to you all for the future

Tony Cobbold

Generous presents thrill and delight

I WAS absolutely thrilled and delighted to receive such a generous present from the Regiment at the Regimental dinner. The mounted band stand banner, so beautifully framed, is a superb present and will always remind me of my happy times spent with the Regiment, particularly so in my last appointment as RCO where the job was never a duty but a complete pleasure to undertake on behalf of the Regiment.

I thank you all for your generosity and kindness to me and wish you and all members of the Regiment continued success for the future.

Guy Hipkin

Mainly about people



The Vikings on parade: Councillor Eric Steele inspects the Vikings followed by the Deputy Colonel Bury St Edmunds. More Vikings pictures on pages 16-25.

Duxford Museum needs display items from you

The following letter has been received from Lt Col (Retd) TDA Veitch, project manager of the Regimental Museum, Duxford.

I want to give urgent publicity to the project and to ask for display items. Most will know by now that the Museum will cover the Regular and Territorial Battalions of the East and Royal Anglian Regiment from the amalgamation of 1958-59 to the present day. All roles and tours of the Regiment will be illustrated along with details of history, custom, dress, weapons and equipment. The collection has been assembled over the past 18 months in Peterborough, but, to date, without much contribution by individuals.

However, the staff of the Imperial War Museum at Duxford urge that it is the personal, individual experience that will bring the artefacts to life; all ranks, both serving and retired, are asked to turn out their garages and attics to provide items needed to ensure the museum is as good as its impressive location demands.

Some of the items not yet located include:

- ↓ Early band records and cassettes.
- ↓ Honours and awards (medals, certificates)
- ↓ Selected school/CCF badges.
- ↓ Regimental Association ties, lapel badges and a banner.
- ↓ Photographs and any original operational maps from British Guyana (1 E Anglian

62), Malta ((4 R Anglian 66-68) and Bahrain (4 R Anglian 69-70).

↓ Gibraltar — First Day Cover (1 R Anglian 87-89).

↓ Aden — three complete uniforms, terrorist flags and weapons, memorabilia.

↓ Northern Ireland — details of incidents, early riot equipment and dress, memorabilia.

↓ Berlin — memorabilia covering check points, corridor, military train, border, Spandau Prison, Russian War memorial, old type Russian flag and Berlin bulletins.

↓ Zimbabwe — CMF and terrorist items.

↓ Cyprus — memorabilia.

↓ Op Granby — memorabilia.

↓ Sport — can anyone help locate ex-Cpl Gooden and the two international boxers.

↓ Dress and accoutrements — large and small Britannia buttons, SMG and carpenter trade badges, officers' Tiger button, E Anglian Association badge, 1 E Anglian stable belt, 4 R Anglian officer's and OR's collar badges, 1/3/4/ R Anglian blazer badges; 2 E Anglian, 4 R Anglian and Tiger plaques; mementoes of HMS Hermione affiliation and 10th Foot of America.

In addition any other items you may possess that you feel are significant will be gratefully accepted. They should be sent without delay to Sgt Boyd at 5 R Anglian, Peterborough.

Any helpful ideas on the concept would be appreciated by the undersigned.

Trevor Veitch

A UN observer witnessing the destruction of Yugoslavia

Lt Col David Clements recently returned from six months' service with the United Nations in the former Yugoslavia.

IN early February I was sitting in my office at the Staff College, filling my pen with red ink and bracing myself for the arrival of this year's course. Seven hectic days later I found myself on a flight to Zagreb to take up the appointment of the chief of operations for the United Nations Military Observer, or UNMO, organisation.

The short notice followed an urgent request from the UN but details about the job were sketchy and time for briefing limited. I therefore had little idea about what I was getting into — a view confirmed when the RAF announced that it was far too dangerous for them to land at Zagreb! Fortunately Lufthansa took a more realistic view.

Although the Bosnia-Herzegovina has attracted most headlines, the majority of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) is based in the Serb-occupied territory of the Krajina in Croatia and there are also troops in Macedonia.

The 450 military observers form a separate, unarmed organisation which is deployed more widely throughout the former Yugoslavia. I was based at the headquarters in Zagreb but managed to get round to visit all the observer teams in six countries, including most of the spots which have featured on our television screens.

UNMO's attempt to use their good offices to win the confidence of the warring factions, resolve disputes, and attempt to set up and police ceasefires. I lost count of the number of agreements I drafted and which were subsequently consigned to the waste bin of history.

We were involved in arranging prisoner of war, refugee or body exchanges and in negotiating ways across confrontation lines and the innumerable road blocks. But the most important task is to act as the eyes and

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Mainly about people

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ears of the Security Council and to provide an independent source of information.

The reporting by TV crews was often excellent but very localised. We had to paint the full picture and I dispatched UNMOs to provide the first reports from the front lines in, for example, Srebrenica, Zepa, Gorazde, Mostar and Doboj. On a day when the world's press was focusing its cameras on Sarajevo, I watched (from a splendid OP in the tower of a mosque!) a bombardment several times more intense in the almost unheard-of city of Maglaj. There was an air of unreality as old women and children continued to work in the fields oblivious of the multi-barrelled rocket fire which passed overhead.

My impressions were therefore of destruction on a far wider scale than I had imagined – much of which was sheer vandalism to destroy whole villages after the battle to prevent the inhabitants' return. As always, the civilian population was on the receiving end and I will remember for a long time being in the picturesque Dalmatian coast resort of Sibenik when it came under artillery and rocket fire.

Secondly, the situation is far more complex than reported with front lines and alliances changing fast. I began most briefings by pointing out that if, at any stage, the audience began to understand the situation in the former Yugoslavia, they clearly had not been paying attention.

Finally, there are a lot of good people with the UN and the humanitarian agencies trying to sort things out.

The Military Observer organisation comprised 450 UNMOs from 30 countries and included eight (now 13) Brits. My general was Swedish, his deputy Jordanian and my chief of staff a Russian.

Fortunately the working language was English. Unfortunately, only three of the UNMOs were from the Army (the majority were from the RAF Regiment!) and, similarly, I was then the only British officer in the Force Headquarters.

This was at times a frustrating place to work but I have tried to convince the MoD that despite this we must start to play a proper role in the UN and educate the willing, if less experienced, nations.

The UNMOs in particular, worked wonders by going unarmed and in unarmoured vehicles, often to the scenes of the heaviest fighting. As Tom O'Driscoll reported from Cambodia in the last Castle, the work is challenging but rewarding. I was pleased to be able to play my part in the humanitarian



Above: Lt Col Clements with Norwegian and Egyptian colleagues on top of what is left of the Peruca dam, destroyed by the Serbs. Below: A Croat commander tells Lt Col Clements how his forces captured the Serb positions on which they stand



effort; I learnt a lot and certainly got a better deal than doing red ink corrections at Camberley.

My multinational colleagues were most concerned to learn that I was to be posted back to Northern Ireland and my Russian chief of staff told me that I would have to get the posting changed as it was far too dangerous. He told me that in Sarajevo!

The British army has a lot to offer the UN. We can learn from the more experienced UN hands and contribute far more from our own experience and skills.

I know the Poachers will do just that should they be deployed next year and I would commend the job of an UNMO to potential volunteers and commanding officers alike

Victory Club

VISITING London? Then why not stay at The Victory Services Club at Marble Arch. It is a club for all ranks of the Armed Forces, both serving and retired, including the TA & VR. Allied and NATO Forces are also eligible. The Club is in the heart of London's West End, just two minutes walk from Marble Arch Underground.

Facilities include single and double rooms. For details contact: The Membership Secretary, The Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF. Tel: 071-723-4474.

Association Gathering

Fine day for programme that suits everybody

IT becomes difficult to write something new about the Bassingbourn Association Gathering but the programme now seems to suit everybody and yet again our Honorary Regimental Padre Tom Hiney was an excellent intermediary, producing beautiful summer weather.

Some 1,500 members of the Association and their families attended the gathering – an all-time record. The Drum Head service was conducted by the Rev Tom Hiney and hymns were sung lustily to the music of the Viking band. The Colonel of the Regiment, in his address, reviewed the success of the merger in October 92 and reiterated the importance of our Territorial Battalions in maintaining our close affiliations with our nine counties.

He expressed the hope that we would be able again to hold the reunion at Bassingbourn in '94 – perhaps in July but once again, we will not have complete flexibility about the date (now confirmed as 10 Jul 94 – a note for your diaries).

After the Colonel of the Regiment's address, WO1 (RSM) Eke had the unenviable job of forming up the Association members with their standards into three columns to march past the Colonel of the Regiment – each to their former regiment's regimental marches.

On dismissal from the march past there was the usual dignified but rapid dispersal to the beer tent to slake thirsts and recount – probably not for the first time – tales of yesteryear.

The usual side shows were open, including bouncy castles, the RIT ranges and shop, coconut shies and all the fun of the fair. The shooting was won by the Gorleston and Great Yarmouth Branch (at last – they had been runners-up for the previous three years!) and the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Association Branch ladies who won the ladies match.

The day was a tremendous success and we are indebted to Lt Col Chisnall, C Company the 1st Battalion and the 1st



Battalion cooks for making the day possible. Mr Parkinson and the Viking band played admirably during the Drum Head service and later with the Drums played stirring and marvellous music at the band display to close the event.

We must also thank those stalwarts – our Volunteer Band under the baton of WO2 (Bandmaster) Bedding – for playing during our lunch hour. A final vote of thanks must also go to Lt Col Church for allowing us to use the Army training regiment barracks for the event.



Association Gathering





Vikings



Victory pose after the final assault on Eastmere village during Ex Gryphons Eye.

Challenges behind and ahead

THE Vikings have had a busy six months since the last edition of Castle with the prospect of a challenging six months ahead. Airmobility training continued with Battalion exercises during May and June at Thetford and with B Company taking part in Gryphons Flight in September on Salisbury Plain.

June and July were dominated by the Battalion's running of and competing at Bisley in its centenary year. Meanwhile those not at Bisley took part in adventure training around the world.

After Minden Day and some well earned leave in August, the Battalion settled down to its preparation for the six-month roulement tour of East Tyrone, pausing only to exercise the freedom of four local towns. The Battalion has also been active in the sporting world.

Airmobile exercises

EX GRYPHONS EYE was the culmination of the Battalion's conversion to airmobility. Over two weeks, on the familiar Thetford training area, the Battalion completed company validation exercises, battlegroup exercises and finally a brigade test exercise.

The Battalion remained in the field throughout the exercise, making best use of specialist vehicles such as the Light Support Vehicle (LSV), All Terrain Mobile Platform (ATMP), Crane Atlas Lorry Mounted (CALM) and the Armstrong cross-country motorbike. The finale was an attack on the new village complex at Eastmere run by WO1 K C Jones R Anglian.

The Battalion command elements also conducted three command post exercises. Two at BBGT North in Catterick concentrated on the procedures required for airmo-

bile operations and one at Thetford was based on the Battalion Headquarters procedures. As full-fledged members of 24 Airmobile Brigade, the Battalion can now lay claim to the title 'Airmobile Vikings.'

After a period of well earned leave B (Aviation) Company deployed on the 24 Airmobile Brigade FTX, Ex Gryphons Flight as part of 9 Regiment AAC Battlegroup. The Company was tested initially with 9 Regiment followed by platoon training. Thereafter the company under the 2IC Capt O'Driscoll acted as enemy for 3 Regiment AAC and 1 LI with the majority of Officers and SNCO's working as umpires under OX Maj Froud

Once again the Salisbury Plain gremlins were out in force, which combined with some inspired driving, ensured the

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News from the Vikings



Above: Sgt Gridley, L/Cpl Baxter, Pte Clarke and Pte Hopewell prepare to lay line during Ex Gryphons Eye. Right: Cpl Williams prepares to give orders during Ex Gryphons Flight. Below: Maj Goodin (OC A Company), Maj Harris (OC Screen Company) and Capt Hart (Ops Officer) meet in the woods during Ex Gryphons Eye.



News from the Vikings



Above: Ex Taurus Return. Lt Ward, Capt Nottingham, Pte Butler, Pte Miles, Adam the mountain guide, Cpl Merritt, Pte Bark and Pte Jones. Below: On the summit of Emli-Basi - 3723m - Cpl Merritt, Capt Price, Sgt Gray and Pte Miles.



Mountain biking during Ex Taurus Return

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Company vehicle mechanic, Cpl Spencer, received no sleep for extended periods. One common strand throughout the exercise was multinational co-operation. The all-regular Dutch Army contingent was entertained at a company smoker in a field barn with a mixture of sketches, songs and games.

During the period as opposing forces the Company's vehicles had to be recovered by RE and REME from virtual rivers of mud. They were, however, able to attack a village occupied by German Paras and be "destroyed" by the 3 Regiment AAC anti-tank helicopters.

Bisley

THIS year marked the centenary year of the Bisley shooting competition. With Maj Froud as Officer Commanding and A/WOI Steffanetti as RSM, more than a third of the Battalion deployed to Bisley to set up, run, administer and compete in the Regular Army Skill-at-Arms Meeting (RASAAM). The meeting was visited by Her Majesty The Queen who fired a ceremonial shot and met several members of the Battalion.

The Viking team led by Capt Calder did remarkably well considering its other commitments, being placed 10th overall.

Pte McMillen was placed 53rd in the Army, entitling him to wear the Army 100 badge and Lt Trigg was placed 30th in the Army LSW.

Before Bisley the Viking team took all honours at the Eastern District SAAM.

Exercise Taurus Return

A PARTY of 15 Vikings flew to Istanbul early in July bound for the Taurus mountains in southern central Turkey. With five mountain bikes, climbing gear and camping stores, the party made its way to a mountain training hut by bus, tractor and foot.

The first three days were spent receiving basic instruction on climbing, mountain biking and trekking from Capt Price and Nottingham.

Using the most basic of hand drawn maps, reces of future camp sites were conducted. The next phase took the party to a camp site named Sokulpinnar, Turkish for spring, at 3,000m. The party was split at this stage into three groups to rotate through climbing, mountain biking and attempts at various summits.

From Sokulpinnar attempts were made on Demirkasik 3,756 m and Emli-Basi 3,723m, the highest mountains in the region. Unfortunately the attempt on

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News from the Vikings



Above: Capt Hart and Cpl Clarke during Battlegroup trainer exercise. Left: Cpl Warren on the descent from the Tour Noir in bad weather during Ex Alpine Biking.
Below left: The Vikings shooting team with their EDSAAM prizes.
Below right: L/Cpl Carl Sibley during the Minden Day parade



News from the Vikings



Left: The members of Ex Viking Long Boat in the Bay of St Tropez. Right: Pte Lewis prepares a meal during Ex Viking Raid.

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Demirkasik was beaten back by harsh snow and ice conditions.

The party then moved south and higher into the mountains to attempt Guzella, Jebal and Embler, all over 3,600m. Again the snow and ice proved testing, being solid in the morning and dangerously unstable in the afternoon. The snow did however make coming down the mountain much quicker!

The final phase of the expedition was a spot of rest and relaxation on the coast before a last night in Istanbul.

Exercise Viking Raid

SEVEN members of A Company under Capt Ben Runciman spent a week sailing around the Channel Islands and Normandy coast in Bold Fusilier the 34ft yacht belonging to the Infantry Sailing Association, with a permanent skipper from the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Conditions were somewhat cramped and all ranks shared the tasks on the ship.

The trip included a number of 'runs ashore' to St Peter Port and Alderney. The most exhilarating aspect of the trip was sailing across the English Channel shipping lanes through thick fog.

Exercise Alpine Viking

MAJ James Harris and Capt Richard Pattison led a small party on a trip to the French Alps, near Chamunix, in order to introduce the soldiers to Alpine Mountaineering.

The trip began with a three-day expedi-

tion to the Tour Noir feature, the final ascent of which was stopped by a bad storm. Other highlights of the expedition were ice climbing on a glacier and two attempts at Mont Blanc.

Exercise Viking Attached

WO2 (SQMS) E Preston RLC (Cat) writes:

MEMBERS of the Royal Logistic Corps (Catering) attached to 1 R Anglian, together with REME, AG Corps and Vikings, recently attended a two-week adventure training package based at the National Water Sports Centre at Holme Peirpoint country park in Nottingham.

The exercise organised and run by WO2 Preston introduced male and female soldiers to the thrill of flat and white water canoeing, cable water skiing, windsurfing and white water rafting.

A total of 45 soldiers took part in the two-week package, many of them completing adventure training for the first time. Sgt Hill of Support Company put together an exhausting but enjoyable canoe package ensuring everyone got wet. All those who took part enjoyed a short break from their normal work routines.

Exercise Viking Longboat

DURING July several soldiers under the watchful eye of Capt Runciman and four diving instructors spent ten days scuba diving in St Tropez, south France. The party camped in a large tent after driving to the site in two civilianised Land Rovers. On a

coastline with superb diving, including a wrecked Spanish yacht, the party completed ten days' diving which will count towards their sport diver qualification.

Visits

MAJ Gen Michael Walker, Deputy Colonel of the Regiment, Brig Tony Calder, Brigade Commander 54 Brigade and Brig John Sutherell, all former commanding officers of the Vikings, visited during the last six months. Lt Gen Michael Rose, Commander UK Field Army, also visited during Ex Gryphons Eye.

Minden Day

MINDEN Day 1993 had a carnival atmosphere with all the traditional elements. After gunfire and PT, this year in the form of aerobics led by Mrs Steffanetti, the Battalion was presented with red and yellow roses. Brig John Sutherell and the Commanding Officer also gave each Viking a Minden mug. The Colonel of the Regiment took the salute at a splendid parade followed by the families' fete in the local TA centre.

The fete boasted attractions such as dodgems, bucking bronco, velcro wall and a set of stocks with Adjutant and RP staff to pelt with wet sponges.

Freedom parades

SEPTEMBER saw a rare sight in Hyderabad Barracks - Vikings doing drill! This was in preparation for exercising the

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News from the Vikings



Picture: EGN



Above: Band and Drums at Kings Lynn on 9 September. Left: The CO watches as the Deputy Colonel inspects A Coy at Kings Lynn. Below: Ex Viking Raid. Pte Neal and Pte Lewis on fog watch while passing through Channel shipping lanes.



News from the Vikings



Above: Mayor of Bury St Edmunds Councillor Ted Spooner inspecting the Vikings.
Below: Maj Gen Stone and the CO enjoying the atmosphere on Minden Day.



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freedom of Brentwood on the 7th, Kings Lynn on the 9th, Bedford on the 14th and Bury St Edmunds on the 16th. The Band and Drums resplendent in their scarlets, and two company guards marched in traditional style with bayonets fixed, colours flying and drums beating.

After the last parade the Band embarked on a three month tour of the US with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Band.

Handover of COs

Lt Col Robin Chisnall left the Battalion at the end of September with the distinction of having been the last CO of the Pompadours and the first CO of the 1st Battalion after the merger.

He was relieved by Lt Col Roger Brunt.

Charity work

Sgt Garwood and Cpl Brown assisted the Suffolk Police in a novel scheme to raise money to send 26-year-old Carl Sirett to Moscow for treatment. The wheelchair-bound Stowmarket man was pushed to the summit of Pen-y-fan in the Brecon Beacons. The climb took four hours and in true gym staff style, Cpl Brown had already carried a Norwegian container of tea to the summit.

Friday Woods saw the Vikings in an unusual light recently, raising money rather

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News from the Vikings



Picture: ECN

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than training. In a cross-country challenge CSgt Atkins and his team raised an impressive £5,000 for Imperial Cancer Research.

Northern Ireland training

DURING October, November and early December the Battalion conducted an array of specialist training in preparation for Northern Ireland deployment. – from individual, team, multiple and platoon training on local training areas to an extensive range package including urban and rural skills. The command and support elements of the Battalion conducted extensive recce of the future TAOR.

The training wing were busy for most of September and October with the Potential NCO Cadre. Lt Pook and his team have been putting the hopeful students through their paces on home ground and in Wales where they took on the might of Pen-y-Fan.

Regimental Band, 1 Royal Anglian

THE bands of 1 Royal Anglian and 1 PWRR and the Pipes & Drums of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders flew from Heathrow Airport on 19 Sept to begin their three-month tour of North America.

This day saw the culmination of 12 months of preparation and the start of a tour which comprises 72 performances at 71 venues in Canada and the US.

Above: Sgt Jones meets the Mayor of Kings Lynn. Below: Vikings colour party. CSgt Stollery, Lt Ward, CSM Gamble, 2Lt McLay and CSgt Bolton at Bury St Edmunds.



News from the Vikings



Picture Premier Newspapers

Above: The Corps of Drums at Bedford.



Suffolk policeman Carl Sirett and Sgt Garwood on the summit of Pen-y-fan.

Matterhorn climbers foiled again by weather

Maj Mark Wenham writes:

AVID readers of this publication will remember that last year a small group of intrepid Viking mountaineers set off for Zermatt in search of the Matterhorn. Although the summit was not reached due to poor conditions, considerable Alpine experience was gained and the appetites were whetted for another attempt.

Unable to go last year due to injury, I was determined that we should try again this year, using as many of the original team as possible, and introduce some newcomers to the thrills of Alpine mountaineering. Exercise planning was relatively easy using last year's plan as the template. Capt Simpson, last year's leader, was also available which helped enormously. Again the latest time available was the last two weeks of July, which although not ideal did mean that there was an outside chance that some of the snow would have melted.

The team of 23 was drawn mostly from Support Company with Ptes Maher, Head and Griffiths from C Company, and Cpl Brown from HQ Company as base camp manager. The AFIA was given final clearance in May and generous sponsorship received from Munton and Fisons PLC Stowmarket, Suffolk. Commercial radios were kindly loaned by Maj Bob Williamson SO2 Sigs 54 Brigade, which were to prove invaluable during the expedition.

On arrival in Zermatt, the team established itself in the campsite in the middle of town. Although basic, this was the only accommodation that was available within the budget.

Undaunted the programme continued according to the schedule. The first two days were spent in the local area teaching and practising basic climbing and rope techniques. The following two days were devoted to high altitude walks up to a height of about 3,000m (9,000ft). The weather had improved but it was by now apparent that the Matterhorn would still be

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News from the Vikings

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snow covered and any attempt would require a small team moving at speed. Accordingly myself, Capt Simpson and Pte Swinfield Wells spent a day practising Alpine techniques on the Rifflehorn (2,975m).

After a rest day a whole team attempted one of the "easier" peaks in the area. Although some did feel the altitude it was a credit to the remainder who, with minimal snow and ice instruction, managed to scale the Briethorn (4,164m) that day. The following day, with the bit between their teeth, another classic route was managed. Although slightly lower at 3,406 m the Mettlehorn proved to be quite a challenge with 5,500ft gained in four-and-a-half hours (Snowdon twice from sea level).

The Matterhorn was still not in good condition but it was decided to get on the ridge and have a look. The Hornli Hut (3,000m) is at the base of the ridge and is the acknowledged start of the route. At 0400 hrs we peered out of the hut to see snow falling.

Not a good start. However, confident that we would find a way despite it being dark and with a fresh covering of snow, we set off. Route finding was difficult and a lot of time was wasted. At dawn, the snow had stopped but visibility was still poor.

By noon we had reached the Solvay Hut (4,000m) exhausted, and it was decided to take the first break after eight hours of climbing, mostly on snow and verglas. The weather was worsening but not impossible, indeed poor visibility insured that we were unaware of the exposure on the ridge. After three more hours of snow and ice climbing we were over the shoulder (crux) and within 150m of the summit. The weather had deteriorated badly and a blizzard was blowing. With this and the wind speeds of 50 mph, it was decided to back off.

Having returned to the Solvay an attempt was made to go further down. Ropes were now freezing and abseil points were covered in snow and impossible to see. This coupled with exhaustion prompted the team to take refuge in the Solvay Hut.

Having waited 18 hours in vain for the weather to clear a Casevac helicopter was called and we returned to Zermatt, packed and travelled the 15 hours back to Calais.

Despite not reaching the top of the Matterhorn a great deal of enjoyable and challenging training was achieved. There is now a good base level of experience within the Battalion. Planning is already underway for another Alpine expedition in '94.



Above: On the summit of the Bruthorn – 4,164m. Capt Simpson, Maj Wenham, Pte Swinfield-Wells and Pte Head. Below: Capt Simpson, Pte Swinfield-Wells and Cpl Brown rock climbing on the Rifflehorn at 2,927m during Ex Hornli Viking 2.





Poachers



Soldiering at two extremes

THE last six months have been extremely diverse for the Poachers. At the end of June the Battalion was on the final stage of a six-month tour in Northern Ireland and by the end of October the Battalion was on the final stages of an armoured test exercise at Batus, Canada.

That these two extremes of soldiering were attempted in such a short space of time is an achievement in itself. The fact that they were both completed successfully is a mark of the professionalism, drive and ability of the Poachers.

The final two months in East Tyrone did not pass without incident. Pte Hannigan reported three masked gunmen setting up a shoot to the front of Killymeal SF base, Dungannon. Seizing the initiative he opened fire with three aimed shots and the gunmen made off.

This example of calm, alert soldiering undoubtedly thwarted a terrorist attack. June saw the final month of the tour in East Tyrone draw to a close. There was, however, no chance to relax as the end drew near. Quite the contrary, the pace picked up as the Battalion approached the final straight.

The month started off with some interesting finds generated by routine patrols and a large scale surge operation. The surge operation included two additional companies and, though cut short, did achieve surprising results.

The end of the month was also marked by an attempted assassination attempt of an off duty soldier by PIRA. Fortunately the soldier concerned escaped unharmed.

The Battalion handed over the East Tyrone TAOR at 2359 hrs on 4 July, leaving 2 LI to continue with the hard work we started. On completion of the tour the images that remain with each soldier will vary from the routine: Quarry Lane patrols, Cookstown VCPs, Aghnacloy town patrols; to the excitement of a contact or find; to the emotion of being reunited with families during R and R.

It was a demanding tour but at the end of the six months we left East Tyrone with the immense satisfaction of a tour com-



Pte Cheffins on patrol.

Picture: The Soldier

pleted to the highest of professional standards. We have suppressed the level of terrorist activity and enhanced the already high reputation the Regiment has in Province.

Immediately on return from Northern Ireland before drawing breath or even going on leave, the conversion back to armoured warfare started. C Company also briefly reformed with Maj Andy Wadman as OC. Refresher cadres took place for those who had already converted to Warrior before amalgamation, and the companies took their vehicles back over from Rear Party.

An RRU cadre was also run trying to eradicate the bad habits picked up over the months using Cougar.

Leave lasted from 23 July to the 16 Aug, after which complete conversion to Warrior began. Warrior gunnery and driver/maintenance cadres took place as well as the support platoons running mortar, Milan and GPMG (SF) cadres. The Signals Platoon also ran an RRU and Standard II cadre. As

well as these cadres, the rifle companies underwent intense physical and military training in order to complete the metamorphosis from the internal security role to the armoured infantry one.

September saw the elements of the battlegroup come together for the first time with the Battalion holding three days of TEWTs. These were aimed at vehicle commanders upwards and covered all phases of war. Though no substitute for training, they were all the preparation the battlegroup was to get before deploying to Canada. They did, however, prove invaluable and meant everyone was singing off the same song-sheet from the outset.

The TEWTs also gave the battlegroup a chance to meet on a more informal basis with all three messes holding dinner nights. The command element of the battlegroup was also exercised in a battalion CPX and a testing week at BBGT.

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News from the Poachers



Picture: The Soldier

Above: The LAD puts another vehicle out of its misery. Below left: Cpl King still smiling. Below right: The QM and crew in Dunganon.



Picture: The Soldier



News from the Poachers

Picture: The Soldier



Above left: On patrol in Cookstown, the longest High Street in Europe. Above right: LCpl Lamb tackles yet another fence.



The CO presents a Poacher to Maj Gordon Willis of 8 Royal Irish to mark six successful months working together.

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BBGT certainly lived up to its reputation and provided some excellent and well-received training – though at times other adjectives were used to describe the day's events.

On 21 Sept the advance party deployed. The Battalion had achieved in six weeks what usually takes units six months. Though very curtailed, due to a great deal of effort, thought and foresight, the preparation was in the event found to be enough to set the training off on the right foot.

The battlegroup consisted of 1,200 soldiers and nearly 300 vehicles. As well as the HQ element and A, B and D (Sp) Companies of 2 Royal Anglian, C and D Squadrons of the RDG, 137 (Java) Battery RA, an Engineer Close Support Tp and 652 Squadron AAC also made up the BG. Ours was the first 2:2 Warrior BG to be trained at Batus in 1993. This brought its own problems but these were mainly encountered by the Batus safety staff who could barely keep up with the spread of events.

In all the BG spent 21 days on the prairie split into three phases. The first phase consisted of introductory shoots and individual field firing building up to section

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News from the Poachers



Picture: The Soldier

Above: Another day in the office at the Cookstown PVCP. Left: LCpl Brammer on patrol in Aughnacloy. Below: Capt Bailey makes a point during the pre-Batus TEWTs.



News from the Poachers



Above: The Colonel of the Regiment practises his right hook. Below: The CO presents crossed flags to the successful students on the Signals Standard II Cadre.



LCpl Galway practises his chat-up technique.

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and platoon exercises. After a BG concentration day the next phase started with the companies working with the tank squadrons for the first time.

This phase culminated in a BG dismounted live firing night attack. The BG then, for the first time, started working together with a day of dry training co-ordinated by the CO. The main Batus exercises then started with Ex Gopher: a one-day BG advance to contact.

This went very smoothly all day though the obstacle crossing will be remembered for some time. The engineers quickly learnt that two crossings are enough to avoid confusing the oncoming BG. Ex Gopher was quickly followed by Ex Goshawk, a 36-hour exercise which was the BG's final practice before the Ex Gazala test exercise.

By the time Goshawk was finished the BG had achieved a great deal. From a very inexperienced start we had, through hard work and a willingness to learn, formed into a strong co-ordinated unit.

We felt a little apprehensive about the test exercise but at the same time quietly confident that we could face whatever the Batus staff could throw at us.

In the event the final five days stretched the BG to its limit, covering all aspects of war in both day and night conditions. Thankfully the good weather held and the positive hardworking spirit of the battle-group managed to cope with the rigours of the prairie.

Memories of Batus will be mixed. For the soldiers, the initial special arms training was probably the most interesting. For the commanders the chance to live fire and manoeuvre across huge areas of prairie will probably stand out. The exercise was not without its dangers and the modern fast moving armoured vehicles did inflict some attrition, though nothing that the doctor and his team could not cope with.

Batus still remains one of the best training experiences available in the Army, which has certainly been enhanced by the introduction of Warrior.

After a few days R and R the majority of the BG returned to Germany and England. A small group, however, remained behind to enjoy some adventure training in the Rockies and another group remained under the command of Maj Andy Wadman until December. This latter group had the unenviable task of cleaning up the prairie after the summer's training.

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News from the Poachers



Above left: Sgt Brown ready for anything. Above right: Maj Napier with his command team. Right: WO1 (RSM) Todd hands over to WO1 (RSM) Cutter. Below: Lt Reynolds waits for the enemy.



News from the Poachers



Above left: Capt Lyne adjusts his satellite navigation system.

Above right: Lt Reynolds and Sgt Kirk take a break.

Below: LCpl Hugill and Pte Lyles winning the war in the Al Ech CP.



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Running alongside the Battalion's events a platoon has been training under Lt Paul Morris to reinforce the 1st Battalion, The Grenadier Guards.

It has now deployed to South Armagh and has had a successful start to the tour with a notable arrest.

We wish them all the best on what will be an arduous few months over the winter period.

It has not been all work and some sport has been fitted in around the Battalion's busy schedule. In summer, the Rear Party competed in the 7 Armoured Brigade athletics meeting.

After an exciting day's sport the Battalion Rear Party team came second by a single point in the major unit competition. On return from Northern Ireland the officers played the Warrant Officers and Sergeants at cricket.

After a hard day's play the officers rang out as convincing winners. The inter-company boxing also proved to be a great success with A Company just coming out on top after a hard fought contest.

Overall it has been a demanding six months with the Battalion emerging tested but at no time faltering. If the infantry is to survive post Options, hard work, determination and the will to succeed will be more important than ever.

All these qualities and more have been displayed by the Poachers during the last few months and the Battalion is more than ready and capable of meeting any challenge the New Year may bring.



Capt Paul Bailey and Lt John Chastney make the most of R and R on the Rockies.

News from the Poachers

Whirlwind tour with a regular battalion

Capt Mark Randall writes:

AS a regular officer in the Gibraltar Regiment with limited possibilities of serving abroad, to serve with a regular battalion has always been one of my biggest ambitions. In the summer of 1992 the opportunity arose for me to take up such an offer.

Once the initial round of sorting out the paperwork was over it was decided that I would join A Company, The 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment at Trenchard Barracks in Celle Germany.

It has now been a year since I arrived and the only way I could describe my attachment so far is by calling it a "whirlwind tour". It ranged from pre-Northern Ireland training to 6 1/2 months in East Tyrone and returning to armoured warfare training in preparation for Batus and subsequent deployment to Canada.

Not only have I fulfilled my ambition of serving abroad but I have also managed to extend the 2nd Battalion's warm hospitality to six members of the Gibraltar Regiment while at the same time sending seven Poachers to Gibraltar.

The idea of an exchange was born out of the author's desire to allow soldiers to experience life with another unit. The Poachers would be able to spend some time in Gibraltar and participate in an exercise in the UK and adventurous training in Morocco while the Gibraltarian soldiers would benefit from serving in Germany and Canada.

From the Poachers, LCpl Coupe and his team, Ptes Harrison-Kerr, Boucher, MacNeil, Skila, Mortimer and Robertson arrived on the Rock to glorious summer weather and a period of regimental standown.

To their delight they found themselves doing guard duties and adventure training for three weeks. Taking advantage of the facilities offered at the Joint Services Adventurous Training Centre, they



Some of the Gibraltar soldiers take a break with A Company on the prairie.

embarked on activities such as sailing, canoeing, windsurfing, subaqua and fishing. They also took the opportunity to discover the inside and outside of the Rock and enjoy the night life.

Back in Germany the author met LCpl O'Shea and the Gibraltar Regiment group, Ptes Brocklebank, Cartwright, Duante, Moody and Lopez at Hannover airport and whisked them away to Celle. They immediately joined their respective platoons and commenced training towards Ex Medicine Man 6 in Batus. Following three weeks' hard training covering all aspects of dismounted and armoured infantry tactics, A Company deployed to Canada.

In the meantime, the Poachers deployed to the UK with G Company of the Gibraltar Regiment. There they took part in a four week battlecamp at Stanford training area. The first two weeks consisted of rangework and low level tactics. This was followed by a week of live firing and Company level tactics. The final week included a four day Fibua/Dibua exercise.

On their return to Gibraltar, some of the Poachers went adventurous training to Morocco on Ex Spring Run. They travelled through the Rif and Middle Atlas mountains to the High Atlas where they spent a week high altitude walking. The highest peak, Jebel Touhkal was ascended. This was then followed by a descent to Lac D' Infria, a huge lake deep within the mountain range.

On their arrival in Canada the Gibraltarian soldiers deployed out into the vast Prairie, following a day of administration and preparation. Here they went through a full package of special to arms and battlegroup training.

The first week consisted of all aspects of company work, both dismounted and with Warriors. This proved to be quite an experience as some had never been in a Warrior before. This was followed by various exercises working with other elements of the battlegroup, particularly armour.

All phases of war were practised in what was a thoroughly enjoyable exercise. Some of the group then took the opportunity to go adventurous training in the Rockies. This was split into a week of Nordic skiing followed by a week of mountain biking, climbing, abseiling, canoeing and rafting.

The exchange went extremely well with everyone involved enjoying themselves thoroughly. Already there is a waiting list at both extremes of Europe of soldiers wishing to participate in a similar exchange.

There is no doubt that the affiliation between The Royal Anglian Regiment and The Gibraltar Regiment is going from strength to strength. I still have another year with the Poachers which I am sure will be as active as the past 12 months. If the powers that be allow it, we might just manage to organise another exchange before my departure.

News from the Poachers

New colours presented to America's 10th of Foot

Lt Wooddisse writes:

LAST August, whilst the remainder of the Battalion prepared for Batus, I was offered the chance to represent the commanding officer at the presentation of new colours to our old friends the 10th of Foot American Contingent. Accompanied by a representative from the Sergeants' Mess, Sgt Phil Tilley and family, I flew to Boston for a week.

For the uninitiated, the 10th of Foot attempt, with considerable success, to reenact the role of the aforementioned in the American War of Independence. The Regiment has gone to considerable trouble and personal expense to equip itself as realistically as possible and just as importantly to carry out drills and historical events as they happened with the minimum interpretation.

The 2nd Battalion has had a "special



Sgt Tilley and his son with their host, Doug Lee, of the Grenadier Company.

relationship" with the 10th almost since its inception in 1976 and since then there has been a steady flow of Poachers across the Atlantic. It was, therefore, a great privilege to attend the ceremony of the presentation of new colours.

The parade took place on a particularly humid Saturday morning and was extremely well attended with representa-

tives from the British and American Armed Forces as well as a large number of wives and families. The British contingent, of which I was by far the most junior, was headed by Maj Gen Gerrard-Wright who took the parade. Brig Colin Groves on his first visit was also present as were Lt Col Roger Brunt and Maj Mike Beard, both old friends of the 10th. Despite the conditions the parade went extremely well providing an impressive display of fine uniforms, good drills and realistic firepower supplied by muskets and cannon.

This was by no means the only social occasion of my visit, other highlights included a dinner night for the officers, an 18th century military ball and an evening as a guest of the British Officers' Club, Boston. Needless to say, in true 10th style the invitations to lunch and dinner were continuous throughout, and inbetween I managed to visit some of the sights of Boston and the surrounding area. My visit ended with a short stay of Cape Cod, renowned as the holiday destination for the rich and famous(!)

After a hectic but hugely enjoyable week I returned to the cold reality of Cape Cod, grateful for the opportunity of visiting the famous 10th and for the brief respite from the rigours of what has been a busy first year in the Battalion.



Cpl Sands explains the SA 80.

KAPE team visits school

Lt S M Gandy writes:

FIVE counties, 14 schools, 3,100 school children, nine band concerts, seven music workshops and seven cadet detachments. A hardworking and rewarding two weeks for the Poachers' KAPE team and band which performed in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, covering as much of the regimental recruiting area as was possible in two weeks.

Though not every town in these counties could be visited, the arrival of 48 soldiers caused a great stir in the schools and had considerable coverage in the local press. The opportunity to listen to and in some cases to perform with a full military band was seized with great enthusiasm.

The Band's programme included of course, The Lincolnshire Poacher, but Bandmaster Shearer also selected less traditional numbers from, among others, Michael Jackson and Walt Disney's

Beauty and the Beast.

The KAPE team concentrated on hands-on activities with weapon stands, practical first-aid, a display of rations and personal equipment, a signals stand and what was the highlight for most pupils (and some teachers), an inter-team competition in the form of a combined miniature assault-course and air-rifle range.

The KAPE team and band had a very positive reception from both pupils and teachers, with many pupils keen to join the Army and specifically the Poachers. The tour succeeded in its aim of raising the public awareness of the Army and of the Poachers. It also dispelled the idea that with the defence cuts the Army had stopped recruiting.

The enthusiasm of the pupils and careers teachers for the KAPE team and band more than justified the efforts of the Battalion in running the tour. Many of the children now want to join the cadets.

News from the Poachers

Moutaineering in the Dolomites

Lt S M Gandy writes:

SNATCHING a short break between returning from East Tyrone in July 93 and deploying to Batus in Sept 93 a small party from the Poachers departed from Celle for sunnier climes. They took their lives into their hands not only during the heart-stopping drive but also during ten days spent mountaineering in the Italian Dolomites, one of Europe's most spectacular mountain areas.

The aim of the expedition was to introduce the party to rock-climbing and alpine mountaineering, then to climb a 10,000 ft mountain during a three-day expedition. Much of the mountaineering was on Via Ferrata, difficult and intimidating mountain routes where climbing was aided in places by wire hawsers and ladders, some of which were overhanging.

After a practice session of rock climbing on the house-sized boulders in the Sella Pass near Canezei, we tried our first Via Ferrata. This route took us through the remains of one of the First World War's most fiercely contested battles. On the Costabella Ridge the Italian Alpini tried to force the Austrian Kaiserjagers and the Bavarian mountain troops from the heights some 1,000m above their own positions. There are still many relics of the war; many of the emplacements remain, barracks, trenches and gun positions dug from solid rock. This route gave an idea of what was to come.

Following another day of rock climbing we tried our second Via Ferrata, a longer and more difficult route where there was little more than air beneath our feet. The day culminated in the ascent of the Rotwand (9,504 ft) which could only be reached by crossing a near holdless wall aided by a few, widely spaced, iron pegs.

This gave an opportunity to the bolder to see how few pegs they needed to use – not an easy challenge.

After this introduction to the Dolomites we then moved to a new area for our expedition. This was to be on the Brenta Ridge, a chain of mountains rising to over 11,000 ft over its 20 km length. Our aim was to climb the central section from the Passo Del Groste heading south and staying overnight in mountain huts. Unfortunately poor weather on the first and third day meant that lower routes had to be followed on these days. Climbing during an electrical storm in proximity to wire hawsers is not conclusive



to a sense of well-being.

The second day was, without doubt, the highlight of the expedition, beginning with a steep ascent from the hut to the Tuckett Pass. The view down the crevasses of the glacier below us brought home that this really was alpine mountaineering. A succession of scrambles and short ladders brought us to the high ledge along which we were to traverse.

A brief clearing of the clouds caused some hearts to beat faster as our precarious position on the overhanging lip of a 3,000 ft cliff was revealed.

A short, protected traverse across a steep snow gully and a 65 m climb up a ladder followed before we reached the Spallone Di Massodi, our 10,000 ft peak and the aim of the expedition.

Overall it was an excellent expedition in a superb area for adventure training. Few of the soldiers expected at the start that they would be able to complete such difficult and exposed climbing with the confidence they showed on the Brenta Ridge.

The following Poachers completed Ex Yellow Diamond Lt Gandy (expedition leader), Sgt Roberts APTC (deputy leader), Cpl Mackay, Cfn Bond, Pte Garner, Pte Leeke, Pte Sayer, Pte Styles, Pte Vasquez and Pte Wray.

Above: Lt Gandy and his party on one of the smaller peaks.
Below: On the rock face.





Steelbacks



Camp culminates busy period

Exercise Vikings Pleasure

ANOTHER busy period in the life of the Steelbacks culminated in the Battalion joining the rest of 54 (East Anglia) Brigade for our two-week annual camp at Sennybridge in October. Here, among the wet (very wet!) Welsh hills soldiers and officers were put to the test by some demanding dry and live firing exercises from section to battalion level.

The fortnight began with the Brigade Commander standing in bright sunshine to announce that he could not accept responsibility for the weather. The warm sunshine continued for three days while companies conducted individual dry and live training for the Brigade exercise to come and fitted in a day's adventure training.

During this time they lived mostly independently in the farm complexes which dot the training area and 1 (Bedfordshire) Company even managed to find time to fit in a company barbecue.

Fitness training included tackling the excellent assault course, BFT's and ICFT. Just to prove that it really is true that RSM's can walk on water and clear large buildings with a single bound, RSM Hillier cleared the 10ft wall on the assault course on his own. A remarkable feat.

Alas the weather could not hold and everyone had a foretaste of the real Sennybridge as the rains came pouring down. The live firing ambushes on Thursday night were a particularly wet experience and showed what infantry soldiering was all about to the newly-recruited members of the Battalion.

On the Wednesday night (again in atrocious weather conditions) the BEME had organised a driving competition for all to take part in. This was actually good fun and involved a timed drive around a complicated course while logging various control letters laid out along its length. The event was won by the Ops Officer, Capt Robert Facer (navigator) and Cpl Hearn from HQ Company (driver).

Fortunately the weather relented for the R and R day on Saturday, allowing the Officers and Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs to watch a splendid Beating Retreat



CSgt Paul Mann, HQ Company QPSI, explains the finer points of quartermastering to WO2 Steele while HQ Company CQMS CSgt De'ath pays keen attention.

before returning to their respective messes for a regimental dinner night.

The guest of honour at the officers' dinner was Maj Gen M J D Walker CBE, who talked about the forthcoming 'Options II' announcement on the future role and size of the TA.

The dinner was also graced by the splendid and atmospheric playing of a pipe major and corporal of the Royal Highland Fusiliers. Not only did they play with gusto, but they also drank with gusto too! After each session they were rewarded with tradi-

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News from the Steelbacks



Above: The Padre learning about mortar fire control from the mortar PSI, and CSgt Cox and Cpl Bogle. Right: Just call me cyclops. OC Recce looking the part.
Below: The RSM and Adjutant escape from the Battalion CP



News from the Steelbacks



Above: The CO discussing tactics with members of the SF Platoon. The pile in the background is not spent link! Below: Lynx helicopters arrive at Battalion Headquarters during the Bridgade FTX.



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tional drams of fine scotch whisky and stayed on in the bar afterwards where musical requests could be purchased for even more scotch whisky.

Several officers tried their hand at playing the pipes and the resulting assault on the eardrums was predictably awful, requiring yet more whisky to dull the pain. All in all it was a splendid and memorable night, if a long one for the final few in the bar.

As the last of the officers drifted off for a few hours sleep, others were getting up and preparing to deploy into the field as Sunday was deployment day when the exercise proper would begin. This meant dividing up Sennybridge training area into two TAOR's for 5 and 6 Royal Anglian to control in a transition to war stage, while carrying out live firing training in preparation for a notional deployment to Bosnia in support of the United Nations. The exercise was regularly punctuated by tremendous down-pours which resulted in many cases of actual or potential hypothermia.

Undoubtedly one of the highlights was provided by the RAF in the shape of a Chinook and two Lynx. The Battalion was to be flown out for a dusk Fibua attack (although the late arrival of the Chinook forced some to have to deploy by TCV).

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News from the Steelbacks



Above Left: W/Pte Bowden of 2 (Hertfordshire) Company abseiling during Exercise Vikings Pleasure. Above right: Sgts Davie and Griffen, CSgt Kirby and W02 McCartney. Right: The Padre, Capt Simon Godfrey, acts as No.1 after firing the 81mm mortar Below: Mortar PSI CSgt Cox tries to thumb a lift from OC Mortars.



News from the Steelbacks



Above: Members of 3 Company relax in the sun during a break in adventure training in August. Below: Sgt Hyde, the Signals/Recce PIS, supervises live firing on 51mm mortar. Capt Facer, the Ops Officer, looks on.



A student takes the plunge on the PJNCO cadre.

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The next day they flew companies out to take part in the live firing company attack which was supported by artillery and our own mortar platoon.

Numbers on the second company attack involving 1 (Bedfordshire) Company were boosted by the appearance of a 'super section' from Battalion HQ consisting of the Battalion 2IC, Maj Nigel ffitch, the Ops Officer, Capt Robert Facer, OC Recce Pl, Tim Seal and action IO, Lt Charles Fair. Luckily Cpl Price kept his new recruits to No.2 Section on a short rein and all emerged more or less unscathed at the end of the battle run.

The exercise finished with an excellent night fire power demonstration which included light guns, mortars, SF and Milan, together with local batsims to simulate enemy counter bombardment on the observers position. A graphic exhibition for those who had not witnessed one before, of the potency of fire support available to the hard pressed infantryman on the ground.

All work and no play? Not in the Steelbacks!

YOU certainly could not accuse TA soldiers of being dull boys. In between all the hard training weekends put in before camp there was plenty of opportunity to enjoy the social side of life.

In May, 11 members of 1 (Bedfordshire) Company managed to combine taking part in the 100km Leper March in Belgium with emptying the Calais supermarkets of essential war supplies. In June, the Battalion staged a very successful Beating Retreat and cocktail party at the Cambridge TA centre where the principle guests included the Colonel of the Regiment, Maj Gen P P D Stone, Deputy Colonel of the Regiment for the 5th Battalion, Maj Gen Walker and the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire.

In July, as part of our ongoing commitment to shooting excellence, the Battalion enjoyed a good weekend's shooting at the Lydd range complex during which the officers found time to host the Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs Mess to drinks and a curry supper. Also in July, a joint Officers' Mess summer ball was held with the 7th Battalion in the splendid setting of Hitchingbrooke House in Huntingdon. Fortunately the occasion was graced with perfect weather for the outdoor champagne reception and Beating Retreat and a very merry time was had by all.

The summer season continued with the
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News from the Steelbacks

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marriage of our Commanding Officer, Lt Col Peter Horrell TD, to Miss Roma Rhodes on 31 July. A number of officers and soldiers from the Battalion had been invited as guests and the Band played both during the service and at the reception afterwards. A Guard of Honour was provided by members of the Band as the happy couple left the church for the drive to the reception.

This article is something of a valediction by the CO as he prepares to leave the Battalion which has been his home for the past seven years. It has been a time which has seen tremendous changes both within the TA and in NATO as a whole, following the reunification of Germany and the end of the Cold War and Soviet threat.

Despite having weathered Options for Change in 1992 the TA is again about to be transformed by Options II into a smaller force with less infantry battalions and an enhanced readiness cadre to support the hard pressed regular army in operations short of general war.

Whatever happens one thing will not change, the ability of the territorial soldier to cheerfully play his part in the defence of this country. The volunteer makes many sacrifices, both personal and often financial, to succeed in his second career, and has always risen to the challenge.

The CO would like to end by marking his respect and thanks to all those who have made his service with the Steelbacks such an enjoyable and rewarding experience and to wish them good luck with the new challenges which await them in the future.

Mainly about people:

HQ Company said farewell to their QPS1. CSgt Paul Mann of the 2nd Battalion who moves on to his new post at the Depot as CQMS. Also leaving the Company, and the Army, was WO2 Steele. His long career has spanned service both as a regular and territorial soldier. Among his many posts was CSM of 2 (Northamptonshire) Company in Wellingborough and latterly 2IC of the Mortar Platoon.

On a happy note, Capt Colin Albany, PSAO 2 (Hertfordshire) Company, has continued his steady recovery from his recent illness and is now beginning a gradual return to work.

Congratulations go to Sgt Robert Boyd on the award of his Lord Lieutenants Certificate in recognition of the sterling work which he has done, and continues to do, as the Mess Sergeant of the Officers' Mess.



Above: Battalion 2IC, CO and Training Major enjoying the rain. Below: LCpl Teversham feeds the CSM's family at 3 Company's family day in August.



News from the Steelbacks

Gunners on attachment with the US Guard

WO2 (CSM) R L Smith writes :

FOLLOWING an invitation from the Illinois National Guard to UKLF for volunteers to join their 33rd Infantry Brigade for a two-week exchange camp, Sgt Steven Pearce and I put our names forward. A long shot yes, but worth a try for such a 'dream ticket'.

Two months later we found ourselves with four others at RAF Brize Norton keenly awaiting our flight to Dulles airport, Washington DC. Who said that the tooth fairy does not exist?

Washington was surprisingly hot and humid but our reception was well organised and we were soon on our way via a local flight to Minneapolis St Paul and then on to our final destination, La Crosse, Wisconsin. After 18 hours travelling we were glad to finally have arrived at Fort McCoy, a sprawling complex covering some 6 sq. km.

The next day we attended the GOC's orders at which the General outlined the Brigade's aims for the next two weeks' training. Their secondary aim was an operational one - to standby to provide MACA assistance to help with flood damage along the neighbouring Mississippi River. At the conclusion of his orders we all had to stand up and introduce ourselves and were free to ask any questions.

After a few words from the Command Sergeant Major (the equivalent of our RSM) we were assigned to our host companies in 178th Infantry Battalion. Alpha Company for Sgt Pearce and Bravo Company for me. The companies' initial training package consisted of dry training exercises in preparation for their evaluation by soldiers of the 101st Airborne. After three days new orders were received and the Battalion was mobilised to active duty and ordered to deploy some 300 miles south to Quincy, Illinois to assist with flood relief.

There was clearly a possible diplomatic problem with Brits going opera-



Above: WO2 (CSM) Smith and Sgt Steven Pearce showing the plaques they received at the end of their attachment to the US National Guard. (Where did they get those desert combats?!) Below: WO2 (CSM) Smith gets to grips with a .50 calibre machine gun courtesy of 122nd Artillery Battery, US National Guard.



tional with the National Guard so we were quickly reassigned to 122nd Artillery Battalion which was also preparing for its annual live firing evaluation. Now I know a fair bit about infantry but my knowledge of artillery is strictly limited to knowing which is the dangerous end. This was going to be interesting. The 122nd was equipped with 105mm howitzers, rather similar to our own light gun but with a shorter range.

Our new home was Bravo Battery which with its new recruits, passed the evaluation with flying colours.

R and R saw us visiting the nearby city of Tomah and we were all struck by how genuinely friendly the Americans were, even if they did seem to think that we were all Australians. The next day we followed up an earlier invitation to visit Post 100 of the American Legion in the city of Sparta.

Soon we were on our way back to

Washington DC to join the 3rd Infantry Battalion which carries out the ceremonial duties at Arlington Cemetery. During this time we stayed not in barracks but in a nearby hotel, a refreshing change from the normal Spartan battle camp accommodation.

A lot of our time was spent doing a great deal of sightseeing. Our tour of the Capitol took in the White House, Lincoln Memorial, Capitol Hill, the Pentagon, the Vietnam Wall memorial and Arlington Cemetery itself, including the eternal flame on the grave of John F Kennedy.

Sadly it was all too soon time to leave but a lucky break of 'unforeseen problems' with our flight allowed us another 24 hours R and R at the Holiday Inn, courtesy of the RAF. It was a truly unforgettable trip and both Sgt Pearce and I are indebted to our American hosts for making our stay such an enjoyable and memorable one.

News from the Steelbacks

Pain and glory on Ypres march

WO2 (CSM) R L Smith 1 (Bedfordshire) Company writes (again): ELEVEN soldiers from 1 (Bedfordshire) Company march 100km to echo the footsteps of the old Bedfordshire Regiment at the Battle of Ypres in 1914.

It was to be the 12nd International 100km Van Leper March in May and CSM WO2 Robert Smith and 10 NCO's and soldiers from 1 (Bedfordshire) Company were determined to take part and reforge the connection with their parent Bedfordshire Regiment which fought and died at the first battle of Ypres almost 80 years ago.

In 1914 the major German offensive, the Schlieffen Plan, was halted by the British and French at Mons and Marne. This left the Belgian town of Ypres as the key to their drive for the Channel ports and a quick and decisive end to the war. The first bloody battle for this small town began in October that year. During the battle the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Bedfordshire Regiment met each other just outside the town. The 2nd Battalion, which had been reduced by savage fighting to just two officers and 200 men, cheered on their sister Battalion with the cry "The Bedfords keep marching on!"

It was with this poignant history in mind that we embarked on our three-day march which would take in all the major war memorials and cemeteries of the Ypres salient. Behind us were three months of planning and preparation and many training miles spent tramping the highways and byways of Bedford. Ahead lay a 250-mile journey and 100 kilometres of walking.

We travelled by minibus to Dover, where, after a brief channel crossing, we found ourselves on French soil. From Calais our route took us along the coast to Dunkirk and then on down to the Belgian border, finally arriving at Lemahieu Barracks in Ypres late in the afternoon.

The barracks were the home of the 98th Battalion, Lugistiek which hosted us the next three days. After checking in and receiving meal tickets and control cards there was time for most of the team to do a quick tour of Ypres itself before an early night. The next day was to be an early start and a long day.

The march began in the Ypres Sports Stadium at 0800 hrs. Maps and information sheets were issued which revealed the first problem, there were no English translations.

Some vague recollections of schoolroom



The 1,000km Van Leper March team from 1 (Bedfordshire) Company before departing.

French were enough to point us in the right direction and we were off. Under clear blue skies and warm sunshine we began the 33km of day one.

The first port of call was in Ypres itself; the Menin Gate. The impressive archway designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield forms the British memorial to the 54,896 officers and men who fell in the Ypres salient "but to whom the fortune of war denied the known and honoured burial given to their comrades in death".

The last post ceremony, sounded at 2000 hrs every day by buglers of the Ypres Fire Brigade, was probably the most moving moment of the whole tour. The route then led onto the Essex Farm cemetery where one of the youngest victims of the battle, Pte Studwick aged 15 years, is buried.

Day two saw us back in the Sports Stadium with some sore feet but determined to continue and complete the next 40km. Fortunately the medical back-up provided by our hosts was excellent, and rather good looking too! Today's route would take us back into France, visiting many memorials and cemeteries on the way before we finally ended up tired and happy back at Ypres.

Doctors should take note of the mysterious and amazing healing effects of the local beer on blisters. It should be added that for maximum effectiveness it should be taken internally and not applied directly to the affected area.

Day three and we were having to admit

that the thought of another 30km was pretty daunting. But it was the last day and we were determined not to let the good name of either the Bedfords or the Steelbacks down. The final route took us through the Menin Road South cemetery, across "Hell Fire Corner" past the White Chateau which was General Haig's headquarters, then on to Railway Wood, Polygon Wood and Black Watch Corner.

More than 4,000 people of all ages took part over the three days, ranging from families to visiting foreign troops. We found the local people friendly and warm and always willing to engage in conversation. They clearly have not forgotten the sacrifices of so many of our countrymen in preserving their freedom, and neither should we.

Everyone completed all 100km and earned their exclusive 100km Van Leper March medal. To cap it all we were invited to attend the official prize-giving in the Officers' Mess at Lemahieu Barracks and were surprised and delighted to be presented with a team cup by the Mayor of Ypres for completing the march intact.

We all enjoyed the experience immensely and would like to offer our thanks both to those in the UK and in Belgium who helped to make our trip not only possible, but so memorable too.

The team members were: WO2 CSM) R L Smith, CSgt (SPSI) Okopkyj, Cpl Soper, LCpls Hopkins, Pavey and Bilkhu, Ptes Bunce, Croot, Spinks, Cootes and Lower



6th Battalion



From strength to strength



B Company on the advance at Sennybridge.

SINCE the last edition of Castle, 6 R Anglian has continued its successful run with further honours at EDSAAM and Bisley, and a clean sweep of all the 54 (EA) Brigade awards available to us. The training highlight has inevitably been the Brigade Concentration recently held at Sennybridge, which was the culmination of the year's activities and is the subject of a separate report.

Training

WITH the Concentration in mind, there had been a leaning towards the National Defence Spectrum. Company and Battalion level training took place on Salisbury Plain, Stanford, Shorncliffe and throughout East Anglia as we progressed through MACA and conventional war, under the Military Home Defence (MHD) umbrella, to support of force projection operations out of area and support to the ARRC.

One of the key elements of the build up was the Brigade sponsored MHD CPX held in the War Headquarters in Colchester. Three separate trials were concurrently carried out by the Battalion on behalf of the Brigade which will help to shape the future MHD planning in our counties.

Continuing with the MHD theme, we deployed to Lydd and Hythe to take advantage of the facilities so often used by our Regular counterparts, which included use of both of the CQB urban ranges. We have also trained in a variety of FIBUA complexes.

Our specialist platoons have had an exceptionally busy six months. The Mortar Platoon was disbanded in June to form the nucleus of the GPMG SF Platoon, now commanded by Lt Ian Gowdy. They not only held a series of cadres but also live fired three times on Salisbury Plain in preparation for March 9 in November.

The Recce Platoon held five concentrations under the guidance of Capt Peter Chilvers and Sgt Cowell, to which we invited 5 R Anglian personnel to partake. The Sniper Section, led by our Master Sniper CSgt Conopo, goes from strength to

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strength and now has four fully qualified sharpshooters. The Assault Pioneers, commanded by CSgt Eaton, has covered further modules and was the backbone of the Brigade taskings at Sennybridge.

Lt Stephanie Lack, the RSO, held a series of signal detachment training periods including a CPX, which paid handsome dividends on the Brigade Concentration.

EDSAAM – eight years running

IN May the Battalion won EDSAAM for the eighth consecutive year. Mention should be made of Sgt Sinclair who won the Whittaker Trophy and was runner-up in the Roberts Cup. With the silverware from the team events back in the cabinets we turned our sights to Bisley. TASAM was another outstanding success for 6 R Anglian. The team was in the top seven places in the MMTT, the Converted Gallery, Roupell and Fire Team Matches with an overall position of 6th – no mean achievement.

Individually, Pte Winfield won the Gold Medal in the National Rifle Association sharp shooting competition and WO2 Smart and Cpl Rolph both came 2nd in the Roupell and MMTT respectively. Three of our firers were placed in the top 25 for the Queens Medal and WO2 Smart, Sgt Sinclair and Cpl Rolph were all chosen to represent the TA in the match against the Combined Services.

The former two are at present in America with the Army team shooting against the US National Guard.

Having held the title of Reserve Forces NATO Shooting Champions for a year, we entered again full of confidence. From 26 participating teams from nine countries we were finally placed 4th.

Achievements included winning the SMG individual and team events, 2nd in the Individual MMTT and ETR Matches and 2nd overall in the military skills competition.

Not to be totally overshadowed, our driving team showed promise for the future. Having been placed 2nd in the Eastern District road safety and skilled driving competition, where Pte Birch won the best female driver trophy, our team came 18th in the UKLF final at Leconfield; an excellent performance.

Adventure training

THE programme during the reporting period had been so condensed that little adventure training has occurred.

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Above: OC A Company and the Commanding Officer with DGTA.
Below: Pte McLelland (A Company) using Sawes on a platoon attack.



News from the 6th Battalion



The Salamanca dinner organised by WO1 (RSM) Brett.

On the August Bank Holiday, however, soldiers travelled to the Lake District for hill walking, water skiing and canoeing while others enjoyed outdoor pursuits on the River Yare in Norfolk.

Travel abroad

IN keeping with the Battalion's tradition of sending personnel abroad, Sgts Burridge and Pocock flew to New York and Virginia respectively to train with the US National Guard and Lt Stephanie Lack spent three months in Zimbabwe with Op Raleigh. As we go to press, WO2 Smart and Sgt Sinclair are also in the US representing the TA shooting team in competition against the National Guard.

New TA Centre

ON 22 May, the new C (Essex) Company TA Centre, Chelmsford, was officially opened by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Lord Braybrooke JP. Guests included the Commander 54 (EA) Brigade, Brig A J K Calder OBE, the Mayor of Chelmsford, the Deputy Honorary Colonel of Essex, Col Tomkins OBE TD DL, the Honorary Colonel of the Essex Yeomanry (who are co-users of the centre) and the Secretary of

East Anglia TAVRA. The event included a formal inspection of a Quarter Guard by the Lord Lieutenant, followed by the unveiling ceremony in the new drill hall.

Charity

CHARITY events have featured highly over the past few months with both HQ and A Companies taking part in two Spastics Society charity abseils. The latter Company was also involved in the Police Splash programme for local schools. Additionally, Battalion Headquarters helped to plan and run a charity auction for the rebuilding of the St Nicholas Hospice in Bury St Edmunds and B Company raised £600 for the Army Benevolent Fund and SSAFA at their families day and sponsored cycle ride.

Sport

IN golf, the RSM, WO1 Brett, won the Stapleford competition Suffolk Cup at the Regimental golf meeting and came 3rd in the Pairs with our last RSM, WO1 Eke.

Visits

ON 23 Oct 93, the Colonel of the Regiment visited the Battalion at Stanford. He saw the Battalion undergoing testing for bounty pur-

poses and was able to talk to a number of soldiers regarding training and how the merger last October had gone.

He also kindly agreed to present some 18 TD's and TEM's to serving and recently retired members of the Battalion. In addition he promoted Sgt (now SSgt) Russell A G Corps and Pte (now LCpl) Lunn after attaining best student on the recent 54 (EA) Brigade potential NCO cadre.

Social

KEY social events have included a superb officers' summer ball in the baronial barn at Chilford Hall, and the WOs' and Sgts' Mess barbecue at Chelmsford. Additionally, the RSM organised a Salamanca dinner for 26 ex Pompadour Officers and SNCO's who are not currently serving with a Regular Battalion.

Mainly about people

THERE have been a number of key personality changes to report since the last issue of Castle. We welcome Capt Paul Smith BEM (ex Viking) who has taken over as PASO A (Norfolk and Suffolk) Company at Norwich where he has been joined by CSgt Gedge

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(ex Viking and RSM Depot the Queens Division).

CSgt Southwell (ex Pompadour) has assumed the appointment of Admin PSI at Chelmsford with C (Essex) Company, and Sgt Bracey (ex RAPC) has filled the NRPS post of SFA at Bury St Edmunds. CSgt Eales joins the permanent staff from the Vikings as PSI B (Norfolk and Suffolk) Company, and we welcome back WO2 Hitchins as our TA RQMS.

Farewells have been made to Capt Gerry Gandon who has retired after 13 years' service with the Battalion, nine of which were as PSAO in Norwich.

Maj Robert Keron has also sadly left due to his hot air ballooning commitments.

CSgt Cooper (APSI of A Company) has handed in his uniform after five valuable years with the Battalion and a further 22 years with the Queens Regiment.

CSgt Davis (PSI of B Company) returns to the 1st Battalion as CQMS A Company along with CSgt Hughes (APSI of C Company) who has become the Ops WO. Sgt Matthews (Mortar PSI) is now with the Poachers and Sgt Lade (GPMG SF PSI) is at ITB Ouston as the Drum Major.

We wish them all well.

Above: Sgt Abbott in New York with friends from the US National Guard.
Below: Cpl Seeley receives his Sniper badge from the Colonel of the Regiment.



News from the 6th Battalion

Exercise tests new defence role

The Commanding Officer writes:

EX Vikings Pleasure was the first Brigade Concentration of the new 54 (East Anglia) Brigade and was held at Sennybridge from 25 Sept to 8 Oct. It was to be the first time that the new National Defence concept would be tried and tested, and as a result drew some high powered visitors, but more about them later.

In the past, Brigade Concentrations have tended to be unpopular among the soldiers, resulting in what many see as interference in company level training. This was not to be the case on Ex Vikings Pleasure.

The entire first week was left to the commanding officers to decide how exactly they wished to operate. A most comprehensive and demanding range package was prepared which was run by both Battalion and Brigade PRT's.

The Battalion chose to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by the location of farms on the training area and allowed the companies to set up on their own for the week. This gave company commanders tremendous scope to train with their soldiers in the field. Some highly imaginative training was carried out by all, including a night pairs CQB using IWS's and a highly professional company night attack with live GPMG SF in support.

The farms quickly became home from home. One enterprising company borrowed a "space heater" running off calor gas that within an hour had everybody's clothes and boots dry. It was not therefore surprising that (in the second week especially) A Company received their share of visitors. The medical team also deployed under Maj Chester White and had a marvellous opportunity to sort out their equipment. A considerable amount of high quality training was also carried out by the medical team.

Running concurrently with the company training in the first week were a series of specialist cadres run by both TA Battalions for the sniper, recce, assault pioneer and GPMG SF Platoons. In addition the Brigade staff ran a highly successful TAPO Phase 2 and potential NCO cadre at Crickhowell Camp, which the Battalion took advantage of by sending 20 candidates.

Additionally we conducted cadres for the Signals Platoon, which included a Battalion CPX, and another for LGV drivers. Thanks primarily to CSgt Conopo, 6 R Anglian can now sniper badge another



Above The Recce Platoon checks the route. Right: Casualties are attended to at the MACA plane crash incident during the Brigade Concentration.

three soldiers and has one of the most qualified sniper sections in the TA, a remarkable achievement.

For the first time the Recce Platoon was able to train to a standard impossible to achieve at weekends alone. The Assault Pioneers, while continuing their modules and helping in further construction within the FIBUA complex, spent much of their training in preparation for the ranges in the second week and also for the impending firepower demonstration.

For the GPMG SF, it was a time to reform from being the Mortar Platoon and learn new skills. That they did so was evident throughout the first week when they assisted companies with live firing exercises, but also later when they were involved in all the major batterruns and the fire power demonstration.

Another highlight of the early phase was the Brigade night orienteering driving competition. The Battalion took this seriously and entered 18 teams, including the Commanding Officer and his driver. The course was hard, but tremendous fun. The fact that the Battalion gained 11 out of the top 12 places was no mean feat. The first event was won by Lt Flemington and Cpl Cain, and on the second night Capt Chilvers and CSgt Negus were equal first.

Early visitors to the Battalion included Lt Gen H M Rose (Commander UK Field Army) and Maj Gen A I G Kennedy (DGTA). Both generals expressed a real interest in what they saw and in speaking with the soldiers. Other visitors included Mr Gordon Skilling and a photographer from Soldier magazine.

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The middle Saturday was a day off and was spent with the soldiers taking the chance to visit Weston-Super-Mare. On the Friday night the Battalion entertained to dinner Col P D L Hopper and Col P W Raywood from TAVRA East Anglia, Col N H Kelsey the Brigade Deputy Commander, and Col D K Harris in his role of TA Colonel.

The following night, all the Brigade officers held a thoroughly enjoyable dinner night organised by 6 R Anglian where they were entertained by two splendid pipers from 1 RHF, whose haunting music will remain in the memory for a long time, as will their capacity for demolishing copious amounts of whisky during performances. The principle guest was Maj Gen M J D Walker, our Honorary Colonel, who gave an

informative and entertaining after-dinner speech to an attentive audience.

The FTX phase of Vikings Pleasure started on Sunday night, when the Battalion deployed to Sennybridge training area. As expected, once the infamous cattle grid at the top of Church Hill was crossed, the heavens opened. It rained for the next four days, almost unceasingly.

Companies initially guarded the GDA around KP's while concurrently the Battalion was training for deployment overseas by building up to platoon and company live firing attacks. It was a most appropriate scenario and gave a sense of purpose to training within the Brigade.

The weather proved the most difficult factor. A bad thunderstorm caused a bolt of lightning to hit the HI antenna at Battalion Headquarters and the resulting flash blew

the headphones off Cpl Ridley's head, which could have resulted in serious injury. As it was, she only received a free perm.

The ranges were in the main run by PRT's from 1 RHF, who put a tremendous amount of effort into making them as realistic as possible.

The highlight for the Battalion was a battalion first light attack on the skill houses, putting into play our strong FIBUA knowledge. Command and control as ever were a problem and commanders learnt (yet again) the advantages of personally carrying a radio. As light broke, the Battalion was airlifted out by Chinooks, which were later kept for further familiarisation training.

The grand finale was a spectacular night firepower demonstration organised by Maj David Winn and WO2 Henderson on B Range, witnessed by the whole Brigade and our GOC, Maj Gen P A J Cordingley. The demonstration was based on the firepower available to support an Infantry Company in a defensive position. A Company literally filled their boots with ammunition, and along with Milan, GPMG SF, mortars and artillery, gave a memorable performance that prompted one of the visitors to remark that a copy of the script and the demonstration should be forwarded to Warminster as it was better than any equivalent demonstration he had seen before.

The audience was equally impressed and initial oohs and aahs were replaced by a sombre silence at the awesome firepower on display. It was at the end of the demonstration that the Brigade Commander announced that C (Essex) Company had won the Brigade champion company competition with A (Norfolk and Suffolk) Company coming third.

More good news was received the following day at the passing out parade of the Brigade IAPC and Potential NCO Cadre. The Battalion obtained the best officer cadet award (Otd Davis - C Company) and best PNC (Pte Lunn - A Company). The runner-up, Pte Pratley (B Company) and best shot, Pte Whitehead (B Company), should also be commended on their performances.

In conclusion Ex Vikings Pleasure was a superb Brigade Concentration. The pitch of the training was just right, being both demanding yet realistic. The soldiers thoroughly enjoyed it (except the weather) and gained tremendous training value, especially in the area of field firing. A greater understanding of the National Defence concept was perceived by all participants and the exercise set the tone for the Brigade's future training.

News from the 6th Battalion

Into Africa with Operation Raleigh



Lt Stephanie Lack writes:

WITH notice of only one month it had been a rush to get myself ready for a trip of a lifetime to a country slowly drawing itself away from violent war and racism to holding its own as an independent and beautiful state. I was off to Zimbabwe, or, for people who cannot cope with that, Southern Rhodesia, in the south western part of Africa. Off on an expedition with Raleigh International, the "People, Purpose, Places" crowd, as their motto states.

Along with 29 other members of staff and 110 venturers (aged between 17 and 25), I was to assist in part of a ten-year programme that Raleigh has set up with the Zimbabwean government. The aim is to help encourage tourism, provide additional hands with essential building project and compile data for a number of ecology and wildlife studies.

During the three months of my expedition we carried out eight projects all over the country, the building of two medical clinics and a fully equipped workshop, three ecology and wildlife studies, the mapping of routes through a range of mountains and an adventurous canoeing project. It was hard work, challenging, extremely interesting, but most of all great fun!

My job on the expedition was primarily as the administrative co-ordinator but also as a project manager. I was responsible for the initial setting up of the Field Headquarters (FHQ), ensuring that all the organisation for the projects went ahead, and for the induction programme for the venturers when they arrived. I additionally catered for the clearing up phase at the end, and overall for the smooth running of the expedition. As a project manager I had the responsibility for two of the projects for two phases of the expedition, ensuring that in those phases the aim of each was achieved. Our Headquarters was based 30km to the northwest of Harare (Salisbury), the capital. It was set up in a large, empty, farmhouse in the middle of nowhere.

The expedition was organised into phases, the venturers being divided into five groups which rotated on a fortnightly basis round the seven sites (two of the projects were co-located).

When I arrived at Harare airport at 6am it showed promise of a beautiful, dry day, even though it was still the rainy season,

and the sky was clear with the most incredible red streaks, the beginning of the sunrise. I was fascinated by this and during my whole time in Africa never once ceased to be amazed by the sunrises and sunsets, like raging fires in the sky, truly something that has to be seen to be believed. Unfortunately, the morning the venturers arrived the heavens opened for a characteristic two minute downpour just as they stepped out of the plane, and their first night 'under the stars', although warm, was also a wash out. Certainly not what they expected after two years fund raising for the £3,500 to go on the expedition. The venturers, from a wide range of backgrounds (professional, academic, unemployed and deprived) spent an induction period of four days learning about Africa, its climate, wildlife and its people. They were also trained on camping in the wild and how to use their rations, operating the radios, map reading and first aid. Then, now acclimatised, they were loaded on to open trucks and off on the first phase.

The medical clinics, both started by previous expeditions, were at Godzi, west of Harare, and Chingele, in the south. Each one was desperately needed in its respective area due to their remoteness and distance from any form of medical aid. They will each bring medical help and serve 15,000-20,000 people. By the end of our expedition Chingele was almost complete, awaiting only the medical equipment, while Godzi still has a little way to go.



At Godzi the locals were very keen to help. They also had their eye on all the nice new tools and materials Raleigh was providing. A number of items went missing and not until they experienced a strike by the venturers and were told "no tools or materials, no clinic" did they return them and work began again.

Chingele suffered a different problem. On the expedition we were all very careful and strict about purifying the drinking water but in some places no amount of iodine or tablets could cope with bad water caused by lack of sewage systems. Chingele was one, and everyone who went there suffered the dreaded 'Chingele Belly'. Although we laughed about it we realised how desperately the locals required this aid.

Our third building project was at Mana Pools, a large National Park below the

escarpment in the Zambezi Valley. One of the best, if not the best, for game and scenery. It was at the headquarters of the park and right by the Zambezi itself. We completed the construction of a fully-equipped vehicle workshop, essential to a park that regularly has to cope with the plague of poachers from across the river and which is a good four-hour drive on very bad dirt tracks to civilisation.



The project had been sponsored by a number of companies including Raleigh, its main aim being to assist the great 'Rhino Rescue' campaign that Zimbabwe is fighting. The camp the venturers set up was close by to the workshop (mainly because it had a tap and they put in a proper loo!) and, like a number of the project camp sites, was regularly visited during the day and at night by our four legged friends.

Mana Pools was also the site for an ecology study initiated by National Parks which wanted to find out all the species of trees, grasses and plants that were to be found along the escarpment. A huge project that would take years to complete but one which would provide vital information with regard to the food change for the wildlife, birds, beasts and insects included.

This was my first project and together with an ecologist we took the venturers to a specific area where we collected numerous samples, studying them around the camp fire at night, describing and making detailed notes about each one. One night was spent camped on a dry, sandy, very inviting river bed after we had been studying the banks and found this to be the only piece of flat ground for miles. Sure enough, in the early hours of the morning we were entertained by a spectacular thunderstorm with lightning forking across the sky, then the heavens opened and in a matter of minutes our sandy berth had become a raging river once more. We retreated rapidly to the steep banks of the river and sat until dawn only to spend that day climbing our way up and out of the valley as there was no other way but to go straight up.

Two other ecology projects were undertaken on the expedition, both in the south close to the border with Mozambique. In the Save Valley the project was similar to that in Mana Pools except that this area a year

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ago had suffered a terrible drought and so the data collected was hopefully going to give an indication of what had and could survive and the effects it would have on the game.

In the case of last year the game, mainly the rhinos, were moved to alternative National Parks in Zimbabwe because of the drought and because of the poaching. At the same time the National Parks started their de-horning programme, the success of which has yet to be determined. Next door to Save is the Gonarezhou National Park and here we undertook our third ecology study. This project involved the 24-hour, 7-day a week watch over a number of waterholes in the Park. As a result of the drought the parks wanted to find out how many elephants and other large game were still in the area. The venturers also undertook to build permanent but well hidden hides from which they could view the waterholes undetected. Initially it seemed that there was nothing to be seen in Gonarezhou until one evening, well into the third week of the expedition, as the sun was setting, a herd of 40 elephants with young could be seen (and heard!) coming down to drink.

The other two projects were both more on the adventurous training side. To the northeast of Zimbabwe is a very rugged range of mountains called the Mavourahdona Mountains which overlook

Lt Stephanie Lack in Zimbabwe with Operation Raleigh

the Zambezi Valley. It was planned to make these more accessible to tourists interested in challenging hill walking, so Raleigh was asked to draw a map which set out routes that could be taken to reach some of the best vantage points to admire the view from up high. This project was probably the most challenging of all as it entailed each member of the group carrying rations to last two weeks and the terrain was very hard.

Often, although it involved climbing up the steep hillsides, good paths and routes had already been set out by elephants which in their usual manner flatten everything in sight.

The second project I was responsible for, was the canoeing on Lake Kariba. I had two weeks to ensure everyone was familiar with their canoe, knew all the various strokes, could pack their canoe with the weight of what they were carrying evenly loaded and then paddle 270km to our destination. We began at Binga, a small lakeside fishing village, 270km west of the town of Kariba. The first few days we barely made 10km, the wind being against us the whole time and, although the venturers were mainly in two-man kayak canoes, we had a couple of Canadian canoes that were not suited to open water and they tended to slow the others up.

However, as everyone got used to their partners and became better handlers of their canoes we were soon doing 25-30km a day.

We tended to canoe close to the edge of the lake, wary of the crocs and hippos, but this was not possible when we had to avoid the weeds and due to some poor information from a local fisherman we found ourselves a long way out in the middle of the lake as it began to get dark. Canoeing at night is not a good idea and for safety reasons had been one of Raleigh's rules. Fortunately just as some of the group were beginning to get anxious we received a tow from a fishing boat and spent the night in safety on yet another island.

By the end of the next day we had cleared the weeds and made camp, at a place called Bumi Hills famous for the amount of game there.

The expedition was a great success and not only were the aims for Raleigh achieved but the effect that the expedition had on the venturers was remarkable. Many of them had never been to a country like Africa before, some never having been away from home before, and mixing with such a variety of people they all gleaned a little from each other.

I found the experience truly fascinating and loved Africa and although it was hard work, the challenge and the rewards were wonderful.



Tigers



A battalion in excellent shape

THE last six months has seen members of the Battalion exercise in such diverse locations as Fort Irwin in California, Fort Dix in New Jersey, Camp La Courtaine in the south of France and of course Fort Warcop in Cumbria. Details of each exercise are included in this edition of Castle. With our strength running at some 120% of establishment and recruiting figures at an all time high, the Tigers remain in excellent shape, with major highlights of the summer undoubtedly being Exercise Fraternal Front in France and Exercise Raging Bear in Warcop and Otterburn.

April began what was to be a busy period of time for the Tigers. The Skill-at-Arms weekend at Colchester on 2/4 Apr saw the whole Battalion wearing the new 49 (East Midland) Brigade polar bear flash. The weather this year was kind and led to some notable scores being recorded. The overall competition was won by A (Lincolnshire) Company, the best rifle shot was Cpl Chester and the best officer shot Maj Alan Hemmings.

A regimental dinner on the Saturday evening was attended by many past members and guests including many Vikings who had previously served in the Battalion. Generally this period was very busy on the social front and the annual Battalion cocktail party on 15 May provided an ideal venue for The Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire to present the TAVRA National Employers Liaison Committee certificates to nominated civil companies in recognition of their continuing support to their TA soldier employees.

Attended by 50 employers and civil dignitaries, the three recruiting counties within the Battalion's area were reminded of the strong links to the Regiment.

The month continued with a civil theme, with the Battalion providing assistance to 49 Brigade in running Exercise Executive Stretch at Proteus and Welbeck College. Following several rehearsals over the preceding month, some 110 executives from local and national companies were put through their paces in a military environment designed to test leadership and initiative skills. The Battalion element, com-



Soldiers from A (Lincolnshire) Company take five during annual camp at Warcop.

manded by Major Rod Burns, provided excellent support not only in administration but in lecturing, marking and assessment.

Over the weekend 12/13 June, and following two weekends of build up training, the command element of the Battalion, at both company and battalion HQ level, deployed to the battlegroup trainer at Catterick. They carried out a two-tier exercise based on a helicopter assault and advance to contact. Ably supported by several different arms and cap badges, the Battalion performed well in what turned out to be a testing exercise scenario. On 22 June the Commanding Officer, R M L Colville, departed on a three-month tour to Bosnia as a civilian EC monitor. In his absence the Second-in-Command, Maj M R Mee, took up the reins of command.

The remainder of June was taken up with what became one of the highlights of this training year, the deployment of a composite company to France on Exercise Fraternal Front.

Despite the majority of both the Regulars and the TA trickling through their summer holidays during the months of July

and August the Battalion was busy on both the social and military fronts. July saw the Battalion on exercise as a whole on Yardley Chase where training was carried out in preparation for the Brigade FTX Phase of annual camp in September. Since the FTX was identified as the most testing part of the Battalion training programme, it dominated the schedule for the summer months.

Concurrently the Battalion shooting team achieved some creditable results at Bisley, coming 9th in the Mullens team trophy, 7th in the TARA and 2nd in the trophy team match R Rapids aggregate. Our young shootists, under the direction of WO2 Sam Martin and Sgt Ian Kiely, performed admirably - most notably Pte David Clugston from A (Lincoln) Company who was well placed in most competitions, in particular 6th in the Imperial Tobacco trophy and a very creditable 4th in the Queen's medal.

Saturday 17 July saw the joint 5th/7th Battalions officers' summer ball at Hitchinbrooke House in Huntingdon. It was generally agreed that it was a splendid loca-

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News from the Tigers



Left: The Camp Commandant, Capt Malcolm Dawe (centre), entertaining the RSM and the Adjutant to his rendition of the Lambeth walk. Right: "Just keep pushing it back RSM if you want a hairstyle like mine." Trg Maj 7 R Anglian.

tion for a truly memorable and highly successful joint venture. July became August and the place of life quickened with the build up to annual camp only weeks away. The warrant officers and sergeants' mess summer ball at Wellingborough TA Centre on 14 August was well supported and a good time was had by all. The holiday season finally came to an end with everyone returning refreshed, tanned and enthusiastic.

The first week of September was a hive of activity in final preparation for annual camp. For the first week the Battalion was based in Warcop Training Camp, where the emphasis was placed on getting as many as possible through the mandatory bounty qualification tests and a comprehensive live firing programme using the excellent range facilities available. Elements of 222 (EM) Field Ambulance RAMC, 152 Pro Company RMP and OCdts from East Midlands UOTC on attachment for two weeks, took every opportunity to get involved in many aspects of our training. Despite a very demanding programme of activities, all ranks finished week one tired

but elated. Visitors included Brig Colin Groves in his capacity as Deputy Honorary Colonel of the Regiment and Maj Gen P A J Cordingley DSO, GOC, Edist.

On Friday 17 Sept the Battalion hosted a press and visitors day at Warcop followed by a regimental dinner that evening. Representatives from our county newspapers spent an enjoyable day visiting their respective companies on the ranges and meeting TA soldiers from their local areas. In the evening the officers were joined for dinner by Brig D A K Biggart OBE, Commander 49 (East Midlands) Brigade and Brig P I B Stevenson CBE DL, Secretary of East Midlands TAVRA. Together with our County Deputy Honorary Colonels, Honorary Members and many old friends who made the long journey to be with us, it was a fitting culmination to week one. The middle Saturday was designated as a rest and recreation day and while the younger element elected to take in the sights and sounds of Blackpool's Golden Mile, the old and bold contented themselves with a spot of clay pigeon shooting, fishing and

other of the more gentle country pursuits.

For the second week of annual camp the Battalion deployed by road to Otterburn on Exercise Raging Bear, a 49 (EM) Brigade ITS, where a series of training packages were incorporated into a brigade exercise. Activities included harbouring drills, live firing company attacks with artillery support, withdrawal, heliborne operations and ambush drills. The highlight for many was most certainly the Brigade level assault river crossing carried out by the Battalion and 3 WFR Organised by Maj Simon Bacon. more than 1km of Kielder Water had to be negotiated and proved a severe test of both determination and stamina in deteriorating weather conditions.

Overall it was a testing five days where all ranks were put through their paces. The mandatory dawn attack signalling Endex was a welcome respite before the long journey back to TAC's

Exercise Mechanical Tiger took place over the weekend 16/17 October. Co-ordinated by the quartermaster, Maj Bill

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News from the Tigers



Above: "Get down and gimme 10". Two Tigers who got on the wrong side of Capt Ben Scrivner.

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Burford MBE, the exercise provides a competitive test of the individual driving skills of the Battalion. Tests include cross-country, highway code and vehicle maintenance, first aid, orienteering and ended with a knock-out quiz. The overall competition was won by A (Lincolnshire) Company with HQ Company in the runner-up position. The best Landrover crew was W/Pte Cook and LCpl Read from A Company with Pte Botting and W/Pte Hewitt from HQ Company lifting the Best Bedford title.

That same weekend saw 87 potential recruits gather at Proteus Camp under the direction of WO2 Jim Dixon, (SPSI HQ Company), for a Battalion Recruit and Initial Selection Course (RISC).

The weekend comprises a comprehensive series of tests including fitness training, command tasks, team exercises, drill and of course medicals, and gives potential recruits an opportunity to have a look at the Battalion, while we have an even closer look at them. This was a particularly successful weekend with some 81 men and women making the grade and being invited to begin training with their respective companies.

This reporting period came to a close with the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment reunion at Sobraon Barracks on 26/27 Sept.



Left: Where are they now? LCpl Tony Amos (wearing glasses) and now PSAO C Company, enjoying a night out with friends in the NAAFI.

the 4th Northamptonshire Regiment reunion dinner at Clare Street TAC on 1 Oct and the 4/5th Leicestershire Regiment reunion dinner in Leicester on 9 Oct. The inaugural dinner of the 7 Royal Anglian Officers' Past and Present Dining Club took place at the Willoughby Hotel, 7 Hills, Melton Mowbray on 13 Nov.

Personnel changes:

Hail

WE welcome SSgt Mick Vernon, ex RAPC, who joins the Unit Admin Officer to head up the TA pay team. Two of our CQMS posts have been designated as NRPS and we

extend a warm welcome to CSgt Tupper Upsall (Ex Poacher) to HQ Company in Leicester, and CSgt Keith Brundell (Ex 7 Para RHA) to C Company in Northampton.

The Battalion also sees the return of CSgt Jock Cousins from the Poachers. Having left us only 18 months ago he has returned on promotion to B (Leicestershire) Company again but this time as SPSI.

As the new PSI A Company, we welcome Sgt Bez Beswick from the Poachers, and LCpl Tim Kavangh from 2nd Battalion arrived in August to take up the post of CO's staff car driver. We await the arrival of

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News from the Tigers

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Capt Howard Newson in Jan 94, fresh from ATR Bassingbourn who takes over as Adjutant.

Farewell

LT Andy Jacques and WO2 Mick Blanchard depart to continue their TA careers at Chilwell with the UOTC and the Brigade training team respectively. After many years of sterling service to the Battalion and the TA we say a fond farewell to both WO2 John Rogers BEN and CSgt Ted Byers who have finally decided to hand in their bedding and retire.

We say farewell to CSgt Greg Carter who after a very successful tour returned to the Poachers on promotion. Farewell also to WO2 Dan Taylor who returned to the 1st Battalion after a very successful tour as SPSI. Since his posting he has been selected as an RQMS and is currently with 2 RRF in Ballykinlear.

Sgt Ian Kiely, Sgt Steve Buzzard and LCpl Steve Chew, our Phase 2 redundees, finally said their farewells and departed on terminal leave.

To them and the 34 other redundees who have passed through the Battalion en route to civilian life, we wish them and their families good health, continued wealth and happiness for the future.

Finally we bid farewell to the Adjutant, Capt Nigel Goodwin, who leaves the Battalion in Jan 94 to command a company at ITB Strensall.

Promotions and appointments

CONGRATULATIONS are in order to the following: - Lts Mike Rickards and Roger Wiltshire on their promotion to Captain; 2Lts Andy Croft, Declan Woods and Guy Thornton on their promotion to lieutenants; 2Lt Alex Wong on his commissioning from RMAS.

Alex Wong began his military career as a TA soldier with B Company at Melton Mowbray, before leaving to join the RAF as a cadet at Cranwell. Offered a much more substantial career with Severn Trent Water, he left the RAF rejoining B Company as an officers cadet.

His career has turned full circle as he is now the Platoon Commander of 6 Platoon at Melton Mowbray.

2Lt Francesca Aub-Robinson on completion of the RMAS commissioning course and appointment as OIC RRTT in C Company, 2Lt Stavros Melides on his commissioning and appointment as a Platoon Commander in A Company.



SSgt Goodrich explaining the finer points of the SA80 to some French Legionaires.

A rifle company trains with the French Army

EXERCISE Fraternal Front is the name attributed to the annual invitation from the French Army to HQ UKLF to select a TA Unit for two weeks' field training in France. This year the Tigers came out of the hat and were asked to provide a rifle company. A composite company was raised comprising one platoon from each rifle company, the support element from HQ Company and the command element coming from C (Northamptonshire) Company as winners of the Battalion inter-company competition.

Thus with Maj Tom Dormer at the helm, Capt Mike Cunningham as PSAO and WO2 Pete Wilcox as CSM, the Company

deployed for two weeks in sunny La Courtaigne in the south of France. The advance road party consisting of 11 vehicles and 25 men departed on the evening of 16 June on the first leg of their 800km journey south. The main body departed on 18 June, travelling courtesy of an RAF C130 (Club Class) flight from Lyneham to Clermont Ferrand.

Camp La Courtaigne is isolated some 65 miles west of Clermont Ferrand on the southwest edge of the Massif Central. Large enough to accommodate a division, this well organised camp proved ideal for troops

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News from the Tigers



Above: Ptes David Russell and Stephen Ranger check the route before setting off for the south of France. Below: WO2 (CSM) Ken Stone instructing Pte Mark Tector on the correct way to carry a French baguette when in uniform.



coming and going on field training. Facilities were considered excellent, although demand for the two conventional toilets, discovered in the armoury and kitchen, was excessive. The camp lies on the edge of a vast, interesting and versatile training area.

Covering some 1,200 sq km, it includes every type of terrain up to 2,500 metres above sea level. The climate in the summer months can range from searing heat to heavy summer rains and frequent electric storms. Winters can be equally fierce with driving snow and freezing gales. With such extremes of climate it is considered by many to be an excellent training area.

Apart from a limited supply of compositions, all food was procured by local purchase. There was a distinct continental flavour to the cuisine with our three chefs, under the direction of SSgt Henry, working extremely hard to ensure that everyone was always well fed, and the CQMS, CSgt Billy Kelly always managing to find and feed the company on time.

The first week's programme included live firing and section and platoon level work-up training, interspaced with inter-platoon football, softball and volley ball competitions. The Company, for the most part, slept in the field and one night witnessed one of the spectacular electric storms we had been warned about. A keen competitive edge quickly built up between platoons in all activities and it was encouraging for all ranks to be working and playing hard within a full strength rifle company.

As the second week training package got under way with a company level phased exercise the weather took a turn for the worse. Following a cautious and thorough daylight recon the Company carried out a clearance operation on the Courtaine FIBUA village. This was closely observed by a number of French Reserve officers who were much impressed. There followed a phased withdrawal to a hide from which a series of ambush patrols were launched. For the duration of the exercise the safety aspects and performance of individual platoons were carefully monitored and duly reported by the PSI's, CSgt Andy Deller and Sgt Red Smith.

While these mainstream activities were underway the backroom boys were kept busy. The small REME detachment, led by SSgt Des Goodrich, worked constantly over and under our vehicles, night and day, to ensure we remained self-contained for transport over the duration of the exercise.

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News from the Tigers

The huge mileages clocked up on the journey down had taken their toll and it is to the credit of SSgt Goodrich and his team that we were able to complete the exercise and return to the UK in one piece.

Similarly, the administrators led by Capt Mike Cunningham and ably assisted by SSgt Tony Glynn and SSgt Mick Vernon had to cope with the multitude of admin tasks relating to pay and expenses, rations, social, welfare, medical and of course liaison with the British Embassy and French authorities.

Exercise Fraternal Front is an exclusive British activity and does not officially involve French troops. However, intrigued by our presence the local French garrison challenged us to enter a team in their 20km road race. The company ad-hoc team performed exceptionally well with Pte Tony Bennet coming home in 2nd place, Pte Justin Nobbs finishing 4th and our best five runners getting inside the first 20 places to take the team trophy.

The French, not to be outdone, extended their challenge to a rugby and football match. The French garrison rugby team was undoubtedly their pride and joy and included a soldier currently playing for Toulouse.

A Company team was quickly scratched together and captained by the OC, Maj Tom Dormer, braced themselves for the onslaught to restore French pride. We proved much stronger in the scrum and the game was played at a fast pace with hard and often high tackling from both sides. Predictably we lost a very hard fought match but the French by no means had it all their own way.

The football match which followed was a much more evenly fought contest. Unlucky not to secure a draw we were beaten 2-1 in the closing minutes of the game by an own goal from Capt Mike Cunningham. Considering our numbers in comparison to the size of the French garrison, we had acquitted ourselves very well indeed.

The chores of post-exercise admin mercifully came to an end, and following the usual exchange of Regimental mementos we bade a cheerful farewell to the garrison staff, and set off on the return journey home. The recovery phase went according to plan, bringing to a successful conclusion two weeks of action and fun in France. All ranks who took part would agree that it was indeed a memorable experience and a training opportunity which will be difficult to surpass.



Capt Ben Scrivner and Marc Coulcombe (US Army) take a break at Fort Warcop.

Officers swap roles with US counterparts

THE Battalion was indeed fortunate in having two officers selected to take part in the UK/US Reserve Officer exchange programme in July 1993. Capt Frank de Planta, the Battalion Ops Officer, was attached to the 2nd Battalion (Mechanised) 127 Infantry, a unit of the Wisconsin National Guard, while Lt Mike Pape (Pl Comd Company) joined up with 1/180th Infantry Battalion of the New York State National Guard. The aim of the programme is to foster and maintain the active relationship existing between the reserve armed forces of the two countries. In September the Battalion in turn were delighted to host

Capt Ben Scrivner from 1st Battalion 381 Regiment from Texas and Capt March Coulombe from 207 Infantry Group in Anchorage, Alaska.

The British party departed for Washington on 9 July and after a briefing by an officer from their host unit were escorted on the final leg of the journey to their respective units. While Capt Frank de Planta continued on by air to Las Vegas and by road to Fort Irwin in the Mojave desert, Lt Pape made the much shorter hop across to Fort Dix in New Jersey. During their 15 day visit both officers took part in a brigade level exercise which formed part of the host

News from the Tigers

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unit's annual mandatory 10 days of field training. Lt Mike Pape takes up the story.

Serving with Uncle Sam

UPON arriving in Washington we were met by various representatives of the American Forces and given a variety of airline tickets to our eventual destinations. I was lucky however, and was soon placed on a six-seater plane for the short flight to Fort Dix in New Jersey. On arrival I was met by the Adjutant and Second-in-Command of my host unit, the 1/108th Infantry Battalion of the New York National Guard.

I was not really sure what to expect, never having seen any of the American Forces in action, let alone the National Guard, and having been the recipient, as I now know, of some rather antiquated views I was to be rather pleasantly surprised.

The National Guard is in many ways much the same as our own Territorial Army, suffering many of the same problems as we do. On average they carry out one compulsory training weekend per month and a two-week annual camp.

Not so long ago a member of the New York National Guard could be jailed for non-attendance. Today, however, regular non-attendance can result in a reduction in rank and eventual discharge.

The 1/108th Infantry Battalion is a mechanised infantry unit, equipped with M113 APC's, which I found particularly interesting, never having had any experience of mechanised infantry work before. I was placed under the wing of A Company, all of whom made me feel extremely welcome. State regulations mean that the New York State National Guard has to spend at least 10 days straight in the field.

In practice this means two days of preparation of the APC's followed by a four-day build-up package involving NBC training and range work. I found this particularly interesting as it allowed me to gain hands-on experience with many of the American weapons systems, as well as being given the opportunity to drive an M113 tracked recovery vehicle.

After this initial training the Company was launched into what is known as 'Lanes Training'. This is a progressive training package, starting at basic fire team level and moving up to platoon level through a series of teaching and tactical exercises, under the supervision of a regular training cadre.

It is designed not so much as a testing package but more an assessment with each commander being given a booklet at the end



Adjt Chef Eric Van Helverswyn and 1st Sgt Maj Freddy Vande Velde of the Belgium Air Force (see story opposite).

designed to be the basis for the subsequent year's training.

While the platoons were engaged in these activities, the Battalion command structure was involved in the Enhanced Artbass Simulation, a battlefield simulation package. We were engaged in a South Korean scenario, advancing up through Seoul and facing most of the North Korean Army! The final day was spent in the Pentagon attending several military briefings and discussions, mainly regarding American military policy.

The exchange programme for me was a great success and I enjoyed it immensely. It gave me an opportunity to experience the American Forces at first hand, as well as a chance to handle their equipment, and I hope assimilate some of their tactical doctrine. It was a unique experience, producing links between the officers and soldiers of 1/108th Infantry Battalion and myself which I hope to maintain in the future.

Desert Storm (The sequel)

Capt Frank de Planta writes:

AS I touched down in Washington I marvelled at my good fortune. I was about to embark on 15 glorious days in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the beer capital of the world. I would be flying the flag on behalf of the

British Army Reserve on a task that promised to be peppered with a little bit of soldiering.

I never reached Milwaukee and, if it had not been for the kindness of a lone British cavalry officer, I would never have tasted a drop of Milwaukee's finest beers. At Washington I was handed airline tickets for Minnesota and Las Vegas with instructions to join the Wisconsin National Guard at Fort Irwin in southern California. The affable officer in charge of reception merely noted that the sand was hot, damn hot and that beer was taboo.

I had been posted to the US Army's national training centre, a sprawling 642,000 acres of arid desert that has been turned over for the exclusive use of the American Armed Forces. It was best described by one US soldier as being "a place for big boys to play with their big toys in the world's biggest sand pit".

Its true purpose was to train the US Army up to Brigade level, and the Wisconsin National Guard's 2nd Mechanised Battalion 127th Infantry's task was to provide two rifle companies as part of the Opfor. Opfor was a regular cadre group whose sole task was to use Soviet style tactics against visiting Brigades. Commanded by the formidable Col Lamar, who was to his American officers what the Spanish Inquisition was to Protestant zealots, each operation was carried out with textbook precision.

The US Army's largesse was daunting. For the first time in my life the quartermaster's store was a free for all, and the British were not expected to sign for anything.

The Battalion Second-in-Command allocated a Hummvee to his British guests and, after a quick spin around the tank park to obtain our official military driving licence, the desert sand was ours to explore.

The Hummvee's superior mobility would bring out the child in anyone and I was not going to be the exception. With a "Tally ho" and a rush of yellow dust, the Americans must have wondered whether these Englishmen were going to reach the end of the exchange without killing themselves.

The Battalion Second-in-Command's plan for his British officers was simple: go where you want and see what you want at the pace that you want. We did!

In the oasis-like atmosphere of Fort Irwin the day was divided into neat little chunks of effort. The morning was entirely devoted to the desert and military activity.

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News from the Tigers

Multinational force training at Warcop

THE Battalion played host in September to Capt Ben Scrivner and Capt Marc Coulcombe from the US Reserve Forces, together with Adjt Chef Eric Van Heliverswyn and 1st Sgt Maj Freddy Vande Velde, both from the Belgium Air Force. Our American cousins were met at Heathrow by Capt Frank de Planta, who, fresh from his experiences in California and having picked up a smattering of the language, was to act as interpreter.

The visit of our friends from Belgium was as usual co-ordinated by our QM(T), Capt G G Smith, who kindly provided transport to and from Dover. After a couple of day's sightseeing all were conveyed north to Warcop Training Camp where they joined up with the Battalion on annual camp.

Despite the accents and the different DPM patterns displayed on combats, like true military men the visitors quickly settled into the daily routine and customs of a British Army Infantry Battalion. While Capt Scrivner from Texas wrapped up warm against the autumn chill, Capt Coulcombe from Alaska thought No.10 tropical rig more appropriate. Adjt Chef Heliverswyn and Sgt Maj Vande Velde on the other hand, came fully equipped for Warcop and felt right at home. During week one all four visitors joined in with the platoons on the excellent variety of live firing ranges available at Warcop and proved themselves more than proficient with the SA80.

By the end of week one a severe overdose of Tigers hospitality was beginning to take effect. While both Eric and



Multinational Reserve Forces at Warcop. Adjt Chef Eric Van Heliverswyn, 1st Sgt Maj Freddy Vande Velde (Belgium Air Force Reserve), Sgt Mai Avison (PSI HQ Company), Capt Ben Scrivner and Capt Marc Coulcombe (US National Guard).

Freddy had developed a liking for the Theakstons Old Peculiar draught bitter in the Sergeants' Mess, Ben and Marc had acquired a remarkable palette for the vintage port at dinner.

The middle weekend gave an ideal opportunity to get in a spot of sightseeing and while our Belgium friends opted for a seat on the buses to Blackpool, Ben and March decided that as Scotland was just over their thar hills they would mosey on in and do Edinburgh town.

It would appear the old plastic took a bit of a hammering when they returned laden down with a collection of expensive looking country tweeds, Barbour jackets and tartan skirt lengths for the womenfolk back home. I suppose working as an oil company executive in Texas does have its little compensations.

For week two it was back to some serious soldiering and the preparation for Exercise Raging Bear. Whilst the

Belgians were allowed a free run to see company level activities, our American allies were drafted in to Battalion HQ to mirror their counterparts. Capt Scrivner proved to be of great assistance to the Operations Officer and organised the Battalion Heli lift, while Capt Coulcombe aided the IO in the production of the IPB.

It was evident from their own SOP's that there are few differences in UK/US operating procedures, with the main exception being terminology. Their style and work convinced the majority that inter-operability between the two nationalities is very strong indeed.

It was our privilege to have all four overseas visitors on the strength of the Battalion, if only for a short time. We most certainly learnt a lot from them and I hope they in turn learnt something of the professionalism of the British Army Reserve Forces.

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As the sun scorched at midday the workload reduced and the afternoon was spent by the refreshing swimming pool. The evening was invariably all-American and devoted to bowling, softball or basketball. All activity was interspersed with huge quantities of food and water.

From the heat of the Mojave desert we

returned to Washington via Las Vegas and Minnesota. The Americans had kindly laid on a series of briefings on their current military aims and offered us the opportunity to tour the Pentagon's vast corridors. A very humbling experience.

It was sad and surprising to hear from the MOD briefing officer that the UK had found it difficult to fill the 30 places offered

on the exchange. I would commend the trip to all Royal Anglian Reserve officers and hope that in 1994 we will once again be represented in the US. We should not pass up any opportunity to remind the Americans that it was the Essex Regiment which burnt down the White House I did not say whether, if asked, we would be prepared to do so again.

ATR Bassingbourn



A few of the Royal Anglian members on the permanent staff at Bassingbourn. Back (l to r) Cpl Watson, CSgt Mann, Sgt Urand, Sgt Pearce, Cpl Cutts, Capt Foster, Capt Newson and Cpl Dufosse. Front: (l to r) Cpl Aspinall, Pte Bagsham and Pte Wiltshire.

Still training Royal Anglian recruits

ALTHOUGH the Depot is no more, Bassingbourn still trains all Royal Anglian recruits under the auspices of the Army Training Regiment Bassingbourn.

The first 10 weeks of training are carried out by the ATR, following the Common Military Syllabus (Recruits) (CMS(R)). The Queens Division has been joined by the Royal Engineers and Royal Signals at the ATR although all Queens Division recruits are trained by C (Queens Division) Company with infantry instructors.

C (Queens Division) Company has a large Royal Anglian contingent on the permanent staff. Capt Newson is the Company 2IC, with Lts Down and Reynolds commanding two of the training teams.

In the SNCO, department CSgt Cussons is the CQMS and Sgt Pearce adequately take care of the Regiment's interests. There is at least one JNCO in each of the companies' five training teams who ensures that

potential Royal Anglians are catered for within the 10 week course.

At a Regiment level, Capt Foster remaining as the adjutant and QM Maj Ross, ensure that Royal Anglian interests are upheld. The quiet and pleasant manner with which Sgt Urand carries out his duties as provost sergeant leaves few recruits in any doubt as to his role in a battalion.

The Regiment has had a busy six months, especially C (Queens Division) Company which has trained over 1,000 recruits for the six battalions.

Thankfully, over the past six months recruit capping has been minimal and thus a large number of future Royal Anglians have passed on their way to ITB Ouston from the ATR. Pre-selection of recruits prior to arrival at the ATR has meant that a higher percentage of recruits pass out than did in the past, but the problem of lower limb injuries remains.

On the sports field the ATR has a strong Royal Anglian feel, with Capt Newson and Sgt Pearce on the cricket field and Capt Foster, Lt Reynolds, Lt Down, Cpls Cutts, Askin and Vangucci on the rugby park. Maj Ross still competes for the cross-country team, much to the embarrassment of younger and less fit members of the Regiment.

Congratulations go to Sgt Pearce for being selected to represent the Army in coarse fishing.

Finally, although the direct ties between the Regiment and Bassingbourn are not as close as they once were, it is still the barracks where Royal Anglian soldiers start their military life.

The RIT still remains at Bassingbourn, as does the Regimental Gathering, so although its name has changed the strong link still exists between the Regiment and the ATR

Hectic summer show programme for RIT

THROUGHOUT the last six months the Regimental Information Team has been very busy, culminating with the ACF annual camps.

In between a hectic summer show programme, the RIT hosted two annual competitions. The first was the Salamanca Shield on 6 June for all ACF's within our county areas. Forty-eight teams took part on the hottest day in June, making the assault boat stand the most popular. Brig Calder presented the prizes to the winning teams. Sgt Panton's team from Suffolk were the eventual winners.

On 13 June the RIT sponsored the Hertfordshire Young People's Association superteams competition. Over 500 young people descended on

the ATR where everyone had a good day.

August saw the teams move to their respective locations for the ACF annual camps. These were: Oakhampton - Cambridgeshire ACF; Crowborough - Lincolnshire ACF; Otterburn - Hertfordshire ACF.

After a well-earned leave period, the RIT is now in full swing with ACF/CCF visits to ATR and teams visiting their ACF detachment within the county areas - this year concentrating solely on Royal Anglian ACF.

We said farewell to LCpl Simons, Goodrum on redundancies and welcome LCpl and Mrs Bloss 1st Battalion and LCpl and Mrs Hewitt 2nd Battalion.



WO2 N Barker, the happiest man in the RIT. The cake was presented by Helen Dobson of Decon School in appreciation for his hard work on their school visit.

Potential officers pass RCB

WE congratulate the following potential officers on passing RCB:- Sam Wilson for SSIC 2/93 - he has now joined 2 Royal Anglian in Celle, with Stephen Hudson; Philip Birch for CCC 941, Ivan Howden for CCC 941; Michael Walden for CCC 943; Paul Beaumont for CCC 953; Alex Clixby for CCC 963; James Walker for CCC 983; Tom Wilkinson for CCC 963 and Daniel Howson for CCC 942.

We also congratulate Edmund Parker for his award of a Cadetship having successfully completed Pre-UC at RMA Sandhurst from 11-22 Sept; Stuart Hawkins, Oliver Brown (AS) and Rupert Whitham (AS) on their Bursary Awards.

On 4 Aug the Colonel of the Regiment accepted Kenneth Copland, Jason McCann, Rupert Whitham (AS) and Stuart Whitehead (AS) into the Regiment. Well done!

CCF visits

WE were pleased to see the following school CCF's at ATR Bassingbourn during their field days hosted by the RIT: Berkhamsted, Brentwood, Bedford Modern, Woodbridge, Oundle, The Perse, Ratcliffe, Kimbolton, Ipswich, Langley, Wymondham, St Edmunds College, Bancrofts and Felsted. JNCO's from Uppingham enjoyed themselves attempting the command tasks!

Potential officer visits to battalions

THE following potential officer visits were organised between June and December.

1 Royal Anglian Ex Gryphons Flight: Guy Draper, Mark Butler, Antony Pelan, Ian Jones, Robert Lord, Rupert Follett and Oliver Brown (AS).

2 Royal Anglian - Batus training (Canada): Richard Kavanagh, Simon Ward (AS), James Roper, Charles Warrack and Andrew Billingham.

Tom Wilkinson visited ITB Ouston for a few days in September.

Thirty potential officers have visited our two Regular Battalions this year. Many thanks to the Commanding Officers and staff for all their efforts.

CCF summer camps

WE are most grateful to Commanding Officers for allowing their subalterns to

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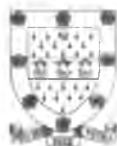
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Cadets

POTENTIAL OFFICERS

RHQ Interviews/Visits
1982 - 1993

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Attended interviews	102	140	138	139	138	116
Attended Pre-RCB	44	38	70	52	58	47
Attended RCB	30	40	49	47	42	43
Passed RCB	14	20	28	22	20	22
Visited a Battalion	15	18	21	15	20	27

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Attended interviews	90	124	115	103	124	130 +
Attended Pre-RCB	47	53	50	45	65	65
Attended RCB	26	34	27	29	32	28
Passed RCB	14	22	15	10	11	15
Visited a Battalion	30	27	31	12	41	30

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assist with training at CCF summer camps as follows: Lt D J Ward to Loughborough GS (Wathgill); Lt R W Wooddisse to Stamford (Wathgill); Lt J N D Bowes to Oakham (Warcop); Lt M D A Parry to Oundle (Wathgill); Lt E C Reynolds to Woodbridge (Culty Braggen); Lt R L Gerrard-Wright to Haileybury (Sennybridge); and No.1 RIT assisted Kimbolton School CCF at Leek Camp in Mar/Apr 93.

Ex Bermuda

UPPINGHAM School CCF visited Bermuda for their camp this summer. It was initiated through links with the Regiment and the Bermuda Regiment and the School SSI WO1 (RSM) P S C Warren who served as a PSI in Bermuda between 1978-1980. The experience was geared to coincide with the annual Bermuda cadet camp.

The commanding officer of the Bermuda Regiment, Lt Col A Rance, helped the CCF enormously. Thirteen cadets attended the camp. Finally, thanks are extended to Dr and Mrs M S Hamza of Somerset who accommodated many of the cadets in their garden!

The CO and cadets are pictured, left, talking to the Governor in the grounds of Government House.

Ashburton Shield

OAKHAM School hold the current record of 535 points which was recorded in the 1987 competition. Scores for this year by our sponsored school CCF's were: Merchant Taylors 499.32, Woodbridge 496.41, Berkhamsted 485.28, Oundle 482.22, Kimbolton 472.21, Oakham 462.22, Wellingborough 459.19, Framlingham 457.19, Bedford Modern 439.14 and Stamford 429.13.

Wellingborough School

MR Graham Garrett was the inspecting officer of his contingent on 5 May, pictured left. He has recently retired as the headmaster of Wellingborough School. We wish him and his wife Jill great success with their new home in Cambridge.

Congratulations

WE congratulate Kimbolton School CCF on achieving second place in the Cadet Team event in the 1993 Nijmegen marches. To be "in the prizes" in a year in which the organisers have stated that the entrants were of an exceptionally high standard reflects great credit on the contingent. Well done.



Cadets

Lincolnshire ACF makes return to Crowborough

WAS it really 17 years ago that Lincolnshire ACF was at Crowborough enjoying the heat of a very hot summer and were we to be fortunate and experience the same again? Not so however, for although it was mainly fine for the fortnight, we were subjected to some light showers and misty conditions.

For this year the training was again organised by the new training major, Maj David Larder, on a cadre basis.

All junior cadres received expert tuition, map and compass, field craft, drill, shooting and skill at arms.

Thirteen Cadet Training Team conducted an ICYC for the newly fledged instructors, which was a culmination of the training undertaken on previous weekends.

An excellent canoeing induction course was organised at Bewl Water reservoir, although the strong winds often brought a quick experience of capsizing drills. Rock climbing was undertaken at Harrisons Rocks, supervised by a member of 13 CTT and proved to be a very popular pursuit. There were some who needed more coaxing and cajoling before relying on a piece of rope and a harness before ascending.

SI Mitchell of the band had organised a very busy practice programme ready for playing for the guests at the Officers' Mess on two occasions.

In the first four days all cadres received preliminary instruction in casualty code. This was a revision period to some but for the majority was an early introduction to the subject.

The community project was one that required some muscle as cadets were tasked to clear a gully through Ashdown Forest of overgrown Rhododendron bushes.

Once in their stride all personnel settled down to the demanding requirements of the programme both in camp and on the training areas. We were delighted to welcome a party of French



The Perse School CCF, winners of the 1993 Steeplechase competition, with Dr G M Stephen, the Headmaster, and Capt Adrian Roberts.

Canadian cadets on 31 July who spent nearly a week training with the combat cadet cadre and appeared to enjoy every minute of it.

Friday was soon upon us heralding the arrival of the guests for the Officers' Mess dinner night and the parade of the visitors to the cadres to see the activities first-hand and meet the cadets and instructors.

Among this year's guests were Brig C E Wilkinson and Brig P I B Stevenson of East Midlands TAVRA, the mayor of Lincoln, councillor Winston Crumblehulme and the sheriff Mr B Smith, Col C J Constable of the RLC Grantham, Col W J Gleadell honorary colonel Col J R Hunter former commandant and Lt Col G Newmarch of Nottingham U'OTC.

As part of the visit the mayor made two presentations, first to LCpl James Bloomfield of North Hykeham on nomination of mayor's cadet and to LCpl Jason Sewell of the Band as most improved member.

The cadres took morning prayers with each company and a padre's hour during the day with most cadres.

On Monday we welcomed Brig D A K Biggart, brigade commander 49 Infantry Brigade accompanied by Maj Allen, G3 Cadets and Col R J M Drummond deputy secretary East Midlands TAVRA.

Evening in-camp activities included abseiling from the camp water tower by courtesy of 13 Cadet Training Team and

appeared quite daunting to a few of the participants.

Wednesday, and the cadres had come to a close. Now was the time to practise field craft, quarter guard drill and the other pursuits that are included in the annual competitions.

This was the day when we were to be honoured by the arrival of Gen Sir David Scott Barrett, who also was very impressed with the training.

In the afternoon, all were paraded for the presentation of awards and trophies which included: Cadet Force Medal - SMI Tony Almond, SMI Nobby Clark, SMI Mick Fields, SMI Eric Jorgensen, Ex SMI Horace Robinson and Capt Roger Wells. Recipients of the Lord Lieutenant's Certificates were SMI Tony Almond and SMI Ged Clarvis.

No.4 Company was declared the overall winner. As is now the practice, senior cadets from each company were entertained in the Officers' Mess on the second Wednesday evening to meet members of the outside agencies who had been on hand to assist and advise.

Thanks as always are due to 13 Cadet Training Team, the nursing sister, the Royal Logistic Corps drivers and members of the Royal Anglian regimental recruiting team.

On Friday the 13th came the journey home - with no mishaps - although there may have been reservations nothing untoward happened to mar the ending of yet another annual camp.

Cadets

Adventure training in Northumbria

Capt Sue Smith writes:

WITH a slight feeling of entering the unknown Hertfordshire Army Cadet Force set off for its annual camp at Otterburn training area, Northumbria. We had never been this far north before and were looking forward to the large open area of training facilities.

Training was organised by areas, two of whom are Royal Anglian badged, No.1 and No.2 Company. A county organised ITC, a three-star course and a four-star course were run. The Royal Anglian RIT under Sgt Almond provided the platoon staff for the 3-star course.

All areas made full use of the ranges and the excellent adventure training possibilities at Kielder Water with canoeing, abseiling and rock climbing with assistance from No.3 CTI.

During camp, after much deliberation, CSgt Maj Galvin of No.1 Company was promoted sergeant major.

No.2 Company was assisted on field training by Sgt Redding, Royal Anglian Regiment ACIO, Watford. As well as field training and rangework, No.2 Company achieved the ambitious goal of a party walking the whole length of Hadrians Wall, including the parts which are now in built up residential areas.

Capt Eddie Isaac, a Hertfordshire Geordie who can speak the local language, arranged for the party to start from the Swan Hunter shipyard in Newcastle where a plaque marks the end (or the beginning) of the wall.

No.1 Company, while exercising on the training area, discovered a small flock of helicopters on a standby and the cadets experienced being air lifted, some for their first time in the air.

The weather, by Hertfordshire standards, was not kind. Shirt sleeve order appeared once. This caused work for the Medical Centre which was staffed by personnel from

254 Field Ambulance RAMC, TA.

We were visited by Brig A J K Calder OBE, commander 54 Brigade who toured the camp and training areas visiting the ITC, the four and three-star courses and the areas.

Guest night was held out of camp at Otterburn Towers as the Officers' Mess kitchen and dining room are being refurbished. Our guests were Col Raywood TD, DL and Lt Col Cartwright MBE of East Anglia TAVR.

At the end of a cold but happy two weeks in the north, weary Hertfordshire cadets go south having achieved not only all that they set out to do, but with additional skills which were offered by the nature of the training area. Pre-camp preparation, especially in survival and first aid techniques, proved invaluable.

Preparations are already in hand for annual camp 1994, which is back in the south, Napier Barracks, Folkestone.



Left: The RCO talks to a cadet at Loughborough Grammar School during one of his last visits to CCFs.
Right: Lt Col R M Chisnall talks to L/Cpl Robert Hitching of Bancrofts School during the inspection on 14 May.

Around the Branches



THE Association continues to gather members from those who served in The Royal Norfolk Regiment, the 1st East Anglian Regiment and the Royal Anglian Regiment. Those from the latter are now beginning to pick up the reins and be represented in the branches throughout the Association and on the regimental committees. The benevolent grants have reduced this year which is to be welcomed though be under no illusions that every member needs to lobby his local MP against the implementation of VAT on domestic fuel as this would make life even more difficult for the elderly and poor.

The annual dinners in Kings Lynn, Norwich and Gorleston continue to be well supported. This year the attendance of members at The Royal Anglian regimental gathering at Bassingbourn was considerably greater than in the previous years and the Minden celebration at Bury St Edmunds again is attracting many former regimental members. The 4th Battalion Officers' Dinner Club and the 2nd Battalion Kohima Club held their annual dinners in Norwich under their respective chairmen and the London Branch had its annual buffet dance at the Florence Nightingale, Westminster Bridge. In Norwich the annual dinner and lunch of the Officers Dinner Club was held on the 4/5 June respectively with some 32 officers attending the dinner and 36 officers and their wives attending the lunch.

On the evening of the first day of

the Norfolk Show, the regimental tent was used by the deputy colonel, Maj Gen Mike Walker, to provide entertainment for headmasters and potential officers who were hosted by regimental personalities. The second day of the show as usual was quieter but it was nice to see the tent being used throughout the day.

Many members of the Regiment were able to watch the 1st Battalion Band & Corps of Drums beat retreat at Lakenham cricket ground on 30 July 93.

Chapel

Mrs Rosemary Barclay has presented a prayer desk in memory of the late Brig Peter Barclay. This has been designed sympathetically to match the chair in memory of Maj Bassett Hornor and will be dedicated at the Association Service on Sunday 26 Sept. In addition a memorial to the late Lt Col Gordon Thorne has been carved on the oak panel under the theatre of 1942 Malaya/Singapore Island.

The Regimental Benevolent Fund has been able to provide timely financial grants to 63 (80) former members of The Royal Norfolk Regiment and their families amounting to £6,293 (£9,508) during the year ending 30 June 1993. In addition some £3,243 (£2,755) was obtained from other regiments or charities. The Regimental Benevolent Committee much appreciates the assistance it receives from branches of SSAFA, The Royal British Legion, FEPOW and other charitable organisations which continue to process the requests from former members of the Regiment for assistance.

War Memorial Cottages

THE cottages at Norwich and Kings Lynn continue to be occupied by former members of the Regiment and their families. Currently there are

seven on the waiting list.

Regimental Museum

DURING the last year temporary exhibitions have been mounted including: a) FEPOW to Singapore and Beyond. 4th, 5th & 6th Battalions of The Royal Norfolk Regiment 1942/45. b) Tibet and the Younghusband Expedition.

In addition, a diorama of the Battle of Ferozeshar made by the East Anglian branch of the Flat Figure Society has been acquired. The medal collection continues to be mounted in the specially made cabinets and the work on the photograph albums continues.

Regimental history

THIS has now reached the stage where the text and photographs have been completed and the final arrangements are in hand for its launch in the Regimental Museum on 9 December. Many old comrades have shown an interest in purchasing copies and it is planned to sell the remaining copies through the Regimental Museum in addition to Regimental Headquarters.



Regimental reunion

THE regimental reunion, which was held in Lincoln for the first time for many years, was a great success. The annual general committee meeting, followed by the annual general meeting was well attended and the reunion

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Around the Branches

dinner saw just under 200 seated for a most pleasant evening.

Sunday morning saw all those who had stayed overnight, including our two in-pensioners, Messrs Harmston and Scott and the standards from the Lincoln and Midlands branches, march from Newport TA Centre behind the Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force Band (badged Royal Anglian Regiment) to St. Nicholas' Church for the morning service taken by the Rev Brian Wisken at which the Rev David Bates, a former member of the Regiment, gave the address.

Following the march back to the TA Centre, the officers went to the Hillcrest Hotel and the branch members to Sobroan Barracks for lunch.

It was decided at the annual meeting that next year's reunion would be a one-day event which would be held in Lincoln on Sunday 11 Sept 1994.

Lincoln and District Branch

THE Branch continues to go from strength to strength and activities planned for the future consist of

DIARY DATES

Lincoln and District Branch

Luncheon

Saturday 30 Oct 1993
Sobroan Barracks, Lincoln

Lincoln and District Branch Christmas Dinner

Saturday 18 Dec 1993
Sobroan Barracks, Lincoln

Royal Anglian Regiment Reunion

Saturday 12 Feb 1994
Sobroan Barracks, Lincoln

Royal Lincolnshire Regimental Reunion

Sunday 11 Sept 1994
Sobroan Barracks and The
Assembly Rooms, Lincoln

Malayan Reunion

Saturday 1 Oct 1994
Sobroan Barracks, Lincoln



(L to R) Mr Ralph Chapman, Maj Rod Burns OC A (Lincolnshire) Company and Mr Harold Marshall, chairman Lincoln Branch, presenting the shield for best junior NCO.

Christmas dinner on Saturday 18 Dec and a First World War battlefield tour in conjunction with the Lincolnshire Police in March 1994.

Grantham Branch

THE Branch is healthy and continues to flourish, notwithstanding the fact that the membership now consists mainly of pensioners.

Midlands Branch

THE Branch has a strong membership, albeit somewhat scattered, and is planning its Christmas buffet. Plans are afoot for outings to take place in the New Year.

Scunthorpe Branch

THIS latest branch was formed on 1 June 1993 and has a healthy membership and is looking forward to obtaining a new standard.

HM Tenth of Foot in America

THE American Branch duly represented their colours to their contingent at a parade held in New England which

Maj Gen Gerrard-Wright CB CBE DL attended, representing us all.

The parade was a great success, the weather was fine and a good time was had by all. The General presented a silver trophy to be known as the Colonel's Cup.



BEDFORDSHIRE & HERTFORDSHIRE

The Wasp

AT a meeting of the management committee held at Kempston on 19 Oct, the decision to redesignate the Association's newsletter, beginning with the current edition, as 'The Wasp

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Around the Branches

– The Journal of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association', was approved.

Annual dinner and dance

THE Association's annual dinner and dance was held in the Seles School, Hertford on 8 May and was attended by 220 members, their families and guests. The principle guests were Col Geoffrey Morgan, president of The Essex Regiment Association, Dr Hilary Morgan and Lt Col Robin Chisnall, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, together with three of his NCOs and their wives.

Music was supplied by the 1st Battalion Band. The regimental grace was read by Maj Donald Girdwood.

The band played an excellent, and much appreciated, selection of music during the meal.

After the meal Brig Angus Robertson CBE, MA, our chairman, welcomed all present making special reference to the party from the Essex Regiment Association. He spoke of the continuing strength of the Association and thanked Mr Stanley Mansfield and the committee of Hertford Branch for organising this very successful and enjoyable event.

A message of loyal greetings had been sent to our Colonel-in-Chief, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, and her reply was read by Lt Col Sir Derek Milman Bt, MC, our president. He then proposed toasts to Her Majesty The Queen, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, absent comrades and The Regiment. Dancing continued until midnight, concluding a memorable evening.

Officers' summer lunch

FOLLOWING last year's highly successful officers' lunch at Chichely Hall, near Newport Pagnell, a repeat function was held there on 24 June this year. Although the attendance of 30 was considerably less than that of its predecessor, it was nevertheless, a happy and enjoyable function and could well become an annual event.

Its success was very much due to



Mr S R Mansfield, Lt Col Chisnall and Brig Angus Robertson at the Hertfordshire Branch annual dinner and dance.

the hard work and organising skill of Maj Andy West and his wife Lucy, and to their two sons.

Royal Anglian Regimental Day,

OUR contingent in the march past at the Regimental Day at Bassingbourn this year, commanded by our president, Lt Col Sir Derek Milman Bt MC, was noticeably the largest in the parade.

3rd Battalion Dinner Club

WHEN the 3rd Battalion, the East Anglian Regiment was formed in 1958 a dinner club known as the 3rd Battalion Dinner Club was formed and has held a lunch or evening cocktail party, sometimes both, every year since. However, following the demise of the 3rd Battalion, the committee was in doubt as to whether there would be sufficient support for similar functions in the future. It was decided to put the matter to the test and a lunch was held on 1st Oct which was attended by some 40 members, their wives and guests. It is hoped that this substantial attendance will have removed the doubts of the committee and that similar reunions will continue for the foreseeable future.

The Centre-piece – The Silver Train

THE very impressive model in silver of a train tender was presented to the 1st Battalion, The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment in China in

1927. It had been the centre-piece of the Officers' Mess of that battalion until 1958 after which it was held by the 3rd Battalion Royal Anglians and was loaned to the council of the Borough of Bedford from time to time. On the demise of the 3rd Battalion, it was passed to the 2nd Battalion, Royal Anglians.

The Mayor of Bedford has asked for the restoration of the practice of displaying this fine piece of silver in his parlour for limited periods. This has been agreed and will be restarted as soon as the problems of moving this very heavy model to and from Bedford have been resolved.



The Secretary

WE are pleased to be able to report that our secretary, Maj Colin Albany, who had been in hospital since March this year, is making a slow, but sure, recovery at his home. We hope to see him back on duty soon.

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The Northumberland Tour

THE Regiment spent several happy years in Cumberland at the beginning of the war and every year we revisit the area. This year we toured the area from 10th to 14th March and our party of 27 took over the Coquet Vale Hotel in Rothbury.

On day two we visited Alnwick Castle, after which we went on to Whittingham to visit Roy and Mary Smith at Castle Farm. Roy joined the Royston Company of the Hertfordshire Regiment in 1938 and served with the 1st Battalion throughout the war.

In the evening of the third day we marched from the Queens Head, Rothbury, led by the Rothbury Pipe Band, to the war memorial where a wreath was laid in memory of colleagues of 1st and 2nd Hertfordshire Regiment who were with us in Northumberland but lost their lives in other theatres of war.



Annual reunion

THE annual reunion was held on 3rd and 4th July. The various regimental meetings and the dinner was held on the Saturday and the comrades' church parade and reunion on the Sunday.

The annual general meeting was held at the TA Centre, Clare Street, prior to the dinner. This was a part of the new format agreed at the annual general meeting in 1992. It meant that all meetings and the dinner would be held at the same venue at more convenient timings.

The dinner was held, as usual, in the TA Centre with 187 members in attendance. Gen Sir John Akehurst presided and proposed the toasts of 'The Queen' and 'Our Deputy

Colonel-in-Chief'. Gen Akehurst welcomed the comrades present and remarked on the increased numbers. David Deacon again organised a very large contingent of his contemporaries. It seems to grow larger every year.

Announcing the details for the church parade, the General said that, very sadly, HRH Princess Alice would not be able to attend as she was slightly under the weather. The march to church (and back again!) was a little longer this year, but he felt sure that all present at the dinner would be on parade for church the next day.

The General ended by proposing the toast to 'The Regiment'.

The next day the weather was good (perhaps too hot) for the church parade. It was an increased distance to march – but march all did, headed by the Band of the 5th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

The church service was splendid. The address was given by the Right Rev Michael Mann KCVO and was very memorable.

After the service the parade returned to the TA Centre for dismissal, en route giving an 'eyes right' to our president and the Mayor of Northampton, who took the salute. At Clare Street, the Band of the 5th Battalion entertained the comrades who continued the conversations of the previous evening.

This reunion was the first of the new format. It was well received, but the length of the march is undoubtedly a problem that will have to be addressed. It was a successful reunion, enjoyed by all.

4th Northampton (1939-46) annual all ranks reunion

AMID torrential conditions for the second successive year, comrades of the 4th Battalion held their annual dinner at the TA Centre, Clare Street, Northampton on Friday, 1st Oct 1993. The president having said grace, the chairman called for a silence to remember Colin Robinson, Leslie Savage MM, Kenneth Brown, Maurice Adamson, Albert Stafford, Reginald

Darby, George Clue, Stanley Smith and Claude Dyson who had died since last year's reunion.

Welcoming the comrades to our home base he congratulated 65 for battling against the odds to attend. On their behalf he welcomed Maj Ted Kelly, Mr J E Kendrick DSM, also Messrs A Robinson and R Statham without whose help Stanley Darby and Harold Statham would have been unable to attend.

Following dinner and the toasts, the chairman said he was especially grateful to Maj Tony Amos and his staff for all the support they had given in arranging the dinner, displaying the regimental silver, for the musical accompaniment to the toasts and protecting us while we dined. As ever he was most grateful for all the support given by Col John Wilson and his staff during a most difficult year, to Bill Teece for funding and typing all the mid-term and country envelopes, and the two committee members James Braddock and Jeff Brown.

He was most grateful to Freddie Bedells for taking over Joe Cox's Rushden area at short notice. Maj Tom Dormer, OC 'C' Company 7th Royal Anglians sent his apologies. The chairman thanked him for his excellent support with the minibus, for which Rushden and district comrades were most grateful.

The president and treasurer then gave news of the officers who had sent apologies:– Bill Bayley, Richard Blyth (S Africa), Jack Boardman, *Neville Brabner, Bill Brindle, John Burbridge, Ronnie Dunn, *Norman Geary, Bill Green, Peter Kemp-Gee (France), Doc Howells, Graham Martin, Pat Rance (France), Arthur Smith, Roy Sykes, Tony Walker, *'Tiny' Webb and John Young. (* = ill-health)

He reported a balance of £360 in the bank and thanked many comrades for generous donations which were most appreciated with costs, particularly postal, continually rising. With a small surplus from the officers' fund a shield bearing the regimental badge

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and suitably mounted on a handsome wooden plinth bearing the names of the presidents, had been purchased to mark our 47 years existence. He hoped it would long grace our table and, in the fullness of time, find a niche in the regimental museum.

The chairman announced the following had sent apologies:- *M Anderson, D S Ball, *'Porky' Bennett, G Bellinger, G Bexton, *E Cheetham, *J E Coe, L Cotton (48th), C A Gell, J Hawkes, *R Herson, *A Marriott, *R Marriott, *D May, A Myford, *A Ratcliffe, *A Reeve, RAOC, *A Smith, *H Smith, S Swepson MM, 'Friar' Tuck, *G Wainwright, W Wright (48th), *D Saxby, *E Watson, *B Weekley, *J Cox, *'Butch' Jones, *D Lawrence, *G Gould, F Peacock, R Keightley, *S Draper, *E Hyde, *F Buswell, T Jackman, *A Mullins, H March, *S Rogers, P Saul, F Stevenson, F White. (* = ill-health of comrade or spouse)

He then proposed the toast to absent friends.

Presenting the result of the change of dinner date survey the chairman said there was a three-to-one majority in favour of moving it to May/August. On a show of hands the first Friday in May was unanimously chosen, and therefore, next year we would meet in Kettering on Friday, 6th May 1994.



Royal Tigers weekend

IN June, Royal Tigers weekend was held, as usual in Leicester.

On 19 June, following the annual general meeting of the Association, the annual dinner was held at the TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road. More than 200 members and their ladies attended.

This was the last dinner at which Col T Holloway presided as president of the Association. His tour as president has been a great success. Although living away from the county this has not precluded his regular attendance at all association events and his guidance and advice have been very much appreciated. We thank him for all he has done. At the annual general meeting preceding the dinner, Mr Tom Marston, the vice-chairman of the Association, proposed a vote of thanks to Col Holloway for his work during his period as president. This was unanimously agreed by general acclaim.

On Sunday the traditional annual parade service was held in the regimental chapel of Leicester Cathedral. The new Provost of Leicester, Canon Derek Hole, officiated at the service and preached a memorable sermon. Following the service the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, supported by the chairman of the county council and the Lord Mayor of Leicester, took the salute of the march past.

It was a successful weekend. Next year, on 19 June 1994, the annual parade service will be at 1030 am, as a matins service as part of the annual cathedral calendar. This change is greatly welcomed by the association. We are most grateful to the Provost for strongly supporting this move. The preacher, next year, will be the Rev Tom Hiney, a former Tiger.

Royal Tigers Wood

PROGRESS on Royal Tigers Wood has continued throughout the summer. The site has been purchased and, in order to prepare for planting, was sown with oats which were harvested in the autumn. The design is nearly complete - only a few details regarding species, the exact location of the entrance site etc., remain to be resolved.

The memorial stone was due to be chosen on site at an ARC quarry in the last week of October. The planting date of 29 Jan 1994 has been agreed and we are inviting all those who have so splendidly supported our appeal, to plant a tree there.

The living memorial to our Regiment, as part of the new National Forest is now much more than a pipe dream and is fast becoming a reality.

Regimental support

WE must mention in these notes how very much we, as an association, greatly value the support and help we receive from HQ and HQ Company of the 7th Battalion. Their help at Royal Tigers weekend is paramount. Without it, the weekend could not take place. Throughout the year, the support is given readily as with a desire to help.

Every month the general committee uses the TA Centre for benevolent meetings. Association events take place throughout the year in the TA Centre. The 8th Battalion (later 1st Battalion), for instance, holds a reunion every last Saturday in October. It was again a success on 30 Oct.

The 4/5 Battalion, the Royal Leicestershire Officers' Dining Club, held its annual dinner on 9 Oct, again in the TA Centre. A pleasant and nostalgic gathering, made all the more appropriate by being held in the Officers' Mess of the successor battalion to the 4th and 5th Battalions.

Financial impositions and security restrictions make the giving of help by 7 Royal Anglian all the more difficult, but it continues to be given willingly and we, as an association of proud members of a former regiment, continue to be extremely grateful.



THE 7 Sept was a proud day for both the Royal Anglian Regiment and the Essex Regiment when for the first time the Freedom of Brentwood was exercised. Conferred in May, when the

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Around the Branches



Left: In-pensioner Bill Hutchings at Bassingbourn with Tommy Goldsmith, Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire, in the chair. Who is that other chap? Right: Maj Gen M J D Walker addressing the Old Comrades at Warley in June.

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town achieved borough status, the people of Brentwood were treated to a spectacular when their county regiment marched with colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed.

The Battalion was inspected by the mayor, councillor Elizabeth Bottomley accompanied by Col J D Lacey OBE who represented the deputy colonel, Maj Gen M J D Walker CBE. Then, from the cricket ground, they marched off on their 1.3 mile tour of the town where they were received with cheers and applauded all the way. At the saluting base a party of Old Comrades were on parade.

A mayor's reception followed where Maj Thorogood presented a carved eagle on behalf of the Royal Anglian Regiment and the Essex Regiment Association. In all a great day and one that will be remembered for a long time to come.

This year the Association held a dinner and dance at Shenfield on July 23. It was a very successful function and everyone enjoyed themselves. We welcomed as guests Brigadier and Mrs Robertson, Mr and Mrs Mansfield, Major and Mrs Darlington, OC C Essex Company 6th Battalion R Anglian, and in-pensioners Bill Hutchings and Roy Jaggard. We hope we can repeat the function in 1994.

Our reunion took place as usual on the last Sunday in June and again we were blessed with wonderful weather. Some 450 members and wives attended and the chapel just managed to cope! This year for the first time we welcomed our new deputy colonel Maj Gen M J D Walker CBE, who took the salute and inspected the Old Comrades.

The Drums of the King Edward VII School led the parade and after tea gave a display to the delight of us all.

The Royal Hospital

We will be sad to see one of our most popular in-pensioners depart for New Zealand early next year. Bill Hutchings has decided to start a new life with a new wife and of course we wish him all the luck in the world. Bill will be remembered for a lot of things, but most of all for leading our parade of Old Comrades at the reunion.

We welcome as our new Essex in-pensioner Sgt Jagger. Roy served with the Regiment for many years and we hope we will be seeing a lot of him in the future.

Thurrock Branch

THE branch is still keeping very active and since the last Castle report we have attended several functions apart from our monthly meetings, which we now hold in our own borough of Thurrock.

The AGM in March brought only one change. Our president Maj D Riches decided to give way to a new president and proposed Maj B Tinton BED TD who was accepted. Maj Riches remains an honorary president.

May saw two very good evenings. First our own buffet and dance and also the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire regimental dinner which members of the branch attended.

The Essex reunion in June was a great success with fine weather but not so at Crix for Beating Retreat. It rained and rained but top marks for the 1 R Anglian Band which despite the weather, put on a great display.

We all enjoyed the regimental dinner and dance thanks to Col Morgan and his committee. Minden day with 1 R Anglian at Colchester was attended by a few members at the invitation of RSM Grenfell.

We were made most welcome and it was most enjoyable. Our thanks to the Battalion. We next attended the wedding of Mr Grant Hitchcock and Miss Bridget O'Connell. Grant is an ex 3 R Anglian and now a member of our branch. We send our best wishes to them both.

Bassingbourn was another good day. Everyone enjoyed themselves and let's hope it continues.

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Around the Branches

4th Battalion Old Comrades

THE Association has had its usual active year and all events have proved very successful.

The outstanding event was our garden party held on 7 Aug at Warley. What a day! The sun shone and over 200 of us enjoyed the afternoon. Once again the Essex Corps of Drums did us proud and Harry's bar did a roaring trade, running out of most things. A party attended the "family" day at Bassingbourn and again the sun shone all the time.

The Association is growing continuously and during the last 12 months we have welcomed nine new members. Sadly we have lost three, including Jim Croucher who became RQMS. In latter years he moved away to the west country but the Association was represented at his funeral.



Minden Day reunion 1993

AGAIN the weather was extremely kind to the hundreds of people who attended the 1993 gathering at the old Gibraltar Barracks site on Sunday 1 Aug. Once again the dedication of the organisers was evident by the many tents, roped off areas and general smartness of the area, all prepared by the now very competent band of helpers from the Bury Branch.

By 1100 hrs the service tent was packed to overflowing with a surrounding crowd many deep. The service was once again this year conducted by our own padre Tom Hiney with accompanying music by the Suffolk Concert Band which still provides an excellent programme for the day.

At this stage the many greetings

and cries of "I have not seen you" etc. are being made with great gusto. For those who have served it is very gratifying to see so many of the old and bold again but it is even more pleasing to see so many of the younger generation, the 40-50 year olds, now attending. If the word of the gathering is spreading, it is due to those who gather on Minden Day.

Following the church service the march past found it had no military band to march on with.

The solution to the problem came from the tannoy system with the march past moving at a rate of knots past the saluting base to form up with the standards forward and branches covering the main square. Those taking part in the parade are gaining in numbers but there are still many who could march if they wanted to!

Lunch was taken in many locations from the main marquee to a picnic on the lawn of the old Officers' Mess. A very enjoyable sight to behold.

A musical afternoon for all was provided by the Volunteer Band of the Royal Anglian Regiment and a most enjoyable programme carried out by the Great Cornard and Sudbury Marching Band and Troupe.

The Sudbury ACF and ATC Combined Cadet Corps of Drums gave a first class display and were well applauded for one of their first public appearances. We hope to see them many more times in the future.

SSgt Richard Ashley REME Artificer gave a very enlightening talk on weaponry in general and thrilled many with his 'Scout Car' and other militaria. Many memories were stirred.

Again this year the draw was a huge success with many many prizes being donated and the star prize of a colour TV being a big attraction. Smudger Smith gave another sterling performance as the day's compere for which we are all very grateful. Thank you Smudger.

The finale came with the Band and Corps of Drums of the Royal Anglian Regiment Territorial Army Volunteers beating retreat with the standards on

parade. A most stirring performance that raised loud applause from the large and very appreciative audience.

The end of yet another most successful Minden Day enjoyed by thousands and this year financially self-supporting.

A most sincere thank you to all involved and hopes to see you all next year.

Bury and District Branch D Johnson writes:

WE still have a good turnout at our meetings and our membership remains about the same. We are still looking forward to any ex Royal Anglians attending our branch meetings; they would be made very welcome.

On 24 Apr our branch was well represented at St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds for the dedication of the Roll of Honour in memory of those of the 1st Battalion who gave their lives whilst on active service in Palestine and Malaya. Brig WC Deller gave the address. After the service members of the congregation were invited to the Guildhall for refreshments.

On the evening of the 24th we had our annual dinner in the TA Centre, Bury St Edmunds. Capt (QM) H S Bullock did us the honour of being our dinner chairman. The food was excellent and the seven-piece band was very good and it was nice to see our friends from the other branches enjoying themselves with us.

On 20 June, 22 of us attended the memorial service at Ely with old comrades of the Cambridgeshire Regiment which took place in the cathedral. After the service we joined in the march past with our standard. The march past was led by the excellent City of Ely Band. Afterwards tea was taken in the Haywards Theatre with the City of Ely Band entertaining us with a very good programme of music.

The 3 July was an open day at the TA Centre, Bury St Edmunds. The 1st Battalion Corps of Drums gave a marching display. The weather was very good and so was the barbecue.

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On 20 July the 1st Battalion Band and Drums were at Sudbury where they beat retreat on the Market Hill. A number of our branch were there to witness a very fine display.

On the 31 July we had our annual Minden Eve buffet dance. This took place in the TA Centre, Blenheim Camp. Representatives from the various branches were present. Tony Rogers supplied the music for the dancing.

The buffet was provided by Derreck and Marjorie Johnson and we would like to thank all members who donated the several prizes for the draw.

The weather was very good on 1 Aug – Minden Day – and we were very well entertained on the square by various bands.

The Minden Day draw was a great success with over 100 prizes to be won. Refreshments were provided by Derreck and Marjorie Johnson. The day was ended by the beating of retreat performed by the Regiment TA Band with the Drums of the 5th Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment.

On 19 Sept our standard was present at the Battle of Britain parade. The service took place at St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds.

On 24 Sept, 14 of us attended the buffet dance organised by the Beccles Branch. This took place at the Lowestoft Football Social Club. As usual it turned out to be a very good night with old friends.

On 3 Oct our standard was present at St Paul's Church, Bedford where the dedication of the standard of the Korean Veterans' Association took place.

Last of all, on 8 Oct, 19 of us made our way to the Marlborough Hotel, Felixstowe where the Felixstowe Branch held their annual dinner. It was an excellent meal.

We wish old comrades everywhere a merry Christmas and the very best of good luck in the New Year.

The Suffolk Sgts' Dinner Club

THE Suffolk Sgts' Dinner Club held its seventh annual dinner in the

Officers'/Sgts' Mess at Blenheim Camp, Bury St Edmunds on 18 Sept with 35 members attending. Maj "Johnny" Fisher-Hoch honoured us by being our dinner chairman for the evening and gave us a very entertaining reply to his 'toast'.

After a moment's silence in memory of Len Keeble who was a staunch member of the club, and grace by Johnny Bullen, we all sat down to an excellent meal catered by Derreck and Marjorie Johnson.

We were pleased to have Dave Vokins with us this year and hope that he will be able to make it to future dinners.

A raffle of prizes donated by members was well supported and helped to defray dinner expenses.

From the buzz of conversation going on all evening it was obvious a lot of old times were being given another airing.

Beccles and District Branch

Mal Martin writes:

MENTOS belonging to branch members and the branch standard were much in evidence at the summer exhibition of Suffolk Regiment memorabilia held at South Cove Church, near Southwold.

Much interest was aroused by the exhibition, leading members to suggest that the branch stages its own display of mementos and items of interest at a suitable venue in Beccles early next year.

Contact has been made with our local museum organising committee who have responded very favourably to the idea and plans are going ahead.

Thanks to the hard work of a small group of members we were able to man a fundraising stall for three of the four days of Beccles Regatta Carnival; the fourth day coincided with Minden Day so our absence at the stall site was excusable!

Our autumn buffet dance has just taken place and by all accounts it was a very successful and enjoyable occasion. We were well supported by Bury St Edmunds, Felixstowe, Ipswich,

Stowmarket and Leiston branches. Our thanks to committee member Fred Mullender for arranging everything at Lowestoft Town Football Social Club and thanks to the hosts for the excellent refreshments provided. We must also thank the band of helpers for coping with various duties on the night.

The season of parades has been upon us once again, with the mammoth Royal Naval Patrol Service annual parade at Lowestoft on 9 Oct. This parade seems to get bigger year by year and the route along the length of Lowestoft High Street is becoming a challenge to several of our older members.

We have the Norfolk Area Desert Rats parade in Norwich on 24 Oct followed by Leiston Branch's standard dedication service on 31 Oct. Deputy standard bearer, Doug Adams, says he has now recovered from the marathon stint of standing to attention at Minden Day and we assure him that one volunteer is worth ten pressed men!

Branch member Ken Cracknell organised the 20th Royal British Legion Concert and Festival of Remembrance at Beccles Public Hall on 6 Nov. This event had formerly been organised by the late Fred Taylor, our chairman until his death in January. It is appropriate and satisfying to know that his good work is being carried on by another ex-Suffolk. We wish Ken every success.

Our chairman and five branch members attended the recent Felixstowe Branch dinner dance. A very enjoyable time was had by all.

As we look forward to a busy winter of activities we wish all branches well for the future.

Ipswich and District Branch

Albert Stollery writes:

IT is now coming up to a year since I took over the chair at the Ipswich and District Branch of the Suffolk Regiment and Royal Anglian Old Comrade Association from our very able ex-chairman Mr Reg Sayer, and I am able to report that the Branch is in a

Continued Page 74

Around the Branches

very good state both financially and for membership.

I thank all our new members, both paid up and associate, and wish them a long and fruitful association with us.

We have been very fortunate with the health of members over the past few months, except for one of our longest and staunch members, namely Maj E C V Williams MBE, now in his 90th year, who is suffering very badly from the cold and bronchitis.

Fortunately on my last visit to him he was much improved and able to take the odd trip out.

Our first social function was with our friends of the Felixstowe Branch for their annual concert and buffet held on the 3 Apr and much to our delight we were presented with the same high standard that we have now come to expect with the concert and buffet from our friends at Felixstowe. Well done Norman and your committee, certainly a job well done.

On 16 May the Royal British Legion held the "I" Group rally in Ipswich at St Matthew's Church. The Ipswich Legion branch president invited the Royal Navy and Royal Marine Association and the Suffolk Regiment OCA with their standards to be represented on the parade and to join the Legion members for tea and refreshments in the St Matthew's Church of England school hall after the service.

On 14 May we were able to present a hassock 'kneeler' to Martlesham St Michael and All Angels Church showing the regimental badge. The presentation being made to the Rev B Lillistone by the branch chairman, Mr A E Stollery with Maj E C V Williams and Mr F McGregor also present.

On 13 June the branch enjoyed a very successful outing to Lowestoft calling at Dunwich on the way home for fish and chips.

On 19 June it was off to Bury St Edmunds for the annual general meeting and executive meeting of the Suffolk Regiment OCA under the able chairmanship of Lt Col J P Macdonald.

The Minden Day gathering on 1

Aug was one of the most enjoyable days I have spent with wonderful memories discussed. The return journey proved that the rum and black had been running very freely!

Our next outing was on 8 Oct as guests of Norman Buckingham at the annual Felixstowe Branch dinner and dance at the Marlborough Hotel, Felixstowe.

On 6th Nov the Ipswich and District branch of the OCA was due to have another buffet dance with a grand draw and prizes.

By the time this write up has been digested we will have seen a number of other events come and go such as the annual armistice concert and parade at the Spa Pavilion, our own parade in Christchurch Park and with the RAF and American Forces at their own memorials on the Martlesham Heath Aerodrome.

May I take this opportunity to wish all Ipswich and District Branch members, all those members to all other branches and all ex Suffolks and Royal Anglians wherever they may be, a great, wonderful and most enjoyable Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Leiston & District Branch

Arthur (Smudger) Smith writes:

MINDEN came along and we had good support with a small coach load plus several cars ensuring a good turnout.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day, voting it one of the best so far. Our thanks once again to Maj Stan Bullock and his band of hard workers from the Bury Branch.

We must ensure the event continues as long as possible because, as always, it is the greatest social occasion of the Regimental year.

Following such a successful Minden Day, it was a great shock to hear of the sudden death of Len Keeble.

At Minden Day he had been his same cheerful, helpful, hard working self with no indication of the tragedy that was shortly to come. He will be

greatly missed by all who knew and served with him, and our sympathy goes out to his family.

Sad also was the loss recently of dear old Albert (Happy) Harlock.

Until October this half year had been reasonably quiet. Back in April we had placed an order with a lady in Norwich to make a standard for our branch.

We drew up our design of how we wanted it made and left it to her. In early September we were told that the standard would be ready by end September and a date for the dedication of the standard was agreed for 31 Oct.

In the meantime our annual dinner dance was coming along on 23 Oct. The usual numbers attending the dinner had been around the 70 mark. Imagine my horror when Barney rang me two weeks before the event to cheerfully announce he had sold 108 tickets (he only had 100 printed) and was still getting enquiries. In the end 113 places were laid for our most successful dinner to date.

We welcomed as our chief guests Norman Scarfe Esq, our recently appointed branch chaplain, the Rev David Lowe TD and his wife Barbara. Norman, a well known local historian and writer who had served in the Royal Artillery during the Second World War and author of the excellent history of the 3rd Division, Assault Division, spoke of his close association with the Suffolk Regiment, especially during the landings on 'D' Day.

Also with us for the first time, and hopefully, not the last, were Maj Frank and Mrs Lockett and Maj John Fisher-Hock.

We appreciated their company and hope they enjoyed the evening. Johnny was returning to the company area for the first time since he was training major with 4/Suffolk 1956-58.

Our thanks for making the event so successful go to our caterers, Tony and Pat Cooper and their small staff, to the LTAA for allowing us the full use of their facilities, the local cadets for

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Around the Branches

ensuring we had sufficient seats to sit on and tables to eat off, to Toddy, Ray and Teddy for their cheerful help in moving chairs and tables to the event and returning them, and not forgetting Barney for selling the tickets.

Thanks also to all those who contributed so handsomely to the very successful draw. On 31 Oct we dedicated our new standard which had been beautifully made by Mrs Francis Doe.

A quick update on the FEPOW memorial flag. The Longshop Museum reports that many thousand people have seen the flag this year and they are surprised and encouraged by the number who have visited the museum just to view the flag.

Felixstowe and District Branch

Dan Archer writes:

DURING the past year our branch has become the proud possessor of two large framed Suffolk Regiment OCA Signs in glorious colours with the regimental badge, together with red and yellow rose motifs. These signs were the work of one of our members, Alf Scott, who is a retired professional signwriter.

We held our branch anniversary party in April at the Royal British Legion Club, when amid a gathering of over 100 persons, we had a memorable time of music, entertainment and refreshment. One of the highlights was the presentation of an inscribed tankard to Charlie Smy on his retirement as branch standard bearer.

Dennis Young sadly passed away very suddenly in April and we had a tricky period of adjustment to come to terms with the loss of our branch treasurer.

We must mention our appreciation of our vice-chairman Gordon Shimon, for his marvellous efforts in assuming the reins of our finances in the void created by the departure of Dennis.

Our annual outing took place on 4 July with a coach trip to the Norfolk Broads. With the assistance of splendid summery weather, a great time was enjoyed by all concerned

Our second great day of summer was, of course, Minden Day. By hired coach and a number of shared cars, we achieved a good branch representation of members who thoroughly enjoyed the (now customary) service, displays and spectacles.

We closed the summer with a bang (well almost!) by making our debut into the Felixstowe carnival procession on 28 Aug. We were able to organise a float on behalf of the Suffolk Regiment OCA.

Ideas and innovations were transmitted so successfully to practical effect that we were finally ready and were judged and awarded 2nd prize (to the complete astonishment of us all)!!

We paraded the course with military marches being rammed through disco amplifiers at full strength! This included 23 successive renderings of "Speed the Plough". Our admiration went to Cyril Warner, branch standard bearer, who marched with standard in front of the float for the full 3 miles of the parade.

Our annual dinner dance at the Marlborough Hotel was recently very well attended and enjoyed, with special pleasure for us, parties of comrades from Ipswich, Bury and Beccles branches.

We are now looking ahead to the local remembrance services and parades and to the London remembrance service.

We hope that all readers will now accept our sincere greetings and seasonal best wishes for the festive period and New Year from all at the Felixstowe and District Branch.

Hemel Hempstead Branch

THE Branch is still looking good and still picking up new members that were not aware the OCA is still going. I am sorry to say that there is still a number who are also unaware that we still have Minden Day at Bury St Edmunds but we at Hemel Hempstead do our best to let them know.

The Branch had its dance in March. It was a good night – one of the best yet – with good support from

members who came from all over Hertfordshire and also members from Leicester and as far out as Rickmansworth.

Mr R Adams, the son of Ex Cpl R Adams of the 1st Battalion The Suffolk Regiment, from Dagenham, provided the music and was due to be with us once more on 25 Sept when the Branch held its next dance at the TA Centre Hemel Hempstead.

The Minden weekend went off well with even more attending than last year; we think that it gets better each year and we take our hats off to the Bury Branch for all the work that they put into it.

The Royal Anglian Regiment annual gathering at Bassingbourn was a good day and still we meet old pals and as always they have a lot to say. We at Hemel look forward to attending each year.

It would be a lot better if there was more going on as once the service is over it is off to the beer tent and by the end of the day there are one or two who have had "one over the eight" and need a bit of help when it is time to get on the coach for home. However, it was a good day and like Minden Day it gets better and better.

Our outings have been good and as always we manage somehow to pick the good weather. Our thanks go to Ron Wingfield for booking us in at a club on the way home and as it was an ex-servicemen's club we were at home.

And now as the year comes to an end a few of our members will be out on the streets selling poppies; it is sad that we cannot get more to sell them as the RBL need all the help that it can get in order to help the ex-servicemen in need.

At the end of January 1994 the branch has its annual general meeting and, as in the past, we will elect a good committee, one that will get its hands out and get on with it.

As we go towards 1994 we at Hemel would like to wish all branches all the best for Christmas and the year to come.

Around the Branches



CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Snippets from the OCA AGM

THE secretary reported that another extremely rewarding reunion and service had again been held at Ely this year. It will be held again next year on 12 June with the lord lieutenant being invited to take the salute, tea at the Haywards Theatre and the City of Ely Military Band in attendance.

Invitations this year were restricted to those who replied over the last few years, plus officers and adult instructors of the ACF. However, replies from the latter had been disappointing.

Whittlesey & Peterborough Branch
JUNE once more saw us all at Ely again for the annual thanksgiving service and reunion tea. The usual impressive service in the Cathedral was spoilt by the non-sounding of the Reveille whilst the wreath party was in the Regimental Chapel.

The branch wreath was laid by Jess Matthews. Our numbers were down this year, but all those who did attend were impressed by the band and standard bearers.

Thanks are due to Maj Ken Starling, Lt Nancy Slattery and the Army Cadet Force for the excellent tea in the Haywards Theatre.

July saw our annual barbecue at the Woolpack, North Street, Stanground, Peterborough. This year it was hosted by the Royal Anglian Regiment and the Northamptonshire Regimental Association.

To mark the 48th anniversary of the end of hostilities in the Far East, the release of all POWs and the defeat of the Japanese, we joined with the March branch for a service of thanksgiving in St Peter's Church.

On August 18 a seat was unveiled

FUTURE EVENTS				
Event	Date	Day	Time	Location
Regimental Council	20 Mar	Sun	10am	Waterbeach
Officers' Dinner	9 Apr	Sat	7pm for 7.30pm	Waterbeach
Eucharist	21 Apr	Thurs	11.30am	Ely
Chapel Trustees	21 Apr	Thurs	12am	Chapter House Ely
Ely Branch AGM	21 Apr	Thurs	12.30am	Chapter House. Ely
Reunion Service	12 June	Sun	2pm	Ely
OCA AGM	25 Sept	Sun	2pm	Archer House Ely

in Eastfield Cemetery, Peterborough in memory of Pte Samuel Stevenson of the 1st Battalion Cambridgeshire Regiment, a former POW buried in a pauper's grave in the cemetery. The regimental flag was removed from the seat by Tom Miles and branch chairman Alf Gray. The brass plate bears the inscription:- 1st Battalion, the Cambridgeshire Regiment, FEPOW, 1942-1945, Died 13th October, 1960, aged 40 years. Rest in peace.

The seat is situated approximately 50 yards from where Samuel Stevenson is buried inside the children's graves section so that there is a resting place for parents tending their children's graves.

Unfortunately the seat has now been vandalised, the brass plate stolen, the seat itself daubed with graffiti and the arms badly scratched.

The branch naturally feels very badly about this in view of the amount of work put into raising the funds and although the plate will be replaced and the seat repaired it cannot be erased from the mind.

The branch thanksgiving service was held in St Mark's Church, Lincoln Road, Peterborough on 19 Sept. Three regimental standards were in church together with the standard of the Whittlesey Detachment ACF. Afterwards the congregation joined the Old Comrades for refreshments in the church hall. There was a very good attendance.

Thirty members and families sat down to a traditional roast beef dinner at the branch annual dinner on 1 Oct which was held at the Newark Hotel, Peterborough. The main guests of the evening were Brigadier and Mrs Williams, colonel commandant of the Cambridgeshire ACF. The raffle raised £47 which will go towards the £10 sent to branch widows as an extra Christmas present. Thanks are due to mine hosts Paul and Viv Weatherhead and all the staff for making it a memorable occasion which we hope to repeat next year.

March Branch

THE branch has had another very good year. We have 12 paid-up members and a good number of honorary members. We had a well attended and enjoyable party to start the year, after a good tombola drive before Christmas.

Our annual holiday at Tenby, South Wales, was most enjoyable and the 1994 holiday is already arranged for the Isle of Wight in May. We have also had five very enjoyable coach outings.

Our annual service of remembrance this year was on 15 August, 48 years to the day since our release from captivity, although the turnout was disappointing.

Nobody seems to realise that VJ day was the end of the war. VE day is always mentioned but no reference is ever made of VJ day.

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The branch can carry on for a number of years yet and we would like to place on record thanks to the ladies who do so much to make it successful.

Ely Branch

ROY Hitch reports that this has been another quiet year as the branch is very short of local active members, but these and those that are scattered, make an effort to attend most functions.

Among these have been the Warminster Field of Remembrance, the laying of wreaths in the Regimental Chapel in Ely Cathedral and the City of Ely Memorial on Armistice Sunday.

The Christmas party at Cambridge was much enjoyed, and thanks are due to the Cambridge Branch for this annual gathering. Attendance has been maintained at the Suffolk's Minden Day reunion at the Keep, Bury St Edmunds and the open day at 3 (Cambridgeshire) Company R Anglian at Coldhams Lane, where we were very well looked after, for which many thanks and especially to Maj Veal.

The St George's Tide Eucharist held in the Regimental Chapel was again well attended and a rewarding occasion, when we were extremely pleased to be invited by the Dean and Chapter to take lunch in the Chapter dining room, and this coincided with the meeting of the Regimental Chapel Trustees.

Branch finances are in good order with a healthy balance due largely to our 'floating' members who attach themselves to us.

Cambridge Branch

THE AGM was held on 1 Sept at Coldhams Lane when CSgt H Taylor was re-elected chairman, J Merrell vice-chairman and treasurer, and Jean Nelson was elected secretary. The committee will consist of the above plus the standard bearer, Mr W Rookes.

The first function to be organised by the new committee would be the annual Christmas party which would again be open to other branches at a date to be announced. At this time

there was no definite news about the Armistice parade, but members would be informed in due course.

The Sergeants' Dinner Club held their annual dinner on 25 Sept at the ACF Centre Waterbeach. Although numbers were down due to other functions and holidays it was a first class dinner and enjoyed by all. We were very pleased to have Colonel and Mrs Mapey with us again. Speeches were made by Col Ennion, Col Badcock and Mr P Legge.

Thanks are due to Maj Starling and CSgt H Taylor for all their work to make this a most successful event.

Ely Reunion and Service of Remembrance

THE weather was fine this year for our annual event, ever popular in spite of falling numbers in the Association. The City of Ely Military Band was excellent. The Lord Lieutenant, Mr James Crowden and the mayor and mayoress of Ely were in attendance and the lord lieutenant took the salute at the march past which included again a detachment from 3 (Cambridgeshire) Company 5th R Anglian.

Tea in the Hayward Theatre afterwards gave us a chance to meet old comrades and have a chat about old times. Many thanks to all who helped to organise this most successful day and long may it continue.

News is required of the final days of RSM/CSM John Edward Kidd, known to his friends as 'Dixie'. He died aged 42 on 3 Jan '44 and was buried at Kanchanburi. He transferred from 2nd Suffolks to join the 1st Cambridgeshires, Regimental No. 5521508 (or 3). If you can help please contact his grandson, L Christie, 82 Taylifers, Harlow, Essex CM19 5RF or tel: (0279) 435517.

S C Irons writes that he would also like information of Pte T W Dartnell (see last edition). He says that although he was a member of 'D' Company, 1st Cambridgeshires, he was attached to signals at Arbury Park and became friends together with Doug Hartwell and Leslie Hutchings. The last address

he has is 129 Pixmore Way. He would be pleased to hear from any of them.

He goes on to say that he played bridge every day whilst on transit from Liverpool to Singapore with R Tonsley, P Spender and W A Burn, all corporals. Being a member of both London and Southend FEPOWs he put out an enquiry regarding Tonsley in the December newsletter and as a result Tonsley telephoned him and they met and had lunch together. They were last together in Heito Camp, Taiwan in October 1944 and had not met since having played bridge in Changi and River Valley.

He was able to find out that Bill Burn became a chartered accountant and lived in Cirencester and Peter Spencer a solicitor in Plymouth, and was able to contact both.



THE Warminster Branch has continued to flourish since our last report in Castle and with the recent influx of the Royal Anglian capbadge to Warminster, it is hoped that our growth will continue and our meetings attract the continued attendance we would wish.

Our annual dinner was attended by 36 of our members and their ladies and was once again held within the setting of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. After an excellently prepared and served meal, members retired to the bar, and the more energetic released their energies on the dance floor to the sounds of a late night disco.

The evening proved a great success and our thanks go to the Regimental Sergeant Major for his kind permission for the use of his mess

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Branches

and to the catering and waiting staff for the excellent service provided.

Special thanks go to Mr Paul Fox, who unfortunately could not attend dinner himself this year, but who made a very generous and welcome donation of the port at the table and bottles of spirits for our raffle.

As is now becoming the normal practice, our Saturday night dinner was followed on Sunday by our branch annual church service, held in the garrison church. Members, both serving and ex-serving, attended to see our standard paraded during what was a simple but pleasant service.

The past year has seen some changes within our local membership. Mr Mick Taylor, formerly our treasurer, left the area to take up employment in the London area. We wish him well in his new career. New faces into the branch include Mr Ted Gray, an ex-member of the Essex Regiment, Sgt Alan Fitzwater, CSgts Ian Smith and Phil Newman, Capt Gregory, Majs Brunt, Harrold and Macdonald. At the time of writing this article, we also have Lt Col Ryan and WO1 (RSM) Todd, posted into Warminster Support Unit as the commanding officer and regimental sergeant major respectively, and we look forward to welcoming them both at our next branch meeting.

Forthcoming dates for the diary are as follows: 05 Feb 94 – branch annual dinner; 06 Feb 93 – branch annual church service.

Following a small number of successful fund raising events throughout the past year, the branch decided to donate a small sum of money to a local charity.

After some debate, the Princecroft Primary School in Warminster was selected and a presentation of £100 was made. It is hoped we will be able to continue our recognition within the local community, and to this end, we have invited the Lady Mayoress of Warminster to attend dinner as our guest in February 1994.

With the continued support of our members, we look forward to another successful year in 1994.

Sport

Cricket Club suffers from inconsistent batting form

THE club was scheduled for 14 matches, of which 11 were played. Successes were recorded against Haileybury and Bancrofts, and the better of draws was had against Harrow, Woodbridge and Greshams.

The five losses were fairly comprehensive and therein lies the reason for a relatively unsuccessful season – inconsistent batting.

Home games were played at either Colchester or Bassingbourn and the club thanks the commanding officers of the Army Training Regiment and the 1st Battalion for their willing agreement in hosting matches.

Thanks also, as always, to the match managers, without whose efforts, time and patience, our sides could not be put together.

Individually, bowlers took the honours; both Brian Davenport and Paul Dufosse

achieved a good haul of inexpensive wickets (24 and 15 respectively), backed up by others on occasion.

The batting, with a few exceptions – such as Chris Pattinson's 76 at Haileybury, Phil Withers' 73 at Greshams and Nick Nottingham's 61 against Brig Tony Calder's 54 Brigade XI, was disappointing, and no individual achieved a reasonable season's aggregate.

Guy Hipkin retired at the end of the season.

The 1994 season will be eagerly anticipated as usual – the fixture list will be broadly the same as in previous years.

Finally, a reminder that the Regimental Cricket Club is for all members of the Regiment, of any rank and whether retired or serving. New players are always welcome – contact Lt Col Brian Davenport on Colchester mil 2020 or civ 0206 782020.

Results 1993

9th May v Haileybury Nondescripts

Haileybury Nondescripts 144; The Regiment 146-4 **WON**
(Pattinson 76)

16th May v Felsted School

Felsted School 156-8 dec; The Regiment 73 **LOST**

6th June v Harrow School

The Regiment 155-8 dec; Harrow School 140-9 **DRAW**
(Davenport 5-30)

13th June v The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

The Regiment 124 (Bold 52); The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment 129-7 **LOST**

20th June v Brentwood School

Brentwood School 139-7 dec; The Regiment 42 **LOST**

27th June v Bancroft's School

Bancroft's School 99-7 dec; The Regiment 101-3 **WON**

(Cooper 51*)

28th June v Framlingham College

The Regiment 103; Framlingham College 107-5 **LOST**

29th June v Woodbridge School

The Regiment 115; Woodbridge School 103-8 **DRAW**

(Davenport 6-38)

30th June v Gresham's School

The Regiment 225-6 dec (Withers 73, Hipkin 54); Greshams School 156-6 **DRAW**

11th July v Commander 54 (East Anglia) Brigades' XI

Commanders XI 192; The Regiment 156 (Nottingham 61) **LOST**

13th July v Perse Pelicans

The Regiment 175-4 dec (Kulkarni 57, Latham 53);

Perse Pelicans 64-1 (abandoned - rain)

DRAW

Sport

Good scores at annual golf meeting

THE annual meeting of the Regimental Golfing Society took place at Stowmarket Golf Club on 18 June. Thirty-six members keenly contested the various matches and some very good scores were recorded.

The results were as follows:— The Isham Salver – scratch competition winner Capt Dave Davidson, runner-up ex CSgt Andy Thomas; The Pompadour Cup – medal handicap winner Maj Guy Hipkin, runner-up Mr E Leyland; Suffolk Cup – Stableford winner WO1 Brett, runner-up Gen Sir John Akehurst; The Ponsonby Cup – Stableford Foursomes winners Capt Davidson and Sgt Pye and runners-up ex Sgts Row and McAnally. The Inter-Battalion Cup was won by the Poachers.

Queens Division triangular match

THE Queens Division triangular match took place at Bury St Edmunds golf course on 16 July. Ten players from each regiment played 18 holes, Stableford in morning and afternoon. The weather was favourable. The course was in superb condition and it was a most enjoyable day's golf.

Autumn meeting

ON 10 Sept the autumn meeting was held at Flempton Golf Club.



The team at the annual match against Flempton pose on the bench presented to the Club by the Regimental Golfing Society.

Prizes went to the following: Medal handicap – winner Capt Dave Davidson, runner-up Capt Clive Mallett; Stableford – winner Mr E Leyland, runner-up Mr K Taylor; Stableford foursomes – winners George Boss and Ken Taylor, runners-up Col Peter Badger and Mr Batt.

Match v Flempton Golf Club

ON the following day the annual match against Flempton Golf Club, which is the highlight of the golfing calendar, took place and what a keenly contested competition it was, but in the end the Regiment came out the winner by 6 matches to 4.

Vikings enjoy success in Army events

FOLLOWING the Battalion's runner-up place, by the narrowest of margins, at the Army cross-country championships, the Vikings have again been competing with considerable success at the highest levels of Army sports.

The athletics team won the Army under-23 athletics championships and came runners-up in the senior team finals to 2 Signal Regiment.

Pte Coe, Pte Dunne and L/Cpl Thomas won their events. Cpl Caesar, L/Cpl Thomas and Pte Blake were placed 2nd in the Army decathlon championships at Aldershot.

The Battalion hockey team beat the 2nd Battalion The Light Infantry 2-0 in the final of the Infantry championship after another successful season.

The orienteering team retained its Eastern District League title for the fourth consecutive season. WO2 (TQMS) Bonnett was first in the league. After the UKLF



The Vikings' Hockey team – 1993 Infantry champions.

championships the team came third in the Infantry Cup. Maj Harris came third in the Infantry competition and has been selected, along with Sgt Dawkins, Sgt Tate and WO2 Bonnett, to run for the Infantry.

The team competed in the Army competition in Berlin over six days in October, being placed eighth. Of particular note was WO2 Bonnett, who won the M35 individual

championship and who has qualified to run for the Army in the inter-services competition later in the year.

In the first round of the Army rugby cup the team beat Depot Royal Engineers 5-30, no mean feat. Colchester Rugby Club has several Vikings in its membership. Capt Heap, L/Cpl Picton and L/Cpl Bold have all played for the Infantry this season.

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Steelbacks take on Welsh peaks

RQMS Alan Dent writes:

It was on 7 Oct 92 that I received the DCI on my desk, outlining the Welsh 1000 Peaks race, and being of unsound mind, I decided to trawl for others of similar ilk, to join me on the mountains of Snowdonia for the event on Saturday 5 June 93.

I was amazed at the response to it: 12 possibilities, with a management team of four, lead by RQMS Colin Bingham.

Between October 92 and June 93 we entered various road running and cross-country events, in order to obtain the high stamina base required for this arduous 30 mile event. This training reduced the field to six, through one reason or another, but we still had the oldest competitor (Dent) and the youngest (L/Cpl Sean Palmer) vying to go! The Folksworth 15, Stamford 30, Rutland Water 18 and any number of other road distances were tackled.

Following two weekends of terrain orientation in Wales, and a few hours of fluid disorientation (only in order to retain correct body temperature, warding off dehydration problems), our team descended on Capel Curig Camp where we were starting our preparations for the main event the following day.

Sixty-seven teams from all corners of the Regular and Territorial Army, from as far afield as Cyprus and BAOR, lined up on the Beach at Aber, equipped in boots, denims and survival packs. What followed was 30 miles of purgatory! Headquarters 160 (Wales) Brigade had set us a course that can



The Welsh Peaks team before the start.



The Steelbacks football team after the match against 1RHf at annual camp.

only be described as – not easy!

Between Aber and the peak of Mount Snowdon nine checkpoints were to be visited, our race numbers stamped and arrival recorded. With varying degrees of success, the intrepid six, a mixture of full and weekend uniforms, age and sensibility, forced weary bodies around the sheep infested slopes of Wales until the top of Mount Snowdon appeared, manned by slightly less

fatigued Brigade staff and officials, who welcomed us home.

All six of us finished in a very creditable combined team finishing position of 27th, nine points behind the Army cross-country runners up, 1 R Anglian. It was just reward for months of hard work and apprehension in what is universally regarded as one of the premier events in the military sporting calendar (and probably, the toughest).

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Births and marriages

VIKINGS

Births: **Parkinson** - To WO1 and Mrs Parkinson a son Thomas; **Szynal** - To Cpl and Mrs Szynal a daughter Biancha Maria; **Cattermole** - To Capt and Mrs Cattermole a daughter Sophy; **Goodman** - To LCpl and Mrs Goodman a son Samuel; **Gridley** - To Sgt and Mrs Gridley a son James David; **Tooke** - To Pte and Mrs Tooke a daughter Demi Louise; **Cavaliero** - To Pte and Mrs Cavaliero a son Dean; **Coller** - To Pte and Mrs Collier a son Samuel James Joseph; **Neal** - To LCpl and Mrs Neal a son Jacob; **Brothers** - To WO2 and Mrs Brothers a son George Robert; **Oddy** - To Pte and Mrs Oddy a son Gavin Lewis; **Devaney** - To Pte and Mrs Devaney a son Eathon James; **Buckman** - To Pte and Mrs Buckman twins, daughter Daniella Louise, son Shane Ian; **Johnson** - To LCpl and Mrs Johnson a daughter Holly Axi; **Pierce** - To LCpl and Mrs Pierce a son Stefan Reece; **Norman** - To Cpl and Mrs Norman a daughter Ann Marie.

Marriages: **Luckman** - Pte Luckman to Sarah on 17 July 93; **Bain** - Pte Bain to Melanie on 10 July 93; **Brand** - Pte Brand

to Paula on 7 Aug 93; **Baldwin** - Pte Baldwin to Dawn on 28 Aug 93; **Kerton** - Cpl Kerton to Lindsey on 31 July 93; **Hopewell** - Pte Hopewell to Andrea on 21 July 93; **Gillbanks** - L/Cpl Gillbanks to Janice on 7 Aug 93; **James** - Cpl James to Nicole on 7 Aug 93; **Roberts** - Pte Roberts to Margret on 24 July 93; **Richardson** - L/Cpl Richardson to Lisa on 28 Aug 93; **Aldred** - Pte Aldred to Alison on 31 July 93; **Anthony** - Pte Anthony to Melanie on 2 Oct 93; **Martin** - Pte Martin to Lorraine on 31 July 93; **O'Dwyer** - Pte O'Dwyer to Joann on 4 Sept 93.

POACHERS

Births: **Watts** - To Pte and Mrs Watts a son Charles Edwin; **Welsford** - To Cpl and Mrs Welsford a son Ryan Andrew; **Rainey** - To Cpl and Mrs Rainey a daughter Olivia Abigail; **Clark** - To LCpl and Mrs Clarke a daughter Shannon Leigh; **Wheeler** - To Pte and Mrs Wheeler a daughter Laura Jane; **Murphy** - To Cpl and Mrs Murphy a daughter Jessica Ellen; **Toon** - To Cpl and Mrs Toon a daughter Tamara Jade; **Charles** - To Cpl and Mrs Charles a daughter Sophie Louise; **Hewson**

- To LCpl and Mrs Hewson a daughter Charlotte; **Brown** - To Sgt and Mrs Brown a son Callum.

Marriages: **McCrum** - On 7 Jun 93 Capt McCrum to Jane; **Chastney** - In July 93 Lt Chastney to Racheal; **Johnson** - In Sep 93 Lt Johnson to Wendy; **Lyne** - On 31 Jul 93 Lt Lyne to Capt Denys; **Wright** - On 31 Jul 93 Cpl Wright to Nicola; **Roarty** - On 6 Aug 93 LCpl Roarty to Samantha; **Cross** - On 15 May 93 LCpl Cross to Paula Mary; **Dessaur** - On 16 Jul 93 Pte Dessaur to Sandra; **Craw** - On 21 Aug 93 BdsM Craw to Jeanette Yvonne; **Graham** - On 4 Sep 93 Pte Graham to Lesley Rae; **Rickman** - On 1 May 93 Pte Rickman to Penelope Caroline; **Humphreys** - On 23 Sept 93 Pte Humphreys to Debra Ann; **Phillips** - On 19 Jun 93 Pte Phillips to Sarah; **McColm** - On 28 Aug 93 Pte McColm to Lyndsey.

STEEL BACKS: Marriages: **Horrell - Rhodes** - On 31 July 93 Col Peter Horrell TD to Miss Roma Rhodes.

ATR BASSINGBOURN: Births: **Newson** - To Capt and Mrs Newson a son Guy James

Obituaries

Colonel Arthur Fraser Campbell

Colonel Arthur Campbell died at his home in Hunstanton, Norfolk, on 20 Oct 1993 after a severe illness. He will be remembered particularly as a Commanding Officer of the 1st East Anglian Regiment.

Colonel Campbell was a man of many parts, a gifted linguist, an excellent writer and speaker and an outstanding instructor and teacher as well as an above average games player and athlete, but above all he was an inspiring leader. He was commissioned into the Suffolk Regiment and joined the 2nd Battalion in 1938.

He served in the North West Frontier and served during the war in Burma. When peace was declared he returned home to serve at Sandhurst, with 1 Suffolk in Greece and subsequently in Malaya. In early '49, the bandit war was only a year old and the outcome far from clear. As a Company Commander he was outstanding and was awarded the Military Cross.

Returning to the UK in '51 he served on various staff appointments writing his book *Jungle Green* in '53. He was appointed a Brevet Lieutenant Colonel and in that rank served as a company commander in Cyprus during the EKOA troubles.

After his company commander tour, he was appointed GSO1 of 4 Division and at



the end of 1960 took command of the newly amalgamated 1st East Anglian Regiment in Berlin, later moving to British Guyana. After handing over command he left the Army shortly afterwards - in the view of many a waste of talent. He was an immensely popular and brave officer much loved by his fellow officers and the soldiers he commanded.

We offer our sympathy and condolences to his wife Betty, family and friends.

W.C.D.

Lt Col A W J Turnbull

It is with regret that we record the death of Lt Col A W J Turnbull MC on 22 Nov 93. Col Turnbull will be remembered as a past Commanding Officer of 4 Royal Anglian (TA), Area Secretary The Royal Anglian Regiment (Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire) in Norwich from 1977-87 and Deputy Honorary Colonel TA for Norfolk also from 80-85. We extend our

deepest sympathy and condolences to his friends and family. An obituary will appear in the next edition of *Castle*.

Deaths

WE announce with regret the deaths of the following: Col R H Senior, late Bedfs & Herts on 9 Aug 93; Col Senior was the Brigade Colonel, The East Anglian Regiment from 1955-58. Lt Col J Harrison late Bedfs & Herts, Maj A R Curtis ex R Norfolk 22 Apr 93, Capt A Foster ex Bedfs 21 Feb 93, Lt Col C G Nurser ex R Lincoln's 27 Jan 93, Capt J H Race ex R Norfolk 15 Mar 93, Maj A J Self ex R Norfolk 21 Jun 93, Capt A J T Whitmore ex R Leicesters 11 Nov 92, Lt Col Bruce Elliott CBE TD ex Bedfs & Herts 5 Sep 93, Lt Col J T Ennals MBE ex Northampton's 5 Aug 93, Capt L Tuck ex Suffolks 6 Jun 93 and Lt W P C Unwin Suffolk (V) 5 Jul 93. Pte Nathan Secker was killed in a road traffic accident while undergoing training at ITB Ouston on 19 Jun 93.

In addition, G F Newell passed away on 19 Sept at Priscilla Bacon Lodge and Maj W P C Unwin TD passed away peacefully on 25 July. He was formerly of the 2nd Battalion Cambridgeshire Regiment.

We extend our condolences and sympathy to their families and friends.

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