



# CASTLE

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT

DECEMBER 1994





1st Battalion



2nd Battalion



December 1994

Vol. 9 No. 4

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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.



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Colonel C. Dale

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The Poachers' 5 Platoon in Bosnia during route security on Route Diamond South.

# From the Colonel of the Regiment

I AM WRITING this introduction having just heard that the Army Board has ignored the Regiment's plea not to disband one of our Territorial Battalions and that the Secretary of State has endorsed their recommendation. There seems no possible logic or justification for this. The Regimental Council will be meeting shortly, with representatives from all our counties, to see what we can salvage from this decision. I am afraid it is too early to give any details yet. However, you may rest assured that we will all be fighting to retain as strong a territorial presence as we can in each of our nine counties.

I believe we represented our case and the deep resentment felt by the Regiment as forcefully as possible at every level in the decision-making chain. All nine of our Lord Lieutenants personally signed a letter to the Secretary of State setting out their grave concerns at the implications of losing a Territorial battalion. All members of Parliament in the nine counties have also been made aware of the situation. However, at the end of the day I suspect we were up against the rigid minds and deaf ears of an organisation which having made its mind up as to what it wanted to do, on the basis of advice from individuals with little or no interest in the Regiment, then proceeded to go through a rather cynical 'consultative' process in order to satisfy the conventional norms in these circumstances. I can but quote from the Regiment's submission to the Director of Infantry to summarise my own feelings on the matter:

"Faced with the evidence that District Commanders have recommended a different, more equitable solution, originally supported by yourself: when there are no clear cut reasons for disbandment: when the manning, recruiting and operational effectiveness of the Royal Anglian Territorial Battalions is among the best: when other perfectly viable options for restructuring exist which do not demand the disbandment of a battalion: it is, I am afraid, inevitable that the conclusion within the Regiment is that yet again a far higher price is being demanded from us, simply on the basis of being a large regiment.

The recommendation cannot help but raise, with justification, the whole question of equity of treatment between small and large regiments, so dismissively rejected without any evidence to the contrary in your short response to my letter of 4th August. I am in no doubt that in this context, two decisions have weighed heavily against us in the period since 'Options': first, your predecessor's policy to match Regular to TA Battalions, and second, the re-capbadging of the Yorkshire Volunteers as PWO, DWR and Green Howards, effectively giving them small regiment status at the stroke of a pen and thereby qualifying them for the 'loss of cap badge' argument, so effectively deployed by MPs and other lobbies in the run-up to any restructuring.

The inescapable consequences of these two decisions, which must surely have been obvious to those responsible for making them at the time, are twofold. First, that inherent in a large regiment losing a regular battalion as a result of Options was the subsequent loss of a territorial battalion. I don't seem to remember this being mentioned at the time. And second, for reasons which quite defeat me, that Yorkshire can justify the retention of three territorial infantry battalions, never mind part of 4 Para, whilst the *nine* counties of East Anglia, with a vastly greater population and land mass, is expected to get by on two. This is patently illogical, a potential waste of well proven resources, unfair and unjust.

I can understand in most circumstances the logic of matching numbers of TA battalions to Regular, as recommended by D Inf. However, this makes no sense in our case with nine flourishing counties to cover, no problem with recruiting and no problem producing regular support from our two Regular Battalions. Despite the harshness with which we were dealt under Options, we have made the regular support to our three TA Battalions work and will continue to do so, for the simple reason that it is our counties and our history that we are supporting and therefore clearly in our best interests.

Our Territorial Battalions have just as strong and ancient county connections and identity as any small regiment TA battalion. Because of territoriality the Battalions are separate, local and very individual. Their cap badge may be the same, but in every other respect they are unique and jealously guarded by the counties which have supported them for so long as witnessed by the 28 Freedoms of cities and towns given or renewed since 1964.

Unless I have missed some key factor, I believe we are faced with a similar situation to the one faced by your predecessor but one during Options; the imposition of an unpopular and apparently illogical solution by a higher authority for reasons best known to themselves. This makes any representation, however justified, extremely difficult as in their view no doubt any protest against the plan, if successful, will give added cause to others to complain and the whole plan will then start to unravel. This is of course rubbish and a formula for discontent and inefficiency in the future. Each proposal should be considered on its merits and those which cannot stand up to fair and proper scrutiny rejected. I hope if nothing else in this debate, my not unnatural partisanship has not blinded me to the degree where I have been unable to point out the areas which have clearly not been allowed to be subject to this sort of scrutiny. It would be braver and more honest all round if the authors of the recommendation were to acknowledge that to satisfy one justifiable complaint at this stage

will in the end reduce the total dissatisfaction by that amount."

May I, at this stage, thank all of you who wrote to express your concern at this new threat to our Regiment so soon after losing the 3rd Battalion, and assure all of you that we will be fighting on to keep the Regiment's presence properly established in our counties over the next few months.

This news inevitably casts a shadow over everything else, however much has been achieved in 1994 that we can be proud of – and 1995 holds the promise of the presentation of new Colours to the 1st and 2nd Battalions; and, with luck, the opening of the Regimental Museum. Both events will be at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford. The presentation of Colours will take place on 29 April 1995 and will be a major gathering of the Regimental family.

Our Colonel-in-Chief has provisionally accepted our invitation to present the new Colours and the parade will involve not only our two Regular Battalions, but our three TA Battalions and our ACF and CCF cap badged contingents. Association members and members of all former regiments will of course play an important part in what should be a memorable occasion.

As I write, the Regimental Museum appeal is close to its first objective of raising £150,000 by January in order to get work started in the New Year. This is good news, but don't forget that we need to then raise a further £100,000 over the next two years to create the funding to ensure the Museum's future. I really would ask those of you who have yet to contribute, to now think seriously about this. We have a wonderful viable project on the edge of success, it just needs one more good push.

Finally, even with the potential loss of one of our Battalions hanging over our heads, it would be very remiss of me not to mention the wonderful achievements of our Regular and Territorial Battalions over the last year. The 1st Battalion tour in Northern Ireland was recognised by all as one of the highest professional standard, as anyone who was fortunate enough to visit them would have immediately appreciated. Our 2nd Battalion has just returned from Bosnia, where their professionalism and skills were put to the severest tests. All of those who have spoken to me about the Battalion since their return has expressed their huge admiration for everything they achieved in what must be almost impossible conditions. Our Territorial Battalions have not let the disruptive debate on their future affect their dedication and professional standards and remain amongst the best recruited and best trained in the Territorial Army.

My thanks and best wishes for 1995 to you all.

Maj Gen PPD Stone



### **Colonel-in-Chief**

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER

### **Deputy Colonels-in-Chief**

Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon

Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester

### **Colonel of The Regiment**

Major General P P D Stone, CB, CBE

### **Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment**

The Reverend T B F Hiney, MC

### **Deputy Colonels of The Regiment**

1st, 5th (V) and 6th (V) Battalions: Lieutenant 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 Thorne, KBE

### **Deputy Honorary Colonels TA**

Norfolk: Colonel P B D Long, OBE

Suffolk: Brigadier W C Deller, OBE

Cambridgeshire: Colonel J P Macdonald

Lincolnshire: Colonel D K Harris, OBE, TD

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

5th Battalion The Frontier Force Regiment

1st Battalion The Royal Malay Regiment

Pakistan Army

The Barbados Regiment

Malaysian Armed Forces

The Bermuda Regiment

Barbados

The Gibraltar Regiment

Bermuda

Belize Defence Force

Gibraltar

Belize

## **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, Newham, 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 M Jones

Regimental Careers Officer: Major R C Gould

### **Area Office, Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire**

Britannia Barracks, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 4HJ. (Tel: 0603 628455)  
(From Jan 95: 32 Aylsham Road, Norwich NR3 2AD)

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

Captain D J Lee BEM (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.

(Moves to Oakington Aug 96)

Lieutenant Colonel R M Brunt, MBE

(Lieutenant Colonel R E Harrold Apr 96)

2nd Battalion, Celle BFPO 23. (Moves to Warminster Mar 96)

Lieutenant Colonel D J Clements MBE

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

Lieutenant Colonel P G R Horrell TD

(Lieutenant Colonel D J W Baylis Apr 95)

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 J B C Prescott

### **Regimental Representatives**

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn

Infantry Training Battalion, Ouston: Lieutenant A G Grinonneau

(Moves to form Infantry Training Centre, Catterick by July 95)

RMA Sandhurst: Captain B A Runciman

# Mainly about people

## Promotions, postings, transfers and departures

### Congratulations

WE congratulate the following on passing examinations for promotion and staff selection: **Capt S W Carver**, **Capt M B Dicker**, **Capt A Gosling**; and the following for promotion: **Capt J C J Wright** and **Capt C S Calder**.

### Selected for Command

THE following have been selected for Command appointments: **Lt Col D J Clements MBE** is now CO The Poachers and **Lt Col J B E Prescott**, CO the 7th Battalion; **Lt Col D J W Baylis** is to be CO of the 5th Battalion and **Lt Col R E Harrold** to be CO of the 1st Battalion in Apr 96. We offer our heartiest congratulations.

### Postings

IN the past six months we have had news of the following postings: **Lt Gen M J D Walker CBE** is now the Commander ACE Rapid Reaction Corps; **Col J C McColl OBE** has handed over Command of the Vikings to **Lt Col D J Clements** and is now COS 1 Div in Germany; **Maj D C Coe** is now a Company Commander with the 1st Battalion.

**Maj G P Halewood** is the Quartermaster with the 7th Battalion; **Maj J F Macdonald** is now the Training Major of the 5th Battalion; **Maj R H C Lucas** has been a team leader with the training team Namibia between September and November; **Col A C Taylor** has left Lagos and is now awaiting his next posting; **Lt M W Stickland** is now with 9 Royal Irish.

**Capt B A Runciman** has taken over as our Regimental Representative at RMAS as Adjutant of New College; **Capt R W H Colgan** is presently working at RHQ; **Maj D Whitehead** is now with UNFICYP; **Maj A Powell MBE** is with HQ UKLF looking after quartering; **Lt M P D Brennan** is with 8 Royal Irish. **Capt R M Blades** is now



Pte Grey of the Poachers, (C Company), on foot patrol near Stari Vitez, Bosnia

Adjutant of the Tigers and **Maj S B Brunt** has moved to DMATT South Africa as SO2 Mechanical Infantry School; **Maj C J C Kett** takes over the job of ASLO Cambridge, Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire in March; **Maj R J Sheldermine-Hare** should be Training Major with the 6th Battalion as the magazine goes to print.

**Maj D J Gregory** leaves Warminster and joins the 2nd Battalion as Company Commander in January; **Maj N G Burrell** also takes up the job of Company

Commander with the 1st Battalion at the same time; **Lt R McClure** is now serving with 4 Royal Irish; **Maj S T H Andrews** as his reward from Staff College is now SO2 (W) with DRA and **Maj R J Ladley** is SO2 G3 (Ops & O&D) 1 Division; **Capt D G H Hunter** leaves Sandhurst to attend the RMCS Shrivenham Dagger Course No.9 on Mar 6 1995 and **Maj S L Porter** leaves the 2nd Battalion on Jan 15 to take up the job of SO1 Ops ARRC on promotion. **Maj S J**

*Continued Page 7*

# Mainly about people

From Page 6

**Bacon** is now 2IC 2nd Battalion and Capt **R A Cook** from Jan 9 1995 for the rest of the year will be learning German at Salmond House prior to going to the German Staff College.

## Newly commissioned

WE welcome into the Regiment 2Lts **A Borgnis**, **M L Elphee**, **D J Moss**, **M P Birch** and **I K S Howden** who are now with the 1st Battalion and 2Lts **T D Mellar**, **P A Holton** and **G Toyn** who are with the 2nd Battalion. We also welcome into the Regiment the following on SSLC: 2Lt **J S A Seddon** and 2Lt **S D Sutcliffe** who are now with the 2nd Battalion and 2Lt **T W Gregory** and 2Lt **H G Preston** who are with the 1st Battalion. We hope they have an enjoyable tour with the Regiment before going to university.

## Departures

WE have said farewell over the past six months to Capt **Paul Morris**, Lt Col **Kevin Ryan**, Lt Col **Peter Field**, Lt Col **Tony Slater**, Maj **Simon Lamb**, Maj **Roger Antollik**, Maj **Paul Ludbrook** and Maj **John Rourke**. We wish them all the best of good fortune in civilian life.

## Transfers

**CAPT H Newson** has now transferred to the Prince of Wales Own and Maj **R N Goodwin** to the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. We wish both of them the very best of good fortune in their new Regiments.

## Promotions

CONGRATULATIONS to WO1 (RSM) **C D Hoyles** on promotion to WO1 as RSM of the 1st Battalion and WO1 (RSM) **C R G Duncan** who is now RSM of the 6th Battalion.

## Commissioning

WE welcome into the Officers' Mess Lt **R P Grenfell** now serving with the 1st Battalion and our congratulations go to Lt **W H Eke** on his commissioning and we wish him all the best of good fortune with PWRR with whom he now serves.

## DIARY DATES 1995

### JANUARY

10-11 HQ Queen's Div postings meeting.

### APRIL

11-12 Undergraduates' convention Basingstoke.

14 Spring golf meeting, Flempston.

15 Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Association annual dinner.

21 3rd Battalion Officers' Dinner Club cocktail party, London.

29 Presentation of new Colours to 1st & 2nd Battalions.

### MAY

1 Regimental investment committee meeting, London.

1 Northampton Officers' luncheon, London.

1 50th Anniversary VE Day.

26 Divisional triangular golf meeting, Canterbury.

### JUNE

1 R Norfolk Officers' lunch, Norwich.

17-18 Royal Tigers' weekend.

23 Regimental golf meeting, Stowmarket.

TB 1 Official opening Royal Leicesters Wood.

23 Essex Regiment reunion.

28 Royal Lincolns Officers' luncheon.

28/29 Royal Norfolk show.

29 16th Foot Officers' lunch, Chicheley Hall.

### JULY

1-2 TBC Northamptonshire Regimental Association reunion.

21 TBC Essex Regiment Association annual dinner.

29 Suffolk Regiment Officer's dinner.

30 Suffolk Regiment Minden Day reunion, Bury St Edmunds.

### AUGUST

1 Minden Day

13 Laying up of 3 E Anglian Colours St Paul's, Bedford.

15 50th Anniversary VJ Day.

26 9 Sept 5 R Anglian Camp, Otterburn.

### SEPTEMBER

1 31st Anniversary of the founding of the Regiment.

3 Freedom March, Norwich.

6-22 7 R Anglian Camp, Warcop.

8-9 Autumn golf meeting, Flempston.

23-7 Oct 6 R Anglian Camp, Lydd/Hythe.

30 R Lincoln reunion, Lincoln.

### OCTOBER

1 50th Celebration Freedom Parade, Norwich.

1 3rd Battalion Officers' Dinner Club autumn lunch.

### NOVEMBER

1 Regimental dinner and council meeting, London.

9 Field of Remembrance.

12 Remembrance Sunday.

19 Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment reunion, Kempston.

## Mainly about people

# Our man in Vienna . . .

### Lt Col Kit Stallard writes:

IF jobs were graded like officers then after one year Vienna is 'excellent', with a very good chance of grading 'outstanding' next year.

For a start the job is interesting. Being accredited to both Austria and Slovenia is the perfect match, although sometimes irksome on the grounds that no man should work for two masters. Although we think of Austria as being a European country with some of the best skiing in the world, the world looks very different through Austrian eyes.

Austrians have a powerful sense of history and look to Britain as an example of how Austria might have been if it were not for a couple of world wars. The Army, the Bundesheer, was founded in 1955 and has had to cope with 40 years of neutrality and meagre defence budgets. As a result it is isolated in both thought and practise, although a valuable contributor to peace-keeping in the UN.

Most officers in the Ministry of Defence serve long tours. It takes some getting used to realising that the two-star officer in charge of procurement has been doing the job for 14 years.

On the other hand Slovenia could not be more different. A small young country which traces its history back three years. Virtually the entire officer corps withdrew after the war (on the losing side) to Belgrade. This leaves the Slovenes with very real leadership problems. Apart from being delightful and charming, one does get the impression that most of all they would like to empty any professional soldier of all his military knowledge just because they have such a vacuum.

Naturally one would expect an excellent social life in Vienna. One season whirls into the next but it is not all beer and skittles. Being the Attaché in Vienna has its own peculiar problems. The nearest like-minded souls are in the 2nd Battalion in Bosnia and they tend to have other things on their minds. Apart from these completely normal feelings there is the problem in Vienna of waltzing. January to March is the ball season and one is expected to represent Queen and Country at least at two or three balls. The balls are very formal and consist mainly of the Viennese Waltz.

This is not the normal gentle dance that Englishmen learn, but a wild gallop on the wrong foot in the company of experts. All

## Royal Anglians meet again



WO2 Steve Gaughan (on right) R Anglian and WO1 Alan Hayes AGC (SPS) meet again after 14 years. Alan served with the Vikings from 1976-79. The photograph was taken on board HMV Britannia during Her Majesty's visit to Belize in February 1994.

Austrian officers train to dance almost before they are trained to shoot. It was at one of these balls that I witnessed a test for young officers in front of the entire Army Board, Minister of Defence and President, the new intake at the Military Academy, with girls provided by the Army, had to waltz round and round in a room so small that they brushed the President every time they passed. I suspect that not even the horrors of the assault course competition or passing out are in any way as terrifying a preparation for military service as waltzing in front of every General in the Army.

I learned my German in Northern Germany. The British Army speaks the most wonderful Hoch Deutsch and I was taught this on an intensive course in Rhine Army. Not for me the two hours a day with a beautiful Portuguese or Greek girl (like other Attachés). For me it was the sweat and toil of eight hours a day in the classroom. Practising my German by eavesdropping on people in the street proved impossible. The dialect is so hard that it sounds more Hungarian than German. On the other hand, the formal society of hand kissing and balls speaks a form of antiquated German that the Kaiser would have recognised. I suspect when I speak German it sounds a bit like a Geordie speaking English in London. It certainly raises some Viennese eyebrows.

Then, of course, there is the whole new relationship with the FCO. I am lucky, my Ambassador has military experience and so at least understands how Defence Attachés think. I was discussing children's ages with a First Secretary the other day when we dis-

covered that his children were slightly older than mine. Tentatively he asked me how old I was, when I told him he slapped his head and said "God, I am older than the Defence Attaché." It is apparent that diplomats judge their increasing age in relation to how close they are to the age of the DA. Apart from saying 'telegrams' instead of 'signal', 'seen from here' instead of 'I think', diplomats make interesting and amusing companions.

Slovenia is another world. At my interview with the Minister of Defence on arrival, it was with interest that I noted that he had parts of a cluster bomb and anti-tank missile in his office which he had used in the war in Slovenia.

Part of the enjoyment of going to Slovenia is the inbred interest and delight in all military men in the armaments of the Warsaw Pact. I still get an enormous thrill seeing a Hind E or a T55. I am also in the interesting position of being able to compare the 'old' world, Austria, with the 'new' of Slovenia.

The most striking differences is that bagfuls of money are available for emerging countries, but the rest are subject to increasing scrutiny on spending.

The Pompadour eagle is very popular. Everyone comments on its quality, except the French Attaché who remains diplomatically silent. All in all, living in Vienna is a wonderful experience that I would recommend to anyone. However, you should bear in mind two points when applying for this job. The entertainment allowance is not enough and hopefully I am here for a further three years.

## Mainly about people

### Day's Pay Scheme results in 60 grants

DURING the last six months the Regimental Benevolent Fund has continued to actively support former members of the Regiment and their families where they have been found to be in need of help and succour.

The cases range from assistance to the disabled and help to the elderly who have become infirm or fallen on hard times, to assistance with families and help for children, some of whom have special needs.

The fund liaises closely with SSAFA, The Royal British Legion, The Army Benevolent Fund, DHS, DSS and War Pensions Directorate.

It has provided help for 60 cases in the period averaging £273 per grant, and hopes you will agree that this money is well spent.

All serving officers and soldiers of the Regiment pay in one day's pay to the Regimental Benevolent Fund.

### Prince Rupert School reunion

ARE you or any member of your family an ex-pupil of this school which operated after the war for the children of MOD personnel stationed in Germany?

If so, please contact Liz Bird, Hon Sec, The Wilhelmshaven Association, 54 Shaftsbury Avenue, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, Hants, SO53 3BP. Tel: (0703) 252925 (after 7 pm or weekends) for news of the Association and reunion in 1995.

### Officers' Club cocktail party

BECAUSE of the presentation of Colours to the 1st and 2nd Battalions on April 29 '95, the Regimental Council decided not to hold the cocktail party in London next year (it is usually held in May).



Walking tall: Sgt Hansen of the 6th Battalion hands over a cheque for £1,224.40 raised at the Nijmegen March to the children's charity Musical Keys. See Page 56

## From the Padre

### Parades and faith

SHORTLY after the D-Day commemorations in Normandy, there was a parade at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, the like of which no-one had seen before. It is unlikely ever to be repeated. Every Regiment and Corps of the British Army was represented by at least three soldiers. The guidons, colours and standards of every Regiment were carried. Eight Field Marshals were present, several members of the Royal Family and of course a good number of Chelsea Pensioners.

The occasion? The 50th anniversary of the foundation by King George VI of the Army Benevolent Fund. It was encouraging to see the importance given to all that goes on behind the scenes to help those who have served in the British Army and their families. The Old Comrades Associations of our own Regiment are amongst the most prominent in the nation in the help that is given to our former servicemen.

This occasion fitted well at the time when we were giving thanks to God for all those who had sacrificed their lives or their health on those Normandy beaches. Those of us who went across to France in June of this year were deeply moved by what we saw. From a padre's point of view (and I was with The Suffolk Regiment) it confirmed one's confidence in all that is good about people. And as this edition is emerg-



ing from the printing machines at about Christmas time in readiness for another new year, a further point should be made.

God chose to become human 2000 years ago in order to point us beyond ourselves to more elevated thoughts than normally occupy the mind in times of normality.

Let a new year resolve be that we should not need a crisis or danger in order that we might think of spiritual matters. At times, life is difficult for everyone. But all the leaves of the New Testament are rustling with rumour that it will not always be so. I do recommend that you read them

Rev T. Hiney

## Mainly about people

# Officers asked to support museum

THE Royal Anglian Regiment Officers' Club dinner took place at the Naval & Military (In & Out), Piccadilly, on Friday Nov 4.

The guests were Mr John Butcher the Upper Warden, Mr Michael Savory the Renter Warden and Mr Alan Scott the Clerk to The Worshipful Company of Poulterers. Some 120

officers attended what turned out to be a most successful evening.

The Colonel of the Regiment welcomed our guests and after the loyal toasts gave a review of how matters stood with the reorganisation of the Royal Anglian Regiment Volunteer Battalions and how the appeal progressed for the Royal Anglian Regiment

Museum at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford.

He enjoined regular officers to fill in their forms and stressed that one day's pay per year for the next four years was required in the coffers as early as possible. The evening was a great success and enjoyed by all.

## Government-sponsored events to mark the 50th anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day

### Provisional Programme for Association Newsletters

#### Programme of Events

#### 1. May 6-8 — Public Event in Hyde Park

A PUBLIC event will be staged in Hyde Park to provide the central focus for the VE Day celebrations. The site will play a prominent role in the government-sponsored programme with invited heads of state in attendance. Association will be invited to send representatives to the opening event on May 6. On the afternoon of May 7, it will serve as the culmination of the Youth Parade and on the evening of May 8, it may be the location for the finale to the VE Day celebration. Pavilions will stage exhibitions throughout the period and a veterans centre will be provided.

#### 2. May 6 — The Guildhall Reception and Dinner

A RECEPTION for the invited heads of state or government in the Guildhall will be followed by a banquet for the heads of state or government, hosted by the City of London.

#### 3. May 7 — The Service of Celebration

HEADS of state or government will attend a Service of Celebration of Peace in St Paul's Cathedral. The service will be ecumenical in nature and will emphasise the twin themes of reconciliation and 50 years of peace. Approximately 2,500 people are expected to congregate in the Cathedral. Afterwards, the heads of state or government would join Her Majesty at

Buckingham Palace and other receptions will be held at a number of London locations.

#### 4. May 7 — The International Youth Parade

A YOUTH parade with bands and representatives from the participating nations will march through Central London during the afternoon. The parade will be essentially civilian in nature and will disperse in Hyde Park with the participants joining the Hyde Park event. Special viewing areas will be made available along the route of the parade.

#### 5. May 8 — The VE Night Party

THE May 8 has been designated a public holiday and there will be a final VE Day concert, probably in Hyde Park, that evening. This would reflect the community atmosphere of the day and the theme of a 'VE Night Party' would seem to be appropriate. The Royal British Legion plan to hold street parties and to light beacons/bonfires across the country in co-ordination with other European capitals.

#### VJ Day

#### 6. August 19 — The Tribute and Promise Parade

A MOBILE parade and march past of veterans' organisations reflecting both the military and civilian elements of the wartime generation is planned to take place in London. The Tribute and Promise organisers will contact associations separately about participation in this event. During the parade a fly past would be

mounted by the Royal Air Force.

#### 7. August 19 — The Drumhead Service

A DRUMHEAD Service will be held in Central London after the Tribute and Promise mobile parade and immediately prior to the march past Her Majesty The Queen and other members of the Royal family will be asked to attend the ecumenical service. Veteran associations will receive priority but the service will be open to all and very large numbers are expected to attend.

#### 8. August 19 — The Culminating Event

THE final part of the commemorations in London will include a fireworks display along the Thames which will act as the signal to spread the message throughout the nation.

#### 9. August 20 — A Tribute throughout the Nation

ON Sunday Aug 20 throughout the nation a common church service will take place. Local authorities will then be encouraged to follow this with community events including parades. The day will end with the Sunset Ceremony which will vary in size and scale from the full Beating Retreat being organised in the national capitals (including London) and attended by members of the Royal Family, to perhaps a single bugler in villages and towns. The Sunset Ceremony would signify that the nation's commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the Second World War had finally drawn to a close.

## Mainly about people



The Royal Anglian Directing Staff at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in August 1994: (L to r) CSgt Martin, CSgt Wright, Cpl Bains, WO2 (RQMS) Smith, Capt Hunter, CSgt Tubby, CSgt Humphreys, Sgt Rainbird

## Malayan emergency retold

COL E T Boddy OBE TD has written a book called *Malayan Patrol* about the Malayan emergency in which former battalions of the Royal Anglian Regiment played

an important part. Anyone wanting a copy should send £13.50 to Pentland Press Ltd, Sales & Distribution Office, 1 Regal Lane, Soham, Ely, Cambs CB7 5BA



Graffiti: seen here some graffiti picked up by Alex Randon during a visit to Tigne Barracks in Sliema, Malta. We gather the graffiti records that the 4th (Leicestershire) Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment won the Command Boat Race in the record time of 6 mins 8.6 secs. Shades of past glory!

## Regular Forces Employment Association

BETWEEN April 1 1993 and March 31 1994, the Association assisted 12,771 men and women with their resettlement and placed 4,823 in employment. Of those placed, 2,792 were men and women from the Army and 52 were from The Royal Anglian Regiment.

The RFEA is part of the Forces Resettlement Service.

Its task is to assist all ex-regular servicemen and women who did not hold commissioned rank, who served with good character for a minimum of three years (or less if discharged on medical grounds), to find employment.

Employment officers keep close contact with local employers and jobcentres, also offering them a free service, from our 40 branches. Phone numbers can be obtained from Resettlement Officers, Corps and Regimental Associations, Jobcentres, Yellow Pages and local telephone directories.

## Mainly about people

### Frontier Force serves in Somalia

MORE news from the 5th Battalion the Frontier Force Regiment, to which the Royal Anglian Regiment is allied. 5FF is presently serving in Mogadishu (Somalia) as part of the United Nations Force.

Dear Col Dale,

I received your December issue of the Castle. It is indeed very informative. I thought it might be of interest to you and your readers to learn something about the 5th Battalion the Frontier Force Regiment and I am sending a very brief history of the Battalion.

I may add that we are likely to be in Somalia for another six months (from July '94). I take this opportunity to extend my invitation to the Royal Anglian to visit us here, we will always be immensely pleased to receive any Anglians presently serving anywhere in Africa.

With profound regards,

Col Zulfigar Rana

A Brief History of 5 FF

THE Fifth Battalion The Frontier Force



5FF officers and at the firing ranges

Regiment was raised on Jan 1 1847 by Capt F. Winter. The 147-year-old history of the Battalion is full of glorious actions and the Battalion has so far won 55 battle honours. This Battalion had the honour of being the first Indian Battalion to land in Europe during the Second World War. The Battalion, for its distinguished record, was designated as Royal Battalion in 1935 and has the distinction of wearing a Royal Blue Lanyard on the right side.

The Battalion has the honour of having

been selected to serve as part of UNOSOM-II (Somalia). The proximity of Abyssinian battlefields, where the unit saw most of the actions in 1940-41, keeps reminding us of our proud and glorious heritage.

The unit landed in Mogadishu in January 1994 and is likely to remain here till January 1995.

It is the great aim and endeavour of all ranks of the Battalion to prove upon every possible occasion that they are still worthy of the great honour.

### Historian seeks Empire stories

MILITARY historian Robin Neillands is looking for men who served in the British Empire over the last 50 years who have a tale to tell about their life and time.

If you served - as Colonel or Corporal - in India, Pakistan at Independence, Palestine in the Mandate, in Kenya during Mau-Mau, in Malaya, in Cyprus, Aden, Borneo, Kuwait, Oman, Northern Ireland, the Falklands ... or anywhere else and have a tale to tell about your time there, the more personal the better, then Robin Neillands would like to hear from you.

Write to him now at 48 Beltran Road, London SW6 3AJ. Tel: 071 371 7031. Robin Neillands is the author of 'D-Day: Voices from Normandy' and many other books on military history.

### The Army Benevolent Fund

The video of the Drumhead Service of Thanksgiving to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Army Benevolent Fund at the Royal Hospital Chelsea on Thursday June 30th 1994

We are pleased to announce that a video of the Drumhead Service to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Army Benevolent Fund is now available. Running time is just under 25 minutes and we hope that it will serve as a reminder of a unique event. Copies may be obtained from: The Army Benevolent Fund (NF), 41 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HR. Tel: 071 934 3206. Price: £10 + VAT - £11.75 incl.

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## Mainly about people

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# Ex-Poacher hunts big game

**Capt Tim Smith writes:**

MANY readers may have served with or certainly heard of Steve Taylor. Steve served a short service commission with the Poachers from 1984-87, before returning home to his native Zimbabwe. Having spent two weeks living with Steve earlier this summer, I thought it appropriate to bring readers up to date with the fortunes of one of our less orthodox 'retired' officers.

After leaving the British Army, Steve lived and worked in Zimbabwe and Tanzania from 1987-89, where he trained as an apprentice professional hunter. Having gained his license in 1989, he worked as a freelance hunter until he formed his own safari business in 1990-91. 'Taylor-Made Safaris' has grown since then and this season Steve hunted with 51 clients; a far cry from the eight he had in 1991.

Steve's skills as a professional soldier still serve him well in the bush and have become highly developed in many cases: he tracks (reces), stalks (closes with) and culls (destroys) the game (enemy). He also uses OP skills in animal hides when hunting leopards and has to exercise considerable man-management skills over his 20 strong staff.

Steve's life as a professional hunter was



The author, Steve Taylor and lioness.

vividly demonstrated within my first 24 hours in Zimbabwe. Steve and a client felled a huge bull elephant as well as a buffalo, before he had to shoot a wounded and charging lioness from 50 m. More contacts than even NITAT can create!

However, not all of his existence is quite so hair-raising. Steve has a business to run and spends 4-5 months a year trawling

for clients in the US. Appropriately, he bases himself in Boston, the home of the 10th Foot, but more so as it is the home of his American wife Kathy.

Steve still has many fond memories of his years with the Army and has a corner of one of his hunting camps decorated with Poacher memorabilia. He can even still sing 'The Poacher' ... after a cold beer or two!

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## French correspondence

VETERANS from the 2nd Lincolns who fought through Normandy, Holland and Germany in '44-'45 were guests of the Mayor and Corporation of Herouville 50 years after the D-Day landings. Capt John Richards visited Pegasus Bridge Café Gondree which resulted in the following correspondence:

Dear Madame, Amongst all your visitors from many different countries, there is no reason why you should remember that I called at the Pegasus Bridge Café on July 1 and talked to you about the part played by my old Regiment, the 2nd Battalion Lincolnshires (then part of the 3rd British Infantry Division) on 'D' Day and the subsequent advance to Caen, where after much hard fighting and many casualties, they captured and liberated Herouville St Clair.

On July 1, you kindly let me have a signed postcard showing your famous

café and the three points where the gliders of 6th Airborne Division landed and assaulted the bridge.

At the time, I noticed that among the fine collection of souvenirs and mementoes in your café, there was nothing to indicate that a company of the 2nd Lincolnshires, under the command of Maj Alistair Fennell, took over the defence of the bridge from 6th Airborne for a while.

I have always been a great admirer of your tremendous efforts to save the original bridge, and to preserve all these years later, the links which were forged on that momentous occasion between your remarkable family and the first British troops to land on French soil on June 6 1944.

I hope therefore, you will accept with my compliments a replica of our Regimental shield, and a photograph of Major (then Captain) Fennell on his wedding day, given to me by his nephew with

whom I served in the Regiment from 1950 to 1957. Alistair Fennell is now deceased, but he was my Company Commander when the Lincolns were stationed in Egypt, in 1950/51. Sad to say, we lost our identity when we were merged with another regiment in 1959. Best Wishes.

John Richards

Dear Mr Richards, Thank you for your kind letter of Aug 4th and for the Regimental shield plus the photograph of Major Alastair Fennell. I am very delighted with them.

It is a fascinating story. The busy time of the last year is slowly passing, giving me the chance to catch up with letter writing.

I hope you all enjoyed the ceremonies during June 6. The commemorations in England and in Normandy were extremely poignant with a tremendous atmosphere of comradeship.

We will all treasure the memories and photographs left with us forever.

Arlette Gondree-Pritchett

## Mainly about people

# At staff college in India

**Maj Paul Gaskin writes:**

EVERY year, three British officers (two Army and one Royal Air Force) attend the Indian Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) at Wellington in South India. In my case I was informed by my CO some two years previously that I would be attending Division II at RMCS Shrivenham, followed by the Indian course. Little had I imagined that, when I ticked India first on my staff college preferences list, the Army would agree with me.

So, after a year at RMCS and two months at the MOD (someone had spotted the gap), my wife Catherine and I said goodbye to all and sundry, including the dog, and boarded a British Airways 747 to New Delhi. The temperature in England was then about 15°C.

### Tigers and Taj Mahal

Nine hours later we stepped out into 45°C. Thankfully we were met by the British High Commission's Air Adviser, with an air-conditioned Discovery, and taken to an air-conditioned hotel where we slept off the jetlag. We had arranged a short holiday before starting work, and were lucky enough to see a tiger as well as the Pink City of Jaipur and, of course, the incomparable Taj Mahal.

A week in Delhi being briefed at the High Commission followed, before we flew down via Bombay to Coimbatore, our nearest airport.

From there the High Commission had arranged taxis to take us up into the hills where the DSSC is situated.

The journey up was blissfully cool, and we climbed away from the dusty yellow plains into lush green jungle, broken by numerous tea plantations.

The Nilgiri Hills are found at virtually the southernmost tip of the Western Ghats, which run down from near Bombay to east of Cochin in the state of Kerala. Wellington itself is near the top of the Nilgiris at about 6,000 ft, and Ootacamund, the nearest large town, is 18 km away and about 1,000 ft higher.

### College history

Our flat is on the ground floor and about half a mile from the college itself, but still in a military area.

The college was founded in 1949 soon after independence (the original British Indian Army staff college is now the Pakistani one at Quetta), adjacent to what is



Above: The Commandant inspects the hunt. Below: The British flat at Wellington Hall



now the Madras Regimental Centre. Both the Royal Norfolks and the Suffolks were stationed here at the very beginning of the century, and the Regimental badges are inscribed on a large plaque in the Centre, as

well as in the Gymkhana Club, which serves as golf club, cricket pavilion and Mess annex.

Over the next few days we got to know

*Continued Page 15*

# Mainly about people

From Page 14

our staff, of which we have six – an ayah or chief maid, a cook (the ayah's husband), a sweeper, a driver, a gardener and a dhobi. If this sounds luxurious, it is very much expected that we should employ so many.

The High Commission also hires to each of us an ambassador car (a 1948 Morris Oxford). I also have a scooter, bought from the previous British student with which I join the morning scooter rally into college.

The first phase of the course was a two-week package before the Indian officers arrived, to introduce us to the basic organisations and procedures of the Indian Army. This proceeded at a very easy pace, and we were able to settle in and find out where to go and what to do in the local area. Our boxes arrived in this period, as did increasing numbers of Indian officers.

## College begins

Finally, the first day dawned and hundreds of officers streamed into college for the introduction.

As a Defence Services college, officers of all three services, as well as a very small number of parliamentary officers and civilians attend the course.

There are a total of 403 officers attending Course No. 50, of whom 27 are foreigners. Each service follows its own course, with about half the time spent in joint activities, which results in a fairly complex system of divisions, syndicates and sub-syndicates.

The Army syndicates are headed by DS Colonels, most of whom have extensive operational experience in both counter-insurgency operations and war. The Commandant is a lieutenant-general as the Army is the senior service here and by far the largest at about 1,100,000 men.

The course itself is divided into six tutorials of six to eight

weeks each, with a long weekend between them. Work is normally Mon-Fri, from 0830 to 1330.

While this may not sound much, frequently enough work is given to keep most of us occupied until way into the late evenings.

India has every type of terrain imaginable within its borders, from high-altitude cold weather areas to hot, dry deserts through swamp and jungle and gentle rolling countryside.

As a result, there are a large number of topics to cover, such as mountain warfare, particularly with regard to administration and logistics. The correct care and use of mules, for example, is not something one comes across frequently at Camberley.

However, life here is not all work, and there are a lot of opportunities to play a wide variety of sports, including riding to hounds in what is believed to be the only fox-hunt in south Asia (not that there are any foxes, but there are sometimes jackals).

## Stunning views

The hillwalking, as one might expect, is very good, and the college has the usual tennis and squash courts, as well as its own golf course and even its own lake for sailing.

We are surrounded by indigenous 'Shola' forest, as well as eucalyptus and tea plantations, with the most stunning views, particularly a few kilometres away where it is possible to look out over the edge of the Nilgiris to the plains 4–5,000 ft below.

So far then we have nearly completed two tutorials, and we the foreign officers, together with our Indian Navy and Air Force colleagues, are looking forward to our Forward Area Tour in late October, when we will be taken up into the Himalayas to see for ourselves the problems of living and operating at high altitude (over 15,000 ft).

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*Hum' Martin*

Admiral of the Fleet, The Lord Hall-Norton G.C.B.

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# Association Gathering

## Sun soaked celebrations hear of TA uncertainty

OUR Padre, Tim Hiney, has done it again! We celebrated our 7th Association Gathering in blistering heat at Bassingbourn; there was scarcely a cloud in the sky and the trick was to find some shade and plenty of liquid refreshment. The day was a great success with some 1,000 Association members and their families attending.

The programme for the day was much the same as before with a Drumhead Service, the Colonel of the Regiment reading the lesson, the Rev Tom Hiney officiating and the Volunteer band of the Royal Anglian Regiment playing the hymns in splendid style.

The Colonel of the Regiment in his address after the Drumhead Service greeted everybody and thanked all those whose organisation and work have gone to make the Association Gathering possible. He talked of the future of the TA, stressing that it was improbable that any specific announcements as to possible cuts would be made before November, but that Regimental policy was clear – namely we wished to maintain our territorial links through our TA Battalions with our nine counties.

He went on to remind everybody that the appeal for the Regimental museum at Duxford would be appearing through everyone's letter boxes in the near future and he asked for everyone's generous support. He ended his address by confirming what good heart the Regiment was in and how much he enjoyed seeing this at first hand on his visits.

The Regimental Sergeant Major of the 6th Battalion, WO1 Duncan, organised the Standard bearers and columns of Association members for the march past with a cheery decisiveness which must have reminded everybody of their younger days!

In temperatures well into the hundreds in the sun, the beer tent was constantly busy, everyone enjoyed their luncheon with static displays afterwards, to say nothing of an afternoon's music programme, played again by the Volunteer Band.

At 3 o'clock sharp the 1st Battalion The



Royal Anglian Regiment band (reinforced by Poachers and bandmen from PWRR) gave an absolutely first-class band display with standards of music playing which could hardly be equalled.

Mrs Stone was good enough to present the prizes to the two winning teams on the .22 range, namely the ladies team from Hemel Hempstead branch and the men's team from Wisbech branch.

And so another very successful Association Gathering drew to a close; we are immensely grateful to the 1st Battalion for providing the administrative back-up and without whose help the show could never have got on the road. Lt Col Duthoit, the Commanding Officer of ATR and his staff for allowing us to use his barracks and to the Commanding Officer of the 5th Battalion for providing the Volunteer Band.

## Association Gathering





# VIKINGS



## Return to Colchester

HAVING completed a successful tour of East Tyrone the Vikings returned to Colchester in July 1994. The six months that followed were certainly busy ones with the reorganisation to our airmobile order of battle, re-learning old skills and having them tested both on exercise and at the battle group trainer, a Spearhead tour of duty and even some sport and adventure training.

### Back in Colchester

JULY started with the Vikings back in Colchester and enjoying a long weekend. After this brief taste of things to come the Battalion reorganised, cleaned up and made preparations for the after-leave exercises.

Many internal courses were run during this two-week period, including motorcycle, regular radio users and support weapons numbers cadres. Many airmobile skills had to be brushed up and cobwebs soon fell away.

### Events Minden Day

DUE to leave, Minden Day was celebrated in the traditional manner but on July 15. The inspecting officer for the roses presentation was Brigadier Calder.

### Regimental Gathering

THE Battalion was well represented at the Regimental Gathering at Bassingbourn on

Sunday July 10. Lt Shea-Simmons flew many visitors on trips round the airfield in a Piper Warrior. The Recce Platoon, under the watchful eye of Capt Eaton, set up and collapsed the tentage and provided support.

### N.I. Medals

BEFORE consigning East Tyrone and the memories of a successful tour to history, the Commanding Officer presented General Service medals to 160 members of the Battalion. The recipients were paraded on the Battalion square and each of the men, and five women, were given their well-earned medals.

*Continued Page 20*

## News from the Vikings



Left and above: Minden Day. Right:  
The Regimental Gathering.  
Below: Ex Gryphon's Eye —  
a mobile Milan GWMP.



# News from the Vikings



**Ex Gryphon's Eye.** Above: CSgt Soames during Ex Gryphon's lift. Top left: Mor Pl on an ATMP. Left centre: Operator training. Left bottom: REME fixing a GWMP again.

*From Page 18*

## Exercise Gryphon's Eye

ON return from leave the Vikings spent a hectic six weeks in its airmobile role and the East Tyrone tour faded quickly into the past. The first week back from leave was spent in preparation for Exercise Gryphon's Eye, the 24 Airmobile Brigade FTX on Salisbury Plain.

Many skills had to be revised and under the supervision of WO2 Hamilton, the battalion HHI(S), the companies spent time at the AMTC at Wattisham qualifying as rigger marshals and landing point commanders.

There were even some helicopter abseiling drills. Ex Gryphon's Eye represented the Battalion's return to airmobile operations with all its inter-service and international aspects. The Vikings worked closely with

*Continued Page 22*

## News from the Vikings



Above: Underslung loads during ex Gryphon's Lift. Left: Bermuda Regt SNCO. Below: Bermuda Regt NCOs cadre on parade.



# News from the Vikings



Top: Sp Wpns Conc (Mor PI in action). Above: Rece PI, Gryphon's Lift

*From Page 20*

both Belgians, Germans and the RAF.

After some company level training A and C Companies and then B and Screen Companies were put through their paces on a battle run. Incorporated in these runs were the RAP on a Medex. The MO, with support from 19 Airmobile Field Ambulance, treated casualties and practised the casevac procedures over three days.

The Brigade FTX started with a long road move for the whole battalion to Little Rissington. After the initial battle procedure, White One (the Battalion pick-up for an air move) was activated and, with only a slight delay due to weather, the Vikings flew to Salisbury Plain. During the first part of the exercise the Battalion had a company of Belgians from the BPC Brigade attached who were deployed into Copehill Down FIBUA village.

Later in the exercise, after a re-organisation, a company of Germans from 31 Luftlande Brigade came under command. The FTX was deemed a success, marking the Battalion's return as 'Airmobile Vikings'.

## Exercise season

SEPTEMBER was another busy month. The training wing ran an NCO cadre for 20 members of the Bermuda Regiment including skill-at-arms, drill, PT and an internal security final exercise. Exercise Globe Trot saw much of the Battalion return to Salisbury Plain in support of the Company Commanders course. The weather did its best to batter the Vikings into submission but failed. BBGT (N) in Catterick hosted the Battalion between Sept 18 and 21 and Oct 2 and 7.

Many of the procedures involved with our role were practised. The month was rounded off with the support weapons concentration at Otterburn involving Screen Company and the Company Milan Platoons.

During October, a number of adventure training trips took place for some lucky members of the Battalion. The hard work continued for the remainder of the Battalion, however, including being placed on the Spearhead roster earlier than anticipated. Having been 'stood to' following the deployment of the previous battalion, the Vikings quickly assumed the commitment and will remain on Spearhead until early December.

The usual round of preparation, kit packing, kit checking, documentation and rehearsals went well and at the time of going to press, the tour of duty has been uneventful. The Signal Platoon were more

*Continued Page 23*

# News from the Vikings



*From Page 22*

than usually busy in October running a Standard Two Signals Cadre.

After four weeks of intensive training, 14 students successfully passed the course and were presented with crossed flags by the Commanding Officer. Pte Chapman of A Company was best student and received an engraved tankard.

## Visits

THE Battalion has hosted a number of visits since the last issue. In July representatives from the Czechoslovakian Army, as part of international confidence building measures, visited Hyderabad Barracks. The team was met by the Battalion 2I/C and the Ops Officer on the main square where they landed in a Mk.9 Lynx.

They were shown the LSV and ATMP vehicles which attracted some considerable interest. During Ex Gryphon's Eye the Battalion was visited by a number of officers keen to meet and, in some cases, re-acquaint themselves with the Vikings. They included the Director of Infantry and the Director of the Royal Armoured Corps, GOC Eastern District and the Chief of the General Staff.

Above: Sp Wpns Conc (Milan PI pre-firing revision).



## News from the Vikings



Above: Cricket (WOs' and Officers' match) pre-match drinks.  
(see sport section). Below and right: Regimental Gathering.





# 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.

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## News from the Vikings



Corsica (Viking Side Drum)

### Isolation on magnificent Corsican mountains

Lt Jon Trigg writes

Viking Side Drum was an adventure training exercise held from Oct 2 to Oct 16 in the magnificent surroundings of the Corsican National Park which covers a full quarter of the Mediterranean Island. The exercise aim was to introduce a party of 13 Viking drummers to mountain walking in a surprisingly isolated environment.

After the customary calls of "off to swan" were left behind us at Colchester we arrived at Vizzavona in central Corsica. There the mountain peaks rising up on all sides made us realise that it was definitely not going to be a swan. This feeling was heightened by the torrential rainstorms that



characterised the first few days of walking.

However after climbing the peak of Monte d'Oro at 2,389 m, the sun made its appearance and remained with us throughout as we walked through the national park to the west coast of Corsica.

Our major worry came from the local Gendarmes who warned us off camping because of a local bandit problem.

After some nine days of walking we emerged from the mountains bearded and ever so slightly bronzed to finish the trip

with a shorter period of walking in the mountains surrounding the capital, Bastia, in the north and a well earned period of R&R.

Overall this rarely-visited and oft overlooked island gave us an extremely worthwhile time and I would definitely advise anyone else to go if they ever get the chance. The team comprised: Capt Price, Lt Trigg, Drum Maj Fleming, Cpl Howlett, Drummers Pennock, Panter, Crozier, Gibbs, Rayfield, Phair, Howlett, Montgomery, Davies and Diehm.

## News from the Vikings



Above: Cambrian patrol (outdoor lesson). Below: Cambrian patrol minefield drills.

# Cambrian Patrol team wins bronze

THE Cambrian patrol is an arduous patrolling exercise run each year in the unforgiving Welsh countryside and open to all units (TA and Regular) within the Army. This year, for the first time since 1991, 1 Royal Anglian entered a team in the Cambrian Patrol competition. Each team is of section strength commanded by an officer or SNCO with two JNCO and five privates. The team is backed up by a team manager (officer or SNCO) and two drivers who are also reserves.

The Vikings selection started in the middle of September with an initial squad of 16. Training took place on Dartmoor, Stanta, and the local training area. Given that some teams train for up to six months for the Cambrian Patrol, in five weeks the Vikings crammed in an awful lot of work including abseiling, OP work, river crossings and AFV recognition.

For the last two weeks of training, 1 Royal Anglian hosted an American team from 1/9 Cav based at Fort Hood, Texas. The combined training that subsequently



took place was beneficial to both, with each team learning from the other.

Owing to the number of teams entering the Cambrian Patrol, the competition is phased over a ten-day period. The Vikings took part in phase two from Oct 22-24. Each year the format is slightly different, with the emphasis over the last few years on marching from stand to stand.

This year's mission was to carry out an OP and CTR on targets around a reservoir in the Elan Valley. Teams are tested throughout the two days from the beginning of battle procedure to the final debrief. No DS accompanies the patrols, and points are awarded on results of the patrol debrief:

although points can also be lost by being captured or detected during the patrol.

In what was a well run exercise, with realistic and well controlled enemy forces, the Vikings team was awarded a bronze medal. All the soldiers are to be congratulated on a fine effort, in which they covered 60km carrying up to 70lb with virtually no sleep, in 'normal' Welsh weather conditions - while still achieving their mission, undetected by the enemy.

The Vikings '94 team was lead by Capt Astley and managed by Cpl Gardner. The remainder were Cpl Attwood, Cpl Riley, Ptes Hoon, Nieves, Carr, Lewis, Summerson, Anderson and Frith.

## News from the Vikings

# Adventure training in Wales



### Lt Gotobed writes:-

SNOWDONIA, North Wales in October – okay where is the gortex?

To our delight we experienced two weeks of almost unadulterated sunshine, with a multitude of activities to keep ourselves busy. And not a uniform in sight!

In total, C Company took two groups of 24 soldiers for a week at a time to Hafod Gwenllian, the Royal Artillery adventure training centre. The centre provided all the instructors and imagination to keep everyone far from idle.

Members of company participated in the activities of canoeing, top rope and abseiling, multi-pitch climbing, scrambling and walking. We also experienced the delights of underground exploration with a form of caving in the abandoned slate mines of Blaenau Ffestiniog set in a 'Dungeons and Dragons' scenario.

Team members using a 'script' for clues, first had to find the entrance point to the mines. With reluctance we returned from Wales to the normality of the Battalion and Spearhead.



# Historical trail in Spain

### Lt Shea-Simmonds writes:-

IN the last two weeks of October an expedition from the Vikings led by Lt Shea-Simmonds embarked to northern Spain.

Ex Viking Corunna had two aims, firstly to climb and walk in the Picos de Europa area which lies some 150km south-west of Santander, and secondly to explore part of the route taken by Sir John Moore and the 9th of foot during the Peninsula War.

Based initially in Potes, to the East of

the Picos, the group climbed in the Central Massif, Los Urriellos reaching 8,500 ft, followed by a further route to the West in the National Park.

The routes were a great success in mostly beautiful weather and allowed the group to get close to the upper peaks and the astonishing views in and around the Picos, an area recommended for future expeditions.

The second part of the trip took the group further south to the area of

Benevente, close to where the decision was made by Sir John Moore to withdraw back to Corunna.

From here a similar path to that of the 9th of Foot was taken to the area of Villafranca where so many soldiers perished in the high ground in a harsh winter before a final push to Corunna.

There were a few monuments and the journey allowed members of the group to see the area at first hand and once again view a fascinating part of Spain.

Overall the trip was a success and as a result some members of the expedition intend to go back to climb in the area over Christmas.



# Poachers



A 6 Platoon vehicle static in Gornji Vakuf town centre.

## Humanitarian role in Bosnia

THE Poachers took command as BRITBAT 1 from the 1st Battalion The Coldstream Guards on May 8, as the fourth British battalion deployed on Operation Grapple.

The Battalion arrived to find a very different task waiting for us to the one we trained for. We had trained to escort humanitarian aid across confrontation lines through the centre of a war zone. By the time we arrived, a fragile peace was in place between the Bosnian-Croats (HVO) and the Bosnian-Muslims (ARBiH), whilst the war between the Bosnian-Serbs (BSA) and the Muslims on the peripheries of our area had intensified.

The advance party arrived in theatre on Apr 27 with the main body flights arriving

between May 3 and 13 1994. Unfortunately, this handover/takeover period was marred by the tragic death of Capt Steven Wormald when his Landrover ran over an anti-tank mine near Gornji Vakuf on Apr 29. The loss of such a fine officer has been deeply felt by us all. Cpl Nick Davey was injured in the explosion but is making progress towards a full recovery.

The Battalion group originally consisted of A Company commanded by Maj Richard Kemp and C Company commanded by Maj Andrew Wadman, deployed in Vitez School, with D (Sp) Company commanded by Maj Richard Clements deployed in Vitez School. Battalion headquarters was also based in Vitez School, with the Echelon

based down the road in Vitez Garage. Our attached medium reconnaissance element, in the form of A Squadron The Light Dragoons (commanded by Maj Alex McKenzie) went to Tomislavgrad in the south of the AOR. Additionally we inherited a host of various support elements, from strategic communicators, tactical air control parties, Royal Military Police and Royal Engineers (5 Field Squadron, 32 Armoured Squadron and 61 Field Support Squadron) through to logistic and medical support units.

B Company, commanded by Maj Alisdair Wild, deployed in Gornji Vakuf under operational control of Britbat II, the

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# News from the Poachers



Left: Ptes Jackson, Clark, Lambert and other members of 6 Platoon 'track-bashing' in Gornji Vakuf.

Above: LCpl Addison (Milan Platoon) on checkpoint duty. Below: Lt Martin making friends in Gornji Vakuf.

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1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

Flexibility soon became the key word, as this planned deployment changed on arrival. A Squadron also came under command of Britbat II, whilst we gained D Squadron commanded by Maj Ollie Elwood, who had arrived two months earlier in Zepce. The requirement for support weapons to be deployed was reviewed, with the outcome that D (Sp) Company re-rolled as a large rifle company.

Even these initial changes were modified when D Squadron moved its squadron HQ and two troops to Maglaj School in the northern tip of the AOR, and A Company left Vitez (with Reconnaissance Platoon) to replace them in Zepce.

What became very apparent in the early stages of the tour was the responsibility placed upon the shoulders of our junior NCOs during day-to-day operations. Many

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# News from the Poachers



LCpl Vazquez and his team patrolling through Krupe.

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tasks were taken over straight from the Coldstream Guards, which included the manning of check-points, active sites and vehicle and foot patrols. Check-points were a vital part of the 'return to normality' for central Bosnia. Manning them meant placing a section between the police from each faction, and as opposed to Ulster where the British Army controls the check-points, our task at these checkpoints was simply to stop the two sides from resuming their 27-month long conflict.

The active site concept was a strange one to us – these involved manning an area into which all heavy weapon systems belonging to the Muslims (artillery, tanks and mortars) had been corralled. Since the war against the Serbs was still ongoing, there had to be a system for 'controlling' who these weapons were fired at, in case a breach of the Croat/Muslim 'peace' occurred.

Consequently, whenever the Muslim Army wanted to fire one of its weapons against Serb positions, it had to secure permission from the UN soldiers first. The soldiers then checked that the bearing and elevation they were laid on would ensure the

round fell on BSA positions, and not onto Croat positions. These also allowed us to witness Bosnian Army gun-drills, which appear to bear no resemblance to any others in the world.

Patrols took place, both along the aid routes and the confrontation lines between the HCO and BiH. The route patrols were soon facing the rife problem of banditry – an unfortunate result of a post-war environment where no efficient legal system is up and running, yet where nearly every man between the ages of 16 and 60 is armed. This problem has now effectively disappeared due mainly to the efforts of the companies involved.

Indeed, B Company in Gornj Vakuf had two contacts shortly after arrival, both of which were nothing to do with the war and everything to do with banditry on the routes. Foot patrols along the buffer zones have also met with enormous success to the stage where they are now accompanied by members of both factions in a confidence building exercise. This in turn has seen a large scale reduction in manning of the front lines by both sides.

One of the other tasks allocated was the collection of coarse-grain information about

what was happening in the war between the BiH and BSA along the external confrontation line, in order to allow policy-makers to make decisions at a higher level.

It very quickly became apparent that this information had to be collected delicately because of the inherent danger of us moving anywhere near the Bosnian-Serb frontline. Direct targeting of our vehicles was common in these early stages and included a Warrior from A Company receiving 30 hits on its armour from a BSA heavy machine gun, quickly followed by between 20 and 30 mortar rounds impacting nearby.

On May 20, Maj Andrew Wadman deployed with C Company to Mount Igman near Sarajevo for approximately three weeks, under command of the French unit Frebat IV. The operation was part of an attempt to prevent the Bosnian Serb and Muslim forces from violating a locally negotiated ceasefire, an operation which proved thoroughly enjoyable for the soldiers involved, and which fostered further international relations with Unprofor contingents from other countries.

It also exposed Poachers to direct tar-

*Continued Page 34*

## News from the Poachers



Above: Ptes Harrison and MacDonald with members of the BiH in Vitez. Right: Capt Morris liaising. Below: Pte Knowles prepares mentally to fight the hearts and minds campaign.



# News from the Poachers



Top: On watch overlooking the Duborscin valley. Above: Pte Little on guard.  
Below: Pte Symon practises his saluting while off duty on an active site.



*From Page 32*

getting from the Bosnian Serb Army once again. Included in one of these incidents of direct targeting was the engagement of Sgt Kevin Keen's Warrior by a BSA heavy machine gun. In reply to this, the Warrior (commanded by Sgt Keen) returned over 100 Chain Gun rounds at the Bosnian-Serb position. After the engagement, Maj Andy Wadman (OC C Company) asked Sgt Keen for a situation report, to which Sgt Keen replied that there was now a Serb soldier holding a large piece of white card above his head. Maj Wadman then asked if this meant that he was surrendering, to which Sgt Keen replied that he "certainly didn't think he was patching up!"

Our area of responsibility was to change three times during the tour. The first time was on June 22, when Britbat II moved into the Gorazde pocket, leaving the Burma Company in Bugojno under command of the Poachers. This move also meant that we reassumed command of B Company in Gornj Vakuf and A Squadron in Tomislavgrad.

It also resulted in our AOR stretching from the northern tip of the Maglaj finger down to the Croatian/Bosnian border, an area covering some 6,000 sq km, and placing eight sub-units under command of Battalion HQ. The AOR was to change again with the arrival of RHQ of the Light Dragoons as Britcavbat on July 30, as they assumed command of the Maglaj finger, thereby taking our A Company and D Squadron under command.

The AOR changed once again on Aug 4 with the arrival of the Turkish Group, Turkfor, in Zenica. This left the Battalion AOR at just over 4,000 sq km with 217 km of Serb/Muslim frontline and 190 km of Muslim/Croat frontline.

Whilst the role which we trained for may have changed, it has certainly not made it any less dangerous – of the 12 British soldiers to have died in Bosnia since Operation Grapple began in November 1992, 11 have died following the declaration of peace between the Croats and Muslims in February this year. This increased danger was again brought home to the Battalion on June 21, when a Spartan from Mortar Platoon hit an anti-tank mine to the north-west of Zavidovici, injuring two of the crew members. Additionally, whilst waiting for medical assistance, BSA soldiers stole their weapons and equipment.

On Aug 16 Sapper Nicholas from the Royal Engineers was killed in another mine incident whilst supervising Muslim and Croat mine clearance near Gornj Vakuf.

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## News from the Poachers



Above: The RSM Battalion 2IC and QM with other guests of the Echelon's Talavera dinner. Left: LCpl David shows Pte Grant the way. Below: Pte Smith (7 Platoon) with fan club in Novi Travnik



## News from the Poachers



Above: LCpl Vazquez on guard at B Company's location in Gornji Vakuf, briefing the next gate sentry. Below: Pte Terry and Pte Grant (Milan Platoon).



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One of the most challenging roles for the Battalion was also one of the most rewarding when accomplished. This consisted of chairing various meetings at differing levels of command between the two warring factions, the Croats and Muslims. At the highest level, this took the form of the Joint Commission Sub-Committee (JCSC), chaired by the Commanding Officer, with the Corps commander of 7 Corps BiH, 3rd Operations Zone HVO and Operations Zone North-West Hercegovina in attendance, down to the meetings between Brigade and Battalion commander's chaired by Battalion and Company liaison officers.

These meetings varied in their atmosphere from the genuinely friendly and successful, down to non-attendance by members of one or both of the factions due to dissatisfaction over some matter. It was then that the Battalion's liaison officers came into their own, spending many hours travelling between the two sides and negotiating a settlement.

Contingency planning has also taken place for various operations, including the implementation of the wider peace – a peace which included pushing across the BSA frontline into Serb held territory to monitor the withdrawal of Serb forces under the terms of the proposed peace settlement, an

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# News from the Poachers



Above: LCpl Pulfrey (Recce Pl) as top cover. Right: LCpl David and Pte Martin with local children. Bottom right: One of the numerous aid convoys that constantly moved through the AOR

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eventuality that seem unlikely for the immediate future. Additionally, current contingency planning includes the possible re-assumption for the Maglaj area, should Britcavbat be redeployed to the Bihac pocket, or the assuming of command of the Canadian Battalion's (Canbat) area in the eventuality that they are moved.

Other tasks have been performed on G5 matters, working closely with the Civil Affairs side to the United Nations headed in our area by Mr Jay Carter. This area also proved to hold its fair share of frustration.

One particular example concerned water and electricity in the Vitez pocket region, where the Croats inside the pocket controlled the electricity that ran out to the surrounding Muslim areas, whilst the Muslims controlled the water supply that flowed into the pocket. The Muslims would not allow water to flow into the pocket until they had electricity, and vice-versa with the Croats, creating a Catch-22 situation.

Once again, Battalion liaison officers

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# News from the Poachers



Left RSM,  
CO,  
Interpreter,  
Drum Major  
and CO's  
Driver

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were required to try to negotiate a solution, and the eventual outcome saw a two-way flow of the relevant amenities. During September, members of C and D (Sp) Company, along with local volunteers and Royal Engineers helped rebuild a refugee centre in Han Bila, near Vitez, in order to accommodate the large numbers of Muslim refugees being expelled from Bosnian-Serb territory. When these displaced persons arrive, they have practically nothing in the way of personal possessions.

Poachers have helped rebuild a school and shower facilities in the camp, whilst WO2s Prime (CSM C Company) and WO2 Beaumont (CSM D (Sp) Company) helped in their own way by demonstrating and organising area-cleaning among the refugees.

When the Battalion arrived, there were eight freedom of movement routes open, allowing civilians to cross the confrontation lines in order to visit friends and relatives caught on the 'wrong' side of the lines when the war broke out. As this is being written, the number of routes has increased to 11, this being again secured through liaison and mediation. It is in this area, the 'return to normality', that the Battalion is justifiably proud of its achievements. On our arrival, the peace in central Bosnia was a fragile one, with numerous ceasefire violations

occurring on a daily basis (usually in the order of 40-50) and almost no movement between faction areas. By the end of September, the number of ceasefire violations had reduced dramatically to the order of four or five a day, and trade and large-scale movement by civilians across the confrontation lines has been made possible.

Events organised and monitored have included trips by Muslims into the Croat pocket to visit graves of BiH soldiers killed in the fighting, and the movement of Croats out of the pocket to attend a religious service being held in Muslim-held territory.

The Commanding Officer and Company Commanders have also appeared on local radio and television, occasionally even with the local BiH and HVO commanders, in an effort to relay the success story of central Bosnia to the local population.

The Battalion played a rugby match against a local Muslim side at Zenica in July.

The Bosnian XV was their international side, but had lost 10 players killed during the fighting. In front of over 1,000 spectators (most of whom were armed), and despite a hard fought match, the Battalion unfortunately lost 6-4. A similar match was played in October (also in Zenica), but this time the Battalion won 66-3 — the rapid improvement in the Battalion side due mainly to some help from the recently

arrived New Zealand Company.

Other sporting events have included a football match against a local side (which the Battalion again unfortunately lost 6-1), and a games night between the Sergeants' Mess, the local HVO commanders and the local BiH commanders. True to form, the local warring faction's commanders were thoroughly educated in the way of the Sergeant's Mess, with Brigadier Filip Filipovic (the local HVO commander) losing DM100 to the Mess funds. There have also been children's parties organised at local schools, and culture nights in the base where local bands and musicians have been invited in.

The progress made in the journey towards a stable peace has not been made without the Poachers becoming the targets of local extremist elements who feared the peace was progressing too quickly. To date, Battalion callsigns have had 417 small-arm rounds, 54 mortar or artillery rounds and one grenade fired or thrown directly at them. In response, we have fired 1,426 small-arm rounds and 25 30mm rounds back, either against the Serbs, Muslims or Croats.

As this is being written, the Battalion is preparing to hand over to the 1st Battalion The Royal Highland Fusiliers after what has been one of the most challenging and interesting six months the Poachers have faced.

# News from the Poachers



## Sponsored canoeing in Bosnia

**Captain J.M.H. Heap writes:-**

EX POACHERS Paddle was a sponsored canoe/windsurf expedition for the Capt Steve Wormald Trust and took place over the period Sept 30 to Oct 2 '94 in Central Bosnia during Op Grapple 4. The idea originated from Steve Wormald's great passion for windsurfing and canoeing, and formed part of the efforts to raise money for his trust.

The outline plan was to canoe and windsurf from the Poachers' area of responsibility to Split (port of entry for Op Grapple 4). This would involve a distance of 100 km down the River Rama and Neretva through Mostar, and 120 km on the sea from Metkovic to Split.

The canoe/windsurf team was to consist of four people: Capt Jon Heap and Axel Bisschop (UNHCR Logistics Officer) would canoe and windsurf the whole way and be supported by Sgt Ian Roberts during the canoe phase, and Sgt Dobbs Carter during the windsurf phase. Logistic support was to be provided by a land and sea-based support team lead by Capt Paul Bailey (land-based) and Sgt Steve Brown (sea-based). In order to get the exercise off the ground, a number of problems had to be overcome.

Firstly, we had to locate some canoes



Top: The team, including interpreters, land-based support team and sea-based support team. Above: Sgt Ian Roberts, Capt Jon Heap and Axel Bisschop (UNHCR Logistics Officer).

and windsurf boards. A search of central Bosnia resulted in locating only one canoe (which was exchanged for a couple of bags of UNHCR wheatflour!). A call back to rear party requesting that some canoes be sent

out from Germany resulted in the rapid deployment of six canoes, paddles, helmets, life vests and spraydecks (which were unfortunately the wrong size!).

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# News from the Poachers

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The surf boards were eventually tracked down at the Hang Loose windsurf centre on the island of Brac, off the coast of Croatia. Some hard negotiating (learnt from months of negotiating with hard line Croats and Bosnians in Central Bosnia), resulted in a deal being struck for the hire of three Mistral boards and a selection of sails and other equipment.

The next problem to be overcome concerned our own personal security. The canoe phase along the river involved canoeing through Malbat's and Spabat's AOR as well as through our own. Consequently they were asked to investigate the possibility of mines along the river banks and any other security issues we should be aware about. Unfortunately the reports back were not good. The first 40 km of the river were heavily mined along the river banks. There was also the risk of mines actually being in the river as a result of being washed off the banks when the river was last in flood.

Further to this, Spabat were very concerned that our efforts to canoe through the centre of Mostar might be misunderstood by the HVO and BiH and be regarded as a Bosnian Serb infiltration. Their overall assessment was that our expedition was not advisable! (In hindsight they proved to be correct, because over 300 shells impacted in and around Mostar on the day the expedition started.)

We decided to revise our plans and change the route slightly to by-pass the trouble areas. The new route now involved us starting 10 km south of Mostar, and left us with 180 km to canoe and windsurf.

So after a couple of hours practising on the River Bosna through Zenica, the team set off to Gornji Vakuf on Sept 29 overnight prior to setting off for Mostar at 0430 hours on Sept 30. After final preparations at the river's edge the team launched at 0730 hours. The river was at full flow which made the going fast initially. However, after two hours, the flow of the river decreased dramatically and progress became a lot harder.

Meanwhile, the land-based and sea-based support teams had problems of their own to sort out. We had heard on the Thursday evening that the HVO soldiers had gone on strike (it could only happen in Bosnia!) and that they had blocked the Croatian customs post in Metkovic. Hence, not only were the canoeists going to have problems getting through customs, but so was the land-based support team.

On closer inspection it transpired that the soldiers had become bored and had allowed the border crossing point to re-



The land-based support team with Capt Jon Heap and Axel Bisschop

open. In order not to be seen to be evading customs, the officials were asked if they would object to us canoeing across the border. To say the least, they were amazed that we were attempting such a feat and decided that they wanted to speak with us as we canoed passed.

A rendezvous was made at a suitable point where the customs officials could gain access to the river. The official seemed totally bemused by the whole thing, and after the mandatory question, "Have you anything to declare?" customs were cleared at 1230 hours.

Meanwhile the sea-based support team was having problems. It had left Vitez on the morning of Thursday in order to get to Split to collect the safety boat and the windsurf board. However, things stopped going to plan when the semi-rigid inflatable boat was being moved out of its storage onto the back of the four-tonne truck. A 12-inch nail caught the side of the boat, damaging it beyond immediate repair. Undeterred, Sgt Steve Brown headed off to the RE resources yard in Split and fortunately was able to pick up a spare boat. Despite this, the team made it to the RV at the mouth of the river with the safety boat in the water and the boards and rigs ready to go.

This was much to the pleasure of the canoeists who had spent the last three hours battling against a head wind and an incoming tide, and were thoroughly looking forward to the prospect of a 'blast' on the boards to rest their sore rears! Despite the fact that the wind was actually blowing in the wrong direction we decided to jump

onto the boards and finish the last leg of day one windsurfing.

This proved to be the wrong decision, because very shortly the wind died, leaving us stranded off a headland, and having to 'pump' the sail to get us into the shore again. So as daylight ran out at 1830 hours, we decided to call it a day, having completed 58 km canoeing and 7 km windsurfing.

Accommodation for the night was in the form of campbeds on the UNHCR warehouse floor in Metkovic. Reveille on Saturday morning was at 0430 hours, and by 0630 hours we were back on the water again in our canoes.

At 0830 hours another temporary problem was encountered when the safety boat engine decided it had come far enough and exploded. Rather than lose four to five hours waiting for a spare engine to be brought out, we decided to canoe on without the safety boat, sticking closer to the coastline for safety purposes. Meanwhile the safety boat was recovered and the engine driven down to Split for replacement. A replacement engine was found, but not in time to be used that day.

As the day progressed it was hoped that the wind would pick up, but unfortunately this was not to be the case. Not a breath of wind all day, much to the distress of the canoeists, and to the anger of Sgt Dobbs Carter, who was still patiently monitoring our progress with three rigs prepared in the back of the four-tonne truck. As night approached fast, we decided to call it a day at 1630 hours, having completed 50 km in

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# News from the Poachers

## The Adriatic – a Royal Navy exchange

Pte Brown (B Company) writes:

I WAS lucky enough to be selected as part of an exchange trip between members of the Battalion and members of HMS Brave. I could not believe my luck as I had only been with the Battalion for a few weeks, and I had become the fortunate member of B Company selected to go to sea.

The exchange started with a six-hour trip to Split via Mostar – it was good to see more of Bosnia and Croatia on the way to Split. We had a day in Split, which is a different world from Central Bosnia – slipper city compared with Gornji Vakuf. I spent that day diving off the pier and swimming in the Adriatic Sea.

Sometime in the afternoon of July 4, we took off in a Royal Navy Lynx for the journey to the ship, which was an excellent trip. The pilot flew just above the sea and over the many small islands and fishing boats. We landed on the flight deck of HMS Brave, which can hold two Sea Skewer-equipped Lynx helicopters when on patrol.

We were met by the CPO who we



Pte Brown (B Company) on board HMS Brave in the Adriatic.

quickly named 'Blue Beard' – I suppose he would be the one who would have made us walk the plank if we were caught with the WRENs after 'eight bells' (there were WRENs on board).

The next day we met the Captain, who I had expected to be a salty sea dog with one leg and a parrot on his shoulder, but who was actually a nice bloke.

Tasks on board were varied, but swabbing the decks was not included. I was also given the job of powder mon-

key because one of the WRENs told me "to leave her face powder alone, you little monkey."

I thoroughly enjoyed my time on HMS Brave, and I will never forget the experience of the things I saw, including the dolphins alongside the ship and leaping from the water.

The crew were outstanding, and could not do enough for us. All I can say is that I am glad I was lucky enough to be selected to go.

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10 straight hours of canoeing.

Accommodation for the night was in a UN campsite between Metkovic and Split. Cooking was done centrally and by 2100 hours the three canoeists were in bed asleep, leaving the support teams to prepare for the final day's activities.

Another early start on Sunday at 0430 hours saw us back on the water in our canoes at 0630 hours. There was a hint of wind which indicated that the wind would pick up as the day grew older.

In fact, two hours later, as we crossed a large bay, the wind picked up dramatically, but unfortunately given the layout of the cliffs, it was impossible to get the windsurf boards down to the waters edge, so we decided to canoe on. As we approached a suitable launching spot for the surf boards,

the wind decided to play no longer and dropped suddenly from a force 5 to a force 1. Despite attempts by Sgt Dobbs Carter to persuade us it was only a gentle lull in the wind, we decided to carry on canoeing, knowing that time was short and that we could not afford to be stranded out to sea again with no wind. So, with another 30 km to go, we said goodbye to the land-based support team for the last time (and an upset Sgt Dobbs Carter) and proceeded to enter the mouth of Split harbour.

By this stage all of us were totally exhausted, and to make the last leg harder we were up against an outgoing tide which reduced our progress dramatically. Finally, at 1730 hours we landed at Divulge Hard (HQ Britfor, Split), having canoeed the last 65 km in 11 hours. Rather than a 'heroes' welcome, we were greeted by an irate Croat

security guard who said that we could not land there. To cut a long story short, he was diplomatically told that having just canoeed 180 km we had no intention of going any further. Needless to say, we did not canoe any further!

So, despite the numerous hiccups and the fact that there was no wind, the journey of 180 km was completed in 31 hours, of which 173 km were canoeed and 7 km windsurfed. As this is written, it is still hoped to reach the original target of raising DM5,000.

Finally, many thanks for the tremendous support from the land and sea-based support teams, and from the generous donations from the officers, soldiers and aid organisations who sponsored the trip. Without them, the exercise could not have been such a success.



# Steelbacks



## A summer of challenges

THE Steelbacks have had a fun and challenging summer during which members of the Battalion have taken part in a diverse range of military training, overseas exchanges and exercises, adventure training and the full range of Battalion social and sporting events.

### Training

THE early part of the summer saw the Battalion take part in Ex Viking Helmet which was CPX sponsored and run by 54 (East Anglia) Brigade. It was designed to train the Battalion in its military Home Defence role. It involved the majority of the Battalion's hierarchy, who spent the week-end battling against insurgents, respelling an invading force and dealing with serious disasters in support of the civil authorities.

A battalion study day in June saw the officers enjoying a good beasting across the Peak District, interspersed with a number of stands aimed at both testing and stimulating their grey matter.

The INCOs were entertained by WO2 K C Jones at the Fibua village. Stanta where he was able to teach them the basics of Fibua. These skills were put in practise in July when the Battalion took part in Fibua weekend at Longmoor.

Elements of 254 Field Ambulance and Cambridge ACF joined us on this exercise enabling us to practise Casevac procedures.

### Annual camp

THE major training event of the year was annual camp, which took place at Okehampton Training Camp during September. Although the majority of the Battalion attended, the Recce Platoon were concurrently on Exercise Turtle Reef, Ascension Island and the Assault Pioneer Platoon took part in a specialised course run by East Midland Specialist Training Team at Halton Camp, Lancashire. A full report on Ex Turtle Reef is seen elsewhere in the magazine.

The camp was a huge success. It was primarily a cadre camp and aimed at increasing the numbers of course-qualified personnel within the Battalion. The Brigade Specialist Training Team ran a series of



Capt Gibson firing an AT-4 Anti Tank missile while on exchange with the US Guard

courses for the Battalion including Range Management Course stages 1-3, Range Authorisation Courses stages 4-5 and POW Handling. Additionally the Battalion Signal Platoon ran TARU and standard II cadres.

Those not involved in courses took part in a live firing package which, when not stopped by bad weather, was very successful, allowing many of the Battalion to fire weapons systems such as 66mm LAW and

the 51mm mortar.

In the second week each member of the Battalion had two days adventure training. This consisted of a day's climbing and abseiling in Cheesering Quarry, which by all accounts managed to scare most people. This was followed by a day's watersports on a nearby reservoir during which all had a go at sailing, canoeing and windsurfing. The package was enjoyed by all, perhaps more

# News from the Steelbacks



Above: Maj N A Ffitch leading 3 (Cams) Company into the heat of battle at Longmoor camp. Right: Sgt McPoland has a 'tea stop' during the march and shoot competition at Okehampton camp. Below: handover of 3 (Cams) Company from Maj N A Ffitch (right) to Maj J M Davidson at annual camp



so due to the light-hearted approach of the civilian instructors

Our Band and Corps of Drums had a particularly busy camp period with many external engagements supporting the local Army Benevolent Fund appeals and Royal British Legions. They were very well received, gaining much support from the local public and coverage from the media

One of the highlights of the camp was a number of volunteers from the Battalion attempting the Royal Marines 30 miler

across Dartmoor, which has to be completed in under eight hours. Maj Ffitch led one of the two teams to success, just squeezing in within the time allowed. All those who took part demonstrated great strength and determination.

## Exchange

CAPT Guy Gibson the Battalion Ops Officer was lucky enough to spend two weeks on an exchange with the US National Guard. He was attached to a Helicopter

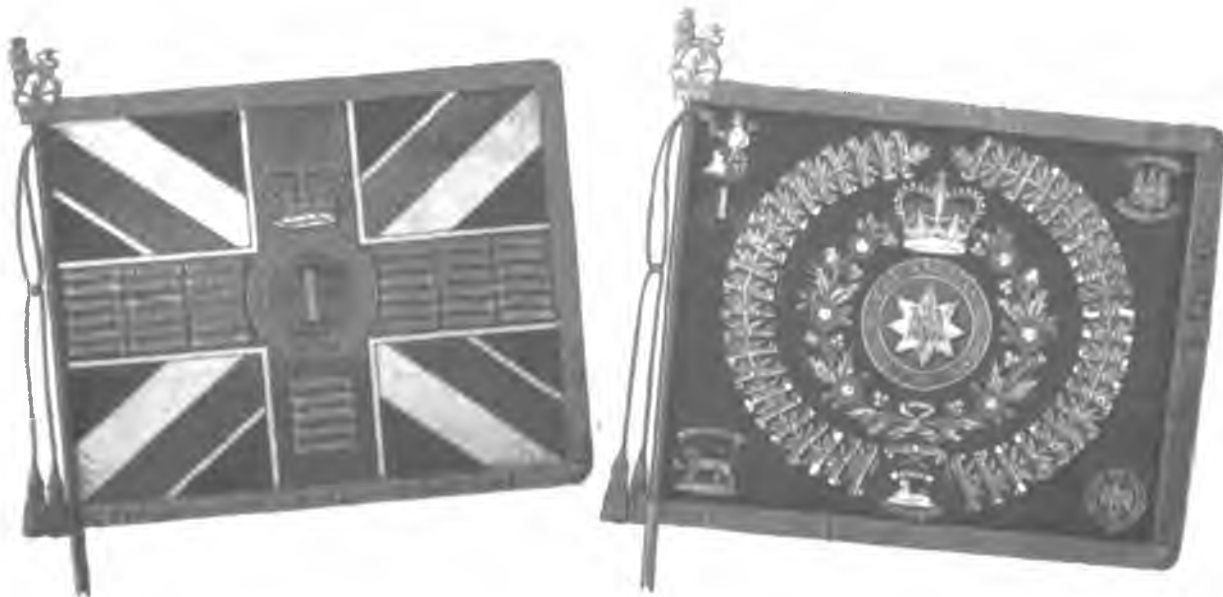
Light Infantry Unit the 1-112th Infantry. For the period of the attachment the Battalion carried out annual training.

This involved practising its war role (clear a mine and wire obstacle, break into an enemy trench system and clear it) and firing platoon weapons.

The reciprocal leg of the exchange coincided with our annual camp when we entertained Capt Richard Schuman who came from a US Army Reserve Unit where

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## Castle Focus



# Presentation of colours to be highlight of 1995

To: Capt RWH Colgan  
RHO The Royal Anglian Regiment  
The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks  
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3AN

Tel: 0284 752384  
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From: .....

Address (in block capitals) .....

.....Postcode: .....

1. I wish to attend the Colours Presentation Ceremony and there will be .....in my party.
2. I will be travelling by car (Registration No. .... make ...../coach / other.
3. I would like to buy .....tickets @ £10 for lunch for which I enclose a cheque of £.....  
(Cheques to be made payable to the Royal Anglian Regiment)
4. I enclose a stamped addressed envelope for the return of my tickets.

**PLEASE RETURN AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE BUT NOT LATER THAN MARCH 7 1995**

WE have asked our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, to officiate at the presentation of new Colours to the 1st and 2nd Battalions on Saturday April 29.

We hope very much to hold the parade at the Imperial War Museum in Duxford or failing that Hyderabad Barracks in Colchester.

The parade will start at 1130 and lunch will be available in marquees afterwards. Entrance at either venue will be free; packed lunches will be available at £10 each approximately (and they will be good ones!). Those who find this too expensive can bring picnics. Bars will be available. Please fill in your proforma **early**.

All members of the Regimental Association and their

# Appeal reaches £115,000

The Regimental Council will know shortly whether it has raised enough money for work to start on the Royal Anglian Regiment Museum

Lt Col Trevor Veitch writes: VERY shortly after the Castle reaches you we will know whether or not we have raised enough money for the Regimental Council to sign the agreement with the Imperial War Museum, to go ahead and start building. You will remember that £150,000 of the total £250,000 must have been collected before we can start. To date we have £115,000 and it is hoped that our initial target will be achieved early in the New Year.

As project officer for the Museum Appeal I can report mixed reaction to the appeal letters signed personally by the Colonel of the Regiment and sent to every man, regular and TA, and to all retired officers and senior ranks of the Regiment and the former Regiments.

Those who are retired have been most generous, including many who never served in the Royal Anglian Regiment. The Regular Battalions' junior ranks have also generously supported the appeal and provided loans to ensure sufficient cash to begin the project.

However, contributions by serv-

ing officers have not yet matched the contributions of others!! Everyone is reminded that a coveted monthly sum need not be more than the equivalent of a pint or two of beer per month over four years total, with tax advantages, a most useful sum to the appeal. Please, everyone, make this sacrifice to record for ever the history and achievements of our Regiment in a magnificent, central location.

The public appeal has also, and perhaps inevitably, had mixed success, with some splendid results in Cambridgeshire, Leicestershire, Bedfordshire and Essex, but a tougher time elsewhere. It has proved, without doubt, that we were right to task members of the Regiment first to make the initial contribution. Nevertheless, some impressive sponsors already include Greene King, Charles Wells, Manton and Fisons, the Alliance and Leicester Building Society, Normanton Knitwear, Everards and the Chetwode Samworth Trust.

What can you do to ensure the work done so far is not wasted, and we start building our museum in

January, for completion in summer 1995? Clearly if you have not contributed please do so without delay.

We also need more businesses to sponsor the project so if you know of anyone so employed go to him cap in hand or let me know and I will do so! Finally, you are all encouraged to get your friends and relatives to support us with personal contributions.

Use this opportunity to regenerate contacts with the public in our nine counties, where respect and admiration for the Regiment is quite evident from the reaction so far. Copies of the appeal brochure are available in Officers' Rooms of all battalions.

A few words on the collection of museum items. This has gone well; however more personal memorabilia is needed to make the exhibits we plan come to life. Items illustrating TA exercises and Regular Battalion operations such as in Northern Ireland and Bosnia are urgently needed.

Please contact me at the 5th Battalion for queries on the appeal and on the collection.

Above all, please all contribute to the level requested of your rank, so that our museum can not only start construction but when completed, it will be one of the best in the British Army.

families are welcome as are all members of former Regiment associations. For retired Association members – RHQ and Area Secretaries will give you further details as they unfold.

Consequent on the success of the Museum Appeal, we

expect to ask the Imperial War Museum at Duxford to start building the Regimental Museum in January '95 so that we can hold an opening ceremony in the late summer of that year. Watch this space!

Because of these events,

combined with 1995 being the 50th anniversary of VJ and VE days, there will be no Royal Anglian Regiment Association Gathering in 1995. Additionally there will be no Officers' Club Annual Cocktail Party usually held in May each year.

# News from the Steelbacks



Above WO2 Meadwell and son Cpl Meadwell, having been awarded 4th Clasp to TEM and TEM respectively by the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire. Below Sgt McPoland and Pte Conway set the pace in the Battalion march and shoot.

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he is the Company Commander of an Aviation Battalion.

Although the Battalion was unable to offer him any helicopters, he certainly got stuck in and particularly enjoyed the British style field firing. He was last seen up to his neck in a Dartmoor stream whilst taking part in a Pairs Fire and Marine Field Firing Exercise.

## Postings

Maj N A Ffitch handed over command of 3 (Cams) Company to Capt J M Davidson. Maj Ffitch has taken over OC RR&TT.

Capt D Fasham has transferred to RARO handing over 2IC 1 Company to Capt J Doule who transferred from ULOTC.

WO2 Smith has moved to CUOTC handing over CSM 1 Company to WO2 Hicks. WO2 Dilks has moved to be Weapon Training Warrant Officer, handing over CSM HQ Company to WO2 De'ath.

## Awards

THE following Battalion personnel have been awarded their Territorial Efficiency Medal (TEM): WO2 Bingham, WO2 McCartney, CSgt Griffiths, CSgt Slater, Sgt Monger, Sgt Hank and Cpl Meadwell.

WO2 Meadwell was presented with his Fourth Bar to his TEM, for 37 years' volunteer service, by the Lord Lieutenant Cambridgeshire, J G P Crowden, K St J JP. The occasion was particularly special as his son Cpl Meadwell was presented his TEM.



## News from the Steelbacks



Above: CSgt Wicks accepts a farewell gift from the outgoing CSM, WO2 Smith. Below: 1 Company windsurfing teams



## News from the Steelbacks



Above: Capt Seal and patrol from Recce P1, Ascension Island. Below: Cpl Hearn and Section on Ascension Island. Bottom: 1 Company's canoe team, Okehampton



## Flight to Ascension Island

*Capt Tim Seal, OC Recce, writes:-*

**FOLLOWING** the Recce Platoon win in the Brigade Military Skills Competition, the Battalion rewarded us with a two-week detachment to RAF Ascension Island.

We were assured that it was a cold, volcanic island covered only in black ash (this was possibly a deliberate attempt at misinformation put out by the inhabitants to put off the hordes of 'indulgents').

SPSI (WO2 Barker) and I completed our Recce in May and the whole two-week period was planned in outline. Before we knew it, all the warm-up training and inoculations were over and the time had come to head out on the advance party to Ascension and prepare for the arrival of 32 highly-motivated soldiers.

Temperatures in May had ranged from 80-100 deg F, but when we arrived in the middle of the Ascension winter in September the weather had deteriorated somewhat and we even had rain (albeit warm tropical rain) on a couple of days.

As the SPSI and I met the Tristar at Wideware Airhead, we were greeted by the sight of 32 'bone-head' haircuts (Pte Scrivener having gone mad at the TA Centre with his electric clippers).

Administration was quickly completed and the lads were taken to their accommodation – an annex area of Travellers Hill which was affectionately known as Soweto.

As they stood in their 'shanty-town' on an overcoat winter's day, faint rumblings of "We've been had" and "If we had lost the competition we would have had to come here for four weeks" could be heard among the more cynical members of the platoon.

Their feelings evaporated immediately as the sun rose on the first morning to reveal a bright, lush island basking in temperatures of 85-90 deg F.

As 40% of those attending had no previous Recce experience, the first four days were spent on specialist training to ensure a common standard existed for

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# News from the Steelbacks

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the exercise phase.

Despite the searing heat and humidity, every man completed training from basic OP work through sketch-mapping, CTR's and caches to seaborne landing operations.

Movement between the various BEs and lessons was on foot carrying full bergans to speed up the acclimatisation process.

The exercise began on the middle weekend following a series of Intreps which were so believable that numerous lads rang home to say they were being deployed to South America.

The whole platoon was evacuated early one morning to the 'Maersk Ascension' tanker vessel permanently moored a mile offshore. Here, taskforce training was carried out during the day whilst junior commanders received their orders.

Four Op parties were put ashore by jet boats, swimming ashore to locate their kit at pre-arranged cache sites. Their logging, reporting and CTR reports led us to a platoon-sized live attack on the enemy headquarters which was very realistically set up by the SPSI and S/Sgt Smith (Reme).

The attack successfully completed, the eight mile tab across difficult country began. As fully laden soldiers ran to keep up, we turned the first bend around the hills only to reveal the Bedford 1 had



The Reconnaissance Platoon on Travellers Hill, Ascension Island

organised to transport the by now weary troops.

The most difficult aspect of our stay at Ascension was coming to terms with the unusual constraints put upon us. These were typified by our exercise being cut short because 'Chris the armourer' was going on leave.

The last few days were taken up with sports day, post-ex admin and R&R. R&R time was split between fishing for

60lb tuna, visiting the free outdoor cinema at the US Main Base, and frequenting local clubs where it was rumoured that the beer was strong and cheap.

As we laid in the sun on the last day waiting for our flight to Brize Norton, a sudden feeling of sympathy washed over us as we thought of the remainder of the Battalion in non-stop rain at Okehampton - it soon passed!

## Anglers catch a good haul

WO2 Alan Dent writes:-

The Steelbacks held their second Battalion Coarse Anglian Championships at Coldhams Lane lake on Sunday July 3. It was a very warm, humid day, and a dozen hopefuls attended the draw for pegs at 0800 hrs

Plenty of roach and perch were caught by everyone (bream were conspicuous by their absence) and five hours later Pte Harry Worth from HQ Company hauled in 131 lbs to win a close competition from CSgt Eddie Kretay and Pte Alex Larham.

Pte Lynn Martin was first lady competitor, and HQ Company was the winning company.

An excellent day's fishing, even though quite a few 'got away'!





# 6th Battalion



## A hectic six months

THE second half of the year proved to be exceptionally full, the bulk of this year's field training being conducted over the last six months. July saw a change in emphasis with the Battalion concentrating on Fibua training. A and HQ Companies spent a weekend at the Fibua complex at Stanta, whilst B and C Companies were on a weekend at Longmoor.

The Battalion then conducted a FTX utilising the excellent facilities at Copehill Down, Salisbury Plain. Copehill Down is a large purpose-built training facility that enables all aspects of Fibua to be practised. Based on a central village it offers a large number of buildings varying from multi-story structures to 'bombed out' shells. In addition, a challenging urban assault course has been built consisting of climbs, aerial walkways and underground crawls. It was with anticipation that the Battalion left barracks on the Friday night.

The drive down was a logistic feat in itself with the Battalion moving complete with all its equipment and ammunition. The road move was a long one and it was not until 0200 hrs that the Battalion was on Salisbury Plain in its assembly area. Without pause the Rifle Companies went straight into battle procedure, A and B Companies moving to a line of departure for a dawn attack, whilst C Company moved into the village preparing its defence.

As dawn came the first attack of the weekend went in. The problems of fighting a three dimensional battle in unfamiliar surroundings soon became apparent. The attacking companies, however, quickly rallied and the attack was soon over. During the attack echelon had not been idle and a well earned breakfast was soon being enjoyed by everyone.

Despite the fact that most of the Battalion had been on the go all night there was no time to rest. The Fibua training team based at Copehill Down had a series of lessons to teach. These included the Urban Assault Course, casualty evacuation, defence of a house and the platoon attack. This proved to be a very informative morning with even the old hands learning a few new 'tricks of the trade'.

After the lessons, the Battalion was



WO2 Hammond explains the SF during the Suffolk Show.

quickly engrossed again with battle procedure. This time B Company was to defend the village whilst A and C Companies attacked. The lessons of the day had been assimilated and the break-in battle and the light through proved quick and effective.

The final phase of the weekend saw A Company taking its turn to defend the village. There was more time for battle procedure during this phase which allowed the Reconnaissance Platoon to establish covert observation posts to monitor A Company's preparations. Using this information the Machine Gun Platoon, under the cover of darkness, established a fire base. As dawn came on the Sunday, Salisbury Plain was awakened to the rattle of the SF machine guns. B and C Companies using the machine guns as cover, quickly managed to gain a foothold on the edge of the village. A Company, however, had also used the night

to good effect and had been able to devise a very effective defensive plan. Eventually the attacking companies inched forward using co-ordinated fire and movement. Suddenly it was all over and a tired but elated Battalion fell in for breakfast.

The work though was not over, with the village having to be cleaned before being handed back to the Fibua training team. Many hands, however, make light work and the job was soon done. Everyone then mounted up for the journey home. The weekend was exceptionally demanding by anyone's standard, but all commented on how good it was to see the Battalion operating as a consolidated whole in the field where it ought to be. Experience gained by the command structure at all levels proved invaluable later in the year on Dartmoor.

In addition to the Fibua training, A

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## News from the 6th Battalion



Above: OC B Company, Maj Simon Dixon and CSM Welton serve breakfast at the end of the Fibua weekend. Right: LCpl Lunn takes a well earned break during Fibua training. Below: CSgts Atkins and Eales concoct a plan during the Fibua weekend.



# News from the 6th Battalion



Top: Lts Roger Hoyle and Richard Jacobs debriefing their OC at Endex.

Above: RSM Duncan prepares to nibble WO2 Anderson's ear.

Below: The SF adding their weight to the firefight.



Company also found time to be attached to 5 R Anglian for Exercise Viking Helmet. This was Brigade run National Home Defence CPX, which proved to be a valuable learning vehicle for all concerned. Unfortunately it now looks like being the last Exercise Viking Helmet as 54 (EA) Brigade disbands next year. Also during this period the Ops Officer, Capt Matthew Ellis, ran an NBC instructors cadre and the Adjutant, Capt Adrian Gosling, conducted a young officers training weekend.

After the Fibua, the Battalion again switched emphasis starting the build up to camp. The theme this year was the advance and the attack. After summer block leave, the companies deployed on a number of field training weekends aimed at revising and practising individual skills and sub-unit procedures. Running parallel to this training the 2IC, Maj Tony McArdle, ran two Battalion CPXs. These certainly ironed out any cobwebs and ensured the smooth running of the Battalion net during camp.

The highlight of the last period was, however, camp. This year it took place at Okehampton, Dartmoor. An ambitious programme of events was devised. By hard work, careful planning and by virtue of some excellent weather, all the aims were achieved. If the trip to Copehill Down seemed long, the trip to Dartmoor seemed never-ending. Saturday was spent on the road. By tea, the Battalion had once again managed to pick itself up and move 'lock, stock and barrel' a distance of over 300 miles. The few stragglers were soon recovered, allowing training to start on Sunday.

For most of the Battalion, the first week of camp was spent on the ranges completing field firing, starting with the APWT, and finishing with live firing Company attacks. The first three days were controlled at Company level, allowing the basic drills to be mastered. The pairs fire and manoeuvre and section attacks not only tested the soldiers taking part but also the range staff planning the days firing. OC Training Platoon, Maj David Winn, had the unenviable task of heading up the Range Team for the platoon and Company attack ranges on Thursday and Friday. After a great deal of preparation and briefings, the final two days went very smoothly. A tribute to the professionalism of Maj Winn and his team.

However, the first week was not all field firing. On Monday the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess were invited to the Officers' Mess for drinks. A 'quiet' night was had by all with much lamp swinging evident. Also a number of cadres were run. The Assault Pioneers, under Lt John

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## News from the 6th Battalion



Above: The Brigade Comd, Brigadier A J K Calder OBE with the medal recipients after the Drumhead Service. Right: SSgt Smith and Cpl Moon rebuilding yet another vehicle at Dartmoor. Below: The CO, Lt Col Charles Thomas, after the final attack on Dartmoor.



# News from the 6th Battalion

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Hadaway and CSgt Eaton (both Ex RE), deployed to Wyke Regis where they practised all their skills including bridge making. This proved very effective in the second week. In addition to the traditional assault pioneer skills, they also practised watermanship using different craft. These varied from rafts to rigid raiders.

The Signals Platoon, under Capt Chris St John and PSI Sgt Shand, ran a Standard II cadre which certainly tested everyone concerned. This essential skill was mastered by most and practised extensively during the FTX in week two. CSgt Conopo ran a Sniper Cadre during both weeks of camp, maintaining the art in the companies. Finally the specialist platoons of Recce and MGs used this first week to practise and revise their skills ready for the FTX.

Friday Sept 30 was the designated visitors' day. We were very happy to welcome Brig Tony Calder (Commander 54 (EA Brigade), Lt Col Ian Cartwright (Dept Sec TAVRA East Anglia), Col Pat Boddie (Chairman Essex TAVRA), Maj Carol Gurney (Chairman Suffolk TAVRA) and Col Bev Smallye (TA Col EDIST). The Adjutant had laid on a number of activities and, contrary to a few side wagers, the plan actually worked. They all came to dinner in the evening. Also attending the dinner was Maj Desmond Williamson from IMRO(S). Sadly Lt Gen Walker CBE could not join us, the 30th being the last day in office as ACGS. Next year Sir, please.

Friday night and Saturday was a stand-down, allowing the Battalion to gather its breath and prepare itself for the forthcoming test exercise. First though on Friday night both the Officers' and Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess held respective dinner nights. Judging by the heads in the morning a good night was had by all. For the officers, the TM, Maj Dick Gould, had not done too much damage following his organisation of Mess games. Little is known of how the warrant officers and sergeants fared!

After a day exploring the local towns the Battalion returned to routine on Sunday. The first event of the day was a drumhead service, complete for once with colours and drums conducted outdoors with the splendid backdrop of the moors. Our thanks to Lt Col Graham Duthoit for the Essex Drums. After the service the battle procedure started for the exercise with the Commanding Officer giving orders to this 'O' Group.

The exercise began with the companies, led by the Recce Platoon, deploying to areas of responsibility in the south of Dartmoor. The weather for deployment was dreadful and the first night certainly tested the



CSgt Conopo corrects Cpl Seely's Vidal Sassoon masterpiece.

resolve and personal and collective administrative skills of all members of the Battalion. Map reading had to be accurate in driving rain, mist and all too soon darkness.

The short legs to the first night RVs took longer than expected and most had a less than dry night after the erection of bashes in those difficult conditions. Echelon also deployed into the field having been augmented by a number of pack ponies. These ponies were essential if resupply was to take place in the centre of the moor as there are no tracks or access to wheeled vehicles. In the event the ponies were also to prove invaluable for the RMO, as they were to assist in the evacuation of a casualty.

On Monday morning the Battalion began its clearance operation moving up the moor, from south to north. Luckily the weather changed for the better and the following dry, though colder spell held until endex. The enemy (a platoon from 1 R Anglian) proved a persistent foe having to be winkled out from every nook and cranny on the way. The Assault Pioneers assisted B Company's progress building a rope bridge. Tuesday morning had frost. After a series of Company attacks, Sitreps from 'Brigade' indicated an en-build up in the north, which required a Battalion operation and a move to assembly area.

By Wednesday morning, following

another hard frost, the Battalion was on its line of departure preparing for a dawn attack on Row Tor and West Mill Tor, two large hill features that dominated the north of the moor. The Assault Pioneer Platoon had been busy all night and a large 'artillery bombardment' was simulated by Batsims at H Hour. After a demanding Battalion attack the moor was secure — at last.

The exercise was not over, however. The enemy had fled but only as far as Bodmin Moor where they were holding the airfield preparing to exfiltrate to another country. After an O Group conducted by the 2IC, the Battalion deployed to Bodmin Moor. C Company gained a foothold allowing B Company to pass through and secure an assembly area for subsequent operations. After a night of battle procedure, and yet another hard frost on Thursday, the Battalion launched the final dawn attack onto the airfield. The enemy had occupied an ammunition bunker complex on the southern edge of the airfield. This proved to be a difficult but fitting finale to the exercise. After a night in camp, the Battalion recovered back to barracks on Friday. Everyone concerned had been tested in some way over the previous two weeks and could reflect on a job well done.

Do not be misled into thinking that life

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# News from the 6th Battalion



Top left: Pte Morris of the Signals Platoon rebuilding the Battalion radios. Above: LCpl Greenwood instructing during the Signals Standard II Cadre. Left: Ptes Berry and Duffy of B Company, move round to the line of departure during the live firing platoon attacks at Dartmoor. Below: Capt (QM) Glynn French stops for a cup of tea



# News from the 6th Battalion



B Company on the Merryvale section attack range at Dartmoor.

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with 6 R Anglian is all work – only nearly all work. All companies have participated in their county shows. These do not necessarily produce vast numbers of recruits. However, they serve as a showcase for both the Regiment as a whole, and the territorial component of the Field Army in particular. This is an important aspect of our work at these shows, especially when our friends in the 1st Battalion and RIT are unavailable.

The Officers' Mess summer ball took place at Chilford Hall again. This was a joint 5 and 6 R Anglian thrash, to which 145 officers, their ladies (or gentlemen) and guests strutted their stuff.

A Company held a very successful families employers' day at Norwich in September. The officers also took two boats onto the Norfolk Broads.

B Company Officers' and Sergeants' Messes took an excursion on the 1937 from Earls Colne Railway Station for a joint dinner. Unlike Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*, and contrary to expectation, the lights did not go off to reveal a body!

C Company has had its share of social events. It held a Company summer ball at Chelmsford which 80 people attended. In October, it hosted a reunion for those who belonged to the Chelmsford Company circa 1975.

HQ Company held its first Officers' and Sergeants' Mess dinner for some while, also in October. This too was successful, and is the foundation for others to follow. RQMS (NRPS) again organised the annual Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess past and present. This year the event took place at Bury St Edmunds, Bassingbourn, now as an ATR, is quickly losing its Regimental connections, though still (currently) housing HQ The Queens Division. Where can we go?

The Battalion has not been allowed to rest on its laurels. As these notes are being

written it is preparing for two further challenges; Exercise Viking Quarry, a Brigade Test Exercise in November, and a weekend at BBGT(N) in December. With the foundation already laid earlier in the year, both these events are being approached with a quiet confidence. In addition, we look forward to our participation in Remembrance Day parades in our key towns and cities. The Battalion this year will certainly have earned its Christmas break.

## Mainly about people

AFTER a turbulent first six months on the manning front, the Battalion seems to have calmed down a little. Some changes have taken place but nowhere near those experienced earlier in the year.

In August we said farewell to WO2 Cater as the SPSI HQ Company. We wish him well for his next appointment and welcome in his place WO2 Thomas. In July OCdt Kate Stead passed the RMA's Commissioning Course and we welcome her to Battalion Headquarters in the post of Assistant Adjutant. We also welcome to the Battalion Sgt De Bretton-Gordon in the post of MG PI PSI, at C Company, Chelmsford.

There has also been some movement within the Battalion with 2 Lt Jo Richards moving to the post of IO. Lt David Ashley has also moved from 2IC A Company to 2IC B Company. Finally CSM Welton assumed the appointment of CSM B Company on promotion. This has enabled WO2 Roberts to move from CSM B Company to 2IC Recce Platoon.

On the first Friday of camp Brig Calder, Comd 54 (EA) Brigade, presented a number of medals to members of the Battalion. The recipients were: Territorial Efficiency Decoration; Maj Simon Dixon, Maj Chris Vince, Capt Glynn French. Territorial Efficiency Medal; CSgt Cullen, CSgt Smith, Cpl Moon, Cpl Plume, Cpl Street.

## Nijmegen marchers achieve ambitions

Sgt M A Hansen writes:-

ON a bright Saturday evening on July 16, a 12-man team from A Company 6 Royal Anglian left the TAC and set off for Nijmegen in Holland for the 78th International Nijmegen marches. We travelled by coach to Heumensoord Battle Camp which is located on the outskirts of Nijmegen and this was to be our home for the next seven days. Having checked in we were then shown our accommodation and proceeded to unpack our kit in readiness for the long walk ahead.

The marches, which are open to both civilian and military personnel from all over the world, take place over a period of four days, each day consisting of a different route of 25 miles, starting and finishing at Heumensoord camp for the military whilst the civilians start and finish in Nijmegen itself. Each day the two groups meet up en route, the difference being the civilians do not have to carry any weight (minimum 22 lbs, but by the time you've included extra water, first aid kit and food etc., it totals about 35 lbs) and there are random weight checks carried out. Each route has three rest/check points where refreshments and medical aid etc. are available.

### Monday July 18

Monday was used to relax. The majority of the team went on a day trip to Amsterdam returning for evening meal whilst Pte Jason Brown and I stayed behind, Pte Brown because he was the team representative for the opening ceremony at the Goffert Stadium in front of a capacity crowd of 50,000, while I had various briefings to attend. In the evening the team carried out final kit checks.

### Tuesday July 19

At 0330 hrs we lined up in eagerness to get started. As each team sets off they are played out of the camp gates by a band and a VIP takes the salute. With a total of 6,000 people waiting to go and a 15 second interval between each team, you can imagine the atmosphere. This procedure happened every day

# News from the 6th Battalion



Sgt Hansen and the successful Nijmegen march team during the event

Day one went well, we worked as a team singing songs, chatting to the locals, other marchers, signing autographs and giving away team stickers which we had specially printed as souvenirs (this is a customary thing to do). By midday the temperature had reached the high 70's with little wind and high humidity. After passing through various towns and villages we returned to Heumensoord where the finishing point each day was the beer tent where we 'cooled' down before clean up and having some well earned rest.

## Wednesday July 20

We anticipated that the third day would be the worst but we were wrong, it was day two. Cpl Henderson broke one of his toes and LCpl Buck pulled an Achilles tendon. The temperature hit the high 80's, but like true Anglians we soldiered on stopping en route in picturesque towns and villages like Balgoy and Wlichen for food and water. Each town was alive with bands and discos playing aloud and masses of people cheering us on. It was amazing to think that some people had been waiting since 0430 hrs with deck chairs and flasks of coffee just to get a glimpse of us.

## Thursday July 21

On day three we were a little stiff to say the least, but after a few miles we settled in to give the Dutch tarmac and cobblestone roads another pounding. The temperature once again hit the high 80's and it soon became apparent that any injuries we had sustained earlier on were progressively getting worse but, on the plus side we did not incur any more. All we had to contend with

was sore feet, blisters, stiff legs and soaking wet bodies.

Most people think Holland is flat! Don't believe it. On the third leg of the day's march between Breedweg and Wedren was a stretch known as the Seven Hills, spread over a distance of six miles, and after tabbing 15 miles with a Bergen in that heat the hills seemed like mountains. The only consolation was the sweets and fresh fruit given to us by the locals and water from hose pipes which they used to help cool us down.

## Friday July 22

This was it, the last day. We had got this far and we were not going to be beaten at this stage! We set off at 0455 hrs at a steady pace. All of us tired and aching from the past three days. Ahead of us lay the final 25 miles. The forecast was hot and they were not joking. The temperature topped 92 degrees, which really made it hard going and to add to our problems, part of the route crossed the river Maas using a bailey bridge which had to be crossed by a certain time, after which it would be dismantled in order for the river traffic to continue. This meant that if a team did not cross in time it would result in failing to complete the march.

We were making good time so I decided to include an additional stop at Nedrasselt. The team had earned it. After 85 miles a sampling of the local food and ale would not go amiss, at the same time cheering other teams as they passed through the town. Then we set off on the last leg. The final six miles seemed to go on forever, the road was as wide as a dual carriageway and never seemed to bend. The atmosphere was

electric and the crowd helped to pull you along with women and children giving you flowers and souvenirs. When you finally cross the finish line in Nijmegen itself you have a feeling of great relief but most of all a sense of achievement, we had done it.

I checked in for the final time and collected the team and individual medals. Afterwards there was a big march past through the centre of Nijmegen with tens of thousands of people cheering.

It should be remembered that the Nijmegen March is not a competition, there is no prize for coming first! It's an endurance test that's spread over four days but it is meant to be enjoyed. The crowds and the atmosphere make the event which once you have completed will leave you with memories that will stay with you for many years to come.

So if you fancy a relaxed sight seeing tour of the Netherlands then I suggest that you go for it and enter a team for the Nijmegen Marches, but be warned, you must train for it. To attempt such a march without prior training would be extremely foolish and potential team leaders should take note that there is an awful lot of admin to do both before and during the march, starting in November when you apply for your initial entry form. But it's worth it!

To conclude: we were the only Royal Anglian team entered for the march, we achieved our aim which was three fold: 1. We started and finished the march as a team; 2. We proved people wrong because they doubted our ability; 3. At the same time we also raised some money for Musical Keys, a local charity for children with special needs.



# Tigers



## Enthusiasm despite uncertainty

THE uncertainty about the future has done little to diminish the enthusiasm of the Leicestershire Tigers. The highlight of the period was without doubt annual camp, which this year took place in Cornwall over the period Sept 3-18. Split between Penhale Camp near Newquay and Tregantle Fort near Plymouth, it was run as a series of cadres. Every TA soldier was given the opportunity to improve his professional knowledge and skills. With everyone having an opportunity to take part in some form of adventure training it was a very successful and enjoyable camp with the aim being totally achieved. The Battalion continues to attract recruits, morale remains high and the Battalion is in excellent shape to face the future with confidence.

The Spring saw the reformation of the SF Platoon at Ulverscroft Road. Short sleeve order was declared in May just in time for a change in the weather to winter conditions. Not to be deterred by the inclement conditions training continued apace with the companies visiting both Senta and Stanta during the month. The officers held their by now customary cocktail party on May 14, playing host to many of our local employers and guests from the worlds of both business and politics. The Lord Lieutenant of Leicester presented the Tavra National Employers' Liaison Certificate and the event was a great success.

On May 20, A Company had the honour of looking after First World War veteran Mr Fred Ingle MM who returned to Sobraon Barracks for the first time in 72 years. Fred who is in his 99th year, enlisted at Sobraon Barracks in 1914 when he, with many of his friends, joined the 2nd Battalion The Lincolnshire Regiment. Fred spoke about his experiences during his two years in the trenches and proudly showed off his gold pocket watch, presented to him by the people of his village on his award of the Military Medal. Many ex-servicemen from the Lincolnshire Regiment Old Comrades Association, all aged between 92 and 94, also made the journey for a demonstration of the arms and equipment used by the Army today. After a conducted tour of the barracks by the PSAO, Capt Charles Pratt, it was time to open the bar, pull up a sandbag, and catch up with 70 years of gossip.



Sgt Ian Sackree (B Company) takes aim with a 66mm light anti-tank weapon.

June was an active month in terms of both training and administration. The Battalion conducted a very enjoyable and demanding live firing exercise in Wales. A Company provided the necessary admin and DS support to 49 Brigade for Exercise Executive Stretch while B Company under

took an excellent adventure training package in Cumbria. On June 15, Capt Charles Pratt (PSAO A Company) hosted the first of the PSAO's working lunches at Sobraon Barracks in Lincoln. This was indeed a prestigious occasion with those fortunate

*Continued Page 60*

## News from the Tigers



Above: The Padre conducts the community singing at Penhale Camp. The Franciscan Friar nearest the camera is in fact Capt Mike Cunningham (PSAO HQ Company). Right: Cpl Lovett (foreground) and Cpl Galletly of C Company taking flak from a recalcitrant POW. Below: Pte Fraser Findlay (A Company) coming to terms with a strange sinking, dizzy, wobbly feeling.



# News from the Tigers



Pte Weafer (HQ Company) admiring the shooting skills of WPte Tooley.

## *From Page 58*

enough to be on the PSAOs guest list looking forward to the next one. In a break with tradition, the Officers' Mess held its summer ball at Ulverscroft Road on June 25. With the TAC transformed, this was a sparkling event and voted a great success.

On July 2, Maj Frank de Planta organised and conducted a party of 14 on a seven-day Battlefield Tour of the Somme. Congratulations were in order to Cpls Hale, Lightfoot and Marriot who made up our entry for the Edist road safety competition, finishing fifth out of 36 teams. The annual vehicle pre-inspection was an outstanding success, the percentage score of 98.9% reflecting the enormous amount of effort and hard work put in by SSgt Goodrich and his team.

The month of August was quiet with the Battalion PS stood down for block leave and the main efforts being directed towards annual camp administration and the planning and preparation of the various cadres.

September was dominated by annual camp which took place at Penhale Camp near Newquay and Tregantle Fort near Plymouth. Designed as a cadre camp, every TA soldier was given the opportunity to learn a new skill or upgrade his existing

military skills and qualifications. During the two weeks, all ranks completed the annual BFT and APWT to qualify for their TA Bounty. The full programme of adventure training activities, ranging from abseiling and canoeing to sailing and clay pigeon shooting, was well attended.

October got off to a great start with Capt Steven Tucker and his team marching to a bronze medal in the Cambrian Patrol competition. Special mention must go to WO2 (CSM) Wilcox who, as team coach, provided the enthusiasm and motivation to enable the team to achieve a very commendable result. The month continued with the Battalion playing host to the East Midlands Tavra officer recruiting campaign, with three open nights taking place at Lincoln, Northampton and Leicester. With local TA units providing their various recruiting displays and equipment stands, the evenings are an ideal setting for individuals to come along and see the TA in an informal setting.

The Officers' Mess ladies guest night at Loughborough on Oct 15 proved the ideal opportunity for the officers and their wives to formally dine out Lt Col Murray and Karen Colville. The Tigers provided the Colour party for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of

Wuustwezel in Belgium. The town was liberated on Oct 20 1944 by 49 (West Riding) Infantry Division. The Colour party, commanded by Capt G G Smith, included ensigns Lt Mike Pape and Lt David Howe, together with CSgt Eddie Ford, CSgt Tony Briggs and Sgt Step Nyszczoła. After the parade the British contingent was treated to some good old fashioned Belgium hospitality with many new friendships forged.

On Oct 24, the Battalion Audit Board convened at Loughborough and after two days of intensive probing, checking and number crunching, the various boards managed to put the accounts to bed for yet another accounting period. There followed the customary PSAOs dinner where the Battalion PSAOs and their carefully selected guests gather to congratulate each other on another job well done.

## **Personnel changes**

WE extend a warm welcome and offer our heartiest congratulations to Lt Col Jeremy Prescott (ex-Vikings) on his appointment as Commanding Officer of the Tigers. In these uncertain times for the TA we hope that his tour in command is a long and happy one. Maj Richard Cole handed over command of HQ Company and moved upstairs to fill the

# News from the Tigers



vacant post of Battalion 2IC. HQ Company is now in the capable hands of Maj Robert Beech who joined us on transfer from 4 Para. As another addition to HQ Company, we welcome Capt Steven Tucker, an ex-regular officer from PWRR, who takes up the post of Recce Platoon Commander. As the new Regular Quartermaster we welcome back Maj Gordon Halewood who joins us from the 1st Battalion. Maj Halewood is no stranger to the Tigers having been the Regimental Sergeant Major way back in 1987. To the hot seat in Battalion Headquarters, we welcome Capt Robert Blades who joins us from the 1st Battalion. With a new Adjutant, a new Quartermaster, a new 2IC and now a new CO, the Tigers are definitely 'under new management.'

## Farewell

ON completion of his tour as Commanding Officer, and having been dined out by just about every sub unit, mess and department in the Battalion, Lt Col Murray Colville finally relinquished command of the Leicestershire Tigers on Oct 28, and was towed out of Ulverscroft Road TAC mounted on a CQMS wheelbarrow. All ranks of the Tigers wish both Karen and the Colonel good health and good fortune for the future. Wearing his other hat as County Field

Officer for the Royal British Legion, and as a paid up life member of the Ulverscroft Road five-a-side football club, we hope to be seeing just as much of Colonel Murray in the future. A fond farewell to Maj Bill Burford MBE who left us to take up the appointment as Senior Quartermaster in Katmandu. After only six months as Adjutant we said farewell to Capt Howard Newson, who deciding to throw in his lot with the Prince of Wales Division, left to take up a new appointment as Adjutant with 3 PWO in York.

On Sept 27 1994 we bade farewell to Sgt Nobby Clarke who retired after some 26 years TA service. It was fitting that on his final drill night, the Commanding Officer presented him with a second clasp to his TEM

## Promotions and appointments

Congratulations are in order to the following: 2Lts Alex Wong and Stavros Melides on confirmation of their commissions, and OCdr Paul Burrows on passing the RMAS course and his promotion to 2nd Lieutenant; Capt Frank de Planta on his promotion to Major; WO2 (CSM) Wilcox (C Company) on receiving his award of a Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for meritorious TA service.



Left: After playing cat and mouse at a training weekend at Stanta.

Above: Benign mood at Endex.

WO2 (CSM) Peter Wilcox of C Company. Below: At 'O' Gp - LCpl Andrew Collier of C Company.



## News from the Tigers

# Bronze award for Cambrian team

**Capt Steve Tucker (Recce Platoon Comd) writes:**

FOR some reason the 7th Battalion had not had a very successful track record when it came to the Cambrian Patrol Competition. This year, however, C Company (Northampton) put forward a team that proved, with simple training, the competition is well within reach of all TA soldiers.

WO2 CSM Pete Wilcox was responsible for most of the training programme. We started training only four weeks before the competition date and spent the weekends and Thursday evenings practising the basic skills necessary for the demanding course.

The first weekend was spent in the Brecon Beacons and proved a shock to some of the prospective team members. Not only was the terrain difficult but it rained continuously and visibility was often down to a few metres. Fortunately, map reading proved no major problem and although certain team members looked a little pale (team joke), we all completed the course designed by the CSM and gained confidence.

On the following weekends and Thursday nights we practised a range of skills, starting with an abseil off the Drill Hall roof with Sgt Moore. Next was first aid, recce techniques with the ever-professional CSgt and numerous river crossings!

A weekend at Yardley Chase practising Close Target Recce skills proved interesting when we discovered that the CSM had arranged a real and aggressive enemy under command of Sgt Bevin that chased us

around the area all night. The following morning we had yet another river crossing (by this time, it's rumoured, the CSM already knew we did not have to do one in the competition!).

Preparations were drawing to a close and LCpl Paul Bedwell, as 2IC, began allocating the compulsory equipment to the newly finalised team. Charlie Fire Team had as lead scout Pte Nuttycombe, as radio op Pte Steve Crutchfield, as LSW gunner Pte O'Toole and myself as Commander. Delta Fire Team consisted of LCpl Paul Bedwell as 2IC, link scout was Pte Thompson, with Pte Gidney (then Pte Watters) as LSW bringing up the rear. The reserves and team drivers were Mr Potter and Cpl O'Toole.

When we all met at Clare Street Drill Hall on the Thursday night before setting off to Wales, nerves were on edge (the CSM apparently had not slept properly in days!). We set off, arriving at Sennybridge Camp late and thanks to the RSM we had a single room each, instead of being packed into a billet. We all had a good night's sleep and were ready at the beginning of the next day to start the competition.

By the time we started, each member of the team was confident with their personal drills, so when the orders were completed, the 'defence shoot' went well and we moved on to the main phase of the competition. We tabbed to the Elan Valley and arrived at the close target recce site on the Saturday morning. The CTR complete (a blow up BTR 60), we moved on to an observation post over-

looking the enemy (3 Para) on a dam. At this point we were compromised (the lesson should have been learnt at Yardley Chase!), though not until we had gained the basic information required.

This completed we moved off to the HLS, the top of a hill in the worst weather I have experienced in a long time (Falklands Islands included). Our pick up time of midnight was obviously a non-starter, but we stayed at the HLS until instructed to move on to an ERV where a four-tonner picked us up (pretending to be taking us back to camp) and surprise, surprise the driver told us the vehicle had broken down and we would have to cross a minefield!

Here at last was the minefield crossing and first aid stand. However, at 3 am in the morning the drills were much harder to carry out than expected, but unit first aiders Ptes Thompson and Watters completed the stand with little problem.

At last the patrol phase was over. LCpl Paul Bedwell and myself both wrote an Op Report and CTR Report, then gave a verbal report to an Intelligence Corps Officer and Infantry Major. Having completed that, the team had a stressful few hours before the awards. Well, we did not do so badly (the CO seemed delighted). We received a Bronze Award and even the CSM seemed pleased.

Finally, I would just like to say thank you to the members of the C Company team. They all worked hard and proved to the other Companies that the Cambrian Patrol is a worthwhile competition.

**CSgt Ernie Ford writes:**

IT is quite remarkable how a group of young men come in from the street and within a period of five months part-time soldiering can become machine gunners in their own right. In April '94, with the decision to reform an SF Platoon, I found myself with the task of having to provide fire support for the Battalion.

Together with Sgt Step Nyszczoła, the Platoon Sergeant, it did not take us long to realise there was no way we could fire all 9 MGs on our own. We knew we were good, but not that good! It was not long before we received the first of our new recruits. As many had still to complete their Combat Infantryman Course we were faced with a challenge. How to turn a group of untrained civilians into effective machine gunners in as short a time as possible. With so very few training days available I decid-

## Death from a distance

ed to concentrate on training them all in the light role, coupled with a few basic live firing practices which went surprisingly well. Annual camp would be the ideal opportunity to get the platoon together for some concentrated training. With recces completed and field firing ranges booked and inspected, the training programme began to take shape. With the assistance of Cpls Smith, Day and Walker from A Company and Cpl Smally from HQ Company, the SF Cadre got under way.

Two days were spent live firing in the light role, the guns were balanced and purring like kittens. The boys were taught

how to single and double tap, producing some truly amazing group sizes. With confidence beginning to grow at long last, the Platoon began to shape up.

Field firing days gave everyone the opportunity to practise what they had been taught and it was not long before the boys were really into the SF role. For the duration of the course all the teams had been competing against each other for the Gun Team Trophy.

The climax of the course was to be a Match 83 shoot which turned out to be a very close run competition. The four gun teams produced some excellent scores but Ptes Bodycot and Hilder came out on top to snatch the trophy from Ptes Bettamy and Beves. The Commanding Officer presented the trophy to the winning team and formally accepted into service the 7 Royal Anglian Long Range Snipers.

# News from the Tigers



Maj Frank de Planta (far left) with some of the Battlefield Tour party, take in the attractions of Paris.

## The poppies grow – between the crosses row on row

**Major Frank de Planta writes:**

ON July 1, 1916, the rump of Kitchener's new Army, together with battalions of Regulars and Territorials, climbed out of their trenches and moved off towards the German lines. Men from eighteen Infantry Divisions marched into a murderous weight of German fire and, by evening, 19,240 had been killed or died of wounds, 35,493 had been wounded, 2,152 were missing and 585 had been taken prisoner – one casualty for every eighteen inches of front. Practically all were infantrymen and most occurred in No Man's Land before the German trenches had been reached.

The first day of the Battle of the Somme, which would continue until Nov 18 and cost 418,000 casualties was, and remains, the greatest loss ever suffered by the British Army in a single day of its history. Now 78 years later, 14 officers and men of the 7th Battalion spent six days on the Somme battlefield tracing the steps of all fifty one Brigades that had advanced so full of confidence on that fateful morning. Starting from the overt diversionary attack

in the north at Gommecourt, to the breathtaking success of the two Divisions in the south at Montauban, the party walked the ground studying the attack plans and rapidly grasped, at first hand, the full horror of the task.

The brilliance of the German defence plan, based around nine village fortresses and 11 redoubts, the disastrous choice of ground over which the troops would advance, the sheer inadequacy of the British Army's artillery and the wild over-confidence of the General Staff, all contributed to the slaughter.

In two Battalion minibuses, the party also visited the multitude of beautifully maintained cemeteries that are scattered across the 15 mile front. The sheer scale of the loss is still evident after more than three-quarters of a century. From the huge memorial to the missing at Thiepval, to the untouched ground over which the 1st Battalion Newfoundland Regiment sustained 684 casualties, the Somme cannot but impact on all who visit.

The Battalion was fortunate to have

been offered the 36 Ulster Division's farmhouse at Bucquoy. The complex was basic but spotlessly clean and fully equipped to cater for large groups. With the battlefields within 10 minutes of the house, it proved an ideal location for the tour.

It would have been foolish not to have taken advantage of our superb location and so, apart from the battlefields, the party took the opportunity to visit the Musée de la Grande Guerre at Péronne, the Menin Gate for the Last Post at Ypres and tour the sights in Paris. Capt Patrick Prothin, an old friend of the author and a language instructor at the École Militaire, hosted the group throughout the day and laid on supper in his Paris flat.

The opportunities to practise the complexities of war become scarcer and daily more expensive. The tour offered a wonderful, and comparatively inexpensive, insight into the planning and execution of a battle over ground that has changed little since 1916. The sheer scale of the failure provides students with ample evidence of how not to conduct war.

The event would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of Majors Simon Bacon and Billy Burford. Capt Terry Hope and WO2 Culshaw. The work that they carried out on behalf of the tour was very much appreciated. Our special thanks go to the Commanding Officer for appreciating that the tour would be much more than a swan.

# RIT and Cadets



Pre-CFT picture.  
Standing: LCpl  
Hewitt, Hayes,  
Tamlinson,  
Copsey, Bloss,  
Sweet.  
Front: Sgt Fisher,  
Capt Wilcox, Sgt  
Almond, WO2  
Minns.  
Absent: Sgt  
Toates, LCpls  
Williams and Ellis.

## 54 teams contest Salamanca shield

THE last six months have once again been extremely busy for the Regimental Information Teams (RITs), with the following activities being completed: Army Exhibition for Schools; Look at Lives; ACF annual camps; shows, fetes, galas and annual competition.

June saw all teams and Royal Anglian recruiters involved in the Salamanca shield competition at Bassingbourn with over 54 cadet detachments taking part.

This year's winning team came from

Essex ACF. Brig Calder once again presented the prizes.

Once again the Hertfordshire Young People's superteams competition was a great success at Bassingbourn on June 12.

July saw all teams involved in the Army Exhibition for Schools (AES) at Bassingbourn between July 5-7. This year Capt Wilcox organised the combat Army stand where over 3,000 pupils took part in the activities.

August saw 1 Team move to

Crowborough to assist Suffolk ACF on their annual camp – a good time was had by all members of the team.

Look at Life visits have now become a monthly event. These give young people an insight to Army life over a three-day period.

We said farewell to Sgt Barnes (Viking) who, after 22 years, has decided to call it a day. We welcome Sgt Davis and Pte Moore, Vikings. Thanks go to Sgt Toates (Viking) for filling the gap left by Sgt Barnes.

STAMFORD School CCF has had another successful year, now comprising 15 officers, 1 SSI and 345 cadets. At the Army summer camp at Leek they were winners of the Commandant's Trophy; the RAF section had its summer camp at RAF Cranwell and the contingent enjoyed an adventurous training camp in Cumbria.

Field days, as usual, were held with the Army section at Proteus Camp, the RAF section night exercises at

## Stamford enjoys successful year

Greatford, the recruits spending a week-end camp at Proteus with 13 CTT with visits to Duxford and RAF Cottesmore, Coningsby, Witton and Wittering.

The CCF entered a team in the Beckingham rifle competition, the district orienteering competition which it

won, and a team entered in the cadet competition run by 13 CTT and finished joint winners.

Overall this has been an excellent year for the school CCF and one of unprecedented success in the various competitions entered. Training at all levels seems to have been very efficient and interest shown is very encouraging. We owe a great deal to outside help from 13 CTT, but also to the SSI (Stan Harrison) and the officers for their tireless efforts.

## Cadets

# Adventure training in Iceland

**Officer Cadet Philip Birch writes:**

**EXERCISE** Icelandic Cadet was an adventurous training expedition mounted in August 1994 by officer cadets as part of the commissioning course at RMA Sandhurst. The aim was to give a small group the opportunity to trek in a remote part of Iceland and at the same time gain experience in planning expeditions.

The Royal Anglian Regiment was represented by two participants, expedition leader OCdt P M Birch who will be passing out in December 1994, and 2Lt G Bullard from 5 Royal Anglian who was able to come along as the fifth member of the group.

We flew into Keflavik international airport on Aug 8 and made our way by bus via Reykjavik to Landmannalaugar which is a campsite on the edge of the Fjallabak nature reserve. From here we walked in a loop returning to Landmannalaugar on the sixth day. The terrain was even more varied than the weather and we encountered steep



slopes, gravel plains, freezing cold rivers and unusually shaped lava formations.

The high point of the trek was our attempt on Mt Laufafell (1,184 metres) on the fifth day. Unfortunately we had to turn back near the summit as we were not equipped for ice climbing. Instead we ascended a nearby summit just 50 m lower which was ice-free. The ensuing descent more than made up for our earlier disappointment as it was down a particularly hair-raising scree slope and was much faster than the walk up.

The area was found to be ideal for our

purposes. For the most part, it was completely barren and there were numerous signs of volcanic activity such as hot springs and steam rising out of the ground in places.

After the first day or so we saw hardly any other people, although we did camp next to a school expedition from Norwich one night. They had been living on cold muesli for two days as they were having trouble with their stoves and could not cook their dehydrated rations. We were able to mend them in return for some food. This was very welcome as we all seemed to be permanently hungry.



Woodbridge School CCF at the top of Galdhoppiggen

## Woodbridge numbers grow

THE contingent has now increased to 98 cadets in the Army section, this being due mainly to a large 4th form joining in the summer. We have said farewell to the leavers of '94, and also to Lt Janet Dewhurst who has left to be Head of German at a school in London. FltSgt Jim Bryant, who has been with us for seven years as our SSI, has also now retired. We wish them all well in their individual futures.

Annual camp this year was held at

Longmoor under the control of 8 CTT. The section performed well in all competitions finishing fourth overall out of 24 schools. The girls entered a team for the assault course competition and finished above the majority of the other boys teams.

As ever the contingent entered the Bisley championships, with five of the section in the team. The team managed to retain the prize for the best CCF contingent in East Anglia for the third year in succession.

During the summer holidays Maj Richard Broaderwick and Capt Graeme Bruce took a party including six cadets to Norway. Everyone had an excellent trip which culminated in them climbing Galdhoppiggen, which is 2,469 metres high.

The October field day saw the section split between RAF Barnham Training Area and Friday Woods in Colchester. The 3rd form was taken to Barnham where they received fieldcraft instruction from the 6b NCOs. The seniors and intermediates were treated to one of Capt Graeme Bruce's and Lt Paul Kesterton's exercises at Colchester, before being given a superb display of weapons and equipment by Support Company of the Vikings. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

During half term, 14 cadets went adventure training in Wales where they covered over 45 km in four days and also climbed Snowdon in every kind of weather except snow.

Finally we welcome 21st Helen Richardson to the CCF on her commissioning, and our new SSI WO1 Kevin Brett on his leaving the Regular Army. We wish them both a happy and successful time with us.

# Cadets

## Busy year for Kimbolton School CCF

THE Army section has had a busy year.

**March:** The Recruit Platoon paid a visit to AIR Basingbourn for its field day, No.1 Regimental Information Team providing instructors.

**April:** Saw some of the Senior Platoon cadets at battle camp, Crowborough, Sussex, again with No.1 Regimental Information Team.

Six cadets from the section helped to make up the contingent team in the Devizes to Westminster canoe race.

**May:** We had our annual inspection by Brigadier S R Gilbert, ADC, commander 12 Eng Brigade. A demo of silent drill was given by the guard, commanded by Cdt CSM Ashley Hance who is hoping for a commission in the REME. It ended a busy day of activities.

**June:** A quiet month!

**July:** Started with a demanding week of field craft, range work, weapon training (including shooting cross bows), drill and assault course competitions, signals, adventure training, for those who attended annual



camp at Wathgill. The shooting team then went off to Bisley to shoot in the schools match, and finished 11th.

Individual cadets went off around the country on leadership courses, PI instructors, signals and service visits.

Capt Sue Camp and WO1 Roger Watson again took a team to the four-day marches at Nijmegen, and went one better than last year and were adjudged the best cadet team (and can be seen on the forthcoming video being issued by the SSVC for teams thinking of going to Nijmegen).

**Sept:** A small team took part in the cadet skill-at-arms at Colchester on Sept 17. The team was placed seventh overall and finished runners-up to Oundle for the CCF prize. Cdt Antonia Middleditch won an indi-

vidual bronze in the rifle match.

**Oct:** A team has been entered in Exercise Combat Cadet '94. It will be lead by Sgt Richard Pullen, who during the year found time to take part in the Devizes to Westminster canoe race, be a member of the Nijmegen team and do his Gold Expedition in Wales for his Duke of Edinburgh Award this summer. WO2 A Ralph has been giving the team some tips.

Some cadets will be sent on the senior cadet instructor's course at Thetford PTA.

**Nov:** The annual remembrance parade in Kimbolton High Street, the salute being taken by Lt Col C Johnson US Army.

We said farewell to Capt Kevin Curtis after nine years in charge of the section. Capt Sue Camp has taken up the challenge.

## Lincs cadets enjoy best camp ever

"CWRT Y Gollen, where's that? was the cry when it had finally been agreed where the camp '94 was going to be. And so we were to go to what could be described as the best camp ever as far as we were concerned. Luxury coaches transported the 380 cadets to the camp by Aug 6.

The training areas, range, assault course and river adjacent to the camp suited the overall requirement of the cadre programme devised by the training officer, Maj David Larder. In the most glorious of weather on Sunday he started with a safety demonstration conducted by the assistant training officer, Capt Roger Wells.

Monday morning brought the departure from Cwrt Y Gollen of the first group to undertake rock climbing and be involved in the community project, heading for the Brecon Mountain Railway near Merthyr Tydfil. Here the cadre was divided into two groups with half going to the community project under command of Capt Ray Ogg while the others expended some energy on rock climbing and abseiling.

At the conclusion of the day's activities

the group was transported to the training centre at Merthyr Tydfil for the night. The community project at the Brecon Railway was ridding the high banks of large boulders to enable landscaping of the area to take place, and many was the time that the cadets working below were seen to scurry as pieces of rock cascaded in their direction. Other cadets lit bonfires, supervised by the railway staff to dispose of the tree trunks that nobody seemed to want.

The next phase of their training was the trek along 'Taffies Trail'. Each of the six junior cadres in turn was to undertake this and other training which brought much variety and interest to the cadets at all levels.

The three star cadre was also on the move on the Monday for its expedition over the Brecon Hills, trekking over the same route as the other groups and on to the final camp site before recovery to Cwrt Y Gollen.

Skill-at-arms was practised within the camp area as a prelude to shooting. This, as always, proved very popular with the cadets with an overall improvement in performance. A signals cadre was conducted for

the two to three star trainees which proved very popular, especially the practical exercise which included the laying of line communications over the river.

Further adventurous activity was completed at Llangorse Lake where groups were introduced to canoeing, and how not to take a ducking. Mountain biking was also on the programme and was found to be an exhilarating and pleasant pastime.

Cadre programmes came to an end on the second Tuesday evening. On the still, warm evening, the band was again in the public eye when it completed a programme of music at Greenhills Residential Home for the elderly. Wednesday was devoted to the annual military skills competitions.

Nerves and anticipation at fever pitch, the county was paraded in the late afternoon for the presentation of trophies, cups and shields to the individuals, teams and detachments, and on the Thursday morning all the cadets and the majority of the officers and instructors departed from camp to spend the day at the pleasure complex of Barry Island.

Thanks are extended to the 13 CTT, drivers, nursing sister, ex cadets (now Army regular soldiers) who assisted and all those who gave their time.

# Around the Branches



I HAVE to report that the Association's work continues throughout the county and spreads throughout the UK providing assistance to former members who served in The Royal Norfolk Regiment, the 1st East Anglian Regiment and The Royal Anglian Regiment. We now have ex-Royal Anglians on all our Regimental committees and it is very pleasing to learn when visiting branches throughout the county how many of them welcome those who served in other Regiments, but who have for some reason or other wished to join in or be connected with one of our local branches.

Our dinners in Kings Lynn, Norwich and Gorleston continue to provide focal points at which members can gather for these annual events. The Bassingbourn gathering of The Royal Anglian Regiment was less well attended this year but this was due mainly to it having to occur in July when many were on holiday.

The 2nd Battalion had its reunion to mark 50 years since the Battle of Kohima and this involved a visit to the Regimental Museum, the usual officers' dinner and a church service in the Regimental Chapel followed by lunch in the cloisters.

There was of course a deal of beer sampling. The 4th Battalion had its officers' dinner as usual in the TA Centre, Aylsham Road which was quite well attended. In Norwich the officers' dinner and lunch held on June 3/4 was attended by some 29 at dinner and 30 for lunch.

During lunchtime on the first day of the Norfolk Show the Regimental

Tent was used by the Deputy Colonel, Maj Gen Mike Walker, to provide the usual entertainment for headmasters and potential officers, who were hosted by Regimental personalities. We were very privileged to be visited by the President, HRH The Duke of Gloucester to whom Mr & Mrs Bill Holden, founder members of the 1st Battalion D-Day Veterans, were introduced.

Again many members of the Regiment were able to watch the 1st Battalion Band & Corps of Drums play on the Lakenham Cricket Ground on June 28, thanks to the kindness of our President.

A party of D-Day veterans and wives visited Normandy to take part in their act of remembrance. In addition to a memorial stone being laid at Pavee, the party participated in a full programme which included joint celebrations at Hillman with their sister regiment – The Suffolks.

## Chapel

MRS Rosemary Barclay has continued to provide floral arrangements in the chapel for our Regimental services. Arrangements are in hand for a memorial to the late Maj Peter Straghan to be carved on an oak panel under the theatre of Portugal and Spain.

## Benevolence

THE Royal Norfolk Benevolent Fund has been able to provide timely financial grants to 55 (63) former members of The Royal Norfolk Regiment and their families amounting to £5,946 (£6,293) during the year ending June 30 1994. In addition some £3,724 (£3,243 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 who continue to process the requests from former members of the Regiment for assistance.

## War Memorial Cottages (WMC)

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

EXHIBITIONS in the museum have included the Regimental Memorial Cottages, the Battle of the 50th Anniversary of Kohima, the 50th Anniversary of the Normandy Landing and Regimental Silver. A recent acquisition included General Strickland's medals and shortly there will be a brochure available for visitors.

## Regimental History

VOLUME IV of the History was launched prior to Christmas and we have now sold more than half the books printed.

## VC Prints

THE new print of Mr Peter Archer's painting of Capt David Jamieson winning his VC at the Battle of the River Orne is now available for purchase from RHQ.



THE Lincolnshire Regimental Association continues to attract new membership with all branches reporting well attended annual meetings, dances, dinners, social evenings and other special events. This was particularly evident at the Regimental Gathering, Bassingbourn, when a large contingent of Lincolns were present to enjoy an excellent day.

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# Around the Branches

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The Regimental reunion, which took place in Lincoln, was a great success, even though it was held all on one day instead of over the usual two. Because of this, timings were critical with the annual general committee meeting, the annual general meeting and Regimental march past all having to take place before the church service in St. Nicholas Church at 1130 hrs. However, the day went like clockwork and was well supported with just under 200 attending the reunion luncheon.

## Lincoln Branch

THE Branch has been on a number of outings which include trips to the Beverley Museum and a very pleasant day out at Eden Camp, which is well worth a visit.

The autumn barbecue held at the Sobraon Barracks, was blessed with glorious sunshine and a very pleasant day was had by all. The Royal Anglian Cadet Band played throughout the afternoon and were very much appreciated by the large number of people who came from far and wide and we thank them all for their support.

## Stamford Branch

THE Stamford Branch continues to increase in numbers. However, we would still like to see more ex-Royal Anglian Regiment personnel joining the Association. The branch has regular meetings and we are developing a busy social programme in addition to the Branch's newsletter which helps us to keep in touch with those who cannot attend the meetings.

We are fortunate in having a member who duplicates copies for us in addition to charging around delivering them in an authentic 'carrier, or three-ton truck.'

The Branch now attends civic parades, complete with Standard, as part of the ex-services contingent and recently joined in the Battle of Britain

parade which was followed by a reception in the Town Hall.

Many of our members gave support to the Regimental Gathering at Bassingbourn, the annual Regimental reunion and the 1st Battalion Malayan reunion.

Those who attended these events had a wonderful time and they became the main topic of conversation for weeks afterwards.

The future programme includes a ladies night and American supper with slides about a recent visit to NW Europe and Poland, and a regalia evening at the Stamford Town Hall, not only to see the regalia which includes some Regimental Silver, but to have a tour of the various Town Hall rooms.

## Midland Branch

THE Branch continues to go from strength to strength and is in a healthy position both in membership and financially. Meetings are held at the Ivy Leaf Club Royal British Legion at Coventry Road, Sheldon, Birmingham on the first Tuesday of every month. Any ex-Lincolns, particularly Malayan era and ex-Royal Anglian, are welcome to attend the meetings. This invitation is also extended to their wives.

The Branch attended D-Day parades at Coventry on June 5 and the Warwickshire Royal British Legion in Warwick on June 12. Both were well attended and the Standards were on parade.

The 4th Battalion Mortar Platoon held its reunion on July 14 at our headquarters, which saw a very good turn out from both 4th Battalion and branch members. Because of the central location geographically, it now seems to have become an annual event.

On Aug 14 a coach was organised to take us to the Lincoln Branch barbecue, and everyone agreed it was a lovely day out.

## Spalding Branch

THE Branch has been very active and since the last Castle report we have attended several functions apart from our monthly meetings.

The chairman, Capt Guy Gray, his deputy Mr N Dalton and members of the Branch attended the Normandy Memorial Service held at the War Memorial in Spalding on June 6. Both the Branch Standard, carried by Mr Rousseau, and the Stamford and District Branch Standard, carried by Mr Paddison, were on parade and a wreath was laid on behalf of the Old Comrades by Mr Fred Emery, an ex-member of the 6th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment.

On Sunday Sept 11, the branch descended on Lincoln for the annual Regimental reunion. This turned out to be a thoroughly enjoyable day, in particular the service, which was held in the beautiful St Nicholas Church in Newport, where the drill displayed by the Branch Standards at the Church entrance during the act of homage and at the exit, was excellent and a credit to The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment. The Cadet Band also helped to make the day a very memorable one and was very much appreciated.

The 6th Battalion Benevolent Fund annual general meeting and dinner was held on Saturday Oct 1 at the Kings Hotel, Grantham. This was an ideal venue and the large numbers who attended had a splendid evening.

## Italian Star Association Veteran's return to the Florence and Gothic Line Area September 5-16, 1994.

FIFTY years on our party of 40 veterans, wives and friends travelled back to Italy via France and Switzerland on Sept 5 - as well as Lincolnshire veterans, North London, Reading and Folkestone veterans for our pilgrimage of 3,889 miles (Calais to Calais).

Visits to Florence, Perugia, Assisi, Pisa, Lucca and the Gothic Line were made in beautiful weather.

Pilgrimage visits were made to military cemeteries at Coriano Ridge (near Gemmano Ridge) Faenza and Forlì, where several thousand British and

## DIARY DATES

Lincoln and District Branch dinner	Saturday Jan 14 1995
Lincoln and District Branch luncheon	Sunday Mar 26 1995

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# Around the Branches



Left: The D-Day Parade in Coventry on June 5. Right: Mr G Barker only survivor of the Grimsby Chums

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Commonwealth soldiers, sailors and Airforce comrades rest in peace (over 80 6th Lincolns are here).

Civic receptions were given to the British party in each location, speeches were made, Italian Star trophies were exchanged for pennants and other gifts.

At each cemetery a British/Italian service of remembrance was held – wreaths were laid and hundreds of poppies and crosses were placed on graves.

Lincoln John Keyworth from Grimsby played Last Post & Reveille, and prayers were said by Bostonian George Wilkinson, the Lord's Prayer by all, wreaths were laid by 6th Lincoln Eric Marshall of Horncastle and 6th Lincoln Fred Peberdy of Boston. Old Comrades were honoured with dignity and the Italian Star Ode was related by Ralph Brayham, secretary North London Branch.

Prayers were said for the 200 Italian civilians killed in the terrible bombardment all those years ago.

## Italian Star Ode

When you walk through peaceful lanes so green, remember us, and think what might have been. 'We do remember them.'

If anyone has a relative buried in any of the three cemeteries mentioned, please get in touch.

**Fred Peberdy**  
6th Lincolns (Welfare)  
Tour Leader

## Grimsby Branch

IN the 1914–18 War a battalion was formed from the Grimsby area for the then Lincolnshire Regiment, who became known as the Grimsby Chums. They took part in the battle of the Somme on Saturday July 1, 1916 and were withdrawn on Monday July 18, 1916 with 15 officers and 487 other ranks were either killed, wounded or missing.

The photograph (above right) shows the only living survivor of the Chums, Mr George Barker, alongside the Grimsby and District Branch Standard and bearer, Mr Bernard Welbourne, taken at a recent remembrance service in Grimsby.

In the congregation were Mr Austin Mitchell MP, the Mayor of Grimsby and Council and Grimsby branch members.

The Grimsby branch annual reunion luncheon will be held at the Beacholme Holiday Centre, on Saturday Apr 22, 1995.

And finally – from the Grimsby Evening Telegraph (for which thanks):

"One of the two surviving members of the 10th Battalion The Lincolnshire Regiment, the Grimsby Chums, has died in Canada.

Professor John 'Cherry' Weall, formerly 121 Pte John Weall, 10th Lincolns died on April 23 this year just five months short of his 100th birthday. Derby born, and an apprenticed

gardener, he joined the Battalion on August 5, 1914 trained with them at Brocklesby and Sutton Veny and went to France.

He went 'over the top' on July 1, 1916 following the blowing of the great mine at La Boisselle and recalled the incident clearly in 1991.

"Our trench shook violently when the mine exploded and I went over the top and into terrific fire from the Boche machine guns so that, within minutes, No Man's Land was a line of dead or wounded soldiers.

"Fortunately I was not hit and went on to a group that was 'getting through'.

For three terrible days I survived in Mamez Wood without food or water and finally got back to headquarters to find the 10th Lincolns reduced to a cadre of about 121 – my regimental number."

John Weall emigrated on his wedding day in 1921, became a highly successful landscape gardener in Toronto and, in the later years of his working life, was a lecturer in horticulture at Guelph University.

He had a rose named after him in 1991.

His best friend in the Battalion was Sgt Ghuznee George True MM and True's daughter Betty and Weall's daughter, now Mrs Winifred Hope of Chesterfield, have corresponded for 60 years, keeping alive the bond formed by their fathers in Flanders."

# Around the Branches



## BEDFORDSHIRE & HERTFORDSHIRE

### Annual dinner and dance

THE Association's annual dinner and dance was held at Sele School, Hertford on the evening of Saturday Apr 16 when over 220 members, wives and their guests attended. We were pleased to welcome as our guests Col Geoffrey Morgan, president of the Essex Regiment Association, and his wife Dr Hilary Morgan, and from the 1st Battalion Maj G P Halewood and his lady represented Lt Col and Mrs R M Brunt, who were unable to attend. Another old friend CSgt Bird from the 1st Battalion was also a guest.

All the Association branches were represented and a party from the Essex Regiment Association was also present.

For the second year, and sadly the last time, the Regimental Band of the 1st Battalion was in attendance. After the Association members filed into dinner, the Branch Standards were then marched into the hall to our old Regimental march 'Mandolinata' and on to the stage. After the Regimental Grace by Maj Donald Girdwood the standards marched off to 'Rule Britannia, Speed the Plough' to be hung on the balcony overlooking the diners.

After an excellent meal our chairman, Brigadier Angus Robertson CBE, welcomed all present and gave an update on events in the Regiment and the Association over the year. He finished his speech by thanking the area secretary, the branch secretaries and all the committee members for the hard work they do for the Association, not forgetting Stan Mansfield and his dinner committee for again organising this splendid event.

A message of loyal greetings was sent to our Colonel-in-Chief, Queen

Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and her reply was read by Lieutenant Colonel Sir Derek Milman Bt MC.

The Band played a final selection of popular military tunes before dancing commenced. The evening ended in usual style with all present marching round the hall to our old Regimental March.

The Association's dinner and dance for 1995, will be on Saturday Apr 15 at Sele School, Hertford.

### 1st Battalion Second World War Officers' reunion

TO celebrate the 1st Battalion's 50th anniversary of the Chindit campaign, a weekend reunion was held in the Padworth Hotel, Reading on June 3-5, in lieu of the annual lunch in London.

Suggested, arranged and masterminded by John Riggs, it was a highly successful, memorable and happy occasion and was an opportunity to exchange anecdotes in small groups. It was suggested as a final reunion, but the reluctance to abandon this annual occasion was much in evidence.

### Officers' summer lunch

AS usual the sun shone on a glorious day to welcome the former officers of the 16th Foot and their ladies to Chicheley Hall on June 30. This popular gathering has been held at the Hall on the last June for four years and on every occasion the weather has been perfect. This has enabled lunch to be served outside in the lovely gardens and needless to say next year's date and venue will be the same.

### Royal Anglian Regimental Gathering

THE Association had a very strong marching contingent for the march past with nine Association branch Standards on parade, more than any other Association taking part.

The standard of shooting for the shooting competition was very high and unfortunately association branch teams did not win, but I suppose we must give the other associations a little encouragement now and again.

However, the ladies of the Watford and Hemel Hempstead Branch won the ladies competition. Well done ladies.

### Receiving the Victoria Crosses into The 16th Foot Museum

THIS short ceremony was one of the highlights of the year for the Association. It was to receive the Victoria Crosses of Brig C C Foss VC, DSO, Lt F Hedges VC, 2/Lt F E Young VC, Pte S Needham VC and Pte E Warner VC and was held at the Luton Museum on Aug 9. About 30 people attended, including the president, chairman and vice chairman of the Association, members of the management committee and representatives from the branches. We were pleased to welcome Col B S T Archer GC, OBE, ERD, chairman of the VC and GC Association, who attended as an observer.

These five Victoria Crosses plus the two already in the museum of Capt J B Collings Wells VC, DSO and 2/Lt T Adlam VC, will represent a VC display probably not matched by any other Regimental museum in the country.

The Association president, Lt Col Sir Derek Milman Bt, MC, handed over the five Victoria Crosses to the Mayor of Luton, councillor Mrs Desline Stewart, who accepted them for safe keeping in the museum. In a speech to mark the occasion, Sir Derek referred to the fearsome trench warfare of the First World War and of the bravery of all those involved. He thanked the Mayor for the support given to the Regimental museum by Luton Borough Council, and he later congratulated the Association's museum committee on the Regimental display. In reply, the Mayor commented on the pride which the town felt for its old regiment.

### D-Day Service at St. Albans Cathedral

ST ALBANS Cathedral was packed to capacity on Sunday June 5 for the thanksgiving and commemoration service of the 50th anniversary of D-Day, organised by the Hertfordshire Royal British Legion. Standards from all over Hertfordshire were on the parade including those from the Association's Hitchin, Watford and Hemel

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# Around the Branches



The president of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association, Lt Col Sir Derek Milman Bt, MC, handing over one of the five Victoria Crosses to the Mayor of Luton, Mrs Desline Stewart, who accepted them for safekeeping in the museum

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Hempstead branches and the Hertfordshire Regiment Association.

Although the 2nd Battalion The Hertfordshire Regiment was the only unit of the regiment that took part in the D-Day landings, many 'Bedfords' posted to other units were there or landed a few days later as reinforcements. Some of these comrades made the pilgrimage back for the anniversary event.

It is also the 50th anniversary of both the Chindit campaign, in which the 1st Battalion served so prominently, and the final Battle of Cassino when the 2nd Battalion crossed the Rapido River under fire, holding a small bridgehead before advancing towards the Monastery.

## Regimental Story – Volume 3 – The Cap Badge

WHAT was originally going to be the third volume of the Regimental Story is now being published in the spring of 1995 as The Cap Badge. This hard backed book, which is being financed by the Association, has been enhanced by sketches and maps, and 300 pages with a loose cover bearing the cap

badges of The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment and The Hertfordshire Regiment (TA). The author, Maj R H Medley DL, gives the personal accounts set down by commanding officers, company and platoon commanders, non-commissioned officers as well as private soldiers, regular, TA or volunteer and the citizen in uniform serving in both of the county regiments.

The book will be published by Leo Cooper, Pen and Sword at the cost of £18.50.

## Memorial Gardens

THE Memorial Gardens are now being kept tidy by a contract gardener on agreement with the management committee. It has been agreed that markers may be placed above the ground when ashes are buried.

## News from the branches

THE Bedford Branch has lost with great sadness on May 22, Ted Harvey who had served with the 2nd Battalion at Dunkirk and North Africa but has welcomed four more members including 95-year-old First World War veteran, Mr George Bartram who served

with the 4th Battalion, The Bedfordshire Regiment in France, 1917-18. A coach trip to Hunstanton was a great success. Entertainment was laid on in the evening in a local club where our members were made most welcome. A Band Concert by the Band of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment was given at the Corn Exchange, Bedford on May 25, the proceeds go to the Army Benevolent Fund. The Bedford Branch meetings are now held in the British United Servicemen's Association Club on the Broadway, Bedford, on the first Friday of every month at 2000 hrs. The branch dinner was at the Moat House, Bedford on Oct 1.

The Hertford Branch has been very active. The numbers attending the Association dinner were a record. At the Royal Anglian Gathering at Bassingbourn, over 80 of our members, wives and friends attended. Attendances at our local social functions remain high and we continue to plan for future events.

The St Albans Branch is still in good shape. The branch members give all their support in attending all Association and Regimental functions.

The Watford & Hemel Hempstead Branch has moved its meetings from the TA Centre to the Hemel Hempstead Royal British Legion Club. We attended the buffet/dance on May 21 which was organised by the Dacorum Combined Ex-Services Association, which was followed on May 22 by a drumhead service in Gadebridge Park.

The service in the park was in the presence of the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire and a representative of the US Forces in Europe. The weather was fine for our spring bank holiday charity stall, but unfortunately we were unable to raise as much as previous years.

Members attended the St. Albans Cathedral service for the D-Day commemoration, and the Bassingbourn Gathering. Our shooting teams did well the A team lost by one point and our ladies won their section.

Hitchin Branch members attended

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# Around the Branches

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Bassingbourn and the service at St Albans Cathedral on June 5, and before leaving for home enjoyed a meal at a Beefeater Restaurant. Our summer outing was on Sunday Aug 7, to Stoke Bruerne in Northamptonshire. The day started with a barge trip along the picturesque Grand Union Canal which was followed by a lunch in the Boat Inn and a coach tour. Towards the end of the year we have a full coach of our members, families and friends for our annual carol concert at Thursford, followed by a stop in Kings Lynn for dinner.

On Dec 17 we are once again holding our Christmas dinner at the First Hotel, Hitchin.

The Luton & Dunstable Branch has attended all the Association and Regimental activities, and at the Association's dinner and dance Nellie and Charlie Bacchus made it a party with their family to celebrate their 54th wedding anniversary.

With the help of the ladies of the branch, two coffee mornings were held during the year, at the Dunstable Methodist Church Hall, when approximately £200 was raised for branch funds. At a ceremony on Jan 6, 1994, two of our branch members, Norman and Marjorie Chamberlain, received from Prince Michael of Kent the Meritorious Service Certificate and their 10 year badges for outstanding service with SSAFA. Norman served in the 1st Battalion, The Hertfordshire Regiment and was wounded in Italy.



OWING to the indisposition of their secretary Maj Colin Albany, there have unfortunately been no Association notes for this issue.

The buffet was held at Sele School on Nov 6, when the Volunteer Band of

the Royal Anglian Regiment was in attendance

A double issue of notes will appear in the next edition



## Annual reunion dinner

THE dinner was held, as usual, in the TA Centre with 176 members in attendance. Gen Sir John Akehurst presided and proposed the toasts of The Queen and Our Deputy Colonel in Chief. General Akehurst said that telegrams of good wishes for a convivial evening had been received from Her Majesty The Queen and from HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, in reply to loyal telgrams sent to them earlier.

After welcoming the excellent turnout of Comrades, and congratulating David Deacon on once again bringing 33 of his Hong Kong Warriors along with him, General Akehurst addressed those present. He expressed serious concern about Defence. The services were victims of their own success. Everything they had been asked to do over the past half-century had been done well and politicians therefore took for granted that things would always be done well, however much they cut the forces.

In the General's opinion, these resources had been reduced to dangerous levels and it was hard to see how the British Armed Forces were to maintain their reputation as among the best and most experienced in the world. That excellence depended on training and support and these aspects were being seriously eroded.

The Royal Anglian Regiment, said the General, was in good order and very busy, with the 1st Battalion in East Tyrone and the 2nd in Bosnia. The regulars were backed by three good, well recruited TA battalions and

all would be on parade next April for presentation of Colours in Colchester.

The General said that the Secretary of State would soon make a statement giving the future total strength of the TA, but that details of the way in which that strength would be organised would not be known until towards the end of the year. He gave his opinion that Clare Street TA Centre was not under threat and that we could expect to be there again in a year's time. Rumours were also rife about the future of RHQ. There had been threats of severe cuts but the General thought there was now a good chance that the Regiment would continue to be represented in Northampton for some time being.

Finally, on The Royal Anglian Regiment, the General commended the project to establish a Regimental museum at Duxford, hopefully to open in 1996. Turning to the Northampton, the General praised Lt Col Wilson for the continuing production of the first class Newsletter, but warned comrades that it depended entirely upon their contributions to it. He invited everyone to send in their news and memories, all of which would be welcome. The museum in Abingdon Park, after a long closure for structural repairs, would be reopening later in the month. After giving details of the parade the next morning and thanking Maj Amos for all his work in making Clare Street available for the dinner and Lt Col Wilson for all his sterling work during the year, the General then proposed the toast: The Regiment.

## The Comrades church parade

THE turnout was as good as ever and the shortened march, headed by the Band of the 5th Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, was appreciated by all. The church service was well attended. The address was given by the Rev Keith Anderson, the Vicar of The Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

After the service the parade returned to Gibraltar Barracks for dismissal, en route giving an 'eyes right' to our president and the Mayor of Northampton, who took the salute.

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# Around the Branches

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Later, at Clare Street, the Band of the 5th Battalion entertained the comrades.

This reunion was the second of the new format, revised by reverting to a shorter march to and from Gibraltar Barracks. It was a successful reunion enjoyed by all.

## **The Northampton (1939-46) all ranks reunion**

THE reunion took place on May 6 at the Conservative Club, Montagu Street, Kettering, by kind permission of the committee.

Following the Grace, the chairman asked the comrades to observe a short silence to mark the death since the last dinner of A F E Bennett (Porky) and to remember all those no longer with us.

Welcoming the guests; the Rt Hon Roger Freeman, Public Transport Minister and MP for Kettering, president of the club, Mr William Barry, chairman of committee and Mr Jack Pentelow, club secretary. The chairman thanked our hosts for the use of their splendid facilities. He was sorry to say that Maj Kelly was unable to attend for the first time for many years. On behalf of the club committee Mr Barry said how very pleased they always were to have the 4th Battalion and wished the comrades a very happy evening.

The chairman thanked Mrs Howe for an excellent dinner and Mr Howe for all his care and attention in the club lounge. He also thanked Lt Col John Wilson and his staff for their clerical help, and Bill Teece for his generous help with the envelopes and typing. A special word of thanks to your splendid committee, Peter Scopes, president, treasurer and custodian of the officer's roll, Jeff Brown for Kettering area, James Braddock for Northampton area and Freddie Bedells for covering Rushden area. He reminded the comrades that Freddie took over last year at very short notice from Joe Cos, in spite of the fact that he was not 100% fit himself. It was not generally known that Freddie has 100% attendance record at the dinner, and on one occasion arrived on crutches! He has shown the same drive and dedication since re-joining the committee - Joe, though far from fit, is

still Joe and holding his own.

The president, in his treasurer's role, said the financial position was very sound with a balance of £421.39. He thanked many generous contributors for sending 'a little extra.'

A report from Col John Wetherall, curator, regarding the Regimental museum was read in which he hoped the museum would be re-opened on July 20, 1994.

The chairman reminded the comrades of the 50th anniversary celebration of the capture of the Calais Cross Channel guns to be held in September, and the 70th Battalion reunion on Oct 7 at the Kettering Conservative Club. He thanked everyone for making the effort to attend this reunion and asked them to diarise next year's dinner at Higham Ferrers on May 5th, 1995.

## **5th Battalion The Northamptonshire Regiment - 78th (Battleaxe Division) ON Sunday May 22 the 6th reunion luncheon was held at the Barnsdale Lodge Hotel.**

Maj Donald Girdwood welcomed all who were present, in total 78 ladies and gentleman.

The loyal toast to Queen Elizabeth; Princess Alice and The Regiment were proposed by Maj Girdwood. The exhortation was said by Mr D Hooton on behalf of the Royal British Legion.

An excellent buffet luncheon was served. Our president delegated the toast to absent friends to Ned Reynolds, who before so doing informed all comrades that Dickie May had this very week reached his 80th birthday and that he was sure all present would wish Dickie and Ross many more years of good fortune.

Ned then also went on to remind everyone that next year, 1995, our reunion gathering would be held at the same venue - on May 21. The same place, the same time, when we look forward to all meeting once again. Ned also proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Gordon Isom for his sterling work and all he does towards the arrangements for getting so many of the comrades to the venue each year.

It goes without saying that we are all once again most thankful to our presi-

dent, Maj Donald Girdwood for his very great help and generous support.

## **Peterborough Branch**

**President: Maj R K Hill TD DL,**

**Cherry Orton Farm, Orton Waterville, Peterborough PE2 5EQ.**

I AM writing these notes shortly after sending out the invitations for the annual dinner which we will be holding in Peterborough on Oct 15. As it will fall in the 40th anniversary of our branch, I hope that many of you who read this newsletter will have shared the occasion with us.

I am pleased to report that through your editor kindly publishing the notes from our branch in Peterborough, we have kept in contact with many Northamptonshire members who have shown interest in our branch.

The branch continues to meet on a regular basis and our meetings are well supported and happily shared with Royal Anglian members.

We continue our links with the local Cambridgeshire Regiment Association, holding a joint barbecue with them in the summer. This year it was a particularly pleasant evening at the Woolpack in Stanground, and a great number of comrades from both associations were present.

Our branch Standard continues to be paraded in Peterborough during the year. In particular the Standard was on parade at a large gathering for the 50th anniversary commemoration of D-Day. The branch continues to support other activities of the ex-service organisations locally, the Dunkirk Veterans and the Royal British Legion.

Our branch is still concerned for widows of former branch members and our secretary and other members make a point of visiting at Christmas with greetings and a small present. This year we have given financial support to a local Army cadet who would otherwise not have been able to attend camp. He went with his other friends from Peterborough to camp in Wathgill in Yorkshire, and I was delighted to meet him there. He had a very happy camp and was very appreciative of the help we had given him.

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# Around the Branches

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This year was the 80th anniversary of the foundation of the Huntingdonshire Cyclists and we used this occasion for our annual reunion with the Huntingdonshire Branch to put on an exhibition. Our member Steve Sellwood has been working for many years researching the Huntingdonshire Cyclists and he, together with a colleague Tony Taylor, set up a magnificent exhibition in the dining room at the Territorial Tavern in Huntingdon, the home of D Company for many years.

We were able to find a cycle similar to that used by the Huntingdonshire Cyclists and the exhibition was opened at mid-day by the Mayor of Huntingdon, councillor Cooper. We had a constant stream of visitors to the exhibition throughout the day – and the highlight was surely in mid-afternoon when Lawrence Poulter, a 96-year-old former Huntingdonshire Cyclist from the little village of Wennington near Huntingdon, came along with his daughter. He enjoyed talking to us all. He seems to be the only known survivor of that fine Regiment which was recruited in our area. The Kimbolton Combined Cadet Force still uses the Huntingdonshire Cyclists cap badge and educates all recruits on the history of that regiment.

It is my sincere hope that with the continued interest in our branch here, we can contribute positively to the Northamptonshire family in the years ahead, and I thank you for your support and interest over the years.



## Royal Tigers Weekend

ROYAL Tigers Weekend was held in June 1994 at Leicester. On June 18 following the annual general meeting of the Association, which was very well

attended, the annual dinner was held at the TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road. Once again the attendance exceeded 200. Gen A J G Pollard CB CBE presided at his first annual dinner as president of the Association.

In his speech at the conclusion of the dinner, General Pollard paid a warm tribute to his predecessor, Col T Holloway. He also referred, in some detail, to the progress of Royal Tigers Wood, which had progressed splendidly during the year. The planting day, in January, had been a great occasion when nearly 3,000 whips had been planted and there had been a splendid Regimental turnout. After the General had proposed the loyal toast and the toast to the Regiment, the reunion commenced in earnest. One Mess nearly ran out of beer, but happily provisioning by the bar staff had been just right.

On Sunday, for the first time for a number of years, we were able to hold our annual Regimental parade service as a matins service as part of the Cathedral calendar. The Association presence more than trebled the normal congregation and it is good to report that the Provost who officiated at the service and strongly supported the reinstatement of the service to what many consider its rightful place, has agreed that this will continue in future years. The Rev Tom Hiney, a former Tiger, preached a most memorable sermon during a service which was most uplifting. Present at the service were the Lord Lieutenant for Leicestershire, the chairman of the County Council, the Lord Mayor of Leicester and the Chief Constable. At the conclusion of the service the civic dignitaries supported the Lord Lieutenant as he took the salute at the Association march past. The earlier start of 1030 hrs gave us breathing space to move to the TA Centre to continue the reunion of the night before. It was a good weekend. It would not have been possible without the fullest possible support from 7 R Anglian. The help they gave is vital to the success of the weekend. The Association is extremely grateful.

## Royal Tigers Wood

NO apology is made for once again

including an update on Royal Tigers Wood. It was always an exciting project and now that the fruits of two-and-a-half years progress are beginning to be seen, it is important that the momentum is retained. Mention must be made of the steering committee, under the enthusiastic and energetic chairmanship of Col W G Dawson TD DL, who have made sure that the step by step development of the wood has been maintained.

Many people have been involved, too numerous to mention, but it is significant that more than 450 people, the majority ex-members of the Regiment, have contributed towards the wood. It will, without doubt, be a wonderful living memorial to the 17th Foot.

The main points of the update are: Firstly, the plaque on the memorial tone is now in place in the wood. The engraving in slate on the memorial was carved and inscribed by Collin Bros of Loughborough. On top half of the plaque is the Regimental cap badge with underneath the inscription 'In memory of all those who served in the Royal Leicestershire Regiment 1688-1970.'

The plaque is splendid. It cost £1,668. We are glad to report that the Countryside Commission has given £832 funding towards the cost and Leicestershire County Council and Hinckley and Bosworth District Council have each contributed £200. We are very grateful to their continuing support.

Secondly, as part of the development of the wood, a small arboretum is being planted on the site. The trees to be planted will represent countries in which the Regiment served and for which Battle Honours were awarded. The International Tree Foundation is providing funding towards the cost of the trees and has already researched and nominated the appropriate species. The trees are being purchased from the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew.

Thirdly, the Woodland Trust has agreed to provide interpretation plaques for the area and each 'over-seas' tree will have its own plaque containing information regarding both the

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# Around the Branches

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tree and the Battle Honour it represents.

Finally, it is hoped that a small service of blessing and thanksgiving will be held, on site, during Royal Tigers weekend 1995.



IN JUNE a party of 34 Essex soldiers and wives visited Normandy to take part in the commemoration parades. These included Bayeux and Arromanches, both poignant reminders of the efforts and suffering experienced by the Allied forces during the 1944 campaign.

Typical of the welcome given to us was at Buceels, a small hamlet where in 1944 the 2nd Battalion The Essex Regiment set up headquarters in a farm opposite the church. Our coaches wound their way down the narrow lanes until eventually we arrived to a reception from all the villagers who had come out to greet us.

A barn at the farm had been laid out with tables and an amazing quantity of wine and refreshments was provided for all to enjoy. I am sure that this visit, in particular, brought back many memories to those of the Battalion who had actually been there during the campaign.

It is difficult to pick out highlights but our next visit to Cormeilles just has to take pride of place. We visited Cormeilles briefly during our D-Day trip and were subsequently invited to send a party over to their own celebrations in August.

The people of Cormeilles have a particular respect for the Essex Regiment, and do not forget that it was our 2nd Battalion which on Aug 24 1944, liberated the town from the Germans after four years of occupation. This was demonstrated in the



The Essex Regiment party with wives on the D-Day trip.

tremendous welcome and the overwhelming hospitality that we were treated to during our stay.

All our party stayed with local people and the whole programme of events was arranged to give us a memorable experience.

The visit to Le Havre in early September was an interesting one with visits to the battle grounds and also the new Normandy Bridge where we were the first party actually allowed on the bridge itself. Ceremonies took place at the two major war memorials and we attended a number of functions arranged for all the visiting ex-service-men.

We do not forget that during the campaign the 2nd Battalion had 10 officers and 192 other ranks killed. We paid our respects to as many Essex graves as we could and came away with our resolve that for those that did not return there will always be a place in our memories.

Our annual dinner and dance took place at the Poplars Hall, Shenfield on Salamanca Day, July 22. We were joined by a number from the Royal Navy Association as usual and a most excellent meal was enjoyed by all.

In October a party will be visiting Belgium for the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Wuustwezel. Eight members of the 7th Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment will be included.

## Chelmsford Branch

IN April 1994 we decided to meet in

future at 2.30 pm at the RAFA Club in Hall Street. The committee meeting to take place in the large office available. Wives would be invited to meet each other and to chat in the adjoining hall. This change has proved very successful and we all enjoy the tea and refreshments provided by the ladies when we 'emerge'.

We meet every two months, so April, June and August have been enjoyed, and we now look forward to the AGM on Oct 10, our final meeting of the year will be on Dec 12 and will have a Christmas flavour!

Sheila Ostlar, Hon. Sec.

## 4th Battalion Comrades

THE Association has had an excellent year and all functions have been well attended. We started, as usual, with the Battalion Memorial Service in the Regimental Chapel in March, followed by our garden party in June. In each case we exceeded the numbers of previous years.

We visited Basingbourn where we were well entertained. In October some of the members were due to attend the Royal Hospital, Chelsea for the annual visit to the chapel service.

During the last 12 months we have lost four members. They are Mr Reg Cox, Mr W Mills, Mr Stan Farthing and Lieutenant Colonel H Gregory. We have gained 13 new members and our current strength is 198.

Ted Hazle DCM, Hon Sec.

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# Around the Branches

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## Thurrock Branch

IN May we held our own branch buffet and dance and a good evening was had by all. The event was well attended both by our members and members of other associations in the area. The United Service's service and parade was held in our chapel this year.

June saw a group of the Association returning to Normandy for the 50th anniversary, and to see all those D-Day veterans assemble on the beach was a moving sight. It brought back a lot of memories. We made visits to several places we helped to liberate in 1944 and placed Essex wreaths at a number of memorials. A few of us attended the commemorative service at the Royal Albert Hall.

June 26 was our Regimental reunion at Warley, and a great day it was. Our chapel was full, and how good it was to have a drink with our old comrades. Our thanks to HQ for arranging this event.

July, Bassingbourn for which we arranged a coach this year. When I closed my last article in the Castle I said "see you at Bassingbourn" and I certainly did! I think the Colonel of the Regiment was surprised to see so many old comrades.

The 4th Essex Comrades held their garden party at Warley and once again it was a good event and the weather was kind. Keep it up, comrades, it was a great day!

In August a party of us returned to France with our wives to the town of Cormeilles, a town liberated by the Essex Regiment. They invited us to the 50th anniversary of their liberation and the reception they gave us could not be beaten. We again returned to France in September for a visit to Le Havre.

I would like to thank Harry Conn from the Thurrock Branch for arranging these trips.

So you see the Branch is quite active, meeting every month with a fair attendance. Still to come this year, a visit to the Tower of London as guests of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, the annual visit to the Royal Hospital Chelsea, our own Thurrock Branch dinner and dance and finally a visit to

Belgium to take part in the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Wuustwezel.

Peter Giggins, Hon Sec.

## Victoria Cross: Sgt William

### McWheeney 44th Regiment of Foot

ON July 22, 1994 the first Victoria Cross awarded to an Essex soldier, and one of the first to be given by Queen Victoria, was presented to the Essex Regiment Museum at Chelmsford. The medal was handed over by Col Geoffrey Morgan DL, president of the Association and received by Mr Nick Wickenden, head of museum services. The ceremony was attended by a number of Association members.

This first Victoria Cross to be won by a member of the Regiment was awarded for three separate acts of great gallantry at Sevastopol during the Crimean War. Sgt McWheeney was also awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, the Crimean Medal with clasps 'Alma', 'Inkerman' and 'Sevastopol'. Subsequently he was awarded the China Medal with three clasps and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. All these medals are now in the museum at Chelmsford, having been purchased in 1910 by Capt A G N Wood on behalf of the 1st Battalion.

Sgt McWheeney is buried at Dover in the cemetery at St James' Church.



READING the accounts of their activities during the past six months sent in by the various branches (Beccles, Bury St Edmunds, Felixstowe, Hemel Hempstead, Ipswich, Leiston and Stowmarket) one is left in no doubt of their flourishing and busy life.

The accounts are all given in full in the Britannia and Castle newsletter and this note can only highlight some

of the more notable events. They all report a number of social occasions such as dances, dinners and outings, many of which are well supported by other branches. They also show a lively involvement with local affairs.

Beccles, for example, took part in the Beccles Festival with an exhibition of Suffolk Regiment memorabilia, the Beccles Regatta with a stall and the Beccles Flower Festival with a flower arrangement depicting the Battle of Minden including lifelike cannon. The Branch is now preparing for parades in Norwich, Lowestoft and Beccles.

Hemel Hempstead has been supporting visits to the Netherlands, not just the Suffolk Regiment party (see below) in September, but also with the Market Garden Association and again in October. Their links are close with 68 Dutch visitors coming to them in November for a long weekend which will include the annual poppy dance.

Leiston has been parading its Standard on various occasions and in various places such as Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich and Yoxford.

For all the main event was the annual Minden Day weekend, for which great efforts are always made. There was much praise for the programme of events and the way in which it was run (for which the Bury Branch must take much credit). The 1st Battalion Royal Anglian Band came in for special mention, with regret at learning that that would be their last performance.

All branches extend a warm welcome to members of the Royal Anglian Regiment now living in their area and look forward to their joining with their wives in their activities as full members.

## Normandy 50 years on

VETERANS of the 1st Battalion with wives and relations are still talking of the outstanding welcome and the friendly and generous hospitality received on their visits in June and September to Normandy and Holland.

In June a party of over 100 went to Normandy to take part in the official ceremonies commemorating the 50th

*Continued Page 77*

# Around the Branches



Above: The Suffolk contingent marching through Colleville-Montgomery in June.  
Below: The street sign on Suffolk Weg in Weert, Netherlands.



From Page 76

anniversary of the Allied invasion. The visit was very full and included a wreath laying ceremony and Mayoral reception at Flers (a 1 Suffolk carrier was first in the town in August '44), a march through Colleville-Montgomery to Hillman, a service at Douvres-la-Delivrande and the parade and march past before the Queen at Arromanches.

In accordance with old custom The Suffolk Regiment contingent, being on parade before the Sovereign, wore roses in honour of the last occasion when the Sovereign was present on the field of battle at Dettingen.

The most moving occasion for all

was the ceremony at the Chateau de la Londe when a simple memorial with the Regimental Badge was dedicated in memory of those who died there on June 28, 1944.

The service was taken by the Rev Tom Hiney MC. The Band of the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment made a splendid sight marching down the long avenue from the Chateau before the service and returning at the end playing Regimental marches.

A reception and lunch hosted by the Mayor of Bieville-Beuville followed with presentation of Bieville's own medal and diploma.

The party returned to England full

of praise for the warm welcome and generous hospitality of the people of Normandy and carrying medals and diplomas (and Calvados!).

A feature of the visit was the television coverage given to the party. The march past in Colleville achieved national coverage on the BBC news and the ceremony at the Chateau de la Londe was broadcast on Look East. Thanks are due for this to Martin Bell who did his National Service with the 1st Battalion The Suffolk Regiment in Cyprus.

## Holland 50 years on

A SMALLER party of over 50 in one coach went to Weert in the Netherlands to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the liberation of that town in September 1944. At Weert, ceremonies opened at the end of Suffolk Weg (along which the 1st Battalion moved on that day 50 years ago) with a welcoming party of the Burgemeester and Dutch veterans with Standards. The large notice by the main canal bridge proclaiming the name Suffolk Weg was now adorned with a large Suffolk Regiment cap badge like that at Hillman which had been presented by the Regiment.

Other events included receptions, all with moving speeches and visits to cemeteries (Overloon and Venray) where those killed in 1944 had been buried. Of special note was the visit to Hamont in Belgium, just across the border from Weert where 50 years ago the town had honoured the death of Pte Hollis who had been killed in the liberation of the town (Pte Hollis lies buried now at Heverlee near Leuven). At Overloon and Venray, local guides described the battles that took place there.

Once again the party returned to England full of praise for the very warm and generous reception they had received.

## Brig P D F Thursby OBE

BRIGADIER Pat Thursby died on June 30 at the age of 71. He was born in Belfast in 1922 where his father, Maj F D V Thursby, was serving with 2nd

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# Around the Branches

From Page 77

Battalion The Suffolk Regiment. Pat was commissioned as a sapper in 1941 and served for a short while with the Bombay Sappers and Miners. He transferred to The Suffolk Regiment and served with the 2nd Battalion in Burma and later in India where he was appointed Adjutant. He next served with the Regiment in 1956 in Germany and Cyprus where he also started as Adjutant, thus completing a notable double of being Adjutant to both regular battalions.

His subsequent service was with the Parachute Regiment, commanding 44 (TA) Parachute Brigade and ending as DDMO in the MOD. On retirement he headed the Army Sports Control Board for 15 years. He was a clear thinker with a mind of his own, great charm, sense of humour and a zest for life.



## OCA annual meeting

THE secretary reported that in spite of another extremely rewarding service of remembrance and reunion, this year there had been less help in making the arrangements, mainly due to age and disability. However, the date for next year had already been set as June 11. It may in future be inevitable that the parade will have to be abandoned in favour of just a service and refreshments afterwards. Consideration may have to be given to forming a committee to run the event or branch officers to taking turns.

Branches are urged to act when requested for help to relieve pressure on the secretary and treasurer and, in particular, when asked for reports and accounts.

Taking in outsiders into branches to keep going appears alright, provided accounts are kept separate.

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## FUTURE EVENTS

Event	Date	Day	Time	Location
Regimental Council	Mar 19	Sun	10am	Waterbeach
Officers' Dinner	Apr 8	Sat	7 for 7.30pm	Waterbeach
Remembrance Service & Reunion	June 11	Sun	2.30pm	Ely
VJ Parade & Service	Aug 19	Sat	2.15pm	Ely
VJ Service	Aug 20	Sun		Peterborough
OCA AGM	Sept 24	Sun	2.30pm	Masonic Hall Silver Street. Ely

Is the future in the hands of (a) 3 Cambridgeshire Company, (b) The ACF or (c) The Suffolks?

Britannia & Castle subscribers are believed to be dwindling in spite of efforts to encourage subscriptions.

A video of the service of remembrance and reunion was made this year and is available at £15 each.

The treasurer reported that the general account balance had risen from £317.38 to £533.82 due mainly to the reunion surplus of £220.09 and £22.50 was received from C Company for the History. Payments were bank charges £12.75, wreaths £12.35 and admin £1.50.

The benevolent account had risen from £2,095.51 to £2,129.09 due to interest received of £33.58.

The treasurer was thanked for his continued attention to the finances and to the auditor, Capt J G Carr.

Lt Col J R Ennion TD presented the Regimental Chapel Trust accounts which show a balance of £14,816.86. The investments now amount to £18,737.00.

It was reported that Glastonbury chairs for the Regimental Chapel were now in being - Mr Boseat had had the oak in the drying chamber for some time. Inscribing the Regimental badge on the back was proving difficult but the problem is being worked on.

Ely Museum may transfer to the Old Gaol House.

Whittlesey & Peterborough Branch

THE Branch hosted the annual barbecue to our sister association the Northamptonshire and Royal Anglian Association held, as in previous years, at the Woolpack, Stanground, Peterborough on July 16. It was a very warm evening with around 50 people attending.

A raffle held during the evening raised £46 and helped to defray the evening's expenses with a little left over for the branch funds.

All who attended voted it the best barbecue since it started six years ago. Next year it will be the turn of the Northampton and Royal Anglians to host the event.

Ten branch members attended the annual March Branch service held in St Peter's Church, March on Aug 14. Our Standard was carried by Under Officer Paul Watson with escorts. There was a good attendance of the OCA. Tea and biscuits were served by the March ladies of the Branch.

Our own church service was held at St Mark's Church, Lincoln Road, Peterborough on Sept 19. We were graced by the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Mr James Crowden, The High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire, Mr Frederick Grounds and the Deputy Mayor of Peterborough, Mrs Betty May and her escort, Mr Harry Hutt.

The five hymns used at the service were chosen by branch members. The first lesson was read by Col Derek

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# Around the Branches

From Page 78

Bristow, Commandant of the Cambridgeshire ACF with the second lesson being read by Maj (Ret'd) Les English. A very stirring sermon was preached by the vicar, the Rev R Pearson, in which he told of what happened to the Regiment at Singapore and the prison camps of the Japanese.

The Branch Regimental Standard was marched out of the church to the strains of our traditional hymn 'The Old Rugged Cross.' The members of the OCA were joined by members of the church congregation to tea and biscuits in the church hall.

The Standard, Standard bearers and escorts were much admired by the congregation and congratulated on their turnout by the Lord Lieutenant. A great day in the annals of the Branch and enjoyed by all who took part.

Our next branch event took place on Oct 7 at the Newark Hotel, Peterborough. We welcomed our guests at the 7pm reception. Our main guest was the Lord Lieutenant, Mr James Crowden. At 7.30pm bandsman Jason Hobson sounded the Regimental call followed by the officers' dinner call and cookhouse. Guests and top table were clapped to their seats by members.

Grace was said by the branch chaplain Canon Arthur Ludlow. The dinner was traditional roast beef with seasonal vegetables. The loyal toast was proposed by Maj John Watson, the toast to the Regimental Association and branch by Mr Don Poole and to the guests by Mr Jess Matthews.

The Lord Lieutenant replied on behalf of the guests and kept members entertained by a good after dinner speech.

Branch president Tom Miles gave a brief description on the activities the branch members had taken part in during the past year. There were 16 raffle prizes in the draw and £48.50 was raised, which will be used to provide a little extra for the wives of past members at Christmas.

All good things must come to an end and after a few more drinks and conversations around the bar the party made their way home at 11pm.

Thanks are due to mine host at the Newark Hotel for a wonderful evening. It was good to see our Regimental Branch Standard in attendance paraded by Under Officer Paul Watson. Thanks are also due to Lt Nancy Slattery and Maj John Watson for the choice of Regimental silver and for bringing it to the dinner. A memorable evening, roll on the next one.

To our sister branches in both the Cambridgeshire and Suffolk Regiments, we send our greetings and our best wishes for 1995.

## 1994 service of remembrance and reunion

THIS year at Ely was as usual up to its high standard. The service in the beautiful Cathedral was inspiring with the solemnity that goes with such a good service.

The colourful array of Regimental and Association Standards, a fine sermon and laying of wreaths in the Regimental chapel, the marching out at the end of the service of the Standards to the Regimental March made one proud to have belonged to the Cambridgeshire Regiment.

The march past which followed was up to its usual standard with, it seems, more and more Old Comrades on parade, as they passed the saluting base with the Lord Lieutenant taking the salute, the old and bold showed that they can still march, shoulders back and chests out. They marched as well as they did 40 years ago.

The reunion tea in the Haywards Theatre was excellent and many Old Comrades swapped stories and experiences as they have done down the years.

This year's events were captured on video so that Old Comrades can recapture the events of a great day out. As they watch the video on a cold winter evening they will realise that the spirit of the Old Regiment still lives on and may it continue to do so.

## Sergeants' Dinner Club

THE annual dinner was held on Sept 24 at the Cambridgeshire ACF centre, Waterbeach, by kind permission of the Commandant. Some 48 members,

wives and friends attended the dinner, including supporters from the Suffolk OCA and eight members and wives from the Cambridge ACF.

The top table comprised all the ex POWs attending and we were honoured to have the support of Col Victor Mapey and Mrs Margaret Mapey.

A successful evening was enjoyed by all and our thanks go to Mr Colin Hubbard for his provision of an excellent meal.

## S E Seekings

Samuel Eliger Seekings aged 76 years died on May 4, 1994. He served in the 2nd Battalion the Cambridgeshire Regiment and was taken prisoner at Singapore, worked on the infamous Burma-Siam Railway and was noted for his good humour under all difficulties.

The funeral took place at St Andrew's Church, Whittlesey and was attended by many of his old comrades. His wife Ivy died 18 months previously.

## R D Turner

Ronald David Turner died on Aug 29, 1994 aged 72 years. Pte R D Turner 5933461 enlisted from Lark Bank, Prickwillow, and was with B Company, 2nd Cambridgeshire Regiment on the formation of the latter. Eventually on Jap party 25, which, after being shipwrecked, landed at Ube, Southern Honshu where he was released in August 1945.

On return he took up an interest in a successful dairy from which he retired 10 years ago. He was a keen supporter of Ely City Football Club and the West End Domino Club.

The funeral service was at St Mary's Church, Ely followed by cremation at Cambridge. A guard of honour at the funeral was provided by the Cambridgeshire OCA, The British Legion and the Buffaloes. The escort from the hearse to the church and back was provided by the Cambridgeshire Standard carried by Mr Wally Rookes.

He leaves a widow, Joan whom he married in 1950, three daughters and four grandchildren to whom we offer our deepest sympathy.

## Sport

# Vikings resume sport challenges

Viking inter-company football competition (winners).



The Rugby First XV in action



## Rugby XV in notable wins after early setback

Maj Wenham, OC rugby, writes: SINCE returning from Northern Ireland, the Battalion rugby club has started training in earnest. Unfortunately the opening game of the Army Cup was the first fixture and the team lost 39-5 to a well-drilled RSME team fielding some notable Corps players.

Despite this early setback and a couple of defeats against civilian clubs, the team has improved, recently recording notable

wins against the Police Training Depot and ATR Bassingbourn. Later in the season the club will be competing in the EDIST 15-a-side competition and the EDIST league. It is also hoped to play some rugby in America.

There has been some success at representative level. Sgt Anema and L/Cpl Barrs have been capped for the Infantry, and Ptes Rix, Rice, Bredemear, Lee and Glascodeine are in the Army under-21 squad.

THE Officers' Mess again challenged the WOs' and Sgts' Mess to a game of cricket this year. Despite years of tradition and the watchful eye of the Commander MND(C) and Commander 24 Airmobile Brigade, the Officers' Mess team took a severe thrashing.

The inter-company cricket provided the opportunity for some long lost skills to take the longest walk to the crease. In a keenly fought and umpired competition the HQ Company team emerged victorious.

The Battalion inter-company football competition on Sept 7 was won by C Company with A Company second.

In a well represented competition the teams all put in an admirable performance.

## Cross-country team optimism

Lt Ward, OC cross-country, writes:

SINCE returning from East Tyrone the previous season's team has been committed to various tasks within the Battalion, which has prevented training together for this season's races.

Individuals, however, are in training for the forthcoming matches and the SPTI. SSgt Carey is selecting a team based on last year's strong team.

The Battalion has entered several races and was expecting to be able to put forward at least one team for the following: Army inter-unit relay championships at Aldershot; the Eastern District inter-unit team and individual championships at Grantham.

Bearing in mind the Battalion's excellent placing in the major unit Army Championships last year, it is hoped that this year's team will perform well, particularly in the district matches.

## Soccer squad makes progress

CSgt Hughes, OC Football, writes:

After some well earned post tour leave, the call went out to the Battalion for soldiers interested in playing football. The management; Capt (Vinny) Jones and CSgt Hughes began a rebuilding programme. The response was excellent and the Battalion now has a squad of 20 players to pick from.

The squad, when commitments allow, trains, during the lunch break and progress has been made.

Unfortunately the team crashed out of the Army Cup 4-3 to QEMH Woolwich, the Infantry champions (1 Cheshire) beat the Vikings 5-1 and ended any hopes of the Infantry Cup. Despite these early setbacks the team at the time of going to press is unbeaten in three matches.

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# Sport

## Steelback becomes army tennis champion

A SPORTING triumph for The Steelbacks was Capt Clyde Aylin's success in the Army Tennis Championships.

Although unseeded, he proceeded to become the Veteran Army Open Singles Champion.

Capt Aylin subsequently represented the Army in the Inter-Services match at Wimbledon where the team beat the Royal Navy, but unfortunately lost to the Royal Air Force.

Capt Aylin was awarded his Army Colours by Gen Sir Charles Guthrie KCB LVO OBE ADC, President of the Army Lawn Tennis Association.



The Battalion half marathon team at Newark.

## 6th Battalion runners in form

THE Battalion has had a quiet summer on the sporting front. Capt Adrian Gosling has, however, managed to start a running team which competed in the TA half marathon championships at Newark.

After achieving a creditable 4th place the team prepared for the 10 km champi-

onships in November and the Edist cross-country championships which followed in December.

Pie Turner of C Company also recently represented the TA in an Inter-Service triathlon held at Yeovil and should be congratulated on his performance.



The Poachers' D (Sp) Company football team.

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## Sport

# Cricket Club reports mixed bag of results

**President:** Brigadier A J K Calder OBE  
**Secretary:** Lt Col B H M Davenport  
**Treasurer:** Major D C Napier

**Lt Col Brian Davenport writes:**  
THE Club's 29th season, and the 13th since the expanded fixture list against the schools in East Anglia, produced the usual mixed bag of results.

Of ten matches played, three were won, including revenge for 1993 against Brigadier Tony Calder's XI. We had the better of a draw against Woodbridge, and the remainder were losses. The absence of the Vikings and the Poachers on operational tours during the summer meant the club had to call on rather more 'guest artistes' than usual – but eligibility has always been elastic!

To those who turned out (often at short notice) the thanks of the club are due; they all contributed to the general enjoyment of the matches.

As always, recognition is due to the match managers, without whose time, patience, and sheer hard work, the

Regimental sides could not be put together. It is hoped that those concerned this year can be persuaded, if available, to help in 1995 – together with some younger blood.

Looking forward to next year, the fixture list will be much as before, with perhaps some additions. It is anticipated that there will be a substantially greater number of home matches, as the 1st Battalion is not scheduled to be away for most of the summer, and we have access to the excellent facilities at the A Ground in Colchester. Hopefully, also, players from the 2nd Battalion in Celle will be able to come back for some games. It would be nice too, to see some representation from our Volunteer Battalions.

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 most welcome.

The contact is the Secretary, Lt Col Brian Davenport, HQ Colchester Garrison; tel. Colchester Military ext. 2020, or civ. 0206-782020.

## Vikings win Golf Club trophy

THE annual meeting of the Regimental Golfing Society was held at Stowmarket Golf Club on June 17. A total of 35 players keenly contested the various matches in ideal playing conditions.

The results were: Inter-Battalion Trophy – 1st Battalion; Isham Salver, Mr Peck, runner-up Mr K Taylor; Pompadour Cup – Sgt Pye, runner-up Capt Wilcox; Suffolk Cup – Maj Jenns, runner-up Maj Halewood; Ponsonby Cup – Messrs Stout & Lock, runners-up Messrs Boss and K Taylor.

### The Queen's Division triangular

THE meeting, which was sponsored by PWRR at Canterbury Golf Club, was held on May 27. Ten players from each Regiment played 18 holes at Stableford in the morning and afternoon. The match was won by the hosts.

### Autumn meeting

THE meeting was held at Flemspton Golf Club on Sept 9. Prize winners were: Medal

handicap – Maj Perry, runner-up Maj Jenns; Stableford – LCpl Hardie, runner-up Mr Wharton; four ball – Messrs Shailes and Knight, runners-up Messrs Smith and Mallett.

### Match v. Flemspton Golf Club

THIS match which, at the host's request, has been reduced to a morning only 18 holes competition, was keenly contested with the honours going to Flemspton Golf Club.

### Next year's fixtures are:

Spring meeting, Flemspton Golf Club, Apr 14; Divisional meeting, Canterbury Golf Club, May 26; Regimental meeting, Stowmarket Golf Club, June 23; Autumn meeting, Flemspton Golf Club, Sept 8; Annual match v. Flemspton Golf Club, Sept 9

Membership of The Royal Anglian Regiment Golfing Society is £1.00 per annum.

## Births

### BIRTHS:

Vincent – To Capt and Mrs D G Vincent a son Gregory Robert George; **Hunter** – To Capt & Mrs D G H Hunter a son Benjamin Joshua.

### VIKINGS

Gray – To Cpl and Mrs Gray a daughter Lauren Emma; **Lund** – To Sgt and Mrs Lund a daughter Georgina Jane; **Hardy** – To Pte and Mrs Hardy a daughter Rachel Michelle; **Keeble** – To Sgt and Mrs Keeble a daughter Shannon; **Francis** – To Pte and Mrs Francis a daughter Chloe Louisa; **Bridges** – To LCpl and Mrs Bridges a daughter Amy Lauren; **Markham** – To Cpl and Mrs Markham a son Rhys Daniel; **Warnes** – To Cpl and Mrs Warnes a son Jack Ian Samuel; **Buist** – To Cpl and Mrs Buist a son Daniel Andreas; **Gates** – To Pte and Mrs Gates a son Kyle Thomas; **Lavers** – To Pte and Mrs Lavers a son Samuel George Lewis; **Cuthbert** – Pte and Mrs Cuthbert twins Michael Lee and Daniel Peter; **Evans** – To LCpl and Mrs Evans a son Ryan James; **White** – To Cpl and Mrs White a son Stefan Alejandro.

### POACHERS

Cotgrave – To LCpl and Mrs Cotgrave a son Aaron Mark; **Hare** – To Pte and Mrs Hare a daughter Kayleigh; **Chapman** – To Pte and Mrs Chapman a son Luke Ashley; **Cousins** – To CSgt and Mrs Cousins a son Declan Ashley; **Colgan** – To Capt and Mrs Colgan a son George William Michael; **Cash** – To Pte and Mrs Cash a daughter Jasmin; **Wilkinson** – To LCpl and Mrs Wilkinson a daughter Chelsea Anne Josephine; **Chillingsworth** – To Cpl and Mrs Chillingsworth a son Aiden Jon; **Day** – To Pte and Mrs Day a son Glen; **Shaw** – To LCpl and Mrs Shaw a son Karl Stuart Charles; **Oxby** – To Cpl and Mrs Oxby a son Billy Thomas; **Batty** – To LCpl and Mrs Batty a daughter Hayley Jade; **Moore** – To Pte and Mrs Moore a daughter Laura Jane; **Grouse** – To Cpl and Mrs Grouse a son Alexander Macauley; **Dessaur** – To Pte and Mrs Dessaur a son Tim; **Hodgkiss** – To Sgt and Mrs Hodgkiss a daughter Chelsea Louise; **Heeley** – To Pte and Mrs Heeley a son Lucas Andrew; **Smith** – To Sgt and Mrs Smith a son Carl; **Doherty** – To Cpl and Mrs Doherty a son Sam; **Burt** – To Cpl and Mrs Burt a daughter Jasmin; **Felstead** – To Pte and Mrs Felstead a son Darryl; **Pearce** – To LCpl and Mrs Pearce a daughter Bethany Faye; **Wadman** – To

*Continued Page 83*

# Marriages

# Obituaries

From Page 82

Maj and Mrs Wadman a daughter Hope Louise; **Bradley** - To Pte and Mrs Bradley a son Bret Francis John; **Latus** - To Pte and Mrs Latus a son Jamie; **Thompson** - To Sgt and Mrs Thompson a daughter Shannon Celina Dawn; **Auckland** - To Pte and Mrs Auckland a daughter Kathryn Rhianna; **Lamb** - To Cpl and Mrs Lamb a son Jordon Andrew; **Appleton** - To LCpl and Mrs Appleton a daughter Sarah Louise.

## MARRIAGES:

### VIKINGS:

**Chandler** - On May 28 Pte Chandler to Diane June; **Cation** - On June 4 Cfn Cation to Helen Wendy; **Harvey** - On July 9 Pte Harvey to Michelle; **Lorenz** - On July 18 Pte Lorenz to Cheryl Maria; **Buckles** - On July 23 Pte Buckles to Sarah Jane; **Gater** - On July 23 Pte Gater to Annamaria; **Neal** - On July 23 Pte Neal to Julie Ann; **Pook** - On July 23 Capt Pook to Clare Elizabeth; **Southward** - On July 23 LCpl Southward to Claire; **Glenton** - On July 23 Pte Glenton to fiancée; **Garvie** - On July 30 Cpl Garvie to Elisa Sián; **Lavers** - On July 30 Pte Lavers to Dawn Lynsey; **Browne** - On July 30 Capt Browne to Nikki; **Hopkin** - On Aug 6 Pte Hopkin to Lisa; **McKenna** - On Aug 6 Pte McKenna to Jan; **Merry** - On Aug 6 Pte Merry to Samantha Louise; **Neal** - On Aug 6 Pte Neal to Kayla Leanne; **Parker** - On Aug 6 Pte Parker to Alison Jayne; **Stevens** - On Aug 6 LCpl Stevens to Sarah Jane; **Wade** - On Aug 6 Pte Wade to Lisa; **Waterhouse** - On Aug 6 Pte Waterhouse to Lisa Jane; **Wyatt** - On Aug 6 Pte Wyatt to Christina; **Traves** - On Aug 12 Cpl Traves to Samantha Elizabeth; **Cunningham** - On Aug 13 Pte Cunningham to Nicola Janet; **Jolly** - On Aug 27 Pte Jolly to Jena Christina; **Watts** - On Sept 3 LCpl Watts to Bridget; **McIntyre** - On Sept 24 Cpl McIntyre to Lorraine Anne; **Harrod** - On Oct 8 Cpl Harrod to fiancée.

### POACHERS:

**Moody** - On Mar 18 Pte Moody to Gundula; **Burt** - On Mar 26 Cpl Burt to Sara; **Kennedy** - On Apr 2 Pte Kennedy to Sarah Louise; **Wright** - On Apr 2 LCpl Wright to Tracey Dawn; **Flemming** - On June 4 Cfn Flemming to Kerstin; **Clark** - On June 20 Pte Clark to Joanne Louise; **Morris** - On Aug 6 Capt Morris to Carola; **Caine** - On Aug 13 LCpl Caine to Donna May; **Priest** - On Aug 17 Pte Priest to Samantha Jane.

## Lt Col W R Mooring

**WILLIAM Rixson Mooring** was born in London on May 3, 1949. His father, Arthur George, a distinguished colonial serving officer, was later knighted, and his mother was Patricia Hare Duke, later Lady Mooring and now Lady Maddocks.

Bill Mooring lived his early years in Nigeria and Zanzibar. In Zanzibar his father was the very last British colonial resident, an important and influential appointment in the dying days of Empire.

Bill grew up in that now vanished exotic world of adventure and mystery where the dawn always came 'up like thunder' from somewhere 'cross the bay' and where the Old Flotilla probably still lies.

That world gave him the love of adventure and challenge which was the hallmark of his career.

He was the archetypal imperial soldier - brave, loyal and great-hearted, slow to anger but quick to praise, an utterly dependable friend in time of trouble.

Like most such colonial service children, Bill was sent to school in England; from 1958 to 1962 to St Peter's in Weston-Super-Mare, where he became head boy, and between 1963 and 1967 to Canford where he rowed for the school.

He attended the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst from September 1967 to July 1969 and then joined the 1st Battalion in Catterick in August of that year.

He was the only junior officer to serve the whole of that momentous first tour in Londonderry and he was a founder member of that group of officers and NCOs who achieved the fundamental transformation of skills and understanding so necessary for the opening up of that long and hard road from Crater to the Creggan, a group which kept the Regiment at the forefront of the Army's counter-insurgency expertise.

Two members of that group became Generals and both readily acknowledge Bill's contribution in those difficult years. Londonderry has become part of the Regiment's soul and Bill served there on three long tours, as Platoon and Company Commander for the 1st Battalion and as Second-in-Command for the 3rd.

Bill Mooring served the Regiment well, but he also served the wider Army well, from Londonderry to Nepal.

A competent staff officer who attended the Staff College at Camberley in 1982, he was always at his best in command of troops on operations, whether on the Hong Kong border with the Ghurkas between 1976 and 1979, or in Ireland, where, besides

his tours in Londonderry, he served in Belfast, Fermanagh and Portadown.

In addition to his native English he spoke German, French and Ghurkali. He was a consummate skier, who made a huge contribution to the 1st Battalion's AMI role in Norway from 1974 to 1978.

An outstanding athlete, he had previously led the Battalion's team to victory in the 1973 Cyprus Walkabout and he was an Army yachtsman of note, qualifying as yachtmaster offshore in June 1991.

As all his friends will remember with affection, Bill was probably the best 'grouser' the Regiment has ever known, in a class of his own like an ace fighter pilot, but he possessed a generosity of spirit which delighted all who knew him and which made him one of the Regiment's foremost soldiers.

The Regiment is much the poorer for his untimely death, a death which he first faced and then ultimately bore with a stoic courage that denied the cancer its final triumph of robbing its victims of dignity as well as life.

Bill died with quiet dignity and his last conversations were centred on the problems of others rather than his own. He will be very greatly missed.

Bill is survived by his wife Lyndsay and their three daughters, Kirsten, Fiona and Tania to whom we extend our warmest sympathy and condolences.

K.M.R.

## DEATHS:

We regret to announce the death of the following:

**Col R H Senior** late Bedfs & Herts on Aug 9, 1993; **Brig W C Smith CBE** late 1 East Anglian on Apr 24 1994; **Lt Col H C G Gregory MC TD** 3rd East Anglian on July 25 1994; **Lt G S N Charrington** Suffolk on May 22 1994; **Lt W D Sales** Suffolks on Oct 24; **Maj A Wall R** Lincolns on May 31 1994; **Capt Guy Bray R** Lincolns on Oct 30 1994; **Capt A Brooks** Bedfs & Herts on Dec 11 1993; **Maj M McColl R** Anglian on Sept 7 1994; **Lt Col P A Morcombe DSO OBE** Suffolk on Sept 22 1994; **Maj (Hon Lt Col) J R Britten** Northampton on Sept 9 1994; **Lt Col H N Daniels DSO R** Leicesters on Apr 19 1994 and **Brig P D F Thursby OBE** Suffolk and Parachute Regiment on June 30 1994.

We extend our condolences and sympathy to their families and friends.

# Obituaries



## Brigadier R J Randall

BRIGADIER Dick Randall, who died after a long illness at the age of 73, was for many years a highly regarded and popular figure in the Regiment, especially in the Pompadours, for which he was Deputy Colonel from 1976 to 1982. Richard John Randall was born at Emsworth near Portsmouth on May 13, 1921 and spent part of his education at Felsted School.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Dick enlisted into the Middlesex Regiment and attended OCTU at Wrotham in Kent, the village to which he eventually retired. In 1943 he was commissioned into the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and appointed Platoon Commander in an independent company supporting the Monmouthshire Regiment, then preparing for D-Day with the rest of 11th Armoured Division.

Dick landed in Normandy on D + 2. He felt so seaisick, he used to recall, that his only thought was to reach dry land, never mind any Germans. He fought on with his unit until VE Day in May 1945, reaching the rank of Captain and earning a Mention in Despatches.

After the war Dick was stationed at Flensburg on the Danish/German border, where he was responsible for rounding up and disarming German soldiers returning across the border. Among them was the notorious 'Lord Haw-Haw' (James Joyce).

On an R&R trip to Copenhagen he met Bente, his future wife. They married on Dec 7 1946 and thus began an exceptionally happy partnership.

Dick Randall was granted a Regular Commission in the Essex Regiment in 1946 and served with them in Korea in 1953-54. From 1957 to 1959 Dick commanded a Rifle Company in 1 Essex in Dortmund, a period which encompassed the amalgamation with 1 Bedfs/Herts in June 1958 and the formation of 1/3 E Anglian. The new battalion was stationed at Malacca in Malaya in 1961 which he joined as 2IC to Lt Col Michael Holme.

Early in 1962 Dick brought the Battalion home by sea to the UK, staging at Shoeburyness before moving on to

Ballykinler, Co. Down, under the command of Lt Col Cliff Norbury.

From 1963 to 1965, Dick commanded 415 Essex (TA) based at Ilford. Dick's final posting was to Taunton as Deputy Commander South West District (1974-76), where he renewed his association with the TA and much enjoyed organising the Ten Tors Expedition.

When Dick retired from the Army in 1976 it was to the Wrotham of his OCTU days that he returned and settled down. He joined the Army Security Vetting Unit, covering London and Kent and working from home. He also gave much of his time and energy to the Regiment as Deputy Colonel for the 3rd Battalion from 1976 to 1982. As chairman of the Regiment Chapel Committee, he continued in his efforts to preserve the chapel at Warley. He finally retired in 1986.

Dick's interests included walking, sailing, golf and gardening. He loved music and poetry and could quote passages at length.

Dick Randall was a fine officer and a man of great integrity with a splendid sense of humour. He combined a keen interest with a positive and 'down to earth' approach to soldiering.

He excelled both as a staff officer and at regimental duty. He knew exactly how to manage soldiers and with it all he had that wonderful quality of making one feel better whenever one saw him. He was in every sense a man of stature. Dick loved being with his friends and his family and sharing their lives. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather and he was greatly loved in return. To Bente, and to all his family and friends we offer our warmest thoughts and sympathies on their sad loss.

J.S.H



## Lt Col K P P Goldschmidt

KEN Goldschmidt, who died on April 29 1994, joined the Leicestershire Regiment in Farnborough in 1938. By then he had already been capped many times for Hampshire at rugby and was in the side which won the County Championship in 1936. In his prime he was probably the best scrum-half in England. Although Ken missed his England

cap, he was made a Barbarian, an honour usually reserved for internationals. The move to the 2nd Battalion to Palestine in 1938 ended his UK rugby. He never lost his love for the game or indeed many other sports, particularly cricket at which he had been good with both bat and ball.

Ken saw active service with the 2nd Battalion in Palestine in 1938-39, the Western Desert, Tobruk and Syria 1940-42, in Burma with the Chindits in 1944, and with the 1st Battalion in Korea in 1951-2 and Cyprus in 1956-8. There cannot be many who have been engaged by such a variety of enemies - Arab, Italian, German, Vichy French, Japanese, North Korean and perhaps even Greek Cypriots.

Ken was first wounded at Sidi Barrani in the hand, then again in Tobruk by the blast from a mine exploded while on a patrol. With his head swathed in bandages he was evacuated by destroyer to Egypt.

Ken led by example and by dominating the circumstances. However miserable or indeed fearful these were, laughter, fun or diversion were never far away.

We played bridge together in his forward company dugout in Tobruk with his future brother-in-law, Duggie Dalglish, who had his wounded leg propped up on an ammunition box. We played poker together during a supply drop in the jungle with the Chindits in Burma.

Ken married Alison Dalglish in 1943 in Colombo where she was serving as a Naval Nurse. Alison and the ever growing family, John, Michael and Marybell, followed Ken wherever possible - to India and Hong Kong, to Leicester where he was the Training Major of the 5th Battalion, to Cyprus and Plymouth, and to South Wigston where he commanded the Regimental Depot. Their connection with the Regiment was further cemented when in 1965 his son Michael was commissioned into the Royal Anglian Regiment into which the Royal Leicesters had merged.

Throughout his service and in retirement Ken and Alison lovingly kept in close touch with many generations of officers in the Regiment and their families, a relationship which was strongly reciprocated by so many during Ken's long illness in the support and encouragement they both received.

In short, Ken was a distinguished sportsman, and exceptionally fine Regimental soldier. Perhaps his greatest attribute was the gift to make life fun and to spread happiness.

To visit Ken was to come away refreshed. To remember him now that he has gone, is to look back with happiness.

J H M

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\* Prices each  
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