



# CASTLE

**JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT**



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**Editor : Col A C Taylor**

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Front Cover: Windsurfing in Cyprus, The Tigers Exercise LIONS PRIDE.

Rear Cover: LCpl Hanley practises River Crossing.

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*The Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth  
The Queen Mother*



*The Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon.*



*The Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester.*

# From the Colonel of the Regiment



*General Sir Michael Walker KCB CMG CBE ADC Gen. Colonel of The Royal Anglian Regiment*

Under the banner of 'Modern Forces for a Modern World' the Government has announced the changes to the Territorial Army since our last edition. The Territorial Army for the future will be at an overall establishment of 41,204. Because a large proportion of the TA had roles related to military home defence against the now unlikely possibility of an invasion, numbers have reduced significantly. The arms which have been most affected are the Yeomanry, the Royal Engineers and the Infantry. Our own Battalions are affected in common with all other TA battalions. A fuller description on the impact regimentally is contained in this edition elsewhere.

It will not be until the middle of the coming year that we will be clear how the new Battalions, within which will be our own Regiment's companies, will be organised, established, roled and trained. However, I do anticipate that, with a lower threshold for call out in situations that fall short of major war and opportunities to train on our latest military equipments, the new TA will have some exciting and challenging prospects ahead of it. And I am delighted that our affiliated cadet contingents will continue albeit with some adjustments to the way in which they have received support from the Regiment.

It is with sadness that we in the Regiment see our Battalions changing so radically. It is also with sadness that we in the Regiment recognise that some who are directly affected will chose to give up service in the TA; to them I say thank you - it has not been for want of commitment or loyal service from you that these changes have been brought about. Others who are directly affected will, I hope, chose to serve on and we shall do our best to make this possible - above all else we must now be determined to ensure that the ranks of our companies are filled and that they remain at the forefront of the Infantry as their forebear Battalions always have been.

# The Territorial Army Reorganisation

On 17 Nov 98 the Government announced the results of the TA restructuring. The Strategic Defence Review concluded that, with the end of the Cold War, the warning time for a major conflict would be longer and that the threat to the UK mainland had decreased thus requiring less troops to be available for Military Home Defence. It also concluded that future crises overseas are likely to arise at short notice and for this the main reliance will be on regular forces with the TA available to support these operations with special skills.

The result is a reduction in the TA, from over 59,000 to 41,200. Those affected most are the Royal Armoured Corps, the Royal Engineers and the Infantry, with the latter being reduced from 33 to 15 battalions.

The composition and layout of the new Regional Battalion to replace our current 6th and 7th Battalions is to be (R ANGLIAN badged unless otherwise stated):

HQ	-	Blenheim Camp, Bury St Edmunds
Coy	-	Ulverscroft Road, Leicester
Det	-	Clare Street, Northampton
Band	-	Peterborough
Coy	-	Bath Street, Mansfield (Badged WFR)
Det	-	Sinfin Lane, Derby (Badged WFR)
Coy	-	Colchester Road, Chelmsford
Det	-	St Andrews Street, Hertford
Coy	-	Aylesham Road, Norwich
Det	-	St Peters Street, Lowestoft
Coy	-	Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln
Det	-	Westward House, Grimsby

The Royal Anglian badged TA units at the following locations will be disbanded although in some cases other TA and cadets units will remain using the TA centres:

Coldhams Lane, Cambridge	}	All 6th Bn
Sandylands Street, Wisbech		
Clive Road, Brentwood		
Victoria Street, Dunstable	}	All 7th Bn
Adeyfield Road, Hemel Hempstead		
Main Ridge, Boston		
High Street, Wellingborough		

The restructuring will take place between Feb-Jul 99 with the new unit to be effective by 1 Feb 00. The title of the new unit will be announced later.





**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**  
General Sir Michael Walker KCB CMG CBE ADC Gen

**Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment**  
The Reverend M D Franks MBE

**Deputy Colonels of the Regiment**  
**1st and 6th(V) Battalions:**  
Brigadier J C B Sutherell CBE ADC

**2nd and 7th(V) Battalions:**  
Brigadier J C McColl CBE  
Colonel NH Kelsey OBE TD

**President of the Regimental Association**  
Major General Sir David Thorne KBE CVO

**Deputy Honorary Colonels TA**

Norfolk	Colonel P J S Child
Suffolk	Brigadier A J K Calder OBE
Cambridgeshire	Colonel P G R Horrell TD
Lincolnshire	Colonel R J M Drummond OBE
Leicestershire	Colonel J C D Heggs DL
Northamptonshire	Colonel F A H Swallow OBE
Bedfordshire	Colonel M Adkin
Hertfordshire	Colonel N G Halsey TD
Essex	Colonel R A Shervington TD

**Alliances**

Australia	The Royal Tasmania Regiment
Barbados	The Barbados Regiment
Belize	The Belize Defence Force
Bermuda	The Bermuda Regiment
Canada	Sherbrooke Hussars
	The Lincoln and Welland Regiment
	The Essex and Kent Scottish
	The Lake Superior Scottish Regiment
Gibraltar	The Gibraltar Regiment
Malaysia	1st Battalion The Royal Malay Regiment
New Zealand	3rd Battalion (Auckland {Countess of Ranfurly's Own} and Northland) Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment
Pakistan	5th Battalion The Frontier Force Regiment
South Africa	First City Regiment
	Regiment de la Rey

The Regiment is affiliated to 158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment RLC (V)  
and to the Worshipful Company of Poulterers  
1st Battalion has a Bond of Friendship with HMS Norfolk

## 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,  
Grays and Thurrock, Hertford, Hinckley and Bosworth, Ilford, Ipswich,  
King's Lynn, Leicester, Lincoln, Lowestoft, Luton, Newham, Northampton,  
Norwich, Peterborough, Romford, Southend, Sudbury, Watford,  
Wellingborough, Wisbech, Great Yarmouth, and  
The Colour of the Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

## REGIMENTAL LOCATIONS

### Regimental Headquarters:

The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN  
(Tel: 01284 752394 Fax: 752026/Colchester Military 5124)

**Regimental Secretary:** Colonel A C Taylor

**Assistant Regimental Secretary:** Major J Fisk

**Regimental Careers Officer:** Major R C Gould

### Area Office Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire

Britannia House TA Centre,  
325 Aylsham Road, Norwich NR3 2AD  
(Tel: 01603 400290)  
Area Secretary: Major W H Reeve

### Area Office Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex

Blenheim House, Eagle Way, Warley, Essex CM13 3BN  
(Tel: 01277 213051)

### Area Office Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire

Gibraltar Barracks, Northampton NN1 3RE  
(Tel: 01604 635412)  
Area Secretary: Colonel F A H Swallow OBE

### Area Office Lincoln

Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln LN1 3PY (Tel: 01522 525444)  
Area Secretary: Captain D J Lee BEM

### Regimental Information Team

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn (Tel: 01223 204216)  
Capt TD Smith MBE

### Regimental Museum

Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Cambs CB2 4QR  
(Tel: 01223 835000 Extn 313)  
Regimental Attendant: Mr G A Boss

## BATTALION LOCATIONS

1st Battalion,  
Oakington Barracks,  
Longstanton, Cambridge CB4 5EJ *(to Londonderry May 99)*

Lieutenant Colonel R J Kemp MBE

2nd Battalion,  
Alexandra Barracks,  
BFPO 58 *Falkland Islands Company  
Mar-July 99*

Lieutenant Colonel S L Porter

6th(V) Battalion,  
TA Centre, Blenheim Camp, Newmarket Road,  
Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3SW

Lieutenant Colonel H N D Gill (V)

7th(V) Battalion,  
TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester LE4 6BY

Lieutenant Colonel P M Holme

### Regimental Representatives

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn: Maj M A L Lyne  
Infantry Training Centre, Catterick: Maj AW Price  
RMA Sandhurst:

## Honours and Awards

We congratulate the following on their awards during the past six months:

Lt Col D J W Baylis	OBE	Sgt M J Dunningham(V)	TEM
Maj J L Raybould (V)	TED 2nd Clasp	Sgt S M McPoland(V)	TEM
Maj M A Baker(V)	TEM 2nd Clasp	Cpl D T Beard(V)	TEM
WO2 S C R Cook	TEM 2nd Clasp	Cpl N B Instance(V)	TEM
WO2 E Watson	TEM	Sgt D G Armstrong(V)	TEM
Sgt S M J Chutkhan(V)	TEM	Sgt C Butler(V)	TEM

## Senior Officers' Appointments

The following are congratulated on assuming senior appointments:

Brig J C McColl CBE	as Deputy Colonel (2/7 Bn) 1 Nov 98
Col N H Kelsey OBE TD	as Deputy Honorary Colonel TA 1 Oct 98
Lt Col R J Kemp MBE	as CO 1st Bn 18 Jun 98

## Promotions

Brig J C V Sutherell CBE ADC	To Maj Gen, Feb 99	Lt P M Smith	To Capt, 14 Dec 97
Lt Col R M Chisnall OBE	To Col, 1 Oct 98	Lt S R Smith	To Capt, 12 Feb 98
Maj N G Burrell	To Lt Col, 30 Jun 98	Lt S C Worthy	To Capt, 13 Oct 98
Maj P D Jones MBE	To Lt Col, 30 Jun 98	Lt S W Romilly	To Capt, 13 Oct 98
Maj A J C Wild MBE	To Lt Col, 30 Jun 98	Lt E L Paden	To Capt, 13 Oct 98
Maj R J Ladley MBE	To Lt Col, 30 Jun 99	2Lt S D Wilson	To Lt, 12 Aug 97
Capt J Rooney(V)	To Maj, 5 Mar 98	2Lt E J Belderbos	
Lt C D Hoyles	To Capt, 1 Apr 98	2Lt M R Evans	
Lt S J Nye	To Capt, 1 Apr 98	2Lt M S Woodeson	To Lt, 10 Aug 98
Lt S N Pallant	To Capt, 1 Apr 98	2Lt N D D Charlwood	
Lt A L Robbins	To Capt, 25 Aug 98	2Lt M A Dingle	
Lt P M Smith	To Capt, 14 Dec 97	2Lt N J Haden	
Lt D J Howson	To Capt, 16 Jun 98		
Lt M G Powell	To Capt, 13 Oct 98		

## Left the Army

The following are leaving, or have left, the Army:

Col R G Greenham	Nov 98
Lt Col A P Domeison MBE	Dec 98

We wish them well for the future and hope to see them from time to time at Regimental functions.

## Postings

RHQ has been told of the following postings:

Brig(for Maj Gen) J C B Sutherell CBE ADC to Comdt RMCS Mar 99.	Capt C D Hoyles from 1st Bn to 2 CTT 4 Jan 99.
Brig J C McColl CBE from 1 Mech Bde to HQ Land Jan 99.	Capt J C J Wright from RMCS to DG(ES(A) Jan 99.
Lt Col C G Stallard from DM(A) to HQ TSC 26 Oct 98.	Capt P H Holton from ATR Bassingbourn to 4 CCT Nov 98.
Maj J J W Hart from 20 Armd Bde to 2nd Bn 19 Oct 98.	Capt D G Ward from Office of C-in-C Land to 1st Bn Dec 98.
Maj W J Saunders from 1 RRF to HQ Land 2 Feb 99.	Capt R F L Lyne from 2nd Bn to HQ ARRC Jan 99.
Maj D G H Hunter from ACDS(OR) to 2nd Bn 1 Sep 98.	Lt M A Dingle from 2nd Bn to ITC Catterick Jan 99.
Capt R L Gerrard-Wright from RMAS to Equerry post.	Lt N D B Charlwood from ATR Bassingbourn to 1st Bn Aug 98.
Capt A G Grinonneau from 2nd Bn to BFFI 31 Aug 98.	Lt N F Faint from 2nd Bn to ATR Bassingbourn Dec 98.
Capt M A Lyne from 1st Bn to ATR Bassingbourn 16 Mar 98.	Capt F J R Grounds from 1st Bn to ITC Wales 19 Oct 98.
Capt A B Beart from ITC Wales to HQ RAC 4 Jan 99.	

### Promotion/Staff Exam and Staff Qualifications

Capt N A Johnson	IPSE Staff Pass
Capt A B Beart	IPSE Promotion Pass
Capt J M Woodham	RMCS 1999
Maj A W Price	RMCS 1999
Capt A H C Borgnis	IPSE Staff Pass
Capt E C Reynolds	IPSE Promotion Pass
Capt A G Grinonneau	IPSE Staff Pass

### Transfers

Capt M P Aston from Australia Army to 1st Bn 1 Nov 98.
Lt P C Worthington AGC(ETS) to 1st Bn 17 Aug 98.

# Regimental Matters

## Audiences with our Deputy Colonels

Col D K Harris OBE TD ADC and Col N H Kelsey OBE TD were honoured with an audience by Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, on their change of appointment at Kensington Palace on 1 Oct 98.

## New Deputy Colonel

With Brig P P Rawlins' retirement from the Army he has handed over as Deputy Colonel to a serving officer, Brig J C McColl who took over on 1 Nov. Brig Rawlins was a Deputy Colonel for 3 years and was responsible for overseeing a successful recruiting campaign. He was also a member of the Regimental Investment Committee. We thank him for his hard work and welcome his successor Brig McColl who commanded the 2nd Bn and is currently Commander 1 Mechanised Brigade.

## Appointments at RHQ

Col(Retd) A C Taylor became the Regimental Secretary on 7 Sep 98. Col Taylor was commissioned into the Royal Leicestershire Regiment, served with the 3rd and 4th Bns and with the Gibraltar Regiment, our allied regiment. He also commanded the 6th Bn, and came to Bury from Cyprus where he was the Defence Adviser.



Col(Retd) A C Taylor

Maj(Retd) J Fisk became the Assistant Regimental Secretary on 19 Oct 98. Originally a Pompadour, Maj Fisk was commissioned in 1984 and after various appointments became QM of the 1st Bn in 1990. His last appointment in the Army was as QM of 5th Bn in Peterborough.



Maj(Retd) J Fisk

## Regimental Council

This year the Regimental Council has met twice, in May and November and this will be the pattern for the future. Our senior LE officer Lt Col A Powell attended for the first time. At the November meeting it was decided that the Regiment would not field a cricket team to play schools in 1999 because both regular battalions will be out of the Mainland. It was also decided that a new Regimental history would be commissioned to cover the period 1975-2000. The style, format and outline will be agreed at the next meeting. The Council considered whether to arrange a special Millennium event but concluded that there were already enough planned so the Gathering at Bassingbourn in summer 2000 will be our Millennium celebrations.

## Regiment de la Rey



Sgt and Mrs I J Owen with Col (Retd) AC Taylor.

Sergeant Major and Mrs I J Owen visited the Regimental Museum on 20 October. Mr Owen is currently serving with the South African National Defence Forces and his wife is the Senior Personnel Clerk with Regiment de la Rey. They brought greetings and mementoes and presented a plaque which will hang in the Regimental Museum alongside those of our other Allied Regiments. After their visit to Duxford the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the 1st Battalion hosted the Owens during a visit to Oakington Barracks.

## Entry to Regimental Museum

There are still some members of the Regiment who visit the Museum at Duxford unaware of the discounted prices available, or do not visit because they feel the cost is too high. All members of the Regiment, past and present, and Former Regiments, qualify for a reduced cost of entry on production of an ID card, Association card or special card available from Area Secretaries. Cost of entry for days other than special events is:

Adults	£5.50
Senior Citizen	£3.50
Child (5-16)	£2.50
Child under 5	Free

The above reduced prices give entry, not just to the Regimental Museum, but to one of the finest air and land warfare museums in Europe.

Groups or individuals wanting special guided visits, or access to Regimental Archives, should contact Mr George Boss, the Attendant, direct on 01233 835000, Ext 313.

# Regimental Matters

## The Regimental Reunion 25 July 1999

The Regimental Reunion will be held at Bassingbourn Barracks on Sunday 25 July 1999. The format will be:

1000	Gates Open
1130	Drumhead Service
1215	March Past
1230	Bars, Kiosks and Stalls Open
1330	Static Displays, Side Shows, Shooting Competition
1500	Band Display
1730	Bars Close
1800	Barracks Close

We hope that even more serving and retired members of the Regiment and Association Branches with their Standards will attend this year. Packed lunches will not be available this year; you are asked to bring picnics or use the considerable refreshment facilities provided.

## MBNA International The Regimental Credit Card



For the quarter ended 30 Sep 98 the Regimental Association received a Royalty cheque for £430. 76 from MBNA International demonstrating the benefit to the Regiment of using the MBNA Card.

Please support the

**ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT CREDIT CARD.**

## Honorary Regimental Chaplain

Romford Carnival 1952 - DM Franks



Reverend M D Franks MBE became the Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment on 1 Nov 98, taking over from Reverend T B F Hiney MC.

## Regimental Briefing

The next Regimental Briefing for Lord Lieutenants, other civic dignitaries, headteachers, employers and senior members of the Regimental Associations will take place at Oakington Barracks, Cambridge on 9 Feb 99.

## 'Regiment' Magazine

RHQ still holds a stock of 'Regiment' magazine of February/March 1997 featuring The Royal Anglian Regiment. Copies may be obtained at the following prices:

Pre paid	£2.75 per copy plus postage
Bulk sale or return	£2.00 per copy plus postage

## Contributions to 'Castle' Wanted

You know how it is at reunions - that great, and over used phrase, "Do you remember when . . . . . predominates. You cast your minds back over the years to shared experiences and partake of the opiate of comfortable retrospection. As memories fade details are lost; names are forgotten and the amusing anecdotes slip the mind. This need happen no longer.

Why not write an article for the Castle to record, with words and photographs, your experiences. Let everyone else share in your experience and laugh with/at you. Lay down for posterity your thoughts and activities. Such articles do not have to be tales of great bravery and derring-do. If it is something you would talk about over a beer, share it with a wider audience - the readership of the CASTLE. So let's have your articles please.

## NEXT CASTLE - JUNE 1999

Contributions required by 15 April 99



# Regimental Matters

## Diary Dates

<b>January</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>September</b>
<b>February</b>	3 2nd/5th Essex Regimental Officers' Luncheon, Warley	1 Royal Anglian Regiment Foundation Day
09 Regimental Briefing, Oakington	4 Royal Norfolk Regiment Officers' Dinner Norwich	4/5 Royal Lincolnshire Regiment Association Reunion, Lincoln
13 Sobraon Dinner - Lincoln	5 Royal Norfolk Regiment Officers' Luncheon, Norwich	
<b>March</b>	6 Cambridgeshire Regiment Annual Service of Remembrance and Reunion, Ely	25 1st Battalion Royal Leicestershire Regiment Reunion, Leicester
20 6th Battalion Officers' Past and Present Dinner, Bury St Edmunds	Regimental Function for Suffolk, Bury St Edmunds	Royal Norfolk Regiment Association Dinner, Norwich
<b>April</b>	16 Lincolnshire Officers' Lunch, Army & Navy Club	26 Royal Norfolk Regiment Association Commemoration Service, Norwich
16 3rd Battalion Officers' Dinner Club Cocktail Party	19/20 Royal Tigers Weekend	
17 Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association Dinner	25 Hindoostan Day	<b>October</b>
23 Opening of Royal Leicestershire Regiment Museum, Leicester	27 Essex Regiment Reunion	1/2 70th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment Reunion, Kettering
25 Almanza Day, 1st Battalion Almanza Day Commemoration Service, Norwich	30/1 Royal Norfolk Show	1 3rd Battalion Officers' Dinner Club Luncheon, Warley
4th/5th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment Dinner, Millbank	<b>July</b>	<b>November</b>
<b>May</b>	3/4 Northamptonshire Regiment Reunion, Northampton	5 Regimental Council Meeting Regimental Dinner, Army and Navy Club
1st Battalion to Londonderry	22 Salamanca Day, 1st Battalion	21 Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association Reunion and Wreath Laying
1 Cambridgeshire Regiment Officers' Dinner, Waterbeach	24(tbc) Essex Regiment Association Annual Dinner and Dance Eagle and Garter Club Dinner Bassingbourn	27 Sortie Day, RHQ and 1st Battalion
7 Northamptonshire Regiment Lunch, Millbank	25 Regimental Gathering, Bassingbourn	
Regimental Council Meeting	27 Talavera Day, 2nd Battalion	<b>December</b>
16 5th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment Dinner	31 Suffolk Regiment Officers' Dinner, Bury St Edmunds	4 Royal Leicestershire Regiment Officers' Dinner Club Luncheon, Army and Navy Club
	<b>August</b>	
	1 Suffolk Regiment Minden Day Reunion, Bury St Edmunds.	
	13 Blenheim Day, 2nd Battalion	

## From the Padre



Preparing this, my first message to you all, coincides with the First Anniversary of the death of two great women of our time. I refer to Diana Princess of Wales and Mother Teresa of Calcutta. These two wonderful women dedicated so much of their time in the service and care of the less privileged and unwanted people in the world.

Anniversaries and Remembrance, are two words used a great deal throughout our Christian society.

Anniversaries are more personal - Birthdays, Engagements, Weddings, Christenings, Promotions, Exam Results, Family Bereavements, and many others.

Remembrance/Re-Unions, perhaps relate to a larger group - Remembrance Sunday and or Regimental Gatherings. Celebrating either or both, indicates a gathering of people of all age groups, and from different areas and countries. We gather to remember the times, good and bad, shared with many others. Some gave their lives, so that others may live in a more peaceful and safe environment. Others may have received severe injuries and disabilities, the scars of conflict, which they still carry today. Families have been separated and torn apart so many times. The most recent in the small town of Omagh in Northern Ireland through which many of you have passed and patrolled whilst serving in that Province.

Yet, despite all the difficulties, sadness and grief which so many of you have suffered, soldiers of The Royal Anglian Regiment, Our Regiment, continue and will continue, for as long as is necessary, to serve in areas of danger for themselves, so that their Brothers and Sisters in Christ may live in peace and tranquillity.

May you all receive the Blessings and love from Our Father in Heaven.

*Martin Franks*

# Mainly About People

## Two ex-RSMs Visit Their Former CO



L to R: Ex-RSM Len Drew, Peggy Drew, Lt Col 'Bertie' Bevan, Freda Lyon, Ex-RSM Vic Lyon

Ex-RSM Len Drew and his wife Peggy, and ex-RSM Vic Lyon and his wife Freda, who now all live in Bournemouth, in April visited Lt Col W S (Bertie) Bevan OBE at his home in Milford-on-Sea, Hants, to get him to sign their copies of his recently published book - 'Topics & Red Berets - The Saga of a Suffolk Officer'.

They all served together in 1st Suffolk in overseas locations including Malaya, Trieste and Cyprus.

## Regimental Chaplains

Reverend Tom Hiney joined the Royal Leicesters in 1956, won a Military Cross on UN operations in the Congo whilst serving with the Ghana Regiment, and left the Army for the first time in 1967. He was ordained in 1969, rejoined, and served for a further 20 years as an Army Padre before becoming the Resident Chaplain at Chelsea Hospital. Tom has been our Honorary Chaplain for 8 years. We thank him for his friend-

ship, loyal support and hard work and wish him and Muriel a long and happy stay at Windsor Castle, their next home.

Reverend Martin Franks joined the Essex Regiment in 1946 as a band boy. He rose to be Drum Major in 1951 and in 1963-64 was RSM of the 2nd Battalion. He was commissioned in 1967, and thereafter served mainly with the 3rd Battalion. His last appointment in the Army was as a Company Commander at Bassingbourn. He then worked as a Retired Officer in Colchester and was ordained in 1991. We welcome him back and look forward to his uplifting words on Regimental occasions.

## Visit to Washington

Whilst visiting Washington DC for the British Army Staff Conference in October four Royal Anglian officers found time to pose for the camera.



From left to right: Capt David England (Exchange Officer), Maj David Napier (Staff Officer to the Bermuda Regiment), Maj Mike Beard (Exchange Officer) and Lt Col Kevin Hodgson (former Poacher, commanding BATSU Belize)

## LEAVING THE REGULAR ARMY



**WE NEED YOUR SKILLS AND ABILITIES IN EAST ANGLIA TA  
AND THE ARMY CADET FORCE**

**JOIN US AND CONTINUE IN COMRADESHIP**

**PHONE: THE RESERVE FORCES AND CADETS ASSOCIATION OF EAST ANGLIA**

**01245 354262**

**BE THE BEST**

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# Letters

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From:  
Mrs Deirdre Meddings  
c/o RHQ Royal Anglian Regiment  
Bury St Edmunds

Dear Colonel Taylor

May I please beg space in the Regimental Magazine to thank the many, many people connected with the Regiment, serving and retired alike, who have supported me so much following the recent death of my husband George.

To all those who sent the many wonderful cards and letters that I have received, the comfort that I gained from the many kind words is undescrivable and has helped carry me through what has been, and still is, a very traumatic time.

To all the golfers who attended the Autumn meeting at Flempton a special thank you for the most beautiful flowers, they were such a wonderful surprise and so appreciated, especially as they arrived after a particularly bad day.

To those people who also so very kindly gave donations in lieu of flowers to the RNLI the collection raised £700, a magnificent amount of which I know George would have been so amazed. It has been wonderful to find how highly people thought of him, friends and acquaintances alike, he certainly was my pillar of strength.

To those units who earlier in the year supported a sponsored run by one of our son-in-laws, namely the 6th Battalion, RHQ and the RIT, the sum raised on that occasion was £175, raised within one week; for which I was again most grateful for your support. This has been donated to a special research project into bowel cancer at the Royal Free Hospital in London.

Lastly may I please thank especially all the staff at RHQ, past and present, who have been so supportive over the last few months. George was most touched by their magnificent help before his death and for my own part, without them my life would have been so much more difficult.

Once again my most heartfelt thanks to everyone.

Your sincerely

*Deirdre Meddings*

From:  
Eddie Cooper,  
Appeal Fund Organiser  
Burma Star Far East Exhibition Appeal Fund

Dear Editor

Remembering the interest you showed when I first commenced appeals for this Exhibition Fund early in 1997, it now gives me great pleasure to inform you that the Exhibition should be completed, ready for its official opening by a celebrity connected with the Burma Campaign towards the end of March 1999.

As many of your readers were kind enough to make donations to the fund following your original announcement, and against a separate appeal letter, I would appreciate an announcement being made in a forthcoming issue of your journal as I am certain many of them will appreciate knowing the present situation, and also enable many of them to pay a visit to the Exhibition when it is 'up and running' after Easter 1999.

Anticipating your kind attention to this request,

I am,

Yours sincerely

*Eddie Cooper,*  
Appeal Fund Organiser.

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# The Vikings

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*"I have seen what I have never saw before, a single line of infantry break through three lines of cavalry, and throw them into confusion."*

The defeated French commander, Marshal Contades, speaking of the 12th Foot (Suffolk Regiment) and others at the Battle of Minden, 1759.

As the only regular Infantry Battalion in the Brigade, life can be busy at best and disjointed at worst. Our role, to provide training support to the Army and specifically 49 (East) Brigade, can find the Battalion spread to the four corners. Such variety requires flexibility. More importantly, a thorough understanding of what the Battalions tasks are is essential. The more salient occurrences are noted down with thoughts added by all ranks. Gathered together, it is hoped to highlight the diversity of the Battalions tasks.

## Farewell to Lt Col Harrold

Shortly after the last edition of Castle was published, command of the Battalion changed. Lt Col Harrold had moved the Vikings from Colchester to Oakington. He had taken us to Northern Ireland and brought us back safely and with pride. We had triumphed at TESEX and played hard in Kenya. But on the 18th of June Lt Col Harrold could not stop the handing over of command. On his trusted steed, his motorbike, he was towed out of the gates. As he walked away, the Battalion said farewell with three cheers.



*Lt Col Harrold has one for the road.*

That afternoon our new Commanding Officer took the helm. The Battalion then realigned its operational focus and introduced a tactical concept tailor made to match our firepower and mobility, Raider Tactics. Furthermore the training provides a sound basis for the skills required in Londonderry. As Castle goes to press, the Vikings will be evaluating the results of Raider Tactics after the CO's FTX in Sennybridge which will incorporate light armour and engineer support. (To be concluded in the next issue)

## Minden Day RSM Locked Up!

Minden day has for many years focused on the family. The value of this can not be stressed highly enough and so this year would follow suit. The parade differed from the usual format with the Battalion 2 i/c presenting the second rank with their Minden Roses in recognition of his last Minden Day. After the Drum Head Service, the emphasis changed from military



*The Bn 2IC presents Minden Roses*

to family. Besides the organised entertainment laid on by the Battalion, each Company provided activities for all the family. It was here that the RSM was locked in the stocks for 15 mins. Left to the mercy of soldiers, the RSM was soaked continually to revengeful giggles. The day was blessed with baking sunshine which assisted in making this Minden day a complete success.

## Exercises and Training - Bit of this, Bit of that ! Training Support Group

The importance of correctly training the next wave of officers and soldiers destined for Bosnia speaks for itself. The task, this time, fell upon A (Norfolk) Company. Boosted by Headquarters Company, Major Dick Cook and his men departed for Longmoor. Catering for the varied ability of the mixed Regular and TA cadre was a hurdle in itself. With patience, the Vikings instructed and then demonstrated the possible confrontational situations that maybe encountered in the Balkans. Once complete, the cadre engaged in life like scenarios that confirmed the lessons. After completing the range package the cadre was flown out to Bosnia for their tour. The Battalion also found itself training 39 Regiment Royal Artillery for Northern Ireland. The full story can be found later in this edition.

## RAAT, RAAT, RAAT

A great proportion of the training the Vikings have received has come off the back of the RAAT tasks. Instead of aimlessly crossing 'that bridge' or driving through that 'obvious ambush site,' company commanders have used these opportunities to the full. This allowed an element of training whilst fulfilling the requirements of the OPFOR. Two examples of this type of training are Exercises Globe Trot and Red Shank. Here, B (Suffolk) and C (Essex) Company Commanders saw these exercises as a chance to test their soldiers in new roles. Furthermore it provided the chance to practise deliberate defensive operations, which would not normally feature in Raider Tactics.



*Vikings getting stuck in.*



*Get some !*

## United Kingdom Stand by Battalion

The Battalion assumed the position of UKSB at the end of September. The MOD decreed that all preparatory Northern Ireland training be cancelled due to the changing situation. Companies deployed to training areas countrywide and grasped the chance to practise Raider Tactics at company level. A (Norfolk) Company conducted a progressive training programme, culminating in an inter - section competition. The winner of which was 1 Section 1 Platoon. C (Essex) Company deployed to STANTA where they carried out low level training, including tactical river crossings. It was here that Headquarters Company also joined in. Nobody was spared. Led by the CO and RSM, elements of Headquarters Company slid effortlessly across the river or lake with the grace of a swan! Shortly after, C (Essex) Company deployed to Sennybridge for continuation training in the hills. During a series of study days the Battalion discussed the

principles of Raider Tactics and applied them to various operations that could be expected. Captain Dan Howson writes about the study days later in this edition.

## CPTA Training

One of the few chances for the Battalion to gather together was in CPTA. Using the ranges allocated for UKSB Northern Ireland training, the Vikings organised and ran a comprehensive range package. The week long package concentrated on company level training followed by the range package. Lydd and Hythe ranges offered the Battalion scope to shoot something different from conventional gallery and ETR ranges. Incorporating the night firing facilities meant that the Vikings could sharpen up on almost all aspects of marksmanship. The result of which was an excellent success rate in the APWT. In the background of the range package, however, secret plans were made for the Battalion. Captain Borgnis and Lt Powell were tasked by the CO to devise and run a challenging Inter - Platoon Competition. Shrouded in total mystery in order

to avoid espionage, stands and routes were recced. The end result was a demanding non stop 24hrs that tested all possible aspects of soldering and all aspects of leadership. Views from LCpl Jowett are expressed later in this article. The next time the Battalion will operate as an integral unit will be in Sennybridge on Exercise Viking Raid. Here the Battalion will execute the theory of Raider Tactics before switching its emphasis towards Northern Ireland.

## The Potential NCO Cadre Worth the work

Everybody knows that the rank of LCpl is the hardest to get and the easiest to lose. It is the first rung of the ladder that could take a soldier to RSM and even QM. It is the responsibility of the Training Wing to select, educate and train the future. Captain Elphee, who was ably assisted by WOII Hill, Sgt Buxton and the remainder of the Training Wing produced a gruelling seven weeks cadre. The culmination of the cadre was a demanding live firing final

*The Casevac Stand on the Inter-Platoon Competition.*



*The Successful Candidates on the NCO Cadre.*





exercise in Otterburn. The Battalion's tradition that the top three Potential NCOs are promoted on completion of the cadre was scrapped this time. It was thought that the level of excellence of this course justified the promotion of all who completed the cadre. The Battalion, therefore, benefitted from 15 new LCpls. The Tomlinson trophy, which is presented to the best soldier on the cadre, was awarded to LCpl Hipperson.

## Operation Viking's Call

Operation Viking's Call was a form of direct action recruiting. Vikings took to the streets of our counties where they targeted youths in thriving town centres over a weekend period. The first deliber-



*The first success. Mr Gammel and Pte Bale*

ate Viking's Call took C Company to Essex in September, where they spoke the gospel of the Battalion to the unsuspecting locals of Chelmsford, Basildon, Ilford and Harlow. The response was phenomenal, largely down to the enthusiasm of the Vikings taking part.

In two days, a total of 141 committed recruit cards were issued. The Battalion continued its push to our counties with a series of similar calls that enjoyed similar success. Results are also enjoyed from the hasty Viking's Call. Here Vikings go into less populated towns and recruit using a scaled down display. The operations showed the Battalions capability and reminded the public of their county Regiment, whilst concurrently attracting potential new recruits. As Castle goes to print, the operation is only half way through and already 502 Committed Recruit Cards have been issued. The first enlistment to take place as a direct result of the drives happened 27th October. Although it is early days the forecast predicts success for the Battalion.

## Northern Ireland; It's not all work, work, work.

Preparations for the forthcoming tour to Londonderry are already well underway. After 3 separate recces to the area, the shape of the tour indicates it will be an exciting one. Indications from the reece are that the tour is likely to be unusually demanding due to the complete unpredictability of the situation in Northern Ireland. Whilst the peace process is encouraging, the future is by no means clear. This means the Battalion AOR may regularly change and so the Vikings must remain ready to counteract any terrorist activity. It is likely that Vikings may find themselves operating province wide, dealing with public order and terrorist activities. All of these points and more were highlighted to the small reece team that stayed at Ebrington Barracks

in September. In addition to identifying key operational areas that would allow planning and preparation to take place in Oakington, the reece also aimed to brief the Battalion on the way of life in Londonderry. One the leisure front, two areas became evidently clear; amenities and money. Ebrington Barracks, despite its size, is fabulously well equipped. The barracks caters for all whims possible, with its education and sports facilities. Furthermore, the surrounding areas of Londonderry, and beyond, house top quality adventure training pursuits. To maximise these facilities the Battalion will be establishing a Recreational Cell. The expressed aim of this cell is to identify money allocated to the Battalion and seize it for funding of adventure training and the purchase of equipment. The scope for conventional training is also very promising. The stability of a residential tour means that training areas can be sought many months previous. The effect of this will result in hard and enjoyable conventional company training in the areas of mainland UK. Northern Ireland also means large pay increases. Everyone will benefit from Northern Ireland pay. This is boosted with LSSA when soldiers are away from the Battalion on Operations. All these prospects indicate that the tour will be a golden opportunity to operate, train and play at the highest level. The Vikings are aware of the fortune bestowed upon them and so will be tempting our Territorial Battalions by means of presentations. This will allow some TA soldiers the opportunity to participate in the tour with the Battalion on S type engagements.

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## Visits

The Battalion has hosted a wide cross section of visitors in the last six months. WOII Cheng from the Essex, Kent, Scottish Regiment in Canada and WOI Ferbert, RSM designate of the Bermuda Regiment, visited to see how the Viking's RSM operates and take away a few tips. The Vikings were also visited by Officers and Ratings of HMS Norfolk. The visit gave a chance for a game of football between the two units. The match was easily won by the Vikings 8-0. It was thought the opposition didn't practise much as replacing the football every time it went off the pitch proved too expensive. The Battalion was also visited by Martin Bell MP.



*Martin Bell MP on his visit to the WO's and Sgt's Mess*

# Vikings



WO2 CSM Hill receives his LSGC.

Mr Bell, dressed in white, was previously an acting sergeant in the Suffolk Regiment. Mr Bell's former RSM Mr Jack Gingell was also hosted. Mr Bell gave a short speech prior to being presented with a cane and a sash. The Royal Anglian Regiment consultation meeting



Sgt Buxton receives GOC's.

was held at Oakington in October. Visitors included the Colonel of the Regiment and many more senior Officers of the Royal Anglian Regiment and the former Regiments. In addition to the Regimental Consultation meeting, the Colonel of the Regiment was available to



Cpl Patten receives his LSGC.

present awards to members of the WO's and Sgt's Mess. WOII CSM Hill and Cpl Patten were presented with their Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Sgt Buxton received a GOC's Commendation for his valuable assistance whilst in Northern Ireland.

## Sports News

The sporting seasons have been extremely busy so far. This has only been matched with their respective success. In addition to the Battalion matches, which are written about below, the Battalion has enjoyed several Inter - Company competitions. The most popular of these is the Inter -Company rugby. The competition

Sgt Turton receives the Winners Trophy from Major General Pollard CB, CBE



was as intense as ever and the quality of rugby was high. The preliminary rounds were hard fought and C (Essex) and Headquarters Companies won places to the final. Despite beating Headquarters Company in the prelim matches, C (Essex) Company could not produce the same quality as before and lost the final 36 - 0. Major General Pollard, who commanded the Battalion from 1977 to 1979 was invited to watch the finals and presented the prizes to both teams. The most encouraging factor of this years competition was the quality of the newcomers to the sport. Such a standard will provide a solid base for the Battalion team for the remainder of the season.

Pte Holman B (Suffolk) Company won the 82.5 kg section of the Tri- Service Power Lifting Competition. Another sporting success in the Battalion is LCpl Morgan A (Norfolk) Company. As a 1st Dan black belt in TAEK- WON- DO and three other martial arts, he has already won numerous County and National competitions this year. At present he is preparing for Olympic TAEK-WON-DO selection that is due to take place in November.

Pte Sell D (Cambridge) Company ran 55 miles non stop from Brentwood to Colchester for the NSPCC. Starting before dawn, he ran whilst collecting for 10 hours. With sponsorship from shops enroute, Pte Sell raised well in excess of £1,000 to go towards the massive costs of rehabilitating a single child.

## Cricket

*Captain Bunny Nye writes:*

It was back in April when we held the Inter - Company cricket competition that I saw the interest in cricket was strong. I, along with the rest of the Battalion, enjoyed the strongly contested competition, which saw Headquarters Company beat A (Norfolk) Company for a second year in a row.

From that competition, a squad of 17 Vikings was picked for the Battalion side, with the expressed aim of winning some silver wear. The Army Cup started well, with victories over 9/12 Lancers and 39 Regiment Royal Artillery. The flow was quickly and abruptly brought to a close with a 92 run defeat by 9 AAC. We now

# Vikings

had just the Infantry cup to concentrate on.

The first round of the Infantry cup was a walkover, when 1 QLR pulled out. The Vikings then travelled to Chester to play IPWO, who were last years finalists. After winning the toss, IPWO were put into bat. The Vikings bowlers immediately went to work and demolished the batting order for just 89 runs, with Cpl Bartlett taking 5 for 14. The Vikings quickly passed that total with the loss of only one wicket and Cpl Kulkarni finished on 41 not out.

The semi final saw us against ATR Litchfield. On this occasion the Vikings batted first. Within an hour, the prospect looked bleak with the Battalion on 45 - 4. Fortunately a solid middle order stand of 72 by Capt Moss (52 not out) and Cpl Dufosse (36) left the Battalion with 189 for 7. ATR Litchfield's response was to score 13 off the first over and cause me to pull my hair out. Our bowlers quickly pulled themselves together and delivered a bombardment of the fastest and deadliest deliveries ever experienced by the team. Cpl Dufosse (5 - 9) and Pte Barker (5 - 12) ripped through the batting order leaving ATR Litchfield all out for 36, giving the Vikings a win by 153 runs.

It was a well prepared team that took on 1 Green Howards in Tidworth on a damp Wednesday morning in the final of the Infantry cup. The Vikings batted first and executed the perfect tactical battle. With excellent batting from Cpl Kulkarni (86) and Capt Nye (33) amongst others, the Vikings finished their 50 over on 188 - 7; a very respectable score on such a wicket. Again it was the day of the bowlers. Cpl Dufosse's (4 - 31) assault on a poor unsuspecting Green Howards batting order. Coupled with disciplined and tight fielding, the bowlers quickly destroyed the batsmen leaving the Green Howards all out for 71, leaving the Vikings as winners of the Infantry cup 1998 by a massive 117 runs. In one year the team had risen from Inter-Company to Infantry winners. The factors that caused this were the dedication of the team and the overriding sense of team spirit.

## Football

*CSgt Groves writes:*

Football in the battalion started during the final week of July when HMS Norfolk visited on the 27th. A match was



*The victorious cricket side, Infantry Cup Winners.*

arranged and a potential team for the forthcoming season was assembled. There were old and new faces among the team to give experience over energy. The match was played and supported in true Viking spirit and after an entertaining match the final result was VIKINGS 8 - HMS NORFOLK 1.

This was to be the curtain raiser for the Inter Company Football Competition that was played on a league basis during the rest of the week. The aim of the competition was to identify new talent to represent the battalion team and to endorse the Viking competitive spirit. After three days of some excellent football the eventual winners were to be A Company.

Once summer block leave had been taken a squad of ten Vikings was assembled ready to descend on ATR Pirbright for the Infantry Six A Side competition. This competition took place over 2-3 September with a total of twenty seven teams taking part from UK, NI and

Germany. The Vikings were to be grouped with 1 Cheshire, ATR Winchester and 1 Welsh Guards. During the group matches a mixed bag of results was achieved, won one, drew one, lost one. The greatest satisfaction to the team was that we were the only team to take a point from the Cheshire's over the two days of competition. Unfortunately not enough points were gained to continue in the main competition so the Plate medal was our aim. There were to be group matches in the morning and knockout stages in the afternoon, this time we were more successful in the group stage and we qualified for the knockout stage. In the Quarter Final our opponents were 1 PWO and after a hard fought game we secured a 1-0 win. Our Semi-Final opponents were 1 RGJ and after dominating the game throughout a defensive error led to a 1-0 victory to 1 RGJ.

During the summer months the Battalion had registered with the local civilian league as was the case when the Battalion

*Sgt Goodman keeps clear of the opposition.*



were last here. Since the league season has started the battalion have played three games and have achieved the following results. 2-0 win, 9-3 win, 2-1 lost.

On the 21 October the team hosted 7 Bn REME at Oakington in the second round of the Army Challenge Cup. A hard fought game was played with the Vikings dominating the majority of the game. A mixture of sloppy play for a ten minute spell in the second half coupled with a controversial penalty decision was to see the Vikings lose by 4-2.

The battalion team then travelled to Chester to play 1 PWO on the 28 October in the Infantry Cup. After an even start between the teams in very severe windy conditions 1 PWO then became more organised and started to put the Vikings under pressure. In the second half kicking against the wind and with several changes due to injuries the opposition then took control and came out eventual winners by 7-2.

## The Viking Golf Society Summer Meeting

*Major Tony Jones (QM) writes:*

The Vikings summer meeting took place on Thursday 3 Sept 98 at Lakeside Lodge Golf Club, Pidley, Cambridgeshire. 40 members and their guests took part. The society met at 0800hrs and after the QM(T) had published the handicaps we chatted for about 45 minutes about how some should have come by horse and been wearing masks!

*The Viking Golf Society Summer Meeting*



The morning session consisted of a Stapleford Individual Competition incorporating the Triangular Match between the Officers, WO's & SNCO's and Junior Ranks. The majority teed off in jumpers and some in waterproofs, however these were soon discarded when the sun made an appearance and stayed with us throughout the day.

The individual competition was won by Cpl Matt Page with CSgt Chris Tate and Mr Dave Wharton second and third respectively. The triangular match was won by the WO's and Sgts' Mess, with the Junior Ranks second and the Officers Mess third. WO2 Stuart Robinson won the longest drive and SSgt Bob Carter nearest the pin.

After a very quick light lunch the Greensome Competition got started. This entails both players driving off, picking the best drive and then playing alternate shots. Captain Bob Grenfell and LCpl Terry Stevenson were runners up with Captain Rod Allen (on his own) winning. The day came to an end when the QM presented the prizes (the only way he can get his hands on one) thanking everyone for attending and making the meeting the best attended so far, and passed on the thanks of the society to Bob Grenfell for laying on the competition. He closed the prize giving by announcing the next meeting as the Turkey Trot at Pidley on the 18 Dec 98.

Any ex Vikings who would like to join the Viking Golf Society should contact the Society Secretary, Captain Bob Grenfell QM(T), 1 R Anglian, Oakington Barracks, LONGSTANTON, Cambs CB4 5EJ, Telephone Civil 01223 205536, Mil 765 5536.

## Infantry Training Team for 39 Regiment RA

*Captain Phil Birch writes:*

For a 2 month period between May and July 1998 a team of 13 Vikings were attached to 39 Regiment Royal Artillery in Albermarle Barracks, Northumberland as the Infantry Training Team (ITT). Our task was to assist 39 Regiment in their in-barracks training in preparation for their 6 month tour as the Northern Ireland Urban Reinforcement Battalion.

After a certain amount of getting used to the differing gunner terminology and way of doing things we soon settled in. This was helped by the fact that Albermarle has a similar layout to our own barracks and in addition several of the team had previously served here when it was ITB Ouston.

The ITT split up into three teams, with an SNCO and three JNCOs in each team. Each team was allocated to a battery, thus in each team the Viking SNCO became the battery commander's advisor and the JNCOs each had a troop to work with. CSgt Marsh was ITT second-in-command and in charge of the 57 Btty team, Sgt Clark's team was allocated to 132 Btty and Sgt Neal's team was with 176 Btty. Capt Birch as OC ITT worked with Regimental Headquarters and trained 56 (HQ) Btty.

After attending the Commanders' Cadre with 39 Regiment to refresh our skills (it was 12 months since the Vikings had returned from NI), we launched into training the gunners in individual and team level patrol skills. 39 Regiment had not been sent to NI for eighteen years and

*LCpl Nieves playing the role of ATO on the Urban Test*





*Tracker Dog deploying to follow up a shooting incident.*

although the 'trickle posting' system meant that some key personalities had NI experience, the vast majority of the Regiment, including NCOs, had no experience of NI whatsoever or else were very out of date. This phase of training was a good opportunity for the Viking Cpls and LCpls to teach a variety of lessons and pass on their experience to the Gunners.

Phase two saw each Battery being introduced to multiple level patrolling skills and reaction to incidents. A mock-up security forces base was constructed outside the training wing from which several realistic patrols exercises were carried out by each Battery, making full use of the barracks and married quarters. At this stage the SNCO in charge of each team was working closely with the Battery Commander and effectively running the Battery's training as only one of the BCs had NI experience. The Viking JNCOs had a lot of responsibility and it was routine for a non-SCBC trained LCpl to debrief a troop commander on his patrols. As well as urban training each battery also carried out rural training and public order training at Catterick training area.

Finally each Battery took part in a battery level 2 day urban test exercise in Albermarle Barracks supervised by Capt Birch. This was made as close as possible to what the gunners would experience at NITAT. To follow up each incident the ITT played the role of several agencies including ATO, dog handlers, helicopters, RUC and TV crews.

We found the Gunners keen to learn and their lack of experience was in some ways

an advantage as we did not have to so many bad habits to correct. Being an MLRS Regiment their personal skills and tactical awareness at the beginning of the training were clearly lower than we would expect in the infantry; for instance some of them had not touched their rifle for over six months, let alone fired it. Fortunately the chain of command was very willing to accept advice from us and the teams established good working relations with the Batteries. By the end of the in-barracks training we had noticed a considerable improvement and the Regiment was up to the standard to go to Lydd for the NITAT package. For this last phase the ITT was joined by an additional 25 Vikings to act as the Permanent Range Team (PRT) and ran the Northern Ireland ranges at Lydd and Hythe.

Overall the ITT was an enjoyable experience for those who took part. It was satisfying to be working with a small group of high calibre NCOs and to be training troops for a specific operational deployment. It was also good to be the acknowledged experts in our field and to be given a free hand in conducting the training. The Gunners made us very welcome in the respective messes and for the single soldiers there was also the chance for a few trips to the bright lights of Newcastle. At the end of the training the Gunners presented the Battalion with a pewter model of an MLRS launcher. On taking over as the URB, 39 Regiment deployed a battery to the Maze to act as the Prison Guard Force on a 2 month rotation. We wish them well for the remainder of their tour.

## Battalion Study Day

*Captain Dan Howson writes:*

With the arrival of the new Commanding Officer in June, the Battalion has developed a new tactical direction. It now seeks to operate using 'Raider Tactics.' In brief, these tactics involve sub-units splitting down into smaller groups, often no larger than a Fire Team in order to infiltrate. Once this has been achieved, sub units and possibly the Battlegroup complete will concentrate to undertake various offensive operations before dispersing again ready for the next task.

Such an approach to tactics requires a high level of personal fitness and soldiering skills from all concerned. To this end, training throughout the Battalion has concentrated on achieving this. Raider tactics also places heavy emphasis on the command and leadership of junior commanders as well as senior ranks; therefore training has sought to reflect this at every opportunity.

In order to facilitate the adoption of Raider tactics, the Battalion has undertaken two study days, with two more planned in November. These study days have taken the form of a TEWT for Officers and SNCO's who have been given the opportunity to analyse a tactical scenario and discuss methods of completing that mission.

The first study day took place in September and was hosted by A (Norfolk) Company. Major Cook set the scenario that would be a Battlegroup Raid. The day began with a central briefing on the basic principles of the Battlegroup Raid along with the issues and problems that may occur during the conduct of such an operation.

Following this briefing, all personnel deployed to Wandlebury Country Park to study the ground. Sub — units were then tasked to examine their own part of the operation under the scenario and orders given by the Battlegroup Commander. Everyone then came together for a splendid curry lunch laid on by CQMS A (Norfolk) Company.

Discussions and analysis then continued into the afternoon before all elements gathered to discuss their element and particularly, any problems that may occur as a result.

The second study day was held a few days later and hosted by B (Suffolk)



Company. The main subject of this TEWT was the Battlegroup Ambush with a suitably contentious scenario and a set of orders being provided by Major Simon Andrews. The conduct of the day was very similar to that sponsored by A (Norfolk) Company, with the difference being the setting used was Lyn forest in STANTA. Again sub-units were invited to discuss their own part of the operation prior to a central discussion, where various plans were noted.

Overall, The Battalion study days have provided an important means of assisting the Battalion in the transition to Raider tactics. The study days have enabled commanders to focus in on the different considerations and issues that arise during operations carried out by the Vikings.

The study days have also given focus and perspective to the training of junior commanders and private soldiers. The process will now continue with C (Essex) Company and D (Cambridge) Company when they conduct their study days in November.

## CPTA Inter Platoon Competition.

### A View from the Top,

*LCpl Jowett 10 Platoon writes.*

To maximise the CPTA Northern Ireland package meant the Platoon would have to put in many hours of build up training. The key areas identified were, fitness, first aid, casualty evacuation and weapon handling. Little did we know that when we started this, before departing on summer leave, all of our training would put us a good position for the future.

On return from leave it was announced that the Northern Ireland package was cancelled but something else would take its place. With this in mind we continued to refine section and platoon SOPs and used them well on the Company exercise in Thetford. It was here that the Platoon were tested to the full both physically and mentally. In 36 hrs we had tabbed over 30 Kms, carried out many OPs and killed countless enemy. All of this training was classic build up training for CPTA, and by now it had emerged there was going to be an Inter - Platoon competition and we wanted to win. This was a united feeling within the Platoon as we prepared to deploy down to CPTA.

The training package provided by the Battalion allowed more time to practice the SOP as well as other Infantry skill such as, Arty target indication, minefield breaching and many more. During the range periods, the Platoon carried out background weapon handling and signal revision. By the day of the Inter - Platoon competition there was a feeling of confidence within the Platoon. There was just enough time to practice watermanship with the Assault Pioneers and our river crossing drills, before we stocked up with clacky bars and grabbed the precious moments of sleep prior to Startex.

The first event in the competition was one of the hardest for the Platoon. Our relatively small size handicapped us when we had to carry the boats after paddling across the water, by night. The end result was a good time which put us in forth position. Next was the two miler. Here we knew we could do well and indeed we did. The Platoon finished together and in a good time. We approached the night tab, not wishing to beat ourselves but do enough to keep us in our current position. This decision proved a valuable one as many other platoons were suffering with major feet problems as a result of the night's activity. After a restless night, the day brought with it the first test. The command task stand saw CSgt Marsh complete a combat estimate whilst the remainder of the Platoon completed the command task under a new leader. Both aspects of the stand were completed well and we finished joint first. After a swift but hard tab we arrived at the foreign weapon stand. Here all the practise paid off as the Platoon stripped 9mm pistols, GPMGs and foreign weapons with ease.

The mass casualty stand used the Section and Platoon SOPs so rigorously

rehearsed. As some soldiers dealt with the injured in conjunction with the team medics, others formed all round protection which allowed CSgt Marsh to secure an HLS. Again the Platoon felt they had done well and by now the possibility of winning was becoming very real. Moving to the signal stand, the determination of the less fit soldiers was obvious. They sensed victory also and it drove them on. When we arrived at the signal stand there were challenges to test all levels from contact reports up to SOC's. On completion of this we knew there was just one more stand to go.

No amount of training could have prepared us for the final stand. The ammo carry came after 20 Kms of tabbing and no sleep. Carrying Milan tubes and Mortar greenies up a 500 metre hill in full kit was a real test. The distance seemed never ending and what felt like running was nothing more than a slow plod. Time stood still and we thought it would never end. When it finally did, we were informed that we were the fastest. We had done well again. There was a strong sense of achievement and quietly we all thought we had done enough.

The results were gathered and announced in reverse order. After an agonising wait 10 Platoon were declared winners of the Inter - Platoon competition. The hours of preparation, the platoon cohesion and sheer determination when mixed with high calibre leadership had paid off. We won !

### 10 Platoon

#### Winners of the Inter - Platoon Competition

CSgt Marsh, LCpl Steel, Pte Myall, Sgt Riley, Pte Armon, Pte Owen, Cpl Attwood, Pte Everit, Pte Sarling, Cpl O'Hanlon, PteHackett, Pte Sullivan, LCpl Jowett, Pte Hare.

*The Ammo Carry - Nightmare!*



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# The Poachers

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The past six months for The Poachers have been a very busy period indeed. However we have finally settled in. We have now reached what we regard to be our steady state of operations. We've changed a number of things, all for the better, such as the soldiers standard of living and the facilities available within Alexander Barracks. Now that our feet are well and truly under the operational table so to speak, it is time to exploit all Cyprus has to offer as an island, and believe us we are.

We continue to utilise the islands potential for both training and, equally as important, leisure. Towards the close of the year The Poachers will witness the opening of their new Beach Club adjacent to Alexander Barracks. The Poachers Adventure Training Team grows by the month as does the wide variety of courses and qualifications offered by it.

The Poachers have also been making use of some excellent off island training opportunities. Two companies, A and C, were fortunate enough to embark upon EX GOLDEN SANDS, a live firing exercise in Jordan.

As ever, the wider Poacher Family is at the forefront of our minds. Cyprus is not just about 2 Royal Anglian it's about the wives and children that make the Poacher Family complete. They are as much a part of the Battalion as every military person within it. Here then are our thoughts on the last six months. Busy ... yes, enjoyable ... definitely.

## Exercise Desert Challenge - *Fire Fighting in Episkopi*

*Major PAE Nanson RRF OC D(Sp) Company writes*

Exercise DESERT CHALLENGE was to have been D (Support) Company's preparation for live firing in Jordan. The exercise was to take place on the Limas Training Area in Episkopi. On Monday 10 August 1998 the company deployed, by road, from Dhekelia to Episkopi. As the convoy approached the exercise area a plume of smoke was evident rising from the area of Bloodhound Camp. Nothing more was thought as the CSM went, as planned, to the Garrison Ops room to book in whilst the remainder of the company started to dig in on MELANDA Peninsular.

CSM Heycock suspected all was not well as he drove past the married quarters at Paramali. Women and children were being evacuated from already burning buildings while soldiers tried, in vain, to move gas bottles before they caught fire and exploded. It was at this point that the CSM decided that the services of D Company might better be employed fighting fires rather than the imaginary terrorists that were about to descend upon Episkopi. By 1600hrs the whole company was at the ICP and tasked with attempting to contain the fire within the quarters area.

A scene reminiscent of the worst ethnic cleansing in Bosnia greeted the soldiers as they entered Paramali. The fire was moving quickly and with such force that it jumped a 20 meter span of roadway as if it was nothing more than a ditch. 1 LI had quickly dispatched troops onto the



*L to R Clarke, OC Recce, Unknown, Brownlie, Lmb*

ground to assist. A 4 tonne truck which happened to pull up at the moment the fire jumped the road was engulfed by flames and the soldiers were very lucky to escape with only minor injuries. The Poachers quickly became fireman and began to beat the flames with whatever was at hand (the water system had failed and the hydrants were dry). The soldiers worked steadily through the remainder of the evening and by about 1900hrs the fire in the quarters were under control. Fourteen families lost their quarters that afternoon, many owe their intact houses to the actions of The Poachers and 1 LI.

Our work was not yet over. As darkness fell a wall of flames, fanned by an increasing wind, began moving towards the main

Garrison area. The Garrison not only contains important Priority Assets but also more quarters and, as night fell, those unfortunates who had lost everything only hours before. D Company along with anyone else at hand were immediately tasked into the area to stop the advancing flames. The whole company, on foot, descended into a narrow valley up which the flames were advancing towards the perimeter fence of the Garrison. The scene was straight from "Dantes Inferno". A 30ft wall of flames moved at fast walking pace, clearing everything in its path. The RAF and 16 Flt AAC arrived on the scene with Wessex Rainmaker and Recce helicopters. With direction from the platoons on the ground they began to tackle the fire. Again it was the JNCOs and the Private soldiers

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# Poachers

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who excelled. On more than one occasion it was the courageous act of groups of soldiers rushing advancing flames and beating them out with beaters that saved the day. Privates and JNCOs were often working in isolation making critical decisions without the assistance of seniors. On occasions young soldiers, by radio, directed helicopters onto particular areas of the fire that needed quelling. By 2200hrs C Company, as Reserve, had arrived from Dhekelia to assist and before too long the combined companies had brought the fire under control, less than a kilometre from the perimeter fence. D

Company was withdrawn from the fire leaving C Company to man OPs throughout the night to stop flare ups, of which there were many.

In the company rest area the black faced soldiers enjoyed some food and water. Unbelievable that there only minor burns with a great deal of singed hair and uniforms. General Ramsay, the CBF, visited the company dressed in T-shirt and shorts (all he possessed as his house had also been burned to the ground). Despite a few puns about the Generals BBQ technique, the visit went reasonably well!

D Company remained in Episkopi for a further 3 days fighting the occasional 'flare up'. We are all proud of the fact that as well as being Policemen and forestry workers, we are now all Firemen. We were also granted the Freedom of Episkopi as a company battle honour by a very grateful Garrison Commander. As for me, well, DESERT CHALLENGE hadn't gone quite as I had planned. However had I wanted to test my soldier's courage, ingenuity, junior leadership and stamina then I couldn't have hoped for a better exercise. They were not found wanting.

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## Exercise Golden Grip, 12 -21 October 1998

*Lt AF Hawley, A Coy writes*

On the 12 October, nine Poachers began a rock-climbing expedition to Jordan. We left our Dhekelia base early Monday morning in order to catch an RAF Hercules flight carrying ammunition to Markha airstrip, north of Amman. Unfortunately for us, it was carrying too much ammunition and we were forced to come back the following day.

On Tuesday we did make it to Markha, and from there we caught a local bus to Aqaba, and onto our final destination. After seven hours travelling through the heart of the desert, we arrived in the still little known climbing area of Wadi Rum. Europeans first climbed the area in 1984, and, whilst it offers the visitor outstanding single and multi pitch climbing, Jordan itself remains off the better-trodden tourist routes and consequently attracts limited interest.

We arrived in the dark and consequently we awoke the next morning to see the beauty of Rum for the first time. Picture the scene: Sweeping desert vistas surrounded by jutting crags of rock several kilometres wide and hundreds of metres high. A mix of browns and reds constantly change the shape and appearance of these giant cliffs as the sun scorches a path across an uninterrupted blue sky. Lawrence of Arabia was filmed here until David Lean ran out of money and moved the production to Spain. The Seven Pillars of Wisdom made famous by Lawrence's autobiography are just 5 kilometres down the road.

The team of two SNCOs, six private soldiers, and I, began climbing on the Wednesday afternoon. It was soon clear that we could pick and choose our own routes from the simplest scrambles to the

most testing of faces. This enabled us to give the mainly novice group the opportunity gradually to build its confidence and for individuals to improve their technique.

We eked out a simple living during our nine-day stay. We slept in tents to keep out the mosquitoes and the cold desert night, and ate food fit for puritans. The latter consisted mainly of pita bread, cold rice, chicken, and fruit, but was plentiful in supply and well received at the end of a hard day's climbing. Such was the physical effort exerted during the day that most of us tended to head for our beds at around 2130.

The expedition was made possible by the grant of fCY500 from HQ BFC, and fCY200 from Battalion funds. Each climber paid fCY 120 toward the cost of the trip. This represented excellent value for money, not least because we travelled back to Cyprus in the significantly more comfortable surroundings of a Royal Jordanian Airlines 737.

Perhaps the key attraction of climbing in Wadi Rum is that for every recorded route, there are probably ten that do not feature in any guidebook. We recorded all of these climbs, and left Jordan with the honour of having bequeathed our own names to these spectacular structures.



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## Sporting Poachers

The Poachers have certainly been busy on the sporting front over the past six months. Where at all possible, taking into account our operational commitments, we have participated in as many competitions and sports as possible. In addition to those specialist articles below here are a few general points from the Battalion sports achievements.

### Athletics

At garrison level the battalion entered one team per company in the minor units athletics competition and took 1st and 2nd place. One week later it was the army island wide championships and The Poachers entered two teams which were drawn from A and B Company and C and D Company with elements of HQ Company split between the two. After a long hot day with temperatures in the 90s and a huge amount of guts and determination shown by all the athletes The Poachers were victorious.

### Running

The 12 SU Cyprus Walkabout is a 30 mile race and is one of the Islands most famous and arduous running events. This year 60 teams entered from around the island with the three Poachers teams led by WO2 (RQMS) Beighton, Lt. Barry (B coy) and Maj. Ladley (OC A Coy).

The teams were set off at timed intervals and had to run and map read their way through a series of checkpoints. Despite being new to the island and unfamiliar with the area, the Poachers won the competition by a staggering 30-min. An exceptional achievement.

### Boxing

Being in Cyprus the Battalion could not defend its title as Army Novice Grade 3 Champions. However on the 29th of May the RAF held their annual All Island Charity Boxing Competition at Akrotiri. This event was well supported by Cypriot boxing teams, 1 LI and the Poachers with the RAF also entering a boxer. The evening got off to an explosive start with the Poachers and the LI competing in the bantamweight category. Throughout the bout both boxers gave a gutsy performance with the final result going to the LI on a majority decision. With the standard set the next bout was a Poacher v LI bout. Again the crowds were treated to a skilful and hard fought bout, with the final decision going The Poachers way. Next up was an old rival, LCpl Brookes from the LI who was the only winner for



*Best Team RAF Akrotiri All Island Charity Boxing Competition.*

the LI when the Poachers beat them 8 - 1 in the 1996/97 winning season. However this time he was matched against Pte Stan ("The Hammer") Hardy who stopped his opponent in the first round with a series of devastating blows. By now the spectators, who paid 25 pounds each for the night were already booking their seats for next year. The Poachers then went on to beat the RAF boxer with a stoppage in the first round. Unfortunately Cpl David, boxing light heavy weight, was disqualified. The final bout of the night was a Heavyweight competition and saw the Poachers dismissing the LI in the first round. After an exhilarating nights boxing the Poachers were presented with the trophy for the best team. Despite the fact The Poachers are not actively competing this year, the boxers have shown they still have what it takes to be Champions.

### Poachers Angling Club Another Successful Season

*CSgt Kretay writes*

The Poachers Angling Club have enjoyed an eventful first season in Cyprus proving yet again to be one of the more successful Poachers sports teams. The Angling Club agreed to hold a 10-match season. It was also decided to compete in the Cyprus Joint Services Angling League (CJSAL). The Army Championships (C) saw 11 Poachers participate at Kouris Dam with two anglers being placed in the top three, namely, CSgt Kretay (2nd) and Cpl Coupland (3rd).

Congratulations to Cpl (now Sgt) Baines who didn't compete for much of the domestic season due to his selection for the 'full' Army Team who secured promotion to Div 1 of the National League back in England.

Six members of the Poachers Angling Club were selected to represent the 12 man Army (C) Team against the RAF in the inter-services championships in October namely, WO1 (RSM) Ralph, WO2 Robinson, CSgt Kretay, Sgt Jones, Cpl Appleton and Cpl Coupland. Unfortunately a strong RAF (C) Team defeated the Army Team.

The Poachers Angling Club hosted a children's match in July for all children from the ESBA. The children's match saw 23 children on the bank of Akhna Dam being instructed and supervised by club members with over 70 parents and friends in close attendance. The day ended with the children, parents and club members enjoying a barbecue and drinks before the CO, Lt Col Porter, presented all the children with their medallions and prizes.

The Club hosted a wives match, which saw 14 wives again take to the bank of Akhna Dam on a hot Saturday afternoon in September. The club members again instructed and coached the eager ladies. Mrs Jo Keeble was awarded top honours with over 40lb of Carp, second place went to Mrs Sharon Bartlett with 33lb and third place was awarded to Mrs Julia

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*A Patient Master Jonathon Tilley during the childrens match.*

Jones with 281b. The day was again bought to a close with everyone enjoying a barbecue and drinks before the RSM presented all ladies with their medallions and prizes ranging from beauty treatments to perfumes and crates of wine, all of which were collected by Sgt 'Jonah' Jones from generous sponsors.

It was decided to make this years Fishomania competition a sponsored marathon 24 hour competition with three



*The Victorious WO's & Sgts' Mess Team in the Inter-Mess Competition L to R: CSgt Kietay, WO1 RSM Ralph, Sgt Jones, CSgt Wernner, WO2 Robinson.*

5-hour matches taking place. WO1 (RSM) Ralph was awarded top honours. Club members raised £800 in sponsorship, which will be presented to the Army Benevolent Fund on Remembrance Sunday.

In the Inter-Mess competition the WO's & Sgt's Mess were resounding victors with 4 of the 5 man team winning their sections.

The CJSAL is scheduled to finish in December. At present the Poachers 'A' team are holding 3rd place which is a credible performance in our first season. This placing should be improved in 1999 with 1st place being the obvious goal. The Poachers league is again to be finished in December and after 8 matches any one of 6 anglers has a realistic chance of being crowned 1998 champion.

## Poachers Football

*Major IRM Hall writes*

Despite its small geographical size and its location, Cyprus is a real hot bed of football. In the short time that the Poachers have been here football has thrived at both sub-unit and Battalion level.

Upon arrival Company sides got involved in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area Cup Competition. Although none of the Company sides made it into the Finals of the main Competition, B and HQ Companies contested the final of the Plate Competition, HQ Company ran out eventual winners 2 - 1 after extra time.

The Battalion side was unable to enter either the Major Units League or Cup Competitions, so concentrated upon a series of friendlies. These were against the various UN Contingents. Results were:

Poachers 2 v 1 Sector 4 (mainly Hungarians and Austrians)

Poachers 8 v 0 Sector 2 (mainly Argentinians)

Poachers 1 v 0 Sector 1 (1 RTR)

On the representative side CSgt Limb (D Coy) and Cpl Phillips (B Coy) have played for the Cyprus Combined Services, one of whose opponents were the Estonian National side who were over in Cyprus training for 3 months.

The season has just started this month. Company sides have entered the Eastern

Sovereign Base Area League whilst the Battalion side with the accent on youth, have entered the Major Units League and Cup Competitions. Luckily we have an excellent pitch to play on complete with its own floodlights which allows football to be played at a sensible temperature



*The Poachers Football Team after its first match in the Cyprus Major Units League. A 2-0 win against Dhekelia Garrison*



## Poachers Rugby Club

*Sgt 'Bilko' Urand writes*

The Rugby season so far has been exciting for the club. The Battalion arrived on island in February 1998 and started looking at the sports scene. The Rugby Club was invited to attend the Episkopi 7's competition held at Happy Valley in March. The Rugby Club put a team of 10 into this competition and played some exciting rugby in the soaring heat. This being our first look at the other teams on the island, we knew that the coming season was going to be a hard one.

In August the club was invited to the 15th International 10's competition held over 6 days at RAF Akrotiri. The club played a total of 8 games with the highlight of the competition being the game against the Jordanian team under flood lights watched by about 2000 spectators. The club were finally knocked out in the quarter finals. (For more information see below).

With the league commencing at the beginning of September the club started training in the early mornings for up to 2 hours every other day.

The league has now started and at time of going to the press the team are second in it and playing some good rugby. The club have just played in another competition held on island, that being the Ay Nik 15's, with the team coming away with trophies for the third place after loosing to the winner in a hard fought contest.

During the first 9 months of rugby on island Pte Perry (D Coy) has been selected to represent the Army under 21's, LCpl Felstead was selected to represent the Army (Cyprus) team with Sgt Urand, LCpl Ainge (RP Staff) LCpl Taylor, LCpl Waqairoba (A Coy) LCpl Elliot (A/Pnrs) all playing for the Dhekelia Garrison team.

We now look forward to the rest of the season, with 3 major competitions still to come and rounding off the posting to Cyprus with the rugby club tour to Canada in August 1999.

## Akrotiri International Rugby

During the week 3 - 7 August 1998, the Poachers rugby team under the guidance of Sgt 'Bilko' Urand, entered the Akrotiri International Floodlit Tens Competition. The competition had teams from all over



*The Poachers Rugby Team 1998-1999*

the world converging on RAF Akrotiri to enter this week of rugby. Not only did we have the hottest weather for 30 years, but also the hottest teams around in our league. There were the Jordanians, the Army development team (eventual winners), Army Medical Services and our own 62 Cyprus Support Squadron RE, who knocked us out in the bowl quarter finals. The team gained vital experience and playing time as a team from the 10s competition. We now look forward to the coming season and the tour of Canada in August 1999.

## Whatabout the Walkabout

*WO2 (RQMS) Beighton writes*

The Cyprus Walkabout is the premier endurance, orienteering event run by the Armed Forces. It is held every year, starting at Episkopi Garrison at 600ft, going through a number of checkpoints reaching Troodos camp at 5400ft, and returning via a different route the next

day. In all, runners can expect to cover over 100kms of very rugged terrain.

Since being on island, the Battalion has competed in a number of similar, though smaller, events winning the 12. S. U. Walkabout in May. However, as well as on island teams, the Cyprus Walkabout features a number of very strong teams from UK, selected following an Army wide competition.

The training began in July around Dhekelia, but with Companies away field firing in Jordan, the full squad only assembled in September. Training then moved to the Troodos mountains in order to familiarise ourselves with the ground. This proved to be very hard work, navigating through some incredibly deep valleys in the high temperatures of summer. Fortunately, help came from one of London's leading Fitness Consultants, staying near Dhekelia, who helped with nutrition, flexibility and training.

*The Poachers 10s at RAF Akrotiri*



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# Poachers

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At the end of September, the squad shook out into three teams as follows:

TEAM 1 : Major Ladley,  
RQMS Beighton,  
LCpl Musson

TEAM 2 : Lt Barry, Lt Hawley,  
Cpl Farrell

TEAM 3 : LCpl Beardsley, Pte Perry,  
Pte Johnson

Almost immediately a friendly rivalry began, especially between teams one and two, separated as they were by a generation. Monday 5th October saw the teams move to Episkopi for the race brief and draw. It was now clear that amongst the 51 teams were some very powerful units, including HQQMG, 16 Sigs, and 4 AFMB. The draw saw Poacher teams evenly spaced out, with Team 2 leading, chased by teams 1 and 3. All teams set out at the crack of dawn on 6th, demoralisingly far away from Troodos. As the climbing started, some good map reading by Major Ladley saw Team 1 closing in on Team 2, and try as they might, they couldn't shake us off. However the competition between us ensured that we were both moving up the rankings. On the

final scree slopes, after 6 hours of climbing, we caught Team 2. This pushed them into even greater efforts and they attacked again, determined to pull back some of the time. Team 3 fared less well but still made it in at last light, 16 teams in all failing to complete the first day.

The day finished with Poacher teams 1 and 2 in 4th and 5th place overall and leading the competition for the silver boot given to the fastest on island team. In that event, our nearest rivals were from the LI, 40 minutes down but confident of catching that back on the second day. HQQMG were well in front overall, but we felt we could catch 4 AFMB and 16 Sigs lying 2nd and 3rd. The first leg was a rapid descent of Caledonian falls with all teams going well and, disturbingly, the LI gaining some ground. However, as the day grew hotter and fatigue set in, we began to haul them back. Although the second day is mainly a descent, there were still a number of crushingly steep climbs and it was here that the Poacher teams overtook first the LI and 16 Sigs. As the start had been in reverse order, Poacher 2 were only just ahead of Poacher 1, although separated by 17 minutes overall. Despite their tiredness, they tried to attack, deter-

mined not to be beaten by us 'golden oldies', however good work by LCpl Musson prevented them getting away until the very end, when pride, if nothing else ensured they finished ahead of us on the day. The fierce competition between us had paid dividends as we moved up to 2nd and 3rd overall, as well as blowing away the on island competition. The next team finished over 3.5 hrs down.

Overall, the top three places were as follows:

1. HQQMG 11 hours 32 minutes
2. POACHER 1 14 hours 00 minutes
3. POACHER 2 14 hours 13 minutes

As well as 2nd and 3rd, Poacher 1 carried off the prestigious silver boot and best novice team. A fantastic result against the best of the Army, capped off when LCpl Beardsley's team, made up exclusively of junior ranks, completed the event. A great example of motivation and map reading.

Training begins soon for next year, invitations to come and have another go are already being sent to Aldershot.

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## Exercise Spotted Dog

*Lt Chris Barry writes*

Exercise Spotted Dog is the annual deployment of an HMSTY to the Mediterranean for use by British forces stationed in the area. Although overall responsibility is retained by JSASTC in Gosport, individual units bid for legs and run their own exercise within the larger framework. True to our empire-building ancestors we outbid the rest of the island and received two legs - hey you don't get anywhere by standing in line.

So far so good, now we need an exercise author, someone to take this baby and run with it and in the fullness of time, having been chased out of everybody else's office, the Spotted Dog ended up in 5 Platoons broom cupboard. Thanks Steve, I guess this mutts mine then. Still, how difficult can this be, after all as an officer in 2 Royal Anglian, a working knowledge of summer cruising around the Med coupled with an account at the Casino Royale in Monte Carlo comes with the territory. Hmmm. I think not. However I did have a (still soggy) competent crew certificate, earned on a wet week in the channel in January so this should be a stroll.

First thing I needed was a crew, and, all of a sudden there were no shortage of volunteers from the Messes. However the curious thing is that there is nearly as much sailing expertise among the junior ranks and it was they who got the nod, the full implications of which were not, at this stage, understood, either by myself or my erstwhile companion commanding leg 4. Eventually we had 20 desperate men (actually at least one was a woman) from every corner of the Battalion motivated only by the promise of adventure and the chance of a night out. These shook out into two crews of ten, each with a qualified mate and day skipper who would make a one week trip to Turkey aboard HMSTY SABRE skippered by Jules Yardley (ex RAF so not very punctual or good in bad weather).

The first leg was the responsibility of Lt Faint and his crew was bundled into the minibus along with both weeks allocation of fresh and ORP rations (guess what was left in the cupboards a week later). The weather was fine and calm throughout which was a bit of an impediment to the main aim (no sailing) however there is

always plenty to do on a Nic 55, but with Pte's Denton and Hewitt on board it is always going to take longer than it should. I can't quite cram the full details of Lt Faint's PXR into this paragraph, but it will be no surprise to anybody that they had a good time.

The second leg was an altogether different story. The Monday broke with the sort of squally showers one remembered from Warminster rather than Cyprus and several of the crew looked distinctly unseaworthy before we had left harbour. It was now that the author realised his mistake in choosing a crew led by junior ranks as he strangely found himself on the foredeck at each sail change. As the wind picked up so the crew thinned out and it wasn't long before she was down 6 crew and the skipper was forced out of his bunk looking decidedly miffed. Just as well because 20 minutes later the Royal Engineer who was the mate had buried the boat beneath a giant wave losing half the external fittings, leading to many obvious jokes. Eventually the storm blew itself out, and as the Taurus mountains appeared so did the remainder of the

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# Poachers

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crew. Some from below and one from the floor of the cockpit, where he had remained immobile for the last 12 hours. The leg finished with SABRE being escorted into Kemer by a pair of Dolphins.

The coastline west of Anatolia is very dramatic with little harbours nestling at the foot of dramatic cliffs that plunge into the sea. The towns have remains of all the Mediterranean's great cultures, Greek, Roman, Crusader, Armenian, Venetian and, of course, Ottoman. All of which escaped the attention of the crew as they raced ashore in search of more recent civilisation

The next two legs saw the SABRE pushing up and down the coast, taking advantage of strong onshore winds in the afternoon to practice sail trimming and boat handling, one lunchtime was spent in Phasealius, a very well preserved Roman harbour. A Day's sailing always finished back in Port, where, after a protracted one



*Ptes Ireland and Pavey working hard while Pte Pett poses for the Camera*

way conversation with the customs authorities, which could easily have been simplified to 'give me all your dollars', we were able to repair for 'sundowners' followed a few hectic hours later by 'sunrisers'.

Spotted Dog was a very successful exercise that achieved its twin aims of getting troops away whilst improving the level of yacht handling expertise in Battalion. Bids are already in for next year.

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## Almost a Poacher

*LCpl A Wall AGC(SPS) writes*

I remember the date so clearly - 29th July 1998. The Commanding Officer had just warmly congratulated me on my promotion to Lance Corporal and I was sitting in my office feeling like a cat with a belly full of cream. Then the Ops Officer, Captain Corkery, dropped the bombshell. He wanted me to write an article about my attachment to the Poachers for Castle Magazine. I howled my protest. Castle magazine articles are written in eloquent prose by officers about exciting things like exercises and adventurous training, but not by clerks. What could a clerk possibly write about?

I decided to go alone to the cinema that evening to brood about my task. The film was one of those dark thrillers starring Morgan Freeman, so I was a little surprised when the Padre came to sit with me (the Battalion has the coolest Padre in the British Army). I saw the opportunity and seized it like a drowning man. In times of trouble, where else can you turn but to a trusty member of the Royal Army Chaplains Department? With the Padre's experience of writing sermons, I guessed I would be able to get some valuable hints and tips from him on creative writing. He gave me some useful pointers, but was keener to tell me about a wild party that

he was going to throw in the rectory during his wife's visit to the UK. I gave up pressing him for advice and settled back to watch the film.

Since my article would be appearing in the December issue, one literary avenue I thought of going down was one with a satirical Christmassy theme. I tried plagiarising A Christmas Carol - the story of the downtrodden, abused LCpl Cratchett - but it just didn't seem to work. And the tongue-in-cheek tale of woe just wouldn't give the right impression; I'm not downtrodden nor abused, but treated with respect for the job that I do. Besides, my first Christmas with the Poachers wasn't very Dickensian anyway. Three days before I was due to go on Christmas leave, I was tabbing across Salisbury Plain at two in the morning as part of an attacking force in the Battalion's final TESEX. Our mission was to attack the opposing force that was holed up in Copehill Down. We skirmished for three hours in the pouring rain. It was tiring and unpleasant work, and didn't exactly fill me with Christmas cheer. I wouldn't have missed the experience for the world, though.

As the deadline for submission neared, I took to sitting outside trendy cafes in

Cyprus' beautiful capital, Nicosia. Dressed appropriately in khaki chinos and a black roll-neck top, I would spend hours sitting amongst arty university students hoping that some of their literary talents would somehow rub off onto me. It didn't work. I got a great tan, but the insomnia that resulted from drinking too many espressos interfered with my early morning sport.

I needed to come up with something interesting to write about, but I'm just a clerk. Clerks file things and type letters. They certainly don't have the exciting job that real soldiers have, let alone write about it. Was Army Form Two Zero a best seller? No! The SAS or Paras write such stuff, but not clerks. Clerking just isn't sexy on the Army scale of sexiness. So how could I possibly come up with seven hundred words about me? I would have to give Captain Corkery an excuse to get me out of writing the article. Time. That was it! I wouldn't have the time. After all, I'm busy with work that I enjoy. Busy rock climbing in the afternoons. Busy attending beach parties. Busy playing sport. I would simply tell Captain Corkery that I am too busy. Too busy enjoying Cyprus.

## Exercise Golden Sands - *The Poachers Jordan Jaunt* a copywrite

*Camp Whirlwind has been won.  
The Poachers showed them how its done.  
OC A was there again,  
Leading out 200 men.  
QM Tech the construction man,  
He thought up an amazing plan.  
He built a city on the sand,  
King Hussain shook his hand.  
Conditions were so hot and dry,  
But as the Poachers we got by.  
1st week working on the camp,  
Clothes were neither dry nor damp.  
Fresh water was so good to see,  
Plenty for everyone including me.  
Purification tasted bad at first,  
But it sure did help quench the thirst.  
Pl Sgts and Commanders all got together.  
They built a range we'll remember forever.  
A Close Quarter Battle with Recce out back,  
Flanking fire and a Mortar attack.  
The sound was tremendous the range was alight;  
Take into consideration we did this at night.  
All targets destroyed the battle was won,  
Down to the line to clear the gun.  
Then back to camp for something irate,  
A wash at night not too late.  
Pioneers there on the hour  
Streaming down their man made shower.*

*Once again they helped the lads,  
The CQMS Crew with the laundry bags.  
In on Monday, Wednesday out  
No more cheesey feet about.  
In these conditions lunch wasn't bad,  
Pepsi Cola with a haverbag.  
But tea was the one that got us through,  
A choice of three and a pudding too.  
Each day went by, the troops cracked on,  
Not one moan from anyone.  
Russian trenches built in one day,  
But as the Poachers what can I say.  
Even though there was no phone  
We soon got a message home.  
The fammadgram man was full of life,  
He sent a letter to my wife;  
"Dear Darling things are great  
Its not long now for us to wait".  
Across came the Jordan's, what an amazing camp.  
"Hackmad put out that calor gas lamp".  
They have electric light not like ours,  
Two hundred and twenty thousand siloume bars.  
Well then friends I've said all I can tell,  
If you want to know more then give me a bell;  
2 R ANGLIAN Cyprus down by the sea  
Join us now and fly out for free.*

'Mary's Poem'

The poem above was written by LCpl Michael Walton, A Company's MT rep who deployed with the advance party to Jordan in late August at the beginning of Ex GOLDEN SANDS, a three week desert-bound live-fire exercise for A Company Group. The exercise began in May when both Major Stuart Carver (OC C Company) and Major Roland Ladley (OC A Company) flew to Jordan with Captain Alf Todd (Exercise QM) to pull together two identical packages for both Companies on the EL QATRANA Range 100 km south of AMMAN.

The exercise was designed to test both Companies in strategic deployment, self-sufficiency (there was no camp infrastructure, just a barren wasteland to set up a tented camp), live firing to Company Group level and integration with the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF). The latter was achieved by having a Jordanian infantry company attached to both A and C Company for the duration of their tour. The result of this attachment was, in effect, that both R ANGLIAN companies acted as short term training teams, as the Jordanians

spent most of their time sapping the British for all the information and expertise they could get. A humbling experience.

After a mad half-hour establishing Camp WHIRLWIND, (aptly named as in very short notice everything became saturated with wind blown sand), the troops began a series of live-fire exercises from individual CQB up to Platoon Attack (by day and night). The more senior ranges were run by Major Paul Nansen and latterly by Captain Nigel Johnson.

The JAF and A Coy Command Teams.



Cpl Richards tries Hubbly Bubbly!



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# Poachers

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and their Permanent Range Team (PRT). The beauty of the EL QATRANA range area is that it is huge; there were no limitations on firing and any scenario was possible. Desert training soon became second nature as the heat (which was stronger than Cyprus) was overcome by regular water stops, and the sandy conditions, which affected weapons and initially caused numerous stoppages, were seen off by constant weapon cleaning and a liberal dose of PX4.

Mixing with the JAF was certainly one of the benefits of the exercise. Their interpretation of range safety was liberal, but their spirit and enthusiasm made up for the odd near-miss. After three weeks both the R ANGLIAN and JAF Companies had really begun to come together in the field. Off-duty, there was time for sport (football, volleyball and running) and socials. On the first exercise A Company seniors experienced a Bedouin 'Mensaf' meal of yellow rice, roast almonds and 'sheeps'. The food was served from within a Bedouin style tent on large platters; the JAF officers passed the food around by hand and, with no cutlery, we also ate

by hand. For those of us not accustomed to this form of cultural 'menage', pride literally had to be swallowed. The evening finished with a smoke of hubbly-bubbly and a Bedouin sing-song in the moonlight - for most of us it was the highlight of the exercise.

The final exercise was a two-prong affair. Initially the Commanding Officer swept us through a 48 hour dash of 'tab' deployment, advance to contact, defence, patrol, withdrawal and finally night attack - all live firing. Invigorated (but knackered) we moved on to phase two. With the JAF Company in tow, we put on a forty-five minute weapons effects demonstration for a high powered Jordanian military audience; the format being equivalent to that which is now put on in Warminster. A defence routine, incorporating both sets of mortars, JAF M16, M60 and 0.5 Browning was followed by MILAN and the Jordanian equivalent of the WOMBAT. The finale was a two-pronged attack by both a British and Jordanian platoon. The script was bilingual and incorporated radio and fire control orders (also in both English and Arabic!). The overall effect

was two foreign Armies working closely together - exactly what the audience wanted to see.

At the end of the final exercise, we all drove back off the live-firing area to Camp WHIRLWIND. Our now very sandy and discoloured home had served us well. Captain Alf Todd waved us off on our R&R which consisted of a short trip to Aqaba (the Jordanian Red Sea Port and coral reef extravaganza), a visit to Petra - the Indiana Jones 'Temple of Doom' and a float in the Red Sea. All-in-all Exercise GOLDEN SANDS was a huge experience for those who deployed. The soldiers had a belly full of live-firing and can all now safely say 'when I was in the desert'. The command team gained much more. Not only did we organise and run a number of complex live-firing exercises, we also deployed, set-up, managed and overcame a plethora of problems, that go with any single-unit strategic deployment. We dealt with the British Embassy, the local police, the seaport immovable customs officials, the locally employed civilians and, among a thousand other things, a case of very bad D&V. The experience did us good.

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## A New Opening

On Fri 31 July Alexander Barracks saw another part of the refurbishment programme completed. At long last the Poachers actually had a NAAFI that sold draught beer, had a TV in it and attracted customers through the doors.

The project to refurbish the NAAFI had been ongoing for several months and it wasn't until March that work actually began. The old bar was turned into the new, larger and brighter shop whilst the dingy old shop and bar area were turned into a proper bar and fast food outlet.

Even the patio was re-tiled and now has the capability to have a large TV screen placed on it to watch during the long hot Cypriot summer evenings. Soldiers can now even watch live Premiership football on a Sunday evening in comfort. Progress indeed!

Colonel Mike Brooke, the Garrison Commander, opened "Poachers" by cutting the red tape and then went inside to pour the first pint. Many Poachers then followed for free beer served by the Keo Dollies. An extra bonus was the presen-

tation of an England football shirt that had been signed by Howard Wilkinson and the members of the England under 18 squad who had recently taken part in the UEFA under 18 Championships which were held in Cyprus. The shirt now hangs in the bar.

Our thanks go to NAAFI who funded the project and also to all our single soldiers who are using "Poachers" and helping to recoup NAAFI's considerable investment.

Col Mike Brooke, Garrison Commander, continues to pour the beers for thirsty Poachers



Cpl Sinney (C Coy) discussing the finer points of Keo Beer.



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# Poachers

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## Talavera Day - a topical view from the Eastern Mediterranean

Maj IRM Hall writes

After two long years fighting other tribes on the plain of Salisbury according to the WTC Bible whose first and last chapter was TESEX the undefeated Poachers were set a new challenge.

"Verily, I say unto you it will be fun in the sun, not for forty, but for all of you" said the Chief Poacher. He was a wise man who had fought many battles, some for real against warring lesser tribes such as the Padii and Bosniat, gaining operational experience. And so the Poacher tribe moved eastwards to the Island known as Cyprus. But first they had to overcome the slimy tribe known as the Movers. They lived in dark, dreary places such as Brize Norton from where they never sallied forth - rather they waited for unsuspecting tribes to enter their Kingdom where they would inflict much suffering and pain to that tribes menfolk and their families.

Nevertheless the Poacher tribe rose to the challenge and forced the Movers to recognise its strength. The journey was long and harsh, without sustenance or comfort. Spirits had fallen and the other tribe which lived in Dhekalia Garrison smiled because they thought they had seen it all before.

Much hard work was done by the Poacher tribe, both males and females. The chariot dealers came with much ceremony and dodgy deals; the vendors of viewing and washing aids said "look at my shop, it is full of bargains - old bargains but still bargains."

Life settled down as the rest of the Island came to recognise the Poachers as a tribe

of long history and even longer memories. Eventually the Chief Poacher decided that the tribe needed a rest so he called his underlings together for a conference which was called The Conference. At The Conference he decreed that 25 July, when the sea was warm and the sun was burning fierce, would be a good day for celebration for it was near that time that the tribes ancestors had fought and vanquished the Francish tribes in the great battle of Talavera. The Chief Poacher issued his tablets and the underlings hurried to do his bidding. Some breathed a sigh of relief, particularly A and D sub tribes, for they were guarding the Communicating tribe in its plush camp and resting on leave respectively.

So it fell upon The Old One, a sub tribe leader of senior years and much native cunning, to organise the celebration. He decided that in the morning the tribe would come down to the place known as the George Centre for fun and entertainment; after the menfolk rested in the hot sun of the afternoon the whole tribe would re-gather in its main camp to eat, drink, be entertained and celebrate the slaying of the tribes' enemies many years ago in true Poacher tribe style.

Celebration day dawned warm and sunny, without a cloud in the sky. B and C sub tribes had set up their stalls and sideshows. Even the musicians of the tribe performed - but only in the shade and for short periods. The womenfolk sold many things as well; many of the menfolk purchased articles without knowing why. Skills of the tribes children were tested - some sorely and some not so. Regardless, all enjoyed themselves and then waited for the evening.



B Coy being defeated by the smallest of enemies.

Sub tribe mule majors who are in charge of forage for their warriors were required to feed all of them and their kin. B sub tribe ate in a castle, C sub tribe ate by a wagon train whilst the biggest sub tribe, HQ, had ye olde English pub for their grub setting. Entertainment was provided by "Stars in Your Eyes" winners and the Prize Draw produced £1500 for prizes, such was the warriors demand for tickets.

The Poacher tribe celebrated well, B sub tribe mule major received £100 for the way he fed his warriors whilst C and HQ mule majors received £50 each. Much ale was drunk, many stories of earlier battles were retold, and the Poacher tribe retired to their dwelling places thinking about the next day of celebration that was Talavera.

B Company having survived the banquet provided by their CQMS, CSgt Yeomans





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# Poachers

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## C Company CO's TESTEX



*Deployment by Wessex.*



*Covering open ground in Paramali Village*



*Feet still dry? Deployment via LSL*



*The fight through.*



*Smile first, distribute ammo later.*

## D Company - Job Swap Day

*WO2 (CSM) Hewcock writes*

On Friday 19 June 1998 D Company, The Poachers, changed slightly. Gone was the usual quiet of early morning PT. Gone was the rather sweaty smell of troops running, gone was life as we knew it. It was perfume and a constant chatter, the wives had arrived!

0615 saw the husbands enjoying a lie in. . . of sorts, while the girls came in to man the company for the day. PT was a riotous affair with much more laughing and talking than usual as the girls negotiated a rather strenuous circuit training session. It was then to breakfast and into hubby's uniform for a muster parade on the square. The acting CSM, Sarah Heycock, took the parade which included the single soldiers who were rather bemused by the whole event. The ladies were extremely smart and well turned out, putting the single officers to shame. CSM Heycock even managed to jail a soldier for poor turnout.

From the Parade Square to the ranges, the wives were then let loose on the company weapons. SA80 and GPMG were fired at a variety of targets. All the girls were excellent shots. Some required coaching and the phrase "imagine it's

your husband" seemed to do the trick quite well! After an extended NAAFI break, or "gossip break" as it's now known, training continued with 4 ton truck driving. The Adjutant's car was moved in double quick time, as 4 tons of truck hurtled around the square, barely in control, leaving crushed cones in its wake. A final training session with the

Mortar and the Milan Platoons before lunch on the beach and an afternoon with the Adventure Training Team wind surfing, water skiing and playing volleyball.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable day with everyone having great fun whilst learning a bit more about everyday life in the Battalion.



## Poachers Adventure Training Team (PATT)

WO2 M Thorpe writes:

Since the last issue of "The Castle" the SPATT have been exceptionally busy. Since May the team has been restructured and regenerated with the main focus being the "Fun for 40" package. This entails the PATT providing adventure training and all round leisure activities (mainly water sports orientated) for up to 40 soldiers from a particular sub unit on week-day afternoons.

In addition to this, the PATT also runs water-skiing and windsurfing courses on a weekly basis for up to six soldiers. At the end of the week all soldiers have the opportunity to qualify up to RYA Level 1 at windsurfing and at least a Bronze Award in water-skiing.

When first established the PATT relied heavily on unit funds for financial assistance to buy all the equipment (of which there is a great deal I can tell you). Now however, the team has started to receive some funding from the Nuffield Trust.



Cpl Bains at the wheel of Poacher III.

This will be used to provide vital safety equipment such as radios, but also another water-ski boat.

Perhaps the greatest PATT venture this year is the building of the new club house. Situated on the beach at the back of the barracks itself this will provide changing, shower and social amenity facilities for all Poachers and more importantly their families.


The PATT continues to function in its primary role which is to increase the enjoyment of Cyprus as a posting, for every member of The Poacher Family. I hope it will continue to grow in size and experience. Below are listed some of our successes:

SINCE MAY THE PATT HAS QUALIFIED THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS FROM THE POACHER FAMILY

Courses Offered	Numbers Passed	Awaiting Re-tests	Total Courses Offered
Water-skiing	37	15	52
Windsurfing	44	03	47
Boat Handling	04	00	04
Kneeboarding	05	00	05

WO2 Thorpe - "If I blow out hard enough I WILL stay up."





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# 6th Battalion

May to Oct have been business as usual for the 6th Battalion despite the seemingly ever present shadow of the Strategic Defence Review. Training has been fast, furious and fun progressing to Annual Camp in September whilst recruiting has continued as normal with the Battalion's current strength at thirty five officers and 475 other ranks. Variety and interesting training have been key tools in retention which seems to have paid off as the Battalion faces 1999 in good spirits.

## Exercises and Training

The 8/10 of May saw the Battalion deploy to STANTA on Exercise VIKING STORM, a BG Offensive Ex, that involved Hele Ops and an Assault River Crossing. In support were 202 Bty RA, A Coy 3 PWO and "enemy" platoons from 1 RGR and CUOTC, 2 Ferret Scout Cars and 1 Saladin, 2 Chinook and 1 Gazelle and senior ACF and CCF Cadets.

Saturday saw two Coy groups launched into two operations. The first involved the Coy flying forward to take part in an assault river crossing whilst the second saw the remaining Coy deploy as a heli-borne QRF to defend the 202 Bty RA gun line as it came under attack. Once each operation was complete the Companies launched into the operation the other had just completed to ensure all troops took part in all aspects of the exercise.

Once both Coys had successfully completed the first phase, the Battle Group reorganised for a subsequent operation, a Battlegroup deliberate attack against a very determined enemy from 1 RGR and CUOTC. The exercise was fast and busy with continuous activity throughout. Helidrills and Assault River Crossings were new to some and working with such varied support was a complete success. All who took part enjoyed the variety whilst learning a great deal.

The next major training activity took place over 29-31 May again at STANTA. Ex POLAR PEREGRINE 2 was a 49 (E) Bde 2 level CPX. 6 R ANGLIAN fielded

a BG HQ Main and TAC, Coy HQs, Specialist Platoons and Echelons as well as supporting the real time administration of the Bde HQ.

6 R ANGLIAN were allocated real estate which included Buckenham Tofts Cellar, a very good bunker complex which was rapidly turned into an ideal CP. The three rooms became an Ops Room, Briefing Room and Admin Area which the Battalion HQ occupied for the duration of the exercise. Once again this exercise proved to be another useful tool for Commanders to work with supporting elements and improve the Battalion's employability in any role.

June 20 and 21 was an important Live Firing weekend with the Bn conducting a range of Field Firing as part of their preparation for Camp.

July was a busy month with two very different training weekends. The first weekend took place over 10-12 Jul as the Battalion provided an OPFOR for the 5 AB Brigade Exercise IRON ANVIL. The Battalion deployed to Frog Hill on the morning of the 11th Jul from where the 2 PARA drop could be observed. The conditions were not good and the flashing blue lights of numerous ambulances soon marked out the DZ. Despite this three Platoons launched an attack onto 2 PARA as they reorganised which added considerably to the confusion. 2 PARA were augmented by Gurkhas, Canadians and Germans which, when combined with a



Sgt Street, Assault Pioneers ready to conduct safety drills before the river crossing

surprise attack and the confusion of the jump, created considerable problems. 6 R ANGLIAN kept up the harassing attacks amongst the debris of the heavy drops, which included a number of upturned 7 RHA guns, for over an hour before withdrawing, allowing 2 PARA to regroup. The remaining 6 R ANGLIAN troops were not idle during this attack preparing two Coy minus defensive positions.

C Coy prepared a defensive position in a collection of old buildings dominating a road junction. The attack by Gurkha Coy of 2 PARA was disrupted as a fighting patrol ambushed the troops in the FUP but after a drawn out battle, including German Weisel AFV support, the attackers finally over-ran the position.

Assault River Crossing Exercise



Pte Wells, Signal Platoon in the CP



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## 6th Battalion

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The second position was in dense woodland overlooking the Harrier Strip and was defended by an A/D Coy group. In order to fit into the exercise scenario the REME team under SSgt Mulligan produced a "Missile Launcher" on the back of a Bedford lorry, much to the MTO, Lt Hitchings, embarrassment, which was the 2 PARA objective. The attack took place in heavy rain during the early hours of Sunday morning and proved a difficult task as the A/D Coy troops had prepared the position well.

The exercise was interesting and fun and provided an insight into the feasibility of airborne ops. All the 6 R ANGLIAN soldiers who took part enjoyed the experience and were rightfully proud of their performance.

The second training weekend was very different in style and saw the command

element deploy to Copehill Down FIBUA Village on Salisbury Plain for a comprehensive update on OBUA. Those attending were split into two groups; an officers and SNCO group and a JNCO group who circulated around a number of Stands in the morning before talking through defensive and offensive operations. The day proved valuable with all who attended coming away with improved knowledge of OBUA. During the day the Battalion was visited by Brigadier Munro, Director of Infantry who took time to discuss SDR with all present.

Minden Day saw the Battalion spread out with the Coys conducting their own training. A Coy, under Maj Fradley, dug in on STANTA conducting a defensive and patrolling exercise against an enemy provided by the Battalion and Norfolk ACF. LCpl Hindle also loaned two Ferret Scout Cars from his collection for an

added dimension to the enemy. After a full patrol programme the weekend ended with a dawn defensive battle and fighting withdrawal.

D Coy commanded by Maj Baker were also on STANTA conducting an Advance to Contact taking four enemy positions. During the night a number of Recce patrols were carried out prior to a dawn attack onto the Harrier Strip.

C Coy under Maj Trott spent the weekend at Ash Ranges at Pirbright improving shooting standards before the live firing phase of Ex RAGING BEAR.

In addition to the Battalion run weekends a number of Coy level training exercises were carried out all geared towards Ex RAGING BEAR.

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### Ex Raging Bear - Annual Camp '98

This year's Camp was a Bde Concentration, however 6 R ANGLIAN were independent for the first week based at Warcop Training Camp before moving to Otterburn Training Area for the Bde Stands package. Despite a higher than normal number attending career courses and the separate Machine Gun Platoon Camp over 200 people deployed.

The first week was an intensive range package running from Pairs to Coy level including 94mm LAW, 51mm Mortar, Grenades and GPMG. All troops also had a days "Adventure Training" in and around Camp using the excellent facilities including a rock climbing tower, the watersmanship lake and the clay pigeon

range. The ranges were lent a multinational feel by the presence of 2 SNCOs from the USNG, a German SNCO and two officers and a Danish officer who all seemed to enjoy thoroughly the experience even though Mess Rugby after the Officers Mess Dinner Night left them bruised and confused.

The Battalion was fortunate to be visited by the Colonel of the Regiment who was able to spend an entire day visiting the soldiers on the ranges, presenting TEMs and joining the Officers for the Dinner Night on 18 September. A small clay pigeon shoot took place with the Colonel of the Regiment, the CO, Capt Ward ADC

and Capt Couch all shooting. Results are best not mentioned!

After a 24 hr R&R package, which saw most of the soldiers visiting Blackpool, the Battalion redeployed to Otterburn Training Area to join the rest of the Bde. This week took the form of a number of 24 hr Stands, each one run by a different unit or organisation as directed by Bde HQ. The Stands were: Route Clearance and Security, run by us, Patrolling and NBC, Live Firing Defence and Quick Attack and Patrolling.

The Stands were varied in content and approach, with a tight schedule, which kept all personnel busy. The week proved

Sgt Rushmere after the REORG.



The Colonel of the Regiment with the Battalions Guests from the German Army.



# 6th Battalion



*Moving into the assault during Live Firing.*



*LCpl Palmer - Admin during the REORG.*



*Tentative steps on the rope walking.*



*Live firing - moving to the FUP*



*An expression of pure pleasure on the cargo net*

to be physically and mentally demanding, but, amazingly for Otterburn, the weather was relatively good with only thick fog as a problem.

The only shadow cast over the exercise was the unfortunate accident which seriously injured the RSO, Capt Harrison. Whilst directing a reversing four tonne lorry Capt Harrison was caught between the vehicle and a wall. Following swift action by those at the scene and SSgt

Archer, Capt Harrison was quickly looked after and in an ambulance. After a short stay at Carlisle Infirmary he was transferred to Newcastle. Capt Harrison's recovery has been very fast and though he is away from the Battalion for another 6 months he is well on the road to recovery. The medical staff did extremely well through out Camp, not only dealing with Capt Harrison, but also a heart attack suffered by a member of the Warcop Range Staff.

In addition to the training weekends and Camp the Battalion has been busy keeping itself in the public eye and maintaining links throughout the counties.

## Public Relations

In an attempt to increase the awareness levels of public figures and opinion formers the Battalion has conducted a number of Open Evenings in addition to normal recruiting events.

The evenings took the same format regardless of the location. On arrival

guests were met and hosted over coffee prior to a presentation from the Coy Comd. The presentation outlined the details of the Bn and the Coy in particular stating what 6 R ANGLIAN had to offer. Following a question and answer session the guests were escorted around a number of Stands and had a chance to talk to TA soldiers prior to a buffet meal, drinks and eventual departure. The evenings at Chelmsford and Cambridge attracted a number of MPs including Teresa Gorman and John Major. The question and answer session was quite intense with a number of the guests being very well informed and, though being obviously "on side", cut straight to the heart of many issues.

The Battalion's drive to keep itself in the public eye and improve relations locally took many forms. On the 30th Aug the CO attended the Anglo Sikh Festival at Thetford as a guest of the organisers and was asked to speak on the importance of links between the Sikh culture and British Military Tradition. The Festival attracted over 10,000 people.

*The pain of the Assault Course*





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# 6th Battalion

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Other activities include: C Coy's sponsored Landrover Pull around Chelmsford to raise money for a local Childrens Hospital which raised over £2,000. A Coy assisted Clare School activities day and most recently the 6 R ANGLIAN "At Home" Evening at Bury St Edmunds which served as a thank you to all those people and organisations that have helped the Battalion.

The 6th Battalion has maintained and widened its support to ACF and CCFs. Most Training Weekends have had some degree of involvement from senior cadets and members of the Battalion have visited numerous schools including Greshams, Langley and Kimbolton as well as taking part in ACF Inspections.

The only sporting event for the Battalion was the small permanent staff team of Maj Potter, Maj Lucas, Capt Couch, WO1 Keeble and LCpl Ward and members of the NRPS including Capt Allen and SSgt Mulligan who took part in the RAF 10km Championship at Honington.

The two main social events during the period of this report were the two Balls; the WOs and Sgts Mess at Copdock and the joint Officers Mess Ball at Oakington with the 1st Battalion.

6 R ANGLIAN have had a busy and productive few months with a wide variety of challenging and enjoyable training which has been reflected in the manning state of the Battalion. Morale remains high and it is business as usual until SDR is announced when the Battalion will tackle whatever is thrown up with the usual positive and determined attitude.

## People

After 27 years with the Battalion the NRPS MTWO, WO2 Firth left and, at the time of writing, is still to be replaced.

The Battalion welcomed its first "home grown" officers for 4 years. 2Lts Chris Panton and Tim Irwin-Parker passed TCB and the TA Commissioning Course. 2Lt Panton has also passed the TA Platoon Commanders Battle Course.

Major David Winn has moved to join CUOTC from running the Recruit Reception and Training Team. As a long term stalwart he will be missed and I am sure that the last Mess night will stay with him as a fond memory, once the injuries

from Mess Rugby have healed! How long does a broken rib take to mend?

Lt Darren Johnston has left the Battalion to rejoin the RAF Regiment as a member of the training staff. The one time OC Recce still managed to attend Annual Camp and the Battalion looks forward to training with him and perhaps his troops.

## Regimental Band

The Regimental Band has had an invigorating year of reconstruction and training. The considerable amount of hours spent in working towards the quality of sound, intonation and performance standards has started to reap its rewards. The concert band has been increasingly in demand for mess dinners and concerts with the reed quartet, jazz band and the newly formed dance band going from strength to strength.

A very successful camp was undertaken at Oakington Barracks hosted by the Minden Band. Here we were given the complete run of the Minden Band's rehearsal and library facilities, and were able to support the First Battalion in their Minden Day celebrations.

On the first Sunday of Camp the Band and Drums performed for the Regimental Gathering at Bassingbourn, this went extremely well. The day started with the Band playing under very difficult conditions for the Drumhead Service in which they performed outstandingly. This was followed by the march past of a great many serving and retired members of the Regiment, with the Colours of the 1st Battalion on parade. Although a long and difficult blow they performed with great style and aplomb.

The afternoon was taken up by the Band playing incidental music. This was extremely hard work, with long spells of continuous playing in very hot weather. The Drums helped out by performing a small display and a second spot of playing around the tables.

During all this, the band was being inspected by the Principal Director of Music (Army), who, under a new system of inspections, just turns up at Band engagements and reports on what he finds and gives any observations he may think fit! This went, despite the shock of finding him there, extremely well and a very encouraging report was forthcoming, of which the band can be justly proud.

Minden Day was celebrated on the 31st July. The Band's day started with the presentation of roses on the sports pitch, with the band formed up playing the Vikings Regimental music and songs. This was followed by yet another Drumhead Service, this time however, the Colours were marched on and off parade. This was a new "experience" for the Band with which they coped well. The remainder of the day was taken up by incidental music for the Battalion which was performed well, culminating with the Drums participating in the Retreat, which looked very good. The Band looked very smart throughout the day wearing their Minden Roses, although the Bandmaster's real set looked a trifle wilted, but were well watered in the evening!!

During the intervening days, the Band worked hard on musical rehearsals and group practice. Also, we spent a very pleasant morning on the range, when CSgt Jim Thumwood gave a stalwart performance in getting the Band through a very successful shoot.

A period of fitness training started somewhat hesitantly, but an interesting attempt at the BFT gave some surprising results, one of which was the Bandmasters sick chit being found to be out of date! However, a result was achieved.

On completion of Camp, we returned to the busy schedule of rehearsals and performances throughout the local and Regimental areas.

Congratulations must go to LCpl Russ Thomson and Musn Liz Scott on their marriages and to Cpl Jo Harrison and Sgt Judith Petch on receiving their TEMs from General Walker with Sgt John Rusted receiving his second bar.

A special mention for Musn Mac McKeown, who has at least passed his A3 Trade Employment Qualification, which despite all rumours, has nothing to do with the amount of cigarettes he gives to the Bandmaster. A warm welcome to Musn Mark Elvin from Norwich and Cpl Digger Gardner, who has sensibly transferred from the South Notts Hussars.

The Band looks forward to yet another year of providing continuous support to the Regiment and the Associations, to seeing old friends and making new ones throughout the year.



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# 6th Battalion

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## Charity Event 15-16 August 1998

In order to raise the profile of the Company and to assist local charities it was decided to organise a sponsored event over the weekend of 15-16 August 1998. Capt Paul Thurston obtained permission from the local council and police in order for the event to proceed.

During the weekend a team of 20 soldiers from C (Essex) Company, led by the OC (Major Clive Trott) took part in a landrover pull in Chelmsford and the surrounding villages. The route was approximately 30 kilometres which started at the TAC and finished at Broomfield Hospital where a

cheque for £500 was handed over to the Staff of the Childrens Ward by the OC.

The sum of £1049 was collected over the two days. Our target of £500 to each Charity (The Childrens Ward of Broomfield Hospital and The East Anglia's Childrens Hospice) was easily reached, in fact with personal sponsorships raised within our Company the total sum collected was £2400 giving extra much need cash and equipment to both deserving organisations. A special mention should be made to Pte Anneka Andrews who raised £500 alone.

A cheque for £500 had already been presented to the Childrens Ward at Broomfield Hospital and on Wednesday 26 August at 1530 hrs a presentation of toys and equipment was made to Summa Cooper of Brightlingsea at the TAC Chelmsford. Unfortunately, Richard Barnet of Chadwell St Mary was unable to travel so a presentation was made at his house on his 11th birthday by Capt Paul Thurston and members of the Company.

It is hoped that this will be an annual event with other local charities benefiting in the future.

*The C Coy Landrover pull team.*



*Major Trott presenting the first part of the proceeds of the Charity Landrover Pull.*



## Machine Gun Platoon Camp 19 July - 02 August 1998

The Machine Gun Platoon again lived up to their reputation for extensive travel in July when they deployed on an independent camp to train for and participate in the UKLF GPMG (SF) Concentration. The first week, Exercise BRAVEHEART EAGLE", was held at Garelochhead in Scotland where the Platoon "enjoyed" an intensive training package of both dry and live MG battle procedure and Match 83 training. The Platoon was also able to complete ATDs and a certain amount of fitness training in the dramatic surroundings. The live fire package included LAW 94 ODT, L2 grenades on the standard grenade range and a very demanding section attack with tactical grenade throwing. However the night-time pairs CQQB with optional synchronised swimming, proved to be the most challenging (especially for the safety staff!).

The autonomy of an independent camp has its benefits. However the Platoon 2IC

WO2 Brown and PSI, Sgt Wilkins worked long hours to ensure everything worked smoothly. The Platoon was joined by a number of attachments from around the battalion as well as three members of 7 R ANGLIAN's MG Platoon. This intensified the challenge of integrating and preparing the Platoon for the following week and despite the best efforts of the weather (and when it wasn't raining, the midges!) a corporate sense of humour prevailed(ish).

The Platoon was also able to explore the night life (!) in the village as well as a trip to nearby Hellensborough from where the lads were returned courtesy of the Navy bus which operates between the town and the nearby submarine base. We were also given a very interesting presentation one evening on the history of the Machine Gun Corps in particular and machine guns and the Essex Regt in general from Mr Jim Parker, a military researcher and historian.



*OC MG Pl Capt Mike Googe working on a plan.*

A gun team competition was also held throughout the week based on various activities in the training programme with

# 6th Battalion

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the eventual winners being Cpl Collinson and Pte Racey who were compensated for being cast as the Platoon swots with a crate of beer each. This led nicely into R&R which consisted of a night and a day enjoying the hospitality around Loch Lomond before breaking Camp on the Monday morning to travel down to Otterburn for the Concentration.

Week two started with a days platoon dry training on the area followed by a day of BEs including first aid and NBC and a live fire period. The next days live firing included map predicted drills and was marked by the fact that the weather was atrocious, (no really!!) The firing point was in the most inaccessible part of the area and it was also the first time we worked alongside the MG Pl from 1 RGR which was to make the remainder of camp very interesting.

The following day the teams deployed to fire Match 83 before moving straight on to the final exercise. The Platoon scored a total of 600 which, despite not being of the order of the previous two years was a creditable score given the toughness of the ranges, the prevailing weather conditions and the generous but fair nature of the umpires from the Royal Scots who sponsored the Concentration. The score was, none the less, good enough to place us second overall of all the TA teams that participated in the Concentration.

The first phase of the exercise found ourselves and the Gurkhas patrolling to mutually supporting fire bases in order to provide fire support for a night raid. Both platoons quickly built a rapport with much good humoured and inquisitive banter which continued throughout the exercise. However the overall command for the first battle fell to the Gurkha Platoon Commander who chose the Gurkhali word "Ayo" as the codeword to confirm the FRV and somehow, on the ground, the prevailing Essex accent of the 6 R ANGLIAN call sign made us sound rather like Teletubbies greeting each other! The use of incendiary batsims and the plentiful amount of 1BIT made the physical demands of this battle exercise very worthwhile.

The following day the OC, Capt Googe was placed in charge of the composite force. Following another arduous foot move to a vehicle RV, the Platoons deployed into hasty defensive positions where a fireplan was quickly developed and co-ordinated to support the withdrawal of a Milan Platoon on completion of their mission. Again the amount of ammunition, as well as combining with a Milan live shoot, made this a memorable exercise and a fitting climax to camp.

Overall the Platoon benefitted from the "beat up" period in week one and then learnt a great deal working alongside the Gurkhas as well as the input from the SF/Sniper division staff during the Concentration.

Did they enjoy it .....????????? The pain is still receding!!

Do they still swap war stories about it..... Definitely!



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# Vikings

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*Minefield Clearance at CPTA.*



*Vehicle ambush drills.*



*LCpl Love and Drummer Brown.*



*On Guard.*



*Medical Training on Pte Waeds.*



*Toasting the outgoing CO.*



*RSM Stefanetti debriefed on his performance.*



*CPTA CASEVAC Drills.*



# Vikings



*Recruiting on Operation Viking's Call.*



*RSM Steffanti enjoys the stocks.*



*LCpl Morgan in full flight.*



*CO presents Minden Roses*



*Line Outs in the Inter Company Rugby.*



*Minden Day Drum Head Service.*



# Poachers



Members of B Coy enjoying a lull in battle.



Pte Palmas taking a hard right from Pte Park.



Col Mike Brooke Garrison Commander, opens the refurbished NAAFI Bar, "Poachers" in Alexander Barracks.



"Ole Cap'n" Kennedy at the helm.



The fourteen eager wives pose prior to the start of their match.



B Company's Skill at Arms team still wondering why they didn't win the Bn SAAM.



# Poachers



*Exchange firing. A member of A Company firing the M16A2.*



*Capt Nellor sleeps on stag. LCpl Wooler relaxes. Pte Gillespie sorts his hair out.*



*Cpl Whitely briefs his section.*



*March and Shoot.*



*C Coy prisoner handling.*



*The Drums Platoon keeping up morale.*



*The Corps of Drums performing.*



*The Command team.*



*CBF Major General Ramsay talks to members of C Coy at the Battalion Skill at Arms Meeting.*



## 6th Battalion



*Moving to the FUP during a blank firing platoon attack*



*Teamwork winning through.*



*Under the low wire with burdens under fire.*



*Oc and 2IC C Coy Capt (now Major) Trott and Simon Watson with Teresa Gorman during the C Coy Open Evening.*



# 6th Battalion



*MG Platoon in action.*



*Ready for ammo resupply during the assault course.*



*The RQMS (TA) WO2 Rogers receiving his Bar to the TEM from the Colonel of the Regiment.*



*However much you concentrate it still seems a long way up.*



*The QM Maj Bob Potter serving breakfast to the 'enemy' from 1RGR.*



*Members of Machine Gun Platoon pose prior to deployment by Chinook.*



*Members of C Coy practice river crossing.*



*The Assault Pioneer Safety Team.*



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# Tigers

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## Ex Lions Pride - Annual Camp The Final Exercise





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# Tigers

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## Adventure Training

*A flavour of the activities on Ex LIONS PRIDE - banana boats, canoeing, wind surfing, volleyball and sailing on Tunnel Beach, Episkopi and in the Troodos mountains - cycling, hiking, rock climbing and abseiling*



*Note: All photographs in Tigers Section taken on professional paper are by Garreth Griffiths Angel Tomney Associates (01543 432341) who is happy for them to be published.*

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# The Tigers

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The Tigers have had an extremely rewarding 6 month period which has seen the Battalion complete Brigade and Battle Group Trainer (North), provide invaluable Military Assistance to the Civil Community in Northampton during the Easter Floods, deploy as a Battalion on Exercise LIONS PRIDE to Cyprus, and undertake some excellent Battalion and Company level weekend training. The Battalion has also been making inroads into the local ethnic communities in Leicester through a Battalion ethnic recruiting initiative. The last 6 months have been an extremely busy and exciting time for the whole Battalion.

## The Easter Floods

Easter leave proved to be an eventful period. C (Northamptonshire) Company was deployed for several days to assist the local police during extensive flooding in the area. The Company Commander, Major Mike Rickards, was called upon not only to rescue those stranded by the heavy rain but also to guard against those who wished to exploit the situation by looting. A (Lincolnshire) Company were called up in readiness to support the operation and HQ (Leicestershire) Company were also warned off on the night of Good Friday. Some sterling work was carried out by a large number of C Company soldiers who worked tirelessly for nearly 3 days in extremely difficult conditions. The Battalion's rapid and effective turnout is evidence that the TA can be a very effective voluntary organisation in a time of crisis, and this was reinforced by the praise that has been received from the civilian police and local authorities following the operation.

## Ethnic Initiative in Leicester

The Commanding Officer and his staff, under the guidance of the Assault Pioneer platoon commander, Sgt Nagra 33, have continued with their ethnic recruiting initiative in Leicester. On Easter Monday, the Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir Michael Walker and Lady Walker, attended

ed the Vaisakhi celebrations at the Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Leicester. Gifts of Friendship were exchanged between the Regiment and the Temple; the General was presented with a ceremonial sword and the Battalion a very impressive shield. Media coverage was extensive and it is hoped that the initiative will grow and bear fruit in the future. The initiative has continued, with close ties being established with other Sikh Temples in the area and some good liaison with the Hindu community in Leicester. CSgt Galbraith, Sgt Nagra, Cpl Debell of HQ Company and Cpl Thompson of C Company taught on an Hindu Youth camp in the Lake District during the summer. Another very successful temple visit took place on 4 November when Commander 49 (East) Brigade, Brigadier William Hurrell, presented Gifts of Friendship to Guru Amadas Gurdwara, another Sikh Temple in Leicester on the occasion of Guru Nanak's birthday. As a result of the Battalion's successful ethnic recruiting initiative in Leicester, Central TV have visited to gain further information on the Battalion for inclusion in a forthcoming TV programme. The Central TV team focused their attention on the soldiers from the ethnic communities and left with a very positive view of the Battalion and the Army in general. It is hoped that the initiative will continue to bear fruit in the future for both the TA and Regular Army.

## BBGT (N)

In preparation for our Battlegroup exercise at BBGT(N), a Battalion CPX was run at Chilwell. It included support weapons representations from 3 Prince of Wales Own Yorkshire Regiment (V), TA Royal Engineers and Staff from Headquarters 49 (East) Brigade. The CPX was used to practice and perfect procedures prior to deploying to Catterick. It was extremely challenging and, without doubt, provided the necessary preparation that the Battalion required for its BBGT exercise. Colonel Alan Chisell, Deputy Commander 49 (East) Brigade, visited the Exercise and saw the Battalion HQ staff being put through their paces, ready to proceed to the real event at Catterick.

For the BBGT (N) exercise, which took place in Catterick over the weekend 24-26 Apr 98, the BG had full all arms representation that proved to be a strong and happy team. The scenario selected was Brigade Rear Operations, and included two Reserve Demolitions. In a 36 hour training period, the command elements of the Battalion were thoroughly exercised and kept extremely busy indeed. It proved to be a thoroughly challenging and realistic exercise, which, although hard work, proved to be very rewarding and useful preparation for Exercise LIONS PRIDE 98 in Cyprus.

Colonel of the Regiment receiving a gift of a ceremonial Sikh sword on Visarhi celebrations at Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Leicester



Colonel of the Regiment helping to ceremonially clean the sacred flag pole with a traditional mix of yoghurt and water



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# Tigers

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## Final Preparations for Cyprus

The final preparations for Exercise LIONS PRIDE were hectic to say the least. The companies refined their low level drills and skills on company training weekends and pre-camp administration was carried out in all TACs to ensure all the necessary briefing and administration was achieved.

The Pre Advance Party, led by the Training Major, Major Andy Wadman, flew to Cyprus by RAF, on the 21 May followed by the Advance party on 25 May. The advance Party prepared the Camp and organised the reception party for the Main Body. Their work was hard but essential prior to the arrival of the Main Body.

## Exercise Lions Pride

After a great deal of preparation, including Commanding Officers briefings to all companies and a carefully structured build up training programme, the Battalion deployed to Cyprus on its Annual Camp, Exercise LIONS PRIDE on 30 May 98. 6 RRF provided 100 personnel to take the Battalion to its manpower target of 450.

Up until 2 weeks prior to the scheduled deployment date, the exact departure airfield, charter flight company and flight timings had not been decided! Eventually East Midlands airport was agreed upon with a flight departure time

of 0030 hours on a Saturday morning! A French charter company 747 was allocated to the Battalion and everything went according to plan until the complete Battalion had assembled, ready to board the aircraft at East Midlands airport. Suddenly things began to go wrong, - the French flight crew could not be found, the amount of personal baggage could not be fitted into the hold, insufficient baggage nets were available for the Exercise freight and so on! Eventually after a very long night with the Commanding Officer, and Adjutant directing operations with the flight engineer on the tarmac and, the RSM personally directing the re-packing of the aircraft hold, the 747 departed for Larnaca, Cyprus 2 1/2 hours late. The Battalion touched down at Larnaca International Airport shortly before 1000 hours on Sat 30 May 98.

On arrival the Battalion deployed to Bloodhound Camp, to the West of Episkopi Garrison. During the initial 24 hours in theatre all ranks received a comprehensive briefing on all aspects of Cyprus by HQBF Cyprus staff, and conducted familiarisation training. Within 12 hours of arrival the CIC Catterick Cadre departed to Dhekelia to be administered throughout by our 'Sister Battalion', 2 R ANGLIAN, currently the Resident Battalion in Dhekelia.

The overall exercise training programme was split into two distinct packages. In Week One, companies were allocated a sequence of activities to assist in their training for the eventual battlegroup exercise and to aid rapid acclimatisation.



*Cpl Cooke and LCpl Kelly posing, but where is the cam cream?*

Activities consisted of 2 x days company field training on the local Episkopi Garrison training area, 2 x days adventure training (sea and mountain), 1 x range day at RAF Akrotiri, incorporating initial training on Wessex helicopters and RCLs, and 1 x stand down day from military training. The support platoons conducted slightly more specialised training packages, with the SF platoon conducting Match 83 in Dhekelia assisted by 2 R ANGLIAN personnel. The Recce Pl conducted training with C Coy 2 R ANGLIAN on the local training areas around Episkopi Garrison.

With due respect for the sun, all Companies and the CIC Cadre continued

*Our home on Ex Lions Pride. (Pte Singh Asst Pnr Pl).*



*Elements of Battalion HQ on a recce.*





# Tigers

## 24973855 PRIVATE ANTHONY MASSINGHAM

Tragically, Private Massingham, a recruit from A (Lincolnshire) Company, died on Day One of the Exercise. He had deployed to Cyprus in order to take part in the Catterick sponsored Recruit Cadre at Dhekelia. Shortly after his arrival at Dhekelia, Private Massingham was found unconscious in the sea during a stand-down period. The immediate efforts of a doctor and trained medical staff failed to revive him, either on the scene or in the ambulance on the way to Larnaca, where he was pronounced dead by drowning. Following a Post Mortem, his death was described as a 'tragic accident'.

Captain Charles Pratt, PSAO A (Lincolnshire) Company, escorted the body during repatriation and on to Lincolnshire. The Battalion Second in Command flew back to England, to join Captains Pratt and Amos, who were attending the funeral in Lincoln on behalf of the Commanding Officer. The service was attended by some 100 members of Private Massingham's family, friends and A Company soldiers who knew him. The Battalion Padre, the Reverend Major Michael Woods, jointly officiated at the memorial service. Private Massingham was 21 years old. The Commanding Officer and All Ranks express their sincere condolences to his family.

their training. Owing to the intense heat in the middle of the day, training activities had to be very carefully programmed and structured to ensure all activities were realistic and within the Heat Stress Index Colour Code. In addition to all the company training events during Week One, time was made available for various Mess functions and Company taverna evenings. These were both thoroughly enjoyable and successful. To culminate the first week's activities a Battalion BBQ was held on Evdimou beach, which was attended by all members of the Battalion.

The Officers and Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess hosted a very successful joint cocktail party, organised by Captain John Lynch (PSAO B Coy) at Lemmings Bar on Happy Valley Beach to thank all those in Cyprus who had supported the Exercise so admirably. Guests included the Garrison Commander Episkopi Garrison, Colonel Peter Cook, and the Commanding Officer of the Poachers,

Lieutenant Colonel Simon Porter, with many of their staff. We were well entertained by the Band of the Kings Division and an excellent performance on Happy Valley Beach by the Corps of Drums of the Poachers.

At the start of Week 2 the Battalion, with attached support weapons elements and a Company of enemy provided by 2 R ANGLIAN, deployed into the field for the final Battlegroup Exercise. Exercise TIGERS PRIDE was the culmination of six months training by the Battalion and was designed to exercise all elements up to battlegroup level offensive and defensive operations. An initial Battalion helicopter deployment ensured the security of the Episkopi Garrison area from infiltrating forces. This was followed by a Battalion night move on foot over very harsh terrain culminating in an amphibious, opposed assault on the Melanda feature to outflank the enemy and set the Battalion up for the final attack on

Paramali Village. Prior to the final attack the Battalion occupied a concentration area to enable proper reces and battle procedure to be conducted. At the appointed hour, and after the Recce Pl had CTR'd the village for a 24 hour period, the Battalion attacked with 2 x companies on foot and C Company inserted by helicopter providing fire support and stops on the surrounding high and dominating ground. It was an All Arms co-ordinated assault and provided a fitting platform to end the Battalion's Exercise in Cyprus.

During the course of Exercise LIONS PRIDE 98, the Battalion was most fortunate to be visited by our Brigade Commander, Brigadier Hurrell, who was present for much of the final exercise. Other visitors to the Battalion included Colonel Alderman, DACOS G3 Trg 1 HQ LAND and Colonel Robin Drummond, Dep Sec TAVRA (EM) and Hon Col A (Lincolnshire) Coy.



The Commanding officer giving orders in Bloodhound Camp prior to the deployment on the Battlegroup exercise



Cpl Randell CO's signaller



The Adjutant overseeing a chalk, as Air Adjutant as a part of the Battalion air insertion on Ex LIONS PRIDE



More Helicopter moves!!



M13 SF moving into position

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# Tigers

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The Commanding Officer and the Battalion are extremely grateful for all the quite outstanding support received from a myriad of HQs and individuals assisting in the setting up and running of the Exercise. Special thanks go to 2 R ANGLIAN who provided an enormous amount of support throughout extending from assisting in running the CIC Cadre in Dhekelia to providing D(Sp) Company to assist with our final exercise.

## Recruiting

**T**he Battalion has continued to recruit and train new soldiers throughout the year despite the hectic training schedule and the uncertainties created by the TA part of the SDR. The RSM continues to drive the Battalion's recruit training with the able assistance of the dedicated Company RRTTs -the results have been quite outstanding. A new recruit training programme which includes 6 weekends and 12 training nights, has led to a improvement in the standard of recruits to the companies and a far higher retention rate. The improved retention rate of recruits is clearly evident with improved turnout throughout the year. Over the past year the Battalion has gained on average 30 recruits over each of the 4 cycles, which is a much improved and impressive figure indeed. Each company also runs their own initial Open Evenings with the aim of recruiting new personnel into their companies for the next recruiting cycle. Despite the uncertainties of SDR, interest from potential recruits remains good and many still wish to join the Battalion.

## Annual Battalion Military Skills Competition

The Battalion Military Skills Competition took place at Chilwell over the weekend 24-26 July. The aim of the Competition was to improve the standard of basic military skills within the Battalion. Each company was required to field an 8 strong team, including a Section Commander and 2IC. In a highly competitive event, A (Lincolnshire) Company took the top three places with Cpl (now Sgt!) Taylor's section winning the competition by a very tight margin.

## Business Lunches

Commander 49 (East) Brigade, Brigadier Hurrell, and his team have held a number of 'Business Lunches' hosted by the



*Winners of Section Competition, 2 Pl (Grimsby) A Coy.*

Battalion in Lincoln, Northampton and Leicester. The lunches and presentations have served to update and educate the audience of local civic and business dignitaries, including MPs, Head Teachers and Chiefs of local public Services on the ORBAT and functions of the Army today, with special reference to the 49 (East) Brigade Area. These events were all deemed well worth the effort and assisted in keeping our county and local links very much alive.

## Social Events

On the evening of 4 July the Officers Mess gathered at Bosworth Hall in Leicestershire for their Annual Summer Ball. The Mess was entertained by the Royal Anglian Band (TA) on arrival and then by their 'Wind Quartet' during dinner. Entertainment included 'Country Dancing' to a ceilidh band and laser clay pigeon shooting. The night was a great success and a great credit to the Committee, led by Captain Charles Pratt, PSAO A Company.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants Mess, not to be outdone, ran a similarly successful Mess function in The Chiltern Hotel, Luton. The event was well supported and a thoroughly enjoyable affair.

## Support to the Regular Army

Mobilisation of TA personnel in support of the Regular Army has continued

throughout the last 6 months. LCpl Laird and Ptes Sibbons, Lockwood and Law have all taken commitments to serve with the 2nd Battalion in Cyprus and will be joined shortly by Pte Fleming. In addition Sgt Lovett and LCpl Stratton have recently been mobilised for Operation PALATINATE in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia. We wish them well during their temporary absence and look forward to their return in due course. At short notice, WO2 Ralph, SPSI HQ Company, volunteered to be a part of the OSEC monitoring mission in Kosovo. We wish him well as one of only 30 military personnel deploying with 170 British civilians and look forward to his return next year.

## Catering

The Battalion catering team that won the Divisional Cooking Competition, Exercise GREBE GREY, so convincingly in March, took part in the LAND field cookery competition, Exercise COMBAT CATERER at Grantham in May. They achieved a very creditable third place in the LAND COMMAND competition against very stiff competition. Congratulations to all concerned.

Yet again, in preparation for the forthcoming Exercises GREBE GREY AND COMBAT CATERER, the Battalion Chefs were being put through their cookery paces again over the weekend 19/20 Sep at Bassingbourn. Exercise TASTEFUL TIGER is an annual inter company competition which gives the Battalion chefs an opportunity to show off both

# Tigers



*The Quartermaster, Major Bill O Driscoll, tasting the culinary delights of the B (Beds & Herts) Company contribution on Exercise TASTEFUL TIGER*



*The winning team on Exercise TASTEFUL TIGER, Sgt Simpson, Cpl Parker, LCpl Percival, WPlte Marriot*



*Deployment on Exercise RAMPANT TIGER*



*The Commanding Officer, Adjutant, and RSM supervising proceedings on Exercise RAMPANT TIGER*



*Maj Matthew Ellis, OC C Company (Designate) on exercise in front of OC HQ Company Maj 'GG' Smith*

their culinary and military skills. The demanding cooking element is achieved amidst a range of other tasks, including weapon handling, fitness, NBC, military knowledge and teamwork. Each company detachment created some excellent dishes and performed extremely well on the military skills. WO2 Hargrave, the Battalion Master Chef, the Master Chefs from HQ 49 (E) Bde and ATR Bassingbourn, decided that the winners by a clear margin, were HQ (Leicestershire) Company. Congratulations to all the company teams, and in particular to the winning team members who were Sgt Simpson, Cpl Parker, LCpl Percival and WPlte Marriot.

## Training Continues

The principal exercise for September comprised a BG operation at Leek training area using support helicopters. This capitalised upon sub-unit and Battalion level training over the last two months, and the Chinook support provided the Exercise with a most welcome and exciting extra dimension. The Battalion deployed to Swynerton during the night 11 September to conduct battle procedure, including rehearsing the Battalion's air mobile SOPs. Following a SH move to Leek, the Battalion continued with battle procedure, conducted preparatory moves and preliminary operations for a dawn attack. Despite the appalling weather turnout was good and the exercise was deemed both challenging and rewarding.

## Support to 49 (E) Bde Concentration

The Battalion, having enjoyed its annual training commitment separately in Cyprus in June, were pleased to provide training support to Exercise RAGING BEAR, the 49 (East) Brigade 1998 Concentration at Otterburn. Capt David Howe, Capt Andy Croft, Cpl Harrison (B Company) and Cpl Davidson (A Company) assisted by providing support for live firing practises, incorporating mortars and MILAN for the participating units, which included 6 R ANGLIAN. A composite section was also provided by the Battalion to the Brigade Specialist Training Team for the NBC and patrols phase of the Exercise.

## Farewells and Welcomes

The Battalion has said farewell to CSgt Keen SPSI C (Northamptonshire) Company and is pleased to welcome his successor CSgt Slater, of the Poachers, who is already very busy making his mark with C Company in Northampton. Congratulations go to 2Lts Alex Dart, Jamie Thompson and John Downes for passing the RMAS TA Commission Course this summer. They form a very welcome trio of new 'home grown' subalterns for the Battalion.

Finally, we are happy to note marriages in

both the Officers' and Sergeants Messes. On 19 September Maj Isobel Frain, our RMO and Lt David Sommerville OC GPMG (SF) Pl, were married at Wellington in Shropshire. Many of the Battalion officers joined the happy couple on their Special Day. And not to be outdone, the Warrant Officers' and Sergeant Mess has witnessed three recent marriages. CSgt McPoland to Susan on 16 May 98, Sgt Low to Rachel on 5 Sep 98 both from B (Beds & Herts) Company and CSgt Warren to Wendy at Leicester on Saturday 26 September, followed by a reception at the TAC at Ulverscroft Road, Leicester. The reception was attended by many members of HQ Company. All Ranks send their best wishes to each couple.

*Cpl Whiting A Coy telling war stories*



## Exercise Lions Pride (Cyprus 1998)

### A View from A (Lincolnshire) Company

#### The Training

All members of the Lincolnshire Company eagerly anticipated this exercise. It was billed as a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity, a chance to train in a different climate and possibly the last time 7 R ANGLIAN would train together on an Annual Camp. As it has turned out that was a realistic appraisal in the face of the Strategic Defence Review.

After a slow start with several hours spent on the tarmac at East Midlands Airport, we were finally airborne for Cyprus, courtesy of a French charter airline that we had not heard of and seemed to have not expected us either. Time was passed sleeping, listening to Algerian folk music and watching Mr Bean. After an eventful landing at Larnaca we were soon heading west to Bloodhound camp, our home for the next fortnight.

Briefings were laid on for all exercising troops on arrival. There were warnings of everything from terrorists, gang fights, prostitutes, snakes, drink and car crashes, although this was nothing new following the extensive briefings received back at home.

Tents and billets were quickly occupied. Our first mission was to spend a day on the beach, handling waterborne bananas, boards and boardsails. Sergeant Thompson impressed with his beachwear while Sergeant Brecken impressed us as a beached whale. The rest of the company jockeyed for position on the banana boat. This was acclimatisation and sport rolled into an enjoyable package, designed to build up to the 2 day company training package that lay ahead.

The next big event was the trip to Troodos, comprising an evening BBQ and a day of adventurous training. B Company have elected to describe this in greater detail, so I will get on with the important bits. The cool Troodos region contrasted sharply with the intense heat of the plain on our return to Bloodhound Camp. Orders and preparation preceded our deployment on our 2 day company exercise supported by CQMS Redhead and the ubiquitous Toni Bell ice-cream van. Troops deployed into platoon har-

bours, quickly realising that sangars and bivvy areas needed shade. Recce patrols from 2 Platoon located the enemy positions and identified routes for the anticipated company attack. 1 Platoon deployed to observe as part of a parallel 2 R ANGLIAN exercise. Both Platoons manoeuvred with the aid of Wessex helicopters, a mode of transport that would become familiar during the exercise.

By now the realities of terrain and climate were fully appreciated and commanders were vigilant to prevent heat injury. In fact the Company suffered no heat injuries during its stay. For the finale the Company assaulted previously identified enemy positions staunchly defended by our visiting Honorary Colonel for Lincolnshire, Colonel Robin Drummond, Captain Nick Sutherland, the Company Second in Command and a motley crew from our attached press and MT. The attack went smoothly though at a deliberate pace, with the approach of the midday sun. No-one will forget the scrub and dust after crawling into position prior to the attack; all part of the 'Cyprus experience'.

Prior to deployment on the Battalion exercise in the final week, the company enjoyed a boat cruise as a part of its stand down day from military training and enjoyed some of the beaches near Paphos. On our return preparation began in earnest for the main exercise and our *raison d'être*.

OC A Company led the reconnaissance in search of harbour locations. The vagaries of navigating with local maps apart, most commanders carried GPS when moving around the dirt tracks on the area. This did not prevent OC A Company from trying to establish an OP within the fenced site of a protected archaeological monument. Heinous!

After confirmatory orders A Company deployed by Wessex to dominate the motorway in order to prevent 2 R ANGLIAN from infiltrating.

Patrols and observation posts covering the ground, destroyed all the insurgents. 1 Platoon had the lions share of the work whilst 2 and 3 Platoons continued to maintain a quiet, if established routine. Later that night, ambushes were set and 1 Platoon again single handedly destroyed all of the enemy leaving 2 and 3 Platoons

sitting out the night and morning on a barren hill.

Further operations brought the Company back to the Battalion, moving in darkness to a beachhead, spending the night under the stars, and emerging with badly bitten hands and faces to embark onto the assault craft for a beach landing at Malandra. The heat gradually built up as we moved towards the landing site which had now been secured by C (Northamptonshire) Company. Going firm as a company, commanders moved forward. Following identification of the enemy and regrouping, the attack moved in, led by 2 Platoon, to gain a foothold on the crest. Losing several men to the whim of Sergeant Rainey, our PSI, 1 and 3 Platoons eventually pushed on to seize the position under the watchful eye of the Brigade Commander.

What exercise would be complete without a FIBUA assault? Paramali village was our last tasking. A Company recced, found and led the Battalion onto the line of departure whilst C Company flew in to seize the high ground that surrounded the settlement. An established rapport allowed the Battalion to move quickly through the ruins, overshadowed by billowing smoke from a brush fire that started in the bangs area. As darkness fell and ammunition ran low, all anticipated Endex. It was over when our fat lady Capt Sutherland, sang. When he sang, we all did. It was time to go home, possibly our last major exercise together, and the most memorable, behind us. Anyone for Sennybridge next year?

### A View from B Company Second in Command Captain Godfrey Shaw

#### *On a day of Adventure Training*

*Lovely, now I Can get my breath back.*

As part of Exercise LIONS PRIDE, B Company took advantage of the adventure training facilities in the Troodos Mountains. The surroundings can only be described as stunning. The journey from Bloodhound camp took around 3 hours depending upon your coach driver. As we swept around the precarious bends it all reminded everyone of the 'The Italian Job' and I prayed that I would never have

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# Tigers

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to shout 'Shut up! I've got an idea!' The change of temperature from the coast was a real relief to us all and the views were quite breathtaking - perhaps also the lack of oxygen at 6,000 feet took away some of that breath too!

As soon as everyone was accommodated in a fairly basic RAF adventure training camp, the fortunate 'chosen men' from the Battalion, who were a part of the dedicated Troodos training team, cracked on with a BBQ for our evening meal. The Commanding Officer joined us for some food and a few drinks before recovering a slightly damaged RSM back to Bloodhound camp - even the keenest and most experienced cyclists should beware the mountain tracks in the Troodos, as we were to discover! The Company went on to enjoy a few more beers and a rare 'Smoker'.

The following day saw us split down into groups, each of which went separate ways to enjoy the activities on offer. The separate ways were:

1. Trekking over 8 kilometres for those wishing to enjoy scenery.
2. Orienteering over 16 kilometres for 'fit blokes' wishing to enjoy scenery.
3. Mountain biking for those wishing to enjoy scenery but not minding a few grazes.
4. Rock climbing for those wishing to cling to the scenery for dear life.
5. The gymnasium for those who do not like scenery at all.

As a Company Second in Command, one of my tasks was to show our attached press man (as apart of an Editors Abroad Scheme) around the various stands. I thought there could be no better way of demonstrating the value of adventure training than by showing him our soldiers scaling up rock faces and then abseiling back down again. The reporter and I joined the rock-climbing group and after a 20 minute drive found ourselves in a small gorge overlooking Northern Cyprus. We were greeted by the training team which comprised of WO2 Fyfe from Zulu Company, 6 RRF, Corporals Steve Catchfield and Rich Botting of the Tigers assisted by our Private John Peters. Our intrepid reporter was a trifle apprehensive when faced with the suggestion of an abseil followed by 2 forty foot climbs. Under the stout encouragement of the

troops I naturally agreed to lead the way and carelessly donning my harness with the air of one who knows just what he is doing. I squared up to the rock face and set the example.

Having only ever abseiled from a static Huey on a jolly in America, the art of rock-face abseiling was enjoyable, but foreign, and not one which I have mastered as my bloodied shins testified. Having got to the bottom, I discovered that my landing point was in a small stream and that Magnum boots are not in the least waterproof, for those of you thinking of buying a pair.

Lance Corporal Seymour pointed out that the way back to the top was by way of an interesting piece of rock.

My rock climbing experience is likewise as limited as my abseiling but leading by example I did my best Elvis (shaking leg) impression, whilst looking for the ever elusive hand hold, until I reached the top. Reaching safety I found that I was soon on my way down, face first, propelled by Corporal 'you wouldn't want to miss the opportunity of going Australian, Sir' Rees. He was right. It was outstanding. Having achieved the necessary climb, I

was slightly disgusted to find our intrepid reporter enjoying the view and chatting away like a seasoned mountain leader. I had sat down to enjoy my surroundings when Corporal Catchfield beckoned me and pointed out that as I had managed both climbs, with apparent ease, I should try the hundred foot climb. As I watched Lance Corporal 'Spiderman' Seymour fall after sixty-odd feet, I was pleased to reply that I would sit that one out.

That afternoon we made our way back to base camp and our intrepid reporter threw himself into the Mountain Biking. He must not get enough at home; I saw the steam of injured, RSM Thomas, 2 Officer Cadets and a Lance Corporal; I went to the gym and had a relaxing sauna. The final activity was inter-platoon football, whilst we awaited the coach, and my goodness what a coach, the journey back to Bloodhound camp reminded me of another film, 'Speed'.

All told the facilities in the Troodos are exceptional and any troops visiting Cyprus should make best use of them. The Company enjoyed some outstanding adventure training which was hugely beneficial to all those that took part.

## Army Angling Association (AAA) Individual Championships 9-10 October 1998

WO2 Alan Ralph, currently serving with 7th (V) Battalion of the Royal Anglian Regiment as an SPSI recently qualified to compete in the 1998 AAA Individual Championships. The event was fished on the River Avon at Tyeford in Evesham, on an extremely over fished stretch of river which produced few fish to many competitors over the two days. WO2 Ralph achieved a joint 3rd place over all, and due to weight was placed as 7th overall in the Army for 1998.





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# 158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment

## The Royal Logistics Corps (Volunteers)

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**T**he Steelbacks" are the newest Royal Logistic Corps Regiment and it takes great pride in its Royal Anglian history. This is the first of a series of articles which will be written for "The Castle" to ensure the strong ties remain. Variety and flexibility have been key to the Regiment's recent activities. Training, Recruiting, assistance to the Regular Army and "having fun" have been the pursuits over the past six months.

Exercise STEELBACK TURTLE developed the military skills and leadership of 35 personnel in the unusual and exciting environment of the Ascension Island. Revision of infantry skills was the priority and this exercise was not to test logistic capability. All ranks seemed to relish the return to an infantry role and getting them to stop and clear up for the night at times was the problem. Within 24 hours of arrival the troops moved out onto the training area to begin an exercise made up of two phases: a first phase with a 3-day field exercise, and a second phase with a 4-day field firing package.

The field exercise had one overriding objective, namely to develop basic infantry skills for Royal Logistic Corps personnel who, over the last 24 months, had focused almost exclusively on driver training. For a large proportion of the NCOs the task was somewhat easier, as it only required rekindling that infantry know-how which had lain dormant since re-rolling to logistics. The Commanding Officer had been emphatic about the need to develop skills which would allow personnel to respond coherently to the unexpected, given the type of deep operations which would occur in the rear combat zone. Thus, the training focus was on promoting basic skills relevant to a 3rd line ARRC transport Regiment, namely ambush and anti-ambush drills; defence of key posts; formal and quick orders; navigation by day and night; occupation and routine in a patrol base; patrolling techniques; advance to contact, deliberate section and platoon attacks, reconstitution drills and duties of a sentry. In order to achieve the training objectives, a light platoon of 3 sections was worked against 1 enemy section. Each side was allocated missions throughout the exercise and junior commanders were required to react with formal and quick orders. In total, the exer-



CO, Lt Col PL Kirkbride and Training Maj, Maj A Cross introduce the Honorary Colonel, Lady Victoria Leatham, to OC 200 (Peterborough) Squadron, Major R Arnold

cise had some 28 serials, with 5 sets of Quick Battle Orders and 3 sets of Full Orders.

The second phase of the training programme was a 4-day range package devised by WO2 Blanchard in his capacity as Range Conducting Officer. Broken Tooth Range is aptly named: it is a harsh and arid environment of volcanic rocks, Mexican thorn bushes and the occasional wild donkey, where shade is at a premium and water is drunk by the gallon. Once more the training objective was to develop collective infantry skills at section level, with an emphasis on teamwork. In order to achieve this the training was progressive, starting with zeroing and building up through individual CQB, pairs CQB, pairs fire and manoeuvre, section night ambush, culminating in team fire and manoeuvre.

It was not all work, however, and play on Ascension is relatively easy to come by: scuba-diving, mountain biking, beach volley ball, squash, swimming, turtle watching and beach BBQs and the occasional evening at the Volcano Club were some of the main attractions. One of the major highlights of the stand-down was LCpl Waring's (201 Bedford Squadron) run from Georgetown at sea level to Dew Pond, located at the summit of Green Mountain (2500 metres above sea level), a distance of some 6½ miles, to see whether he could attempt to beat the standing record of 58 minutes: his attempt took him only 63 minutes! Unfortunately a strained muscle

acquired on the ranges prevented him from officially attempting the record. As a result of STEELBACK TURTLE the more experienced participants had a chance to revise old, familiar skills whilst the younger elements developed basic infantry proficiency. These new skills compliment trade skills and meet the Royal Logistic Corps's concept of "soldier first."

Exercise LOG LEAP was the first exercise where the Regiment was commanded by its wartime Headquarters, 2 Logistic Support Group. The concept of 2 Logistic Support Group is to provide cross nation logistic support to ARRC formations. Exercise LOG LEAP was also the largest logistic exercise held in the UK for some considerable time. The "Steelbacks" are the only Independent TA unit in the formation, the other units being Specialist TA with no permanent staff, and thus was key in the success of the exercise. The exercise ran in 2 phases. In the first 2 Logistic Support Group provided support to Combat Service Support Group (UK). For the second, Commanding Officers had a free reign to exercise their units as they felt best.

In the first phase the Regiment was kept on its toes by its higher formation. Initially directed to deploy to THETFORD training area, this was changed with 4 days notice first to CATTERICK training area and then to ELVINGTON airfield, south of York. Road movement orders flew from the Training Major's desk like lightning. The Regiment kept



# The Steelbacks



Brig (Retd) Stephenson, Secretary for East Midlands TAVRA, talks to Private Phillips, 202 (Ipswich) Squadron



CO, Lt Col PL Kirkbide and RSM, WO1 (RSM) CP Longrigg, introduce the Mayor of Bedford to OC 201 (Bedford) Squadron, Maj T Seal



CO presents a Regimental beret to a successful "ex-recruit", Pte Marriott



CO presents a Regimental beret to a successful "ex-recruit", Pte Wing



Six newly trained soldiers for 203 (Loughborough) Squadron

up with the pace of war and established a tactical operations base at ELVINGTON. For the first 3 days, Task Sqns moved simulated ammunition stocks, SIMMO, from ELVINGTON airfield to ABINGDON airfield. Each round trip took approximately 22 hours as civilian driving regulations had to be adhered to. Regimental lift capacity was maximised and at any one time over 600 tonnes of stocks could be transported; at one point even OCs were volunteering themselves to drive. Whilst the outload of ELVINGTON continued the Regiment was directed to move its tactical operations base to CATTERICK training area; no small feat given that nearly all soldiers were somewhere between Yorkshire and Oxfordshire. The move to CATTERICK was timely as it later transpired ELVINGTON was to suffer much more under the frequent rain storms. Driving time had increased and a round trip now took 28 hours, approximately the same length of time from the port of Al Jubail to the Force Maintenance Area during the Gulf War. Despite this increase, the outload of stock from CATTERICK began and was completed ahead of schedule. A lull in the battle preceded phase 2 and for 24 hours drivers were able to catch up on sleep, meals and showers for the lucky few.

Phase 2 consisted of a tactical move to a disused ammunition depot at CAERWENT, just outside Chepstow. This area of just over 1200 acres has over 60 acres of internal roads and is ideal for logistic exercises. From the time of the US Airforce's withdrawal, it had only been

used by police and some elements of special forces training for fighting in built up areas. Nature has begun to reclaim most of the buildings, roads and rail track giving the area a deserted, war-torn look. The route to CAERWENT was diverse and challenging to say the least. Orders for a Regimental road move from CATTERICK to NEWCASTLE, to CARLISLE, to the Base Ordnance Depot Donnington near TELFORD, and then onto CAERWENT were swiftly drawn up. A total distance of approximately 850 kms, in 20 hours with the minimum of breaks, was covered without an accident. The route the Regiment took; along some of Britain's busiest roads, some of the narrowest in the Lake District, during both day and night and through some appalling weather, demonstrates the training and professionalism of its drivers. After a short respite at CAERWENT, the Regiment found itself under attack. With the CO and most OCs killed, Seconds-in-Command crashed the Regiment out. The first elements were withdrawing from CAERWENT, heading towards new locations, in a swift 45 minutes. Here the Regiment was split with most located within ALDERSHOT training area but with a Task Squadron at BARTON STACY. The next 48 hours were devoted to training for defensive operations before the penultimate move to the disused airfield at NORTH LUFFENHAM. NORTH LUFFENHAM was to be the location for the Regiment's Annual Camp visitors' day and most were glad to catch up personal administration prior to the setting up of

displays. The Regiment had invited a number of high profile visitors including the Honorary Colonel, Lady Victoria Leatham, Secretaries of the TAVRAs and local Mayors. Stands were created to demonstrate the Regiment's war role, equipment and capability. The exercise ended with the traditional Officers' and Sergeants' Mess function which many of the dignitaries were able to attend.

The Regiment continues to be well recruited. Recruit Training Weekends provide a steady stream of trained Volunteers for the Regiment's ranks. Recruits are now expected to wear a camouflage combat cap until they have completed their initial training when they are permitted to wear the coveted Norfolk brown beret. Recruit training requires 4 weekends from selection until recruits are ready to attend the fortnight recruit course at Headquarters The Royal Logistic Corps (Territorial Army) at Grantham. Completion of this course produces a trained soldier but driving and trade skills are then required. The success of the combined soldier and trade training can be seen from the reports of those who have deployed to assist the Regular Army. The Regiment typically has at any one time 10 or so soldiers deployed. These provide much needed manpower to Regular Royal Logistic Corps units and sub-units as far afield as Canada, Turkey, Kenya, Northern Ireland and the former Republic of Yugoslavia.

# Regimental Sport

## Regimental Golf

*Maj Gordon Halewood reports:*

### Triangular Golf Match - 22 May 1998

The golfing stalwarts of the three Regiments of the Queens Division met on 22 May at Canterbury Golf Club to do battle for this most revered of trophies.

The team gathered the night before for a tactical discussion and some male bonding. Our team showed a number of changes from previous years as several regulars were not available.

The day dawned bright and clear with the course in excellent condition. The team responded to the conditions with all producing creditable scores, with Maj Bob Potter leading the way with a very useful 36 pts. This steadiness saw us go into lunch with a 23pt lead over the PWRR with the RRF bringing up the rear.

Lunch was, as usual, excellent and it took some discipline not to over-eat or over-drink, the wine provided courtesy of the RRF, the hosts for this year.

The Captain, Maj Gordon Halewood, was seen with a worried look on his face after the first five scores from each team came in during the afternoon. Despite again steady scoring, the PWRR had managed to make up the difference and pass us. His fears, however, were unfounded as the Royal Anglian tail wagged as the PWRR tail drooped and once again the team triumphed.

The final scores were:

Royal Anglian Regiment	614
PWRR	595
RRF	560

The Captain would like to thank those team members who turned out at relatively short notice and yet performed so well. The competition is at the same venue on 21 May next year when we are the hosts. It is expected competition for places will be keen so get your bids in early.

## Autumn Meeting at Flempton

*Maj Stan Bullock reports:*

Eighteen stalwarts attended the meeting held at Flempton Golf Club on Friday the 18th September 1998. The day started with the usual banter, the checking of handicaps (impossible), coffee, plus question and answer (where possible) as to why so and so was not playing and where the H;;; is thingme!

Enough of the details, let's talk about the "Day". Six groups of 3 played Medal and Stableford with the longest hole and nearest the pin combined. A very light shower (of rain) quickly passed over and the rest of the day's weather was brilliant.

Play was led by Gordon Halewood with Dave Wharton and his guest. Tee off at 0900 hrs and 10 min intervals saw us all well on our way around an excellently prepared course that challenged us all and made Lofty Woodcock use terminology only understood by a few. General Sir John Akehurst with John Growse and Terence Knox were second off and very quietly moved around the course clocking up the points, John being a member of Flempton giving valuable local knowledge to his partners. That infamous pair, David (Lofty) Knight and Shack Shailes

were accompanied by a very welcome newcomer to the Society, Malcolm Wiles, who enjoyed the camaraderie of the day! There was no question as to who led the next three as "Lofty" Woodcock and Les Greenaway were years junior to Ron Templeman, mind you Les kept them both up to date on what was and should have been going on. All I could hear from Lofty was "I am playing like a man with a hangover" - nothing changes!! Shaun McAnally with his twin shape, George Boss, acted as book ends to Paul "Chalky" Whight. The rear was brought up by Pat Macdonald with Frank Mathews and Stan 'The Man' Bullock. Comfort not speed was the password for those three and it proved most true (not one of them won a thing!). Those were the players for the morning.

After a very pleasant lunch Pat Macdonald and Frank Mathews decided they would not tempt the Gods and had a sleep in a lay-by on the A14 on their way home. A very enjoyable Foursomes was played and a fairly tired group of golfers, having showered and changed, met in the Club for the prize-giving.

## Prize Winners

### Medal Competition

D Wharton  
H Ham  
P Whight

### Stableford Competition

L Greenaway  
G Halewood  
M Wiles

### Foursomes

L Greenaway P Woodcock  
D Wharton H Ham  
G Halewood J Growse

### Hidden Hole

G Halewood  
H Ham  
D Wharton

### Longest Drive

S McAnally

### Nearest Pin

J Growse

In conclusion an excellent day. We now look forward to the Spring Meeting. May I sincerely request all our long time players to please reconsider and make an effort to join us for the next Spring, Summer or Autumn game as your company and your friendship are still a very treasured items.

# RIT Bassingbourn

The summer and autumn months have seen the Regimental Information Team busy throughout the county areas. One of the main tasks during the summer was to support a number of ACF Annual Camps. This resulted in teams being spread across the width and breadth of the country. Despite the travelling the teams were full of praise for the hard work and enthusiasm displayed by the cadets.

The teams also promoted the regiment by providing displays at a number of major shows. The Paintball stand was ever popular amongst the visitors and at the East of England Show it was so much in demand an early closure was necessary to avoid running out of supplies, a lesson learned for next year. You would be surprised at the number of "Return Visitors" who look for the regimental stand each year, whether it is a youngster wishing to repeat his prowess on the assault course or an ex member of the regiment who just wants to have a chat. In recent months it has been necessary to reduce the teams commitment to the smaller type shows and fetes but we appear where and when we can within the county areas.

The team assisted the staff at Wymondham College during September and during two days put the new intake of students through a series of vigorous mental and physical tests. These were cunningly designed. It was very well received and they have already requested our support for 1999. A number of 1-day CCF visits have been conducted at Bassingbourn and again we are most pleased with the determination and enthusiasm displayed by the cadets. These visits are gaining popularity and the numbers attending is ever increasing.

*Cadets rising to the challenge*



*The thrill of full-bore on the range.*

During October most of the team travelled to South Cerney to complete a 1 jump parachute descent. Everyone was up at the crack of dawn for the long journey to S Cerney and immediately after the opening address joyous news was received that it was "all systems go" for jumping that afternoon. There were one or two team members now looking extremely white to say the least! Late that afternoon the aircraft taxied down the runway and, before people realised what was in store, the jump master shouted "cut" and then it was onto the wing at 3500 ft and go for it. Everyone was buzzing after they had safely landed - albeit arrived on the ground in one way or another! LCpl Sanger was heard to remark "I hear there is breathtaking scenery

in Oxfordshire" at which point he made a sharp exit!

In October the temperature dropped significantly and the heating failed in our time expired office accommodation but the irony is that the pipe which has ruptured has to be imported from Norway - well it's invigorating if nothing else.



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## The Infantry Training Centre Catterick Regimental Get-Together 8 September 1998

There is a new feel to training at ITC Catterick after the introduction of "Regimental Gatherings". The idea behind the gatherings is to foster and enhance the Regimental (and Battalion) identity which is a hall mark of the Infantry. The Royal Anglian Regiment is at the forefront of this initiative having conducted four very successful gatherings since December 1997. The most recent gathering was on 8 September 1998 and included active participation from the CO 1st Battalion and a number of Vikings. The CO addressed the 70 strong audience which included 15 of the 20 Permanent Staff(PS) and 50 students in training on the Combat Infantryman's Course. Both the Poacher and Viking forecast of events were outlined and questions from the students fielded by Lt Col Kemp and Cpl Headland. The students were at various stages of training from weeks 1 to 14 and were able to chat in an informal atmosphere to serving soldiers. The Vikings had also set up a number of stands which

included support weapons and the PRI.

The Regimental Representative at Catterick, Major A W Price, has been keen to get external involvement at the ITC Regimental Gatherings. A previous gathering was entertained by Sgt Pearson who told, first hand, of his experiences with the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment in Malaya.

At the next gathering on 17 November 1998, Sgt Rainy of the Poachers will "talk for his beer" on his experiences since passing out of basic training. RHQ subsidise the gatherings by buying the students some beer and the Catterick PRI help out with food. The Royal Anglian Regiment PS preserve the



*Some recruits looking forward to serving with the Colours at the Regimental Gathering of 8 Sep 98.*

Regimental ethos of professional excellence and good humour whilst in exile up north! The spirit of Viking and Poacher alike is alive and well amidst the rain and hills of Catterick.



*The Royal Anglian Regiment contingent at the Regimental Gathering of 8 Sep 98*



*The Viking element.*



*The Poacher element.*



*Cpl Headland trying to convince some recruits that he has not always been a training Cpl and served with the Poachers in the past*

## Posted to the Joint Readiness Training Center

By Captain David England

In November 1997, The "England family" were posted for two years to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) based at Fort Polk, United States. The establishment is the American Light Infantry training facility and is situated in deepest Louisiana. Airborne (AB), Air Assault (AA), Ranger and Special Forces units rotate through the centre for a three week training package designed to expose the unit to realistic, intensive operational training. Central to the concept is a dedicated permanent Opposing Force (OPFOR) who train in the doctrine of various armies and terrorist organisations of the world and are equipped with Former Warsaw Pact vehicles and aircraft including T72, BRDM 2, HIND, HIP and HOPLITE.

On arrival, I was employed as a Platoon Senior Observer Controller (OC), coaching and teaching platoon and company level operations. This initial period was not too challenging but was vital in order to understand the exercise rules and to become a "US Army doctrinal expert". The initial period also gave me time to attend the US Army Airborne school at Fort Benning, Georgia, which was ... painful! I am now employed as a Company Senior Manoeuvre OC, where I am responsible for a team of four Captains and eighteen senior non commissioned officers. This is where the work really starts and the emphasis is on coaching and teaching the "All Arms Battle" at company and battalion level. I

*Blackhawk helicopter lifting in the 105mm Howitzers of 82AB Div.*



will remain in my current job for 12 months and then move to the Battalion Operations OC position.

OCs monitor all actions on the battlefield and report to a central unit, which maintains a computerised picture of the battlefield. The movement of infantry sections and individual vehicles are logged and displayed by the use of satellite positioning systems. All contacts are observed by the OCs and the battle damage assessment is assessed by the ISAWES (free play) and the computerised database for indirect effects. Ammunition states and all Combat Service Support (CSS) aspects are monitored and a unit is forced to limit its operations to what its CSS elements can actually support.

A typical rotation will break down into four different phases. Operations begin at the Forward Operating Base where the unit will receive the scenario based upon supporting a friendly foreign government on a mythical island in the centre of the Atlantic Ocean. The initial situation is based on Low Intensity Conflict, as forces from a hostile neighbouring state are committed in support of the rebels. A defensive and offensive phase is fought. Insertion is achieved using the integral assets of the unit being exercised. The insertion phase is the most exciting aspect of this job. About 20% of the deployments into the "operational zone" are by massed AB drop and the remainder is by AA. The American concept of AA is facilitated by an enormous investment in aircraft. The principle assets are Chinook heavy lift helicopters, largely dedicated to vehicle and logistic lift, and Blackhawk troop carriers. These are protected by Apache gunships. In all about 80 helicopters are involved forming an aviation brigade.

After each phase of the rotation the OCs give After Action Reviews (AARs) at platoon, company, battalion and brigade level. This amounts to a run through of what happened in the



*Capt D England at JRTC.*

phase and highlights a number of focus issues that are studied to try to learn lessons from the phase and promote discussion from the exercising unit about how to improve performance. All observations are based on written doctrine rather than personal opinions.

This "American experience" has been a wonderful opportunity for me as a professional soldier but also for my family. I have found the posting very rewarding. Not only has it given me the opportunity to serve in an AB unit but also to serve in another country's armed forces. This is undoubtedly one of those postings you "joined the army for", great fun for the family and a truly worthwhile experience.

*An American soldier engages an OPFOR unit with his Squad Assault Weapon (SAW)*





## Captain James B Clinton MC and Bar. USAMC

RMO 1st/1st Battalion The Cambridgeshire Regiment (TF)

BEF 1917 - 1919

James Broomfield Clinton was born on 2 November 1888 at Eyemouth, about 40 miles east of Edinburgh. The family emigrated to the United States in time for James to have all his education in American schools. He entered the US Army on 23 July 1917 and was placed on Active Duty on 3 August that year. He was one of 1,500 American doctors who served with the BEF in the war. What made this one unusual was the award of an MC and Bar.

War Office List No 271918. Military Cross - "For most conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at Voormezelle from the 25th to the 28th of April 1918, whilst regimental medical officer continuously evacuating and attending to the wounded under very heavy shell fire. He also, in the absence of stretcher bearers, crossed a road swept by machine-gun fire and enemy barrage and attended to a wounded man in the open. While attending to this man, two stretcher bearers carrying a wounded man were wounded by a shell. He brought in all four himself. Later, during operations when our first line had been pushed back and the enemy were within a few yards of our aid post, he personally organised the removal of nine stretcher cases and himself assisted to carry the last stretcher. He showed the greatest coolness and gallantry throughout the whole of the operations."

War Office List No 35 of 31 January 1919. Bar to the Military Cross - "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty near Epehy on 18 September 1918. Lieutenant Clinton established his aid post close to the assembly position in order to be able to render aid at the earliest moment. His aid post was under heavy artillery fire all the morning and during the night 18-19 September, the only protection consisting of sheets of corrugated iron. In spite of the heavy fire this officer worked incessantly through the period. The casualties were unfortunately heavy and, in addition, there was a large number of wounded from other regiments lying out in front of the village. Lieutenant Clinton organised stretcher parties under heavy fire and by the night the whole area in front of the village was cleared of wounded. But for the example set by him under fire and the courage he displayed,

it would have been impossible for them to have been cleared that night and his actions undoubtedly saved many lives."

What more do we know about this remarkable man? What follows is a triumph of dogged research by an American historian of the period, Peter J. Linder, of Ellicott City, Maryland. Many of the US Army's WW 1 records were lost in a serious fire some years ago so available information is scanty and is only yielded after much determined beavering.

James Clinton was a physician in Fairmont, West Virginia, on 5 June 1917 when he registered for military service. He was enlisted on 23 July, and sailed for France from New York in the S. S. New York on 29 August. On his return to West Virginia in 1919, he was the subject of a Special Order of the American Army by General John J. Pershing, authorising him to accept and to wear his British decorations. In addition to these he was awarded a gold medal by the State of West Virginia to mark his meritorious war-time service. He married Beulah Lorraine Harberson of Beaver Falls in 1919. He was still in practice at Fairmount at the time of his sudden death on 11 February 1953, aged 64. His was survived by his widow and three daughters. He was described as "one of West Virginia's most distinguished men".

1,500 American Army doctors with the BEF? How did this come about? The United States declared war on Germany and her Allies on 6 April 1917. Over the preceding six months, at least, the Armed Forces had been reviewing and rehearsing their mobilisation drills. The Medical Reserve Corps, for example, expanded in this period from less than 500 to several thousands.

On 21 April, President Woodrow Wilson hosted a White House dinner at which the Right Honourable Arthur Balfour and other members of his British Mission were the principal guests. The Chairman



of the General Medical Board of the Council for National Defense, Doctor Franklin H. Martin, who was present, describes his conversation with Mr Balfour in the receiving line at the dinner - "As I came to him and was introduced as 'Doctor', Mr Balfour, to my astonishment, grasped the lapel of my coat and detained me. He said: "You were introduced to me as "Doctor?" I replied: "Yes, Mr Balfour." "Have you to do with the enrolment of medical officers for your Army?" he asked... I replied: "I have much to do with it, Sir. What can we do for you?" With great earnestness... he said: "Our soldiers are in great need for doctors. We have exhausted our supply. Our people at home have released more than they can spare. Our wounded are suffering. I have changed my mind what my first request to your Government would be - 'send us doctors'. Can you do this?" I replied eagerly: "Mr Balfour, we can send you all you need. How many?" "Could you send us a thousand?"... "Two thousand" I replied. At this point, still detaining me, he beckoned to Lieutenant General T. M. Bridges, his military aide and said: "This is Doctor Martin who says he will send us a thousand doctors. See to it that the offer receives prompt War Office acceptance." I met Bridges the



next morning at 10 o'clock. As a result of that meeting, Doctor Martin and his team returned to see the Secretary of War later that same morning. The Secretary authorised Doctor Martin to "Go to the limit".

Within a fortnight, a high-level conference completed the arrangements for the initial transfer of 1,000 medical officers and six base hospitals to the BEF. Generous medical aid was also sent to the French Army.

Doctor Martin goes on: "Thirteen hundred medical men were selected from the patriotic men who volunteered to fill our quota. They came from every portion of our country as soon as the need was made known. . . One and all, they realized that they were untrained as soldiers and that they were to be placed side by side in competition with medical officers who had endured the hardship of two years of war. . . Nor would they be privileged to serve with their own companions under their own flag; but one by one, individually, they would be ordered to serve with strangers, men of a different nation; and under a foreign flag. This was explained in detail but not one of these patriotic men hesitated for a moment. No one who had to do with this brilliant chapter of the volunteer army of the reserve corps in the Great War but was thrilled by the self-sacrifice of these young doctors, their intense patriotism and the magnificent manner in which they endured their many hardships."



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### A Platoon Commanders Perspective of the Infantry Training Centre Catterick

*Lt Ian Chance writes:*

Although I have been at the ITC for only 4 months, I have already completed a full Combat Infantry Course (CIC). I have also completed a 'Pathfinder' course, which is a five day school/ trainee hooligan work experience. By the time this is published, I will have completed a TA course. You will no doubt see that ITC runs on a tight time schedule.

There is time, though, to give a no holds barred run down of ITC. The establishment itself is massive. It comprises of 3 Battalions with a total of 40 training teams who are responsible for training upto to 2,000 recruits at a time. A Divisional training team will consist of a Platoon Commander, Platoon Sergeant and up to 5 Section Commanders. This training team does not necessarily mean you will be training soldiers from our Division. My last CIC, for example, was dominated by Royal Irish and RLC (Assault Pioneers). My next Platoon will be from the Prince of Wales' Division.

The CIC is the piece de resistance of the ITC. It is a 14 week experience that will take recruits from phase 1 training to the standard where an Infantry soldier can join his unit anywhere in the world. In order to reach this standard, 14 weeks is actually a very tight time frame. Many trainees are re-allocated if they fail to reach the standard laid down by the training team. To pass out of ITC, students must fulfill a series of critical objectives.

These objectives are, APWT, ICFT and four tactical exercises throughout the course.

Many people think that the system has failed them when the recruits turn up on day one. I myself ask the question of phase 1 at times. ITC Catterick is phase 2 training. It is the next phase, phase 3, where the soldier learns how to operate. Phase 3 is the field Army. It is here that they learn the ways of their chosen unit. Every CO I have met has said that he would rather take a borderline pass than leave him. CO's are aware that the best place to learn the finer points of soldiering is in the section. Here they will receive concentrated training and in time become good soldiers.

There is little doubt that ITC is a finely tuned machine. It is able to produce junior leaders of tomorrow's Army. To produce well motivated, fit young men there is an intense training programme executed by the training teams themselves. Most noticeably at section commander level. It is here also that most interaction takes place. They start early, work very hard and finish late. They



*Too much, too little, just right!*

work many weekends and put their all in the course. Their motivation is enhanced by the desire to see the job to the end. The reward is the transformation of student to soldier who leaves the camp gates ready for his Battalion. The soldier always remembers his Section Commander long after he's forgotten the name of the Platoon Commander.

Anyone with aspirations for a position at ITC should be willing to put a lot of hard work into the job. ITC has an excellent array of facilities that are on offer to you in your spare time. The potential for individual training, of any sorts, is second to none. The geographic location provides all the social links you could want. There can therefore be little doubt that ITC is able to meet most individuals challenges.

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### The Australian Experience - Exercise Longlook

*Cpl Appleton writes:*

In April this year I was lucky to be offered the chance to go to Australia on Ex Long Look which, for those who don't know about it, is a Tri-Service exchange with the Australian and New Zealand services. It saw 168 British service men and women spend 4 months from May to September with their respective host units.

I was attached to the 1st Bn Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR) who are based in Townsville, North Queensland. At the time of my visit they were the cur-

rent on line Bn ready to deploy anywhere if called out. Their most likely task would be to carry out a Services Protected Evacuation (SPE) of Australian nationals from any troubled country and which a lot of their training is centred around.

I was to spend my 4 months attached to 9 pl, C Coy as a Section Commander and was to be thrown straight into the deep end and deploy with the Coy on their annual FTX. This included a lot of different live firing exercises from pairs F & M, up to a Coy Attack.

Of the 16 weeks, I spent 9 of them on exercise as the Bn practised itself in Mechanised, Air Mobile, light role, SPE, OBUA, Internal Security and Amphibious operations. This was an excellent experience for me covering a wide spectrum of roles, something we don't get much chance to do being tied to one particular role at a time. 1 RAR proved themselves a very professional and capable unit with all the unit adapting well to the ever changing situation. The only area where I found them to struggle slightly was the Internal Security

role, where, on speaking to commanders, they put it down to a lack of experience and very limited training. However myself and an Officer from 1 PWRR (also on Long Look) were asked to instruct on Urban patrolling, contact drills and VCP's. Their doctrine was very similar to our own at Pl level and above, however at section level things were a little different and they worked in 9 man strong sections. The section is split into 3 groups, a gun group with the 2 i/c in command, a gunner and a rifleman, a rifle group with the sections senior soldier in command, another gunner and rifleman and the command group with the section commander and two scouts. The weaponry on call in the section was two minimi guns, 7 Styer rifles, 2 x 66mm rocket launchers, 2 x M79 grenade launchers and 2 hand grenades per man. On the live firing package, when the section came under fire, the return of firepower was immense and I found that working with 3 groups was quite difficult for command and control. It was made easier with a good 2 i/c and senior soldier and the hallmark for a good attack was the section commander not firing a shot.

I was also very lucky to be given a place on a Military Unarmed Combat Exponents

Cse which lasted 2 weeks and was 14 hours a day of sheer intense physical training. This taught us how to defend ourselves against numerous types of attacks. This Cse culminated in us, one at a time, walking down a deep dried out creek line at night and get attacked along the route on numerous occasions. This was pretty scary and had the adrenaline in full flow. It was an extremely difficult but enjoyable Cse and one in the British Army on which the chances of getting on are few and very far between. At the time the Cse finished 1 RAR had 8 instructors and over 100 exponents.

I was given 4 weeks off to travel and explore what Australia had to offer. I was to travel around hopping from city to city on board a number of RAAF Hercules postal aircraft but unfortunately this was cancelled due to the tidal wave disaster in Papua New Guinea in which all the 10 Aircraft were deployed to aid the relief effort. To that end the MT Pl gave me the use of a top of the range car and a fuel card to use as I pleased. I spent the 4 weeks exploring all the sights that Queensland had to offer, visiting the Great Barrier Reef, hiking in the ancient Daintree rain forest for 6 days and going to the tropical paradises of Cairns and

Magnetic Island. There was a lot to do and see and even the long drives were made easier by being surrounded by the most stunning scenery. My money went a long way as the exchange rate was heavily in our favour and my £700.00 converted to \$2000.00. That coupled with a low cost of living meant that shopping and excursions and nights out were all well within my means.

I found that this is an important exercise which allows service personnel a one off chance to see how another Army operates. Being part of this does broaden your own military experience and is important if some time in the future we have to work together. The Long Look exercise further enhances the inter-operability of the two nations. This has been the experience of a lifetime and 1 RAR were excellent hosts. I learnt a lot of new ideas and passed on a few also, making a lot of good friends along the way. This is an opportunity that only comes once in your life, so if anyone does get the chance to go on Long Look, seize the opportunity and enjoy it to the fullest.

## Do you know what happened to this Church?

*Mr J Lindley MM writes:*

"Several months before D Day, I noticed on the monthly medical inspection, more and more men wearing a chain and cross or rosary round their necks. By D Day nearly every man wore a cross. I thought about it and felt mothers, wives, sweethearts, must have provided these items in the hope of protecting their loved ones. I said they must have a church, the first time out of the line, for a rest and clean up. I went down to A ECHELON and talked to our Pioneer Platoon of Tradesmen and they agreed they would make a church. I gave them all the drawings etc I had made before we left England and in a few weeks the church was made and brought up to me in the front line RAP. Each time out of the line the church was assembled and it was amazing how many men went to this church to stand and kneel at their leisure in a shed or barn -anywhere under cover.



*Assembled in a building in Boltrop Germany and used by the Regiment for its weekly services*

The picture shows the church assembled in a building in Boltrop, Germany. After the war the Regiment held its weekly services there. I believe the church was subsequently taken to Palestine by the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment but don't know what happened to it eventually. Can any of your readers help?



## Parachuting with B (Suffolk) Company

*LCpl Harris writes:*

The cancellation of the UK Standby Battalion Northern Ireland training allowed for some valuable spare time for members of B Company to make the most of some Adventurous Training opportunities. To this end, the last week in August saw 12 intrepid members of the Company venture down to Peterborough Parachute Centre to undertake a 2 day parachuting course.

The course was arranged by 2Lt Winter during his attachment with the Battalion from the Intelligence Corps, and was primarily intended to raise funds for the Suffolk Regimental Museum. Those who attended the course along with 2Lt Winter are as follows:

LCpl Harris, LCpl Rout, LCpl Surette, Pte Allen, Pte Hodgson, Pte Knights, Pte Medbury, Pte Petryszyn, Pte Ribati, Pte Welch.

The first day of the course was primarily taken up by the safety aspects of parachuting with an introduction to both landing and steering the parachute. The latter being particularly important as to steer off course meant a long walk back to the Parachuting Centre.

The second day began with re-confirming the techniques learnt on the first day prior to actually undertaking the jump itself. This also included a written test which all personnel were required to complete.

When the big moment arrived we were fortunate that the weather was excellent, as even a moderate wind can delay a novice parachute jump. The tension and excitement mounted and almost became too much for Pte Ribati who managed to open his emergency chute before we had even boarded the aircraft.

The plane itself was of the older propeller variety, and consequently several of the members of the course felt more comfortable once they had jumped than when they were actually flying in the plane.

The jump itself was tremendously enjoyable to the extent that everyone grasped the opportunity to make a second jump. Overall, the course was very interesting



*LCpl Harris of B Company exits the plane.*

and informative although the total cost of around £130.00 makes parachuting a relatively expensive pastime.

The course did, however, give a valuable introduction to parachuting and most of the course hopes to participate in further jumps when the opportunity arises during the forthcoming tour of Londonderry.

Importantly, it also gave several of those on the course who were relatively new to the Battalion an insight into one of the major Adventurous Training opportunities the Army has to offer.

## The Regimental Museum Appeal

*The Trustees of The Royal Anglian Regiment Museum acknowledge with grateful thanks the contributions made by members of the public, the business community and The Regiment, both past and present, without which the museum could not have been built. In particular they wish to make special mention of the following:*

Brentwood Borough Council  
The Charles S French Charitable Trust  
The Chetwode Samworth Charitable Trust  
The Earl Fitzwilliam Charitable Trust  
The Ford of Britain Trust  
The Simon Gibson and the GC  
Gibson Charitable Trust  
Vauxhall Motors Ltd

Anglia Television  
Barclays Bank plc  
British Aerospace Defence Ltd,  
Dynamics Division  
British Gas Home Energy  
Calor Gas Ltd  
Charles Wells Ltd  
City of Ely Council  
Clarksteel Ltd  
Colonel R G Wilkes CBE TD DL  
Dunstable Town Council  
East Cambridgeshire District Council  
Essex and Suffolk Water plc

GKN Defence Ltd  
Greene King plc  
Guardian Insurance plc  
Heckler and Koch (UK) Ltd  
Holt's Branch, Farnborough, The Royal Bank of Scotland  
J A Sharwood and Co Ltd  
Lord Belstead  
Munton and Fison plc  
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RCI United Kingdom and Ireland  
South Cambridgeshire District Council  
Spicers Ltd  
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The Alliance and Leicester Building Society  
The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation  
The Clugston Charitable Trust  
The Everard Foundation  
The Great Northern Railway Hotel, Peterborough  
The Leslie Mary Carter Charitable Trust

The Lord Barnby's Foundation  
Lord De Ramsey Family Charitable Trust  
The Major Simon Whitbread Charitable Trust  
The Pye Foundation  
The Royal Leicestershire Regiment Association  
The Sandra Charitable Trust  
The Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association for East Anglia and the East Midlands  
The Worshipful Company of Poulterers  
Trilogy Communications Limited  
Varity Perkins  
Whitbread in the Community  
Whiting and Partners, Chartered Accountants  
Wilsons Hogg Robinson

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# The Regimental Museum

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*Mr George Boss, the Museum Attendant writes:*

## Museum Archives

### Regimental Bandmasters and Battalion Drum Majors 1958-1998

In order to put the record straight in the museum archives, I have compiled a list of all of our Bandmasters and Drum Majors, 1958-1998.

If you were one of these I would like a photograph of you, in your Regimental garb. This will be for a display to show the development of Drum Majors uniforms covering when the following took place, where it took place, why it took place.

- Change of Collar badge from Star to Regimental.
- Changes of Drum Major sashes (D/M Helmet Badge Centres)!!!
- The Drummers Arm Badges - why they are different in each Battalion. The story behind the arm badge.
- Where a-b-c took place and who was the Band President at the time.

WO2 Ian Simpson has been a great help in obtaining the nominal role of the Bandmasters from the Royal Military School of Music to this end. I am very grateful indeed.

## Do you recognise anyone in this photograph?



The photograph shows the regimental band of the 1/3 EAST ANGLIAN en route from Singapore to Bangkok. Were you one of the band? The ship is HMS CARYSFORT and the date of the cruise was 17-20 Apr 61.

This photograph was sent in by:

Mr J Woollatt  
The Masters Arms  
Weedon  
Northamptonshire

Can you find yourself on the snap and could you let the Museum know what you did on the tour and also the places you visited? If at all possible do you have any snaps which would show what the band was up to in that period, or even the band programmes and display sites.

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## Items Donated to the Museum

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>MR JOHN WALKER</b>    | 3 Hour Video Tape of Aden 1997. A Royal British Legion Trip. Shows you all the old places and what they look like today.   |
| <b>MR DERRY MAHER</b>    | 1970 Pewter Tankard issued by the WOs & Sgts' Mess to members who served in the 4th Bn before it became Tiger Company. Various glasses and instruments of Drums Platoon usage. Photographs Depots and Bns 60-70s.  |
| <b>COL A C TAYLOR</b>    | Badges and accoutrements worn from the early 60s to his retirement in 1998.  |
| <b>MR PAUL JONES</b>     | 1 1/2 Hour Video of 'Aden'. The first people to settle on Aden 1859, a small fishing village, through its prosperity to its problems and then the final actions when the British pulled out. Shows the Sheikh Othman Gun Battle. A well balanced newsreel. Brings back memories. 3rd Bn. |
| <b>MR MARTIN ARNOLD</b>  | Aden currency and Drums photograph of the Silver Drums Essex and Beds & Herts Regt.  |
| <b>MR I SIMPSON</b>      | Names of Band Masters and Drum Majors 1958-1998.   |
| <b>MAJ A ROGERS</b>      | } Currency South Arabia.   |
| <b>LT COL JA GARNETT</b> |  |
| <b>MR M ARNOLD</b>       |  |
| <b>WO2 CYRIL CHANG</b>   | Essex & Scottish Regiment of Canada, Headdress and Badge Tam O Shanta.   |
| <b>MAJ P KING</b>        | Maps Survival British/USA. Gulf War accoutrements Observer Corps Sinai with a full account of both tours GLO. Well worth a good read.  |

### OLD AND NEW DRUM MAJORS

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 Bns. 1958-1964 - 1964-1998 photographs please in your full uniform with dates and tour of duty. Explaining the colourful and detailed dress code a Drum Major had from head to toe. This appears to be unique to our Regiment. It is not easy to find out when these changes took place.

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# Museum

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## National Service 1956 - Warley. Essex Regiment

Gibraltar Platoon December 1956 at Warley can you fill in the missing names?



Rear Rank Pte M Sullivan, F Richards, ? Little, D Wastel, - ?, - F Garwood, G Argent.  
Middle Row B Marles, G Helman, L Smart, - ? -, P Tindale, S Lucking, - ? -, R White, D Lake.  
Sat C Viner, ? Mills, Sgt Fuller, Lt Hutchins, LCpl ? -, - ? -, B Weis.

Mark Sullivan now lives in New Zealand with his wife and family and would dearly love to see the blank spaces filled in. His contact address is held by the Regimental Museum at Duxford.

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## Outstanding Items Still Wanted

### WEAPONS

IWS. Wooden Butt for a L67A3 1. 5 Riot Gun. Sniperscope for the L42 Sniper Rifle.

### ACCOUTREMENTS

Field Marshals Badge of Rank.

1 E ANGLIAN hose tops with flashes.

2 E ANGLIAN hose tops with flashes.

3 E ANGLIAN hose tops with flashes.

Belt Buckle (Royal Leicester) used up to the Hong Kong tour with the Tiger on the buckle.

SLR Sling; AMF(L) Grey Cap Cold Weather

Commonwealth Monitoring Force Plaque, Rhodesia

### Any propaganda leaflets

from all world-wide tours, for all operations.

### VIDEOS/FILMS

Any reasonably taped events of the Regiment's Tours of Duty; UK, through to the Falklands Islands, Central America.

**ARCHIVES WANTED:** All Battalions and TA Orbats, Nominal Rolls, photographs of early NI Tours, British Guiana. You can now have your photographs colour copied at little cost and send them to the Museum with a short caption. Just call in at Duxford with your items and we can copy them here and you will then see how the Collection is improving.

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# The Associations

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## Royal Norfolk Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Norfolk)



### Benevolent Work

*"To give away money is an easy matter and in any man's power. But to decide to whom to give it, and how large, and when, and for what purpose, and how, is neither in every man's power, nor an easy matter."*

Aristotle (Died 322 BC)

Last year we managed to assist 69 cases with grants of which 57 were despatched from the Headquarters within 5 working days. In addition three married couples and three widows were able to take advantage of the Army Benevolent Fund's family holiday scheme. The type of cases seems to be moving towards helping in the provision of wheel chairs and other items for the 'restricted elderly'. The standard of casework continues to improve and the amount of assistance from other charities increases as 'almonisation' improves.

To give you some idea of the amount that the benevolent payments come to, I have listed below the payments for each Association together with the other

monies which are "cobbled together" for the benefit of those who were helped in 1997.

### Regimental Assistance for R Norfolk and Suffolk Regiments 1997

R Norfolk Association	£5,742
Almonised	£26,849
Total (A)	£32,591
Suffolk Old Comrades	£ 3,823
Almonised	£17,503
Total (B)	£21,326
Dispensed from RHQ (Norwich) (A+B)	£53,917

### Chapel

This continues to be admired by visitors and we have to thank Mrs Janine Raybould for her floral support. Both of the annual services have been well attended and the Regimental Chapel Committee recently elected Reverend Canon William

Sayer to the post of Vice Chairman. Sadly we have to report the death of Major Sam Hornor the Chairman on 10 July 1998.

### Regimental Museum

The success story of the year is the installation of a chairlift for the disabled from the lower floor to the mezzanine floor. This, together with an Educational Pack for use by schools, have been the major improvements to a highly regarded museum.

### Regimental Homes

We still have to fill the place left in the Norwich Homes when Mrs Tyrell departed for a Residential Home. Mr Gerry Bacon is now in residence in King's Lynn. New boilers are being fitted and a painting programme is in progress.

Any ex-member of the Regiment, East or Royal Anglian may apply for the above vacancy or to go on the waiting list. He needs to write to the Regimental Secretary at Britannia House, TA Centre, 325 Aylsham Road, Norwich, NR3 2AB requesting an application form.

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## The Suffolk Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Association (Suffolk and Cambridge Branch)



The main interest of Branches continues to be the raising of funds for the move of The Museum to Moyses Hall. Felixstowe organised a concert in the Spa Pavilion which was highly successful and won much praise. It raised over £3800. Other branches were generous in their contributions. Brigadier Deller, President of the Association, has been able to confirm that the Appeal has raised some £45,000 which, with money in hand from some disposal of non-museum items of Regimental property, means we can produce the £50,000 we are pledged to find to support the Lottery funding when

finally approved. Borough officials are confident that the grant already approved in principle will soon be confirmed in detail.

However more money is still needed to assure the future of the Museum Collection. £100,000 is needed in total and a further £35,000 needs to be raised. Anybody who has not yet donated is asked to do so as soon as possible.

Branches report increasing liaison with Royal Anglian Branches. The Beccles Branch were appreciative of the gesture

by the Royal Anglian Great Yarmouth Branch for sharing their coaches to Bassingbourn and Bury St Edmunds Reunions thus enabling larger coaches to be filled. The newly formed Lowestoft Branch has started well and is wished every success.

Minden Day proved once again to be the highlight of Branches' year. Crowds were as big as ever if not bigger. The number of ex Royal Anglians present continues to increase.



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# Associations

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## A Belated Headstone for a VC who served with the Suffolk Regiment

An interesting ceremony took place in Wandsworth Borough Cemetery on 22 May 1998 when a headstone to **Pte James Collis VC** was unveiled. Collis was a Gunner when he won his VC in 1880 in the 2nd Afghan War. He came from Cambridge and lived in Ipswich for some years. Unfortunately he was convicted of bigamy, sentenced to imprisonment and thus forfeited his VC. In 1914 at the age of 58 he enlisted in the 11th Bn The Suffolk Regiment but was invalided out in 1917. Shortly afterwards he died and was given a funeral with full military honours but was buried in a mass grave for the poor of the district in Wandsworth. Thanks to the efforts of a local historian, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission agreed to provide a

headstone inscribed with the Suffolk Regiment badge (his last Regiment) and the Victoria Cross. Representatives of Collis's former regiments, the VC and GC Association, Wandsworth Borough Council and descendants of Collis attended the moving ceremony. Major Frank Lockett attended the ceremony on behalf of The Suffolk Regiment.

## Obituaries

**Donald Wise** died 21 May aged 80. He was a journalist with an internationally known reputation, writing for many daily papers. He was commissioned in The Suffolk Regiment in 1940 and served in the 4th Bn. He was taken prisoner in Singapore where he was wounded, receiving a mention in despatches for gallantry. He was a good friend to those who served in the Regiment who made themselves known to him.

**Mr Herbert Belt** died on 29 June 1998. Enlisted in 1938 and served with 2nd Bn Royal Norfolk Regiment in France 1939-40 and landed with the 1st Bn of that Regiment on D Day. Wounded in Oct 1944 he subsequently served at Bury St Edmunds as WOII training recruits for the East Anglian Brigade. He was a staunch member of the Beccles Branch.

**Ex WO2 Arthur (Knocker) Cox** died on 20 Feb 1998. He was wounded serving with 2 Essex in France and then transferred to 1 Suffolk. He served with them in Palestine, Greece, Malaya, Germany and Cyprus. In 1961 he was with 4 R Norfolk and then went into recruiting in Norwich. He was awarded the LS & GC Medal and MSM.

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## The Royal Lincolnshire and Royal Anglian Regimental Association



### Annual Reunion 1998

The 53rd Annual Reunion was held on 26 and 27 September at Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln. The various Regimental Meetings were held on Saturday afternoon followed by a Social in the evening where comrades could pull up a sand bag and reminisce over a pint or two. A dull but dry Sunday morning saw a large number of old soldiers, and some not so old, from both the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment and the Royal Anglian Regiment begin to assemble for the Regimental Church Parade being held in St Nicholas Church, Newport, Lincoln.

As comrades exchanged greetings and handshakes the familiar cry of "Get on parade gentlemen please!" could be heard. PLEASE! How different from those years so long ago. Quickly the parade formed up. At its head dressed in their magnificent scarlet tunics was the 6th Battalion, Royal Anglian Regiment(TA) Band followed by our four Branch Standards. The parade was brought to attention and as ex-Royal Anglian Regiment C S M Harry Hill gave the command "By the left quick march" the band strikes up and the parade moved off.

As they marched smartly down Newport Road the lone figure of Major General R E J Gerrard-Wright CB CBE DL could be seen mounting the salute dais ready to take the salute. As they drew nearer the drums beat out the three pace roll and the opening fanfare of the Regimental March, "The Lincolnshire Poacher" echoed around the surrounding houses. Suddenly, the shoulders were pulled back, heads were erect and everyone seemed to be six foot tall. The pride and passion for their Regiment was there to be seen. Applause could be heard from the watching crowd and cries of "magnificent" from the Saluting Officer.

At the Church Comrades were met by their wives and families and soon everyone had filed through the doors to take their seats. Canon Brian Wiskin conducted a simple but moving service during which the Last Post and Reveille were sounded. After the service members returned to Sobraon Barracks for the Tea, Dance and Buffet and one or two other surprises.

As an additional item to this year's Reunion a small museum was established in the Sergeants' Mess with many

of the artefacts being provided by the members, in particular by Ian and Mark Simpson who were also instrumental in its presentation. Outside the Hall was a display of twelve World War II vehicles and their associated equipment all in perfect working order. All in all an excellent weekend which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

### Lincoln Branch

Since the last edition of the "Castle" membership has increased once again and we now have a grand total of 218, with some of the latest recruits living as far afield as Australia and South Africa.

A number of events have been organised throughout the year which include trips to the Regimental Gathering at Bassingbourn, The Imperial War Museum at Duxford and a surprisingly popular day out to the Norwegian ferry at Farndon Harbour near Newark for a very enjoyable Sunday lunch.

Since the Association changed its title to include the name of the Royal Anglian Regiment, the Branch has, for official functions, adopted a display which

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# Associations

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includes the Regimental Flag of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment. Hopefully portraying the strong bond which exists between the past and present county Battalion.

Because of the growing numbers of ex-regimental bandmen within the Branch it is hoped to form an Association Band. Ambitious? Maybe, but possible. Should anyone be interested please contact the Lincoln Branch Secretary.

## Midland Branch

Despite the members getting older (as we all are) and everyone finding it more and more difficult to attend meetings the Branch is still very active. The committee continues to organise many memorable trips which have included the unveiling of the "49 (Polar Bear) Division Memorial" at Croxhall, Staffordshire, the Branch Standard attending the Palestine Memorial Service in Bath Cathedral in memory of those who lost their lives during the 1946-1948 trouble in Jaffa, Tel Aviv, and a day trip to The Imperial War Museum at Duxford to see the Royal Anglian Regimental Museum.

Our social programme has also been going well. The Branch recently received an invitation from the Commanding Officer of the Prince of Wales Division to attend a passing out parade and tour of the barracks at Lichfield where many of our members enjoyed a wonderful day back amongst familiar surroundings. The Sunday Lunch and get together held on the 4th October was also a very memorable occasion with 32 of our members and their wives sitting down to dine. Because everyone commented on the pleasant atmosphere and excellent food it was agreed to hold another luncheon at the same venue in January.

Sadly two days after the Duxford trip Mr Peter Patrick, who had served with the 1st Battalion in Burma and South East Asia, died in his sleep. Peter was instrumental in the formation of the Midland Branch and was proud to serve as its Vice Chairman for many years. He was also a long standing member of the Burma Star Association. He is probably better known as "The Jeweller" as Peter made many of the tieclips, necklaces and pendants worn by the members and their ladies.

Finally we would be delighted to see any member or ex-member of the Regiment at our monthly meetings which are held on the first Tuesday in the month at 1930hrs in the Ivy Leaf (RBL) Club on the Coventry Road at Sheldon, Birmingham.

## Spalding Branch

Ayscoughfee Gardens Sunday 9 August. It was a glorious summer day with a warm breeze. People were playing bowls and tennis. Others lolled contentedly on park benches. There was a quiet buzz of lazy conversation.

Approaching the Peace Garden itself, which I had only seen once on a wet miserable day in January, I wasn't prepared for the beauty of it all. Ladies in summer hats sitting under the shade of large trees with their families. Children playing happily in their own playing area.

Surrounded by brilliant flowers the Peace Garden is sunken so that you look down on tiny privet hedges surrounding lawned areas with marble plaques on which are engraved the names of famous Regiments and Veteran Associations.

The Guards, Royal Artillery, ATS, The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, Dunkirk and Normandy Veterans and many more. Veterans begin to congregate at one end of the garden near the cafe, three priests walk through to the far end to where the youth band of the Royal British Legion were seated, the standard bearers move quietly to stand on either side.

The remaining participants stand along the other two sides while veterans, including ladies with medals gleaming, stand at each plaque bearing the name of their Regiment or Association.

Prayers are quietly spoken and the band plays softly. The service is not a remembrance to those who gave their lives but a thanksgiving for the peace those lives have given us.

Simple words were spoken by the priests and as the sad note of the Last Post faded they were replaced by the happy laughter of children. Surely the ultimate accord?

## Stamford Branch

Membership remains at 40, which includes 10 Honorary members, 2 Associate members (ex-Royal Engineers) and 1 member who actually lives in Bude, Cornwall. At the AGM in April the Treasurer, Bill Flynn, reported that our finances remained in good order which, in addition to our annual subscriptions and monthly raffle prize money, was given an extra boost when it received a special donation. So much so that we were able to give a considerable donation to the Army Benevolent Fund and to the Appeal for the "Justice for Scots Guards" who still remain in prison for carrying out their duties

whilst on active service in Northern Ireland. We very much look forward to their release. The change of the Association title to The Royal Lincolnshire and Royal Anglian Regimental Association has now been widely accepted and would welcome any ex-member of the Royal Anglian Regiment in and around the Stamford area who would wish to join us. A nucleus of about 15 members regularly attend our branch meetings which always start with the Regimental March, "The Poacher", and a warm welcome from the Chairman. Those who were unable to attend are always kept in touch with our branch newsletter which is sent to all members on a monthly basis. It has also been agreed to send a copy to all widows of past members and treat them as honorary members. The newsletter includes many interesting articles but a new item recently started was an "I was there" section for which contributions would be most welcome from any branch or member (photographs and descriptions please). We are also very fortunate to have an active welfare visitor, Mr Ron Walker, who not only visits all our sick members but even has his own library of 'military type books' which they may take out on temporary loan.

Several members recently attended a presentation evening in the Town Hall where the Chairman, Keith Harris, handed over a special, locally made, casket to the Town Mayor, Cllr R Burt. These caskets had originally been presented to soldiers from the Stamford area for their loyal service in WWII. The casket, donated by Mick Marsh, belonged to his father, Cpl Albert Marsh, who joined the 4th(TA) Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment as a bandsman. He later served with the 6th Battalion and took part in the evacuation at Dunkirk where he spent a long time on the beach and in the sea waiting to be evacuated. In response the Mayor presented Association members with long service certificates (50 years), specially designed by Captain Bill Simpson for the occasion.

The branch programme has been as busy as ever. In June we supported the Mayor's Civic Parade and Church Service, receiving a letter of thanks for our attendance and the reunion of the 4th Battalion Mortar Platoon held in Sobraon Barracks. During July a small contingent including the branch Standard went to the Regimental Gathering at Basingbourn and had a very enjoyable day meeting old friends and picnicking in the glorious sunshine. The Chairman, Keith Harris (1st Bn Malaya), managed to pick a fine and warm evening to hold a barbecue at his house. 27 members sat down in his garden in Barnack village to a truly splendid meal which was provided by his family

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(although he told everyone that he had cooked it). Naturally we provided our own refreshments. In September a number of the branch had an excellent weekend at the Regimental Reunion in Lincoln.

Future events will include joining other ex-services associations at the Civic Remembrance Service and Parade on Remembrance Sunday and our own Remembrance Dinner to be held on 14 November.

## Grimsby Branch

The Branch has an enthusiastic and active membership which contribute a great deal to its success. Our last Branch Reunion held at the Beacholme Holiday Centre was proof of this with many members travelling long distances to attend a

thoroughly enjoyable day. The principle guests were the Grimsby Royal British Legion President, Miss Stella Welling OBE and the Grimsby Telegraph columnist, Mr Peter Chapman and his wife.

The Branch Standard has been paraded on a number of occasions but in particular at the unveiling of the "49 (Polar Bear) Division Memorial" at Croxhall where it was carried by ex-Royal Anglian Mr Shaun Smith and at the Regimental Gathering at Bassingbourn where it was carried by Mr Charles Leny, another ex-Royal Anglian.

At the Regimental Reunion held in Lincoln we were delighted to welcome one of our branch members, Mr Reg Allsopp, who had travelled all the way from Osnabruck, Germany, to be with us.

The weekend passed by far too quickly as we all had much to talk about but it was a very memorable occasion nevertheless. It was also pleasing to see the tribute to the late Brigadier R H N Oulton and the men of 'O' Force on exhibition in the small museum set up especially for the day which included the Jordanian Medal purchased from the generous donations of members of 'O' Force.

We now look forward to the Branch Christmas Luncheon on 6th December and the annual Beacholme Reunion being held on Saturday 17 April 1999.

## The Royal Tigers Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Leicestershire)

Royal Tigers' Weekend this year was held on 20-21 June. The reunion started as usual with the Annual General Meeting of the Association which was attended by 40 members, and it was a great pleasure to have In-Pensioner Myles Foster with us, the first Tiger in The Royal Hospital for several years. The 73rd annual dinner was then held at the TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester. It is most pleasing to report that once again attendance was good, with nearly 170 sitting down, which was admirable. The President of the Association, Major General A J G Pollard CB CBE, presided. The caterers excelled themselves with a first class dinner and plenty of wine.

In his speech, at the conclusion of the dinner, the President explained the position about the Royal Leicestershire Regiment Museum. He then outlined the progress in Royal Tigers' Wood which was a marvellous living memorial to the Regiment, with almost all the trees doing extremely well. He thanked the Woodland Trust for all their work on behalf of the Association. The President concluded his address by thanking the ACF for all their help with the arrangements for the weekend. After the General had proposed the Loyal Toast and the toast to The Regiment, the reunion con-

tinued, both bars trading happily into the night. On Sunday the weather was kind for the Annual Service, which we held this year in Royal Tigers' Wood. Our guests included the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, the Chairman of Leicestershire County Council, the Mayor of Hinckley and Bosworth, the Lord Mayor of Leicester, the Chief Constable of Leicestershire, the Chairman and Clerk of Bagworth Parish Council and the Regional Manager of the Woodland Trust. The Rev Ben Elliott, a former National Service Officer, took the service and The Provost of Leicester's sermon was about trees. The Standard of the Association was carried by Mr R E Jones and was laid on the Memorial Stone during the service.

After the service everyone had the opportunity to see how marvellously the Wood is developing before moving to the Working Men's Club in Bagworth for a Reception and lunch.

It was another very successful weekend, which would not have been possible without so much support from 7 R ANGLIAN. Their willing assistance is very much appreciated by us all.

This year another bus was arranged to take Association members to Bassingbourn for the Royal Anglian Regiment

Gathering on 19 July, and several other carloads arrived in time for the Drumhead Service. It was pleasing to see so many more Tigers than in previous years and, as all those who attended enjoyed a wonderful day, it is hoped that attendance will continue to increase each year. The weather was kind and the arrangements splendid, so we send our thanks to all the organisers for another most enjoyable Reunion.

The annual Reunion of the 50th/8th/1st Battalion was held, as is now customary, on the last Saturday in September. Sadly a terrific thunderstorm with thunder, lightning and torrential rain in the late afternoon deterred some regular attenders from turning up, as a number of familiar faces were missing, especially some who had long distances to travel. Nevertheless those stalwarts who braved the weather had an excellent evening. Again, they expressed their sincere thanks to 7 R ANGLIAN for use of the TA Centre, and to the barman and caretaker who provided first class service and arranged an excellent buffet. They both contributed enormously to the success of the evening. Next year's Reunion will be on 25 September 1999.

Royal Tigers' Wood continues to thrive, and every visit there raises one's morale.



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Anyone needing a map of how to find the Wood should ask RHQ in Leicester for one.

There are three projects being developed in the Regimental Chapel. The altar frontal needs repair and some reweaving, and this is being done. Duplicate memorial books are being made so that the public can have access without damaging the precious parchment of the original books and a memorial plaque to all those killed in Korea is to be placed by the left doorway. Any suggestions as to all or part of the design of the Korean memorial, which will include the names of the 53 people killed, should be sent to RHQ in Leicester as soon as possible. The memorial, as all the other projects, is being paid for from Regimental funds, but anyone wishing to make a personal contribution would be welcome to do so. It is hoped that all three projects will be completed by Royal Tigers' Weekend.

The Royal Leicestershire Regiment Museum is still closed, but plans for the future are progressing well. The two Sevastopol cannons have been removed from outside the Magazine (where they were placed in 1971) and sent for refurbishment before repositioning outside the New Walk Museum. An interim display will be opened there on 23 April 1999 in an upstairs gallery. Display contractors have been appointed by Leicester City Council and Lt Col John Wilson is leading a small regimental team in liaising and advising on the selection and display of items. It is marvellous to report that after so much unavoidable delay some of the Regimental Collection will be on display again, and plans for the longer term are being developed with Leicester City Council.

We are very grateful to have received recently, among some other splendid donations to the Regimental Collection,

the medals of John Meredith who was RSM of the old 1st Battalion and British Battalion, when he was a tower of strength during their captivity after the fall of Singapore. His widow has given the Museum his DCM and other medals which, in view of his outstandingly gallant record and their provenance, will be an extremely valuable addition to the Regimental Collection.

Royal Tigers' Weekend 1999 will be held on 19/20 June 1999. The dinner will be held as usual in the TA Centre, and the annual service on Sunday will be held in the Regimental Chapel. The service will include the dedication of two memorial plaques (one to all those killed in Korea and one to Lt Col Spike Nicholls). It is hoped that the Rev Tom Hiney will be preaching. The Regimental reception will then be held as usual at Ulverscroft Road.

## The Northamptonshire Regiment Association and the Royal Anglian Association (Northampton)



### Annual Reunion 1998

The Association Annual Reunion was held on 4 and 5 July. The various Regimental meetings and the Dinner were held on the Saturday and the Comrades' Church Parade and Reunion on the Sunday. After the AGM, the dinner was held in the TA Centre with 186 members in attendance. General Sir John Akehurst presided and proposed toasts of "The Queen" and "Our 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 telegrams sent to them earlier. The General ended a short speech by proposing the toast "The Regiment".

The next day the weather was good for the Church Parade. The turnout was as good as ever and the march, headed by The Royal Anglian Regiment TA Band, was enjoyed by marchers and spectators alike. The Church Service was well

attended and, as usual, stimulating. The address was given by the Reverend Tom Hiney.

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

Our thanks to Major Amos for all the arrangements that he made for the setting up of the Reunion. The willing help received from C Coy 7 R ANGLIAN is always very much appreciated by all members of the Association.

### Another Reunion

Another very successful reunion was held on 27 June 1998 by members of The Northamptonshire Regiment who had mainly served with the first Battalion in Germany, Korea and Hong Kong, although there were very many representatives who had served in Aden, as well as one who had served at Quebec Barracks.

The reunion was held at the Royal Navy & Marine Association Club at Lorne Road, Northampton, who made the gathering extremely welcome. Between sixty and seventy people attended throughout the afternoon and evening, and the meeting was addressed briefly by Bill Deadfield, who had organised it. It was a very enjoyable evening, especially as some visitors came from as far away as Malta and Edinburgh, as well as from East Anglia and the South Coast.

### 5th Battalion Reunion

The 10th annual reunion of the 5th Battalion The Northamptonshire Regiment was again held at Barnsdale Lodge, near Rutland Water, on Sunday 17 May 1998. Before the start of an excellent lunch, Major Donald Girdwood welcomed all the ladies and gentlemen and gave each of the ladies a lovely buttonhole. He also read out apologies from those unable to attend for various reasons. A minute's silence was held in respect of those comrades who had died since the last reunion.



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## 70th Battalion Reunion

The 7th annual reunion of the 70th Battalion the Northamptonshire Regiment took place on Friday 2 October 1998 at the Conservative and Unionist Club, Kettering. Seventy-one persons sat down to an excellent meal and a very convivial evening ensued, Mr Jeffery Brown chairing the proceedings.

The Mayor, Councillor David Whyte, in response to a toast to the visitors, was pleased to announce that it was 60 years since Kettering had been granted Borough status from being an Urban District Council. He also referred to the very happy and close relationship Kettering had always had with the 70th Battalion.

On Saturday 3 October 1998 The Mayor kindly entertained 70th Battalion members and their ladies and friends to a Buffet Luncheon in his Parlour at the Municipal Offices. In appreciation, members organised a raffle for the Mayor's Charity which raised a very satisfactory sum. Colonel Peter Worthy, Chairman of the Comrades' Association, on behalf of all present, most eloquently thanked the Mayor for his kindness and generosity. Before leaving the Mayor's Parlour members were given a lavishly printed scroll depicting Kettering's 60 years as a Borough.

## Peterborough Branch

The Peterborough Branch had a great night at Huntingdon with our friends in the Huntingdon area. This was the 15th reunion gathering we have held and it was fairly well attended. The Chairman, Terry Edge, organised a Royal Anglian Day in Peterborough on 20 June 1998 for the ex-5th Battalion members and this was a great success, with many potential new members amongst those who came along. It was very good to see several former Headquarter Company Commanders, and indeed Commanding Officers, and we were especially pleased that the new Colonel of the Royal Logistic Corps came to see us and pledged his support to the Branch. The day was attended by over 50 members plus their families. We had a static display of the vehicles used by 158 RLC(V) and a static display of the uniforms and weapons used by the Army today. The Corps of Drums of 6 R ANGLIAN put on a very good display, and a good time was had by all. During the afternoon a 5 R ANGLIAN G10 side drum was signed by the 3 Drum Majors

of 5 R ANGLIAN and was raffled off, raising the sum of £300 to go to the Drum fund to help buy new equipment.

Again this year one of the highlights of the Branch's summer was the joint barbecue with our friends from the Cambridgeshire Regiment. It was their turn this year to host the evening. We were blessed with fine weather and the Landlord at the Woolpack provided an excellent spread, and more members than ever before were able to enjoy a great evening of comradeship.

The 45th Annual Reunion Dinner held in Peterborough on 17 October 1998 was a great success, with over 130 sitting down for a roast beef dinner under the splendid blue and white tent which had transformed the Drill Hall. The setting was a little different from the first reunion dinner in 1954 when bunting had been hung up from the high metal rafters with the assistance of a 3-ton vehicle and branch members sat down to a sausage and mash supper and given a bottle of beer. One of our Branch members well recalls this occasion, with Colonel Quosh in the chair and RSM Willmott organising it. This year's event, like the first, was extremely enjoyable and there was plenty of good comradeship. The Regimental toast was proposed by General Sir John Akehurst and there then followed a short address from Colonel Peter Kirkbride who had recently returned from Annual Camp with his Steelbacks. He gave an encouraging account of the new unit, which was very much in evidence in assisting with the arrangements for the annual dinner. After the meal members were given a splendid performance by the Royal Anglian Corps of Drums and the Branch President then presented a statuette of a Royal Anglian Drummer to the Drum Major. This will be awarded annually to the best all round drummer within the Corps. In all it was an excellent evening and this dinner has now become a marvellous local tradition which will doubtlessly be very well attended in the years ahead.

## Finedon Branch

The Finedon Branch has had some very good meetings, starting off with the visit to the Carpet Beggers Museum in June. We were met by George White, split into two groups and given a two hour conducted tour of the museum. This was followed by lunch at the local village pub - most enjoyable.

For this year's Remembrance Sunday the Branch will be attending the service at Finedon and a wreath will be laid on behalf of the Regiment. After the parade we are taking the ladies for Sunday lunch at a nearby restaurant.

## Visit to Trieste

In June 1998 Ken Huckstep, Tommy Culling and Frank Nixon went back to Trieste on holiday. The highlight of their stay was a visit to Rossitti Barracks, where they were treated to marvellous hospitality as VIPs. They were presented by the resident regiment with a plaque (which is now in RHQ in Northampton), and a Northamptonshire Regiment plaque has been sent back to Trieste.

## Northamptonshire Regiment Museum

The Northamptonshire Regiment Museum was established in 1929 and housed in various locations over the years as befitting the vicissitudes in Government property in the Shire. In 1959 a Regimental Trust was formed, and in 1975 the then Trustees made an agreement for the Borough Council to become Trustee in 1995. Because of the unforeseen constitutional difficulties and legal technicalities this handover had to be delayed.

Thanks to excellent help from the Lord Lieutenant's Working Party for Military Museums in Northamptonshire and from the East Midlands Museums Service, the change is now imminent. The final version of a new Trust Deed has been approved by the Charity Commission and should be published in the near future. A Regimental Officer, a former Northampton or Royal Anglian, will act as advisor to the Trustee. The first Regimental Advisor will be Colonel P Worthy. The Museum in Abington Park, Northampton, which has wheelchair access, is open on Tuesdays-Sundays 1-5 pm.

## Major General H Essame

Members will be interested to know that an area of the museum in St Remy-Sur-Orne in Normandy is going to be designated "Espace General Essame". This arises from his actions as Commander of 214 Infantry Brigade in North-West Europe 1944-45.

The Regiment has sent a photograph of the General to the French authorities,

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and the Museum will be opened next year, probably on 10 July 1999. His two sons will be invited to the opening, and members of the Regiment may be also. If anyone would be interested in possibly attending, please contact RHQ in Northampton as soon as possible.

## Management Committee

The Management Committee has invited the Commanding Officer of 158(Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteers) to become an ex-officio member of the Committee.

Lieutenant Colonel P L Kirkbride RLC has accepted and we are delighted that the modern Steelbacks will continue to be represented in the management of the Association's affairs and we are indebted to them for their unfailing support to our Peterborough Branch.

## The Cambridgeshire Regiment Association and The Cambridgeshire Branch The Royal Anglian Regiment Association



### Whittlesey & Peterborough

The Branch was well represented at the Ely reunion with about 50 members and wives for a wonderful Service and afterwards for tea in the Haywards Theatre. The Standard Party was provided by the Whittlesey Detachment of the ACF.

The Standard was also on parade at Peterborough on the occasion of the Midland Area Burma Star Association VJ Day on 16 August when Branch members joined about 500 Burma Star Veterans for a service in the Cathedral with a march past and reception in the Town Hall. The day closed with Beating the Retreat by the Corps of Drums of the Cambridgeshire ACF. Dignitaries of the day included The Lord Lieutenant, The High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire, The Deputy Mayor of Peterborough and the National Secretary of the Burma Star Association. Unfortunately the date clashed with the March Branch Annual Service which we usually support but we hope to make it up with them next year.

This year we hosted the Annual Barbecue which is held every year in conjunction with the Northamptonshire and Royal Anglian Association. It was held at the Woolpack, Stanground on 16 July when about 70 enjoyed a very pleasant evening and the raffle was split between the two associations.

We held our own Church Service on Sunday 13 September at the United Reform Church, Whittlesey where once again the church was full. Lessons were read by the Association Vice President, Mr Fred Grounds and Major Les English. The sermon was delivered by the Rev Lawrence Sharp. Present were The High Sheriff, Mr R Bamford DL and Mrs B

Cook, Chairman of Whittlesey Town Council. The Standards of the Branch together with the March Branch and Whittlesey Detachment ACF were received at the altar. Afterwards a light buffet was provided by the church ladies and members were given a chance to meet the new Association President, Lieutenant Colonel W F Badcock MBE and the new Branch Secretary Pop Whitwell together with the new Branch Chairman Mr L Woods, both ex-Suffolks and Whittlesey men.

Four Branch members attended the Annual General Meeting of the Association at Ely on 20 September which turned out to be a most interesting and constructive meeting. Two presentations have been made to Branch members this year. They were to Jess Matthews to mark his retirement as Secretary and to Lieutenant Tom Denton who has left the Whittlesey Detachment to become training officer for No 1 Coy, Cambs ACF. Both received inscribed hip flasks.

The Annual Branch Dinner was held on Friday 9 October at the Newark Hotel, Peterborough. The guests were Lieutenant Colonel W F Badcock, President of the Association and Mrs Badcock. Twelve pieces of Regimental silver were on display and 44 people sat down to the dinner. The Regimental flag and Branch Standard were on display and the Officers' Mess and Cookhouse calls were sounded by a members of the ACF Corps of Drums. The raffle raised £83, £50 which will be given to Branch widows. The Loyal Toast was proposed by Major Les English, the toast to the Branch and the OCA by Don Poole and the visitors by Jess Matthews. Grace was said by Canon Arthur Ludlow. The new

Secretary Mr Pop Whitwell is to be congratulated on his first effort as Secretary and also for the other events he has organised since becoming Secretary.

The Annual Branch social evening will be held at the Newark Hotel on Wednesday 2 December at 7.30 pm which will mark the end of the Branch activities until the AGM on Wednesday 17 March at the ACF HQ, Station Road, Whittlesey at 8.00 pm. Then meetings will be held at this address on the third Wednesday of each month at 8.00 pm. Finally Christmas greetings to all our sister Branches and, whilst we are getting thin on the ground, the old Cambridgeshire spirit is still there and the Cambridgeshire family is still intact so we look forward to seeing our Old Comrades again at Ely in 1999.

### Ely

In November 1997 we attended the Armistice Day Parade in Ely Cathedral. Wreaths were laid in the Regimental Chapel by the Branch on behalf of the Association. A wreath was also laid on the City of Ely War Memorial. At Christmas we were invited to the Cambridge Branch party and spent a very enjoyable evening with them.

In April, members attended the St George's Day service in the Regimental Chapel which was attended by members of the OCA and members of the public. In May we took advantage of the transport arranged to take us to the Duxford IWM for the Beating of Retreat ceremony. In June it was Reunion time at Ely again but it was more than a reunion as we had the Memorial Service for our Patron, Colonel Mapey. He will be sadly missed by us all. July was the Regimental

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Gathering at Bassingbourn. A very impressive gathering it was too. The Drumhead service was very impressive with all the Standard Bearers present. Minden Day was attended by some of our members and we also attended the March Branch Annual Service in St Peters Church, March.

## March

Due to ill health there has not been much activity this year but we held our Annual Branch Service in St Peters Church on Sunday 16 August which unfortunately clashed with the Peterborough VJ Parade and they were unable to attend. Thanks are expressed to the ladies for providing tea and biscuits afterwards.

## The Cambridgeshire Regiment Collection

### Museum Update

The Duxford Display is almost complete. There are one or two more items still to be included, such as a colour photograph of the Lyon Brooch. The Display is 'live' in that we are able to add, remove or rearrange exhibits as we require. It has been very popular and well visited by many of the 50,000 or so visitors to Duxford each year. A high proportion of these are Americans drawn to Duxford by their Air Museum next door. For their benefit, we plan to include something about the two American 'experiences' in the Regt's past. The unusual US Army Doctor (Clinton), who was RMO of 1/1 Cambs (TF) between 1917 and 1919 and who won two MCs with us, as well as the Lakenheath connection with the 60th AAA Bn US Army, which we supported when we were 629 LAA Regt RA(TA).

The Regiment's Guide has been widely acclaimed - but sadly, not much else. So far, less than 50 copies have been sold, which is somewhat depressing because it was created not only for educational purposes, but also as a fundraiser. We need to sell 800 to break even. Would everyone, Branches or individuals, please do their best to sell copies of the Guide. (£5 to members of the Regt - £6 elsewhere). Copies are available from the Hon Sec, from D Coy or from the R ANGLIAN Museum Attendant (George Boss) at Duxford. (As a result of the OCA AGM 5 copies will be sent to OCA Branches for them to sell on to their members and friends.)

Money is an important topic, as usual. The Lord Lieutenant helped to launch a new Appeal last May. It raised just under

£14,000. As at the end of June this year, our figures show that we have a credit balance of about £7.5k. (We have just one copy of the WW1 Regimental History left; they are selling for £50 - please buy yours now!)

The Archives are now complete at Shire Hall and readily available for study and research.

## Annual Service of Remembrance,

14 June 1998

The Annual Service and Reunion this year incorporated a Memorial Service for the late Lieutenant Colonel E L V Mapey OBE TD, who died on the 5 April 1998 aged 94 years.

The service was well attended and was conducted by the Dean of Ely. The lesson was read by the President, Lieutenant Colonel W F Badcock MBE, from Ephesians 6, 10-20.

The address was given by the Lord Lieutenant James Crowden K St J JP, who paid tribute to Colonel Mapey for 75 years service for the Regiment. He went on to say that he joined the Regiment in 1923 when the Regiment was still recovering from the first World War and was 2IC of the 1st Battalion when the Regiment arrived in Singapore in 1942 on the death of the then Commanding Officer.

In this capacity he saved many lives during the terrible period of captivity at the hands of the Japanese through the efficient distribution of food, maintenance of hygiene and often standing up for members of the Regiment against the Japanese, without thought for his own safety.

After the War he became President of the Old Comrades Association and ultimately Patron and was responsible for setting up the Regimental Council in order to draw together the various branches of Regimental life. Even recently he still attended all the Regimental functions he could whilst in a wheelchair. Those outside the Regimental circle wonder what holds the Cambridgeshire Regiment together so long after the last conflict and a large tribute must go to Victor for his major part in this.

A good display of Standards was again on parade and the service was accompanied by the City of Ely Military Band who also

led the parade from the Cathedral with the pipes and drums of the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force.

## Other Gatherings

A good time was had by 20 OCA members on 19 June at the Regimental Gathering at Bassingbourn.

A smaller number, about 10 Cambridgeshires, attended the Minden Day celebrations on 2 August at Bury St Edmunds and a good day was had with our Suffolk comrades.

The Singapore Club held a dinner at the Coach & Horses at Tilney All Saints when about 26 members attended and were pleased to welcome Colonel Buckenham and his wife.

The Cambridgeshire Regiment Sergeants' Club dinner was held at the ACF Centre, Waterbeach, on 26 September 1998 when about 50 attended a very successful evening.

## Officers' Dinner

A very successful dinner was held on Saturday 2 May at the Cadet Headquarters at Waterbeach. Colonel W F Page, Patron of the Associations, presided and the guests of honour were the Lord Lieutenant, Mr James Crowden and the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel R E Harrold and Mrs Harrold. Mr Vice was Lieutenant S Swann of the Army Cadet Force.

Telegrams of best wishes were received from Her Majesty The Queen, Our Colonel-in-Chief, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and our Deputy Colonel-in-Chief The Princess Margaret.

Major D J Cook replied to the toast of the Regiment and outlined the achievements of D Coy during the year especially the success of the Wisbech Platoon in increasing numbers. However he forewarned that there is yet another re-organisation of the TA on the way for later in the year and hoped that Cambridgeshire would survive yet again.

The President stated how pleased he was to see Mrs M Mapey and her son Christopher at the dinner and announced that the Ely Service on 14 July would incorporate a Memorial Service for the late Lieutenant Colonel Victor Mapey.

Best wishes were received from the Mess Sergeant, CSgt H S Taylor who has been

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seriously ill and was not well enough to attend. It is the first dinner he has missed in 42 years.

It was very pleasing to see a good turnout of serving TA Officers and Army Cadet Officers and the Company Commander of D Coy offered the services of D Coy to the Cadets if needed.

Apologies and best wishes were received from several usual attenders who were not able to come for various reasons, Colonel D Bristow (due to illness), Colonel D Shervington, Lieutenant Colonel Pat Macdonald, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Storie Pugh (from France), Major Bob Brashaw, Major Dennis Haslam and many others.

## Deaths

We are sorry to have to report the following deaths and express our deepest sympathy with the families:

**Kitson** Sgt Ron Kitson died on 21 October 1998 aged 80 years, after a long spell of ill health. He joined the Cambridgeshire Regiment TA as a boy in 1931 and thus began a long and distin-

guished association with the Cambridgeshires.

When the Regiment went overseas in 1941, Ron was a Platoon Sergeant in 'A' Coy, 1st Battalion. Although quiet and somewhat retiring, he was always a strict disciplinarian, much respected throughout the Battalion. He survived the hammering 'A' Coy took from the Japanese and the subsequent battle in Adams Road, Singapore only to become a POW along with the remainder of the Battalion at the capitulation.

At the end of the War Ron returned home and resumed his job with a firm of builders merchants in Cambridge, where he became a departmental manager. He confirmed his association with the Regiment as a prominent member of the Old Comrades Association. In 1957 he was persuaded to join the Royal Pioneers, eventually becoming RSM of the regional unit. His service to his Country and to the local community did not end there. He became a Special Constable, rising to the rank of Commandant and was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal in 1977. He also took a devoted role in a major local charity. He was Mace Bearer to the City

of Cambridge for 30 years until 1991 when ill health forced him to retire.

His whole life was one of service to others, central to which was his dedication to the Cambridgeshire Regiment. He will be remembered by all his comrades for his loyalty and his life-long example of unselfish giving to his fellow men. The funeral took place at Trumpington Church on Thursday 29 October.

**Neligan** LCpl Neligan died on 17 July 1998. He was in the 2nd Battalion The Cambridgeshire Regiment's B Coy and was 80 years.

**Page** Jack Page of 36 Willomholt, Ravensthorpe, Peterborough died on 27 August 1998. He served in the 1st Battalion The Cambridgeshire Regiment and was a FAPOW. The funeral service was held at the Church of the Holy Spirit, Bretton Centre on the 7 September and he was buried in Fletton Cemetery. The funeral was attended by the Old Comrades of the Whittlesey & Peterborough Branch of the OCA and at his request was a military funeral, which his old comrades carried out as far as was possible.

## The Royal Anglian Regiment Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Association



The number of the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment Association old comrades who attend The Royal Anglian Regimental Gathering seems to increase every year. This was so at Bassingbourn on Sunday 19 July 1998 when our marching contingent, the 3rd Battalion, which also, of course, includes members from The Essex Regiment Association, was so long that the parade RSM had to split the contingent into two columns. It was a great day out, well organised and we were very lucky with the weather. The TA Corps of Drums put on a splendid display in the afternoon which was most impressive and nearly stole the show.

### 16th Foot Officers' Lunch

On Tuesday 30 June 1998 former officers of The Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment and their wives assembled for their annual lunch. This year the venue was different.

Arrangements had been made to use the Barnes Hotel, built around a 13th Century tithe barn and 17th Century manor house. It was an excellent location set in over three acres of landscape gardens on the banks of the Great Ouse, about a mile out of Bedford on the Sandy road, ideal for a meal overlooking the river. Unfortunately, the hotel had only just recovered from the horrendous flooding that had closed the restaurant for weeks. The day, itself, was a typical 1998 summer day - windy and overcast, which prevented the gathering being able to enjoy drinks and coffee outside.

Nevertheless, an excellent buffet lunch was available in the library with a hot dish (that proved popular) as an alternative. Twenty officers and their wives, mostly regular, attended, and much enjoyed renewing friendships and the high quality of food.

The venue for next year will be discussed at the next Management Committee Meeting as there are some who still have the urge to sample other places.

### 3rd Suez Canal Reunion

The third Suez Canal Reunion was held at the Stotfold Social Club on Saturday evening the 20 June 1998 and proved once again to be a great success.

As in the past, many travelled from far and wide to be there on the night. This year's guest was Brigadier Robertson, Chairman of the Association, and Mrs Gillian Robertson. Major Parker, Major Dinnin, Major 'WAM' Moody and Major and Mrs Ladley were also in attendance.

Brigadier Robertson's speech went down well with the Suez veterans, he reminded the ladies who were present what a formidable bunch of guys they had married.



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# Associations

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Major Parker presented flowers to two widows who came along to the reunion who had both lost their husbands during the past two years. As usual an excellent buffet was provided and this year's design for a Regimental cake was the badge of GHQ MELF.

Once again the display board showing photographs of the 1st Battalion out in the Canal Zone attracted a lot of interest from the guests. The feature of the night was the kit layout of the National Serviceman out in Egypt. Battledress, beret, boots (highly polished), gaiters, KD, puttees, steel helmet, mess tins, complete set of webbing (FSMO), bayonet, MK4 Lee Enfield Rifle and LMG (Bren Gun). All these items brought back many memories for those who served in Egypt in 1951-54.

Brigadier Robertson toasted the Regiment and Absent Friends and the rest of the evening was spent with old friends and comrades meeting up again and discussing their experiences in the Battalion. An excellent night which went so quickly as is usual when you are enjoying yourself.

## The Regimental Association and the Directors of 'The Keep'

When the 5th Battalion, The Bedfordshire Regiment was amalgamated with the 1st Battalion, The Hertfordshire Battalion in 1961, the old Regimental Barracks at Kempston was finally closed down. Most of the Barracks was pulled down and houses were built on the site, but fortunately the front block of the old barracks was rescued from being demolished and bought by the Bedfordshire Masonic Lodge. Since they purchased the building, which is now called 'The Keep', they have very kindly allowed the Regimental Association the use of the premises for the Association's Annual Wreath-Laying Parade and Reunion which takes place each November. With the reorganising of the TA in 1995 and the conversion of the 5th Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment into The Royal Corps of Logistics, the facilities at the TA Centre at Kempston have been further curtailed and the Association has been using 'The Keep' for this occasion more and more.

Following several meetings between Majors Peet and Darville, and the Directors of 'The Keep' when the history of Kempston Barracks was generally discussed, an invitation to dinner on Friday

17 April was received. The evening was obviously judged a success as a follow-up Sunday lunch in July was proposed.

On 12 July the lunch took place in 'The Keep', hosted by the Directors. Besides Majors Peet and Darville with their ladies were Major Donald Girwood and two members of the Bedford Branch, Messrs Sutcliffe and Cox and their wives. After lunch Major Darville was invited to unveil a painting of The Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment Cap Badge, especially commissioned by the Directors, and located in the main hall. That completed, Major Darville then had the 'surprise of his life' when the Chairman of the Board of Directors, presented him with the keys to a room in 'The Keep' that had once been his office when he was a Company Commander in the 5th Battalion in the 1950's. He was invited to use the room as he wished at any time.

The next event at 'The Keep' was the Bedford Branch Dinner which took place on Saturday 12 September 1998 when several Directors and their ladies were guests of the Association.

## Goslar Reunion

It has been proposed that a Goslar Officers' Reunion will held at the home in Wales of Major and Mrs Medley, on 7 and 8 August 1999. The programme will be issued, in due course, to those who have attended in the past, details of overnight accommodation will be included. Those not already on the list who wish to attend should contact Major Robin Medley, Pant-y-Goitre House, Abergavenny, Gwent NP7 9BB.

## News from the Branches

To celebrate 60 years of the Bedford Branch on 7 June 1998, a service was held at the Church of The Transfiguration, Kempston, where the congregation made the Branch members most welcome. Most of the other Branches attended with their Standards and Canon Brown gave an excellent service, including a good sermon on Comradeship and Friendship. After the service the Branch members were invited for coffee in the Church Hall by the congregation and then they were off to 'The Keep' for a buffet and drinks. The whole event worked well and was most enjoyable. The branch had two Badged cakes and an official cutting of them. Well done to all members who made this event such a success. Our Annual Dinner at 'The Keep' was on 12 September 1998 when 77 members, wives and friends with twelve guest from the Masonic Lodge attended a most enjoy-

able evening.

The Hertford Branch has remained quite active. On the 29 November 1997 it held a Dinner and Dance at the Mayflower Place, Hertford, which was attended by 71 members and their friends which proved most enjoyable. The Branch had very good support for the Association Dinner which all agreed was one of the best so far. Tickets to Founder's Day at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea were very short this year but three of the Branch were able to attend. Although it was a bit cold it proved to be a most enjoyable day. On the 18 July 1998 a party from the Branch attended The Essex Regiment Association Dinner at Chelmsford, meeting old friends there. On the following day 60 members of the Branch attended the Regimental Gathering at Bassingbourn and so we continue to get the support we want from our members. Later on in the year members of the Branch will, of course, be attending the Remembrance Reunion at Kempston and will be holding another Branch Dinner and Dance on Friday 4 December.

In the St Albans Branch we had a few members who served in Korea. Two of them served together, Mr Ken Bolt and Mr Derek Rolt. Sadly Derek Rolt died on 12 March 1998. Ken Bolt had a 48 year friendship with Derek. This is what comradeship is all about and it's only Associations like ours that know what it means. On the 2 March 1998 the Branch was 60 years old, but owing to bad weather it was unable to have a celebration and so it was left to the Association Dinner & Dance at Hertford on 4 April. The Branch had a table for itself, there being only twenty of us. An organised draw with 20 prizes, one for each member was made and the highlight was our Regimental cake made by one of our member's wife, Mrs Messenger. In cutting the cake Major Robin Medley did us the honours as he was one of the past Presidents of the Branch. The Regiment Association Dinner was a wonderful evening, the meal, the band, the disco all up to standard.

The Watford & Hemel Hempstead Branch continues to have a very enthusiastic membership. On 21 March 1998 it held a 'Sixties' dance at the TA Centre. The evening was a great success and everyone enjoyed themselves. Members attended the Association Dinner and the Branch Standard and several members went to the Bedford Branch 60th celebration of its founding. The service was friendly and informal and the reception at 'The Keep' was excellent. Our Branch

meetings are going well since we introduced bi-monthly social/minuted meetings. When members arrived at the TA Centre for the July meeting, the bomb disposal squad had been called from Mill Hill to a suspicious package at the TA Centre gates (which turned out to be a plastic bag of rubbish). They carried out a controlled explosion. The meeting was adjourned to The Royal British Legion Club but the area was cordoned off for two hours before members were allowed to collect their cars. On 20 September 1998 a Memorial at Letchmore Heath, near Watford, will be dedicated to two brothers who were soldiers, one in the 2nd Bedfords, who were killed in the First World War. The Branch Standard, with other Branches, will be present on the day.

Since the last notes the Hitchin Branch has continued its monthly meetings at the 'Radcliffe Arms', Hitchin. It is only a small Branch but, apart from holidays and illness, it generally has a 100% turnout. Besides attending all Association events the Branch had a BBQ at Kingshott School, Hitchin on 1 August which was most successful. Some of its members attended the Suez Canal Reunion held in June and, as usual, this event turned out to be a very good evening. The Branch will have its Annual Christmas Dinner at The Firs Hotel, Hitchin on Saturday 19 December.

The Luton & Dunstable Branch held its 17th AGM on 11 March 1998. The Branch Chairman thanked the Committee for their good work during the year. The Treasurer reported that the Branch Funds were in good order. All current officers were re-elected for a further year. Members of the Branch, with its Standard, attended the Dedication of the new Standard of the Luton & Dunstable Branch of The Royal Naval Association and the 60th Anniversary of the Bedford Branch. Both events were well attended and very substantial buffets were provided. The Standard and Branch members supported the Regimental Gathering at Bassingbourn which was a very enjoyable day. A coach trip for Branch members and friends to the Cotswolds on 7 July went off extremely well, thanks to good weather. A Coffee Morning at the Dunstable Methodist Church Hall was held on Saturday 19 September 1998 for Branch Funds.

A Cheque for £15 was sent to each of the seven Branches of the Association by the members of the Suez Canal Zone 1951-54 Veterans who had attended their

Third Reunion. At the Regimental Gathering at Bassingbourn on 19 July a presentation of a glass engraved badge of The Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment was made to Brigadier Angus Robertson, Chairman of the Association, from the Suez Canal 1951-54 members. A large contingent of the Suez veterans attended this Gathering and were present at the presentation to the Brigadier. For some this was their first visit and they were most impressed and they are sure we will see many more at the next Gathering. A really good day, the weather perfect (I believe we had the Padre to thank for that). A party of Bedfords attended the Minden Day Celebrations held at Gibraltar Barracks. It was a most enjoyable day, the weather was once again fine. We met up with quite a few ex-Bedfords who ended up in the Suffolks. At the November Ceremony at Kempston a wreath will be laid on behalf of the Suez 1951-54 veterans, for those who died in the Canal Zone of Egypt and to the memory of those who served out there with the 1st Battalion who have passed away since.

**Obituaries** The following members have died since the last issue:- Mr A Brown, 19 April, 1st Bn, 1957-9; Mr P Edgerton, 18 April 70th Bn; Mr C J Fuller, 25 March, 25 years in the Regiment; Major W G Humphreys in June; Mr R Gardner, 3 April, 1st Bn, one of the last NS 2/Lieutenants; Mr L King, 1st Bn, 1948-50; Mr J Neal 16 July, 70th Bn; Mr W F Polkinhorn, 19 June, Lt. 5th Bn, FEPW; and Mr D Rolt, 1st Bn and Korea.

Most of the tabloid newspapers had the story in early May about Mr Trevor Daikin who died in early May by the River Kwai where he had lived and kept a vigil for the past ten years. He was a Corporal in the 5th Battalion when captured at Singapore. After the war he moved to Vancouver, but on retiring was haunted by his memories and returned to the River Kwai bridge. His ashes were scattered over the graves at the British War Cemetery at Chungkai, just by the River Kwai.



*The Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment Association Standards at the Bedford Branch 60th Anniversary Service at The Church of The Transfiguration, Kempston on 7 June 1998*

## The Hertfordshire Regiment Association

A Spring Supper was held at the TA Centre, Hertford in April when some forty members attended a very pleasant evening with light entertainment. Six members and the Standard were invited to take part in the Royal Naval Association 60th Anniversary Parade in Hertford in June. The Association Standard and members supported the Regimental Gathering at Bassingbourn on a day which was enjoyed by all. The Autumn Fish-n-Chip Supper was held on 5 September 1998 at the TA Centre, Hertford and the Association Luncheon is to be held on Sunday 1 November 1997 at the Sele School, Hertford, at 12 o'clock. Before the Wreath Laying in Hitchin Town Centre on Sunday 9 November 1997, the Hitchin Detachment of the Hertfordshire Army Cadet Force laid a wreath on behalf of The Hertfordshire Regiment Association at the Memorial of No. 4 Company, 1st Battalion The Hertfordshire Regiment commemorating the men who fell in the Great War. The Memorial is situated outside the Drill Hall in Bedford Road. The Ceremony was carried out by Lieutenant Chris Butts, Detachment Commander. Chris Butt's father, Frederick Butts served in the 1st Herts during the 1939-45 War. Frederick Butts was a cousin of W Butts, 1st Herts who was killed in action in the 1914-18 War and whose name is on the War Memorial. Chris Butts also laid a wreath on the Hitchin War Memorial in 1963 when a Cadet at Hitchin. From 1965 he served in the 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment and its predecessor units until his discharge in 1989 having reached the rank of WOII. He returned to the ACF in 1993. The Association has lost the following members this year:- Mr C W A Lee, Mr J J Crane, Mr J C Langer, Mr J Long, Mr H

## The Essex and Royal Anglian Regiment Association



Association members were delighted to read of the award of the OBE to our President, Colonel Geoffrey Morgan, in the Queen's Birthday Honours. A well deserved honour indeed for someone who has achieved so much, not only for The Regimental Association, but for The Army Benevolent Fund, The Council for Essex Churches and for Essex as a whole. Well done Geoffrey! We are very proud for you.

At the moment we are without a Regimental Secretary with the departure of David Thorogood. David does come in on one day a week and we are grateful for that. No replacement is in sight at present so our hard working staff at Warley, Jackie and Joan, are having to cope, which, of course, they are doing in an exemplary way. David had a small retirement party at Warley and was presented with a set of inscribed glasses which we all hope he is putting to good use.

The Association is in good heart. Over the last twelve months we have carried out a review of our membership and despite having to 'cull out' a number of those not paying subscriptions we still have over six hundred on the list. All our functions, both Association and Branch, have been well attended.

Our Reunion took place on June 28th and again we had a record attendance. The weather just kept fine for the afternoon and it was good to be entertained once again by the Band of the King Edward VI School from Chelmsford. The Chapel service was conducted by The Reverend Tom Hiney MC and the address given by The Reverend Ken Belben TD, ChStJ, CF (TA). This year we were pleased to welcome Major General Keith Burch CB CBE to take the salute. Despite being retired Major David Thorogood was suspected of having a hand in the arrangements and this year he even made sure that we got our strawberries!

The Freedom Parade at Southend was a highlight and the Salamina Eagle was paraded at the saluting base. The 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment put on a wonderful show as usual, especially as the route took them through the shopping centre and they had to dodge

shop blinds and concrete flower emplacements! It was a good day and the drill and general bearing of this fine Battalion was exactly as we have learnt to expect. This was the last time we would see Lieutenant Colonel Harrold OBE leading the Battalion and we wish him good fortune in his new appointment. He has been an immensely strong supporter of the links between the Regiment and the Association. For this we shall always be grateful. We were proud to see the Essex Regiment silver drums on parade.

Another departure will be that of Major Dennis Vincent who has been OC 'C' (Essex) Company of the 1st Battalion. Again he has worked hard to forge similar links and has regularly attended both our Salamanca Dinner and our Reunion.

Finally, we have had strong contingents at both Minden Day and Basingbourn and the weather kept up on both occasions.

Our Salamanca Dinner and Dance was again held at the County Hotel, Chelmsford. Another record attendance and an excellent meal with equally excellent service.

We look forward to 1999 with enthusiasm, to all our usual functions and also to the continental trips being organised by Harry Conn. See you there!

### Chelmsford Branch

Chelmsford Branch of the Essex Regiment Association continues to hold a committee meeting every two months at the RAFA Club, and our AGM took place on October 7th. This will be followed by the annual Christmas social on the 2nd December 1998.

Last December our meeting and social was subdued by the news that Renee Bridgeman, wife of Bill Bridgeman, had died suddenly that morning.

Most of our members belonged to the old 5th Battalion, TA, and of course each year we lose quite a few members through illness and age. This year we lost Fred Needham, Charlie Thurgood and Colonel Heal. The annual 'Trigno Night' in November recalls the first battle in Italy

when so many were killed, wounded and lost. It has always brought out those who were present, from far and wide. Thanks go to Charlie Meekins who organises the occasion from year to year.

The Warley Reunion was a good turnout and enjoyed by all. On 19th July in glorious weather, we attended the Association dinner and dance which this year was better than ever. It was an early start the next morning, 20th July, to travel with others collected at Warley, to our destination, 'Bassingbourn Barracks' for the annual Gathering. The weather continued warm and sunny and a thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all.

Earlier in the year a group of us were present at the Freedom March in Southend and again we had perfect weather for it.

*Sheila Ostler, Hon Sec*

### Thurrock Branch

The month of November, I never seem to speak about in the news letter so I will start there. Regular happenings in November which the Thurrock Branch attend; Chelmsford Cathedral and the short service in the Essex Regiment Corner Chapel and also the Garden of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey, mostly with the Queen Mother in attendance. Then Armistice Sunday, with the Essex wreath laid on our local memorial, and on the 11th the two minutes silence at the memorial.

Then there is the other side of November. The Thurrock Branch dinner and dance where last year 168 people attended including the Mayor and the MP for Thurrock. Also present were Association and Branch Presidents with their wives and a very good evening was had by all.

April again saw several members attending the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Association dinner and dance and our thanks to Stan Mansfield for a great evening.

We also said farewell to our Regimental Secretary Major David Thorogood in April, though I am sure he will keep appearing somewhere.

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# Associations

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In May we held our Branch buffet/dance. This was at the same venue as the dinner and another great evening. Then on the 20th, the Freedom March of the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment at Southend. It was great to see them on parade and be able to talk with many at the reception.

June, Royal Hospital Chelsea, Founders Day, tickets were very limited, a good report by those who did attend.

Several of the Branch made the journey to Croxhall in Staffordshire on the 7th June for the service of dedication of the new National Memorial to the 49th Division (Polar Bears).

Beating Retreat at Crix, kept dry this year (just). A good evening's entertainment by the Minden Band of the Queens Division and the King Edward VI School Corps of Drums.

Last Sunday in June was the Reunion at Warley and again a great day with a very good attendance. The Chapel was full. Our thanks to Major Thorogood and his helpers.

July, The Essex Regiment Association dinner and dance was a very enjoyable evening and our thanks go to Colonel Morgan and 6 of his committee.

The following day a journey to Basingbourn for the Regimental Gathering and I am always surprised by the number of old comrades that one meets, and the Drum Head Service ... Great!

We spent Minden Day with the 1st Battalion at Oakington Barracks, a really enjoyable time, 'C' Essex Company certainly looked after us very well.

So you see, the Branch is quite active, meeting every month with a fair attendance, and attending events and functions of other associations in our area.

*Peter G Giggins, Hon Sec.*

## 4th Battalion Comrades Association

We now have a new style of newsletter and the reaction to it has been very encouraging. We attach great importance to 'keeping in touch' and believe that this will be a great help. The name .... 'Knife, Fork, Spoon'!

Very sadly my father, Eddie Chapman, died in May of this year after a long spell in hospital. At least sixty old comrades together with the Corps of Drums formed the honour guard and his coffin was draped with the Regimental Standard. Dad was extremely proud of his Regiment and his Battalion and all his friends in it. However, the Chapman association will continue, and I am honoured to serve on your Comrades' Council and as Drum Major of the Essex Corps of Drums. A full appreciation will appear in the next edition of The Eagle.

We were delighted to see Roy Pittuck at the Reunion. He had travelled from 'down under' to be with us and whilst

here he also came to the Salamanca Dinner, the 4th Battalion Garden Party and the Gathering at Basingbourn. Roy is one of the original 'Old Loughtonians' of 'C' Company and would be pleased to hear from any of his old mates.

Our Garden Party was held at Warley on Saturday 4th July. The Essex Corps of Drums gave two displays and once again we were entertained to chat with old friends over a fine cup of tea supplied by our hard working ladies. To his great surprise Ted Hazle was presented with a clock in recognition of his many years as Secretary to the Branch.

Finally, some concern has been expressed regarding the rebuilding works that have been started at Monte Cassino Castle. In 1944 the Regiment was established in the Castle and fought off a number of determined attacks by men of the 1st German Parachute Battalion. As a result, part of the wall collapsed killing a number of Essex soldiers and it is thought that as many as twelve bodies may still lie beneath.

Our President has raised the matter with The War Graves Commission who in turn have been in touch with the British Embassy in Rome on the subject. We have been assured that if any bodies are discovered they will be reburied with full military honours and their graves will be maintained in perpetuity.

*Mick Chapman,  
Press Officer to the Branch*

## ROYAL ANGLIANS VISIT LINCOLNSHIRE CADETS

Newport Training Centre of the Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force was the venue for a visit on Thursday 15th October by a 20 strong Regular Army Regimental Information Team.

The team was from the 2nd Battalion, who are based in Cyprus and are the County Regiment, formed from the former Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, known as the 'Poachers'. They have a close relationship with the Cadet Force in the county as many of the detachments are affiliated to the Regiment. Their aim was to demonstrate to the cadets the concept of the modern Army, their general role and training and display up-to-date types of kit, weapons and equipment that is in use and included signals equipment, skirmish techniques and command tasks.

They were also to re-establish and enhance Poacher links with the Battalion's traditional recruiting area and keep the

Battalion firmly in the public eye although serving overseas.

Many of the Battalion members had served in the Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force before taking up a career in the Army and over the years some have attained commissioned rank and others Warrant Officer rank. Lieutenant Alex Clixby, RSM Felix Ralph and his brother to name but three.

Another aspect of the visit was to foster an interest in the Army with the cadets, 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment in particular, and to discuss the opportunities available.

In August this year the Battalion were host to 17 Senior Cadets from various detachments in Lincolnshire to Cyprus who were attached for ten days of extensive training in the totally new and interesting surroundings.



# The Royal Anglian Regiment

Order of Battle, 1 October 1998

## TA Battalions 6th (Volunteer) Battalion

### Battalion HQ

LtCol HND Gll  
Maj DJ Cook  
Maj RHC Lucas  
Capt I Couch  
Capt M Gooze  
WO1 (RSM) KeebleGJ  
LCpl Ward WP

### EQ (Suffolk) Company

Maj CP Vince  
Capt DC Coe MBE  
Lt JE Hadsway  
CF3 DC Lowe  
WO2 De Meyer GJ  
WO2 Goddard R  
WO2 Catton SG  
WO2 Welton BS  
CSgt Moffat DT  
CSgt Mason KR  
Pte Perkins KE

### RR&TT/Trg Platoon

Capt PATaylor  
Cpl Britton BJ  
Pte Allsop CA  
Pte Atwell LT  
Pte Christie WR  
Pte Finch PW  
Pte Ibbertson JR  
Pte Lawrence P  
Pte Murdock KL  
Pte Price DM  
Pte Spencer DJ  
Pte Versteeg L  
Pte Ward JA

### Catering Platoon

WO2 Heskett GH (RLC)  
SSgt Bissett GA  
Sgt Stoker E  
LCpl Rogers AH  
Pte Cook  
Pte Crisp EM  
Pte Spurgeon RJ

### Signal Platoon

Lt MR Bowdler  
WO2 Syms RW  
Sgt Rackham J  
Sgt Ellison AE  
Cpl Blower DG  
Cpl Greenwood  
Cpl Randall TJM  
Pte Goldsmith AP

Pte Prior FM  
Pte Wells CA  
Pte Younger NP

### MT Platoon

Lt GA Hitchings  
CSgt CummingsD  
Cpl Bareham AR  
Cpl Byrne J  
Cpl Hunt WJ  
Cpl Morris MP  
Pte Bareham MCW  
Pte Feeke KN  
Pte FletcherID  
Pte Williams EJ

### Quartermasters Department

Maj RW Potter MBE  
Capt GW French  
WO2 Tunstall BP  
WO2 Rogers RE  
Cpl Cudby CM  
Cpl Phlme SC

### Band

WO1 Hudson PCH  
WO2 Bedding MBEM  
WO2 Hall PA  
Sgt Petch JM  
Sgt Taylor P  
Sgt Rustead JA  
Cpl Gardner M  
Cpl Morrison J  
Cpl Hookway RW  
Cpl Jordan AM  
LCpl Auffret MR  
LCpl Beeston SR  
LCpl Fletcher HS  
LCpl Greenway RC  
LCpl ThompsonRG  
LCpl Williams FG  
Bdsm Adams S  
Bdsm Auburn ALK  
Bdsm Carey NJ  
Bdsm Elvin MJ  
Bdsm Fraser M  
Bdsm Hobson JC  
Bdsm McKeown C  
Bdsm Richardson LBC  
Bdsm Roberts FL  
Bdsm Scott EC  
Bdsm Wyatt CJ  
Bdsm Wyndham JD

### REME

SSgt Mulligan J  
SSgt Carter RWE BEM  
SSgt Hopper GR  
SSgt Smith DG  
Cfn Graham MJ  
Cfn Ryder PJ  
Cfn Broadbent RC  
Cfn Locky JK  
Cfn Wiseman JG

### Medical Section

Maj IN Morton  
SSgt Archer MJ  
Pte Pearson N

### Recce Platoon

Lt R Hall  
CSgt Emms M  
Sgt Martin KJ  
Cpl Seely MF  
LCpl Porter RF  
Pte Betts KJ  
Pte Cobbold PL  
Pte Coone JR  
Pte Fitch AD  
Pte Lewis MR  
Pte Wright P

### Assault Pioneer Platoon

2Lt AB Chambers  
Sgt Starie  
Sgt Street MA  
Cpl Lemay DW  
Pte Bell GT  
Pte Clarke DJ  
Pte Fallon JV  
Pte Grant JM  
Pte McLaren NB  
Pte Scott AM  
Pte Spary CAW  
Pte Wales BJ

### Intelligence Section

Capt PM Gotobed  
Lt S Davies  
WO2 Smith JV  
Sgt Ferrie VS

### Regimental Admin Office

Capt KR Martin  
Capt PG Mann  
WO2 Coleman R(AGC SPS)

WO2 Cooke SCR (AGC SPS)  
SSgt Bracey LJ (AGC SPS)  
Ssgt Bracey LJ (AGC SPS)  
Sgt Hunt NJ (AGC SPS)

### A (Norfolk and Suffolk) Company

#### Company Headquarters

Maj SC Fradley  
Capt PL Smith BEM  
Lt AJ Debenham  
WO2 Steele T  
CSgt Hippffson PA  
CSgt Sykes PA  
CSgt Gedge TP  
Sgt Mills SC  
Cpl Baldwin CM  
Cpl Ireland JL (AGC)  
Cpl Stone MN  
LCpl Bunn SE  
LCpl Jones LD (AGC)  
Pte Abbs MJ  
Pte Gray HM  
Pte Prockter JJ

### 1 Platoon

2Lt CJ Pantan  
Sgt Lunn SD  
Sgt Rushmere GJ  
Cpl Adams EA  
Cpl Antill SJ  
Cpl De Kretser MW  
LCpl Boardman PA  
LCpl Ellis SN  
LCpl Hall MC  
Pte Silverstone DP  
Pte Booker RJ  
Pte Chambers KJ  
Pte Coleman SN  
Pte Cousins JLJ  
Pte Custance JE  
Pte Divey RS  
Pte Feller RE  
Pte Fuller DS  
Pte Hampshire IB  
Pte Harris MR  
Pte Harvey MJ  
Pte Hilton JA  
Pte London WP  
Pte McDonald DJ  
Pte Nurse JE  
Pte Pryal EM  
Pte Shropshall IJ  
Pte Spears RDJ  
Pte Strange NS

# Orbat

Pte Thompson SW  
Pte Walker DM  
Pte Warner S  
Pte Waterfield DS  
Pte Watts MJ  
Pte Webster LS  
Pte Williams PJ

## 2 Platoon

Lt R McCullough  
Cpl Baker DS  
Cpl Rolph DG  
LCpl Beavis CW  
LCpl FeakesJE  
Pte Buckles IG  
Pte Church RA  
Pte Cooke DJ  
Pte Hammond GA  
Pte Harvey DJ  
Pte Marsh PJ  
Pte Smith LM  
Pte Turner PJ  
Pte Ward S

## 3 Platoon

Sgt Fuller PJ  
Cpl Brown JL  
Cpl Buck MJ  
Cpl Pollard KL  
Cpl Roe IP  
Cpl Sherlock M  
LCpl Casey VM  
LCpl Palmer DN  
LCpl Pluck A  
Pte Anderson RR  
Pte Blower IJ  
Pte Burrows P  
Pte Carver A  
Pte Comley PS  
Pte Cooper MC  
Pte Davies AJ  
Pte Dores R  
Pte Duncan HJ  
Pte Farebrother BM  
Pte Fenwick GM  
Pte Fisher DJ  
Pte Graysmark SA  
Pte Green MD  
Pte Heath BW  
Pte Hughes GR  
Pte Jones SG  
Pte Jones JM  
Pte King DG  
Pte Ley SA  
Pte Martin PM  
Pte Mascorn EDT  
Pte McMurtry JG  
Pte Moore GR  
Pte Page MP  
Pte Pickess AL  
Pte Pointer DC  
Pte Sayer DE  
Pte Shrimpton SA  
Pte Turner RL  
Pte Wainwright MK

Pte Waldridge CJ  
Pte Waller ALJ  
Pte Whithead DR  
Pte Wilkinson JG

## C (Essex) Company

### Company Headquarters

MajCV Trott  
Capt SR Watson  
Capt PD Thurston  
WO2 Denyer M  
WO2 Hayter P  
CSgt Swaep AJ  
CSgt Brazier MD  
CSgt Anderson VA  
Sgt Moffat CS  
Cpl Barlow JS  
Cpl Cain PF  
Cpl Cooke VJ  
Cpl Crawley PE  
Cpl Green DE  
Cpl Gunner R  
Cpl Lelliott SW  
LCpl O'Sullivan CA  
LCpl Rayner AA  
LCpl Smith LF  
LCpl Swann SJ  
LCpl Wade SL  
Pte AndrewsA  
Pte Bowers C  
Pte Butler C  
Pte Stoughton B  
Pte Wingar PM

### MG Platoon

Capt JD Carnegie  
WO2 Brown MJ  
Sgt Dunningham MJ  
Cpl Cadedasca PJ  
Cpl Collinson N  
Cpl Emmins CJ  
Cpl Instance NB  
Pte Cain PW  
Pte Childes RJ  
Pte Harmer K  
Pte King RW  
Pte Little GW  
Pte Martorana S  
Pte Racey AR  
Pte Ross DA  
Pte Simister AJ  
Pte Swan AJ  
Pte Turner AE  
Pte Tyler SG  
Pte Welch C  
Pte Whaughy SD

### 7 Platoon

Lt DHJ Litjens  
Sgt Goode SA  
Cpl Head CT  
LCpl Hardy JP

LCpl Marne JF  
LCpl Tibble PC  
Pte Abrey GP  
Pte Barker DJ  
Pte Bathgate CL  
Pte Boyle KD  
Pte Brown MJ  
Pte Burch N  
Pte Donald GSD  
Pte Donovan RJ  
Pte Hansen J  
Pte Heron CJ  
Pte Jeffcott SJ  
Pte Jullier SJ  
Pte Lambert PT  
Pte Lewis JG  
Pte Martin RJ  
Pte McMahon BK  
Pte Moylan AJ  
Pte Packer N  
Pte Payne DN  
Pte Richards AJ  
Pte Roberts WJ  
Pte Robins T  
Pte Sargent NA  
Pte Schramm LJ  
Pte Sewell DV  
Pte Vickery RJ  
Pte Westgarth SR  
Pte Witham DS

## 8 Platoon

2LtTJ Irwin-Parker  
Sgt Chaprnan P  
Cpl Rowley DJ  
Cpl Woodward SB  
LCpl Degnan GD  
LCpl WaylandDM  
Pte Adams KP  
Pte Bassill PD  
Pte BoormanPR  
Pte Bray DW  
Pte Butler S  
Pte Donovan PJ  
Pte Douglas C  
Pte Foley BJ  
Pte Hacker S  
Pte Harper CM  
Pte Jeffree JP  
Pte John RJ  
Pte Johnson DWR  
Pte Jones MJW  
Pte Kemp TRL  
Pte Kirby T  
Pte Lane GJR  
Pte Masek RJ  
Pte Miller M  
Pte Moffat R  
Pte Mongine JB  
Pte Noles CJ  
Pte RolfeMW  
Pte SmithGS  
Pte Stuart-Smith H  
Pte Watkins DJ

Pte West PS  
Pte Williams AJ

## D (Cambridgeshire) Company

### Company Headquarters

Maj MA Baker  
Capt PA Taylor  
Capt RJ Allen  
Lt RA Shaw  
WO2 Hayter  
WO2 Bessel  
WO2 Smith  
CSgt Thumwood  
CSgt Smith  
CSgt George  
CSgt Monger  
Sgt Catton  
Sgt Route  
Sgt Dawson  
Cpl Radford  
Cpl Sbearing  
Cpl Beach  
Cpl Bourne  
Cpl Diss  
Cpl Fuller  
LCpl Stubbley  
LCpl Pugh  
LCpl Ryrnills  
LCpl Spalding-Hall  
Pte Wilson  
Pte Griffiths  
Pte Stubbley  
Pte Stevens  
Pte Carew  
Pte Martin

## 12 Platoon

2Lt N Haden  
Sgt Branigan GR  
Cpl Foster SM  
Cpl Page M  
Cpl Powell ACR  
LCpl Hazell CG  
LCpl MacCuaig D  
LCpl Morley RM  
LCpl Piper MA  
LCpl Reilly L  
LCpl Richardson MN  
Pte Abbott JB  
Pte Adams TJ  
Pte Bass DC  
Pte Carpenter N  
Pte Caves JA  
Pte Clements JP  
Pte Clements RP  
Pte Cockram MR  
Pte Coleman DG  
Pte CrouchJD  
Pte Eldridge PM  
Pte Germeny NC  
Pte Gow FAG

# Orbat

Pte Gregory GA  
Pte Impey CJP  
Pte Jones M  
Pte King CN  
Pte Lawson S  
Pte Neep A  
Pte Potter MW  
Pte Rudelhoff DS  
Pte Shilton KR  
Pte Smith DM  
Pte Stansfield RE  
Pte Thomas AG  
Pte Thompson NF

## 15 Platoon

Lt J Wragg  
Sgt Thorpe DJ

Cpl Wenn DN  
LCpl Ebbs RO  
LCpl Falconer IW  
LCpl Horton DM  
Pte Howard EL  
Pte Johnson JD  
Pte Johnson CE  
Pte Morns HJ  
Pte Smith M  
Pte Adam LM  
Pte Archdale AM  
Pte Barry MG  
Pte Bloy CP  
Pte Bowser RG  
Pte Brooks AJ  
Pte Bunn PK  
Pte Caffell DP  
Pte Calaby GP

Pte Chatfield RJ  
Pte Comben SR  
Pte Dale E  
Pte Davidson DP  
Pte Dolan T  
Pte Elmes SR  
Pte Garsden CM  
Pte Gratton MW  
Pte Howlett SR  
Pte Larham MA  
Pte Mackin BL  
Pte Pepper MG  
Pte Pratley DA  
Pte Rayner PA  
Pte Rout RM  
Pte Simmons TLS  
Pte Stevens MA

## Drums Platoon

WO2 Bradshaw J  
CSgt Jordan D  
Sgt Nightingale P  
Cpl Clark BJE  
Cpl Coakes G  
LCpl Cheetham MS  
LCpl Howe AJ  
LCpl Hudson AS  
Pte Bottomley PD  
Pte Eames MH  
Pte Gibbons SC  
Pte Goddard MJ  
Pte Hunter DJ  
Pte Large MA  
Pte Morgan RD  
Pte Reed DJ  
Pte Watts DK

# 7th (Volunteer) Battalion

## Battalion HQ

Lt Col PM Holme  
Maj RG Burns MBE  
Maj AJ Wadman  
Capt G Morris  
Capt C Pook  
Capt AYL Wong  
WO1 (RSM) Thomas PJ  
WO2 Hanafan JA  
Sgt Edwards GJ  
LCpl Frisby DM

## Chaplain

Maj MS Woods

## HQ (Leicestershire) Company

### Company Headquarters

Maj GG Smith  
Capt MA Cunningham (PSAO)  
Capt TA Dance  
WO2 (CSM) Pickett AW  
WO2 Ralph AD  
WO2 Shand JL  
Sgt Welsford RD  
LCpl Ford PW  
Pte Langham DE  
WPte Percival EA  
Sgt McConnell BJP  
Cpl Parker KB

## CQMS

CSgt Mariott D  
CSgt Upsall JF

## Assault Pioneer Platoon

CSgt Simmonds PT  
Sgt Nagra BS  
Sgt Webber IW

LCpl Burnett R  
LCpl Dore CE  
LCpl Hunter AJ  
Pte Allden MC  
Pte Allen WAA  
Pte Campling WR  
Pte Derry WM  
Pte Evans APD  
Pte Glover ND  
Pte Hill PA  
Pte Midson CP  
Pte Mistry GB  
Pte Nawaz SA  
Pte Overton P  
Pte Pynn NJ  
Pte Sandall MJA  
Pte Singh M  
Pte Smith DC  
Pte Tyers M

## Catering Platoon

WO2 Hargrave TN RLC  
SSgt Cooper CP RLC  
Sgt Simpson JM RLC  
Cpl Bailey JR RLC  
LCpl Doherty TLM RLC  
LCpl Percival CP RLC  
Pte Marriott MJ RLC  
Pte Wynn RM

## Intelligence Section

Capt SF Arden-Davis  
CSgt Briggs AJS  
Pte Hunt TJ  
Pte Pardoe JA

## Medical Section

Maj IKM Sommerville RAMC  
CSgt Galbraith K  
Cpl Ball NT

Cpl Cragg T RAMC  
Cpl Mann BA  
LCpl Brown MP RAMC  
Pte Wheatley K

## Messing

Cpl Makosch RJS  
Pte Teagle PJ

## MT Platoon

WO2 Culshaw DJJ  
Sgt Hale DJC  
Sgt Lightfoot JL  
Cpl Botting RJH  
Cpl Parker RG  
Cpl Southin VD  
LCpl Hewitt SL  
Pte Burton CA  
Pte Clapson MJ  
Pte Fallows G  
Pte Kaur R  
Pte Knobbs PA  
Pte Mackay I  
Pte Millington FJ  
Pte Smith AP  
Pte Taylor AJ  
Pte Thomas SM

## Provost

Sgt Nagra AS

## QM's Department

Maj W O'Driscoll  
Capt KR Martin  
WO2 (RQMS) Hackett IR  
WO2 Watson E  
Sgt Jelley MJ  
Sgt Tye PR

## Regimental Admin Office

Maj RA Black AGC(SPS)  
Capt TP Hope  
WO2 Lincoln BB  
WO2 Vernon ML AGC(SPS)  
SSgt Davies JT AGC(SPS)  
Sgt Bott HE AGC(SPS)  
Sgt Waller G AGC(SPS)  
Sgt Wightman TF  
LCpl Stevenson RA AGC(SPS)  
Pte Vernon MO AGC(SPS)

## Officer Cadets

Pte Barnet RM  
Pte Nieuwenhuis EI  
Pte Pilbeam AD

## Company RRTT

Capt DM Howe  
CSgt Smalley AG  
Sgt Wilson LR  
Pte Broughton AD  
Pte Dempsey DK  
Pte Hemphill PE  
Pte Parsons MA  
Pte Sturgess WN

## Recce Platoon

Capt AD Martin  
2Lt JP Downes  
CSgt Warren PV  
Sgt Brotherton PM  
Cpl Cardall S  
Cpl Hague P  
Cpl Sharp M  
LCpl Coleman IF  
LCpl Marriott AW  
LCpl Peters JF  
LCpl Richards AE

# Orbat

Pte Boden-Cummins C  
Pte Cayless A  
Pte Clare PR  
Pte Craig RJ  
Pte Crozier A  
Pte Devlin CE  
Pte Disney RWR  
Pte Fleming TA  
Pte Lewin DJ  
Pte Nellist CS  
Pte Reynolds DP  
Pte Robinson I  
Pte Sutton JT  
Pte Thompson RP  
Pte Wragg

## REME

SSgt Felstead AV REME  
SSgt Goodrich DJ REME  
SSgt Malinowski D REME  
Sgt Hodgkinson C REME  
Cpl Atkiss GF REME  
Cpl Beard GS REME  
Cpl McGowan GD REME  
LCpl Ellis JA REME  
LCpl Mitford D REME  
Cfn Stuart A REME  
Pte Bettany MD  
Pte Irving K  
Pte Moran DJ  
Pte Moran DW  
Pte Taylor IP

## Machine Gun Platoon

Lt DJ Sommerville  
WO2 Ford EFC  
Sgt McConnell SC  
Sgt Short ME  
Cpl Johns ALM  
Cpl McKinnon SA  
Cpl Prince I  
LCpl Hilder M  
Pte Adams BJ  
Pte Akinyemi D  
Pte Barrow LA  
Pte Brown CL  
Pte Brown GEW  
Pte Edwards GJ  
Pte Elton ML  
Pte Gaskin DE  
Pte Haldane GL  
Pte Jones SJ  
Pte Lea D  
Pte Leivers P  
Pte Lippitt MJ  
Pte North J  
Pte O'Farrell TN  
Pte Payne ARJ  
Pte Porter LJ  
Pte Richardson MJ  
Pte Shilton GL  
Pte Sunley EC  
Pte Townsend JD  
Pte Watson SJ

## Signal Platoon

Capt RG Atkinson  
CSgt Wells PR  
Sgt McKinnon A  
Cpl Dabell K  
Cpl Wallis RP  
LCpl Drake N  
LCpl Fleming SA  
LCpl Jennings H  
LCpl Randall DA  
LCpl Staples AJ  
Pte Beardsley SCG  
Pte Boots SC  
Pte Bosley LA  
Pte Elliott L  
Pte Fox MD  
Pte McGurk EL  
Pte Kershaw MJ  
Pte Murphy TP  
Pte Randall SD  
Pte Shipley DJ  
Pte Warrington CD

## A (Lincolnshire) Company

### Company HQ

Maj FMG De Planta De Wildenberg  
Capt JC Pratt (PSAO)  
Capt NJ Sutherland  
WO2 (CSM) Sackree IM  
CSgt Cox PR  
Sgt Rainey MC AJ  
Cpl Finlay FA  
Cpl Smith PJ AGC(SPS)  
LCpl Edwards SW AGC(SPS)  
LCpl Spence PMJ  
Pte Burns SJ  
Pte Cottom IT  
Pte Poucher D  
Pte Round DJ  
Pte Todd LM

### Signal Detachment

Cpl Beard DT  
LCpl Warne G

### CQMS

CSgt Osman MW  
CSgt Redhead S

### Catering Section

Cpl Jones AI RLC  
Cpl Metcalfe DE RLC  
LCpl Willey N RLC  
Pte Bannon M RLC

### Medical Section

LCpl Saxby TA RAMC

### MT Section

LCpl Henderson KP  
LCpl Long CPA

## 1 Platoon

2Lt AK Dart  
CSgt Hudson P  
Cpl Cook MR  
Cpl Day MT  
LCpl Kelly A  
Pte Buswell SC  
Pte Calvert PJ  
Pte Goldsmith A  
Pte Harrison RK  
Pte Jackson SD  
Pte Pearl WF  
Pte Read VC  
Pte Squires CG  
Pte Thein AB  
Pte Wayne J  
Pte Webb RA  
Pte Wells MJ  
Pte Wheatley KA

## 2 Platoon

Lt NA Herbert  
Sgt Brecken KT  
Sgt Taylor JLG  
Cpl McCurdy AJ  
Cpl North CJ  
LCpl Davidson KM  
LCpl Sheils W  
LCpl Wilson R  
LCpl Winter C  
Pte Allen JM  
Pte Breakspear EBR  
Pte Caldecott JG  
Pte Capindale PI  
Pte Clover RA  
Pte Conniss A  
Pte Dawson CJ  
Pte De Van M  
Pte Downs SG  
Pte Elliott JC  
Pte Fisher GN  
Pte Fursman ST  
Pte Gallagher JH  
Pte Grant SP  
Pte Gray KD  
Pte Hardy MG  
Pte Jenks GA  
Pte Kershaw RS  
Pte Kirkham J  
Pte Kirkham M  
Pte Laird JR  
Pte Lamberton G  
Pte Lang SR  
Pte Leaper JR  
Pte Lord JM  
Pte Martin AH  
Pte Paxton AC  
Pte Phillips WA  
Pte Pogson CC  
Pte Pullan DW  
Pte Robinson JS  
Pte Shorter PF  
Pte Sweet A  
Pte Vick SJ

Pte Wells BJ  
Pte Wood PD  
Pte Woodhead RG

## 3 Platoon

Sgt Thompson B  
Cpl Baines RJ  
Cpl Hamer DN  
Cpl Whiting AS  
LCpl Dawson TET  
LCpl Dolby MR  
LCpl Dovey IP  
LCpl Willcox DPA  
Pte Bampton MD  
Pte Bathgate GS  
Pte Bisset AD  
Pte Brotheridge IW  
Pte Brown JE  
Pte Chetwood DR  
Pte Conway IR  
Pte Ding JM  
Pte Hillary SJ  
Pte Kane S  
Pte Lock SA  
Pte Marston AAN  
Pte Masterton L  
Pte McGarry SF  
Pte McGowan JP  
Pte McLaren SC  
Pte McNeil RJ  
Pte Meadows SP  
Pte Poole PL  
Pte Powell T  
Pte Rogers MS  
Pte Rooney SP  
Pte Ruddlesdin WN  
Pte Shaw LY  
Pte Slack LN  
Pte Stabler MAP  
Pte Whittaker PW  
Pte Wigmore TM  
Pte Wilkinson SR  
Pte Woodiwiss CAT

## B (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire) Company

### Company HQ

Maj NMP Brown  
Capt JJ Lynch (PSAO)  
Capt GB Shaw  
WO2 (CSM) Montague KJ  
CSgt Hopkins NA  
Sgt Colyer CC  
Sgt Gall D AGC(SPS)  
Pte Lewis DJ  
Pte Lucas-Clarke P  
Pte Teye-Otun CK  
Pte Walters SM

### Signal Detachment

LCpl Mason P  
Pte Lanaway GD



# Orbat

## CQMS

CSgt McPoland SM  
CSgt Templeton GJ  
Pte Green DJ

## Catering Section

LCpl Ambrose M

## MT Section

Cpl Grey CA  
LCpl McCarthy SA  
Pte Gearing CP

## REME Detachment

Cpl Turner ID REME  
LCpl Harrison G REME  
Cfn Castle RWJ REME  
Cfn Ralph P REME

## Company RRTT

Capt PA Foster  
Lt MR Thurley  
CSgt Pearce SWH  
LCpl Tucker PJ  
Pte King JA

## 4 Platoon

CSgt Butler C  
Sgt Finnegan JS  
Cpl Haward CG  
Cpl Horner AJ  
LCpl Bird BJ  
LCpl Bygrave DP  
Pte Alderson JM  
Pte Archer MJ  
Pte Avey SF  
Pte Bentley DSJ  
Pte Brewer JS  
Pte Brown NR  
Pte Brown R  
Pte Bygrave MJ  
Pte Byron PL  
Pte Cockerell MJ  
Pte Cox SJ  
Pte Culleton PM  
Pte Cutting AJ  
Pte Gorvett MJ  
Pte Gray GR  
Pte Hoffman MRL  
Pte Howel AJ  
Pte Hull MR  
Pte Ibbott AJ  
Pte James P  
Pte Jarman PJ  
Pte Jones B  
Pte Kelson RW  
Pte Lee DA  
Pte Lund GS  
Pte O'Shea M  
Pte Pasfield BG  
Pte Rogers KJ  
Pte Roy TD

Pte Scrase MJ  
Pte Smith PBS  
Pte Sparrow AR  
Pte Tripp JM  
Pte Westrip J  
Pte Woods S  
Pte Yates PE

## 5 Platoon

2Lt AJ Peploe  
Sgt Cavendish PJ  
Cpl Rees AD  
LCpl Howe I  
LCpl Main GM  
LCpl Seymour J  
Pte Bill MJ  
Pte Jones R  
Pte Koh NES  
Pte Kovacs IR  
Pte McKeown PR  
Pte Read SM  
Pte Tilley JF

## 6 Platoon

Lt GH Wickett  
Sgt Low B  
Cpl Duffy JG  
LCpl Green BF  
LCpl Herron RJP  
LCpl McLatchey DP  
LCpl Turburville AT  
Pte Cook D  
Pte Francis SM  
Pte Howe JA  
Pte Lewis NA  
Pte Lyons IJ  
Pte Mansfield BP  
Pte O'Sullivan TP  
Pte Robins JB  
Pte Simonds NC  
Pte Stevenson JK  
Pte Von Abo CJ  
Pte Walton WS  
Pte Clark  
- Tunncliffe EG

## C (Northamptonshire) Company

### Company HQ

Maj MD Rickards  
Capt AT Amos (PSAO)  
Capt AP Croft  
WO2 (CSM) Bevin MJ  
CSgt Slater MA  
LCpl Marks CR AGC(SPS)  
LCpl Tutty T  
Pte Julian VL

## Signal Detachment

LCpl Holmes MA  
Pte Knight KK  
Pte Robinson HP

## CQMS

CSgt Jones T  
CSgt Brudenell KG

## Catering Section

Sgt Tayler GR RLC  
Pte England MW RLC  
Pte Reid CA RLC

## MT Section

Cpl Ring JG  
LCpl Bruce PA  
LCpl Vilbro WS

## Company RRTT

Capt Pape MB  
WO2 Kelly WGR  
Sgt Buzzard SN  
Sgt George AM  
LCpl Crutchfield SJ  
Pte Bardell PM  
Pte Hawkins CJ

## 7 Platoon

Lt TC Thompson  
Sgt Arnold JC  
Cpl O'Toole DP  
Cpl Thompson RJ  
LCpl Bevin DT  
LCpl Pittams GM  
Pte Allen SS  
Pte Bellhan CK  
Pte Bond PS  
Pte Briggs JM  
Pte Broad TM  
Pte Brockwell BC  
Pte Carter MH  
Pte Carter MS  
Pte Caulton RM  
Pte Chappell TJ  
Pte Clarke TP  
Pte Cota CS  
Pte Craddock C  
Pte Ducker AD  
Pte England J  
Pte Forbes RJ  
Pte Harris DJ  
Pte Hart RV  
Pte Hawes MR  
Pte Hind RH  
Pte Leask W  
Pte Marriott PB  
Pte McGovern AM  
Pte Murphy CJ  
Pte Parker MDE  
Pte Philips DA  
Pte Sargeant T  
Pte Scarcliffe BJ  
Pte Smith M  
Pte Stokes MJ  
Pte Waldin GJ  
Pte Wood JA

## 8 Platoon

Lt RGC Potter  
Sgt Askew CJ  
Cpl Baillie MJA  
LCpl Peck NG  
Pte Adams DR  
Pte Arnold N  
Pte Bently IJ  
Pte Cooper JAP  
Pte Deacon GE  
Pte Eastman GR  
Pte Gillan PA  
Pte Harvey SJ  
Pte Higham WID  
Pte Horwood MJ  
Pte Jones BA  
Pte Miller NJ  
Pte Norman WA  
Pte Northern P  
Pte Payne GB  
Pte Payne L  
Pte Prankard MD  
Pte Pritchard GHF  
Pte Rock PG  
Pte Smith AM  
Pte Stockley CA  
Pte Thompson G  
Pte Woolven CA

## 9 Platoon

2Lt JP Thompson  
Cpl Watters LD  
Pte Ames MD  
Pte Barker SJ  
Pte Chamberlain NR  
Pte Cummins MJ  
Pte Day GT  
Pte Gater PA  
Pte Henderson GA  
Pte Holly KL  
Pte Hull AM  
Pte Lee EA  
Pte Lee M  
Pte Mitchell RL  
Pte Petch JH  
Pte Ritchie A  
Pte Sellers AJ  
Pte Sherriff JC  
Pte Simpson DC  
Pte Ward AR  
Pte Willis CR

# Marriages, Births & Deaths

## Poachers Marriages

Donovan	On 14 Jul 98, Cpl Donovan to Charlotte.
Dennis	On 01 Aug 98, Cpl Dennis to Lorraine.
Wollen	On 04 Jul 98, LCpl Woollen to Teresa Christine.
Musson	On 06 Jun 98, LCpl Musson to Linda.
Jones	On 06 Jun 98, LCpl Jones to Emma Louise.
Wileman	On 06 Jun 98, Pte Wileman to Clare-Marie.
Walker	On 19 Sep 98, Pte Walker to Dawn.
Vincent	On 11 Jul 98, Pte Vincent to Emma Louise.
Spray	On 30 May 98, Pte Spray to Verity.
Shiels	On 15 Aug 98, Pte Shiels to Natasha Clare.
Robinson	On 16 Jun 98, Pte Robinson to Emma.
Newcombe	On 29 Aug 98, Pte Newcombe to Lisa Samantha.
Murray	On 21 Aug 98, Pte Murray to Rachel Jane.
Lambert	On 28 Aug 98, Pte Lambert to Nicole.
Hughes	On 19 Sep 98, Pte Hughes to Victoria Jane.
Hudson-Bennett	On 22 Aug 98, Pte Hudson-Bennett to Donna Louise.
Hardy	On 22 Aug 98, Pte Hardy to Stella Margret Jane.

## Poachers Births

Sinar	To WO 2 and Mrs Sinar a daughter, Kizzy Triumph.
Beighton	To WO 2 and Mrs Beighton a son, Harry Timothy.
Lade	To Sgt and Mrs Lade a daughter, Rachel Eloise.
Sumner	To Cpl and Mrs Sumner a daughter, Maddison Leigh.
Gadsden	To Cpl and Mrs Gadsden a son, Sven.
Woolley	To LCpl and Mrs Woolley a daughter, Kyra Mae.
Symon	To LCpl and Mrs Symon a daughter, Lee Louise.
Griffin	To LCpl and Mrs Griffin a daughter, Rebekka Chloe.
Eratt	To LCpl and Mrs Eratt a daughter, Corey Jordan.
Correa	To LCpl and Mrs Correa a daughter, Gemma Ellie.
Burns	To LCpl and Mrs Burns a son, Jake Robert.
Bliss	To LCpl and Mrs Bliss a son, Joseph Nicky Raymond.
Young	To Pte and Mrs Young a daughter, Charlie Jade.
Trafford	To Pte and Mrs Trafford a daughter, Aimee Lee.
Trafford	To Pte and Mrs Trafford a daughter, Sophie Elisabeth.
Peart	To Pte and Mrs Peart a son, Kieron Charlie.
Newland	To Pte and Mrs Newland a son, Charlie Reece Bailey.
Midgley	To Pte and Mrs Midgley a daughter, Sophie.
Marshall	To Pte and Mrs Marshall a daughter, Abigail Brooke.
Mactavish	To Pte and Mrs Mactavish a daughter, Chloe Jayne.
Hinchliffe	To Pte and Mrs Hinchliffe a daughter, Chelsea Jesse.
Graham	To Pte and Mrs Graham a daughter, Bethany Lauren Mary.
George	To Pte and Mrs George a daughter, Courtney Anne Louise.
Clark	To Pte and Mrs Clark a son, Daniel Lee.
Boswell	To Pte and Mrs Boswell a son, Charley Andrew.

## Tigers Marriages

McPoland	on 16 May 98 - Csgt McPoland to Susan.
Grant	on 17 Jul 98 - Pte Grant to Sonya.
Thompson	on 21 Jul 98 - Cpl Thompson to Marina Ann.
Low	on 5 Sep 98 - Sgt Low to Rachel.
Sommerville	on 19 Sep 98 - Lt David Sommerville R ANGLIAN to Maj Isobel Frain RAMC.
Warren	on 26 Sep 98 - CSgt Warren to Wendy.

## Tigers Births.

Morris	on 5 May 98 to Capt Gary and Carola Morris a son, Lucas.
Davidson	on 6 Jun 98 to LCpl Mrs Davidson a girl, Oliva.

## Deaths

We regret to record the deaths of the following:

### The Royal Anglian Regiment

CSgt M W Hodgkiss 2nd Bn on 20 Apr 98 in Cyprus from a heart attack.

Cpl A W Blackwell 1st Bn on 20 May 98 in a traffic accident.

Pte T M Massingham 7thBn(V) on 31 May 98 following a swimming accident whilst on exercise in Cyprus.

Pte A J Elliot on 18 Oct 98 in a traffic accident in Wickford Essex whilst on leave from ITC Catterick.

### R Norfolks

WO1 M Ferrier (ex R Norfolks and RQMS 2nd Bn) on 6 Oct 98.

### R Lincolns

Pte A Shaw in May 98 at his home. He served with the 1st and 2nd Bns R Lincolns in Palestine, El Ballah Transjordan and with the R Leicesters in Korea.

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# Notices

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## Donation to the Royal Anglian Association

Our thanks to the Warminster Branch of the Royal Anglian Association for a cheque for £88. 67, the proceeds of a collection taken at the annual service of dedication of its standard.

## Roll of Honour, Ipswich

The Roll of Honour is displayed in the Tourist and Information Centre in the Buttermarket, Ipswich, but does not, at present, record the names of any members of the Royal Anglian Regiment. So, if you know of anyone whose name should be recorded on the Roll please let RHQ know. There must be former members of the Regiment who lived in Ipswich and did whilst still serving.

## Veterans Advice Unit

The Ministry of Defence Veterans Advice Unit is there to assist all former members of the Armed Forces, such as veterans of the World Wars, Korea, National Service, the Falklands or Gulf Campaigns, peace-time regulars or volunteer reservists, and their dependants.

**The Veterans Advice Unit is:**

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**It is staffed by:**

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# Association Branches

## Norfolk

HQ The Royal  
Norfolk Regiment Association and  
The Norfolk Branch The Royal  
Anglian Regiment Association (Norfolk)  
Britannia House,  
TA Centre, 325 Aylsham Road,  
Norwich, Norfolk NR3 2AD  
Tel: (01603) 400290  
President: Maj Gen Sir David  
Thorne KBE CVO

## King's Lynn Branch:

Chairman: Capt A A Hammond OBE,  
Sandens, Old Mill Road,  
Roughton, Norwich NR11 8PE

Secretary: Mrs C Hudson,  
24 Rosebery Avenue,  
King's Lynn, Norfolk PO30 4AA  
Tel: (01553) 762478

## Gt Yarmouth/Gorleston Branch:

Mr R C Pillar,  
16 Alder Close, Bradwell,  
Gt Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 8PD

## London Branch:

Mr M J Frances,  
4 Kingswood Park,  
Hendon Avenue,  
Finchley, London N3 LUG

## Norwich Branch:

Mr P E Boxall,  
31 Breckland Road,  
New Costessey,  
Norwich NR5 ORW

## Suffolk

HQ The Suffolk Regiment Old Comrades  
Association and The Royal Anglian  
Regiment Association (Suffolk &  
Cambridgeshire Branch) The Keep,  
Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St. Edmunds,  
Suffolk IP33 3RN  
Tel: (01284) 752394 (Wednesdays Only)

President: Brig W C Deller OBE

## Bury St. Edmunds and District Branch:

Mr J Gingell,  
The Willows, Depden,  
Bury St. Edmunds,  
Suffolk IP29 4BY

## Ipswich Branch:

Mr A E Stollery,  
12 Cedar House,  
2 Heatherhayes,  
Ipswich, Suffolk IP14 3CB

## Hemel Hempstead Branch:

Mr R G Picton,  
45 Paston Road,  
Hemel Hempstead,  
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## Beccles Branch:

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Mr D Land,  
2 Pot Kiln Road,  
Gt Cornard,  
Sudbury CO10 ODA

## Cambridgeshire

HQ The Cambridgeshire Regiment Old  
Comrades Association and The  
Cambridgeshire Branch The Royal  
Anglian Regiment Association  
C/O TA Centre, Coldhams Lane,  
Cambridge CB1 3HT  
Patrons: Col WF Page MC TD  
President: Lt Col W F Badcock MBE

## Cambridge Branch:

Col D E Latchford  
48 Lode Road  
Botolphsham  
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Tel: (01223) 811454

## Ely Branch:

Mr H R Hitch,  
4 Olives Way  
March, Cambridgeshire PE15 4PU

## March and District Branch:

Chairman: Mr D W H Cox,  
13 Fleming Court,  
March, Cambridgeshire,  
PE15 9HD  
Tel: (01354) 52021

## Wisbech Branch:

Major DS Denson TD  
107, Drybread Road  
Whittlesey  
Cambridgeshire PE7 1XL

## Whittlesey/Peterborough Branch:

Mr B Whitwell  
48 Coronation Avenue,  
Whittlesea,  
Cambridgeshire PE7 1XE.

## Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire

HQ The Royal Anglian Regiment  
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire  
Association, Blenheim House,  
Eagle Way, Warley, Brentwood,  
Essex CM13 3BN  
Tel: Brentwood (01277) 213051  
President: Brig AFFH Robertson CBE

## Hertford Branch:

Mr S R Mansfield,  
1a Gwynne's Walk,  
Hertford SG13 8AD Tel: (01992) 581551

## St Alban's Branch:

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Tel: (01582) 621725

## Bedford Branch:

Mr E Roberts  
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Kempston,  
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Tel: 01234 854 507

## Hitchin Branch:

Mr B Read  
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Tel: (01462) 450710

## Hertfordshire Regiment Association

Mr C Austin,  
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Hertford, Herts SG13 8EJ  
Tel: (01992) 558757

## Watford and Hemel Hempstead Branch:

Mr E G Owens,  
37 Bidball Crescent,  
Dunstable,  
Bedfordshire LU6 3NF  
Tel: (01582) 665734

## Luton and Dunstable Branch:

Mr S Chapman,  
86 St Margaret's Avenue,  
Luton, Bedfordshire LU3 1PQ  
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## Essex

The Essex and Royal Anglian Regiments  
Association HQ The Royal  
Anglian Regiment, Blenheim House,  
Eagle Way, Warley, Brentwood,  
Essex CM13 3BN  
Tel: (01277) 213051  
President: Col G C P Morgan DL

## 4th Battalion Comrades Association:

Mr E B Hazle DCM,  
11 Hunter Avenue, Shenfield,  
Essex CM15 8PE  
Tel: (01277) 214606

## 7th Eagle and Gun Regimental Association:

Mr V Foulsham,  
62 Armstrong Avenue,  
Woodford Green,  
Essex IG8 9PT  
Tel: (0181) 531 4808

## Chelmsford and District Branch:

Miss S Ostler,  
St Michael's, 1 Gloucester Avenue  
Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9DP  
Tel: (01245) 358724

## Thurrock and District Branch:

Mr P Giggins,  
89 Salisbury Road,  
Grays, Essex RM17 6DG  
Tel: (01375) 378427

## Lincolnshire

The Royal Lincolnshire and Royal Anglian  
Regimental Association, The Keep,  
Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln LN1 3PY  
Tel: (01522) 525444  
President: Maj Gen R E J Gerrard-Wright  
CB CBE DL

## Lincoln Branch:

Mr A Hibbard,  
17 Ruckland Avenue,  
Lincoln LN1 3TF  
Tel: (01522) 530396

## Grimsby Branch:

Mr D Carroll,  
87 Manor Drive, Waltham,  
Grimsby, Lincolnshire DN37 0NS  
Tel: (01472) 826953

## Grantham Branch:

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Grantham,  
Lincoln NG31 8DZ.  
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## Spalding Branch:

Mr A Waterfall,  
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## Finedon Branch:

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Finedon,  
Northants NN9 5ET.  
Tel: (01933) 681525.

## Peterborough Branch:

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Milking Nook,  
Peterborough PE 6 7PP  
Tel: (01733) 810311

## Leicestershire

HQ The Royal  
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The Royal Anglian Regiment  
Association (Leicestershire)  
TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road,  
Leicester LE4 6BY  
Tel: (0116) 2622749

President: Maj Gen A J G  
Pollard CB CBE

## Wiltshire

## Warminster Branch:

The Royal Anglian Regiment  
Association,  
Po Box 123,  
Headquarters Infantry, Warminster,  
Wiltshire BA12 0DG  
Tel: (01985) 219273 Ext 2211

# Book Reviews

## Something to Write Home About

*Letters and Memories of a Wartime Soldier*

by Peter Steggall

This book tells of civilian and army life during the Second World War. After working in a London bank during the 1940-41 air raids, the author spent four years abroad with a mobile light anti-aircraft regiment which sailed to Iraq via South Africa and India, and then into action in Sicily and Italy. After a spell in Palestine (now Israel) the regiment went to Germany to see the end of the war in Europe, and to take part in the Allied occupation.

The book includes 50 letters written from overseas to Peter's parents.

172 pages 38 illustrations £9.95 (plus £1 if posted)

On sale in some bookshops in Suffolk and Colchester, or direct from Peter Steggall, 107 Tuddenham Road, Ipswich (Tel No 01473 213575)

## Bassingbourn - The Book

*If you Can't Take a Joke*

by A D Barratt

This book of cartoons depicts subjects selected from the training programme from arrival by the new recruit to his departure. The creator of the book was the son of a soldier, he went to the Army Apprentices School at Arborfield before serving for 22 years, much of it in the Middle and Far East, and including a spell with the Brigade of Gurkhas. The book also includes non recruit training cartoons and draws on the author's long experience of the Army.

The book is now available from the PRI Bassingbourn Barracks, Royston, Herts SG8 5LX Priced at £4.99.

## Next Castle, June 1999

Entries for next Edition of Castle are required by 15 April 1999 (See page 11)

### THE MUCKLEBURGH COLLECTION



The Muckleburgh Collection is Britain's largest privately owned military museum. Set in 350 acres in North Norfolk countryside, the original NAAFI block of this former Weybourne camp, originally established in 1588, the year of the Armada, houses the heart of the collection. Recently, the 7th Battalion donated a ZPU-1 to the museum. This Soviet Anti-Aircraft quick change barrel heavy machine gun, a prize from the Gulf War, is now in company with the ZPU-2 and ZPU-4.

The old military camp was a main training camp for the Ack Ack (Anti Aircraft) Command. From 1936, A A Batteries were trained to improve shooting skills by firing at a radio controlled 'Queen Bee' or a drogue towed behind a Westland Wallace biplane. Winston Churchill visited Weybourne in 1941 to inspect the progress but left unimpressed. He demanded an improvement within a few weeks otherwise the whole staff would be sacked.

The site was cleared of crumbling huts in 1986/87 and formally opened by the Duke of Argyll as a public attraction on 8th May 1988. The collection has grown steadily each year and to date comprises 16 tanks, all in working order, approximately 150 armoured cars, vehicles, guns, bombs and missiles. Also, the comprehensive collection of the Suffolk and Norfolk Yeomanry, uniforms, photographs, a whole range of models and 3,000 other items of memorabilia. Its Naval model ships (54) all to the same scale are probably unique.

The museum is open daily from mid February to the end of October, 10am - 5pm. Tank demonstrations take place every Sunday and daily during the school summer holiday. We also offer a bumpy ride in a Gama Goat, a six wheeled drive American cargo carrier, for a small charge. If you would like any further information,

please call 01263 588 210/608

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# Regimental Shop

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## Note:

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2. All prices include VAT and are subject to manufacturer's price increases.

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