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June 2001
Vol 11 No 5



Editor: Col AC Taylor

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Front cover

Service with the Bermuda Regiment.

Back cover

The Australian Memorial - Fromelles.

Regiment and Museum Internet Website

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Both of our regular battalions are, for the first time in recent years, based in the United Kingdom. This will give us an opportunity to see more of one another, including those in the East of England Regiment and our old comrades.

Whilst, in such circumstances we would normally hope to be able to involve our Royal Colonels in Regimental events, it is unlikely that we will be able to do so for the foreseeable future. Nonetheless, we should grasp every opportunity in being at home to make the most of all that is open to us here in terms of career courses, extramural activities, sport and adventure training. And at the same time we must give our soldiers and families an opportunity to enjoy being at home.

Perhaps the best aspect of our circumstances is that all three battalions are well up to strength with officers and soldiers. This is really good news because it allows for our officers to have proper

commands and our soldiers to live more predictable lives. There are few enough infantry battalions which can claim to be as well manned. Being at home should help as there are, of course, significant advantages in being home based for recruiting purposes. Retention, however, can be more difficult. So while the forecasts for both are good, we cannot be complacent and must continue our efforts to keep our battalions fully manned.

This situation has not been achieved without considerable effort on behalf of all those in the battalions who have masterminded the recruiting and retention effort. In the wider Army there has been recognition that the activities undertaken by the battalions has represented best practice. I congratulate them and also those who have been involved in attending to our recruits in training to make them feel very much a part of the Regiment from the outset. Keep up the good work.



The Regiment

Colonel-in-Chief

HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

Deputy Colonels-in-Chief

HRH The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon
HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester

Colonel of the Regiment

Gen Sir Michael Walker GCB CMG CBE ADC Gen

Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment

The Rev MD Franks MBE

Deputy Colonels of the Regiment

1st Battalion: Maj Gen JCB Sutherell CBE
2nd Battalion: Maj Gen JC McColi CBE
TA Sub Units: Col NH Kelsey OBE TD

Deputy Honorary Colonels TA

Norfolk, Suffolk	Col PJS Child
Lincolnshire	Col RJM Drummond OBE
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire	Col JBC Prescott
Essex, Hertfordshire	Col RA 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 Royal 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
	5th Battalion the Frontier Force Regiment
Pakistan	First City Regiment
South Africa	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: Col AC Taylor
Assistant Regimental Secretary: Maj J Fisk
Regimental Careers Officer: Maj RC Gould

Area Office Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire

Britannia House TA Centre,
 325 Aylsham Road, Norwich NR3 2AD
 Tel: 01603-400290
Area Secretary: Maj WH Reeve

Area Office Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire

TA Centre, Clare Street, Northampton NN1 3JQ
 Tel: 01604-635412
Area Secretary: Lt Col FAH Swallow OBE

Regimental Information Teams

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn (127 AYT)
 Tel: 01223-204216
 Goojerat Barracks, Colchester (160 AYT)
 Tel: 01206-782311
 North Luffenham (161 AYT)
 Tel: 01780 727806

Area Office Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex

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

Area Office Lincoln

Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln LN1 3PY
 Tel: 01522-544886
Area Secretary: Capt DJ Lee BEM

Regimental Museum

Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Cambs CB2 4QR
 Tel: 01223-835000 Ext 298
Regimental Attendant: Mr GA Boss

Battalion Locations

1st Battalion,
 Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright GU24 0DT

Lt Col PD Jones MBE

2nd Battalion,
 Beachley Barracks,
 Chepstow, Glos NP16 7YG

Lt Col AJC Wild MBE
 (Des: Lt Col RJ Ladley MBE)

East of England Regiment
 TA Centre, Blenheim Camp, Newmarket Road,
 Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3SW

Lt Col CA Newell PWRR
 (Des: Lt Col NA ffitch TD)

Regimental Representatives

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn: Maj DJ Gregory
 Infantry Training Centre, Catterick: Maj PD Bailey
 RMA Sandhurst: Maj STH Andrews
 Army Foundation College Harrogate: Capt BJ Rayment

Personalia

Operational Awards

QCB

Sgt K Main 1st Battalion (NI)

QCVS

WO2 RJ Bedin 2nd Bn (Sierra Leone)

Joint Commanders Commendations Sierra Leone

Maj NFC Nottingham 2nd Battalion

Maj NB Fraser RAMC att 2nd Battalion

GOC NI Commendation

CSgt AL Buff 1st Battalion

Senior Appointments

Lt Col NA ffitch TD to command EER October 2001

Lt Col RJ Ladley MBE to command 2nd Battalion February 2001

Commissioning

The following have been commissioned:

2Lts M Duppa-Miller, LO Stamm 12 April

WO1 (RSM) D Mackness 30 May

RSM Appointments

WO2 SD Robinson to RSM 1st Battalion March 2001

WO2 PM O'Nions to Cambridge UOTC July 2001

WO2 DM Hazlewood to RSM 2nd Battalion January 2002

Left the Army

The following have left the Army.

We wish them well and hope to see them from time to time at Regimental functions

Maj SRH Underwood	December 2000
Lt Col A Powell MBE	March 2001
Capt LSF McGrath	March 2001
Lt Col RE Haes OBE	May 2001

Postings

Capt SJ Nye	from 1st Battalion to Inf MCM Div	January 2001
Maj PLC Crook	from TA to HQ ARRC (FTRS)	January 2001
Brig AP Deed OBE	from HS to Nato Defence College	February 2001
Col RM Chisnall OBE	from PJHQ to MOD DOMA	February 2001
Lt A Biggs	from 1st Battalion to ATR Bassingbourn	March 2001
Lt MA Dingle	from ITC Catterick to 2nd Battalion	March 2001
Maj JAB Borthwick	from Northumbria UOTC to BMATT (Sierra Leone)	March 2001
Lt RM Hitching	from 1st Battalion to ATR Bassingbourn	April 2001
Maj R J James	from 1st Battalion to ATR Bassingbourn	May 2001
Capt PJ Messenger	from ITC Catterick to 1st Battalion	May 2001
Capt PC Worthington	from ATR Bassingbourn to 1st Battalion	May 2001
Lt MA Nicholas	from 1st Battalion to ITC Catterick	June 2001
Lt DH James-Roll	from 1st Battalion to ITC Catterick	June 2001
Capt TB Mellor	from 39 Inf Bde to JACIG(AG)	July 2001
Maj BM Down	from 143(WM) Bde to RCB	July 2001
Maj SD Etherington	from 145(HC) Bde to 2nd Battalion	August 2001
Maj JCJ Wright	from DGES(A) to 2nd Battalion	August 2001
Maj RFL Lyne	from HQ ARRC to 2nd Battalion	August 2001
Maj STH Andrews	from RMAS to 145(HC) Bde	August 2001
Maj AE Eaton	from ACDS (OR) to 1st Battalion	August 2001
Maj RA Knox	from MOD DMO to EER	August 2001
Maj NFC Nottingham	from 2nd Battalion to HQ LAND(G3)	August 2001
Maj DGH Hunter	from 2nd Battalion to DCC IPT	August 2001
Maj DG Vincent	from OPTAG(K) to 2nd Battalion	August 2001
Maj SB Brunt	from HQ RSA to ITC Warminster	September 2001
Lt MC Melia	from 2nd Battalion to AFC Harrogate	September 2001
Capt SN Pallant	from 2nd Battalion to 20 Armd Bde	September 2001
Maj DJ Gregory	from ATR Bassingbourn to RMCS	September 2001
Maj CS Calder	from RCB to RMCS	October 2001
Maj PS Leslie	from 2nd Battalion to RMCS	October 2001
Maj RW Wooddisse	from 2nd Battalion to RMCS	October 2001
Maj RC Gould	from 1st Battalion to HQ Colchester Garrison	October 2001
Capt APR Bowman	from CTC RM to 1st Battalion	November 2001
Maj CJ Pearce	from Rhine Area Support Unit to UKSU	December 2001
Capt PM Smith	from 1st Battalion to 1(UK) Armd Div	December 2001

Regimental Matters



The Regimental Reunion - Reminder

The Regimental Reunion will be held at Bassingbourn Barracks on Sunday 15 July 2001. The format will be similar to previous years:

1000	Gates Open
1130	Drumhead Service
1215	March Past
1230	Bars, Kiosks and Stalls Open
1330	Side Shows, Shooting Competition
pm	Band and Drums Display
1730	Bars Close

We have reinstated the .22 shooting competition and, latest regulations permitting, also clay pigeon shooting. The Normandy Band of the Queen's Division will provide the music.

We hope that as many as possible will attend. Packed lunches will not be available, you are asked to bring picnics or use the refreshment facilities on site. Entry passes will not be issued.

Changes at RHQ

Mrs Deirdre Meddings, who had been the chief clerk for over 10 years, retired in April. We wish her a long and happy retirement. Her replacement is Miss Teresa Robertson.

Maj William Reeve, who has been our Area Secretary covering Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire for the last 14 years, is retiring on 1 October. We wish him all the best for his retirement and look forward to seeing him at Regimental events.

Col Anthony Swallow, our Area Secretary for Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland, is due to retire in late 2002. His job will be advertised early next year but if you would like to know more about the job and might be interested in the appointment please contact RHQ or Col Swallow direct for more information.

Recruiting

During the last year both battalions have committed considerable manpower and effort to recruiting. The appearance of the Poachers Drums at Welford Road Leicester in March, plus a demo platoon from B (Leicestershire) Company under WO2 Bredin was typical of the sort of activity being undertaken. It was well reported in the local press and seen on Sky TV. (See photo in colour section).



Mrs Deirdre Meddings.

The Regimental Council

At their meeting on 18 May the Council was briefed by Maj Gen McColl, the Chairman of the Regimental Recruiting Steering Committee. He congratulated the battalions on their sterling efforts which had resulted in our battalions being two of only nine across the infantry which are up to strength. However he noted we have fewer recruits in training than some others and cannot afford to be complacent.

The Council decided that our recruiting efforts could be enhanced by the use of a suitable video and authorised the Recruiting Committee to commission one which is to be available to both our recruiters and KAPE teams operating in our counties.

Mainly about People



WO1 Jethwa receiving his MBE from Her Majesty.

Lt Col Patrick Outerbridge ED, the Bermuda Regiment was awarded the OBE in the 2001 Honours List. Many congratulations.

His many friends in the Regiment will have been delighted to learn that ex **WO1 'Jeth' Jethwa** also received the MBE in the same list. He joined in 1969 and served at various times in the 1st, 3rd and 5th Battalions as well as in HQ Queen's Division. After Regular service he took up an NRPS appointment at Peterborough and when the 5th Battalion re-roled to become 158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment(V) he transferred to the Adjutant General's Corps. We offer our congratulations.

Essex Army Cadet Force Commandant **Col Charles Thomas**, put away his uniform after 26 years spent mainly with 5 R Anglian. Following his enlistment as a private soldier at Chelmsford in 1975

he was commissioned in 1977, and had the pleasure of an operational tour with the Vikings in 1979 on an SSVC. Much was learned from his company commander at that time! He returned to the Steelbacks to become the Mortar Officer, Company 2IC and OC, 3 (Essex) Company, before a tour as Battalion 2IC. Following two years with 54 Bde, he commanded the 6th Battalion from 1993 and 1996. Five years with the cadets in Essex then followed. Col Charles is not completely disappearing from view. He has been appointed vice-chairman of the Essex Committee of East Anglia Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, East Anglia.

2Lt RJ McNeil, who was commissioned from Sandhurst in August 2000, achieved a distinction on his platoon commander's battle course at Warminster.



WO2 Philip Tilley, Training Wing WO with the Bermuda Regiments, **WO2 Darren Marsh** who takes over from **WO 2 Tilley** in June and **WO2 Erskine Brangman**, WO Training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, during **Ex Bermuda Blaze**, the Bermuda Regiment's overseas Exercise that took place in April/May.

Diary Dates

June

- 2 Beds and Herts Association Dinner and Dance, Hertford
- 7 2/5th Battalion the Essex Regiment Officers' Lunch, Dunmow
- 23/24 Royal Tigers Weekend, Leicester
- 24 Essex Regiment Association Reunion, Warley
- 27 16th Foot Officers Lunch, Buckdon
- 30 4th Battalion Essex Regiment Comrades Association Garden Party, Warley

July

- 7/8 Northamptonshire Regimental Reunion - Northampton
- 15 Regimental Gathering - Bassingbourn
- 20 Essex Regiment Association Luncheon, Marconi Club, Chelmsford
- 29 Minden Day Reunion - Bury St Edmunds

August

- 26 Gathering of National Servicemen at Warley

September

- 14 Autumn Golf Meeting - Flemspton
- 23 Cambridgeshire Regiment Council and Association AGM
- 23 R Lincolns Reunion - Lincoln
- 29 1st Battalion the Royal Leicester Regiment Reunion - Leicester,
- 29 R Norfolks Association Dinner - Norwich

October

- 5 3rd Battalion Officers' Dinner Club, Autumn Lunch, Warley
- 5/6 70th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment Reunion, Kettering
- 6 Malaya Reunion Weekend - Lincoln
- 13 4th Battalion the Essex Regiment Comrades Association Dinner
- 13 4th/5th Battalion Royal Leicestershire Regiment Officers' Dining Club
- 17 Essex Regiment Association General Committee Meeting
- 20 Cyprus Veterans' Reunion Leicester
- 25 Beds and Herts Regimental Association Meeting

November

- 2 Royal Anglian Regiment Officers' Dinner - London
- 3 Hindoostan Dinner Club, Leicester
- 6 Essex Regiment Association Remembrance Service, Chelmsford
- 8 Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey
- 11 Remembrance Sunday
- 18 Beds and Herts Regiment Association wreath laying and Reunion

December

- 1 Royal Leicestershire Regiment Officers' Dinner, London
- 7 Royal Tigers' Association Christmas Reunion, Leicester

Letters to the Editor



A little bit of history was made on 29 April 2001. At St Catherine's Church Bristol Street Birmingham a National Serviceman's Standard was blessed. It has the colours of the three Services with a black line between for the Bevan Boys.

Four members of the Birmingham Branch of the Royal Lincolns Association attended and our Standard was carried by Ray Tooze. In the picture the National Serviceman's Standard is on the left.

FH Jennings
50 Mildenhall Road
Great Bar
Birmingham B42 2PH



Extracts from a letter received from Mr Paul Keenan of 50 Botanic Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9, Republic of Ireland. Can anyone help?

I write to seek your help in a matter concerning a grand-uncle of

mine lost in World War Two. Early in the war, my maternal grand-uncle, Vincent Byrne, joined the British Army and was captured at Singapore. From here his fate remained a mystery until after the war when my grandfather was able to meet with a man in Ireland who revealed that Vincent had died in a Japanese PoW camp sometime around 1943. Because of the awkwardness of discussing an Irishman in a British uniform, and presumably to spare the family, the details of Vincent remained a mystery in my family's history.

In 2000, as a result of a visit to an exhibition set up by the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association, I came across the internet site for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission from which I learned that Pte Vincent Byrne, number 5836289, of the 1st Battalion the Cambridge Regiment, Suffolk Regiment, who died on 16 June 1943, was buried in Kanchanaburi War Cemetery.

I am most eager to contact any of those survivors of the Burma railway who could shed light on the Vincent Byrne now lying in Thailand or anyone who can help.

1st Battalion - The Vikings



Ebrington Barracks seen from RUC Strand Road.

Farewell!

By the time this issue goes to print the Battalion will be back from Londonderry and settled into its new Pirbright home. However, up until that eagerly anticipated time the Vikings continue to fulfil a host of operational duties both within the 8 Inf Bde area and across the province.

In January of this year RUC Claudy was attacked with an IED which saw the deployment of both the Ops 1 company (B Company) and Ops 3 (C Company). This incident could have resulted in severe casualties for the RUC and again highlighted the volatile atmosphere which still exists in the province.

Just a few days later the Battalion very nearly suffered severe casualties when dissidents managed to fire a mortar over the perimeter fence. This 'barrack buster' fortunately did not function when it landed outside the Officers' Mess but to the delight of many, the Officers' Mess was evacuated and cordoned off for some time while ATO did his stuff. This served as a timely reminder that the threat was still very real and that the terrorists still maintain a high level of sophistication.

Security was enhanced after this attack and although operations remained the focus, the



D Company vehicles after a paint bomb attack in the Waterside.

Battalion managed to participate in other activities, including exercises, adventure training and sport. Finally, the odds on a white Christmas were good but in typical NI fashion it failed to snow on the day, only to fall in impressive amounts for many weeks afterwards.

New Brooms

Lt Col RJ Kemp MBE handed over the Vikings to Lt Col PD Jones MBE on 21 December 2000. Lt Col Kemp handed over a battalion that is reaping the rewards of an intensive recruiting campaign. For those who have been away from the Vikings for some time the number of new faces floating about might come as a surprise. D Company, the traditional domain of the old and bold, has especially received almost a complete turnover of private soldiers since its deployment to the province. Maj Alex Beart arrived in Londonderry to take over D (Cambridgeshire) Company after Maj James York departed for Staff College and hit the ground running with both Mortar and Milan platoons conducting the live firing element of their numbers cadre at Otterburn. RSM Mackness handed over to WO1 (RSM) Robinson in May 2001. WO1 Mackness is promoted to captain and moves to the Families office.

Christmas and New Year

Christmas and New Year passed quietly this year without the threat of Y2K shutdowns



Milan Conversion training. Londonderry January 2001.

The Vikings

hanging over everyone. The usual round of mess visits and the traditional soldiers' Christmas lunch was conducted and all concerned threw themselves into the spirit of things with vigour. A CSE show visited the Battalion again this year with singer/dancers entertaining an appreciative crowd. Naturally, the Battalion did not entirely stand down and as always various QRFs and escorts were required. New Year passed quietly without quite the frenzied activity of the previous year and all seemed to weather the first year of the new millennium without too much trouble.

IED Claudy

On 17 January 2001 a van driver was apprehended in the nationalist Creggan area of Londonderry and was told to drive his vehicle to RUC Claudy and park it outside. A wheelie bin had been placed inside the vehicle and once this was established military assistance was requested. ATO deployed with Viking escorts and after a controlled explosion declared a hoax.

However, just two days later Claudy was to receive some more attention in the form of an IED. The RUC had received a total of six calls by midday Friday 19 January 2001, stating that there was a device at RUC Claudy. B and C Companies established a cordon with satellite patrols and ATO with RESA conducted a search confirming the presence of a device at the back of the police station. ATO was unable to dispose of the device until Saturday 20 January and subsequently declared one IED on 21 January 2001. This incident was again a reminder of the sophistication that dissident Republicans are capable of. The van was supposed to force the occupants of the RUC station out of the rear gate and in doing so initiate the device. Fortunately the policemen stationed at RUC Claudy did not evacuate the buildings in a way that the dissidents anticipated and serious loss of life was avoided.



The view from RUC Strand road prior to the Lundy March. December 2000.

Barrack Buster

At 0014hrs, 23 January 2001, a single Mk 15 mortar bomb was fired onto Ebrington Barracks, striking the corner of the Officers' Mess building. Fortunately it failed to detonate and all personnel were safely evacuated from this building and the surrounding residential area, which was under threat. The mortar was launched from a van parked in a side street some 70m from the perimeter fence. After the soak period had finished a search of camp was conducted using two Ops 1 Company (B Suffolk Company) teams and an AES dog. Concurrently, ATO was tasked and discovered the mortar round a short time after the attack. The incident saw all assets available deployed to assist. Both Gazelle and Lynx helicopters provided top-cover throughout the incident. Obviously the possibility of a secondary was of concern and all soldiers involved were very alert and deployed in the Waterside to provide the necessary additional security. ATO successfully disrupted the baseplate and then concentrated on the primary threat of the mortar blind. The incident was closed that afternoon.



The effigy of Col Lundy.

Enhanced Security

Because of the Mk 15 attack, security for the barracks was further enhanced by an increase in patrols around the station area. It is not an uncommon sight now to see foot patrols in and around the Waterside conducting VCPs and generally increasing our profile. A number of exercises have been conducted to increase the awareness of actions to be taken in case of attack of soldiers. One such exercise involved a proxy bomb at the main gate with a mass casualty scenario to follow. Ops 3 at the time was B Company and all concerned learned valuable lessons which would be put to good use in the unfortunate event of such an attack.

Foot and Mouth

Foot and Mouth seriously affected the province. Various sports activities were postponed or cancelled and military activities like the Brigade Skill at Arms meeting were also postponed. The outbreak naturally affected military courses on the mainland. Many were cancelled and in the case of PCBC students were sent back to their units early, having to complete their training at a later date. This did not unduly affect the Battalion's role to mechanised and the July/August deployment to Canada and the USA will allow individual and collective training to continue without the restrictive but necessary disease prevention measures.



A Company on patrol in the Waterside.

The Vikings



D Company and a 'Man of Mystery' prepare to deploy.

Training and Sport

The Vikings have continued to conduct military training despite the increased threat and foot and mouth. Sgt Simpson (D Company) conducted a number of sniper cadres as the battalion attempts to organise itself along Infantry 2010 lines. Additionally both Mortar and Milan Platoons conducted number cadres that climaxed in a live firing package at Otterburn. This is the first time for nearly two years that the support weapons have been able to fire and the experience laid the foundations for the Vikings re-rolling and the hard work that will have to go into building up the skills of the Battalion's Manoeuvre Support elements.

Saxon driving cadres continued throughout the months after Christmas and the MT Platoon has been very successful in providing the companies with the drivers and commanders they are going to require in Pirbright.

On the sporting front the Battalion's football team has been very successful reaching the semi-finals of the Army Cup.

The rugby team reached the finals of the NI cup with Capt Ian Chance (D Company) and Pte Matacevea (B Company) playing for the infantry. At the time of writing the team is also leading the Northern Ireland rugby league.

Squash has seen a real growth in popularity with Capt Ian Chance (D Company) and RQMS Jones (HQ Company) leading the Viking team to victory in the NI league. The cross-country team has achieved some success in the province competition. The Viking hockey team played in the Infantry cup for the first time in some years and this sport continues to develop. Yet again soldiers from the Vikings enjoyed the slopes of France for a week's skiing. This has become a regular occurrence for the Battalion and large numbers of soldiers have made the most of this opportunity. Finally Lt Gareth Allen led a six-week adventurous training package in Gibraltar. Soldiers had the opportunity to rock climb, abseil, and canoe, among other activities during a week of southern Spanish sun.

Visits and the Future

The Battalion will leave the Province having conducted a very successful two-year residential tour. The tour provided a very real operational focus for the Battalion. However, the challenges of mechanised infantry await us.

Canada and the USA now loom on the horizon and these exercises will provide our soldiers with an excellent opportunity to polish conventional skills and in many cases allow those lucky enough to experience the challenges of armoured warfare from the back of a speeding warrior. Tesex will be at the end of the year and preparations are well under way with Capt Mick Aston (Ops Officer) having attended the Welsh Guards CAST in March.

The Vikings look to the future well prepared for inclusion into the 12 Mech Bde orbat. We will be ready to meet any operational challenges with which we may be presented.



The cast of the next James Bond movie.

Sniper Training in 1 R Anglian

Sgt Simpson writes:

Sniper training has taken on a new impetus with the Battalion's move to Pirbright. The new Infantry 2010 structures for mechanised infantry see an addition to the new orbit of sniper sections to each of the manoeuvre companies and the manoeuvre support company. Maj Alex Beart, OC Manoeuvre Support Company, has been appointed the Battalion sniper officer and his previous appointment as OC Sniper Division makes him ideal for the post. In conjunction with myself, the Battalion Master Sniper, he is now responsible for the planning and conduct of all battalion sniper training as well as advising the Commanding Officer on the deployment options for snipers during operations. With WO2 de Bretton-Gordon returning to the Battalion in September 2001 from his post as an instructor at Sniper Division, the future of Viking sniper training looks very healthy.

Work began in early 2000 in preparation for the sniper orbit. In January, as I sat in the MILO in Strand Road RUC station, I was warned off preparing to run two sniper cadres. Due to operational commitments we were forced to spread cadres into two three-week packages. The first involved in-barracks training and use of the training area and ranges at Magilligan and the second took place in sunny SENTA. For those that been to Magilligan you will remember that it is on the peninsula on the outlet of the river Foyle with North Atlantic being the next stop.

The wind conditions can make shooting very interesting and the student snipers had an excellent introduction into the complexities of shooting accurately in testing conditions, however, a high standard of marksmanship was achieved and most students were able to achieve a first round kill at 600m. Sennybridge proved to be uncharacteristically sunny for a Welsh summer and the long hours of daylight meant that we could make use of a longer training day. The second cadre, held during the winter, was a complete contrast. When it wasn't windy it was raining and when it wasn't raining it was snowing!

On completion of both cadres and some retests conducted between the two cadres a total of 10 snipers were badged. The existing badge test is very demanding and, in many ways, does not accurately measure the skills taught during the course or the operational requirements of a sniper. It is hoped that the Inf TDT will soon have completed their validation review of sniper courses and that amendments to the badge test will then be produced. It is hoped that the new test, while not lowering the existing high standards, will more closely measure the skills taught on the course and the skills required by the sniper on operations.

The students who failed these sniper cadres were deemed to be of a sufficiently high standard to enable them to be employed



Viking Snipers battle against the wind.

within their sniper sections until further sniper cadre qualification opportunities occur.

Following the cadres the Vikings sent some of their snipers deer culling with 1 WFR and completed a battalion-run sniper shooting camp, which included a live stalk and live unknown-distance shoot. HQNI arranged a sniper introduction week in March 2001 which was sponsored by 1 WFR for all units serving in Northern Ireland. At the time of writing Maj Beart is in the process of producing the second draft of sniper doctrine as well as a sniper insert for the Viking BG SOIs. Another basic sniper cadre is planned for summer 2001 and it is hoped that a Battalion sniper concentration can be run before or after the majority of the Battalion deploy to BATUS. The snipers are really looking forward to their next sniper training package and judging by the enthusiasm shown by those who have recently qualified I am sure that sniping will go from strength to strength. It is excellent that the Army now has a formal manpower establishment for snipers and has finally recognised the force multiplying impact and devastating effectiveness of a sniper team.



A sniper makes good use of the trees.

Exercise Viking Impact

Capt B Allen writes:

Twice during the tour the company deployed on the live firing exercises Viking Impact I and II. These exercises enabled the company to get stuck into the live firing of 81mm mortars, Milan and 94mm LAW and it also provided the opportunity to conduct some basic, low level soldiering skills in the field. The exercise came straight after a particularly busy Ops I deployment and a spell of leave over the New Year period, so the company was ready for some new challenges and a change of scenery.

The exercise began with a centrally organised range package with both the Mortar and Anti-Tank Platoons revising the drills for their specialist weapons and the 94mm. This period culminated in a 94mm ODT tank-stalk. The Mortar Platoon fired their 17 LAW 94 HEAT missiles on a purpose-built range that, in the event, proved to be restrictive and lacked a decent target array.

With preparation time on their side the Anti-Tank Platoon custom built their own range which incorporated the Milan range template. Following a scan through the relevant JSP and various covert raids into the range stores enough information and raw materials were gathered to build one 94mm firing bay. This was a massive undertaking not helped by the sub-zero temperatures freezing the sandbags into all sorts of irregular and unhelpful shapes. Eventually the bay was constructed to the correct specification and was used successfully to support their battle picture which involved the engagement of moving targets at 1700m using Milan, the simulated break-through of enemy armour, followed by the final destruction of the enemy using the platoon's secondary weapon system, the 94mm.

Meanwhile the Mortar Platoon,

commanded by Capt Ian Chance, conducted a part one shoot which, for many members of the platoon, was the first opportunity to fire the weapon system. The shoot practised the mortar line and observation post procedures and confirmed skills and drills prior to moving on to more challenging shoots later in the week. Cpl Grice wrote and conducted a very realistic BE which was based on the Mortar Platoon supporting a rifle company advance to contact. Sgt Watson definitely earned his pay that day as he sprinted around the training area letting off thunderflashes and illum to simulate the mortar fire! In total the Mortar Platoon fired 288 mortar rounds during the final tactical phase of its exercise, creating a withering rate of fire, which had a very impressive target effect. The combat power of the weapon system was fully demonstrated to all the new soldiers in the platoon, who were now fully competent at taking the mortar into action.

In the final stages of the Milan Platoon FTX, the 'Anti-Tankers' had their first taste of the 'pleasures' of tabbing any meaningful distance while man packing Milan. The weather dropped to 12 below zero and a chilly night was spent in the patrol harbour and in an anti-armour ambush. With the Recce vehicles through the killing area the ambush was set and the next vehicles to drive up the road were to be destroyed by an awesome weight of fire from six Milan posts. Unfortunately the battle picture had not accounted for civilian cars driving across the battlefield! While a combat recce patrol was expected consisting of three BRDM, two T72 and three BMP the platoon actually got one Ford Mondeo and Farmer Barleymow on his way back from the pub! A quick message over the net prevented an



'Tank action! Anti-Tank Platoon moves rapidly to its fire positions.

early springing of the ambush (and one very surprised civilian!). Eventually the real enemy came and the ambush was sprung in good order.

On the final day it was at last time to fire the missiles for real. The six Milan missiles we had were fired against moving targets at 1.7km by operators who were all first time firers. The conditions were far from perfect with heavy snow and sleet blowing across the range and white moving target against a white snowy background! The firers did well to achieve four out of six 'K' kills which, considering the conditions, was actually very good. The platoon then fired 33 94mm HEAT

with every member of the platoon getting to fire at least one missile. The result was a hugely enjoyable day with every member of the platoon achieving at least one 'K' kill with a HEAT round. Almost £200,000 worth of ammunition was expended on the final day and prior to the start of the shoot the target hulk looked like an armoured vehicle, by the end of the day it looked more like a pile of iron filings! Once both platoons had returned from exercise and the necessary administration had been completed, the company deployed to Newcastle for a night on the 'toon' and an outstanding night was had by all.



Anti-tank Platoon unleashes another K-Kill.



The battlefield tour party at Bayeux Museum.

Exercise Norman Viking 1 Battlefield Tour to Normandy

Maj JMH Heap writes:

On a wet and cold January morning, having been summoned to the CO's office, I was informed of the requirement to organise a battlefield tour in 12 months' time - 'any campaign, any country, must be of contemporary relevance, and must be within budget!' was all that I was given.

After much research, the decision was made to study the Normandy Campaign, and in particular the role played by the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Regiments as part of the 3rd British Division. After more detailed research, it was decided to focus on a selected number of battles that the two regiments were involved in, which in turn would enable us to study the different phases of war. The battles chosen were the D-Day Landings; the battle for Hillman (1 Suffolks - offensive operations); the Battle for Chateau de la

Londe (1 Suffolks - offensive operations); the Battle for Lebissey Wood (1 R Norfolk - patrol operations/offensive operations); the Battle for Pavee (1 R Norfolk - transitional operations); the Battle for Tinchbray (1 Suffolks - offensive operations); and the Battle for Grimbosq (7 R Norfolks - transitional operations).

Having established the battles to be studied, the search was then on to find a couple of 'veterans' who could not only add value and bring the battlefield tour to life, but also to be able to survive a week in France with 34 modern day soldiers, keen not only to see the sights of Normandy by day, but also by night! Fortunately RHQ knew just the right fellows and came up with the names of Capt John Lincoln MC (R Norfolks) and Capt Frank Matthews (1 Suffolks). Not only were they able to add enormous value and keep up, but also they could lead from the front during 'off-duty' activities!

With everything set, the battlefield tour group, consisting of 34 officers and soldiers, departed Londonderry by coach at 0330hrs



Bunker system - Objective Hillman.

and arrived in Normandy at 0630hrs - 27 hours later! With only time to ditch our bags, the group immediately set off to Arramanches Museum, in order to set the scene and to get a feel for the immense size of the Normandy Campaign. With this mission accomplished, it was time to visit the beaches and to see where and how the 3rd British Division landed. It was quickly realised that while they met some stern opposition, it was not to the same extent as faced on the American beaches and as portrayed on *Saving Private Ryan*. The initial landings were, however, only a very small part of operations on D-Day, and as soon as the Suffolk Regiment had landed, they moved into an FUP and launched straight into a battle group attack. The mission was to clear Objectives Morris and Hillman in order that other elements of 3rd British Division could advance to and capture Caen. According to the intelligence gained prior to



The Vikings

D-Day, Morris and Hillman were not significant German defensive positions. However, this intelligence was well wide of the mark, and Hillman proved to be the major German defensive position in the 3rd British Divisions sector! Consequently, the operation, scheduled to be complete by 1200hrs on D-Day, was only eventually completed by 2300hrs on D-Day. The attack was however an enormous success and saw a smaller, worse-equipped force, with tremendous fighting spirit and *esprit de corps*, defeat a much larger, better equipped force, but one with far less fighting spirit and *esprit to corps*. This was a theme that continually emerged throughout the tour, and one of the many lessons learned and taken away.

After Hillman, it was time to return to the hotel, gain some rest and prepare for day two that would see the group visit Chateau de la Londe, Lebissey Wood and Caen Memorial Museum. Chateau de la Londe provided an excellent example of a brigade (-) attack, as part of a far larger operation being conducted by the British 2nd Army Group. While the overall operation failed, the attack on Chateau de la Londe proved to be a local success, and a great success for the Suffolk Regiment. With the German forces dug in around the 'chateau', the Suffolk Regiment launched a combined arms operation to clear the Chateau of enemy forces. After much close hard fighting, their mission was accomplished.

During the build-up to, and the subsequent attack on Chateau de la Londe, 1 R Norfolks had been conducting intensive patrol operations from their defensive position known as 'Rover', which in turn were being controlled from BHQ located in what had become known as 'Norfolk House'. After 32 days of intensive patrol operations into 'no man's land' (an area between 'Rover' and the German defensive position at Lebissey Wood), the battalion was tasked to attack Lebissey Wood in order that elements of the 3rd British Division could conduct a forward



Objective Hillman.

passage of lines and continue their advance into Caen. After enormous indirect fire support, the attack was launched, and, as personal memories have recalled, for once the attack went exactly according to plan! The lesson here for the group was simple - time spent on reconnaissance is seldom wasted.

After 32 days of intensive patrol operations, they had identified every German position, weapon arcs, minefields, German routine, likely FUPs that were not covered by enemy indirect fire, axis of advance etc. Their information, captured by BHQ on a schematic diagram (made available on the tour) proved to be very accurate and contributed enormously to the highly successful operation.

With Caen now liberated by the Allies, it was time to move on and look at the 3rd British Division's role and responsibilities in the build up to, and eventual destruction of the German forces in the Falaise pocket in mid August 1944. Unfortunately, due to the first foot and mouth outbreak in Northern France, the local communities around Pavee (Cpl Bates awarded VC), Tinchbray and Grimboisq (Capt Jamieson awarded VC), who had been looking forward to meeting up with the group, asked us if we could no

longer come and visit. With our planned visit coinciding with the local mayoral elections, despite their being no formal movement restriction in place, a diplomatic decision was taken not to visit as planned, in order that the superb relationship built up by the Suffolk and Royal Norfolk Regiments would not be tarnished.

To ensure that valuable lessons could still be learned from these battles, it was decided to give the research material to each of the groups and to get them to present on these battles in the lecture room in the hotel. In addition to this, one of the groups was sent off to Pegasus Bridge to prepare to brief the rest of the group on the British Airborne Divisions operations to the immediate east of the 3rd British Division. While these syndicate presentations were clearly not as good as they would have been had they have been able to occur on the ground, they nonetheless provided a further insight into the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Regiments and helped to enforce some of the critical lessons already learned.

With the final battle examined, it was time for a period of reflection. The group set off to the British Cemetery at Bayeux and conducted a final memorial service, in uniform, to remember all those officers and soldiers who had laid down their lives so that we today could live in freedom.

The service was very moving, and with wreaths being laid for the Royal Norfolk Regiment, the Suffolk Regiment and for the Royal Anglian Regiment, it was a fitting way to conclude what was an outstanding battlefield tour. Hopefully this battlefield tour will be followed up by one that will follow the Suffolk and Royal Norfolk Regiments from the break-out from Normandy to VE-Day.

My last comments are saved for Capt John Lincoln and Capt Frank Matthews. Without their assistance in the planning of and research for the tour, and without their enormous input into the tour while on the ground, the tour would not have been the success that it was. Both earned enormous praise and respect from the soldiers and officers alike, and taught us pride, courage and determination under severe adversity.



German fortification on Sword Beach.

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Exercise Viking Ski Finn 2001

Lt D James-Roll writes:

Exercise Viking Ski Finn 2001 was organised to train novice skiers to develop the skills necessary to pass Basic Ski Proficiency (Alpine) (BSP (A)) and to identify those individuals with the potential to pass the Joint Services Ski Instructors (Alpine) (JSSI (A)) course. It took place at Les Arcs 1800 ski resort in the Upper Tarentaise Valley under the shadow of Mont Blanc and ran from 18 February to 10 April 2001. A total of 144 soldiers attended and these were split down into six groups of 24 with an equal number of places allocated to both the Vikings and the Poachers.

The Permanent Team, provided by the 1st Battalion, comprised four people. Lt David James-Roll was the deployed OIC, WO2 (CSM) Okapskyj and Sgt Roach (both JSSI (A) instructors) provided the tuition and Sgt Baxter provided the administrative support. Back in Londonderry, Maj Brown was OIC; having taken on the mantle from Maj Harris who ran the expedition last year and in Chepstow Lt Russell Newmarch provided the link with the 2nd Battalion.

The changeover day was each Saturday with the outgoing group leaving at about 0800hrs and the incoming group arriving at about 2000hrs. This allowed time for the Permanent Staff to prepare for the arrival of the next group. Accommodation and flights were booked through Ski World Special Events, who also provided assistance last year and have a team dedicated to organising military expeditions. The apartments were four-man, self-catering rooms. They were basic but ideal for the occasion. The flights were provided by GO and they allowed changes up to the last minute, which, because of the deployment of the two Battalions, was extremely beneficial. The final group departed on Saturday 7 April and Lt James-Roll and Sgt Baxter followed the coach out and prepared for the return leg of the trans-



WO2 Okapskyj waits for the advanced group to pass before instructing the beginners.



WO2 Okapskyj demonstrates his skills. Sgt Roach looks on unimpressed.

Europe extravaganza, arriving in Londonderry on Tuesday 10th.

The conditions for the first two weeks were ideal. The snow was perfect, the sun was shining, and we established a firm and lasting

relationship with the staff of the Red Hot Saloon and the Benji Bar. It snowed on the first two weekends, this was enough to see us through the two weeks but because of an increase in temperature during the third week the conditions decreased in quality, and the snow started to melt.

The sun continued to shine during the week but the rain came at the weekends. The conditions didn't decrease significantly enough to affect the skiing too much. A drop in temperature arrived just in time to save the slopes from turning to slush and the final week and a half again provided superb conditions.

Reports from those who took part showed that everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves, both on and off piste. International relations were built up with the local population and they are looking forward to having us back next year. All those who took part achieved a standard to pass BSP (A) and a number of personnel have been identified as suitable to go on to JSSI (A). The expedition was an all round success and we look forward to more inter-battalion exercises in the future.



Sgt Roach demonstrates a snow plough.

Exercise Finn Rock Gibraltar Adventurous Training Camp

Lt Gareth Allen writes:

Having spent 18 months in Northern Ireland it was decided that the Battalion deserved a break and Gibraltar, with its many locally available facilities and the affinity that the Rock has with the Regiment, seemed the ideal location. Exercise Finn Rock was based in Devils Tower camp (the home of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment) and comprised two main activities - rock climbing and canoeing. These were both run from No 4 Dock, with the extensive harbour accommodating the canoeists and the rock face in Buffadero Training Centre, providing both experienced and novice climbers with a challenge.

Four instructors drawn from both the Battalion and 160 AYT ran the camp. Over

The Vikings

a period of four weeks 48 soldiers, NCOs and officers made the journey to Gibraltar and were able to spend a week away from Londonderry, improving their climbing and canoeing skills. Time was also set aside for indulging in the many extra curricular activities that Gibraltar has to offer, including deep sea fishing, taxi tours and visiting the ever popular rock apes. Every group was also treated to an exclusive tour of the World War Two tunnel systems, with a knowledgeable guide from the Royal Navy bringing the tunnels to life with stories and facts to feed the imagination.

Canoeing was run by Cpl Delisa and LCpl Norman, who after taking students through an obligatory swimming test and capsize drills, took the brave (and sometimes foolhardy) students from the relative safety of Number 4 Dock into the main commercial harbour. Paddling was fraught with danger - from dodging the dolphin safari boat to avoiding the frequently sighted sharks. Despite these distractions the instructors did a sterling job of improving everyone's skill and backwards seal launches were the flavour of the day after only a short period of time on the water.

Outside scheduled activities, Gibraltar and Spain lay open for exploration and both were taken advantage of. Gibraltar's museums, tours and not forgetting several hundred bars, were embraced with open arms. A taxi ride or brisk walk away were the cultural delights of Spain and these were tapped into, and enjoyed by all who made the journey. LCpl Dewhurst had a difficult battle to fight as the exercise chef, vying for custom against stiff competition from Pizza Hut and Burger King,



Lt Allen begins another epic ascent.

but fortunately it was a battle she won with the outstanding quality of the packed lunches combined with Thursday's 'salad extravaganzas'. The success of an exercise like this can only really be measured by

what those who took part gained. In the case of Exercise Finn Rock, not only was skill and confidence gained in two challenging adventurous training activities, but also the memories taken away from this unique place.



Everyone is shown the quickest way out should that shark get too close for comfort.

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Viking Squash

Capt IM Chance writes:

During the last year the Viking squash team has achieved unparalleled success. The year has seen the development of a large and capable squad. This is down to a number of factors. First, and perhaps most importantly, a wide range of players have had the opportunity to represent the Battalion as a result of the operational cycle. Secondly, the squash courts, although very basic, provide some of the best sporting facilities on camp, and as such provided a real focus for the development of squash within the Battalion.

Throughout the season the core of players has centred around the 'old and bold' such as WO2 Jones, WO2 Gridley, Sgt Woods, Sgt Lenton, Cpl Chamberlain and Cpl Johnson. New representatives have included WO2 Tate, WO2 Buff, CSgts Jewell and Ellis, LCpl Livingstone and Pte Russell.

The team has won the Northern Ireland League and has also achieved the runners-up spot in the Northern Ireland Major Units Championships. Individuals have also achieved some notable results. The NI invitation competition saw Cpl Johnson through to the quarter-final of the super-plate and LCpl Livingstone winning the first round plate. Capt Chance and WO2 Jones were requested to represent the infantry during the NI inter-corps competition, where the infantry battled hard to earn a runners-up trophy. Various players entered the infantry open championships, where a number of players were selected for the infantry squash team.

Within the Battalion, the title of inter-company squash champions went to HQ Company, with D Company finishing as runners-up. The more dangerous title of doubles champions went to WO2 Gridley and CSgt Ellis, with the hot favourites WO2 Jones and Pte Russell finishing a strong last!

Vikings Rugby Union Football Club

Maj JMH Heap writes:

After a mediocre season in 1999-2000 that was constrained by the NI factor and a certain degree of apathy by some of the more experienced players, it was vital to get the 2000/2001 season right. The season could not have got off to a worse start, as the team travelled to Lisburn to play its first NI League match against HQ NI and 15 Sig Squadron.

The word on the street was that they were useless and all we had to do was to turn up and the points were in the bag. So, all we did was turn up, with the intention of using the game as nothing more than a practice game. With attitudes all wrong, and with some players carrying egos that they could not justify, the team got a much-needed wake-up call and somehow managed to turn victory into defeat! It was what was needed, and after much talk, it was time to hit the training pitch on a regular basis with excuses such as 'I'm on operations, I can't make it' being put firmly in the garbage bin.

From here on in, the season, albeit restricted in the number of games played, has flourished and has proved to be highly successful. Having narrowly lost to the R Scots (last year's Army Sevens Champions) 10-6 in the Army Cup, our main effort switched to winning the NI League. This was not going to be an easy task, especially as we had already lost our first league match. That was however to be our first and last league defeat of the season. The match against 1 WFR was its usual punchy aggressive affair that saw the Vikings win 24-14. This was followed up by an excellent win against RAF Aldergrove 8-0, played in atrocious conditions, at the end of which it was impossible to determine the different colour strips as we were all caked in mud. They were so outraged we had won that they did not provide us with showers, a post-

match meal or a post-match bar- nonetheless we had got the points, had a quick hose down at a fire hydrant and returned to Londonderry smiling.

After a recess for Christmas, the league got under way again against the NI CSS Regiment, which saw us win again 58-5. Straight after this, we headed for Antrim to take on 25 Engineer Regiment (last year's NI League and Cup Champions), knowing that a win would put us top of the league and would also show us how far we had come as a squad this season. The game was a memorable one for all the right reasons, and the Vikings came out winners 25-5. Another game was scheduled for seven days later against 1 RGJ, but sadly for us they decided not to turn up for fear of getting a good thrashing. A tribunal board sat, and fortunately for us they decided to award us with three points for a win. We were now firmly on top of the league, played six, won five, with only three games to play.

We were not banking on foot and mouth however, and suddenly, with the Battalion team rampant, all fixtures came to a grinding halt. The season should have been completed by the end of April - however, it was agreed to extend it to the end of May to enable the remaining fixtures to be played.

With the Vikings out of Londonderry by the start of May, at the time of writing this, winning or losing the NI League is now out of our hands.

Whatever the final outcome, which hopefully will see the Viking RUFC crowned Champions of NI, the season has proved to be a very successful one, and could have been even more successful had we adopted the right attitude right from the very first match of the season. We certainly shall not do the same this forthcoming season, and rest assured that as soon as the Vikings return from BATUS at the start of October, the squad will be ready to have a successful Army Cup run.



The HQ Company rugby team - inter-company 10s competition. November 2000.

2nd Battalion - The Poachers



WO2 Bredin, Maj Nick Nottingham and Maj Nigel Frasier.

The Commanding Officer writes:

Another six months has passed and the Poachers have been as busy as ever. Our period that started as the Belfast Roulement Battalion and is now known as NIBAT 3 ended in mid-May with D (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company, in particular, having put in a very strong performance manning the Operation Faction observation towers across Belfast. For the remainder of the Battalion, this has been a frustrating time with plenty of changes of notice to move but nothing more than five multiples at a time being based in Northern Ireland and the later part of the period being heavily disrupted by foot and mouth restrictions.

We have, however, been lucky enough to get most of our young soldiers across the water and everyone who has deployed has had the experience of working for either Greenjacket or Argyll and Sutherland Highlander companies, which is no bad thing at all. In the middle of our standby period we ran a very realistic and demanding period of public order revision training, which should set us in good stead for our role this summer as Public Order Battalion 1 for the traditional Northern Ireland marching season.

The fragmented nature of the year has meant that it has been difficult to do much sport and it is with considerable regret that I have to report that we were losing semi-finalists for the second year running in the Army Novice Grade 3 Boxing Championships. Sadly we also fell at the same hurdle in the infantry soccer cup.

Looking ahead, once we pass mid-July, we will be set on retraining in our primary role, especially for the support platoons that have been out of role for a year now. For the

Recce Platoon, this should mean a cadre in Belize and for the others, local training, provided the Army Training Estate is available after the foot and mouth epidemic. Belize beckons in early 2002 and we have expeditions going to Peru, Argentina and Corsica. The QM is already searching out a new boxing squad and we have young and enthusiastic rugby and soccer teams so, as ever, excitement and variety remain top priorities.

Before offering you a healthy selection of snapshots from Battalion life, I would like to offer my personal thanks to everyone involved in the retention battle which has been a major success story in the past six months; keep up the good work! I would also like to offer my congratulations to WO2 Rich Bredin for being awarded a QCVS and Majs Nick Nottingham and Nigel Frasier RAMC for earning Joint Commanders' Commendations for their outstanding performances in Sierra Leone last summer.

The Last Six Months in the Poachers

Capt NJ Haden writes:

The main effort over the last six months has been the Battalion's commitment to Northern Ireland. This has taken the form of having D (Sp) Company deployed in the province carrying out the OP Faction role in West Belfast while the remainder of the Battalion has remained in England as a rear-based Belfast Roulement Battalion. D (Sp) Company deployed to Belfast in mid-November and returned to the mainland in mid-May. The remainder of the Battalion was on call as the BRB, then NIBAT 3, for

the same time but had the advantage of being rear based, with the exception of two multiples which were attached to the Royal Green Jackets, then the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and based in West Belfast.

Being rear based has allowed the Battalion to continue with training throughout the period of commitment. Companies have been training all over the country, both as RAAT troops and when conducting their own training. The majority of the RAAT tasks have involved assisting other units prepare for Northern Ireland, either by supplying Civpop or range staff, which has provided some good training opportunities and quite a lot of enjoyment. The Battalion has also been able to run a series of internal cadres throughout the period, most noticeably a PNCO Cadre and a pre-SCBC cadre (both cadres managed to escape the worst of the foot and mouth epidemic) the Signals Platoon has also managed to run a number of RRU cadres, which has allowed the Battalion to qualify numerous new signallers.

The Battalion has conducted a series of significant recruiting activities. The Drums Platoon has managed to put on a number of displays around the country, including the Lincoln Christmas Market and during a Leicester Rugby Club match, while fulfilling their role as a rifle platoon by spending two months in Northern Ireland with the RGJ. The Battalion has also mounted a series of KAPE tours in our recruiting areas, the most notable of these was one mounted by C Company in March which got quarantined to Yardley Chase training area at the beginning of the foot and mouth outbreak.

On the sporting front the Battalion boxing

The Poachers

team performed well in the Army Grade 3 Boxing Competition at the beginning of the year before unfortunately losing to the Irish Guards in the semi-finals and the football team performed extremely well in the Infantry Cup. The rugby team has still not managed to beat Chepstow Town but is confident that it will eventually do so.

Finally, thanks to Gen Akehurst for personally presenting, on behalf of the Regimental Associations, a quantity of beer for our soldiers, both here in Chepstow and in Belfast, to enhance our Christmas celebrations.

Christmas and New Year in the Province

WO2 R Dunn writes:

What do you do with a company of Poachers, missing all the delights of the festive season while in North and west Belfast? As CSM of OP Faction (W), this was my question to answer.

Located alongside A Company 1 RGJ, we decided that a well-organised and special period of festivity would be better than nothing. As a result, the cogs of planning started in motion. The subsequent plan was to visit all OP Faction (W) and Intelligence Cell locations that the Poachers occupied in north and west Belfast. A whirlwind of happiness and joy started to move towards them.

Christmas Day arrived very early, as a trip to Divis Tower was first on the visit list. Dressed in patrol kit, with a new style red and pointy beret, we approached the tower. God help us if an incident had occurred as the media would surely have had a field day. After infiltrating the remote hideout and thinking, 'Oh my God, it's early o'clock,' we delivered the traditional gunfire to the troops. Poachers caught asleep received a shock wake-up call as the powerful gunfire penetrated their cores. With thousands of hairs left on their chests, and the complete inability to sleep, we decided to wish them all a merry Christmas and move on. The tea urn needed emptying!

On arrival at our last location, (Woodbourne RUC Station), we were pleasantly greeted by a Cypriot chef, aka Sgt Curtis. Using his Continental charm, he decided to host us throughout our stay. Cooking and entertainment was on the menu in large amounts.

After a filling time in Woodbourne, we made a speedy return to Girdwood Camp. The annual duty of presenting food, or should I say ammunition, was upon us. The attack inevitably took place and we all got a bit!

After the mammoth clean up, it was our turn for a well-deserved lunch and an afternoon snooze. However, the snoozing took place during a traditional film as normal.

Christmas over, it was now time to focus on the New Year celebrations. This was orchestrated to ensure that all Poachers, less those on duty, became involved. All personnel met in the gymnasium at 7pm and

were subsequently grouped off in teams of four. After cruelly being tasked to arrive with various spurious items, such as ironing board and helmets, we told them to ditch the insignificant joke items and prepare for more fun!

Teams then disappeared in various directions to start a circuit of festive capers run by the officers and SNCOs. In order to enthuse interest and competitiveness, the various competitions were made wild and wacky. Pizza making stands and a simulated Formula One driving game brought out a number of hidden talents, and shortcomings. Trying to complete a 1,000-piece jigsaw with wire cutter gloves on was especially challenging. At 11pm, everyone moved into the small camp Naafi. Three members of the RGJ formed a band. Various instruments and microphones were utilised to play a variety of familiar tunes while we waited for the chimes of the New Year. After welcoming the resounding strikes of Big Ben, the competition pizzas were produced and a midnight feast occurred. They were very good, I might add. Not wanting to forget the Sanger soldiers, the officers and SNCOs went on a sentry round robin trip. Greetings were passed on to the lonely souls as the enjoyable entry to 2001 continued.

39 Inf Bde SAAM

Capt FA Ralph MBE, Battalion Shooting Officer, writes:

I was asked if I would like to enter into the 39 Inf Bde Skill at Arms Meeting in Northern Ireland over the period 23-26 February 2001. Being a keen shootist and seeing a possible month away from the in-tray, I leapt at the

chance, the only problems I could see were minor such as:

- The competition was only three weeks away!
- Identifying 15 other willing, available, and decent shots from within the Battalion!
- Scrounge some last minute ranges and ammunition.
- Identify the competition shoots and learn them!
- Book flights and transport (luckily I was the UEO and MTO as well).

Getting hold of some soldiers who could shoot was always going to be difficult, not just because they were in short supply, but more likely because of the myriad of tasks which befall a 'non-operational battalion' within 160 (Wales) Bde!

The first time I had a chance to look at 'the team' was on C Range at Bulford on a very cold, wet and windy 12 February 2001, and to make matters worse, it was a Monday. I started with the Roupell Cup, which is a good shoot to identify an individual's talent! The results were predictably poor to say the least. However in every negative there is a positive so I'm told ... and this occasion proved to be no different in that we could not get any worse!

At this point I resigned myself to not being able to win the competition, and decided that we were not going to embarrass ourselves or the Battalion, and therefore would simply have to work every hour god sends to practise, practise and practise some more.

We spent the rest of the week travelling between Moor Ranges at Caerwent and Bulford Ranges using every possible minute of range time, shooting. When it was too



Royal Anglian shooting team - 39 Inf Bde SAAM. 26 February 2001. Back: Pte Mastin, Cfn Chaddock, Capt Ralph and LCpl Felstead. Front: LCpl Brockelsby, Cpls Collins and Kirk and Pte Turner.

The Poachers

foggy to shoot (which was almost every day) we pretended ... I am not joking!

The younger lads like Ptes Tina Turner, Trigger Martin and Chad Chaddock took a while relating to this alternate method.

By the end of the week I had to make the decision to either enter two teams, which would have almost certainly meant that one team was doomed to come last, or load one team and go for gold. With some encouragement from BHQ I opted for the latter choice.

The team selected was: Capt Ralph (team captain), Cpl Collins (A Company), Cpl Kirk (C Company), LCpl Felstead (HQ Company), LCpl Brockelsby (LSW, A Company), Pte Turner (LSW, A Company), Pte Martin (B Company), Cfn Caddock (HQ Company, Young Soldier), Pte Jennings (HQ Company, reserve), Pte Parsons (HQ Company, reserve).

We set off for the Ballykinler Training Centre (BTC) on 19 February 2001 for another week's training, it was clear from the outset that our luck was starting to change, not only was the weather kind to us, but also the level of support offered to us improved immensely, so a big thank-you to D(SP) Company OP Faction, HQ Company 3 RIR and the BTC range staff for providing everything at the last minute. The shoots were at last sinking in to the grey matter as everyone's scores started to improve (some believed this was due to the nightly briefings held in the bar).

On to the competition which was staged in two parts, with the first part being fired over the weekend of 23/24 February for the 6 RIR part-time companies, and the second part being held over 25/26 February for the remaining 14 Regular companies. Listening to the grapevine gave us a strong indication that it would be a runaway for C Company 7 RIR, which has won for the past seven years. We were ranked as virtual non-starters (respectfully of course) and decided that this was the best possible position to be in as no-one put any undue pressure onto us.

We started poorly with our first two shoots, namely the Roupell Cup and the pistol shoot (the pistol was our weakest link). We were facing the prospect of total humiliation, and

with only six shoots remaining there was no time to waste. To say the team's performance went from strength to strength was an understatement, needless to say we went on to gain a creditable overall third place, winning the falling plate competition outright with a fine performance from Cpl Collins and his team, (it would have been a Poacher final had LCpl Felstead's firing pin not broken! as well as a joint first in the fire team assessment and being placed second or third in the remaining four other shoots.

Predictably C Company 7 RIR went on to win the competition overall, not before being given a scare from the rank outsiders HQ Company 2 R Anglian. The team enjoyed the experience and all agreed that their standard of shooting had improved immeasurably. **Watch out, we will be back!**

C Company Civil Servants Visit 21 February 2001

In early January C Company was tasked to organise a civil servants' familiarisation visit. The aim was to give a flavour of military life to 40 civil servants, all of whom worked in the MoD. The one limitation was to avoid damaging any of them. A programme was drawn up by Maj Leslie, OC C Company, which was to give them a 'hands on' feel for some representative tasks an infantryman might undertake. This was loosely based around conventional and Northern Ireland ITDs.

After what seemed days of co-ordination conferences and rehearsals, the final day had arrived. At 1000hrs the civil servants arrived and as usual the 'one size fits all' coveralls didn't actually fit anyone. So there they were, ready to take on the day's activities, drinking coffee and talking nervously. After a quick brief they were moved outside where WO2 Adie, (CSM C Company) took them to the Battalion parade square and gave them their first taste of military life ... drill. After ten minutes they were broken and ready for the day's main events. Off they went; one group to the Fibua house, one group to the 30m range, one to Public Order stand and the last group to the assault course. The day was a series of 'round robin' stands with a range



Cpl Mackness instructing the civil servants as to the finer points of the 9mm pistol.

stew, (which was actually quite nice) for lunch before finishing in the Officers' Mess for tea, tall stories and a look at the medals.

At the public order stand the civil servants were shown the standard equipment that soldiers wear in public order situations, given some of it to 'get the feel' then watch a demonstration. They then were told to watch how a platoon would deal with a public order situation. They watched, laughed and talked as 8 Platoon were petrol bombed and 'potatoed' for 10 minutes. When Endex was called they clapped, little did they know it was their turn next. They were given ten minutes to prepare themselves for what they had just seen, some nervous faces I assure you, and then the bombardment began. The civil servants put in a lot of effort and enjoyed it thoroughly. Only a select few experienced the pain of a potato to the head despite the Civpop trying their best.

On the 30m range the visitors had the



CSM (WO2 Adie) C Company conducting Civil Servants' Drill Practice.

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opportunity to use the different small arms currently used by infantry soldiers. They were given an introduction to all of the weapons from the 9mm to the GPMG, and then told to 'down, test and adjust'. For many there was an initial shock when they had to fire the GPMG as they didn't expect the weight or firepower that it could deliver. There was also the odd shock for the safety staff as rounds started to drift in unexpected directions!

At the Fibua house the visitors were given a display by 9 Platoon attacking a heavily defended house. Again the basic instructional techniques were used; explain, demonstrate, imitate, practice. The civil servants saw a dazzling display with covering fire, smoke, speedy entrance drills and an aggressive fight through.

The last event was the assault course. A test for the infantryman but an even greater hurdle for the civil servants. Once again they were shown how to do the task, and as OC C Company said: 'Let them get a real feel for military training,' ...so they did. They were puffing and panting, sweating and motivating each other and this was before they had even set off! And off they went, over, under, around whatever way they could, but finally they finished. The DS were probably more relieved to see them finish intact than they were. The civil servants put a great deal of effort into this event and seemed to thoroughly enjoy it, (some more than others).

At the end of the day they had a better understanding of not only military equipment and life but more importantly the various demands placed on an infantry soldier. For all involved, both military and civilian, it had been an enlightening experience.

Operation Faction (West) Tour D (Support - Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company

Capt CD Davies writes:

Across the urban metropolis of Belfast is a constantly developing organisation, spreading operational gossip about their neighbours and exposing unusual activity. Poacher focus adjusts 24 hours a day, producing a current intelligence picture of infinite resolution. The quick speed of camera shutters is shared only by the isolated fast tongued triggerers, eager to report the most accurate and timely information. Hands and eyes poised ready for battle, sudden actions are shot like stray deer within the Poachers' sights. There is no room for error in the fluid world of Operation Faction.

The operation centres around overt observation tasks in Belfast with the Poachers providing a headquarter element, various observation posts and a centralised monitoring suite, which utilises a number of remote cameras. Poacher Intelligence Cells work in conjunction with the Operation Faction locations. Helicopters have been employed on numerous occasions by all ranks and Poachers have become proficient at taking and using air photography.



Poachers prepare to visit Divis Op on Easter Sunday. From left: Capt Smith, Capt Davies, Bunny, Maj O'Driscoll, CSM Dunn and A Jock!



CO presents departing Int PI Soldiers with medals in Girdwood.

Opportunities to participate in patrols in North Belfast with the Resident Patrols Company have also been plentiful. In many ways, the Operation Faction tour has allowed the company to exploit a varied and interesting range of external assets.

Pre-deployment training was both varied and interesting. Many soldiers learned new skills and had challenging experiences. Some soldiers spent a week in the cookhouse learning how to cook while others experienced the subsequent sickness. Personnel also attended photographic courses, live exercises and surveillance cadres, while the Intelligence Platoon had its brains fried. Every man within the company learned something new and had the opportunity to employ these skills in province. The climax of the training period was shared with the remainder of the

battalion during the three-week CPTA package. Lydd Camp greeted the Poachers with open arms, emitting all the rain, cold and wind available from the English Channel - no changes there! Military training was also conducted throughout the tour. Poachers received instruction on, among other things, the identification and use of a range of foreign weapons. Photography skills also had to be maintained - each week the search continued for the 'perfect picture'. From long distances with poor weather, a focused picture was often hard to capture.

After a few days saying farewell to loved ones, Support Company slowly trickled into Province. Prior to sailing over the horizon on two months' leave, 40 Commando RM conducted an excellent handover. They left us in no doubt as to our operational responsibilities.

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The detail of establishing ourselves as resident company began. Isolated from the remainder of the Poachers (rear-based in Chepstow), Support Company commenced the 'greeting process'. Numerous introductions, meetings and briefs, resulted in us quickly weaving a web of varied contacts.

As the momentum of the tour gathered, so did the operational capabilities. A number of initiatives were introduced to try to improve operational capability, which also helped to break the inevitable lack of variety on such a tour. The maintenance of the troops' morale, and sanity, was a high priority. Various 'extra curricular activities' (ECA) were organised for the troops such as go-karting, clay pigeon shooting, parachuting and hiking. Readers should sympathise with those Poachers operating from within Divis Tower OP, who spent six months cooped up like chickens. Apart from the occasional postcard, the slightly bizarre lifestyle and mental condition they developed remained well hidden. Six months in Belfast disappeared surprisingly quickly. Fortnightly commanders' study days and leave changeover dates became a means by which to mark the passing of time.

Support Company now prepares to refocus its attention on returning to our traditional role and combating core skill fade caused by our six-month sojourn in Northern Ireland. The company, although pleased to be returning to our main role, has undoubtedly gained from its 'non-traditional' experience.

Poachers Tactics Cadre 19 February - 9 March 2001

Capt Nat Haden writes:

In theory it was going to be a normal, run of the mill pre-SCBC Cadre. Extensive areas of Sennybridge Training Area had been booked, navigation exercises had been planned and ranges had been reconnoitred. The cadre started well with all the students turning up on time with the right equipment, the classrooms were all open and the instructors had prepared some very interesting lessons. In fact, the whole first week of the cadre passed without incident and everything was running well until the end of the first week, when the spectre of foot and mouth disease raised its ugly and blistered head for the first time.

The problem was not the disease itself (although there were several documented cases of soldiers in the Battalion reporting sick claiming that they were suffering from the symptoms) but that a ban was put on the Army using its training areas. It is occasionally possible to divert a lesson into a classroom, but this would not have been feasible for a series of live firing section attacks and so the course was faced with a large problem. The normal course of action would have been to have cancelled the course, but at the time it was thought that the outbreak would only continue for a few months, this would have meant that the April

SCBC would have gone ahead and so we had to select and train our nominations. After several conferences and a massive burst of enthusiasm from Sgt Phillips and Sgt Dyson it was decided that the course would be re-written so the tactics could be taught and tested in the areas that were still available to us.

This meant that the remainder of the tactics cadre was conducted in camp, the married quarters, underneath the Severn bridge and in a small area of woodland and scrub that was roughly the size of four football pitches (although this increased at low tide). In this new training area we improvised to try to recreate the facilities that we lost. Recce patrols were carried out on the Officers' Mess, the local pub and a few other buildings. An ambush was conducted in the area approaching the Families Office. Section attacks were carried out on the Severn beach and orders were regularly given in a small strip-wood behind the married quarters. The final attack consisted of a night-time infiltration that took the course round the back of the Commanding Officer's and Quartermaster's houses, up a cliff by the front gate, round and through the perimeter fence of Beachley Barracks and into the MT, before conducting an assault on two buildings by the training wing.

Despite the limitations all the students benefited from the course and it was surprising how much could be achieved in the area around camp, but one thing that the current epidemic has demonstrated is how useful a training asset Sennybridge is. I can honestly say that I never thought that I would miss it.

Army Inter-Unit Grade 3 Novice Boxing Competition 2000/2001

Maj AE Todd writes:

The Poachers planned returned to the Army Inter-Unit Grade 3 Novice Boxing Competition was some what dented when the inter-company competition, the basis from which the Battalion team is selected, was cancelled due to the short notice deployment to Sierra Leone.

The team being eventually selected from proven warriors, from past seasons, and volunteers. The first 'fight' of the season was with the Battalion medical officer and revolved around the medical rules for boxing, which seemed to be tightening up on an almost daily basis. It was touch and go as to whether or not we would have medical cover to fight. Unfortunately, after a clean contest, seven of those selected for boxing failed the pre-season medical, leaving a smaller, but medically fitter team, to continue.

After a gruelling seven-week build-up, under the watchful eye of the RQMS(T), Sgt Farrell and myself the first fight of the season was held on 13 December at Swinton Barracks against 22 Engr Regt. After the Engr bantamweight failed to make the weight Pte Fox (B Company) was awarded a



Cpl Sheerin, lightweight.

walkover. The first action of the evening was Pte Mason (D Company), at featherweight, who stopped his opponent in the first round. With the standard set, LCpl Palmas (D (Sp) Company) and Pte Riley (B Company) also managed to stop their respective opponents. At the break the Poachers were four fights to the good and the team's confidence was soaring.

After the break, the wrestling trend continued with, at lightmiddle Cpl Smart (B Company), middleweight LCpl Whitfield (HQ Company RLC), lightheavy Cpl Taylor (D Company), heavyweight LCpl Turnell (A Company) and finally LCpl Scott (C Company) all stopping their opponents in the first round. After a three-season absence the Poachers were back with a 9-0 win.

After an extended Christmas break the team reformed on 2 January 2001 ready to start training for the quarter-final match against the 1st Battalion the Grenadier Guards which was to be held on 23 January in Chepstow. Yet again our opponents were unable to produce a bantamweight so LCpl Hume (B Company) started the night with another walkover. Next, at featherweight, Pte Mason once again stopped his opponent with some heavy left hooks. At lightweight Cpl Sheerin (A Company), who stepped in as a late replacement, lost to a narrow points decision after three hard fought rounds. Next up at lightwelter, LCpl Scott, produced a combination of boxing skills, aggression and power to stop a good opponent in the second round.

At light middleweight LCpl Hardy proved to be too clever for his opponent stopping him with some good combinations. LCpl Whitfield, at middleweight, stopped his opponent with a devastating first round performance. Next, at lightheavy, Cpl Taylor lost in an explosive three-round bout, during which both boxers showed power, aggression, and determination. Cpl David

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produced a good boxing performance to outpoint his opponent with ease. The final fight of the night was Cpl Smart who produced a good boxing performance to wear down his opponent eventually stopping his opponent in the second to secure the Poachers a 7-2 win.

After a long weekend the team formed up once more to prepare for the Army semi-finals against the Irish Guards in Germany on 16 February. For the first time this season the opening fight was at bantamweight with both LCpl Hume and Gdsm Storey producing an all-action opening bout with a combination of boxing skills, aggression and determination.

LCpl Hume being eventually edged out by a very close majority decision. LCpl Hume was later awarded best loser. At featherweight Pte Mason, forced to go three rounds for the first time this season, was out-pointed by Gdsm Lewis in a toe-to-toe hard-fought contest. Next in at lightweight Cpl Sheerin produced a quality all-round performance to out-box Gdsm Perry with clever movement and defensive skills to win by a unanimous decision. Before the break LCpl Parkinson out-pointed LCpl Scott in a hard-fought contest.

After the interval LCpl Hardy and Gdsm Grant produced an interesting bout of boxing skills, both boxers giving 100 per cent determination throughout the first two rounds the referee stopped the contest early in the third round with a decision which went against LCpl Hardy.

Next at middleweight the ever-dependable LCpl Whitfield once again produced an excellent boxing performance over three



LCpl Hardy vs Irish Guards.

hard-fought rounds to beat Gdsm McLean comfortably on points.

Cpl Taylor was stopped from boxing one hour before the start of the bouts at lighthweight so LCpl Turnell stepped in as his late replacement. In an explosive two rounds, during which both boxers showed power, aggression, and determination, LCpl Turnell was stopped by a powerful combination. Next in at heavyweight, Cpl David produced the boxing performance of his life combining the power of a heavyweight with the footwork of a lightweight, with aggression

and 100 per cent determination to stop Gdsm Collins in the second round.

The final fight of the night at welterweight was between Cpl Smart and Gdsm Colucci; in an all action toe-to-toe three-round contest both boxers gave 100 per cent. A terrific contest to finish off the evening. The Poachers Lost 6 - 3.

The Poachers boxing crusade of 2000/2001 was ended at the semi-final stages for the second year running. Next year we hope to go one better and win the team title for the elusive fourth time!



The Battalion boxing squad with RSM, Commanding Officer, Quartermaster and Adjutant.

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Exercise Rype Surge

Capt CBK Barry writes:

Exercise Rype Surge was 2 R Anglian's public order (PO) training in preparation for the 2001 Easter marching season in Northern Ireland, which was run at Rype Village at Lydd. It followed the attendance of a number of instructors from the Battalion at the Headquarters Northern Ireland PO 'Train the Trainer' period held at Ballykinler in January 2001. The aim of Exercise Rype Surge was to revise individual multiple and company-level PO skills and techniques for A, B and C Companies. At this stage D(Sp) Company was still deployed in province on Operation Faktion.

The Training Team was formed from the Battalion instructors, WO2 Brown, WO2 Bredin and Sgt Lawrence reinforced by Constable Davie Oliver of the Northern Ireland police service, who is normally attached to their Ops/Trg Cell. Early planning involved considerable assistance from OPTAG (K), formerly NITAT and in particular the Urban Training Wing. All ranks were particularly helpful although introductions were undoubtedly helped by having two well-placed Royal Anglians within OPTAG(K) in Lt Col Richard Kemp MBE, the Commandant, and Maj Dennis Vincent, one of the Unit Training Advisors.

Planning centred on incorporating the latest



Sgt Lewis and Civpop from C Company on Exercise Rype Surge.

teaching into the revision of existing tactics, which have come about as a result of the revision of police numbers in province. This has forced the Army to take a much more flexible approach to PO operations. Also, the training team was keen to develop existing guidance, and expand on the current restriction, on health and safety in order to produce more realistic training. This was achieved, in conjunction with the Lydd range staff, by factoring in extra levels of safety

cover to meet the increased risk and this greatly enhanced the training value of the riots.

The format of the exercise became a generic 24-hour package repeated three times (once for each company). It included lessons on arrest and restraint, petrol inoculation and ROE on all in-service PO control equipment.

Con Oliver also took Pls through 'practical' unarmed combat proving the adage that it takes a thug to stop one. Multiples and companies were revised in crowd containment, a familiar military task in NI, and taught crowd dispersal techniques, both with and without vehicles. All of the training was then validated in a night riot, with the Civpop being found from the bulk of the remaining two companies. This gave the exercising company quite a challenging crowd to deal with, particularly during the containment phase, where they received an intense bombardment of petrol bombs, and during the subsequent clearance phase.



WO2 Bredin demonstrating 'arrest and restraint' techniques.

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Regimental Skiing Camp - A Poacher Perspective

Lt RH Newmarch writes:

As you will probably read elsewhere in this journal, this year the Regiment, led by the Vikings, organised a six-week-long skiing camp in Les Arcs, France. This adventure training package took place between February and March 2001.

During these six weeks 72 members of the Poachers, along with a similar number from the Vikings, were able to escape the frantic pace of life that is Chepstow. The six-week block was broken down into six separated weeks with 12 soldiers from each battalion taking part each week. After enduring the 16-hour journey to reach the resort we met our hosts who would be our ambassadors to the local slopes and bars, including Lt David James Roll and WO2 'Ski', who would lead us like true ski resort hosts. They took us to the local bars and restaurants that in turn looked after us.

As the organiser of the event for the Poachers I thought that I should test the final product. These are the events that stick out in my memory from the week. The first day was 'test' day. The instructors took us to the slopes on a bright and warm morning and watched us all ski. After seeing those that fell, and those that fell at speed, we were split into ability groups for the instructional periods that would follow. The beginners went with 'Ski' and the rest went to Sgt 'Ian' Roach. Off we went 'downhill' at speed, only stopping to wait for those that had disappeared in a bank of snow. Unfortunately, as our skiing improved the weather didn't, and by the middle of the afternoon it was solid rain, something we have all got used to in Chepstow. Good old adventure training.

The skiing was extremely good and I think that the resort, Les Arcs, has some of the best slopes in the world. All levels of skier, regardless of their ability, had the their fill of the slopes and the higher we went the harder the slopes became. In addition, after some new snow the 'off piste' was just as good if not better. The skiing was outstanding and for all of those that rose each morning there were new and exciting challenges.

After skiing and a short nap the party went to the local bars and conversed with the locals before returning to the accommodation for a few minutes' sleep before we were back on the slopes again.

The first night was the shape of things to come on the social side of life. Each night brought its own special event; Wednesday was a night ski, the best event of the week. Other nights included fancy dress events when some people pulled out the essential toga, suitable for all events.

At the end of the week all participants were sad to go, as the skiing was great and the nightlife just as good, but as usual the wallet had been cleaned out and the legs were in too much pain from the non-stop skiing. This is a great event in the Regimental calendar



An airborne Poacher.

and if there is a chance to do it next year the pain and heartbreak of organising it is worth it. I would recommend this fantastic opportunity to all. Finally, many thanks must go to the Vikings who kicked off the

expedition in the first instance. From my perspective the majority of the hard work had already been completed by the time my job came around to fill the Poacher slots within the regimental programme.

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Faction Extraction

Capt CD Davies writes:

During yet another cold winter's day in Belfast, visions of completing our Operation Faction six-month tour were but a blip in the distance. While enjoying one of Maj Des O'Driscoll's specialist coffees, the idea of running home at the end of the tour wafted out during conversation.

To run back to Chepstow would signify the culmination of thousands of hours observing and provide an end-of-tour focus for willing volunteers.

The chosen 250-mile route transited through a number of counties, weaving between Belfast, Liverpool, Leicester, Northampton and Chepstow. After weeks of being cooped up like contained animals, a small number of Poachers would have the opportunity to run free.

The idea was conceived and cemented in the very same sentence - the planning had now begun. The run also provided an opportunity to raise money for charitable and worthwhile causes. Consequently, The Army Benevolent Fund and Rugby Union's Wooden Spoon Society were selected as suitable benefactors.

Soon the training of a 15-man team, selection of fundraising methods and co-ordination of the event began to sprint in unison. Maj O'Driscoll and CSgt Morson were placed in charge of the fitness training, which after a number of mini-marathons around RAF Aldergrove, proved revealing and worthwhile. Meanwhile, the exploitation of fundraising methods had begun. A variety of methods were used such as raffling off a giant Easter egg and bucket shaking around a number of bases across the province. However, the most effective method was selling prize raffle tickets, which gave people the opportunity to win fantastic prizes.

Prizes ranged from return British European



CSgt Morson and Cpl Symon head for Belfast docks.

airline tickets to a day rally driving at Silverstone Rally School.

In order to take advantage of the runners' appearances in Poacher recruiting counties, we needed to think big and tie in with a major spectator event. Due to CSgt Morson's passion for rugby, visiting Leicester Tigers during their home game against Northampton on Saturday 5 May 2001 soon came to mind. After liaising with Dean Richards (manager of Leicester Tigers and an ex-England player), the charity event was further heightened with an opportunity to appear during the match.

Prior to departing by ferry from Belfast to Liverpool, two runners completed the first leg from Palace Barracks to Belfast docks. Unfortunately, it was not viable in terms of security to run from Girdwood Camp in North Belfast. However, the ferry provided a good opportunity for the runners to rest and take advantage of two good meals before arriving on Friday morning in Liverpool.

Due to a lack of rooms, cabins designed for four people were pushed to the limit and eventually catered for nine! Batty's socks were appalling! On arrival, the Army Benevolent Fund took photographs before we could get underway. The routine of two soldiers running five miles at a time had begun. Bright skies and open roads had now replaced the poor weather and confined conditions of Belfast.

The actual running was completed in front of a support Land Rover, covered in advertising boards and sponsorship names. Our two main sponsors were DHL Worldwide Express and Bowyers Foods. No more pork pies thank you very much! The first phase of the run was from Liverpool to Leicester. After leaving intact from Liverpool, the openness and beauty of the Peak District soon displayed itself. However, the night soon came and tiredness began to set in. At 0300hrs, while changing runners in a pub car park, the team had a taste of northern hospitality. Located in the depths of the hills, a very kind landlady and her daughter decided to invite us all in for a cups of tea and some toast. After gratefully receiving such superb hospitality, we donated a few crates of sausage rolls and savoury eggs to the couple and continued the slog



Capt Davies, Pte Weetman, Pte Freeman and Dmr Towe.



LCpl Tremain and Pte Weetman enter Northamptonshire - only 100 miles to go!

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Op Faction Extraction Run. The team at Leicester Rugby Club with the players and Dean Richards.

towards Leicester. The roads were now being shared with busy milkmen and stragglers from the night before!

I am now a firm believer that even those who live in Leicester do not fully understand the complex traffic system that defeats wary visitors. The Tigers' rugby stadium was eventually discovered, along with the majority of city suburbs, our contribution at the club involved following the Poachers' Drums Platoon around the perimeter of the pitch, minutes prior to kick-off. 10,700 spectators watched the performance and listened to a detailed explanation of who we were and what we were doing. A resounding cheer and applause concluded our appearance as the band and runners marched off. At half time, Ptes Freeman and Weetman (both from Leicester) presented a cheque for £1,200 to the Leicester Rugby club's chairman, Peter Wheeler (ex-England player).

The second half of the run from Leicester to Chepstow was more picturesque and hilly as we entered the beautiful area of the Cotswolds and Gloucestershire. Most of the runners were now becoming tired and a few sore legs began to cause discomfort.

The team's medic, (LCpl Ashley RAMC) soon sorted them out and sent them back to the front line with renewed vigour. Each soldier completed approximately 50 miles during the event.

Our arrival in Chepstow was greeted by a number of families and soldiers cheering us in. The weather had been scorching throughout the event, which made the celebratory bottle of cold Champagne even more welcome. The company raised a total of £2,500 for the two charities.

Participating were: Maj O'Driscoll, Capt Davies, CSgt Morson, Cpl Batty, Cpl Symon, LCpl Broomfield, LCpl Fluery, LCpl Marshall, LCpl Palmas, LCpl Tambling, LCpl Taylor, LCpl Tremain, Pte Dodd, Pte Freeman, Pte Harrison, Pte Weetman.

The Poacher's PNCO Cadre

Capt EJ Belderbos, Cadre Officer, writes:

The end of January 2001 saw in the start of the latest potential JNCO cadre. Recently, because of an increased demand for JNCOs, the Battalion has been running two JNCO cadres a year. The course provides the first promotional opportunity for the soldiers, so for many the course is a substantial hurdle in their careers as infantrymen. For the instructing staff, the cadre is probably one of the most rewarding jobs within Battalion. The cadre itself runs for seven weeks, including the Battalion selection week, however, the pressure is extended for the soldiers who have to attend their own company selection.

This Battalion course acted as a pilot scheme for HQ Infantry who aimed to accredit the course with a NEBS junior management certificate, so the successful

students achieved both promotion and a valuable civilian recognised qualification. Sandwiched between the Battalion selection week and the final parade the programme split into two distinct phases, firstly the in-camp aspects of responsibility and control and secondly the tactical side of leadership, and command and control in the field.

Selection week consisted of basic tests designed to assess the soldiers' potential as leaders and their ability to achieve basic standards of soldiering along the lines of our Individual Training Directives (ITDs). The aim was to finish the week with four sections of soldiers who genuinely wished to earn promotion and had the enthusiasm to succeed. This was a busy week, providing the staff with an excellent first impression of the potential JNCOs. It has to be said the keenness and dedication were better than expected. By the end of this week we had four sections led by Cpls Beardsley (A Company), Morgan (A Company), Penrose



NCO Cadre 1/01 passing off parade with 160 (W) Bde Comd inspecting.

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Pte Budworth - most improved soldier on NCO Cadre 1/01.

(B Company) and Greenhill (C Company). The Navex and two-miler provided the students with a good introduction to the Sennybridge training area. Pte Selby, with more experience than most, was able to show up many of the younger students with his determination and enthusiasm.

The next three weeks were based mainly in camp with an emphasis on teaching the soldiers instructional techniques and broadening their perspective of Army life. Interspersed with the in-camp training were several visits, the first of which was to the Regimental Museum in Duxford, where the students were shown around by Mr George Boss. A visit was made to the 'CATC Battle Group in Warminster where the soldiers were



Pte Butler - racing snake.

introduced to the Warrior infantry fighting vehicle and the Challenger 1 main battle tank; the afternoon was spent in the weapons museum followed by an impromptu introduction to Battlesbury Hill.

As the cadre moved on into Phase Two the students now began to spend a great deal of time in Sennybridge. Live firing, patrolling, section attacks and dealing with the elements - this is what they enjoy and ultimately this is why most joined the infantry, although it is easy to lose sight of this at times. The cadre spent a great deal of time on battle lessons and there was some excellent instruction given by the students. Every student on the course had a distinct strength and many who were poor in one aspect of



Pte Johnson - runner up to best student.

training, excelled in others. The opportunity to instruct provided an ideal way for the students to make their mark.

Exercise Stalingrad provided the opportunity to test the students in a Fibua (fighting in built-up areas) environment. Fibua is ideal as the emphasis is placed on junior commanders, and due to the concentration of activity, it is easy to view several command appointments concurrently. Wol Vessey (a Viking), custodian of Cellini village, was invaluable in providing assistance, advice and most importantly access to his stash of Chorley grenades.

Mention must go to Cpl Williams and his team from the Med Centre who involved



LCpl Cass - winner Top Cadre student.



Mr J Hughes (MOD Manager), LCpl Bonner and Bde Comd - Brig CT Rogers.

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themselves fully with the cadre; they were called upon several times and were immediately on hand. LCpl Bonner, the CO's driver, decided to leap headfirst from the assault course scramble net, with all credit to him he continued to motivate his section while lying in a heap on the ground. Pte Bissell thought he would have a lie down on the final parade, however, he forgot to stand at ease first so this resulted in more business for the medics.

Foot and mouth disease inevitably affected the cadre. With regret the final exercise had to be cancelled. Sgt Lawrence, from the training wing, recently returned from Brecon, suggested we visit Dering Lines for an introduction on defence and the Assault Pioneers, this visit was a great success. Anti-ambush drills under the Severn Bridge, orders lessons and further practice on instruction replaced the final exercise along with extra sessions of drill. Fortunately, the cadre had already completed several other exercises; however, the final exercise would have been a bonus. So the programme had to be adapted, with the commitment and flexibility of CSgt Kyffin and the squad instructors the final week of the cadre remained a constructive and testing few days.

Drill is rarely a favourite pastime, however, the effort and practice was paid for with the final parade which acted as a proud moment for all those passing off the square. CSgt Kyffin had done a first-class job in preparing the cadre for the final test, the pass off parade. Pte Cass was chosen as best student with Pte Johnson as runner-up; Pte Butler was the 'racing snake' so he won fittest student and

Pte Budworth took the prize as most improved soldier with rapturous support from his family and friends.

The success of the cadre is owed to the dedication and continuous enthusiasm shown by all the training team. The squad instructors and everyone who joined the team were fully involved making an extremely rewarding seven weeks.

The Poachers Golf Society Christmas Shoot

Cpl Gelder writes:

The Poachers Golf Society held its first main competition in November since arriving back from the sunny climes of Cyprus to the unpredictable weather in Chepstow.

The competition was held at Dewstow Golf Club, Caerwent with a total of 18 Golf Society members taking part. There were some good rounds of golf played but, as you would expect after such a long period without any practice, there were some not so good ones played too (you know who you are!).

The first of six flights, consisting of Cpl Doherty, Cpl Hedge and Cpl (I don't love myself much) Bradley, teed off at 0900hrs with

the final flight teeing off at 1000hrs. They consisted of Lt Col Wild, CO, WO1 (RSM) Martin, and Pte Marot, HQ Company. The competition was fairly exhaustive and as the day progressed players had to be fed and watered so, as you would expect at any fine, military sporting event there were mince pies (to get everyone in the Christmas spirit) and a few beers.

Overall the competition was a great success and, although not a prizewinner himself, the CO kindly presented the prizes at the end of play.

The competition results were as follows:

Overall Team Winners: Cpl Gelder, HQ Company; Cpl Dyson, HQ Company; Cpl Taylor, D (Sp) Company.

Runners-up: CSgt Hopkins, HQ Company (now CSM A Company); Cpl Beardsley, A Company; Cpl Dogerty, HQ Company.



Cpl Gelder receiving his best gross score trophy from the CO, Lt Col Wild MBE.



The Poachers Golf Society.

The Poachers

C Company Civpop Commitment Rype Village CPTA

14 January - 2 February 2001

Maj PS Leslie writes:

On 14 January C Company returned to Rype Village, Lydd Camp, CPTA. It had only been a couple of months since we had 'deployed' as the Security Forces from Fort Richmond, Rype Village. It was now our turn to play Civpop for 1 QLR who were preparing for their South Armagh tour. We had been fortunate in that we had the opportunity to conduct our recce for this task while going through our own Northern Ireland Training Package in October. The company eagerly looked forward to playing Civpop for three weeks, the prospect of 'civvies', visits to the café and most importantly the opportunity to see another unit and, when tasked, 'wind them up' and test them was too good to miss. Operationally, it would also be a good opportunity to improve our own procedures by observing another unit and subsequently conducting our own training.

On arrival we quickly moved into houses, signed for vehicles and rapidly established 'Sloppy Slats' café. CSgt Slater's eye for detail ensured that the café was realistic to the extent of the smell of overcooked chips served by an increasingly greasy Pte Honeyball in his role as the café owner. Once identities were assumed the exercise began. We as a company provided a 'control' (organised by Lt Russell Newmarch and WO2 (CSM) Adie) that ensured that serials, vehicles and 'players' married up. The Main Events List terrorist serials were controlled by the NITAT DS while we as a company provided a pattern of life ranging from active terrorists through to normal, peaceful civilians. This encompassed a variety of roles ranging from Cpl King as the parish priest through to a very memorable Pte Sasar de Sain as the Rype Village tramp. Stripped of his washing and shaving kit and housed in his cardboard box he looked and smelt convincing!

A variety of roles were played which included plumbers, street cleaners and postmen through to local councillors. C Company soon developed a pattern of life and observed each company as they came through in turn. At the end of each day our observations would be forwarded to the NITAT staff for inclusion on the exercising troops debrief. Lt Adam Wolfe produced a daily *An Phoblacht* that was avidly read by 1 QLR, NITAT DS and Civpop alike. A constant source of amusement was the information many of the soldiers would casually release. This ranged from their own personal details and what kit they carried, through to the time of their next patrol and what they thought of their multiple commander. This was mercilessly published, no doubt, to the personal detriment of many privates and JNCOs within 1 QLR!

In between the 1 QLR company rotations

OC C Company, Maj Paul Leslie, ran a company-level exercise - Exercise Urban Refresher. This allowed the company to develop the skills previously acquired on the NITAT package as well as alter its procedures having benefited from observing 1 QLR's package. The exercise was extremely useful allowing us to conduct serials ranging from minor aggro through to contact drills and public order.

Following Urban Refresher the company took the opportunity to organise a day trip to Calais. This was a welcome break with visits to museums, a local funfair, several bars and a French supermarket all taking place! At the end of the Rype Village phase the company moved back to Chepstow for two days' rest prior to deploying to STANTA for the rural phase of the commitment. This phase followed a similar format to Rype village, however, the majority of the movement took place by car and the incidents were based on a rural scenario.

Civpop proved to be an excellent opportunity for the company. It allowed us to gain a different perspective on Northern Ireland training. It was genuinely enlightening to see another unit conduct its drills (it also made us realise the importance of a disciplined, effective Civpop in developing the correct training lessons). This in turn gave us the opportunity to improve our own procedures. Having seen the effect of ineffectual cordon positions and poor attitude of, conversely, being on the receiving end of fast, aggressive contact drills, was a very worthwhile experience - equal to any lecture. The Civpop commitment also proved to be an excellent training opportunity that was enhanced by the professional and willing help which we received from the NITAT staff. Finally, for all of those involved, three weeks out of uniform while boosting the Company Fund at 'Sloppy Slats' café and the 'Starry Plough' proved to be a real bonus!

Poachers Football

SSgt(SS1) D Evans writes:

In the Battalion's first season back in the UK for two years, the Battalion team decided to enter the Western United Services League, which is a combination of teams from the Army RAF and Civilian Police. All teams are located within the South West and South Wales area, giving convenient travelling time for away fixtures.

The season started well with the Battalion establishing itself as one of the strongest teams in the league, occupying top spot for the majority of the season. Unfortunately, due to the inclement weather and unit commitments the postponement of games became a regular feature. This lack of preparation and non-availability of players cost us dearly in the 2nd round of the Army cup, when we were beaten by 30 Sig Regt 3-1.

However, by mid March there was nearly a full strength squad to select from for the quarter-final of the Infantry Cup against 1 Hldrs. The Hldrs had travelled down to Chepstow from Edinburgh, the day before the game to prepare for the fixture, this obviously paid off when midway through the second half they took the lead. As the game wore on the younger Poachers side was able to wear the opposition down and we scored three goals late into the game (Phillips 2, A Wheatley 1) to deservedly win through to the semis, where the Battalion was drawn at home again to the Royal Scots, from Ballykelly.

The Scots were a well-organised side with one or two talented individuals, unfortunately, the Poachers were unable to repeat the performance from the previous round and were beaten 4-1, conceding two late goals while chasing the game.

The Battalion also missed out on winning the league, finishing runners-up after losing



Spot the ball!

The Poachers

Cpl Taylor, Csgt Limb, Cpl Whitely and Cpl Langford.

to RAF St Athan in a play off.

The Battalion boasts a handful of players who have played at representative level during the season, CSgt Limb, Sgt Phillips and Cpl Foreman all Infantry, Cpl Langford

RLC, SSgt Evans APTC and LCpl Ham women's Army and CS Football.

It is intended that the Battalion kicks-off next season with a pre-season tour/training camp.

It is hoped that new talent can be spotted and that they will join the younger members of the squad (such as Ptes Rawden, Pinkerton and Abbott) and make an impression on the Battalion team.



Pte Wheatley and Cpl Langford.

Have you ever heard of the Army Benevolent Fund?

What is the Army Benevolent Fund?

The Army Benevolent Fund is the Army's Central Charity committed to the welfare of Army and ex-Army personnel and their families. We work in partnership with all Corps and Regimental Benevolent Funds and in co-operation with other service charities in identifying, investigating and, primarily, giving support to eligible individuals in **real need** amongst the Army and ex-Army community.

We aim to bring help to the many cases where State assistance is either inapplicable, inadequate or unable to meet the need at the time it is most required. In a nutshell we are **your** charity.

We provide help in two ways:

Financial support: to individuals through their Corps and Regimental Benevolent Funds. This normally takes the form of a grant to supplement whatever the Corps or Regiment has the resources to provide.

Practical help and advice: through substantial financial grants which we make on behalf of all Corps and Regiments to over 70 other charities. These are organisations who provide for the special needs of soldiers, ex-soldiers and their families.

What do we do?

Here are some examples of the kind of help we have given recently:



John - a serving soldier had an horrific car accident in Germany which resulted in him losing the ability to walk. Sadly he had to be discharged and needed specialist care and help with the purchase of an electric wheelchair. Together the **ABF** and his Regiment were able to help him.

Graham - on exercise with the Territorial Army, suffered a fall and broke his back. The local Council offered him a house suitable for his disability but it badly needed re-decoration and he also needed removal expenses. The **ABF** met the total cost.

Joshua - the son of a serving soldier, has cerebral palsy and needed a special Orthotic Walking Trainer. His father's Regiment and the **ABF** provided the £2500 that was needed.

Susan - the wife of a serving Warrant Officer, has terminal cancer. During the course of her illness walking has become very difficult and climbing stairs impossible. She was confined downstairs until the **ABF** and her husband's Regiment bought her a stair lift.

Margaret - the widow of an ex-soldier is suffering from Alzheimer's Disease. She was unable to look after herself and was moved to a nursing home. After State Benefits, there was still a weekly shortfall of fees. The **ABF** granted her £12 a week, renewable annually for the rest of her life.

Why should you support us?

The Army Benevolent Fund is in direct support of **you** and **your** family. We exist to provide help with any problems that could confront you now and in the future.

But providing that help is costly. Last year we disbursed over **£5 million** to people like John, Graham, Joshua, Margaret and Susan and the need is rising every year that goes by. We must continue to raise funds if we are to be able to carry on giving this much needed help.

All ranks of the Army are brilliant fundraisers. So please remember the **ABF** when raising money for, or giving money to charity.



The Army Benevolent Fund

... in direct support



1st Battalion - The Battlefield Tour Party - Viking Long Boat, Lebissey Wood.



Poachers Drums at Welford Road, Leicester in March - as part of an ongoing recruitment commitment. The event was covered by local press and Sky television.



C Coy EER Age Concern Christmas lunch.



WO2 Kerton at Jebel Rum. Exercise Saffron Sands - EER.



Capt Tim Arnold wondering how far it is to Bassingbourn. See 'On Tour with the Minden Band.'



1st Battalion. Capt Bev Allen on patrol in 3 Bde on a rare sunny day.



1st Battalion. 'It's a hard life!'



E (Chelmsford) Coy GPMG 'dry training'.

Continued to previous page



1st Battalion. Exercise Finn Rock. Pte Carrie Winchurch is given a helping hand under the careful supervision of LCpl Rich Norman.



'In the footsteps of Shackleton.'



Chelmsford Branch. Dedication of ATS plaque at Warley chapel. From left Sgt Bugler from Corps of Drums, King Edward VI School, Chelmsford, Eric Savile, Bill Brown and Les Knight.



2nd Battalion. Exercise Rype Surge.



2nd Battalion. LCpl Hardy vs Irish Guards.



2nd Battalion. Sgt Waghorn gets his Easter gift at RUC Oldpark.

East of England Regiment

Beckingham December 2000

The Regiment welcomed the CGS, Gen Sir Michael Walker GCB CMG ADC Gen, who visited training at Beckingham Ranges in December. The Colonel of the Regiment visited JNCO Battle Exercises before addressing the Regiment and awarding medals and promotions. Unfortunately his visit was slightly extended due to a broken helicopter and LCpl Branch stepped in to become the CGS's driver for the evening, a story he will surely tell to his grandchildren and entire MT Platoon with pride!

On the Saturday night at Beckingham, the soldiers were served their Christmas dinner followed by live entertainment in the camp cinema.

Back to work

After its Christmas break, the Regiment has returned to training and focussed its efforts in two areas; shooting and signals. Under the guidance of Sgt Lamb and former Pompadour CSgt Shand, 50 soldiers were put through their paces on a two-weekend TA Radio Users Cadre in preparation for Exercise Lion's Pride in Cyprus. At the same time, each Company, in eager anticipation of Battalion Skill at Arms Meeting (Battalion SAAM) in March, polished its shooting skills and identified their teams for the big event.

Foot and Mouth strikes!

However, as with the remainder of the Army in the UK, the foot and mouth outbreak severely restricted field training across all five EER rifle companies and confined troops to TA Centres through February, March and April. The annual Battalion SAAM scheduled for 2-4 March was postponed and is unlikely to be revived. With it went the JOTES 1 preparation Company Group level TEWT on farmland next to the Beckingham Ranges and any hope of ensuring that our officers were fine-tuned to pass their promotion exam after Easter. While such restrictions appeared to limit the scope for training, it also demanded more imagination, creativity and originality from our officers and NCOs in order to keep the troops interested and committed. B (Lincoln) Company conducted an Obua training weekend in April where the TA centre was converted into a defended house after Capt Sayers-Pratt purchased two tonnes of sand!

Both B and D Companies were able to practise room clearance and entry drills including blank firing, the Saturday night featured a barbecue and inter-company football match which B Company won 13-4. In particular, the foot and mouth has allowed companies to revisit some of the often neglected basic skills like NBC, signals and CP training.

Throughout the foot and mouth outbreak the Regiment maintained a list of personnel ready to deploy to relieve Regular soldiers at foot and mouth infected sites across the Brigade area. Battalion headquarters was also responsible for the provision of the military liaison officer to the Bury St Edmunds MAFF



CSgt Derbyshire briefs the CGS on his visit to the Battalion at Beckingham. December 2000.



Members of the Grimsby Platoon. Beckingham Christmas Dinner.

(Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) Office covering Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. The Commanding Officer and Training Major conducted regular visits and planning conferences with the local MAFF team to ensure all angles were covered should a case be reported in the

area. Members of E (Chelmsford) Company supported the 13 Regt RLC Ops room in Colchester allowing RLC soldiers some well-earned time off.

Within the restrictions, WO1 (RSM) Abbs and C Company staff organised our second JNCO study weekend on 16-18 March 2001 while at the same time, Maj de Planta ran potential officer and officer cadet training at HQ RLC in Grantham attracting 14 students from 100 Fd Regt, 36 Sig Regt and the EER. His net gets ever larger by the day and now includes five students from 158 Tpt Regt RLC and one from 4 GS Med Regt.

Exercise Snow Captive, the Battalion's annual skiing event in southern Germany took place 17-23 March 2001. Under the leadership of Maj Tolan from E Mids UOTC and Capt Nick Sutherland our OC Recce, 29 officers and other ranks spent a glorious week in Garmisch learning to ski and enjoying the delights of a US Army chalet. The 15-hour minibus journey was tedious but the thrill of learning to ski more than made up for the discomfort. Bookings for next year are already being taken.



Cpl Mee D (Mansfield) Company.

The East of England Regiment



The novice group.

Exercise Snow Captive - It isn't a Holiday!

Lt Chris Panton writes:

As the convoy of two minibuses and a transit van left the gates CL, of BHQ and began the epic journey to Germany for a week's skiing these key words rang in our ears from the final briefing; 'It isn't a holiday' we were reminded. Certainly the journey from Bury St Edmunds to Garmish-Partenkirchen was no picnic at nearly 1,500km and we finally rolled into our destination in southern Bavaria 20 long hours after crossing the LD! Here we were to be hosted and issued kit by our American allies who run a training facility in the town. Our accommodation was a lodge just outside Garmish, the facilities were basic but certainly sufficient for our needs, and we certainly weren't planning to be occupying them for much of the day. However we weren't here to stay in a hotel, there was some serious skiing to do.

Our party of 29 was split down into groups according to our ability and previous experience and introduced to our instructors. The groups varied from those who had competed in the infantry ski championships, to those who could stand up and move, to those who had seen people skiing on TV a couple of times and fancied their chances. I fell into the latter category and along with seven other novices was entrusted into the hands of Bob who had the unenviable task of turning us into accomplished skiers in five days.

The second day held less apprehension for us now, we could stand up and slide down hill, how much more was there to learn? However we held back from giving Bob the rest of the week off and under his expert tuition we practised our personal skills and technique. Bob could only really be likened to Burt Lancaster's 'Curly' in the film City Slickers, except on skis and so laid back as to be horizontal (though he didn't once fall) and he certainly had plenty of knowledge and more importantly patience. I think most

of our English humour was totally lost on him however he soon appreciated that we had plenty of courage (read stupidity) and were eager to push the limits in true infantry tradition. The nursery slopes that had looked suicidal on the first morning now looked tame.

Thus on the third day he took us to the top of the Olympic ski run to test our nerve (read stupidity). At first we collectively told him to go away and make more Bobs, however after a bit of thought we agreed to come back after lunch and give it a go.

Now with confidence and a good level of skill we spent the next few days exploring more of the mountain and polishing our skills leading up to the final downhill race. We had found skiing hard work and our bodies were starting to feel the aches and strains and bruises but all the ex-novices agreed

that we had found a sport that we would definitely come back for more of. Obviously we managed to take time out to see plenty of the German bars and meet the locals and the party on the last night was excellent, however at the end of the week we had definitely achieved our principal aims. Those novices that had never skied before could count themselves as intermediates while those who had skied before had had excellent tuition and could certainly come away improved and no real injuries. All in all the first East of England ski expedition had proved to be a great success. If war breaks about above the snowline anywhere in the world the regiment will be in a good position to send a detachment of hardened alpine troops (though more practice would be nice and we'll need a helicopter to the top). Anyway, roll on next year's expedition!



Cpl Day - B Company.



The whole group - Exercise Snow Captive.

The East of England Regiment

French Connection

Maj de Planta continued his love affair with the French Army by participating in Exercise Guibert 2001, a French multinational Divisional level CPX in the Champagne region. The exercise, run by the French but conducted entirely in English included 2 (South East) Brigade from Shornecliffe, a French Brigade and a German Brigade. It aimed to train a French Divisional headquarters in a high intensity scenario.

Farewells and new faces

We said farewell to Maj Gary Morris, our Adjutant, in December. He served in post so long that he arrived as a junior captain and left as a major!

In his place, from 1 R Anglian, we welcome Capt Mark Powell. We also said farewell to WO2 Jolly who returns to 1 R Anglian and welcome in his place WO2 Eales who joins after a spell at ATR Bassingbourn. Also from 1 R Anglian we welcome Sgt Wildney who arrives to support WO2 Eales at Chelmsford and to take charge of GPMG(SF) training in the company. At the same time Sgt Traves arrives from the Vikings to take charge of mortar training at Norwich on the retirement of WO2 Knights. We also welcome back WO2 Ralph who, on retirement, took up a post as a CCF Instructor at the Lincoln School of Science and Technology and has now joined EER as an instructor with the potential officers and officer cadets. His tour at RMAS as an assistant instructor is already proving invaluable.

The Battalion welcomes two newly commissioned officers; the first fruits of the potential officer and officer cadet training programme started in early 2000. Completing his course in February, 2Lt Shaun McGarry joins B Company in Lincoln as a platoon commander while 2Lt Adrian Coulson takes charge of a platoon at E Company in Chelmsford. If all goes

according to plan, they will be joined by two officer cadets passing out in May and a further two in July. 18 months of hard work from Maj de Planta (so rare!) and WO2 Ralph (as always!) are starting to pay off and the Battalion is rapidly filling all its platoon commander gaps.

We also welcome 2Lt Matt Summers and Capt Guy Martin, who take up posts with A Company in Norwich. Their arrival will most certainly put a large smile on their PSAO's face and extend his life expectancy! It has been a long haul!

Tragedy touched the Battalion in March with the untimely death of SSgt Jimmy Mulligan, our capable and sorely missed REME VM who had recently taken up the post of MTWO and rebadged R Anglian. He ably served 6 R Anglian for four years before transferring to EER on amalgamation. He will be fondly remembered.

Other activities

The officers held a ladies' dinner night on Saturday 10 February and christened the newly refurbished Mess in Bury St Edmunds. Lt Col Nigel Fenn, CO 73 Engr Regt and Maj Adrian Fyfe, DCOS 49 (E) Bde were the principal guests. The Band played beautifully, the officers ate heartily and the eight-lane Scalextric went down well with

the boy racers from E (Essex) Company.

49 (E) Bde ran an interesting Peace Support Operations (PSO) study weekend on 10-11 March attended by five EER officers. The event included excellent briefings from officers with extensive PSO experience and gave our officers the chance to practise the planning of PSOs.

The TA National Day (TANOD) on 31 March saw all five rifle companies and HQ Company open their doors to the public in another sustained effort to recruit both officers and other ranks. Although it is difficult to assess the impact of such events, it was felt to have been worth the effort. For all companies, the initial interest looked promising and it is now down to EER to convert interest into trained soldiers passing out of ITC Catterick and to fill the gaps in company orbats.

The Regiment continues to energetically support the Regular Army. We currently have 12 soldiers serving with Regular units with another six soldiers awaiting mobilisation. We will continue to encourage our soldiers to take their place alongside their Regular counterparts in a concerted effort to play our part in addressing the Army-wide manning shortages. Every little helps and our soldiers return with greater confidence and experience.



Maj Morris has one last sandwich before handing over as Adjutant, Beckingham December 2000.



Pte Turner on FTRS with 2RRF, Newtonhamilton, South Armagh.

The East of England Regiment

Exercise Lion's Pride 01

Our preparations for Exercise Lion's Pride from 9 to 23 June in Cyprus began with a planning recce in late January. The plan for the fortnight is rapidly taking shape and the mix of field training, adventure training, shooting and R and R boat trips promises to make the two weeks most memorable.

At one stage, the exercise was under threat for lack of funds although, thanks to Comd 49 (E) Bde stepping into the breach and agreeing with GOC 4 Div to pay for the aircraft, any thoughts of two weeks in Penhale can now confidently be scrubbed from our memories. We are going! The RAF has now found available aircraft for the main body flights so the Regiment will move through South Cerney on 9 June prior to flying to Cyprus from Brize Norton.

The future continues to look bright for the officers and soldiers of the East of England Regiment and we continue to train with enthusiasm and commitment.

Film Stars

Drum Maj Bradshaw writes:

The Corps of Drums were invited to take part in the filming of *The Four Feathers*. This is a true story of an English officer serving with the fictitious Cambrian Regiment.

On the eve of the Cambrians being deployed to Khartum to relieve Gen Gordon,

he decides to resign his commission. Three of his fellow officers and his wife give him four feathers as a sign of his cowardice, eventually he restores his honour during the course of the film. The Corps of Drums role in the film was to lead the Regiment to their embarkation ship at Greenwich while playing *The British Grenadier* and *The Girl I Left Behind*, the Drums then continued playing as the troops embarked. During one unfortunate incident the Drums put their medical training to the test. Two horses,

complete with carriage, bolted and careered into a crowd of extras lining the route of the march.

The Drums immediately downed instruments and rushed to the scene, in all there were six casualties. One woman was trapped underneath the carriage and needed to be rapidly extracted as the horses were still harnessed to the carriage.

The Drums continued to treat the casualties until Paramedics arrived on the scene and took the injured to hospital.



The Drums in action on the film set.



The Drums pose with the star of 'The Four White Feathers' during a break in filming.

The East of England Regiment

Ripping apart our emotions - Exercise Tiger's Footprint

Capt Ty Smith writes:

Inspired by the Book *Birdsong* - by Sebastian Faulks and a humble payment made on a massive debt owed to our forebears.

*There was nothing but mud and shell holes,
Liquid mud up to your waist.
We could scarcely move the guns,
Even with three limber teams, 18 horses.
The horses were screaming with fear
Because we had to beat them to get them to
move.
The men had to get under the horse's bellies
to force
Them up and out of the mud,
Even to take another step forward*

On a filthy cold wet night at the end of April a team of 15 members of the East of England regiment set forth on Exercise Tiger's Footprint. The aim of the exercise was threefold: Firstly, to march 100 miles in five days through France and Belgium following the route the 4th battalion the Royal Leicestershire Regiment took during 1914 and 1915 in the Great War. Secondly, to raise money by sponsorship for three deserving charities. Thirdly, to raise the profile of our regiment through the media.

After a detailed briefing on Friday evening and a couple of hours snatched sleep we departed Leicester for the port of Dover and our early morning Channel crossing to Calais. We managed to sweet talk the purser to upgrading our breakfast and we all enjoyed a sumptuous meal - the first coup of the exercise. Only the muddy waters of the Channel to cross and I couldn't help thinking how very different it must have been for the brave men whose footprints we were following.

Leg 1 (Sat)

Calais - le Fort Vert - Gravelines - St Georges sur - L'Aa - Craywick and to our finish point at Spycker (South of Dunkerque).

I was conscious not to set too fast a pace on this the first day. What was noticeable was how much more of the French countryside one is able to appreciate being off the beaten track and not being viewed at 80mph or more through a car windscreen. We were making 17-18 minute miles with a stop of 10 minutes at every five miles and a stop of 30 minutes at the 10-mile point. Everyone was in good spirits when we finished this our first day and headed for our hotel at Dunkerque. Not the cold wet trenches our comrades endured. An interesting quote from some of the team members departing a typical French restaurant 'Not eating in there - the menu's in French!'

Leg 2 (Sun)

Spycke - Steene - Crochte - Wormhout - Winnezele Watou.

Everyone's legs are a bit stiff but after the



40 miles completed - 60 to go.

first few miles the pain eases and we continue our trek. At Wormhout the 10 - mile point and our 30-minute lunch stop I was taken by a dodgy looking French 'peasant' to a café whereby we were able to enjoy huge fresh baguettes and strong coffee. It was becoming evident that the usually hostile French were in awe of our adventure and their hospitality was remarkable.

During our final 10 miles this day the sun was beating down and many of the team experienced sunburn and, in some cases, dehydration set in. Our finish point was the French Belgian border village of Watou and the team enjoyed a nice cold drink at the frontier bar.

That night everyone underwent a proper foot inspection by the team medics, the blister count was 33 and rising! An interesting anecdote at our hotel that night was Sgt Hunter had failed to discover that you had to

insert your electronic room card into the slot in the room to activate all the lighting and power, and that he endured only emergency lighting till breakfast!

Leg 3 (Mon)

Watou - Krombeke - Westvletem - Woesten - Brielem

A delayed start this morning; a live radio link was established from my room with Radio Leicester as I explained to listeners how it was going thus far and indeed my thoughts on what was still to be accomplished. We increased the pace today and I began to try and knock out 15-minute miles. After five miles the Commanding Officer and RSM met us and after a short break we were soon on our way again - the CO marching 15 miles and not the 10 miles I thought he would march with us. He rightly earned his exercise polo shirt. I began to



Sgt Hunter in pain!

The East of England Regiment



CSgt Buzzard next to Sgt Bunn's grave.

notice the mood swings of people at different times of the day and it was noticeable how all the team were very quiet on the 15-mile stage after the lunch break.

Ieper (Tuesday)

An important day today, visit as many sights as possible and rehearse for the Last Post ceremony. This was the first opportunity for the team to spend time at the Cloth Hall Museum, visit Hill 60, Sanctuary Wood, and the Menin Gate. I decided I had another aim

to this exercise today.

I have always felt a huge lump in my throat and found it difficult not to shed a tear when I see all the names of the men who made the ultimate sacrifice during this dreadful war. I wanted to see the younger ones within the team display the same emotions, because then a seed would be sown, and in time they would return and perhaps bring their own children; thus preserving the immortal words 'Their Name Liveth For Evermore'. By now the team have got the hang of finding the

cemetery registers book and looking up names. The Last Post Ceremony was a huge fillet and we formed up proudly at the Menin Gate.

I have enjoyed and indeed felt very proud during certain times of my service career but being asked to recite the exhalation at the Last Post Ceremony was an honour I shall cherish for the rest of my life. I was, as you would expect nervous but immensely proud and looking across at the team who were on parade felt a touch of pride at this new



Dud Corner Cemetery - Loos Memorial.

The East of England Regiment



The Menin Gate - leper.

regiment honouring our comrades. The team responded to the crowd and the moment their bearing and drills were excellent. Well done them!

Equally as pleasing was watching the Commanding Officer and the lads talk to members of the crowd after the parade. A new regiment perhaps, but one already on people's lips for the future.

Leg 4 (Wed)

leper - Kemmel - Nieuwkeke - Steenwerck

- Sailly sur-la Lys to 80 mile point at the Australian Monument north of Fromelles.

The CO and RSM took breakfast with us before leaving their best wishes and heading back to the UK. It was huge morale booster to the team having them along for a critical point of the exercise.

The pace increases today, now to 13-15 minute miles. This is a difficult day the last leg will begin tomorrow but 20 miles have to be completed today. Despite swollen feet and much toil the stage has finished and we

are 20 miles from our target.

Leg 5 (Thu)

Fromelles - Aubers - Illies - Violaines - Vermelles Hulluch, Finish Point 'Dud Corner' Loos Memorial.

A 0515hrs start today. And the pace increases again. I'm concerned about one or two of the team - their feet are pretty bad and, after discussions with the medics and wrestling with my own thoughts for their well being, allow them to continue. I am so pleased at the determination displayed by those whose feet are sore. Despite it being the last day it never seems to end, and during the last stage and this the completion of our 100-mile march the storms hits us hard as we see the Loos Memorial, our finish point in sight.

We are now walking over the battlefield of Loos where almost a quarter of a million men lost their lives, many on one night, 13 October 1915. Indeed many of the 46th (TA) Division of which our former regiments served in lost their lives at the Holienzollern Redoubt. There's a sense of achievement, everyone who started has completed the footprint march but also a sombre mood exists within the team. Most gratifying for me is that I have achieved the fourth and perhaps most important aim to exercise Tiger's Footprint.

Loos Memorial (Friday)

The night before I have met Mr and Mrs Chandler at Calais and brought them to the team at Lens. Mr Chandler, who is 86, lost his father at the Battle of Loos on 13 October 1915. He has never seen the memorial at Loos and the final resting-place of his dad. A sad moment for them but one he wouldn't have missed for the world bless him.



Our support and safety vehicles.

The East of England Regiment

We drive them around the battlefield and we give him a piece of coal plucked from the ground close to the objective where his father went over the top to his death. They remain with our party for our final night in France and the return journey to Leicester on Saturday.

We return to Calais passing close to our original starting point, and rightly we celebrate that night before our trolley dash the next day for our duty-free. Our return home is sweet and the blisters will be soon forgotten.

True to TA form many of the team will return to work on Monday share their experiences with friends. To the town hall on Wednesday meet the Lord Mayor and sign the visitors' book. At the time of writing we have raised over £2,000 and Exercise Tiger's Footprint 2 has been scheduled in the FOE for the same period next year.

Anyone who has doubts about the moral and physical courage of the current generation should not worry, they have ample. It was a pleasure to lead, it restores my faith in the younger generation.

A seed of Flanders has been sown and they'll return in time to pay their respects again to their forbears to whom we all owe so very, very much.

*They freely gave their lives and fondest
Hopes for us and our Allies,
That we might learn from them
Courage in peace to spend our lives,
Making a better world for others.*



Mr and Mrs Chandler's farewell.



WO2 Kerton - El Qatrana Training area.

Diary of Exercise Saffron Sands 2000

WO2 Kerton, SPSI A (Norwich)
Company writes:

As any past or present permanent staff instructor attached to a TA unit will tell you, ample opportunities arise for TA members to support Regular units whether it be on operations or exercises.

Due to the ever increasing pressure of upholding civilian employments balanced against holiday entitlement it came as no surprise to me when there was a lack of volunteers from the East of England Regiment to assist 1 KOSB for a five-week period.

'But, another five weeks 'holiday won't make any difference boss' is a hungee, waiting to snap!

Infantry Battalions rotate through Cyprus on two-year tours, 'of which during the second year an overseas live firing exercise entitled Exercise Saffron Sands is conducted.

Last year was 1 KOSB's opportunity. The Commanding Officer's aim was to conduct offensive and defensive operations and associated transitional phases by day and night in harsh conditions over demanding and challenging terrain.

The host nation was Jordan, set in the heart of the Middle East bordering Syria, Israel, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, 85 per cent of territory

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comprises desert, much of which is 2,000-3,000ft above sea level. A shortage of water resources coupled with the hot daytime temperatures and sandstorms certainly make Jordan a harsh environment to train in.

Well, if no members of the East of England Regiment were able to bribe their employer into allowing them five weeks holiday on top of the two weeks in the Costa Del Sol with the wife and kids why am I telling you about Exercise Saffron Sands? I convinced the Adjutant that a representative should be sent and that I would be duty bound to volunteer.

It was however unfortunate that the downside of spending five weeks in temperatures averaging 30-35C meant I was unable to attend annual camp at Senta. Oh well there is always annual camp in 2001!

On Monday 18 September 2000, after a four and a half-hour flight on a RAF TriStar it was time to forward the watch by two hours and deplane into the warmth of a pleasant Mediterranean evening. A far cry from the wind and rain at RAF Brize Norton.

The remainder of the week was a matter of brushing up on some low level skills, such as first aid, weapon training and safety aspects pertinent to the type of live firing which would be conducted in Jordan. Acclimatisation was rounded off quite successfully with a long weekend relaxing on Nissi beach, Ayia Napa.

For those of you who have experienced Cyprus you will surely remember the crystal clear waters, golden sand and outstanding views of Nissi beach!

It was time to say goodbye to Nissi Beach as deployment day was upon us. From RAF Akrotiri a C130 Hercules dropped us direct into the Jordanian desert a stones throw from Camp Laidlaw VC.

El Qatrana training area is based approximately 100km south of Amman, the capital city of Jordan. It is approximately 100km square (almost the size of Wales) and runs all the way to the Syrian border. It is desert throughout with little vegetation, encompassed by a range of low undulating hills and shallow wadis.

The general plan was to rotate company groups through the attack and defence range as well as an adventure training period. Live battle group offensive operations would follow. The PRT was divided between the two ranges and I was tasked to work on the defence range, which was headed up by Maj D Cochran (KOSB). A two-day dry training period for the companies allowed them to sharpen their basic skills and train as a company group.

Training at this level is seldom achieved while in Cyprus due to the fragmentation of the troops to the various fatigue, shark watch and security tasks.

The defence battle run was entitled 'Exercise Jebel Shield' and was three days and three nights long. Objectives included observation post drills, recce, ambush and fighting patrols. The exercise would culminate in a company group defensive



The author with guide and donkey.

battle by night and day, all of which was live.

The exercise incorporated the use of a mixed cocktail of weapon systems including L2 grenades, 81mm/51mm mortars, GPMG light role and SF, 94mm LAW and Milan.

For the majority of the Jocks it was the largest and most realistic live firing exercise they had ever deployed on. All the companies rotated through as planned and many valuable lessons were learned. The use of weapon systems in harsh terrain proved a far cry from a kind environment such as STANTA.

The constant requirement to clean rifles and LSWs and free them from grit was needed to ensure they would fire effectively when required, as was the case with the GPMGs. An improvised weapon cover was the proven method of preventing dirt from entering the working parts particularly during routine in the bottom of the dusty trenches.

Milan was fired at a range of approximately 600m, less than a third of its maximum range of 1,950m.

Any experienced Milan firing post operator will tell you that tracking a missile over a short distance decreases the chance of obtaining impact with the intended target. A dry climate would prove to make the task even more challenging. On firing the missile an over pressure followed by a vacuum was created around the firing post.

As the vacuum filled with air, in doing so, dust was drawn in causing difficulty to visually track the missile. Canvas was used to cover the ground immediately in front and to the rear of the firing post. The trench was also lined with canvas. The canvas was also dampened down prior to firing.

Unfortunately a disappointingly high quantity of rogue missiles within the batch of ammunition played havoc with the Milan Platoon as they attempted to prove their ability throughout the exercise.

Engagement with the 94mm HEAT proved

to be more successful. As long as the target was clearly identifiable, the application of the correct marksmanship principles would ensure a K kill. Engagement was 300-400m and on average, a 50 per cent hit rate was achieved. To be fair, the target size was far less than the surface area of an armoured vehicle.

Soldiers who failed to clean the lenses of the respirator or the goggles prior to firing found it difficult to observe the target clearly. The second problem was the signature given off by the 94mm LAW after firing. A mass of dust and smoke surrounded the firing position. The firer had no idea if he had achieved a hit on target, nor was it viable to fire a second launcher from the same position for some 30-40 seconds after. The difficulties were exaggerated due to the stillness of the air, preventing the dust from clearing. When the huge dust cloud did disperse, it drifted across the assaulting platoon causing difficulty for them in observing and engaging the enemy.

It comes as no surprise, when I say that navigation in the desert is not easy. The first few nights in Jordan proved to be the most challenging for many soldiers.

Those basic skills learned by us all, however ignored at times (often without consequence) were essential in the desert. Trusting the compass, marching on bearings, boxing around obstacles, accurate route cards and reading features being the main ones.

I was loaned a Magellan for Saffron Sands and once confident in its use was able to navigate with it on foot and by vehicle successfully.

A prismatic or Silva compass will not work accurately when surrounded by metal, for example in a vehicle. It is therefore necessary to have a marker walk out on a bearing with a torch and drive to that point on the ground. If there are no visible features to take a bearing onto, then there is no other way. Over a long distance, it's a slow process.

The East of England Regiment

The advantage with using a Magellan in a vehicle over a compass was the fact that there was no requirement to stop and debuss to confirm a bearing. I must admit that I became reliant on the Magellan only because I was confident in its ability, but still maintained a sense of orientation and distance at all times. No one got lost or geographically embarrassed who possessed a Satellite navigation aid!

As the exercise progressed, an increase in the ambience of the moon, an education to the navigational necessities of the desert and awareness of surroundings decreased everyone's chances of having to disturb yet another Bedouin tourist information tent for directions.

As well as conducting range safety, certain members of the PRT were tasked with acting as liaison officers with the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF). Myself and Sgt Lee Wildey (KORBR) were tasked with deploying on a night ambush with the JAF. We were to act as a liaison between them and the KOSB Company, not as safety staff. Surprisingly, the Jordanians do not use any safety staff at all. The ambush site was up in a mountain and the patrol commander decided to drop

off his single 81mm mortar at the base of the feature.

It was only afterwards that myself and Sgt Wildey realised why the mortar section commander asked what the bearing was to the ambush sight when 81mm rounds came whistling up the side of the feature and detonated close above our heads.

We both, without hesitation took cover in a shell scrape while the JAF continued firing from the ambush site.

The majority of the PRT were able to benefit from the full adventure training package set up by the KOSB. One of the most memorable experiences while in Jordan was a visit to the 'Forgotten City of Petra.' In 1812 Burckhardt, a Swiss explorer, became the first European to give account of Petra. His first impression was that of an immense priceless treasure jealously preserved in its rocky coffer.

He had heard people speaking of a mysterious city hidden among impenetrable mountains and during one of his several expeditions in the Arabian desert, in order to justify his search for that forgotten city, he disguised himself as a Muslim (he knew perfect Arabic) wishing to make a sacrifice

on the tomb of the prophet Aaron, which he knew was in that area.

As soon as the narrow Siq gorge opened to reveal its secret, Burckhardt had no further doubts: it was the legendary Petra, capital of the Nabataeans, an Arab population that ruled over the Trans Jordan area before the Roman conquest.

To walk through the Siq gorge, with its immense limestone walls and observe the Treasure of the Pharaoh for the first time was truly awe inspiring. I also managed to climb Jebel Rum, a rock formation formed over five million years ago by the movement of the earth's plates, float in the Dead Sea and snorkel among the unspoilt coral reef of the Red Sea. Who said the Army is all work and no play? (!)

My experiences of Exercise Saffron Sands rank among the highest of my military career so far. The PRT were well hosted by the KOSB while in Cyprus and Jordan. It was an education from a military point of view and a pleasure from an adventure training and sightseeing point of view.

Opportunities to travel do still arise. Whether you are TA or Regular, seize every opportunity that comes your way!



Recruits on RT3 training. Lincoln TAC.

EER Recruit Training

Lt Bob Rogers writes:

Recruit training at the East of England Regiment, within the many restrictions imposed due to foot and mouth disease (FMD), has tested the training team's imagination and flare to produce interesting and productive training. As usual the team's NCOs rose to the challenge and adapted the existing programme to run effectively in TA centres only. The selection weekend in February produced 35 recruits for the RRTT north and similar numbers for the southern

team. The selection weekend was held at Leicester TAC and 32 recruits out of the original 35 progressed on to the first recruit training weekend (RT1). It was then that the RSM phoned me with the news that FMD had closed all of the training areas booked for recruit training.

A quick recce of Lincoln TAC soon solved the problem. Map reading from the roof, BPFA around the football pitch and an ICFT around the cricket pitch, what more did we need! The recruits soon settled into training at the TAC, although after a night under Bashas on the football pitch they have been

warned that life in the field is considerably different. Judging distance is not fully appreciated until you have walked the route ... well, I couldn't let WO2 Bevin walk them off the TAC roof could I!

Throughout this restrictive period all of the team's NCOs have produced outstanding lessons and this has allowed the momentum of recruit selection and training to be maintained. I would also like to thank the permanent staff at Lincoln for their short notice help and facilities.

Who knows? The EER RRTT roadshow could be coming to a venue near you soon!

158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment RLC (V)

The past months have been dominated by the Regiment receiving the Freedom of the City of Peterborough. The honour was presented in a civic ceremony on 25 March at the Guild Hall. 150 members of the Regiment, accompanied by the bands of the Dragoon Guards and of the Royal Anglian Regiment, marched through the city prior to receiving the Freedom from the Mayor of Peterborough.

Dignitaries attending the parade included Lady Victoria Leatham DL (Honorary Colonel of 158 Regiment), Brig Wilson (Comd 49 (EI) Bde), Sir Brian Mawhinney MP and Helen Brinton MP. The parade and the families reception (at Peterborough Football Club) were a great success, vindicating all the hard work and effort put into it.

March also saw 25 soldiers deploying to Canada in the annual exchange with our 'sister' Canadian unit, 23 (Hamilton) Svc Battalion. Much of the time was spent in the field, which meant that the soldiers had to acclimatise to windchill temperatures of -40C.

The soldiers were trained in Arctic warfare, patrolling and the use of Canadian weapons and equipment before participating in a battalion level exercise.

The final few days included a period of R and R, the highlight of which was a visit to Niagara Falls. Everybody who participated in the exchange enjoyed the experience and the Regiment looks forward to welcoming members of 23 (Hamilton) Svc Battalion to England in October of this year. The Battalion will be sending a troop to join 158 Regiment in its formation FTX, Exercise Silver Beaver.

At the same time as the Canadian Deployment, a team was sent to compete in the RLC Ski Championships in Germany. The final results left us as the second placed TA Regiment and Capt McGill as the first placed female TA Alpine Skier.

On a different note, the Regiment was tasked to provide a Brigade liaison team to Lincoln to assist MAFF in the control of foot and mouth disease.



158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment RLC (V) on parade receiving the Freedom of the city of Peterborough.



RLC ski championships in Germany.

Initially, this involved the deployment of the Adjutant and the chief clerk to set up the

command and control nodes and ops cells, all to be operational within 24 hours. The AOR is currently 'clean' but the Regiment will maintain a presence at the HQ until such time as its services are no longer required.

Though TA personnel from this unit have not yet been deployed, it was encouraging to see that a large number of soldiers volunteered to deploy.

During the next six months the Regiment will be preparing for Exercise Silver Beaver. Much depends on the training that can be undertaken within current restrictions but it is hoped that the exercise will prove to be challenging and enjoyable.

On a final note, our RQMS, WO2 S Robinson, has been posted out on promotion. He has now taken up the appointment of RSM of the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment. We wish him and his family every success in his new post. We welcome his replacement, WO2 P Thompson, who has come from the 2nd Battalion.



Arctic warfare training in Canada.

Special Features

On Tour with the Minden Band in the South Atlantic - Impressions of a Retired Officer

Early in 2000, I applied for the vacant post of trainee saxophonist with The Minden Band of the Queen's Division on their forthcoming tour of the South Atlantic. After several auditions and an interview to assess my combat readiness you can imagine my excitement on hearing that I had made the grade. Incarcerated within the confines of HQ Inf the chances of travel to exotic overseas parts are rare and should be seized upon whenever they arise. As you've probably guessed already the author's musical achievement was non-existent and the post of saxophonist was merely a cover story to deceive the flight book-in staff at RAF Brize Norton. Once on board the TriStar, normal identity was resumed in the form of Maj Martin Hicks-Lobbecke, RO3 Queen's Division.

The Minden Band was assigned to perform on 14 June 2000 at the Liberation Day Parade in the capital, Stanley, to commemorate the British Task Force victory in 1982. We set off on Monday 29 May for the 19-hour haul to RAF Mount Pleasant (NWA) via Ascension Island. There is no indigenous population, apart from thousands of turtles, and the operation is run by an RAF wing commander who oversees the activities of US satellite tracking personnel and passenger handling contract workers who service the twice weekly TriStar flights to MPA.

As a logistics base during the 1982 conflict the island formed a vital supply link in a 3,500-mile chain. Incidentally, with its extra long runway it also provides an emergency landing site for the Challenger Space Shuttle. Consisting of bare volcanic ash with little vegetation it appeared as rather a bleak place to spend six months unaccompanied. The only compensation is its balmy, tropical location 10 degrees south of the equator so at least you get to sport a healthy tan on return to Blighty.

After a two-hour refuelling stop the flight continued down to MPA and our home for the next 10 days. HQ British Forces Falklands Islands (HQ BFFI) had arranged a full programme of appearances for the Band which included a Waterloo Dinner Night in the Joint Services Officers' Mess and a concert in the Stanley town hall. With a population of about 1,500, most of Stanley's inhabitants were at the gig and those I managed to chat with were extremely appreciative to hear a military band. In such far flung corners of the Empire (Stanley is the most southerly capital in the world) the morale boosting effect of live military music had to be seen to be believed. It was not always possible to appear as a whole band and so the jazz section flew by helicopter to the isolated radar sites on East Falkland. At one site I chatted to a local sheep farmer and his family who had not been to Stanley in the last six months and the nearest settlement was two hours away by swampy track! Education up to secondary stage is via air waves, akin to the system adopted in the Australian outback. The lifestyle is somewhat different to UK!

Needless to say there was time for some non-musical activity. For those interested in 19th/20th century maritime archaeology the Falklands are a dream come true. The bays and inshore waters are



One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind. Sgt Frank Barrer.



Cpl Steve Allen and LCpl Jim Marshall apply some 'TLC' to the 3 Para Memorial on Wireless Ridge.

littered with wrecks of a bygone age which just managed to survive the rigours of Cape Horn and find final refuge in the Falklands. We have all read and seen on television the horrific legacy bequeathed to mankind from landmines. The Falklands have not escaped this scourge and some of the most attractive beaches around Stanley are strictly off limits. There is a resident Royal Engineers EOD Team in Stanley who monitor known minefields and help to maintain a high public profile of the danger. Such importance is placed on accident avoidance that every flight inbound to MPA is given a mandatory briefing; needless to say the acquisition of 'Danger-Mines' signs as souvenirs is highly discouraged.

It would certainly not have been possible to return home without paying a personal pilgrimage to some of the 1982 battle sites. The weather for our trip was benign compared to conditions 18 years before when I was told that nightly temperatures plummeted to minus 14C. After walking through the thickening afternoon mist not far from Stanley we came upon the actual spot on Mt Longdon where Sgt Ian McKay VC of 3 Para posthumously won his Victoria Cross. It was an experience which I will never forget as we all stood in silence to imagine the bravery required to assault up an almost sheer rock mountain in darkness under enemy fire after yomping for days over some of the world's most inhospitable terrain.

It was interesting to chat with locals and the conversation often harped back to the conflict of 18 years ago. Although the ultimate sacrifice by 237 servicemen and civilians can never be overlooked, it is a commonly-held view that the war was a direct result of London's failure to identify the storm clouds gathering in Argentina. Few people in UK had heard of the Falklands or even knew where



The Minden Band plays at the Liberation Day Parade in Stanley - 14 June 2000. Mt Longdon and Mt Tumbledown are in the background.

to find them on the map. All that changed as a result of the conflict and with the extension of the fisheries exclusion zone money now pours in from the licences sold to foreign trawlers (South Korean and Japanese in particular). Oil extraction from Antarctica remains an expensive option within the foreseeable future compared to middle eastern and North Sea crude but in 100 years time the economics may look entirely different.

The Liberation Day Parade held by the War Memorial was a deeply moving occasion which, in addition to His Excellency the governor and Commander British Forces, was attended by most of the population of Stanley. A fact not appreciated by most of us was the existence of a TA unit entitled 'The Falkland Islands Defence Force' some of whose members fought with distinction alongside the British Task Force.

When we all arrived back safely at RAF Brize Norton the crowded roads of Wiltshire seemed like a nightmare compared to the peaceful wilderness of the Falkland Islands.



Which way did they say the signs faced?

Coincidence

Gen Sir John Akehurst writes:



The lucky Strikemaster pilot survived SAM 7.

In November 2000 Oman celebrated 'Renaissance', the title given to mark 30 years of HM Sultan Qaboos's reign, and his own 60th birthday. My wife and I were lucky enough to be there, the first time we had been in Oman since National Day 1978. Like everyone else who returns to Oman after a long absence we were staggered by the development of the past two decades, and very impressed that it has all been carried out with such style and taste.

In Muscat we attended two great parades - the Renaissance Day itself, and two days later a grand Tattoo. These were simply splendid. The uniforms were immaculate, the drill faultless and the presentation brilliant. The Massed Bands totalled 600 musicians, not counting the mounted band and the only camel-mounted band in the world. About 4,000 soldiers paraded in the colourful uniforms of the various Regiments and services. They were followed by another 4,000 in combat dress, including some 300 *firqa* in tribal array. Finally there was a drive-past of countless vehicles including tanks. With plenty of music and masses of fireworks these were events that no spectator could ever forget.

Special Features

Later we went down to Dhofar and on one of our days there drove on the tarmac road to Sarfait. This position, 4,000ft above a series of sheer steps to the sea below, had great significance during the war in Dhofar.

It is at the border with South Yemen and it was the operations to capture it by *coup de main* in 1972, to hold on to it for three years despite fierce opposition, and finally to cut the enemy's only supply line there which effectively brought the war to an end. The 50 miles of road from Mughsayl to Sarfait is a breathtaking engineering achievement as it falls and rises three times from sea level to 3,000ft and more across rugged country.

It was on this road that we passed a place called Defa where we paused and I told our party of the operations in that area including my having watched a Strikemaster shot down by the first SAM7 used in the campaign.

The pilot was Roger Furlong, who ejected and came down not far from a group of enemy. A passing helicopter, piloted by the late David Long of the Irish Guards, picked up the SARBE beacon signal and turned, at considerable risk to itself and the soldiers it was carrying, to pick Roger up. At this point the SAS major standing beside me said: 'You must order that chopper back, brigadier, it'll be shot down too.' I did not give this sensible order because I felt sure the pilot would not have obeyed it.

I crossed my fingers and held my breath instead. It was a race against time but despite three more missiles and some small arms fire the helicopter narrowly won and emerged unscathed with Roger dangling beneath it.

Now for the coincidence. On the following night we sat in our British Airways seats awaiting departure for our return to England when the intercom burst into life. 'This is your captain speaking...' it began, '...my name is Roger Furlong and our flight tonight...' etc. I asked a hostess to deliver a note asking the captain if he was the pilot whose fighter was shot down in 1975, and if so he might be interested that we were among his passengers. In no time I was invited forward to the cockpit to discover that it was indeed the same chap. I had seen neither him nor the area of his adventure for a quarter of a century and Roger told me that he rarely flew that particular route.

I think we were meant to be on that aircraft. The story was quickly retailed among the cabin crew who, of course, had no idea that their captain had even been involved in the Dhofar operations. Not only was it an amazing coincidence, but it was also, for us, supremely fortunate.

We enjoyed unparalleled attention for the next eight hours and, when not up in the cockpit watching take-offs and landings at Abu Dhabi and Heathrow, luxuriated in first class, to which we were immediately upgraded.



Former enemy with a mortar and SAM 7.



'Well Brigadier, it was like this ...' 'Oh yes!'

An Uzbek Wedding

Maj RC Gould, Regimental Careers Officer writes:

While in Uzbekistan I was honoured to be invited to an Uzbek wedding in Samarkand. The street where the family lived was sealed off by large rugs, suspended about 10ft in the air, forming a large hollow rectangle. Guests arrived through the open end to see the bride and groom seated at a raised table at the head of the room. Tables and chairs were placed down the side leaving an area for dancing and general movement. As each guest arrived they took up their gifts to the happy couple. Well, the groom was allowed to look happy but the bride was not. She must look sad as she is leaving her family and her friends to live and work for her new family. She will make abeyance to her in-laws throughout her life, and will probably have to work at a carpet loom for eight hours a day as well as doing all the housework and cooking in the new household.

Being by myself and not speaking much Uzbek I was placed at the end of a table. Quickly the drinks and food were brought on. It transpired that most of the men at my table had served as soldiers in the Soviet Army. Like all soldiers they enjoyed a quiet drink. Vodka was their tippie and they insisted that it be downed in one. The vodka that they drank seemed to go to their eyelids which became heavier and heavier with each successive cup. I explained that in England we delicately sip our drinks so that we can savour

the taste. Doing just that I quickly discovered why they drank it so quickly; to avoid tasting it at all! Fortunately they also served green tea so I moved on to that.

As the festivities progressed the band struck up. They were a very loud combo of keyboard, drums and bass guitar. They were really quite good and I enjoyed the rock version of Uzbek music. They were accompanied by two dancers in bright orange flamenco type dresses. They danced up and down the aisle and people would show appreciation of their dancing by pressing into their hands notes of various denominations.

I was then invited to propose a toast to the wedded couple. This I did in English. Knowing that no-one else could understand me, I could happily go to town about their prospects; their thousands of children, the fatness of their wallets, camels, and sheep, my best wishes for the Samarkand ballroom dancing championships etc.

Feeling that I accomplished the requirement - in this culture, I had been told that there is no such thing as flattery, and it is impossible to go over the top in compliments - I rejoined my table to enjoy watching the dancers and the band. I remarked idly to one of my hosts how pretty they were and how much I was enjoying their dancing. I had forgotten that dancing was but one of the talents for



which such young ladies are noted and employed.

Next it seemed that those who had proposed toasts had to get up and perform a dance, and, being from Anglia I had to do the national dance of England. Those of you who know me well will know that I am noted for neither my love of nor competence at dancing. This, however was a matter of national pride. It was for such exigencies that I had spent two years at Sandhurst and 30 years in the service of the Queen; to think the unthinkable, to do the impossible in pursuit of our National interests, regardless of personal comfort and safety. Actually, having spent the previous two hours with the Soviet ex-squaddies and their numerous toasts, I was quietly confident that I could both make up and dance the National Dance of England.

Had you been there, you would have recognised, I hope, a bit of *Zorba the Greek*, a touch of *Morris Dancing*, or was it *River Dance* (?), leavened with a John Travolta flourish. This seemed to go down well and one kind person thrust a 50p note into my hand, whether in appreciation or to pay me off I know not. Meanwhile

my table had told the dancers that I thought them beautiful. I could see them out of the corner of my eye, talking to the girls and pointing at me. I began to realise the potential of a serious diplomatic incident here. This was the attack I feared, a flanking attack from both sides, simultaneously while I was distracted. The girls came up to join me dancing and, sinuously avoiding my size 10s, they danced close to and around me, their arms and hands swirling gracefully and full of meaning around my face. They told me of their love for me ... I was not sure if this was a statement, an offer or a promise. I thought of England and the Queen. This assault must not succeed. I kept my eyes focussed firmly on the distance and I stiffened my lip. Steely-eyed self discipline, bred of cold baths before breakfast saw out my performance without any great embarrassment and I sat down again to applause from my kind Uzbek hosts. Honour upheld, Regimental name still intact and mightily relieved. The dancers moved on to fresh prey as more people took to the floor. I had done my duty for Queen and country but felt it, perhaps, a dance step too far.

Cambrian Patrol 2000, a Student's Point of View

Officer Cadet Andrew Wilde, Southampton UOTC, writes:

During my summer break between my second and third years at Southampton University I got a phone message from a friend ... 'I'm going to Sandhurst in September so you are the Cambrian Patrol commander, good luck, see you later!'

My first thought was thanks a lot! But then I thought about it and started to think it might not be so bad. Then when I was on attachment with the 1st Battalion in Londonderry I got many useful words of advice from many sources including ... 'Sir just keep walking' ... and ... 'That will be nice for you Sir, rather you than me'. These were the general words of advice I got from most people I talked to, the just keep walking one was probably the best!

The training for our Cambrian Patrol started very early in 2000. We had a competition in Italy in June and then five training weekends in September and October. The competition in Italy was based on a United Nations peace-keeping scenario in which a group of civilians had been taken hostage and moved to a holding area about 15km from where we were dropped off. The other teams in the competition came from all over Europe and America and included some very highly respected units such as the American Airborne and the Italian Alpine Corps.

Our route took us through many different stands including tunnel clearance, river crossing, infiltration of an enemy observation post screen, a quick attack, a very long abseil, first aid, another river crossing and then a final tab to the hostages where we had to separate the enemy from the hostages and then call in a fire mission to destroy the enemy who were up in the hills around us. At the prize giving on the final day my team were awarded the top British team, the top military academy team and also fifth place team overall. There were some very useful lessons learned in Italy and these would certainly help us on Cambrian Patrol.

When I returned to Southampton the task of being patrol commander actually hit me, sorting out the team, working out who was doing what and then the eternal problem, the 'student factor'. The student factor means if you give something to someone and tell them to turn up somewhere at a certain time the odds are they will either be late, will have forgotten something or will be both late and have forgotten something, but it only takes one very wet cold exercise in Brecon to shake the student factor problem and we had five of those before the patrol. Our training programme sorted, the NBC, signals, and many other necessary lessons started, we were

Special Features



Cambrian Patrol - from left: Jim Brennan, Mik Brennan (rear) Adam Constant and Andy Wilde (front).

all looking forward to the patrol and now had a good excuse to miss those boring lectures at University.

After five weekends spent in and walking all over Brecon, being tested and then tested again and then walking a bit further to be tested yet again we had ended up with two teams which had both been entered. We had a last minute problem as OCdt Ed Jagger had broken his foot on the last training exercise, but one of our reserves, Roger Hyldon, filled his place and then we were off to Wales for the actual patrol. As we crossed the Severn Bridge the rain started. We arrived at our first location and were then directed to a holding area where I received my orders, wrote my own and then gave them to the other members of my patrol, G44R. We left the holding area and were dropped at our start point and almost immediately had to call for a casualty evacuation. Roger Hyldon, had been run over and had a suspected broken leg, dislocated shoulder and crush injuries to his chest, but it turned out he was the luckiest man in the world and once checked out at accident and emergency only had very bad bruising.

Once we started again we were an hour behind but made up the time. Our first task was to confirm the location of an enemy REBRO site. During this phase we met a Canadian team who had been lost for four hours. Once this phase was completed we had a two-hour walk and were then moved to another location. From our new location we did a three-mile speed march followed by a three-hour rest, orders, minefield breach, and first aid phase. From our location in the Glydd forest our next task was to confirm the location of another enemy location and cross the Usk reservoir.

When my patrol started across the Black Mountains we were 21st team on to the mountains. When we arrived at the reservoir we were told we were the first team to reach that point. It was when crossing the Black Mountains that the rain got very bad and all the streams turned it to chest deep rivers. This made the reservoir crossing something we did not want to do. The next phase was an NBC and quick battle orders stand. Our new task was to move to a farmhouse that the enemy held, capture it and release the hostages. This was done with minimum of fuss and when the friendly reinforcements arrived we were off again to a new grid reference. This turned out to be the Fibua village where the process of debriefing started during which the village came under attack and we had to go and defend one area. We ended up taking part in a live defence shoot with GPMG overhead fire and a LAW 94 being used to eliminate the tank problem on our left flank. After the defence shoot we continued the debrief and then we were told we were to be retasked. Our retasking turned out to be the end of the exercise.

Once back in the relative warm and dry of Sennybridge camp we cleaned up and attended the prizegiving. My patrol was awarded a bronze medal for their efforts in what has to be some of the worst weather I have ever seen.

Now the long slow build-up for the 2001 event in November has started, with my sights set on final year exams and then Sandhurst in September. 'Will you do it again?' is a question I often get asked, and the answer is yes. For anyone with the opportunity to take part in Cambrian Patrol I would say do it, the sense of achievement and pride at the end is well worth it.

In the Footsteps of Shackleton

Jonathan Chastney Ex 2nd Battalion writes:

A rush of adrenalin coursed through my veins as I staggered down the gangway with all my equipment. The wind was roaring and spray was stinging my face. Little was I to know that this auspicious attempt at landing was the beginning of an adventure fraught with anxiety and uncertainty. We were to attempt to re-cross South Georgia in replicas of Shackleton's original 1916 clothing. His heroic story was one of necessity, luck and a burning passion to save his men. Our own adventure was to recreate a crossing on the original route that Shackleton, Worsley and Crean took in order to extricate themselves and their men from perishing in the Antarctic.

In King Haakon Bay we were to begin as Shackleton had from Peggotty Bluff and head over towards Possession Bay before making our way over the Murray Snowfield to the Trident. As we launched ourselves into the zodiacs it quickly became apparent that getting onto the shore itself was going to be difficult. With the wind gusting at over 50 knots and a blizzard raging, our zodiac was thrown wildly into the air. We clung desperately to its relatively safe interior, fearful of being thrown overboard. Capsize in these waters would mean at least hypothermia and within three minutes probable death. Not something to be contemplated at 3am on a

Special Features

December morning on the sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia. Eventually under extreme conditions our boat captain gave the order to quit and we gratefully scrambled back onto the gangway and the safety of the ship. The island and the weather had taught us our first harsh lesson.

Over the next few hours the storm increased in strength and the ship began to drag its anchor. The icebreaker captain eventually decided he could no longer risk the ship in the bay and he nervously edged out of the uncharted anchorage. We were all frustrated that the weather appeared to be toying with us, giving us hope one moment then dashing it the next.

After studying our charts our next logical option was to wait patiently for better weather and attempt a landing at Possession Bay. This was about two miles into the route and although we were being forced to compromise the accuracy of the crossing, we simply needed to somehow get ashore and start our crossing before time ran out. We went to bed that evening still hoping that the storm would blow through.

As we awoke the following morning we couldn't believe our eyes, as we had blue skies and no wind. This now confirmed that the weather was poking fun at us. We didn't care and were soon in the zodiacs and ashore with our equipment. Because we were to bring back footage of the route we were heavily laden and used small pulks to transport our equipment. At approximately 0830hrs we set off on the route through the glaciers up onto the Shackleton Gap. Stopping every hour for 5-10 minutes to drink and feed, we were blissfully happy to be on the route and to be stretching our legs after being cramped on the ship for so long. Hour after hour we hauled our pulks up the mountain and eventually onto the Murray Snowfield, a vast expanse of snow that appeared to have no end. As the day wore on however we caught sight of a long ridge in the distance. This was the magnificent Trident ridge and not for the first time we all wondered how Shackleton and his companions must have felt as they looked for a safe route to Stromness. After another couple of hours we drew up beneath the ridge and despite being tired set about making camp as quickly as possible as the weather had yet again turned drastically for the worse. The sunshine had disappeared to be replaced by gales and driving snow.

During the night this storm turned into a blizzard that continued relentlessly. 'Oh dear,' was the politest of the comments on the weather, as we all knew we had 1,000ft of difficult descent in the morning. As it happened the snow and wind continued not just that night but all through the following day. All of us suspected what this would mean but none dared utter the word 'avalanche' knowing that it meant that our way ahead was blocked completely. All four gaps on the ridge crossing the island had a similar descent. We left nothing to chance, and laboriously made our way from one to the next, seeing what we had all feared on each col. The descents were almost identical. Not only did they look avalanche prone but all had additional side gullies and crevasses that could prove equally as dangerous. To have gone down as Shackleton did in clear weather would have been hard enough, but to risk our own lives, and more importantly those of anyone attempting a rescue was not a decision we had much choice over. To risk running an avalanche slope in the Alps is foolhardy, even with the right equipment and the knowledge that specialist teams are on hand to locate and rescue victims; on South Georgia no such teams exist, neither are there helicopters and hospitals. We had no business putting ourselves at such a risk.

We waited out the following day to see if the situation might improve, but eventually realised our only way safely around the problem was to have the ship pick us up and drop us into another part of the route. This meant a haul back to Possession Bay, a distance of some eight or nine miles. We were

certainly getting around the island, unfortunately it seemed to be in too many directions. There we awaited pick-up by the ship's zodiacs. Within hours of being safely picked up by the ship itself we were hit by another violent storm and everyone felt rather relieved not to be still on the mountain.

We were thwarted again and again over the next 36 hours by the storms. It was becoming impossible to get back onto the island. As our time began to run out we feared that while we had certainly experienced the mystique of Shackleton's journey, and had covered almost as great a distance, we might not achieve everything we had set out to in terms of the route and the documentary footage.

Eventually we got back ashore in order that we could complete a final section of the route. This final section included the famous descent of a 50ft part-frozen waterfall. This we were pleased to achieve as it enabled us to get an insight into the state of exhaustion that Shackleton and his men were in at the time. We then completed the final slog across the marshes into Stromness Harbour where Shackleton was famously greeted at the manager's villa. His story has been told many times and the credit that is due to him is finally being given. He was famous for his good luck, and his ability to cross South Georgia in 36 hours in clear weather was a measure of not only his luck but also his drive and determination to save his men.

Wearing replicas of Shackleton's clothing during the crossing of South Georgia was certainly an experience. Our initial anxiety as to whether they would cope with the wind, snow and potential rain was quelled as the garments easily coped, and when pulled tight around you, they kept in the warmth well. With our string vests, cotton shirts and woollen jumpers we were all very warm and comfortable. My Sprayway Gore-tex clothing for emergencies lay, untouched in the



Special Features

bottom of my rucksack for the duration of the trip.

Personally I shall remember the island with fondness. With time your memory almost always forgets the fierce winds and bitter cold, and with a childlike innocence can only recall snow clad peaks bathed in warm sunshine. To get the most out of any adventure, you have to be prepared for the worst. If your goals are specifically orientated, you may be disappointed. You have to enter with an open mind and accept that things might not be exactly as you had planned or hoped. Ernest Shackleton famously said 'Human effort is not futile, but man's fight against the forces of nature is a spirit of humility'. Almost always in the Antarctic the weather will have its say. Return? Almost definitely ... nature may have won through this time, but anyone who wishes to climb mountains should remember well the family motto of Sir Ernest Shackleton - *By endurance we conquer*.



The Regimental Museum

Col K Woodrow, Chairman, writes:

It is surprising how quickly things change. The museum has been open only five years but already several items have become out of date, mostly the display panels explaining what is in the various cases. A major cause of this has been the reorganisation of the Territorial Army and the consequent demise of the Royal Anglian Volunteer Battalions. Another factor is the re-establishment of the county of Rutland which means we now once again recruit from ten counties rather than nine. Add to this the fact that during the time the museum has been open many members of the Regiment have received honours and awards, the Corporation of Watford has granted us the Freedom of the Borough, and many people have donated a host of different items, from a sniper's rifle from Bosnia to a beret from one of our affiliated regiments.

All the amendments needed to take account of these changes have recently been incorporated into new panels and the various displays and books at a cost of almost £4,500. While very necessary to ensure the museum is accurate, most of the changes are so discreet we doubt that even a regular visitor to the museum would notice many of them.

At the same time George Boss, our indefatigable attendant, when not on duty in the museum itself, has been hard at work on the museum accession register. This is a detailed list of every single item the museum owns. It describes each item, who gave it or where it came from, and whether it is in the museum or in store. If the item is in the museum then the list shows where it is. Originally this list was 'on file' but with the help of one of our volunteer helpers, Mrs King from Bassingbourn, we are now in the process of transferring all the information onto disk. Another mammoth task that we hope to complete within a year. Thanks to a generous grant from the Cambridgeshire Museum Service we are about to buy a digital camera so that we can also photograph everything and have the picture on disk as well. Also within the next six months or so one or two of the display cases will be brought up to date and we are going to have a display panel detailing a Battle Honour of the month. This will show that although the Regiment is only 40 years old, our former Regiments have been working together for 200 years. The point of all of this is to make the point that the museum

is not a static moribund organisation. It is very much alive and ongoing. We have ideas and plans for it which at present are way beyond our means so we would be most grateful if any reader who wins the Lottery would pass a little of his or her winnings our way. Thank you!

George Boss, Museum Attendant writes: We are grateful to the following for donations to the collection:

Maj Bill Burford	Orders to open fire on the Scrubber Line, Aden. Medals presentation UN Cyprus. UN Flag Code regulation.
Lt David Schwartz	Operational orders and platoon reports from tours in Northern Ireland.
Stan Tarrant	Various Army forms and discharge documentation
Mrs Sandra Clark	Photographs of her late husband in Berlin 1966. Orders for married quarters. Berlin Brigade Shooting Medal Runners-up. East Anglian shoulder titles. And private correspondence.
Lt Monty Beaumont	Items from the operation to monitor the ceasefire in Rhodesia The Regimental Crest of the Rhodesia African Rifles T Shirt Pfumo Revanhu, 2nd Battalion Bar and the ceasefire 1979/1980 14 Capbadges of the Regiments of the Rhodesian Army
Mr Ivan Owen	The Regiment de la Rey South Africa beret and badge, stable belt, cravat, field dress jacket and trousers with insignia.



Can you fill in the gaps?

Salamanca Platoon 22/58 National Service Group on conclusion of Basic Training at Warley Barracks Brentwood. Those with a dot above or below them can be identified, could names be added to fill in the remainder? Please contact the museum to fill those gaps in.

Our Affiliated ACF and CCF Detachments

Berkhamsted School CCF

The Commanding officer writes

I think that only when an attempt to summarise the year's activities is made that the range and number of camps, visits and exercises becomes apparent. This year has again been exceptionally busy with more cadets attending more camps. Annual camp at Penhale was very successful with the contingent winning a first place for the girls, a second place for the junior boys and a second place for the senior boys in the inter-unit camp competitions. Battle camp on Dartmoor was well-supported and both visits to Germany were again oversubscribed.

The corps has a large number of enthusiastic and able cadets and it is an exhausting privilege to be responsible for thinking of new challenges and activities to test them.

This year it was a delight to welcome Mrs Sarah Jones CBE to be our first female inspecting officer. She has had links with the school for a number of years and has a genuine interest in the cadets and the school.

We welcome RSM Chris Savage, late Grenadier Guards, as the new school Sergeant Major and wish to thank RSM D Keoghane once again for his loyal service over many years in maintaining the high standards of the school corps. Mr Mark Batchelder has completed his initial officer training and is a welcome addition to the navy section.

The school shooting team, thanks to the determination of Capt Philip Dobson, has a growing number of members and we are once again entering competitions and matches. The corps of drums, thanks to the Director of Music, Mr John Browne, is making a noise, which we hope will be translated into music in time for this year's annual inspection.

The navy section, under the command of Lt Kirton, is a happy ship and the RAF section, thanks to the energetic salesmanship of their NCOs and the support of Sqn Ldr Thum, is 50 per cent oversubscribed. The Army section is frequently up to no good under the direction of Ct Ridgley and an increasingly dubious band of military assistants.

Recruitment for the forthcoming year has been excellent which in turn has created positive problems in equipment and training resources. As for the future? I am reminded of the remark made by a training sergeant in answer to a cadet question regarding the new Challenger 2 tank. 'Well it's the same but different...' and that is how I see the year ahead.



Gresham's School CCF



Comd 49 Bde, Brig DR Wilson inspects Cdt Cole, Cdt Thompson and LCpl Walker of King Edward VI CCF.

The contingent strength stands now at over 400 cadets (310 in the Army section) and 15 officers, who between them have a total of some 100 years' service in the Regular or reserve forces and about 200 years cadet force service.

It has been a busy year, with annual camp at St Martin's Plain, Greenfields Camp in Snowdonia, shooting at Bisley, RAF camp and a diving expedition to the Red Sea, as well as the usual military and adventurous activities over field days and weekend training in the Peak District.

The contingent's plans have been severely affected by the foot and mouth epidemic (last Easter's adventure training camp in the Lake District had to be cancelled, along with the summer field day and Warcop Central Camp) but we are looking forward to a forthcoming visit to 20 Armoured Brigade in Germany.

Our Affiliated ACF and CCF Detachments

The Priory CCF



The proud cadets with their second class small bore shooting badges.

Since the last edition was published a great deal has been happening within this newly formed CCF.

There have been some changes among the officers. The contingent commander remains Capt Denise Savage, the Army section is commanded by 2Lt Steve Penney and the RAF section by Flt Lt Simon Stones.

The cadets

The Army section has 68 cadets in its ranks forming two platoons. A recruit platoon (2 Platoon) and a senior cadet platoon (1 Platoon). The RAF section has 31 cadets with the majority now being senior cadets.

Both sections have been very busy completing their basic recruit training phase. The headmaster presented many cadets with outstanding achievement awards at the end of the autumn term, ranging from most improved cadet to most outstanding at PT and drill.

Army section

Now that the better weather is here we are able to get out and practise a little more drill and fieldcraft. We are currently busy learning how to carry out fire and movement at section level as well

as movement with and without weapons and plenty of range work with air rifles and the No 8 rifle. The section has so far made four trips to the indoor training theatre at Sobraon Barracks. The senior platoon is well into its Army Proficiency Certificate (APC) and will shortly be awarded its red half star. The headmaster, Mr Richard Gilliland, presented the senior platoon with various small bore shooting qualification badges, which were achieved during the early part of the New Year.

RAF section

The RAF section has already managed to attend an air experience flight (AEF) at RAF Wyton on Wednesday 14 March 2001, which was an all day event, where 12 lucky cadets got the opportunity to have a flight in a tutor aircraft. This proved to be a great hit with the cadets.

The section has also managed to get a high proportion of its recruits through stage one recruit training and many are already proudly wearing the first blue star on their brassards. Flt Lt Stones has produced a full training programme for the cadets which will get them involved with range work using the No 8 rifle and various competitions including a day out canoeing at the end of July using local waters. The section will attend its annual camp at RAF Halton in Aylesbury over the period 8-14 July 2001.

Adventurous training

The Priory CCF had an adventurous training exercise planned for 23-25 March, Exercise Rawson Ebor I, at the school's own outward bound training centre, the Rawson Centre, in Huddersfield, which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the foot and mouth crisis.

School liaison

We have made liaison visits to several other schools and colleges to forge relations, such as Oundle and Uppingham Schools in Peterborough, Worksop College and King Edward VI school in Louth. We hope to arrange the use of their facilities to add variety to the cadets' training, until such time as our own in-house facilities are constructed.

Annual camp

This year's annual camp will hopefully take place at Wathgill Training Camp in North Yorkshire over the period 30 June to 7 July 2001. We have a total of 30 cadets attending with a 20/10 range of boys and girls respectively. This will be the Priory's first year on annual camp, to be assisted by 9 CTT and include range work, patrols exercises and hopefully visits to local attractions.



Roll call of part of the RAF Section by Senior Cadet Sanjay Chamund during a normal parade day.

Our Affiliated ACF and CCF Detachments



Headmaster Mr RT Gilliland presenting Senior Cadet Benjamin Brooks-Davies with an outstanding senior cadet award.



Headmaster Mr RT Gilliland presenting Senior Cadet Sally-Ann Pritchard with an outstanding senior cadet award.



Headmaster Mr RT Gilliland presenting Senior Cadet Darren Shaw with the most outstanding cadet at foot drill.



Capt Denise Savage taking first parade with the SSI.

‘Look, Locate, Peel, Punch, Pull, Arch’ Land, Sea and Air: Kimbolton School CCF Gains Another Skill

Maj Susan Camp writes:

We have travelled many miles over the years but usually in a horizontal line. Seven times at the Nijmegen marches, once on the Coast to Coast, nine times at the Devizes to Westminster canoe race - what great opportunities for all the cadets who have taken part so far. Now, however, we have decided to travel long-distance but vertically!

Lt David Buckley has inspired some of our cadets to try parachuting at Weston on the Green and the look on their faces when they successfully complete their first drop is amazing. I went along on the second trip to watch and as the day's training took place I became more and more nervous - imagine what *they* were feeling! I fail to understand how anyone can leap out of a perfectly serviceable aeroplane suspended under a piece of cloth but each to his own. The parachuting badge worn with pride on their brassards makes it all worth while - and some even go again!

We have had a busy year with some changes of personalities; Maj Pepper has now left the CCF and the new Commanding Officer is Maj David Harris RMR who has joined the school as head of biology and was Contingent Commander at Pangbourn College. He brings with him a wealth of experience and great enthusiasm to carry on giving our cadets all the opportunities to stretch their horizons wider during their time in the CCE

Flt Lt Hakes stands down as head of RAF section and Flt Lt Davies takes over. Two new members of staff have joined our ranks, Sub Lt Matthews into the RN section and Flt Off Furnival into the RAF.

Lt Buckley spent time at CTC Frimley as DS on the cadet

leadership course last summer and both he and Lt Groom, our bandmaster, hope to go again this year.

Our head of corps, Cadet RSM William Jackson, had the honour of being the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet this year and finishes his tour of duty in October.

Although the new examination system, with three consecutive years of external exams has put an enormous strain on our senior cadets and has made a difference on the retention rate of NCOs in the sixth form, we continue to retain NCOs of excellent calibre. They have taken the opportunity to attend courses during the year, including senior cadet instructors cadre at Beckingham and leadership development at *Indefatigable*.

We are also lucky to have had a very good intake of recruit cadets this year, so what we have lost in numbers at the top, we have gained at the bottom.

This year's ceremonial guard, led by PO Webster, performed with credit on Remembrance Sunday leading the Royal British Legion's parade to the Kimbolton Memorial, a parade that the Corps is proud to take part in every year. The CCF Band played a variety of music for the march out and back from church and the salute was taken by Maj Gen Toyne-Sewell, late KOSB, who was spending his last day in uniform having started as a cadet himself at Bedford 45 years earlier.

The foot and mouth crisis has, along with every other unit, affected our external training schedule badly. It has meant the cancellation of field day activities and the combat cadet competition as well as our senior infantry exercise, however we have tried and hopefully

Our Affiliated ACF and CCF Detachments



succeeded in making our internal training as interesting as possible. We fervently hope that our central camp at Proteus goes ahead - it certainly sounds to be an action-packed programme.

Pictured at Weston on the Green:

From left: Lt David Buckley; Lizzie Compton; Ellie Southgate; Amelia Jarvis; Will May; Judith Measures.

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will
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The Associations



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

Chapel

Arrangements are in hand to honour those who died in Cyprus and Korea with the introduction of a Roll of Honour book to be placed in the wooden case in the Regimental Chapel. This is to be dedicated at the Association Service on Sunday 30 September.

Regimental Garden

The joint project to create a Regimental Garden with Easton College to honour those who, have laid down their lives in the service of their country has gained the approval of the Old Comrades who have to date contributed £9,000 towards this venture. The college has agreed to maintain the garden in the future. The garden was opened on Saturday 2 June 2001 by the Bishop of Norwich.

Regimental Benevolence

In 2000 some £9,677 was spent from Regimental Funds to assist the 71 cases dealt with. In addition, £17,249 was paid from other Service charities towards all those cases handled by the area office at Norwich.

Regimental Homes

A re-roofing programme is in progress and two of the cottages have had this work completed.

New tarmac had been laid at King's Lynn and Norwich. An application to the National Lottery Charities Board for £137,500 for the

upgrading programme has been submitted.

Regimental Museum

The 10th anniversary was celebrated with free entry to all visitors and a birthday cake provided by the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment who also supported the occasion with some modern soldiers to complement those representing past times. The occasion was completed by a celebratory party at the Norfolk Club for those who have given so generously of their time to the museum prior to and since its opening.

A project to document all the archives has now received funding of £40,000 from the Town Close Estate Charity and this work is well in hand. It will allow for a website education project to eventually be achieved.

Around the Branches

Gorleston and Gt Yarmouth Branch

The Branch spent a day in June at Duxford. It was a pleasant surprise for Geoff Smith, John Morley and Mick Ellis as they met up with one of their old officers from the 1st Battalion, Maj John Keep, and a happy half hour was spent reminiscing.

Days out were also enjoyed at Bassingbourn and Bury St Edmunds and on both occasions we shared a coach with the Beccles Branch. As well as being more comfortable, this also meant that members could enjoy a drink as well!

Sadly this year, four of our staunch

members passed away: George Long and John (Jungle) Green, 1st Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment; Danny Temple, Suffolk Regiment; Bert King, Royal Norfolk Regiment. Members of the branch attended the funerals. They will be greatly missed.

Our AGM was held at the Albion PH, our new venue. All the committee were re-elected, so we must be doing something right.

Our dinner and draw, held at the Pier Hotel, was again a great success. Lt Col Paul Garman, who was accompanied by his wife, was our dinner chairman. Once again we had friends from far and wide. A telephone call from Kenny Smith of Northampton brought about a reunion between him and his mate Gerry Banham with their corporal instructor from when they joined the Army, none other than our chairman for the night. We were very pleased to see Stan and Mrs Bullock, Roy and Mrs Sharpe and many friends from Norwich. Eighty members and guests sat down to a very enjoyable meal, followed by the Christmas draw with 70 prizes. After this it was time to get down to the serious business of drinking and enjoying the rest of the evening.

Our dinner this year is on Saturday 1 December.

Anyone who is in the area is most welcome to call and see us: we meet on the last Wednesday of each month at 8pm, at the Albion PH, Lowestoft Rd, Gorleston. For further information, call Ray Pillar on 01493 601131.



The Suffolk Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Suffolk)

News from the Branches

This long and dismal winter has seen the Branches very busy. All report the continued enthusiasm of members for the activities which have been organised. Branch AGMs have taken place and branch committees have been elected or, as is often the case, re-

elected! Branch meetings have been well attended and Christmas parties and annual dinners and dances have taken place. Two or three branches have arranged a series of lectures through the winter with the aim, generally successful, of stimulating attendance at meetings.

Remembrance Day was commemorated by all branches. Standards were carried and strong contingents of members attended services. In one or two cases Armistice Day itself was remembered.

In the last issue of *Castle* it was reported that the Beccles and District Branch was

The Associations

planning a visit to the Houses of Parliament. The visit took place on 9 November. It was organised and hosted by the Branch Honorary Vice-President, Martin Bell OBE MP. 48 members went up to London and they combined the visit with attendance at the Remembrance Service at the Westminster Garden of Remembrance. After the service Martin generously laid on an excellent buffet for members in the House of Commons and having introduced the group to Bob Blizzard, MP for Waveney District, whose father is an ex-Suffolk, the two MPs led members round the Palace of Westminster where they saw Parliament at work.

Dedication of Memorial Window

The dedication of a memorial window to Col WA Heal OBE was conducted in the Regimental Chapel at St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds on Saturday, 17 February, 2001. The chapel overflowed with family and friends, including many old comrades who served with 'Tiny' during his Regimental career.

Maj William Heal (late Royal Anglian Regiment) delivered an impressive and most gratifying eulogy on behalf of himself, his two sisters and the 19 direct members of the family who attended.

A number of Regimental Association Branch Standards were present at the service which ended with a rendering of The Regimental March, *Speed the Plough*. This occasion will be remembered as a truly family gathering and an affectionate tribute to a most honourable and distinguished member of the Regiment.

Memorial Service

A Memorial Service for Col Cecil Wells TD DL, was held in St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds on 2 December 2000.

The church was filled, reflecting Cecil's

many friendships and contacts as a solicitor, as a county councillor and as a member of the Territorial Army and the Suffolk Cadet Force.

The Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk honoured the occasion, in memory of one of his deputies and a life-long friend from school days, and presented a sympathetic eulogy. The St Mary's choir and organ responded with their customary excellence and 15 standards from Service Association Branches, including the FEPOW, were on parade.

The service concluded with the Suffolk Regimental March, *Speed the Plough* and afterwards a reception was held in the church.

This uplifting celebration was an impressive memorial to a distinguished and unassuming man who contributed so much of his life to public service.

Whepstead: A War Memorial

An interesting event took place in the small village of Whepstead just outside Bury St Edmunds on 21 October, 2000. A new war memorial, commemorating those from the village who fell in the two world wars, was dedicated.

For many years there had been no memorial in the village. The original, in the form of a scroll, had been erected in the Young Men's Social Club in the Black Horse Inn in 1919 but since the 'pub' had become a private house it could no longer be traced.

On the initiative of the parish council and with generous contributions from local sources, a new memorial was planned. A stone mason from the village gave the stone and engraved the names on it at cost price.

The whole memorial was built free of charge by a local builder and the plot where it is situated was made available by a local family.

The Dedication Service was conducted by

the Rector of Horringer, Risby, Whepstead and Brockley.

A total of ten Standards from various regimental associations, including the Suffolk Regiment were present and a wreath was laid, among others, on behalf of the Suffolk Regiment by Brig Charles Barnes OBE, Chairman of the Suffolk Regiment Old Comrades Association.

Footnote: Of the 13 names on the memorial from the First World War, 10 men served in various battalions of the Suffolk Regiment and from the Second World War, of three men, one served in the Regiment.

Minden Day 2001

This year the Minden Day Reunion will be on Sunday, 29 July. As usual it will take place at Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds. The familiar programme will be followed, commencing at 1115hrs with a drumhead service. There will be no requirement for tickets and all members of the Regiment and their families are welcome.

The New Regimental Museum

The work on the new museum in Bury St Edmunds is gathering momentum and we look forward to an early announcement of opening day.

100 Years of Photographs of the Suffolk Regiment

Work is currently in hand to publish a book entitled *The Old Dozen - A Century of Photographs*. The Regimental archives have been thoroughly searched by a committee of Regimental members to produce what promises to be a really interesting pictorial history of the Regiment from the 1850s to the 1950s.

Those interested in purchasing a copy should watch out for advertisements announcing its publication soon.



The Memorial at Whepstead.



The Cambridgeshire Regimental Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association



Cambridgeshire Regiment Wisbech presentation.

Col Badcock visited the 1st Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment and presented on loan a silver statuette together with Regimental ties and a Regimental shield. In return 1 Royal Anglian presented the Association with a print and some photographs which are to be held at the ACF HQ on behalf of the Association.

2001 sees the centenary of the ending of the South African War in which members of the Cambridgeshire Regiment took part. The county memorial in Great St Mary's Church, Cambridge needs cleaning and restoring. The council has agreed in principle to carry this out and are investigating the cost.

The change of title of the Cambridgeshire Regiment Old Comrades Association has been approved and the title is now the Cambridgeshire Regiment Association, the Royal Anglian Regiment.

There have been 23 applications for benevolence over the last three years and in addition to other benevolent funds, the Lord Lieutenant's County Fund is available. The money in the Mike Veal Fund has been passed to D Company's Past and Present Club and discussions are being held to pass on D Company's remaining funds of about

£1,700 to the Association.

Members of the Association have been invited to visit the 1st Battalion while at Pirbright.

The Cambridgeshire Regiment Collection

The Guardians have continued the policy agreed with the Council of ensuring that important Regimental artefacts are displayed to the best advantage, in order to maintain our profile as high as possible throughout the county.

Over the past six months there have been two specific new initiatives. The most important was perhaps the return of the Freedom Scrolls and Casket to the Borough of Wisbech on permanent loan. The Mayor and Borough Council were pleased to receive the Scrolls, and arranged an impressive ceremony in the council chamber when our patron, the Lord Lieutenant, formally handed over the Scrolls to the Mayor in the presence of the full Wisbech Council and representatives of the Guardians and Old Comrades.

In February, another ceremony at Ely saw the President of the Regimental Association pass the 'Beckett' Bible to the local museum

for display and safe-keeping in the presence of the Mayor of Ely and Chairman of the District Council. Col John Beckett, then captain, was a 2nd Cambridgeshire and a prisoner of war in the Far East. The bible was with him during these dark days and names hidden behind its covers tell of the fate of many of his fellow prisoners of war. It was also fitting that Col Beckett's niece, Mrs A Squire, and her son were present together with Canon and Mrs Stallard, also related.

The *Lest We Forget* Exhibition at the Ely Museum closed in January and was judged a success. Again it gave the Regiment an opportunity of keeping its name to the fore in the local community - and indeed more widely.

Our display at the Imperial War Museum Duxford continues to be an important showcase. Martin Boswell oversees it on a day-to-day basis, and also finds time to give talks on the Regiment. He recently spoke to a large meeting of the Cottenham Local History Society.

One recent gift to the museum has been a complete battle dress worn by WO2 Jack Thorburn of the 1st Battalion.

The Associations

Finally, the vexed question of storage which has beset the Guardians over the past two years has been overcome with RHQ Royal Anglian in Bury St Edmunds providing storage. Some artefacts have already been transferred and there are more to go. The collection account is over £4,000 in credit.

Items of town and forces history have been given to Wisbech Town Council for safe keeping and display purposes.

The Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Mr James Crowden, on 12 March, handed back to the town council two Freedom of the Town Scrolls and a Freedom Casket presented to the Cambridgeshire Regiment. The Scrolls were presented originally in 1963 and 1973 by the old Wisbech Borough Council to the Cambridgeshire Regiment and D (Cambridgeshire) Company of the 6th (Volunteer) Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment. The wooden casket was presented in 1949.

They were accepted by the town Mayor, Mr Richard Barnwell, at a special

presentation held at the North Brink Council Chamber.

Far East Prisoner-of-War Memorial Church 50th Anniversary

The Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Thomas of Canterbury in Wymondham, Norfolk, is a permanent memorial, not only to all those who lost their lives while incarcerated in Japanese Prisoner-of-War Camps in the Far East during the Second World War, but also to those who died later as a result of this ordeal. The church was built in 1951 by the late Father Malcolm Cowin, himself a former prisoner of the Japanese, in fulfilment of a vow he made when in captivity. The building was largely funded by surviving PoWs and the families of those who died and is an enduring memorial to all those, whether military personnel of the Allied Services or civilian, who lost their lives in the Far East prisoner of war (FEPOW) camps of the Japanese.

Each year, on the nearest Sunday to the date of the Relief of Rangoon, a memorial

service is held for all denominations and nationalities. A focal point during these services is the small side chapel in which there is a cabinet housing the Books of Remembrance. These books contain the names and, where appropriate, number, rank and unit details of over 24,400 deceased from at least six nations, all elegantly hand written over a period of three years by the late Frank Hardy who was a local man and an ex-FEPOW. Since then, they have been updated by the FEPOW committee with a further 2,500 names. The side chapel has been totally refurbished for the millennium and now provides an elegant setting for the Rolls of Honour.

2001 is the 50th Anniversary of the building of the church and a memorial service was held on 13 May. As the task of updating the Books of Remembrance is continuous, details of anyone, regardless of nationality or religious persuasion, who should be included in the Rolls of Honour should be sent to the FEPOW Committee, 1 Norwich Road, Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 0QE.



The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Lincolnshire)



The dedication of the plaque to Pte Charles Porter in Ryhall church.

The Associations



Members of the Grimsby branch.

Stamford Branch

The Stamford and District Branch started a busy programme last year with a 'never to be forgotten' exceptional visit with the Lincoln Branch and ex 4th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment to Arnhem and 'The Island' with the fantastic hospitality and friendliness from the Dutch residents.

In April, a combined service millennium concert with 'Stamford Brass', entertained 200 members and friends which raised over £200 for the Stamford War Memorial improvement project.

Helped by the Stamford Town Council with necessary repairs the project is to have special memorial gates fitted in front of the memorial to protect and enhance the memorial for future years.

More than 70 members and friends attended our annual Remembrance Dinner in November, having a first class meal in the Ketton Sports Club followed by the usual toasts to Her Majesty, the Regiment and Old Comrades.

Starting the New Year in February we had our ladies' night and later in the month we had our Sobraon sausage-and-mash supper. After lots of second helpings our welfare officer asked all to remember 'Tommy Atkins' and all those Red Coats of the past especially those at the battle of Sobraon in India and the famous 'silent' bayonet charge of the 10th Foot, when they captured the enemy's artillery.

Our numbers remain constant, 14 regularly attending meetings, and we would welcome any ex 'Royal Anglians'; other members, some a considerable distance away, are being kept up to date with our *Springer* newsletter. We have completed reporting the 92 pages of the World War One diary of RSM A

Peasgood but welcome any other items of general interest and information.

'We will remember them' - 26 February 2001

When we stop at a war memorial we expect that all those who gave their lives for their country are recorded but this is not always so. Pte. Charles E Porter joined the 7th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment on May 21 1915.

In France he took part in the attack on Tricourt Wood when the 7th caught a Prussian regiment some 600-strong who had to surrender.

Later he took part in the Battle of the Somme and was wounded but returned to take part in the third Battle of Ypres when again the 7th took 148 prisoners, but in the big push on April 27, on his 21st birthday, he was wounded for a second time by a German explosive bullet which smashed his thigh. He was sent to hospitals in Manchester and Bury, discharged, but died of his wounds at home on 9 December 1919 and was buried at Rhyall near Stamford. His name was not entered on the war memorial and ever since his family have been trying to get his sacrifice acknowledged, until Sunday 26 February 2001. Nine members of the Branch with their Branch Standard were privileged to support his memory when a plaque was added to the war memorial in Ryhall Church and subsequently dedicated.

His medals, still in the original registered envelope and box as sent to his mother in 1922 by the war office have been donated to the Regimental museum.

Lincoln Branch

A Band Concert, organised by the Branch,

was given by the Minden Band of the Queen's Division and helped to raise funds for the Association Benevolent Fund.

The annual Christmas draw was well attended and voted as being very successful.

Our Secretary, Bob Golland, suffered a heart attack in January and, acting on the advice of the doctor has had to resign from his post. He did a good job, and his work was very much appreciated as was the work of Bernard 'Bunny' Barratt, who has also retired after filling the post of Assistant Treasurer for seven years and through his untiring efforts helped to increase branch membership to over 260.

We now look forward to another year of activity both social and otherwise, with all being well, celebrating the 100th birthday of Frank Winfield, a former bandsman of the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, as the highlight.

Grimsby Branch

Our branch continues to be active with a slight increase in membership with events that are being considered for the near future. One in particular is a visit to the 'Grimsby Chums' (10th Battalion) memorial seat at the Somme.

The photograph (above) shows some of the former members of the Royal Anglian Regiment that have joined our branch - from left - Mike Stewart, Keith Harness, Mike Ashton, Shaun Smith, Charles Long and Paul Sadler who attended our annual branch luncheon at the Beacholme Holiday Centre.

Our Association President, Maj Gen Gerrard-Wright and Mrs Gerrard-Wright and Cllr George Mitchell were our principal guests who expressed their enjoyment of the event.

The Associations



The Royal Anglian Regiment and Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association

Association Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony and Reunion

19 November 2000 started as a cold and drizzly day and umbrellas were in full use as members and their families arrived before the service at the TA Centre, next to the old barracks at Kempston, Bedford. Bedfordshire ACF had very kindly laid on a minibus from the Addison Centre car park to take members to the TA Centre where tea

and coffee were made available by the kind permission of the OC 158 (Royal Anglian) Royal Logistic Corps (V). Drinks of a stronger variety were also available at the TA bar.

The parade, which was organised for the first time by Lt Col MGA Young, was slightly different from previous years in that the main marching contingents also marched out of the main Keep gate to halt and face the

memorial. The Association Vice-President, Maj Robin Medley DL KtStJ and the Chairman, Brig Angus Robertson CBE, with the Mayors of Bedford and Kempston, took up their positions and the service began with the bidding and the prayer of Remembrance. Wreaths were then laid, to be followed by the Last Post, Silence, Reveille and the usual prayers.

The drizzle had by now stopped as the parade, led by the Corps of Drums, marched back to the Keep car park. Maj Medley addressed the parade thanking everyone for a first class turnout and parade. He then handed out certificates of merit to the following members of the Association for their devoted service over many years: Mr M Allum, Mr S Chapman, Mr M Cooper, Mr J Dix BEM, Mr D George BEM, Mr H Howard, Mr S Mansfield, Mr G Owen and Mr D Sharpe.

It was nice to see all the old faces back for another year and also to welcome those who attended for the first time and we hope not the last. Another great reunion was over. There were a few slight hiccups during the parade which nobody seemed to notice, but we will call this parade a dress rehearsal for a perfect one in 2001.

News from the Branches

The Bedford Branch attended a Peace Day Service at St Peter's Church, Bedford on 15 August 2000. The Branch Standards were paraded in the Harper Centre, Bedford at the 11th hour on 11 November 2000. On the same day members went to the Keep to meet the KAPE team from the 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment. Good lads, a chat, a beer and a most pleasant interlude. Each man was given a book on the Regiment.

The next day was the Borough Remembrance Parade on the Embankment, Bedford which was not to be remembered. Everything that could go wrong did, the local paper called it a 'catalogue of hitches'! The following Sunday was the wreath-laying and reunion at Kempston where things went well, no hitches! The Branch has donated, through Bedford Borough Council, a bench which has been placed on the Embankment suitably inscribed from the Old Comrades' Association. The annual dinner and social on 2 December 2000 turned out to be a great success with 108 sitting down.

The Hertford Branch organises the Association dinner. Owing to the Essex Yeomanry Band having double booked, the Dinner this year's will be on Saturday 2 June at the Castle Hall, Hertford. The Branch Secretary has now moved to Suffolk but will



Mr Reg Howard receiving his Certificate of Merit from The Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment Association Vice President, Maj Robin Medley at the Wreath Laying and Reunion Parade at Kempston on 19 November 2000. Mr Howard, who was one of the nine recipients of the Certificate of Merit for exceptional service to the Association, served with the 2nd Battalion in Italy during the war and has given over 40 years service to the Association, both on the Management and St Alban's Branch Committees. He was the Branch Secretary for 30 years and was appointed the Branch President in January 2001.

The Associations

continue with his duties. The St Albans Branch has to announce the death of its President, Capt Jim Harrowell on 23 November 2000. Twenty-six members attended the wreath-laying ceremony and reunion at Kempston and our congratulations to Reg Howard on receiving his well-earned certificate of merit and also his appointment as our new President of the Branch.

The Watford and Hemel Hempstead Branch held a race night on 7 October 2000 in aid of branch funds. Mick Allum represented the Association at the opening of the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey on 9 November 2000.

For the second year running the branch organised an Association party of 50 former National Servicemen to march in the Cenotaph Parade, Whitehall. Members attended the wreath-laying and reunion on 19 November 2000 at Kempston. The Branch Secretary, George Owen and Mick Allum were awarded certificates for their work for the Association. The Branch held a buffet/dance in December, the evening being a great success.

The Hitchin Branch held its AGM on 31 January 2001 when 18 members were present. The members are looking forward to the Association events of the year as well as other trips which have been planned, weather permitted.

Members of the Luton and Dunstable Branch attended with the Branch Standard the Remembrance Sunday Parade at Luton and the wreath-laying and reunion at Kempston on 19 November 2000. After the wreath-laying parade both the Chairman and Secretary of the Branch received their certificates of merit for their service to the Association.

After the December meeting, which took place on the 13th, a buffet and social was held. This was a great success. The accounts for the year 2000 have been submitted for audit and at the February meeting the Treasurer gave a brief breakdown of the accounts, which showed a slight increase on the 1999 balance.

Mr Ron Hope, who organises the Suez Canal Veterans' reunions has unfortunately suffered a heart attack and although he is progressing well his doctor has told him that he must take things more easily. He has, with regret, had to resign from the management committee and from organising further reunions.

The Hertfordshire Regiment Association

The autumn fish and chip supper was once again well supported and was most enjoyable with a bingo session and a raffle.

On Sunday 5 November 2000 the Annual Reunion Dinner of The Hertfordshire

Regiment Association was held at the Mayflower Place. It was a 'full house' as over 100 members and wives attended and unfortunately some late applicants were unlucky. After an excellent four course meal, Capt Nick Faint of the 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment spoke about the recent operations of the Battalion and gave a flavour of plans for the future. The members were most grateful to Capt Paul Thurston, PSAO E Company East of England Regiment (V) for bringing along some of the Hertfordshire Regiment silver which they had not seen for years. It created much interest.

On Wednesday 9 November 2000 the Hertfordshire Regiment Association hosted the 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment KAPE team to afternoon tea when they visited Hertford. While everyone tucked into the sandwiches and cakes the Association members shared their World War Two experiences with the young soldiers. The KAPE team later moved to Walton Cross for a presentation to the Cadet Detachment.

The Association Standard was on parade with members on Remembrance Sunday at Hertford and again on the following Sunday at Kempston for the wreath-laying and annual reunion of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association.



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

Chairman Royal Tigers' Association

It was with enormous sadness that we reported the death on 8 January 2001 of Lt Col JL Wilson OBE DL, the Chairman of the Royal Tigers' Association. All members will remember him for all his devoted service to the Royal Leicestershire Regiment and the Royal Tigers' Association over many years. Capt RJ Allen was appointed Chairman of the Royal Tigers' Association by the President on 18 January 2001. He is the sixth member of his family to have served in the Royal Leicestershire Regiment.

Royal Tigers' Weekend 23 and 24 June 2001

As the East of England Regiment will be returning from its annual camp in Cyprus, the Association will be unable to use the TA Centre at Ulverscroft Road this year. Nevertheless it is confidently predicted that the arrangements will be as good as ever.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will take place in the Morley Suite at Devonshire Place, 80 London Road,

Leicester at 6.30pm on 23 June 2001. This will be followed by the 76th annual dinner at 7.15 for 7.45 pm in the Oliver Suite at Devonshire Place.

On Sunday 24 June 2001 the Regiment Parade Service will be in the cathedral. After the service the Association will form up outside and march to the town Hall. The salute outside the cathedral will be taken by the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire. Following the service, there will be a reception and lunch in the Oliver Suite at Devonshire Place.

Entry to the annual dinner, the reception and the lunch will be by ticket only, so please apply to the area office.

Cyprus Veterans' Reunion

The fifth reunion of ex-members of the 1st Battalion who served in Cyprus 1955-1958 will be held at the TA Centre Ulverscroft Road, Leicester on 20 October 2001. Please make a note in your diary. Further details can be obtained from Mr Rob Freeman on 0116-2335716.

Christmas Reunion

Following the very successful reunion last December, a follow up reunion has been organised for 7 December 2001 at the TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester. Please make a note in your diary for this happy event. Further details will be in the autumn newsletter.

'Tigers' Caged'

The splendid exhibition to commemorate the Defence of Ladysmith 1899-1900 has proved so successful and popular that its travels have been extended. It can be seen at the Ashby de la Zouch Museum, North Street, Ashby, from 9 June to 29 September 2001.

Our congratulations and thanks to the staff of the Leicestershire Record Office for continuing to keep this excellent and fascinating story in the forefront of people's thoughts. By September, this exhibition will be by far the longest running exhibition the Record Office can remember. It is well worth a visit.

The Associations



The unveiling and dedication of the South Wigston and Glen Parva War Memorial. 11 November 1923.

Remember Le-Havre - 1944

The ceremony of unveiling a memorial commemorating the liberation of Le Havre in 1944 took place on Sunday 10 September 2000. The inauguration of the Churchill tank, the feature of the memorial, was attended by representatives of the 490 West Riding Division Association. The flags of Canada, France and England were hoisted and prayers said for the dedication of the memorial. On the four-day visit the party visited various battlefields to include Pont Audemer and Corneilles. Fortunately the visit was blessed with fine weather.

The Royal Tigers' Association had a special stainless steel plaque made and this was displayed, with plaques from other Regiments, alongside the tank at the unveiling. The French are planning to build a concrete wall on the site and all the Regimental plaques will be mounted on this wall.

Any visitors to Le Havre this summer are invited to visit the site and send a short report back to the area office.

Rats of Tobruk Association Memorial

The Rats of Tobruk Association memorial in the National Memorial Arboretum at Croxall, near Alrewas, was dedicated on 9 April 2001. The memorial is a two-ton block

of stone, purchased by members of Rats of Tobruk Association, to remember those in their war graves and lost at sea at Tobruk. During the service in the Millennium Chapel of Peace and Forgiveness which followed the dedication ceremony, the Rats of Tobruk Association Standard was laid up for safekeeping.

The Royal Leicestershire Regiment was represented by Capt Richard Lane and Mr Tom Marston who is a member of the Rats of Tobruk Association and who was with the 2nd Battalion in the siege of Tobruk and the breakout in November 1941.

South Wigston War Memorial

The War Memorial outside St Thomas's Church in South Wigston, upon which are the names of many Tigers, is to be refurbished at a cost of nearly £9,000. The Oadby and Wigston Borough Council have led a fundraising campaign to which the Association gave £500, 18 other Corps/Regiments have so far contributed £1,930, and Leicestershire County council has made a large contribution. It is hoped that the work will be completed this summer.

The photo shows the unveiling and dedication of the original memorial on 11 November 1923. A further row of plaques listing all those killed in the Second World

War was added later. The refurbished memorial will again look splendid.

Regimental Benevolence

During 2000 the Royal Leicestershire Regiment Charitable Fund disbursed £5,189 of Regimental money, and also £2,005 from the ABF, to ex-Tigers and their families. In addition £2,340 was distributed as ABF annuities to ex-soldiers or their widows. The Regimental Charitable Fund remains very healthy.

Royal Tigers' Association Standard

Members will be pleased to hear that the Association Standard, now some 45 years old has been repaired and strengthened.

Help Required

Leicester City Council is inputting Regimental information into a computer project, to improve access to the public (both in Leicester and in the rest of the UK). They are seeking volunteers to help the museum staff input the records they hold. It is a very worthwhile project, and deserves Regimental support. Anyone who might be interested should contact Mr Philip French in the Newarke Houses Museum (Tel: 0116-2473221) or the Area Secretary (0116-2622749) for further details.



The Essex Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Essex)

Plans are going ahead to hold a gathering for ex-National Servicemen who served in the Essex Regiment between 1948 and 1958. This will take place at Warley on Sunday 26 August and, in addition to National Servicemen, officers and senior ranks who served in the Regiment during that period will be most welcome to attend.

We greatly welcome the prospect of a branch of the Royal Anglian Regiment being formed in Essex into which the Essex Regiment Association will eventually be able to merge.

In the meantime, we look forward to the possibility of being represented at any events that the Royal Anglian Regiment might organise and to having their members with us at our events.

We shall be holding a lunch for our own members at the Marconi Athletic and Social Club in Chelmsford on Friday 20 July. This will replace the dinners which we have held in recent years.

The Regimental Reunion will take place at Warley on Sunday 24 June. As usual, this will commence with the annual service of Remembrance at which the Rt Rev Thomas McMahon, the Bishop of Brentwood, will preach the sermon.

In the last few years there have been a number of incidents of vandalism affecting the chapel of the Royal Anglian and Essex Regiments at Warley and it is a matter of concern that, in the event of the area office closing, it will be even more difficult to protect the chapel than it is at present. Consequently, the chapel committee is pressing ahead with the proposal to replace the low wooden fence with iron railings. The committee hopes to arrange the necessary funding so that work can be undertaken shortly.

To commemorate the liberation of Bayeux by the 2nd Battalion the Essex Regiment on 7 June 1944 (D-Day+1) a memorial is to be erected in the grounds of the Museum of the Battle of Normandy at Bayeux. It is planned to dedicate the memorial at a suitable ceremony on 7 June 2002 at which it is anticipated a number of former members of the Battalion who landed in France on D-Day will be present.

Bayeux was the first town to be liberated during the invasion. The memorial will commemorate all those who gave their lives in France, Belgium and Holland between 6 June 1944 and 8 June 1945.



Presentation of Greek Medals at RHQ Warley - December 2000. From left: Ted Hazle DCM, Roy Engwell, George Green (Chairman), Jack Mansell and Bill Atwill. (Sadly Bill Atwill, passed away shortly after this presentation after a long illness).

4th Battalion Comrades Association

More than 30 members of the Association (or their surviving relatives) who served with the Battalion in Greece at the end of 1944 have received their commemorative medals issued by the Greek government. Some presentations have already taken place, at the December council meeting and after the Warley memorial service. The work put in by George Green, George Skinner, Col Geoffrey Morgan and the office staff at Warley in obtaining the award of these medals is very much appreciated by all members. The 'icing on the cake' is that official permission has been granted to mount these medals on the Sovereign Bar. The millennium celebrations have led to the building and dedication of a new war memorial in Dagenham, sited on the green adjacent to the parish church and Cross Keys pub. The foundation stone was laid and dedicated by the Archbishop of Canterbury (a local Dagenham lad) in May and the full memorial was unveiled and dedicated on Remembrance Sunday 2000. This memorial lists the names of all those Dagenham men who lost their lives serving with the battalion



The new War Memorial at Dagenham.

during World War Two, including many from A Company who were based at the Halbutt Street Drill Hall in Dagenham.

The Associations

Thurrock Branch

The Branch has again been fairly active though it does seem that the same group of members attend all the activities. This could well be due to age and the inability of some to travel.

Most functions arranged by the Association, including those of the 4th Battalion Comrades, were attended. Also we must not forget the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Association Dinner and Dance at the Castle Hotel Hertford which was a great evening. On the first Sunday of each month we attend the service at our Regimental Chapel, Warley, where there is always a good turnout of members. On 4 March 2001 a new plaque was unveiled to the ATS/WRAC who served at Warley and in the Essex area and was attended by a large number of ex-Service women.

We held our AGM in March. Our President, Capt George Green, felt that because of health and travelling distance he should retire. Lt Gordon Wren has taken over.

Chelmsford Branch

Our Branch has recently been shocked by the death of our Chairman, Mr Eric Saville. He was in good form at our meeting on February 7 but died in his sleep early in March 2001. He was buried in his home village of East Hanningfield on March 15 in the church cemetery. Present were three Standard Bearers together with many Old Comrades and their wives. A bugler from the Minden Band, in full uniform, sounded Last Post and Rouse.

Previous to that it had been joyful to attend the Association annual dinner and dance, and also our own Christmas social in December. A party attended Warley Chapel in March for the dedication of the ATS plaque.

The photograph (see colour section) shows Mr Eric Saville, third from the left, with Mr Bill Brown, second from the left, and on the right Mr Les Knight. The sergeant bugler is from the Corps of Drums of the King Edward VI School, Chelmsford.



The Northamptonshire Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Northamptonshire)

Benevolence

During 2000 the Northamptonshire Regimental Benevolent Fund disbursed £4,925 of Regimental money, and also £2,325 from the Army Benevolent Fund. In addition, £3,240 was distributed to ex-soldiers or their widows as ABF annuities. The Regimental Benevolent fund remains very healthy.

Officers' Lunch Party

The Officers' Dining Club held their annual lunch on 4 May 2001. We returned to the Duke of York's Headquarters, where the caterers gave us a splendid meal. The happy family atmosphere made it another memorable occasion.

Regimental Colours

Ten Colours used to hang in the chancel of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Sadly, these were reaching the end of their life, even when (some of them were) netted, so about seven years ago they were taken down. If one touches them they just disintegrate. During the annual parade service on 8 July 2001, subject to final approval by the Diocesan authorities, the remains of these Colours will finally be laid to rest in a special solid English oak casket beneath the floor in the Regimental Chapel. The Colours will be photographed beforehand and it is hoped that a booklet to record their history for posterity will be prepared. An inscribed stone tablet will be set into the floor of the Regimental Chapel in front of the altar. This

will cover the casket. The tablet will be made of Hopton Wood stone, which is harder and carves better than York stone and should provide a lovely lasting headstone to the casket.

Regimental Silver Dispersal

The Northamptonshire Regimental Trustees have decided to disperse the large collection of silver. Many of the nicer and historical pieces have been put into the Regimental Museum, and we have asked the museum authorities to try to put more Regimental silver on display. It is also wonderful to report that 2 R Anglian have been given many important pieces, so these will be used and enjoyed regularly and they will have a good long term home. Other pieces are being given on long loan to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Peterborough Cathedral, Castor Parish Church, Rutland Museum, the Mayor of Kettering, the Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting, Oundle School, Kimbolton School, the Army Lawn Tennis Association, the Royal Anglian Regiment Museum, RHQ Royal Anglian Regiment, and 158 (R Anglian) Transport Regiment RLC. A few items are being returned to their donor or donors' families. Some items are being sold to former members of the Regiment - nearly everyone who bids will receive one or more of the items they requested.

It is likely that the Trustees will be arranging a second sale of the remaining silver. Anyone who might be interested in

The Eagle and Gun Regimental Association

At present we have 63 members which is very good as most of us are near 80. The first Militia will be 83 this year so time rolls on. One of our gun emplacements built to protect London from German bombers has been officially declared an 'ancient monument'.

This is on Sandpit Hill in the middle of Hadleigh Castle Country Park and the site features a complete battery of 5.25 gun emplacements, ancillary buildings etc. It was occupied from 1939 to 1941 by W Troop 1164 Battery, and we have a photograph taken at the time. This was sent by Capt H Jarvis who was a sergeant at the time and who subsequently went to OCTU and was commissioned. He died on January 6 this year. He was one of the few left who actually joined the 7th Battalion the Essex Regiment as a boy soldier in 1934 and was mustered as a gunner in December 1935 when the Battalion became an artillery unit. Farewell old faithful friend.

buying one or more pieces should telephone the area office (01604-635412) after 9 July 2001 for full details. Viewing at the TA Centre, Clare Street, Northampton is expected to be 16 July to 31 October 2001.

Peterborough Branch

Following our successful annual reunion dinner last year, we started the year with a well-attended AGM at the Officers' Mess at the TA Centre in London Road. We were fortunate to be given a presentation by Col Jeremy Smith, the CO of 158 (Royal Anglian) Regiment RLC bringing us up to date with his Regiment's achievements and, more importantly, confirming his unit's continued support to the Branch.

We had over 40 members present and, after the reports of the officers, the members discussed and agreed our programme for the year ahead. Full details can be found on our website which is run by our able Secretary, Noel Muncey. The web-site is <http://www.go.to/steelbacks>

Noel Muncey is always available on e-mail noelmuncey@hotmail.com

Branch activities included a return visit to the Fengate greyhound track, a joint social evening at Childers with the Cambridgeshire Comrades and a visit to Elgoods Brewery and gardens. The Branch will of course be involved in the Regimental functions at Basingbourn and Northampton, and it is hoped that members will note our dinner at the TA Centre, London Road, Peterborough on Saturday 20 October.

Obituaries

Maj David Jamieson VC CVO

David Jamieson won the Victoria Cross for the magnificent leadership and courage he displayed in the desperate battle for the bridgehead on the River Orne in Normandy, which had been gained in August 1944 by the men of the Royal Norfolk Regiment during the breakout after the D-Day landings. In a dangerous period, during which his company was repeatedly assaulted by overwhelmingly powerful German armed forces, Jamieson kept a cool head and displayed resolve and tactical skills which, over a period of 36 hours, held the Norfolks' hard won position and eventually repulsed the enemy's tanks.



Jamieson, then a captain, was second-in-command of D Company of the 7th Battalion of the Royal Norfolk Regiment in the 59th Division during the crossing of the Orne south of Caen in the first week of August 1944. Before any major action, it was customary to leave a number of officers out of battle, who would act as a cadre on which the battalion could be reformed if it suffered heavy casualties. D Company's commander was left out of the battle, so Jamieson was in command of the company for the crossing, which was initially successful enough for a bridgehead to be built and for some tanks to reinforce the bridgehead.

On 7 August, 12th SS Panzer Division, which had been rushed over from the Canadian sector, launched three successive counter-attacks with the new and powerful MK VI Tiger tanks supported by Mk V Panthers, the brunt of which fell on D Company. Jamieson displayed outstanding resource and steadfastness during the four hours' fighting, which resulted in the Germans being repulsed by nightfall.

The German armour renewed its attacks next day. Two of the three tanks supporting Jamieson's company were destroyed, and the outside telephone of the third would not work.

In order to contact its commander, Jamieson left his slit-trench under close-range fire and climbed on to its turret in full view of the enemy.

He was hit in the head and left arm, but, when his wounds had been dressed, he refused to be evacuated. By this time, all the other officers of the company had become casualties, so he continued to command until the last Germans were successfully driven off the position again several hours later.

The citation for his VC ends: 'Throughout the 36 hours of bitter and close fighting, and in spite of the pain of his wounds, Capt Jamieson showed superb qualities of leadership and great personal bravery. There were times when the position appeared hopeless, but on each occasion it was restored by his coolness and determination. He personally was largely responsible for the holding of this important bridgehead over the River Orne and for the repulse of seven German counter-attacks with great loss to the enemy'.

David Auldjo Jamieson, the son of Sir Archibald Jamieson KBE MC, was born in 1920 and was educated at Eton. He would have gone up to Cambridge University had the war not intervened.

After the war he became an instructor at the School of Infantry, Warminster, as a major and in 1948 he was posted as adviser on the British Military Mission to Egypt. He resigned his commission that year to go into business in the United Kingdom and Australia.

He was a director of the Australian Agricultural Co from 1949 to 1978, and governor from 1952 to 1976. He was also a director of the UK branch of the Australian Mutual Provident Society, 1963-68 (deputy chairman 1973-89); of National Westminster Bank, 1983-87; and of Steetly plc, 1976-86 (deputy chairman, 1983-86).

In 1969 he became one of Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms. In 1979-80 he was High

Sheriff of Norfolk. In 1986 he delivered up his Stock of Office as Clerk of the Cheque and Adjutant on his appointment as Lieutenant of the Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, serving in that office until 1990, when he was appointed CVO.

For many years Jamieson and his family lived at the Drove-House, in the peaceful west Norfolk village of Thornham. Latterly he had settled at Burnham Market, in north Norfolk. In his later years he bore with fortitude and cheerfulness the successive amputation of both his legs. But although confined to a wheelchair he developed new interests in painting and tapestry-making, achieving a high standard in both these arts.

He died on 5 May aged 80. His first wife, Nancy Elwes, whom he married in Sydney in 1948, was killed in a road accident in 1963. They had a son and two daughters. He married Joanna in 1969. He is survived by her, by the son and two daughters of his first marriage and by a stepson and stepdaughter.

(Extracted from the obituary which appeared in *The Times* on 8 May 2001).

Col JV Miseroy

Col John Miseroy died in Florida on 29 February 2000, aged 74.

He enlisted at Warley in 1943 and after training was posted to the Wiltshire Regiment. Going ashore on D-Day his landing craft struck a mine but he survived to fight on through the campaign to liberate North West Europe.

Early in 1946 he was selected for officer training and passed out of Sandhurst with the Sword of Honour. He was commissioned into the Essex Regiment and posted to India.



He attended the Staff College Camberley in 1959 and the US Command and General Staff College Fort Levenworth in 1965-66. He then briefly commanded the 1st Battalion the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (TA) until it fell victim to a TA restructuring, and then the Regiment Depot of the Royal Anglian Regiment at Bury St Edmunds from 1967-69. After further overseas tours in Washington, Turkey and UK he retired in 1976.

It was no surprise to anyone that the family decided to settle in Florida where John was employed to set up a free health screening programme in St Petersburg Florida, a role he fulfilled for 11 years. In retirement he and Esther continued to give generously of their time and energy to a variety of voluntary activities in their local community.

John Miseroy was always full of energy and enthusiasm, characteristics which were infectious. He is greatly missed by his friends in the Regiment and by many others whose lives he touched. We extend our sympathies to his widow Esther, to Blair and John and to their grandchildren.

JEH

Maj HND (Neil) Pullen

Neil Pullen's personal signature tune could easily have been *I Did It My Way!* He served in the Army for some 26 years, but unlike many of his contemporaries who followed the normal upward momentum via regimental and staff postings, Neil decided that he would seek other opportunities. He joined up in 1946 and during the next 20 years, there were opportunities galore for an enthusiastic maverick young officer.

After service in Korea and Hong Kong, he took part in the Malayan Emergency between 1954 and 56, piloting light Auster aircraft in the Glider Pilot Regiment.

Obituaries

It is probably true to say that apart from his wife Pamela, the love of his life was flying. He was awarded a very well deserved MiD for his services in Malaya for flying low over the jungle target-spotting for the RAF - a rather hazardous venture. He loved flying so much that he elected to forego a place at the Technical Staff College in order to become an instructor and fixed wing examiner at the School of Aviation, and later in 1968, during another secondment tour with the Army Air Corps, he converted to helicopters and commanded a flight of the first AAC helicopter operational squadron in Yorkshire.



Although Neil served for only six of his 26 years with the Regiment, as a platoon commander, a company second-in-command, and a company commander during three separate tours of regimental duty, he was extremely proud of his Norfolk heritage and continued to wear the Regimental capbadge until he retired in 1972.

He felt greatly honoured to have been selected to carry the Queen's Colour in the R Norfolk contingent when it marched through the streets of London in the Coronation parade.

Neil is remembered by many as a wonderful raconteur, the life of any party, an outstanding airman, a good infantry leader, and a very kind and generous man. He really enjoyed his service in the Army, his close-knit family, his friends, and his life, and perhaps that is because 'he did it his way'.

He died in February this year and is survived by his wife Pamela, his daughters Monique and Mandi, and two grandsons.

Maj RE (Robbie) Robinson



Maj Robbie Robinson, who died on 1 April 2000, in his 89th year, will be remembered with affection by his many friends of all ranks in the Essex Regiment and the Parachute Battalion and by the many officers of the East Anglian and Royal Anglian Regiment whose careers and early postings were managed by Robbie during his 16 years as a staff officer in the East Anglian Brigade and Headquarters Queen's Division.

Robbie worked in the City for 10 years before joining the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) in May 1938. When war broke out he was mobilised and selected for officer training. He joined 10th Essex in May 1941 which later became the 9th Battalion the Parachute Regiment and remained with them throughout the war.

After the war he continued to serve with the Parachute Regiment before returning to the 1st Essex in 1948. His last job in the Army was Brigade Adjutant at Bury St Edmunds looking after officer matters and after retirement in 1959 he was reappointed to the same post as a retired officer, a post he held until his eventual retirement in 1972.

Robbie was a courageous, loyal and dedicated officer. He had sound views which he expressed clearly and an excellent memory which stood him in good stead during his 16 years looking after officers' careers.

JEH

Maj P Thain MBE

Maj P Thain died on 17 December 2000. He joined 1 Suffolks in Greece in 1948 and subsequently served with them in Malaya, Trieste and Wuppertal. Thereafter he had a varied career serving with the King's African Rifles in Kenya and Uganda and the Singapore Infantry Regiment. He also served with UDR and was for some years a GLO with the RAF in UK and BAOR. He retired in 1981 and became very involved in his local community being at various times a school governor, parish councillor and chairman of the local RBL branch.

Lt Col JL Wilson OBE DL



John Wilson joined the Royal Leicestershire Regiment from Sandhurst in 1951 and immediately received a challenging baptism on active service in Korea. Thereafter he saw service in Germany and Sudan before moving to Cyprus during the EOKA emergency. Here he married Thea, and they had one of the closest and happiest marriages it is possible to imagine.

After Staff College he became a Brigade Major in Wales and then saw more active service as a company commander and Battalion second-in-command with the Vikings during violent times in Londonderry. This was followed by a spell back in Sudan as an instructor at the Sudanese Staff College. Then he was appointed to command the Infantry Junior Leaders' Regiment in Oswestry. He did this for three full years, and the Army and many an individual has reason to be grateful to him.

After 30 years' commissioned service, he ended his Army career in 1981 and was appointed Regimental Secretary in Leicester. He was ideally suited to his new task, responsible for the welfare of Old Comrades and for running the day-to-day business of his Regiment. He was also appointed Regimental Secretary of the Northamptonshire Regiment in 1984. This increased his workload, but he quickly gained the confidence and respect of all comrades, and was held in high esteem.

Not content with Regimental tasks, he immersed himself in local charities. For 20 years he was a trustee of the Leicester and Leicestershire War Memorial Foundation which provides homes for disabled ex-Service personnel. He was a stalwart working committee member of the Army Benevolent Fund and a major contributor to its work. He was also a fundraiser for the Sir Andrew Martin Trust, Leicester Cathedral and Lords.

But most of all, in his supposed retirement, he was from 1983 to 1990 Commander of the Order of St John in Leicestershire. Then in 1990 he took over as Chairman of the St John Council in Leicestershire, seeing that excellent charity through a most difficult period of change and reorganisation. In 1998 for his services, he was appointed a Knight of Grace of the Order of St John. Then in the Millennium Honours List he was awarded the OBE for his services to the people of Leicestershire. He had already been appointed Deputy Lieutenant in 1986. John died suddenly in January. The size of the congregation at his funeral was testament to the respect and affection in which he was held by so many from different walks of life. He will be sadly missed.

Capt AR Smith

Alwyn Smith was born in Birmingham on 2 August 1926. He left home in search of fame and fortune at the age of 15. After a number of adventures he finally chose the Army which he joined as a private soldier in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, soon after the end of the war. After training in Warwick he was sent on his first posting to the 1st Battalion the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment which was, at that time, stationed in Egypt. And so he started out on what was to become a way of life - he went on to give 42 years unbroken and dedicated service to the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment and its successor the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Alwyn was intelligent, hard working, professional and efficient. He earned rapid promotion and was eventually commissioned into the 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment in 1971. He became the Regimental Secretary in Lincoln on his retirement in 1976.

For the next 16 years Alwyn continued to give excellent service. He was an able and conscientious administrator who kept the show on the road in his own calm unruffled way. Nothing was too much trouble for him. He really cared for those who needed help. He was invariably friendly and many had cause to be grateful for his help in one way or another.

When he was struck down by his dreadful illness in the mid 80s he kept going without complaint and without any lessening of his workload or efficiency. Even after his retirement and right up until just before he died in January he continued to give his successor in post invaluable help and advice from his encyclopaedic knowledge.

We offer our deepest sympathy to Uschi, his wife, and daughter Yvonne.

Deaths

We have been informed of the deaths of the following members of our Former Regiments' Associations:

Bowman-Powell: On 18 October 2000, Maj GG Bowman-Powell. Late Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment

Askew: On 21 November 2000, Mr CH (Harold) Askew, aged 83, 5th Beds and Herts, PoW.

Buxton: WO2 AW 'Bucko' Buxton, 1 R Leics and 4th Battalion.

Brown: On 21 September 2000, Lt I. Brown aged 86, 1st Beds and Herts, India.

Carrington: On 9 August 2000, Capt R Carrington 5 Beds and Herts TA.

Cox: On 24 December 2000 aged 79, Mr HWD Cox, the Cambridgeshire Regiment, Former Secretary of the March Branch.

Eeles: On 9 September 2000, Mr FE Eccles aged 86, 9th Beds and Herts.

Furlong: On 3 November 2000, Mr L Furlong aged 80, (5th and 1st Beds and Herts, India.

Harrowell: On 23 November 2000, Capt J Harrowell, Badly wounded North Africa 2nd Beds and Herts, President St Albans Branch.

Havilland: On 19 October 2000, Lt Col HAE 'Happy' Havilland OBE 1 R Leics QM RMA Sandhurst.

Holliman: On 6 October 2000, Mr R Holliman, 1st Beds and Herts, 1957-59 Goslar.

Kirton: On 1 June 2000, Capt GHF Kirton aged 83, Northants/Beds and Herts.

May: On 14 December 2000, Mr J (Johnny) May aged 71, 1st Beds and Herts, Tripoli, Salonika.

Salmon: In December 2000, Col A Salmon aged 89, CO 2nd Beds and Herts, 1945-46.



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

King's Lynn Branch
 Capt AA Hammond OBE,
 Sandena, Old Mill Road,
 Roughton, Norwich NR11 8PE

Gt Yarmouth/Gorleston Branch
 Mr RC Pillar,
 16 Alder Close, Bradwell,
 Gt Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 8PD

London Branch
 Mr MJ Frances,
 4 Kingswood Park,
 Hendon Avenue,
 Finchley, London N3 1UG

Norwich Branch
 Mr PE Boxall,
 31 Breckland Road,
 New Costessey,
 Norwich NR5 0RW

Suffolk

HQ The Suffolk Regiment Old Comrades Association and the Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Branch)
 The Keep,
 Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds,
 Suffolk IP33 3RN
 Tel: 01603-400290
 01284-752394 (Wednesdays only)
President: Brig WC Deller OBE

Bury St Edmunds and District Branch
 Mr C Smith,
 15 Rectory Road,
 Whepstead,
 Suffolk IP29 4TE

Ipswich Branch
 Mr R Garner,
 24 Oregon Road,
 Kesgrave,
 Ipswich, Suffolk IP5 7EX

Hemel Hempstead Branch
 Mr M Gilbert,
 84 Westfield Road,
 Berhamsted,
 Hertfordshire HP4 3PN

Beccles Branch
 Mr ME Reed,
 143 The Avenue,
 Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 7LJ

Felixstowe Branch
 Mr N Buckingham,
 Marahaba, 18 Fairfield Avenue,
 Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 9JN

Stowmarket Branch
 Mr D King,
 110 Bury Street,
 Stowmarket,
 Suffolk IP14 1HF

Leiston Branch
 Mr AJ Watson,
 57 St Margarets Crescent,
 Leiston,
 Suffolk IP16 4HP

Sudbury Branch
 Mr D Land,
 2 Pot Kiln Road,
 Gt Cornard,
 Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 0DA

Lowestoft Branch
 Mr RE Sharpe
 17 Conrad Road
 Oulton Broad
 Lowestoft
 NR32 8QB

Cambridgeshire

HQ The Cambridgeshire Regiment Association and the Cambridgeshire Branch The Royal Anglian Regiment Association
 c/o Cambridgeshire ACF, Denny End Road,
 Waterbeach, Cambridge
President: Lt Col WF Badcock MBE
Secretary: Maj MA Jarvis
 1 Witham Close,
 St Ives, Cambs PE27 3DY
 Tel 01480-380234

Cambridge Branch
 Col DE Latchford,
 48 Lode Road, Bottisham,
 Cambridge CB5 9DJ
 Tel: 01223-811454

Ely Branch
 Mr HR Hitch,
 7 Olivers Way,
 March, Cambs PE15 9PU
 Tel: 01354-653058

March and District Branch
 Mr DWH Cox,
 13 Fleming Court,
 March, Cambs PE15 9HD
 Tel: 01354-52021

Wisbech Branch
 Mr RC Keating,
 41 High Street,
 Sutton, Cambs CB6 2RA
 Tel: 01353-778128.

Whittlesey and Peterborough Branch
 Mr B Whitwell,
 48 Coronation Avenue,
 Whittlesey, Cambs PE17 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: Maj Gen JA Ward-Booth OBE DL
President: Brig AFFH Robertson CBE

Hertford Branch
 Mr SR Mansfield,
 2 Fairfield Road,
 Bungay, Suffolk NR35 1RY
 Tel: 01986-893228

St Albans Branch
 Mr P Messenger,
 14 Mobile Home Site,
 Drakes Drive, St Albans,
 Herts AL1 5AE
 Tel: 01727-858131

Bedford Branch
 Mr E Roberts,
 3 Manor Close,
 Kempston, Bedford MK42 7AA
 Tel: 01234-854507

Hitchin Branch
 Mr F Gorton,
 22 Hine Way,
 Hitchin, Herts SG5 2SL
 Tel: 01462-620398.

Hertfordshire Regiment Association
 Mr C Austin,
 97 West Street,
 Hertford, Herts SG13 8EI
 Tel: 01992-558757

Watford and Hemel Hempstead Branch
 Mr EG Owens,
 37 Bidshall Crescent,
 Dunstable,
 Beds LU6 3NF
 Tel: 01582- 665734

Luton and Dunstable Branch
 Mr S Chapman,
 86 St Margaret's Avenue,
 Luton, Beds LU3 1PQ
 Tel: 01582-604444

Association Branches

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 GCP Morgan OBE DL

4th Battalion Comrades Association

Mrs J Edmonston,
39 River Way, Loughton,
Essex IG10 3LJ
Tel: 0208-5083232

7th Eagle and Gun Regimental Association

Mr V Foulsham,
62 Armstrong Avenue,
Woodford Green,
Essex IG8 9PT
Tel: 0208-5314808

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

HQ The Royal Lincolnshire and Royal Anglian Regiment Association
The Keep, Sobraon Barracks,
Lincoln LN1 3PY
Tel: 01522-525444

President: Maj Gen REJ Gerrard-Wright
CB CBE DL

Lincoln Branch

Mr HE Hill,
8 Westwood Drive
Swampool,
Lincoln LN6 0HT
Tel: 01522-878179

Grimsby Branch

Mr D Carroll,
87 Manor Drive, Waltham,
Grimsby, Lincs DN37 0NS
Tel: 01472-826953

Grantham Branch

Mr JW Flatters,
17 Longcliffe Road,
Grantham, Lincs NG31 8DZ
Tel: 01476-563548

Spalding Branch

Mr A Waterfall,
26 Brewster Road,
Boston, Lincs PE21 0DY
Tel: 01205-358565

Midlands Branch

Mr L Wood,
15 Lanchester Road,
Radford, Coventry CV6 3EY
Tel: 01203-597815

Stamford Branch

Capt WL Simpson,
St Clement, 8 Barn Hill,
Stamford, Lincs PE9 2YG

Scunthorpe Branch

Mr C Bromby,
85 Southfield Road,
Scunthorpe,
South Humberside DN16 3BT
Tel: 01724-859253

Northampton

HQ The Northamptonshire Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Northampton)

TA Centre, Clare Street,
Northampton NN1 3JQ
Tel: 01604-635412

Chairman: Col P Worthy

Corby Branch

Mr KR Fordyce,
7 Motiston Close, Corby,
Northants NN17 2JD

Finedon Branch

Mr RH Ogle,
44 Hayden Avenue,
Finedon,
Northants NN9 5ET
Tel: 01933-681525

Peterborough Branch

Mr D Allen,
10 Werrington Bridge Road,
Milking Nook,
Peterborough PE6 7PP
Tel: 01733-810311

Leicestershire

HQ The Royal Tigers' Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Leicestershire)

TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road,
Leicester LE4 6BY
Tel: 0116-2622749

President: Maj Gen AJG Pollard CB CBE DL

Wiltshire

Warminster Branch

Mr E Wilson,
23 The Heathlands,
Warminster,
Wiltshire BA12 8BU
Tel: 01985-219273

Orbat for the 1st Battalion

The Royal Anglian Regiment as at May 2001

Battalion HQ

LCpl PD Jones MBE
Maj A M Wylie
Capt PM Birch
Capt MP Aston
WO1 Robinson
W02 L-Stevens
Pte O'Brien
Pte Allan 38

Company HQ

Capt A Johnson
QGM
W02 Buff
Sgt Routledge
Cpl Brown 17
Pte Jackson 46
Pte Cunningham
Pte Johnson 35
Pte Bruce

Pro Sect

Sgt Cox
Cpl Howlett
Cpl Turney
LCpl Brown 977
LCpl Rayfield

RAP

Cpl Milne
Cpl Johnson 53
LCpl Baldwin
LCpl Peyton
LCpl Mason
Pte McLaughlin

Trg Wing

W02 Tate
CSgt James
Cpl Allen 25

Messes

Sgt Clarke
Cpl Dufosse
Cpl Smith 73
Pte Evans 06
Pte Stevens
Pte Ranson
Pte Ribati
Pte Howsam

Families Office

W01 Mackness
CSgt Collins
Pte Smith 63

1Star Group

Capt NDB Charwood
Capt PC Worthington
Sgt Woods
Cpl Quittenton
LCpl Jenkins

Assault Pioneers

CSgt O'Grady

Gym

Cpl Johnson 59
Pte Marks 66
LCpl Mitchell 61

Signal Platoon

Capt OCC Brown
W02 Gridley
Sgt Rackham
Sgt Baxter
Cpl Seringer
Cpl Kulkarni
Cpl Magee
Cpl Carter
LCpl Fosker
LCpl Naylor
LCpl Cole
LCpl Kendall
LCpl Kearney
LCpl Ellis
Pte Ostler
Pte Smith 90
Pte Wallace
Pte Russell
Pte Juniper
Pte Cuthbert
Pte Boston

QM Department

Capt RP Grenfell
Capt DJ Stefanetti
W02 Blanchfield
W02 Jones
CSgt Dade
Sgt Bevan
Sgt Howard
Cpl Nicholls
Cpl Lovett
Cpl Richardson
Cpl Stevenson
Cpl Lennon
Cpl Stewart
Pte Murton
Pte Boyle
LCpl Horne
Cpl Patrick
Pte Gibbs 72

MT PI

W02 Athroll
Sgt Harrison
Cpl Buist
Cpl Pierce
Cpl Ball
Cpl Plant
LCpl Forsythe
LCpl Chandler
LCpl McKenna
LCpl Branch
Cpl Bronsdon
Pte Lomas
Pte Greensmith
Pte Moore
Pte Jones 29
Pte Maskell
Pte Goodchild
Pte Inglis

A (Norfolk) Company Company HQ

Maj JMH Heap
Capt MR Evans
W02 Williams
CSgt Ellis
LCpl Carter
Cpl Rumsey
LCpl Neal
LCpl Cartwright 09
Pte Sell
Dmr Tulit
Pte Stapleton
Pte Sayce 18
Pte Manikiza
Pte Flight
Sgt Simpson
LCpl Gorham
LCpl Borgenvik
Pte Elliot
Pte Miller

1 Platoon

Lt MA Nicholas
Sgt Willcox
Pte Turner
Cpl Tinkler
LCpl Rinder
Pte Worthington
Pte Taruvinga
Pte O'Reilly
LCpl Canning
LCpl Ward 91
Pte Irving
Pte De Mierre
Pte Peters
Pte Langston
Pte Smith 07
LCpl Foy
LCpl Lilley
Pte Penson
Pte Springall
Pte Gibson
Pte Grange-Cook
Pte Morfitt
Pte Buffoni
Pte Lewis
LCpl Cranstoun
LCpl Hayward
Pte Cartwright 73
Pte Leighton

2 Platoon

2Lt ASM Dobbin
Sgt Main
Pte Vasilakis
LCpl Stanton
LCpl Simmons
Pte Rust
Pte Malone
Pte Campbell
Pte Terrel
Pte Vosper
Pte Bryne-Evans
Pte Dunlop

LCpl McGee
LCpl Cloughton
Pte Boyer
Pte Goosetree
Pte Freeman
Pte Hutton
Pte Smith 11
LCpl Browne 57
Pte Norwell
Pte Seville
Cpl Thorn
LCpl Hill 16
LCpl Holmes
Pte Alexander

Drums PI

2Lt TW Gregory
D/Maj Self
Dmr Mark 55
Pte Jarvis
Cpl Panter
Dmr Smith 59
Pte Juniper
Pte Ansell
Pte Hadaway
Pte Goodrum
Pte Fox
Pte Lawrence
Cpl Felden
Pte Debuc
Pte Chatfield
Pte Meadows
Pte Dunning
Pte Robnett
Pte Farrar
Pte Tischler
Pte Friend
LCpl Handley
Pte Mullon
Pte Sinclair
Dmr Goodship

B (Suffolk) Company Company HQ

Maj DA England
Capt MS Woodeson
W02 Shaw
Sgt Pascal
Cpl Penny
LCpl Cavaliero
Cpl Ward 88
Pte Hitchcock
LCpl Luckman
Pte Litchfield
Pte Hopwood
Pte Lathangue
Pte Fletcher

Sniper Sect

Cpl Culshaw
LCpl Martin
LCpl Gomes
Pte Eggleton 41
Pte Eggleton 03

1st Battalion Orbat**5 Platoon**

Lt GL Allen
Sgt Jay
Pte McCluskey
Pte Duckett
Cpl Hartland
Pte Revell
Pte Finney
Pte Tilbury
Pte Field
Pte Hall
LCpl Bye
Pte Gauci
Pte Cowell
Pte Rose
Pte Pearson
Pte Bell
LCpl Lander
LCpl Johnson 10
Pte Cole
Pte Barnett
Pte Vandecar
Pte George
Pte Mountain
Pte Jackson 71
Pte Bailham
Sgt Cave
Pte Petch
Capt BM Allen
CSgt Markham
Sgt Garvie
Sgt Patten JJ
Cpl Smith 46
Cpl Ratten
2Lt PC Moxey
Sgt Harrod
Pte Weaver
Cpl Wallace
Pte Bryden
Pte Cambridge
Pte Mataceva
LCpl Johnson 58
Pte Metcalfe
Pte Tower
LCpl Cleverley
Pte Cox
Pte Urquhart
Pte Moseley
Pte Aves
Pte Sharp
Cpl Surette
LCpl Ward 67
Pte Lewis

7 Platoon

2Lt OE Hartley
Sgt Newton
Pte Gard
Pte Havis
LCpl McDonald
Pte Ellis
Pte Raynor
Pte Robson
Pte Felstead
Pte Judge
Pte Mills
Pte Coram
Cpl Eccles

LCpl Nunn
Pte Gordon
Pte Robinson
Pte Matthews
Pte Poole
Pte Edwards
Pte West
Cpl Woods 580
Pte Stow 98
Pte Young 88
Pte Smith 71
LCpl Dodd
Pte Whitby
Cpl Collins
Pte Patterson
Pte Sherrat

**C (Essex)
Company
Company HQ**

Maj SJR Browne
Capt Messenger
W02 Hale
CSgt Freeman
Cpl Chamberlain
LCpl Mitchell 94
Cpl Codling
Pte Willars
Pte Nicholls
Cpl Morris 73
LCpl Robinson
LCpl Armon
Pte Tilley
Pte Trutwein

9 Platoon

Lt J Hancock
Sgt Neal 37
Pte Hopkins
Cpl McHenry
LCpl Turner
Pte Sayee 52
Pte Laird
Pte Reynolds 73
Pte O'Halloran
Pte Queen
Pte Patston
Pte Allum
Pte Bushell
Pte Zimmer
Pte Christie
Cpl Rix
LCpl Butcher
Pte Fincham
Pte George
Pte Edwards
Pte Willcox
Pte Prior
Pte Lynch
Pte Patmore
Sgt Lenton
Pte Wildin

10 Platoon

2Lt D James-Roll
Sgt Wood

Pte Wand
Pte Cross
Cpl Nieves
Pte Restall
Pte Frost
Pte Jellings
Pte Farooq
Pte Mulley
Pte Bullard
Pte Cossington
Cpl Glascodine
LCpl Meakin
Pte Tuppen
Pte Hunter
Pte Miller
Pte Sarling
Cpl Fordham
LCpl Stewart
LCpl Parker
Pte Worsley
LCpl Love
LCpl Piper
Pte Estabrook
Pte Kidd

**D (Sp) Company
Company HQ**

Maj AB Beart
Gapped
Gapped
CSgt Curtis
Cpl Bloss
Cpl Bell
Cpl Fay
Pte Wicker
Pte Thain
Pte Adderton
Pte Howe

Sniper Sect

LCpl Blundell
Pte Saunders
Pte Meekings
Pte Weekly
Pte Evans 45

Mor PI

Capt IM Chance
W02 Jolly
Cpl Duggan
Cpl Grice
Cpl Rice
Sgt Watson
Cpl Woodrow
Cpl Evans
LCpl Garnharn
LCpl Wilsher
Cpl Bee
LCpl Anderson 52
LCpl Green
LCpl Reilly
Pte Owen
Pte Smith 81
Pte Cobb
Pte Davies
Pte Pearce
Pte Evans 50

Pte Hare
Pte Nash
Pte Andrews
Pte Martin 33
Pte Fox 76
Pte Clarke 24
Pte Logdon
Pte Lovell
Pte Warwick
Pte Butterick
Pte Warbey
Pte Shepherd
Pte Pearson
Pte Nolan
Pte Dudley

Milan PI

LCpl Dennis
LCpl Franklin
LCpl Gomer
LCpl Price
LCpl Guy
Pte Wright
Pte Terry
Pte Sicklen
Pte Cook
Pte Manning
Pte Lawrence
Pte Purdy
Pte Severinski
Pte Toynton
Pte Kenworthy
Pte Lewis 02
Pte Martin 14
Pte Aldred
Pte Rogalski
Pte McPhee
Pte Perry
Pte Chadwick
Pte Mair
Pte McSpadden
Pte Kelly

Recce PI

Capt PA Muncey
W02 Buxton
Cpl Shaw
Cpl Faupell
Cpl Stevens
Cpl Browning
Cpl Hill
Cpl Thurston
Cpl Heal
LCpl Moxey
LCpl Hoogendijt
LCpl Blackley
LCpl Livingstone
LCpl Pindar
LCpl Shropshire
LCpl Waters
LCpl Ling
Pte Knights 87
Pte Tilbury
Pte Pimm
Pte Thorne
Pte Vickery
Pte Roberts
Pte Gammell

Orbat for the 2nd Battalion

The Royal Anglian Regiment as at May 2001

Battalion Headquarters

Lt Col Wild MBE
Maj Hunter
Capt Worthy
Capt Barry
Capt Beighton
W01(RSM) Martin
W02 (RAOWO) Jessop
Sgt(SSA) Snow
Sgt Johnson
Cpl Keeble
LCpl Bonner
LCpl Moffat
Pte Wyton

Company Headquarters

Maj NMP Brown
W02 (CSM) Keen
Csgt Colyer
Pte Brown
Pte Marot
Pte Pickett

Provost Section

Sgt Urand
Cpl Gelder
LCpl Felstead
LCpl Perry
LCpl Shields

Signals Platoon

Capt Hawley
Csgt Grouse
Sgt Welsford
Cpl Dyson
Cpl Hugill
Cpl Sumner
Cpl Whiteley
LCpl Cooley
LCpl Francis
LCpl Gale
LCpl Lang
LCpl Latter
LCpl Turner
LCpl Cook
Pte Lockwood
Pte Lyles

Officers' Mess

Csgt Heeley
Pte Kilby
Pte Oliver
Pte Mayes

WOs' and Sergeants' Mess

Sgt Mutch
Cpl McCourtney
Pte Fleming
Pte Westley

PRI

Cpl Elliot

Quartermaster's Department

Maj (QM) Todd
Capt (QM(T)) Ralph MBE
Capt (QM(T)) Pallant
W02(RQMS (M)) Hazlewood
W02 (RQMS(T)) Heycock
CSgt Thorpe
Sgt Sampson
Cpl Appleton
Cpl Bannon
Cpl Goodman
Cpl Herron
Cpl Jones
Cpl Rickman
LCpl Franklin
LCpl Selby
Pte Connolly
Pte Davies
Pte Johnson
Pte Latus
Pte Mitchell
Pte Oliver
Pte Otty

Medical Centre

Cpl Cotgrove
Cpl Wright
Pte Jubb

Unit Families Office

CSgt Pearce
CSgt Slater
Cpl Abbreu

Training Wing

Capt Romilly
Sgt Lawrence
Pte Blanchard
Pte Thompson
Pte Parsons

MT Platoon

Sgt Jones
Cpl Bradley
Cpl Ingliss
Cpl Turner
LCpl Atkins
LCpl Lawrinson
LCpl O'Leary
LCpl Smedley
LCpl Walton
Pte Cooper
Pte Hunt
Pte Jennings
Pte Mortimer
Pte Murray
Pte Roberts
Pte Trafford

Regimental Admin Office

Maj (RAO) GM Bushell
Capt (DET COMD) Butterworth
W02(FSA) Cheyne

SSgt Casey
Sgt Cocking
Sgt Warren
Cpl Hewitt
Cpl John
Cpl Piper
Cpl Sykes-Tucker
LCpl Glenn
LCpl Mayner
LCpl Popham
LCpl Potter
LCpl Scott
Pte Ham
Pte Smith

Medical Centre

Maj Fraser
Cpl Gibbs
Cpl Williams
LCpl Ashley

Gym Staff

SSgt Evans
LCpl Turnell

Padre

Maj PA Eagles

REME(LAD)

SSgt Long
Sgt Davey
Cpl Antionazi
Cpl Crook
Cpl Jennings
LCpl Broughton
LCpl Hopkins
LCpl Kearon
Cfn Campbell
Cfn Chaddock
Cfn Jones

RLC (Catering)

W02 (RCWO) Tatham
SSgt Wright
Sgt Jones
Sgt Thompson
Cpl French
Cpl Langford
Cpl Masters
Cpl Rawbone
Cpl Smout
Cpl Taylor
LCpl Davies
LCpl Moss
LCpl Newton
LCpl Schmid
LCpl Whitfield
Pte Armitage
Pte Hill
Pte Hutch
Pte Smith
Pte Spencer
Pte Willetts

A (Lincolnshire) Company Headquarters

Maj RW Wooddisse MC
Lt Foden
W02(CSM) Hopkins
CSgt Limb
Cpl Bliss
Cpl Smith
LCpl Clark
Pte Corstophine
Pte Hinchcliffe
Pte Horton
Pte Strong

1 Platoon

2Lt Connolly
Sgt Gibson
Cpl Headland
Cpl Morgan
LCpl Brocklesby
LCpl Budworth
LCpl Morgan
LCpl Spray
Pte Abbott
Pte Antingham
Pte Burgess
Pte Dukta
Pte Estwick
Pte Finch
Pte Gratsa
Pte Hedger
Pte Johnson
Pte Llewellyn
Pte Lovett
Pte Neilly
Pte Pegg
Pte Phipps
Pte Rice
Pte Seaton-Norton
Pte Stow
Pte Swainsbury
Pte Turner
Pte Williams
Pte Wilson

2 Platoon

2Lt Downes
Sgt Dyson
Sgt Embleton
Cpl Beardsley
Cpl Perry
Cpl Sheerin
LCpl Bissell
LCpl Robinson
LCpl Saunders
LCpl Thurman
LCpl Wells
Pte Adamson
Pte Anderson
Pte Broderick
Pte Brooks
Pte Carter
Pte Cook

2nd Battalion Orbat

Pte Crate
Pte Haynes
Pte Hough
Pte Houlden
Pte Jones
Pte Midgley
Pte Mitchell
Pte Pattinson
Pte Porter
Pte Quinn
Pte Richardson
Pte Richmond
Pte Salt
Pte Smith
Pte York

3 Platoon

2Lt Inch
Sgt King
Cpl Collins
LCpl Aukland
LCpl Burgwin
LCpl Eratt
LCpl Gorski
LCpl Haines
LCpl Sutherland
LCpl Waters
LCpl Young
Pte Anderson
Pte Bennett
Pte Biddle
Pte Breakspear
Pte Brocklesby
Pte Cook
Pte Crozier
Pte Dreczewicz
Pte Hartshorne
Pte Haydon
Pte Hickey
Pte Key
Pte MacKenzie
Pte Mills
Pte Norton
Pte Parker
Pte Pritchard
Pte Rawdon
Pte Riggs
Pte Smith
Pte Staniszewski
Pte Wilkinson

**B (Leicestershire)
Company
Company
Headquarters**

Maj Nottingham
Capt Faint
W02(CSM) Bredin
CSgt Kyffin
LCpl Hart
LCpl Rimmer
Pte Cook
Pte Ireland
Pte Smith

4 Platoon

2Lt Delf
Sgt Phillips
Cpl David
Cpl Penrose
Cpl Smart
LCpl Knight
LCpl Leach
LCpl Seymour
LCpl Vendyback
Pte Allatt
Pte Bird
Pte Burdass
Pte Fawcett
Pte Fox
Pte Gouldson
Pte Harris
Pte Hume
Pte Jackson
Pte Jakabus
Pte Jones
Pte Joy
Pte Lawrence
Pte Martin
Pte Pett
Pte Pickard
Pte Riley
Pte Wheeler
Pte Yates

5 Platoon

2Lt McNeil
Sgt Jackson
Cpl Donovan
Cpl Gadsden
Cpl Laird
Cpl Sweeney
LCpl Boddington
LCpl Buckle
LCpl Cousin
LCpl Flitton
LCpl Gage
LCpl Johnson
LCpl Kirk
LCpl Stocks
LCpl Wileman
Pte Alderman
Pte Blackmun
Pte Brownsword
Pte Conroy
Pte Harvey
Pte Haupt
Pte Neve
Pte Patterson
Pte Presley
Pte Styles
Pte Tompkins
Pte Wooley

6 (Drums) Platoon

2Lt Melia
D/Maj Huggins
Cpl Asker
LCpl Hardy
LCpl Hume
LCpl James
LCpl Lang

LCpl Swain
LCpl Towe
Pte Boswell
Pte Brawn
Pte Davies
Pte Dunstan
Pte Eglin
Pte Hunt
Pte Lindsay
Pte McLatchie
Pte McLintock
Pte McQueen
Pte Owen
Pte Reeson
Pte Reid
Pte Sims
Pte Smith
Pte Stephens
Pte Thomas
Pte Whittle
Pte Wilkinson

**C
(Northamptonshire)
Company**

**Company
Headquarters**

Maj PS Leslie
Lt RH Newmarch
W02(CSM) Adie
Cpl Correa
Cpl Morrissey
LCpl Knight
Pte Cantle
Pte Clarke
Pte Djemal
Pte Honeyball
Pte Payne
Pte Richardson
Pte Walters
Pte Willey

7 Platoon

2Lt Harris
Sgt Lakey
Cpl Foreman
Cpl Greenhill
Cpl Kirk
Cpl MacKness
LCpl Cass
LCpl Downey
LCpl Foster
LCpl Stow
Pte Baron
Pte Beaurain
Pte Berjawi
Pte Brazier
Pte Bridgett
Pte Crunburn
Pte Eiston
Pte Freund
Pte Gedney
Pte Law
Pte Lowther

Pte Marland
Pte Read
Pte Walters
Pte Walters
Pte Weston
Pte Wheatley

8 Platoon

Lt AP Wolfe
Sgt Farrell
Cpl King
Cpl Percival
LCpl Frisby
LCpl MacTavish
LCpl Reeder
LCpl Scott
Pte Bradley
Pte Campbell
Pte Carter
Pte Cripps
Pte Croft
Pte Furniss
Pte Hewitt
Pte Miller
Pte Pinkerton
Pte Powell
Pte Rose
Pte Smith
Pte Taylor
Pte Tidswell
Pte Wakefield
Pte Williams

9 Platoon

2Lt SF Roberts
Sgt Lewis
Cpl Groom
Cpl Johnson
Cpl Roberts
LCpl Butler
LCpl Gillespie
LCpl Jennings
LCpl Squibb
LCpl Wolfe
Pte Antoni
Pte Beard
Pte Brown
Pte Coskun
Pte Dimon
Pte Fenton
Pte Fountain
Pte Harper
Pte Heaton
Pte Hilton
Pte Holod
Pte Hudson-Bennett
Pte Lucas
Pte Murphy
Pte Rooke
Pte Sasar-De-Sain
Pte Simmons
Pte Stone
Pte Wheatley

2nd Battalion Orbat

D (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Company) Company Headquarters

Maj D'Driscoll
Capt Davies
Capt Dingle
Capt Smith
W02(CSM) Dunn
CSgt Beswick
Sgt Winkle
Sgt Simpson
Cpl Addison
Cpl Whitehead
LCpl Somerton
LCpl Glen
Pte Wilson
Pte Terry
Pte Drakes
Pte Martin

Milan platoon

Capt Otter
W02 Penn
Sgt Chambers
Sgt Rouget
Sgt Simpson
Sgt Smith
Sgt Johnson
Cpl Auckland
Cpl Gelsthorpe

Cpl Jackson
Cpl Knowles
Cpl Symon
Cpl Smith
LCpl Jack
LCpl Blower
LCpl Handforth
Pte Craffer
Pte Denton
Pte Elkington
Pte Good
Pte H-kerr
Pte Howard
Pte Newell
Pte Shaw
Pte Thurman
Pte Waddington
Pte Bellamy
Pte Mathews
Pte Wareham

Mortar platoon

Capt Ives
CSgt Bonfield
Sgt Baker
Sgt Curtis
Sgt Wright
Cpl Batty
Cpl Colbourne
Cpl Fox
Cpl Mccolm
Cpl Watret
Cpl Elliott
LCpl Broomfield
LCpl Cruddace

LCpl Rae
LCpl Farrand
LCpl Piesse
Pte Almond
Pte Bland
Pte Barfield
Pte Borrill
Pte Brown
Pte Chambers
Pte Dodd
Pte Elton
Pte Green
Pte Garner
Pte Harrison
Pte Hughes
Pte Ireland
Pte Mason
Pte Smith
Pte Tipling
Pte Turner
Pte Vincent
Pte Vranich
Pte Woad
Pte Keeton
Pte West
Pte Gray
Pte Jolly

Recce platoon

Capt Davies
CSgt Morson
CSgt Philpot
Sgt Hope
Cpl Marshallsay
LCpl Perry

LCpl Snook
LCpl Taylor
LCpl Steel
LCpl Mackness
LCpl Baird
LCpl Marshall
LCpl Tambling
LCpl Tremain
Pte Allen
Pte Buff
Pte Farrow
Pte Latham
Pte Lawson
Pte Martin
Pte Sutcliffe
Pte Webber
Pte Wood
Pte Young

Sniper section

Sgt Brownlie
Sgt Waghorn
Cpl Caine
Cpl Deakin
Cpl Taylor
LCpl Coulbeck
LCpl Lawrence
LCpl Palmas
Pte Ashpole
Pte Best
Pte Broughton
Pte Manning
Pte Devine
Pte Wheatman

Births and Marriages

Poachers Marriages

Wooddisse: On 9 December 2000, Maj Wooddisse to Louise Katherine.
Percival: On 14 April 2001, Cpl. Percival. to Rachel Ann.
Breakspear: On 8 December 2000, Pte Breakspear to Emma Jane.
Holvey: On 27 January 2001, Pte Holvey to Lorna.
Parsons: On 28 April 2001, Pte Parsons to Jodie Lee-Ann.
Marot: On 1 February 2001, Pte Marot to Katie.
Wilkinson: On 28 April 2001, Pte Wilkinson to Rebecca Anne.

Births

Smith: On 11 November 2000, to Pte and Mrs Smith, a son, Connor.
Symon: On 16 November 2000, to Cpl and Mrs Symon, a daughter, Stacey-Jane.
Hunt: On 20 November 2000, to Pte and Mrs Hunt, a son, Hayley.
Latter: On 28 November 2000, to Pte and Mrs Latter, a son, Robert.

Sweeney: On 29 November 2000, to LCpl and Mrs Sweeney, a daughter, Hannah.
Midgley: On 1 December 2000, to Pte and Mrs Midgley, a daughter, Kerrie-Anne.
Langford (RLC): On 12 December 2000, to Cpl and Mrs Langford, a daughter, Caitlin.
Neilly: On 17 December 2000, to Pte and Mrs Neilly, a son, Ryan.
Furniss: On 13 January 2001, to Pte and Mrs Furniss, a daughter, Shannon.
Barry: On 8 February 2001, to Capt and Mrs Barry, Son, Sean.
Waddington: On 5 March 2001, to Pte and Mrs Waddington, a daughter, Teegan.
Presley: On 10 March 2001, to Pte and Mrs Presley, a son, Owen.
Breakspear: On 26 March 2001, to Pte and Mrs Breakspear, a son, Reece.
Pallant: On 27 April 2001, to Capt and Mrs Pallant, sons, George and Charlie (twins).
Rae: On 4 May 2001, to LCpl and Mrs Rae, a daughter, Kori May.

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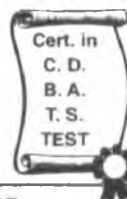
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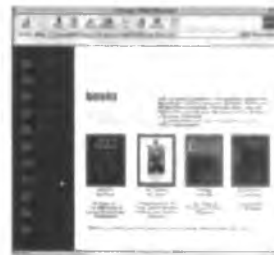
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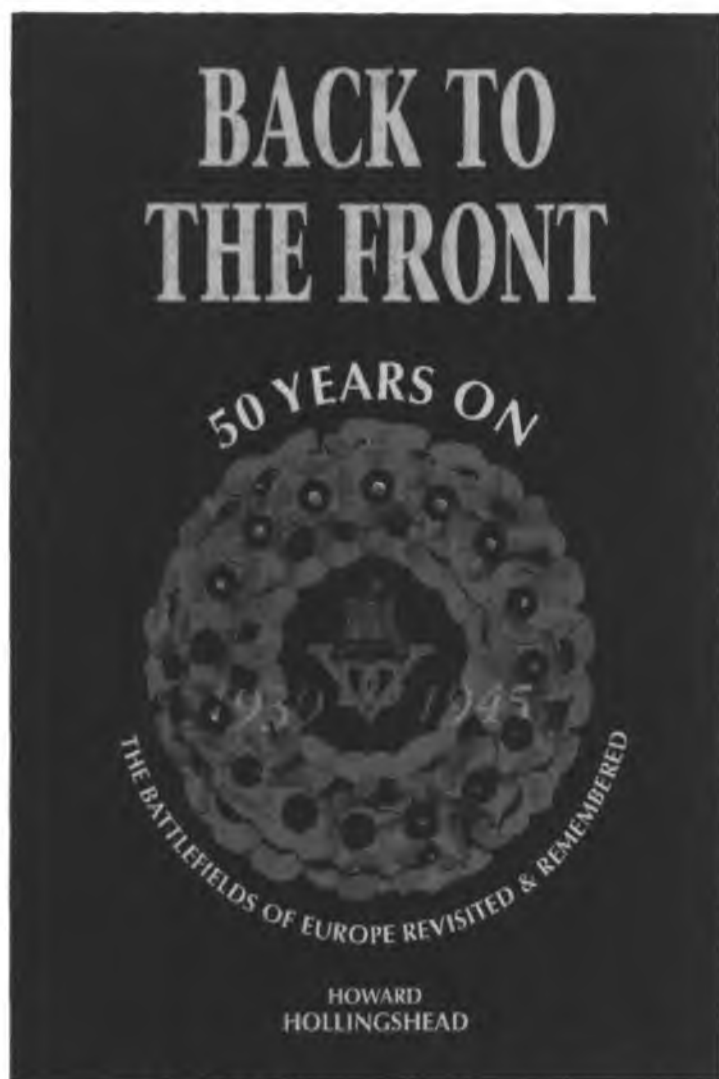
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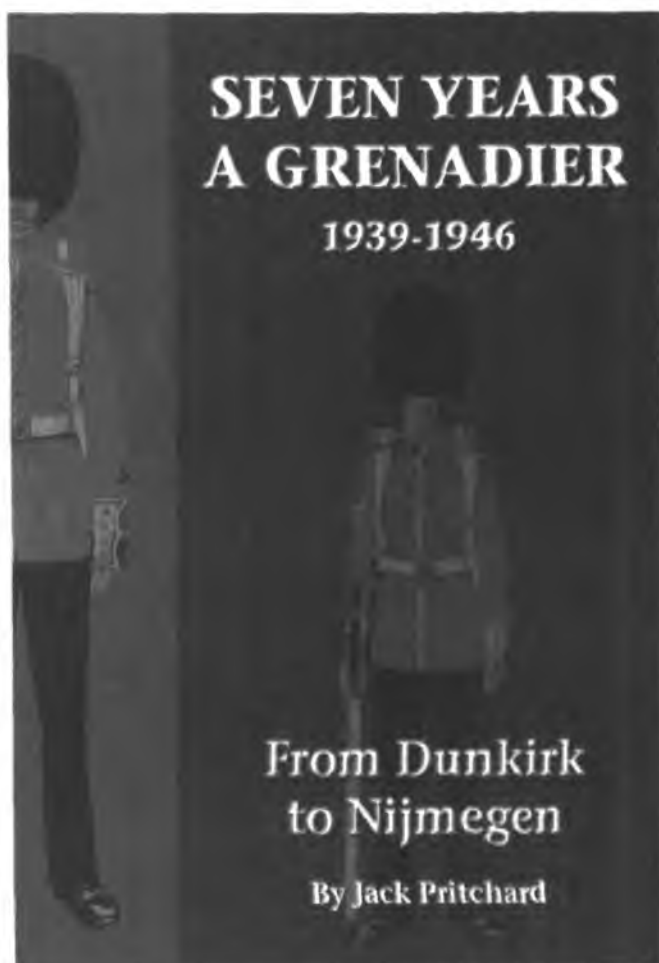
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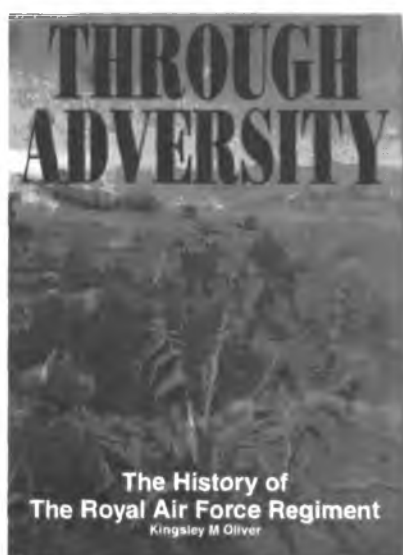
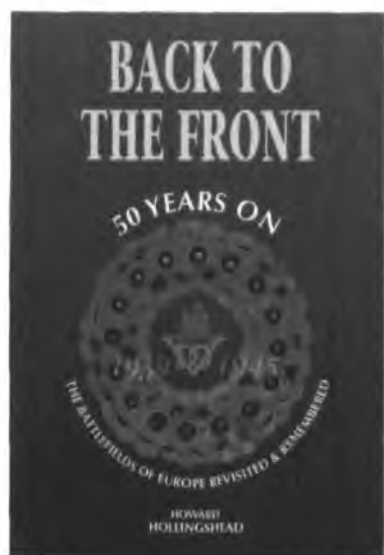


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