



CASTLE

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT





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Editor: Lt Col PRC Dixon OBE

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Front cover

D Company, The Poachers with US instructors on a training area near to Kabul.

Back cover

A soldier on patrol at the King's Tomb, Kabul.

Regiment and Museum Internet Website

www.army.mod.uk



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

From the Colonel of the Regiment



Maj Gen JCB Sutherell CB CBE, Colonel of the Regiment.

2003 has seen the British Army committed to a number of demanding expeditionary operations across the world while simultaneously making a major contribution to events nearer to home and developing capabilities for the future. The Regiment has been heavily involved in these activities and has acquitted itself with considerable credit.

Although we had no formed units involved in the fighting in Iraq, a number of individuals served there on the staff and with other units. Cpl Symon was Mentioned in Despatches for his gallantry while serving with the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers as a Milan Detachment Commander. Successive Companies of the 2nd Battalion proved most effective on operations in Afghanistan. Not only did they have the satisfaction of detaining a senior al Qaeda suspect in the course of their security operations, but the innovative and professional way in which they contributed to the development and conduct of the Provincial Reconstruction Team, and trained NCOs of the Afghan National Army has been widely recognised as a major contribution to the future stability and well-being of Afghanistan.

The East of England Regiment contributed a total of 178 officers and soldiers to operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone and Northern Ireland – a major commitment in a year when more

Territorials have been mobilised than at any time since the Suez operation in 1956.

The 1st Battalion, by the application of intelligence and maturity as well as plenty of drive and hard work, has already earned additional laurels, leading the way in the introduction of Bowman and the digitisation of the Army's operational capability. This is a major task, described by the Commander-in-Chief as the equivalent of another Medium Scale Operation. This work, just as much as active operations, highlights the importance of our living the concept of Mission Command, with all that means for the way we value and develop our people throughout the Regiment. As a large Regiment we are in a particularly strong position to offer individuals choice – to give them the opportunities to develop, enjoy life, find variety, and, when they need it, stability. If we get it right, this not only improves our effectiveness but also makes a major contribution to attracting and retaining the quality officers and soldiers we need.

While we must never be complacent, as a Regiment we have much of which to be proud. I am most grateful to all of you who have made it so. I wish all of you, and your families, a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a rewarding and successful year in 2004.



The Regiment

Colonel-in-Chief

HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester

Colonel of the Regiment

Maj Gen JCB Sutherell CB CBE

Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment

The Rev MD Franks MBE

President of the Regimental Association

Brig CMJ Barnes OBE

Deputy Colonels of the Regiment

1st Battalion: Brig RM Brunt CBE
2nd Battalion: Maj Gen JC McColl CBE DSO
TA Sub Units: Col NH Kelsey OBE TD

Honorary Colonel to the East of England Regiment

Brig AJK Calder OBE

Deputy Honorary Colonels TA

Norfolk, Suffolk	Col PJS Child
Lincolnshire	Col GWC Newmarch
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire	Col JBC Prescott
Essex, Hertfordshire	Col RA Shervington TD DL

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
e-mail: rhq_ranglian@keme.co.uk

Regimental Secretary: Lt Col PRC Dixon OBE

Assistant Regimental Secretary: Maj J Fisk

Regimental Careers Officer: Capt MA Dingle

Area Office Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire

Britannia House TA Centre,
325 Aylsham Road, Norwich NR3 2AD
Tel: 01603-400290
Area Secretary: Col AC Taylor

Area Office Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire

TA Centre, Clare Street, Northampton NN1 3JQ
Tel: 01604-635412
Area Secretary: Maj IRJ Dexter

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 Secretary: Maj DI Gilchrist

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: Miss Cathy Smart
Email: royalanglian@museumattendant.freemove.uk

Battalion Locations

1st Battalion

Elizabeth Barracks,
Pirbright,
Surrey GU24 0DT

Lt Col EEC Thorne MC

2nd Battalion

Beachley Barracks,
Chepstow,
Glos NP16 7YG

From February 2004:

Shackleton Barracks
British Forces Post Office 802

Lt Col RJ Ladley MBE
(Des Lt Col DP O'Driscoll)

East of England Regiment

TA Centre, Blenheim Camp,
Newmarket Road,
Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk IP33 3SW

Lt Col NA ffitch TD
(Des Lt Col RCJ Goodin MBE)

Regimental Representatives

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn: Maj AG Grinonnew
Infantry Training Centre, Catterick: Maj I Couch
RMA Sandhurst: Capt IM Chance
Army Foundation College Harrogate: Lt MR Cook

Personalia

Honours and Awards

Queen's Birthday Honours

CBE

Col SL Porter

Operational List (Northern Ireland)

MBE

WO1 RG Gray

QCB

Sgt JR Smith

QCVS

Lt Col RJ Ladley MBE

GOC Northern Ireland Commendation

CSgt SG Huggins

CSgt GL Simpson

Operational List (Operation Telic)

MBE

CSgt MJ Howard

MID

Cpl T Symon

Commissioning

The following were commissioned on 8 August 2003:

2Lt JM Ding

2Lt RDI. Gardner

2Lt RL Lewis

2Lt WJ Meddings

2Lt OB Ormiston

2Lt DW Turner

2Lt AN Wolstenholme

The following was commissioned on 12 December 2003:

2Lt DJ Haggard

Promotions

Lt Col RJ Kemp MBE to Colonel 2003

Lt Col RJ Ladley MBE to Colonel 2004

Maj RJ Clements to Lieutenant Colonel 2004

Maj JE Harris to Lieutenant Colonel 2003

Maj RFA Knox to Lieutenant Colonel 2004

Maj RJ Latham to Lieutenant Colonel 2004

Maj MH Wenham to Lieutenant Colonel 2003

Postings

Col RJ Kemp MBE
Capt TB Mellor
Maj STH Andrews
Maj BM Down
Lt Col RCJ Goodin MBE
Capt PA Harris
Maj RFL Lyne
Maj NJ Wilcox RRF
Maj JD Carnegie
Lt Col DP O'Driscoll
Lt Col SPM Blyth
Capt GL Allen
Maj RJ Hare
Maj SJ Nye MBE
Capt NDB Charlwood
Maj A Jones
Capt DJ Stefanetti
Maj RP Grenfell

from MOD to HQ Land (Kabul)
from JACIG (AE) to 2nd Battalion
from HQ 145 Brigade to UK Marbat Staff
from RMCS to 2nd Battalion
from HQ ARRC to Nato Defence College
from ITC Catterick to 3 Para
from 2nd Battalion to CGS
from ITC Catterick to 2nd Battalion
from HQ 7 Armoured Brigade to HQ Land
from NI to RMCS
from JHQ(S) to DETS(A)
from ITC Catterick to SAAVN
from HQ AFNorth to HQ 5 Division
from APC to 1st Battalion
from 1st Battalion to HQ 16 Air Assault Brigade
from 1st Battalion to Londons
from Londons to 1st Battalion
from 1st Battalion to EER

July 2003
July 2003
August 2003
August 2003
August 2003
August 2003
August 2003
August 2003
September 2003
September 2003
November 2003
December 2003
December 2003
December 2003
January 2004
January 2004
January 2004
January 2004

Left the Army

The following have left the Army. We hope to see them from time to time at Regimental functions:

Maj A Gosling	July 2003
Maj RW Potter MBE	August 2003
Maj RJ Brown	November 2003
Col RE Harrold OBE	November 2003
Maj JMH Heap	November 2003
Lt OE Hartley	December 2003

Regimental Matters

Area Secretary, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland

Maj Ian Dexter is to retire as the Area Secretary for Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland. This key Regimental post is ideal for someone interested in the well being of the Regiment and the welfare of its members. Further details of this post can be obtained from RHQ.

Museum Attendant

Following the tragic death of George Boss, Cathy Smart has been appointed to fill the post of museum attendant at the Regimental Museum at Duxford. Cathy studied archaeology and history at the University of Glasgow, graduating with an MA (Hons). She is currently studying for an MA in museum studies. Before moving to Duxford Cathy worked for several Scottish museums in a voluntary capacity.



Regimental Benevolence

During the six-month period 1 April to 30 September 2003 the executive committee of the Regimental Benevolent Charity dealt with 56 cases disbursing a total of £13,492. The main source of income into the Benevolent Charity continues to be that donated by officers and soldiers under the Day's Pay Scheme.

The Regimental Day 2003

The newly named Regimental Day held at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford on 14 September turned out to be a resounding success. Over 2,000 members of the Association assembled on a warm sunny day.

The day started off with the customary Drumhead Service led by the Regimental Chaplain, Maj the Rev Martin Franks. A total of 29 Branch Standards were on parade with the one from the Colchester Branch making its public debut. Also on parade were the Colours of the 1st Battalion. The four detachments, representing the four battalions of the Regiment in 1964, were joined by members of the Army Cadet Force for the march past, with the salute being taken by the Colonel of the Regiment.

During lunch music was provided by the Minden Band who then gave an excellent display followed by the Corps of Drums of the 1st and 2nd Battalions the Royal Anglian Regiment and the East of England Regiment. Many of those attending visited the numerous sideshows and took the opportunity to visit the Regimental Museum and the rest of the Imperial War Museum.



The March Past.

It is now hoped that the Regimental Day is established as the Regimental Association's major event of the year. The 2004 event will take place at Duxford on 12 September (full details will appear in the June issue).

The Regimental Council

The Regimental Council met on 7 November and made a number of important decisions affecting the Regiment. It was decided to establish Royal Anglian county committees with the aim of co-ordinating the activities of the Regiment within the counties of our recruiting area and, wherever possible, to promote the image and reputation of the Regiment. The composition of the committees will vary from county to county but it is hoped that there will be representation from the Regular Battalions, the TA and the ACF. It is planned that the committees will be established by April 2004.

Another major decision that was taken affects the Day's Pay Scheme. Through this scheme officers and soldiers pay one day's pay into the Royal Anglian Benevolent Charity.

Money from this charity is used to help serving and ex-members of the Regiment and their dependants in times of need. Each year the Regiment pays out about £32,000 which leaves a surplus, which is reinvested. The Council decided that, in view of the healthy state of the charity, that up to £10,000 per annum should be made available to the serving members of the Regiment, under the authority of AGAI 100.009, to support in-service welfare. This arrangement will start in July 2004 and will be reviewed annually.

The Regimental Shop

The Regimental Shop is run by the staff at RHQ. Details of items for sale can be found in the enclosed leaflet. All profit from the shop goes to the Regimental Association.

Next Edition of Castle

Contributions for June's issue of Castle should reach the editor no later than 15 April 2004. As always, any letters and articles will be greatly welcomed.

Deaths

RHQ have been notified of the following deaths:

Pte BG Goody, 3rd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment died 6 August 2003.

WO2 PJ Strudwick, Beds and Herts Regiment, Essex Regiment and 3rd Battalion East Anglian Brigade, died 11 August 2002.

WO2 D Hilton, 1st East Anglian Regiment and 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment, died 2 December 2003 (a full obituary will appear in the next issue).



A relieved Maj Stan Bullock after the March Past; a job well done.

Mainly About People

A total of seven officer cadets were commissioned into the Royal Anglian Regiment at the Sovereign's Parade on 8 August 2003. Pictured right they are (from left in the picture): 2Lts Rob Gardner, Will Meddings, Ollie Ormiston, Capt Ian Chance, 2Lts Andrew Wolstenholme, Richard Lewis, Duncan Turner and James Ding.

OCdt Edward Clough received the prize for the best student on the Gap Year Commissioning Course held on 18 October 2003. He joins the 1st Battalion while Tom Whiting joins the Poachers.



OCdt Clough receives his prize.

Under a bequest made by the late Maj Donald Girdwood the Regiment received a donation of £906.

The planned trip to Berlin by Trevor and Jeremy Veitch, David Norbury, Dick Tewkesbury and Pat Shervington forecast in the last issue actually went ahead. They managed to get into Wavell Barracks, which was the home of the Pompadours 1964-1966. The trip brought back many happy memories and it was fascinating to see the massive building programme that is taking place.



Main entrance to barracks in Sectrassse, with the old guard room on the right.



Trevor Veitch, Dick Tewkesbury, David Norbury and Pat Shervington in the old MT yard at the barracks.

Col Julian Lacey has been appointed a Deputy Lord Lieutenant for the county of Essex.



The Regimental Colonel of the 3rd Battalion (Auckland (Countess of Ranfurly's Own) and Northland) Regiment, New Zealand Infantry, Brig David McGregor and Col Graeme Wilson visited RHQ on 2 October 2002. The Battalion celebrated its centenary in May 1998 and the Regimental Colonel presented a copy of a Centennial print which now hangs in RHQ (below).



In December 2003, the Platoon Commanders' Division moves from the Infantry Training Centre Warminster to Brecon, and at the same time Lt Col Mike Beard will leave after over three years as SO1 Commander. The final Platoon Commanders' Battle Course in Warminster, finishing at the end of November, includes no fewer than seven Royal Anglians - five Poachers and two Vikings. The course final exercise will be held in Kenya rather than the usual Sennybridge, and if all goes well this will become the norm. Remaining behind at Warminster will be the CIS, Anti-Tank and Mortar Divisions. All three of these Divisions are currently busy adapting their training to the demands of the new equipment - Bowman for CIS from September 2004, Javelin for Anti-Tanks from January 2005, and the recently introduced target locating and fire control equipment for Mortars. Officer and SNCO staff at ITC Warminster therefore have to become proficient 'subject matter experts' as well as instructors, contributing to the development of new equipment and associated doctrine, tactics, techniques and procedures.

Pictured below are Mike Beard and the Chief Instructor of the Mortar Division, fellow Poacher Maj Steve Brunt, reinforcing their mortar subject matter credentials on visits to the German Mountain Infantry and their mules in Austria.



Royal Anglians in Africa

Maj DC Napier writes...

While the rest of the world focuses on Iraq and Liberia, a small UK training team continues to attempt to transform a poorly trained, badly equipped Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) into an honest, democratic and professional force. A big task. Royal Anglians continue to serve here and presently there are three with the training team (IMATT): Col Robin Chisnall, myself, Capt Simon Otter along with WO2 Lee who hails from our affiliated Regiment in Bermuda. Maj Simon Etherington is also in country serving with the UN peacekeeping force. Lt Col Rupert Lucas has recently departed IMATT after almost a year in Sierra Leone. Maj Alex Beart is here as a military observer and has just returned after a month in Liberia. Brig Simon Porter is also due to take over as Commander IMATT early next year and Lt Col Richard Clemence will be working in the UN Force HQ.

I spent six months as a military observer here last year and returned to join the IMATT in April. I must be mad! Sierra Leone is a typical West African disaster; 10 years of a savage civil war, rampant corruption everywhere as are some unique bugs that require a good supply of Imodium. Simon Otter is deployed up-country advising one of the deployed Brigades while Colonel Robin is Deputy Commander of IMATT and advisor to the Joint Support Commander. I am 2IC of the Armed Forces Training Centre and am about to move to Freetown to be a DS on the first Junior Staff Course.

Why do it? Well firstly the money is nice, but the main reason is; like most loan service jobs, it is challenging and rewarding. Far from being an anonymous desk officer in some huge UK HQ, here the job is what you make of it and one quickly realises that one person can make a real difference to the army and to the country. Sierra Leone is facing enormous problems but is getting help from the UK and other donor countries. The trick is for us to make sure that the Sierra Leone Armed Forces are being helped to stand on their own two feet by developing their capacity, rather than take the easy route of simply



doing everything for them. This is happening, slowly. Due mainly to IMATT, the RSLAF has developed faster than other institutions such as the police, security, customs-and-excite and most importantly; control of the natural resources, diamonds in particular.

IMATT will need to be here for several years before the RSLAF is ready to go it alone, so there will be plenty of opportunities for other Royal Anglian officers and SNCOs to come and continue the process, though don't imagine for a moment that this is a soft option, it isn't. There is, however, also the opportunity to get a good tan and be bitten by a wide variety of snakes.

Diary Dates 2003

March

- 13 6 Royal Anglian Officers' Mess Dinner Club Annual Dinner - Bury St Edmunds
- 14 4th Battalion The Essex Regiment Association Remembrance Service - Warley
- 20 4/5 Battalion The Essex Regiment Officers' Dinner Club Dinner - Colchester
- Poacher 2004 Reunion - Spalding

April

- 16 3rd Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment Officers' Dinner Club Cocktail Party - London
- 23 Regimental Golf Spring Meeting - Watton
- 4th Battalion Royal Norfolk Regiment Officers' Dinner Club - Norwich
- 24 4th Battalion Royal Norfolk Regiment Old Comrades Association Dinner - Gorleston

May

- 6 Northamptonshire Regiment Officers' Dinner Club Luncheon - London
- 9 5th Battalion, The Northamptonshire Regiment Luncheon - Barnsdale
- 14 Regimental Council Meeting - Warley
- 15 Beds & Herts Regiment Association Annual Dinner and Dance - Warley
- 21 Golf - Queen's Div Triangular Match - Canterbury

June

- 5-8 2nd Battalion Essex Regiment Bayeux Memorial Service - Bayeux
- 5 Royal Norfolk Regiment Officers' Dinner Club - Norwich
- 26 Beds & Herts Regiment Association 16 Foot Officers' Luncheon - Buckden

- 26-27 Royal Tigers' Weekend - Leicester

- 27 Essex Regiment Association Reunion - Warley

- 30-1 Royal Norfolk Show - Norwich

July

- 2 Regimental Golf Summer Meeting - Ely
- 10 Northamptonshire Regiment Reunion - Northampton
- 17 Eagle and Garter Dinner - Bassingbourn

August

- 1 Minden Day Reunion - Bury St Edmunds

September

- 12 Royal Anglian Regimental Day - Duxford
- 25 Regimental Association Reunion Dinner - Norwich
- 50th/8th/1st Battalion Reunion - Leicester

October

- 1 3rd Battalion Officers' Dinner Club Luncheon - Warley
- 23 3rd Battalion Officers' Dinner Club Curry Lunch - London
- 29 Regimental Association Dinner - King's Lynn Branch - King's Lynn

November

- 5 Regimental Council Meeting - London
- Officers' Annual Dinner - London
- 9 Essex Regiment Association Salamanca Lunch - Chelmsford
- Essex Regiment Association Remembrance Service - Chelmsford
- 21 Beds & Herts Regiment Association Wreath Laying and Reunion - Kempston

Can You Remember?

25 Years Ago

The Vikings, installed in their new surroundings of Celle, were soon off to Soltau for the inter-section and inter-platoon competitions followed by the 1st Armoured Division FTX, Exercise Aintree Task. This exercise proved that, four months after having left Tidworth, the Battalion was ready to fulfil its new role in BAOR. Christmas and New Year saw blizzard conditions with two feet of snow falling in Celle. Soon after Christmas a REME Clansman Conversion team arrived to begin a three-month programme to make the Vikings the first mechanised battalion to be completely equipped with the new range of radio sets. In March the battalion embarked on its pre-Northern Ireland Training prior to deploying to Belfast in May 1979.



Driver training at Hohne.

The Poachers moved to Montgomery Barracks Berlin, in August 1978 and were soon involved on their first major exercise, Griffin Sentinel, which saw the Battalion deploying with the US Berlin Brigade. At the end of November the Battalion moved to Putlos, for a very cold and wet exercise and then it was back to Berlin for Christmas. A series of courses and cadres followed and then on 1 May the Battalion was visited by HRH Princess Alice, the Deputy Colonel-in-Chief.

November 1978 proved a busy month for the Pompadours who were based in Palace Barracks, Belfast. The threat of bombing necessitated the almost continuous deployment of all four rifle companies. Christmas passed relatively quietly but soon the effects of the oil tankers' strike became apparent and in appalling conditions of snow and ice MT drivers were operating as tanker drivers with



The Poachers' Band in Berlin.



Pte Rouse prepares to deliver petrol.

the rifle companies providing the escorts. In February command of the Battalion was handed over to Lt Col Robin Drummond. April was to be a bad month for the Battalion with the murder of Capt Paul Rodgers from the CCF and the shooting of Pte Lewis in Turf Lodge.



HRH accompanied by the CO inspects the Quarter Guard.



Capt Brehaut leads his brick through Andersontown.



The Colonel of the Regiment on a visit to the Vikings.

Can You Remember?



LCpl Eales explains to CBF that it is the rain that makes the camouflage grow.

The 1st Battalion, based at Oakington, after their first Christmas at home for three years, flew to Cyprus for Exercise Royal Measure, which lasted until the end of February. Each company had a fortnight's dry training, five days' adventure training and R and R, seven days' range work and live firing, finishing with a seven-day battalion exercise based at Akamus. Perhaps the highlight of the exercise was the sinking of the recce platoon, under the command of Lt Nigel Spinks, as they attempted to secure a beach landing.



The winning team at the UN Rifle Meeting.

The Poachers were also in Cyprus, split between the Eastern Base Sovereign Area and Sector 2 of the United Nations in St David's Camp, west of Nicosia and the Box Factory at Pano Zodia, manning 15 Observation Posts across a 35km frontage. On 22 December 1983 the Poachers held their welcome-to-Cyprus party which saw a re-enactment of the Battle of Sobraon. Christmas festivities took on the normal format with church services and mutual visits to the messes. Pte McMullan on Christmas Day marched 50 miles to raise £1,000 for a leukaemia victim. The UN Rifle Meeting took place in January with the Battalion recording a UN record score.

The Pompadours after several months of mechanised conversion training took over Elizabeth Barracks in Minden from IRRF on 16 January 1984. It was not long before companies were following well-worn tracks to Haltern and Sennelager with Battle Group HQ taking part in Exercise Kold Start (temperature minus 10 at night). There were many lessons to be learned. The last time the Battalion had served as a mechanised battalion was when it was stationed in Paderborn, which it left in July 1975.



Lt Col Groves takes over Elizabeth Barracks from Lt Col Shervington.



The Adjutant, Capt Clements, recovering the RSM's Ferret.



Maj Chisnall getting excited during a BGT battle.



Pte McMullan on his charity walk.



A SF fire support base.

Can You Remember?

10 Years Ago



The Milan Platoon firing the GPMG.

The Vikings took control as the East Tyrone Battalion from 2LI in late December 1993. The Battalion had three company areas of responsibility with B Company under Maj Jones looking after Cookstown and its environs, Maj Knox and A Company looking after Dungannon and Maj Wenham and the Operations Company also being based in Dungannon.

With Batus and a Northern Ireland tour under their belts the Poachers were expecting a quiet end to 1993. However, this was not to be; the Battalion was warned that it was to deploy to Bosnia on Operation Grapple 4. Training which started in earnest after Christmas leave, included a series of cadres, an inter-platoon competition which was won by the Milan Platoon and field firing at Sennelager. The Battalion started leaving for Bosnia in April 1994 with the Battalion finally assuming command on 8 May.



Capt Lyne consulting the user handbook on how to mount his CVRT.



WO2 Brooks and Sgt Tate wondering where they are.



Operations Company prepares to deploy by Chinook.

1st Battalion The Vikings

Introduction by the Commanding Officer

This is my first contribution to Castle in over 12 years; time has passed but the Battalion is going as strong as ever. On taking over I found the Battalion in good heart but in need of a chance to get together as a Battalion, something it had not been able to do for some time because of supporting the King's Royal Hussars in Northern Ireland, Operation Fresco (firemen's strike) and the inevitable RAAT tasks. The first two issues disappeared in June and RAAT tasks have significantly reduced as we prepare to enter the Training Year. The result is that we now have a camp buzzing with activity and companies of between 80 and 100 men rather than 10 to 20.

The last six months saw the rifle companies deploy on exercise to Thetford for their first mechanised training in 18 months; A Company went away on exercise to Italy, where they assure me that they worked much harder than they played(!); Support Company platoons ran cadres for their new recruits; BHQ and Echelon deployed to Salisbury Plain for a week's training; everyone had three weeks' leave; and Bowman training has started. The focus has been on low-level skills, finding opportunities to get out into the field and building up a stock of Saxon drivers. In among all this the Training Wing has run a potential NCOs, pre-Brecon selection and tactics cadres.

The Battalion has initiated the Army's conversion to Bowman, its new communications system, with most of the Battalion attending introductory 'E-learning' courses; these were quite a culture shock for one or two people. The next phase is transferring this 'virtual' knowledge into practical hands-on experience. Unfortunately, technical problems mean that conversion of our vehicles has been delayed which has had a knock-on effect to our continuation training, slipping its start by a month. By the time you read this we should have finished that part of the training and conducted an operational field trial with the whole Battalion deployed to Salisbury Plain for a fortnight in early December to put the equipment through its paces.

The inter-company competition has seen the companies compete at march and shoot, orienteering, swimming, triathlon, cricket, hockey, boxing and basketball. As always one or two unknown stars come to the fore, most notably a couple of newly arrived privates helped B Company win the cricket ahead of the presumed favourites of HQ and D Company and, following the basketball, two privates have been selected to join the Army squad. The inter-company boxing night was a humdinger of an affair and is described in more detail in a couple of the following articles.

On the sporting front there have been some excellent results. The football squad

won last year's 4 Div first division league (though were only made aware of the fact in September!), the cricket team won the Infantry Cup, beating 3 R Irish by one wicket, and the orienteers capped an outstanding year with second place in the Army Championships.

Finally, my personal best wishes to a true Viking, Col Phil Jones who spent the summer back in Afghanistan as the Chief Future Plans for the American Corps HQ, running countrywide operations; now residing in Germany. The excellent state of the Battalion and the lack of skeletons in cupboards are a tribute to his time in command.

A (Norfolk) Company

An Overview

Lt CW Swallow, Coy 2IC, writes...

A Company has had a mixed and typically busy period. After Operation Fresco finished the company deployed to STANTA on Exercise Norfolk Stand. With 2 Platoon still in Northern Ireland with the KRH, and other company commitments 2Lt Alex Maclay took a composite platoon through its paces, both in and out of his Saxons. The exercise culminated in a dawn attack on Sculthorpe Airfield. The old control building is a large complicated structure that dominates the airfield, and was the final objective for the exercise. After a long ferocious battle the building was taken and the adjacent buildings were opened up to reveal a full cooked brunch, and after the administration was complete, a barbecue and a couple cans of well-earned beer.

Never one to sit still for long, the OC was quick to take the company on Exercise Ponte Vecchio two days later, an exchange exercise in southern Italy which proved to be an excellent couple of weeks that is covered in a separate article.

Since then 2 Platoon has returned and seems to have been on leave ever since, the company has won the Battalion Boxing Competition and is now deep into its next challenge - Bowman!

Exercise Norfolk Stand

2Lt A Maclay, 1 Platoon Commander, writes...

With only the Saxon Commanders' Cadre under my belt I was not overly confident of leading A Company's Saxons to Thetford in early May. This unease was not helped by the loss of not one, but two Saxons on the M25. Eventually, all the vehicles arrived and made it to the company harbour location.

The first three days were non-tactical teaching days. The aim was for the lads, who hadn't been out of camp since Afghanistan, to get rid of the cobwebs and enjoy the delights of dehydrated rations. The emphasis was on the section commanders to teach section SOPs, as well as patrolling skills and section attacks. It was a successful few

days that certainly benefited both the men and Junior NCOs. It ended with a Navex, on foot for the men and in Saxons for the Commanders. Cpl Holmes flew round, however LCpl Hill's vehicle got a fault before the first checkpoint and he went back to bed!

The end of the Navex was the starting point of the tactical phase of the exercise. This involved several changes in harbour locations (to which we became quite proficient with one every 24 hours). This was also the time to see if the section commanders had prepared their sections properly. We patrolled at night and conducted battle preparation during the day. It was a nice change to get a few hours to write orders, as opposed to the five minutes granted at Sandhurst! Successful recon patrols led to well executed fighting patrols, with Cpl Panter's section really getting into the manoeuvrist approach, with feints and counter feints and finally an assault.

The final attack was upon us. Again plenty of battle preparation meant that we could practise room clearance for a 'cheeky' Fibua attack. The OC had managed to find a key to an old RAF base and the control tower was our objective. After orders and a lot of war gaming with the section commanders, I still had no idea how I would get across a billiard table like approach and assault a building whose top floor was glass with a 360 degree view. Once the out-buildings were clear, we lay up for the night in a copse in the airfield. It was during this time that I realised what a sound investment a softie jacket had been. The wind was biting and as such PT and brews around the back of a building were the order of the night.

The assault kicked off at 0600hrs, with a withering amount of fire from the Manoeuvre Support Section under Drm Maj Howlett. The sections ran through the 'mortar' smoke and broke in. As ever it was the stairwells that caused the problems. The enemy claimed to have shot me. Impossible as all platoon commanders are bullet proof! Despite some stings in the tail (or a lack of thoroughness), the building was secured. I was now ready for toast and medals. The reorg got in the way and highlighted my inexperience. It was not aided by some unhelpful radio chat from my sunray. Pte Rutherford, who joined the Battalion two weeks before the exercise, did well as the section commander and 2IC of his section, being the only one who survived.

Endex was not called soon enough and breakfast was served. The administration was carried out, which thankfully I was kept well away from. The evening's entertainment was a barbecue and the stories of how many people shot the OC and CSM. Finally the move back to camp was successful, with all vehicles that started together, finishing together. Work was not finished because we had to prepare for Exercise Ponte Vecchio the following week, before having a few days off.

The Vikings

Exercise Ponte Veccio

Lt CW Swallow, Company 2IC, writes...

I had only been in A Company as the new 2IC for two days when the OC and CSM (now nicknamed 'Viper' by the Italians) announced that they were leaving for a reccie to Italy for Exercise Ponte Veccio - a two-week company-level exchange exercise. As they departed the OC shouted out that I would be in charge of the exercise and that my only constraint was that I was not to ruin anyone's career!

A couple of weeks later A Company, re-inforced with a large contingent from C Company, boarded our flights to Italy on two luxury RAF C130s. We landed to be greeted by glorious sunshine and our hosts from 18th Bersaglieri Regiment. They are a fully professional armoured infantry battalion, with only a few conscripts who are used for rear party duties. During our visit they were preparing to be deployed to the Gulf to work within the British Brigade on Operation Telic.

We spent the first few days familiarising ourselves with the Italian weapon systems



WO2 Ellis takes a spot of R&R in Rome.

and conversely training the Italians on ours. We were a little surprised by some of their drills which differ from ours in both style and ethic. The training culminated in a day on the ranges where 2Lt Hicks ran his first ever range day with soldiers that didn't speak English! The highlight of the day was having an unreasonably large amount of ammunition to use with the Minimis the Italian army have, and then using the Berretta 9mm - under some instruction from the CO who had taken the opportunity to visit for a couple of days.

The area we visited was in a beautiful part of southern Italy, and we had the opportunity to get into the hills on a fiercely fought intersection competition, with stands and teams being contributed by both the Vikings and Italians. The Italians were equally intrigued with our Command Task as the British were with their 'throw the grenade into the dustbin' (full Hollywood run-up required).

Various options were open to us for the weekend and the company found itself spread from the local beaches to Rome. A good number visited Naples and even a few soldiers with itchy feet, finding Naples not to their taste, jumped on a ferry to Capri. The Company Headquarters element had a few wonderful days in Rome, accompanied by LCpl 'Dinger' Bell from the LAD and all agreed that Rome would be a magnificent place to bring our better halves. We also realised the trouble we would be in having visited Rome without the aforementioned better halves!

The second week was dominated by a joint exercise with platoons deploying made up of both Viking and Italian soldiers. The platoons had a variety of tasks including some recces, deliberate attacks, ambushes and even some sabotage missions. Platoons had the opportunity to exchange ideas and practice the differing styles and doctrines. It was soon obvious that our approaches to the same problem could differ tremendously



An Italian soldier samples some British kit.

and it was felt that both Italian and Viking soldiers learned a lot from each other. The Italians also had to contend with Sgt Turnbull and Cpl Mahon from the Australian Army who were working with the Vikings as part of Exercise Long Look, just to confuse them completely. The Italians were especially keen to learn from us our various contact drills and patrolling styles prior to their deployment to Basra.

Throughout the fortnight we were hosted impeccably, the Italian soldiers going out of



A Coy give a demonstration of the Rifle Section to the Italians.



Cpl Nieves y Gordo does a spot of Italian house clearing.

The Vikings



A (Norfolk) Company in Italy on Exercise Ponte Vecchio.



The Drums Platoon give a demonstration to the Italians.

their way to spend time with us and keep us entertained both during and after the working day with many friendships formed. The composite company returned to the UK having had a fantastic experience in the Italian sun, vowing never to eat pasta twice a day, every day for 14 days again!

A Company's Boxing Victory 2003

Sgt C Hopkin, Drums Platoon, writes...

Early in July 2003 I was asked if I would train A Company's boxing team and of course I jumped at the chance. The finals were going



A Company Headshed sample some Italian cuisine.

to be held at the start of September and this would give us just over six weeks to train. There was one major problem, block leave. How were we going to fit it around the boxing and the Bowman courses which needed to be done? After talking to the team with CSgt Riley (Battalion boxing coach), we managed to change everything around. Mind you it wasn't just A Company that had this problem; every other company also had it. However, in true Viking spirit we all managed to pull it off.

After a few weeks the team started to look

like boxers, training hard, giving up their own time and the luxury of good fatty foods. I couldn't have asked for any more from any of them. As the weeks went on the whole team started to make their fighting weights, although for some this was hard work. Before we knew it the first official weigh-ins had arrived, the day of the first round. The official draw was made by Capt Mackness and RQMS Buff, (Boxing Officer and 2IC). A Company had been drawn three times; feather, light-welter and middleweights. Had we done enough I was asking myself? Too late now! All three of the A Company fighters worked hard and all three came through to win their fights. That meant we had all nine boxers in the semi-final and the next day all nine would fight. That day there would be 18 fights in front of the Battalion. All the boxers fought hard and in doing so gained the respect of the Battalion.

A Company did well with five of our boxers making it into the final. C Company had six and D Company had four make it into the final, making it very tight at the top. The last few places went to B Company with three through and one for HQ Company.

The night of the finals had come and the gym had turned into York Hall! RQMS Buff and his crew had done a great job and the scene was now set. We started the night with an outstanding Drums display. We witnessed nine excellent fights with plenty of dramas, punches flying and crowds roaring. It came down to the last fight to decide which company would win and become the outright competition winner. If A Company won it they would force a draw and the competition would be decided on a countback between A and C Companies. Representing A Company was Cpl Holmes and before he went to the ring I said 'Larry it's all on you,' he made no answer, but I could see in his eyes that he wasn't going to lose. With that we walked to the ring. The fight didn't last long with Larry crushing the C Company fighter with a string of blows, which made the referee stop the fight and hand the competition to A Company. In the ten years I've been in the Battalion C Company had never lost the boxing, until now!

The winning team was: Pte Sayers; Pte Rutherford; Pte Moore; Pte Downie (Best boxer); Pte Dyer; LCpl Hill; LCpl De-Buc; Pte Smith; Cpl Holmes; LCpl Goodship; Pte Stevens; Pte Smithers; 2Lt Mclay; LCpl Alexander; Pte Brooks; Pte Irving; Sgt Hopkin (Coach)

The Regimental Day

2Lt A Maclay, 1 Platoon COmmander, writes...

A (Norfolk) Company began moving men and stores to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford on the Tuesday before the Regimental Day. This was headed up as professionally as usual by the CQMS, CSgt Riley. What none of us had witnessed was the considerable amount of planning and coordination that had been required for the Day. More men went down during the week, until it was just the officers of the company



A Company boxing squad, winners of the Vikings' inter-company boxing competition 2003.

The Vikings



The Standards at the Regimental Day.

left. A wise move I think.

The officers and the Colour Party headed up in the early hours of Sunday 14 September and awoke seemingly five minutes later at ATR Bassingbourn. We proceeded to Duxford where it was immediately clear that the advance party had worked extremely hard, because the setting was magnificent. As we were receiving the security brief the first of the veterans arrived. It was heart warming to see so many making the effort.

With the lilting voice of Cpl Panter on the mike, the tank rides were sold out in minutes. The main part of the day was about to commence, the church service and march past. It was a great honour to be an ensign that Day and to see the ranks of men with chests adorned with medals marching past. I am not entirely sure if Lt Dart still owes a bottle of port to the Colour Party!

The weather could not have been better. The bar and burger tent were packed all day. In the afternoon it was the turn of the Minden Band and the combined Corps of Drums. The music and drill made the hairs on the back of your neck stand up. A mass of stick beating is also very impressive sound and sight. The Drum Major had obviously worked them very hard during the previous few days.

At the end of the day the bar tent was emptied and the final machine gun position was talked through. The guests left, hopefully happy and looking forward to next year. We were left with a certain amount of clearing up to do, but the Company worked as hard as they had done to set up and Duxford was soon back to the way it was before we arrived.

Everybody returned to camp on Monday, tired but satisfied. Most are looking forward

to next year's event, where they can have a much more social role than this year.

B (Suffolk) Company

Maj FJR Grounds, OC B Company, writes...

B (Suffolk) Company has had a diverse and busy period. Training has been limited to nothing more than section level due to the myriad of tasks, which has impacted heavily on manpower resources. As with the other companies, Bowman has taken centre stage and we continue with the conversion process. As I sit here writing this report, yet another convoy of converted Saxon have just returned from Ashchurch.

The Company, well a platoon at least, deployed on exercise for two weeks at the start of May to Stanta and SPTA, which was the first time we had exercised with Saxon since before Afghanistan. The Company has also seen a reversal of fortunes in the Foster Shield inter-company competition. Having come last by some considerable distance last year, the Company is currently lying in second position, with just a few more events to go. Of particular note was winning the Battalion cricket competition.

In early June we welcomed back our Northern Ireland platoon and 15 soldiers have arrived in the company in the past three months, which has radically altered the look of muster parades in the mornings! Lt Hartley has been busy on the recruiting front and has recently run a particularly successful cadet weekend.

Despite our busy programme we have still managed to get plenty of soldiers away on exciting ventures. The Company 2IC, Capt Dobbin, spent four months in New Zealand, on Exercise Long Look, CSgt Eccles has

spent a month in Barbados running a Drill Course, Cpl Tinkler and Pte Metcalf took part in the Bowman Hot and Dry Trials in California and three soldiers are currently providing support to BATUS. Cpl Thorne is also heading up a Viking Close Protection Team for Col Kemp in Afghanistan. As I go to print, we are about to send two young soldiers to Malaysia to represent the Army with the Under 23 hockey team.

B Company is in good shape and we are looking forward to the challenges ahead at the start of the Training Year.

Drill In The Caribbean

CSgt JR Eccles, Training Wing, writes...

Five weeks in Barbados was just what the doctor ordered, well the CO to be a little more precise. The Barbados Defence Force (BDF) had requested assistance in conducting their very first AH Arms Advanced Drill Instructors Course and when asked by the CO if I would like to help, I almost snapped his hand off.

I arrived in Barbados to be welcomed at the airport by WO1 Val Fergusson the Force Sergeant Major (FSM) and was then taken to the Headquarters at St Ann's Fort in St Michael to meet the COS, DCOS, CO of the Barbados Regiment and Coast Guard, who were all assembled in one room. They were all very enthusiastic about my involvement in the course and informed me of their intention for this to be the centre for all drill courses run in the Caribbean. Well on first impressions I was a little taken back - collected by the FSM, greeted by the Island's highest ranking officers, they certainly meant business!

The next ten days were designed for me to make changes to the training programme

The Vikings



Barbados Drill Course; CSgt Eccles third from the right in the front row.



CSgt Eccles with his squad.

The Vikings



CSgt Eccles learns how to salute from the locals.



CSgt Eccles taking some R and R.

and meet the two BDF instructors, WO2s Blenheim and Smith, who had both been to the All Arms Drill Wing in Pirbright. I then had to learn rifle drill with a new weapon system the SLR! In reality this only took a little over a day and I was hardly left twiddling my thumbs thinking of things to fill in the time before the course started. jetskiing, catamaran trips, canoeing, snorkelling, sailing, golf, diving courses and daily visits to the beach just ten metres from my apartment made for a very enjoyable five weeks.

Time flies when you're having fun and it was soon day one of the course, with 25 students in attendance from the BDF, the Barbados Regiment, Coast Guard, Fire Service, Prison Service, Police Force and international students from Antigua, St Kitts and Trinidad. Their first experience was a tour of camp in double quick time, an experience some did not recover from for days.

The remainder of week one was taken up by students teaching foot drill lessons. At the beginning of the course I was a little apprehensive about how students from the fire, police and prison service would fare on the course, but I soon discovered that every uniform service in Barbados has drill teams, parades and places a very big emphasis on drill. Everyone from recruit to fireman can recite the aim of drill, a reminder for the readers 'to produce a soldier who is proud, obedient and alert; it also provides the basis for teamwork' (yes I'm a spotter). I was invited to act as chief judge for two drill

competitions throughout the course, the first for the Barbados Youth Service the other for recruits in week four of training, both were very impressive.

Week two and we were onto the rifle drill with the SLR. I only managed to say slope arms twice and it was the hottest week on record for this time of the year, not good when you've got ginger hair and have to stand on the drill square with the polish on your boots melting. The week ended with Exercise Mighty Thunder, a three and a half mile march around the busy streets surrounding St Ann's Fort, with plenty of marking time, slow marching and rifle exercises which attracted the interest of the local population and tourists alike. On return it was time to rehydrate in the Mess while relaxing over a game of bingo and dominos.

Weeks three and four saw the introduction of colours, swords, pace sticks and ceremonial parades and culminated in a final parade which was shown on national television and appeared on the front page of the national newspaper. On the day of the parade I have to confess to having slightly sweaty palms as it was decided that the FSM and instructors would do a silent farewell march past with pace sticks (No pressure) but thankfully all went well - no fan mail as yet!

My time with the BDF was extremely rewarding and enjoyable and I have made many good friends. The COS is very keen to rekindle the links between the two units and organise exchange trips, so snap up the chance should it come your way.

Exercise Long Look 2003

Capt ASM Dobbin, B Company 2IC, writes...

Having only returned back to the Battalion from ITC Catterick, three weeks previously I naturally assumed the Adjutant was joking when he offered four months in New Zealand. Luckily for me he was not and within ten days I was on my way to Burnham military camp, South Island.

I arrived in New Zealand on 17 May and having been welcomed to the 2nd/1st Battalion, RNZIR, by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Mick Alexander, I was briefed that my settling-in period to New Zealand was to be a short one. The Battalion was preparing to deploy on Exercise Port Republic, its first Battle Group scale exercise deployment in over four years and I was to take on the role of Battalion Intelligence Officer. The three-week exercise was an excellent opportunity to observe how the NZDF performed in the field and gain an insight into their battalion procedures and SOPs. It was the first time that I had operated within a Battalion Headquarters and certainly the first time that I had worked within a Battalion Intelligence Cell and so, despite the vertical learning curve, the exercise was a great experience for me.

On return from exercise, 2/1 RNZIR began its celebrations for the Battalion's birthday, which consisted of an inter-company sports competition, within which I represented Support Company in the basketball competition, an inter-mess rugby competition and several mess-level and battalion-level social functions. Despite the high level of inter-company rivalry, this week acted as a selection process for the Battalion's sports teams, as the following week was Lone Pine: an annual inter-battalion sports competition which, due to both battalions' commitments in East Timor, had not taken place for three years.

The week began with a formal parade, to welcome the 1st Battalion and I had the privilege to perform the Battalion Haka, amidst war cries from our 1st Battalion counterparts - a very unnerving experience. I suddenly realised how England must feel, every time they face the All Blacks. After a hard fought week, 2/1 Battalion emerged as the overall victors and were more than happy to lay on a large all ranks' function.

A week of block leave then followed, which gave me the opportunity to travel around the South Island and experience the awesome sights and typical Kiwi hospitality that the island has to offer. After a week of touring, I was tasked to host an exchange officer from the Irish Army, who was spending several weeks visiting NZDF units, giving presentations in preparation for the arrival of the NZ Light Armoured Vehicle 3. His visit gave me an interesting insight into the workings of the Irish Army, as well as a demonstration of how similar the Irish Army and the NZDF are.

Owing to a forthcoming deployment of members of 2/1 RNZIR to Afghanistan, I was asked to help with their pre-deployment



Capt Dobbin on exercise on Tekapo training area, South Island, on a rare sunny day.

training. This proved to be very worthwhile, not only for myself, being able to pass on British tactics and SOPs, but also for the soldiers involved, who learned a lot and thoroughly enjoyed the training. I was then invited to attend a week's adventurous training with the Battalion's mortar platoon. This was based from the Army Leave Centre in Nelson and consisted of river and sea fishing, mountain biking, snorkelling and some socialising.

One of the Commanding Officer's directives for myself, during my exchange, was to organise a FIBUA training package for the Battalion and a proposal for a Battalion level FIBUA exercise, to take place in 2004. For this, I travelled to the Combat School in Waiouru, North Island, in order to take a look at the Urban Training Facility, which had recently been built. This visit also gave me the opportunity to take several days to see some of the North Island. On my return, I organised and conducted a week's Fibua training for one of the Battalion's rifle companies. As FIBUA training is an area that the NZDF currently spend very little time conducting, their knowledge and experience is minimal. The unit were therefore very appreciative of the opportunity to learn British tactics and gain skills that can be used on future exercises.

Then followed a week's local leave, where I was able to enjoy some time skiing in the Southern Alps, prior to moving to Auckland and eventually flying back to the UK on 15 September.

Exercise Long Look is an excellent opportunity for UK and NZ forces to broaden the professional knowledge and pass on their specialised skills and experiences. Despite their dislike for wearing pink shirts in public, I was thoroughly impressed with the 2nd/1st

Battalion, both professionally and socially and this exchange is something that I am unlikely to forget in a hurry.

UK FIBUA Instructors' Course

Sgt JJ Snow, 6 Platoon Sergeant, writes...

Due to the rapid expansion of building structures throughout the world and with over 80 per cent of the world's population now living in towns and cities, it is inevitable that any future conflict involving British Forces will almost certainly have an urban operations element. Urban Operations as you may or may not know are broken down into three main elements; Military Aid to the Civil Authorities (Northern Ireland), Peace Support Operations (United Nations ongoing operations in Congo) and not forgetting the more high intensity warfighting role, FIBUA (Iraq).

The UK FIBUA Instructors' Course gives students a working knowledge of how to instruct tactics and almost solely concentrates on FIBUA type operations. The course is made up of a series of lectures, Battle Exercises and Tewts. The lectures and the endless film clips soon highlighted to me that the FIBUA battle is only successful as part of an All Arms Battle.

The battle exercises start at section level and finish with a company-level attack on Copehill Down, which on my course was led by an angry Capt Allen. All exercises are planned and delivered by students to the rest of the course who take up the various command appointments. Although I enjoyed being a private soldier again and filling the appointment as CSM, not a lot from a personal level was learned on the tactical side, as the course is pitched at a very basic level, to cater for other Arms whose knowledge and experience in their



Capt Dobbin offers some technical kicking advice to former All Black Andrew Mertons.

particular fields were valuable during other aspects of the course. The highlights for me during the battle exercises were working with armour and speaking to the crews about their recent experiences in Basra and understanding the huge effect it can have during urban operations. Armour not only delivers massive fire power, but it also has an important psychological effect as it arrives in towns and cities.

The TEWTS were very enjoyable and pitched at BG group level with students using their various experiences to discuss who, how, when and why you would use BG assets both in offensive and defensive operations. For me these were probably the highlight of my course, as at my level I very seldom get the chance to discuss and understand the FIBUA battle at such an early stage (thanks Sgt Neal for explaining the Air Matrix to me!).

In conclusion the UK FIBUA Instructor Course for me was not a teaching course but a valuable remind and revise. What it did do was open my eyes to other Arms and how they operate, and draws on recent experiences and lessons learned during operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Vikings



Lt Hartley, winner of the Henry Whitehead Young Officers' Cup.

Viking Shooting Team 2003

Lt OE Hartley, 7 Platoon Commander, writes...

When asked if I would like to train and represent the Battalion as the young officer for the shooting team back in March, there was no hesitation. The limit of my shooting, as with most people in the Battalion was the APWT. The team initially comprised of virtually all inexperienced shooters. This was with the exception of the team captain, WO2 Athroll, and Sgt Smith who had both competed at Bisley before.

Our initial aim was to compete in the Div SAAM based at Bulford. This would be the selection for the main event, the central skill at arms meeting shoot at Bisley which, for the first time since 1992, was to include unit teams. The first couple of weeks were spent conducting zeroing and application of fire before advancing onto the various arrays of competition shoots, which we would have to learn off by heart.

The team was booked to go down and conduct training at Bulford for two weeks prior to the competition. On arrival at the ranges that first day we were informed that the Div SAAM had been cancelled. We were to receive an automatic qualification through to Cent SAAM. We could not afford to slack off though. There was a lot of work to do before we could be expected to compete against some of the best shots the Army had to offer. Being based just 800m from the ranges was extremely useful and meant we could train right the way through, both day and night when the ranges were available.

Concurrently with the rifle training was the Army Pistol Championships in June. Two three-man teams were entered where they came the 6th best unit overall out of 19 teams. WO2 Athroll and LCpl Borgenvik made the top 30, ninth and 17th respectively, with the remainder all in the top 50. WO2 Athroll was also selected to trial for the Army Eight Pistol Team, representing the Army in the Henry Whitehead Challenge Cup.

After three months of shooting and 73,500



B Company, Viking shooting team: Left to right: LCpl Phair; Lt Hartley; LCpl Borgenvik; Sgt Smith; WO2 Athroll; LCpl Hazell; (front seated) Pte Buffoni; Pte Tait.

5.56mm rounds later the team had achieved a good result. During the competition at the end of June, the Battalion came sixth best overall unit in the Unit Championships, with the five-man team coming seventh behind 2RGR, GDC RMAS, 3 and 4 Royal Irish and 30 Signals Regiment. A total of 23 teams entered.

Three members of the Battalion made it into the Army 100; WO2 Athroll, Sgt Smith and myself. I know that some of those people participating will be keen to improve on this result next year as they produced better results in training than they did on the day. The pressure of competition shooting at such a high level certainly had an effect on all our shooting and there is no substitute for actually participating in the competitions. However, all who entered, had reason to be proud.

The lowest placing was 130 out of approximately 231 firers. There was also an added bonus for myself. I was extremely pleased to find that I had won the Young Officers' trophy, last won by a Royal Anglian Officer in 1966 - Lt Domieson.

Finally the team competed in the National Rifle Association Service Rifle Competition at the beginning of July. The competition was tough, with 19 teams including such teams as the Sultan of Oman's Forces, The US National Guard and the Australian Army. Once again the team finished in sixth place overall in the team championships. All of the four-man unit team finished in the top 100. WO2 Athroll, Sgt Smith, LCpl Phair and myself with a total of two silver and 37 bronze bars won by all who entered. Excellent results considering some of the teams were drawing shoots from the whole of their Army. A special well done to LCpl Phair who came 28th out of the whole meeting and also to the sniper team who achieved first place in the sniper matches.

Overall the Battalion team achieved some fantastic results and have an excellent grounding to build upon for next year. Well done to the whole team and thank you to WO2 Athroll for all his time and training.

C (Essex) Company

Routine Training

Capt J Delf, Coy 21C, writes...

The phone rang and tentatively I answered it; it was the IO, Capt James, asking what C Company had been up to recently for the Regimental Newsletter. It could have been worse, he could have asked what C Company was going to be up to (the training programme was still in the 'planning' stage when OC C, Maj Woodham, was expecting it in the 'planned' stage - in about an hour). 'Er...' I mumbled frantically flicking through my diary in the hopes it would jog my memory, 'routine training mostly...'. That was true enough. C Company has, since the last issue of Castle, been conducting a good deal of what many might describe as 'routine training'.

However, I think my initial answer was misleading and it made me think what really constitutes 'routine'. C Company is, ultimately, like any organisation a sum of its parts - the individual soldiers, NCOs and officers. When looked at from this angle the last few months have been anything but routine. For a good example of this consider 2Lt Walker's article which appears elsewhere in this publication. He has, in just one year, travelled from Scotland to Italy, and played sports ranging from hockey to skiing. His experiences are not isolated and a quick snapshot of the soldiers of C Company tells a similar tale.

Sgt MacMillan returned from Iraq which, judging by his account, is a hotter, dustier version of Afghanistan. No sooner had he touched down than Pte Estabrook headed out to the Gulf. The start of the summer months also saw the return of 9 Platoon from their tour in Northern Ireland with the King's Royal Hussars. Their tour was a success and the first for many within the platoon. They were to enjoy a well-earned period of summer and post-op leave but several postponed this in order to join the Company

The Vikings

boxing team. After careful management of Bowman courses and leave requirements Cpl Head and Cpl Stewart put the boxers through an arduous training programme. This was to pay dividends during the inter-company boxing finals where C Company came second to A Company by the narrowest of margins.

June also saw the departures of the OC, Maj Alex Beart, to Sierra Leone and WO2 Curtis to the shady world of the CIS Platoon. In Maj Beart's absence, WO2 Curtis and I were privileged to host Col Morgan and the members of the Essex Regimental Association during the highly successful Battalion Open Day. The opportunity to reaffirm such ties is not one to be missed and the sense of a living history was palpable as the Association members recounted their days of service to the soldiers of the Company. I was also pleased to represent C Company at the Essex Regimental Association's Salamanca Dinner a few weeks later. Maj James Woodham has now taken over the OC's chair with WO2 Jewell as CSM. Despite their new found positions neither escaped the gaze of the RSO and were soon with the company on Bowman training. Indeed over 60 per cent of the company has now completed a Bowman conversion course of one description or another.

Lt Steel's enthusiasm for shiny new kit knows no bounds and with Ptes Leonardi and Neville he took the opportunity to be part of the hot/dry trials in California. Not to be out done in the foreign trips stakes 2Lts Hicks and Walker took an amalgamated platoon to Italy with A Company. Closer to home 10 Platoon visited the Imperial War Museum in London, Lt Hicks prepared for the Regimental Ski camp with a spell on the dry ski slopes with the Company, and as Company 2IC I became a marked man during an afternoon of inter-platoon paint-balling (for some reason I kept being shot in the back). From boxing to paint-balling, Iraq to California, somewhere in between the Company managed to squeeze in summer leave.

Viking On Loan

Operation Telic - January to June 2003

Sgt MJ MacMillan, 10 Platoon Sergeant, writes...

To receive a phone call at a temporary fire station during the recent Operation Fresco deployment, stating that I was to report to HQ 1(UK) Armoured Division Signals Regiment, who wished to utilise my NBC qualifications, was a very pleasant surprise. Even more surprising was the fact that I had no NBC qualifications, but at least I had a foot in the door. On 30 January I reported to my fellow NBC buddies in Herford and, as it became clear that in effect I was unemployable within the NBC Cell, I began to learn about the intricacies of warning and reporting. I also began phoning about the infantry units preparing for war and setting out my verbal CV.

The lengthy process at the Theatre



Assault Troop, A Squadron, At-Tunnamah



Zeroing L96 just outside Umm Qasr.

Reception Centre in Kuwait was made much more comfortable knowing that now I was in theatre I could set about gaining useful employment. After downing lots of tea to take my mind off the night chill I was soon spirited away to 'Camp Rhino' just outside Kuwait city. I glimpsed for the first time the might of a war machine in full swing; the roads were choked with military traffic.

Being part of the Divisional NBC Cell meant that we had our slot within the ops planning 'Nerve Cell'. Rubbing shoulders with the men that would be running the war for UK Forces was a big learning experience and I got to witness first hand how much goes on behind the scenes. It was clear that the G4 world was in turmoil with 3 Commando Brigade (3 Cdo Bde) being issued out-dated NBC equipment in England, shortages in desert combats and even shortages in combat body armour covers designed to hold ceramic plates. I worked alongside some soldiers who had to resort to using masking tape to hold the plates on to the covers. The G3 ops side was amazing to see. Words like 'strike', 'barrage' and 'manoeuvre' were being thrown about as plans were unveiled. The mock scenarios/exercises assured me that these were very experienced men and that we were in capable hands. Pretty soon it became clear that my newfound responsibility would only be tested for sure if and when UK forces were on the receiving end of an NBC strike.

The Queen's Dragoon Guards (QDG) were in theatre and one of the squadrons was



Setting up explosives charges to destroy ammo stockpiles at Tunnamah.

tasked to establish a PoW compound during the early stages of the campaign. I reported for duty and, as an infantry platoon sergeant, my skills were immediately recognised and suitable employment was sought. I witnessed the huge humanitarian effort that was being undertaken, illustrated by the many ISO containers filled with blankets, rations, and wash bowls ready for the expected PoWs. My new job was to work alongside an officer (Capt H) as a liaison officer between the QDG, 3 Cdo Bde and the US 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). The 15th MEU were to conduct the assault of Umm Qasr in Southern Iraq and it was intended that the PoW site was to be on the western side of the town, so close liaison was required in order that the compound could be established in the quickest time possible.

In early March we became embedded within 15th MEU at Camp Coyote where all the Teeth Arms were readying themselves

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for the off. After a few last nights of sleeping on the sand in our NBC suits we listened to the ordnance being rained down on Iraq. It was surprising to see the calm, collected manner of the British soldiers as opposed to the yells and whoops of joy from the US soldiers when witnessing the bombing runs. We crossed the border and the 15th MEU set about clearing Umm Qasr. Soon after crossing into Iraq I appreciated the need for regular 'hands on' first aid training while treating an Iraqi with a gunshot wound to the head. I would suggest that when being fired upon and dealing with a casualty, to reach for a battlefield first aid training book is impractical - skills should be instinctive.

After bumping into a CSM from the Duke of Wellington's Regiment who I knew from old, I acquired a sniper rifle and after zeroing it in the desert I assisted the Duke's sniper teams in a few night operations around Umm Qasr. Capturing runaway POWs was the major highlight here.

Capt H and I found our liaison job slowing down when 3 Cdo Bde took over responsibility of Umm Qasr and the 15th MEU headed for Baghdad. We both found ourselves assigned to A Squadron QDG who were with 7 Armd Bde outside Basra. The stand off around Basra had been going on for some time and so it was to the relief of every man that we would be commencing the push in. Our job in Assault Troop was to conduct mounted and dismounted operations much the same as we in the Infantry do and so I felt right at home. We continued our advance all the way through to the eastern side of Basra where there is a settlement named At Tunnamah. At Tunnamah is the first built up area reached on the way in from Iran to Iraq and so the security threat was constantly very high. The general population was overjoyed at us being there and we had to settle into the role of being policemen as well as soldiers. My Infantry background was appreciated as we conducted raids, arrests and searches. I also conducted reminder lessons in patrolling at the request of the Squadron Leader. This was standard British Army work that all the troops relished far more than our US counterparts in Baghdad. The follow up operation was just as important as the warfighting operation. We had to win over the locals and keep them on side. I was now witnessing the 'three block war' in operation on a daily basis.

I managed to attach myself to an engineer unit who were working with the Squadron and I spent a couple of exciting days playing with explosives on a big scale - destroying vehicles and stockpiles of munitions left behind by the Iraqi army. Unfortunately, we soon got our marching orders and had to hand over responsibility of At Tunnamah to soldiers of the Black Watch and begin the long journey home.

So, what did I learn? I learned that you can indeed swallow eight weeks worth of compo and still want more. I learned that everyone at home will send you Cup-a-Soups and wet wipes no matter what you ask for and that masking up in excess of 15 times a day still seems un-natural after the fourth day.

Assault Pioneer Cadre

Pte MT Tait, 11 Platoon, writes...

Earlier this year, a handful of soldiers from each company were selected to go to Weymouth for a week to do an Assault Pioneer Cadre. While on the course we were given an introduction to explosives and mines, power tools, the Infantry Bridge, assault boats, barbed wire entanglements, mine clearing, water purification, and knots. The highlight of my week was the boat building and the MK5 Assault Boat.

On the morning of the third day, we had to make a raft from planks of wood, barrels and rope. I found this really quite easy because I had done raft building before. Once we were happy with the raft, we got into the water and had to race from one side to the other. Luckily our raft didn't fall apart!

On the fourth day we went out on the MK5 assault boats, which I thought were really impressive. We had two boats on the water and everyone had a go at controlling the boats while going up and down the estuary.

The part of the week that I found the hardest was when we covered water purification. There was such a lot to take in and learn in such a short space of time. Overall it was an excellent week and if anyone gets the chance to go and do the Assault Pioneer Cadre, I would really recommend it.

Bowman Hot Dry Trials

Twenty Nine Palms, California

Lt PR Steel, 9 Platoon Commander, writes...

At the beginning of September, Cpl Tinkler, LCpl Howe, Ptes Metcalfe, Neville, Leonardi, Willcox and myself were fortunate enough to be attached to the Bowman Climatic Trials Team for the hot-dry trials to take place in the desert surrounding the US Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Centre in Twenty Nine Palms, California. The soldiers were to make up part of the trials team, while the author was there to run the field-firing package. The remainder of the trials troops were from the Royal Marines

Bowman Conversion Management Team (RMBCMT). The aim of the trial was to test how well the Bowman equipment would perform in the hot conditions that the desert offered. For the trial to meet the criteria the weather needed to remain above 89.9F with humidity of no more than 10 per cent. These were more than met with the temperature remaining above 100F for the whole month.

The trial got off to a slow start as the Bowman equipment to be tested was late arriving. During this time the team kept itself busy with early morning PT (about 0600hrs, because any later it was too hot). This was generally quite amusing watching the US Marines out running and singing just like in Full Metal Jacket (very bizarre that early in the morning).

Once the equipment arrived the team went into a strenuous routine of battery charging stags that involved sitting next to the battery charging unit and swapping them around when charged. It was necessary to charge/discharge each battery three times before the team was able to get an accurate reading as to their effectiveness. During this fairly relaxed period the soldiers had the opportunity to go out and see the local area, with most making a trip to Palm Springs and the nearby factory outlet centre! The author also used this time, quite unsuccessfully, to try and improve his golf swing! LCpl Howe also used this time to integrate himself with the locals, spending a lot of time with the USMC who were nothing but friendly for the entire trip.

Once the charging process was complete the trials were able to begin. The initial phase was technically-based with range/frequency tests in the desert. The heat had a detrimental effect on the equipment and soldiers alike and most days practical testing was abandoned about 1430hrs. This was a fairly convenient time, because it coincided with when the green fees got cheaper on the camp's golf course! There were rumours that senior members of the team were sabotaging the trials in order to get 18 holes in before dinner! However the author can in no way



The trials team take a break.

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confirm these rumours.

The technical trials continued with the signallers gathering numerous facts and figures that showed the effectiveness of all the equipment. During this period the author spent the majority of the time driving around the base trying to locate some very elusive characters that were needed in order to help with the organisation of the range package. Firstly, however, it was necessary to pass a test to qualify the author to run ranges on the camp. This 50-question multiple-choice test means the author is now able to run any field firing range, including ones with air strikes and laser guided weapons! The range package was to include static defence shoots as well as a section attack range. However, due to problems with shipping, the weapons supposed to be sent to Los Angeles Airport (LAX) somehow ended up in Luxemburg (LUX). This caused such a delay, that they finally arrived two days before they needed to be sent back and the range package was cancelled. A morning of blank firing attacks was used instead to test the durability of the kit. The team did manage to get into the field for one night, for a march out to a harbour in the evening but, because nearly all the safety vehicles got punctures and spares were starting to run short, it was necessary to end the exercise early. However, this did not stop a number of people getting blisters, including a Royal Marines Mountain leader! Cpl Tinkler also managed to wear away most of the skin from his thigh, due to the radio rubbing. He was happy enough when he had to get it dressed by the female medic.

The trials were not what any of the team expected, however, it was still a very good experience for everyone. The team gained the experience on the radios that will set them all in good stead for the forthcoming conversion. And of course there was the R and R period of four days at the end, during which most took full advantage and headed to Las Vegas for a few days of well-earned enjoyment. The author managed to come away from the casinos with money in his pocket, which was a shock to everyone, not least himself! All in all it was a good trip that



Reflections on the Inter-Company Boxing

Pte DA Garner, 10 Platoon, writes...

Boxing is something that I have always wanted to take part in, but never had the chance until joining the Army. Basic training boosted my confidence tenfold so when I joined the Battalion and was offered a place in the Company's boxing team I jumped at the chance. Even though I was feeling confident with my ability it was still a huge challenge. The idea of volunteering to get 'punched in the face' was daunting and seemed a little stupid.

Training started six weeks before the competition. C Company only had a small team compared to the other companies. The other companies wrote us off, but we trained extremely hard. This involved five PT sessions per day. After six weeks we were all pleased with our performance. The team had improved its level of skill and fitness to a very high standard. At this stage we thought we were in with a good chance.

The competition started on 1 September. It was a horrible feeling sitting, waiting to be called forward to get in the ring. Performing in front of the Battalion was a strange experience and I felt very nervous. Being the Company heavyweight boxer I had to wait until last and I remember trembling as I walked along the walkway to the ring. I really didn't want to be there, but as soon as the first bell rang all my nerves vanished and all the training came into play. I took some really hard punches, so I punched back even harder. In the second round I

won by a technical knockout. My opponent received three standing counts and the fight was stopped.

It was the most amazing feeling having hundreds of people clapping and cheering. That made all the hard work worth it. The next fight I had similar feelings. My final fight however was in the Battalion finals which was a more formal occasion. Unfortunately, after a really hard fight, my opponent beat me. Since the boxing competition I feel that I have gained more respect from the other soldiers in the Company and Battalion. My fitness also improved a great deal because of the training. I am now waiting for the next Battalion competition where I aim to improve and become the Battalion's heavyweight champion. C Company performed extremely well in the Battalion boxing coming second overall.

A Gap Year with the Vikings

2Lt T Walker, 10 Platoon Commander, writes...

After a series of interviews, RCB, and a short course at Sandhurst (where I got beasted by CSgt Newton) I was lucky enough to be accepted for a Gap Year Commission with 1 Royal Anglian. I had no previous military experience having not even been in the Army Cadets and therefore I had no idea what to expect. However, no one in the Battalion was backward in coming forward and I was immediately thrown into military life, which was more diverse than I ever expected. In one year I have travelled abroad and around the UK, played many sports including rugby, hockey, squash and skiing, been on a number of exercises, recruited in London and was given the responsibility of commanding my own platoon.

Possibly one of the most demanding aspects of this year was dealing with the various issues that arise within a platoon and attempting to organise effective training - especially with my extremely limited experience. However, I was lucky enough to have some very professional and capable NCOs in my platoon who were always willing to help. Their experience became especially apparent when on exercise in STANTA. After an excruciating Saxon journey we got dug into the exercise literally by digging down to Stage 1, something which I'd never experienced. I've dug some holes before but never with Sgt Neal, a man/machine who genuinely loves digging; personally I can't see the attraction but each to their own. However, the exercise went as smoothly as it could and we finished with a successful company attack.

I was also lucky enough to go on exercise in Italy where we visited one of Italy's only professional infantry battalions in which no men are conscripted. Over this two-week period it was planned that we would exchange military techniques although I'm not sure how many of theirs we took home with us! The range day was a particularly 'spicy' experience. It started when our hosts dropped us at the bottom of a mountain and pointed upwards saying that the range was



Cpl Tinkler gets inspected by the medic!

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half way up. The Italians then got back in their vehicles and drove up, waving goodbye as they left us to walk. Apparently it was good for our fitness! We thoroughly enjoyed the chance to use their weapons and they really enjoyed trying ours, although some of their weapon-handling-drills were somewhat unusual - involving banging the magazine on your head and licking the first round before loading! The exercise was a great experience and the Italians were more than hospitable, always willing to try and help you in any way they could.

However, Italy was not the only place I visited as I was lucky enough to go to the Army Skiing Championships held at Aviemore in Scotland. Although the weather was not always the greatest for skiing we still made the most of it and we eventually had some success picking up a few medals. Cpl Shropshire did very well in the snowboard competition and Pte Lumbard and myself picked up a medal each in the novice ski competition. However, I'm not really sure how much I earned my medal, rather than winning it by default due to everyone else being blown over or skidding on ice.

I also had the opportunity to play a number of sports. I played hockey for the Battalion and was lucky enough to be appointed OIC hockey. We had a very successful season winning many more games than we lost and having some success in the Army and Infantry cup competitions. I also played rugby for the Battalion where we had some success which will hopefully be developed next season.

Finally, I played squash for the Battalion and was put forward to play in the Army Championships. Following some success in this competition I was selected to play for the Army U25s team in the Combined

Services Championships held in Aldershot. My involvement in sport led to me being involved in a recruiting effort at the Rosslyn Park Rugby Sevens tournament which was sponsored by the Army. This was a fantastic experience during which I got to watch some fantastic rugby and meet some thoroughly interesting people including such rugby internationals as Josh Lewsey and Phil Vickery.

I have had a fantastic social time within the Battalion and especially within the Officers' Mess. I was proud to have had the honour of being appointed as the Fire Member - a complex task that mainly involved chopping up wood! During my year with the Battalion, I've made lots of mistakes from which I have learned, but I wouldn't change a thing. It has been a fascinating year in which I've met some very interesting people and done some very interesting things. It's been an eye-opener and I can honestly say I think it has given me a great basis to go on to university. There are so many people I would like to thank that it would be impossible. I would just like to wish you all the best of luck for the future and I look forward to seeing you all again.

D (Cambridgeshire) Company

An Overview

Maj C Barry, OC D Company, writes...

D Company has been concentrating on preparation for the Brigade Training Year starting next month. This has meant running specialist cadres for Milan, Mortars, Recce and Sniper Platoon as well as concentrating on the Infantry's core skills of shooting and tabbing.

Progress has been good and after a good

range fortnight all ranks completed their APWT. The Company has also greatly increased its course holding statistics with strong passes at PSBC (Cpl Browning among the best), SCBC and all the specialist cadres. Of particular note was CSgt Pascal's Distinction on the Mortar Commanders' Course, which was an excellent performance having never served in the Platoon before.

Other successes have been with the Sniper Platoon. One of very few formed Sniper Platoons in the Army, they further impressed D Inf by winning the Army Sniper Match at Bisley this summer, with Pte Edwards winning best shot. The Company continues to support operations with soldiers being deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

On the sporting front the company won the Battalion six-a-side football competition, came second in the orienteering and literally blew away the competition in the march and shoot (only being tripped up after a slight misunderstanding of the rules). Bowman aside, the future sees live firing for mortars and Milan, skiing for large sections of the Company and look out for us in Cambridgeshire in the week before Christmas when we will be marching around the county renewing our links.

Battalion Sniper Cadre

Lt LO Stamm, OC Sniper Platoon, writes...

Over the period 28 April to 6 June 2003, the Sniper Platoon took on the responsibility of running the first Basic Sniper Course for two years. This was predominantly to train the new members of the Platoon, but also to provide the rifle companies with a sniper capability. The training team was headed up by myself, with support from WO2 De Bretton Gordon, Sgt Shaw and



Mortar P1 fire off the last round during live firing at Otterburn.

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Cpl Morris. The first day of the course consisted of a BCFT, map reading test and APWT in order that we could assess the suitability of the students. We began the day with 24 soldiers and finished with 15 that were assessed to be of the required standard for the weeks ahead. The remainder of the week was predominantly classroom work consisting of rifle lessons, air photography, map reading, methods of judging distance and observation.

Week two provided a chance for the students to demonstrate their marksmanship skills on the ranges. We began zeroing the rifles before collecting data back to 900m in various positions. After four days of practice the students attempted the Sniper Badge Test Shoot. They were all fully aware that they could only retake a part of the shoot once and therefore, if they failed at this early stage they would not get badged at the end of the course. With the pressure on, they began their shoot with a cold barrel shot at the 900m point with some amount of success. The long range test works from 900m to 700m which all students passed at the first attempt. Things were looking good for the mid and short range shoot from 600m to 400m. Unfortunately, five students failed the mid range shoot (600-500m using the tripod and then respirator) on both attempts, thus only leaving 10 still with a chance of badging.

Weeks three, four and five of the course took place in Sennybridge, with week five being the badge test week. This was where the students were trained in judging distance, map reading (including night navigation exercises), observation and stalking. Most of the students got to grips with the judging distance at an early stage, but the other skills proved more difficult and at times rather amusing. One of the main aspects of an observation stand is being able to draw an accurate representation of the ground - 'Play School' and 'Billy Age 3' spring to mind. Although it took a while, the sketching did improve dramatically, which is just as well, because I don't think the Commanding Officer would appreciate panoramies of stick men and lollypop trees.

Night navigation also proved to be hard work. The students were required to individually navigate a route of 8-9km in three hours with approximately 65lb of kit. Only three students passed this phase of the course, with the others either being too unfit, or more often than not, navigationally embarrassed. With only two students still in a position to badge (one of the three that passed the night navigation failed the judging distance) some excellent stalking skills were required. This was where the most amusement was to be found. A couple of pointers given to the students were to identify the observation post as early as possible, and to maintain a sense of direction. This was obviously forgotten on several occasions, with various students walking straight on top of the observation post in the open ground. How they never saw us I will never know, but it allowed for

constant banter from the rest of the students. Another notable moment was when LCpl George, crawling on his belt buckle and not looking where he was going, went head first in to a rotting sheep carcass. The DS took pity on him and at least looked away so that he could be violently sick before continuing on his task. There were also a few accidental river plunging incidents to keep everyone's morale high. However, at the end of the badge test week, it was unfortunate that none of the students had passed the stalk phase of the course, and therefore nobody would get badged.

The final week of the cadre took place back in barracks, and consisted of lessons and lectures building up to the sniper knowledge test. The students were tested in all the theoretical aspects of the course, and apart from one student, all gained good results. Overall the students worked exceptionally hard on what is designed to be a gruelling course requiring outstanding skill levels. LCpl Sarling was awarded top student with an overall grade of 90 per cent, but unfortunately he failed the stalk phase of the cadre. Although none of the students were badged, the majority are of a standard where they could be employed as snipers at either the company or battlegroup level. The Sniper Platoon itself is now fully manned, and it is intended that we will run a badge test week in November in order to retest the night navigation and stalk phase, and ensure that the students' hard work is rewarded with the Sniper badge.

Anti-Tank Platoon's Numbers Cadre

CSgt S Clark, 2IC Anti-Tank Platoon, writes...

Following the tour to Afghanistan, where the Platoon was split up across the Battalion, there was a strong requirement to undertake some Milan training in order to avoid the inevitable onset of skill fade. The Platoon conducted a Milan Numbers Cadre from 28 April to 6 June 2003. The cadre instructors were Cpl Ratten, LCpl Toynton (the AFV Guru) and I, all recently back from Warminster after completing our various Milan courses. The cadre was split into two phases; in-barracks training and a final exercise, which included live firing. We had 12 members of the platoon on the course including the new platoon commander, Capt Gregory, who was training in preparation for his forthcoming Platoon Commanders' course.

The in-barracks training was conducted over a five-week period within the local area of sunny Pirbright. During this time we concentrated on Milan drills, AFV, battle procedure, map reading, fitness and the enemy. The troops found the fitness the most demanding. Over the weeks we increased the weight carried from 45lb to over 100lb, in order to meet the requirements of a Milan Detachment in the light role. General fitness was further enhanced by Cpl Ratten's drills lessons, where any safety mistakes were rectified by a short sharp run around a designated marker. The final exercise

was conducted on SPTA based at Avon West Camp (the old Anti-Tank Division). Phase 1 of the exercise focused on revising the sighting of Milan and on conducting thermal observation posts. That night the cadre moved into a thermal observation post screen for 24 hours. Phase 2 was the navigational exercise where surprisingly nobody got lost! The final phase was the live firing exercise aptly named Exercise Viking Tank. This consisted of an insertion march including two stands before reaching the live firing part of the exercise. The platoon was joined by the Commanding Officer for the insertion, who then witnessed 10 successful hits out of 12 missiles fired. The most memorable moment was when LCpl (Billy) Baxter fired, as he missed by miles in an attempt to fly the warhead to Tesco's and back. Overall the cadre was very successful in that all the students passed. The top student was Pte Mcphee, closely followed by Pte Gwarisa. The future for the platoon looks good. At the time of writing we have been lucky to welcome back our Northern Ireland contingent, and at the same time have received a number of additional soldiers to bring us up to strength. As the new orbat begins to settle down, the soldiers are looking forward to the onset of Bowman, with all the implications it has for the Anti-Tank world.

Battalion Open Day

Maj A Jones, OC HQ Company, writes...

Let me set the scene: it's raining and the Battalion is on SPTA conducting Tesex. A conversation is taking place between the Commanding Officer and the Battalion 2IC. They are both under a camouflage net with rain dripping on their heads, down their noses into the steaming hot brew they are consuming and they have not had a shower for a number of days. There is a lull in the battle and, dare I say it, the CO is at that dangerous stage where he is contemplating life, when he says to the 2IC: 'Wouldn't it be good for the wives and children to see us in this state?'

'What a great idea,' says the 2IC, 'let's have an open day where we can let them see us at work and while we are at it, it's time we got our veterans down to see us.'

It was at this stage I got the call to move to get a briefing from the Commanding Officer. My mind was racing with thoughts of what tasking could possibly await me; one of the OCs must have been taken out and the Commanding Officer is looking for a young thrusting major to go to take command, possibly parachuting in! Imagine my disappointment when I was informed that he was looking for an 'old git' to organise the open day! So it was that once we got Afghanistan out of the way we went for a date of 14 June 2003 and the Commanding Officer briefed me to replicate the Battalion in the field, but in and around Elizabeth Barracks. The Colonel of the Regiment and his wife, Amanda, were invited, as were all our dependants and our veterans from Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire

The Vikings



The Corps of Drums including Poachers.

and Essex. In total we had 400-plus turn up for the day.

The day commenced with a reception in the gym where the Commanding Officer briefed the veterans on what had been happening and what the future held for the Battalion. A lunch in the cookhouse followed before we moved to meet our families on the square, where the Battalion was on display in all its splendour. I won't list everything that was on display, however there are one or two areas I will mention. We were supported by two Brigade assets namely 19 Field Regiment RA and the KRH who brought along an AS90 155mm self-propelled gun and a Challenger 2 tank. Also worthy of a mention was the Viking gymnastics display team made up of 11 individuals from across the Battalion (including REME and chefs) who, under the direction of the muscle mechanic SSgt Njie and with only a couple of weeks training, put on a most impressive display of gymnastics. Following the gymnastics display the Colonel of the Regiment presented LS&GCs to CSgt Taylor and Cpl Forsythe, as well as a Commander's Commendation to Maj Barry and CSgt Eccles for their work in Afghanistan. Pte Wallace was also presented with his Infantry football colours.

The Corps of Drums, with assistance from the Poachers, provided a musical and marching display following which the Colonel of the Regiment addressed the assembled audience. The Corps of Drums then Beat Retreat before the Commanding Officer thanked everyone for attending and bade them farewell.

Oh, by the way, as the organiser I failed



Milan Platoon holding up the roof.



A (Norfolk) Company weapon stand.



What a smile! That's what it's all about. The B (Suffolk) Company Saxon stand.



LCpl Ferand, Sniper Platoon.

The Vikings

in my initial tasking. While there were lots of camouflage nets and of course Vikings who hadn't showered in days and lots of replicating our role in the field, there was no rain dripping down noses - it was almost 34C in the shade! That said, from comments made at the end of the day and letters received subsequently, the Commanding Officer's aim was most definitely achieved. The families, our veterans and the Battalion had a great day and departed Elizabeth Barracks happy and certainly better informed.

Spearheading Digitisation

Capt MA Nicholas, RSO, writes...

Introduction

As I write this article the Battalion is just beginning its formal training on Bowman hardware under the direction of the Bowman Training and Advisory Team (BOWTAT). Although the vast majority of the Battalion completed a classroom based conversion package some months ago, the recent delay in the delivery of our converted vehicles and the arrival of our man-pack equipment has meant that the BOWTAT training has been delayed by a month or so. Spearheading such an enormous project as Bowman does not come without frustration and delay and the Battalion's approach is to take on Bowman in the mindset of an operational tour with all the uncertainty that might be expected. It must be remembered that converting 1 R Anglian is just the very start of converting over 70,000 personnel, 10,000 vehicles, 240 aircraft and 46 ships over the next five years across the Services at a cost of approximately £2.3 billion. The objective is clear to us; to master the system thereby maximising the benefits offered by digitisation in terms of enhancing the Battalion's performance on operations and exercise. This article will look at the course of conversion so far.

The Conversion Plan

The focus of the conversion is a 13-week period which consists of converting the Battalion's vehicle fleet (at DLO Ashchurch, Gloucestershire), the delivery of man-pack equipment and the conversion of personnel. For the Battalion this was supposed to be from 7 July to 30 October but the subsequent delay in delivery of the equipment from General Dynamics (UK) means that conversion is likely to go on until mid-November.

Equipment Preparation

Equipment preparation was a straightforward activity. The Battalion was issued with a Platform Presentation State (PPS) document, which gave instructions to remove any illegal modifications from vehicles and it also specified the required state of modifications for all vehicle types prior to conversion. Work to achieve the PPS was carried out by the LAD. The PPS was followed by the Platform Presentation Specification State (PPSS) document, which gave the details of which items of Clansman harness within our vehicle fleet needed to be removed and those that should be retained for conversion. A team of 20 vocational signallers, aided by representatives from



The last Vikings to have completed their conversion course run by Westland Helicopters Ltd, assisted by CIS Platoon instructors at the Bowman training Centre, Pirbright.

the Conversion Management Team (REME technicians), stripped out the entire vehicle fleet within one week.

Specialist Pre-Conversion Training

The focus for specialist training within the Battalion was two-fold; to improve the standard of IT skills for vocational signallers and train key personnel within the CIS Platoon and Company CIS Detachments on Bowman courses. In terms of IT development it is important that those who are to operate the new system are IT literate because the sending, receiving and dissemination of information from data messages will have significant implications on the effective functioning of the Battalion. Therefore, the Battalion sought to train its vocational signallers in the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL). The Battalion arranged a series of ECDL courses with Farnborough College, which qualified 50 vocational signallers. In addition to ensuring the correct level of vocational signallers had completed RRU, RS and RSJ courses, a number of NCOs within the CIS Platoon were required to be trained as Application Specialists. These NCOs completed a lengthy course at the School of Signals, Blandford and will become the Battalion's key trouble shooters with the system.

Conversion Courses

During the conversion stage all soldiers and officers who will use the system have completed a classroom based conversion course at a specially designed Bowman Training Centre at Pirbright. Between June and September approximately 450 members of the Battalion completed an e-learning course specific to their operational role. These courses ranged from a three-day light VHF operator's course to a two-week advanced signaller's course. The method of an e-learning computer based course for training signallers is a new concept for the Army but one that has provided a useful heads up for the BOWTAT training package which will train the Battalion on the hardware.

BOWTAT Training

The first time the Battalion will train on the Bowman radios and system will be under the direction of BOWTAT, an organisation of specialist instructors who will live with



Capt Danny Mackness QM (T) is presented with his course certificate from instructor Cpl Rumsey CIS Platoon.



Pte Coolege of B Company getting to grips with Bowman.

The Vikings



Bowman: It ain't all bad!



Kenny: 'I have no idea what this is.'

the Battalion for five weeks with an aim of training us to maximise the benefits of digitisation. As I write, this training is just beginning with two weeks of basic individual VHF training for all operators focused on the VHF man-pack radio and the Bowman Situational Awareness Module (BSAM) which is the cornerstone application for situational awareness and the sending of orders, reports and returns. The package will culminate with a Battalion level mission cycle planning exercise to confirm our training.

A new element of this training will be to 'plug up' Bowman as a system before any elements of the Battalion deploy on exercise or operations to ensure net and data connectivity. The plug-up procedure is well known in the Royal Signals but will now become a common part of deployment training for the infantry.

Summary

Since the last edition of *Castle* much has been achieved. Our key personnel are Bowman trained, the vehicle and man-pack platforms are arriving at Pirbright and we are beginning the BOWTAT training package. The confirmation of our training and the first test for Bowman will come with the Battalion Operational Field Trial in December 2003. We are fortunate to be the first unit to convert - and effectively the trials unit - a position which will allow us to develop and refine procedures for the rest of the Army. We are well prepared, well motivated and ready to engage with digitisation.



Technical Vikings, the key to conversion success.

Life at Ashchurch

WO2(RQMS) A Buxton, RQMS(T), writes...

Once upon a time, long ago, the RQMS(T) of the Vikings received news that he would go to a place known as DSDC Ashchurch to oversee the Bowman conversion. Trying to appear the eternal optimist, his reaction was one of joyous excitement, confident that this would be a 'nice cushy little number'...after all 'what could possibly go wrong'...? The rest, as they say, is history!

Clearly the whole conversion process has had a hiccup or two along the way; but let's spare a thought for those brave young Vikings who (reluctantly) chose to follow the RQMS(T) on his journey! The group that has deployed forward to Ashchurch comprises a selection of soldiers capable of driving, commanding and maintaining the variety of vehicles that will, in time, become Bowman platforms. Although the accommodation and facilities within the camp are basic, the work commitment is anything but routine! Initially it consisted of preparing the vehicle fleet for conversion. This saw the team, and particularly the REME and CIS troops, put their technical skills to good use. For all those involved it has been new territory to become involved with a programme of such proportion, and to have the opportunity to express their opinion on the needs of a

user, which subsequently has guided the direction of some elements of conversion. The initial phase of the installation process is over and the pace of life has slowed considerably, consequently some of the troops have returned to Pirbright to continue with Bowman courses and prepare for the forthcoming BOWTAT package.

Although the task at Ashchurch is not particularly taxing in comparison to conventional soldiering; the hurdles, frustrations and obstacles the soldiers on site have had to deal with on a daily basis have made the whole experience a positive and sometimes an 'emotional' experience.

March and Shoot Competition

Capt RJ James, IO, writes...

The march and shoot competition embodies the most fundamental of Infantry skills. It requires soldiers to march with weight and then shoot at a variety of targets at varied distances and to do this as quickly as possible. The march and shoot is the principal military skills event in the inter-company Foster Shield Competition, it is designed to deliver an assessment of the companies' relative combat fitness and shooting abilities.

Many march and shoot competitions have been run in the past and company commanders are well practised at how to make their teams count. So, from the moment the Ops Officer pushed responsibility to me, I knew that rules would have to be clear and detailed, but perhaps I underestimated just how much I would need to clarify them! Each company was to provide three teams of eight men with each team being commanded by a platoon commander with the team 2ICs being junior NCOs. This simple rule was the first stumbling block as I was told that manning in Battalion is not that simple: how can HQ and D Companies field teams of private soldiers when they have so few? A Commanding Officer's ruling set things straight. HQ Company could use junior NCOs in place of private soldiers, hard luck D Company.

The event would be judged on time, with the aggregate times of each of the three company teams being added together with their three shoot times. This was clearly going to require careful team selection with a balance of speed and accurate shooting.



The CO presents the Battalion March and Shoot trophy to Cpl Tullit.

The Vikings



HQ Company team - winners of the March and Shoot competition.

The competition was to be run at the Ash Range complex which has a circumnavigable route of some 'gently undulating' 8.5 miles of Surrey heathland followed by a shoot on a large range which had the facility for electronic targets as well as falling plates. With the QMSI, Staff Njie and the gym staff co-ordinating the start and finish point and with markers spread around the entire route, with communications provided by the CIS Platoon and a motley crew of Int Sgts and Lt Swallow heading up the range team, the scene was set. There was one thing missing...ah yes, CQMS B Company reminded me of the importance of the admin area, namely 'Bazza's Burger Bar', how could I have forgotten!

The day began with clear skies and the first team eager to get off the start line at 0800hrs. A little maths will tell the reader that there were some 15 teams to get through the day, teams crossed the start line at 20 minute intervals and, on average, two hours later they crossed the finish line before going onto the shoot. One of the most significant aspects of the day was the risk of heat injuries. The day was warm and 8.5 miles carrying 35lb can take its toll, especially when teams have a whiff of competition in their flaring nostrils.

The shoot was similar to a fire team assessment; starting at the 500m point with a dash to the 400m point on the appearance of the first targets which kept appearing until all were hit. This was continued down to the 200m point where the firers got the chance to knock down the falling plates with as much cross lane firing as required (some needed more than others!). Overall the results were very good, although there were a few unfortunates who failed to consider ammunition conservation issues. The competition was tight with a surprise for the rifle companies as HQ Company won (again) on aggregate points.

The fastest team of the day on the march was the recce/sniper combination led by Capt Woodeson. However, the fastest team in both the march and shoot (helping B Company to gain second place) was a B Company team led by none other than the Bisley shot, Lt Hartley. The day demonstrated the determination of Vikings to compete and push themselves to the limit in order to prove

which company was the best at basic skills. All who competed gave all they could to the event in true Viking style.

Training Wing Update

Capt PN Blanchfield, Training Officer, writes...

Since the last article the Training Wing has continued to put together several cadres including Pre- PSBC and SCBC, Grade 1 Soldiers cadres and induction cadres with the highlight of the term being the PNCO cadre that took place in Pirbright and Senta from 9 June to 11 July.

The cadre started with 39 students and ended with 24. All members of the cadre were Vikings, with LCpl Sarling of D (Cambridgeshire) Company finishing as top student and LCpl Goodchild of HQ Company finishing as best endeavour. A total of 11 students were promoted on the final parade by the Commanding Officer. The cadre consisted of three phases. The first phase was in camp and involved duties of a JNCO, weapon handling and teaching

techniques. It was then off to SENTA for tactical training which culminated in a five-day final exercise. The final phase was in barracks involving administration, written tests and drill. The cadre ended with the final parade before the remainder of the Battalion and guests.

The following were promoted to lance corporal as a result of the cadre: LCpls Sarling, Young 88, Knight, Rose, Logdon, George, Watts, Morfitt, Everitt, Dowles and Goodchild.

The Training Wing now has to say farewell to two of its members as they both move on to pastures new. Firstly WO2 (WTWO) de Bretton Gordon who moves off to ITC takes up a new post as DSM for the Platoon Commanders' Battle Course soon to be based at ITC (W). Secondly, farewell to CSgt Main who is posted to ITC (W) as an instructor on PSBC. Farewell and good luck to them both.



Pte Curry (D Company) demonstrates the carry.



CO presents Top Student Trophy to LCpl Sarling (D Company).

The Vikings



CO inspects the PNCO Cadre during their Pass-Off Parade.



LCpl George and Pte Metcalf get to experience friction burn!

Institute of Advanced Motorists

LCpl MJ Moore, MT Platoon, writes...

Earlier in the summer the opportunity arose for a number of Vikings to advance their motorcycling skills by attending the Advanced Motorcycle Course. I was joined by Cpl Heal, LCpl Porter and Pte Murton. We knew we were in trouble from the start, as the joining instructions stated the bikes were to be road legal! So out came the big number plates (in some cases) and off with the race cans. The operation started in

Aldershot at Pegasus Village with a good turnout of 20 machines and riders, all with a military background. With a look at our dream machines and our documentation, a few comments were made about some of the driving licences and an eyebrow was raised when the smaller number plates were noticed being proudly displayed. Then it was time to play. We got broken down into teams, with one observer to two trainees. The formation was one trainee up front then the observer in the middle with the remaining trainee at the rear. We were covering well in excess of 100 miles per day. Having been briefed on the route, the observer would also signal in which direction he wanted us to travel (that is if you observed your mirrors - no names mentioned - 'Pte Mystery Tours Murton!'). One of the hardest things to overcome was that motorbikes don't like travelling at 30mph! However, unfortunately for this week they had to!

To ease the boredom, the route took us through towns and along dual carriageways and country roads. We were assessed throughout the ride on our road position

while approaching, travelling through and exiting a corner and on our ability to read and assess the road and signs well in advance. We were also tested on our road position when encountering oncoming traffic as it approached and passed us and on our ability to seize any opportunity to overtake in a swift and safe way. Most trainees, myself included, were picked up on taking the racing line through corners, this was soon rectified with the correct instruction and also by tailgating the dreaded car drivers. Overall, the entire course was run to a high standard and all of the trainees passed the final test set by an examiner from the Metropolitan Police, Bike Safe - London. Every person who attended the course took away some good riding skills and techniques, most importantly knowing how to ride in a safe and correct manner, which hopefully one day may mean one less motorcycle fatality. This course is now available through the Army and will reduce your insurance considerably. I would recommend that all those who are serious about biking should attend if the opportunity occurs.

From Ilford To Southend

WO2 R Hill, RCMO, writes...

Does anyone know if there is a record for the number of enlisted personnel at an Armed Forces Careers Office (AFCO)? Well, if there are records kept for the most personnel enlisted, on a single day at one AFCO, joining a single battalion, this record has just been broken by the Ilford Office who enlisted 11 potential Vikings on 26 August 2003. Sgt Paul Culshaw the Vikings' representative at the Ilford AFCO achieved this feat. The 11 potential Vikings are due to attend either ATR Bassingbourn, AFC Harrogate or ITC Catterick over the following weeks. The Vikings therefore decided to make a day of the Enlistment Ceremony. Owing to the number of personnel enlisting it was decided by Sgt Culshaw to move the venue to a local TA Centre which would accommodate the 11 potential Vikings and their families. The local press were invited to the ceremony and the AFCO kindly provided a light lunch for all those present. The Commanding Officer of the Vikings attended and spoke to all potential Vikings, welcoming them to this unique family Regiment. This was also a good opportunity for me as RCMO to meet these potential Vikings whom I will visit at the various training centres over the coming months.

The Regimental Recruiting Team (RRT) also attended, having helped recruit some of these potential Vikings over the last six months, and their recruiting trailer provided the perfect back drop for the photographs. So why the title of this article is called 'From Ilford to Southend', I hear you say? Well let's just say Ilford was phase one for the Viking road show, and Southend was phase two.

On completion of phase one at Ilford, the Viking road show moved down the A127 to Southend where a similar Enlistment Ceremony awaited us. Sgt Chris Penny



LCpl Moore, LCpl Porter, Cpl Heal and Pte Murton.

The Vikings



The CO with future Viking soldiers at Ilford Armed Forces Careers Office.

the Viking representative at the Southend AFCO had to enlist nine potential Vikings. The format mirrored that of earlier in the day at Ilford, and the Enlistment Ceremony was carried out in the Southend AFCO. I take no credit for this Viking enlistment initiative, which was solely the initiative of Sgt Culshaw. I merely enhanced the idea as I knew Southend had a handful of potential Vikings to enlist over the same period. The Southend AFCO proved flexible enough to change their enlistment dates and timings to coincide with the Ilford's. However, a more careful look at the enlistment dates from the offices suggests that there could have been a phase three at Cambridge to enlist seven potential Vikings. Although I think doing dual with the M25 for a third time in a day might have been a bridge too far.

Viking Cricket 2003

Capt OCC Brown, Adjt Des, writes...

2003 marked the first real opportunity for the Vikings to enjoy a full season of cricket since leaving Londonderry. The last two years have been a quiet time for Viking cricket due to an arms plot move and BATUS in 2001 and Operation Fingal in 2002. It is important to note that our enthusiasm for the game endures the rigours of operations, as the Vikings managed to play two International

fixtures in Kabul against Afghanistan!

The aim of the season was to build a strong squad, which would go on to victory, emulating our successes in the Infantry Cup in 1998 and 1999. The hard work began back in January when the squad started its first net practices of the year. During the winter months it was refreshing to see that there were a number of fine young cricketers that had recently joined the Battalion. The new players are very keen to train and play. Importantly they can move into the squad, replacing some of the more 'senior' players who are due to be posted or leave the Army shortly.

The season's fixtures began somewhat shakily with the Vikings losing two friendly games against SEAE and the Coldstream Guards. The value of this match practice was however a massive advantage for us as we entered into both the Army and Infantry Cups.

In the first round of the Army Cup the Vikings met IRGBW who are a strong side having won the Infantry Cup in 2002. It was an absolutely nail-biting match, which was dominated by the bowlers. The final result was a Viking win by the narrowest of margins - two runs! The victory was a result of excellent bowling on the part of the Commanding Officer taking four wickets

for 22 runs, supported by Capt Brown taking three wickets for 23 runs. The second round of the Army Cup was another difficult fixture for the Vikings as we met SEME. The weather was absolutely dreadful making conditions very hard for batsmen and bowlers alike. SEME played some excellent cricket, beating us relatively comfortably as they progressed in the competition towards the final, which I believe they won.

Following defeat in the Army Cup, the Infantry Cup became the focus of our attention. In the quarter-final we met the Grenadier Guards. A strong team performance led to a convincing victory by a margin of seven wickets. Performances of note during that match were with the bat - Cfn Yassin scoring 23 runs and Capt Biggs scoring 35 not out. There were also a number of fine bowling performances, with Capt Brown taking six wickets for 15 runs. The semi-final had us pitted against IRGBW, which promised to be somewhat of a grudge match following their defeat at our hands earlier in the season. Unfortunately, due to work commitments they were unable to play the fixture, giving us an automatic place in the final.

The Infantry Cup Final was played at Tidworth on 3 September against 4 Royal Irish, who are a very strong team, featuring



Sgt Penny with enlistments into the Vikings.



The CO talks tactics with the Adjutant.



The CO receives the trophy from the RSM.

The Vikings



The Viking cricket team with the Infantry Cup. Standing: Maj Grounds; Cpl Forsythe; Cfn Yassin; LCpl Bull; Lt Stam; Pte Warbey; Sgt Kulkarni; Capt Robinson;. **Seated:** Capt Biggs; Capt Woodeson; Capt Brown (Captain); Sgt Dufosse; CSgt Lenton

two Irish international players. An excellent performance by the Vikings in the field limited the Irish to 129 all out. Sgt Dufosse led the bowling attack, taking three wickets for 11 runs (an outstanding performance during his last cricket match in the Army). Good fielding supported the bowlers' hard work, which included four catches. At the interval the Vikings were in a relatively strong position, requiring three runs per over for victory, however we were very aware of the strong bowling attack which faced us. The strength of their bowling was shown by the fact that four Vikings were out for ducks and only three players reached a double-figure score. The team was steered to victory by two fine innings - Capt Woodeson scoring 44 runs and LCpl Bull scoring 21. The final outcome was left to a last wicket partnership between Lt Stam and Capt Brown who took the team to 131 runs. It was an excellent match, which was won by the Vikings by one wicket. Winning the Infantry Cup was a very fitting end to the season and was a testament to the hard work and effort invested by the squad throughout the year. The squad now eagerly anticipate the start of the 2004 season as we aim to consolidate the team and hopefully reinforce our success this year with another good season of cricket. At the end of the season the Officers' Mess proved to be just too strong for the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess during their annual fixture. Sgt Lenton scored the bulk of the runs for the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and Capt Biggs top scored for the Officers' Mess.

The inter-company cricket tournament took place at the Army ground in Aldershot on a sunny day at the end of September. All the companies played each other and innings were restricted to 10 overs each. There were a number of nail-biting finishes and plenty of very promising talent identified ready for next season. B Company remained undefeated during the day to become the inter-company cricket champions.

Viking Football

CSgt D Goodman, 2IC Recce, writes...

The inter-company six-a-side competition is where the football pre-season always starts.

Each company entered three teams, which saw some of the old guard putting their boots on and using roll-matt for shin-pads! A great turnout produced some excellent banter and some very entertaining matches. A and D Companies contested the final watched by a crowd bigger than Woking FC are used to! Both teams produced some excellent football with D Company coming out on top 2-1. More importantly we found some new young talent for the forthcoming season, where we have entered our A team into 4 Div 1st Division, to defend our trophy from last season. The B team has been entered for the



The CO presenting Pte Rudkin with the 4th Division, division one winners trophy for the 2002/2003 season.



Winners of the 4th Division, division one League



Officers' Mess versus Sergeants' Mess.

first time in the 4 Div, 3rd Division.

The Infantry squad has already called up Ptes Field, Rudkin and Wallace for their first game of the season.

In closing we say goodbye to SSgt Mac Njie who has produced some great left back performances for the team over the last few years and Sgt Harry 'no legs' Harrison, a plastic Liverpool supporter who has been a great right back and has supported the team for many years.

The whole football squad, past and present would also like to thank Maj 'Alf Ramsey' Tony Jones for all his time and effort over the years, and wish him all the best in the future. He has already taken over secretary of the Infantry football team, where I am sure we will still see him stood behind a white line, gripping players in the future.

Army Rugby

WO2 IHR Wilkins, FSA, writes...

The following members of the Regiment represented the Army U20s during the 2002/03 rugby season - 2Lt Coppard (2nd Battalion and team captain), 2Lt Walker and Pte Brooks. WO2 Wilkins (head coach) and Cpl Panter (team manager) were also involved. The team had a highly successful season, reaching the quarter finals of the Tetleys County Cup for the first time.

In April the team came up against a strong side from the Natal Sharks during their UK tour. Despite a gallant display from the Army youngsters, the South Africans proved too powerful and well disciplined and ran out



WO2 I Wilkins; Cpl S Panter; 2Lt R Coppard; Pte G Brooks.

The Vikings

comfortable winners.

Orienteering

WO1 (RSM) CJ Tate, writes...

The Vikings inter-company orienteering event was held over the local Mychett area as part of the Foster Shield, the inter-company competition, on 9 September. The format was a score event, the idea being to collect as many controls as possible, in any order, within the hour. The main emphasis was



The RSO, Capt Mark Nicholas, gets to grips with the tagging system.



The CO receives his winners medal.



LCpl 'Chippy' Chandler receives the trophy for HQ Company

getting maximum participation across the Battalion. The day was a success in more ways than one due to the fact there were 300 runners and new talent have been identified ready for the forthcoming season.

The day started at 0900hrs with the companies trickle feeding troops throughout the day. The event winners would be decided from the combined points of the top 15 runners in each company. With results being published every 30 minutes, it was very apparent that D Company, headed up by CSgt Clark, were slightly ahead with Maj Barry leading by the middle of the afternoon. But OC HQ Company had kept his trump cards up his sleeve and held back his best runners until last. Fortunately it paid off and the Commanding Officer, WO2 Curtis and Capt Biddick produced the goods and finished first, second and third respectively.

Viking orienteering is getting stronger and we now look forward to another season. With potential identified in the lower ranks we can only improve in what is already a strong event for the Vikings.

The London Triathlon 2003 - Officers' Mess Team Relay

Capt OCC Brown, Adjt Des., writes...

The 2003 sporting event calendar has been a busy time for the Vikings Officers' Mess. A number of Mess members are keen athletes and have entered numerous events throughout the year - the London Marathon, the Grim Challenge and the Adidas Breakfast Run to name but a few. It seemed to be a very natural progression of this competitive interest for us to have a 'dabble' at triathlon. Thus, a plan was hatched for the Mess to enter a team into the London Triathlon.

The levels of interest and participation in the sport within the Battalion have grown

vastly over the last two years. There are a number of guys who are accomplished triathletes, training regularly in all three disciplines and competing as individuals. For our first event, we decided to pool our skills and enter a relay team, which would enable us to focus on our own areas of strength. The competitors were Capt Olly Brown (1.5km swim), Capt Matt Woodeson (40km bike) and Capt Dom Biddick (10km run).

The event took place on 2 August in and around the London Docklands. As I'm sure many Castle readers will remember, this was one of the hottest days of the year (the author was very glad to be doing the swim leg, though standing about before the start in a wetsuit was rather 'emotional' at times). As the 192 teams lined up to start the event, it was difficult to judge how we would fair, knowing that there were a number of specialist teams competing, including the likes of Duncan Goodhew and Adrian Moorhouse in the swim.

The massed floating start for the swim leg was chaotic, with flying elbows, fists and feet in abundance.

Despite the difficult conditions (heat) all three of us worked hard in our own legs and were very pleased with our individual timings from personal perspectives. The overall result was that the Mess team was placed 17th out of the 192 teams entering the event. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day for all three of us, which has encouraged us all to continue with triathlon as a relay team and potentially even as individual competitors.

Half Iron Man UK 2003

WO2 P Kirton, RSWO, writes...

An estimated crowd of 4,000 gathered to see 1,359 competitors compete against the clock in a race which spanned a total of 70.3 miles in three separate disciplines, swimming (1.2 miles), cycling (56 miles) and running



The Officers' Mess London triathlon relay team 2003: Capt Brown; Capt Woodeson and Capt Biddick.

The Vikings

(13.1 miles).

The crowd were left waiting in anticipation by the misty conditions that caused the start of the race to be delayed by one hour. The hold-up only served to spice up the contest even further as masses of friends, family and fans began to congregate around Sherborne Castle's famous Capability Brown designed lake.

As soon as the hooter sounded to begin the event many of the onlookers were left flabbergasted as the calm lake was suddenly turned into a sea of froth as the athletes began to thrust and kick their way as far to the front of the field as their adrenaline and energy would take them. Among the mayhem were three Vikings. Maj Price (Battalion 2IC), CSgt Garvie (CIS Platoon) and myself. I managed to reach dry land after 34 minutes, which was close to my predicted swim time, which would allow me to complete the course in a goal time of five and a half hours.

Out of the castle grounds and onto the open road the two lap undulating bike leg was in full throw. I anticipated riding for just short of three hours. At the 50-mile point I continued to feel strong, however, I was cautious not to push too hard knowing I still had the most difficult leg to follow, the half marathon.

The most picturesque run route on the Ironman calendar circumnavigated the castle grounds and the lake for two laps. I was pleased when, after the first 300m I started to pick up a comfortable run pace and settled into a steady rhythm. I managed a sub one hour 34-minute run which gave me a final time of 5hrs and 37 seconds, almost half an hour within my goal.

Dream a dream, make a wish and set a goal to aim to.

Step into the future confident and proud to be just you.

Those who achieve and win success are surely people who...

Take a dream and take their wish and make it all come true

Edgar Ette

Exercise Viking Longboat

Sgt SM Johnson, Med Sgt, writes...

In July this year, myself and a few other members of the Battalion, under the command of the RMO, Maj Everest and the Battalion 2IC, Maj Wylie, took part in Exercise Viking Longboat, a two-week sailing expedition. The aim of the exercise was to introduce off-shore sailing to members of the Battalion. It took place around the Solent, one of the busiest shipping areas in Britain and notorious for its shallow waters and fast tides.

The first week saw myself and the remainder of the crew being introduced to the boat, a 34ft Jeanneau class yacht. After being shown all the various parts of the boat and having the mandatory safety brief, we set sail to practise mooring drills around Gosport harbour. After jumping from the yacht onto narrow pontoons several times, we set sail for Cowes on the Isle of White.

After sailing around the Solent for a few hours, putting up the main sail and jib sail,



The Viking longboat crew at Gosport marina.



Phase one of the Longboat, back at Gosport marina.

we headed for Cowes Marina to moor up for the night. While attempting to dodge the Isle of White ferry we suffered an engine failure, so had to enter the marina under sail, with virtually no wind, so what would have normally taken 10 minutes ended up taking nearly an hour. For most of this time LCpl Jones had his head stuck in the engine compartment trying to locate the problem. With the motion of the boat and the small confines of the engine area, it was hardly surprising that he came up on deck looking a bit green around the gills, but fortunately

for us all pride took over and he managed to hold onto his lunch.

After calling out the equivalent of the AA, we continued to sail around the Solent area, conducting man overboard drills, putting up and dropping the sails and adjusting the sails for strong winds. We also practised anchor drills and picking up mooring buoys, which was to come in handy later on in the week.

During the two weeks we visited several places around the south coast and Isle of White, including Thorness Bay, Beaulieu River, Poole Harbour and Yarmouth. During

The Vikings



Using the bosun's chair to inspect the mast.



Maj Wyllie heaves his lunch out of the galley.



Members of the crew expecting bad weather.

this time the crew managed to swim near Studland Bay in a bracing sea temperature of 14C. Pte Clarke was named fisherman of the exercise after successfully catching three mackerel on a crab line.

In all a very successful and enjoyable time was had by all. We all learned new skills during the week on board, and those who had never sailed before seemed to be bitten by the sailing bug.

Operations in the Balkans

Padre S Franklin writes...

In June this year I was sent to the intense summer heat of the metal factory in Banja Luka, Bosnia, which hasn't changed that much since I was there last in 1996.

My job was senior Chaplain for the Balkans, which involved a great deal of travelling, especially to Sarajevo and to Kosovo. Although both SFOR and KFOR are commanded by the British, we are now in quite a small minority, with many other nations involved. Most national elements had very clear AORs, but there were some genuinely multinational areas of work. For example, the MT section at Banja Luka was shared between Dutch (who would stop work if they were told off), Canadians (who couldn't manage a gear lever), and the British. The Military Police Company in Pristina was shared between British, Irish, and various Scandinavians, while Sarajevo has a dizzying range of different nationalities, all living up to their stereotypes.

British troops tend to stand out in their ability to take initiative and get things done, but on the negative side, they also stand out in their tendency to drink too much, and late night singing was a source of frequent exasperation to the humourless Finns. The Pope's visit in July had the potential for great trouble, but it passed off very smoothly. My main concern was for His Holiness' health - he travels with his own ambulance, and our medical centre was on high readiness. My concern was that if he had to be helicoptered into the camp at death's door, I would be the only one around to give him last rites!

Most of the soldiers we have lost in the Balkans have been through road accidents, usually caused by extreme weather conditions or by the crazy driving of the locals, which was cause for fervent prayer on my part on several occasions! In July a Serb family were killed by Albanians in Kosovo, part of the simmering background of unrest and occasional violence, and on another occasion an RPG was fired into the courts of justice, following the trial of a popular local. Curiously, a Swedish patrol actually witnessed the event, though they didn't seem to want to intervene. But most of the trouble now seems to be that of organized crime; police blatantly stop cars and trucks, and are paid off for not issuing speeding tickets, while gangsters live in huge extravagant homes.

If they could put an end to the corruption and the organized crime, we could leave the Balkans in just a few years, but until then we need a peacekeeping force, which seems to need the guidance of the British troops.

Marriages

Pte AW Roberts to Amanda on 4 July 2003.

Pte S West to Rebecca on 19 July 2003.

Sgt D Shaw to Joanne on 1 August 2003.

LCpl DW Chandler to Yvonne on 9 August 2003.

LCpl E Elliot (née Massey) to Gavin on 16 August 2003.

Pte LS Earl to Sarah on 18 August 2003.

Cpl AN Pindar to Kelly on 30 August 2003.

Pte NJ Judge to Joanne on 30 August 2003.

Sgt A Whittingham to Clare on 31 August 2003.

LCpl Johnson to Sarah on 13 September 2003.

Pte DJ Sullivan to Lucy on 11 September 2003.

Pte IK Cartwright to Sarah on 27 September 2003.

LCpl SG Pimm to Kim on 27 September 2003.

LCpl A Farrar to Kate on 18 October 2003.

Births

LCpl and Mrs Dodd, a daughter, Sydney born on 5 August 2003.

Sgt and Mrs Collins, a daughter, Jenna born on 14 October 2003.

Pte and Mrs Donnor, a daughter, Sarah born on 8 October 2003.

Pte and Mrs Patmore, a daughter, Poppie-Mai born on 14 October 2003.

Pte and Mrs Pearce, a daughter, Jasleigh born on 17 June 2003.

Sgt and Mrs Thorne, a daughter, Maisie born on 11 August 2003.

Cpl and Mrs Lander, a daughter, Charlotte born on 8 September 2003.

LCpl Gomes and Ms L Devers, twin daughters, Milly and Grace born on 18 July 2003.

Pte and Mrs Grange-Cook, a daughter, Eva born on 10 October 2003.

Minden Day



The Colour Party, Minden Day 2003. From left to right: CSgt Taylor; Lt Steel; WO2 Caesar; 2Lt Glover; Sgt Smith.



Memorial service for LCpl George, Kabul.

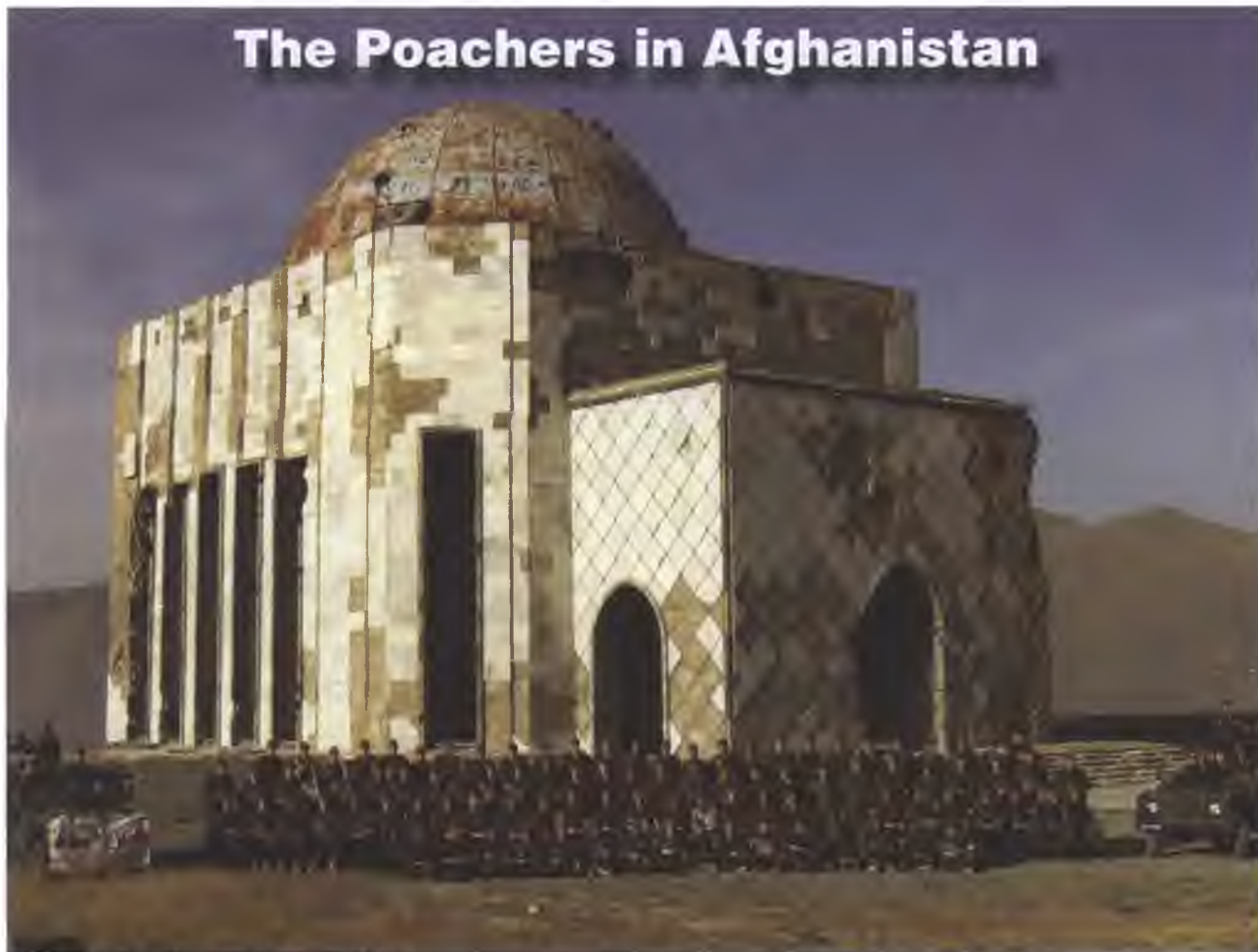


Commanding Officers past and present in Kabul.



Regimental VIPs serving in Kabul. Left to right: Col Phil Jones; Maj Nick Wilcox (RRF); Lt Col Roland Ladley; Maj Dennis Vincent; Maj Nigel Brown; Col Richard Kemp and Maj Richard Lyne.

The Poachers in Afghanistan



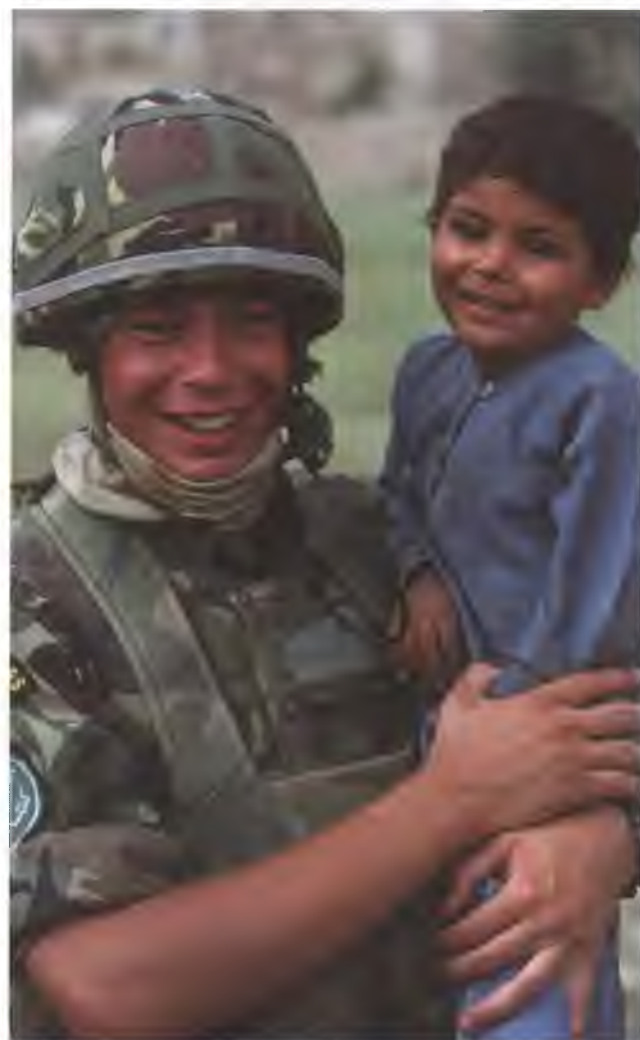
A Company at the King's Tomb, Kabul.



A WMIK Patrol.



Lt Melia and Sgt Vasquez meet a German patrol.



C Company - 24 hours on patrol





The Poachers' Drums Platoon in Gibraltar.



The Poachers' Drum Platoon.

2nd Battalion The Poachers

Introduction by the Commanding Officer

I write this in Camp Souter, Kabul, about 12 hours before the Battalion hands over the reigns of Operation Fingal (Kabul) and Operation Tarrock (Masar-e Sharif) to the 2nd Battalion the Royal Gurkha Rifles. I am delighted to report that the Battalion's reputation in Afghanistan remains extremely strong, with all four companies and the 50-odd man team deployed to the north having acquitted themselves extremely well.

It has not been an easy six months. Operation Fresco held onto us until the middle of the year and it was touch and go whether or not A and D Companies, who were in Afghanistan patrolling Kabul and training the Afghan National Army respectively, would be replaced. In the nick of time the firemen capitulated and C Company (under Maj Richard Lyne) and B Company headquarters (under Maj John Wright) flew out to Afghanistan to complete the final four months of a seven-month tour. C Company had an eventful time, the highlight of which was an arrest operation of a high value terrorist from out of the Russian Flats area. B Company continued where D Company left off training the Afghan National Army NCOs, introducing a new junior officers/SNCOs course to run alongside the already successful JNCO course.

An ad hoc Poacher grouping of five officers and around 40 soldiers deployed mid-summer to Masar-e Sharif in the north of the country as the backbone of a multi-departmental organisation called a provincial reconstruction team. This group (led by a colonel) was tasked with facilitating the Afghan central government in the provinces. I will leave the detail for a later article, but from what I saw on my brief visit they had a varied and fascinating time, working at the extremes of military re-supply and very much left to their own devices.

In between Afghanistan we have continued to support other units in training, undertake our own low-level training, take leave and prepare for our Ballykelly arms plot. Training for Northern Ireland starts in earnest on 20 October and we deploy to the Province in February next year. In some respects the tour can never be as interesting or diverse as our Chepstow posting, but it will give the Battalion the much-needed chance to draw breath, work to a set programme, play some sport and do some adventure training. With the way the Army is currently employed and deployed it will be a comfort to know that we are going into a period of reasonable calm and certainty before we re-enter the fray just two years later.

Finally, it goes without saying that the Battalion could not have achieved what it has without the support of our wives. Many

soldiers have spent nine or ten months deployed on operations out of the last 15 - this does not count time set aside for training. This, while fun for some, always hits the families hard and I feel this particularly after the wonderfully sunny summer we have had (or missed) in the UK. On behalf of all of us I thank again the patience and fortitude of the wives and children. Perhaps by way of recompense they must know their husbands have done a fine job under difficult circumstances. I hope that they are as proud of them as I am.

After Afghanistan - RAAT Tasks Abound

2Lt EJ Bland, OC 1 Platoon, writes...

On return from Afghanistan A (Lincolnshire) Company enjoyed a well-deserved spell of post tour leave. The Company formed back up in early July to the realisation that, with B and C Companies deployed in Afghanistan, the lion's share of the Brigade's Regular Army Assistance Table (RAAT) tasks would fall to those left behind - A and D (Sp) Companies!

RAAT tasks fall into two distinct categories - either those that differ from our normal routine, so are therefore challenging as new skills are learned, or those that are more mundane and merely require fatigue parties. Generally, though, these tasks provide a break from the norm, and usually require as a minimum some 'back of a cigarette packet' planning and flexibility at all levels to ensure that the 'customer' gets the product they require. The soldiers often find themselves being 'penny packeted' off on various tasks, often under NCOs and officers who may not necessarily be in their normal chain of command.

One of A Company's more high profile tasks was the provision of an enemy force for the final exercise of the platoon commander's battle course. As the next batch of Poacher platoon commanders launched themselves against the very soldiers that they might command in a few days' time, it was evident that the attack lacked momentum and the directing staff were voicing such opinions. Memories of my own experience came flooding back, while some of the soldiers realised that PCBC was not just a finishing school for Infantry platoon commanders!

Another task involved a team being sent to Germany to assist with 22 Transport Regt RLC's theatre-specific training programme prior to their deployment to Afghanistan. As Sgt Vasquez, Cpl Budworth and LCpl Freeman and I arrived in Germany it became apparent that the squadron was unsure of the objectives they were trying to achieve. A hastily written training programme, based essentially on our own experiences in the region, provided a series of presentations and demonstrations. The squadron was keen to ask questions and learn, and our imaginations were stretched as we tried

to develop serials that would be relevant. Although we had not received much direction from the squadron, they were grateful for our assistance.

Other RAAT tasks have included providing a permanent range team (PRT) for a RE and RLC units shortly to deploy to Northern Ireland. The units saw a marked improvement in their weapon handling skills as the ranges were very different from the usual APWT shoots they normally complete. Soldiers from A and D(Sp) Companies have more recently supported the NATO FIBUA Instructors' Course at Copehill Down. Most of the soldiers had very limited experience of FIBUA, and had not previously used TES equipment. This proved to be one of the most enjoyable tasks that the Company has assisted. Provision of 'Civpop' for a unit waiting to deploy on operations and the public order exercise conducted by officer cadets at RMAS have also kept the soldiers amused.

With soldiers away on a variety of RAAT tasks, routine training has been difficult to achieve. The Company has undergone a variety of personality changes and a manning reshuffle as the Northern Ireland Orbat is developed. This is in preparation for our pre-deployment training, which starts when the Battalion forms up again on 20 October and culminates with A (Lincolnshire) Company being the first to deploy to Ballykelly in February 2004.

Three Months in Kabul - A Soldier's Perspective

Pte Jacques, B Company, writes...

When I asked to go to Afghanistan and see out the tour with C Company I didn't give it much thought; I was just sick of tagging on during rear party. I didn't get any OPTAG training until I arrived in theatre, so I came out without knowing much about the place and arrived with an open mind. The flight out was not too bad and the stop at Bucharest was brilliant.

It was night when we landed at Kabul, and still quite hot. We were all loaded into a Saxon and off we went to Camp Souter. When we debussed we had a brief, were shown around camp and then I was taken off to meet my new platoon.

Over the next couple of days we couldn't do much as we had to complete an OPTAG package, which I didn't feel was adequate as we would be operating in a hostile environment and only had about 10 hours' training. But I was able to adapt quickly to the new skills and was welcomed into the platoon and my team. Now that I am well into the cycles, I can say that I have made my own mind up about this place.

On patrol I prefer the night, because there are fewer people around. During the day there are lots of children and I find them extremely annoying for the fact that they do nothing but beg for chocolate! The patrols are not too bad, but we tend to get the same

The Poachers

sort of task to do a lot of the time. Guard is a very important part of camp security, but I and everyone else find it boring. It is better during the day because there are things to watch and write down in the 'pattern of life' logs, but at night it's like a graveyard! QRF is my favourite part of the operations cycle because you only get called out if something happens. Some of the situations have been for possible cars following patrols, RTAs, and once when a soldier got run over!

The points that stick out from this tour have to be the shots at camp, and the 'Russian Flats' operation where we had to secure a building while some of the other soldiers went in and arrested a suspected terrorist. The bad parts would have to be the boredom, the fact that you can't really have a social life because of the short time off and the home sickness.

In closing, the best bit would have to be that I can go home and say that I have been out here doing a hard job, earned a medal - and saved loads of money to enjoy myself on my return!

Northern Afghanistan Provincial Reconstruction Team

Capt AP Wolfe writes...

The UK Provincial Reconstruction Team (UK PRT) is based in Mazar-e Sharif in the north of Afghanistan. Almost 50 Poachers deployed as part of this small unit, operating in five provinces - Balkh,



Capt Wolfe with his fan club.



Pte Houlden winning hearts and minds in Kabul.

The Poachers



Capt Foden with warlord Gen Abdul Rashid Dostum.

Jowzjan, Sar-e Pol, Faryab and Samangan. The PRT organisation included the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for International Development, and Department of State representatives. The Poachers who worked within this organisation were commanded by Col Dickie Davis MBE of the Royal Engineers.

The PRT troops worked hard in situations that they are unlikely to encounter again. Providing security for meetings involving Warlords or the emerging Afghan local government; conducting disarmament in remote regions or completing arms kote checks to ensure disarmament agreements are respected; assisting with civil-military co-operation in the form of medical aid; providing assistance at orphanages - these are but a few of the regular tasks undertaken by the Poachers during their deployment between the end of June and the start of October 2003.

Force Protection/QRF Perspective *WO2 G Jackson writes...*

The Force Protection element of the UK PRT arrived in Mazar-e Sharif in late July 2003. The team consisted of Lt Poulter (as OC Force Protection), myself, and a hand-picked group of soldiers from within the Battalion. Our role was to ensure that the general populace was not concerned by UK PRT measures, while at the same time ensuring our own security. The UK PRT commander's aim was to employ the relevant force protection measures in direct correlation to the specific threat. The phrase 'walk softly, but carry a very big stick' springs to mind.

How did we achieve our aim? Many factors had to be considered. In order to adopt the minimum force protection profile necessary, body armour and helmets were always carried, but never worn unless there was a specific threat. Pistols were always

worn underneath shirts for escort duties and at meetings where weapons were either unnecessary or unsuitable. The general guideline in these situations was to follow the policies of the relevant United Nations/Non-Government Organisations.

Specific QRF tasks often overlapped with those dedicated to escort duties and vice-versa. This was due to the amount of commitments produced on a daily basis, namely escorting representatives from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for International Development and also the United States Department of State to name but a few. Both QRF and escort teams also carried out safe house security during the hours of darkness as movement away from the safe house was reduced to essential tasks only. The driving force for our commitments was the reliability of locally hired vehicles (no pun intended!). It became apparent that these vehicles struggled to cope with the demands placed upon them.

In summary, no two days were the same while conducting force protection duties in Mazar-e Sharif. Our task was varied and flexibility was key to the day to day running of the UK PRT's mission.

The Information Operations Campaign *Capt AP Wolfe writes:*

The information operations campaign involved aspects of Media Ops, PSYOPs and traditional information operations. In the application of these disciplines to 'promote' the PRT in its initial phases I found myself starting with an almost blank canvas - almost blank, that is, apart from the fact that the Jamiat, Jumbesh and Hez-b Wadhat factions had started their own Information Campaign stating their perception of the PRT's objectives! A number of misconceptions therefore had to be countered. These included the general opinion that the PRT was a branch of ISAF and therefore had a similar mission.

The first task of the Information Operations Officer in this operation was to map the local media and start to produce and disseminate basic PSYOPs products in order to attempt to explain the key tenets of the PRT. These were as follows:

- UK PRT is here at the invitation of the Afghan President, His Excellency Mr Hamid Karzai.
- UK PRT is here to help dialogue between local leaders (Governors, Shuras), local security (ANA, Police and judiciary), SSR representatives, NGOs (both International and Afghan).
- UK PRT is here to work with the Afghanistan Transitional Administration in promoting the extension of the ATA authority and Security Sector Reform.
- UK PRT is a joint civil-military team, comprising the Military Commander UK Forces (Team Leader), Foreign and Commonwealth Office representative and a Department for International Development representative.
- International participation: US State Department Office representative will

be included from the end of July 2003.

- A representative from the Afghan Transitional Administration will be incorporated into the team later in 2003.
- UK PRT is here to help facilitate reconstruction efforts in Balkh, Samangan, Sar-e Pol, Jowzjan and Faryab Provinces.
- The numbers of the PRT at start up (July 2003) will be about 100 (including locally engaged staff).
- UK PRT is one of eight planned PRTs reporting to HQ PRT in Bagram.
- UK PRT initial commitment is for two years and this will be reviewed.
- Finances: The PRT initial financial commitment is for about £1 million for development and reconstruction for this financial year. Other finances are available from several different sources to increase this amount on a 'project by project' basis.
- Reconstruction is a long-term goal, however progress can be seen and conditions are improving.
- Stability is an essential condition for the success of the humanitarian and reconstruction assistance.
- UK PRT is NOT designed to impose peace, but is here to help the Afghans create a safe and stable environment.
- UK PRT is NOT part of ISAF. UK PRT will not be conducting combat operations. We are part of the coalition (CJTF 180).

As the PRT activities gathered speed, so the tasking for the Information Operations cell increased to include printing product production; printing contracts, business cards and corporate image products; product development to support the national Central Government, Afghan National Army and Police; consolidating PRT achievements and managing expectations.

Some of the most interesting aspects of the Information Operations campaign included working with the local media who relished all information provided by the PRT and generally were extremely supportive of our activities. This applied particularly to the Press Conference organized by the PRT and UNAMA that got the three major regional leaders - Dostum, Atta and Saeedi - all in the same room, at the same table, at the same time, agreeing on disarmament in the Sholgara valley - quite some achievement!

The Medical Perspective *Maj A Baker AMS writes:*

Let no-one complain, the medics of 2 Royal Anglian spent more time in blazing sun, battling tropical diseases and taking part in more barbecues (bar, bingo and quizzes) than any other Poachers and still came back smiling!

Afghanistan has higher infant mortality and maternal death rates than any other country in the world. This is as a result of 23 years of war bringing about a collapse of its medical services combined with corruption and underfunding. Clinics for the police,

The Poachers

prisoners, governors, warlords, ambushed Jamiat soldiers, LECs, interpreters and even the occasional soldier became the norm for daily sick parade. However, once the air-conditioned isolation room came on line, the need to isolate patients mysteriously disappeared.

To help fill the time Cpl Dodd became a television personality with the immortalised lines that 'she was more beautiful than Buckingham Palace' exclaimed by an enamoured Afghani. This was followed by an endorsement in her local paper by MP Michael Ancram and a mention in Soldier magazine.

Finding a specific niche for the British PRT medical centre among the morass of NGOs was a challenge, especially with no budget or designated equipment. Eventually we settled on improving the standard of medical education in the Balkh medical school and helped run a medical symposium and workshop. The use of cows' tongues as part of a woman's anatomy proved a novel approach to teaching gynaecology and should get Maj Baker a mention in the British Medical Journal if not the sexual deviants register! The civilian medical assistance clinic in Sholgareh, which enabled locals and their animals to be seen by US vets, dentists and doctors, reiterated the peace dividend of disarmament in the valley.

Work at the orphanage school was one of the most rewarding tasks in which we became involved. The enthusiasm and gratitude of the children, combined with the hard work and generosity of the Poacher soldiers who gave up their time, sums up the potential and hope for the future of this remarkable country.

Conclusion

Capt GB Foden writes...

Operation Tarrock has provided the Poachers with an unrivalled opportunity and one which we have wholeheartedly grasped. Few of us will ever forget the experiences that we have had up here in Masar-e-Sharif. All of the Poachers have been operating at the very forefront of the British Army's operations in Afghanistan and all ranks have been given a huge amount of responsibility.

It was extremely gratifying for all to be in at the very start of an operation and to develop it, from nothing, into an ongoing concern. On the G4 side the PRT QM, Capt Phil Martin, and Sgt 'Pops' Bannon have achieved miracles at the end of the most tenuous supply chain I have ever experienced. The fact that we have never run out of anything is a testament to their ability and hard work.

The work has been varied and, as many of the jobs we undertook were new to us, the experience gained has been immense. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Poachers, and in particular the men of the Force Protection element and the drivers and escorts for their hard work and professionalism. From the man on 'roof stag' to the Commander's driver they have all performed magnificently.

ISAF: Making a Difference

Pte Chambers, a recent Commonwealth recruit from Trinidad and Tobago, highlights the impact ISAF is having on the everyday lives of the people of Kabul...

Like other countries today that have been terrorised by unremitting violence and killing and where, above all, freedom of choice has been taken away, the people of Afghanistan indeed have a story to tell. Martin Luther King, who fought for freedom, said in one of his books that no man or country is free until all the country is free everywhere; another historian added that we might not be born with enough ability to do things but everyone is born with enough might. The Afghans needed help.

Afghanistan's population is about 22 million, and 90 per cent of them have highly religious morals and values. What mainly distinguishes Muslims from other religions is the pride they take in their religious beliefs, for example praying several times a day, washing their hands and face, and most of all ensuring that they face towards Mecca in order for their prayers to go directly to Allah. But religion alone has not been enough to bring peace to Afghanistan, which is why ISAF was sent to help.

In late 2001, when ISAF troops first arrived in Afghanistan, I can imagine the feelings that came into the minds of the Afghans. The devastation that they have suffered, and the wounds that have been left by the Taliban and other terrorist groups, cannot be healed by me saying that the Afghans needed some help. They needed their country to be stabilized and they needed freedom, and today we as ISAF soldiers are very proud to say that we are healing the wounds of the Afghan people. I usually ask the Afghan interpreters how the people feel about our presence in their country and the replies are along the lines of: 'They are more than soldiers, they have brought something to our country that has

been taken away from us - freedom'. Another one replied: 'They are not only protecting our streets; they are the biggest form of employment in our country'.

As for ISAF soldiers, this tour will always have an impact, not only on our lives but on the lives of our families. I have heard that one soldier's daughter is starting to raise funds to buy books for the children of Afghanistan. For that undying love that we have shown to the children they will remember us, not only for giving them cacao 'ka kow' (Afghan for chocolate) or security, but as their heroes.

Kabul - Life on the Ground

Pte McDermott, 8 Platoon, writes...

I arrived in Afghanistan on 11 June 2003 and had to take on a lot of water in the first week as it was very hot and the air was dry. The platoon's first task was guard duty; the brief was hard to take on board as there were a lot of 'actions on' for us to carry out in the event of an incident. We did a rotation of eight hours on and eight hours off for three days. After guard we went to 'refurb' which is rest and training. We covered GPMG, 9mm pistol, map reading and compass bearings. During refurb I carried out WMIK and FFR conversion tests and fired the GPMG from the vehicle on the ranges.

The next Ops cycle was patrols - three days on Patrols 1 and three days on Patrols 2. We used FFRs and WMIKs for mobile patrols of Police Districts 8 and 9 in Kabul. We also visited police checkpoints and set up our own VCPs in different locations. If we found an UXO it was marked and reported to the Ops room. During one patrol we spotted an Afghan with an AK47 which turned out to be a toy! Sometimes I found the locals a bit too friendly because they were always asking for things from us.

The final task of the rotation was as the Quick Reaction Force. This was the most tiring as Red 1 and 2 had to do VCPs for three hours in each six over a 12 or 24-hour period.



On patrol in Kabul.

The Poachers

After Red 2 we moved on to escorts, and had escort tasks to KMNB (German camp), Camp Phoenix (American camp) and to the Olympic Stadium. The next cycle was back to guard again, which was boring and tiring. During the day you would get pestered by kids, at night it was very cold, and in Sanger 7 I got attacked by a camel spider! In and among all this I got the time to attend a team medic's cadre for a few days.

Some particular events stick in the memory. One day in July we carried out a snap search of camp to see what the locally employed civilians had in their possession, and we found a lot of maps, reports and some military equipment which was worrying. Later in the month I got a change of scene when we went to Bagram to guard the ammunition that is held at an American camp there. In early August our team took a BBC news crew out on the ground and their report was broadcast on the News at Ten a few days later. On 11 August the company carried out an operation to secure a route for VVIPs who were coming to Kabul; I was the multiple's GPMG gunner and we were out on the ground for seven hours. A few days later we got out for a range day and I was able to fire the Minimi for the first time.

19 August was Afghan independence day. We were expecting something big but it was a low-key celebration. Later that week we had to secure Souter road for the new TA Platoons that were arriving. More recently we carried out our largest operation - to catch an Al-Qaeda suspect and any associated evidence. We rushed a block of Russian flats and managed to detain several suspects. Inside the flat were two weapons with ammunition and some grenades.

We are now drawing to the end of the tour. All things considered it has been a good tour.

Training NCOs in Afghanistan

Maj S Carver, OC D(Sp) Company, writes...

The possibility of deploying to Afghanistan as part of a British Army Training Team first emerged in February 2003. The US had requested British assistance to run a course in Kabul to train future NCOs in the Afghan National Army (ANA). Uncertainty at the time about the resolution of the Fire Brigades' Union dispute resulted in reluctance by HQ Land to agree to this new commitment, especially as 2 Royal Anglian were only just able to meet their required manning level for Operation Fresco.

Eventually, with just two weeks to go before the planned start date of the first NCO course, approval was given to deploy a team of 17 instructors to Kabul. The advance party arrived in theatre on 3 March with the remainder of the team following a week later. Luckily, a delay in the US-led training had delayed the start of the first NCO course by a couple of weeks, giving us some much-needed preparation time in theatre.

Some frantic activity took place during that two-week period. Firstly we had to persuade



Cpl Baird supervises firing of RGP7.



Afghan JNCOs during NCO selection.



Cpl Marshall teaching low-level tactics to Afghan JNCOs.

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the UK CivSec to hire four vehicles for us, as we had no allocated transport. Then we had to identify some real estate within the Kabul Military Training Centre, where the training of the new Afghan National Army Battalions was taking place. After many frustrating encounters with Afghan military bureaucracy we eventually secured classrooms, offices and accommodation for 108 students - although it took a team of locally employed civilians most of the two weeks to make them habitable! Finally, an extremely helpful US Special Forces contingent, who were heading up the ANA training, provided an armoury full of Soviet weaponry, ammunition, and various other military equipment to issue to the students. At the same time as this round of begging and borrowing was going on, we also drew up a training programme and conducted recce of potential training areas and live firing ranges. The final stage was the interviewing and recruiting of a team of interpreters to work with us on the course.

The first course began in late March and consisted of a week of selection and four weeks of instruction. The inclusion of a selection phase was considered essential if the concept of a professional cadre of NCOs was going to get off the ground. It should be remembered that there had been no NCOs in the Afghan army, except technical specialists, for the last 17 years. There was some opposition to merit-based selection from the Afghan MOD, who preferred to select individuals themselves, as they do with officers, but they were eventually won over.

For the first course around 160 candidates arrived to compete for the 108 places available on the course. Assessments included fitness, literacy skills, lectures to test public speaking and confidence, as well as a series of command tasks. The four-week course itself was split fairly evenly into three areas: fieldwork, methods of instruction and learning the responsibilities of an NCO in barracks. The students themselves were a mixture of NCOs already in appointments within existing trained battalions, and others who had only recently enrolled in the Army. While the depth of previous military experience and level of fitness varied considerably, a constant factor among all the students was their willingness to learn and desire to impress. The Afghan soldier is extremely proud and highly competitive, and a lack of basic military discipline is compensated by endless enthusiasm. We organised a series of competitions; best student, best instructor, and best shot, as well as the traditional inter-section and inter-platoon, all of which were highly prized by the students. At the end of the course we provided an assessment of each student's performance and made recommendations as to their future employment, which were almost without exception accepted by the Afghan MOD. The very best were kept from the first couple of courses to be trained as future instructors - with the ultimate aim of handing the course over to Afghan

instructors after six months.

One of the difficulties we faced when designing the course was the requirement to train NCOs for a wide range of future appointments, from squad 2IC to RSM. In the short term this was overcome by streaming the course in week three, with the more promising students receiving more advanced training. In the longer term it is hoped to run two separate courses, one for junior NCOs and one for senior NCOs. The junior course would be run by Afghan instructors and the senior course by the UK, although at the time of writing we are still awaiting UK approval for an extension to the initial six-month mission.

The final stage of establishing an NCO career structure is to teach the existing ANA battalions to run their own potential NCO cadres from within their own resources. One of the difficulties we expected to face, but which did not materialise, was that of ethnic tension. Conflict in Afghanistan has for centuries been based around a power struggle between the main ethnic groups, except during the Russian occupation, when at times they united for brief periods to fight a common enemy. A lot of time was spent ensuring that each squad and platoon was evenly balanced and almost the entire course was based around team work, an alien concept to most Afghans who, given their history, have perhaps understandably followed an 'every man for himself' maxim. Perhaps having the UK instructors as the 'common enemy' ensured that we had no incidents of ethnic tension throughout our stay.

It was also encouraging that at no stage were ethnic quotas imposed on us and both selection for the course and the final results were entirely merit based. The difficulty of the task facing the instructors should not be underestimated. Teaching US doctrine and tactics with Soviet weaponry in two different languages through an interpreter presents a number of challenges. Throw in temperatures that regularly topped 100 degrees, a harsh terrain, regular bouts of D and V, Afghan religious and cultural sensitivities, and the ever present threat of terrorist attack, and you have the full picture. The junior NCOs who made up the majority of the training team, some of them newly promoted lance corporals, rose to the challenge admirably.

At the unofficial tour debrief which took place in the hotel bar in Bucharest on the way home, the team members were unanimous in declaring the job one of the highlights of their careers to date. Despite the frustrations and challenges there is always something special about setting up something from scratch rather than taking over an existing, well-established task. It would have been a great disappointment if the original decision to deploy had gone the other way. It would also have been a missed political opportunity for the UK to 'punch above its weight'. Although obviously biased, there is a strong case to argue that 17 UK instructors did as much to bring long term peace and security

to Afghanistan as a battalion of ISAF troops from some of the less experienced troop contributing nations that were conducting routine patrols in the Kabul area.

CIMIC in Kabul

Maj NMP Brown, OC HQ Company, writes...

As part of the Battalion's commitment to the Afghanistan Roulement Infantry Battalion (ARIB), the post of Civil and Military Co-operation (CIMIC) officer was one that was undertaken by the Poachers right from the start of the deployment. In the first instance Capt Tim Beighton took on the job and was able to achieve a substantial number of projects in the short space of time he was there.

One of the key tasks that he took on was the reconstruction of the Kabul River footbridge. This bridge had suffered a lot of damage during the conflict, but had somehow managed to stay up, although it was incredibly dangerous to cross and a number of people, including children, had fallen off it and been swept away by the river. Finally, one of the Scandinavian CIMIC teams decided to try and refurbish the bridge, but had pulled out the moment one of the spans had collapsed into the river. Capt Beighton immediately leapt at the opportunity to repair the bridge and, following a fairly frantic search around for some finance and a couple of bids by local contractors, he was able to commence work in early April.

Two months later, for the bargain price of \$6,400, the bridge was reopened as the Saadat (Victory) Footbridge. It had an immediate effect; at least 50,000 people living on either side of the river were able to benefit from it, particularly a good many schoolchildren who now had a safe and direct route across the river. The opening ceremony itself allowed for a good deal of positive publicity for the British presence in Kabul, with the British Ambassador, Ronald Nash, sharing the opening duties with the deputy Mayor of Kabul. Local TV stations and newspapers gave good coverage of the ceremony and made specific mention of the fact that it was a British funded and managed project.

Capt Beighton had to return early from his part of the tour to take over as QM (Tech), so it was a little surprising for me to receive a text message on arrival at Cowes during a sailing course, telling me to phone the CO ASAP, and a little more surprising to find out I was off to Kabul in mid-May! The notion of going out on an operational tour was a little hard to grasp at first, principally due to the first night being an overnight stop in Bucharest in a five star hotel! At least one could finally appreciate the benefits of flying with the RAF!

The arrival at Kabul was interesting - the Hercules coming in at night due to the SAM threat meant that all lights on the aircraft had to be switched off and the defence systems switched on. The sight of five flares being deployed, however minimal the threat, did

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The view over Kabul.



Life in Kabul.

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make you reconsider just how beneficial RAF travel really is. Arrival on the ground brought no relief as there had been a direct threat made against ISAF vehicles, so our journey from the airport to Camp Souter was made with fairly close security provided by A Company. The next morning brought sunshine and a chance to see the marvellous views of the mountains surrounding Kabul, particularly the snow capped higher ones. In spite of all the damage done to Kabul over the last 20 or so years, there is no doubt that the surrounding countryside is very picturesque. Kabul itself has suffered badly from the conflict. There is no doubt that some of the damage inflicted has been done maliciously, as if to spite a certain part of the population, not for any military reasons. What is particularly annoying is the way that the infrastructure has been destroyed.

The city survives on what very few and basic facilities it has got. Electricity supply is minimal, partly because the cabling has been ripped up for scrap or because the transformers that are required in each of the districts have been removed to be sold. Water supplies are very rudimentary, the main source being local wells with hand pumps that are liberally spread out among the districts and villages. Many of these are dried up and no longer in a good state of repair, simple maintenance being a concept that many Afghans do not comprehend. Sanitation is very basic, mostly open sewers in the streets, so health is also a serious concern, with very few local clinics being able to provide a good, consistent level of healthcare. Hospitals are very basic and in great need of medical supplies and equipment, as well as comprehensive cleaning and sanitisation.

One of the biggest requirements is for basic shelter and accommodation. There are still large areas of ruined housing and although people have put up makeshift shelters, mainly using UNHCR tents, the return of so many refugees to Kabul has put an immense strain on the city's already overstretched facilities. Another major requirement is for more schools, as the current ones are not able to cope with the enormous number of schoolchildren. Many of the schools are trying to deal with thousands of children, sometimes as many as 10,000. The only way they can manage is to operate a shift system, sometimes as many as four in a day. This means that the children are only receiving a rudimentary education, but what is refreshing is to see just how many children do turn up to school and how eager they are to get an education. The US Embassy had estimated that in the first year after the Taleban's removal at least one million children would return to school - three million turned up!

Many of the children have to take their lessons in tents in the school grounds, which is fine in the summer, but incredibly difficult in winter. Obviously there is a great deal of work to be done rebuilding Kabul and the tendency is to try and do as much as you can. Patently there is a real limit on



Painting a classroom in Kabul.

what you can achieve and you have to look closely at the priorities in the areas you are working in and how you can meet them. We certainly looked towards cooperation with the local authorities as the prime driver in the work we carried out. In both Police Districts 8 and 9, where the Kabul Patrols Company operated, we worked closely with the mayors and their teams to determine the needs of all the districts and villages in their responsibility and then get them to prioritise. Certainly water supply was top of the list during our tour, as we were there during the height of summer, so we embarked upon a programme of identifying and providing wells in the areas of greatest need. This was not always as simple as it sounded, because you were trying to find a location that suited as many people as possible, but often not providing for everyone. On a couple of

occasions we encountered some fairly hot tempers that needed to be calmed down and negotiated with. In one instance a malik's son was physically assaulted by one of the disgruntled villagers!

Another project we embarked upon was the provision of new toilets and plumbing at the Abdul Hadi boys' school. This school had close to 10,000 students attending at a location that would have struggled to fit in 2,000 in England, but somehow they managed. The toilets were in an appalling condition and you could smell the school from three blocks away on a hot day. With \$25,000 granted by the EU we have been able to install new pipes, toilets, water tanks and a complete redecoration.

Education was a high priority for us and one of the best ways to help, with the minimal amount of resources we had, was

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to provide stationery and supplies to the schools. Much of this came from donations from organisations and individuals back in the UK; all we had to do was find suitable locations. In one instance we came across a girls' school where the pupils had gone back to the start of their exercise books, rubbing out the work they had already done in order to provide them with some writing space. Lt Martin Cook also found a great way of helping some of the younger children in our AOR. He had brought a good number of boxes of toys and clothes with the A Company freight and had found the Amene Fedawe Kindergarten. With the help of a number of his platoon and some paint and brushes provided by us, they transformed the two classrooms used by the children into a clean and bright environment. We also managed to provide a number of plastic chairs to allow the kids to sit off the floor. We also managed to deliver a good many boxes of medical supplies to a number of hospitals in the city, again through donations given by organisations in the UK.

One delivery that was close to a number of Poachers' hearts was to the Maiwand hospital dermatology department. Here they treat the Leishmaniasis condition, something that a number of Poachers had suffered from upon return from Belize last year. This condition is caused by a parasite that is planted in the body by a sand fly and which tries to literally eat its way out, causing very ugly and ultimately painful lesions in the skin. This condition is particularly prevalent in Kabul and mostly affects women and children, principally as they sleep on the floor, where the sand fly lurks. The condition is treated locally in Afghanistan by use of drugs injected into the area of infection and, providing the patient attends on a regular basis, the treatment is very successful. Money raised by the Poachers went towards buying drugs, syringes and hypodermic needles to treat a good many patients. We also initiated a programme through the hospital to educate people about the condition. This message was even broadcast on local radio in order to encourage people to take preventative measures.

Looking ahead to winter we were also able to set in motion the provision of four new electricity transformers for our districts (we could have bought more if the funds had been available) providing a reliable source of power for at least 30,000 people. The delay in getting the funds and trying to navigate through a tender process meant that there was a frustrating delay in getting these projects started. What we found, wherever we went, was a great interest in who we were and what we were doing. As much as we tried to encourage the Afghans to help themselves they are still in great need of money to get a number of projects started. We only had limited finances and often looked on enviously at the resources available to some of the bigger organisations out there. But most of the people were extremely grateful for the limited amount

of help we could give them.

There was no doubt that the sheer fact that they could now live their lives in relative peace and safety was one of the most important things the ISAF forces could provide for them, and for that they were all extremely grateful. I shall never forget the incredible friendliness we encountered and hospitality we received while we were going about our business. Afghans take great pride in the hospitality they can provide and we were always made to feel very welcome, wherever we went.

It was a great tour, not just because it was a challenge and there was always an element of the unexpected and some risk, but also because there was no doubt that our presence there as a force was making a big difference to ordinary people's lives. You could sense that for the first time in a long while they actually had some hope for the future and could make plans to try to improve their situation. There are still enormous challenges ahead, but at least the Afghans themselves are trying to confront them and you do feel they are starting to try to solve them.

COP Selection and Training

Capt RJ McNeil, OC COP, writes...

Having become used to the comforts of Kabul it was time to head south to that other desolate landscape that we have come to know so well. Swapping dust for shingle, WO2 Morson, CSgt Waghorn and I deployed to Lydd Camp. We were here to attend our Close Observation Platoon (COP) course, and after seven long weeks were 100 per cent familiar with the associated tactics, techniques and procedures. COP is a subject that is alien to most in the Battalion, bar a few veterans. Now armed with the knowledge, it was time for us to build an effective platoon. The first step was to run a selection cadre. A total of 75 personnel deployed to Farm 3 on Sennybridge training area. The selection course was extremely well supported by the Battalion and as a result the course ran

smoothly. The aims of the selection were twofold. Firstly to pick 'the best men for the job', those who would be suited to the type of operations we will be conducting.

The second aim was to introduce some basic COP operations and carry out live firing. The main objectives were to test basic infantry skills, namely navigation, shooting, patrol skills, observation, first aid, memory training and of course physical stamina. The selection programme was kept as a guessing game for those being put through their paces, and this proved stressful - especially for some of the more mature NCOs. (Sgt Clark went completely grey!).

PT was a regular feature and was designed to progressively test the stamina and fitness of the soldiers. The weather provided us with problems but not of the kind you usually



Pte Randall getting his own back on Cpl Deakin during unarmed combat training.



The log race, COP selection.

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Taking a break during COP training.



LCPl Seaton-Norton, Pte Brown, Pte Byron and Cpl Kirk taking a break.



Pte Burgess, Sgt Perry, LCpl Lawrence, LCpl Cripps and Pte Murphy.

associate with Sennybridge. While the rest of the country was enjoying a pint on the hottest day of the year we were doing a log race. The phrase 'civvies pay to do this' didn't go down too well after that session!

The first few days of the selection were spent on the ranges and rehearsing four-man contact drills. We conducted an MMTT shoot with the rifle and HK53, an IBSR, a snap shooting range and team-level live firing. The range package went extremely well and we achieved a great deal in a short space of time. Those who had been unsure about joining the platoon were beginning to realise that it wasn't such a bad option after all. After the range package the focus switched to navigation exercises, stalking, observation, patrolling and basic COP procedures such as logging and reporting and basic observation post work. With daily PT and lessons running on into the evening, all were very busy and the troops worked extremely hard. The unenviable task of selection came around and was made difficult because everyone had worked hard. Each individual soldier and NCO was considered in turn and finally the Orbat was drawn up. The selection was capped off by taking a trip up Peny Fan and every team completed the route in a good time, even the platoon's AGC clerk! This rounded off a good hard two weeks' training.

On arriving back from leave COP training started in earnest. We spent a week in and out of Caerwent and on the 25m range, covering foot and car contacts as well introducing COP SOPs to the now established teams. Following this busy week came two weeks of core skills - driving, team medic, intelligence and photographic courses. The platoon was split between RAF Cosford, Germany, Arbroath, Chicksands, Northern Ireland, Chattham and Chepstow.

We formed up as a platoon again on 1 October and began a hard week's training focussing on team SOPs, 9mm ranges and rural COP operations. The PT continued in earnest and by now we were doing two sessions a day. Before deploying on a long weekend the platoon attended an aerobics session run by LCpl Martin's wife and all were relieved when Cpl Palmas did not turn up in a leotard! The Sergeant Major and I also held an audience with the wives to ensure that the movement plans were filtering down to the families, helmet and body armour were fortunately not required! With two weeks to go before the course we deployed to STANTA on exercise, confirming the skills, tactics, techniques and procedures taught so far. The PT programme was stepped up yet again and it was obvious to me how much progress had been made with the fitness of the whole platoon. Three teams deployed on the search course at the end of the week while the rest of the platoon was put through a patrol lane, which went very well. All involved worked extremely hard throughout the exercise and with a week to go we were ready. As a platoon commander it has been a real pleasure to run a six-week training programme uninterrupted and we

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have achieved a great deal, giving ourselves the best possible preparation for the course. None of this would have been possible without the support of all the departments in the Battalion and a superb platoon headquarters, and my thanks are extended to all involved.

The Corps of Drums of the Poachers: On Tour 2003

Drum Maj SG Huggins writes...

Drum Majors everywhere will tell you that the busiest time of year for the Drums Platoon is the summer season (May to August). Normally village fetes, carnivals, charity events, support to Regimental Association gatherings, passing out parades and recruiting campaigns are the order of the day. This was very much the case for the Poachers' Corps of Drums in the early part of the season, and will be again for the latter. However, this year has been different for what came in between, and will be one to remember for many years to come, not only for the Regimental Drums Concentration, which merits a write-up of its own, but also for the two tours that followed - to Kabul, Afghanistan (10 to 19 June), followed by ceremonial duties in Gibraltar (23 June to 4 July).

Afghanistan

I first received instructions in early May to prepare to take 12 Drummers across to Kabul in mid-June in order to play at the British Embassy for the Queen's Birthday parade. What followed after that first message was quite predictable - 'While you are out here you can also do this....and this....and this'! The final engagement list was as follows...

13 June QBP rehearsal and concert for local children and staff of the British Embassy; 14 June British Embassy, Queen's Birthday parade and cocktail party; 15 June Kabul Multi-National Training Centre



The Drums Platoon in Gibraltar.

for Recruits of the Afghanistan Army; 15 June UV Light Victory Beatings for the troops of Camp Souter; 16 June Kabul Multi-National Brigade, Camp Warehouse (German contingent); 16 June American Embassy for Maj Gen Eikenberry and US Embassy Staff; 17 June Children of the British-sponsored Kabul Orphanage; 17 June SAF Headquarters for Lt Gen Van Heyst and staff of ISAF HQ.

As you can see all of the above engagements had a significant motive behind them, whether to enhance the ties between our allies or simply for public relations with the local Afghan people. However, there are three in particular that will be remembered by all of the Drummers who took part. The

first was the Queen's Birthday Parade, not only for the honour of performing at the British Embassy, but also for the high profile guest list. The list included high-ranking foreign diplomats and military commanders, not forgetting the British Ambassador himself and the Deputy Prime Minister of Afghanistan.

The next engagement that stood out was the evening retreat at the American Embassy. The Embassy staff warmed to the traditional Beating of Retreat, and were fascinated by the level of history and tradition that is kept alive by the soldiers of the Poachers, which in their books is a relatively small unit. The night was rounded off with a stirring 'thank-



The Drums Platoon outside the British Embassy, at the Queen's birthday parade.

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you' speech made by Maj Gen Eikenberry, and the presentation of a certificate and the US flag that flew above the Embassy on the night of the display.

The last event that I feel deserves a mention was a concert and display for the children of one of Kabul's many orphanages. It was great to see the buzz of excitement on the kid's faces. They were more than keen to join in the fun. When I asked for volunteers to help bang along to one the tunes, a sea of hands from a crowd of over 200 sprang up. They did not stop clapping and cheering from start to finish, and it was good to see so many children who obviously have so very little having so much fun. The Drummers definitely benefited from the experience.

Gibraltar

In early 2002 I asked the Battalion 2IC if he would draft a letter to the Royal Gibraltar Regiment asking if it would be possible to allow the Poachers' Corps Of Drums to visit and perform ceremonial duties in Gibraltar. The letter was sent and a long wait for a reply ensued. It finally came in February 2003 from WO1 Band Master DHammond saying that it would be possible for the Drums Platoon to visit. With the reply also came a list of engagements which the Platoon would be able to perform at. There was one date that really stood out, Saturday 28 July, which offered two high profile duties in one day. The first was the Changing of the Convent Guard, the second a concert in the evening at St Michael's Cave. I quickly replied to the Band Master, asking him to include us in both engagements, and any others that came up during the 12 days that the Commanding Officer had granted to the platoon to conduct the visit. The plan was to take part in as many ceremonial engagements as possible in the first week, and then to conduct low level adventure training, which is available to all serving soldiers on the Rock, during the second week.

Planning for the deployment began in April, after the platoon had returned from completing the five-week BART course at RAF Manston. Band Master Hammond and CSgt Walker (RG) were busy looking for ceremonial engagements and booking adventure training facilities, while I started putting a two-week programme together and got the administration ball rolling this side of the water. With everything completed this end, the recce done, and loads of assistance from the Royal Gibraltar Regiment, the platoon flew out on 23 June.

After rehearsals with the Band and Drums of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment, the first public engagements of the tour were for two local schools, one of which was a special needs school, the other a Services school at Europa Point. The performances were appreciated by the staff and children of both schools, who got to learn about the history of the Corps of Drums, and about the instruments it uses, and also had the chance to join in conducting or playing alongside the Drummers.

The next engagement of note was the



The Drums Platoon recruiting in Kabul.



Drum Maj Huggins leads the march past at the Convent.

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Beating Retreat and Cocktail Party at the former HMS Rooke (now the Joint Services Officers' Mess). The event was a joint effort with the Royal Gibraltar Regiment Band and Drums. The massed Band and Drums marched on to Prince Albert and Lutzow's Wild Hunt, both of which have bugle parts that really tested the Poachers' Buglers. The Poachers then performed a traditional Beating Retreat, which was followed by an excellent finale performance by the Royal Gibraltar Regiment Band and Drums. The Governor of Gibraltar watched the performance, accompanied by the Commanding Officer and officers of the Regiment, and local employers. The Kneller Hall inspection team was also in attendance, led by the Director of Army Music, Col AMF Potter OBE. The team had many good things to say on the performance, which was a boost for all on parade.

Two days later came the two engagements that we had all been waiting for, the Convent Guard Mount and the St Michael's Cave Concert. The Pipes and Drums of the London Scottish now joined the Poachers' Corps of Drums and the Royal Gibraltar Regiment Band and Drums, bringing the number of musicians for the Convent parade to more than 80. The Convent is the official residence of the Governor of Gibraltar, and the parade was especially significant to me because, though I had done the parade many times before when stationed in Gibraltar as a young Viking Drummer, I now found myself as the Senior Drum Major to the Parade. The parade went as planned and was enjoyed by all who watched and took part. The crowd especially warmed to the rendition of Highland Cathedral, started by two pipers from the London Scottish playing from the rooftops overlooking the Convent Square.

Later that evening the Poachers found themselves in St Michael's Cave, a venue very different to the one that they performed

at earlier that morning but no less spectacular, as the cave itself is a stunning natural underground amphitheatre. It was soon apparent that this engagement was going to be the big one. The programme incorporated performances by the Gibraltar Regiment Band and Drums, the London Scottish Pipes and Drums, the Poachers' Corps of Drums, and two spots for the Scottish folk singer, Isla St Clair. There was no time at all to rehearse in the cave prior to the evening of the concert so the Drummers had a very small window to pull together a show that would captivate the crowd of over 300. Looking back, it was a wonder that it all worked out so well, as we had a difficult music list to perform, a small display area, blinding spotlights in our faces, and two flights of stairs to negotiate - and that was just our bit! The side drummers had the UV light display to rehearse with the Royal Gibraltar side drummers, and we had the finale to rehearse alongside the Royal Gibraltar Corps of Drums, the London Scottish Pipes and Drums, and Isla St Clair.

Having done all that the show began, and what a show it was. The venue, the displays, the enthusiastic audience and the music all added up to make this a special night. WO1 (Band Master) Hammond, who worked relentlessly to pull the concert together, deserved all the credit he was given by a very appreciative crowd. It was a job that the Poachers really enjoyed, and is now pretty much at the top of the 'good job' list recorded in the heads of drummers who took part. The cave concert was the last of several engagements performed by the Poachers.

After a hectic and busy week the drummers thoroughly deserved the adventure training package planned for the final five days of the visit. The package included three days at the Joint Services Adventure Training Centre and two days touring the Rock, which took in the World War Two tunnels and a tour of the Lower St Michael's Cave. The

drummers tried their hand at water skiing, fishing and diving, as well as having their photos taken with the legendary Gibraltar Rock apes. 'What more could anyone ask for?' we asked ourselves.

The Future

As I near the end of my appointment as the Drum Major of the Poachers, after nearly four years in post, I can reflect on several highlights within that time, with the tour of Bermuda and the platoon's second place in the Commanding Officer's inter-platoon competition being fairly high on the list. But I can honestly say that this season has topped all the previous ones and will be difficult to match in the future. However, there is the promise of good things to come. My successor, Drum Major Walker of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment, takes on the appointment in early October, and I know that he is keen to get in place and has already started planning for a second tour of Gibraltar for the Regiment's tercentenary celebrations in September 2004. I wish him all the best for the future!

There are more Drums engagements to come, but for the next few months the platoon will be preparing itself for the move to Ballykelly. The platoon has recently welcomed back Sgt Asker from his post at ACIO Boston, and his main effort for now will be rebuilding the platoon's GPMG(SF) capabilities. To finish, I would like to thank the NCOs and Drummers for their support and hard work throughout my appointment. They have promoted the Poachers and the Regiment to the best of their ability and have always done it with professionalism and style. I wish them all the very best for the future.

The Corps of Drums' Concentration 2003

The last time that all of the Corps of Drums of the Royal Anglian Regiment performed



The Poachers

en masse on a significant parade was back in 1985, when the Queen's Division massed its Bands and Corps of Drums at Horse Guards Parade, London. Since then, with the amalgamation of the Division's Bands in 1992 and of its TA Battalions in 1998, nothing that big has ever again been attempted. However, this year the opportunity arose, and on 6 June 2003 it was agreed that all three Corps of Drums of the Regiment should come together and produce a massed drums display, the likes of which the Regiment had not seen since 1985. With the date firmly fixed, permission was granted by the Commanding Officer of the Poachers, to hold the event at Beachley Barracks, Chepstow in conjunction with the Battalion's Families Day, barbecue and a medal presentation parade. Friends and families of the participants, guests from the Vikings and the East of England Regiment (EER), and all Poachers and their families were to be invited to make the event a special day for all on parade. The Adjutant, Capt Hawley, and WO1 (RSM) Bredin planned the day's events, ensuring that nothing was left to chance and that everyone who attended would be hosted in true Poachers' style. The concentration was planned as a two-week package, culminating in the big event on 6 June. The EER Corps of Drums were given permission by their Commanding Officer, to use the concentration as their 2003 annual camp. They used their time wisely, managing not only to train the new arrivals with the musical skills required of a drummer and, for the more experienced drummers, to learn new material, but also to complete a hectic week of infantry skills training.

The training included weapon handling and firing the APWT, NBC, battlefield first aid, and fitness training that concluded with the CFT. They worked extremely hard under the direction of DMaj Clark to achieve all of the targets set in that first week, leaving the second week to concentrate on the final parade. The Vikings arrived on the second week under the direction of DMaj Howlett, having just completed a two-week exercise in Italy as part of A (Norfolk) Company. There is always going to be pressure on the Viking Drummers - being that company's third platoon, the tempo of life for these men will always be fast and furious. However, even without the luxury of the first week, the drummers of the Vikings excelled themselves. They not only had an extensive programme of music to contend with but also a complicated drill display to fix firmly in their heads.

The old drummers' chant of being 'in combats one minute and tunic the next' was close to the mark on this occasion. The inspection was conducted and salute taken by Lt Col Ladley, who was joined by the Commanding Officer of the Vikings, and, representing the Commanding Officer of the EER, OCC Company Maj Summerville. The audience also included official guests from all three Battalions, the Army School of Ceremonial and the Drums Society.

The drummers on parade also had the

support of family and friends, who had travelled from all over the country to give their support. The long list of music and the display itself were deliberately designed to a high and challenging standard, the bottom line being that, when the parade ended, everyone who took part would feel that they had achieved something big and would be proud of what they had just taken part in. For me, that was definitely the case. The performance of the Massed Corps of Drums of the Regiment on the day was outstanding, and not even the persistent rain marred the occasion. The event will definitely stick in the minds of all those who took part. The standard of the Regiment's three Corps of Drums is very high within the Infantry as a whole, and the traditions that they honour are very much alive.

A Look Forward to Ballykelly

Capt M Abbs, Unit Welfare Officer, writes...

On reading this passage, some Poachers and their families will have moved across to Ballykelly already. As always with these moves, things go from being a long way off to close to moving, very quickly! No sooner had we started to think that there was a year to go before we moved, than the CO was briefing the Battalion in the gym, with news of our deployment to Afghanistan. Suddenly, on the return of the main body from Kabul, it is only a matter of weeks before the advance parties deploy! So what lies ahead? Ballykelly lies on the north coast of Ireland, equidistant between Londonderry to the west and Coleraine to the east. To the north is Lough Foyle.

The advance parties deploy prior to Christmas and the move continues until early February. While I can't comment here on the operational role and the effect that normalisation will have on the work carried out by the Battalion, what is clear is the fantastic facilities that exist, in order to provide a high level of on and off duty activities for all ranks and their families. To coin a phrase 'opportunities are there for the taking'. The facilities on camp and on the main quarter areas are as good as you will find, and given the obvious constraints that Province postings have, facilities locally are also very good. Our 130+ families that will accompany us will have plenty to occupy themselves.

The north coast, as the area is known, is generally quiet and provides a welcome respite from the routine of camp life. Adventure training is centred on the North Coast Activity Centre, which is a military facility that caters for individuals and groups alike. It has a 'drop in' facility for up to platoon level, where platoon commanders can ring up at short notice and take their platoon down the road for a day's free activities. Since many readers were last serving in the Province, especially those that served in the 1970s and early 1980s, the security situation has improved beyond recognition. This means that while still being aware of what's going on around you,

freedom of access exists to a far greater degree than ever before. One drawback of this is that now there is no excuse for the husband not to go shopping to local towns and into Belfast! Of course, there is also a financial advantage of being posted to Northern Ireland, with most people getting around £300 more in their monthly pay packets.

The quarters are certainly as good as any you will find on the mainland, and at a 'much reduced' rent. There is currently a major refurbishment plan ongoing to the quarters. Another thing that the older readers in particular will be interested in is that Northern Ireland has successfully trialled the new march-in/out procedures. The new system means that when leaving quarters only a wipe over is required, and contractors do the rest! You can even choose the colour of your downstairs public rooms prior to arrival! Cheap flights now mean that any 'isolation' in Province is removed, especially with Londonderry City airport (six miles from camp) flying direct to Stansted daily for as little as £21. Single soldiers now have the ability to go home for the weekend with little fuss. It is my informed judgement that Ballykelly holds many challenges for us all, but given the excellent facilities for single and married personnel alike, the Poacher family will enjoy a settled and thoroughly rewarding tour.

Poachers' R4 Overview

Capt D Hazlewood, RCMO, writes...

General

With the start of 2003 came the new challenges set by the Commanding Officer associated with all matters R4. With around 40 soldiers on the termination register, the Battalion's manning at minus 33, and 136 recruits to find and get through training, it was a high mountain to climb.

Recruitment

Recruitment was slow during the early part of the year, mainly due to fewer intakes, losing soldiers to the 'footprint' battalions, and the selection of recruits at the selection centre being more stringent. It looks doubtful that the recruiters and myself will meet the figure set by the Commanding Officer of 136, although we should at least match the previous year's target of 120. Although fewer recruits are currently in training, last year the Poachers lost 53 during training due to transfers and such things as injuries. After six months of this year we have only lost three. I put this down to the selection process being more stringent, with only the better recruits therefore entering training, and Regimental representatives and instructors at the Army Training Regiment Catterick being a lot more proactive and mentoring individuals through training.

Recruiting Initiatives

The Poachers are currently running a new Look at Life in the form of Exercise Poachers' Strike. Exercise Poachers' Strike is a 36-hour exercise aimed at 15-17 year

old cadets within our recruiting counties who show an interest in joining the Infantry. The exercise is co-ordinated and run by the PMRT, which is based at ATR Bassingbourn. The exercise looks in detail at recces, observation posts, harbours and ambushes, with a team building exercise to round off the weekend. Throughout the exercise cadets are taught and practised on each phase at length and get an opportunity to use all the latest equipment. The feedback so far from both the ACF and CCF has been positive.

Retention/Terminations

With hard work from the chain of command and individuals across the Battalion, and operational deployments such as Afghanistan, morale is high and the list of soldiers on the termination register has reduced dramatically to a figure of 27 from now until October 2004, which is well below the Infantry average. Other initiatives on retention and terminations include transferring between Regiments, Corps or Services. There are currently 11 soldiers on the Poachers' Transfer Register ranging across RLC, REME, RE, RMP, AGC, Para, Royal Marines and RAF. This brings us in line with the Army policy, 'better in than out'.

Re-Enlistments

To counteract the lack of vacancies in training, the recruiters have concentrated harder on getting soldiers to re-enlist. Sgt Winkle from ACIO Lincoln placed an advertisement in the local paper stating that if anyone was interested in what's happening in the Poachers or would consider re-enlistment then give him a call. In the space of two months he has had two enquiries including one Pte Price, who joins the Battalion later on this month. In Luton Pte Djemal is re-enlisting and will hopefully be back in time to start the PJNCO cadre at the end of October. Over the past 12 months there have been five re-enlistments with another seven currently interested or in the system. It goes to show that if a soldier leaves happy he will consider re-enlisting.

Resettlement

An incentive for those who do now re-enlist is that after two years' service they again qualify for resettlement, something that in the past used to take five years.

Personal Development

Personal Development is another key area, particularly with retention. More and more opportunities are being made available for soldiers to conduct personal development whether in the form of an IT course, such as the European Computer Driving Licence, or in the form of an NVQ such as forklift operating. Shropshire County Training has proved to be an effective service provider for the Poachers. Soldiers get to spend a week away in a civilian environment as well as gaining a civilian recognised qualification and forklift licence - all free! The Battalion now has three qualified instructors/examiners

and 30 qualified operators complete with NVQ.

The introduction of Enhanced Learning Credits in April 2004 will give more opportunities for soldiers to take advantage of what's on offer.

Summary

On current prediction the Battalion goes to Ballykelly manned at about minus five and should be fully manned, if not beyond, by the summer. With morale high as we get close to Christmas 'the future definitely looks bright'.

Poachers' Golf

Capt MJ Abbs, UWO, writes...

This year has been fairly busy on the golfing front, but, due to the deployments away from Chepstow only a few individuals have been lucky enough to take advantage of what has been a great summer for the game. In May, Capt Abbs and WO2 Saywell played as part of the Regimental team in the Queen's Div Triangular meeting. WO2 Saywell was playing on his last day in the Army. What dedication! Unfortunately after a very tight game we were again pipped to the post by the RRF.

There was no summer meeting as there were too few players available to make it worthwhile. It is hoped that there will be a farewell to Chepstow match sometime in November. During the summer, we entered most regional competitions both as individuals and as a team. Notable successes were Wales Spring Champion (myself) and Cpl Gelder as runner-up, with the same two players winning the afternoon pairs event.

In June a combination of Capt Abbs, CSgt Dyson, Cpl Gelder and Cpl Bradley played in the Army inter-unit finals having qualified 12th in the Army. Unluckily, we met the Army Champions in the first round and went down after a very close match by 2 1/2 to 1 1/2. Later, in September, Capt Abbs, WO2 Sanby and Cpl Gelder were selected to represent Wales in the inter-regional finals at Prestatyn. We now look forward to the forthcoming tour of Northern Ireland where we hope the stability will allow us to encourage more people to play and escape the rigours of camp life. The prospect of links golf in strong winds and horizontal rain in spring beckons us!

Battalion Football

Sgt S Singleton, Signals Platoon, writes...

Football has taken a back seat over the past 12 months due to the commitments the Battalion has had to fill, but an invitation to play in the Infantry six-a-side competition at Pirbright was a good opportunity to get things started again.

The team travelled to Pirbright to take part in a two-day tournament involving approximately 30 teams who were all Infantry capbadged. The Poachers' team was drawn in a tough group, consisting of a strong Staffords' team, the Royal Welch Fusiliers, and a team from the Vikings. With only two teams going through to the next

stage we knew we had to play well. The games, played on a full-size pitch, were fast and furious with a high standard of football from all teams. The Poachers fought hard and showed excellent commitment to remain undefeated throughout the first stage.

In the next round we were drawn against the reigning champions, the Cheshires. The Poachers' team, made up of young soldiers from A and B Companies, was stunned by two early goals from the Cheshires and found themselves chasing the game for the duration of the first half. The players, full of determination, picked themselves up for the start of the second half and a quick strike from Pte 'Tommo' Thompson put us right back in the game. As the half went on the Cheshires were starting to tire, and chances were created but never taken and so the equaliser never came. Full of pride and disappointment our participation in the tournament came to an end at the quarter-final stage. Overall it was a fantastic two days with some excellent football played. We are now looking to build on this and put together a strong squad so we can go to Northern Ireland as a major football force.

Poachers' Marriages and Births

Marriages

Pte and Mrs McNamee 26 April 2003
Sgt and Mrs George 3 May 2003
Pte and Mrs Lucas 13 May 2003
Cpl (AGC) and Mrs Knowles 17 May 2003
Cpl and Mrs McCourt 31 May 2003
LCpl and Mrs Newark 5 July 2003
Pte (68) and Mrs Peacock 12 July 2003
Cpl and Mrs Jack 11 August 2003
LCpl and Mrs Marshall 12 August 2003
Cpl and Mrs Tremain 16 August 2003
Pte and Mrs Lawson 22 August 2003
Pte and Mrs Hewitt 23 August 2003
Cpl and Mrs Smart 6 September 2003
Maj and Mrs SW Carver 11 October 2003
Capt and Mrs GB Foden 6 December 2003

Births

To Pte and Kerry Eglin, a son, Leo
To LCpl and Victoria Steel, a son, Ethan
To Cpl and Wendy Lyles, a daughter, Tamasin
To Pte and Victoria Garner, a daughter, Amy
To Maj and Mrs S Smith, a daughter, Isabella
To LCpl and Sonja Latus, a son, Brandon
To LCpl and Claire Haines, a daughter, Erin
To LCpl and Emma Robinson, a daughter, Ellie
To Cpl (AGC) and Donna Lash, a son, Benjamin
To Cpl and Sarah Sweeney, a son, Daniel
To Cpl and Donna Gale, a son, Connor
To WO2 and Claire Rainey, a daughter, Chelsea
To Pte and Rachael Councell, a daughter, Aaliyah
To LCpl and Louise Cook, a son, Harry
To Pte and Tracey Hilton, a daughter, Sophie

The East of England Regiment

Introduction by the Commanding Officer

Lt Col NA ffitch TD writes:

In my introduction to the June edition of Castle I recorded the part played by soldiers of the East of England Regiment in the military operations in Iraq. The conflict phase of operations is now over and all the Regiment's soldiers have returned safe and sound from Operation Telic 1. For their tremendous achievements I offer my grateful thanks and my admiration for a job extremely well done. That they could have integrated so quickly and so successfully with the Regular combat units to which they were assigned came as no surprise to me. The reports I have had back from the receiving units have been full of the expected praise for the excellent spirit, enthusiasm and attitude of the TA soldier; but more tellingly, and perhaps to the surprise of their Regular counterparts, also for their high professional ability too. Following on from this the Battalion has mobilised a further contingent of some 100 officers and soldiers for Operation Telic 2 as part of the force protection for 19 Mech Bde HQ and 33 Field Hospital in and around Basra. Even the Adjutant, Capt Paul Worthington, has been mobilised and has recently sent back a picture of himself leaning against a six-foot stack of £1.1 million in \$20 bills, which was confiscated in an operation - if only his combats had been fitted with bigger pockets!

I had the opportunity for an extended visit to Iraq in October and I am happy to report that our soldiers have been doing a fantastic job in extremely difficult and challenging conditions. Although the heat has been a problem for everyone, it is worth recording that the chefs have been operating in temperatures which have reached an incredible 88C. The food, however, is excellent with plenty of it available and a good choice of hot and cold dishes. Ice cold drinks are also readily available at every location. Living conditions continue to improve with the provision of air conditioning in the accommodation and mess tents. There is even a Pizza Hut now established at Shaiba Base together with EFL shops, a well-equipped gym and TV/DVD facilities. In addition, soldiers have plenty of access to Emails and telephones.

During my stay I was able to visit the platoon commanded by Capt Dennis Litjens (E Company) attached to the Tyne-Tees Regiment Company, and the company minus attached to 33 Field Hospital commanded by Maj Glyn French (HQ Company). Both are currently situated within the massive Shaiba Logistics Base to the south west of Basra, although those serving with the Tyne Tees Regiment will roulement from Shaiba to the palace at Basra later in October. The force protection tasking that they are doing is quite a limited guard role consisting of main gate guard, static observation posts and QRF. To their credit, and perhaps



unsurprisingly, the soldiers were all keen to play a more demanding and pro-active role in operations outside the base perimeter. That said they are taking a real pride in carrying out their duties to the best of their ability and I received numerous plaudits regarding their professionalism and attitude throughout my visit. I also managed a trip out to Basra Palace where I met the Adjutant, Maj Chris Vince (RAO(V)) and Capt Tim Irwin-Parker (Ops Officer), who are all working with 19 Mech Bde HQ. Chris is busy doling out cash payments to the new Iraqi Army and Tim is masterminding the changeover to the new (Saddam free) currency notes. All the soldiers I met were in good heart, although naturally looking forward to coming home. End of tour dates are still not finalised yet although it is expected that those serving with 33 Field Hospital will return around 20-27 November, with those attached to the Tyne-Tees Regiment returning around 7-14 January 2004.

The mobilisations for Operation Telic 3 have now taken place and 47 soldiers led by Maj David Sommerville (OC C Company), at the time of writing, are en route to Germany to join 20 Armd Bde for their pre-tour work-up training prior to their deployment into Iraq in late November. They will provide a platoon commanded by Lt Adrian Coulson (E Company) and the Company Headquarters, with the second platoon being found by the RRV. At the moment they are scheduled to provide force protection at Basra Palace. We are also continually getting short notice trawls for Operation Telic 3 and have just lost Maj Bob Rogers (OC A Company) on one of these.

The impact of operations has not been confined to Iraq with a further tranche of soldiers having just completed an Operation Fingal tour with the 3 PWRR composite TA platoon in Kabul, Afghanistan under command of A Company of the Poachers. With the exception of Pte Breese whose arm was broken following a road traffic accident with an American HMMWV in which his Land Rover came off worst (does this count



as friendly fire?), all returned safely. They had a busy and demanding three months and the adjoining article by Lt Thompson following his tour with the first Operation Fingal deployment provides a fascinating glimpse into the dangers and excitement of soldiering in such an alien and lawless country.

With such a high tempo of operational deployments it came as no surprise that numbers were severely limited for attendance at Exercise Eastern Front, the 49 Brigade concentration and the Battalion's annual camp. Some 114 all ranks descended on STANTA in June to join the remnants from the other Telic depleted units in the Brigade to run a series of individual training cadres. Training was enlivened by six soldiers from the Lithuanian Army and five from the Bermuda Regiment who provided an interesting insight into how the armies of other countries tick. Both groups were particularly impressed with the weapon training packages and the large amounts of ammunition that was available, especially for the GPMG SF. The final live shoot with five guns thundering in unison was an awesome reminder of the potent firepower of this excellent weapon. In between training we managed to cater for

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5 Platoon in Kabul.

an unusually high number of visitors from CRF Lt Gen Kiszely, the Armed Forces Pay Review Body, GOC 4 Div, the Colonel of the Regiment, Commander 49 (East) Brigade and our own Honorary Colonel and Deputy Honorary Colonels.

Among the highlights of camp was the Battalion sports day, which formed part of the inter-company competition. With first prize being the lead company for camp in Cyprus next year the competition was stiff. In the end C Company triumphed despite B Company gaining a clean sweep in the football. The Bermudans and Lithuanians formed an 'international' team and wiped the floor with everyone in the tug-of-war competition. The Drums Platoon had their camp separately at Chepstow as guests of the Poachers where they spent a happy and productive two weeks under their new Drum Major, Sgt Clarke, drumming alongside their counterparts from the 1st and 2nd Battalions. The final display was a great success despite the atrocious weather, and showed just what such a concentrated period of training can achieve. Since camp the Regiment's focus has been on preparation for the upcoming Civil Contingency Reaction Force (CCRF) training in preparation for achieving full operating capability by 31 December 2003. All in all life in the Regiment has never been busier, although the long-term impact of so many mobilisations has yet to be fully felt.

On the personalities front we said goodbye to the Training Major, Maj Robert Knox, who leaves to join the staff of DSF in London and with his future promotion to lieutenant

colonel safe in his pocket. He is replaced by Maj Dennis Vincent who comes fresh from Kabul and his posting as Battalion 2IC of the Poachers. Farewells were also said to Capt Guy Martin, who has left for a tour of duty with Cambridge UOTC where his job as a teacher will no doubt stand him in good stead, and to WO2 Drm Maj Bradshaw who retired after a long and distinguished career.

The Battalion welcomed the following officers into the Regiment; Maj Adrian Hamilton RAMC as RMO and 2Lts Nicholas Hepplestone and Andrew Baker (A Company), Alister Swift and Andrew Ogglesby (C Company), Richard Turner (D Company) and David Stanhope (E Company). Congratulations go to Lt Mark Bevin on his commissioning from WO2, and also to WO2 (RQMS) Emms on his successful selection for the appointment as RSM of the Brigade Specialist Training Team effective on his return from Iraq.

The East of England Regiment in Kabul

As the eyes of the world were focused on the impending war in Iraq, 13 men of the East of England Regiment began preparations for deployment to Kabul, Afghanistan as part of ISAF to assist with the reconstruction of the country which was so prominent in the news 12 months earlier but had now faded into the background of media interest.

Pre-deployment training began on 6 January at a very snowy Pirbright. All told around 50 TA soldiers congregated, split into two platoons, the bulk of them coming

from the Royal Rifle Volunteers. The first week consisted of brushing up on some old skills such as weapon handling, shooting and PT as well as some new ones, in particular getting to grips with new personal role radio system and trying to stay upright playing British Bulldog in the snow.

From Pirbright we moved on to the Reserves Mobilisation and Training Centre at Chilwell where we were thrust into the sausage machine of mobilisation that so many TA soldiers now know so well. Here we were measured, examined, assessed and ITD'd until we were accepted into service.

Subsequently we moved on to Sennybridge where our training moved up a gear focussing on weapon skills, shooting and patrolling. This was also our first meeting with members of A Company of the Poachers, with whom we would ultimately deploy, who were acting as permanent range team. This was followed by a range package at Lydd Ranges where we joined up with the rest of A Company. The final phase of our training was OPTAG at Stanford training area to put the final polish on our preparations before deployment. As a result of this OC A Company, Maj Simon Etherington, decided that the two TA platoons that were going to deploy with his company would be fully integrated into the company rather than taking the brunt of guard duties which had been the plan originally.

After a few days' leave the advance party left RAF Lyneham on their long flight to Kabul on a C130 thankfully broken up by an overnight stop in Bucharest. The multiple commanders, Lt Thompson and Sgt 'Kiwi'

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Coleman, spent the week waiting for the main body to arrive doing ground recce and learning the principal landmarks of Kabul with the 51st Highlanders from whom we were taking over. The other main task was trying to avoid the wrath of the feisty CSgt 'Morph' Morson, CQMS of A Company, not always successfully.

The phrase 'culture shock' doesn't even come close to explaining the impact of experiencing Kabul for the first time. The sights, sounds and definitely the smells of the city were without doubt very different to anything any of us had witnessed before, cows being slaughtered and butchered by the side of the road is not an everyday sight in most British cities!

The crowds and general bustle of the city as well as the hordes of children that followed wherever we went took some getting used to. Invariably the crowd of children would bombard us with a string of requests which followed the pattern of: 'Hey meester, 'ow are yooou. Give me pen, give me cacao (chocolate), give me biscuit, give me dollar'. However, in no way are the vast majority of people in Kabul antagonistic towards foreign troops, indeed they are generally very friendly and overall like the presence of ISAF troops and in particular the British contingent, although there is still a hardcore of active terrorists and sympathisers within the city.

Once the main body of the A Company group arrived we quickly settled into our new routine and tasks. These consisted of guard duty, universally disliked; patrolling the city and surrounding areas, universally popular, often in conjunction with the local police; providing a quick reaction force; and training.

There were numerous terrorist attacks throughout our time in Kabul most of which were directed against other nationalities. A Dutch patrol was attacked with an improvised IED which resulted in the wounding of two Dutch soldiers and the death of a local interpreter. Two Norwegian soldiers were also shot and wounded in a later attack and a British vehicle narrowly missed being destroyed in another IED attack a couple of kilometres from our Camp Souter home. The terrorists' favoured mode of attack seemed to be the 107mm rocket which they fired at the US embassy, ISAF HQ and German Brigade HQ, however, these attacks were

rarely accurate and usually did little more than scare the local cows in the surrounding countryside.

There were also some incidents a little closer to home, which often involved members of the EER contingent. Cpl Saville's multiple were involved in a car chase across the city following a VCP at which someone had objected to being apprehended for possessing a weapon. Cpl Saville's handling of the situation and calmness under pressure were exemplary. The most notable incident, however, occurred a couple of weeks before our return when there was a grenade attack at the front gate. This time Cpl Saville was guard commander and his team dealt with the immediate aftermath. 5 Platoon, which contained the bulk of the EER contingent, were providing the QRF and were involved in the follow-up operation. The man who threw the grenade was subsequently captured and handed over to the local police.

The experiences that we all shared will undoubtedly stay with us for the rest of our lives, the poverty of people's lives in Kabul, the morning sun lighting up the snow on the mountains and the sight of Pte Lucas in his underpants are all things that are not easily forgotten. However, as a result of current operational commitments for the Regular Army and a lack of soldiers to fill those needs, none of us are betting against us being called upon to serve in some other operational theatre. TA soldiers working alongside their Regular counterparts on operations may well become the norm rather than the exception it has been.

East of England troops on Operation Telic

Capt TJ Irwin-Parker writes...

As the dust was settling in Afghanistan and members of the Regiment were serving alongside their regular counterparts in the Poachers there on Operation Fingal, the storm clouds began to gather over the Middle East. The largest mobilisation of TA and reservists since the Second World War was put in action in early 2003, to strengthen the brigades destined for Kuwait and their objectives in southern Iraq.

The TA soldiers quickly had to hand their civilian lives and all their financial implications such as mortgages and other payments over to family members and



friends willing to help. People were hurriedly found to look after their property and homes as they headed up to Nottingham to report to the RTMC. Employers were in turn handed their brown envelopes by their employees now being called upon to serve their country in time of need. Some employers did appeal and by and large these appeals were upheld, but these were the exception rather than the norm and the bulk of troops mobilised were indeed sent off to war.

EER provided troops that were to serve in various units in various roles from Medical CS Regiments to the Black Watch battlegroup. Blueys were sent back and forth from the EER companies to their men in the Gulf, and as much as possible we tried to stay in touch with our troops at the front. After fighting their way north into southern Iraq and defeating the enemy in and around Al Basrah province, the next important battle began - to win the peace. We all knew this would be the tough test that would prove our mettle, and with the British Army's extensive experience from 30 years of Northern Ireland, as well as the more recent operations in the Balkans, Sierra Leone and Afghanistan, the forces prepared themselves for the demands ahead.

HQ 3 UK Div and 19 Mech Bde prepared to move in the heat of summer in Southern Iraq to relieve their counterparts in HQ 1 UK Div and 7 Armd Bde for Operation Telic 2. Glasgow again swung into action, but this time 'intelligent mobilisation' took place. TA units were asked to identify those individuals who were suitable for roles within this force and not just on capability, but also availability; as the desire to avoid any further unnecessary employer appeals was strong. Soldiers volunteered themselves for action; some to be disappointed as they were not included on the list and others disappointed as their employers did appeal against them going. As for myself, after volunteering for Afghanistan last year and missing out, I was not about to miss out on this one and made it quite clear to my employer that I would resign rather than miss out on this operation. By and large the bulk of the Regiment wanted to be in on this operation and I know within some rifle companies, if everyone who wanted to go had gone, there would have been no-one left! The Commanding Officer's Orbat for the CCRF rapidly shrunk.

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The first of these individual augmentees, including myself, received our orders and reported to Chilwell on 2 June. Later in June several other waves reported. In the end over 100 members of the battalion were successfully mobilised. The first soldiers to report joined HQ 19 Mech Bde. The later ones formed a company group to guard 33 Field Hospital, under command of Maj Glyn French and a platoon, under command of Capt Dennis Litjens, to augment the TA company formed from the Tyne-Tees Regiment.

After two days and a night at Chilwell, where we drew our weapons, deserts and extra kit and sorted out all our paperwork such as pay; we were moved to Grantham to undertake our initial mobilisation package. Four days of training or rather ITD testing then followed. This covered first aid, NBC and grouping and zeroing. We were also briefed on heat (and cold?) symptoms and mine awareness, as well as being given an intelligence brief on Iraq and the different ethnic groups and conditions therein. After leaving Grantham we joined our units. As several coach loads that comprised the additions for the Bde HQ and Sig Sqn arrived at Catterick Garrison we were welcomed and began to get to know our new colleagues.

On 23 June we flew from Brize Norton to BSR (Basra international airport) via RAF Akrotiri. As we boarded buses with the curtains drawn we sneaked our first glimpse of Basra as we drove to Saddam's former Palace, our new home for the next four and a half months. That first morning I will always remember the intense heat as we walked up the road to the cookhouse. It was only 7am but already roasting hot. Sand-coloured armoured vehicles lined the road, as the by now suntanned troops from 7 Bde did their morning admin.

As we arrived at the Bde HQ, I spotted another Royal Anglian I knew, Maj Joe Carnegie who was SO2 Media to 7 Bde. Members of the EER augmenting the HQ of 19 Mech Bde included the Adjutant, Capt Paul Worthington, as SO3 Info Ops and EER Ops Officer Capt Tim Irwin-Parker who did three months on G3 Ops before being posted to G5 to SO3 Finance to organise the Iraqi Currency Exchange (ICE) programme and bank refurbishment in late September.

The company group guarding 33 Field Hospital was based down at Shaibah logbase, just southwest of Basra. While the EER platoon attached to the Tyne-Tees Company rotated through various sites providing their security including the MND(SE) HQ, the outer perimeter at Shaibah and perimeter guard for HQ 19 Mech Bde at Basra Palace.

As June came to a close, the locals were just beginning to gain in confidence, discovering to their delight that British troops would not shoot them out of hand as our Iraqi predecessors would have done. Tribal feuding (warfare) and criminal activity was rapidly in need of containment and each of the battlegroups mounted operations to whack the local tribe and

crime gangs in order to grip the situation. The sound of gunfire out in the city every night that used to greet darkness, gradually fell away to become the exception rather than the norm. Weapons permits were issued to those who had a decent reason to hold a firearm, and Facility Protection Service (FPS) guards were hired to provide more security to certain sites such as banks and refineries. Security and law and order has been improved. The Iraqi Police (IZP) have been organised and increased in strength and the Police Support Unit (PSU) has now become operational, and continues to train under supervision of the battlegroups.

The situation can rapidly change though and still remains potentially volatile. The riots of early August due to fuel shortages, were an example of what can happen very quickly when an issue 'blows up'. The copper smugglers pay a handsome price for looted power cables, and the electricity infrastructure being crippled in this way caused the refinery to cease to operate for a time, leading to the shortages and large queues at the petrol stations in Basra. The situation was resolved by the installation of large generators at Shaibah refinery. Electricity supplies are now almost constant and the only interruption to the 24/7 supplies are periods of high humidity which short out the system.

The terrorist campaign being waged in the north is not as prevalent in the south, but we cannot afford to be complacent. The 11 tragic losses suffered during Operation Telic 2 are symptomatic of this and you cannot afford to relax your guard when on duty in Iraq. Force protection has to be balanced against the continuing need to engage with the people and win the hearts and minds campaign. Contacts are common though and take place every couple of days with a serious one on average about once a week. During the time 19 Bde have spent in Iraq they have been mortared as well as numerous contacts against sangars. Increasingly sophisticated IEDs are also a threat. There are still those out here who have their own ends to meet in conflict with our own.

The heat of summer has now given way to the cooler climes of the approaching winter and the onset of the mosquito season. This year it is expected to be worse than in previous years as there has been no spraying of the prevalent areas. Temperatures in the mid afternoon currently (mid October) still reach up towards a cool balmy 40C. A pleasant change after 'the oven' of August, (as the locals call it); when temperatures were reaching up beyond the mid 50sC some afternoons. This in itself caused problems as any piece of metal will heat up in the sun way beyond the air temperature, meaning tools and indeed certain parts of weapon systems could not be held by the bare hand. Even certain air assets could not be used at temperatures exceeding 50C. The Chinooks provided vital cover when the Sea Kings, Lynx and Gazelles were unable to fly.

The next wave of callups has now taken place and the Regiment has provided another

company group for security tasks for 20 Armd Bde on Operation Telic 3, under command of OC C Company EER, Maj Dave Sommerville. They are due to arrive in theatre at the end of October.

While the controversy over the war still rages in the UK and elsewhere round the world, coalition forces press on with rebuilding Iraq. The coalition is spending billions of dollars on the task. Projects ranging from bridge rebuilding, to reconstructing burned out shells of the looted public buildings are proceeding. The postwar looting claimed many casualties of everyday life. For example the banks were all ransacked and set on fire. Vaults were broken into sometimes with explosives available such as RPGs. Most of these sites are now open for business again, although some still need further funds to be spent on them. Also the country is awash with weapons. Ex-Iraqi army compounds, with bunkers stacked high with ammunition, ordnance and explosives had to be left unguarded as there are so many sites spread around the provinces. The schools often needed clearing by EOD as they had been used as Fedayeen and militia bases and were littered with UXO and arms.

There is no doubt that Iraq is recovering and not just from the war, but from 12 years of sanctions and more than 20 years of Saddam Hussein's rule. When you speak to the inhabitants of southern Iraq, there is no doubt that they are glad to be rid of the hated previous regime. The locals are pleased to have British troops here, and appreciate the presence of soldiers on the streets patrolling and conducting VCPs as it makes them feel safe and secure. You only have to take a ride through the centre of Basra and look at the different goods on sale. You would see everything from fresh fruit and even ice cream to satellite dishes and electrical goods. The ice cream is particularly good and I can personally vouch for its quality! There are certainly more cars and traffic on the roads now than when we arrived back in June. Traffic jams are a common occurrence now - ironically this is a sign of progress! Cars are pouring over the border from Kuwait to be sold and the small border town of Safwan is now host to a huge second hand market just outside the town centre. This sells everything from soft furnishings to brightly coloured kids' bikes, but cars are sold there in their dozens.

Under Saddam's rule Safwan was a desolate place terrorised by the secret police. Border towns were not the place to be after 1991. Following the ICE programme which runs on into January 2004, Iraq now has a new currency, printed in Britain, which it is hoped will help bring security and economic stability. These new Dinar notes replace the two old currencies in the north and south. Of course there are problems. People are frustrated at the pace of change and want better conditions and prospects for themselves and their families. This is understandable. It is human nature. When people in the UK are very upset about

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something we have riots too. The issues are different, human nature is not.

Of course there are elements within this country who do not want us here. In every situation there are winners and losers. The difference out here is that both groups are armed with AK47s!

Minden Day 2003 - With Heat!

Maj GW French writes...

So how was your Minden Day? For sure it will not have been as hot (or dry) as that enjoyed by members of the East of England Regiment currently part of Operation Telic 2!

While the majority of the 138 mobilised personnel are employed on security and escort duties with 33 Field Hospital and 209 (Tyne Tees) Regiment, others have found themselves in jobs ranging from Tiger Team (asset tracking), watch keeping at Basra Palace through to the more obscure as Maj (loadsamoney) Chris Vince found out when he became paymaster for the Iraqi Forces and had, under his control, several ISOs full of Iraqi banknotes. Even the Adjutant, Capt Paul Worthington, managed to get in on the P Info act.

One of the biggest challenges facing the composite company sized group has been the severe climate and conditions. With July and August being the hottest months of the year, troops have had to endure temperatures of over 57C by day, dropping to only 30C or so at night. These temperatures are often accompanied by strong winds, dust and occasional mini-tornadoes which play havoc with the 18x24 tents occupied by 33 Field Hospital at BMH Shaibah.

Having to sweep your tent out with a broom each night gets a little bit depressing after a while. Just for a change the wind swung through 180 degrees for a few days to come from the south. No dust, but 98 per cent humidity from the Gulf, on top of the 57C (shade) temperature making life even more uncomfortable. Those with the hardest job of all have to be the catering staff, including WO2 Stoker, Sgt Taylor and LCpl Bartlett. Working a constant shift system with temperatures in the tented field kitchen off the scale of the thermometer at 88C, they require oven gloves just to pick up, or touch anything metal! All credit to them that the food is still of excellent quality.

At BMH Shaibah the 'routine' has quickly become established. Sgts Brown and Simcox have the guard and escorts well under control, WO2 Brazier is driven crazy by the small army of Iraqi staff and interpreters employed on the site and CSgt Starie has quickly settled into the QM's department checking the contents of ISOs lined up in neat rows around the perimeter of the huge site. Finally, WO2 Emms continues to enthral everyone with the diverse and increasingly varied Tannoy announcements during his watch keeping stags.

Returning to the Minden Day theme, the marking of the anniversary was readily agreed to by the CO of BMH Shaibah, Lt

Col Griffen, who had attended a previous function with the Light Infantry. So it was that on 1 August 2003, Maj French addressed the normal morning parade for 33 Field Hospital staff and attached personnel, explaining events that took place in 1759 and how the tradition of the wearing of the Minden Rose came about. He then presented red and yellow roses to all those Royal Anglian capbadged members of the company that wear the Minden flash, making a colourful display for the day in an otherwise brown and desolate landscape. A possible first time ever for the ceremony to have taken place in Iraq? Roll on Christmas!

A Company

Since the last entry in Castle A Company has managed to raise its recruiting against establishment figures from 78 per cent to 94 per cent. We have enlisted eight on the last two recruit selection days and we now also have a significant number awaiting selection. There will obviously be a number of discharges in the interim period but we remain hopeful that there will continue to be fewer leaving than enlisting.

The Company has conducted quite a number of activities from range and fieldwork to adventurous training and driving skills. Sgt Green, who organised the driver training weekend, not only trained a few more personnel to FMT 600 standard but also got to drive a tank at the local tank museum near Thetford. Both weekends were well supported and very much enjoyed by all those who attended and thanks should go to the CSM and Sgt Green respectively for the effort they put in. Camp was greatly downgraded, but no less enjoyable for those members of the company who attended, due to the Operation Telic 2 mobilisations.

On an operational note we have a number of personnel deployed on Operations Telic 2 and 3. We have had a number of families briefing nights and coffee mornings which have been well-attended and plan other coffee mornings for the future.

LCpls Colledge, Galea and Jones and Pte Sanders have just returned from a four-month tour of Afghanistan with 3PWRR who were supporting 2 Royal Anglian. They all thoroughly enjoyed the tour and are hungry for another stint away somewhere. There have also been a number of personality changes within the company since our last entry. Maj Guy Martin handed over to Maj Bob Rogers as OC and Capt Paul Smith handed over to Capt Tam Steele as PSAO. CSgt Rushmere (Acting CSM) has been promoted to WO2 and is now officially the CSM. WO2 Jewell has handed over as SPSI to WO2 Routledge and Sgt Traves has handed over to Sgt Grice as the Mortar PSI. Other new appointments at platoon level have seen 2Lt Baker posted in from UOTC and now OC 1 Platoon, with 2Lt Heppleston commissioned and now OC 2 Platoon and 2Lt Sumners assuming command of Mortar Platoon. As well as the CSM we have had a number of other promotions with Sgt Roe to colour sergeant, Cpl Hatch to sergeant and LCpls Casey and



Pte A Steward.

Sayer to corporal. We look forward to the next year with great anticipation.

Pictured is Pte A Steward, A Company, serving with 33 Fd Hosp on Operation Telic 2 proving that humans, like horses, can sleep standing up!

E Company Answers its Calling

From 18-20 June members of E Company reported to Chilwell in answer to their 'Call Out For Service'. In total 22 members of the Company were called out. However, there were some casualties along the way. Sgt Haward discovered on his day of reporting that his civilian company had lodged a successful appeal for deferment and that he no longer had to report. CSgt Head and the OC, Maj Watson, both also returned from Chilwell on medical grounds. That left the main company group who all reported on the 20th. After posing for photos the Chelmsford crew boarded the coach with an air of schoolboy 'jolly hockey sticks atmosphere'. We then arrived at Hertford where the rest of the crew clambered on board with a sad farewell from our SPSI.

On arrival at Chilwell we dumped our kit and went through the mandatory 'check-in' before heading for the first set of briefs (sort of set the tone). It was here we met the OC and discovered he was heading homeward on medical grounds. This seemed to upset the boys and all looked forward to the medicals with dread (no one wishing to suffer the same fate!). Then it was heads down for a busy day. Next morning we headed through the round robin of documents and pay, dental, medicals and the issue of kit and weapons. It was here that Pte Kovacs discovered he had left his documents at Hertford and had to go home to get them! We all passed safely through the dental checks and the medicals even though we all felt like pincushions after the jabs (some had as many as six!) In the stores we were to discover how much of a

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E Company feeling pensive at Chilwell.

lottery it really was with kit coming in two sizes - too big and too small!

Then it was off to Grantham. Here we went through our obligatory ITD3 training of first aid, weapon handling tests, shooting (grouping and zeroing), NBC (including gas chamber drills). It was the final day which was to open our eyes, this was the in-theatre briefs on Iraq, health and hygiene (including creepies and crawlies) and mine awareness (to a man we all memorised the mine immediate action drill of Look, Feel Prod!) - and no not the throw yourself 20 feet in the air and scatter yourself over a wide area thank you very much!

The last day was the dreaded anthrax jabs which, although optional, did give many a sleepless night or two). Then through the mounting centre control point for those going to the Tyne-Tees Regiment and home for those who were not (not our fault if our new masters did not want us until 8 July - that's 10 days' leave). Still, for those

going to the Tyne-Tees they may yet return before Christmas, for the rest of us see you in January sometime!

Keep you posted

All the Fours, The Iraqi 'Pompadors'

The First Test CCRF CPX Weekend 12-14 September 2003

Maj S Watson, OC E Company, writes...

At last the day had come that all our long hours of preparations had been for. There had been an incident in Leicestershire and the south CCRF Company was needed at once, well within the minimum number of hours at any rate. We managed to cobble together enough troops for the task, bearing in mind that we also had live firing at Warcop to staff, a priority for those about to deploy on Operation Telic 3, and in any case the company is rather depleted due to Operation Telic 2 commitments, it was not easy.

The CP deployed early on the Friday with the rest of the troops trying to get into the TA Centres by 1900hrs to catch their Galaxy to Chilwell, a bit tight for time so some troops were left behind, (the OC only made it by 2359hrs by driving at reckless speeds to Chilwell). The exercise proper started at 0600hrs on Saturday and it was then that we learned that an aeroplane had been shot down by some 'bad guys' and had spread debris and people all over a 40km radius. This posed an immediate problem of our map board not being big enough to cope with all that paper.

We had two initial briefs; by the Brigade Commander and the civil servant for the area responsible for these matters, before starting to role-play. Obviously, it goes without saying that we had communications problems and had to resort to that old trusted and tried mobile phone! We listened and I reacted to troops going through the mobilisation process at imaginary bustling TACs. They threw all the anticipated problems at us as well as those I had not really thought enough about, the dreaded Press! I acted deaf which seemed to work!

The exercise was then interrupted by a wing commander who talked us through his own experiences at Lockerbie and although there were no really unpleasant photographs, we all could feel that it had been a difficult experience to deal with in more ways than the obvious. Good man-management throughout an incident of this kind would obviously be very demanding and onerous.

We finished the exercise and on our own debrief concluded that; not only had it been an enjoyable weekend but we had, as always, learned many valuable lessons. Let us hope that the CCRF will not be used although I fear that in this dangerous and unpredictable world in which we live it is a vain hope.



Mine awareness - reality hits home for E Company!

Special Features

158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteers)

Lt T Gare writes:...

Changes of Appointment

In the short space of a couple of months we seem to have changed several of our permanent Regimental appointments. Earlier this year Lt Col Smith was replaced by Lt Col Dixon, who has already set about stamping his mark on the Regiment. Gone are the Training Major (Maj Whatoff), the Adjutant (Capt Rawdon-Smith) and the RSM (WO1 Freely). The Training Post is filled by Maj Woodford. The new Adjutant is Capt Hewins, and the new RSM is WO1 Fortuin.

Summer Camp

For annual camp this year the Regiment was split in two. Half the Regiment went to Grantham to take trade courses, covering subjects such as Hazmat, C Licence, B Licence, the rest the Regiment spent a week at Bodney Camp in Thetford and a week at Browndown at Gosport.

For those who went to Bodney the first week consisted mainly of ITD Training with the instructors producing some very demanding but informative training. The NBC Battlerun got full marks for originality and many of the guys were singing the praises of the NBC instructor at the end.

Week 2 of camp saw the Regiment deploying from Thetford to Gosport. The training there consisted mainly of TEWTs, which took place at Marchwood Military Port and Westmoors Petroleum Depot. There was also an orienteering competition in the New Forest.

The highlight of the entire two weeks though was a battlefield tour to The Normandy beaches, which was of particular interest to the younger members of the Regiment who had only seen these places in the movies!

All in all summer camp was viewed as a success, many of the junior members of the Regiment gained valuable qualifications, and those who went to Bodney and Browndown had what could only be described as an interesting and varied two weeks!



Motor Racing

It all started on the weekend of the TA National Open Day. The Sunday's entertainment was listed as 'Viewing the TA Stealth Car at Rockingham Raceway'. Some of us had heard about the Stealth Car, but I don't think anybody really knew what it was. On arriving at Rockingham racetrack and saw for the first time ever a DPM coloured racing car. Once we had all stopped laughing we actually realised that this thing was sat in pole position on the grid.

While walking through the pits we found, with the biggest cheesy grin on his face, a young Cfn Davey from 202 Squadron, working in the pits we were told. This was too good to be true, apparently he had volunteered through an advert posted on a TA centre notice board.

With that SSM Greenacre was accosted by pretty much everyone in 200 Squadron workshops and asked why they didn't know about it. The following day I got a call at work from the SSM, who asked what I was doing on the weekend of 8 June, and with some rearranging I had the 12 volunteers that I needed for the weekend, six working in





Tug of war at Market Deeping.

the pits and six recruiting. The only bits of kit we had to take were a motorbike and a Land Rover for the vehicle display, the rest was being provided by Grantham.

The main race of the day started with popular band The Honeyz giving it the old 'gentlemen start your engines' and with that the 5.7-litre 500hp V8 Chevy motors roared into action ready to take on the 1.5 mile oval track on which speeds over 180mph are regularly recorded.

Unfortunately about two seconds later, before the cars even thought about moving off the grid, the heavens opened. So those of us working in the pits were straight over the wall pushing the car back into the garage. The rain came down for all of about 10 minutes but that was enough to drown the track and postpone the race for about two hours.

Finally the race started, we pushed the car out again onto the grid, this time without delay the race started and Ben Collins, the driver, drove for all his worth moving rapidly through the field. By then our job was done and it was time for the real pit crew to take over. Everyone appeared to do their bit but somehow Ben could not pass the first place driver...he had a brief spell in position number 2 but again sadly lost about half a dozen laps before the end of the race to finish third.

What turned out to be a reasonable result on the day turned into a good result overnight when, during the post race scrutinising, the teams that finished both 1st and 2nd were disqualified. Ben was finally awarded first place and currently leads the championship by some 100 points.

Overall a great day out, enjoyed by everyone who was there, certainly 200 Squadron now has a regular representation at this event and will continue to do so for the remainder of the season.

Deeping's Raft Race

A regular feature in the year's training programme for 158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment (V) is The Deeping's Raft Race, held on the banks of The River Welland in Market Deeping about 10 miles south of Peterborough.

This year's event was held over 9-10 August (the hottest weekend of the year). 200 HQ Squadron and Workshops as always represented the Regiment, both from the local TA Centre at Peterborough. Activities including volleyball, tug-of-war and dyke jumping, not forgetting

the infamous survivor raft race, which kept everyone busy over the sweltering two days.

Our contribution was a recruiting stand, a CALM skittles stand, a paintball stand, a static vehicle display including a DROPS. Cpl Dennis and Cpl Boyce ran the CALM skittles stand. WO1 Wicks, who did an admirable job of ensuring that the paintballs did not melt in the heat, ran the paintball stand. A first this year was the taffer winch Land Rover tow competition, which was run by Cfn Fulcher. The competition seemed to take off once the beer tents opened and attracted most of the town's male population, there was also a separate competition for the under 16s who more than held their own against many of the adults. All three stands collected a lot of money for local charities.

The squadron also entered teams into the beach volleyball and the tug-of-war, losing out to the eventual winners in the early rounds of each event. A team was also entered into the Survivor Raft Race, LCpl Lambe and his 'Steelbacks' crew of three. The idea of the race was simple, six teams given the same materials each had to build a raft and negotiate a mile and a half course up the River Welland. Despite their raft falling apart the 'Steelbacks' finished a creditable third.

The highlight of the weekend for many was the sight of Sgt Wren (REME), taking a SCAD dive for charity. For those who have never heard of it, a SCAD dive is basically a bungee jump into a net from 125 feet with no bungee rope! Sgt Wren completed his dive and was last seen heading for the beer tent



Special Features

Operation Telic, a bit too hot for comfort

Maj JD Carnegie writes:

I joined 7th Armoured Brigade in September 2001, a week before the world changing events of 9/11. In fact, I was sitting in the UN HQ in Pristina, Kosovo enjoying a coffee with a Finnish colleague when the news showed the horrific attacks on New York and Washington. Two years to the day after that event I am writing this in the comfort of my house back in UK having returned from Operation Telic two months ago. It's an interesting bar room story (and I've used it several times), but what does 9/11 and Kosovo have to do with Operation Telic? Well, the events of 9/11 led to the 'coalition of the willing' invading Iraq in March of this year and even more tellingly because as 7th Armoured Brigade started their training year at the end of that Kosovo tour, some wag had drawn on the flow chart that showed our training plan, that the final major Brigade FTX would take place in Baghdad not Poland. Not a bad prediction as it was only three months out and it was Basra we went to, not Baghdad.

I was employed as the media operations officer in the HQ of 7th Armoured Brigade (the famous 'Desert Rats') from that fateful September of 2001, through our training year (involving exercises in Germany, Poland and Canada) and throughout Operation Telic. With my team, I ran press facilities and gave briefings to the media. I gave interviews on behalf of the Brigade Commander and planned our media strategy. I spent nearly every day in Kuwait and Iraq wanting to kill the latest journalist to annoy me - with the near sure knowledge that I was in an environment where I probably could have got away with murder (that's a hard thing to deal with!). However, rather than list my war stories (which I will save for that day I return to Regimental duty), I will use this opportunity to list the top four lessons I learned from Operation Telic - from the infantryman's point of view, rather than the staff officer.

I have already written that we had assumed we were going to Iraq a year before we did. How did we know? Not through any official confirmation that's for certain. We stayed abreast of current affairs - and not just the staff officers - I was always impressed with the clarity with which the soldiers from the Brigade's fighting units could explain their theories as to why we were in Iraq, often quoting different sources to back up their arguments. This awareness of world politics gave us a strong motivating factor during the training year and soldiers who understood why they were being asked to risk their lives for the national interest against popular opinion.

The training year raced past and the entire Brigade was exhausted with the pace by November 2002. We were looking forward to a long Christmas leave, when the 'ante was suddenly upped with regards UN inspections in Iraq. Daily we went through the wringer of emotions from 'we definitely are going' to 'definitely not going', sometimes both poles five times in a day. I remember getting a phone call from HQ Land to tell me we had been stood down 'for certain', only to be phoned by PJHQ ten minutes later to be told it was 19 Mech Bde that had been stood down.

This was wearing on us and even harder on our families. Deploying modern armies is an expensive business though and, as with Operations Granby and Agricola, politicians will prevaricate and dither until the last safe minute (or, more often, some considerable time after the last safe minute) before announcing their decision. As happened with us, despite all the promises that we would be the first to be told, it will be announced on BBC, ITN or Sky. The lesson to be learned from this? It will happen this way, expect it and be prepared for it. Make sure your families are ready to cope with the uncertainty and media interest. Ensure your personal responsibilities are taken care of. Make a will - it's not nice, but better at leisure than in haste. Scots DG veterans of Operation Granby had forewarned us of this, in particular that the worst offenders would be the company commanders, CSMs and junior commanders. They



7th Armoured Brigade 'Bravo' being constructed at Shaibab airfield.

Special Features

spend so much time organizing the lives of the boys; they leave it too late for themselves.

The first thing that struck us about Kuwait, quite literally, was the heat. Even in February, it was up to 30C or higher. After the temperatures of this summer in the UK, that does not sound bad - apart from the fact that six hours before in Germany it had been minus ten. The conditions were sparse and sand was everywhere and in everything. Throughout history, the biggest cause of casualties in war has been disease. At one stage in Iraq, 7th Armoured Brigade was running about 40 per cent casualties through vomiting and diarrhoea. Personal administration and hygiene were a real challenge, but to fall ill with stomach infections was not only acutely uncomfortable in the front line and could potentially lead to Casevac from theatre, it sapped the fighting strength of the Brigade more effectively than enemy action. Simple factors, such as using antibacterial hand wash and not sharing mugs or eating utensils cut infection rates. In such a hot and dirty environment, staying clean was exceptionally difficult but vital to effectiveness and morale. If you are going on operations and don't already have a shower bag - buy one. If I could meet the inventor of such a simple but brilliant idea, I'd kiss them.

As I have already mentioned, the Brigade had conducted its training year prior to deployment on Operation Telic. Many times I heard soldiers and officers commenting on how the war felt like being on exercise. Train hard, and train frequently. Sleep deprivation and physical endurance, for example, can be trained for. Even though 7th Armoured Brigade trained for open warfare on the Prairie and found itself fighting in urban environments, the hard training still paid off. We often quote about 'mission command', 'flexibility' and 'junior leadership' - but do we just pay it lip service? Our junior commanders need the opportunity to lead and learn, but the 'blame' and 'compensation' culture make higher commanders more afraid to let their juniors learn from their mistakes. Our training saved lives and prepared our soldiers well - with so many competing factors on our time and resources, training must stay where it belongs, second only to operations.

At the risk of starting to preach, the easiest way to sum up the 'lessons learned' (or as they are now known in modern parlance 'lessons identified') is to say that we already know them. They haven't changed in probably 100 or more years of warfare, yet we re-learn

them every time we go to war. To finish, I will answer some of the most recurring questions that have been asked since I got back:

Are the Americans really as bad as we hear? - We worked intimately with the US Marines, I have nothing but the highest regard for their professionalism and courage (plus I really want all their kit).

What is the most vivid thing you remember about the war? - The noise, it was always noisy. From artillery fire, to helicopters, to armoured vehicles, modern warfare assaults your ears but you get used to it very quickly.

Were you scared? - Apprehensive at times, yes - scared no.

What was it like going to war? - An amazing experience that I would be quite happy never to repeat. In addition, the British Army never ends up fighting its wars in decent holiday locations - accept that where you are going to end up is a dump, and you will cope much better!

The Minden Band

LCpl G Thomas writes...

The year 2003 has been fast and furious for the Minden Band beginning with our first visit to Germany in January when we joined forces with bands of other nationalities at Stadthalle for the Bremen Music Festival ('Musikschau Der Nationen'). This was followed by a couple of pass-off parades at Basingbourn Barracks and concerts in Shrivenham and Hornchurch during February. However, in March music was to take a step into the background, and instruments were substituted with hoses and ladders when the band joined forces with another 16 as part of the 'Operation Fresco' team. Committed to providing drivers and crew to the 'Green Goddesses' in the event of a strike by the Fire Brigade Union as well as carrying out its own security measures with musicians used as armed guards this was a clear sign that Army bands are versatile and a necessary part of the overall structure of the British Army. This was also emphasised with Operation Telic when seven bands were sent to Kuwait and Iraq to help with the chemical decontamination of casualties and general support to the medical services.

Following the band's visit to Kosovo twice last year, we returned to Pristina in April in order to provide music for the transfer of authority from the British to the Finnish contingent, playing alongside musicians from the Finnish Army.



AS 90 Battery firing at night into Basra as part of the battle.

Special Features



Germany.



Playing for your supper, Germany.

Beginning in June, the band began a series of summer county shows, which we have not been able to participate in for the past couple of years as our tours have taken us abroad. Starting with the South of England Show and the Lincoln Show, these were followed by Holkham Fair in July and Chatsworth House in August. Also in June we performed with the Band of the Welsh Guards and the Houston Symphonic Wind Orchestra at a Kneller Hall concert before travelling again to Germany for the weekend's 'Schutzenfest' celebrations.

Our tour of duty for 2003 was at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst from the end of June for seven weeks culminating in the Sovereign's Parade for the newly commissioned officer cadets. This



Operation Fresco.

tour became perhaps one of the busiest in the last few years as well as the hottest (37C!). Our previous experience of Sandhurst was in 1998 when music was provided for the Banner Parade. Due to the troubles in the Gulf and the potential fire strike, bands were not readily available at the beginning of this year and it was therefore necessary to combine both parades within the same tour.

For the 2003 celebration of the Duke of Cambridge Day on 5 September we were joined by other participants from the Corps of Army Music at Kneller Hall, Twickenham. The parade involved a Drumhead Service, prize presentations and a march-past the Colonel Commandant, Lt Gen Palmer. The following day we travelled to



Holkham Fair.

Eastbourne for a week entertaining from the bandstand before returning to our local town Duxford's Imperial War Museum for the Royal Anglian Regimental Day. The Minden Band, along with the Royal Anglian Corps of Drums played for the Drumhead Service and performed their individual marching displays.

The remainder of this year continues to be busy with planned visits to Portsmouth, Felixstowe, Brighton, Northampton, Lincoln, Grosvenor House Hotel, St Paul's Cathedral, Remembrance Services, and another trip to Germany for Christmas celebrations with the Fusiliers. The band also looks forward to 2004 when we shall travel once more to Germany, Jordan and Canada for our roulement tour.

For further details of The Minden Band, visit our website on www.minden-band.co.uk, which will shortly be given a new face-lift by the Bandmaster WO1(BM) Chris King.

The Regimental Museum

Col K Woodrow, Chairman of Museum's Trustees, writes...

Since Castle last appeared we have a new attendant, Cathy Smart, who took up her post at the beginning of September - many readers will have met her at the Regimental Day. For those who did not, there is a short article about her in the RHQ section at the beginning of this edition. We all welcome her into The Regiment and hope she will enjoy her time with us. She was certainly thrown in at the deep end. After a short take-over organised by Lt Col Trevor Veitch there were just a few days to get the new Afghanistan display ready for the Regimental Day. Many people were involved in this, as both battalions as well as individuals had provided artefacts for display.

Before they could be put into the case everything had to be sorted and then properly recorded and registered. Our thanks to all our Volunteers who helped with this, especially Mick Large and Bob Boyd, both ex 5th Battalion.

Not only was the case ready in time but on the day Cathy also produced a display of Battalion scrapbooks and photo albums. Many thanks to all who brought photographs and memorabilia to add to the museum's collection. There is one scrapbook we have been looking for for 11 years now, that of 1st Battalion 3rd East Anglian Regiment covering the years 1958-1962. It disappeared when the 3rd Battalion was disbanded; it is not at Warley and it is not at RHQ. If anyone knows where it is or can give us a clue to where it might be please let us know.

The Museum website is nearing completion and should be up and running before the next edition of Castle so look out for it at www.royalanglianmuseum.org.uk. Putting it together has been a mammoth task undertaken by Col Nick Kelsey and Robert Plumb, son of Keith Plumb, ex 3rd Battalion.

The Home Page menu will have some ten separate options, each with a wealth of information, including Visitor Information, the Regiment Today, a Virtual Tour of the Exhibits, and the Museum Shop. Another ex Pompadour, Rod Leonard has generously offered to sponsor the site when it first appears.

Finally, a big thank-you to all who donated to the Museum at the Regimental Day by putting money into those buckets. The money raised, some £340 will pay for the addition of Sierra Leone and Afghanistan to the Display Panel that shows the Regiment's deployments.

Special Features



Bermuda Historical Research Project

Maj AD Wadman writes...

The affiliation between the Royal Anglian Regiment and the Bermuda Regiment goes back to the outbreak of World War One. At this time the 2nd Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment was serving in Bermuda but, with the declaration of war, was hastily returned back to the UK and active service. Bermuda's own military forces at the time were split between the Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps (BVRC) and the Bermuda Militia Artillery (BMA). The BVRC was an exclusively white force while the BMA comprised black soldiers commanded by a white officer corps. Such was the racial structure of Bermudan society at the time that black personnel were not permitted to hold commissioned rank.

Both elements of the Bermudan Armed Forces were conscripted into the British war effort but there was no obligation for troops to serve abroad; more often than not the BMA were often under church and family pressure not to leave Bermuda. In fact a total of 179 BMA and 125 BVRC personnel left Bermuda to serve abroad. The initial preference of the BVRC was to serve with the 2nd Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment who had themselves so recently left the island. However, the War Office decided that need was greater within the 1st Battalion and it was therefore to them that the BVRC were attached for the duration of the war. During this attachment the BVRC retained their own identity; remaining a separate company within the Battalion and continuing to sport their own capbadge. Nevertheless through the war years was born the deep affiliation, which continues to the present day. This link was formalised following the end of the war with the approval of King George V.

The fates of the original 125 were mixed. Thirty-six were killed in action, three were commissioned or transferred to other Regiments, two were taken prisoner, several discharged due to injury with 46 actually serving to the end of the war.

Of the 179 BMA other ranks who served abroad most were attached to the Royal Garrison Artillery and were known as Bermuda Contingents of the Royal Garrison Artillery or BCRGA. The fate of many of these men remains obscure; it is believed that at least

seven were killed in action.

The Second World War again saw soldiers from Bermuda serving alongside and with 2nd Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment and following the end of this conflict this contingent of men was retitled the Bermuda Regiment. In both wars the overwhelming majority of those killed would have been buried in European war cemeteries; particularly in France and Belgium. It is highly probable given the distances and expenses involved that many of the graves of those killed in action may never have been visited by their countrymen; a small, but significant, piece of Bermudan history confined to foreign shores forever.

This year, however, began an historical research project undertaken by the Bermuda Maritime Museum and the Bermudan Cadet Corps to investigate the lives and deaths of the Bermudan troops who took part in and were killed during the two World Wars. This project, ambitious in scope and long term in design, seeks to draw together information from a variety of primary and secondary sources; to flesh out the bones of facts about Bermuda's involvement in both world wars. As well as developing a deeper understanding of Bermudan experiences and contributions, the project also aims to construct individual biographies of selected soldiers. Current concentration is focused on the World War One where oral evidence, drawn on the memories of those whose families were involved, is still a rich source of information. For the younger generation of Bermudan cadets the testimony of their grandfathers and great grandfathers is a personal and vital part of the building of their own understanding.

A particular highlight of the research has been a field trip to Europe by 23 of the Bermudan cadets, which took place from 4 to 19 August 2003. This included visiting military cemeteries and the sites of some of the major battles, including the Somme and Ypres, across Western Europe. The tour encompassed visiting the graves of as many of the Bermudan fallen as possible and the laying of poppies and crosses in thanksgiving and remembrance; an act which was facilitated by the kind assistance of Mr Frank Falmer, President of the Bermuda Veterans Association. Dr Clarence Maxwell from the Bermuda Maritime Museum is the historical research advisor to the project as a whole and accompanied the cadets during the field trip;

Special Features

helping them to make the most of the experiences and sights made available to them. Also invaluable was the presence and knowledge of Capt John Lee from the Lincoln Area Association Office; who also accompanied the cadets on this leg of their tour. Naturally the field trip included several days in England during which the cadets enjoyed high levels of hospitality from the Lincolnshire Regiment Association and were able, also courtesy of John Lee to visit the Lincolnshire Regiment Museum and Lincoln Castle. Cyril Key and other members of the Lincolnshire Regiment Association also provided the opportunity to meet with British veterans; a further opportunity to increase both the personal and historical scope of the tour. The trip finished with a visit to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo at which the Bermuda Regiment Band were performing; a fitting end to an enlightening, enjoyable and unique trip for those who took part.

There is no doubt that for both the cadets and for the research project itself the trip was an extremely worthwhile experience, explaining and strengthening the links between the Royal Anglian Regiment and the Bermuda Regiment and offering personal and historical insights which cannot be captured except through direct experience. The research project is still on going and arousing much interest in Bermuda. It is hoped that, as it reaches its conclusion in December 2003, it will be possible to submit more information and perhaps a biography or two to Castle.

Regimental Golf

Maj J Fisk writes...

It is sadly noticeable that numbers attending our golf meetings are dropping, so much so, that our autumn meeting at Flempton has, for the present, been discontinued. The Regimental Golf Society days, usually three per year, (spring at Richmond Park Watton Norfolk, summer at Ely Cambs, autumn at Flempton Suffolk), are open to all ranks of the Regiment both serving and retired, Regular and TA, or former Regiments. As Assistant Regimental Secretary I appeal to you to support our golfing society. Please drop me a line or telephone, and I will dispatch a joining form/bankers standing order for £2 per year which can be combined with your Journal or Officers' Club subscriptions.

Spring Meeting

Richmond Park, Watton, 25 April 2003

A small turnout of 15 enjoyed a mostly dry day with some rain later on, not enough I am happy to say, to get everyone soaked.

Results:

Medal: 1st M Pye, 2nd S Horton.

Stableford: 1st R Allen, 2nd W O'Driscoll.

Four Ball Better Ball: 1st R Potter and R Allen, 2nd S Horton and J Jethwa.

Nearest the Pin 2 holes: A Thomas on both.



The Queen's Division Triangular Match 2003, the runners-up. From left to right: Maj Halewood; WO1 Jethwa, WO2 Saywell, Mr White; Mr Greenaway; Capt Abbs; Mr Thomas, Maj O'Driscoll, WO2 Shaw, WO1 (RSM) Tate.



The winners of the Ponsonby Cup.

Summer Meeting

Ely, 25 July 2003

On an exceptional day for this summer, it rained all day. (How do I pick 'em!). A total of 24 took to the course for varying periods, and I know they did not really enjoy themselves, more's the pity as this is considered to be a popular venue.

Results:

Isham Salver - Scratch: 1st K Brett, 2nd A Thomas.

Pompadour Cup-Medal H/C: 1st C Norman, 2nd G N Taylor.

Suffolk Cup - Stableford 7/8 of H/C: 1st S Horton, 2nd W O'Driscoll.

Ponsonby Cup-Stableford Foursome: 1st S McAnally and K Taylor.

7/16 of Comb H/C: 2nd W O'Driscoll and A Thomas.

Nearest the pin 2 holes: 1st K Martin, 2nd K Taylor.

Queen's Division Triangular Match

Canterbury, 23 May 2003

Many thanks to Capt Mike Abbs for captaining the team again this year. Mike reported that all went quite well. After being well adrift at the halfway stage with the team of Messrs P Whight, G Halewood, L Greenaway, C Tate, V Shaw, J Jethwa, A Thomas, W O'Driscoll, N Saywell, came back to lose by only two points. On behalf of the Regiment well done. It is hoped to see a few more serving personnel in the team next year.

Year 2004 Meetings

Spring Meeting, Watton - 23 April.

Queen's Division Triangular Meeting, Canterbury - 21 May tbc.

Summer Meeting, Ely - 2 July.

Autumn Meeting - Venue and date (after 12 September) to be selected (Ideas welcomed).

Affiliated ACF and CCF Detachments

Cambridgeshire ACF

Over 300 Cambridgeshire Army cadets with 80 adult officers and instructors descended upon Deverill Barracks, Ripon, North Yorkshire for their 2003 annual training camp. This was to be the last annual camp for Col Colin Elsdon, the county commandant, who was attending his 42nd camp.

During the nine days each company took part in field training, clay pigeon shooting, archery, swimming, canoeing, the assault course and mountain biking. Twenty cadets also attended county run first aid and signals cadres.

Cambridgeshire ACF played host to 20 Canadian cadets and their officers. The cadets worked alongside each company and appeared to enjoy their week-long stay.

Lincolnshire ACF

Annual Camp

This year the annual camp took place at Culty Braggan, the location of the camp in 1986. The emphasis on training was on the completion of star qualifications. Kayaking took place on Loch Earn, which at times was quite turbulent. The mountain bikes used a picturesque route that had been an old railway line and day walks were organised for the six junior cadres with overnight camping on the training area. Fourteen senior cadets and five instructors attended a community sports leadership course.

The large number of visitors included the Honorary Colonel and Lord Lieutenant for Lincolnshire, Mrs Cracroft-Eley, the Mayor of Lincoln and Sheriff of Lincoln. The Lord Lieutenant presented SSgt Dannatt with his Cadet Force Medal on completion of 12 years' service and to Cdt Sgt Maj Padbury of North Somercotes for service as the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet.



Army cadets from Brookenby and Market Rasen practice their patrol skills at annual camp at Cultybraggan.



HM Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, Mrs B Cracroft-Eley, presents the Certificate of Service to Cdt Sgt Maj Gary Padbury of North Somercotes on his retirement as Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for the year 2002-2003.



CdtWO Jeffery Rose (17-years-old) Canadian Cadet stands over a couple of Cambridgeshire cadets.



Annual Camp.

Affiliated ACF and CCF Detachments



SSgt Gilbert receiving his certificate from Comd 49 (E) Brigade.

Norfolk ACF

When he retired from the Army Cadet Force in November 2003 SSgt Instructor John Gilbert, of Cawston, Norfolk, aged 65, joined that very select band of men who have served in Her Majesty's uniform for 50 years, almost entirely associated with Norfolk. He joined the Army Cadet Force in Dereham in 1953 until National Service took him into the 1st Battalion the Royal Norfolk Regiment in 1956. He served in Cyprus during the EOKA emergency, transferring to 1st Battalion the Suffolk Regiment for service in Lebanon and Germany.

After demobilisation there was a brief civilian interlude to re-establish his food processing career in Beeston and Cawston and to get married. He enlisted in 202 Battery Royal Artillery spending ten years as a Territorial Army gunner. Seeking more active weekend

soldiering, he was one of the first to join the newly formed 6th Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment, which emerged in Norfolk to replace the old 4th Battalion Royal Norfolk Regiment Territorial Army. Soon after the concept of a Home Service Force was piloted in Norfolk he joined F Company, based in Aylsham Road, Norwich. He returned to 6 Royal Anglian ten years later when the Home Service Force was disbanded.

At the age of 55, when all Territorial Army careers end, John Gilbert rejoined the Norfolk Army Cadet Force as a sergeant instructor in Cadet Norfolk Artillery. He has spent the last 10 years as a very valued member of the largest and possibly most active detachment in Norfolk at Aylsham Road, Norwich.

Suffolk ACF

Suffolk Army Cadet Force held their annual camp at Wathgill. As well as the usual military training those attending were treated to pony trekking, mountain biking, canoeing and motorcycling. Members of 2 Cadet Training Team, which included Sgts Hugill and Wood, both Royal Anglians, supported the camp during the first week.



Comd 49 (E) Brigade talks to CSM Galley.



Four star cadets at the conclusion of Exercise Catterick Change.

Affiliated ACF and CCF Detachments



Bancroft's School CCF

Cpl A Figgins writes...

This year's army camp took place in Shropshire, at a camp that was unfamiliar to all of us. However, we soon got used to the layout of the camp and the activities kicked off as soon as we got there. Dinner was at the unusual time of 5pm, which was early for everyone, and considering the quality of the food, I think the cooks could have given themselves a little more time to prepare it.

There was a huge variety of activities throughout the week. The first of which was kayaking, which involved my first experience of kayaking through rapids. Rock climbing and abseiling were the other two activities that were of the adventurous training variety. The military exercises took up the majority of the week. These involved shooting on the ranges, night exercises, six section battle drills, bayonet training and survival training, which included skinning and gutting a rabbit. All of these activities formed a very entertaining and exciting week.

Contingent competitions ran throughout the week. These included an early morning timed run, an electronic rifle range simulation, and of course the obstacle course, which allowed our contingent to once again, show off our seemingly unbeatable effort, skill, and strength, with the first team beating the camp record by six seconds. Even with the suspicious physical trainers trying to tire us out before we even started the obstacle course.

Towards the end of the week, the food gradually improved, thanks to the persuasion skills of Lt Col Bromfield, and our final parade was carried out with precision marching which received applause from other contingents, as well as the usual jealous insults, which David Abrahamovitch dealt with in a professional manner.

Overall, this year's camp was an incredibly satisfying experience and gave a number of people the chance to experience their first roles of responsibility on the exercises and around the camp. Camp has always taught me something new every year, which I am sure is the same for every other person in the CCF, and this year's camp seemed to be the most educational I have been on. Thanks are due to all the members of staff who organised the activities, and made the week enjoyable.

Gresham's School CCF

Lt Col RH Peaver TD writes...

The contingent has had another very busy year. As well as the Easter adventure training camp, held at Keswick, members of the shooting team took part in Exercise Reggae Grasshopper, a visit to Trinidad and Jamaica, during which several matches were fired against local teams.

Annual camp at Cultybraggan was, despite the long distance from

Holt, a resounding success, while the RAF Section camp at Cranwell was also much enjoyed. The usual trip by the sub-aqua unit to the Red Sea took place in the autumn.

One of the highlights of the year was our performance in Exercise Combat Cadet, a multi-skill military competition open to all contingents and all ACF battalions in 49 Brigade area. The Gresham's team came second overall, half a percentage point behind the winners. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award forms a crucial part of our training, and some 250 cadets carried out expeditions during the course of the year.

Stamford School CCF

Stamford School has confirmed its reputation as the country's lead school in smallbore and fullbore shooting.

In the annual schools meeting at Bisley this summer, the Stamford Endowed Schools team beat 52 other schools to win the magnificent and much-coveted Ashburton Shield for the second time in the last three years. And no fewer than five of the Endowed Schools team represented their country in international shooting events: students Robbie Nelson, Charlotte Clark and Sam Willis plus coaches Mik Maksimovic and Mark Jackson.

The Bisley victory capped a year of successes for Stamford Endowed Schools, most notably in smallbore competitions. Remarkably, the schools beat off local opposition to win the Mini Bell trophy for the third year in succession, while in the more competitive Green Howards Country Life contest, the Stamford A team came first making them National Indoor Champions for an unprecedented fourth consecutive year. The B team also tasted success, winning the salver for the third time in four years.



The Priory CCF March and Shoot Squad, winners of the STANTA Central Camp 2003 competition.

The Associations



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

The Museum

The Trustees are grateful to the Lady Hind Trust for a grant of £5,000 towards the cost of a state of the art projection system, which is being used to show still photographs from the archives. The museum has over 5,000 photographs and the quality of the projected images, particularly the black and white photographs from the pre-1914 era, are excellent. The programme will change periodically and the aim is to create a library of discs of specific periods or events which can then be used when appropriate. The curator is currently working on a programme which will be used in June 2004 to coincide with the 60th Anniversary of D-Day. The enhanced 'Norfolks in India' film is now also showing in the museum, thanks to a generous grant from the London Branch of the Association.

The Colour saved by Lt Col Hill at the surrender at Saratoga in 1777 has now been returned to the Regiment. It is one of the oldest Colours in existence and has a fascinating history. Col Hill hid it from his captors while a PoW for over three years and on his return to England, presented it to the King. It was later passed to his family who presented it to Sandhurst where it was displayed in the Royal Memorial Chapel. In due course it will form the centrepiece of a new display in the Museum.

War Memorial Cottages

The cottages were handed over to Haig Homes on 1 July 2003, later than planned but the delay has given Haig Homes time to carry out important planning which has enabled them to start straightaway on the modernisation programme they promised.

The transfer ensures the long-term future of the cottages which will continue to be known as the Royal Norfolk Regiment War Memorial Homes.

Haig Homes are a major national charity with considerable expertise in meeting the housing needs of ex-Servicemen and their families and the trustees are delighted with the outcome. The Remembrance Service took place as usual on 11 November at the cottages and this tradition will continue.



Gen Peter Besgrove and Capt Michael Cadge at the handover of the Royal Norfolk Memorial Cottages.



Mr Ray Segon carries the Norwich branch standard at the Royal Anglian Regimental Day.

Association Events

The Association Dinner at the end of September was attended by 150 (including 18 from the Machine Gun Platoon in Korea). Gen Sutherell took the chair, Lt Col Paul Garman and his dinner committee ensured that the arrangements all worked on the night. Mr Paul Boxall presented an engraved rose bowl for the raffle, and the stories got better as the night went on.

After a break last year the King's Lynn dinner is back on the social diary, thanks to the efforts of David Bowett, Frank Madle and the stalwarts from the King's Lynn branch.

The Gorleston Branch Christmas Dinner will have taken place by the time this journal is distributed but, as we go to press, it seems likely that the attendance will be up to 100, the upper limit for the venue.

Benevolence

We are grateful to all those who help us to meet our welfare needs, RBL, ABF, SSAFA and the Royal Anglian Regiment in particular. In 2002 over £39,000 was disbursed to former Royal Norfolks or widows and in 2003 the figure is likely to be similar even though the number of cases will be down. Increasingly we are fulfilling needs when social services are failing to meet their obligations within an acceptable timescale. Interestingly the cost per case has doubled in five years.

60th Anniversary of D-Day

June 2004 is the 60th Anniversary of D-Day and special commemoration events are being planned for both Normandy and the Low Countries. As they have done for many years, Capt John Lincoln and Mr Bill Holden are organising pilgrimages. We hope to carry photographs in the next issue.

The Associations



The Royal Lincolnshire and The Royal Anglian Regimental Association

Bermuda ACF Visit

Capt DJ Lee writes...

After many months of planning and preparation 24 cadets and 6 adult instructors from the Bermuda Army Cadet Force flew into Heathrow Airport on 4 October. During the next three weeks they would visit the battlefields of the First World War (the Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps fought alongside the 1st Battalion, The Lincolnshire Regiment), Army units in Aldershot, the Royal Lincolnshire Regimental Museum and the historic City of Lincoln and finally the Edinburgh Tattoo. From Heathrow they travelled to Dover where David Bartlett (MD of Bartlett's Battlefield Journeys) and I (John Lee) joined them before crossing the English Channel on our way to the battlefields of France and Belgium. The first two days were spent on the Somme visiting The Newfoundland Memorial Park, Lochnagar Crater, Deville Wood, Heilly station and Thiepval Memorial. Here we laid a wreath in memory of those members of the Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps who had paid the ultimate sacrifice and whose names can be found among the thousands of others engraved on the walls of this impressive Memorial.

On 6 August we travelled into Belgium and spent the next two days around the Ypres Salient, visiting the battlefields of Arras



Wreath party at the Menin Gate.



Peak Wood Cemetery.

The Associations



The Bermuda ACF with the buglers of the Last Post Association.



2Lt Neville Zuill.



and Loos, Vimy Ridge, including the underground tunnels, Hooze Crater, Hill 62 and of course the Cloth Hall Museum. However, the highlight of the tour was on the evening of 7 October when the cadets took part in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. 2Lt Neville Zuill recited the exhortation and three members of the ACF, under the watchful eye of the CSM, laid a wreath. After the ceremony the Chairman of the Last Post Association, Mr Guy G Gruwez OBE congratulated the cadets for an excellent parade and said it was one of the finest he had seen in many a year. So with a boost to their morale we all returned to the hotel for the quiz night and some refreshments.

The following day we visited Essex Farm and Tyne Cot Cemetery before heading back to Calais and the ferry home. It had been a very busy five days, but without doubt very worthwhile and one I am sure they will always remember. On our arrival at Dover we said our farewells as the cadets travelled to Aldershot and David and I returned home to Lincoln.

The following Monday I was to be their host yet again, but this time

in Lincoln. It was to be a whistle-stop visit for the cadets before they travelled to Edinburgh to watch the Band of the Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps take part in the Tattoo. The Lincolnshire Regiment Museum was our first port of call and with the help of Capt John Richards we guided them through its 300 years of history. In the evening B (Lincolnshire) Company, East of England Regiment provided them with an insight to a modern infantry unit with a number of demonstrations and displays. They were then invited to join the Lincoln Branch of the Regimental Association for the rest of the evening who provided us with a splendid buffet. Tuesday morning was spent looking around Lincoln Cathedral, The castle and the historic area of Lincoln, the Bailgate. This left some free time for shopping before departing for Edinburgh.

Lincoln Branch

The branch once again organised the Annual Regimental Reunion, now being held in July due to the Royal Anglian Regiment moving its Regimental Day to September. Eighty members sat down for dinner on 12 July with the President, Maj Gen REJ Gerrard-Wright CB CBE DL presiding. In his speech he particularly welcomed our most senior Member, Mr Frank Winfield, who served in the Lincolnshire Regiment during the First World War.

The following day members assembled for the church service held in Sobraon Barracks, followed by picnic outside on the grassed areas. The glorious weather added to the occasion and everyone enjoyed a very pleasant and relaxing afternoon. Two trips have been organised for the branch during the last six months, one to the Deep Exhibition in Hull. If you have never been we can thoroughly recommend it. The other was to the Regimental Day at Duxford. We now look forward to the annual Band Concert being played by the the Minden Band of the Queen's Division on 11 November at the Lawn, Lincoln to help raise funds for the branch welfare fund.

Spalding Branch

The annual Remembrance Parade organised by the Spalding Branch was held in Ayscoughfee Gardens on 24 August. The Association Standard of the County Regiment was on parade with the Branch Standards from Stamford and Spalding and 18 other service Associations. The Parade gave the chairman of the Spalding Branch, Mr Trevor Snell, the opportunity to thank a number of people who give up their free time to collect money in aid of the Poppy Appeal (Mr Snell also organises the Poppy appeal in the Spalding area). Col RJM Drummond OBE presented the awards to the collectors who had collected a total of £11,791.50 last year.

On 29 September an open house evening was held in the Holbeach Sports and Social Club as a recruitment and PR exercise. After a slow start the evening picked up and we gained two new members.

Date for your Diary: Poacher 2004 Reunion 20 March 2004.

Grimsby Branch

The Grimsby Branch continues to go from strength to strength with a number of ex Royal Anglian members joining our ranks. The branch has been fairly active during the past six months with two trips to France. One to the Somme Battlefields following the path of the Grimsby Chums (this was mostly funded by a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant) and the second was to make a video of the history of the 10th Battalion. A copy of the video will be presented to the Grimsby Council and kept in their archives.

Plans for the 10th (Grimsby Chums) Battalion Colours to be replaced in St James' Church, after they had been removed and hidden away in a cupboard in the Welhome Galleries for a number of years, are now in motion. Other Colours and Militia Standards are being found suitable resting places where they will be looked after and most importantly seen by the public.

Scunthorpe Branch

The Scunthorpe Branch has been very active during the past few months. In June the new Branch Standard was blessed at the local church and a formal parade was held. Gen Gerrard-Wright, along with the Mayor of NE Lincolnshire took the salute as the parade passed the Cenotaph. The Mayor also attended our summer social evening, where members wined, dined and danced the night away.

The Associations



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

Minden Reunion

The days when we could expect a Regular band to entertain us appear to be over but this year we were very fortunate to have the services of the combined Corps of Drums of the two Regular Battalions and the East of England Regiment, whose display at the end of the day was of the highest order. We were also able to enjoy displays by the Reydon Corps of Drums and the Norfolk RBL Standard Bearers. The success of the day relies on the hard work of the many volunteers - from those who lay out the area the day before to the venture scouts under Mr Crayden Bourbery who guard the site overnight and clear up afterwards. Our thanks to them all and especially to Maj Stan Bullock who acts as ringmaster and stage manager.



Branch standard bearer Ted Bailey on parade at the Regimental Day.

Hillman

After a successful visit to Normandy in 2003 the committee is now finalising details for the 60th Anniversary of D-Day Commemorations in 2004, when groups will visit Normandy in June and the Low Countries in September.

Georges Dudignac from Les Amis de Suffolk Regiment visited the museum in September and is working on plans to receive the party in June. Les Amis have generously agreed to meet some of the costs of the 2004 trip. Next year is also the 90th anniversary of the battles of 1914 and the French authorities have arranged a series of events to coincide with what they call the Battle of the Marne. It is planned for the Suffolk Regiment to be represented at the commemorations at Le Cateau where 2 Suffolks suffered so badly. This will take place on 5 July. Recently the remains of two former Suffolks were found near Wancourt. The burial of their remains (names not known) will take place on 6 July and it is hoped that those who attend the Le Cateau event will attend the burial the next day.

Museum

The brooch presented to HRH Princess Margaret by the Suffolk Regiment and subsequently remodelled after amalgamation has been returned to the museum on loan by the family. It will be displayed in the museum in memory of the Regiment's only Royal Colonel-in-Chief, alongside the Farmer brooch which was presented to the museum by Mr Robin Farmer who commanded 12 Platoon D Company, as his father had before him. It was commissioned by Mr Farmer senior for his wife after the family had been interned in China after the war.

In September we learned that the museum had received a legacy of over £410,000 in the will of Mr Brian Allen who served with the Regiment in Malaya. The Trustees intend to create an endowment fund, to be known as the Brian Allen Bequest, which will generate sufficient income to enable the museum to be developed steadily. There is no threat to the museum at the Keep but, should it ever become necessary to relocate the collection, this bequest could be used so Mr Allen's generosity ensures the future of the Suffolk Regiment Museum. The trustees are planning to create a new display at the Keep to recognise Mr Allen's bequest.

Visit to the 1st Battalion

A coachload of Old Comrades of the Suffolk Regiment and their ladies left Bury St Edmunds early on the morning of 14 June to travel to Pirbright for the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment Open Day, an invitation kindly having been given by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col EEC Thorne MC. After a very pleasant journey down with the now compulsory required number of stops the coach was met at the main gate to the barracks. It was a delight and a pleasure to see the reception given to the Old Comrades and their ladies by the men of the Battalion from the moment of arrival throughout the day and right to the very last moment, not one person was neglected or in need of assistance. Col Thorne addressed the gathering in the gymnasium firstly requesting that all who knew him as a youngster to not open the conversation with, 'I knew you when you were that high'! For some that was the most difficult task of the day! Tea and cakes were taken on arrival followed by a morning of visiting stands consisting of weapons, radio communications, medical activities and a very realistic firefighting/vehicle rescue that enthralled not only the youngsters but some of the 'old uns' as well.

Lunch was taken in the main dining hall (!) please note not the cookhouse, also referred to as the Battalion restaurant. What a meal! The afternoon was occupied by some shooting and those who were tiring spent happy minutes seeking their misdoing in the volumes of albums and records on display for all to peruse including film archives. A really brilliant collection of memories for one and all to enjoy and many were the cries of, 'hey look at this!' as someone found either themselves or a friend in one of the volumes. The afternoon finale was a Beating of Retreat by the Corps of Drums who gave a most admirable display that was not only excellent musically but the marching display was a pleasure to watch. When one considers the heat of the day, the activities undertaken by the Corps of Drums and the limited times available for them to practise we were all most impressed.

The Associations



Veterans receiving instruction from the Mortar Platoon.

We from the 'old boys' can only say to you, 'the Battalion', we are proud of what you do, we are proud of what you have done and we know we will be proud of the future activities of 'our Regiment'.

Obituary

James Richard (Tich) Hunter

Jim Hunter, known more widely as 'Tich', landed on D-Day, 6 June 1944 at about 0700hrs, with A Company 1 Suffolk. He took part in both the first and second attacks on Hillman. During the second and successful attack he performed what was possibly the most outstanding act of personal bravery by any soldier serving with 1 Suffolk from Normandy to the end of the war. The first attack, launched at 1315hrs, failed when German machine gunners firing from a steel cupola covered the narrow gaps made in the wire surrounding Hillman and brought the attack to a halt with only one platoon inside the wire and the company commander, one platoon commander, two section commanders and three soldiers dead. Any further advance was impossible due to the machine gun fire. During this attack three shots from a PIAT were fired at the troublesome bunker with absolutely no effect. The second attack, with wider gaps in the wire and supported by tanks, was launched at about 1620hrs. The tanks entering the position gave some cover to A Company but even their 17 pounder guns were unable to silence the cupola. Tich, with Cpl Lawson, found himself some 20 yards from the cupola. Waiting for it to traverse away from him and with no orders to do so, Tich got up and advanced on the bunker firing his Bren gun from the hip at the opening through which the machine gunner was firing. His close action succeeded where bigger weapons had failed and the bunker was silenced. A Company were then able to take Hillman and mop up the remaining resistance on the surface of the position. It was during this phase that Cpl Lawson saw a German aiming at them and shouted to Tich who ducked and the bullet grazed his forehead. A first field dressing was applied and later Tich was ordered to the RAP where the wound was considered sufficiently serious for him to be evacuated. Thus ended Tich's combat service - all 12 hours of it. For his remarkable action he was awarded an Immediate Distinguished Conduct Medal, a rare distinction for a private soldier. He was employed on ERE for the rest of his service during which time he learned to drive.

James Richard Hunter was born on 4 June 1923 in Poplar, East London, but his parents moved to Barking when he was 18 months old. Leaving school at 14 he had a variety of jobs until the war started



when he decided to enlist which he did in May 1940 despite being underage to do so. A request to go to his father's old Regiment, the London Rifle Brigade, was unsuccessful and after basic training he was sent to 70th Battalion the Royal Norfolk Regiment where he was not entirely happy and, after a difference of opinion on a disciplinary matter, was posted in 1942 to 1 Suffolk with whom he trained for the next two years for the invasion.

After the war Tich returned to Barking where, using his Army driving experience, he worked for the Gas Board as an HGV driver and later as a gas engineer for about 30 years. He then took voluntary redundancy and worked in security for a local firm for about ten years until finally retiring. In retirement he greatly enjoyed his garden, the countryside he had discovered during the years of Army training before the invasion and was a keen visitor to churches and cathedrals of whose history and architecture he became very knowledgeable. Very recently one of his sons persuaded him to take up fishing. He was, of course, a loyal pilgrim with the Suffolk Regiment visits to Normandy where his presence was always of great interest to other visitors and the local Normans. Tich married Margaret in 1952 and they lived in Barking for the next 51 years. He is survived by Margaret, his two sons, James and Brian, and his daughter Kathy, one grandson and another grandchild on the way. The funeral and burial was held at Rippleside Cemetery, Barking on 17 September 2003. The Regiment was represented by Les Perry, Frank Matthews and Bill Deller. A Regimental wreath and flowers from Les Amis du Suffolk Regiment were laid on the grave.

The Associations



The Royal Anglian Regiment and Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association

The Association's Dinner and Dance

The annual event was held at the 'Castle Hall' at Hertford on Saturday 19 April 2003. The evening started with the Branch Standards being marched in to our old Regimental March Mandolinata. During the dinner the Essex Yeomanry Band played to their usual high standard a medley of tunes which was much appreciated by those present. After the dinner our Chairman, Brig Angus Robertson, made a speech in which he welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress of Hertford, a party of our old friends from the Essex Regiment Association and other guests. He thanked all those who work so hard to keep the Association active and for those who had organised the evening's event. It was then time for dancing, all agreed it was a very enjoyable occasion.

The 16th Foot Officers' Annual Lunch

The lunch was again held at the 'Red Lion' in Buckden, a hostelry that has produced an excellent fare for this special occasion for the last five years. There were not quite so many old soldiers and their ladies present as usual but it was none the less a most enjoyable gathering. It was sad that 'Donald' Girdwood's place was empty for the first time, as like so many other Regimental occasions 'Donald' never missed this lunch, and it was his original recommendation that we should use this venue.

The meal was of the usual high standard and it was agreed to continue with the same venue next year on Thursday 24 June 2004.

The Royal Anglian Regimental Day

Members of the Association turned out in force for the Regimental Day which was held at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford on Sunday 14 September. The weather for this event was very hot and sunny and some members went home with very red faces. Besides the Colours of the 1st Battalion, 29 Association Standards were marched on at the beginning of the Service, of which six were from our Association. Of all of the four marching contingents taking part the 3rd Battalion column, mostly made up from our Association was, as in previous years, the largest. The Regiment put on a great event, with side shows of interest, and of course a beer tent. The Minden Band and the combined Corps of Drums of the 1st and 2nd Battalions and The East of England Regiment gave an excellent display to finish off one of the best Regimental Days we have had. There was also time for many to visit both the Army and Regimental Museums during the day.

Other Events to the End of the Year

Members of the Association will visit the Royal Hospital, Chelsea on Sunday 27 September to attend the Hospital's church parade and have lunch with our In-Pensioner 'Snowy' Frisken. On 27 November members have been invited to attend the 2nd Battalion's Old Comrades Open Day at Chepstow. Coaches have been hired for these events and a good turnout for both events is forecast.

News from the Branches

Besides all the Association Branch members attending the above events, the Bedford Branch members ventured to London in May, first to see the Beating of Retreat and the first rehearsal of the Trooping of the Colour. At the end of June Branch members took part in a service at the Church of the Transfiguration at Kempston for the celebration the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Branch in 1938. A lunch was then provided in the 'Keep'. It is sad to report that on 8 May the President of the Hertford Branch, Maj PE Jones TD died. The Watford and Hemel Hempstead Branch held two successful 'Racenetes' during the year which raised funds for the Branch. On 29 March members travelled by coach to the Muswell Hill Royal British Legion Club to celebrate 20 years of the Branch. On 31 May members attended the Major General's Review of the Trooping of the Colour. The St Albans Branch members attended the Founder's



3rd Battalion detachment, commanded by Brig Robertson, during the march past on the Regimental Day.

The Associations

Day Parade at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea on 1 June and several members with the Branch Standard attended the Minden Day Parade at Bury St Edmunds on 3 August. The Hitchin Branch members went on a trip to Southend-on-Sea on 16 August to see the illuminations. The Luton and Dunstable Branch went on a visit to Bletchley Park on 17 May, which was followed by a social evening at the Bletchley Naval Club. In June the Branch Standard, with the St Albans and Watford and Hemel Hempstead Standards attended the Church of The Transfiguration at Kempston to help celebrate Bedford Branch's 65 years.

Obituary

Maj Count John Colby Salazar MC

Maj John Salazar died at his home in France on 1 August 2003, aged 84. He was born at Sandgate, Kent, on 19 March 1919 and was educated at Alpin College, Switzerland and South Leigh College, Oxford. He enlisted at Pembroke Dock in May 1939 into the 'Buffs'. After completing recruit training he was posted to the 1st Battalion the Buffs at Mersa Matruh in the October. Later serving in Palestine he was at Haifa when the Italians bombed the oil refinery on 10 June 1940. Selected for officer training he passed out from the OCTU at Cairo and was commissioned into The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment and joined the 1st Battalion in Jericho. He served with the battalion from 1941 to 1945 first at Lemnos, Syria, and then at Tobruk where he took part in the battles of the garrison.

He was awarded an Immediate MC for his leadership during the 'Chindit' operations in Burma in 1944. Here the Regiment was divided into two, 61 Column was involved in operations against the railway town of Indaw; and 2nd Lieutenant Salazar was ordered to move his platoon two miles south of the town to destroy as many Japanese and as much materiel as possible. A platoon ambush on a track leading to Andaw accounted for only two of the enemy, so he decided to move closer. By active patrolling, he located six fuel dumps; but in order to reach them the platoon would have to cross open paddy fields and pass along a path beside a Japanese company's position. Realising that the best chance of destroying the fuel dump was to keep the numbers to a minimum he decided to do the job alone and getting close to the enemy he fired incendiary bullets into the dump, destroying 200 49-gallon drums of oil and petrol. Withdrawing a short distance he lay in wait beside a track leading to the enemy's position. Two runners appeared and he killed one and took the other prisoner, although the man was so badly wounded that he died.

In May, 61 Column attacked a village and some enemy were killed and some ran off into a house. John took a patrol into the village and his section killed several Japanese and returned with seven pack horses loaded with booty. During the same night he led more patrols into the village to report on Japanese movements. After home leave he rejoined the 1st Battalion in India moving to Tripoli and Greece in 1948. A spell as Adjutant with the 1st Hertfordshire Regiment (TA) was followed by a five-year attachment to the 1st Battalion The Northern Rhodesia Regiment, which included a spell of 18 months in Malaya when he was mentioned in despatches. Returning to the UK he served with the 1st Bedfords, and in Germany ran a winter warfare course at Goslar, and generations of NS men will remember how he taught them to build snow holes in which they were to sleep. On amalgamation with the Essex Regiment he served with the 3rd East Anglian Regiment in Germany and Malaya. In 1964 he served



Maj Count John Colby Salazar MC, taken during the Chindit campaign.

with the 6th Battalion King's African Rifles in Dar es Salaam and on HQ staff in Nairobi. From 1964 to 1968 he was British Army liaison officer at the French Academy at Saint Cyr where he qualified as a French Army parachutist, retiring in 1974 from HQ Afcnt.

He retired to live in France but still came over to join in Regimental activities over the years. John was a family man, the Regiment and family being the two great loves of his life. His record of service indicates the outgoing personality of the man. John was a born leader with a deep-rooted love of the Regiment he served so well. Eccentric at times, his pranks on Mess nights were original to say the least but always well mannered. He had a lovely sense of humour and was respected by all ranks. He married in 1946, Jeanne Oliphant, who survives him together with a son and daughter.

The Hertfordshire Regiment Association

On Saturday 26 April 2003 the Association's Annual Spring Supper was held in the TA Centre at Hertford. Once again a very enjoyable evening was held with excellent fish and chips served, a bingo session and a raffle was organised. Thanks to the ladies for their preparation and their support.

The Hertfordshire Regiment Association members attended Bengoe Church on Sunday 27 April 2003 for the rehang and dedication of the Standards of the Royal Navy and Old Contemptibles. Both our Standard and that of the Hertford Branch of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Association were present. On 22 June members with the Association Standard attended the prestigious event of the Hertfordshire Army Benevolent Fund Beating Retreat at Haileybury. Sadly 12 of our comrades have died since September last year.

The Associations



The Cambridgeshire Regimental Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association

Election of Officers

At the AGM held on 22 September the following officers were elected...

President: Mr FJ Grounds DL

Chairman: Col C Elsdon DL

Vice-Chairman: Mr HS Taylor

Lt Colonel WF Badcock MBE agreed to be a Patron of the Association.

Whittlesey and Peterborough Branch

The branch continues to be active and holds many successful functions during the year which contribute to branch funds. The 'sausage and mash' supper was held on 4 April at the Childers Club and over 70 attended. There was a good contingent at the annual service and reunion at Ely on 1 June with the Branch Standard on parade. On 18 July we held our annual barbecue at Childers hosted by the Peterborough Branch of the Northamptonshire and Royal Anglian Association. We were represented at Minden Day on 3 August together with our Suffolk Regiment members.

The Branch Church Service was held on 14 September at the United Reform Church, Queen Street, Whittlesey which was followed by refreshments in the church hall made and served by the Idies of the church. This is an important event in the branch calendar and is always well supported by other branches of the Association. We were well represented at the Association AGM held on Sunday 21 September. The 2003 Regimental dinner was held on 10 October and our programme for the year will finish with our Christmas social and sausage and mash supper at Childers, Whittlesey on 5 December.

The branch meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the ACF HQ Station Road, Whittlesey by kind permission of the detachment commander commencing at 8pm. All ex-members of the Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Royal Anglian Regiments are warmly welcome.



Commemoration Service and Reunion, 1 June 2003

This year we welcomed the Colonel of the Regiment, Maj Gen John Sutherell CB CBE and the Mayor and Mayoress of Ely, Cllr Phillip Eden and consort Mrs Susan Eden. We were also fortunate to have a platoon from D (Cambridgeshire) Company 1st Battalion, the Royal Anglian Regiment with us again, giving up one of their free weekends to come which we very much appreciated in view of their hectic period as peacekeepers.

Once again the Cambridgeshire Army Cadets were with us in strength, this is much appreciated by the Association in view of the dwindling number of Old Comrades. Mr and Mrs James Crowden were also present and their continued support for the Association and Regiment is very welcome. The City of Ely Military Band was this year situated in the cathedral and accompanied the whole service. The service was conducted by a Canon of the Cathedral, the Rev Canon, Dr Peter Sills, who received the various Regimental Colours. The reading was made by Col CM Elsdon DL for the last time in his capacity as Cadet Commandant. The address was given by the Rev Canon Dr Peter Sills whose theme was remembrance ought to be able to prevent future wars although some thought that his references to the recent Iraq campaign were too political and were rather inappropriate for this type of gathering.

The Association President, Lt Col WF Badcock MBE, laid the wreaths and Last Post and Reveille were played in an excellent manner by trumpeters from the Band. The parade formed up by the Porta and marched to the green accompanied by the band where the salute was taken by the General who made a rousing address and thanked everyone for making the event a success. The parade commander was Lt Col David Denson TD. Afterwards there was an excellent tea in the Haywood Theatre and the opportunity to meet Old Comrades.

Officers' Dinner, 10 May 2003

The guests of honour at this year's dinner were Mr James Crowden CVO, K St J and Mrs Crowden and Maj Freddie Grounds, Commander of 'D' (Cambridgeshire) Company of the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment and Mrs Grounds. The President of the Association, Lt Col WF Badcock MBE, presided and Mr Vice was Capt S Swann of the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force. We were also fortunate to have with us this year the Colonel of Regiment, Maj Gen J Sutherell CB CBE and Mrs Sutherell. Grace was said by Maj Derek Baldry and included a few minutes' silence for fallen comrades. After the loyal toast telegrams were read out from Her Majesty the Queen and Her Royal Highness the Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, our Colonel-in-Chief, Lt Colonel D Denson TD, Chairman of the Association, proposed the toast of the guests and after the toast Col Colin Elsdon DL gave a report, for the last time, as Commandant of the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force, outlining a very successful year for the Force. £200 was raised from the dinner, and £50 was donated to the Association to help towards the cost of the Regimental reunion and £150 to the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force Supporters' League.

The Cambridgeshire Regiment Collection

The local museums in Cambridgeshire in which the Regiment has displays, report a continued increase in visitors, reflecting the growing interest in local history, and indeed the 'professional' management of these museums with whom we have excellent relations. Our display as part of the Royal Anglian Museum at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford remains the 'jewel in the crown' for us, and here again visitor numbers continue to grow. However, I have to report that the current museum co-ordinator, Martin Boswell, who has been responsible for our exhibit, is moving 'jobs' within the museum. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking him on behalf of the Guardians for his great interest in, and work on behalf of the Cambridgeshire Regiment Collection, with the knowledge that his experience will still be available to us.

Three generations of soldiers on parade at Ely.

The Associations



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

Royal Tigers' Weekend 21 and 22 June 2003

The annual reunion took place in very warm weather at Leicester 21-22 June. About 80 Tigers attended the AGM on Saturday, and 197 with guests the 78th Reunion Dinner at Devonshire Place, London Road, when an excellent night was had by all. About 250 attended the Regimental Parade Service at Leicester Cathedral on Sunday, which included three important commemorations. Plaques were dedicated to the 17 Tigers who lost their lives in the Cyprus Emergency 1955-58, and to two late commanding officers, Col M Moore MC TD DL and Lt Col JED Watson DSO. The Very Rev Vivienne Faull, Dean of Leicester officiated and a moving address was given by The Rev David Barlow, who served in 1st Battalion in the campaign. The service was followed by the march past with the salute taken by Lady Jenny Gretton, HM Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, and a reception and buffet lunch in Devonshire Place for Tigers and all our guests, including 59 relatives of the Cyprus casualties and numerous members of the Moore and Watson families. Altogether it was a most memorable weekend.

1st Battalion (50th/8th/1st) Reunion

This took place at the TA Centre Ulverscroft Road Leicester on 27 September under the continuing direction of Mr J Dean. There are few of these World War Two veterans left who can travel to such reunions, but it was good to see those who could get in and enjoy each others' company again. Cyprus Veterans' Reunion The 7th Annual Reunion of ex-members of the 1st Battalion who served in Cyprus 1955-1958 was held on 25 October. The Cyprus Veterans dedicated their new standard at St Peter's Church Braunstone and held a reception at the Braunstone District Working Men's Club afterwards. Over 200 Tigers and guests attended.

Regimental Museum

The application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £1 million, in partnership with the Leicester City Council Museums Service, for a new Regimental Museum to be established in the Newarke Houses Museum in Leicester, met with resounding success on 15 September, when it was announced the application had been granted. Both the Regiment and Leicester City Council will have to raise £250,000 of 'matching' funding in order for this HLF grant to be realised. A vigorous Regimental fundraising campaign to achieve our share was launched on 20 June 2003, and the figure raised so far is £106,000. All Tigers and friends of the Regiment are asked to keep coming up with fundraising ideas and to turn out their cupboards for any papers or objects which might prove useful artefacts for the new museum, which is planned to open in 2005.



Sevastopol Cannon

The two magnificent Sevastopol cannon which have stood at the entrance to the Regimental Museum for over 40 years have found a

new home. On 10 August TA soldiers from Loughborough-based 203 Squadron, 158 (Royal Anglian) Transport Regiment Royal Logistic Corps moved them from outside the New Walk Museum to the front of the Newarke Houses Museum, as the first resplendent and visible proof of the planned establishment there of the new Regimental Museum. The two Russian cannon were captured by the Regiment at Sevastopol in 1855 and brought to Leicester on 23 January 1858, when a local holiday was declared. The guns were carried on horse-drawn drays from the station covered with flags and laurels and escorted by a band and a cavalry troop. In 1969 they were moved to the Magazine to be outside the new Regimental Museum there, and in 1998 were sent for special conservation treatment before being repositioned in front of the New Walk Museum for the opening of Royal Tigers' Gallery in that location. It is hoped these famous and important Leicester landmarks have now found their final home outside the New Walk Museum. In the clearest possible terms, they represent the City of Leicester's heritage, commitment and respect for the Royal Leicestershire Regiment and all that the Regiment means to the Museum, the City and the County of Leicestershire.

Commemorative Visit to Norway, 29 August 2003

On 29 August at Asmarka, a plaque was unveiled by His Majesty King Harald V of Norway to commemorate the actions of 20-21 April 1940 which took place in and around Asmarka, when British and German land forces faced each other for the first time in Norway, and in memory of those Norwegian and British personnel who were killed.

An invitation for British veterans of these actions to attend the ceremony was extended to the Royal Tigers' Association and to those from other Regiments present in 1940. However, Platoon Sgt Maj John Sheppard DCM, Vice-Chairman of the Association, was the only British veteran able to attend, and was accompanied by Capt Bob Allen, Chairman of the Association. John Sheppard was awarded the DCM for his actions, when with the men of his mortar platoon they stoutly defended a vital position until all ammunition had been exhausted and when the woods and buildings around his position were on fire. During the action John had the personal distinction of knocking out the first two German tanks in World War Two - with a PIAT which, for lack of training ammunition, he had not fired before.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman attended the ceremony with 30 or so Norwegian veterans and went on to a private reception and celebratory luncheon where they were introduced to King Harald, and to whom they presented a recently published copy of Fighting Tigers in which the actions of the 1/5th Battalion in Norway are chronicled. They also laid floral tributes in honour of other British regiments which could not be represented. It was a most memorable occasion marked by generous Norwegian hospitality and a wonderful welcome to John Sheppard, the British celebrity of the event in which we were greatly honoured to be included.



Deaths

Capt D Wale on 27 May 2003; The Rev AR Cooper-Smith TD on 22 June 2003; Capt WE Peck on 18 September 2003.

The Associations



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

The Association was delighted to hear of the award of the MBE to Maj Simon Browne, in recognition of his service in Afghanistan, with C (Essex) Company of the Royal Anglian Regiment. We are fortunate to have a very close relationship with the company, brought about largely by the efforts of Simon and his predecessors. This is an honour both to Simon and the whole company.

Over the weekend of 12-15 September the Regimental Chapel was open to the public as part of the National Heritage Weekend. On Saturday alone no fewer than 100 visitors were welcomed by the two duty stewards, and great interest was shown in the history of the building and all that it stood for in the life of the Regiment. It was surprising how many people came from Brentwood itself and had never visited. A number of generous donations were received. Services are held on the first Sunday of each month and all are welcome.

The Association has had a busy and fulfilling time since the last report. At the beginning of June a party of veterans visited Bayeux for both the D-Day Remembrance Service at the British War Cemetery, and the service at the memorials to our 2nd Battalion and that of the Sherwood Rangers. The Rev Martin Franks MBE, Honorary Chaplain to the Royal Anglian Regiment, officiated at both services and wreaths were laid on behalf of the Royal Anglian Regiment, the Essex Regiment Association and the 2nd Battalion the Essex Regiment survivors.

We were blessed with glorious weather and a good number of people attended, together with representatives of French ex-servicemen's associations and their Standards. Our own Association Standard was paraded by Mr Maurice Armstrong. We were delighted to have with us veterans who were involved in the liberation of Bayeux in 1944. On two afternoons Harry Conn organised battlefield tours taking in Essex Wood, Tilly sur Seuilles and a number of British War Cemeteries. In the evenings parties of veterans could be seen in various parts of the town enjoying themselves in true Essex style! The Open Day held by the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment at Pirbright was a resounding success. Everyone appreciated the welcome and hospitality they received on this most interesting day and went away with a lasting impression of the workings of this fine Battalion.

Our reunion took place on 29 June and again we had a day of warm sunshine. Brig Roger Brunt CBE, Deputy Colonel, took the salute after which the parade was descended upon by a host of mayors and mayoresses who enjoyed chatting to the Old Comrades. The Chapel Service was taken by the Rev Martin Franks MBE and the address given by the Ven John Blackburn QHC FRSA, Chaplain-General to Her Majesty's Land Forces. It was particularly pleasing to see our parade marshal, Maj Roy Jenks MBE, on parade as usual. Roy has not been too fit recently but certainly appears to have regained full strength! After a strawberries and cream tea, members moved across to the garden where stalls set up by the Warley team and Ian Hook from the museum were kept busy. We missed 'Harry's Bar' this year but after many years of devoted service Harry has decided to retire, and a team operated by the new caretaker has now taken over to quench our thirsts.

The Corps of Drums of the King Edward VI School put on their usual display which was both impressive and entertaining. These young men do us proud each year and it is a pleasure to have them on parade, especially as they are wearing the right capbadge and



The Corps of Drums at King Edward VI School.

playing Essex Drums and Bugles.

The Salamanca Luncheon was held at the County Hotel in Chelmsford on 18 July. Guests included Maj Simon Watson from E (Essex and Hertfordshire Company) the East of England Regiment, and Capt John Delf, at present Company Commander C (Essex) Company, 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment. Ann and David Sparkes, who were caretakers at Warley for 15 years, were also invited and received an inscribed glass box in recognition of their help to the Association. The new caretaker is Liz Tinnear, the daughter of Ann Sparkes. Finally we welcome Erika Stewart who has joined the staff at Warley. Erika has taken over from Pauline Goode, who was with us for a short period, and is quickly getting to know the ropes! Pauline became a popular member of the Warley team, and in wishing her all the best for the future - I hope that we shall see her again at some of our functions.

As we go to press, we learn that our President, Col Geoffrey Morgan, has successfully come through the operation on his hip, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

4th Battalion Comrades' Association

The Association has continued with its normal business and support of the Regimental Association in all its activities. In April our Chairman, Capt John Youles, visited the Easter weekend camp of A Company, Essex ACF, at Napier Barracks. The 4th Battalion AGM was held at Warley, and a visit was made by our Chairman to the Recruiting Day at Warley TAC. June was another busy month. Members attended the Founders' Day at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, the dedication of the Loughton Millenium Grove took place, and members took part in the open day at Pirbright of the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment, which was a great success. A presentation was made by our Chairman to the St John Ambulance Brigade, on the Zulu Wars and



Regimental Secretary Maj David Gilchrist, Maj Tony Fisher OC A Company Essex ACF and Capt John Youles, Chairman of 4 Battalion at the Regimental reunion.

The Associations

Rorke's Drift and our Association Reunion took place at Warley.

The 4th Battalion Association summer reunion at Warley was attended by over 100 members and guests and members attended the Salamanca Luncheon at Chelmsford. In August our Chairman attended the annual camp of A Company ACF and was guest at dinner. On the same day cadets visited World War One cemeteries in Belgium and laid a wreath on behalf of the Essex Regiment Association at the Menin Gate.

Our Chairman, John Youles, has shown considerable support to the Reserve and Cadet Forces in the South Essex and East London area. Mick Chapman has established contact with members of the Kent and Scottish Regiment of Canada in answer to questions posed on the internet about members of the Essex Regiment serving in Italy in 1944. Weinand Drenth, a Dutch researcher, has also been contacted with regard to reproducing some of his work in our future publications. Internet sources are regularly scanned for items of interest.

The management council is continuing to review the events and activities of the Association and where necessary changes will be made in the future, to ensure that all functions are financially viable while retaining their originality and giving the opportunity for members to meet.

Thurrock Branch

Peter Giggins, Honorary Secretary writes...

I closed my last article in the June journal by saying that we were looking forward to our visit to the 1st Battalion open day at Pirbright. What a day! All the Thurrock Branch who attended spoke of the wonderful time they had with the Battalion, and I don't think it could be faulted. Thank you 1st Battalion. A few of us 2nd Essex (Pompadors), accompanied by comrades and guests from other battalions, again returned to Normandy for a service at our memorial on 7 June, the day we entered Bayeux in 1944. A second service was held at the memorial to The Sherwood Rangers whose armoured vehicles escorted us into the city.

The Reunion at Warley on 29 June was well attended, the Regimental Chapel was almost full, a great day. Also our Salamanca Luncheon at the County Hotel Chelmsford was very successful. Our thanks must go to the Regimental Secretary and the staff at Warley for the success of these two events.

On Battle of Britain Day, 21 September, we attended a service at our war memorial in Grays/Thurrock, very good turnout of Royal Air Force Association personnel, cadets and comrades from all our local associations, all were invited to a reception at the RAFA Club. The Regimental Day at Duxford was very enjoyable and it seemed a good setting for the event.

The Thurrock Branch, I am pleased to report, is still going well and our monthly meetings are well supported. Our branch lunch is in October so that will be news for the next issue.

Eagle and Gun Association

Vic Foulsham, Honorary Secretary writes...

As is to be expected, our numbers get smaller and smaller each year. We are now down to 59 members, of whom one third manage to get to the annual reunion, held on the third Saturday in June, at Whipps Cross Drill Hall, by kind permission of the quartermaster.

We were pleased to see some members' wives this year. Two of our members were in wheelchairs, with carers, and walking sticks were well in evidence!

In the photo taken at Whipps Cross Drill Hall, 11 of the 14 were members of the pre-1939 Territorials, two were post war 'Terriers'. Thirty-five people attended the reunion, some 64 years after being mobilised.

4/5 Battalion, the Essex Regiment (TA)

Annual Dinner

Due to a number of problems it proved impossible to hold the annual dinner in Essex but the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment came to the rescue by agreeing to hold the dinner in the Officers' Mess. Twenty five members attended with five guests; the High Sheriff of Essex, the CO, PMC and OC C (Essex) Company of 1



Regimental reunion.

Royal Anglian and CO East of England Regiment. It was a splendid occasion and it was especially appropriate to see a selection of Essex silver on the table.

The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Colchester Branch)

Of the number of events and functions for the branch this year, undoubtedly the most significant was the consecration of our splendid new Standard on Sunday 22 June at the Garrison Church in Colchester. The Regimental Chaplain, the Rev Martin Franks MBE, officiated, and there was a very good attendance at the service and lunch afterwards - including local MPs Bernard Jenkin and Bob Russell, both of whom are now Honorary Members of the branch. It was a memorable and important day.

There were of course other events during the summer - an enjoyable visit to the 1st Battalion at Pirbright, a most successful summer barbecue at the Garrison Sergeants' Mess in July, being part of the Regimental Day at Duxford in September, and the autumn 'smoker' at our local TA Centre. Coming up next is the Colchester Remembrance Day observation - where for the first time we will proudly march behind our Standard, and then in early December our Christmas function at the MCTC Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, courtesy of branch member and Royal Anglian MCTC RSM, WO1 Chris Wright. There will then be a full programme of Regimental and branch events to look forward to as we begin our third year in 2004 with a strong and growing membership. Contact for membership is the Secretary, Lt Col (Retd) Brian Davenport, at 36 Catherine Hunt Way, Colchester CO2 9HS, 01206-564919, davenport@colchester1737.freerve.co.uk.



Standard dedication. Col Julian Lacey reading the lesson.

Officers of the Branch

Chairman

Treasurer

Secretary

Assistant Secretary

Committee Members

Ex Officio

Tony Downes

Colin Ladley

Brian Davenport

Alan Swaep

Winston Browne, Martin Gilbert,

Mick Henson, Geordie Pattison,

Bob Potter

Rod Allen

The Associations



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

Annual Reunion 2003

The Association Annual Reunion of 2003 was held on 12-13 July and was distinguished by being the last of the traditional two-day programme. After the AGM on Saturday afternoon 178 Comrades attended the Reunion Dinner in the TA Centre Clare Street. Gen Sir John Akehurst presided and proposed toasts of 'The Queen' and 'The Princess Alice, Our Colonel-in-Chief', and read telegrams of good wishes for the evening from Her Majesty The Queen and from HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester in reply to the Association's loyal greetings. The President then ended a short speech by proposing the toast 'The Regiment'.

Throughout the evening the Drums Platoon of the East of England Regiment played excellently and helped make the evening a great success.

The Annual Reunion Service was held in sweltering heat on Sunday morning. Led by the Band and Drums of the Royal Anglian Regiment (V) some 75 Comrades marched from Gibraltar Barracks to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where those unable to march swelled our numbers to 92. Numerous spectators witnessed our last march through the Borough, and on return the Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, Lady Juliet Townsend took the salute and the cadets of A Company Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland ACF lined the entrance to Gibraltar Barracks. Our last formal parade service at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which has been so welcoming over many years, was taken by the Rev Simon Tebbutt and a moving address made by the Rt Rev Michael Mann KVCO. The reception and luncheon followed in the TA Centre Clare Street. Next year the annual reunion will be held on one day only, Saturday 10 July, though the church will be open for Comrades to visit on Saturday afternoon, and the normal church service on Sunday will include an Act of Remembrance and Thanksgiving. As for the march, we very much hope Royal Anglians will resume the tradition some time in the future.

Peterborough Branch

Peterborough Branch ran the annual Royal Anglian Families' Open Day at the TA Centre in London Road on 7 June and held their 50th Reunion Dinner at London Road on 18 October, the President, Maj Richard Hill, presiding and reading messages of good wishes from Her Majesty The Queen and the Colonel-in-Chief. Guests were Lt Col Simon Dixon CO 158 (R Anglian) Tpt Regt (V) and Maj Ian Dexter Regimental Secretary, the Association Chairman, Col Peter Worthy being unfortunately indisposed with a heavy cold. The Band of the East of England Regiment played throughout the evening, to their usual superb standard, and on parade were the standards of both Peterborough Branch and the old Corby Branch, the latter having had to find a home after the recent closure of the Royal British Legion Club in Corby.

The Branch's Secretary is Mr Noel Muncey, who can be contacted on 01733 205120 or noelmuncey@steelbacks.org.uk.

Finedon Branch

Members of Finedon Branch paraded with their Standard at Twyell on 27 April at a dedication of two memorials from the First World War. The branch secretary gave the exhortation and the branch bugler played the Last Post. Peter Lawless and Ray Ogle took part



The standards of the Peterborough branch (Alec Francis) and the Finedon branch (Dave Thomley).

in a SSAFA charity golf match organized by Brig Charles Barnes and presented a cheque for £100 donated by the branch. In June the branch held a boat trip and were favoured with jolly boating weather to complete a memorable outing. The branch secretary is Mr Ray Ogle, 01933 681525 and the branch website www.poachers.net

Maj DP Scopes TD

Peter Scopes, who died on 17 September 2003 aged 86, was a stalwart of the Northamptonshire Regiment and Association. After attending the Stationers Company School in London his father decided that he should learn a foreign language in either France or Germany. Peter chose French, but his father, a stern martinet, decided it should be German, so off he went to Opladen from 1932 to 1934, returning to join the family leather firm whereupon he was tasked with extending export markets and establishing new branches in Germany and other countries. He joined 51st HAA Regt RA TA in 1935 and was under War Office orders to photograph, observe and report what he could whilst in Germany; in 1935 he saw Hitler in Dresden. In 1938 Peter came to work in Northamptonshire at a tannery his father had purchased at Higham Ferrers. He was commissioned into the 4th Battalion the Northamptonshire Regiment in June 1939. The Battalion was mobilised in August 1939 on home defence duties until June 1940, and his first act of wartime service was guarding VIPs and German merchant seamen at Bertram Mills Circus winter quarters at Ascot. In June that year the Battalion moved to Northern Ireland for more training until December 1942. While in Ireland he applied for the Intelligence Corps but the only offer for intelligence work was in India and Iceland, and he eventually joined on attachment.

After attending various courses he was stationed in Morpeth where he interrogated senior German officers from the German Navy (U-Boats), Army (Africa Korps) and Luftwaffe. He also interrogated refugees in British uniforms and those dressed as Russian officers, which if necessary he would fly to Moscow and then on to Siberia for further interrogation. By September 1944 he was in Belgium, and from November 1944 to March 1945 Peter worked with the Dutch resistance to arrest Dutch collaborators, receiving the Erasmus Medal rather belatedly from the Dutch government in 1986. After returning to England Peter transferred to the 5th Battalion TA and served with them until retiring from the TA in 1950. He married Margaret Heather Jackson on 10 January 1942, and they had three children. Peter Scopes was a colourful character who always gave and expected the very highest standards. He had an amazing recall of events and his house was a treasure trove of memorabilia. His loyalty, hospitality, generosity and zest for life will be sorely missed by his Regiment and all who knew him.

Deaths

Capt FD Berridge MC; Capt RW Dunn; Maj DP Scopes TD; Maj JL Young MB.

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 2AB
 Tel: (01603) 400290
President: Maj Gen JCB Sutherell CB CBE

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

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 (Wed 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 1HT

Leiston Branch
 Mr J Watson,
 57 St Margaret's Crescent,
 Leiston,
 Suffolk IP16 4HP

Lowestoft Branch
 Mr G Wood,
 28 Summerfield Gardens,
 Lowestoft,
 NR33 9BS

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: Mr FJ Grounds DL
Secretary: Maj MA Jarvis
 1 Witham Close, St Ives, Cambs PE27 3DTel
 (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
 Ms T Copeman,
 157 Wisbech Road,
 March, Cambs PE15 8EY
 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: SC Whitbread JP
Chairman: 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 8EZ
 Tel: (01992) 558757

Maj PJ Burgess,
 37 Portvale,
 Hertford, Herts SG14 3AF
 Tel: (01992) 586107

Watford and Hemel Hempstead Branch
 Mr EG Owen, 37 Bibshall 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) 728976

Association Branches

Essex

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

Ms J Carter and Mrs L Wynn,
 39 River Way, Loughton, Essex IG10 3LJ
 Tel: (0208) 5082332

7th Eagle and Gun Regimental Association

Mr V Foulsham,
 62 Armstrong Avenue,
 Woodford Green, Essex IG8 9PT
 Tel: (0208) 5314808

Colchester Branch

Lt Col BHM Davenport,
 36 Catherine Hunt Way,
 Colchester, Essex CO2 9HS
 Tel: (01206) 564919

Thurrock and District Branch

Mr P Giggens,
 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 C Key,
 10 Marne Gardens,
 Lincoln LN1 3UQ
 Tel: (01522) 530762

Grimsby Branch

Mr A Carroll,
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 Grimsby, Lincs DN37 0NS
 Tel: (01472) 590265

Spalding Branch

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 Spalding, Lincs PE10 2XY
 Tel: (01476) 563548

Midland Branch

Mr F Birkett,
 123 Foley Road West,
 Streetly Sutton Coldfield B74 3 NZ

Stamford Branch

Capt WL Simpson,
 St Clement, 8 Barn Hill,
 Stamford, Lincs PE9 2YG
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Scunthorpe Branch

Mr D Pearson,
 97 Healey Road,
 Scunthorpe,
 N Lincolnshire DN16 1HU
 Tel: (01724) 870170

Northamptonshire

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

Finedon Branch

Mr RH Ogle,
 44 Hayden Avenue,
 Finedon, Northants NN9 5ET
 Tel: (01933) 681525

Peterborough Branch

Mr D Muncey,
 2 Ladysmith Avenue,
 Whittlesey,
 Peterborough PE7 1XX
 Tel: (01733) 205120

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 G Wilson,
 63 Queens Way,
 Warminster,
 Wiltshire BA12 8BU
 Tel: (01985) 219273

Orbat for the 1st Battalion

The Royal Anglian Regiment

as at October 2003

Battalion Headquarters

Lt Col EEC Thorne MC
Maj AW Price
Capt DSJ Biddick MBE
Capt L. Brookes
Capt NDB Charlwood
Capt RJ James
Lt D Bailey AGC
WO1 Tate CJ
WO2 Hill R
WO2 Jones WM AGC
SSgt Ezard K AGC
SSgt Mycroft PK AGC
Sgt Bishop LM AGC
Sgt Brown PJ AGC
Sgt Culshaw ML AGC
Sgt Roach ICJ
Cpl Allan C AGC

HQ Company

Maj A Jones
WO2 Shaw RV
CSgt Jay LW
Cpl Brown NH
Cpl Nation AM AGC
LCpl Jackson L
LCpl Mason HJ AGC
Pte Fletcher JP

Provost Section

Sgt Boreham S
Cpl Rayfield IM
LCpl Robnett P
LCpl Walker M

RAP

Maj AJ Everest AMS
Sgt Johnson SM
Cpl Brady D AMS
Cpl Martin JR AMS
LCpl Jolly JA AMS
LCpl Yeo MC AMS
Pte Evans M

Training Wing

Capt P Blanchfield
WO2 De Bretton Gordon DM
CSgt Eccles JR
CSgt Ogrady T
CSgt Ward AD
Sgt James KJ

Messes

Sgt Dufosse PL
Sgt Wildney MJ
Cpl Marshall LH
Cpl Smith PJ
LCpl Bygraves PS
Pte Campbell LE
Pte Evans JP
Pte Fox TC
Pte Ibbott MJ
Pte Pearson KM
Pte Tollerson GD

Families Office

CSgt Woods M
Cpl Franklin A
Pte Fincham SC

ISTAR

Sgt Harrison G
Sgt Patten J

CIS Platoon

Capt OCC Brown
Capt MA Nicholas
WO2 Curtis D
WO2 Kerton P
CSgt Garvie AC
Sgt Baxter GRG
Sgt Magee AJ
Sgt Stringer GB
Cpl Bell CJ
Cpl Carter AA
Cpl Hogston DJ
Cpl Mitchell AD
Cpl Rumsey SD
LCpl Field SR
LCpl Hunter TS
LCpl Johnson D
LCpl Kendall AB
LCpl Lathangue SJ
LCpl Nicholls MB
Pte Bullard GJ
Pte Clarke MJ
Pte Cuthbert K
Pte Duckett JM
Pte Holmes DJ
Pte Patston DJ

QM Department

Maj RF Grenfell
Capt D Mackness
WO2 Buff AL
WO2 Buxton A
Sgt Bevan DJ
Sgt Howard DP
Sgt White I
Cpl Brown S
Cpl Codling P
Cpl Hardy BP
Cpl Lennon DA
Cpl Neal A
Cpl Nicholls RP
Cpl Richardson BJ
LCpl Boyle M
LCpl Horn BR
LCpl Sherriffs LK
LCpl Tulit ME
Pte Hammond RA
Pte Murton T
Pte Ofori-Yeboah P

MT Department

Capt SD Robinson
WO2 Athroll R
Sgt Buist D
Cpl Branch CJW
Cpl Bronsdon SR
Cpl Forsythe PM
Cpl McKenna DA
Cpl Pierce A

LCpl Chandler DW
LCpl Goodchild SR
LCpl Jones TW
LCpl Moore MJ
Pte Barnett NJ
Pte Callaghan TJ
Pte Cox C
Pte Sayce NA
Pte Stevens SD

Gym

WO2 Warwick MA
Cpl Johnson AE
Cpl Mitchell JF
LCpl Gibbs AD

REME (LAD)

WO2 Tolson N
SSgt Ford J
Sgt Severs T
Cpl Ball S
Cpl Carter ME
Cpl Russe RE
Cpl Salter R
LCpl Bell ID
LCpl Bull S
LCpl Green CH
LCpl Porter R
LCpl Skene WA
Cfn Devlin DJ
Cfn Fletcher A
Cfn Hesketh MM
Cfn Hillcoat RF

RLC (Catering)

WO2 Relf S
SSgt McLeod C
Sgt Smith MJ
Sgt Whittingham A
Cpl Ashburner S
Cpl Lui JJ
Cpl McCusker J
Cpl Otto NR
Cpl Stanley JE
LCpl Edwards A
LCpl Honeywill SC
LCpl Jackson SA
LCpl Kelly DK
LCpl Mitchell T
Pte Abernethy KS
Pte Brown CN
Pte Jackson NC
Pte Steven-Bond TD

Rehabilitation Platoon

Cpl Gardner S
Cpl Harry MC
Cpl Lewis ST
LCpl Borgenvik JC
Pte Atkins AR
Pte Flounders C
Pte Lynch JE
Pte Read DW
Pte Sharp NF
Pte Stapleton MJ
Pte Urquhart SD

1st Battalion Orbat

A (Norfolk) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj RJ Latham
Lt CW Swallow
WO2 Ellis AM
CSgt Riley DH
Cpl Carter P
Cpl Cole WE
Cpl Lavery AR AGC
LCpl Phair RJ
Pte Cartwright IK
Pte Flight MC
Pte Harger ME
Pte Hesketh SD
Pte Jarvis NC
Pte Roberts AW AGC
Pte Woodley CT

1 Platoon

2Lt AI MacLay
Sgt Shaw D
Cpl Panter SI
Cpl Stevens RJ
LCpl Bryne-Evans DR
LCpl Hazell CG
LCpl Hill AR
LCpl Knight JF
Pte Bryant P
Pte Chow JD
Pte Downie DP
Pte Dyer JD
Pte Farrgreen PH
Pte Field AG
Pte Freeman ADA
Pte Lawrence EM
Pte Malone DP
Pte Meighan KJ
Pte Moore SPM
Pte Rudkin MP
Pte Rutherford A
Pte Smithers CA
Pte Springall G
Pte Stephens MTC
Pte Sullivan DJ
Pte Tate ADA
Pte Turay APB

2 Platoon

Lt AK Dart
Sgt Faupel DH
Cpl Moore RW
LCpl Alexander RC
LCpl Freeman KJ
LCpl Lilley PS
LCpl Morfitt DJ
LCpl Sell PR
LCpl Smith MC
Pte Brace TD
Pte Brooks CA
Pte Cornish PM
Pte Findley T
Pte Fox DEG
Pte Goosetree J
Pte Hawkins A
Pte Hesson TH
Pte Jakes MW
Pte Moy LM
Pte O Reilly LH

Pte Sayers JL
Pte Sayers LJ
Pte Shepherd KM
Pte Smith SS
Pte Terrell CS
Pte Tyrrell ML
Pte Vasilakis CJ

3 (Drums) Platoon

Lt ATP Wilde
Sgt Hopkin C
Sgt Howlett P
Cpl Holmes CJ
LCpl Debuc RP
LCpl Dunning A
LCpl Farrar A
LCpl Goodship IW
LCpl Meadows LG
LCpl Smith PA
Pte Ansell WJ
Pte Armstrong FS
Pte Boyle CG
Pte Cadman DP
Pte Freebaim CMJ
Pte Goodrum SJ
Pte Hastings S
Pte James AMR
Pte Kennedy PMG
Pte Klingenspor C
Pte Mahon BS
Pte Phair K
Pte Philips SO
Pte Pudwell AJ
Pte Rix JR
Pte Silvey RW
Pte Sinclair RA
Pte Soar DR
Pte Wade BCT
Pte Young AD

B (Suffolk) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj FJR Grounds
Capt ASM Dobbin
WO2 Caesar D
CSgt French B
Cpl Fosker S
Cpl Pratt A
LCpl Dodd NJ
LCpl Elliot E AGC
LCpl Hayward AM
LCpl Manners P AGC
LCpl Mataveca A
LCpl Simmons MP
Pte Felstead MJ
Pte Mills PA
Pte Peitch ABJ

5 Platoon

2Lt DJ Robinson
Sgt Smith CR
Cpl Thorne S
Cpl Tinkler A
LCpl Miller AJ
LCpl Pearson BMP
LCpl Rose MAG
LCpl Smith DJ

Pte Ashby LD
Pte Bailey OJ
Pte Corless SA
Pte Cox TA
Pte Davis IP
Pte Duggan SE
Pte Dunsmure CJ
Pte Emmett SP
Pte Havis HJ
Pte Jones T
Pte Judge NJ
Pte Nadriva LC
Pte Reynolds DT
Pte Ryan J
Pte Small AA
Pte Stancombe GR
Pte Tower C
Pte Veal SP
Pte Wallace D

6 Platoon

2Lt DJ Glover
Sgt Snow I
Cpl Hassan J
Cpl Lander MJ
LCpl Blackley MJ
LCpl Patterson A
LCpl Young NJ
Pte Allen CJ
Pte Cambridge AC
Pte Colev AR
Pte England D
Pte Farnsworth S
Pte Garcia RC
Pte Geater LJ
Pte Green JM
Pte Hewitt SWJ
Pte Hitchcock AJ
Pte Jackson NJ
Pte Juniper M
Pte McKelvie AR
Pte Murphy JR
Pte Perkins ASM
Pte Perry ABJ
Pte Rolph I
Pte Shenton LB
Pte Smith M
Pte Tilbury JW
Pte Ajuwa OJ

7 Platoon

Lt OE Hartley
2Lt OB Ormiston
Sgt Collins I
Cpl Macdonald R
Cpl Tawse TML
LCpl Aves TE
LCpl Cleverley DN
LCpl George G
Pte Bailham AL
Pte Barke RW
Pte Cooledge ADC
Pte Coram CEJ
Pte Ellis M
Pte Gauci CG
Pte Gilbert LJ
Pte James TD
Pte Mavin CH
Pte Mayes LD

1st Battalion Orbat

Pte McCluskey PJ
 Pte MCFedries HJ
 Pte O'Leary D
 Pte Philo J
 Pte Rayner SJ
 Pte Robson RV
 Pte Tuttle C
 Pte West S
 Pte White SW
 Pte Worbey S
 Pte Strangward AJF

C (Essex) Company**Company Headquarters**

Maj JM Woodham
 Capt JP Delf
 WO2 Jewell CA
 CSgt Taylor T
 Sgt Neal T
 Cpl Dennis R
 Cpl Kearney PM
 Cpl Wollescroft DE AGC
 LCpl Gomer WA
 LCpl West EA AGC
 Pte Adamson MJ
 Pte Estabrook RA
 Pte Greenley JP
 Pte Holmes DN
 Pte Patmore JR
 Pte Trutwein JM

9 Platoon

2Lt PR Steel
 Sgt Neal S
 Cpl Stewart G
 LCpl Benson SJ
 LCpl Langston KR
 LCpl Mulley KMJ
 LCpl Pimm SG
 Pte Acott SM
 Pte Adlington JW
 Pte Athorn LD
 Pte Dobney LJ
 Pte Edwards DE
 Pte Eheret KH
 Pte Hughes MC
 Pte Lane DL
 Pte Langridge GJR
 Pte Mayer B
 Pte Miller M
 Pte Neill AR
 Pte Pickles AD
 Pte Roets LJH
 Pte Stewardson MRL
 Pte Warner GJR
 Pte Webster PA

10 Platoon

2Lt PM Martin
 Sgt Mc Millan MJ
 Cpl Fordham IR
 Cpl Nieves Y Gordo K
 LCpl Butcher MJ
 LCpl Johnson TD
 LCpl Marsh MC
 LCpl Tilbury G
 Pte Bailey NJ

Pte Bowers DB
 Pte Cooper LB
 Pte Day D
 Pte Donnor TI
 Pte Drinkwater WG
 Pte Garner DA
 Pte Kent PM
 Pte King JK
 Pte Laird DR
 Pte Langton A
 Pte Lumbard AJ
 Pte Morpeth DJ
 Pte Neville DL
 Pte Pemberton CS
 Pte Prins RL
 Pte Railton RJ
 Pte Rensch DJE
 Pte Roberts BR
 Pte Rutherford R
 Pte Smith KS
 Pte Stockwell LA
 Pte Ware RM

11 Platoon

2Lt DC Hicks
 Sgt Thurston AD
 Cpl Head ST
 Cpl Rix NJ
 LCpl Everitt MP
 LCpl Owen DJ
 LCpl Wand AR
 Pte Cobb SC
 Pte Duncan AM
 Pte Farrugia DJ
 Pte Harris SL
 Pte James SM
 Pte Jones DR
 Pte Juby SJ
 Pte Kidd PS
 Pte Kirby AK
 Pte Leonardi D
 Pte Moulds SJ
 Pte Rawson TA
 Pte Saumi S
 Pte Slanokevi R
 Pte Spanton BR
 Pte Tait MT
 Pte Taruvinga TF
 Pte Taylor MT
 Pte Watson DW
 Pte Wildin AGJ

D (Cambridgeshire) Company**Company Headquarters**

Maj CBK Barry
 Capt A Biggs
 WO2 Robinson IJ
 CSgt Simpson MD
 Cpl Bloss IG
 Cpl Lowe HC AGC
 Cpl Naylor JM
 Pte Cook SC
 Pte Curry PR
 Pte Gardner RMH AGC
 Pte Pluck KN
 Pte Strachan JR

Recce Platoon

Capt MS Woodeson
 CSgt Goodman D
 Cpl Browning WB
 Cpl Glascodine SG
 Cpl Harris G
 Cpl Heal MJ
 Cpl Hill JJ
 Cpl Shropshire BJ
 LCpl Cowell TJ
 LCpl Eggleton JS
 LCpl Eggleton PMG
 LCpl Gomes MA
 LCpl Hoogendijk RW
 LCpl Knights MP
 LCpl Ling DW
 LCpl Pindar AN
 LCpl Roberts WJ
 LCpl Vickery RJ
 Pte Brundle JPB
 Pte Dunlop JS
 Pte Groves DL
 Pte Marrison
 Pte Worsley CD

Milan Platoon

Capt TW Gregory
 CSgt Clark S
 Cpl Hicks S
 Cpl Price AT
 Cpl Ratten J
 LCpl Baxter NS
 LCpl Cartwright G
 LCpl Dowles AJ
 LCpl Guy AW
 LCpl Leighton MD
 LCpl Toynton PMG
 LCpl Watts G
 LCpl Wicker RP
 Pte Burrell JK
 Pte Cater D
 Pte Chadwick DW
 Pte Dobinson TJD
 Pte Drage PA
 Pte Earl LS
 Pte Gregory JA
 Pte Gwarisa T
 Pte Heard ADK
 Pte Illing A
 Pte Kirkham BI
 Pte Langston CW
 Pte Lashley AM
 Pte Lawrence BI
 Pte McPhee SM
 Pte Mercer S
 Pte Metcalfe SH
 Pte Oldsworth D
 Pte Paul TW
 Pte Purdy SE
 Pte Robinson RJD
 Pte Rogalski JM
 Pte Severinski DM
 Pte Sicklen BP
 Pte Smith AL
 Pte Terry AJ
 Pte Ward DF
 Pte Watkins T
 Pte Wright RJ

1st Battalion Orbat

Mortar Platoon

Capt PC Moxey
CSgt Pascal DF
Sgt Evans AM
Sgt Watson RJ
Cpl Duggan BJ
Cpl Kitson JC
Cpl Ward KAB
Cpl Wilsher MI
LCpl Butterick WW
LCpl Duncan AN
LCpl Howe AJ
LCpl Logdon OR
LCpl Reilly LO
LCpl Smith BI
Pte Benham AR
Pte Boughey SJ
Pte Brooks JC
Pte Clements LE
Pte Crowe JJ
Pte Crowe DJ
Pte Davies LW
Pte Eastwood M

Pte Grange-Cook D

Pte Griffiths MS
Pte Johnson SL
Pte Kean-Cockburn DD
Pte Lawrence BI
Pte Ling JE
Pte Meekings PJ
Pte Millier TA
Pte Pearce JL
Pte Reynolds KL
Pte Robinson JM
Pte Smith MC
Pte Taylor RI
Pte Wallace BW
Pte Warbey WS
Pte Warwick AP
Pte Weeks GA
Pte White GA

Sniper Platoon

Lt LO Stamm
Sgt Thorn JG
Cpl Garnham RV
Cpl Ives AR
Cpl Morris MJ
LCpl Ferrand JWC
LCpl Gorham M
LCpl Hadaway R
LCpl Owen JE
LCpl Robinson ML
LCpl Sarling AJ
LCpl Taylor AO
LCpl Tischler W
Pte Edwards I
Pte Pallett K
Pte Restall SJ
Pte Willcox M

Orbat for the 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment as at October 2003

Battalion Headquarters

Lt Col RJ Ladley MBE
Maj ACE Marinos
Capt AF Hawley
Capt CD Davies
WO1 (RSM) Bredin RJ
WO2 Robinson DA
LCpl Harrison-Kerr TA
LCpl Porter DJ

HQ Company

Maj NMP Brown
WO2 Limb JA
CSgt Rouget SR
LCpl Oliver JR
Pte Reeson SD

QM Department

Maj SN Pallant
Capt TP Beighton
WO2 (RQMS) Humphreys PJ
WO2 (RQMS) Raynard J
CSgt Sampson KP
Sgt Bannon MB
Sgt Jones MA
Sgt Mutch AF
Cpl Appleton TD
Cpl Franklin SP
Cpl Goodman AH
Cpl Latus G
Cpl Morrissey MJ
Cpl Rickman DJ
LCpl Blanchard DC
LCpl Fleming RJ
LCpl Otty AP
LCpl Selby RJ
Pte Connolly SJ

LAD (REME)

Sgt Keegan MJ
Sgt Rix CP
Cpl Antoniazzi MA
Cpl Attard PA
Cpl Bevan MA
Cpl Davies A
LCpl Tooke MJ
Cfn Traquair CJ

RLC (Catering)

WO2 Barry MR
SSgt Roe AJ
Sgt Curtis AL
Sgt McNeish MD
Cpl French TJ
Cpl Howe JL
Cpl Rawbone JN
LCpl Antanelis DG
LCpl Hayes B
LCpl Holford WA
LCpl Preece CW
Pte Loveday LDJ
Pte Pritchard DJ

RAO (AGC SPS)
Capt LJ Henderson
Capt SA Boulton
WO2 Sanby DA
WO2 Burford MJ
SSgt Jamison WD
Sgt Chappell RH
Sgt Clowes MW
Sgt Lane MPH
Cpl Bailey CL
Cpl Best NJ
Cpl John C
Cpl Knowles JKC
Cpl Lash SP
LCpl Ratu PL
Pte Brookes VA
Pte Dinnal OO
Pte Gilbody C
Pte Greenwold G
Pte Manning SJ
Pte Mitchell AL
Pte Plant AD
Pte Quinn JT
Pte Ravutia PB

Signals Platoon

Capt SD Wilson
Sgt Lamb AB
Sgt Singleton SL
Cpl Correa J
Cpl Gale JS
Cpl Rae SJ
Cpl Smedley IT
Pte Gray JA
Pte Haupt GW
Pte Hewitt DM
Pte Jakubas DW
Pte Pattinson S
Pte Robinson MC
Pte Thomas R
Pte Wyper AJ

Intelligence Platoon

Capt AP Wolfe
CSgt Gray MJ
LCpl Howard MC
LCpl Knight PD
Pte Hughes GO
Pte Kenney M
Pte Lucas SM
Pte Phillips RL
Pte Vbranch MJ

MT Platoon

Capt PG Martin
Sgt Turner SJ
Cpl Inglis MJ
Cpl Lawrinson CA
LCpl Atkins RA
LCpl Cooley J
LCpl O'Leary S
LCpl Robinson LP
Pte Brownsword JR
Pte Bryl ST

Pte Clarke R
Pte Crunkhurn J
Pte Jennings L
Pte Mitchell AL
Pte Murray DF
Pte Stephens CM
Pte Thompson SA

Drums Platoon

CSgt Walker VJ
Sgt Asker AL
LCpl McClatchie J
LCpl Swain DK
LCpl Thomas GMA
LCpl Whittle MA
Dmr Brown SJ
Dmr Dunstan DJ
Dmr Eastwood GJ
Dmr Eglin DC
Dmr Jones RS
Dmr Mason NJ
Dmr Neve CJ
Dmr Read MP
Dmr Rosson P
Dmr Simmons MP
Dmr Sims AJ
Dmr Stephens D
Dmr Swales CR
Dmr Tennyson K
Dmr Walker GJ

Close Observation Platoon

Capt RJ McNeil
WO2 Morson RS
CSgt Appleton A
CSgt Waghorn LA
Sgt Clarke M
Sgt Perry RT
Cpl Baird CA
Cpl Bradley M
Cpl Cook SW
Cpl Deakin SA
Cpl Fox M
Cpl Francis CI
Cpl Ireland MT
Cpl Kirk P
Cpl Palmas MT
Cpl Symon T
Cpl Tremain MD
Cpl Whiteley J
LCpl Abbott SI
LCpl Cousin R
LCpl Conroy JD
LCpl Cripps CJ
LCpl Estwick L
LCpl Haydon RL
LCpl Lawrance MJ
LCpl Martin DJ
LCpl Miller ARH
LCpl Pegg ST
LCpl Seaton-Norton SA
LCpl Styles DI
LCpl Wilkinson MA

2nd Battalion Orbat

Pte Ashbridge AL
 Pte Brown CI
 Pte Brown K
 Pte Burgess TP
 Pte Byron PL
 Pte Froggatt CW
 Pte Hickey AJ
 Pte Jackson CS
 Pte Jackson CT
 Pte Jones P
 Pte Keightley DJ
 Pte Martin WR
 Pte Murphy ME
 Pte Newitt CM
 Pte O'Grady L
 Pte Plant AD
 Pte Randall M
 Pte Richardson MJ
 Pte Shand TJ
 Pte Zmija DMI

RCMO

Capt DM Hazlewood
 Sgt Sharp JW
 Cpl Gelder CM
 Pte Rooney PHD

RAP

Maj AK Baker RAMC
 Sgt Oxby KD
 Cpl Dodd T RAMC
 Cpl Wright RJ
 LCpl Blades DR RAMC
 Pte Jubb PL

Provost Section

Sgt Gadsden PN
 Cpl Piesse RF
 LCpl Tambling MA

Dog Section

Cpl Ferrand TL
 Pte Goldie AD
 Pte Heaton A
 Pte Inchley KT

Training Wing

Capt RH Newmarch
 Pte Armstrong CJ
 Pte Parsons A
 Pte Smith MJ
 Pte Stephens

Welfare Office

Capt MJ Abbs
 CSgt Bonfield RJ
 Pte Smith PD

Officers' Mess

CSgt Coupe DJ
 Pte Gamer DR

Sergeants' Mess

Cpl Herron C
 LCpl Westley JJ

Corporals' Mess

Cpl McCourty SN

Gym

SSgt Lamb DT APTC
 Cpl Sheerin P

A (Lincolnshire)

Company

Company Headquarters

Maj SR Smith
 Capt MC Melia
 WO2 Jackson PG
 CSgt Richards GC
 Sgt Oldenburg F
 Cpl Lyles GS
 LCpl Young DJ
 Pte Brooks DT
 Pte Riggs KW
 Pte Stainton G
 Pte Wilkinson AP

1 Platoon

Multiple 1
 Lt EJ Bland
 Cpl Budworth ACW
 Cpl Hartshorne O
 Cpl Sweeney PW
 Pte Davidson LA
 Pte Llewellyn SJ
 Pte Ogden SL
 Pte Rice GS
 Pte Robinson MC
 Pte Vincent SJ
 Pte Williams GDP
 Pte Wilson JF

2 Platoon

Multiple 1
 Sgt Graham SD
 LCpl Rawdon JL
 Pte Frodsham AR
 Pte Goldie AD
 Pte Gutteridge E
 Pte Hammond A
 Pte Jackson IC
 Pte Key JR
 Pte King D
 Pte Mason L
 Pte Whitwell JR

Multiple 2

LCpl Birkin DE
 Pte Anderson CJ
 Pte Bonner WP
 Pte Faunt OJ
 Pte Mitchell MD
 Pte Pope NM
 Pte Thompson PR
 Pte Turner D
 Pte Ward AE
 Pte Wareham D

3 Platoon

Multiple 1
 CSgt Dyson RJ
 LCpl Wells GR
 Pte Bates MJ
 Pte Collingwood CN
 Pte Cooper SA
 Pte Couldstone SM
 Pte Docherty RJ
 Pte Eve OJ
 Pte Parker MD
 Pte Silva UM
 Pte Wade PJ

Multiple 2

Sgt King SD
 Cpl Smart ST
 LCpl Freeman GC
 Pte Boxall-Robinson WA
 Pte Finch IP
 Pte Harvey MR
 Pte Holland LM
 Pte Longden CH
 Pte Martin TP
 Pte Moore DA
 Pte Rao A
 Pte Stow LAH

B (Leicestershire)

Company

Company Headquarters

Maj NJ Wilcox
 Capt SF Roberts
 WO2 Bartlett AJ
 CSgt Lawrence GCB
 Sgt Brown C
 Cpl Bonner DW
 Cpl Siney DP
 Pte Hume JR
 Pte Pett LMJ

4 Platoon

Multiple 1
 Lt SR Poulter
 Cpl Kirk P
 LCpl Haines DA
 Pte Baxter SD
 Pte Burdass JC
 Pte Hassall RM
 Pte Jones WL
 Pte Knight SA
 Pte McGowan LM
 Pte Roberts MJ
 Pte Taylor PRI

Multiple 2

Sgt Hills SP
 Cpl Jack JA
 Cpl Johnson NJ
 Cpl Morgan JM
 Pte Allatt GEJ
 Pte Metcalfe RM
 Pte Morawski AM
 Pte Moore K
 Pte Presland SA
 Pte Tyrrell C
 Pte Virdee BS
 Pte Woods SS

5 Platoon

Multiple 1
 Lt RA Smit
 Cpl Davies JR
 Cpl Gage AMJ
 Pte Brazier MD
 Pte Butcher JE
 Pte Dawson D
 Pte Gouldson AJ
 Pte Green ARP
 Pte Morawski SD
 Pte Newbury AA
 Pte Quinn CST
 Pte Wara SV

2nd Battalion Orbat**Multiple 2**

Sgt George A
Cpl Lang CL
LCpl Otty AP
Pte Harness JA
Pte Jacques ST
Pte Morgan SL
Pte Oliver BJ
Pte Parker C
Pte Parsons AM
Pte Perry D
Pte Waite JP
Pte Warren CA

6 Platoon**Multiple 1**

Lt TP Dunlop
Cpl Taylor S
LCpl Coulbeck I
Pte Bradley AJ
Pte Cook JL
Pte Crookes AJ
Pte Harvey DJ
Pte Holmes RP
Pte Inkson CJ
Pte James MD
Pte Parker AC
Pte Presley JR

C (Northamptonshire)**Company****Company Headquarters**

Maj BM Down
WO2 Cutts S
CSgt Huggins SG
Sgt Grice DA
Cpl Elliott KAG
Cpl Latter AA
Pte Freund AP
Pte Perkins M
Pte Smith GM
Pte Walters MJ

7 Platoon**Multiple 1**

Lt AR Lewin
LCpl Antoni PA
Pte Almond PK
Pte Baron JP
Pte Briggs GC
Pte Harper AS
Pte Hogg PD
Pte Lowther NJ
Pte Marshall PM
Pte Pett TM
Pte Sawbridge PM

Multiple 2

Sgt Roberts A
Cpl Newark DA
LCpl Shiels AR
Pte Bridgett MW
Pte Frazer RM
Pte McNamee SJ
Pte Rowe CG
Pte Slater SL
Pte Weston DK
Pte Williams CL
Pte Windle SJ

8 Platoon**Multiple 1**

Sgt David MJ
Cpl Greenhill JP
LCpl Cass NJ
LCpl Frisby SJ
Pte Baldry SJ
Pte Barrow R
Pte Coskun KH
Pte Griffin BJ
Pte Jones ML
Pte McRae WP
Pte Reeve DS
Pte Wharton NJ

Multiple 2

LCpl Law LG
Pte Alderman RN
Pte Beard K
Pte Lewaicei J
Pte Martin CJ
Pte McDermott SJ
Pte Pinkerton DS
Pte Sasar de Sain AJ
Pte Walters LJ
Pte Worster PA

9 Platoon**Multiple 1**

2Lt OI Faruque
Cpl Crabbe TAR
Cpl Squibb M
Pte Barrow S
Pte Carney TM
Pte Kent JW
Pte Mayes ML
Pte Milton RL
Pte Patrick NJ
Pte Ralph SA
Pte Shaw MJ
Pte Thompson DJ

D (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company**Company Headquarters**

Maj SW Carver
WO2 Burt IJ
CSgt King N
Cpl Felstead MA
Cpl Somerton CR
LCpl Farrow D
LCpl Thurman MO
LCpl Turner CJ
Pte Burgess GA
Pte Peart SJ

Mortar Platoon**Multiple 1**

Capt GB Foden
Cpl Batty SK
Cpl Cruddace MA
Cpl Steel TJ
LCpl West OM
Pte Aldridge J
Pte Borrill MJ
Pte Green LJ
Pte Ireland WA
Pte Isaacs DK
Pte Lawson SP
Pte Woad DA

Multiple 2

Sgt Guppy PJ
Cpl Eaton D
Cpl Fox M
Cpl Watret DR
LCpl Fawcett TR
Pte Byers AW
Pte Chambers KR
Pte Harrison AL
Pte Hedger EF
Pte Hyde R
Pte Joy GC
Pte Smit SR
Pte Yates GL

Anti-Tank Platoon**Multiple 1**

Capt RH Whitham
Cpl Blower CP
Cpl Handforth JC
LCpl Auckland MP
Pte Bellamy AJ
Pte Bowen RH
Pte Breakspear EBR
Pte Dreczewicz MJ
Pte Faversham JP
Pte Oram PA
Pte Salt ML
Pte Taylor AD
Pte Wandless PG

Multiple 2

Sgt Townsend C
Cpl Waqairoba P
LCpl Buff DL
LCpl Marshall AL
Pte Huggins RR
Pte Johnson JA
Pte Peacock KM
Pte Perry MA
Pte Rodgers ML
Pte Shortte AS
Pte Sutcliffe MS
Pte Upsall MJ

Multiple 3

Sgt Carter RM
Cpl Knowles DP
Cpl Potter ND
LCpl Crafer RD
LCpl Elkington AA
LCpl Holvey DL
Pte Adamson SM
Pte Cusick RJ
Pte Fitzgerald JR
Pte Johnson DM
Pte Kerry DJ
Pte Peacock JC
Pte Weetman AS

Orbat The East of England Regiment as at October 2003

Battalion Headquarters

Lt Col NA Ffitch TD
Maj DG Vincent
Capt GC Martin
Capt PC Worthington
WO1 (RSM) Spencer GJ

HQ Company

Regimental Administrative Office
Maj KR Martin
Maj CP Vince
WO2 Coleman R
WO2 Russell MJ
Sgt Alderton KN

QM Department

Maj D McCrum
WO2 Tunstill BP
WO2 Emms M
CSgt Starie MFG
Cpl Plume SC
LCpl Hazell S

Company HQ

Maj GW French

RR&TT

WO2 Bevin MJ
Pte Seely MF

Medical Section

LCpl Blackburn MA
Pte Clarke DJ

Signals Section

WO2 Shand G
CSgt Greenwood IG
CSgt Welsford RD
Cpl Randall TJK
LCpl Bygrave DP
Pte Beech JL
Pte Bonnett OJ
Pte Burgess GM
Pte Catchpole CD
Pte Fitch AD
Pte Foddering SJW
Pte Lanaway GD
Pte McLaren NB
Pte Scott RS

Catering Platoon

WO2 Stoker E
Cpl Rogers AK
Pte Wainwright ST

Equipment Support

SSgt Alexander S
SSgt Carter RWE
SSgt Smith AG
Cfn Graham MJ
Cfn McLoughlin J
Cfn Power NA
Cfn Young RJM

MT Platoon

WO2 Bailham JE
CSgt Cummings D
Cpl Hunt WJ
Cpl Morris MP
Cpl Street MA
LCpl Fallon JV
LCpl Hazell CG
Pte Andrews TD
Pte Finch PW
Pte Scales SL
Pte Smith AM
Pte Smith DM

A Norfolk and Suffolk) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj RG Rogers
Capt CRW Groves
WO2 Rushmere GJ
C/Sgt Roe IP
Sgt Green JA
Cpl Adams EA
Cpl Baldwin CM RLC
Cpl Ireland JL AGC
Cpl Lawrence D
LCpl Bunn SE REME
Pte Mortimer BG RAMC

1 Platoon (Norwich)

2Lt AM Baker
Cpl Hall MC
Cpl Lunn S
Cpl Rolph DG
LCpl Galea DP RAMC
LCpl Jones S
LCpl Walter ND
Pte Biss MJ
Pte Church RA
Pte Claxton KM
Pte Cox CL
Pte Fahey AHVF
Pte Fallon ME
Pte Fitt DM
Pte Grime PJ
Pte Harnett CA
Pte Hatton RJ
Pte Haworth PS
Pte Hewart J
Pte James DA
Pte Kirk WJ
Pte Lake DEJ
Pte Lodge RJ
Pte Mason PD
Pte Mawer JG
Pte Perry AL
Pte Sanders DH
Pte Sen-Gupta SJ
Pte Sharpe MP
Pte Smith MLK
Pte Summers SW
Pte Tacon JN
Pte Waddup JJ
Pte Walker SE
Pte Wilson LM
Pte Wilson RJ

2 Platoon (Lowestoft)

2Lt NG Heppleston
Sgt Brown JL
Cpl Casey VM
Cpl Sherlock M
Pte Ardley MS
Pte Bell JI
Pte Brown GP
Pte Carter J
Pte Corner N
Pte Crossman A
Pte Gough PD
Pte Lehman MJ
Pte Nash DM
Pte Nutman DR
Pte Palmer MK
Pte Pickess JK
Pte Pointer DC
Pte Poulton G
Pte Robinson MV
Pte Smart J
Pte Stevens JS
Pte Sutor IM
Pte Sutton W
Pte Wong NS
Pte Woodhouse J

Mortar Platoon (Norwich)

2Lt M Sumners
Sgt DeKretzer MW
Sgt Fuller PJ
Sgt Hatch SP
Cpl Pollard KL
LCpl Beavis CW
Pte Chambers KJ
Pte Lazenby M
Pte Steward AP
Pte Sayer EJ

RRTT

2Lt T Efratiou
WO2 Butler C
Sgt Hatch SP
Sgt Stone RA
LCpl Palmer DP
Pte McMurtry JE

B (Lincolnshire) Company

Company Headquarters - Command Group

Maj IM Sackree
Lt CM Massingham
Capt B Saunderson
WO2 Redhead S
WO2 Slater MA
CSgt Brotherton PM
Sgt Beard DT
Pte Browning EJ
Cpl Smith PJ (AGC)
LCpl Henderson KP

East of England Regiment Orbat

Company Headquarters - Logistics

CSgt Taylor JLG
CSgt Osman MW
Cpl Finlay FA
Cpl Day MT
LCpl Long CPA
Cpl Bannon M RLC
Cpl Metcalfe DE MBE RLC
Cpl Willey N RLC
Cpl Cooke RAMC
LCpl Chester AP REME
LCpl Spence REME

4 Platoon (Grimsby)

OCdt MJ Thwaite
Sgt McCurdy AJ
Cpl North J
Cpl Sheils W
LCpl Davidson KM
LCpl Hardy MG
Pte Atkin MD
Pte Clinch R
Pte Carter BW
Pte Lamberton K
Pte Grant SP
Pte Hawkesford MRA
Pte Marley N
Pte Martin AH
Pte Smith AJS
Pte Siddle P
Pte Simpson DW
Pte Turton KJ
Pte Wells CW

5 Platoon (Lincoln)

2Lt AD Oglesby
Cpl Cook MR
Cpl Whiting AS
LCpl Capindale
Pte Allen JR
Pte Auckland NEA
Pte Blakeman GP
Pte Burrell M
Pte Dowling LC
Pte Fawcett DM
Pte Galloway S
Pte George SM
Pte Killingsworth RK
Pte Marshall E
Pte Palmer R
Pte Robinson JE
Pte Robinson BG
Pte Rockliffe C
Pte Slater CL
Pte Stevenson TK
Pte Wilkinson GJ
Pte Willey G
Pte Wilson R
Pte Wilson TN

Recce Platoon

CSgt Thompson B
Sgt Hope MAG
Cpl Cardall S
Cpl Dolby MR
LCpl Sibbons WR
Pte Bisset AD
Pte Buxton MR
Pte Fyfe D
Pte Kane S
Pte Newberry AJ

Pte Ruddledsin WN
Pte Stokes MA
Pte Wayne J
Pte Wearmouth GJ

Recruits

Rec Baines GT
Rec Brown TJR
Rec Bognar
Rec Curry MT
Rec Garner M
Rec Gaskin
Rec Hilton ADJ
Rec Twell AG

C (Leicestershire and Northamptonshire)

Company

Company Headquarters

Capt DJ Sommerville
Capt TD Smith MBE
Capt Jones G
WO2 Warrenere RW
CSgt Marriott D
CSgt Upsall JF
Sgt Walker AR
Sgt M'Connell SC
Sgt Tayler G
Cpl Fleming SA
Cpl Nagra AS
Cpl Woods GA
LCpl Neighbour DJ
LCpl Marriott MJ
Pte Bockross LA

Assault Pioneers (Leicester)

CSgt Webber IW
Sgt Nagra BS MBE
Sgt Ball NT
Sgt Sharp DR
Cpl Hague P
LCpl Burnett R
LCpl Dore CE
Pte Cragg T
Pte Hurst DO
Pte Jenkins GJ
Pte Lucas DP

7 Platoon (Northampton)

Lt AG Swift
Sgt George AM
LCpl Gillan PA
LCpl Holmes MA
LCpl Payne L
LCpl Tew MN
Pte Bateman DA
Pte Carr D
Pte Clancy EM
Pte Craddock C
Pte Groom SJ
Pte Macaulay IR
Pte Parker MDE
Pte Russell JD
Pte Simpson BDE
Pte Still SJ
Pte Urwin J
Pte Woollidridge D

8 Platoon (Leicester)

OCdt Moore JJ
Sgt Coleman IF
LCpl Wragg A
Pte Benner J
Pte Brown GEW
Pte Campbell AM
Pte Chand BY
Pte Clarke MJ
Pte Clay MT
Pte Cole RJ
Pte Dearman DA
Pte Gamble AW
Pte Gibson J
Pte Glasius SP
Pte Hacche JD
Pte Hayward WM
Pte Hentrich PS
Pte Lambell JS
Pte Matley H
Pte Mzumara JJ
Pte Moore AA
Pte Poutney EG
Pte Reeves SJ
Pte Rixon RJ
Pte Roach SD
Pte Smith RM
Pte Spriggs MA
Pte Tebbitt AG

Drums Platoons (Peterborough)

Cpl Clark B
Sgt Nightingale P
Cpl Coakes G
LCpl Cheetham M
LCpl Howe A
LCpl Hunter D
Dmr Bottomley PD
Dmr Britchford DAJ
Dmr Eames M
Dmr Field EP
Dmr Gibbons S
Dmr Jones PR
Dmr Nixon DM
Dmr Reed DJ
Dmr Richardson AJ
Dmr Wells JH
Dmr O'Sullivan

Detached

Sgt Lovett
LCpl Percival
Pte Boyle

D (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj D Dawber
Capt J Ford
Capt K Spiers
WO2 Pickering J
CSgt Powell SM
CSgt Triandifilou D
CSgt Waiton DR
Sgt Simcox ML
Cpl Crawford R
Cpl Develin N
Pte Cann AT
Pte Gamble MM

East of England Regiment Orbat

RAMC
Maj Finch ME
Cpl Simcox ESM

MT
LCpl Shaw MA
Pte Stokes CN

REME
Cpl Southey A
Pte Harvey SL

Signals
Cpl Black AC

Padre
Maj PC Whitehead

RR&TT
WO2 Smart LM
Cpl Puttick CD
Cpl Orton

SF Platoon (Mansfield)
Lt A Dickson
WO2 Gorski J
Cpl Coulson
Cpl Mee SC
LCpl Ryan RM
Pte Baxter A
Pte Sutcliffe N
Pte Braddow LD
Pte Charles A
Pte Jones S
Pte Booth CJ
Pte Carlin RM

10 Platoon (Mansfield)
2Lt S Perks
Cpl Saville SD
Cpl Stuart M
LCpl Yeates JD
Pte Alkins CJ
Pte Ball JA
Pte Dunne SJ
Pte Hackland MR
Pte Heard SAS
Pte Hewitt IJ
Pte Lowe M
Pte Martin I
Pte Sallah O
Pte Simpson ES
Pte Spencer RA
Pte Wilson A
Pte Upton WJ
Pte Melrose I
Pte Hicks M
Pte Massie SL
Pte Weston S
Pte Harvey PL
Pte Pickering N
Pte Platt GM

11 Platoon (Derby)
2Lt Turner RS
Sgt O'Donnell
Cpl Leighton CM
LCpl Peach JA
LCpl Jackson N
LCpl Watkinson D
Pte Boycott DJ
Pte Braddow AP

Pte Briggs A
Pte Butler AM
Pte Cheng N
Pte Clarke C
Pte Ellis AM
Pte Fleming S
Pte Goodband LD
Pte Grafton DRJ
Pte Hill J
Pte Howl P
Pte Jakes MV
Pte Kenny A
Pte Lacey-Hatton N
Pte Lovett PJ
Pte Musson MA
Pte Shaw CD
Pte Smith TC
Pte Stringfellow MR
Pte Toporowski J
OCdt Wopat TA

E (Essex and Hertfordshire) Company
Company Headquarters
Maj SR Watson
Capt PD Thurston
Capt TJ Irwin-Parker
WO2 Brazier MD
WO2 Freeman M

Stores
CSgt Anderson V
CSgt Head CJ
Cpl Crawley PE
LCpl Green DJ

Sigs Det
Cpl Swann S
Pte Robins JB

AGC (SPS)
Cpl Clark GE
Pte Smith MC

RAP
L/Cpl Ellerbeck MF
Pte Hatt J

MT Det
Cpl Cain PF
Cpl Lelliott SW
L/Cpl Wiseman JG

RLC Chef
L/Cpl Bartlett VJ

RR&TT
CSgt Dawson AG
Sgt Low B
L/Cpl Butler S
L/Cpl Ibbott AJ

13 Platoon (Chelmsford)
Lt AJ Horner
Sgt Pugh I
Cpl Jeffree JP
Cpl Marns JF
L/Cpl Bissell MJ
L/Cpl Cox CJ
L/Cpl Collinson S

Pte Aitchison RJ
Pte Baxter PM
Pte Blackmore JD
Pte Davies J
Pte Drummond J
Pte Fleuty KF
Pte Greenan A
Pte Harrison JM
Pte Hillman AJ
Pte Johnson DWR
Pte Kudryl AJ
Pte Marston CA
Pte Minihane SD
Pte Nunn M
Pte Oakman MD
Pte Saltmarsh JD
Pte Urwin BIJ
Pte Westgarth S
Pte Wheeler CL

14 Platoon (Hertford)
Lt AJ Coulson
2Lt D Stanhope
Sgt Haward CG
Sgt Duffy JG
Cpl McClatchey DP
LCpl Kelson
LCpl Stratton RJ
Pte Avey SF
Pte Bhatti TM
Pte Breese RF
Pte Brett SL
Pte Brown C
Pte Brown EBJ
Pte Byron P
Pte Chambers JA
Pte Clark-Tunncliffe MCT
Pte Cockerell MJ
Pte Franklin RAE
Pte Gosden A
Pte Hatt CA
Pte Hutchings JF
Pte Johnson RMG
Pte Jones DR
Pte Kovacs IR
Pte Lawrence L
Pte Luckins RW
Pte Neal GT
Pte Parkhouse GAK
Pte Storey IIJ
Pte Sutherland MJ
Pte Taylor AG
Pte Turner PT
Pte Vickers CRJ
Pte Wellings ND

MG Platoon (Chelmsford)
Capt DHJ Litjens
CSgt Dunningham MJ
Sgt Cave GA - PSI (MG)
Sgt Cavedasca P
Cpl Collinson N
Cpl Instance N
LCpl Higginson NP
Pte Connell RG
Pte Gayler LD
Pte Hacker S
Pte James RA
Pte Needham SR
Pte Plair SP
Pte Swan AJ
Pte Tyler DJ

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- Or better still contact our Branch nearest to your Regimental Headquarters - call Ken Ruston in Bury St Edmunds on 01284 700530.

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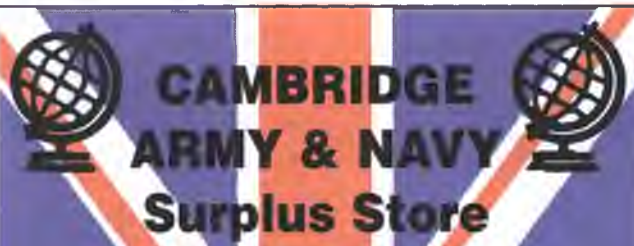
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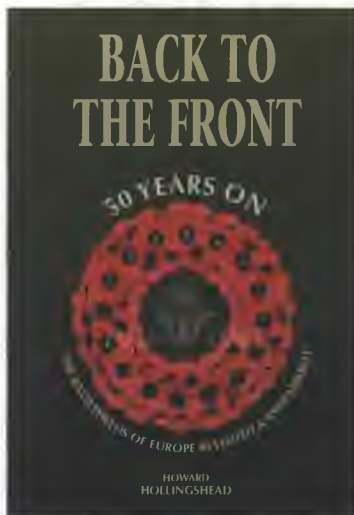
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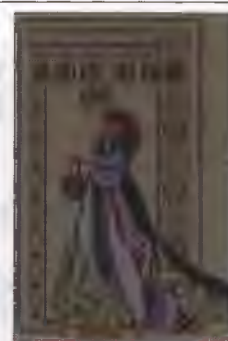
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