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JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT





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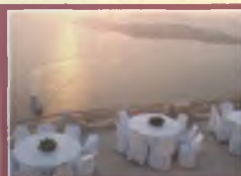
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Africa is the one place most people dream of visiting at least once in a lifetime.

There is so much to see, do and explore in this land where time has stood still and natural treasures abound. At the very heart of the continent, East Africa, you have Africa's greatest and most famous wildlife reserve, the unforgettable Serengeti and Maasai Mara where millions of wildlife roam free much as they have for centuries. East Africa is home to a huge variety of wildlife including the endangered black rhinoceros, the silverback mountain gorilla, chimpanzee, red colobus monkey, shoebill stork and bottlenose dolphins, this part of Africa has the biggest and best that the continent has to offer. There is the epic snow-capped volcano Mount Kilimanjaro and the Ngorongoro Crater - the world's only intact crater where one can observe the "Big Five". East Africa also houses the mysterious source of the Great Nile and the aphrodisiac lure of the romantic spice isle of Zanzibar. But there is so much more to this - Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda are blessed with natural treasures. Indeed no other place in the world can boast of such beauty in a land preserved with the famous and the undiscovered, yet unlike much of the rest of the world, unspoiled by commercialism.

There is much to see and do for anyone who wishes to visit this Garden of Eden - honeymooners, families, retired persons and adventure seekers - everyone intent on an adventure of a lifetime should visit East Africa. One can do as much or as little as one likes - relax amidst beautiful natural surroundings be it on safari or on a spice island.

Accommodation ranges from budget camping to staying in some of the most luxurious tented

or treetop lodges in absolutely spectacular settings. East Africa has over 150 tribes all very friendly and welcoming - you can spend a day experiencing a new culture - from trekking with the Maasai to tracking animals with Hadzabe bushmen. As for adventure - Africa has activities abound: from trekking to the world's highest freestanding summit of Kilimanjaro, to climbing a less well-known active volcano the Maasai dub the "Mountain of God". One can Safari in purpose designed vehicles or cover the expanse in light aircraft offering a different aerial perspective over the safari wonderland below. Incorporate into this other excursions like a walking, cycling or a canoeing safari for the ultimate in adventure travel, to stimulate the senses and experience the wonders of "Real" Africa. Trek to see chimpanzees or mountain gorillas in their natural habitat, or take a boat safari in the Selous - home to over 150,000 elephant and 40,000 hippo (in a wildlife conservation area the size of Switzerland). For those wanting something different, there are horse-riding safaris along the foothills of Kilimanjaro and hot air ballooning in the Serengeti. For a real adrenaline rush, skydiving near Kilimanjaro is the ultimate thrill! Underwater adventures include snorkelling, scuba diving and deep sea diving off the Zanzibar archipelago where, beneath the turquoise-blue waters, coral reefs teem with all sorts of colourful sea creatures including bottlenose dolphins and whale sharks. Or simply indulge in a leisurely dhow cruise in Zanzibar at sunset with a glass of chilled white wine reminiscent of Sinbad and a thousand Arabian nights.

With so much to see and do, East Africa is the place where dreams do come true. Those who have been agree that this land is blessed with natural treasures abound, and keep returning to explore other beautiful aspects and make new friends.

Make East Africa your next holiday destination. Whether you are looking for an exciting family holiday, a blissful honeymoon or an adventure-packed holiday with friends (perhaps a Kilimanjaro trek challenge to raise funds for a needy cause or your favourite charity?) or looking to mark a special occasion - a big birthday or anniversary, or simply seeking adventure in its purest and most natural form, East Africa is the answer to it all.

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The Colonel-in-Chief, HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO.



June 2007
Vol 14 No 3



Editor: Lt Col PRC Dixon OBE

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Front cover

Left: Drum Major Towe. **Right:** Capt Smit.

Back cover

Top: Pte Okotie mans the HMG. **Bottom:** Ptes Rouse and Railton man the GPMG SF.

Regiment Internet Website

www.army.mod.uk



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From the Colonel of the Regiment

After 34 years of service in its ranks I am very clear that I owe the Regiment a significant debt. I have drawn support from it professionally, and strength from its comradeship and friendship. I am therefore honoured and delighted to take over from Maj Gen John Sutherell as Colonel of the Regiment. In doing so I would like to acknowledge his extraordinary contribution. During his tenure the very existence of the Regiment came under threat through the Future Army Structure process. His calm, authoritative, logical arguments, supported by the high regard in which he is held across Defence, helped us come through not only completely unscathed, but enhanced by the formation of the 3rd Battalion. Under his guidance and legendary thoroughness, every aspect of Regimental business from county contacts to recruiting processes and management plans, have come under review and benefited. He has combined being Colonel with a very demanding job as Secretary of the Officers' Association and somehow found time for both. Not a stone has been left unturned and he leaves the Regiment in robust good health, a model for other Regiments to emulate. He has given selflessly of his time and we owe him and Amanda our sincere thanks - we wish them well.

These are challenging times for the Army and the Regiment. The 2nd Battalion's recent tour in Iraq was well reported in the last *Castle*; the demands placed upon those serving soldiers and their families were severe. Despite the tragic loss of life and the injuries sustained, the Regiment came through with its reputation for the highest professional standards and a strong caring community enhanced. As I write, the 1st Battalion is in Helmand Province in southern Afghanistan. The level of conflict is as high as any experienced by the Regiment in the last three decades. Already the Battalion has experienced the tragic loss of Pte Christopher Gray, a Viking in the finest tradition. He is described by the company commander of A (Norfolk) Company, Maj Dominic Biddick, as a superlative soldier, passionate about his job. His funeral service was attended by strong contingents from the 2nd as well as 1st Battalion and the wider Regiment. There will no doubt be further sacrifices and casualties. Our thoughts and prayers will be with those deployed, the families at home and those who are injured. We know that the Battalion will serve with distinction, whatever the Taliban throw at them. We also know that those that suffer can rely on the wider Regimental family to support them in whatever way we can.

The links between the three battalions of the Regiment have never been stronger. The 3rd Battalion has supported operational deployments as strongly as any Territorial battalion in the country and currently has 50 personnel deployed to Afghanistan in Kabul and Helmand. The next target will be support to the 2nd Battalion for their operational tour in 2008 wherever that may be. The Battalion has also been at the heart of sustaining links with our counties through a programme of receptions and recruiting events. These links, which are underpinned by the Regimental Association and the Cadet movement, are central to our identity. I would encourage as many of you as possible to attend the Regimental Day at Duxford on 2 September; full details are contained further on in *Castle*. Last year we had 3,000, a record we hope to exceed in 2007 - it really is a tremendous day out and an excellent way of staying in touch. Only by fostering strong links with our past and our county roots will we sustain strong battalions which will carry us forward into the future. Across the Infantry as a whole there is a significant shortfall in manpower, but not in the Royal Anglian Regiment. As I write, we are

the best recruited British regiment in the Army; an extraordinary achievement. Over recent months I have often been asked by members of the wider Infantry suffering from undermanning, 'how do you do it?' The answer is difficult to understand, unless you are a Royal Anglian, because there is no single reason. It is the combination of distinct battalion areas, company/county affiliations, Territorial links, Associations and Cadets all working in a co-ordinated way to a common purpose - the Regiment. Complacency is not a Royal Anglian trait but we will need to guard against it as the situation in Iraq and Afghanistan will continue to form a testing backdrop to our recruiting activities.

In February Gen Sir John Akehurst, a distinguished former Colonel of the Regiment, passed away. Col Peter Worthy, who succeeds him as President of the Northampton Regimental Association, records his military career in more detail later in this edition. For us in the Regiment he was tremendously supportive and generous with his time. His advice, quietly given, was always wise and pragmatic. General John embodied all that is good about the Regiment and our sincere condolences are with Lady Shirley.

The past year has been a hugely demanding one for the Regiment, but it has been a year to be proud of with excellent operational performance supported by strong battalions. I am conscious that such success comes with significant personal sacrifice for individuals and families. I am also aware of the essential contribution of the wider Regiment. The year ahead will bring with it its own challenges, demands and rewards.





The Regiment

Colonel-in-Chief

HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO

Colonel of the Regiment

Lt Gen JC McColl CBE DSO

President of the Regimental Association

Brig RM Brunt CBE

Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment

Fr K Reeve

Deputy Colonels of the Regiment

1st Battalion: Brig PD Jones MBE

2nd Battalion: Brig DJ Clements MBE

3rd Battalion: 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 CAF Thomas 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)
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 Hertford, Hinckley and Bosworth, Ilford, Ipswich, King's Lynn, Leicester,
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 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
 Email: chief-clerk@anglian.army.mod.uk
 regimental-secretary@anglian.army.mod.uk

Regimental Secretary: Lt Col PRC Dixon OBE
Assistant Regimental Secretary: Maj RC Gould
Regimental Careers Officer: Capt AN Wolstenholme

Area Office Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire
 Britannia House TA Centre,
 325 Aylsham Road, Norwich NR3 2AD
 Tel: 01603-400290
Area Secretary: Col AC Taylor
 Email: ahqroyalanglian2@btconnect.com

Area Office Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex
 Blenheim House, Eagle Way,
 Warley, Essex CM13 3BN
 Tel: 01277-213051
Area Secretary: Maj DI Gilchrist
 Email: ahqroyalanglian1@btconnect.com

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 TA Centre, Clare Street, Northampton NN1 3JQ
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Area Secretary: Maj JN Turquand
 Email: ahqroyalanglian3@btconnect.com

Regimental Museum
 Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Cambs CB2 4QR
 Tel: 01223-835000 Ext 298 or 01223-835638
Regimental Attendant: Mr Andrew Murkin
 Email: royalanglian@museumattendant.freemove.co.uk
 Website: www.royalanglianmuseum.org.uk

Regimental Information Teams
 Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn
 Tel: 01223-204360
 Goojerat Barracks, Colchester
 Tel: 01206-782311

Battalion Locations

1st Battalion
 Elizabeth Barracks,
 Pirbright,
 Surrey GU24 0DT

Lt Col SW Carver
 (Des Lt Col JH Woodham MC - June 2008)

2nd Battalion
 Clive Barracks, Tern Hill,
 Market Drayton,
 Shropshire TF9 3QE

From August 2007
Trenchard Barracks,
Celle,
BFPO 23

Lt Col SJR Browne MBE

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

Lt Col M Googe TD

Regimental Representatives

Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn: Capt AJ Griffiths
Infantry Training Centre, Catterick: Maj SJ Nye MBE
RMA Sandhurst: Maj FJR Grounds
Army Foundation College Harrogate: Vacant
Cambridge University OTC: Capt T Irwin-Parker
East Midlands University OTC: Lt Col FMG de Planta

Personalia

Honours and Awards Operational List (Operation Telic)

MiD

LCpl LE Davidson
Cpl O Hartshorne
Pte JJ Martin
Sgt J Whitely

QCVS

Lt Col DP O'Driscoll
Pte LJ Walters

Commissioning

The following was commissioned on 8 January 2007:
WO1 A J Buxton

The following were commissioned on 13 April 2007:

2Lt O J Child
2Lt C Powell
2Lt A C Simmonds
2Lt H Willies

Promotion

The following have been selected for promotion to substantive Major on 31 July 2007:

Capt BM Allen
Capt MR Evans
A/Maj LM Ives
Capt MA Nicholas
Capt RH Whitham
Capt AP Wolfe
Capt MS Woodeson

The following have been selected for promotion to substantive Major (LE) on 31 July 2007:

Capt T P Beighton
A/Maj D Mackness

Postings

Lt Col SD Etherington	from DG Log Land to MNFI	December 2006
Lt Col RCJ Goodin MBE	from 3rd Battalion to HQ MND(SE)	December 2006
Lt Col MJ Beard	from HQ Infantry to HQ EVFOR	January 2007
Capt JM Ding	from 2nd Battalion to HQ BSAI	January 2007
Capt PM Martin	from ATR Winchester to 1st Battalion	January 2007
Maj RP Grenfell	from 3rd Battalion to 2 Cdt Trg Team	March 2007
Lt Col SJ Bacon	from DMCCS to Brit Mil Adv Nigeria	April 2007
Lt Col MH Wenham	from HQ BF Cyprus to MND(SE)	May 2007
Lt G JR Hudson	from 1st Battalion to ITC Catterick	June 2007
Capt A Biggs	from HQ 16 Air Asslt Brigade to 2 PWRR	August 2007
Maj AHC Borgnis	from AMCS to 1st Battalion	August 2007
Maj APR Bowman	from ICSC(L) to DB Jt Equal & Diversity Trg	August 2007
Capt J Hancock	from HQ 4 Armd Brigade to 2nd Battalion	August 2007
Maj JJ W Hart	from APC Glasgow to 2nd Battalion	August 2007
Maj AF Hawley	from CGS DGS to 2nd Battalion	August 2007
Maj TB Mellor	from ICSC(L) to DCI(A)	August 2007
Maj PA Muncey	from ICSC(L) to HQ 4 Division	August 2007
Maj PM Smith	from IMATT (Freetown) to 2nd Battalion	August 2007
Maj CBK Barry	from HQ ARRC to 1st Battalion	November 2007

Transfers

A/Maj GR Allen	to AAC	1 January 2007
Capt SC Hale	to PWRR	26 February 2007

Regimental Matters

Editor's Note

This is my last issue of *Castle* as Editor. In some ways I am greatly relieved, in others I will miss it as it has, for one so technically wanting, been quite a challenge. Any publication is only as good as the contributions that are received and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those of you who over the last six years have contributed articles (I appreciate that some have done so more willingly than others). I would also like to thank Ron Pearson of Forces and Corporate Publishing Ltd for his help and patience and successive Regimental Careers Officers for their invaluable technical advice. I hope that *Castle* will remain a publication that both serving and retired members of the Regiment will want to read.

New Colonel of the Regiment Appointed



Lt Gen JC McColl CBE DSO was appointed Colonel of the Regiment in succession to Maj Gen JCB Sutherland CB CBE DL with effect 1 April 2007.

Lt Gen John McColl was commissioned into the 1st Battalion of the Royal Anglian Regiment in 1973. His early career included the usual Regimental appointments before attending the Army Staff Course in 1984.

On completing the staff course he served as a staff officer in Germany. He joined the 2nd Battalion as a rifle company commander in 1987, serving in Colchester and Celle. In 1989 he was posted to the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment to command an armoured squadron, followed by a tour at the Staff College as a member of the Directing Staff.

In 1992 he assumed command of the 2nd Battalion, based in Celle. His command included operational deployments to East Tyrone and with the UN in Bosnia, as well as BATUS. On leaving command in 1995 he was appointed Chief of Staff 1st(UK) Armoured Division, returning to Bosnia as part of NATO's peace Implementation Force (IFOR) in 1996.

From 1997 to 1999, he commanded 1st Mechanised Brigade based in Tidworth, followed by a posting to HQ Land Command as ACOS Commitments until 2000, a period which included the Kosovo and

Sierra Leone deployments. Promoted to major general, he was appointed to command 3rd (UK) Division in 2000.

As GOC of 3rd (UK) Division, he commanded the British-led deployment to Kabul in 2002 which established the International Security Assistance Force. In 2003, Lt Gen McColl was appointed Commandant of the Joint Services Command and Staff College in Watchfield. After a year in post he was sent to Baghdad as the Deputy Commander of the Multi-National Force Iraq. He assumed his current post as Commander Regional Forces within Headquarters Land Command in Wilton, in October 2004. In early 2005 he took on the additional appointment of the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to Afghanistan, which ended with the deployment of HQ ARRC in April 2006.

Lt Gen McColl is Colonel Commandant of the Queen's Division. He is a Trustee of Dean Close School Cheltenham. His interests include reading, golf and running very slowly. He is married to Gene and has three children.

Lt Gen McColl is due to take up the appointment of Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe in October 2007 in the rank of General.

New Deputy Colonel of the Regiment Appointed



Brig DJ Clements MBE has been appointed Deputy Colonel of the Regiment with special responsibility for the 2nd Battalion.

Brig David Clements was commissioned into the Regiment in 1974. He served with the 3rd Battalion in the UK, Cyprus, Belize and Germany and in Zimbabwe as a member of the British Military Advisory and Training Team. He has held staff appointments as the Chief of the General Staff's lead equipment briefer in the Ministry of Defence, Military Assistant to General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland and Chief of Staff to the Military Secretary. He commanded the 2nd Battalion in Celle and Warminster. As a Colonel, he ran the Army's computer simulation training centre and commanded the field training group in Germany. He later commanded the Northern Ireland regional brigade and the Northern Ireland Training Group, responsible for the delivery of all operational training in theatre. He has served on operations in Northern Ireland, Southern Rhodesia, the former Yugoslavia and, most recently, in Iraq where he was the Deputy Commanding General of the Multinational Security Transition Command – Iraq, charged with the training and

Regimental Matters

development of the Iraqi Security Forces. He has been Commandant of the School of Infantry since December 2005.

New Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment

Father Ken Reeve has been appointed as the Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment in succession to the late Rev Maj Martin Franks. Father Reeve served with 1st East Anglian Regiment and 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment. He is now priest-in-charge of Great and Little Ellingham, Rockland St Peter, Rockland All Saints and Shropham with Snetterton.

New Regimental Secretary



Lt Col K Hodgson OBE has been appointed to become the Regimental Secretary in September. Lt Col Kevin Hodgson was commissioned into the Regiment in 1972, immediately joining B Company 2 R Anglian in West Belfast for a four-month emergency tour. Between 1973 and 1975 he served with his Battalion in Münster and completed two further tours in Northern Ireland. From 1976-1977 he served as an instructor at the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion Shorncliffe before rejoining the 2nd Battalion for Regimental Duty in Gillingham and West Berlin between 1978-1980.

There followed two years of seconded duty with 2/2 GR as a rifle company commander in Hong Kong and Brunei. Rejoining the 2nd Battalion in Colchester in 1982, he served in Belize and as D Company Commander on UN duty in Cyprus, before attending the Army Staff College in Camberley in 1985. On graduating he was the SO2 Ops/O&D/Coord in HQ NEDIST and 2 Infantry Division for two years prior to joining the 2nd Battalion, as a mechanized rifle company commander, in Celle. During this tour he commanded A Company during a further tour in West Belfast. Subsequently he was a chief instructor at RMA Sandhurst, attended the Joint Service Defence College at Greenwich and completed a year as Chief Staff Officer (Plans/Exercise) in HQ British Forces Falklands Islands. He commanded 8 R Irish in Armagh between January 1994 and January 1996 after which he was awarded an operational OBE. More recently he commanded the British Army Training Support Unit Belize and the Army Training Estate West Midlands. His final tour with the Regular Army has been as Commandant Joint Service Mountain Training Centre (Indefatigable) on Anglesey. He retires on 30 August, is married to Kate and has two children, James (19) and Georgina (17). He enjoys game shooting, fishing, hill walking and growing things to eat.

The Castle Network

The Castle Network is an informal gathering for retired officers, serving officers and their friends in London.

Meetings take place, starting at 1730hrs, on a rotational basis with a representative host at each of the venues in Canary Wharf, the City and Whitehall. The following have agreed to organise evenings:

Canary Wharf – Stephen Romilly (steve@romash.co.uk). Tel: 020 7418 2217(w) or 07973 143920(m).

The City – Tom Gregory (thomas.gregory@gs.com). Tel: 020 7771 3968(w) or 07720 440935(m).

Whitehall – Mark Dingle (mark.dingle950@mod.uk). Tel: 07866 438489(m).

Details of future events will be published in *Castle* and will be sent out on an email distribution list. If you wish to be added to the list you should email the above.

Future events for 2007 are: 26 July - Corney and Barrow Bar, 9 Cabot Square, Canary Wharf; 27 September - The City; 29 November - Whitehall.

Entrance to the Regimental Museum

Agreement has been reached with the Imperial War Museum by which formed bodies of serving soldiers, cadets and members of the Regimental Association will be admitted to the Regimental Museum at Duxford free of charge, but only by prior agreement with the Museum Officer (Tel: 01 223 497298), email: royalanglian@museum.attendant.freemove.co.uk). Whenever possible such visits should be made in uniform. Members of the Regiment visiting in an individual capacity, either serving or ex-soldiers, will be offered a two for one deal on production of their ID card or Regimental Association card at the main entrance. The concession does not include premium event days or air shows.

Area Secretary - Northampton

Maj John Turquand, Area Secretary in Northampton, is to move to Warwick in September to become the Area Secretary for the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. Although his stay with the Regiment has been short it has been busy particularly with the planning of six Freedom Parades in the last few months. The Regiment is grateful for all he has done and wishes him well for the future.

Regimental Day

The annual Regimental Day will be held at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford on Sunday 2 September 2007. The programme will be:

0930hrs: Gates Open

1030hrs: Regimental Association Annual General Meeting

1130hrs: Drumhead Service

1215hrs: March Past

1230hrs: Bar, Kiosks and Stalls Open

pm: Band and Drums Display

1700hrs: Bar and Stalls Close

All serving and ex-members of the Regiment and former Regiments are warmly invited to attend, last year the attendance exceeded 3,000. Entry passes are not required although possession of an Association card will help speed up entry. You should bring along your own picnic or use the refreshment facilities on site. Dogs are not permitted.

The Day's Pay Scheme

Each year the Regiment, the Royal British Legion and the Army Benevolent Fund provide financial assistance to a large number of former soldiers from our Regiment and our antecedent Regiments. On occasions assistance is given to serving members and their dependants.

The main source of income remains the Day's Pay Scheme. At present some 82 per cent of serving members contribute under the

Regimental Matters

scheme. To those of you who contribute, thank you, to those who do not contribute please remember that one day you may need financial assistance.

In the six months to 3 March 2007 RHQ dealt with a total of 98 benevolent cases, paying out £26,900. In 2006, a further £5,500 was paid out as 'In Service Welfare'; the majority of this sum was used to support the families of the Poachers during the Battalion's tour in Basra.

Field of Remembrance

The Field of Remembrance opening ceremony at Warminster will be on Thursday 8 November 2007. The facilities of the Farmers' Club (3 Whitehall Court, SW1) will be available to those attending; although as usual a limit of 50 has to be imposed. Further details will be passed to Royal Anglian officers serving in the MOD. Other members of the Association wishing to attend should contact RHQ by 15 October while members of former Regiment Associations should contact their appropriate Area Secretary.

Next Edition of *Castle*

Contributions for December's issue of *Castle* should reach the Editor no later than 15 October 2007.

Deaths

RHQ has been notified of the following deaths:

Gen Sir John Akehurst on 20 February 2007 (*see Obituaries*).

Sgt A Austin on 3 November 2006.

Maj DN Dean on 18 February 2007.

Col PSW Dean on 19 January 2007 (*see Obituaries*).

Pte C Gray on 13 April 2007 (*see Obituaries*).

Cpl P Ives on 17 September 2006. He completed his basic training at the Depot, Bury St Edmunds and in 1964 was posted to A Company 1st Battalion in Aden before moving to Celle and then Londonderry. He left the Army in 1970 and then worked in security.

Col JM Petit OBE on 3 July 2006 (*see Obituaries*).

Maj CA Stahelin on 11 April 2007.

Derek John Tubby, ex-Poacher, died 19 June 2006.

Mainly About People



Pte Lionel O'Connor.

Pte Lionel O'Connor lost a limb as a result of a roadside bomb in Basra on 13 May 2006. In December, nine months later, he was a member of a team from the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association (BLESMA) that travelled to Breckenridge, Colorado for a week's skiing. Many disabled organisations make full use of the specialist instructors and the comprehensive range of adaptive skiing equipment that is available. Lionel used one ski (three tracking) and soon adapted to his new environment. His comments after the first day were: 'I was nervous and excited, I took to skiing like a duck to water; I took to getting off the ski-lift like a brick to water'. In addition to skiing the group spent a day dog-sledging and snowbiling through the Arapahoe National Park. The trip was such an outstanding

success that a repeat visit later this year is being planned. Lionel has also signed up for the Paralympic programme which he hopes will lead to him being in the 2012 London Paralympic Games.



Sgt Tim Heale (ex-2nd Battalion) is now serving with 15(UK) PsyOps Group at Chicksands. He was a member of the Army Telemark Team that competed against the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines. The competition took the same course as the Slalom and Giant Slalom with 27 Telemark skiers competing. Sgt Heale came 18th in the slalom and 15th in the giant slalom.



Andy Murkin, the Regimental Museum Officer has been awarded his Master's degree from the University of Leicester in Museum Studies.

Mainly About People



Maj Roy Jenns, now living in the wilds of Lincolnshire has unearthed a photograph of the 1st Battalion 3rd East Anglian Regiment when they were based in Wavell Barracks, Berlin. The picture was taken in 1 September 1964 and shows the Battalion marching past after being rebadged to become the 3rd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment. The CO was Lt Col CL Norbury MBE MC.



Following their study of a major event in the history of the Cambridgeshire Regiment the Colonel of the Regiment presented his commendation to four local researchers. Last year the Cambridgeshire Association commemorated the 90th anniversary of the capturing and holding of the Schwaben Redoubt during the Battle of the Somme. The commendation included a visit to the site of the battlefield and a Service in Ely Cathedral. Commendations were presented to Martin Boswell, Steven Bowns, Cliff Brown and Robin James.

Mainly About People



2Lts George Wyndham (2nd Battalion) and 2Lt Martin Driver (1st Battalion) were commissioned into the Regiment on 16 December 2006. From left: OCdt Wyndham, Colonel of the Regiment, OCdt Driver and Capt James-Roll.



2Lts Charles Powell and Harry Willies (1st Battalion) and 2Lts Oliver Child and Andy Simmonds (2nd Battalion) were commissioned into the Regiment on 13 April 2007. From left: OCdts Powell, Simmonds, Colonel of the Regiment, Capt James-Roll, OCdts Willies and Child.

Baron Walker of Aldringham, in the county of Suffolk, has been conferred upon **Gen Sir Michael Walker**.

Lt Gen John McColl is to take up the appointment of Deputy Supreme Allied Commander in Europe in October in the rank of General. This appointment was filled by **Gen Sir John Akehurst** 1987-1990.

Brig Phil Jones is due to take up the appointment of Assistant Defence Attache/Head of British Army Staff, British Defence Staff Washington in October.

The Poulter's Prize for 2006 for the individual whose contribution

during the year has best promoted the Ethos of the Regiment, was awarded to **CSgt Glen Keeble**, 3rd Battalion. It is planned that the Master Poulter will make the award when he visits the 3rd Battalion on 21 July at Beckingham. The runner-up was **CSgt Garvie**, 1st Battalion.

Cpl David Metcalfe was presented with the Colonel of the Regiment's Commendation at Lincoln on 12 May in recognition of 37 years service in the TA. He joined 5 R Anglian in 1970 and, having served in five battalions, he finally leaves the service later this year.

The Regimental Museum

(Website: www.royalanglianmuseum.org.uk)

After the usual quieter winter season, the Museum is looking forward to an expected increase in visitors to Duxford as the weather improves. Before the end of the year, provided that we can secure a grant, we hope to be able to install a visitor counter system, which, together with a new comment card, will help us learn much more about our visitors and what they already enjoy in the Museum and they want to see introduced in future.

Over the summer/early autumn we expect our biggest update yet to be installed. A new audio-visual display will allow visitors to use a computer touch screen to choose from 14 film clips of the Regiment's major deployments since its formation.

For those interested in honours and awards made to individuals within the Regiment, the book of honours and awards has been revised and updated, describing all the medals and awards that are available and listing those received by members of the East Anglian and Royal Anglian Regiments. A Pingat Jasa Malaysian medal is now on display as a reminder of those who served in Malaya from 1957-1966.

The exhibitions on the Museum's first 10 years of existence and the Poachers' recent tour of Iraq are popular temporary exhibits in the Land Warfare Hall at Duxford, but they are due to be replaced later in the year. With the Vikings in daily combat in Afghanistan, we are geared to feature reports from there in whatever form they may take. The Poachers, meanwhile, have a rare opportunity for exercising civil Freedoms this year, so we will be showing photographs of those, with a particular emphasis on the newly granted freedom of Charnwood (Loughborough). We are planning to follow this up with a special feature on bands. The museum has copies of all the recordings of the former and current Regimental bands and is in the process of digitising these to ensure they are preserved in a modern, playable format.

A new range of quiz sheets is being introduced, designed to make a trip to the Museum even more entertaining for younger visitors. They contain a variety of puzzles and quizzes, some of which can be done at home or at school, some of which must be done in the Museum itself. Printed copies can be found in the Museum, but if they are as successful as we anticipate, during the summer they will be put onto the Museum website for potential visitors to download. New features are regularly being added to the website, so make sure to take a look at www.royalanglianmuseum.org.uk.

The collection continues to grow. Our thanks are due to 'Audi' Ball, Alan Cole, Brian Harrington-Spier, Sgt Stu Rumsey and to Cliff



Walters of the Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp for their recent donations to the museum. Once again, the Museum would appreciate any contribution *Castle* readers can make, whether in the form of photographs, or local press cuttings for the scrapbook or to archive; medals, badges or other objects for the collection or display. In the next six months we will concentrate on enlarging the audio-visual collection. If you happen to have any relevant old film or video, or you have managed to capture any current news stories or other broadcasts on video or DVD, please send them to us to retain or copy. All the films we already have are catalogued and available for viewing, by appointment, in the Museum at Duxford. Contact details are given below.

The Museum has welcomed two more new volunteers in Charlie Jarvis and Ken Kidman. They are helping sort and catalogue the huge number of photographs in the Museum's collection. If you live reasonably close to Duxford, and have some time to spare, our Trustee responsible for volunteers, Michael Jarvis, would be pleased to hear from you.

Contact details: Royal Anglian Regiment Museum, Duxford Airfield,

Duxford, Cambridge, CB22 4QR. Tel: 01223 497298.
email: royalanglian@museumattendant.freemove.co.uk

Diary Dates 2007

June

- 2 Royal Norfolk Regiment Officers' Lunch - Norwich
- 3 Royal Lincolnshire Regiment Association Reunion - Lincoln
- 4-8 Regimental Visit to Normandy - Normandy
- 10 Cambridgeshire Regiment Reunion - Ely
- 19 Freedom Parade - Borough of Charnwood
- 23-24 Royal Leicestershire Regiment Association Weekend - Leicester
- 24 Essex Regiment Association Reunion - Warley
- 28-28 Royal Norfolk Show - Norwich
- 28 Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association 16th Foot Officers' Lunch - Buckden

July

- 14 Eagle and Garter Dinner - Bassingbourn
- 28-29 Northamptonshire Regiment Association Weekend - Northampton
- 28 Suffolk Regiment Officers' Lunch - Culford
- 29 Minden Reunion - Bury St Edmunds

September

- 2 Regimental Day - Duxford
- 28 3rd Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment Officers' Lunch - Warley

- 29 Royal Norfolk and Royal Anglian Association Dinner - Norwich
- 30 Royal Norfolk and Royal Anglian Association Service, Norwich Cathedral

October

- 13 Cambridgeshire Regiment All Ranks Dinner
- 27 Poacher Reunion - Felixstowe

November

- 2 Regimental Council Meeting - London
- Officers' Annual Dinner - London
- 6 Essex Regiment Association Cathedral Service and Salamanca Lunch - Chelmsford
- 8 Field of Remembrance - Westminster
- 11 Remembrance Day
- 15 1st Battalion Medal Parade - Pirbright
- 18 Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association Wreath Laying and Reunion - Kempston
- 22 Freedom Parade and Cathedral Service - Norwich
- 23 Freedom Parade - Bury St Edmunds

December

- 1 Royal Leicestershire Regiment Officers' Lunch - London

Can You Remember?

Editor's Note

I am grateful to all those readers who alerted me to the mistake in the December 2006 issue. In 1972, 2Lt Nicholas Hull and Pte John Bullard were tragically killed. They were members of the 3rd Battalion, who were serving in Belfast at the time, and not the Vikings.

40 Years Ago

The 4th/5th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment (TA) had the privilege of laying up the old 4th Battalion Colours in the presence of HRH the Duchess of Gloucester at Holy Sepulchre in Northampton while 1 Beds/Herts (TA) had been enjoying success at the 161 Infantry Brigade Skill at Arms meet before reforming their companies into new locations and roles. 4th/6th Royal Lincolnshire Regiment reordered themselves into 5(V) R Anglian and the Royal Lincolns (TA) as of 1 April 1967. The Vikings conducted training in Libya which made a welcome change to the high training tempo in Celle, still managing time to put on a very successful KAPE (Keep the Army in the Public Eye) tour back in East Anglia. The Poachers prepared for their unit move from Dhekelia to Felixstowe in July while still enjoying considerable sporting success in athletics, basketball, cross country and skiing. The Pompadours were still operating in Aden, with Pte A Kent, Sgt W Allen and Cpl J Valentine winning British Empire Medals for gallantry during the tour. The 4th Battalion were mostly in Malta, but had two companies in Libya and a platoon (4 Platoon, A Company) defending the Benghazi British Embassy from attack during the Arab/Israeli War in June.



Above: 'Tell it to the Marines!' 1st Battalion Stalwart comes ashore at the South Pier, Lowestoft, during a KAPE team demonstration.

Below: Northants Colours laid up. From left: Lt TR Walker, CSM EV Sye, 2Lt ME Brown. Rear: Sgt J Cowan, Sgt AC Moyse and HRH The Duchess of Gloucester.



Can You Remember?



2nd Battalion's undefeated basketball team.



4th Battalion, D'Aosta Barracks, Benghazi, June 1967.

Can You Remember?

35 Years Ago

The 1st Battalion enjoyed their final battalion 'fix and destroy' operation of the Northern Ireland tour in Clady (10 miles south-west of Strabane), coming under fire from across the border and with B Company CSM, WO2 Watson, taking splinters to the leg from an armour-piercing bullet. Following the unit move to Episkopi and while soaking up the sun, the Vikings began to look back on Northern Ireland with fond eyes, several members of the Battalion going as far as applying for posts back in the Province to be 'where it's at!' The Poachers were in Oxford Barracks, Münster, undertaking what seemed to be endless visits from commanders and MPs from the UK. Most importantly, February 1972 saw the first Sobraon Ball for 11 years, demonstrating the high tempo of operation for the preceding years, as well as some degree of apathy among the junior officers on the organising front! The Pompadours sadly lost two more soldiers in July, Cpl K Mogg and LCpl M Rooney, after the IRA broke their ceasefire agreement earlier in the month. The tour hit a high with the Battalion's participation in Operation Motorman; with troops surging into previously 'no go' areas to good effect.



Visit of the Colonel of the Regiment to 3rd Battalion. From left: Adjutant, Capt C Groves, The Colonel of the Regiment, WO2 Brunning, Capt MJ Peele MC and the Commanding Officer.



Students and staff of a potential NCOs' cadre with the Commanding Officer at Akamas Training Area during a pause in field firing - 13 July 1972.



WO2 Les Kirk pulled to the barracks gate by men of Command Company having completed 25 years' service.



Officers v Sergeants football. Back row: WO2 Greenfield, WO1 Watson (LAD), RQMS, Sgt Hurry, Sgt McKenzie, WO2 Huddleston, QM Capt Adamson, Capt Casciaro, Capt Hipkin, Capt Fowler, Capt Greenham, CSgt Mitchell, Sgt Newbitt. Seated centre: SSgt Groom, CO, 2IC, WO2 Gordon, Adjutant. Seated ground: Capt Young, WO2 Bailiff, Maj Barnes, Maj White, WO2 Macintyre.

Can You Remember?**30 Years Ago**

With training at a record high for all battalions, relaxation and sport were high on the agenda. The Vikings' football team won the South West District Challenge, Salisbury Plain Major Units Cup and League Cup, reached the semi-finals of the Infantry Cup and quarter-finals of the Army Cup. Equally as successful at athletics, the team came runners-up at the Army Championships held at Aldershot.



'I think this one has holes in it!' 5 Platoon look dubious.



Maj Gen Timothy Creasey talks to Sgt Dorritt of the Recce.



10 Platoon's temporary Naafi - LCpl Smith with Ptes Wilson and Milne.



Maj Calder cruising the canals of Venice in a police launch.



A recce section during the platoon battle tests.

Can You Remember?

The Poachers were Northern Ireland Champions at rugby, quarter finalists in the Army Hockey Championships and the boxing team were runners up in the South East District Novices Competition. The Pompadours were football league champions in Cyprus, as well as having A Company as the Minor Units Soccer Champions with an undefeated record. The Battalion won several gold medals in the Cyprus Inter-Service Championships, and also had the Cyprus Novice Parachuting Champion in the form of Pte C Capper. All three battalions participated in overseas exercises; all were a great success and valued by those participating in them.



Lt Bill O'Connor, 5th Battalion anti-tank officer, demonstrating a prepared defensive position to distinguished guests on Visitors' Day.



Maximum effort from the Commanding Officer 1st Battalion at the Army Championships.

20 Years Ago

Gibraltar continued to be a busy and exciting time for the Vikings, starting with Exercise Caple's Key where they got to grips fully with their role on the Rock. The Commanding Officer at the time, Lt Col Mike Walker, described it as, 'not too dissimilar to home defence in Britain, coupled with an ability to deal with situations common to Northern Ireland and some unusual tasks in the harbour area!' Training was given high priority and an NCOs' cadre, first aid, NBC and signals training were all delivered in the first few months of arrival. The Poachers were well into their first year's training by the end of April which saw the Recce Platoon, under Capt Richard Harris, come fifth in the 1 Armoured Division Close Recce



Cpl Mackness, A Company, during a VCP operation.



Lt Gen Sir John Akehurst being briefed by Maj Groom on his visit to the Battalion at battle group training, Catterick.

Can You Remember?



A nice warm day for the Vikings fun run on the Rock.

Competition. The whole Battalion deployed for a two-week exercise to Soltau, and enjoyed the new experience of exercising with tanks in direct support. June saw the Poachers win the 1 Armoured Division Athletics Championships, Brigade Basketball Championships and come runners-up in the BAOR tug-of-war final. By the end of March, the last of the Pompadours had left Belfast, but life was still busy

requiring their mechanised skills on return to Minden. The Battalion ran a skill at arms competition, with B Company conducting field firing as they prepared to deploy to BATUS later in the year and the Milan Platoon took part in the Corps Milan Concentration. In sport the 3rd Battalion enjoyed success in athletics, coming second in the BAOR Championships.



Members of the 5th Battalion on Exercise Polar Dawn. CSgt Sid Hall and Ptes Neil Smith, Paul Norris and Christopher Wilkins.

Can You Remember?

15 Years Ago

Having returned from Fermanagh and enjoyed a good period of post-tour leave the 1st Battalion focused on individual training in the conventional role, which had been neglected while in Northern Ireland. April and May saw A and C Companies exercising in Cyprus and in June the command element of the Vikings were tested at company and battalion level at the Battle Group Trainer at Catterick followed by a two-week Battalion exercise at Stanford Training Area where the three rifle companies rotated through a package of FIBUA, NBC, ranges and dry training. Following the Staff College Demonstration in May, the Second Battalion had put away their Warriors and were focussing on individual and patrol skills in Exercise Poacher's Prowl which took place at Vogalsang on the Belgian border. Some may say that making full use of helicopter assets and assault crossings would be the highlight of such an exercise, but it appears that the fact that Hitler had once used the barracks as a breeding centre was the most memorable part for many soldiers!

A composite Poacher platoon was on loan to the Scots Guards who were working under Lt Chris Stephenson from April. The Pompadours were drawing down their tour in Londonderry, but it was still particularly busy especially in June and July when several incidents were coupled with the marching season which was bigger than previously experienced. Visits seemed to keep everyone busy with a record 25 senior visitors including Secretaries of State as well as British and American generals. The Battalion tried hard to continue



Sgt Jones briefs the NCOs' cadre.

with its adventurous training programme and managed to send teams skiing, climbing, sailing as well as the co-leading the Regimental Expedition to South Georgia with Maj Richard Clements.



Poachers afloat. Back: Sgt Gasgoine, LCpl Plaskitt, Cfn Beer, Pte Sutton, Pte Ennis, 2Lt Down. Front: Pte Boyd and Pte Pulfrey.



The Colonel of the Regiment being briefed by Maj Clements and Lt Schwartz.



Steelbacks on exercise in Cyprus as part of Exercise Lion Star 3.

Can You Remember?

10 Years Ago

Oakington saw many varied roles for the First Battalion who were still enjoying not being in Northern Ireland. Of note was the Battalion's support to Exercise Eastern Harrier, a 2 Division concentration at Sennybridge and the largest post-war gathering of Territorial Army troops which involved everyone from the QM's Department to the rifle companies as enemy. Mentioned in Dispatches was Maj Dennis Vincent who was determined to make the TA fight for every inch of ground they took from the Vikings. Both the 6th and 7th Battalions were involved in the exercise and for many Regulars it was a first look at the TA – a new respect was found for the sister battalions. The Poachers' RSM WO1 Felix Ralph was very busy with freedom parades during the first part of the 2nd Battalion's two-year UK

'stopover' as Demonstration Battalion at Warminster. All of the parades, which included Luton for the first time, were very successful and showed the Battalion off in a very good light.



Above right:
OC HQ Maj Marinos
chatting to children
in the Clonard.



Above:
LCpi Headland,
C Company,
showing the new
cast members of
Soldier Soldier the
basis of the LSW.



Right: Freedom of
Watford,
4 July 1997.



Regimental consultation meeting. Front from left: Brig AFFH Robertson CBE, Maj Gen REJ Gerrard-Wright CB CBE DL, The Colonel of the Regiment, Lt Col RE Harrold OBE, Brig WC Deller OBE, Maj Gen AJG Pollard CB CBE, Col GCP Morgan DL, Maj Gen Sir David Thorne KBE CVO, Col P Worthy. Back from left: Lt Col TDA Veitch, Maj M Jones, Col M Adkin, Maj WH Reeve, Col RJM Drummond OBE, Col FAH Swallow OBE, Col RA Shervington TD, Lt Col PM Holme, Capt DJ Lee BEM, Col JCD Higgs DL, Maj RC Gould.

Can You Remember?

5 Years Ago

Pirbright had been home for the 1st Battalion for about a year, but things remained as hectic as when they were first moved over. The Vikings deployed to Afghanistan in the first part of the year and played a vital role in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission to the country. The roles ranged from winning over hearts and minds, to CIMIC tasks which B Company proved very adept at. Support to the Afghanistan Army was also a high priority and was undertaken very thoroughly by D Company. The firemen strikes and NIBAT 4 were the focus of the Poachers for the vast majority of the early part of the year, and proved themselves having deployed to the Province with only 48 hours' notice. A Company had previously enjoyed a lengthy exercise to Belize and along with the rest of the Battalion, were looking forward to a return visit after a well-deserved Christmas leave.



The CO deep in discussion with OC B Company.



Royal Anglians at HQ ISAF. From left: Capt Willson, Cpl Marshall, Capt Nicholas, Maj Gen McColl, Cpl Sanders.



Members of B Company help build the orphanage playground.



OC D Company talks tactics with the PSNI.

In the last couple of months.....

CO the Poachers and WO2 Coupe share the first outing of their 'Right Said Fred' tribute band with the Officers' and Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes.



1st Battalion The Vikings

Introduction by the Commanding Officer

It is often the case that a Battalion is pulled in various directions trying to bat off a series of competing commitments. This has most certainly not been the case for the Vikings over the last six months. There has been a very clear focus on preparation for deployment to Afghanistan. In addition the high tempo of operations in theatre and the self evident risks involved have ensured that all ranks in the Battalion have given pre-deployment training their complete attention.

The key elements of the training have been delivered in five key events. To start with the Battalion attended the OPTAG all ranks briefing package which included a series of mandatory presentations and skills stands over two days. The remainder of the package was split into various courses including a commanders' cadre, a specialist weapons cadre and a tactical skills package. This provided the Battalion with enough theatre specific training to begin a short period of in barracks training.

In October the Battalion deployed on the Lydd and Hythe Range package. This included many of the old favourites but

also had some new serials including the defended house and a compound attack range. As ever the week proved invaluable in giving all ranks, and all capbadges within the Battalion the opportunity to become really confident in the use of individual and platoon weapons. Following swiftly on from this the Battalion deployed to STANTA and occupied a series of base locations that were representative of locations in Helmand Province. Each company had to deal with a series of threats to their bases, maintain a patrol programme and conduct a number of company level operations. In addition each company undertook at least two live firing serials which incorporated support weapons. The exercise finished with a Battlegroup level operation which saw the Battalion deploying *en masse* by support helicopter.

Following this the Battalion recovered to Pirbright where we took part in an air manoeuvre concentration to hone the Battalion's ability to work with attack helicopters, support helicopters and fast air. Before leave we still had enough time to enjoy the traditional Christmas festivities with the Officers' Mess even managing to clinch a 1-1 draw against the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess in the annual football match. After a period

of welcome leave the Battalion returned and prepared to deploy on Exercise Kush Dragon which was the 12 Brigade mission rehearsal exercise. The first week saw the rifle companies engaged in a series of battle exercises while D Company conducted a live firing package to convert the Fire Support Groups to the Grenade Machine Gun (GMG) and the Heavy Machine Gun (HMG). The main FTX took place in the second week where a considerable amount of resources were put at the disposal of the Brigade. B Company were lucky enough to be at the tip of the spear for the first mission up to the Caerwent Training Area near Chepstow. Meanwhile the remainder of the companies were tasked to secure Area of Operations within Salisbury Plain and were put through a series of demanding serials.

On return the Battalion had a two-week window to issue the very impressive range of desert clothing, convert drivers to the Vector and complete the ACFT 2. Just before going on pre-deployment leave a Battalion photo was taken which was somewhat unique in that the Battalion are seen in desert combats against a background of a foot of snow. The final part of pre-deployment training was Exercise Masai Viking in Kenya. This was a demanding exercise in an austere



OC A Company briefs the Brigade Commander.

The Vikings

environment designed to give the Battalion a taster of what conditions will be like in the summer in Helmand Province. The exercise included a period of acclimatisation followed by a series of live firing battle runs with all Battlegroup assets in support.

Throughout the whole period of pre-deployment training much has gone on in the background to ensure we are ready for deployment. Of particular note has been the requirement to get a significant number of drivers through Category C and then convert them onto a range of vehicles including WMK and Vector. On the support weapons side considerable effort has been put into live firing with Recce Platoon conducting a Gunnery Camp at Lulworth and the rest of D Company engaged in live firing at both Sennybridge and Salisbury Plain Training Area. The Air Cell have also been busy in qualifying the required number of helicopter handlers and landing point commanders required for the tour.

A particular feature of the pre-deployment training has been on fitness with every Friday being devoted to a progressive but demanding programme of Commanding Officer's PT with the Battalion running up and down Heartbreak Hill from every conceivable direction. On the individual courses side soldiers from the Battalion have been trained in skills as diverse as tactical questioning to trauma management. Career courses have also continued unabated with the new Queen's Division pre-Brecon Cadres ensuring some impressive results for the Vikings. Particularly worthy of comment was the Distinction achieved by Cpl Brown on the autumn Section Commanders' Battle Course.

A particular concern has been to ensure that on a tour as demanding as Operation Herrick that the Battalion has a robust set up back in Pirbright. This has been achieved by ensuring that the Rear Party has a robust chain of command under Maj Stefanetti. In addition the families were also given a wide ranging brief on the tour to ensure they had the required information and more importantly so that they knew where to come to for assistance. A vital link in the passage of information has been the establishment of a Vikings' page on ArmyNet.

Throughout the period the Battalion has been pleased to receive a number of visitors including Commander Field Army as well as Maj Gen Page who is due to take over at RC(S) and finally Director Infantry. On the latter visit Brig Scott-Bowden was pleased to be able to present LS&GCs to WO2 Main, Sgt Panter, Cpl Horn, Cpl Bell and LCpl Murton.

The Battalion started to deploy to theatre in mid March with full responsibility for Helmand North being assumed in early April. The Battalion has been well trained and is now ready not only to deal with whatever the enemy may throw at us, but also to get on the front foot and drive events out in theatre to deliver on the mission with which we have been charged.

Battalion OPTAG Field Training Exercise – A Section Commander's Perspective

Cpl RC Alexander writes:

When we began our pre-deployment training the OC told us that there were four major training events. The first was the range package at Lydd; the second was the Battalion Field Training Exercise at STANTA. With a week of Grenade Machine Gun training squeezed between the two, I joined the rest of A Company at the Combat Outpost (COP) that the CQMS crew had been busily preparing the previous week. HESCO walls were simulated by fences and hessian – but the effect was achieved.

The exercise was designed as a chance to build on the training at Lydd and start working as platoon and company groups with all the supporting arms we'll have in theatre. For me it was a chance to start working with my section on things most had not practised since the Battalion test exercise in May: patrolling by day and night, operations in built up areas and platoon/company attacks. Plus a few things that many had never done: camp attacks and search and arrest operations chief among them. Everything took place under the watchful eyes of the OPTAG staff and some members of 3 Para who had just returned from Afghanistan.

The exercise composed three phases: a blank firing phase followed by a live fire phase, before converting back to blank for the final battlegroup attack. The initial blank firing phase kicked off with several camp attacks which gave us the chance to practise our SOPs and for section commanders to beast their sections on some of their low level skills. Although the summer had been less focused on field soldiering, it was good

to see that the residual skill level of the guys was still at a good level. The highlight of this phase involved an arrest operation on a four building hamlet. CSgt Faupel's Fire Support Group A (a mixture of supporting direct fire weapons from D Company) was inserted into several observation posts (OPs) the night before and the plan was to land on the target with the Fire Support Group giving covering fire from their OPs. However with only one Chinook available, the company had to be lifted in two lifts. Our platoon was on the second lift, according to the plan by the time that we had landed, the Helicopter Landing Site (HLS) was to have been secured and the first building taken.

However when the ramp lowered the sight that greeted me as the first man off was the other half of the company pinned down about 30m from the back of the Chinook – 'No plan survives contact with the enemy'. However, with the whole company on the ground we soon got to grips with the enemy and Sgt Holmes with the ever present OPTAG staff. As we started clearing the buildings the engineer support became critical: without their mouse hole charges the attack would have been far more costly. As we began to withdraw my section became the rear guard, protecting a hot HLS for the extraction. A number of the commanders were enjoying themselves and insisting on being 'the last man off the ground' – the reality in theatre may be a little different! For most of the company this was first time they had to handle a hot HLS, but something that was realistic and based on 3 Para's experience.

The live firing phase involved several defence shoots from the COP by day and night with a sergeant from 3 Para providing valuable points to improve on. By the end of the LFTT he was suitably impressed and sung our praises.

The battlegroup operation involved a tab through the night into a blocking position



Onto the bus.

The Vikings



Members of A Company manning a sangar.

followed by an advance to clear several built up areas. With several contacts on the way, we began to see we weren't fighting your normal enemy. Lessons were being learned about 360 degree awareness as the enemy harassed at every step of the way.

As we extracted by Chinook to 'Camp Bastion' for the end of the exercise everyone was looking forward to some well-earned Christmas leave. The exercise was chalked up to have been a success having carried out a number of realistic exercises based on current experience from Operation Herrick and lessons had been learned all round – bringing us one step closer in our preparation.

Fire Support Group's Heavy Weapons Cadre

Capt Mark Taylor writes:

Having been a Medium Machine Gun (MMG) Platoon for as long as anyone can remember the soldiers of Machine Gun Platoon have got quite used to the size and weights involved with the carriage of this equipment. So on a cold yet bright January day in early 2007, many of the Machine Gun Platoon had an unusually confused look on their faces as they stood around our two new additions to the Fire Support Group (FSG) arsenal; the .50 cal Heavy Machine Gun (HMG) and the 40mm Grenade Machine Gun (GMG).

While the HMG is not a new addition to the Battalion (having been used in Northern



Firing the HMG.

Ireland by so many SNCOs in Battalion for the first time – thank you for the stories Capt Buxton!) the GMG is a new weapon system to the Army and only recently used on operations by 42 Commando in Afghanistan. So it was with a strange degree of excitement and intimidation that the soldiers began their week of intensive weapon handling on both these new weapon systems and while the stripping of the HMG bolt led to some amusement as parts fell everywhere,

the soldiers quickly got to grips with them. So began the next phase of the training as it was off to Salisbury Plain to put what they had learned into practice in a week-long live firing package.

Despite the best efforts of the Salisbury Plain weather system putting some gale force winds and horizontal rain our way, we managed to complete all the live firing as planned. We started off with a HMG familiarisation shoot leading into the Annual

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Weapons Assessment (AWA). For this the guns were all ground mounted and it quickly demonstrated their incredible accuracy at long ranges as targets from 800–2,000m were successfully engaged with a good rate of fire. During one of the shoots we were joined on the range by Ross Kemp (*aka* 'Grant' from *Eastenders*). Obviously his training for *Ultimate Force* stood him in good stead as he began to loose off bursts of 50-60 rounds! It was at this point that I thought my range qualification might be slightly in doubt as the Chief Range Warden began to approach having silently crept up on us! Fortunately, he just wanted a photo of Ross firing and an autograph (allegedly for his wife) and, with a firm handshake, he was on his way.

Following on from the AWA we proceeded to fit the HMG to the WMIK to give the soldiers the confidence to engage targets in this role in what is a less stable but highly manoeuvrable weapons platform. As the .50 began to open up the effects on the WMIK were quite obvious at it rolled the vehicle from side to side on each burst making marksmanship quite an art as Pte Deigan found out. 'Reference moon. Left of Sea of Tranquility enemy trench. Rapid Fire!' The GMG proved to be every bit as accurate as the HMG in both the ground mounted and WMIK role.

The week was capped off with a morning of GPMG (SF) firing for the Machine Gun Platoon and although the GPMG looked slightly comical when sat next to the HMG it wasn't long before the din of six guns was dramatically outfiring the WMIK mounted HMG. However, this demonstrated the potency of the weapon systems available to the FSGs in Afghanistan and the devastating effect that they can have when combined.

Air Manoeuvre

Capt Rob Smit writes:

With the Battle Group deploying to Helmand Province it was seen as vital to expand our air manoeuvre capabilities. Using 16 Brigade as the example an air cell was established in order to co-ordinate such activities, both during training and on operations. Though its exact composition has varied during the pre-deployment training phase, the air cell is usually staffed by an air ops officer, warrant officer and SNCO. Over the past six months the 1 R Anglian air cell has trained around 120 soldiers as Helicopter Handling Instructors (HHI), Landing Point Commanders (LPC) and Rigger Marshalls (RM). These soldiers will work within their companies as Helicopter Handling Teams (HHTs) and they will be responsible for marshalling helicopters, rigging various loads and conducting hook-up operations, primarily on the CH47 Chinook.

In addition to courses every opportunity has been taken to work with aviation and fast air. Fundamental to this has been Emergency Close Air Support (ECAS) and Close Combat Attack (CCA) training, the



Firing the GMG from a WMIK-2.

processes by which ground troops may call for fire by fast jet and attack helicopter respectively. In all instances support and advice have been forthcoming particularly during a confirmation exercise in Stanford Training Area where Close Air Support (CAS), Attack Helicopter (AH) and Support Helicopter (SH) were in support of company level operations on a daily basis. However, the main opportunity for training has been the air manoeuvre concentration, a three-day package designed by the air cell to increase overall awareness of each aircraft's capabilities and to practise the Battle Group in the procedures used in the Afghanistan theatre of operations. Day 1 consisted of a series of static aircraft displays, power point presentations by aircrew and a CCA Demonstration by Apache. On Day 2 the Battle Group travelled to RAF Odiham where troops were given ample opportunity to practise the skills they are likely to utilise in Helmand Province such as deploying with equipment from a Chinook within 20 seconds in order to minimise the aircraft's exposure to ground fire. The final day took place on Salisbury Plain and included an excellent CCA demonstration and SH support to allow each company to conduct their own fly forward incorporating all of the skills previously taught.

The use of massed SH has provided additional challenges in command and control at all levels. As such the Air Cell has played an important role within the Headquarters, acting as subject matter experts and advising on aircraft capabilities, assisting in landing site selection and facilitating the air movement plan. At times this plan has required the co-ordination of up to 11 waves of aircraft carrying a variety of loads both internal and external and moving between multiple Helicopter Landing Sites (HLS). The companies have worked hard on their SOPs and there has been a vast improvement in their ability to deploy quickly, effectively and in a controlled manner. However, greater integration with air assets has been mutually beneficial and this has proved particularly true when most of the support has been provided by Squadrons we will be working with on Herrick 6.

Another capability the Battle Group has trained for is Rapid Air Land (RAL), the technique used to deploy troops and vehicles by C130 Hercules onto improvised landing strips in a less than benign environment. This consisted of a training day at RAF Lyneham which included theory training, dry rehearsals and a live deployment of vehicles and troops by C130 onto Keevil

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A Chinook flying during Exercise Helmand Viking.

Airfield. Though not practised to the same level as Tactical Air Land Operations, such as conducted by 16 Air Assault Brigade, this experience has provided an additional means by which to insert on a larger scale over a more protracted distance.

In a six-month period the 1 R Anglian Battle Group has developed its air SOPs, gained a greater understanding of air manoeuvre operations and become proficient in a wide variety of air manoeuvre techniques. Many of these procedures have been constantly evolving in Helmand Province concurrent to our training but the Battle Group has remained flexible and taken on board the advice given. Best use has been made of the experiences of both 16 Air Assault and 3 Commando Brigades and in essence 1 R Anglian is now capable of operating as an air assault battalion.

the Brigade Recce Force. I was tasked to run the range, which was a little concerning; during the Javelin Platoon Commander's Course before Christmas we were told with absolute certainty by the instructors that we would never have to run a Javelin range!

The requirement to liaise with outside agencies was relatively large for what was to be no more than one minute and 42 seconds of flight (and as it turned out, much less...). On the range, as well as the relevantly qualified safety supervisors and clearance from Salisbury Plain Training Area, there had to be a Javelin-qualified Ammunition Technical Officer and his team, a QMSI from the Guided Weapons Monitoring Department from the Defence Logistics Organisation Andover, and with him 'Javelin Dan', an American flown over specifically for any Javelin live firing, who monitors all UK findings as part of JJV. In

addition I had to borrow equipment from the Anti-Tank Division, and ensure correct collection and transport of the missiles – something which a lot of people were getting particularly excited about.

Eventually all the ducks were lined up and it was a miserable day with all of D Company as well as various other members of the Battle Group and Brigade HQ watching the firing at Observation Post 23. The first firing went perfectly, with a simple top attack at the nearest target, a hulk at approximately 500m distance. However, when Pte Harrison McCabe fired the second missile, it popped out of the Launch Tube Assembly... and then fell to the ground immediately in front of the firing trench. The secondary motor had failed to engage. Fortunately the Javelin missile has a built in safety mechanism that did not arm the warhead. Nonetheless, this is the first time that a missile had misfired

Javelin Live Firing

Capt Olly Ormiston writes:

The firing of Javelin missiles live is a rare occurrence. So far, it has been restricted almost entirely to the Support Weapons Wing at Warminster to conduct as part of their Javelin courses. At approximately £70,000 a missile, with a 17-second maximum range flight time (that's at least £4,000 per second) it is not hard to see why. There are between 12 and 18 missiles fired per year, and these are all closely monitored as part of the Javelin Joint Venture (JJV) with the US, to constantly ensure their In Service Suitability (ISS).

Thus I was shocked and pleased to learn that Land had made the decision to allow deploying Brigades to fire missiles as part of the ISS tests, and due to this 12 Brigade had been allocated six missiles – around half a million pounds worth of ordnance. After some debate, it was decided that as the lead infantry battalion, 1 R Anglian would receive three of these, with one each going to the Grenadier Guards, the Light Dragoons, and



Javelin live firing.

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in the UK (there is approximately a one per cent chance of it happening), and it happened right in front of Ross Kemp and his crew. He saw the opportunity for revenge after a little banter that I had directed at him earlier (I told him that he could fire a missile), and – once he returned from running away from the dud missile – jumped in for an interview. The Anti-Tank Wing heard about the misfire straight away (news travels fast in the Javelin world), and when myself and CSgt Snow later returned to the Wing straight after the range we were immediately subject to abuse from the instructors. Range Control were surprisingly flexible, and after a quick phone call from Ammunition Technical Officer assuring them that it was safe we continued firing from the adjacent trench. The remaining four missiles were fired without incident, using both top and direct attack, at all targets, from the hulk at 500m to the one at 2,300m (the maximum range of the missile is 2,500m). There was some concern and bated breath when the final missile took the full 17 seconds to reach its target – at one point it was assumed to have also gone rogue – but seeing it connect led to an audible sigh of relief from both the Javelin Platoon and OC D Company.

Apart from the misfire, which was down to

technical and not manual error, it had been a successful day for the Javelin Platoon, and members of the Battalion have since commented on how impressed they were with the weapon system. It is a leap forward from Milan, in terms of range, accuracy, and effectiveness. With it the Javelin Platoon, and thus the Javelin elements of the Fire Support Groups, will have an awesome weapon at their disposal in Afghanistan.

Exercise Kush Dragon - A Platoon Commander's Perspective

Lt George Seal-Coon writes:

January arrived and with it the culmination of our pre-deployment training: Exercise Kush Dragon, the Battle Group's Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRX) before deployment to Helmand in March. The Exercise involved over 3,000 troops, from the Vikings, the remainder of 12 Mechanised Brigade, not to forget an ANA unit, provided by Gurkha Engineers and a small contingent of Estonians. The Exercise was a large beast, with many moving parts. Not least of which for B Company, was the integration of the

Ross Kemp film crew who were on task to create a documentary on B Company's Herrick Tour!

7 Platoon B Company deployed to Westdown Camp on Saturday 13 January. Faced with the habitual torture of conversion to TES, we were not disappointed! The following days progressed with great momentum and the company-level training that made up the first week was both theatre orientated and challenging, giving us a much needed opportunity to tackle some key issues that had arisen during the OPTAG period. As a company we were based out of Avon Camp (*aka* Camp Bastion), chilly but comfortable, we completed a 'round robin' of activities across the Salisbury Plain.

The Monday saw B Company ensconced in Copehill Down for a very welcome operations in built-up areas day. The morning consisted of a number of stands, ranging from house-clearance to method of entry (or how to swing a sledgehammer). We carried out a couple of battle exercises, well tailored to the Afghan scenario: on the whole this was a very beneficial package.

The company then deployed on a day of convoy drills, allowing us to establish some much needed vehicle SOPs, something we've had little chance to work on: we



Sgt Woodrow of B Company prepares to move.

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Firing the GPMG during Exercise Kush Dragon.

stress-tested these in a number of contact scenarios.

In the latter stages of the week, we really took ownership of our own training. A specially tailored arrest operation became a challenging advance to contact, with a few twists thrown in to spice things up a little. A day of platoon led training enabled us to practise a little more interaction with the civilian population (in this case, genuine Afghans) and also to test a few senior privates and JNCOs in command appointments, in an attempt to prepare every man to take the appointment of the man above.

With the start of the Brigade MRX we found ourselves on the Battle Group Main Effort. A company move by CH 47 from Salisbury Plain Training Area saw us in Caerwent (South Wales) and establishing security for a Shura and the facilitation of further influential operations in the area. This was an excellent period of training, integrating all of the Company's assets (with the exception of 5 Platoon - responsible for securing the Forward Operating Base - and the film crew - AWOL). The intelligence picture and the atmosphere were well briefed and supported by around 80 civilians. B Company's relatively soft posture made good in-roads into influencing the general population and after a successful Shura, restructuring tasks began in earnest. This was a good opportunity for the platoons to get out on the ground, getting 'face-time' with the locals and providing security for

some real-time engineering tasks: notably putting windows (which they did with great finesse and alacrity). Inevitably the security situation began to spiral. Isolated snipes on patrolling callsigns culminated in a full-scale attack on the compound. A heroic defence, supported by AH saw the enemy stopped dead, despite the best efforts of the observer controllers to kill us off! A withdrawal was ordered and we extracted, via the Forward Operating Base (Chepstow Camp), to Avon Camp. This period in South Wales was particularly notable for the resources allocated to us and for the realism of our training.

After a recuperation period (about four hours) we were fit to deploy. A long road move took us to Kajaki Dam (Tinhead Farm - and we have yet to discover the water). Here the pace of operations decreased slightly, along with the temperature, and we settled into routine. After a short while, Ross Kemp plus film-crew arrived, securing themselves places in 6 Platoon's sub-tropical accommodation (Sgt Browning having previously secured two super-heated tents for his platoon). Despite our best efforts to convince them that it was in their better interests to rough it with the remainder of the Company, they took their chances with The Mighty 6 - I can't think why.

For us, the exercise is now over. A couple of weeks in Kenya and then B Company will be in Helmand, where the real testing will undoubtedly begin.

Recce Platoon Live Firing

Capt Andy Wilde writes:

In preparation for deploying to Afghanistan the Recce Platoon undertook a three-week live fire package at Lulworth in October and November 2006. It was the first time that the Platoon had fired for a long time and also the first time with the eight CVR(T) Scimitar that will eventually accompany us to Afghanistan.

The aim for this firing package was for the platoon to pass their Annual Crew Tests (ACT) and also the Annual Section Assessment (ASA). Before the platoon could attempt these tests the majority of **gunners** and commanders had to convert to the Battle Group Thermal Imaging (BGTI) sights. This was a fairly easy process that required each person to fire two shoots both in the visual and thermal mode. It was during this period of conversion that it quickly became obvious what a leap forward in capability the new sights gave to the platoon. Added to the sights the addition of a laser range finder to each CVR(T) made all engagements much more accurate and nearly all achieved a first time hit even at night at long range where the old No 52 sight would have been struggling.

As the firing progressed the two RIGs, Cpl Pinder and Roberts, seemed to be working non-stop in order to make sure the platoon

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Got it!

was up to standard in all aspects of 30mm gunnery. By the end of the second week Cpl Hill had declared himself a 30mm marksman and was enquiring about what sort of badge he could wear on his No2s. Some of the crews were turning in very good results, the best being from 23A with LCpl Eggleton and also the new crew of LCpl Ryan, Pte Cooper and Pte Mazirel. By the third week at Lulworth it was time to start the tests. The staff from the Armoured Infantry Training and Advisory Group turned up and it was time for the Platoon to produce the results when counted.

The first test that was to be conducted was the Annual Crew Test (ACT). This is a single vehicle Fire and Movement Exercise (FMX) that incorporates a move between two firing positions and also a short halt emergency engagement. All practices are timed and the crew has 40 seconds to engage and destroy the target. If the vehicle is exposed for more than 40 seconds it is considered destroyed and the test is stopped. The crews worked hard over the period of the test and all passed. The average result for the Platoon was a Level 6, which is the top grade that can be awarded.

Next was the Annual Section Assessment (ASA). This is a similar test to the ACT but there are two vehicles on the range and the section commander has to control the movement and engagements of his section. The way this test was run was as a short advance followed by a longer withdrawal. During the withdrawal phase the gun is put over the back decks of the vehicle. This was the first time for some crews that they had to deal with the added complication of

the driver facing one way and the gunner and commander facing the other. As with the ACT the Platoon worked well with each section passing the test. This time the average score for the platoon was a Level 5, not quite as good as the ACT but still a good result.

With the range package at Lulworth complete the Platoon moved back to Pirbright to redeploy down to Thetford the next day. In Thetford the Platoon also conducted some live firing. This firing was in support of the Rifle Companies from defended locations. Freshly qualified and eager for as much firing as possible the Platoon enjoyed this opportunity to take part in something a little bit different. It gave everyone involved an idea of the weight and accuracy of fire that is achievable and may be available when the Battalion deploys on Operation Herrick 6.

Ross Kemp

Capt David Glover writes:

The key theme that runs through this article is, 'what a small world we live in'. Ross grew up in Essex with his father serving in the Royal Norfolks prior to the formation of the Royal Anglian Regiment. Ross, instead of joining The Vikings, went off to acting school only to wake up one day deciding that the private soldier's story should be told. Ross said: 'I was just fed up at all the bad press the Army was taking without the explanation of all of the hardships the soldiers go through'.

Ross, supported by his crew from Tiger Aspect, has undertaken to make four one-

hour programmes focusing on B (Suffolk) Company. The programme has followed the development of both individuals and the Company as a whole throughout the rigours of training in the UK for operations in Helmand. Ross has embedded with B Company not only in camp but into every aspect of training and family life.

Ross said: 'When people see soldiers they have their preconceived ideas of who they are and what they do. I want to show the UK at large that there is a lot of hard work to achieve the standard required. There are 18-year-olds who have to have the discipline and the education to know when to potentially deliver lethal force. Compared with their peers in civilian life the responsibilities they possess are incomparable'.

The filming will not end in the UK. Ross and the crew will travel out to Afghanistan to film B Company undertaking their day-to-day job, whatever that may be. In total the crew will spend between four and five weeks in theatre capturing for posterity the Vikings undertaking operations. The crew has already undergone training to bring their knowledge up to the required standard for working with the modern Army. This has taken the form of weapon training, first aid, military knowledge, mines, kidnapping and hostage situations. However, the most important phase has come with getting to know the soldiers and the subsequent build up of trust and learning how to operate without altering the operational effectiveness of the troops on the ground.

Ross said: 'We know that it is going to be hard out there and the crew and I have been training for some months to get our fitness

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Ross Kemp with the Javelin Platoon.

to the right level to be able to cope with both the heat and the hostile environment which this tour presents. if you ask anyone in the street to name five regiments you always get the same Paras, Royal Marines, Guards, and that's when people start to struggle. Hopefully, the programmes will go out on prime time Sky One to 5 million people putting the name of the Battalion out there to the general public for all the right reasons'.

On completion of the filming it will take several weeks to get the programmes ready for airing on Sky One in November, the time when the Battalion returns home. The title of the series has yet to be decided.

I asked Ross if he could summarise what he has learned from his time with the Viking to date. Ross said: 'The warmth and professionalism with which we have been received. This is clearly a family Regiment and we have been made a part of that'.

Not Quite a Civilian

WO2 MA Freeman writes:

I was on my resettlement training as a plasterer when the RSM phoned me and asked me down to the Old Boys' Rugby match at Bury St Edmunds. Little did I know that he had a plan in mind, other than my one of having a good drink with some of the Old Boys from the Vikings' Rugby team. Halfway through the night as the ale was flowing and catching me totally unaware he sprung his trap. Next thing I knew I was giving in my desert clothing sizes and signing on for continuance. For that I thank him, I think.

We are now on the brink of deployment

some five months down the line and the Company is eagerly awaiting the deployment although with an air of caution. We have conducted the training in a thoroughly professional manner and with a lot of enthusiasm and effort put in by the normal non-combatants. To which I must pass on a well done to the chefs, REME and the clerks for the steep learning curve that they have completed.

I rejoined the Battalion on 23 October 2006 after completing my plastering course (for which I give discounts to Royal Anglians). I almost made it to Civvy Street but the urge of coming back to the Battalion and deploying on what will be the hardest Operational Tour the unit has undertaken for some time, was just too strong.

The Company was forming up on the day I came back and we were straight off to Sandhurst for the all ranks' briefing day. A brief period of in-camp training and transition to field firing followed where the MTO proved how diligent he is about his shooting taking over an hour just to zero. Most of the guys in the waiting detail just reckon he's a bad shot. I have to agree with them.

In mid-November we deployed down to Lydd in four training platoons: G4 Platoon - QM's Department and chefs under Capt Blanchfield QM(T); MT Platoon - MT and LAD under Capt Jones MTO; CIS - CIS and BG HQ under Capt McClay RSO; CO's Rover Group.

The Platoons did well producing some very good results. This was aided by the competitive edge of both Capt Blanchfield and Capt Jones to get as much training value

from the package as possible. I think the highlight of the training was watching the RCWO, WO2 Dave Beal, lead his section of chefs and bottlewashers through the day and night live attack on the compound at Hythe. He didn't have a clue before he started and was a little apprehensive to say the least about the range as was I running down the range with them as safety. They learned a lot from it and it put them in good stead for the remainder of the training.

After Lydd we were deployed straight up to STANTA for Exercise Helmand Viking with Capt Blanchfield in the role of OC and QM(T). Here the Company did their normal day jobs as they would do in theatre, but with the added bonus of guarding the camp and supplying the IRT and manning the detention facility for any detainees that the fighting troops had captured. On completion of the exercise it was back to camp to get ready for the Christmas celebration and a much-deserved leave.

After leave things were straight back to the normal high octane pace of life that we have become accustomed to. ISO containers being packed, completing the PFT, CFT, ACFT 1 and ACFT 2 (attached arms just loved that), first aid and the rest of the training tests. At the end of January came the final part of the training for Echelon Company the Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRX).

Here we were deployed to Netheravon Camp. This was a series of run down and derelict outbuildings if you were lucky or an 18 by 24 if you were not. The guys became extremely resourceful using anything that wasn't nailed down, and some things that

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were, to make life a little more comfortable. The weather was just like Afghanistan is going to be; cold, wet, windy and even snow. All the usual things that you expect on a mission rehearsal for a hot hostile climate.

So here we are now in March with some of Echelon in Kenya supporting the rifle companies on their live firing and getting good base tans, and the remainder waiting to go to Afghanistan on the advance party. Who knows what the future has in store for us in Helmand but I am sure all members of the Company and the Battalion will do a thoroughly professional job.

Looking back to when I almost made it to Civvy Street I think I made the right decision to take this job on. I have enjoyed the training with the Company and relish the chance to take them on what will be a truly testing time for all members of the Company regardless of their capbadge.

Chilean Visit Report

Capt Gavin Hudson writes:

In late October 2006, I was lucky enough to be part of an international exchange with the Chilean Army. I was hosted by Capt Fernando Guzman, the Operations Officer for the Signals Company attached to the Regimiento Reforzado No 4 Rancagua. The Regiment was a mechanised infantry unit, using M113 APCs which compares very similarly to an armoured infantry unit in the UK.

The Regiment is one of the country's oldest and has a proud history. It is currently stationed in Arica, a northern border town where it gained its most important battle honour after driving the Peruvian Army from the high ground (el Morro - similar to the Rock of Gibraltar) near the town.

For strategic reasons they are still based approximately 30km from the Peruvian border. According to my hosts, both Peru and Bolivia lay claims to the northern part of Chile, which they lost during the Pacific Wars in the 19th Century and both countries



blame their lack of economic success on this loss of ground which is rich in natural resources and (in landlocked Bolivia's case allows passage to the sea).

My visit started by deploying on exercise for three days in the mountainous desert region near Arica. The whole Regiment had deployed and had been joined by the Company Commanders' Course which had come up from Santiago. The senior lieutenants on this course were getting to grips with NATO Battlegroup planning techniques and conducted estimates before delivering orders and conducting missions. During the course of the exercise I was able to visit the different companies and squadrons and study their equipment. There was a strong German and American influence in equipment, uniform and tradition. The Regiment appeared well

equipped and was being in the process of upgrading some of its equipment; the Anti-Tank platoon now has Spike (a top-attack fire and forget weapon similar to our own Javelin but with a longer range), the tank squadron was shortly to receive Leopard 2; and the Signals Company was training commanders in a very similar Command and Control tool to ComBat called Siscorsi. The exercise concluded with a company level live firing package which (for technical reasons) did not include artillery support but did feature small arms, .50 cal from the M113 APCs and tanks firing their main armament.

Civilian aspects of the trip included: a visit to the Regimental Museum; a visit to the altiplano (the high plains near the Bolivian border at 4500m with surrounding volcanoes reaching 6300m); a short trip to Iquique 300km to the south to visit the Cazadores Regiment; visiting various battle sites and the naval museum at Iquique which celebrated the heroism of Capt Arturo Pratt against a Peruvian ship in a battle off the coast of Iquique during the Pacific Wars; a visit to Pisagua, a small village on the coast which was the site of the first orchestrated naval landing and a place where General Pinochet imprisoned political opponents.

Further days were spent in barracks meeting various personalities and seeing the facilities. There was also a ceremonial parade called Infantrymen's Friday where the Colonel addressed the Regiment. I was also invited to the Colonel's house for dinner during the visit.

The Chileans were very interested in British opinions on the way they operated and asked me to give a presentation on the Royal Anglian Regiment's history and current operational experience, its equipment and modus operandi, and the career of a young officer in the Infantry.

A fortnight later, Lt Enrique Muñoz from



The Vikings

the same regiment, arrived in England on the return leg. He joined the Battalion in Lydd where he observed and then, following his own familiarization and training on the SA80A2, took part in the ranges, at up to platoon level. He also got to grips with the other platoon weapons being particularly impressed by Ptes Mathieson and Hicks' vigour and enthusiasm on the GPMG and LMG respectively.

The weekend was a chance for Lt Muñoz to sample a wide variety of British culture which included a whistle-stop tour of major London monuments (with the occasional stop for refreshment), a visit to Cambridge and the Regimental Museum at Duxford, and (a personal highlight for the author and editor) watching Ipswich smash Norwich 3-1 at Portman Road. Back to work, Lt Muñoz then deployed on a 36-hour exercise with A (Norfolk) Company spending the exercise attached to Platoon HQ, he learned first-hand how we conducted low-level tactical training. Before the return to Chile, Lt Muñoz, whose next job is instructing at the Chilean Officer Academy, visited RMA Sandhurst where he was shown around by fellow Viking, Capt Dave James-Roll.

Overall, this was an educational and mutually beneficial visit. We both learned a lot about an Army and a country we knew little about and were interested to see in how similar a fashion we operate.

The Forming of Echelon Company

Echelon Company was formed back in October 2006. It is made up of what is traditionally known as HQ Company personnel but, so as not to confuse those that are deploying on Operation Herrick 6 with those remaining on Rear Party, Echelon Company was formed. Initially the company was commanded by Maj(QM) Stefanetti, but due to unforeseeable reasons the Company is now commanded by Capt (QM(T)) Phil Blanchfield.

The Company has continued with its day job of supplying and sustaining the Battalion, but it has had a structured training programme ensuring that the members of the Company attend and complete as much of the training as possible. This has included night work each Tuesday which has enabled the Company to concentrate on military skills leaving their day jobs behind.

For the Lydd and Hythe range package the Company formed into platoons commanded by Capt Jones (MTO), WO2 Beal (RCWO) and Capt Fallowfield (EME). The administration for the package was taken on by a team from HQ Company led by Sgt Lovett. Each platoon and company HQ completed all ranges as did each rifle company. Some of the tactics employed by the platoons were a little rusty to start with but by the end of the package all members of the Company had taken part in section withdrawal in contact, assaults on compounds, defence in an outpost and

vehicle contact drills. They were also conversant and confident with other weapon systems such as L96 sniper rifle and GPMG, not to mention the more usual MMTT, Fire control, and IBSR ranges. Overall the entire range package for Echelon Company was well structured and a great deal of learning/ reminding took place over the week.

The next main activity for the Company was the deployment to Stanford Training Area (STANTA) to take part in the exercise. This was really the first opportunity the Company got to deploy to the outstations with the rifle companies that they will be attached to for the tour and provide the support as they will be doing during Herrick 6. This gave Echelon Company members a chance to get to know the companies with whom they will be working, and practise other skills such as base attack and 'standing to' in contact.

The Company had approximately a week in camp to refurbish the Battalion before deploying on Exercise Kush Dragon. This for Echelon Company was similar to STANTA, but with the inclusion of more helicopters. This enabled us to practise the in load and out load of stores, personnel and combat supplies to out-stations. Kush Dragon also gave us a chance to practise operating from a Forward Operating Base.

After Exercise Kush Dragon Echelon Company took well-earned leave with the rest of the Battalion and subsequently sustained the Battalion in Kenya while a G4 team deployed to theatre in early March. Echelon Company personnel have without doubt completed a great deal of military training so, that if push came to shove, they would be able to step into a rifle section and operate as a soldier.

The CIS Platoon has also been busy preparing for Operation Herrick. As usual the Platoon concentrated on the Command and Control aspects of the training. After running a number of communications cadres the platoon was straight into the OPTAG package. In the absence of a Signals Officer, who was apparently on holiday at Bovington, the platoon soon stepped up a gear. It seemed at times that all the exercises merged into one, but the platoon were still able to get people away on career courses, with Cpl Fosker (C Company) gaining a distinction on his RSS (SNCO) course. With members of the platoon deploying in early March, and the addition of an eight-man rear link from 228 Signals Squadron, we switched fire and began training on the theatre specific equipment, in particular the Satellite communications systems. The training finished with the Platoon running a number of Herrick 6 communications cadres for Company Detachments and Platoon Operators. We are now looking forward to a successful tour in Afghanistan.

There have been numerous changes within the Catering Department. WO2 McLeod and SSgt Mattocks have left on promotion, WO2 Beal has taken up the position of RCWO just in time for Minden Day, along

with SSgt Oldfield, who was posted in as the Master Chef. Also posted in have been Cpl Stan Standen, and LCpl Clive Sawyer. Above the usual functions and daily catering, the Catering Department have shown their all round ability. The RCWO and Cpl Jordan represented the Army at the Combined Services Culinary Competition, and on the OPTAG training the Department consistently outshot the likes of the Signals Platoon (Jimmy, you know it's the truth!) and prepared themselves for the arduous tour that is round the corner. All have enjoyed the training given and are looking forward to supporting the Battalion in Afghanistan. While away we lose Sgt Andy Hay, who has come to the end of his Colour Service. I am sure that we have not seen the last of him. Rumour has it he is looking to get a job as a kitchen porter! We wish him all the best for his transition to civilian life.

The MT Platoon has continued with a very busy year, with its focus firmly on licence acquisition and pre-deployment training for Operation Herrick 6. To date, the Driver Training Wing, commanded by Cpl Goodchild, and ably assisted by his team of Cpl Chandler, LCpl Jones and LCpl Stevens have conducted 13 Land Rover GS conversions, qualifying some 130 Vikings. This team has also co-ordinated the Contract Driver Training Contract. This has now seen over 400 Vikings holding a car licence and over 200 holding an HGV licence, which will no doubt keep the Vikings busy during their Post-Operational Leave in November! Vehicle Familiarisation courses have continued in earnest on WMIK, PINZ 6 x 6 and QUAD all under the watchful eye of Sgt Chris Penny and again assisted by the Driver Training Team. The platoon has also seen the arrival of CSgt Terry Neal, the new MTWO, who has also taken on the role of keeping the MTO in check.

Concurrent to, this has been the Platoon's Pre-Deployment Training. Working on the ethos 'Fighter First' the platoon has taken and played a key role in the preparation for the forthcoming tour deploying on all the major exercises and rehearsing their war roles. An influx of youth into the Platoon has also kept the old and bold on their toes, and has seen an upsurge in war stories.

Throughout all of this, the MT Rear Party team, commanded by Cpl McKenna with Pte Firmin as his 2IC, has ensured that those deploying have had no distractions and have been able to train effectively. On the subject of the rear party, a great loss to this team was to be Pte Small's impending termination, until he declared to the MTO that, if he could go to Kenya, he would withdraw this termination. Not surprisingly Pte Small found himself on one of the first flights to Kenya. The rear party team will undoubtedly benefit from this decision. Looking ahead, the platoon is undoubtedly looking towards the tour and all that that it may bring. Before long, it will be back to the Licence Acquisition in preparation for our next role in January 2008.

2nd Battalion The Poachers

Introduction by the Commanding Officer

The aim on our immediate return from Iraq was to have as quiet a time as possible. But as you will gather from the following articles, quiet is a relative term in the modern Army! The immediate decompression period post Iraq was hectic but fun, as one social and sporting event blurred into another. Such a sustained period of pressure often plays tricks on the mind, and I personally only remember the Officers' Mess v Sergeants' Mess football match up until half time, at which point the score was 2-1 to the officers. I do vaguely recollect an outrageous decision to disallow a perfectly good goal that would have made it 3-1, but I simply fail to believe, as the RSM insists, that it actually ended up 6-3 to the Sergeants' Mess.

Six weeks post tour and Christmas leave passed frighteningly quickly, and by the time we got back to Tern Hill we had already become the newest unit in 7 Armoured Brigade. Joining a proper 'joined up' all arms brigade has already made a huge difference to the Battalion, not least because it provides us with a proper focus for our training. Due to Iraq we joined the Brigade slightly out of kilter. The Brigade had been on Operation Telic 7, we did 8, which put us just over six months out of synch with the training cycle being followed by the other units. However, our new Commander, Brig Patrick Marriot, has been extremely supportive, and visited the Battalion soon after we became Desert Rats to get to know us, formally welcome us to the Brigade and present us with our Red Rats, which we all now proudly wear.

The direction he gave us is also very welcome, and that is to train for a war, not the war. So we have been able to concentrate on the basic skills of soldiering. The ones we know from hard earned experience are the ones that make the difference when things get tough, no matter where you are when they take a turn for the worse. So whilst the rifle companies have concentrated on the fundamentals, as you will read we have also invested heavily in Fire Support Company, bringing it up to just about full strength (what it is to be so well manned) and running a series of numbers cadres. Indeed, a feature of the period since leave has been just how many soldiers have been learning new skills, everything from how to operate Javelin to how to play a side drum. Such is the pace of life that all these new individual skills have to be assimilated at the same time as various collective ones, as we learn how to use, among other things JPA, JAMES and Bowman. Yes, we are finally converting to Bowman; some five years after the Vikings set the ball rolling! The Potential Junior NCOs' Cadre was also a great success, giving the companies over 20 new leaders. I am also pleased to say that some of these new lance corporals found themselves almost immediately on further career courses. It

is always good to see soldiers seeking to better themselves, something the tactics cadre also achieved, sending I hope some of the best prepared JNCOs to Brecon we have for some time.

A particular highlight of the past few months has been the recent Freedom Parades. It was an ambitious undertaking to do seven parades in less than two weeks, but the momentum it created was fantastic. The reception from the public was humbling, not least in Grimsby where the scenes were reminiscent of Beatlemania, even down to the underwear thrown by a few grateful ladies! Press coverage was relentless, and entirely positive, and the accompanying recruiting drive is already proving to be a resounding success. Personally I was struck by just how many times civic dignitaries, veterans, serving officers and ordinary members of the public went out of their way to tell me how polite and well behaved the Poachers had been, and above all else what a credit they were to their profession. I could not agree more, and I am pleased they had a chance to prove it at a time when there is so much negative publicity surrounding the Army.

Following Easter leave the pace of life is going to increase. Bowman conversion starts in earnest, there is a Battalion level exercise and then another Freedom Parade, this time a first, when we will be granted the Freedom of Loughborough. Then following the inter-company boxing it will be time to move to Germany. Where on arrival 7 Brigade are going to really put us through our paces with a CATT, CAST and then Brigade Exercise in Poland. Which should set us up nicely for Christmas in Celle with all that a German

Christmas brings, but also a chance to get a less easily influenced referee for the next officers v sergeants football match!

A Company Go Skiing

Pte Kieran Knight writes:

When we heard about the chance to go skiing for a week in France the majority of the Company jumped at the chance. Although many of us had never skied before we piled onto the minibus full of enthusiasm and set off on our way to France.

With Cpl Flitton behind the wheel we soon hit the motorway. Six hours later (with no contingency time planned for by the Operations Officer) we were on the ferry from Dover to Calais making sure we made best use of the duty free beer!

After docking in Calais our keen driving machine was back behind the wheel co-piloted by Cpl Seymour and Cpl Taylor, only to drive another 20 more hours before reaching our destination. All in all the journey took 26 hours. Our accommodation/apartment was of a good standard and our issued kit ie skis, warm kit etc was excellent.

At 0830hrs the day after our arrival we headed outside for our first ski lesson. Our instructor was the famous Frank from Sandeas. As you can imagine we spent most of the day slipping and sliding onto our backsides, but after a few basic skills we soon began to get the hang of it. At least that's what we all thought. The nightlife on the ski resort was a bit on the plain side, but we made the most of it and had some good nights out.

After being on the slopes for a few days,



Resting on the slopes.

The Poachers



The ski camp.

we were a lot more confident in skiing and our skills were getting better and better by the day surprising the instructors considering this was our first skiing experience. Although being the more experienced guys in the group, Sey, big Al and Tats still took their fair share of tumbles managing to take out some French civvies and kids with them.

The last few days quickly approached. We made the most of them and spent the rest of our trip touring the resorts slopes. We tested our bravery and skiing skill on slopes of varying difficulty hills, took a few more tumbles and added to the suntan.

All in all our time in France was educational, it was certainly fun and an enjoyable experience. We definitely came away with a sense of achievement with us and make no doubt about it we will definitely be returning soon.

Exercise Rock Poacher - Gibraltar

Maj Paul Leslie writes:

Exercise Rock Poacher was a six-day battlefield tour of Gibraltar conducted by B (Leicestershire) Company over the period 15-21 February 2007. The aim of the exercise was to introduce soldiers to battlefield tours and show how knowledge of military history assists in preparing for current operations. The exercise also served to strengthen the existing links between the Royal Gibraltar Regiment and the Poachers. Eighteen soldiers took part; 16 of whom were private soldiers formed into two 'sections' led by Cpls Squibb and Pett. With the exception of OC B Company, none of those present had visited Gibraltar before and the Exercise therefore proved to be a

genuine learning experience for all. Arrival on the Thursday evening went smoothly with vehicles and drivers waiting from the Royal Gibraltar Regiment. A drop off at Devil's Tower Camp was rapidly followed by a move to the 'Casements' which allowed the party to test the local beers - San Miguel and Fosters. Torrential rain; for the next two days, however, reminded all it was training!

The following morning a mandatory RMP brief advised all that Gibraltar was the most heavily policed area in Europe while the Environmental Health Team warned that 400 people a year are bitten by the apes; the majority of whom are believed to be visiting US Service personnel; 'don't fool with the apes said the monkeys'! The remainder of the first day included a visit to the Gibraltar Museum to gain an understanding of Gibraltar's military history and strategic role followed by an orientation drive around the Rock under the expert guidance of LCpls Ghio and Tinkler finishing off at Europa Point. Despite the warning the majority of soldiers still managed to get photographs of apes sitting on their shoulders and heads.

Saturday was an early start with a visit to the 18th century siege tunnels; these were largely constructed by hand with crude explosives by the Company of Artificers (the forerunners of the Royal Engineers), this tour was followed by visits to the 'City under Siege' and 'Military Heritage Centres'. Later that day rehearsals for the group presentations were conducted as well as a visit to St Michael's Cave; a natural cave where 500 French troops hid prior to an assault of the Rock's Defences during the Great Siege of 1779-83. Over the remaining three days visits were conducted to Royal Anglian Way (constructed by the Poachers while stationed in Gibraltar in 1968), the World War Two tunnels (many of which were constructed by Canadian Royal Engineers) and Lower St Michael's Cave. Walks also took place along the Upper Rock to visit Rooke's Battery and other gun



Apparently beer was all they could afford to buy!

The Poachers



At the top of the Royal Anglian Way.

positions. The World War Two Tunnels and Lower St Michael's Cave were particularly impressive. Despite only glimpsing a few of the 33 miles of military tunneling within Gibraltar the scale of the achievement was apparent. Under the expert guidance of WO2 Jackson, Royal Gibraltar Regiment, we visited former military hospital locations, Power plants and Brigade Headquarters; many connected by tunnels capable of allowing two-way vehicle traffic to pass. The tunnels bear testimony to the ingenuity and fortitude of the generations of soldiers who had served in Gibraltar particularly over the period of the Great Siege and the Second World War and particularly during Gen Eisenhower's preparations for Operation Torch, the invasion of North Africa in 1943. The visit to Lower St Michael's Cave, donning pot-holing helmets, torches and with an element of scrambling and blind trust, was an excellent way of getting a feel for the real challenges that had been overcome by the military engineers. The cave is not visited by the majority of tourists as qualified guides are required to lead parties underground.

A visit to the Gibraltar Naval Squadron proved, perhaps, to be the most enjoyable part of the tour. Dressed in immersion suits and life jackets and loaded onto rigid inflatable boats capable of carrying six personnel and crew we spent almost two hours patrolling across the Bay of Gibraltar at 50 knots. The aim was to see Gibraltar from the Naval and enemy perspective which we did; however, in addition it was just good fun being launched across the bay by the Royal Marines crew who were keen to show us what the boats were capable of!

Exercise Rock Poacher was enjoyed by all those who took part. Led by OC 4 Platoon, 2Lt Jeff Bennet-Madge and based on the advice of Sgt Chris Ghio, a B (Leicestershire) Company liaison officer on attachment from

the Royal Gibraltar Regiment the majority of the planning took place while the Company were serving in Basra City at the Shaat-Al-Arab Hotel. The OC's aims were to improve individual knowledge of military history, strengthen the links between the Poachers and the Royal Gibraltar Regiment and allow B Company's private soldiers to visit a Tri-Service environment and have some fun through an enjoyable and varied programme consisting of military history, uniformed (but enjoyable) training and sport. The exercise also developed the communication skills of the private soldiers involved through a series of presentations on topics themed around Gibraltar's military history.

Exercise Rock Poacher could not have taken place without significant assistance from the Royal Gibraltar Regiment. From

the initial planning while in Iraq through to the provision of accommodation, guides and the 'fixing' of the programme assistance from Maj Adie O'Shea, the Battalion 2IC, Maj Alman, Operations Officer, Capt Williamson and CSgt Valverde proved invaluable. In addition to the stated objectives soldiers took the opportunity to meet up with Royal Gibraltar Regiment soldiers with whom they had served in Iraq; to get away for a week to conduct training that isn't focused on immediate forthcoming operations is a rare opportunity. Despite being beaten 6-3 at football by the Royal Gibraltar Regiment on the final day soldiers left Gibraltar having had a cracking time and having spent six days in what was, in its time, the most formidable defensive position in Europe.



Lower St Michael's Cove.

The VHF and HF Bowman Operator's Course

– A Soldier's View

Pte Scott Ralph writes:

We rocked up at Aldershot to transit accommodation at Clayton Barracks the night before the course, ready to start the next day. I was one of three privates on the course with the rest ranging from lance corporal to major. At first I thought it would be a very hard course but later on I realised that everyone was in the same boat.

The course in general was very demanding in the sense of trying to pay attention because the hours of technical learning were 0830hrs to sometimes 1800hrs and, at times, it was definitely a struggle to stay awake. I learned a lot from the course and was glad I was put on it because on future operations and exercises Bowman will be one of the most important things.

We had a bit of a drama halfway through the course when it became obvious that the whole class wasn't learning from one instructor. That soon got rectified.

The course was to start on a Friday then finish a week on Monday which was a bit of a nuisance for people like me living in Lincolnshire. My OC, Maj Worthy, had a word with the staff there and asked whether or not we could finish on the Friday and cover all of the lessons in that time (we had been finishing at 1530hrs anyway). We all knew it would be hard going but worth it in the end. I believe that has been taken as the standard procedure for subsequent courses.

Some of the lessons we were taught we had already come across because we had not long come back from a seven-month tour in Iraq. The rest of the lessons, though mind-boggling, were fascinating to see what could be done with just a few mouse clicks. These ranged from being able to get secure communications, texting, and even finding where everybody's position is on the battlefield.

Overall I enjoyed the course. It gave me a massive insight into how the British Army has changed for the future. Everyone passed the course with flying colours and got what he needed from it. If I could change one thing it would be to get more hands-on the kit rather than computer simulations, which would help people to concentrate more.

Joint Personnel Administration Unit Conversion

Lt Andy Gill writes:

The Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system is a completely new way of doing personnel administration. This new system brings the Army into line with our

civilian counterparts and will involve a colossal change to the Army mindset. This concerns everybody and how they go about administration.

No longer will the Company Clerk change emergency contacts, bank account details or allotments. No longer will you part fill in a AF O1771 (MMA claim) and leave it with the clerks, it will now be the responsibility of the individual to change their bank information or other personal details should the need arise, it will also be up to them to put in accurate details about their duty travel.

Soldiers doing their own administration is not as scary as it may first appear, remember the individual will not have to use the archaic system that was Unicom, the new system is far more intuitive and once the self service training is completed each soldier should know what to do. Should they need any help or advice then the first port of call as always is the Company Clerk or Unit Human Resources Administrator, as they will now be known. The new system will be relatively easy to use and far easier to interrogate for management purposes.

For many years the three Services have conducted business on very different computers and in very different ways. JPA will bring us altogether with a single, connected, Tri-Service computer system and an administrative package. No longer will the Army work on several different systems, (UNICOM, GOST, TAFMIS, DII(C), LAND CSSR, etc), all three Services will use the Defence Information Infrastructure (F) on which JPA will run.

The RAF were the first to 'go-live' with this system and after a few teething problems were ironed out it is up and running fine with all the administration being done on it. The Navy were the next to 'go-live' and had very few problems at all patching over to JPA. It is important to remember that if the information held on the legacy systems is accurate at 'cut-over' there will be very few problems at all. In order for this, as many of you will all be aware, the clerks have been very busy, working late and weekends to ensure accuracy and we have now finished the data-cleansing phase. The clerks have also been busy copying everybody's details in the unlikely event that there are any discrepancies.

We should now be in a position to have the information 'cut-over' onto JPA. During this intermediate period Unicom has now been closed down and all changes to allowances, bank details etc are being sent by email and are being inputted manually on to JPA. The Unit HR Administrators have all received new computers although they will initially be run using connectivity on the old Unicom link. This will still provide access to JPA after 'Go-Live' and until the unit will receive DII (F) which will provide terminals and access for all and at a much higher speed.

D Company VC Memorial Trip to France

Maj Phil Birch writes:

In March 2007, D (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company had the opportunity for a weekend trip to Achiet-le-Grand in France to take part in the unveiling of a memorial to Pte Cox VC of the 7th Bedfords. Pte Christopher Cox won the award while serving as a stretcher bearer, for single-handedly rescuing several wounded men from no-man's land under heavy machine gun and artillery fire. He survived the war and returned to King's Langley in Hertfordshire where he worked at the Ovaltine factory for many years and was a prominent local member of the Royal British Legion until just before his death in 1959 aged 69.

The 90th anniversary of the battle at Achiet-le-Grand on 17 March 2007 coincided nicely with the Battalion's Freedom Parade period so we arranged to travel to France direct from the Luton parade. On the Friday night a small party from D Company including the OC, CSM, CSgt Perry, Sgts Headland (HQ Company) and Waqairoba, Cpl Thurman and 14 privates travelled in two minibuses via the Eurotunnel and arrived at our *gîte* at the nearby village of Miraumont in the early hours of Saturday morning.

A few hours later, after meeting our local host, Philippe Drouin, and taking breakfast in a hotel in Achiet, we moved to the memorial site on the battlefield outside the village. The memorial was built from Bedford brick and arranged by the villagers of Achiet-le-Grand in thanks for their liberation 90 years ago. Attending the ceremony were many local residents including the Mayor of Achiet, the chairman and standard bearer of the local Royal British Legion, the Somme Battlefield Pipe Band, members of King's Langley Parish Council and most importantly Mr Ian Cox (one of Christopher's sons) and other family members. Added authenticity was provided by a detachment from the 10th Essex, a World War One re-enactment society, who paraded dressed and equipped as British Tommies of the period.

During the moving ceremony CSgt Perry read out the roll of honour of the 28 men from the Bedfordshire Regiment who died in the battle around Achiet-le-Grand. Ian Cox (himself an ex-Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment National Service veteran) gave an emotional speech and unveiled the memorial along with the Mayor who revealed the information panel. Maj Birch then laid one of the wreaths on behalf of the Royal Anglian Regiment. Our presence at the parade was definitely appreciated by the Cox family and the locals, and this alone made the trip worthwhile. However, following wine and nibbles in the village *salle des fetes*, we took a tour of

The Poachers



Sgt Waqairoba, Sgt Headland, 10th Essex, WO2 (CSM) King, CSgt Perry.



Above: OC D Company prepares to lay the wreath...and right, a close up of the memorial.



The Poachers

Anti-Tank Cadre

Capt Omar Faruque writes:

After a well enjoyed post-tour leave the platoon was looking forward to getting back into the swing of its conventional role and doing some good old anti-tanking. Although we did take the Javelin weapon system with us to Iraq, it is the only weapon system organic to the Battalion which we did not have the opportunity to engage the enemy with...although, that said, it did prove to be a useful surveillance device throughout the tour. With that in mind the prospect of engaging some enemy armour was one we were all looking forward to practising over the coming weeks.

Having spent the majority of the last year involved with Operation Telic 8 we were all well aware that it had been a while since we had last practised our anti-tanking. With our recent six weeks off and with six new additions to the platoon it made sense to go right back to basics and build up with all members of the platoon, old and new alike, going through the same training.

The cadre was broken down into four phases: skill at arms, tactics, gunner skills tests and a final exercise testing soldiers within the platoon in all skills learned throughout the cadre. AFV recognition, being a key skill and an anti-tanker's bread and butter, featured throughout the cadre with Cpl Crafer leading the way in ensuring the platoon was up to standard. With the Javelin weapon system being 'fire and forget' an even greater emphasis is now placed on this skill and with little practice over the last year it became clear it was an area we could all do with brushing up on.

As well as learning and practising the basics in our anti-armour skills something that I was keen to achieve was to practise putting the Javelin weapon system to the test. With this new flexible weapon system it now enables a much more versatile Anti-Tank Platoon therefore throughout the cadre we practised as many of the roles that we may be used for on the conventional battlefield as possible. These included providing flank protection, screening, supporting the ISTAR group, forming fire support groups, conducting ambushes and of course doing what we enjoy best, blowing up tanks! With the roles mentioned above the focus for training was taken away from the old Milan standard of just practising defence but utilising the weapon system effectively throughout all phases of war including defensive, enabling and offensive operations.

At the beginning of the cadre there was the ultimate incentive provided for soldiers in the platoon to impress. With the Battalion now being part of 7 Armoured Brigade we had been allocated one Javelin missile to fire during the Brigade live firing demonstration at Bergan/Hohne ranges. With the best (simulator) shot in the platoon being given this golden opportunity the competition was on to be the first soldier in 2 R Anglian to live fire a Javelin missile. After a closely fought



Members of D Company at the unveiling ceremony.

the Somme battlefields in order to make the most of our visit.

Our battlefield tour concentrated on 1 July 1916 sites, before the Germans began to pull back to the Hindenburg Line which led to the battle of Achiet. The 7th Bedfords were heavily involved in the first day of the Somme (Christopher Cox was wounded in the leg on 1 July). The places we visited include the Ulster Tower, the Thiepval Wood trenches, a rest stop at 'Le Tommy' bar and museum in Pozieres, and the Danzig Alley cemetery at Mametz where we saw the grave of LCpl Newitt of the Bedfordshire Regiment lying next to several unknown comrades from the same Regiment. Despite a cold wind, the rain held off for the day and we received a very informative and thought-provoking tour from our guide, ex-Royal Marine Peter Smith. For CSgt Perry and Sgt Headland in particular, both keen military history buffs, this would have been

a highlight of the trip. During the tour and then later in the bar in Achiet, we bumped into one of the 10th Essex, still dressed in World War One uniform!

After a meal and a Saturday night out in the nearby town we headed back to Tern Hill on the Sunday morning. The only disappointment during the whole trip for some members was the lack of decent nightlife even in the large town of Bapaume!

Philippe Drouin, our French contact and the organiser of the ceremony, is keen to continue the links between Achiet-le-Grand and our current and Former Regiments. The King's Langley Parish Council also intends to commemorate Christopher Cox in a similar manner probably in July 2007. I hope D Company will be involved in this too in order to maintain the strong links between ourselves and the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment.



Pte Conlon with Philippe Drouin.

The Poachers



The Javelin weapon effects simulator.

battle Pte Daly proved to be the best shot after many hours spent on the indoor trainers at the Anti-Tank Division in Warminster. Under a team led by CSgt Smith, a complete anti-tank detachment was soon off to Germany to take part in the 7 Brigade live firing demonstration. Fortunately, Pte Daly lived up to expectations and hit the target even with the pressure of knowing that this is likely to be the only missile that the platoon would get to live fire this year.

The anti-tank cadre was designed to be a challenging yet rewarding experience. It provided an opportunity to reform the platoon and fully integrate the new members into it while developing our conventional warfare orbat. All soldiers within the platoon are now qualified anti-tankers. Having worked hard at practising the basics of anti-armour skills we can look forward to now developing on this training during the upcoming company and battalion level exercises.

Anti-Tank Cadre – A Soldier's Perspective

Pte Rutu Tokai writes:

Coming across from a Rifle Company I was looking forward to a new challenge and to be part of the Fire Support Company as a member of the Anti-Tank Platoon.

During the first week of the Anti-Tank Cadre we were thrown straight into it. The training ranged from the basic characteristics of the Javelin weapon system to learning the different firing positions, which were tricky to learn at first. We also learned about the thermal imaging capability of the weapon system, which I think is awesome as we are able to acquire targets at a much greater

distance compared with the sight on an SA80 A2 which I am more familiar with.

During the cadre we had the opportunity to get our hands on the Javelin indoor trainer (IDT), which is a computer system that

generates the battlefield environment with a vast array of combat scenarios to test the user. It's like playing on a Playstation games console which is great. I have found the Javelin weapon system fairly easy to learn,



Pte Tokai - heavy work!

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we were tested daily throughout the week as well as being assessed on our armoured fighting vehicle recognition (which took a bit of getting used to).

During the second week we were taught how to construct and man observation posts (OPs) as well as conducting routine in the field. This was an opportunity for us to brush up on our low-level skills and drills. The sight system was impressive at night - everything I saw seemed to be as clear as in daylight. These were just some of the many lessons we were taught in preparation for Exercise Long Spear, an anti-armour OP exercise at Nesscliffe Training Area, which I was looking forward to. The three-day exercise put what we had learned into practice and provided an opportunity for us to work with the detachments that we had been training with. Packing and carrying the equipment for this phase took some practice. The parts of the Javelin weapon system are not easy to carry and the Command Launch Unit (CLU) is particularly tricky to pack. As well as this we had the added bonus of using the Bowman radio system, which was also a new bit of kit to get used to.

Once we had constructed our OPs we quickly settled into routine and got eyes on our target areas; as always we enjoyed the lovely rations - not! We had a feeling that at some stage of the exercise we were going to get bumped but the instructors' lips were sealed. Sure enough all OP locations were bumped and we had to extract to the HQ which was pretty testing. We learned a lot

during the exercise from keeping eyes on the target area, to sending timely sighting and contact reports as well as keeping on top of our administration which was also key. All points were taken on board that needed to be ironed out for the next exercise.

At the beginning of the third week the Cadre deployed to Rolleston Camp on Salisbury Plain. It was in the middle of nowhere and miles away from the local pub, which was not good! The week was spent at the Anti-Tank Division in Warminster in order to complete the gunner skills tests, and not forgetting our daily AFV recognition assessments. The majority of each day was spent in the classroom so, when it came to fitness, Capt Faruque said we were going for a boot run over Battlesbury Hill, the direct route up and over! The whole platoon just couldn't wait to do it!

The final week was Exercise Point Strike Poacher which was back on Salisbury Plain. It was the culmination of our training, developing what we had learned while working within our small detachments - I felt ready for the final exercise. First up we had to occupy various anti-armour locations while tactically moving across the ground with full exercise kit, which was heavy, all under the watchful eye of the instructors. The weather closed in a few times, but we just had to get to grips with it and get on with our objectives. No more sunny Iraq!

Once in location we would get eyes on our target area but, because it is such a big training area, you would never know

where the enemy force was going to spring up next, so we were keen to stay vigilant. Of course we were contacted by roving vehicles and a fanatical enemy which was inevitable, so the extractions needed to be quick with bucket loads of covering fire and maintaining one foot on the ground at all times. The most emotional part for everyone during the exercise was the final extraction from our anti-armour ambush to the Platoon HQ location with all of our kit. It was only a few kilometres but it seemed to go on forever. Everyone was exhausted at the finish! I managed to escape without any injuries, only aching muscles.

I am pleased to have completed the Anti-Tank Cadre and am now proud to be a part of the Anti-Tank Platoon. The course was hard but enjoyable and I am now hoping to put my training to the test soon.

The Poachers' Basic Recce Cadre - An Overview

Capt Simon Poulter writes:

Having arrived refreshed and recharged from some well-earned post tour leave in January the Recce Cadre, which had been in the planning stage since August 2006, started with a vengeance.

Due to the stipulation that battalions can no longer run a sniper cadre all the soldiers that were going onto external sniper course at Brecon in March also attended the Recce



The Recce Cadre.

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Cadre. This allowed them to practise the transitional skills that exist between the Recce and Sniper Platoons, fortunately it also meant that the Battalion's sniper instructors were all available to instruct on the Cadre, providing the students with an insight into the intricacies of sniping. The Cadre itself was going to be run using Bowman radios and as such those attending had some in camp pre-training to get to grips with the new system. This training from the Signals Platoon proved to be invaluable throughout the Cadre due to the obvious reliance of the Recce Platoon on communications.

Therefore, with bookings confirmed and indents in, the cadre started on 29 January at Rolleston Camp on Salisbury Plain. The initial phase was obviously centred on the teaching of new skills and the emphasis throughout was that the students needed to start thinking about the bigger picture of what was actually going on at battlegroup level and what influence they could have on this – a prospect that daunted some!

The need for the students to start behaving more as individuals meant that a greater importance was placed on their own personal skills in all areas ranging from navigation to the dreaded art of field sketching! Navigation was to prove a constant theme throughout the cadre with the culmination being an individual night navigation exercise later on in the cadre at Sennybridge – no mean feat for a private soldier. Other collective skills were taught and practised including the pleasures of constructing and then living in observation posts (OPs) and the art of crawling around on their belt buckles while conducting close target recces (CTRs). These are all obvious skills that the majority of the readership of *Castle* will have been involved in at some stage in their careers, however the students (and instructors) had not been involved in these activities for a long time, therefore a lot of time was dedicated to the theory side to ensure the practical application went according to plan. The culmination of the teaching phase at Salisbury Plain was an OP exercise that unfortunately involved the students digging in during the snow showers of January! This obviously provided a good test of what they had been taught and the instructors were all pleased that despite the harshness of the weather the students were able to apply what they had been taught.

Fortunately the Recce Cadre was not the only one being run by the Poachers on Salisbury Plain – at the same time both the Mortar and Anti-Tank Platoons were running their own cadres. This allowed the students on the Recce Cadre to be withdrawn from their OPs during an afternoon to spend a few hours learning how to call in mortar fire using real mortars. This was an excellent training opportunity for the younger soldiers on the Cadre, as reliance on mortars is key for Recce Platoon.

After two weeks of training on Salisbury Plain, we moved to Sennybridge to continue

the teaching and then move onto the final exercise. Initially the Cadre was based from the notorious KP Tower – so windswept that even a mobile phone signal blows away! It was from here that the students had a final few lessons including the individual night navigation test. They then deployed onto the final exercise with the obligatory insertion march that proved to be harder for some than others – full OP kit is not light! The final exercise took the students through a variety of tasks that would fall to a dismounted Recce Platoon on operations, everything from area searches to CTRs and OPs.

The small amount of time that was available meant that only the core skills of the Recce Platoon could be practised on the final exercise. Being in Sennybridge the weather was obviously miserable – emphasising the need for basic personal skills to be thoroughly practised. The culmination of the exercise was the link-up with the Tactics Cadre: the Recce Cadre had been observing a target that was due to be attacked and therefore the relevant information was gathered and then briefed to those in appointment on the Tactics Cadre. This phase went well, in particular for the patrol that carried out the CTR that was led by LCpl Bates, with Pte Brightmore acting as his 2IC. The link in with the Tactics Cadre was the last phase of the final exercise and it allowed the students to understand the intricacies of briefing and then leading in assaulting troops.

After a brief administrative period the Cadre then moved into its final phase, the field firing. The aim was to practise the drills that had been taught in a dry environment using the notorious and not so dry D Range in Sennybridge. Each team was put through two shoots to allow the commanders to understand the difficulties of working in small teams often with only limited fire support, perhaps provided by

another team. It was enjoyable if not a little bit wet for all concerned – but as the range conducting officer, the author was kept dry by an excellent waterproof lumi-vest (sorry – an 'in joke', but this should raise a smile from those that were present!).

Overall the cadre has provided the knowledge base that was required within the Platoon in order to prepare for the forthcoming exercises, the integration into 7 Armoured Brigade and subsequent operational deployment in 2008. There is still a lot that has to be covered in continuation training, for example the Cadre did not involve vehicles. However, the core skills have now been taught and practised in an arduous environment. This will hopefully provide the foundation for the Platoon's involvement in the Brigade Surveillance Competition at the end of the year – watch this space.

The Recce Cadre

Cpl Marc Tremain writes:

While I was serving in Iraq last year with 4 Platoon B Company, the OC said that the Recce Platoon was looking for NCOs to go across in the new year. As I was an old hand at Recce he asked if I was willing to move back across, of course I jumped at the chance.

So on 5 January this year after six weeks of leave, I paraded again with the illustrious Poachers' Recce Platoon with some other new members joining from the various companies, all eager to get started on the Battalion Cadre. We then spent the next two weeks doing various administrative tasks like clearing CQMS accounts with our old companies and getting kit from the D Company CQMS and moving rooms and blocks. This also included map and compass lessons with Cpl Lawrence and Capt Poulter and the all important PT thrashing by the



Cpl Tremain giving orders.

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CSgt Perry giving a lesson on AFV recognition.

boss thrown in to keep us busy till the cadre started.

On arrival at Rolleston Camp, our home for the next two weeks, we were straight into our first lesson which turned out to be AFV with the all knowing CSgt Perry. Throughout the next two weeks we had lessons from the boss, Sgts Whitely and Palmas and Cpls Estwick and Lawrance on the various skills, drills and knowledge required by a

recce/sniper soldier, with lots of late nights doing close target reces (CTR's), navexes and contact drills; we also spent some time at Warminster learning about observation posts (OPs).

We then moved lock, stock and barrel back to Tern Hill for a well-earned weekend at home before our two-week excursion to the wonderfully sunny (not!) Sennybridge Training Area. On our arrival at KP Tower

we found our warm barn was flooded, much to the delight of the Directing Staff (DS) who were staying in the house on top of the hill. We then spent the next hour using pieces of guttering found inside the barn to scrape out the water on the floor only for it to seep back in behind us.

By this time my team was down to six men from an original nine. We started the final exercise with orders being given at



Sgt Whitely with Cpl Tremain's patrol.

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first light, after the guys had made their first pitiful attempts at model making. We were then driven out to the drop off point to start a 5km insertion tab in full kit including our OP kit. My bergan weighed a ton, it took two blokes just to lift it on to my back every time I took it off.

We then moved into the first of many OPs having located the enemy - digging in at night in a forestry block is no fun. After a brief period in the OPs we were told to collapse, clear up and move to a pick up point to be driven to a barn to administer ourselves for 12 hours before orders for our next task. After a quick hot breakfast, it was back into issuing orders and packing kit before another insertion tab to a Release Point at Dixies' Corner and moving on to conduct area searches. LCpl Bates (R23) found the enemy at an old farm complex in a steep valley and went into over watch as myself and LCpl Abbott (R22) moved towards him to set up an OP screen.

Due to the difficulties of the area I was given to set up an OP it took some doing to find a decent position. As it got light I moved Pte Ferguson and myself into the OP and told the others to get under the now falling down thermal sheet, before crawling under the poncho. After a few hours of watching the enemy eating hot food and drinking endless brews, the DS did their walk about. They were fairly impressed by the OP as we had the best eyes on to the enemy but the OP wouldn't have passed a 10m walk by and wasn't deemed sustainable. During a brief administrative period I did a quick scout around and found an old OP position 100m further along the bund line which I had missed the previous night. We then continued our over watch of the objective till nightfall, when we deconstructed our old OP and started on our new one. We dug all night and finally got the OP finished just before first light.

We watched the enemy objective all day reporting back on any movement. The Tactics Cadre were going to attack it the next morning, with the Recce Platoon guiding

them in having marked the route, forming up point (FUP) and fire support group (FSG). So that night we filled in our OP and moved back to brief the incoming Tactics Cadre on the enemy positions. LCpl Abbott's team stayed in overwatch while LCpl Bates' team guided in the attacking section into the FUP, as well as the FSG to their position.

After the obligatory post-exercise administration we then conducted two days of live firing doing zeroing at Rogiet Moore, then the afternoon in Brecon on the DCCT and the next day doing the IBSR in pouring rain. We finished with two team contacts on D Range going through the river like all good withdrawals should. We then moved back to Tern Hill for a day of weapon and stores cleaning, before a week's well deserved leave. All said and done the Recce Cadre was a hard but enjoyable course, but we're all glad that it's over at last.

Potential NCOs' Cadre 22 January – 2 March

Lt Jonny Lanham writes:

Often described as both the best and worst course for a platoon commander to run, it was with mixed feelings that I approached the first PJNCOs' Cadre to be run by the Battalion for over 14 months. With preparation time at a minimum there were a few frantic weeks to tie up loose ends before the cadre began in earnest at the end of January.

Due to the time since the last course, the sea of faces that confronted the Directing Staff on the first day reflected the large total of over 60 soldiers that were to attempt the tricky transition from private soldier to JNCO. With the addition of 14 soldiers from the Vikings, prior to their deployment to Afghanistan, the first week was spent in barracks teaching lessons and assessing the capabilities of the PJNCOs. It also allowed many of the less committed soldiers to find spurious reasons to try and get off the course when they realised that passing a PJNCOs' Cadre is not merely a formality.

By the fourth day there was a long line of sick, lame, lazy and downright unfortunate souls stretching out of the Cadre office. At the end of the first week the casualty rate was running at 40 percent - it was quite remarkable considering a basic fitness test was the extent of the physical exertion during this period.

The second week saw the cadre deploy to the local area of Nesscliffe to practise platoon harbours and conventional skills. With the emphasis on instruction, the exercise allowed soldiers the opportunity to regain skills that had faded considerably during the time in Iraq. A productive few days were spent before a short, sharp extraction march to a pick-up point for the move to Leek. Pausing only briefly at Tern Hill to drop off casualties at the Medical Centre and to pick up battlefield replacements, the rest of the week was spent teaching section attacks on the moors of Leek. The PJNCOs soon realised that it really is bleak in Leek.

By now a little more comfortable in the field, the entire third week was again spent in Leek practising low-level skills such as attacks and patrols. Slowly but surely it began to dawn on the PJNCOs that they were now required to be the ones doing the thinking, a realisation that began to yield results as the week progressed. Unfortunately, many of the PJNCOs were expecting to go home to a warm bed on the Thursday night and adjusted their effort accordingly. This was solved by staying out for a further 36 hours, an experience that felt a lot longer for the course as Siberian winds brought three inches of snow during one character-building night. It was pleasing to see motivation levels improve in an attempt to go home.

Due to training constraints the final exercise was held in week four, with a four-day exercise in Sennybridge providing the perfect backdrop for PJNCOs to show their potential. A particularly wet week allowed the Cadre soldiers to take the lead and put their skills into practice over ground



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that will become familiar to many of them when they eventually attend the Section Commanders' Battle Course. With the final attack on the Thursday morning complete, it was not quite over for the course, with a 12-kilometre extraction march from Dixies' Corner to Sennybridge Camp completing a challenging week.

Week five saw the cadre live-firing in Otterburn, with the build-up from individual to fire-team and finally section taking the majority of the week. With 80 grenades to play with the range wardens had plenty of work filling in the seven-foot hole that was left at the end. It was also slightly unnerving having to deal with a blind, the long walk in torrential rain with a big blob of explosive on the end of a stick certainly not being one of the highlights of the week. A final exercise of a section in defence made sure that the week ended on a high.

With the Vikings having to leave a week early to do more live firing in Kenya with their Battalion, the final week of the cadre completed the education side of life while preparing for the final parade. Despite the absence of the Battalion on leave, a strong showing from family and friends ensured that the final parade was still special for the 23 soldiers who had passed the course, with Pte Price picking up best student and Pte King 22 and Pte Cusick receiving 'Best at PT' and 'Best Endeavour' respectively. I now understand what is meant by a PJNCO Cadre being the best and worst thing that a platoon commander can do and can balance the extra wrinkles it has given me with the satisfaction of seeing private soldiers become lance corporals.

Potential NCOs' Cadre

LCpl Kristian Price writes:

After a well deserved six-week leave period after Operation Telic, it was no surprise that we would hit the ground running on our return to Battalion life. B Company, which I was in before being moved on my promotion to C Company, were running a pre-cadre in Westcliffe almost immediately after leave. The main emphasis of the 'beat up' being on the orders process and conventional tactics.

The first week of the NCOs' Cadre was the usual test and assessment week consisting of weapon handling tests, skill at arms and fitness assessments. By the end of the week soldiers were taking their own lessons on the SA80 A2 rifle. With my section being 16 strong it means that I won't forget rifle lesson three in a hurry! During this week we also completed two navigation exercises on Nescliffe Training Area by day and night. Not many men were up to this kind of tempo for just one week's work and numbers started to drop rapidly.

Week two started as the first finished with a large number of activities planned. We started the week with drill on the Monday morning followed by deployment into the

field. During this week we were introduced to things like fieldcraft, orders, Quick Battle Orders and all that other 'good stuff.' Most of the exercise we were getting a taste of what its like to be a Section 2IC in the field.

Week three we were in the field yet again for another week of gruelling conventional tactics. This time we were in Leek, which, with its own little micro climate, was probably the coldest time I had spent out on exercise so far. This week consisted of section attacks followed by ambushes. Unfortunately individuals were picked up for misdemeanours therefore we had to spend an extra day in the field with 0530hrs stags at -7C.

Week four was spent in sunny Wales on Sennybridge training area. This week was used to put everything we had learned into practice for the final test exercise. On this exercise we had a chance to shine and lead as individuals on things such as section attacks and recce patrols. For me this was by far the most enjoyable and rewarding part of the cadre.

Week five was spent in Otterburn conducting live firing. It consisted of a complete build up from individual skills and drills to section level attacks. Then on the last day we conducted a defensive shoot. Again this was extremely important as it allowed us to put the tactics into use with live rounds.

The last week was themed by the Directing Staff (DS) to ensure we were messed about as much as possible. There was lots of drill, impossible timings and a show parade every night. It was only going to be over when we actually marched off the square with our tapes.

All in all it is fair to say that despite the 'beatings' our DS did everything in their power to ensure we were taught our roles as NCOs, inside out. I was honoured to have come top of the Cadre on such a difficult course.

Mortar Numbers' Cadre

CSgt John Chillingsworth writes:

I was acting as CQMS on a busy tour in Iraq when I was informed by the OC, Maj Birch, that I would be returning to the Mortar Platoon, standing in as platoon commander and running a Mortar Numbers' Cadre on returning to Tern Hill. Considering my limited experience of the mortaring world (having only completed the Platoon Commanders/2ICs course the previous year) this was to become a big challenge. The planning would have to start there and then if the Cadre was to be successful ie range and accommodation bookings etc, which is never easy when you are based 3,000 miles away! Fortunately the Platoon 2IC, Sgt 'Mad Mac' McColm was UK-bound before the rest of us and managed to square away a lot of the bookings.

After a well-deserved leave, it was full steam ahead doing the final preparation for the three-week cadre which was due to start on 15 January. After recesses of Salisbury Plain and Nescliffe training areas, the mass of paperwork was completed. All was finalised and we were ready to go.

The Cadre consisted of two sections, one of which consisted of the 12 new mortar men who were reinforcements to the platoon having arrived that month, and the other section was made up of already trained members of the platoon. The sections were commanded by Cpl Fawcett and Cpl Welsh, with back up support from Cpl Isaacs and LCpl Green.

The first week consisted of in-barracks drills in which the troops were taught and revised as necessary. The second week consisted of finishing drills, theory and weapon handling tests, and finally deployment to Nescliffe Training Area for a 48-hour dry exercise when they were taught the tactical occupation, movement and setting up of a mortar line. The grand finale was the third week which culminated



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in live firing on Salisbury Plain, which was excellent! The troops fired a large number of high explosive, smoke and illuminating missions. The only drawback was the 44 misfires we suffered due to faulty primary cartridges. The on-call Ammunition Technical Officer (ATO) told me to bring the misfired bombs in their 'greenies' to the demolitions pit, 10km away. So after a very bumpy ride we arrived and met ATO. His staff then proceeded to very carefully take the rounds away from us one-by-one; this caused myself and the driver Pte Clarke to exchange some very worried looks!

However, all ended well, the cadre was completed and all persons passed. The cadre ran smoothly from start to finish thanks to the excellent administration from Sgt McColm. Finally, the Commanding Officer presented all members of the platoon with their mortar qualification badges. The platoon continues its training and is looking forward to the move to Germany and future operations in which the Mortar Platoon will undoubtedly play a key part.

The Freedom Parades

Capt James Inch writes:

In the middle of last year, just as the Battalion began its deployment on Operation Telic 8, planning began for a series of Freedom Parades to take place in March 2007. Understandably, people's minds were on operational matters, but nevertheless, plans were being laid by the area secretaries to ensure that by the time the Battalion returned from Iraq, dates, routes, timings and reception venues had all been agreed with the respective Borough Councils.

As the Battalion settled into decompression and refresher cadres and courses, the Battalion planning team of the Adjutant, RSM, RCMO were able to take over the reigns from Majs Turquand and Gilchrist, and deal with the vagaries of delayed road works and ever-changing parade routes. Meanwhile, the Quartermaster's department were overseeing the tailoring of hundreds of sets of Number 2 Dress, which had not seen the light of day for well over a year.

Finally, in the week before the first parade, the Battalion's focus shifted entirely onto matters ceremonial, and everyone's time was taken up in rehearsals, initially under Company Sergeant Majors, and then as a Battalion, along with the Colour Party and the Drums Platoon. As the Battalion rehearsed, the Area Secretaries maintained the finger on the pulse in each of the parade towns to ensure no last minute hiccups.

Monday, 12 March saw the first parade, led by D(FSp) Company, accompanied by C Company, through Bedford. This was also the first occasion that we met up with the Minden Band, and it is a credit both to them, and our Corps of Drums that no one who witnessed the parade or the subsequent band display could have guessed that there



had been no rehearsal time whatsoever.

Bedford set the pattern for the remainder of the first week, with the remaining parades taking place in Grimsby, Northampton, Hinckley and Luton. Each parade was led by the local company, with A and B Companies and C and D(FSp) Companies always parading together. Local dignitaries, along with the great and the good from the Regiment would meet up with the Mayor before the parade stepped off, and would then move to a suitable location for the salute or the inspection. Meanwhile, the

RCMO's enhanced team of recruiters, drawing on soldiers from D(FSp) Company and the Poachers' Mobile Recruiting Team, were skirmishing the streets, dishing out fliers and trying to drum up business. The support team, under CQMS HQ Company, along with the CQMSs from the respective companies would then seamlessly appear at the end of the parade to spirit away the weapons, allowing the troops to then enjoy the hospitality of the reception laid on by the Borough Councils.

The second week saw the two Battalion

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level parades, with all four companies parading through Leicester, then Lincoln. This also gave the CO, 2IC, RSM and Adjutant the opportunity to stamp their feet, having been spectating for the previous week. As the reception in Lincoln (held at Sobraon Barracks, thanks to superb support from the 3 R Anglian team there) drew to a close, we were able to reflect on what had been a thoroughly enjoyable fortnight. We were blessed with good weather throughout, apart from a short snow flurry in Leicester, we were well received everywhere by

the public, particularly so in Grimsby and Hinckley, and we were made to feel incredibly welcome by all of the Borough Councils, who appeared genuinely touched that we had taken the time to exercise our freedom of their borough. We were often asked why it had been 10 years since the last Freedom Parades, and requested that we don't wait so long next time.

We were also pleasantly surprised to not endure too much criticism of our drill, despite some glaring errors (the author certainly included). In a short space of

time, and with no recent drill experience to fall back on, the Battalion had achieved a standard of drill that passed muster among the critical eyes of retired officers and soldiers. For this, the credit must go to WO1(RSM) Bartlett and his team of CSMs, and to the soldiers who carried themselves with justifiable pride through their home towns. That aside, no doubt tales of tick-tocking, saluting the wrong dignitary, words of command on the wrong foot etc will continue to fuel Dinner Nights and mess functions for some time to come.

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The Poachers v the Bank of England Football Club – 28 April 2007

Capt Rich Bredin writes:

While deployed on Operation TELIC 8 last year an interesting request was sent out to the Battalion via the Rear Party, asking if the Battalion football team would like to take part in an exhibition match to start the year's worth of celebrations planned to mark the 100th anniversary of the Bank of England's football team. After a little digging around to establish why the 'Poachers' had been asked, I came up with the required information. So here starts the history lesson: Back in 1907, the Bank of England formed a football team and sports club, establishing their facilities in Bank Lane, Richmond. To find opponents for the first game, the Bank of England approached the 1st Battalion the Bedfordshire Regiment who duly accepted the challenge. The Bedfords were chosen as in 1907 they were the Army Challenge Football Cup runners-up and the founder of Bank of England sports club, a Mr Dick Curtis, had a brother serving with the Battalion at the same time. The game was played on or around 28 April 1907 and the Bank of England won the game 3–2. It is also worthy of note that the England 1966 World Cup winning side



trained on the same ground prior to all of their games. So with the history lesson over we move back to the present.

The Battalion team, under the watchful eye of CSgt Singleton, held a series of trials to identify new talent as the team had not played competitive football for over 18 months. With a squad of 18 players selected with a healthy mix of youth and experience, the squad were dispatched to Lincoln City FC the week prior to the match to be coached

and trained by the professionals. To quote the Lincoln coach: 'This will be no holiday ...' and he lived up to his quote, with the squad being put through their paces, but gaining a huge amount from the experience. With a few sore and tired limbs the team moved back to Tern Hill the day prior to the game ready for the match.

Early on Saturday 28 April the squad and guests assembled prior to moving to Richmond ready for the big game. The mood



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was like FA Cup Final day with anticipation of what lay ahead. After a stress-free move into London the game kicked off and was played in a very competitive manner, with the new-formed 'Poachers' team putting in an outstanding team performance. Unfortunately, the Bank of England ran out 3-0 winners, the score, however, not reflecting the standard of the game. The main difference between the two teams was the Bank took their chances in front of goal. The Poachers were not clinical enough but should feel very proud of their performance. Cpl Williams was voted the Poachers Man of the Match putting in an outstanding display in the midfield, but followed closely by LCpl Cusick who worked tirelessly on the left side.

The Bank of England football club then treated the Poachers to a quite fantastic evening, with the Corp of Drums playing, which was well received by all who attended the dinner. After a long night in London, the squad and guests made their way back to Tern Hill, having experienced a quite outstanding weekend. It is hoped that the link that has been established can be maintained with future games taking place in years to come and we will not have to wait another 100 years.

A Winning Return for Poachers' Rugby

Lt Charlie Standley writes:

A two-year residential tour of Northern Ireland followed by an Arms Plot move, on exercise in Jordan, OPTAG training and Telic 8 left precious little time for representative sport. It was against this background that a handful of die-hards, led by the redoubtable Capt Ben Hawes, attempted to rekindle Battalion rugby for the Poachers this year.

Between leaving Ballykelly in October 2005 and deploying to Iraq six months later, the team managed only one game, albeit a thumping victory against Lincolnshire side Bourne RUFC. The 50-point win (reported in a previous *Castle*) was dominated by Pte Joseva Lewaicei's multi-trail, man-of-the-match performance. His death alongside his friend and comrade Pte Adam Morris in May was the catalyst for action. Bourne offered a rematch in memory of the two soldiers, to be contested annually for a memorial trophy. Following the Battalion's return from Iraq, the trawl began to find potential players.

Training was arranged when and where possible, with commitments ranging from pre-course training and potential JNCO cadres to Bowman training which meant that a settled side was never a possibility. However, a well-drilled and enthusiastic squad of almost 30 players ranging from widely experienced to 18-year-old novices was assembled on Saturday 20 January for the inaugural Lewaicei-Morris Memorial Match.

The visitors would fight hard to bring the trophy back to Lincolnshire and it was clear



from the off that their game plan would be to keep the ball tight and deny space to the Poachers' younger, quicker backs. Despite the conditions, the home side were determined to produce 'champagne rugby', which matured on ten minutes when scrum-half Tokai found space on the blind side and jinked under the posts. Try of the match followed: CSgt Oldenburg, a rampaging presence on the flank, picked up from the base of a breakdown 40 metres out, brushed off several tackles and sprinted home like a wizened lion remembering what it is to gambol.

Attrition was the flavour of the remainder of the first half, and the visitors halved the deficit with a short-range effort courtesy of their grizzled forwards. But with the elements and a 30-man squad in their favour, the omens looked good for the Poachers at the turnaround. And so it proved. The first play from the restart saw some neat interplay among the backs to release Pte Bukavesi from twenty yards out who left a trail of defenders sprawling in his wake to score in the corner. The visitors' response was an increasingly resilient defensive display, forcing the Poachers into some handling errors. However, some big hits courtesy of the home side's midfield, with Ptes Koro and Wara, Cpl Conroy and Lt Standley (apparently) to the fore, was applying pressure of its own.

Under such strain the visitors cracked in the final quarter, conceding three further tries including a well-deserved effort from Koro and a score from flanker Capt Poulter, crowning a cameo performance from OC Recce. Despite Bourne's spirited rearguard, the final score of 36-5 accurately reflected the Poachers' overall superiority.

The Lewaicei-Morris Memorial Trophy was presented by Mr Morris, Adam's father, reminding participants and the many hundreds of spectators of the true meaning of the day. The plaque on the rear of the trophy reads: 'This trophy is contested in memory of Ptes Joseva Lewaicei and Adam Morris of 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment

– the Poachers – who died in action on Saturday 13 May 2006 when their patrol was hit by a roadside bomb on the Qarmat Ali Bridge, Basra, Iraq. Only weeks before this tragedy the Poachers rugby team played its final game before deploying to Iraq, against Bourne RUFC, where Pte Lewaicei was named man of the match. The two teams will contest this trophy annually to celebrate the life of a talented rugby player and dedicated soldier and the comrade who died at his side.'

Suitably heartened by the success of the day, Capt Hawes made efforts to attract further sides to Tern Hill. A fortnight later, former C Company CQMS, Sgt Maj Farrell brought his new charges from Cambridge University OTC to visit the Poachers, which would include a rugby match against the Battalion. Many of the students were relative novices and strangely reluctant to pit their talents against Regular soldiers, especially as the female officer cadets seemed keen to take us on in a game of touch (author's note: why did this not happen?). However, the students' forwards were bolstered by the attachment of experienced Poachers including Cpl Young, Pte Cakau and LCpl Hume, and a competitive game was expected.

Despite Cambridge's best efforts, they had little answer to the power and experience of the Poachers and were well beaten, the scoreline being around 80-0. Tries came from, among others: Ptes Bukavesi, Koro, Tokai and Briggs, Cpl Conroy and Lts Lambert and Standley. Special mention must go to CSgt Oldenburg who ran in a hat-trick from the blind-side, including an audacious third, collecting his own chip-and-chase.

For a true reflection on how the Battalion side has improved, we now look forward to more challenging upcoming games. Matches against West Mercia Police, Shrewsbury RFC and neighbouring RAF Cosford are all in the pipeline before the season ends. The search for fresh blood for Poachers rugby continues with the forthcoming Inter-Company Rugby tournament beginning on 16 April.

3rd Battalion

Introduction by the Commanding Officer

One year has passed since the formation of the 3rd Battalion and we have now firmly established ourselves back in to the Regimental family in many ways. From providing support to operational deployments, through representation and welfare we are embracing a 'two up and one in reserve' concept at every level.

But what have we been up to? We were delighted to welcome back our 15 reinforcements returning from the Poachers' Operation Telic tour. A good job - well done! On the training front we saw the conclusion of our COIN training package which saw us deploy to the excellent Lydd range complex to conduct a wide variety of challenging live fire serials. In December we were honoured to host the first visit from the Colonel-in-Chief. This took place at Beckingham and he was able to see a wide spectrum of the Battalion's activities, including battle exercises run by the various support weapon platoons, recruits in training and some of our mobilised troops on pre-deployment training. Manning is also looking healthy with our recruiting efforts being rewarded with 140 per cent achievement of our annual target and overall manning figures rising by four per cent. All this set against the backdrop of necessary 'house cleaning' in preparation for the implementation of JPA. As I write, we are in the throes of going-live with the system and while there are inevitable teething issues, we seem to be well on top of things.

The training year concluded with the annual Battalion shooting weekend. This saw a visit from Brig Calder, our Deputy Colonel and the Deputy Honorary Colonels. In addition to the Annual Personal Weapon Test, a Henry Whitehead Cup based march and shoot competition brought the event to a rousing close on a blistering hot day (in April!) E (Essex and Hertfordshire) Company took the spoils on the weekend, however B (Lincolnshire) Company was awarded the Champion Company Shield for its efforts over the 2006/2007 training year.

By contrast, in January, I was accompanied by the Training Major, Maj Ian Couch and the QM, Maj Danny Mackness, on our initial recce to Kazakhstan in preparation for this year's annual camp. Exercise Steppe Eagle is a high profile defence diplomacy exercise which will see the Battalion deploy to a training area close to the major city of Almaty to exercise in conjunction with the Kazakh Airmobile Bde. Many challenges lie ahead ranging from the mere task of projecting the Battalion with its logistic needs to Asia, through to training with a foreign Army which works to very different doctrine and drills to ourselves and where communication between ourselves and the Kazakhs will be a mixture of translators and a variety of yet to be discovered hand signals. We go in September when the temperature

and humidity will both be measuring around 100 in their respective scales - during the recce there was two feet of snow on the steppe and the temperature was hovering around -25C. Quite a contrast!

In the last months we have said goodbye to and welcomed several people to the Battalion. Maj Bob Grenfell moved on to the CTT in Thetford and we welcomed Maj Danny Mackness as QM. WO1(RSM) Caesar left us on commissioning and we welcomed WO1(RSM) Penn. WO2 Curtis arrived to take on the newly established Training Warrant Officer post and Maj Julian Bailey arrived to take command of B Company as we bade farewell to Maj Ian Sackree who moved on to the Lincolnshire ACF. Best wishes and grateful thanks to those who have left and welcome and good luck to those who have arrived.

Where are we now? Currently we have a platoon being led by Lt Alex Homer, deployed to Kabul in support of ISAF HQ. They are working with a squadron of RLC and a company of Macedonians and have already won much praise for their work. In addition we have individual reinforcements embedded with the Vikings on their tour. The seriousness of the job in hand was brought home to us all when Cpl Lee Gayler of our E Company was shot and injured during a contact. Thankfully he is making a good recovery. Managing welfare for such a distributed organisation as the 3rd Battalion requires initiative and we are providing many channels of support for the families of those among our ranks that are deployed and also standing by in support of the Viking's rear party.

As we look forward we are embarking on many new challenges. Training focus is firmly set on offensive operations with streamed training for command teams building up through company and department training to culminate in a Battalion FTX later in the summer. We also look forward to taking delivery of Bowman and beginning the process of training our teams to use this new kit. On the recruiting front we will continue our efforts with a renewed focus on recruit management to ensure the efforts of the recruiters are rewarded with an improved conversion rate through training and out of CIC. Within this there is a new challenge as we move to a centralised phase 1 training delivery organisation, based on a Regional Training Centre model. This is a culture change and we wait to see the impact on output. In addition Army in Society activity continues apace with the highlight being the Regimental representation event about to take place in Lincoln, where the Colonel of the Regiment, members of the Poachers and the 3rd Battalion along with the band will be coming together to raise the profile of the Regiment to the influencers of Lincolnshire.

As we look further forward, the 3rd Battalion is preparing to support our Regular Battalions on their future deployments. The mobilisation age is entering a new, more

flexible era where we can work more closely with our paired units to deliver 'cohorts' of troops. This will allow us to really deliver according to demand and will mean a more relevant reinforcement can be prepared and delivered in future.

The focus now is on building physical robustness, core skills based on field training and a real investment in our commanders at all levels. Combined with continued recruiting and closer management of those in training, we will be better manned and better trained. Result? The 3rd Battalion, ready to support the Regiment's Regular component, on operations and at home and fully prepared for all challenges.

Kabul

Maj Glyn French writes:

Christmas, New Year and my leave, a dim memory and I am about to start on my handover notes. Much of the reason for the time going so quickly has been the fact that I've been constantly on the go in our drive to consolidate and improve the United Kingdom Leadership Training Team (UKLTT). Apart from the daily run to the various coalition camps in the area, up-scaling the equipment table and office refurbishment have been completed and the Officer Candidate School has been relocated.

A 400km drive to visit an exercise in Mazar-Sharif proved to be an interesting break from the routine. This move involved driving north along the 'Afghan Ring Road', up to 11,500ft to get over the Hindu Kush, then on towards the border with Uzbekistan, arriving at Camp Spam some eight hours later. The officer candidates had flown up in a C130 (the first experience of flying for all but one of them) and were somewhat pleased to get off at a dirt strip, after a rather bumpy flight and even bumpier landing. Camp Spam, on the edge of the plain that stretches up to the old Soviet Union, was not quite the end of the world but you could



The author in festive mood.

3rd Battalion



Stuck!

see it from there. Winter in Afghanistan was reported to be severe, especially 6,000ft up in Kabul. It did get down to -15C at night on a regular basis and -20C on occasions and not much above freezing during the day. We had six inches or so of snow but not the two to three feet of the stuff that is normal, another sign of global warming? Fortunately, the weather was mostly calm with clear skies – you don't need wind chill on top of those temperatures.

Now that the weather is improving, the frost is coming out of the ground, turning it into a quagmire. One result of this was yours truly getting his Rover group of three CMVs stuck in the mud near Camp Souter. With the recovery boys on another task, the Force Protection Company sent out a Saxon which (you guessed it) promptly sunk up to its axles. Help, in the form of a German convoy eventually turned up. Their big armoured six wheeler pulled the Saxon out, the Saxon then got stuck again, as did

the six wheeler. Five vehicles stuck and 20 coalition troops up to their knees in mud kept the locals amused until, nearly three hours later we got everything out and staggered into camp to find that lunch had finished half an hour ago – not the best morning I've spent here! As already mentioned, time is rapidly going by and the end of this fascinating, multi-cultural experience will soon be here.

The Handover of RSM 3rd Battalion

WO1(RSM) DM Caesar writes:

On reflection it has been great fun serving as the RSM and I am grateful to the Regiment for allowing me the opportunity. From its formation on 1 April 2006 the Battalion has continued to grow in strength, and I believe is now firmly seated as the 'top' Territorial Unit.

The Battalion's footprint covers 10 counties

and as the geographical home team we have embraced the responsibility of servicing our extended Regimental family and friends. The Battalion continues to punch well above its weight particularly at the business end of deploying soldiers on operations, and my thoughts go to 10 Platoon in Kabul and those augmentees about to deploy with the Vikings to Helmand Province. Much of the strength of the Battalion is a direct reflection of the Permanent staff Instructors and I pay thanks to those that have served during my tenure.

Note – WO1 Caesar handed over the appointment of RSM 3rd Battalion to WO1 AJ Penn on commissioning to the Intelligence Corps.

Battalion Skill at Arms Meeting 14-16 April

Maj Simon Watson writes:

We all arrived somehow, after a few geographical meanderings in the fog, at Beckingham Camp to have what will probably be the first and last Battalion shooting camp for the 3rd Battalion. This is due to the fact that we have higher priority training to carry out now that enduring operations are here to stay. That said shooting will remain high on the agenda but be the responsibility of companies to carry out. We also announced the yearly inter-company competition results.

I awoke to the grumblings of the Adjutant (the Battalion's cycling enthusiast) who had just been clipped by a car while cycling in the fog during his early morning constitutional. 'It was a real pea souper and this car just did not see me!' I was wondering as to why he had been so unwise as to venture forth but then... the youth of today! After a quick breakfast and a visit to the armoury I was ready to go out and try to hit something. I am normally a good shot and had been asked to shoot for HQ Company. Unfortunately, the fog remained and I along with the rest of the Battalion waited for it to lift.

It did not lift for another two hours and naturally we had moved to the back-up plan which consisted of a quick combat fitness test for half the Battalion and the orienteering competition for the rest. I duly joined my team of fellow orienteers to find out that we were older and wider than the average by a little way! Our team consisted of OC HQ Company (age at least nearly 60), myself (nearly aged), the Regimental Signals Officer (another oldie) and a nearly new soldier who was a late entry at 27. Needless to say we ran off at good pace (leading the way in fact) and toured around the course. I stuck resolutely with my running mate (the young soldier) and realised that I could only keep up with him if I ran straighter and kept my head up looking for the markers. Having clipped our cards for the allotted number of markers we ran back to find that the rest of the team had not clipped the other markers



WO1 (RSM) Penn (left) takes over from WO1 (RSM) Caesar.

3rd Battalion



Brig Calder presents the Champion Company Shield to B Company.

as we had planned. We then had to go out and finish off all the others. We came last by a long way as not only had all our team as well as HQ1 team clipped all the markers, (we only had to clip two each person), but also we had taken nearly an hour to do it. Other teams had gained all the markers in around 15 minutes by sending each person to gain two markers each. A disgruntled and humbled (and feeling rather foolish) HQ Company left for the zeroing ranges to wait in the now glorious sunshine.

Upon arrival it was so late that the Deputy Colonel and our new HQ Company Honorary Colonel had arrived and I had to attend to my other duties as escorting officer as well as the Battalion photographer. We also had a visit from the newly formed Hertfordshire Regimental Association under Col Kelsey. The perfect shooting conditions led to good scores from most of the firers although the Whitehead Cup gave a few surprises with some firers not getting to the range under the time limit and thus losing their team a devastating number of points. The firing finished for the day with the need for firers still to zero and others to fire either the APWT or the Whitehead. Sunday would have to be a longer day than anticipated.

For the officers, including our Honorary Colonels, the evening was spent at a local steak house where I attempted to equal the



Pte Thomas receives the cup for Best Female Shot.

3rd Battalion

prowess of the Adjutant's eating ability by eating half a cow followed by a bucket of cholesterol. I failed miserably and retreated in bad order to the bus to nurse my bruises.

Sunday passed with all the teams completing all the shoots, even if we were delayed once again by the fog. After a light breakfast (it needed to be after the evening before!) I turned my attention to camera work and escorting our visitors around. HQ Company did not do so well once again with the Whitehead Cup shoot so there were glum faces all around. Despite that the weekend was very much enjoyed by all and the Champion Company shield was raised by B Company once more. Brig Calder gave a rousing but serious speech at the end of the day about the need for accurate shooting. He had been preceded by the CO's more sombre speech. We paused and bowed our heads for a while to reflect on events before driving away back to our companies.

The results of the weekend were as follows: Champion Shot - Maj Sutherland, C Company; Runner-up - Pte Hacker, E Company; Best Female - Pte Thomas, B Company; Best Pte Soldier - Pte Hacker, E Company; Best Young Officer - Pte Summers, A Company.

It goes without saying that Maj Sutherland will never let the rest of us live this down! Well done to all those who took part and better luck and effort next year to those (and you know who you are) who did not do so well.

10 Platoon in Kabul

Lt Alex Horner writes:

After an excellent pre-tour training package 10 Platoon deployed into theatre on 19 February 2007. The platoon flew by TriStar to Kandahar, then by C130 Hercules to Kabul. The journeys took on average seven meals or 36 hours. As the platoon trickled



10 Platoon pre-deployment.

in the handover/takeover began.

Due to the efforts of the OC and Sgt Gadsden on the advance party, 10 Platoon's role had expanded to something like the warning order received in August last year. In addition to the General Security Platoon tasks, 10 Platoon were to be involved in patrolling the area of responsibility, acting as a Quick Reaction Force, gate guard and sanger duties.

10 Platoon has been placed under tactical control of the Macedonian Force Protection Company. This means the company commander will allocate our tasks alongside his other three Macedonian platoons. Since arriving we have been working closely with the Macedonians becoming familiar with Standard Operating Procedures equipment, patrols, base security and general security platoon tasks. We have also conducted a fair number of joint patrols around Police District 10(-). The Macedonian Company is soon to

be the only Macedonian representation in the 37-nation coalition in Afghanistan. They have been here a month already and have had to deal with a lot of unfair criticism, mainly due to language barriers. However, they have been very welcoming and keen to work together with us. All the officers and a number of the men speak reasonable English, which is fortunate as 10 Platoon's Macedonian is limited to zero. All have over five years' experience and have volunteered for this operational tour. Their patrol SOPs are similar to ours. We sometimes consider the US soldiers to be over-aggressive, the Macedonians consider us aggressive.

The base itself is small and densely packed, but has all the facilities you would desire. The platoon is accommodated in two or three-man rooms with air conditioning and ablutions just down the hall. Each room has a connection to the internet. There are four or five PX style shops, cafes, a bazaar every



Multiple 2.

3rd Battalion

Friday, gardens, a games room and more bars than you can shake two cans at. There is also a 50-seat cinema.

The base gym is very well equipped with a sports hall, CV room with all the usual apparatus, resistance machines and free weights. Outside there are basketball courts, volleyball courts and five-a-side football. The food here is of a very high standard. Four meals a day are put on, catering for the 37 different nations. Should you get bored with the menu there are several different cafes you can go to. Most of the cafes and bars have satellite TV.

Having fully settled in, the platoon now works independently of the Macedonian Company. A four-day rotation system is now in operation, tasks include patrolling, acting as the Quick Reaction Force, and carrying out sanger and base security duties. The area is undulating and urban and the aim of the patrols is to build a pattern of life and vehicle database. The multiples are now getting used to the extra kit they have to carry so, by the time the weather starts to get warmer everyone should be well acclimatised.

3rd Battalion Golf Championship

WO2 Ron Coleman writes:

The inaugural 3 R Anglian golf championship was competed for at Crettingham Golf Course. The field consisted of 28 players, a mixture of serving and former members of the Regiment, invited guests and our only female competitor, Mrs Josie McCrae, our Regimental Accountant. Crettingham Golf Course is set in 150 acres of Suffolk countryside, a fairly new course recently upgraded from a 9 to 18-hole, a course made up of narrow tree lined fairways which provide a test for all levels of golfer.

The day began with players being greeted with a brew and bacon buttie before heading

off for a shotgun start at 0830hrs. Scores varied across the board and on the whole were consistent with handicaps, less of course the odd handit here and there. The QM was overheard questioning the Chief Clerk's handicap of 26, mutterings of 'bandit', and 'at least Dick Turpin wore a mask'. The CO presented the prizes during the after match lunch, and rightly congratulated the winners and gave a special thanks to SSgt Bob Carter who organised the event. We look forward to next year's event; hopefully we will get another big turnout.

Results: 3 R Anglian Champion - WO2 Ron Coleman; Guest Winner - Mr Howard Foster; Top Stableford Score - SSgt Bob Carter.

Permanent Range Team in Kenya

21 February – 23 March 2007

Maj Mark Scadden writes:

In support of the 1 Royal Anglian Battle Group a trawl went out for Permanent Range Teams (PRTs) across the Brigade and later across the Army. This was to be the 1st Battalion's final training before their departure for Afghanistan. The location chosen was Archer's Post nicknamed (Archer's Roast) because of the extreme heat in that area of Kenya.

Sgt J Brown from Norwich was also part of the PRT although part of PRT 2. Our journey started at Brize Norton and our transport was an RAF TriStar. We landed at Nairobi in the early hours and started our four-hour journey north. After a quick brief and breakfast on arrival we were split into teams and transported by Bedford to Archer's Post - another five-hour trip. We arrived at the aptly named Camp Odin and set about moving in. This involved the issue of mosquito nets and American cots for our

tented accommodation. This transit camp was to be our home while we planned and set about building the ranges. I was Range Control Officer for PRT 3 which was the company attack range, involving plans to use close combat aircraft (CCA), artillery, mortars, snipers, fire support groups (FSGs) and small arms.

My team consisted of a dozen soldiers, a mixture of Senior and Juniors NCOs from various regiments and differing levels of experience. Our first job was to recce the ground we had been given. This turned out to be a mixture of high and low ground consisting of rocky outcrops, large cliffs and ridges, wadis and tracks all covered with dense thicket known as rhino thorn. The task ahead was not going to be easy and for the troops on the ground it would prove a task to communicate and control at all levels. At the forefront of this was the fact that the daytime temperature was now 50C plus.

The Battalion was due to arrive in a few days to start the range package. This involved a period of acclimatisation with the companies going through low level ranges, check zeroing weapon system and carrying out PT in the early morning while cool. Even so the daily intake of water for some was as much as 12-14 litres. The toll on the troops soon became apparent and there were a few heat casualties although minor and they soon returned to the fray. Once each company had completed their low level ranges they moved through a series of live firing ranges starting at section level and ending in company level attacks. The plan was to give the companies as much freedom of action as was safe, the result a 360 range with all the support arms firing the company in.

The planning stage for our range started right from the beginning. First was the cutting of 50,000 templates for .338, 50.cal, and small arms, these approved the traces were next, allowing the best use of the



WO2 Coleman, the overall champion.



The author with his team.

3rd Battalion

ground and the impression of fighting in all directions, something that the troops would no doubt be doing for real in less than a month. The traces approved, PRT 3 grabbed shovels and sandbags to set about building a company range for an advance to contact and another for a deliberate attack. We ensured plenty of targetry was available and placed sniper and CCA targets in the rocky outcrops. At the back of my mind I knew changes would occur. I was right and once the mortar, door gunner and artillery traces had been de-conflicted with mine the overall trace looked like a spider's web. However, CO 1 Royal Anglian gave his nod of approval for the range and the team awaited the arrival of A Company.

The advance to contact range started at 0600hrs and was due to finish by 1100hrs before the heat of the day. Bang on time the company set off from the start line and soon FSG had eyes on a likely enemy position. The company split with two platoons moving in extended line and echeloned, through the thick rhino thorn on the right of the range and one platoon moving north along a wadi on the left. Contact was initiated and the commanders went to work. The training the troops had received so far placed them in good stead as they moved through the positions with speed and efficiency, the range allowed FSG to fire in close support as well as engaging depth and flanking positions and all positions could be grenaded allowing those with less experience with this weapon system to use it in abundance.

The range teams had their work cut out bounding around with covering 590s and ensuring all were in cover for the grenades to go in. With mortars in support the positions were cleared and the enemy destroyed as per orders.

The company then moved into a harbour for the evening, while FSG pushed forward to recce likely enemy positions in the high ground to the north. A backbrief having been given to the company commander, the troops were given orders for a deliberate night/day attack with pre-bombardment and mortars in intimate support and CCA on call the company stepped off on a range that was 7ks end to end. Range teams again had to work hard to keep keen soldiers in check. The night attack went well and was completed by first light. The troops moved forward although tired at a rapid rate; maybe this was the result of the bush fire that was now chasing us. It was tight getting away and as last man across a big wadi which proved an adequate fire break I was a bit hot to say the least. Onto the next position a platoon objective, a well dug-in enemy including a trench complex. The platoon soon rolled this up and rejoined (to become reserve) the FSG and other two platoons which were suppressing enemy positions in a valley. The two platoons echeloned through with mortars and CCA in support and pushed beyond the objective to ensure no depth positions. The command and control shown at all levels during both ranges and

by all companies was of a high calibre, drills by soldiers were slick and their levels of fitness good.

Once all three companies had been through our range the safety staff were in need of a rest having covered six company attacks, blown up blinds, refurbished ranges in the lull in battle and lost a couple of pounds in the process. As we were the last range running we past through the transit camp to find it all but packed up and only stopped for fuel and water. Then off for our first wash and proper meal for a week. From there to Nairobi airport and the next day, a C17 home.

The range team worked hard over the month in Kenya and gained a lot of experience at running ranges at company level with support weapons. I myself was happy to plan a combined arms live firing exercise and enjoyed the experience of running the range. At the forefront of all the range teams' minds though was the reason we had done it; to provide realistic but safe training to the 1st Battalion Battlegroup with the realisation that they would soon be under the cosh on operations in Afghanistan. Our thoughts go with them for the tour and we hope for all to return.

Exercise Snow Captive

Capt Matt Woodeson writes:

Exercise Snow Captive took place in the French resort of Flaine. Organised and run by Maj Sutherland and 'Klammer' Whitehead, the plan was to train the prospective students up to Advanced Ski Proficiency. This aim was achieved and by

the end of the week all of the students had achieved either Basic Ski Proficiency or Advanced Ski Proficiency. The resort itself was excellent and managed to cater for all levels and abilities of skiing. Initially the snow was not great, but relief came after three days when a foot and a half fell in the following two days.

The students were split down into self-catering apartments. With the production of the CILOR grant the apartments and groups catered for themselves. Unbeknown to us the rest of the world was clearly suffering a sausage shortage — due to the fact that we seemed to have the entire worlds supply! — most of which were consumed by WO2(SPSI) Jewell and OCdt Sadd. The Adjutant refused to put any kind of processed filth into his body and relied solely on the European bacon mountain.

Throughout the exercise all personnel benefited from the excellent instruction provided by the three instructors. The padre, not to be outdone by the walking fashion statement (nine outfits in six days) that was WO2 (SPSI) Jewell, decided to invest in some new kit. Someone should have told him that he had in fact bought a helicopter marking panel and not a jacket. Throughout the week there was a great balance of skiing and social activities, the members of B Company headed up by the command team seemed to require more refreshment than some might see right.

The whole week was an outstanding and resounding success. The Exercise will formally be included in the forecast of events for next year. It is a great opportunity and should not be missed. There is still more



We will make it!

3rd Battalion



Preparing for the lift.

capacity for extra participants, so get in touch with either Maj Sutherland (OC C Company) or Maj Whitehead (the Padre) for more details.

Monte Cassino Battlefield Tour

Capt Paul Thurston writes:

A request was received from RHQ Warley for some assistance with the planned pilgrimage to Monte Cassino of the Essex Regimental Association and the 4th Battalion Comrades' Association as early as March for the event which was taking place in September 2006. The then OC, Maj Simon Watson, selected individuals from across the rank structure who had excellent attendance records and were thoroughly 'good chaps'. I was one of the lucky ones to be selected for my excellent attendance record.

Three weeks prior to the event I received a call from one of the organisers asking if I had any questions on the duties I was carrying out on the pilgrimage! (No such thing as a 'free dinner' sprang to mind). I was then informed that I would be responsible for looking after one of the two coaches throughout the trip. This is something I had done on numerous occasions so it shouldn't prove to be too difficult, he then advised me that my coach party would include numerous 'Old Comrades' that couldn't walk very far or stand around for long periods of time, things were now starting to get a bit difficult. I was in the group that left Warley at 0930hrs on 18 September for the move to Stansted and then onwards to our hotel situated in



Members of E Company at Castle Hill.

Gaeta which is a seaside town developed adjacent to a medieval fishing port for our four-night stay.

The next day began with a talk by Lt Col Andrew Duff (Guild of Battlefield Guides)

which included an overview of the Italian Campaign (the main battles and the part played by 1st/4th Battalion during the 1st, 2nd and 4th battles of Cassino). The remainder of the day was taken up with

3rd Battalion

Veterans at the plaque on Castle Hill.

visits to the cemetery at Minturno, the crossings at Gargliano, the River Rapido attacks finishing back at the hotel at 1645hrs thoroughly exhausted. Wednesday began once again with a talk by Lt Col Duff which covered the 5th Battalion in Italy and the 3rd Battle of Cassino. We then visited the Cassino Battle Museum where a hearty lunch was provided by the Association, the men of E Company made the most of the free wine in true Essex fashion! During the afternoon we moved to the Castle area where some of Veterans retold their stories of the Battles, we continued up to the Monastery and spent a couple of hours sightseeing. The soldiers of E Company were certainly earning their keep by now assisting the Veterans who were now beginning to tire. After another excellent day we moved back to the hotel.

On Thursday a memorial plaque was unveiled and dedicated to the 1/4th Battalion the Essex Regiment on Castle Hill. This was followed by a Service of Remembrance held at the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Cassino with the laying of wreaths for All Ranks of 1/4th and 5th Battalions of the Essex Regiment who gave their lives to the liberation of Italy. This was a particularly hot day with very little shade from the blistering sun. During both ceremonies a small contingent of Italian soldiers from the local barracks were on parade it should

be noted that during the ceremony in the Cemetery some 6 Italian soldiers succumbed to the heat, the Veterans, their families and the soldiers of E Company stood firm!! The ceremonies were followed by an excellent lunch in the Hotel Al Boschetto in Cassino at which some presentations were made along with numerous speeches. From there it was back to our hotel. After a very tiring day the majority of the Veterans had an early night. Not so for the small group of E Company soldiers who had struck up a friendship with some American sailors stationed in the harbour. WO2 (CSM) Head had arranged to meet the Americans in a local hostelry for a farewell drink, he even taught our friends how to drink from a can of beer without opening it! Cpl Cox managed to show of some of his PTI skills to a very large chap!

On Friday it was time to say our farewells and move back to the UK. By the look of the E Company soldiers they had obviously had a great night, there were a few complaints about the noise and swearing in the early hours but as the Band had left on an early flight this was all blamed on the musicians! I believe I speak for all members of E Company, we didn't manage to see much during the trip but it was an honour and a privilege to accompany the Veterans on their very special pilgrimage. Since returning we have received numerous letters of thanks.

Exercise Steelback Spirit

Capt Matt Woodeson writes:

Exercise Steelback Spirit was conducted over the weekend 8-10 December at Beakingham Training Area. The primary training objectives were the Mandatory Training Tests while the Training Team conducted Recruit Selection for 32 potential Recruits. In time-honoured fashion the Battalion Christmas festivities including, Christmas dinner, cabaret and a carol service were enjoyed by all.

Coinciding with the weekend was the inaugural visit to the Battalion by the Colonel-in-Chief accompanied by the Colonel of the Regiment. The visit programme was designed to allow the Colonel-in-Chief the opportunity to meet as many members of the Battalion as possible within the time frame of his visit. After a briefing by Battalion HQ staff, HRH presented the LS and GC Medal to SPSI Riley (who got away with it!). Following lunch HRH moved to the training area to see the Battalion undergoing training via a series of stands based around our support weapons. He was introduced to a wide spectrum of soldiers from recruits on the 100m range to members of 10 Platoon carrying out vehicle checkpoint drills in preparation for their forthcoming tour of Afghanistan.

3rd Battalion



The Colonel-in-Chief visits Exercise Steelback Spirit.

Saturday evening saw the officers and sergeants serve up Christmas dinner to the troops and the CO handed out well deserved promotions before the troops were entertained by 'scantily clad ladies masquerading as a cabaret'. The following morning started with a 'gunfire' reveille served up by the QM before the Battalion embarked on the CFT. Before departing for Christmas leave the Battalion attended a carol service led by the Padre.

Remembrance Day Parade

Capt Ty Smith writes:

On a bright autumn morning on Sunday 12 November 3 R Anglian led the Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph, Victoria Park Leicester. The Battalion were represented by members of Battalion HQ and a marching party from C Company. The parade means so much to many Veterans, some marching, some with sticks, and some in wheelchairs

- Remembrance remains as poignant as ever. There was a huge attendance at the Cenotaph with The Lord Mayor of Leicester in attendance as the senior civil representative. Several months earlier, the Adjutant and the RSM, along with key members of those taking part in the parade, began a series of planning meetings at the Town Hall, Leicester. This culminated in the final briefing and presentation to key personnel on the parade on the Friday before Remembrance Sunday. Early on Sunday morning the TA Centre was a hive of activity with soldiers carrying out last minute rehearsals and also ensuring their bearing and turnout befitted the occasion. The parade formed up at De Montfort Hall under the supervision of the RSM. Among those on parade were the veterans and units from Leicester.

At 1045hrs the parade was 'Set' and awaited the arrival of the civic processions headed by the Lord Mayor. The Service of Remembrance began at 1055hrs and it was of course dedicated to those men and women, especially those of Leicester and Leicestershire, who have laid down their lives in the service of their country. The service went extremely well with the Commanding Officer laying a wreath on behalf of the Services. The Lord Mayor of Leicester and the Commanding Officer then took their positions on the dais for the march past. The Service and Parade finished with a curry luncheon at TA Centre where the dignitaries and Service personnel were hosted by members of C Company.



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1st Battalion

Operation Herrick 6



A Company at Nowzad on patrol.



A Company on patrol in the town centre of Nowzad



C Company at Kajaki celebrate St George's Day.



C Company sniper observation post.



The repatriation of Pte Gray at Camp Bastion.



CO 42 Commando hands over command to CO 1st Battalion.



A Company patrol with interpreter.

2nd Battalion



The CO and RSM inspect the Potential NCOs' Cadre.



Pte Wray becomes the first Fijian JNCO.



The handover of RSMs.



The Luton Freedom Parade.



The Poacher - Sgt Headland.

3rd Battalion



OC E Company prepares to lay a wreath at Monte Cassino.



Pte Hacker - Best Male Shot.



The Colonel-in-Chief congratulates WO2 Riley on the award of the LS&GC Medal.



Exercise Snow Captive.

Special Features

The Jan Baalsrud Expedition

Capt Mike Wright writes:

(Mike Wright joined 2nd Battalion East Anglian Regiment in 1960 and left 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment in 1969 and then instructed at various adventure training centres before leaving the Army in 1969 to live in Norway)

By a series of coincidences I found myself involved with an expedition to follow the escape route of Jan Baalsrud, a soldier with the Linge Company, in one of the most extraordinary feats of endurance and survival against the odds to come out of the last war.

Living in Norway, I was well placed to assist the expedition in organisation and publicity. By great good fortune Gen Grandhagen, the Northern Area commander of the Norwegian Army, embraced the concept with enthusiasm and assisted us greatly.

Thus on 18 March 2006 I joined five crewmembers of *MS Straumnes*, a 98-year-old fishing vessel of some 57ft, captained by Maj Vidar Seather of the Norwegian Engineers. She had seen service in the Second World War carrying refugees from Norway. We sailed from the area of Harstadt in northern Norway, arriving at Scalloway in the Shetland Islands on 24 March. Here we met the rest of the expedition, led by Alun Davies (retired Major of Royal Regiment of Wales) who originated the idea. Our aim was to follow the route of Jan Baalsrud's journey of 63 years ago in what was called the "Shetland Bus".

There were now 13 of us crammed into what had once been a fish hold. The walls ran with water and the deck leaked yet we were probably in greater luxury than those who had travelled before us, as they would have been encumbered with eight tons of stores and explosives. With this happy thought we set forth into a South East gale gusting force nine, and headed south to Sumburgh Head where we met the full force of the wind. Here it was deemed unwise to continue, and we returned to Scalloway and ditched the grateful support officer. Now our number was 12, an altogether more auspicious state of affairs, and we made a second attempt the following day. The winds had abated to force six, and we sailed round the northern end of the islands, avoiding the overfalls of Sumburgh Head. After 24 hours it was clear that our speed over the ground was not sufficient to get us to Norway before the fuel ran out, so it was back to Scalloway. The third attempt got us to the Norwegian coast between Sognefjord and Aalesund. We now had three days of calm sailing along the magnificent Norwegian coastline. The snowline came down to the waters edge, the sun shone and the mountains sparkled in the background.



MS Straumnes.

North of Narvik we transferred to a 40-knot raiding craft in an attempt to make up for lost time, arriving in Tromso in time for a civic lunch on 29 March. Here we met two ladies who as children were the first people to help Jan at the start of his epic journey, Olaug and Dagmar Idrupsen. We then laid wreaths at the shooting range where Jan's surviving companions were shot. We also learned that they had been shot in the stomach, so that they did not die too quickly before they were buried.

We stayed at Olavsvaern, a naval barracks, and the next day we were conveyed by the Norwegian Navy to Toftefjord some 60km north of Tromso. It was here on 30 March 1943 that the *MS Brattholm*,



The author - front left.

Special Features



Pulling the reindeer.

transport of the 'Shetland Bus', was surprised by the Germans. Her crew, one of whom was killed in the engagement, blew her up, two were wounded, and eight were captured. Jan Baalsrud, wounded in the foot and missing a boot, swam ashore and evaded capture by shooting one of his pursuers dead and wounding another. He climbed a snow filled gully and crossed a ridge. Realising that his hunters would search all buildings, he noticed a small island and swam to it; here there was a shallow hollow in which he hid until the hue and cry had subsided. He then swam to a small rock, which was soon submerged by the tide. A fourth swim took him to Varoya where he made contact with the two young girls, Olaug and her cousin Dina Pedersen, who rowed him to their home.

Half the expedition tested the water but found it so cold that only my Norwegian friend Knut Oscar and I swam the full distance of about 80 metres taking approximately 15 minutes. Our admiration of Baalsrud started to grow. We were privileged to have Tore Haug, nephew of Jan and author of a definitive book on the matter, as our guide.

The following day we started from Mikelvik, where Dina Pedersen's brother had rowed Jan, and followed the tide line as he had done to hide his tracks. The going over icy boulders was very hard work and fairly hazardous. We did not need reminding that he had done this with a wounded foot and an odd boot. We were sufficiently arrogant to think that we could accomplish in one day a distance that had taken him two. The 17 hours of hard slog that followed filled us with even greater admiration for the man.

That night we reached Daafjord and stayed there as he had done. The next morning we started the long trek over the mountains to Kopparelv on the Langsund. Here we met two of the Heika family who had encountered Jan as he emerged from the forest with a pistol in his hand. They had warned him that there were many Germans about, and that he should be careful to avoid being seen by one of the many observation posts and patrols. They then recommended that he make contact with a family at Bjornskare five kilometres further along the fjord. It should be stressed that there was no formal resistance organisation assisting Jan; he was being passed to people who it was thought were sympathetic; thus there were huge risks. For his part Jan always refused to tell his contacts where he had come from, protecting his trail, but requiring even greater trust by

his helpers.

The Sorensens at Bjornskare provided him with skis and boots; and that night the father, aged 76, and son rowed Jan through a snowstorm ten kilometres to Snarby. Halfway they had to lie up behind an island in order to avoid a patrol boat. As with all journeys where Jan was accompanied, his companions had to return home the same night so that their absence would not be noted. Jan's next contacts were the Lockertsens who took him by motorboat a point 11km short of Lyngseidet. Trying to move quickly Jan skied along the road and shortly after first light skied through a group of German soldiers going for breakfast. Shaken by his narrow escape he turned north off the road into the mountains.

The expedition completed the journey from Daafjord to Lyngseidet in a single day, much assisted by the Norwegian Navy fast patrol boat. Nevertheless it was another long and tiring day, and it was decided that we were trying to accomplish too much too fast, and a recovery day was ordered. The UK elements were all alpinists and found the intricacies of Norwegian skis too difficult to master, so were reunited with the alpine skis that they had brought from Britain. Refreshed we then started on the most epic part of Baalsrud's journey. Knut Oscar and I used Norwegian touring skis throughout.

Jan carried no maps or sketches, committing everything to memory. Having climbed high he was attempting to descend to a lower route in worsening weather when he was avalanched. He lost skis, gloves, hat and the rucksack with his food. What happened on the next three days is a little unclear, what is known is that on 8 April he fell through the kitchen door of the farm of the Gronvolls at Furuflaten. The ladies of the household were terrified at the sight of this apparition with its feet encased in ice. Jan was suffering from hypothermia, snow blindness and frostbite and was extremely hungry. The Gronvolls cleaned him up and managed to move him to their barn where he remained for four days, surviving a German search of the farm.

Our expedition completed the same route as far as it could be ascertained. High on the mountain we made a rendezvous with Maj Ge Grandhagen who flew in by helicopter accompanied by a sizeable press corps. After the general had spoken I replied in Norwegian, expressing our sincere thanks, and he was presented with a bottle of malt whisky which had been carefully carried from the Shetlands; a small token of appreciation for all his help. In

Special Features

inclement weather and poor visibility we descended Lyngsdalen to Furufalten. Four of us spent the night in the Gronvoll barn, and can testify to the coldness and draughtiness of the place. The following morning we were conducted round the Baalsrud museum and met Agnete Gronvoll, widow of Marius Gronvoll, who had played a major role in the saga.

When it was deemed that Jan was capable of being moved he was smuggled on a stretcher out of the village onto a sailing boat, and taken eight kilometres across the fjord to an isolated hut, which became known as Hotel Savoy. Here he remained for 12 days much of it stormbound and with minimal food. Gangrene began to infect his feet and he commenced to cut off his toes with a penknife. His helpers were having problems communicating with the men of Mandalen in the next valley who were organising his onward journey. Four men pulled Jan and his stretcher up a steep gully. The route was difficult and exhausting, and they were forced to leave Jan in the snow beneath a large boulder, which acquired the name of 'The Gentleman Stone'.

The ubiquitous Maj Vidar Saether transported the expedition across the fjord. Hotel Savoy had burned down some years ago, but was replaced by a replica. We then started to climb the gully, encountering snow, ice and water, and struggling through the birch scrub. We marvelled at the achievement of the four Furufalten men who had had to work in darkness hauling a sledge. The Gentleman Stone is hard to recognise but Knut Oscar, my Norwegian companion and I are convinced that we found it. It was small wonder that the locals had such a problem identifying it in 1943.

The problem of communicating and misunderstandings meant that the men from Mandalen did not locate Jan, now buried under the snow, until the night 29/30 April, five days after he had been placed there. Because of a storm it was another five days before they could return and start the journey to Sweden. However in poor weather conditions they were not able to progress, and were forced to leave Jan under a cliff for a further five days. At last Jan's extraordinary determination to survive seemed to be fading, and it was decided to move him down to a cave at the top of the Mandalen valley where he could be cared for on a daily basis. Here he remained in their care for some 17 days until the Sami, or Lapplanders, could be organised to take him to Sweden.

Leaving the Gentleman Stone we traversed over the ridge to the rim of the Mandalen valley. Daylight was receding fast and the route down through the maze of cliffs was difficult to locate. It

was deemed too dangerous to attempt it in the dark. We therefore elected to dig snow holes and wait for daylight. Our non-appearance in Mandalen that night initiated a search for us. Thus it was that we awoke to the sound of a helicopter, which insisted on taking us down to the village, despite the protests of the purists. Our next formal engagement was to attend lunch at an old people's home where we met Peder and Eliver Isaksen and Nils Nilsen. Peder had been one of the two men who found Jan at the Gentleman Stone. Nils Nilsen had skied 85 miles in 30 hours to find the Sami; in that time the only sustenance that he had was some coffee and food that the Sami gave him. After lunch we visited Jan's grave in Mandalen where his ashes were laid in 1987.

Jan had been transported by the Sami using their reindeer as cover, and had eventually reached Sweden on 1 June under a hail of bullets from a German patrol. He was eventually returned to Britain and served the rest of the war as an instructor with the Linge Company.

That evening we made our way up the Mandalen valley with the assistance of the skidoos of the mayor of Mandalen, Bjorn Mo. Knut Oscar and I visited the cave, and we spent the night in a Sami tent on the plateau. The Sami had brought two reindeer of questionable usefulness; one of them would not pull the sledge, in fact it had to be pushed and pulled in order to extract any movement whatsoever. Eventually it was decided that the best solution was to carry it on the sledge, and thus we progressed to the Finnish border with a reindeer playing the part of Baalsrud. We spent one further night in an isolated cabin, dining on Sami delicacies such as reindeer tongue and intestines. Our final act was to cross Lake Kilpisjarvi into Sweden as Jan had done.

We were left with two overriding impressions: one being the mental and physical strength of Jan Baalsrud, who in his 125-mile land journey had defied all the accepted conditions for survival, and the other being the extraordinary courage of the Norwegian people who had helped him. He came to them unannounced and often at dead of night, refusing to say who had sent him. Yet they accepted him, knowing that if he was not what he claimed to be, they faced the destruction of their property, torture and death.

My sincere thanks to my good friend John Andre (retired Major of the Devon and Dorset Regiment) for having written this synopsis of our expedition. He was also our 'supply officer' throughout the trip.

South Africa

Jeremy Green (who was at Oakham School and is a potential officer sponsored by the Regiment) writes:

On first arriving in South Africa in October 2006, I was startled by the quality of the housing and living conditions on the side of the roads when traveling out of Durban. There were tin shacks, which I was told housed up to 10 black people, and yet, on the other side there were high walls surrounding luxurious mansions where the white people lived. It seemed weird but I just accepted it as their way of living.

Traveling further into the country, into the Drakensburg mountains, it was clear that despite its obvious problems, it was a stunningly beautiful place. I was to stay among these mountains for a while and help out at the local crèches and any other jobs I could do to help the local black communities.

In the mornings I would get up early in the bright South African sunshine and go walking up the mountains with the dogs to accompany me and then return home to start the day. I would then drive to one of the six crèches around the area. This meant leaving the nice roads and going along dirt tracks for many kilometres. The only luxury being, that I had a 4x4 which meant a comfy ride and I could pick up the older members of the community and give them a lift to work or back home. I would pass the older children walking to school in the scorching heat of the day along the track. As I arrived at the crèches the little children aged 1-6 would come and greet me and touch my hands and clothes. It was brilliant to see their smiling faces each day as I pulled in.

The language barrier was a huge problem but I quickly picked up some words of Zulu and spoke to them in their language when I needed to, but I normally spoke English to them so that they got exposed to learning a new language. While out there I helped to build another classroom and did general repairs on all the crèches when they were needed. We even managed to get some white teenagers from Johannesburg to help re-paint one of the buildings that was in the poorest of conditions. It is not the third world out there, the children all have clothes and a roof over their heads, but that's no excuse for letting them have mediocre schools to learn in and playing areas outside that are covered in rubbish.

They say apartheid is over in South Africa, and yes, officially it is one man, one vote, but in reality the white people have a far higher standard of living than the black communities and not many white people are willing to do anything about it. In South Africa itself there are many people who were brought up under apartheid and are still old fashioned in their attitudes.

The Zulu people were, without exception, some of the kindest people I have ever had the good fortune to meet and their warm smiles will remain with me forever. I loved South Africa and will return one day to see how the crèche project is going. I would like to thank the Regiment for the donation you sent me. The children benefited from it enormously and the teachers pass on their thanks too...albeit in Zulu!

Special Features

From Chairborne to Airborne

Capt Rupert Whitham, SO3 Plans 1, HQ 16 Air Assault Brigade writes:

Are you expecting to do P Company in the next 30 days? Think carefully. Quite sure? Prior to Christmas leave, I'd certainly never have thought that I'd be shuffling nervously along two scaffold poles, 44 feet in the air or carrying 35 pounds repeatedly up and down windswept hills. Sometimes, ignorance really is bliss. However, the Deputy Commander had 'suggested' All Arms P Company would be a beneficial experience for a desk-bound, line-Infantry officer, and so, after a slightly less indulgent festive period, I drove up to Catterick, nervously anticipating my fate.

I joined 56 other pensive candidates from across 16 Air Assault Brigade at Helles Barracks in a bleak, wet Catterick on 7 January 2007. Most of the assembled crowd had completed some sort of preparatory training, be it a formal 'pre-para' course or a progressively demanding programme of unit PT, whereas I had somewhat foolishly stepped from the relative inactivity of a warm, comfortable staff job with the Brigade HQ, into the cold, unforgiving, North Yorkshire countryside. The 'playing field' was by no means 'level'.

Pegasus Company is designed to test candidates' physical fitness, mental robustness and determination. The course begins with what is knowingly referred to by the P Company Staff as, 'Screening'. This consists of a two-mile (best effort) run, an eight-mile tab carrying 35lb and an aerial assault course known as the Trainasium. These events act as a gateway to P Company and help ensure that all students are of the necessary fitness and aptitude to embark on potentially the most physically demanding challenge of their lives. Surprisingly, quite a few do not pass this initial hurdle and are gone before anyone has even registered their face, let alone learned their name. As we walked expectantly up to the training area on that first day, the maxim, 'Fail to prepare, prepare to fail,' echoed in our ears.

My own, rather modest training programme of gentle runs over Christmas leave had paid off though and I was admitted through 'the P Company gateway' and into a demanding daily routine of

physical and mental hardship. Nothing but 100 per cent effort was acceptable. The process of gradually fatiguing us prior to Test Week was rather ironically referred to as 'build up'. It consisted of long runs, circuit training and weighted tabs, interspersed with lessons in low level battle tactics and first aid. The cumulative effect of all this physical activity was readily apparent. Each night soldiers limped painfully to the showers, revealing aching bruises and red-raw sores from the day's activity. Soon, the number on our course had tumbled to below 30.

For those that staggered purposefully onwards, the ultimate hurdle of Test Week remained. This comprises eight separate tests specifically designed to assess the qualities looked for in every airborne soldier. The ten miler; milling; the steeplechase; the stretcher and log races - terms that will bring a knowing smile to the faces of the initiated and dread to those that aren't. What connects them all is an unrelenting, almost overriding sense of adversity through which the soldier has to fight through and prevail. By doing so, he (and perhaps one day soon - she) develops an ever-increasing confidence in his own abilities and a sense of kinship with those that have successfully achieved the same.

The 27 maroon berets presented at the end of January bore testament to the fact that P Company is as demanding as it ever was. Only the most motivated and robust of individuals will pass. Aside from escaping the office and working directly alongside soldiers again, the course taught me a couple of useful lessons. It confirmed my belief that attitude is absolutely key; whether you pass or fail this course is largely dictated by how you choose to perceive its challenges. A positive attitude counts for an awful lot. Admittedly, preparation is very important but my story proves that it is clearly not the deciding factor. I also learned a new-found respect for anyone who has passed the course and gained an understanding of how instrumental Pegasus Company is to the airborne ethos.

Transition – My Training So Far

Pte RJP Coryat writes:

The transition from civilian to soldier is a great one. I never realised the gravity of it until I met the man I later found out to be my Section Commander at Darlington train station. The moment I saw his not-too-happy expression I knew that the next six months would be long and hard. The 20 weeks that followed proved this to be true, but what I did not expect was how rewarding and fulfilling it would be. Throughout the past 20 weeks I have undergone a mental and physical transformation, and in a further four weeks I shall emerge as a fully trained infanteer.

The moment we came off the coach and set foot in Vimy Barracks for the first time the discipline was hammered into us. For many of us being constantly shouted at, having 0530hrs wake up calls and being ushered through meals was a big shock, but we all adjusted quickly. We were given a rank slide that said Q4 on it, something that we would later wear with great pride. The first drill lessons we had allowed us to march around camp in a smart and soldier-like manner and taught us some of the principles of the Army, like pride, discipline, alertness, and teamwork.

Training also had its fun moments though. On our third week our platoon spent a day paint-balling and our entire tenth week was spent doing adventure training. Both of these activities, while being fun, also taught us quite a bit. Adventure training was tough; during the space of a week we did mountaineering, rock climbing and caving. We were made to face whatever fears we may have had and for some of us this was more difficult than others, but we all felt proud afterwards.

For the first six weeks we had to be marched everywhere, had locker inspections and little personal freedom. During week six we had an important room inspection followed by a drill test in order to 'pass off the square'. After much effort and hard work we all managed to pass. Everything changed at this point; we were now treated like



Pte Coryat greets LCpl J Beharry VC on a recent visit to the ITC Catterick.

Special Features

soldiers, we were allowed to march around camp on our own, to go out on the weekends and most importantly to wear the berets, cap badges, belts and flashes of our respective regiments. We were also given a long weekend off, things suddenly changed for the better.

It was not all fun and games though, as our training progressed, the intensity increased drastically. Because our jobs are going to have such an aggressive and tiring nature, it is only logical that our training be aggressive and tiring. During our grenade and bayonet lessons we were trained harder than ever. We ran and crawled through water and mud and ended up soaked to the bone and drained of our last ounce of energy. But we had to maintain a level of strength and aggression to let us finish the job and destroy the enemy. This was important because some of us may find ourselves in that situation a few months from now.

Since we have to be prepared to operate in the field, we do several field exercises during our time in Catterick. We learn to cook, administrate ourselves and live in the field. As the exercises progress we learn more and more, from section attacks to fighting in built up areas, and in two weeks' time we will be doing our first live fire exercise. It is a constant personal fascination of mine to think back to our first field exercise and remember how little we were carrying at the time, I think of how exhausted I was when we got to our harbour area. Now we pass it on the way to locations more than double the distance away carrying so much more weight without even being out of breath. It represents a serious improvement in our fitness levels.

The Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion Association

The Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion provides future Warrant Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers for the Foot Guards and the Infantry of the Line. This is what it used to say under the signboard at the entrance to the Barracks of the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion. This of course is very true particularly during 1970-1990 when many Quartermasters, Regimental Sergeant Majors, Warrant Officers of both Foot Guards and the Infantry of the Line were ex-Junior Leaders. This still continues to this day with many Senior Warrant Officers and LE Officers coming through the Regimental systems who were ex-Junior Leaders based at Shorncliffe.

The Association has been around for some time and has in excess of 480 members, it has recently undergone a major re-launch and has a new website and forum www.ijlb.co.uk which represents

We often compete as sections to improve our teamwork skills. These competitions consist of orienteering to test our fitness and our map reading skills, as well as a 'march and shoot' competition which consists of a battle run directly followed by a 200m shoot. There was also a general knowledge test and the competition week culminated with an exhausting assault course. This was without a doubt, one of the hardest things that we have done since we have been here, but the feeling of conquering it is indescribable.

Our platoon was fortunate enough to have been paid a visit by LCpl Johnson Beharry VC. It was quite a memorable experience to meet the man who has done such brave things and lived through it all. His stories brought an aspect of reality to our training because he was talking about equipment, vehicles and situations that we knew about. It seemed even more real to us since he had been sat where we were and did what we did just a few years earlier. It really helped to show us how each and every one of us is capable of that level of gallantry. This helped to boost our morale and give us a new perspective on training.

Nevertheless our training is not yet complete and my metamorphosis has another four weeks until I fully emerge as a fully trained professional soldier. There are still many challenges but the end is in sight now, we have a steeplechase coming up soon for which my hopes are high. With four weeks to go and morale high, I hold my head up high and look forward to the remaining challenges and eventually I will step over them and stand tall on the day of my pass off parade, fully emerged as an infanteer ready to join the Poachers.

all ex-Infantry Junior Leaders who served at Tuxford, Plymouth, Oswestry or Shorncliffe. Should anyone wish to join and does not have access to the internet they should contact Dave Midcalf, Membership Secretary, The Maltings, Pound Street, Warminster BA12 8JR, tel: 01985 300919.

One of the stated aims of the Association is that a memorial will be raised at Oswestry to commemorate the achievements of this unique military unit. Oswestry Council has given the land and the go ahead for planning permission. It is hoped to include on this memorial a list of all those ex-Junior Leaders who died whilst on active service. It would be appreciated if, anyone who has the details of any ex-Junior Leader who died while on active service while serving with the Royal Anglian Regiment, could pass them onto RHQ.

Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2006

Lt Graham Goodey writes:

The Cambrian Patrol can quite rightly, and with a deserved degree of swagger, claim to have become an institution within the Army. Having started life 47 years ago as a march and shoot competition, it has evolved into a mission-orientated patrol exercise but its essence and appeal have effectively remained unchanged – a long walk over the hills in reliably poor weather. That may not sound too attractive but each year around 100 teams from the UK and many different nations embark on the challenge, and for some reason, people who have completed it before often come back for more.

In short, the Cambrian Patrol is a 48-hour long-range recce patrol with a number of testing stands thrown in along the way. Having conducted their battle preparation, the teams find their way to an objective, recce that objective, extract from the area, (which is guaranteed to involve crossing a river), and move through a number of tactical stands before returning for tea and hopefully medals. Having been assessed at various stages, the teams who complete the patrol are judged against a set standard and may be awarded bronze, silver or gold medals. It sounds simple enough, indeed nothing is beyond what a professional soldier is trained to do, but when a heavy load and the Welsh elements are added to the picture then it quickly becomes a significant undertaking.

My association with this institution began in 2002 when I was part of a team from Cambridge UOTC. Despite finishing a man down through injury we managed to pick up a bronze award, which was a hugely satisfying feeling but did leave us wondering what might have

been had our commander not taken a tumble. Left with this thought, I returned in 2003 with another team from CUOTC. On this occasion we came away with a silver award, a step up from the previous year and a fine achievement for our small unit. Having completed my second patrol, the RSM joked at the time that I should now know what to look forward to when I get to the Battalion.

And so, having recently been commissioned and joined 1 R Anglian, 'The Vikings', I duly found myself taking charge of the Battalion team for this year's patrol. Attracting volunteers was not difficult and many soldiers, given the incentive of working as a small team with pride of representing the best of the Battalion, will jump at the chance. In the month prior to the exercise we spent two days each week training on the Black Mountains, focusing on tabbing at night, and the rest of the week revising some fundamental soldiering skills, first aid, signals, river crossing, CBRN, AFV recognition, mine clearance, foreign weapons, prisoner-of-war handling, contact drills and section attacks can all be tested on the patrol stands and although in most cases, this is revision, to achieve a good standard takes some time.

The exercise this year took place in the area to the north west of Sennybridge around the Tywi Forest. Leaving the notional Brigade Assembly Area, the patrol headed over some fairly rough terrain with energy sapping grass tussocks for around 8km until we reached the forest. Here we conducted a reconnaissance on a suspected enemy vehicle checkpoint before moving on to grab some rest and write

Special Features



A determined soldier swims the river crossing.

the all important patrol report. In this task our team were lucky to have some particularly talented sketchers who managed to produce sketch maps and drawings that a landscape artist would appreciate. Delivering the patrol report to a friendly agent at the allotted time around 23 hours into the exercise, we began the extraction, noting that the Llyn Brianne Reservoir stood neatly across the route.

Although we were assured that the road bridge was open, it was no surprise to hear from the agent at the reservoir that the bridge was now mined and there was only one way across; you do not get away without a swim on Cambrian Patrol! The river crossing is no doubt one of the 'man tests' of the exercise. It was around 8am and the sun was rising on a night which had dropped to -5C. Breaking the ice in the puddles at the water's edge as we made our way into the water will certainly be a lasting memory for those who did it, but it is precisely this type of activity which breeds confidence that things are rarely as difficult as they seem.

Having crossed the river we moved on to conduct two small confirmatory recces and meet another friendly agent where we were tasked with clearing a short path in a minefield in order to cross back into friendly territory. Once across the border we moved to a vehicle RV and were transported onto Sennybridge training area for the final tasks. After an encounter with some PWs, we met with and boarded two stripped down Land Rovers for the final extraction. As we drove along a narrow track, an explosion rocked the vehicles,

live GPMG fire cracked overhead and two enemy stepped out to ambush us. Despite 40 hours and around 50km of demanding patrolling, the team reacted well and the enemy were quickly dealt with although not before we sustained a casualty. The final challenge was thus to summon everything left to carry the casualty the last 2km to the RAP.

Completing the patrol is a fantastic feeling regardless of how well or not things have gone, but receiving an award at the presentation tops the event. Things had gone well for us and, to our immense joy, the team was awarded a gold medal – one of only four awarded out of the 89 teams which took part this year. For me it was hugely fulfilling to now have the set of Bronze, Silver and Gold but interestingly, I do value each one equally because each brings back equally fond memories of that patrol and that particular team.

From a training perspective, the Cambrian Patrol is a great opportunity. Not only is it physically and mentally demanding, but it gives teams something real and tangible to aim for, which tends to galvanise them in their training. Over the course of the patrol there will almost always be setbacks of varying degrees, but the manner in which teams battle on each year is an impressive feature of the exercise. Every team that completes the patrol, regardless of the result, will be pleased by what they have accomplished and, most importantly, it will increase their confidence in what they can achieve in the future.

War Memorials Trust Protecting Our War Memorial Heritage

War memorials vary in style and form, from monuments to crosses, to bus shelters and hospitals. While many memorials, including Regimental memorials, are well maintained, others stand 'at risk'; vulnerable to neglect, vandalism, theft, weathering and ageing. Some of these will carry the names of those who served with the Royal Anglian Regiment and its antecedent Regiments.

War Memorials Trust works for the protection and conservation of the estimated 70,000 war memorials nationwide. The charity directly helps through grant schemes as well as providing advice and guidance on any war memorial issue. Its Small Grants Scheme has awarded £1,500 in 2006 to a conservation project on the war memorial plaque in St Edmund King and Martyr Church, Assington, Suffolk. Since it was established in 1997 the charity has helped allocate over £350,000 to more than 500 projects nationwide. But demand continues to outstrip available resources and there are many more deserving and important projects that the Trust could support.

One project that the Trust has been able to make a significant contribution to is the restoration of a damaged memorial cross in the churchyard of St Chad's in Kirkby on Merseyside. The war memorial

was destroyed 15 years ago and has since lain in storage, in pieces, with only the plinth remaining in situ. Grants from War Memorials Trust and English Heritage, supported by local fundraising, have enabled the project, costing more than £17,000, to return the war memorial to its rightful place at the heart of the community as a symbol of remembrance.

War Memorials Trust also rescues 'at risk' war memorials. A damaged war memorial plaque that featured in the 'Not Forgotten' series about war memorials on Channel 4 has been held in storage by the Trust for its protection. It is now being restored and will be re-homed. The Trust holds war memorials from across the country; saved from auctions, tips and even ebay!

War Memorials Trust cannot do this alone. The Trust relies entirely on voluntary funding. If you would like to support our work please send a donation, or join us (£20 Annual Subscription, £100 Life Membership), to Winston S Churchill President War Memorials Trust, 4 Lower Belgrave Street London SW1W 0LA or visit www.warmemorials.org. If you would like advice or information on a war memorial matter please get in touch on 020 7259 0403.

Our Regimental Museums

Introduction

The Regiment has for some time been keen to strengthen links with the museums that represent the history of our antecedent regiments. In many cases these links are becoming closer and many new museums display up-to-date photographs and news of our battalions. At the same time several readers have asked if it would be possible to publish a short description of each of the museums that represent our antecedent regiments. I am most grateful to those museums that have contributed and I hope that it will be possible to include the museums that are not described in the next issue (*the Essex Regiment Museum is undergoing a major refurbishment and it would be inappropriate to include anything about the Museum until it re-opens, most probably late next year – Editor*).

The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Museum

Wardown Park is a landscaped area surprisingly close to Luton Town Centre. The Wardown Park Museum itself, on Old Bedford Road, Luton, is housed within a substantial brick built Edwardian building originally the private residence of a local solicitor. The Museum (Tel 01582 746722) is open Tuesdays-Saturday 10am to 5pm and Sundays 1pm to 5pm. Admission is free with parking nearby.

The Regiment's Gallery is located on the ground floor toward the rear of the building approached through a doorway surmounted by a railway footplate where the figure of an 18th century soldier may be glimpsed. Some years ago it was apparent the Regiment's Gallery was past its 'sell-by date' and was in need of an update. An appeal was mounted and sufficient funds were raised to enable a complete refit to take place (a plaque, just inside the Gallery, lists the major donors). The greatest constraint was the lack of floor space. Notwithstanding, the National Army Museum designed and meticulously installed a first class display. The Gallery was formally re-opened on 14 December 2004.

Lack of space means we have not been able to cover the early years of the Regiment's history as much as we would like – an area to expand upon as and when space becomes available. The layout of the gallery follows time. Firstly, a case covering the Victorian era containing, among other items, a realistic model of a Victorian soldier. The Boer War is covered as is the Great War, with a cabinet containing a collection of interesting artefacts of the period, and beside this is a tableau of a First World War soldier and a nurse who is named and based on an actual person who nursed soldiers in the building when it was used as a nursing home during the war.

At the far end of the gallery there is an excellent collection of medals. Above there are two oil paintings by the well known artist Terrence Cuneo, illustrating the Battle for Monte Cassino, Italy 1944 and the Crossing of the Indaw Chaung River, Burma 1944. An interesting feature of his paintings is a little mouse hidden somewhere in the composition – great fun for children visitors to find. Nearby is a freestanding cabinet showing some interesting items of Regimental Silver. The Second World War is well covered. A display case contains many interesting items including a life size 'Chindit' figure – Wingate's 'Behind the Lines' campaign in which the Regiment participated. Toward the end of the journey around the Gallery the National Serviceman is featured including a full size figure based on one of our current museum volunteers. The importance of the National Serviceman in the latter part of the Regiment's history is acknowledged.

We are fortunate in having a number of volunteers, who are ex- serving members of the Regiment, who attend the museum on Wednesday mornings to meet the public, answer questions and generally assist in family history matters.

The museum trustees, from time to time, mount exhibitions on specific subjects, for example, this spring we have a three-day event devoted to the nine members of the Regiment who were awarded the Victoria Cross. Later this year it is our intention to have a display on the Royal Anglian Regiment. Last year we organised and hosted a Bedfordshire Cadet Day comprising lectures, conducted tours and



A 1950s National Serviceman.



Regimental Museums



A Chindit from World War Two.



A Victorian soldier.

activities with 'The Poachers' (the recruitment team). The event was most successful and we have been asked to repeat the event. We have in mind perhaps a combined Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire county event.

Another item we are actively working on is an audio visual installation of four main themes: Regimental History, The Soldier's Life, Regimental Marches and a series of interviews with war-time soldiers of the Regiment, sadly, most of whom have passed away. The interviews on the audio visual are but a small part of our collection, they are quite unique, can't be repeated and, in due course, we would like to produce a CD as a permanent record.

While the Regiment's gallery's success is very much due to the active support of our volunteers it is also due to the support and help of the Luton Museum staff to whom we are greatly indebted.

The Suffolk Regiment Museum

The Suffolk Regiment Gallery in the Moyses Hall Museum in Bury St Edmunds opened in 2002. It tells the story of the Regiment over its 300-year history and is a popular feature of the museum, especially with the younger element.

The main collection, housed in the Keep at Gibraltar Barracks, alongside RHQ The Royal Anglian Regiment is open on the first Wednesday of the month from 0930-1530hrs, and on the first Sunday of the month from April to October. It is also opened by prior arrangement for specialist groups and schools visits. For details of this contact the Area Secretary (Col Taylor) on 01603 400290.

The museum is staffed by volunteers. Maj Tony Cobbold has recently stood down as curator after many years in the appointment. He has been replaced by Mr Gwyn Thomas who was archivist for the Suffolk Regiment archives in the County Record Office until recently, and who has considerable knowledge of the Regiment. The volunteer museum attendant is Mr Tim Davis and he is assisted on days when the museum is open to the public by Mr John Hunns and Colin Smith, all three served in the Regiment.

The museum is well worth a visit even if you have been before, because over the last two years it has been reorganised and updated

and most recently the extensive medal display has been expanded and re-designed.

Curator: Mr Gwyn Thomas.

Telephone: 01284-752394 (Wednesdays only) otherwise 01603 400290 (Col AC Taylor).

The Royal Norfolk Regiment Museum

The museum was opened by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother in July 1990. It is located in the Shire Hall which is part of the Castle Museum complex in Norwich. It can be reached via its own entrance



Regimental Museums

on Castle Meadow or from the Castle museum via a recreation of a World War One communication trench.

The museum is closed on Sundays and Mondays but is otherwise open daily from 10.00am to 4.30pm. It tells the story of the Regiment throughout its history. You can watch archive footage of the Regiment in India and view historic photographs projected on the walls. Special family activities take place during school holidays, and the museum sees up to 4,000 visitors a month including many school groups carrying out projects as part of the National Curriculum. It is a major visitor attraction well worth a visit.

Curator: Miss Kate Thaxton

Telephone: 01603 223649

Royal Leicestershire Regimental Museum

Steady progress has continued to be made on our new Regimental Museum since the report in the last edition of *The Green Tiger*.

The current state of the project is as follows. The builders, plumbers and electricians have finished all their various works on the refurbishment of the interior of the building and the installation of the lift. The tasks of cleaning up, redecorating and restoring the exterior of Newarke Houses have also been completed. At the time of writing these notes (late March) the installation of the display cabinets, the main explanatory wall panels and the replica Hohenzollern Redoubt trench are almost complete. The next two months will be spent in completing those tasks, filling the cabinets and finalising the exhibition.

The Regimental Museum will be in six upstairs rooms of the Newarke Houses, with the Leicester City Council Social History galleries downstairs. The major themes will be as follows. Room 36 will describe the lives of people who served in the Regiment, including recruiting, uniforms, drill and weapon training, discipline, sport and education. Room 35, which is approached from Room 36, will tell the story of the Regiment from 1688 to 1964, including campaigns throughout the world to expand and defend what became the largest empire the world has ever seen, but excluding most of the 20th century. Rooms 33 and 32 cover the two World Wars, and Room 34 will contain a reconstruction of a trench facing the Hohenzollern Redoubt in October 1915. Room 39 covers the Home Front and the huge impact that the wars had on those left at home.

The new exhibition showing the fine record of the Regiment and its part in the history of Leicestershire will be open to the public for the first time on 23 June 2007 (the Saturday of Royal Tigers' Weekend) between 1000hrs and 1700hrs. At 1500hrs there will be a short ceremony by the Lord Mayor of Leicester, but the museum will remain open; this ceremony has been timed so that anyone who wished to do so could attend, see the exhibition and travel to Devonshire Place in time for the Association Annual General Meeting. The museum will also be open on Sunday 24 June from 1100 to 1700hrs. Entrance is free. We hope that as many people as possible who will be attending the reunion will find time to visit the new Regimental Museum (upstairs) and the social history collection (downstairs). Thereafter the museum will be open during its normal opening hours (seven days a week).

A special preview of the new exhibition in the Regimental Museum has been arranged for members of the Association on Monday 18 June 2007, starting at 1000hrs. Anyone may attend, but please telephone RHQ beforehand (0116-2622749 during the mornings) to leave your name, so that we can warn the museum staff of likely numbers. The aim of this is to allow any minor errors which are spotted to be corrected, so any comments will be most welcome.

Sarah Levitt, the Head of Leicester Museum Service, has sent the Association the following message: 'The reopening of Newarke Houses will be happening soon, after a great deal of hard work by the Royal Tigers' Association, Leicester City Council staff, and our consultants Focus UK Ltd, Haley Sharpe Design and our interpretation specialist Graham Black. This is a very exciting moment, and I would like to thank all the Tigers who have helped in any way, as well as the Heritage Lottery Fund, which awarded the project £1 million.

'The Heritage Lottery Fund supported this memorial to all who served in the Regiment because it not only tells the story of the Regiment, but also places it in the context of the wider history of Leicester. It shows the impact of two world wars, and the way in which Leicester communities have changed through the legacy of the British Empire and in response to continuing conflict across the world.

'When Newarke Houses reopens it will be a place where many different kinds of people from Leicester, Leicestershire and beyond can find out more about each other, celebrate Leicester as it is today, and pay tribute to all those who served in their local regiment over the centuries. Leicester Museum Service is very grateful to the Royal Leicestershire Regiment for its vision and commitment to this unique and important project.'

Now that the end of this major project is in sight, the President of the Royal Tigers' Association and the Regimental Trustees wish to record their thanks to everyone who has contributed towards getting our new Regimental Museum established in its new home. Major financial contributions from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council led the way, but we very much appreciate the support shown by so many Association members, families and friends of the Regiment who helped us raise the money. A board showing the major donors will be on display and a book listing every donor to the Regimental fundraising appeal will also be in the museum. Cols Bill Dawson and Bill Morris have led a small team providing the Regimental input to the display, and many other Tigers and other people have assisted them when requested. We are very grateful to Leicester City Council for their museum expertise and for funding many extra unexpected 'landlord' costs which inevitably came to light during such a major refurbishment of an old listed building. Mr Nick Ladlow, the project director, and our consultants Focus (UK) Ltd oversaw the whole operation and brought many other people into the project team, but particular mention must be made of Mr Graham Black (interpretation specialist) and Haley Sharpe Ltd who designed and constructed the exhibition. To them and all their sub-contractors we owe a great debt and are most grateful for their skills and devoted work on our behalf.

Looking to the future, once the museum is open, we shall need a team of Regimental volunteers to act as guides in the Regimental Museum to help visitors. Volunteers need only attend when convenient to them, and for as long or short a time as they like, on a flexible programme (perhaps for just one or two mornings or afternoons per month?). Attendance will definitely be when convenient and agreeable to the volunteers. Proper training and an explanation of the facilities available will be given beforehand. It should be fun and very satisfying to assist our visitors by answering their questions about the exhibits and the history of the Regiment in general. If you might be interested, please give your name into the Regimental office (0116-2622749, during the mornings), and we can explain the job more thoroughly. There will be no firm commitment, pressure or compulsion! If you live in or near Leicester, please volunteer! Your old Regiment needs you!

Northamptonshire Regimental Collections at Abington Museum

Abington Museum, a Grade I listed building is set in Abington Park, Northampton.

It has been a busy and productive last few months at Abington Museum as committed museum staff and Regimental Association colleagues have continued to work on developing exhibits to make the collections more engaging to a much wider audience.

This has resulted in the creation of three new exhibits; a scene from the Officers' Mess, a display set in Burma and Europe during the Second World War, as well as a display concentrating on how the Northamptonshire Regiment evolved to become part of the Royal Anglian Regiment. The Northamptonshire Yeomanry displays were also refurbished.

In order to promote these new displays a 'Military at Home' event was organised, to which notable regimental figures, councillors and regional school and University of Northampton representatives were

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invited to a special preview of the displays. The event was very much aimed at promoting the Regiment's history as an interesting and evocative theme for being taught in schools in the hope that more schools would use the displays as a teaching resource. The evening was enjoyed by all and generated a great deal of discussion.

This philosophy of making the history of the Northamptonshire Regiment more accessible and relevant is integral to the future plans for the museum.

Work is also taking place on a bid to obtain funding to renovate Abington Museum. This will include even more work in the military galleries to create more engaging and innovative displays. This will hopefully involve the inclusion of an interactive First World War trench, which will allow people to experience life in a trench for themselves.

Current plans involve an exciting development to start work on an oral history project to record the experiences of people who served with the Regiment. We are hoping to capture as many memories on record as possible, and have purchased equipment especially for this project.



Abington Museum, a Grade I listed building set in Abington Park.

Regimental Association

The Royal Anglian Regiment Association

www.royalanglianassociation.co.uk

(Webmaster: noelmuncey@btconnect.com)

President: Brig RM Brunt CBE

The Royal Anglian Regiment Association has the following objectives:

- To maintain the history, tradition, *esprit de corps* and comradeship of all present and past members of the Regiment and antecedent Regiments.
- To assist former members of the Regiment who wish to remain in contact with former comrades.
- To advise and assist, where possible, members of the Regiment to obtain employment in civilian life.
- To support the Regiment in every possible way, in particular by promoting the Regiment within our counties.
- To refer for consideration by the Benevolence Committee of the Regimental Benevolent Charity, in times of need those past and present members of the Regiment and antecedent Regiments and their dependants, widows or orphans of those serving or who have served.

All who are serving and who have served in the Regiment are automatically members of the Association.

All those who have served in our antecedent Regiments are also members and widows and dependants of past members are eligible for membership as 'honorary members'.

Felixstowe Gathering (Poachers)

28 October 2006

Mr Lofty Knight writes:

This year's gathering was once again well attended, almost 200 Poachers and their ladies, many old faces and several new ones.

The Committee, consisting of Tony Lamont, Alec Drage and Shirley Plabb had, as usual, done an excellent job of organising the evening.

In my opening address I welcomed all Poachers and their ladies to our 21st Gathering. It was also a pleasure to welcome In-Pensioner 'Shack' Shailes from the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

It was with regret that I had to name Poachers that we had lost over the last 12 months; Bill Cornish, Maj Brian Cornish, Jack Mitchell, Lt Col Ron Bayliss, Rev Martin Franks, Derek Tubby, Mick Tunes, Dolly Grey, Nobby Russell, Stella Carpenter, wife of Jim Carpenter and Vicky Rose, wife of Pete Rose. I also had to report the sad loss of Pte Joseva Lewaice and Pte Adam Morris who died in Basra, Iraq this year.

In my speech I stressed the importance of branches, gatherings and reunions and encouraged Poachers to attend where and when they can. The Regimental Day at Duxford should not be missed, what a wonderful day! It gets bigger and better, with a turnout this year of close on 3,000. There is something for everyone young and old alike.

A toast was made to HRH the Duke of Gloucester and Colonel-

in-Chief. I then handed over to our guest of honour, Maj Gen JCB Sutherell, Colonel of the Regiment. It was so nice to see him in Felixstowe, 39 years after he joined the Regiment, also in Felixstowe. Joe Evans was his first platoon sergeant and he gave us a resumé of his career which made very interesting listening.

In Gen Sutherell's address he brought us up to date with the whereabouts of our Regular Battalions and their comings and goings. He also reiterated the importance of local branches and attending reunions and supporting the Army as much as possible. He then proposed the last toast of the evening to 'The Regiment'.

The evening then got underway, plenty of stories (some more believable than others), as usual an excellent buffet provided by Lt Col Sadeep (ex Indian Army) who is the owner of the hotel and who has been looking after us now for several years. Many thanks to him and his staff.

The weather was very kind to us again and a great many Poachers are now making a long weekend of it arriving on Friday and leaving on Monday. It really is an excellent weekend, and I look forward to seeing you all again next year, which will be on Saturday 27 October 2007. Any new members wishing to attend please contact: Tony Lamont, 67 Glemsford Close, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 2UQ Tel: 01394 286875.

Regimental Association

Obituaries

Gen Sir John Akehurst KCB CBE



John Akehurst was born in Kent in 1930 and educated at Cranbrook School, where he was CSM of the School Corps. He joined the Army in 1947 and a year later entered RMA. He was commissioned into the Northamptonshire Regiment in 1949, which had just amalgamated the First and Second Battalions.

The Regiment was stationed in Trieste and John was soon involved in an arduous training, sporting and social programme under the finest Commanding Officer of his career - Colonel Derek Houchin. John was a member of the shooting team which he took to Bisley and was captain of the victorious cross country team in the Command Championships. He was a good platoon commander and signals officer.

In 1952 when the then General Templer requested 'pressganged' volunteers for Malaya John joined the Malay Regiment for a three-year tour. He was awarded a MID. Whilst in Northern Malaya he met and married his beloved Shirley.

After leave John rejoined the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong to be Motor Transport Officer and then returned to the UK where he was Weapon Training Officer before a popular tour as Adjutant of the 5th Battalion. There he developed his lifelong respect and admiration for the TA. It was also during this time that John realised he had the potential for a distinctive Army career.

Following a rewarding Staff College course he was appointed Brigade Major of 12 Mechanised Brigade in BAOR, which he ran efficiently while the Brigadier enjoyed the many sporting facilities available! Subsequent to tours with the 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment and as one of the DS at Camberley he was selected to command the Poachers. He ran an efficient and happy unit. Brig Michael Holme, the first Queen's Division Brigadier, after a visit said, 'John Akehurst will go to the top'. How right he was!

John enjoyed appointments at Royal College of Defence Studies and as Commandant of the Junior Division of the Staff College before taking over the Dhofar Brigade in Oman. Field Marshal Carver described it as an outstandingly successful command. Brig Ian Gardiner, late RM, wrote in his book 'In the Service of the

Sultan' 'John had that essential quality for all leaders of men under pressure. He gave people confidence. He gave them hope too; even if he himself did not always feel much hope'. He was appointed CBE and awarded the Order of Oman 3rd Class (Mil) for his services in Dhofar.

Successive appointments included DMS(A), Commander 4 Armoured Division, Commander UK Field Army and Inspector General TA, and DSACEUR. In his penultimate job he did a large amount to reinvigorate the TA and in SHAPE he was recognised as an articulate and knowledgeable commentator, coming into contact with many Defence correspondents and commentators. He was appointed KCB in 1987.

On retirement in 1990 he became Chairman of the Council of TAVRAS. He had a great five-year tour during which he gained the respect of many politicians and the incoming government. He was partly instrumental in stopping the abolition of the RMR and persuading the government to restrict immediate reductions. As a result the TA strength was set at some 69,000 instead of some 45,000 troops.

In 1991 John took over the Presidency of the Reserve Forces Association for an eight-year tenure. He was extremely conscientious and took an active interest in the Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR). His hosting of the annual Congress when in the UK was masterly and ensured its great success. He even starred in a marketing video. The Volunteer Reserve Forces owe him an enormous debt.

Not content with an already busy life he accepted the appointment of a Governor of Harrow School for 14 years from 1982, being Chairman for the last five years, and was also a Governor of Princecroft Primary School, Warminster for ten years from 1990 and Chairman for the last four. Presidency of the Warminster Civic Trust was undertaken as well. He found time for walking his dogs, fly fishing and golf, too. He much enjoyed playing against the Variety Club and in 1991 he was elected a member of the Senior Golfers Society becoming President towards the end of his life, in spite of no longer being an active player. He was very proud of this honour. He also did much as a Commissioner of the Commonwealth Graves Commission in the mid-nineties. More recently he was an ardent First World War battlefield tour guide, in particular to school parties. He had a wealth of stories, jokes and well-informed comment. He took much pleasure in his association with the local branch of the Royal British Legion and as the Wiltshire County President.

John regarded his appointment as Colonel of the Regiment as a signal honour giving him much pride during his many duties. Although he fought hard the Regiment was reduced in size during his tenure. The highly successful association with the Poulterers' Livery Company was arranged by him at this time. They have contributed much to the Regiment over the years.

John never forgot his original Regiment. He was an active Chairman and later President of the Northamptonshire Associations. The Comrades, as did the members of the British Legion in Warminster, always looked forward to his annual speeches when he sometimes commented on the Government's defence policy and the actions of the Chiefs of Staff. He was a popular speaker, often receiving standing ovations. He was the author of two books. His *We Won a War* on the campaign in Dhofar is regarded by many as a text book on counter insurgency. For a period he was a major contributor to the TV programme *Newsnight* during the first Gulf War and gained the reputation of being extraordinarily prescient.

It was said that John achieved his aims by persuasion and weight of sound argument. He had the perfect understanding of the possible and always saw the complete picture. He was universally popular with all ranks and people from all walks of life. He had great charm and got the best out of everyone. He was unassuming and approachable to all. He possessed a natural and effective authority, was bold and imaginative, firm and fair. His sense of humour was of the best and at times delightfully schoolboyish. All enjoyed his company. He will be greatly missed.

His life was not without personal sadness and setbacks. First the loss

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of two children at an early age and second his ill health, including a heart attack in 1990 followed by a quadruple bypass in 1997, were never allowed to interfere with his enthusiasm for life, and he certainly enjoyed it to the full. Sadly he died on 20 February 2007.

The Regiment extends its condolence and sympathy to Shirley, his wife of over 50 years, to whom John owed so much and who was a great support to him throughout their lives together.

PW

Col PSW Dean



Col Peter Dean who lived for many years at Rougham near Bury St Edmunds and more recently at Tostock, died on 19 January after a short illness. St Mary's Rougham was full for his memorial service.

Peter was born in Essex in May 1919 and went to school in Suffolk and Oundle in Rutland. He went to Sandhurst in 1938 and was commissioned into the Suffolk Regiment in July 1939. He served in France and Belgium before returning home via Dunkirk on 1 June 1940.

In October 1941 he was transferred to 2nd Battalion the Cambridgeshire Regiment as part of the reinforcement of the 18th Division which was to go overseas. Redirected to Malaya after the Japanese invasion the 2nd Battalion was engaged in heavy fighting on the Malayan mainland before being forced back on to Singapore where after 14 days of battle they were, with the rest of 18 Division, ordered to lay down their arms.

From February 1942 to September 1945 he was, as he described it, an unwilling guest of the Emperor of Japan, firstly as a forced construction labourer on the Thai-Burma railway, then as an uninvited guest on a rather wet package tour of Japan and finally as a labourer in a badly run mine there. For those who knew him and experienced his mischievous sense of humour he must have been a very difficult prisoner.

After return from the Far East he served in Vienna, as Adjutant of 4 Suffolk (TA), at HQ Malaya, in Germany and as Training Major with 1 Cambs. In 1960 he was selected to be military attaché Tokyo.

There is a story that the Army was so concerned about the way

military attachés were affected by the welcome they received in Japan that it was decided to send an ex-POW who could be relied upon to be objective about his hosts. Peter was certainly that and his tour was judged a success by both the MOD and the Foreign Office. However, despite never being able to forget what had happened in the Japanese prison camps, Peter was able, if not to forgive, to come to an understanding with the younger Japanese he met that a way forward had to be found. Thereafter he worked continuously with those who wished to foster improved Anglo-Japanese relations.

He left the Army in 1969 and thereafter devoted himself to good causes. He was a fundraiser for the YMCA, a hospital visitor and active in promoting better Anglo-Japanese understanding. He was very active in the Suffolk Regiment Old Comrades' Association and its Chairman for over 10 years.

He met his wife Cynthia in 1941 and they married in 1946. After many happy years at The Rookery in Rougham they decided it was too big and moved to Tostock to a bungalow which had stabling and a paddock for his beloved donkeys thus enabling him to indulge his favourite pastime – driving donkeys four in hand.

He is survived by his wife Cynthia, their two daughters and four grandchildren.

Pte C Gray



19-year-old Pte Chris Gray was a tall, dark haired lad whose soft northern accent will be fondly missed by all. Pte Gray was a genuinely keen soldier who combined his passion for the Army with an obsessive interest in computer gaming. He was a keen supporter of Arsenal Football Club, enjoyed snowboarding, and before joining the Army he was heavily involved in paint-balling. Chris and the fellow members of his section were avid fans of the recent film release: '300'. Apart from the use of the phrase 'For Sparta!', Pte Gray will be remembered by his muckers as 'Spartan 223'.

Pte Gray hadn't been in the Battalion long, but he had been in long enough to make a big and positive impression on those that knew him. He joined the Army in March 2006, completed training as an infantry soldier at the Infantry Training Centre Catterick, and

Regimental Association

then joined A (Fighting Ninth) Company of the 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment in September 2006. He quickly established himself in 3 (Corunna) Platoon, showing that he was keen to learn; quickly gaining the trust and respect of his peers.

On Friday 13 April 2007, lead elements of A Company Group were conducting a clearance patrol in the east of the town of Nowzad, Helmand Province, Afghanistan. The Taliban had enjoyed freedom of action in this area previously – the Company Group's task was to disrupt the Taliban operations and regain the initiative – improving security and setting the conditions for reconstruction and development to take place. After clearing 2.3 square kilometers of compounds the patrol moved to establish a snap ambush before extracting back to the Combat Outpost. It was at this stage that the Taliban engaged the lead element of the patrol – 1 (Almanza) Platoon. Temporarily, the lead section (commanded by Sgt 'Larry' Holmes) found themselves pinned down by intense and accurate enemy machine gun, rocket and mortar fire. Pte Gray's Platoon was ordered to manoeuvre to support their comrades and out-flank the enemy. Pte Gray was the point man in his platoon – he found himself in this position not by accident – but because he was an outstanding soldier and highly proficient with the Light Machine Gun that he carried. As they moved, Pte Gray's section observed a group of armed Taliban fighters at close range, whom they immediately engaged. A fierce firefight ensued at a range of just 15 metres, during which five Taliban were killed (a total of 22 Taliban were killed during the Company Group's action that day). Tragically, during the short battle, Pte Gray was shot in the side of his chest and mortally wounded. By sheer misfortune the bullet had entered the small gap between the front and rear body armour plates. His comrades fought on bravely around him, killing the enemy and then extracting Pte Gray to safety. His section commander, Cpl 'Billy' Moore was himself shot in the arm as he fired to cover the recovery of Pte Gray. Despite the best efforts of his colleagues and medical staff he was pronounced dead on arrival at the military hospital at Camp Bastion.

Pte Gray had two younger brothers and a younger sister. He was a former pupil of Ratby Primary, Brookvale and Holmfirth High Schools, and later attended Groby Community College, Leicestershire. His family said of him: 'He was a much loved and cherished son, grandson and brother, who was proud to serve his country. He will always be missed.'

Pte Gray was a superlative soldier; passionate about his job; and a man with real leadership potential. It comes as no surprise to those of us who knew him that he died courageously in close combat, his face to the enemy, selflessly striving to relieve comrades in extreme danger.

Pte Gray was a young man with a big heart and a calm, generous and immensely trustworthy personality. A close friend to many, Chris Gray had an infectious sense of humour and possessed a degree of optimism that many of his more cynical peers found baffling.

Despite the overall success of the action in which Pte Gray was involved, his death marks a tragedy to all those that knew him; he will be sorely missed and never forgotten. His ability and example serve as proof, if it were needed, that the British soldier is as courageous today as he has ever been.

Col JM Petit OBE

Col John Murray Petit died on 3 July 2006, three weeks after his 87th birthday. He was educated at Avisford Prep School near Arundel, Sussex and then Ampleforth College, Yorkshire. On leaving school he joined a firm of metal brokers in the City.

He was mobilised on 1 September 1939 and in May 1940 he was awarded an Emergency Commission in the Royal Norfolk Regiment. He joined the 2nd Battalion which was reforming at Bradford having been evacuated from Dunkirk. In 1941 he was posted to Headquarters 4 Infantry Brigade as Intelligence Officer and in 1944 he became GSO3 Operations in the same Headquarters. A posting as Brigade Major in Headquarters 6th Infantry Brigade followed. After successfully crossing the Irrawaddy River against well-defended Japanese positions it was decided that the Brigade should be airlifted back into India to prepare for a sea assault on Rangoon. By the time the convoy arrived off Rangoon it was found that the enemy had fled. A few weeks later the Japanese surrendered and the war came to an end. He was awarded the MBE for his services as Brigade Major.

In 1946 he was granted a Regular Commission and was posted to the Second Battalion in India. Postings to the War Office and Headquarters AA Command followed before he joined the First Battalion in Korea as Battle Adjutant followed by OC Support Company. After a tour as GSO2 in the Military Operations Directorate he returned to the First Battalion as a company commander in Cyprus and BAOR. In 1958 he was appointed to command the Regimental Depot at Norwich. On amalgamation of the Royal Norfolk Regiment and the Suffolk Regiment he became the first commander of the newly created joint Depot at Bury St Edmunds.

In 1960 he was posted to the Army Staff College as DAA/QMG and then, on promotion, he was posted as GSO1 in Headquarters Combined Operations. In 1965 he joined the Headquarters of the Director Borneo Operations as GSO1 Intelligence. On completion of this tour he was awarded the OBE.

He returned to the UK on promotion to Colonel in 1967 and appointments with Defence Intelligence Staff and then the Cabinet Office as Deputy Head of the Joint Intelligence Staff and Deputy Secretary to the Joint Intelligence Committee.

He finally retired in 1974 when he took up an RO1 post in the Cabinet Office as Duty Intelligence Officer. He finally retired in 1984.

He is survived by his widow Patricia, three sons and a daughter.

Regimental Association

Association Branches



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

4th Battalion

Over the years the 4th Royal Norfolk Regiment Association has adapted to welcome its TA successors – members of A (Norfolk) Company 6 Royal Anglian, then the East of England Regiment and most recently 3 Royal Anglian. For some years attendance at their events declined but in the last 2-3 years this has been reversed and the main event in particular, the Association Dinner, held in April has benefited greatly from its move from Gorleston to the TA Centre in Norwich. It is now well established as the Norfolk Royal Anglian TA get together with attendances increasing each year under the enthusiastic direction of WO2 Pat Budds (ex-6 Royal Anglian).

The Officers' Dinner is held on the nearest weekend to the anniversary of the Battle of Gaza in 1917 when two territorial battalions of the Norfolk Regiment suffered over 1,000 casualties in an ill-conceived assault on the Jewish trenchline. This year the oldest member present was Maj Tom Eaton (88) who was commissioned before the war, wounded at Singapore and spent three and a half years as a PoW – the youngest was Richard Young (24) who is an officer cadet with A(Norfolk) Company.



Maj Tom Eaton and OCdt Richard Young.

Almanza Service

The Association in Norfolk holds an annual service in Norwich Cathedral to commemorate the anniversary of the Battle of Almanza. This year, it being the 300th anniversary of the battle, the post-Service get-together included something a little stronger than coffee, the usual offering. The service was conducted by Canon William Sayer, the Honorary Chaplain, the preacher was the Rev Richard Woodham whose son, Lt Col James Woodham, is due to command the 1st Battalion in 2008. A minute's silence was held to remember the men of the Royal Norfolk Regiment and the Royal Anglian Regiment, especially Pte Christopher Gray who had been killed in Afghanistan the previous week.

Pilgrimages

Mr Bill Holden continues to organise trips to the Continent despite the fact that he has not been well and cannot travel with the parties



The Norfolk TA Dinner, from left: Chairman Pat Budds, President Tom Eaton and Secretary John Housego.



The Rev Richard Woodham and Canon William Sayer.

Regimental Association

because of his wife's deteriorating health. A party of 50 travelled to Venray in May to attend the rededication of the Molen Beek Memorial which has been refurbished by the local community. A trip to Normandy is planned for August.

Rededication of the Bergh Apton War Memorial

This year a number of names were added to the Bergh Apton War Memorial. The rededication Service took place on 25 May. Mr Ray Segon carried the Association Standard and Maj Bob Rogers and Capt Tam Steele from A Company represented the Royal Norfolk and Royal Anglian Regiments.

Death

Stan Rasberry of Walton-on-Thames died on 6 April 2007, aged 87. He served with 1st Battalion R Norfolks 1939-46. Stan was a member of the London Branch as well as an Honorary Member of the 2nd Battalion 'Independence of India Club'. He was a familiar figure at many Regimental events; he was a regular visitor to Helmand to mark the anniversary of the liberation of the town by the R Norfolks and he carried the Regimental Standard at the Cenotaph Parade in London. In July 2005 he and his wife Gwen were invited to lunch with HM The Queen as part of the celebrations to mark VE and VJ-Days.



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

Spalding Branch

On 19 August 2007 the Spalding Branch are dedicating a memorial to the members of the Royal Anglian Regiment in Ayscoughfee Peace Gardens, Spalding. Standards will be marched on parade at 3pm and the Guard of Honour will be provided by Veterans from 1st, 2nd, 4th and 6th Battalion of the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment. Canon Tim Barker will lead the service. Refreshments will be served from the restaurant in the Peace Gardens following the service. All

Association members are most welcome to attend (those planning to attend should contact Trevor Snell (tel 01733-203606)).

2nd Battalion Royal Lincolnshire Regiment

The Editor received a letter from a Mr Jennings who lives in Birmingham in which he described the 2nd Battalion's time during the Palestine Campaign 1945-1948. The photo is of D Company which was taken in July 1947.



Regimental Association

Freedom Parades

Many Association members attended the Freedom Parades in Grimsby on 13 March and Lincoln on 22 March.



Members of the Association at the Lincoln Freedom march.



The President of the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment Association with members of the Grimsby Branch after the Grimsby Freedom Parade.

Regimental Association



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

Tributes

Many members contribute so much to the life and continued well-being of the Association and it is therefore invidious to single out individuals. However, I hope readers will forgive me for mentioning the passing of two individuals who over the last three decades have done so much.

Col Peter Dean died in January. His obituary, which appears elsewhere in this issue, describes his military career including his time as a FEPOW and his appointment as a military attaché in Tokyo. In retirement he was a tireless supporter of the Association and Chairman for 10 years and, until about a year before his death at the age of 86, he was visiting our members in hospital. He was a familiar figure at fetes and charity events in the Rougham area driving his donkeys four in hand, all, of course with headbands collars and girths in Suffolk Regiment Colours.

Colonel Pat Macdonald, who died in late October 2006 was also Chairman of the Association for some years, and a trustee of the museum and the United Charity. Many will remember him particularly for his meticulous planning (on behalf of the Hillman Committee) which ensured that the pilgrimages to Normandy and the Low Countries were such a success.

Fortunately hardworking and dedicated ex-Suffolks continue to put themselves forward to take part in the various committees and to act as branch officers. However, time inevitably moves on and it is essential that their successors, ex-Royal Anglians, take up the reins. This is now happening – Mr Barry Grunnell, the Chairman of Felixstowe Branch (with his wife Helen as Secretary) is one example and Mr Godfrey Wood at Lowestoft another. They and others in the



Minden Day 2006.

future will ensure that The Suffolk Regiment and its fine traditions are remembered and carried forward for years to come.

Minden Day 2007

The year's event takes place on Sunday 29 July. We are delighted that the Minden Band will provide the music for the Old Comrades' Parade and also Beat Retreat as the finale to the day. Between these two events music will be provided by the City of Ely Military Band, the Bury Concert Band, the Reydon Corps of Drums and the Royal British Legion Long Melford Corps of Drums.



Col Peter Dean and his donkey team.

Regimental Association

The Regimental Shop will be open throughout the day and the Museum will open after the Old Comrades' Parade.

Museum

The Museum at The Keep is open on the first Wednesday of the month throughout the year and on the first Sunday of the month from April to October. It is also available for organised groups

by prior arrangement with the Secretary (tel 01603 200290). The Museum continues to receive important items into the Collection for which the Trustees are very grateful. Recently for example the DCM and other medals of L.Cpl Platten were donated by his family. Visitors returning to the Museum on the Minden weekend will see a major change – the medal collection on the ground floor has been reorganised and re-cased.



The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire)

The Hertfordshire Regiment Association

The Hertfordshire Regiment Association remains active. We held another successful sell out fish and chip supper in September which was thoroughly enjoyed by the members attending. We also joined with the local Royal British Legion for mince pies and drinks just before Christmas and attended the Remembrance Parades.

Members have been busy supporting the Hertford Museum in setting up an exhibition of the Hertfordshire Regiment which is being held between mid-February and mid-May 2007. The Museum has gathered a large collection of objects, photographs, costumes and medals setting out the story of the Regiment. It is a very interesting exhibition.

Ex Pompadour CSM Chris Butts, when visiting the exhibition met up with ex-CSM Cyril Austin (now 90 years) who served with Chris Butt's father in the Hertfordshire Regiment during World War Two while in Italy. Chris Butts father's cousin also served in the Hertfordshire Regiment during World War One and was killed in action and is mentioned on the Hertfordshire Regiment War Memorial at Hitchin TA Centre.

The Hertfordshire Regiment Association is also strongly supporting the setting up of a Hertfordshire Branch of the Royal Anglian



Cyril Austin, left, and Chris Butts.



The newly established Branch visit to the 3rd Battalion.

Regimental Association

Association. Members attended the inaugural meeting held at Hertford TA Centre in February.

The Hertfordshire Branch

The newly established Hertfordshire Branch marked its launch with a visit to the 3rd Battalion at Beckingham, which was holding its annual skill at arms meeting. Lt Col Mike Googe briefed the visitors on arrival, who were then conducted around by the Training Major, Ian Couch. In glorious sunshine, members enjoyed a meal on the range and had a chance to chat to the soldiers, meet old friends and

look at the recruit selection course.

The Branch has also appointed officers for the Branch; Chairman, Will O'Connor (ex 5th Bn); Secretary, Chris Butts (ex 3rd Battalion) and Treasurer, Terry Murphy (ex 5th Battalion). Membership is over thirty, with more in the pipeline. You can contact the Branch by leaving a message on the branch answer phone 0207 1939075 or by writing to the secretary at the TA Centre, 28 St Andrew Street, Hertford SG14 1JA or emailing him at cqm.hertsacf@tiscali.co.uk.



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

News from the Branches

The Cambridgeshire Branch held its annual lunch on Sunday 22 January at Waterbeach. Although numbers were down nevertheless several old friends were welcomed including Bernie Gillett. After an excellent buffet lunch the annual game of bingo was held by popular request. Photos of several past events were passed round causing some mirth. The Secretary, Col Derek Latchford, welcomed everyone and hoped that there would be sufficient support to enable the lunch to continue in the future. The Chairman, Maj Derek Baldry, thanked Col Latchford for his hard work in organising the branch functions.

Whittlesey and Peterborough Branch started off 2007 on 28 January with a members free lunch held at The Lion at Ramsey St Mary's at which eight sat down to a roast beef meal. Our very popular Secretary, Pop Whitwell, assisted by his wife Sylvia, have worked out a very full programme for 2007. We attended the March Branch sausage and mash supper at the March Conservative Club on 16 March. This was well attended by our Branch and Wisbech also six members of the local branch of the Royal Naval Association.

We lost Jimmy Carter in November, one of the last members of the 2nd Cambs Regiment taken at Singapore. The Branch only has two FEPOWs left, Eddie Davis (5th Suffolks) and Cliff Burgess Royal Artillery.

Funding

The financial situation of the Cambridgeshire Regiment Association is not what would be called wealthy. Compared to other Regimental Associations in the region the Cambridgeshires in particular do not have the benefit of the large endowments bequeathed by former members. Given the Regimental history, and the few remaining members who served in the Regiment since the Second World War, we have no particular reason to expect any such endowments in future.

Consequently, as we have found recently with the Schwaben Redoubt commemorations and the replacement of the Regimental Standard, any activity that we wish to undertake suffers from funding constraints. Put another way, all our activity is funded on an *ad hoc*, project-by-project basis. What then should the Association do about funding? The Regimental Council has appointed a sub committee to investigate the options and is to report to the next Association AGM in September next.

Remembrance

A Service of Remembrance was held at the Cambridge County Court, East Road, Cambridge, the site of the Drill Hall used by the Regiment until 1961 (although it was used by the Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Regiment until the late 1960s). The Service was held on Friday 10 November 2006 (and will be held each year on the Friday nearest Remembrance Day). The Commemorative Plaque on the wall of the

lobby at the Court is the centrepiece of the service. The assembly was welcomed by District Judge Robert Blomfield TD.

Before the new courthouse was built in East Road, Cambridge with the Cambridgeshire Regiment memorial in the foyer, another memorial had been built in the grounds of the TA Centre in Coldhams Lane, Cambridge. D (Cambridgeshire) Company, 6th Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment had paraded at Coldhams Lane TA Centre until it no longer existed. At that time it was felt that there should be some reminder of the County Regiment and a memorial was eventually built.

54 Squadron Royal Signals moved into the vacated premises from their location in the Cherry Hinton Road. The Squadron has paraded for Remembrance for some years in the Parish Church in Fulbourn and has been accompanied by members of the Royal Signals Association. The RSA until quite recently met for its monthly meetings at the TA Centre and decided that a wreath should be laid on the memorial after the main parade on Remembrance Sunday. This has been done for about six years. The Cambridgeshire Regiment Standard and that of the Royal Signals Association are both on parade together with a small contingent from the Royal Signals. A small ceremony takes place and after the Last Post and Reveille the wreath is laid and the troops and old comrades march off and have a curry lunch.

The photograph shows a wreath being laid by Col Derek Latchford formerly of the Cambridgeshire Regiment and later of the Royal Signals.



Regimental Association



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

Royal Tigers' Weekend

The Royal Tigers' Weekend this year will be held over the period 23-24 June. The annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at Devonshire Place, 80 London Road, Leicester at 6.30pm on Saturday 23 June. The annual report and accounts for 2006 will be available at the meeting. The AGM will be followed by the 82nd annual dinner at 7pm for 7.30pm in Devonshire Place.

The Regimental Parade Service will be held on Sunday 24 June in Leicester Cathedral at 11.30am. The service will be taken by the Dean, the Very Rev Vivienne Faull, and the preacher will be Lt Col the Rev Tom Hiney MC, late the Royal Leicestershire Regiment. During the service a plaque will be dedicated to the late Lt Col JH Marriott MC in the Regimental Chapel. This year C (Leicestershire) Company 3 Royal Anglian will attend the service and join the Tigers for the March Past. Music will be provided by the Band and Corps of Drums of 3 Royal Anglian.

Entry to the annual dinner on Saturday and the Reception and Lunch on Sunday will be by ticket only.

Freedom Parades

The 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment exercised their rights to march through the City of Leicester on 20 March and Hinckley on 15 March with drums beating, bands playing, Colours flying and bayonets fixed. Both occasions were strongly supported by the Royal Tigers' Association; it was good to see members of the Poachers swapping stories of recent operations in Iraq with Tigers who saw active service in World War Two; in particular John Sheppard DCM and George Spring. George took part in a live TV broadcast with the Commanding Officer and the Drum Major. A few tales from the Borneo Campaign were overheard being recounted



The President of the Royal Tigers Association give some pre-march advice to Maj Paul Leslie prior to the Freedom of Hinckley parade.

to some Poachers! Thanks to Denis Foran for parading the Royal Leicestershire Regiment Standard on both events. In-pensioner Miles Foster thoroughly approved of the standard of drill carried out by the Battalion and looks forward to the awarding of the Freedom of Loughborough on 19 June 2007. Planning is already in its final stages



Mel Gould, Capt Martyn Cook, in-pensioner Miles Foster and Capt David Hagger before the Freedom of Leicester Parade.

Regimental Association



Mrs Mary Heggs being presented with the Pingat Jasa Medal.

for this event and Tigers are encouraged to attend what is guaranteed to be a memorable occasion. Regimental Benevolence During 2006 the Royal Leicestershire Regiment Charitable Fund disbursed £3,691 of Regimental money, and also £2,040 from the Army Benevolent Fund, to ex-Tigers. In addition £1,440 was distributed as ABF annuities to ex-soldiers or their widows.

The Pingat Jasa Medal

Some 105 veterans of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment who served in the Malayan Emergency during the 1950s and 1960s



Lt Col Brian Davenport and Mike Charles.

were presented with the Malaysian government's commemorative Pingat Jasa Medal in February. The ceremony was held at the Nottingham Oddfellows Club, Humberstone Gate, Leicester. The Emergency, which followed the Second World War, lasted 12 years and involved British, Commonwealth and Malayan forces fighting Communist insurgents. It was the last active service seen by the Royal Leicestershire Regiment before it became the 4th Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment. Col Tajri Aiwe, who presented the medals said it was 'a great pleasure to stand before all those who had served in my beloved country'.



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

All Old Comrades will be looking forward to our annual reunion which takes place at Warley on Sunday 24 June. The salute this year will be taken by Lt Col Cliff Norbury who had a long and distinguished career with the Essex Regiment. The service will be taken by the Bishop of Dorking, the Right Rev Ian Brackley, the son-in-law of the late Maj Arthur Saunders, the Essex Regiment.

In March, the latest edition of *The Eagle* was distributed to all paid up members. In his editorial our President, Col Geoffrey Morgan, paid tribute to those who played an outstanding part in the organisation of the Association's activities during the year especially the trips to Cassino and Dieppe.

Col Morgan also drew attention to the pew end memorial to Maj Gen Michael Holme which was dedicated in the Chapel at the November service, together with two brass plaques, one to Brig Bill Dodd and another to Pte Frank Bush and his daughter Mrs Kathleen Bridges, a generous benefactress to the Association.

The Eagle also contained a full report on the activities of C (Essex) Company 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment. We wish them, and the whole Battalion, God's speed and every success on their deployment to Afghanistan.

Thurrock Branch

October saw our Branch Luncheon and guests were: President of the Association Col Geoffrey Morgan accompanied by his wife.



Thurrock Branch Chairman Ron Crisp and Honorary Secretary Peter Giggins.

Regimental Association



Members Ken Healey, Larry Bennett, Roy Engwell, Pat Mullhall, and Mrs Cis Hazle at the Association's AGM and Christmas Social.

the Mayor of Thurrock and her consort, Branch President Gordon Wren, together with three branch widows who lost their husbands this year. The lunch was a great success, good company and good food enjoyed by all.

We also travelled to the Royal Hospital Chelsea in October. This has proved to be a very enjoyable event, parading with the in-pensioners before Chapel, a very good service, and listening to the choir alone is worth the journey. This is followed by a buffet lunch in their club lounge. Our thanks to the in-pensioners and to Gordon Wren for making the arrangements.

In November the Association service was held in Chelmsford Cathedral followed by the Salamanca Luncheon at the County Hotel also in Chelmsford. We attended the Field of Remembrance at Westminster and also local Remembrance Services at Orsett and Grays were attended by branch members. Essex Regiment poppy wreaths were placed at the memorials. For the third year a Carol Service given by the staff choir from the Ford Office, was held in our Regimental Chapel. The event has turned into a very enjoyable evening and well worth the travel to join in and listen to the singing of the carols.

While writing about the Regimental Chapel, I thought there must be several Old Comrades from units that are now associated with the Royal Anglian Regiment and many Royal Anglian personnel now discharged or still serving who live within a few miles of Warley, so give us a look in. A service is held in the Chapel on the first Sunday of each month, except January when it is the second Sunday. Services start at 11am followed by a family get-together in RHQ next to the Chapel afterwards.

4th Battalion Comrades' Association

On Sunday 15 October members of the Association joined the Regimental Association's visit to the Royal Hospital, for morning prayers and to meet up with Essex 'In-Pensioner' Jimmy Reddell. The trip turned into a somewhat surreal event for one member. Mrs Lesley Handscombe, who was to unexpectedly discover a bench dedicated to her late father-in-law, who had been one of Col David Stirling's original SAS troopers in the Western Desert in 1941, and had been an 'in-pensioner' before his death in 2002.

Ninety-seven members and guests attended the Members Annual Reunion Dinner held on 21 October, which coincided with the 60th anniversary of the first post World War Two Reunion held at Ilford in 1946. The event was well attended by our supporting organisations,

with 19 serving members of A Company Essex ACF and 12 serving members of 3 Group, North East London ACF. Over the weekend of 4/5 November, Chairman Capt John Youles, and Vice-Chairman George Denny carried out the annual visit to 3 Group NE London ACF at their pre-Christmas training camp at Folkestone. The new Commandant took great delight in telling us that when he started his career as a cadet he wore the Essex Regiment capbadge and was delighted to see such a strong link in place between the Association and 3 Group.

Members attended the Service of Remembrance at Chelmsford Cathedral and the Regimental Association's Salamanca Lunch on Wednesday 8 November, the opening of the Field of Remembrance at Westminster on 9 November, and Eucharist Service for Remembrance Sunday at St Mary's Church at Ilford on 12 November. A poppy wreath was laid on the Battalion Memorial by World War Two veteran Joe Madden, and an additional wreath was laid by Mrs Ann Lorraine and her son, in memory of her late uncle, Pte Patrick Byrne, who died of wounds received during March 1944 while serving with the Battalion in Italy.

The Association's AGM was held on 4 December at AHQ Warley with 23 members and 12 guests attending, immediately followed by a pre-Christmas Social with a light buffet and drinks served, which was much appreciated by all those attending.

4th/5th Battalion the Essex Regiment(TA)

The Annual Dinner was held in the Officers' Mess of 13 Air Assault Support Regiment, RLC, Colchester, on 24 March 2007. The principal guests were HM Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Lord Petre, The High Sheriff of Essex (Designate), Lady Kemp-Welch and Sir John Kemp-Welch. Col RA Shervington, presided and 29 members, including officers from 3 Royal Anglian attended.

The Mess is part of the new central messing within Merville Officers' Mess, Merville Barracks. It is an amazing transformation of the site of the old Garrison Officers' Mess and Sobroan House, well known to many of our members. This was our first visit and despite a feeling that 'it may be very difficult with civilian administration', the service and co-operation, as far as the Hon Sec is concerned, could not have been better.

It was most appropriate that representatives of the Essex Regiment should be dining in Merville Mess. The Merville Battery overlooked Sword Beach and could have made the landings on D-Day even more difficult. The Battery was captured on the night of 5/6 June

Regimental Association

1944 by 9th Bn. Parachute Regiment, formed from 10th Battalion the Essex Regiment. The story of Lt Col Otway's assault with his 150 men, all that were available to him after a disastrous drop, is a story in itself.

The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Colchester Branch)

Two new members joined the branch at the AGM – Phil Bacon and Andy Thomas, and are assured of a warm welcome. Membership remains healthy with a gentle upward movement in numbers, and we continue to enjoy the support of our two local MPs and Honorary Members, Bob Russell and Bernard Jenkin.

In November, as always, the Branch played its part on Remembrance Sunday at the Colchester Civic Service, marching behind our Standard Bearer, Gerald 'Dickie' Dorritt; after that it was off to the TA Centre, courtesy of Rod Allen, for some curry. In December there was the Christmas gathering, with over 70 attending, which was acclaimed by all as a very successful and enjoyable occasion.

On to April and the 6th AGM; again well attended (perhaps the offer of a free curry had something to do with it!). Among matters considered were: the decision to keep the annual subscription at £10, the provision of a customised standard bearers sash to match our outstanding Standard, functions for the coming year, and the importance of the linkage between the Branch and the Essex Regiment Association. In regard to the Committee, Colin Ladley, our Treasurer, has decided to stand down, as has the Assistant Secretary, Alan Swaep – both of whom have been in post since formation



Paying subscriptions at the AGM.

in 2002; to them both, everyone's thanks for their commitment and hard work. Fortunately reliefs are at hand for both, to support those remaining in post: Chairman Tony Downes, Secretary Brian Davenport, and Members Mick Henson, Martin Gilbert, and Bob Potter, and ex officio Rod Allen.

Anyone wishing to join the Branch should contact the Secretary at 36 Catherine Hunt Way, Colchester CO2 9HS, 01206-564919, davenport@colchester1737.freemove.co.uk



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

Association Annual Reunion

The Annual Reunion will take place on Saturday 28 July and Sunday 29 July 2007. The Reunion Dinner will be held on Saturday in the Freemasons Hall, St George's Avenue, Northampton at 7pm for 7.30pm, preceded by the AGM at 6pm. There will be an inspection parade outside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on Sunday at 10.45am followed by the service at 11am. During the service the new Northampton Branch Standard will be dedicated. The service will be followed by a buffet lunch in the concert room of Northampton Working Men's Club very close to the church. Any comrades who would like to attend the weekend should contact the area office on 01604 635412.

Peterborough Branch

The Annual Reunion Dinner in October was again another successful evening with the City of Peterborough Band giving an outstanding performance, followed by dancing and comradeship. For various reasons the branch has had a very slow start to 2007 but has the following programme arranged:

24 June	Pig Roast with the Cambridgeshire Regiment
12 August	Garden of Peace Service at Peterborough
2 September	Royal Anglian Day Duxford
6 September	Branch Meeting
20 October	Annual Reunion Dinner
20 December	Branch Christmas Meeting

Finedon Branch

The last six months has been a period of mixed blessings with quite a few highs and some lows. In October the branch made a long weekend of the Poachers' Reunion in Felixstowe. In November Ray

Ogle and Paul Hale attended the medal presentation at Ternhill for the 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment on their return from Iraq. Ray was honoured by being asked to present medals to a platoon of C (Northamptonshire) Company. The Remembrance Sunday parade took place in Finedon with a splendid turnout, followed by lunch at a local hotel.

The low point came in December when the annual Christmas dinner had to be cancelled as the hotel had gone into receivership. An alternate venue could not be found at short notice so it was decided to hold a function in March 2007. This was held at the Royal Hotel in Kettering and a wonderful success. The branch, in an effort to form close links with C (Northamptonshire) Company of 2 Royal Anglian Regiment, invited two members to attend. They were LCpl



Lofty Knight, LCpl Williams and Pte Green.

Regimental Association



Freedom of Northampton Parade. From left: Joe Heffernan, Northampton Branch; Terry Edge, Corby Branch; Alec Francis, Peterborough Branch; Dave Thornley, Finedon Branch.

Williams and Pte Green who had a thoroughly good time and were a credit to the Battalion.

The yearly tenpin bowling event was a family occasion again followed by lunch, another excellent occasion.

Northampton Branch

The Northampton Branch is now approaching its first anniversary, and there has been a slow but healthy increase and interest in the membership. The branch has a wide range of membership; from serving personnel to ex-TA and 7th Battalion, and I am sure the diverse knowledge will assist in a healthy future.

Col Worthy has accepted the position as Branch President, it was



Some of the ladies on Remembrance Day.

felt that it was an honour that such a respected figure should be joining our ranks.

The Branch held its first Christmas social evening at the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Club, and was a very enjoyable evening. Despite having two groups on stage I think Tanky Turner's rendition of *Are You Lonesome Tonight* stole the evening!

We now have our own Standard, which for financial reasons was actually made in Malta. It was first displayed at the Northampton Freedom Parade, and we were all pleased with its appearance and finish, and we are anticipating that it will be dedicated later this year at the Reunion Sunday Service. The membership has attended at a number of occasions during the year, some happy and of course some sad, including a Battle of the Somme parade, and two funerals, one of which was the funeral of our Chelsea Pensioner Sam Small. A keen turnout was volunteered for all of them, which was very pleasing.

We look forward to another year of expansion and comradeship.

The Freedom of Northampton Parade

The Association was well represented at the Freedom of Northampton Parade on 14 March with all the Branch Standards on parade.

Benevolence

During 2006 the Association disbursed £3,430 of Regimental Benevolence Funds and a further £1,450 from the Army Benevolent Fund. In addition £2,160 was distributed to ex-soldier's widows as ABF annuities. The Association is most grateful to the Royal Anglian Regiment for a grant of £2,500.

Deaths

Akehurst: In Bath on 20 February 2007, aged 77, Gen Sir John Bryan Akehurst KCB CBE.

Regimental Association

Small: In Royal Hospital Chelsea on 28 December 2006, aged 90. Mr FME (Sam) Small.

Forthcoming Events

28/29 July 2007 Annual Reunion, Northampton
20 October 2007 5th Battalion Peterborough Branch Dinner, Yaxley RBI.

Obituary - In Pensioner FME Small



Former Northamptonshire Regiment Company Sergeant Major Fernley Millbrook Ernest (Sam) Small died on 28 December 2006 at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, after spending the last 12 years of his life there.

Having joined the infantry aged 17 after lying about his age, Mr Small served 23 years, seeing service in Operation Torch, the Allied Offensive in World War Two to take French North Africa and Monte Cassino. He was captured by the

Germans in the Apennines where the Northamptonshire Regiment was deployed as reinforcements to help break the Gothic Line. Mr Small had been trying to get word to his company's forward platoon that the rest of the men were to withdraw from their positions, an

action which saw him recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

He was then captured and imprisoned with the forward platoon at Stalag 7a at Moosburg, a PoW camp north of Munich. The camp was liberated by the American 14th Armoured Division in April 1945 and Mr Small returned to his family for four months leave. On rejoining his Regiment, he served in Singapore, where he helped run a prison with the Royal Military Police, and in Germany, before leaving the Army in 1956. On his return to Northampton he worked at a number of jobs before finally settling at Travis and Arnold (which would later become Travis Perkins) until his retirement.

As a Chelsea Pensioner, Mr Small relinquished his Army pension in exchange for his care at the Royal Hospital Chelsea in London. He became a well-known and well-liked character at Chelsea, and was close friends with fellow pensioner Stanley 'Shack' Shailes, also a former Northamptonshire Regiment soldier.

Mr Small was interviewed for Phillip Ziegler's book on servicemen in the 20th century 'Soldiers'. At the annual Royal Hospital Chelsea Founders' Day celebrations Mr Small rubbed shoulders with a number of members of the Royal family, including the Queen and Prince Philip. As a Northamptonshire Regiment veteran he was also invited to the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales in 1997.



Funeral of Sam Small, Holy Sepulchre, Northampton. In-pensioner 'Shack' Shailes centre facing the coffin.

Association Branches

Norfolk

HQ The Royal Norfolk Regiment Association and the Norfolk Branch The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Norfolk)

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President: Maj Gen JCB Sutherland CB CBE DL

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Norwich Branch:
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Suffolk

HQ The Suffolk Regiment
Old Comrades Association and
The Royal Anglian Regiment Association
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Affiliated ACF and CCF

Army Cadet Force

Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force

Success Again

For the second consecutive year Cambridgeshire ACF took top awards at the national St John Ambulance First Aid Competition held at the Spa Complex, Scarborough on 16 November 2006. Competing against youth teams from around the UK the all female team of six aged 14 to 19 built on recent success as the best army cadet team in the country to win two coveted trophies as the best inter-services team and best young adult team.

They demonstrated their skills by treating casualties during staged incidents throughout the day, snatching victory in the Young Adult competition by just one point from Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Air Cadets. Prizes were presented by Lady Jenkins, wife of St John Ambulance Prior, Sir Brian Jenkins. The teams were trained by SMIs Graham Waterson and Les Edwards.

Top Shot Targets Canada

Newmarket Army Cadet Henry Day is set for an exciting trip representing the UK in prestigious target shooting competitions to be held in Canada later this year. Henry, aged 18, from Isleham has been selected to be a member of the 18-strong team of cadets of the Great Britain Under 19 Target Rifle Team.

His success follows years of disciplined training. As a member of the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force for the past five years he holds county and national colours and won the trophy for the best all round cadet as part of the Army Cadet Force Canada team in 2005.



Henry Day.



The winning team.

Affiliated ACF and CCF



RSM Ian Hyde opens the Royal car.

In October Henry hopes to take up Natural Science Studies at St Catherine's College Cambridge.

Royal Visit

A combined Cambridgeshire Cadet Guard of Honour was formed for HM The Queen and Prince Philip when they visited Cambridge on 2 February 2007. The occasion was the opening of the new £50 million Cambridge Research Institute.

The Lord Lieutenant's Cadet, RSM Iain Hyde, was present to assist the royal party to alight from their limousines. Also on hand were the Lord Lieutenant's Cadets, WO Lyndsay McGregor and Petty Officer Jessica Cullum. Five cadets from Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force formed the Guard of Honour.

Hertfordshire Army Cadet Force

Annual Camp

Annual Camp was one of the best attended for over 15 years, with over 300 cadets enjoying a packed programme which included a fieldcraft exercise, adventurous training, sports, shooting and the delights of the assault course! While Nesscliffe can hardly be counted as a 'modern' camp there are many facilities on the camp, these included the climbing tower, Dismounted Close Combat Trainer (video range), small bore and full bore ranges, gym and an all weather football/basketball pitch. In addition there was a first aid at work course for senior cadets, a signals course and the usual Three Star Cadre.

The highlights for some of the cadets was assistance from the Army Air Corps Squadron which led to them having a tour of the training area by helicopter, indeed helicopters were constant throughout the camp as the training area was used by the squadron for training their new pilots.

Competition day led to great success for 1 Company, for the second year running, seeing them collect the trophies for boys tug-of-war, senior boys and girls swimming, boys volleyball and boys tug-of-war, with all these achievements it was almost inevitable that they would pick up the Annual Sports Trophy, as well as the Hertfordshire ACF Annual Trophy. To top it all Cdt Bardell won the junior drill competition. 2 Company were not to be outdone and they picked up the Ken Weir Trophy for best cadet on the signals cadre (LCpl Foley – Stevenage South), the girls tug-of-war, the boys and girls

football and Sgt Nolan won the Commandant's Cup. Both 1 and 2 Company are predominantly cap badged Royal Anglian.

Presentation Evening Continues to Reward the Best

On 5 December Hertfordshire Army Cadet Force held their presentation evening at County HQ in Hertford. Receiving awards were both cadets and adult Instructors from across the county in recognition of their achievements this year. Presenting the awards was Col Faure Walker, Vice Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire and Honorary Colonel of Hertfordshire ACF. Also in attendance was Chf Insp Patient from Hertfordshire Constabulary. Six Royal Anglian cadets from Hertfordshire received awards. The presentations acknowledge the time and hard work put in by these young people and their instructors to achieve their award. Two cadets received more than one award – Cadet Sgt Orral (Stevenage) achieved the senior cadets instructors' cadre (SCIC) pass and his 4 Star Certificate and Cdt CSgt Nolan (Buntingford) achieved a BTEC National Diploma and the master cadet award. Cadet CSgt Jones from St George's School, Harpenden, Sgt Parker, and Cpl Hughes from Waltham Cross, all received BTEC diplomas or certificates. Sgt Evans from Hitchin received his SCIC award.

Mayor of Ware's Civic Function

Cadets from Ware Detachment (Royal Anglian) formed a guard of honour for the Mayor of Ware's Civic function in March this year. Cllr Terence Milner, himself a former Cadet Company Sergeant Major, thought it would be fitting to ask his local detachment to attend as a formal greeting for his guests. He rewarded the cadets with a presentation pen each to mark their assistance and a handsome donation to the Detachment funds.

Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Army Cadet Force

The past year has been a resounding success as our cadets have taken on many challenges and tasks. There have been a large number of Star Passes and Duke of Edinburgh's awards. 2006 saw the 50th anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and the Commandant set a target to all six areas within the counties to achieve 50 passes within the year. If achieved the total of 300 passes would be twice the normal. After activities in the UK and abroad a total of 313 passes were achieved, a glowing testament to both cadets and instructors.

This year's annual camp will take on a new format. Because of our size we normally split the cadets up by county and run two consecutive camps, one for Leicestershire and one for Northamptonshire. This



Cst Sgt Aaron Mahony with Linda and Nigel Morris.

Affiliated ACF and CCF



The successful cadets.

year we are taking the full Battalion to Wretham Camp at Stanford Training Area. We are taking over both A and B Camps looking after 800 cadets and 100 adults. It will include all the usual training and exercises but on a much larger scale than normal.

The Adam Morris Trophy

Adam Morris was a cadet at the Coalville Detachment for more than three years before he joined 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment. He was tragically killed while on patrol in Basra in 2006, aged 19.

To mark Adam's bravery the Commandant commissioned the Adam Morris Memorial Trophy which will be awarded annually at annual camp to the two cadets from the three counties who most impress the Commandant while at Camp.

The 2006 annual camp was held at Penhale, Cornwall and the first recipients to receive the trophy were Cdt Sgt Aaron Mahoney from C Company (Leicester) and Cdt Cpl Susan Moss from E Company (Northampton). As a special tribute bronze replica statues of the Trophy were awarded at a special presentation ceremony by Adam's parents, Linda and Nigel Morris. Mr and Mrs Morris both stated that the Trophy will be a lasting tribute to their son's memory and that they were sure that Adam would be very proud that his name is to live on.

Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force

Cadet Band Inspection

The Regimental Band of the Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force had a very good annual inspection on 16 January when they attended for their normal training at the Cadet Centre, Newport, Lincoln. The Inspecting Officer was Lt Col Ray Ogg, the County Deputy Commandant (Admin), who took a great interest in their music, dress and turnout. After conducting the Band, the Director of Music, Lt Tony Ibbotson, escorted the inspecting officer, who checked the attendance roll, other administration and the programme of the Band of future engagements. This is to include a concert with members of the countrywide national Army Cadet Force Band in Wales in February, a concert in Lincoln on St George's Day, Altcar in Merseyside, the Voorthuizen Military Tattoo in Holland and Kneller Hall, the home of military music. The inspecting officer was satisfied with the inspection and congratulated the Band on their standard of dress and music.

County Cross Country

The county held their annual cross country championships at the Lincolnshire Agriculture Showground near Lincoln on 28 January. Six classes were held comprising junior boys and girls 12 to 13 years of age, intermediates 13 to 15 years of age and seniors 15 to 18 years of age.

Individual winners were: Junior boys - J Jenner, Washingborough; Junior girls - C Gower, CLCC; Intermediate boys - D Creasey, Washingborough; Intermediate girls - A Jackson, Boston; Senior boys - P Barnes, Mablethorpe; Senior girls - R Prew, Skegness.

Team placings were: 1st 2 Squadron; 2nd 1 Company; 3rd 4 Company; 4th 3 Company.

Cadet's Prestigious Award

The dedicated service of Cdt Sgt Maj Alan Woods of the Skegness Detachment of the Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force has been recognised by the award of a Certificate of Good Service. Alan enrolled into the Skegness Detachment in April 2002 and has progressed through the syllabus to qualify for Training Certificates up to 4 Star including the Young Lifesaver and the St John's Ambulance First Aid Award. He qualified in the Junior Cadet Instructor Course in January 2004, the Senior Cadet Instructor course in February 2005 and Master Cadet Course at Frimley Park in April 2006.

At annual camp in 2006 he attended the 4 Star Advanced Drill Course which included ceremonial drill, cane and pace stick drill, words of command, and was a member of the drill synchronisation squad that were to entertain the other cadets with their demonstration after the final parade on the second Wednesday. He was also the acting Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major on the final parade and march past.

1 Company Awards Evening

On 13 March 1 Company held a parents' and presentation evening at the Cadet Centre, Newport, Lincoln to present the awards for Duke of Edinburgh Badges and Certificates, BTEC Certificates and First Aid Certificates. The presentations were made by Col TE Richmond, the County Cadet Commandant assisted by Sgt Maj Edwards.

Recipients of the D of E Awards were: Gold - Sgt P Gadding and Ex-SSgt V Hill; Silver - Sgt M Fleming; Bronze - Cpl R Greaves, M Lewis, G Tomlins, J Ashton, J Barnard, L Fielding, E Shepherd.

Sgt Fleming and Sgt Gadding also received their BTEC First Diploma in Public Services certificates. Six cadets also received their 2 Star First Aid certificates.

National Cross Country Championships

LCpl D Creasey of 1 Company and LCpl A Jackson of 3 Company represented the County and Eastern Region in the National Cross Country Championships at Warcop on 17 March. LCpl Creasey finished 10th in the Junior Boys' race and LCpl Jackson finished 5th in the Junior Girls' event. Both cadets were members of winning teams and so they were presented with medals, Eastern Region and National Colours at the end of the championships.

Norfolk Army Cadet Force

Exercise Combat Cadet 2007

Every year in April 49 (E) Brigade runs a demanding two-day competition for Army Cadets aged 15-18 on the Stanford Training Area, near Thetford.

The competition is designed for 22 teams and many teams are not fortunate enough to gain a place. This year 22 teams of cadets from Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Derbyshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Rutland, Norfolk and Suffolk took part.

Norfolk Army Cadet Force won the competition decisively. The photograph shows the victors, who attend Acle, Attleborough, Costessey, Fakenham, Gorleston, Harleston, Loddon, Long Stratton, North Walsham and Norwich Detachments, with their trophies.

Affiliated ACF and CCF

Norfolk Army Cadets - Exercise Combat Cadet 2007.

Suffolk Army Cadet Force

In February a most successful Officers' Training Weekend included a dinner at the Joint Norfolk/Suffolk Weekend Training Centre in Thetford. We were honoured with the presence of two former Commandants, Cols Chris Burrell-Saward and Alan Munro. Being 'dined out' were Col James Aldous, retiring Chairman of the Suffolk TA and Reserves Committee, Lt Col Mike Smye after 41 years of ACF Commissioned Service (plus 12 years as a cadet) and QM Capt John Catt after 25 years of ACF Commissioned Service (plus 25 years of Regular Army Service).

The Right Honourable Lord Tollemache, HM Lord Lieutenant for Suffolk, presented awards to members of Suffolk Reserve Forces and Cadets at the Yarmouth Road Territorial Army Centre in Ipswich

in March. Suffolk Army Cadet Force officers, Capt Brian Lawn, Acting Officer Commanding B Company in Lowestoft, and Lt Bill Sabin, C Company HQ in Ipswich, received their Cadet medals, awarded for 12 years of exemplary service. Cadets, selected from the Sea Cadet Corps, Army Cadets, Combined Cadet Force and the Air Training Corps, who have achieved exceptional results in training proficiency, bearing and turnout, were appointed as Lord Lieutenant's Cadets for 2007 and received badges, which they will proudly wear on their uniform, and certificates. They accompany the Lord Lieutenant at appropriate ceremonial occasions, a much sought after honour.

Two Suffolk ACF Cadets were selected to represent Eastern Region at the Army Cadet Force United Kingdom National Cross-Country



Affiliated ACF and CCF



Championships at Warcop in Cumbria, in March. Ten UK Army Cadet Regions competed, each entering six runners in the four events, senior and junior boys and girls. Cdt Libby Kelly, Haverhill Detachment, the 2007 Suffolk ACF Junior Girls' Cross-Country Champion, gained a National ACF Silver Medal on coming second and was also awarded a Gold Medal as a member of the Eastern Region Junior Girls' Team. LCpl Ru Sajadi, Kesgrave Detachment, 2007 Suffolk ACF Senior Boys' Cross-County Champion was awarded a Gold Medal as a member of the Eastern Region Senior Boys' Team.

Felixstowe Detachment were declared the winning Detachment in

the Reserve Forces and Cadet Association of East Anglia 'Annual Estates Inspection' for the best Detachment premises in the six counties of East Anglia. In April they were also recipients of the *HMS Ganges* Youth Trophy at a Civic Presentation at Broadway House, Felixstowe by the Mayor, Ann Rodwell.

For six years, a trophy has been presented annually to the Suffolk ACF Detachment raising the most money for the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association. Via sponsored events Southwold Detachment were the winners and presented with the SSAFA Trophy by Col Robin Newell. Accompanied by Maj Peter Matthews and Mr John Curle, from SSAFA Suffolk, Col Robin Newell received a cheque for £1,150 from County Commandant Col Paul Denny.

The 2007 two-week annual camp is in July/August at Barry Buddon, near Dundee. A vast range of activities are planned: adventurous training, assault course, canoeing at Monikie Country Park, 'dry ski' slope at RM Condor – home of 45 RM Commando, expeditions in the Glen Esk area of Strathmore, fieldcraft, first-aid, initiative tests, military training, mountain biking, orienteering, paintballing, sailing on the River Tay, survival techniques, target rifle shooting and 'cultural visits'. For £75 all-found it must be the best bargain this summer!

Recent promotions have been Capt Peter Malone to major as OC C Company and Lt James Preston to captain as Training Officer C Company.

We are always looking for adults, male and female, with or without former service, who wish to become adult instructors. Telephone our Cadet Executive Officer Maj Bob Potter (former Viking, Tiger and Pompadour) on 01473 252562.

Combined Cadet Force

Gresham's School CCF

The new RN Section has had an excellent first year, providing many activities, both afloat and ashore. Recruitment to the Corps remains steady, with a total strength of nearly 400. Following the Biennial Review by Gen Sir Richard Dannatt, the Army Section summer camp took place at Warcop and Mountain Activities Camp in Snowdonia. Royal Naval and Royal Air Force Camps were based at Portsmouth, Dartmouth and northern England respectively. Easter Adventure Training Camp (Exercise Lakeland Grasshopper) was held

at Keswick, where over 40 cadets carried out Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions. At the same time, Exercise Reggae Grasshopper, a visit by the School's shooters to the Caribbean, saw our cadets competing successfully against West Indian national teams. Nineteen cadets have so far completed the BTEC 1st Diploma in Public Services (the award is equal to four top-grade GCSEs) and we look forward to developing further this excellent new opportunity. We are delighted that Lt George Seal-Coon (Old Greshamian) is currently serving in the Regiment.



The guard of honour at the biennial review.

Affiliated ACF and CCF



Oundle School CCF - the Command Group.

Oundle School CCF

Oundle School CCF spent their recent field weekend in the wilds of Norfolk, training on the Stanford Training Area. The weather was good for the best part and the cadets were looking a bit more fresh faced than the Contingent Commander Maj Chris Symes and OC Army Section, Capt Owen Jarvis would have liked, having been given at least 8 hours sleep a night! This was due to the proximity of examinations, which some cadets were sitting that very week. The contingent staff, supported by an old boy and other outside help delivered a challenging exercise none the less, ending in a company attack during which each platoon had to destroy multiple enemy positions. The weekend was brought to a climax by the Army Air Corps who arrived complete with Gazelle, to give some of the senior cadets the chance to fly over the training area. While the pilot's CO may not have been best pleased with some of his flying, the cadets that managed to get up really did enjoy themselves. Despite the rest they had, there were still blurry eyes as the coaches arrived to return people to school to face their exams. With exams so close, it is a real compliment to the CCF that the cadets are so committed as to spend their revision time on exercise, something even Regular soldiers would be keen to shoulder out of!

Woodbridge School CCF



Lord Tollemache, HM Lord Lieutenant for Suffolk, with his newly appointed cadet, Woodbridge pupil Jordan Harris, and Maj Graeme Bruce, who received the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for meritorious service to the Army section of Woodbridge School's CCF.

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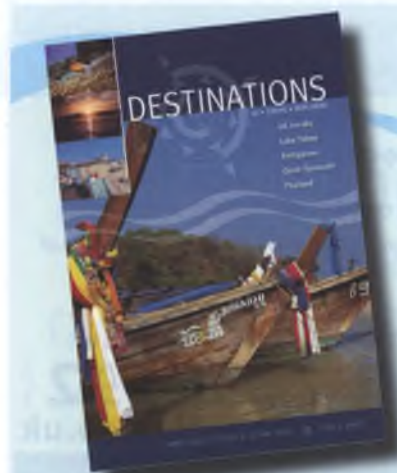
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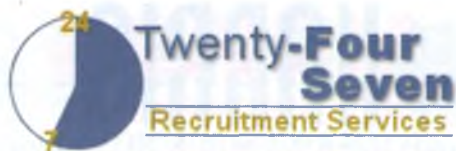


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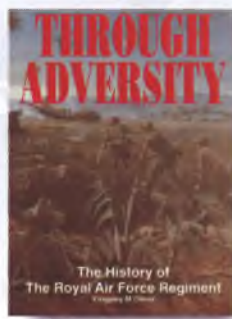
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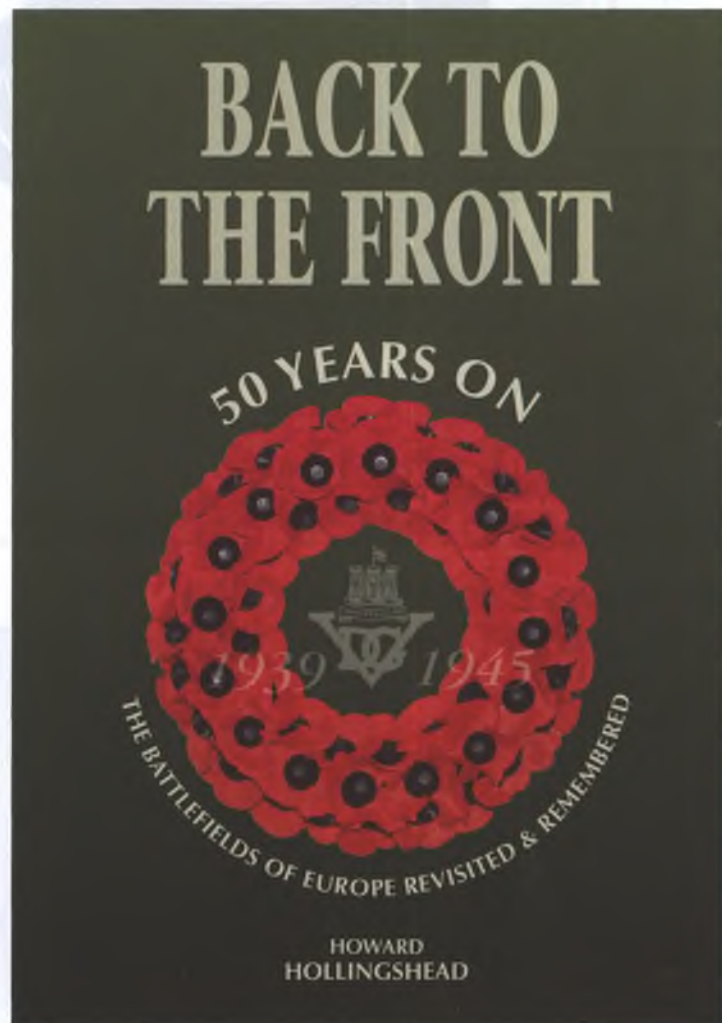
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