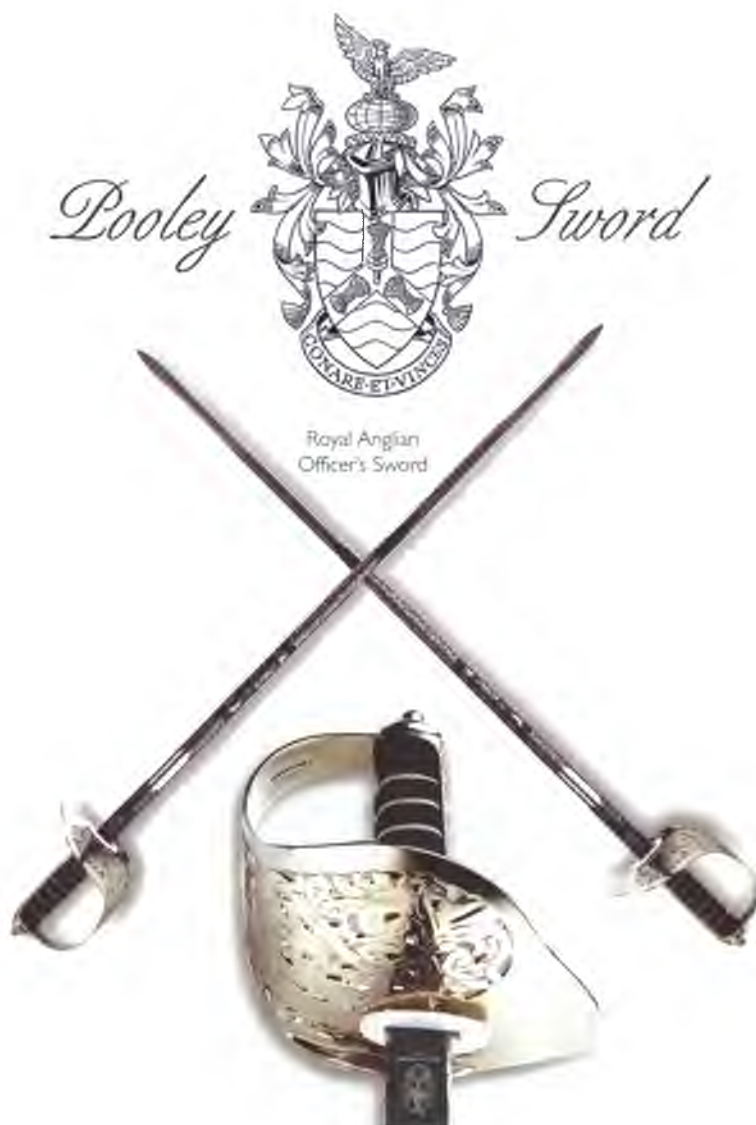




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December 2007
Vol 14 No 4



Editor: Lt Col K Hodgson OBE

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Front cover

Lt George Seal-Coon directs fire to mark an enemy position.

Back cover

1st Battalion Afghanistan Memorial in Elizabeth Barracks Pirbright
We Will Remember Them

Regiment Internet Website

www.army.mod.uk/royalanglian



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An Address given by the Colonel-in-Chief

The following address appears by kind permission of the Colonel-in-Chief and the Editor of Rhino Link, the Journal of the King's African Rifles and East African Forces Association. The address was given at the 60th Anniversary of the King's African Rifles Annual Dinner at the House of Lords.

Gentlemen, it's a great pleasure to join you tonight.

I was very flattered a few years ago when you invited me to join you on your centenary and it was something I was very happy to do – really for my Mother's sake, because of her great love of East Africa which you all seem to share.

It's also a timely occasion for me having returned last month from Africa, not just from Malawi but South Africa and Zambia as well. In Zambia and Malawi I visited staff colleges where I was able to speak with some authority on the significance of their forebears in the KAR and they were all extremely happy to bathe in the reflected glory of their predecessors.

I have also, as you have heard, just returned from Afghanistan where I spent a night in Kandahar and two in Camp Bastion. I thought you would be interested, perhaps, to get my impression, not that I am a significant military expert, but it did seem to me that we have here two thousand British soldiers in a very hot arid place. They've selected Fort Bastion as being in the middle of nowhere and there is an awful lot of nowhere there to be in the middle of, and they have chosen a flat piece of desert and created a rather surreal landscape with rows of tents and containers and barbed wire, and the whole thing is surrounded by gravel in order to keep the dust down. It works, of course, also in the winter to keep the mud down, and there's a strange metal grid everywhere that makes it look like a cheap set from Dr Who.

But they sit in this very warm place and they are using their varied military expertise to fight a very particular campaign, which they are determined not to lose, and they are determined to accept as few casualties as possible. And I was impressed with the complexity of it all because, not only have they things like high altitude aerial reconnaissance they also have unmanned drones, I'm not quite sure what the information is that they pick up, but they certainly fly at night and see what everybody's up to. They have ground-attack Harriers with the most fearsome weapons; they have attack helicopters which also have an extremely hard punch; they have supply helicopters providing them with food and ammunition in the front line, as and when they can, and all the other different bits that are necessary to keep an army on the go, and I found them all with extremely high morale. They all knew exactly what they have to do and how they were going to do it, and they've got the kit there.

Their enemy they respect; they are the sort of enemy that has a gun one minute and becomes a civilian the next, so they have to be very careful as to how exactly they fight each battle. But I got the impression that they were definitely going to succeed, and that it was very important to them that the British Public should see that the Iraq campaign and the Afghan campaign were not the same thing, even if they have a similar enemy, and that the Afghan campaign is winnable provided that they can convince the Afghan majority that they are going to win, because the Taliban is extremely unpopular, but the Afghans are the sort who traditionally and habitually like to support the winning side and they don't actually mind if they change their minds as to who this is. But they would like us to be the winning side but are not absolutely sure (yet) that we will be.

But from things that I've seen in the last three days I think we will succeed, but it won't happen instantly, we've got to provide the security because when the Taliban come back, and they do come back, they execute headmasters or anybody who they think have been too keen on us winning and it is with that knowledge that they have to succeed that our troops, and in this case it's the Royal Anglians who have taken over from the Paras and the Royal Marines, and in the three months that they have been there they've fired more bullets, they've advanced further, and they've killed more Taliban than their predecessors. And that has given them a terrific sense of confidence, when, perhaps some people said, "Oh well, they're just an ordinary provincial regiment", and that the Paras and the Marines were something special, but they've certainly taken the view that they've gone further and done better, and they still have three months to go and then it's somebody else's turn. But morale is extremely high and they're convinced that they're doing a good job and they'd like everybody to know that.

All of you who have seen action will know that military success involves a huge number of different people doing different things. And I remember a few years ago meeting an Armenian Brigadier who'd been involved with invading Afghanistan for the Russians – somewhat unwillingly probably in his case. I asked him, why he had lost? And he said: "well you have to remember that the Russians in the front line always won because he has bigger weapons and more helicopters, when the Taliban took him on they nearly always lost but for every chap in the front line we had ten people in the rear echelon supplying him with everything that he needed and it was the people in the rear echelon that got their throats cut and that ultimately meant that the Russian people or Russian politicians or whoever, decided that it wasn't really worth a candle and pulled out" – and they had ten echelon for every man in the front line. We have a small army but very efficient – we have three men to keep



The Colonel-in-Chief and Gen McColl being briefed by Maj Calder at Camp Bastion.

the front man supplied. I think in the Second World War it was more like ten men and Churchill complained about it. Therefore our army is very effective and I think it's good for you, perhaps the previous generation, to know that the young men I saw are upholding your tradition. They are very fit, they look wonderful and are sun tanned and made me feel very old and decrepit, though that doesn't take

much probably. They know what they are doing and they know how they are going to do it and they are carrying on the traditions that you with your splendid Imperial past are very much part of, and I'm sure that they would like me to tell you that this evening."

This address by His Royal Highness was greeted with prolonged and most heartfelt applause.

From the Colonel of the Regiment

I am writing this foreword in December at the end of a remarkable year for the Regiment. There has been a great deal happening right across the board from Cadets, to our Territorial and Regular Battalions and our Associations. However, the defining images of 2007 will be of the 1st Battalion's tour in Helmand; a tour of extraordinary achievement and sacrifice.

Beginning with our Territorial County roots, the 3rd Battalion has continued to go from strength to strength. Manning is buoyant and a significant number of volunteers have deployed to Afghanistan, both to Kabul and in support of the 1st Battalion in Helmand. The Battalion has been to Kazakhstan as part of the Partnership for Peace programme alongside the Kazak Airborne Forces, by all accounts a broadening experience for both nations. At home our Territorials have continued to provide the essential first point of contact with our Counties. The Reception in Lincoln organised by B (Lincoln) Company in May, which included a presentation by A (Lincolnshire) Company of The Poachers on their Iraq experiences, was a particular success.

The 2nd Battalion has been completing their arms plot move back to Celle and is now firmly part of the Seventh Armoured Brigade - "The Desert Rats". No sooner had they arrived than they deployed to Poland for a demanding, and at times extremely cold, period of work up training. Their thoughts are now turning towards the forthcoming tour in Iraq beginning in the Spring of 2008. The situation in Iraq remains dangerous with a skilful, committed and sophisticated enemy. The Battalion returns to the relentless dust and heat of the Iraqi summer that they know well. The professional standards and leadership will need to be of the highest order, as they were for the Battalion's tour in 2006.

The 1st Battalion tour in Helmand has been a landmark for the Regiment. The intensity of the conflict, anticipated as a consequence of the previous years campaigning season, proved even more demanding than expected. The Vikings report later in the Castle paints a clear picture of their experiences. As the Commanding Officer Lt Col Stuart Carver put in his end of tour letter to me, the Battalion was stretched to its "mental and physical limits". From a wider perspective there is no doubt that they came through this most demanding of tests with flying colours. At the outset, questions were asked by some about a Line Battalion assuming a role previously carried out exclusively by Royal Marines and the Parachute Regiment. These questions have been answered emphatically, resoundingly, and beyond doubt. The performance of the 1st Battalion has been recognised as outstanding across the Army. Disciplined, tough, aggressive but also compassionate and humane, the Regiment as a whole can take great pride in their achievements. The sacrifices of the Battalion have been huge. We have lost 9 members of the Regiment; Cpl Darren Bonner, LCpl George Davey, Pte Robert Foster, Pte Christopher Gray, LCpl Alexander Hawkins, Capt David Hicks, Pte Aaron McClure, Pte Tony Rawson and Pte John Thrumble. Marvellous young men taken in their prime with so much left to give. Their passing will leave a permanent gap in the lives of their families and loved ones and our thoughts are with them. A further 57 of the Battalion were wounded, some of whom will need our support for many years to come. We are determined as a Regiment that we will not forget those who have fallen and we will provide welfare support to those that need it.

The 1st Battalion began a fundraising campaign whilst in Afghanistan to meet these two objectives. Their efforts, which have exceeded all expectations in terms of the sums raised, will be supported by wider Regimental charitable funds. The proposal is for two memorials, one that has already been completed will remain with the 1st Battalion. At the request of the 1st Battalion and with Regimental Council support, the second memorial will hopefully be placed at Duxford in Cambridgeshire in the middle of our recruiting area, next to our fine Regimental Museum, where it will be accessible to the family and friends of those that we have lost. This second



monument will include the names of all those that have been killed on duty since the formation of the East Anglian Regiment between 1959-1964. We do not have a memorial which commemorates the four decades since the original amalgamations and the events of this year provide the stimulus to set that shortcoming right. The fundraising efforts for this second memorial will begin shortly and I know that we can count on strong support.

This last year has seen the Regiment come together in a way that I have not seen in 35 years service. The network of supporters that provided help during the 1st Battalion's tour stretched right across our 10 Counties and included those linked to our Cadets, the Territorials, our Associations, and our retired and serving from all branches of the Regimental family. This ground swell of support was reflected in the turnout at the Regimental Association Day at Duxford on 2 Sep which reached an all time high of 3600. The nine Freedom Parades that we have conducted across the Counties this year brought people onto the streets in numbers that exceeded all expectations. The Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Richard Dannat, expressed concern in the middle of the year that the sacrifices of soldiers on operations were not always appreciated and recognised by the nation. His rallying cry struck a nerve in East Anglia. I do not think anyone who was present in Norwich on 22 Nov and Bury St Edmunds on 23 Nov could have failed to be moved by the outpouring of public emotion. There is absolutely no doubt that the people of our Counties value the Regiment and rightly so.

This year Operations in Afghanistan have dominated the Regimental perspective. We can look back on a year in which our reputation of professional excellence has been enhanced. We are, almost uniquely in the Army, fully manned. Our links with our Counties have never been stronger. In every respect the Regiment is in vibrant good health. Next year our focus will be the 2nd Battalion's tour to Iraq; once again the full Regimental Family will be needed in support. I know that we will not be found wanting.



The Regiment

Colonel-in-Chief

HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO

Colonel of the Regiment

Gen Sir John McColl KCB CBE DSO

President of the Regimental Association

Brig RM Brunt CBE

Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment

Father 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 (H)

HQ Company 3rd Battalion

Col SA (Rich) TD

Alliances

Australia

The Royal Tasmania Regiment

Barbados

The Barbados Regiment

Belize

The Belize Defence Force

Bermuda

The Bermuda Regiment

Canada

Sherbrooke Hussars

The Lincoln and Welland Regiment

The Essex and Kent Scottish

The Lake Superior Scottish Regiment

The Royal Gibraltar Regiment

Gibraltar

1st Battalion the Royal Malay Regiment

Malaysia

3rd Battalion (Auckland) (Countess of Ranfurly's Own) and

New Zealand

Northland) Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment

5th Battalion the Frontier Force Regiment

Pakistan

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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 K Hodgson 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 Leicestershire, Rutland, Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire

TA Centre, Clare Street, Northampton NN1 3JQ
Tel: 01604-635412
Area Secretary: Vacant
Email: ahqroyalanglian3@btconnect.com

Regimental Recruiting Teams

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

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

Regimental Museum

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

Battalion Locations

1st Battalion

Elizabeth Barracks,
Pirbright,
Surrey GU24 0DT

2nd Battalion

Trenchard Barracks,
Celle,
BFPO 23

3rd Battalion

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

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

Lt Col SJR Browne MBE
(Des A/Lt Col (for Lt Col 08) RW Wooddisse MBE MC - March 2009)

Lt Col DG Vincent MBE

Regimental Representatives

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

Personalialia

Honours and Awards

KCB

Gen JC McColl CBE DSO

OBELt Col RCJ Goodin MBE
Lt Col NFC Nottingham R IRISH**MBE**

Lt Col RW Wooddisse MC

QGM

LCpl MA Wilkinson

QVRM

Col NA HITCH TD

Meritorious MedalCSgt AC Garvie
WO2 T Taylor**MID**Cpl MT Palmas
Pte LP Staines**Command***The following Royal Anglian officers have been selected for Command:*

Lt Col DG Vincent MBE 3 R ANGLIAN	Jan 08
Maj (for Lt Col 08) CS Calder 2 RRF	Nov 08
A/Lt Col R W Wooddisse MBE MC 2 R ANGLIAN	Mar 09

Commissioning*The following were commissioned on 11 August 2007:*

2Lt J Garside	2nd Bn
2Lt JE Quince	2nd Bn
2Lt WAF Rackham	2nd Bn
2Lt WD Willdrige	2nd Bn

The following were commissioned on 14 December 2007:

2Lt JR Granell	1st Bn
2Lt AD Mackness	2nd Bn
2Lt WS Otridge	2nd Bn
2Lt S Thomas	1st Bn
2Lt SM Broomfield	1st Bn

The following were commissioned on 7 January 2008:

WO1 AJ Rainey MC	2 R ANGLIAN
WO2 PG Jackson	AAC

The following will be commissioned in 2008:

WO1 IJ Robinson	1 R ANGLIAN
-----------------	-------------

Promotions*The following was selected for promotion to Lt Col on 30 June 2007:*

Maj STH Andrews

The following have been selected for promotion to Lt Col in 2008:

Maj R Bell (PWRR)
Maj CS Calder
Maj DGH Hunter
Maj ACE Marinos
A/Lt Col RW Wooddisse MBE MC
Maj JA York

The following have been selected for promotion to Maj in July 2008:

Capt A Biggs
 Capt PD Connolly
 Capt MA Dingle
 Capt GB Foden
 Capt J Hancock
 Capt JD Inch
 Capt DH James-Roll
 Capt MC Melia
 Capt PC Moxey
 Capt CW Swallow

The following have been selected for promotion to Maj (LE) in July 2008:

Capt PG Martin

Postings

Capt JM Ding	from CBFA to IO 2nd Bn	Apr 07
Maj OCC Brow	from CGS DGS to COS 4 Armd Bde	May 07
Maj FJR Grounds	from DI Trg(A) to Coy Comd RMAS	May 07
Maj RWT Pattison	from HQ ARRC to SO2 Performance COS DIGTA HQ RF <i>(he remains on held strength of COS DIGTA HQ RF for the duration of his time with the British Antarctic Expedition)</i>	
Maj WA Willmott	from MND(SE) to SO2 G3 Coord HQ LWC	May 07
Maj DC Napier	from CPF UN to SO2 J5/J7 Brit Forces FI	May 07
Lt Col STH Andrews	from Inf Battle Sch to Chief Plans NRDC Turkey	Jun 07
Maj APR Bowman	from ICSC(L) to Instr Def Academy	Aug 07
Capt AR Macleod	from ITC Catterick to 2nd Bn	Aug 07
Maj JCJ Wright	from 2nd Bn to SO2 FUTA4 OPTAG(K)	Aug 07
Maj BM Allen	from 16 Air Aslt Bde to ICSC(L)	Aug 07
Maj MR Evans	from HQ 7 Armd Bde to ICSC(L)	Sep 07
Maj JD Carnegie	from 1 PWRR to Trg Maj Birmingham UOTC	Sep 07
Maj LM Ives	from 2nd Bn to ICSC(L)	Sep 07
Capt DH James-Roll	from RMAS to SO3 G3 O&D HQ 3(UK) Div	Sep 07
Maj JF MacDonald	from ITDU to Inf Adv BMM Sang Saudi Arabia	Sep 07
Maj RH Whitham	from HQ 16 Air Aslt Bde to ICSC(L)	Sep 07
Maj MP Aston	from 1st Bn to SO2 G5(A) HQ 1(UK) Armd Div	Nov 07
A/Lt Col RW Wooddisse	from SO2 Def Academy to SO1 L8 DS JSC ACSC JSCSC	Nov 07
Capt PR Steel	from 1st Bn to Adjt 3rd Bn	Dec 07
Lt Col SD Etherington	from MS/QMG to DA Kampala	Jan 08
Maj MA Nicholas	from 1st Bn to ICSC(L)	Jan 08
Maj AP Wolfe	from Inf Battle Sch to ICSC(L)	Jan 08
Maj MS Woodeson	from 3rd Bn to ICSC(L)	Jan 08
Lt Col AM Wylie	from Australian Staff College to SO1 ISTAR DCMT Defence Academy	Jan 08
Maj (for Lt Col) JA York	from SO1 ISTAR HQ 52 Inf Bde to SO1 C CSD CJO Comd Group Northwood	Apr 08
Maj(for Lt Col) DGH Hunter	from SO2 Queens MS Officers Combat to SO1 PM/DTL CBRN IPT	Jul 08
Maj DSJ Biddick	from 1 R ANGLIAN to undertake MPhil at Cambridge	08

Transfers

Maj TE O'Driscoll	to Int Corps	Aug 07
Maj APR Bowman	to Int Corps	Nov 07

Regimental Matters

Regimental Council Meeting

The Regimental Council met on 2 November 2007. Some important issues deserving of wider promulgation were:

Care of Wounded Soldiers and Bereaved Families: Colonel Alasdair Wild has been asked by The Council to review how The Regiment might best serve the long term care of its bereaved families and wounded soldiers. RHQ would wish to be made aware of any such families or soldiers who are known by others to be out of contact with The Regiment.

Regimental Memorial: A Regimental Memorial is to be commissioned at a location in East Anglia, hopefully the IWM Duxford. The Council has therefore nominated a Regimental Memorial Committee to supervise this project; it consists of the Regimental Secretary (Chairman), Brig Colin Groves and Lt Col Stuart Carver. The Committee has already met and identified the essential criteria for the design of the Memorial; these have been approved by the Colonel of the Regiment and promulgated to all Council members.

Recruiting: Although Regimental recruiting for both officers and soldiers remain healthy, this has only been achieved through the hard work and industry of the battalions, their recruiting teams, RHQ, Recruiting Group and the training establishments. But recruiting is everyone's business and so the Regimental Family are requested to do whatever they can to point potential recruits, both officers and soldiers, in The Regiment's direction.

The Regimental Website: The Council directed that the Regimental Website be updated as a matter of priority.

Regimental Standard Bearer: The Council directed that a Regimental Standard Bearer, able to represent the Regiment whenever and wherever required, is to be sought by the Regimental Secretary.

Regimental Colours: The Council heard that the planning date for all three battalions of The Regiment to be presented with new Colours is 2014/15.

Royal Anglian

Area Secretaries

Maj David Gilchrist, Area Secretary Warley, retires on 14 March 2008 after over six years of loyal, enthusiastic and efficient service, to both The Regiment at its forbears. David started working at Warley in January 2002 and was accepted readily into the Regimental Family. He has taken great pride in his work which he saw as an honour and vocation. He was particularly fond of working with the forbear regimental associations who, in turn, were most grateful for his capacity for hard work and his ability to organise. Of particular note are the time, effort and resources that he has expended on both the Regimental Chapel and Blenheim House at Warley; both now look magnificent and he is to be congratulated. The Regiment is therefore most grateful for all he has done and wishes him well for the future.

At the time of writing the Area Secretary Northampton post has been gapped since July 2007 but recruiting is ongoing and Colonel Tony Taylor, Area Secretary Norwich, will be retiring by August 2008. Recruiting for his post has yet to start but, again, RHQ would be most interested to hear from any who might consider applying for this important post.

Regimental Day

The 2007 Regimental Day was held on Sunday 2 September at the Imperial War Museum Duxford. It attracted a record turnout of 3,600 with many Regimental Association members making it a family day out.

The weather was perfect, the Drumhead Service uplifting, the March Past smart, the entertainment excellent and the company outstanding. The next Regimental Day will be held at Duxford on Sunday 14 September 2008. All serving and former members of The Regiment and former regiments are warmly invited to diary this date and await further details in the next edition of *Castle*.



Regimental Day IWM Duxford - The Standards Lead the March Past.

Regimental Matters



The Colonel-in-Chief inspects A (Norfolk) Company in Norwich.

1st Battalion Freedom Parades

Regretfully, this edition of Castle went to press before the full reports of the 1st Battalion's memorable Freedom Marches through Norwich and Bury St Edmunds could be included. However this article, courtesy of Defence News, gives a flavour, whilst more photographs are included in the colour section.

The people of East Anglia were out in force to welcome home local soldiers returning from a tough tour of duty fighting the Taliban in southern Afghanistan.

Thousands of people lined the streets of Bury St Edmunds on Friday 23 November 2007 to welcome home the 1st Battalion from their intense six-month deployment to Helmand Province.

Having been widely praised for taking the fight to the enemy, the Battalion, known as *The Vikings*, lost nine members in Helmand with

another 57 wounded, a sacrifice recognised today by the people of Bury St Edmunds.

Crowds lined the streets, up to ten deep in places, with the Minden Band playing and bunting and balloons every where as the Battalion paraded to applause and cheers of 'well done boys'.

Soldiers and officers past and present also turned out for the event, responding to a rare Regimental Call to Arms put out by the Regimental HQ asking anyone who serves or who has served in the Regiment to 'stand in the street and welcome our soldiers home.' Many have travelled hundreds of miles, with some even coming from overseas to be here. Royal Anglian Lt Col Seymour Blyth, currently posted to MOD in London, was one of those officers who had no doubt he had to attend the event in Bury today:

'It's been just an outstanding day,' he said. 'The turnout is just staggering, with crowds everywhere. The East Anglians really do



The Mayor inspects B (Suffolk) Company in Bury St Edmunds.

Regimental Matters

appreciate their Regiment, it's absolutely magnificent.

'It was very poignant when the band played the *Last Post* for the nine who died in Helmand and with the colours flying it was very moving to see so many people who really care for their Regiment.'

Past Generals and Colonels of the Regiment also welcomed the 500-strong Battalion back home in Bury today, as well as the Lord Lieutenant who was representing the Queen, the Mayor and the Colonel of the Regiment, Gen John McColl who is Nato's Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

Today's Parade follows a homecoming event in Norwich yesterday which saw the Battalion exercise their Freedom of the City, marching from the City Hall to Norwich Cathedral where a Thanksgiving and Remembrance service was held for those that didn't come home from Helmand.

The Battalion arrived in Norwich after travelling on the 'Royal Anglian Regiment' train from London's Liverpool Street. 'One' railway named the train in recognition of the Regiment and LCpl Simon Mercer unveiled the name plate on behalf of the Regiment at Liverpool Street station.

The Lord Mayor of Norwich, accompanied by His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, inspected the troops before they marched through the city's streets where they were greeted by thousands of people. With bayonets fixed, flags flying and drums beating the Battalion brought Norwich to a standstill.

The Viking's deployment to Helmand has been described as supremely successful. They pushed the enemy from Afghan heartlands, allowing much needed reconstruction and development to take place in the town of Sangin, including irrigation work, repairing electricity transformers, clearing bomb damage, constructing wells and the opening of schools and medical clinics.

Commanding Officer Lt Col Stuart Carver said: 'We thank our families, friends and the wider public for their support during what has been a testing tour. To put it into context, each soldier and officer was probably involved in around 40 significant engagements with the enemy.'

Royal Anglian Regiment Train

'One' Railway, the train operator for London and the East of England, unveiled the class 90 electric locomotive renamed *The Royal Anglian Regiment* at a ceremony held in Liverpool Street Station on 22 November.

A party of 1st Battalion soldiers and their families then climbed aboard and headed for Norwich, first class, arriving in time for the Battalion's Freedom Parade later the same day.

The naming was held in recognition of the homecoming of the 1st Battalion from their tour of duty in Afghanistan. Under Secretary of State for Defence Derek Twigg MP was one of the many guests at



LCpl Simon Mercer with his mum.



The Viking Train Party.

Regimental Matters



Maj Tony Borgnls and LCpl Simon Mercer with 'One' Railway's MD, Andrew Chivers and Derek Twigg MP, Under Secretary of State for Defence.

the unveiling, which was carried out by LCpl Simon Mercer.

The Royal Anglian Regiment nameplates were originally fitted to a locomotive on the route in 1985 which was named in the presence of the Regiment's then Colonel-in-Chief, HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. The plates have been restored by 'One' Railway and will again be a prominent feature on the Norwich to London mainline service.

Deaths

RHQ has been notified of the following deaths since the last edition of *Castle*:

LCpl G R Davey on 20 May 2007*
 Cpl D W Bonner on 28 May 2007*
 Pte A J Borkertas on 15 June 2007*
 LCpl A Hawkins on 25 July 2007*
 Pte T A Rawson on 10 August 2007*
 Capt D C Hicks on 11 August 2007*
 Pte R G Foster on 23 August 2007*
 Pte A J McClure on 23 August 2007*
 Pte J S Thrumble on 23 August 2007*
 Col G V Martin MC on 27 May 2007
 WO2 D Adams on 6 June 2007*
 T Delph in August 2007
 Capt M Smith on 2 August 2007*
 Lt Col F R Fleming on 21 September 2007*
 PR Ives in September 2007
 S Thaine in October 2007
 Capt DO James in October 2007*

* See Obituaries

Communication with Regimental Headquarters

Officer Postings and Retirement: The introduction of JPA has caused RHQ not be informed automatically of an Officer's posting or retirement. Officers are therefore requested to inform RHQ of such occurrences; a form to assist this process has been included in this edition for convenience.

Email Addresses: Please keep RHQ informed of your email address

and RHQ will keep you informed of Regimental matters, as and when they occur. By way of example, RHQ now send out the monthly Royal Anglian News to over 400 members of The Regiment by email; only 13 copies are sent by post which, of course, costs postage. But as we send out well over 1,000 copies of *Castle*, it would appear that many more members could benefit from the email service.

Royal Anglian Benevolence

The giving out of Benevolence to serving and former members of the Regiment, and their families, whose needs cannot be met by other means, is a vital function of Regimental Headquarters. It is achieved by a combination of serving and past members of the Regiment.

The funds are provided, principally, by contributions from the Day's Pay Scheme. A new scheme started in April 2007 whereby monthly deductions were made at source. This meant that the Day's Pay was spread over 12 months and not taken out quarterly, as before. This makes financial planning simpler and eradicates that sudden nasty shock when you receive substantially less pay than you expected. After a shaky start, where the civilian firm running it had input the wrong proportions into the system for NCOs, it has now been running successfully for four months.

The scheme produces around £100,000 a year. Last year the Regiment dealt with 173 cases, making grants to 138, totalling £47,000. In addition, a further £15,000 was given to former Regiments to help them with their benevolence and £12,000 to the Army Benevolent Fund. This Charity helps us to pay for benevolence when our ceiling of £500 per grant has been reached; last year they gave out £42,000 in grants to our cases.

The Regiment has also made grants of £10,000 to the battalions for use as In Service Welfare. This has been particularly useful to both the 1st and 2nd Battalions during their recent operational tours in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Already this year there has been a 30 per cent increase in the number of cases being presented to RHQ by SSAFA and the Royal British Legion. SSAFA and the Royal British Legion act as our feet on the ground, visiting and interviewing those who have applied for benevolence. Their report forms the basis on which the Regimental Benevolence Committee considers the case and makes

Regimental Matters

its decision.

When a case is considered, attempts are always made to share the financial burden with other charities so that we can maximise our giving. This is called almonisation. Typically the Army Benevolent Fund and the Royal British Legion are our partners when we need to grant more than the £500 ceiling.

However none of this would be possible without the generosity of serving members of the Regiment. That giving enables us to help those who have fallen on hard times and are down on their luck. It helps to maintain the family ties of The Regiment and look after our own.

Royal Anglian Regiment Museum Draw

At the Regimental Day on 2 September the draw for the Museum Raffle was held and the following were winners: Mr G Hardy of Grimsby (£500); Mr P Bell of Woking (£250); Mr BEA Allen of Whittlesey (£50).

Mainly About People

The Colonel of the Regiment was promoted to the rank of General on 22 October 2007 on which date he assumed the post of Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR).

Brig Tony Calder's term as Honorary Colonel of 3 R ANGLIAN has been extended until October 2008.

Col Nigel Hinch is congratulated on being appointed Deputy Honorary Colonel of HQ Company 3 R ANGLIAN.



Lt Col Peter Dixon - so it's goodbye from him...

Lt Col Peter Dixon wrote to the editor: 'I would be most grateful if you would allow me to thank all those officers of the Regiment who so kindly contributed to the presentation that was made to me by the Colonel of the Regiment at the Officers' Dinner on 2

Next Edition of Castle

Contributions for the June 2008 issue of *Castle* should reach the Editor by no later than 18 April 2008. It would be most helpful if, whenever possible, contributions came in the following format:

Text should be in Word or Text Only format on floppy disk or CD. Please do not embed photographs in Word documents, supply them as separate jpg or tiff files with appropriate captions.

Photograph files can be in greyscale, RGB or CMYK format. In general the jpg needs to be 300 dots per inch at the size it will be printed in the journal.

If hard copy photographs are being supplied they can be scanned by the publishers. Please do not write on the back of photographs - this can cause smudges - write captions on Post-it notes and attach to the back. Please do not supply inkjet prints of jpg photographs - the quality is not good enough to scan.

If text is supplied as hard copy, it should be printed double line spaced, in a simple font and single column.

November. I plan to use the magnificent sum that was collected to purchase a new greenhouse where I know that I will spend many a happy hour.

'I look back on my six years as Regimental Secretary with the fondest of memories and I count myself very fortunate to have been able to extend my time with the Regiment to 40 years. I shall always remain very grateful to all those who helped me so much during my time in office especially all the staff at RHQ, the Adjutants in the Battalions and the Regimental representatives at Sandhurst.

'I do hope that you enjoy your time as Regimental Secretary as much as I did. I also hope that any officers venturing into the wilds of Suffolk may find time to pop in and see Penny and myself; I might be in the greenhouse.'

WO2AJ Dent writes: On 6 November 2007, I finally retired from the Army after 45 brilliant years. I joined the Royal Leicestershire Regiment in 1963 and have served with 4th East Anglian Regiment, 4th Royal Anglian Regiment, the 3rd Battalion (The Pompadours) The Royal Anglian Regiment and 5th Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment. I am currently serving with 158 Regiment RLC (V) until my last day in uniform in November. There is no doubt in my mind that I will miss everything that I have enjoyed over the years. I have loved every minute of my life, in particular, the Pompadour Family atmosphere that always existed, both home and abroad, in peace and on operations. There have been some sad moments and very joyous ones and I have the utmost gratitude to so many soldiers, officers and comrades, throughout the years, that have in some way shaped my whole career. I feel honoured to have been a part of everything that

we have all shared and I thank you all, both past and present members, not forgetting those that may know me in the 1st and 2nd Battalions.

'I wish all those still serving a great and satisfying career and a safe return from operations around the world. To all others from my past, thank you, good luck in all things, I will always remember you. Finally...Ollie Dent...all the 444s!

Maj Peter Barnes wrote and enclosed a photograph of himself and the current Governor



WO2 Ollie Dent.

Mainly About People



Maj Peter Barnes (left) with Lt Gen Sir Robert Fulton, at the Royal Anglian Way, Gibraltar.

of Gibraltar, Lt Gen Sir Robert Fulton, at the Royal Anglian Way. Peter and his wife Patsi were in Gibraltar for one day while on a cruise to celebrate Patsi's retirement and 'significant' birthday.

The Poulterers' Prize is awarded to the individual who during the year has best promoted the ethos of the Regiment in a significant way. The Poulterers' Prize 2007 has been awarded to **Pte Mathew Woollard** of C Company, 1st Battalion. Pte Woollard suffered a traumatic amputation of his right lower leg and other severe blast injuries while on patrol in Kajaki, Afghanistan on 3 May 2007. His conduct since has been inspirational and he has exceeded the virtues

of the Regimental ethos in abundance. He will be presented with the prize in the New Year. As reported in the December 2006 edition of *Castle* the 2006 Poulterers' Prize was awarded to **CSgt (QPSI) Glen Keeble** of A (Norfolk) Company, 3rd Battalion. The prize was presented on 21 July by the Colonel-in-Chief during Exercise Steelback Cadet.

Capt Steven Wormald was killed by a landmine explosion on 29 April 1994 while serving with the 2nd Battalion in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The plaque marking his sacrifice was recently removed from its site in Hrasnica and returned to the UK. Following



Gen McColl watches as the Colonel-in-Chief presents CSgt Keeble with the 2006 Poulter's Prize during Exercise Steelback Cadet.

Mainly About People



The plaque re-dedication.

consultations with Steven's family, it was decided to house the plaque in the Regimental Chapel at Warley. Consequently a service of re-dedication took place on 3 November 2007, followed by tea in Blenheim House. It was a marvellously uplifting occasion at which over 80 Regimental colleagues, together with Steven's wife Jo and his parents, Peter and Millie, and their close families, were present.

On 23 May Cpl **Dave Metcalfe MBE**, 3rd Battalion, finally hung up his boots, one day short of his 64th birthday. He was the longest serving member of the Battalion who, on retirement, will have completed 37 years' service. He joined 5 R ANGLIAN in 1970 where he served until 1989, reaching the rank of colour sergeant. Deemed to be too old to be in the Infantry he was discharged - to rejoin two days later as a chef with 4 PARA in Lincoln. He rejoined 7 R ANGLIAN as a chef in 1993 and in 1996 was awarded the MBE for his services to the Regiment. For the past 22 years he has also been the caretaker at Lincoln TAC, a job which he will continue to do for the next 18 months. A great character, he will be sadly missed by all in the 3rd Battalion.



Capt Steven Wormald's Plaque.

Thanks to Col **Anthony Swallow** for informing RHQ that Maj **Nigel Lewis** (ex 1st Battalion) was awarded the MBE in the Birthday Honours List for services to the conservation of birds of prey in Wiltshire. Also to Col **Michael Goldschmidt** for informing RHQ that **John Drinkwater** had been awarded the CBE for Service to the Community in Bermuda.

Our congratulations go to Maj **Rupert Whitham** for his marriage to Anwen Mair Woodcock at Hartham Park, Wiltshire on 20 December 2007. And a reminder to all to keep RHQ aware of such important family events.



Cpl Metcalfe with the Colonel of the Regiment.

Mainly About People



Mr Ron Hope and Mr Sid Roser with Col Keith Cockman,

The Field of Remembrance Opening Ceremony took place at Westminster Abbey on 8 November in the presence of **HRH The Duke of Edinburgh**. CSgt Nieves, 1st Battalion, was given the honour of representing the Regiment and therefore stood in front

of our Regimental Plot. CSgt Nieves was wounded on 16 May 2007 by a mine strike on his Viking vehicle while serving in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Subsequent to the ceremony, members of the regimental associations retired to the Farmer's Club for refreshments that had been kindly arranged by **Mr Sam Luckin**.

Lt Col Jacques Girardin, Honorary Lieutenant Colonel the Sherbrooke Hussars, represented his Regiment at the funeral of **Pte Aaron McClure**, 1st Battalion, on 11 September 2007. Subsequently Lt Col Girardin was presented to the Colonel of the Regiment and an exchange of gifts took place.



CSgt Nieves with HRH The Duke of Edinburgh at the Field of Remembrance. Brig Tony Calder and Mr Freddie Grounds look on.



Like father like son... Maj Stan Bullock presents SSgt Peter Fowler (son of Mick) with his Crowns,



Lt Col Jacques Girardin, Honorary Lieutenant Colonel the Sherbrooke Hussars, with Gen McColl.

The Regimental Museum

(Website: www.royalanglianmuseum.org.uk)

The museum has had a busy and successful six months since the last edition of *Castle*. The major audio-visual touch screen display showing 14 film clips of the Regiment's major deployments since its formation has been installed and the 'Recent Deployments' board has been updated to show the 2nd Battalion's 2006 tour in Basra.

Importantly, we have kept up to date in representing the 1st Battalion's remarkable tour in Afghanistan and in recording the 3rd Battalion's considerable contribution in the same theatre. A new photographic exhibition showing both Battalions at work in Helmand Province and Kabul is on display in the Land Warfare Hall at Duxford. All the photographs from the display on the 2nd Battalion in Iraq 2006 have been sent to Rob Plumb, our webmaster, and will be available soon as an online exhibition.

Away from operations, the 2nd Battalion's Freedom Parades and the recent ones by the 1st Battalion have also been shown. The downside of all this is that our lack of space has become even more evident – more of that later.

From 2008 all museums will have to be accredited with the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. This will involve an in-depth audit of our procedures and policies that underpin the day-to-day working of the Museum and, significantly, the proper establishment of the Reserve Collection at RHQ at Bury St Edmunds. The latter is involving a great deal of work to convert a tower room into an environmentally controlled store in which the collection can be safely housed. Alongside that Andy Murkin, the museum officer, has been working flat out on the conservation and cataloguing of the many artefacts that make up the collection.

To help Andy recognise some of the more obscure artefacts and faces in the thousands of photographs we now hold, we have established a panel of 'identifiers' (all of whom have distinguished careers in the Regiment), who can be called upon to assist him. Our thanks to them for volunteering and for the substantial help that they have already given. Some of you may have met two new volunteers at the Regimental Day, Bob and Jenny Turner, where they coped splendidly with the tremendous number of customers at the museum shop.

One very new development is our involvement with Imperial War Museum (IWM) Duxford in an application to a Lottery funded



The new audio video display captures the interest of a visitor to the museum.



Lord and Lady Walker with friends visiting the Museum tent on Regimental Day.

Regimental Museum



Items from the reserve collection neatly boxed and labelled.

scheme, *'Their Past, Your Future'*, which is intended to get veterans of post World War Two conflicts to relate their experiences to younger generations. The IWM application is primarily aimed at secondary schoolchildren, including CCF and ACF cadets and we have almost 100 detachments affiliated to the Regiment, wearing its capbadge, so they can get involved. This is also your chance to participate in a worthwhile project where training and resources will be offered, without bringing with it an onerous commitment – see the detailed advertisement after this article.

Back to lack of space and what we intend to do about it. In future we have to make more use of technology. We are embarking on three new projects:

- Beginning with the 2008 tours by the 1st and 3rd Battalions in Afghanistan, we intend to install a computer assisted 'Recent Deployments' touch screen display that can be easily updated year-on-year.

- The 'What is a Battalion' display of miniature models is not sufficient to educate a public largely unaware of the military and its organisations. That too will be reinforced by a touch screen display.

- Most excitingly, we are negotiating to have the East Anglian and Royal Anglian Regiments' memorial located at Duxford. If successful it will be prominently positioned near the museum and be as striking as we can possibly make it.

The museum will fundraise towards the cost of the memorial and when the cost of the other enhancements is added, we will have to raise in the region of £250,000. We have a fundraising campaign about to begin to involve major businesses, grant giving trusts and other donors, but we must also improve the financial support the museum receives from the Regiment as a whole. Until recently the only major source of income from the Regimental family was about £2,000 annually from the Regimental Day raffle. From 2008 we will also get £5,000 from 'The Day's Pay Scheme'.

Enclosed in this edition of *Castle* are Deed of Covenant and Gift Aid forms and you are asked to consider seriously becoming a first time donor, or renewing a previous covenant. As a guide most covenants are made for four years at £5 per month. The Museum really needs your help, but if a covenant is not your scene, please write to Maj Gould at RHQ if you would be willing to sell raffle tickets on the museum's behalf. They will be produced in early summer next year so there will be plenty of time to sell them. Even if only 100 people volunteer to sell something like 5-10 books each, it would make a massive difference to income.

Thanks to Maureen Boughey, Adrian Dunne, Jonathan Hall-Tipping, Laurie Justice, Clive Rippin and Kerry Woodrow for recent donations. Our appeal for film footage in the last *Castle* was quite successful, but the museum is still on the look out for any clips readers might have from early tours of Northern Ireland, the 1st Battalion in Bosnia 1995 and Iraq 2005, and the 2nd Battalion in Sierra Leone 2000 and Afghanistan 2003. Please have a good look in the bottom of drawers, attics and cellars etc. You never know what you might find and it could be of use to us!

Contact details: Royal Anglian Regiment Museum, Duxford Airfield, Duxford, Cambridge, CB22 4QR Tel: 01223 497298. email: royalanglian@museumattendant.freemove.co.uk

'Their Past, Your Future'

The Regimental Museum has joined forces with the Imperial War Museum Duxford to bring Service veterans into contact with young people to promote their better understanding of post World War Two conflicts. The IWM has made an application to the second phase of the Lottery funded 'Their Past Your Future' (TPYF2) to enable the scheme to run between April 2008 and March 2009. **For the purposes of the scheme, 'veterans' includes serving soldiers.**

Recruitment: the identification and recruitment of volunteer veterans from the Former Regiments and the East Anglian and Royal Anglian Regiments will take place over the period January to May 2008.

Over the same period schools and youth groups willing to take part in the scheme will be identified. For those of you involved with the CCF or ACF, please note **'youth groups' will include cadet detachments.** We will want to hear from you.

Training: from September 2008 to March 2009 a series of one-day training events will be held at IWM Duxford for veterans, teachers and youth group leaders from the same geographical area. Networks will be established and veterans will be provided with

training resources to support their presentations. A flat rate £20 contribution towards travel costs will be made and refreshments at the training days will be free.

Geographical Limitations: the scheme will not be open across the entire Regimental area. **Only Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire are involved.**

Commitment: the eventual commitment from veterans will not be onerous. Once the scheme is running, participating schools and youth groups will invite local veterans to visit their school/youth group to talk to young people. Alternatively, the talks could take place at a central location like Duxford. How much veterans are involved will be for each individual to decide.

Get Involved: if you have a problem with today's youth, now is the time to stop grumbling and do something about it by talking directly to them. **Your experience is valuable. You can help.** To find out more about the scheme, without commitment, contact the Museum's Project Officer: Maj Michael Jarvis, 1 Witham Close, St Ives, Cambs PE27 3DY Tel: 01480 380234. Alternatively, contact Regimental Headquarters.

Diary Dates 2008

January

- 16 Bedfordshire County Committee Meeting - Warley
- 22 Royal Anglian and Essex Regiment Chapel Committee Meeting - Warley
- 23 Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association Special General Committee Meeting - Kempston
- 27 1st Battalion Service and Reception - Great Yarmouth

February

- 5 3rd Bn Officers' Dinner Club Committee Meeting - Warley
- 6 Hertfordshire County Committee Meeting - Hertford
- 20 Essex County Committee Meeting - Warley
- 21 Museum Trustees Meeting - Duxford
- 27/28 1st Battalion Civic Event - Thurrock (TBC)

March

- 1 1st Battalion Freedom Parade - Brentwood
- 5 Essex Regiment Museum Meeting - South Woodham Ferrers
- 8 3 R ANGLIAN, EER, 6 R ANGLIAN Officers' Mess Past and Present Dinner
- 17 1st Battalion Presentation - Essex
- 19 Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Museum Trustees Meeting - Luton
- 28 Launch of Museum Appeal - Duxford (TBC)
- 30 1st Battalion Parade - Kings Lynn (TBC)
- 30 Cambridgeshire Regimental Council - Waterbeach

April

- 12 Royal Anglian Day, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Museum - Luton
- 18 3rd Battalion Officers' Dinner Club Cocktail Party - London
- 22 Essex Regiment Association General Committee Meeting and AGM - Warley
- 24 Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolence and Association Meetings - Bury St Edmunds
- 25 Regimental Golf Spring Meeting - Chamwood Forest

May

- 2nd Battalion Op TELIC (Iraq) to November 2008
- 5 50th Anniversary Dinner commemorating the Amalgamation Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and Essex Regiments - Hertford
- 7 Northamptonshire Regiment Officers' Luncheon - Army and Navy Club, London
- 9 Regimental Council Meeting - Canary Wharf
- 11 5th Bn (Battleaxe) Lunch - Rutland
- 17 TA 100 Bedfordshire Event
- 31 Regimental Representative Event - Crix, Essex

June

- 4-8 Royal Anglian Regiment Normandy Pilgrimage
- 7 Royal Norfolk Regiment Officers' Lunch - Norwich
- 8 Cambridgeshire Regiment Reunion and Remembrance Service - Ely
- 8 TA 100 Cambridgeshire Event - Ely
- 8 TA 100 Norfolk Event - Muckleburgh
- 21 TA 100 National Event - London
- 21-22 Royal Tigers' Weekend - Leicester
- 26-26 Royal Norfolk Show - Norwich
- 27 Regimental Golf Summer Meeting - Ely
- 29 Essex Regiment Association Reunion - Warley

July

- 19 Eagle and Garter Dinner - Bassingbourn
- 26-27 Northamptonshire Regiment Annual Reunion - Northampton

August

- 2 Suffolk Regiment Officers' Lunch - Culford
- 3 Minden Reunion - Bury St Edmunds

September

- 10 Cambridgeshire Branch AGM - Joint Services Club
- 14 Regimental Day - Duxford
- 14 Cambridgeshire Regimental Council Meeting - Waterbeach
- 14 Cambridgeshire Associations AGM - Waterbeach
- 17 Regimental Golf Autumn Meeting - Burghley Park
- 26 3rd Bn Officers' Dinner Club Autumn Lunch - Warley
- 27 Royal Norfolk and Royal Anglian Association Dinner - Norwich
- 28 Royal Norfolk and Royal Anglian Association Service - Norwich Cathedral

October

- 5 TA 100 Suffolk Event - Ipswich

November

- 3 Nightingale Supper - Chelmsford
- 4 Essex Regiment Association Service - Chelmsford Cathedral
- 4 Essex Regiment Salamanca Lunch - Chelmsford
- 6 Opening the Field of Remembrance - Westminster
- 7 Regimental Council Meeting
- 7 Regimental Dinner, Army and Navy Club
- 9 Remembrance Sunday, Cenotaph - London
- 16 Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Reunion - Kempston

Can You Remember?

Capt Andy Wolstenholme writes



Typical conference on Exercise Hell Tank.

40 Years Ago

August-December 1967

The 1st Battalion were preparing for their unit move to Bourlon Barracks, Catterick early the following year. They were disappointed not to be moving to more tropical climes after their spell as a Mechanised Infantry Battalion in Celle, but were nevertheless looking forward to some time in England. The training cycle culminated in October with Exercise Hell Tank - a 7th Armoured Brigade exercise with the Black Watch, 2nd Royal Tank Regiment and the 11th Hussars; its main aim to discover the effectiveness of GW armed helicopters in the anti-tank role.

The Poachers had traded Dhekelia, Cyprus for Felixstowe in July and quickly sought their cold weather kit allocation. Extensive leave and then training filled the latter part of the year.

The Pompadours were having a cold and damp time of it in the Cheviots, where they were conducting an exercise in counter terrorism. This commenced with a 17-mile insertion march, through rain and snow. One of the high points of the exercise was when Brigade HQ had all their tents blown down!



Capt Goodale and Lt Boardman escort Miss World to a ball at Cambridge - fanfare provided by Cpl Skayman and Bdsm Ridley.



Col Kingsley inspects 1st Battalion soldiers at Vordingborg during a visit to the Falstarske Fodregiment in Denmark.

Can You Remember?



A Company 4 R ANGLIAN men on parade during the final muster parade under Maj AFFH Robertson.

The 4th Battalion were in the last months of their time in Malta and were still deploying to Libya in company strength. Even with companies away on emergency tours, the 4th Battalion enjoyed considerable success in the Combined Small Arms Meeting, winning all the events at minor units level.

The 5th Battalion continued to exercise hard and in October

conducted a Battalion River Crossing of the River Trent in the worst weather conditions imaginable. Of note was that the skipper of an enormous passing boat almost created several vacancies in the Battalion. The Leicestershire TA were enjoying their first year as an 'AVR III' Battalion but facing the ever present challenge of lack of permanent staff.



4th Battalion in Sicily for relief work after the devastating earthquake.

Can You Remember?

35 Years Ago

August-December 1972

The 1st Battalion had described their new home in Cyprus as 'the venue of Vikings and Valkyries.' While getting used to the slower pace of life, the early morning PT, the runs and the training later on in the day, was all very welcome as it 'replaced the ghostly pallor of the Derry days with healthy tans.' Exercise Stark was the main exercise of the year. It tested that the Battalion was up to the challenge of the counter-infiltration and other aspects of Internal Security in the Sovereign Base Area, which of course they were.

The Poachers deployed to Belfast in July to take over from the Pompadours and hit the ground running. Within 12 hours of arrival, C Company had recovered a large stock of bomb making equipment from a derelict house in Grosvenor Road. The Poachers saw six Saracen armoured cars (or 'Jumbos') become part of their fleet of trusty 'Pigs'. In the Lower Falls in September, A Company captured Jim Bryson, who commanded B Company of the Provisional IRA, the second most wanted man in Northern Ireland at the time. It was a spectacular take down, with Cpl Nichols ramming his hijacked car with his Saracen and, after the terrorist fled, LCpl Ley felled him with a rugby tackle. The Northern Ireland Secretary sent his congratulations to the Poachers.

The Pompadours were rightfully proud of their performance in the Province and, on returning, went on block leave. Following this, the exercise season was upon them and they threw themselves wholeheartedly into it. Two weeks at Soltau was followed by a three-week final test exercise in the foothills of the Hartz Mountains.

The year's fitness for role inspection went with much more swing than normal, with the Brigade Staff of 20th Armoured Brigade being persuaded to play along with the Arabian scenario that the



The Colour Party and Escort of Cambridgeshire Company 6 R ANGLIAN prepare to march off from in front of the Cambridge Guildhall.



B Company The Poachers v Ladies of the Milk Marketing Board - result B Company 11 - Ladies 9.



The Commanding Officer and the Corps of Drums. The Vikings.

Can You Remember?

Pompadours had created. The Brigade Commander arrived to inspect the Battalion dressed as an Arab sheik and the Adjutant managed to get hold of a camel from a local circus! The menu for the visit included stuffed sheep's eyeballs and belly-dancers!

Right: Commanding Officer and RSM 3 R ANGLIAN meet 20 Brigade Commander during their Arab themed inspection - little did they know that 30 years on...

Below: Exercise Lemon Tree - from left: Pte Chivers, 2Lt Edwards, Sgt Spauls, Pte Farrington, 2Lt Dormer.



Can You Remember?

25 Years Ago

August-December 1982

Oakington was the backdrop for the 1st Battalion's families while the Battalion was on a six-month tour of Belize based at Airport, Rideau, Salamanca and Holdfast Camps. The Vikings formed two Battle Groups, each with its own artillery and engineer support as well as a reconnaissance troop from the Royal Dragoon Guards.

Battle Group exercises saw troops deployed to the Guatemalan border, observation post screens throughout the jungle and towns, sea landings and conducting those 'good infantry' pastimes such as ambushes, river patrols and close combat. The Vikings had a busy

patrol programme, were learning Spanish, and also were training the Belize Defence Force.

The Poachers were at Ebrington Barracks for the second and last time and were at the top of their game operationally. In the period of August 1982 to January 1983, the Poachers arrested 75 hardened terrorist, prompting five clever but unsuccessful revenge assassination attempts against members of the Battalion. December saw the infamous 'Droppin Well Disco' attack, with few Poachers



Vikings on top of Xunantanich during the Battlegroup North TEWT.



B Company 1 R ANGLIAN build their own bridge at Salamanca.



Soldiers of the Norwich Platoon, the Home Service Force, in training at Frog Hill SPTA. From left: LCpl Ian McMillan, Pte John Goode, Cpl Bob Glencross, Pte Geoff Fletcher, Pte Tony Ashen, Pte Tony Watson and in front platoon sergeant Ray Page.

Can You Remember?



Poachers enjoy a little Christmas spirit in the dining hall at Ebrington Barracks.

considering that they would be returning to Baltykelly, over ten years later, for another residential tour.

The Pompadours had been in Belize for the six months prior to the Vikings taking over and had thoroughly enjoyed the experience. On returning they were keen to get the mandatory physical training

and shooting exercises out of the way before Christmas leave. The 5th Battalion were recovering from a tremendous time on Exercise Keystone in BAOR to which they took a record 143 soldiers from 4 Company alone. The 6th Battalion were in the throes of changing their parent Brigade to 54 Infantry.

20 Years Ago July-December 1987

Warmer climes were experienced by the 1st Battalion following their move from Northern Ireland to Gibraltar in January 1987. The Minden Day activities were particularly enjoyable for all this year, due to the pleasant conditions and lack of operational commitments.

Following the traditional pageantry there were many family events

at the nearby Nuffield swimming pool. Some Viking old boys, who just happened to be passing through, took advantage of the hospitality and the traditional beating retreat and the dance that ensued. Battalion sports teams continued to record some very good results, despite the differences in playing conditions on the Rock.



Members of C Company 6 R ANGLIAN enjoy the depths of the Indiana scrubland.

Can You Remember?



A brief moment of respite for the Standard 2 Signal Cadre and instructors as they play host to Miss Viking.



Lt Col Mike Walker is pulled out of camp in Gibraltar after handing over to Lt Col John Sutherell.

Can You Remember?



Change of Command, Lt Mike Walker handing over to Lt Col John Sutherland..

Of note were the footballers who were runners up in the Gibraltar Football Association Knockout Cup and the athletic team who won the Inter-Services competition.

The Poachers entertained Princess Alice, the Duchess of Gloucester, to mark her 50th year of association with the Battalion, which began with her becoming the Colonel-in Chief of the Northamptonshire Regiment in 1937. The Colonel of the Regiment, Gen Sir John Akehurst, visited in August and September was very quiet with B Company on adventure training and most of the Battalion's commanders away as controlling umpires for the 3rd US Corps FTX.

The Poachers inter-company boxing was the highlight of the month, with a very promising novice team emerging. The Battalion deployed to Soltau for Exercise Poachers Progress, the end of which



Anti-Tank Platoon 3 R ANGLIAN look happy during the Brigade Milan Concentration.

saw the changeover of Commanding Officer from Lt Col Rawlins to Lt Col Longland.

The Pompadours were in Sennelager for a two-week live firing package starting with low level training all the way up to a 24-hour final exercise with artillery in support. This time also saw a Corps Milan Concentration, Corps Infantry Recce Platoon open firing, and a team of 21 runners in the Berlin Marathon. While sports were low on the 3rd Battalion agenda due to the pace of training, there were some very creditable performances in athletics with the Battalion winning all the events in the Garrison Sports Day.

The 5th Battalion were part of Exercise Keystone in West Germany, a very large scale exercise that involved several light role battalions, as well as the parachute deployment of 10 PARA (V).

15 Years Ago July-December 1992

The 1st Battalion was stationed at Colchester and on 5 October was formed anew in a ceremony at Hyderabad Barracks. Less than a week after forming, the Vikings were on Exercise Phoenix Forger at Dartmoor. The newly expanded Battalion continued to thrive on the sports field, getting through to the third round of the Army Rugby

Cup, taking first and second in the Eastern District Cross Country and the first four places in the 19 Brigade athletics meeting. The majority of the time before merger was spent in preparation for the event. September saw the handover of Lt Col Phipps to Lt Col Chisnall OBE.



C Company Milan Platoon, The Vikings, on a Tor in Dartmoor during Exercise Phoenix Forger.

Can You Remember?



6th Battalion on annual camp at Warcop and Otterburn.

The 2nd Battalion remained at Celle and were engaged in some high profile 'Wombling' - otherwise known as the collection of trucks full of litter from Soltau Training Area, prior to its handing back to the Germans. The Poachers were then warned off for a six-month tour to East Tyrone starting in December; therefore Christmas leave was generously extended.

The Pompadours were busy recovering to Colchester from Londonderry to prepare for their amalgamation with the 1st and 2nd Battalions in October. The Battalion exercised the right to the Freedom of Colchester for the last time. The drill practice did not stop after the Freedom Parade as the RSM and other key members of the Battalion had planned an ambitious Thanksgiving Parade. The



3rd Battalion marching through Colchester.

Can You Remember?



3rd Battalion Thanksgiving Parade - RSMTwell hands over the Colours to the Colour Party.

proceedings started with a Company Drill Competition to decide who would be the last guard to escort the Colours, following which an onslaught of drill ensued to ensure that the parade looked as outstanding as was hoped.



The CO is pulled out of Hyderabad Barracks on a Saxon disguised as a Viking longboat.

The Colonel of the Regiment, Maj Gen Stone, took the final salute and gave a speech, urging people to look forward to the forming of two large battalions. There were over 1,500 guests hosted at the event and the Colours were laid up at Warley Chapel on 3 October.

10 Years Ago July-December 1997



A Company 2 R ANGLIAN at the close of their live firing package at Castlemartin.



WO2 Cooper, now Maj Cooper of Langley School CCF, gets into his traditional weekend garb for Minden Day.

The 1st Battalion were back in Oakington after a gap of 12 years and were taking the opportunity to reaffirm the Regiment's county links with a series of Freedom Parades. Bury St Edmunds, Cambridge and King's Lynn all welcomed the Vikings and good crowds gathered for all the parades. Minden Day was also special this year as it was attended by HRH Princess Margaret, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief. Following a parade that, due to all the practice of the freedom parades, was outstanding, HRH was hosted in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess before having lunch in the Officers' Mess. The Battalion continued to prepare for Tesex during Exercise Grand Prix in Kenya in early 1998.



WO2 Thorpe and assorted 'hangers on' with Big Breakfast presenter Denise Van Outen.

Can You Remember?



Royal Anglian reps at ATR Bassingbourn gather by the Canberra gate guardlan.

The Poachers continued to impress while at Warminster as Demonstration Battalion and looked to strengthen its links with the TA by running a series of training weekends and with the local

community by running galas and day trips to the Battalion for local children. Fame came in the September of the Warminster posting, in the shape of TV's *The Big Breakfast*.

Five Years Ago July-December 2002

The Vikings' were back at full pace following their deployment to Kabul and subsequent leave. Four platoons were sent to reinforce The King's Royal Hussars for their tour of East Tyrone; smaller

groups were dispatched all over the county to provide assistance to the rest of the Army, and the remainder were preparing for the fire-fighters strikes and conversion to Bowman.



Members of the 1st Battalion with the stars of TV's *Dad's Army*.

Can You Remember?



Soldiers from A (Lincolnshire) Company participate in the reinterment of Pte W Crompton, late the Lincolnshire Regiment, after his remains were located in France.

The Poachers again found themselves in Belfast for the latter part of 2002, the Commanding Officer declaring the unit as a 'tried and preferred Belfast Public Order Battalion.' This deployment had a bit of a twist though, as much of the Battalion, like the Vikings, would be fighting fires as part of Operation Fresco. The Commanding Officer was Commander the Province Fire and Rescue Group and the Poachers' Battle Group were outstanding in their fire fighting tasks, which were compounded by their having to deploy to some hard line republican areas that had not seen British troops for many years.



A Company The Poachers in front of the Thiepval Monument.

Even before the end of the tour, they were warned that they would be deploying to Scotland to continue their fire-fighting effort!



The Province Fire and Rescue Group forms up with their vehicles at RAF Aldergrove.

1st Battalion The Vikings

Operation Herrick 6

Lt Col Stuart Carver writes:

Operation Herrick 6 has been the most demanding tour conducted by this Battalion for decades and has proven to be professionally challenging and rewarding in equal measure. We were fortunate to be given over a year's notice of the tour and the time was useful to ensure we had the correct people in appointments and could get ahead on individual courses. The posts of BG Plans Officer, Air Ops, Media and CIMIC are all key posts that would not normally feature highly in the priority list. It also allowed us to tailor our training year to forthcoming operations in Helmand. As ever an emphasis on the basics; shooting, first aid and fitness, would pay dividends during the tour. Time spent on integrating indirect fire and both AH and fast air into Battlegroup planning and subsequent operations also proved invaluable.

Operating in a multinational, joint, all arms environment 1 R ANGLIAN has conducted 4 Battlegroup operations within a Task Force construct and conducted over 100 Company level operations. These operations have covered the full spectrum but there has been a heavy emphasis on the kinetic side. During the course of 350 engagements with the enemy, over 1000 Taliban fighters have been killed by the Battlegroup.

Initial deployment saw A Company moving to Nowzad, B Company to FOB Robinson and C Company to Kajaki. The

Recce Platoon, the Estonian Company and the Danish Recce Squadron were retained as mobile assets. For the first month the Battlegroup was nearly 1500 strong but by May had settled at a steady strength of just under 1000 as the Task Force moved to a three Battlegroup construct.

The first major operation was Operation Silicon on 29 April which had the objective of clearing a known Taliban stronghold to the north east of Gereshk in order to remove the Indirect Fire threat from the town. With 11 sub units under command, this was an ambitious, large scale operation and the first time that a deliberate clearance on this scale had been attempted within the Green Zone. By the end of the first day of intensive fighting, six kilometres had been cleared, the LOE had been reached and around 95 Taliban had been killed. The following day, three patrol bases were sited and construction began - which in effect extended the security zone around Gereshk permanently. There have been no Indirect Fire attacks onto the town since. Four days later, with the Patrol bases complete and handed over to Battlegroup Centre, we were extracted.

On 30 May, Operation Lastay Kulang was launched to clear the area north east of Sangin. Two Battlegroups were involved in this Task Force level operation, with Task Force Fury (US Battalion from 82nd Airborne Division) in the North and 1 R ANGLIAN BG in the South. Although significant numbers of enemy were able to

escape across the Helmand River, around 200 were killed and this 11-day operation was the trigger for the kick starting of reconstruction in Sangin. With the Taliban stranglehold on the town loosened, a number of projects were started after engagement with local nationals and the newly installed Governor had time to establish himself. A Company was moved complete to Sangin at this point to replace a Company of 1 WFR who had been under command.

Within a month, there had been significant Taliban re-infiltration into the Green Zone around Sangin and the pressure was beginning to build on the town itself. The number of attacks was on the increase and the intimidation of locals assisting, or even conversing, with the Coalition was spreading. On 29 June, Operation Gharthse Ghar sought to rectify the situation. Building on the experience of the previous operation in the area, both A and B Company made long approach marches through the Green Zone at night in order to be in position to block the enemy escape routes across the Helmand River. After a 12km approach march, both companies were in almost continuous contact the following day and remained in the Green Zone for a further nine days. Again, large numbers of enemy were killed and far fewer were able to escape this time. More importantly, the Taliban perception that the area was a safe haven for them was shattered and the locals began to realise that there was an alternative to their intimidation. Reconstruction efforts were



TAC HQ on Operation Lastay Kulang.

The Vikings

boosted following this operation with a significant increase in locals coming forward with proposals for projects, in particular a number of irrigation improvements. In an act of desperation the Taliban used a 12-year-old boy to push an IED into place in the Sangin Bazaar which detonated killing the boy and two policemen. This single incident was a turning point for public opinion in the town and caused outrage. Since that incident the amount of information on the Taliban provided each day by local sources has quadrupled.

In July I took the opportunity of a lull in enemy activity to move B Company to Kajaki and C Company to a newly established patrol base in the Upper Sangin Valley. A Company remained in Sangin to provide much needed continuity.

The establishment of Patrol Base Inkerman to the North of Sangin was successful in drawing attention away from the town but became the focal point for enemy attacks. The Taliban were clearly frustrated by the location of the patrol base and during the first two weeks of August there were a number of ferocious attacks on the base involving both Indirect and Direct weapons. The final Battlegroup Operation was Operation Palk Ghar which began on 30 Aug and sought to relieve this pressure. The final tally of 40 Taliban killed was indicative of a lower level of re-infiltration than previously and even the move of a Company by CH47 to the far side of the Helmand River found little sign of an enemy presence.

The last month of the tour was comparatively quiet. Framework operations continued at Kajaki, Inkerman and Nowzad which generated a steady level of enemy activity, but Sangin saw almost none. This enabled CIMIC work to continue apace in the area.

In Nowzad we have been committed to occupying and protecting the District Centre since Herrick 4 and there was little that could be achieved without the deployment of a significant increase in force elements. The result has been a stalemate. I purposely ran the manning down from early May and it was occupied by a platoon plus a Fire Support Group for the remainder of the tour. Indirect fire attacks were fairly constant at around four or five a week but they were largely ineffective.

Kajaki on the other hand was of strategic importance. The hydro-electric dam provides electricity for most of Helmand and Kandahar Provinces and there are long term plans for a major uplift in its capacity. During the past six months, C Company and subsequently B Company have progressively pushed the Taliban front line, which surrounded the Dam on three sides, further and further away. We reached the stage where they reached the limit of what they could achieve without a major uplift of force elements. The fighting in the area was ferocious at times and similar in scope to a conventional campaign. In sum our sub units there conducted a company level fighting patrol three times a week



TAC HQ in PB Inkerman - courtesy of *The Sunday Telegraph*.

against a well-equipped enemy ensconced in prepared defensive positions. Around 90 per cent of these patrols resulted in a significant contact which was usually resolved in our favour by the application of both indirect fire and air dropped munitions.

A policy of taking the fight to the enemy and penetrating the Green Zone where he had previously considered himself to be secure paid dividends. This was a challenging environment in which to fight. Locating the enemy, casualty evacuation, re-supply and the physical demands of both the extreme climate and such difficult terrain all added complexity. To the rifle platoons the fighting was no different to conventional warfare conducted by the British Infantry numerous times over the past 100 years. The intensity of the fighting was perhaps best illustrated by the use of over 500 HE grenades and the regular employment of the bayonet during the tour.

The nature of the enemy certainly changed as the tour progressed. The massed attacks onto static locations that 3 PARA witnessed last summer became a thing of the past. In the last six months it has become increasingly difficult to fix and destroy large groupings of Taliban fighters - the destruction of up to a hundred enemy in a 24 hour period that occurred in the early weeks has been replaced with a more deliberate attrition of groups of five to 10 working independently. Certainly there was a trend towards more asymmetric 'shoot and scoot' attacks and an increasing prevalence of mines and IEDs - largely due to the difficulty for the Taliban in recruiting large numbers of local fighters and an increasing reliance on foreign fighters.

The standard of the Taliban fighter we faced has varied considerably. Some were extremely competent and effective and almost fanatical in their willingness to fight. Others were little more than cannon fodder. He works best in smaller groups and favours defending from well rehearsed and

prepared positions followed by attempts to outflank and isolate smaller groups of friendly forces. The co-ordination between these groups was generally weak however, and conversely once outflanked he usually crumbled fairly quickly.

The real progress however, was on the non-kinetic side. The transformation in Sangin, which was the Battlegroup main effort for most of the tour, exceeded all our expectations. A large number of reconstruction projects were completed, and more are under way, including irrigation work, repairing electricity transformers, clearing bomb damage, constructing wells and the opening of schools and medical clinics. More importantly there was been a tangible swing of public support away from the Taliban and behind the GoA and ISAF. While fear of the Taliban was still evident, the number of people willing to pass information to us continued to rise. Keeping collateral damage to a minimum, regular engagement with the population, joint operations with the ANA and the quick settlement of claims for compensation were the keys to success in the essential battle for consent.

The success came at a cost. The Battlegroup had 12 soldiers KIA (9 Vikings, 2 Estonians and 1 Dane) and 57 WIA. We are fortunate that only a handful of our casualties are unlikely to make a full recovery and I am adamant that we look after these individuals and give them every opportunity to continue their careers in some form. We are lucky to have a healthy manning situation and therefore, despite the casualty figures, our overall numbers in theatre remained largely unchanged. The overall manning was greatly assisted by contributions from other units. The main contributors were 2 R ANGLIAN, 3 R ANGLIAN, 3 PWRR, 1 GREN GDS and the Gibraltar Regiment with individual soldiers provided from a host of other units to fill specific appointments. The arrival of soldiers from the TA at an early stage in the

The Vikings

training rather than just before deployment proved invaluable. In total around 100 augmentees were incorporated for the tour and almost to a man were first class and made a significant contribution.

Within the Battalion the performance of our officers and soldiers has been truly awe inspiring. The average Viking soldier has probably been involved in around 40 significant engagements with the enemy and we have amassed a huge wealth of combat experience that should put the unit in good stead for the foreseeable future. He has pushed himself to his physical and mental limits and had to deal with situations and make decisions that no amount of training will fully prepare you for. It is with great pride that I can report that he has passed all these tests with flying colours and any concerns that a Regular battalion would not match up to the previous deployments of Paras and Marines have been dispelled long ago.

Despite the casualties, morale remained high throughout the tour and the robustness and willingness to fight, over such an extended period, was impressive. I put this down to good leadership down to the lowest levels, a clear comprehension of what we were trying to achieve coupled with seeing positive results, and most importantly the realisation that this was exactly what they joined and trained to do. We did all we could to accommodate the media in order to get the 'Viking message' out. With just one exception, the 254 articles that appeared in the National and Local media were positive and the old adage that the soldiers are our best advertisement held true. Further coverage will follow on our return and we look forward to the screening of the Ross Kemp documentary in Jan 08.

The support we have received from the wider regimental family and the people of East Anglia has been outstanding. Letters of support have poured in from Regimental officers both serving and retired, the Associations and mayors and councils across the region. These have been particularly well received and have provided a welcome boost to morale.

Back in UK, the Rear Party did an outstanding job under Major Stefanetti. Everything from the training of recruits for deployment, to looking after casualties, to funeral arrangements has been handled in an exemplary fashion. Our families have had an unprecedented level of support during this tour - and rightly so.

In summary the Vikings are in excellent shape and have emerged from the tour with their reputation significantly enhanced. It has been a life changing tour for many. Young soldiers have returned full of confidence and with more combat experience than previous generations amassed in a whole career. Officers and NCOs have proven their leadership ability under fire which, as well as being professionally satisfying, will be of huge benefit in the future. Certainly the Battalion as a whole will benefit from this wealth of experience for years to come.

A (Norfolk) Company

*Maj DSJ Biddick MBE, OC A
(Norfolk) Company Gp writes:*

The Defining Summer of Our Lives...

Before we deployed I promised the men that this would be the defining summer of their lives - I don't think that too many would correct me now. This operation in the fragile state of Afghanistan has lived up to all of our hopes and a number of our fears. It has been an epic journey and one that defies description in a few short paragraphs.

The Battalion was already in good shape in 2006 and we got the pre-deployment training right - we trained exceptionally hard - educating many young men as to their real mental and physical limits (a lesson not all had picked up in life or at the Infantry Training Centre). During live firing in Kenya virtually every training activity that we undertook was technically illegal due to the heat, but we had to push the whole company to the limit so that by the end they knew that they were ready for the challenge of a lifetime.

A (Fighting Ninth) Company Group deployed to Nowzad initially, before spending the last four months of the tour on the Battle Group main effort in Sangin. We were fortunate enough to deploy on every major operation that the Battle Group took part in; the men have gained invaluable experience of multi-national, joint and combined arms operations.

I never cease to be amazed by what the human mind and body can become conditioned to. As I write this article, five months into the tour and only a couple of hours after the last big contact, I am struck by the fortitude of our soldiers. With the nerves of the first fire fight long behind them, they have displayed consistent courage, tenacity and endurance through countless contacts and long kilometres of arduous patrol actions. As a commander my job has been made easy by intelligent, proactive and



A Company - Operation Lastay Kulang, Upper Sangin Valley.

composed platoon commanders, supported by a set of section commanders who have displayed a degree of bravery and tactical prowess that I am in awe of.

Lt Goodey and Sgt Butcher have written on the array of tasks that the men have faced and the performance that they have delivered respectively. For my part I would say that the conduct of my private Infantrymen has convinced me that the quality of the English soldier is as strong as it has ever been. Under fire the men have been steadfast and their desire to close with the enemy has been truly inspiring.

In terms of results the men of A Company Group can rest assured that they have made a significant contribution to the success of the Battle Group and indeed the UK's operation in Helmand in 2007. Let us not forget that



Maj Biddick observes the near ground - Operation Lastay Kulang.

The Vikings

before this summer there was 'all to play for' on so many levels. It is now clear that the Taliban's 'summer offensive' has been thwarted, reconstruction and development is commencing in the Sangin Valley (a fact that few would have predicted 12 months ago) and the enemy has been aggressively hunted and killed in their sanctuaries within the 'green zone' (an environment where previous formations feared to tread).

Nothing worth achieving in this life comes without cost, and so it has proved with this mission. Tragically, we lost Pte Chris Gray on Friday 13 April; killed in action as he bravely engaged in a fire fight at close quarters in the treacherous Nowzad terrain. His courageous Section Commander, Cpl Billy Moore, was also shot that day, as was Pte Craig Fisher; fortunately they have both now made a full recovery and Cpl Moore is back on operations in Sangin. Just seven hours into the 11 days of Operation Lastay Kulang in the Sangin Valley Cpl Daz Bonner was also killed in action when his vehicle hit an anti-tank mine. Being the Company Group's strongest Christian, he had led the Remembrance Service for Pte Chris Gray only weeks earlier. Pte 'Badger' Charlesworth was wounded in action in July on Operation Ghartse Ghar; we are relieved to learn that he will also make a full recovery.

Despite the hard times, the men have demonstrated an indomitable spirit: they understand that the risks that they have faced have been necessary in order, not least, to contribute to the future security of our families in the UK. The support from loved ones and friends at home has been truly inspiring and has served to underpin



Pte Meighan with A Company - Operation Lastay Kulang, Upper Sangin Valley.

our high morale. Mail and phone calls have never meant so much, and many young men's perspectives on life will have been forever changed for the better following this fight.

A further positive legacy from this tour will be the experience that the young soldiers and NCOs have gained; this will generate benefits over the coming decades. We will be making a concerted effort to fix the aggression and robustness that the men now possess within the Battalion ad infinitum. I feel immensely privileged and

proud to have commanded 'The Fighting Ninth' on Operation Herrick 6 - it has been a summer that we will never forget. I will leave you with the words inscribed on the Scott Memorial in Christchurch, New Zealand; they were displayed on the wall of the Sangin Operations Room and provided a fitting thought to reflect upon during some hard times:

'I do not regret this journey which shows that Englishmen can endure hardships, help one another and face death with as great fortitude as ever in the past.'



A Company 1 Royal Anglian in the Green Zone, Operation Ghartse Ghar.

The Vikings

Lt Graham Goodey, OC Kohima Platoon,

*A (Norfolk) Company Group writes:
Operation Herrick 6 - The Operational Spectrum*

As I write this I'm sat in Sangin DC in the midst of preparations for Operation Palk Ghar (forgive me if this seems rushed!) - a Battle Group operation to clear the Upper Sangin Valley of Taliban. I remember when we arrived and took over from 42 Cdo back in April, 42 were preparing for their final 'big op' and the speculation was all about where they would be going. Listening in on one of their briefs, one of their Pl Sgts joked with his men: 'They'll probably want us to go clear the Sangin Valley!' (the Platoon chortles in amusement). In April the thought of such an undertaking was unheard of. But here we are getting ready for it and, what's more, we've actually done it before - twice before!

Whatever else is said of Operation Herrick 6, no one can deny that 12 Bde, led by The Vikings, has been on the offensive. By the end of the tour A (Fighting Ninth) Company Group will have taken part in four deliberate Battle Group ops to clear various areas of Helmand. Backed by attack helicopters, artillery, mortars, Predator UAV, close air support, Recce Platoon etc - these are full on kinetic operations and probably the most headline grabbing aspects of the tour. But to assume that The Vikings have simply been a blunt instrument for smashing the Taliban would be a gross oversight; in fact, this tour has seen the Battalion fully engaged in 'The 3 Block War'.

Two of the aforementioned offensive operations have actually finished not with a grand assault, but with the provision of the necessary security and equipment to repair the vital but neglected irrigation canals; a visible sign of the assistance ISAF can bring. Furthermore, in the wake of each clearance



Lt Goodey leads his platoon round into the attack - Operation Ghartse Ghar.

there has often been an influx of civilians keen to return to their homes. On Operation Lastay Kulang children were running in the fields and around our soldiers literally the day after they had fought the Taliban off the same ground. The contrast and requisite switch in mentality is stark.

In Sangin, where the Company has been since June, there is a nascent bubble of security and stability and civilians are returning home after the bitter fighting of last year. The fight here is to retain these people and show them the benefits that ISAF can bring by way of reconstruction and development. Despite the small arms contacts, the IEDs (on average one

every other day) and the omnipresent threat of suicide bombers, our young Vikings invariably maintain their focus and humanity, and bring a smile with them as they patrol through the locals in the bazaar. Events such as temporary medical clinics, food distributions and shuras (meetings) with the local elders have all been regular occurrences organised and facilitated by the Company.

Although at home in the media it is the 'warfighting' actions which have featured most heavily, the range of operations that the Battalion has taken part in is remarkable. To date, A Company has taken part in deliberate offensive operations, base defence, the defence of a patrol base being constructed, search ops, counter IED ops, an airborne assault and arrest op, irrigation projects, medical aid, food distribution... There has been very little routine activity over the last six months; the output has been a testimony to the versatility of our soldiers.

*Sgt Butcher, Pl Sgt Kohima Platoon,
A (Norfolk) Company Group writes:
Tested in Combat - the Qualities of the
Viking Soldier*

*'They stood firm as if rooted to the spot. One
may as well have charged at a brick wall'*
Napoleon Bonaparte describing the
British Infantry at Waterloo, 1815

*'The green-eyed red faces are everywhere,
they keep coming'*

Enemy radio intercept, Operation Ghartse
Ghar, 2007



A Company - Operation Lastay Kulang, Upper Sangin Valley.

During this tour the men of this Battalion
have never worked so hard nor shown as

The Vikings

much discipline ever in their lives. Even though many of the older ones of us believe the 'Playstation generation' could never have achieved so much, the simple truth is that they have.

If you take the average private soldier, between 19 and 21 years of age, the amount of responsibility on their shoulders is phenomenal. In every role, be it the lead scout, the man who 9 out of 10 times will be the first to receive incoming fire, or the gunner, who has to provide firepower to cover his section, the pressures are all immense.

The incredible weights carried, the temperature and the terrain make Afghanistan one of the toughest places in the world to fight (and that's before you take a capable enemy into account!). On a normal patrol, loads reach around 70lbs of the bare essential kit; the helmet and body armour alone weigh in at 25lbs. Added to this will be the weapon system, ammunition, four - six litres of water, oil, food and personal med kit - no comforts. Then on top of this will be the Platoon kit: ECM, radios, bunker-busting rockets, 51mm mortar bombs, Claymores - you can see how it adds up! The 'Osprey' body armour, though undoubtedly a life saver, is not designed for comfort and restricts movement and breathing.

And what stands out is that, despite all this, the operations undertaken by the Battalion have pushed the boundaries of modern dismounted operations. During Operation Palk Ghar, A (Fighting Ninth) Company Group inserted 8km from Sangin into the Green Zone then advanced to contact another 4km before finally meeting the enemy at a range of about 150m. Twelve hours of almost continuous patrolling through the night over 12km of difficult terrain and then a day in contact. If you put that on an MEL in the UK a few eyebrows would be raised and you would expect some injuries along the way; but you cannot afford that out here, and everyone must step up to the plate - and they have done. In the spirit of our illustrious forbearers, the young men who have endured this tour have proved their mettle time and again.



A Company 1 Royal Anglian on Operation Lastay Kulang.



Pte Jarrad, A Company, on patrol, Sangin Bazaar (courtesy of *The Sunday Telegraph*).



Lt Bjorn Rose chats up the locals - Operation Lastay Kulang, Upper Sangin Valley.



Pte Flannigan, A Company, in the Green Zone, Operation Ghartse Ghar.

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B (Suffolk) Company

Maj T Borgnis, OC B (Suffolk)

Company writes:

'Masai Viking was a hard exercise'. This was the resounding opinion of the men of B (Suffolk) Company on return from the three-week build-up exercise at Archers Post in Kenya where section, platoon and company battle drills were honed. With every man a few pounds lighter and hardened to the oppressive heat, we returned to England for a brief period of leave before deploying to Afghanistan on Operation Herrick 6.

The Company arrived in Afghanistan over a two-week period. By the time the main body had arrived, the advance party was firmly ensconced in FOB Robinson, which we thought would be our home for the next two months. In FOB Robinson the Company had the opportunity to get used to the Afghan scenery alongside US and Estonian troops who had been in Theatre for some time. In the mean time 3 Commando Brigade, US 82nd Airborne and, it appeared to us, everyone else in Afghanistan who wanted to mount offensive operations, were involved in conducting the successful Operation Silver - a deliberate clearance of Sangin. Meanwhile B Company watched on with the wise words of Sergeant Major Newton assuring the troops, 'you'll get your chance lads'. Of course, he was right!

That chance came sooner than expected in the guise of Operation Silicon. This was a deliberate operation to clear the Taliban North of the town of Gereshk in an area previously patrolled by the Royal Marines and known as a Taliban stronghold. After just two weeks B Company was pulled out of FOB Robinson and began a week of battle procedure, rehearsals using Viking armoured vehicles and orders for what would be its first Battle Group attack since the Aden campaign. Over the course of Day 1 the Company had cleared up to its limit of exploitation, killing numerous determined



Pte Sheppard, B Company 1 Royal Anglian - Operation Lastay Kulang, Upper Sangin Valley.

enemy found in well prepared defensive positions. Over the course of the next week the Company provided protection for the Engineers to build three new patrol bases for the Afghan National Army (ANA).

After a few days recuperation in Camp Bastion the Company prepared to deploy on Operation Lastay Kulang, a Brigade operation to clear the Taliban North of the town of Sangin. Although the Company expected to deploy for four - six days, a month later it became apparent that, with the Company fighting in dense, inhospitable country for much of the time, this would be a hard fought battle. During this difficult period, after four days of

desperately bad luck, the company had taken its first casualties; 14 wounded, some very seriously, and the tragic loss of LCpl Davey, a commander whose kind, likeable manner will always be remembered by those who served with him. These losses hit the company hard, with a real sense of disbelief and loss felt by everyone involved - this will be remembered as our lowest point of the tour. To the credit of the young soldiers, the decisive phase of Operation Kulang proved devastatingly successful; clearing Taliban from areas the enemy felt were impregnable.

After Operation Kulang, B Company moved to Nowzad in the north-west of Helmand and took over COP Gray. This three-week period allowed the company to get into some well-earned patrolling routine and with an unofficial ceasefire arranged by local elders in place, some friendly competition in the form of Mr Nowzad - a talent competition which involved minimal talent and maximum effort, won by the irrepressible Pte Heircher of 5 Platoon.

With the pace of operations thick and fast throughout Helmand, B Company (without 7 Platoon who remained in Nowzad) quickly found themselves redeployed to FOB Fox, just North of Sangin where, only the day before, the Estonian Company based there had lost two soldiers with a number of others seriously wounded in a rocket attack - everyone quickly understood this would not be an easy operation. B Company deployed from FOB Fox on Operation Gharise Ghar to conduct an operation to force Taliban in the Green Zone South into the open jaws of A (Norfolk) Company. The Taliban, it seemed, did not like the Vikings' plan for



Pte Rogers, 6 Platoon, demonstrates OC B Company's rapid extraction technique.

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their demise and chose instead to take on their pursuers, B Company.

After five days of fighting the enemy at ranges as close as 50m, for periods of up to 16 hrs in temperatures of 55C, B Company emerged from the Green Zone looking as though it had been dragged through hell and back. The Company had again taken serious casualties, both from battle and the harsh environment, and a Grenadier Guards platoon was flown out to reinforce the Company whilst we were still in contact with the enemy. Seeing the Grenadier Guards arrive was a sight for sore eyes! After drinking from local wells, eating only what could be carried and marching for mile after mile the Company completed its task having, once again, killed tens of Taliban and prepared the area for redevelopment. Over the ensuing weeks the Company provided protection for an irrigation project sponsored by A Company whilst operating out of FOB Inkerman, known affectionately by the soldiers as the 'Dustbowl'.

With the Company Commander handover/ takeover complete, B Company deployed to Kajaki and the promise of a firm base for the whole Company for the rest of the tour. Tasked with maintaining the gains made by C Company in the first half of the tour, the soldiers rapidly adjusted to their new surroundings. Kajaki offered B Company the best of both worlds - a busy patrols programme with a contact guaranteed on almost every patrol and then the ability to return to FOB Zeebrugge for a shower, some hot food and a swim in the reservoir.

While our lifestyle in Kajaki improved, the seriousness and ferocity of our task remained constant. Nothing highlighted this more graphically than the tragic friendly fire accident of 23 Aug 07. This desperately sad incident resulted in the loss of Pte 'Troy' McClure, Pte 'Fozzy' Foster and Pte John Thrumble, as well as seriously injuring Cpl Parker and Pte Lee. The loss of three outstanding soldiers understandably hit the Company very hard. In the aftermath of the incident the feeling amongst the Company was one of shock, disbelief and loss. Once again the Company was forced



Pte Anderson sends a contact report - contact Kajaki.

to show incredible professionalism, maturity and bravery, dealing not only with the immediate horrors of the incident, but also the requirement to maintain an aggressive offensive spirit until the end of the tour.

Operation Herrick 6 has proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that with the right training and leadership, the young soldiers of B Company have the physical and mental robustness to deal with what will undoubtedly be one of the hardest operational tours the Battalion has faced, or is likely to face in the future. As an OC, the comradeship, dedication, determination and above all bravery shown by all ranks within the Company is truly humbling and what makes the Vikings such a special Battalion in which to serve.

Operation Herrick 6 - A Company Sergeant Majors' Perspective

By WOII T R Newton

CSM B (Suffolk) Company

'33A get down here now! We have a T1 priority casualty with a gunshot wound to the stomach', came the call from Major Aston. Mounted in my VIKING vehicle

(tracked vehicle with two cabs, crewed by Royal Marines) with my gunner and driver from the Royal Marines and the Medical Officer in the back, we raced into the heart of a small Afghan town on the edge of the Green Zone called Hyderabad. Whilst on route we could see tracer fire racing into the air with RPGs air bursting over where the majority of the Company were located. 7 Platoon had taken two casualties in the initial very heavy contact that was still raging as my vehicle arrived to collect them. I suddenly realised this was not going to be an easy extraction, possibly because, as the VIKING pulled up behind 7 Platoon, it attracted every Taliban in sight to fire at the vehicle. With my gunner firing his GPMG over the heads of Cpl Parkers section, we reversed up to the rear of a compound that Sgt Woodrow had blown his way into in order to treat the casualty. 'Where's your Platoon medic?' screamed the MO. 'He's the casualty, sir', said Pte Barker whilst applying a First Field Dressing. Forty-five minutes later the casualties were air lifted to Camp Bastion by the IRT (Immediate Response Team of medical support, lifted by a Chinook) and the Company was extracting out of contact.

This was day three of the shaping phase of Operation Lastay Kulang, initially briefed as a week-long patrol, the Company eventually arrived back in Camp Bastion 27 days later, having killed tens of enemy, but also suffering the tragic loss of LCpl George Davey and taking other 11 casualties.

B Company had trained long and hard for this tour; it had been the main focus of the Company Commander and I since arriving back from Operation Telic 6 in 2005. Our training was long but extremely effective and it created a very capable war fighting unit. My main role as the CSM apart from the usual discipline, area cleaning manager, side burns policeman and Mr Morale hoover was going to be that of resupply (Ammo & Water) and CASEVAC. Whilst in training and during large exercises, CASEVAC is always skipped over - not so in Afghanistan. We had to seriously think about how we were going to extract the soldiers if and



B Company TAC HQ in Patrol Base Inkerman (courtesy of The Daily Mirror).

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when casualties arose. We had practiced our procedures on numerous occasions until it was drummed into the platoons on how we would do it. It was not long into the tour before we had to put the procedures into practice and thankfully they worked. On average it was approximately one hour from point of wounding to the casualty being back in Camp Bastion Hospital.

As the Company Sergeant Major, I can honestly say that Operation Herrick 6 has been the most demanding operational tour that I and any one I know has ever undertaken. I have put into practice for the first time everything that we train for including CASEVAC under fire, clearing up the enemy dead, finding myself in the middle of 5 Platoon firing my rifle at the enemy (and quickly sticking my fingers in my ears as LCpl Swindells fired an AT4 over my head) to consoling Soldiers, NCOs and Officers during very difficult times. However, I could not imagine any other job that I would rather have done on this tour other than CSM (apart from perhaps Section Commander!).

My main thoughts and memories of this tour will be of the young soldiers in B Company. Many on deployment had just turned 18 and at least 75 per cent had never been on an operational tour before. These young lads have experienced some fierce fighting, more so than anything our Regiment has seen for a very long time. They have shown that they are young lads with the same fighting spirit shown by our grandfathers in our former Regiments many years ago. I am very proud of them all.

Operation Herrick 6 - A Section Commander's Perspective

*By Cpl T Mason
1 Section Cdr, 5 Platoon,
B (Suffolk) Company*

While trying to describe what a six month tour to Northern Helmand was like from a section commanders point of view, without writing a book or being too boring, I will break the tour down into two parts. The first being the build up to the tour, which was almost a year and a half long in itself; and the second, the tour itself, which for B Company was divided between being the Battle Group Operations Company then to the Kajaki Dam to a more static, but no less aggressive role.

For me the pre-tour build up was spent closely following stories from the 3 PARA Battle Group and then the 42 Commando Battle Group, who we were to take over from. Stories of winning VCs, flying around hung off the bottom of Apache gunships and sieges in the Sangin Valley filled our heads with visions of the place we were about to serve in. Looking back I think the press tended to egg up stories from the Paras and Marines a bit more than those from the humble Vikings. At the time it certainly



B Company - contact Kajaki (courtesy of New York Times).

made us feel we were on for getting amongst the 'good' jobs, as 1 R ANGLIAN would be the Northern Battle Group - so maybe there would be stories of us flying around on the wings of Apaches after all?

I missed out most of the pre-training while completing SCBC which, in my opinion, after doing some of the final exercises in the New Year, was much better preparation for the tour than the OPTAG package. So after a short but interesting stay in Chepstow camp for a weekend, and a very memorable lesson in how to take up a fire position, we headed off to Kenya!

Kenya was a good, hard exercise and, with hindsight, scarily close to what we actually ended up doing in Theatre. Here I got to train my section for the first time and developed a good team, as I was conscious that it would be the most important factor if things got tough in Theatre.

B Company had a relatively slow start to the tour, spending a short period defending FOB Robinson, still being forced listening to everyone else's war stories (slightly boring by now). We still told ourselves it would come to us and that it was just a case of when? The excitement began in mid April with Operation Silicon in the Upper Gereshk Valley and ended in late July, 10lbs lighter and 30km further North in FOB Inkerman. In between we managed to do most things taught in the Field Pamphlet in one form or another. I could hear the voices of a hundred Colour Sergeants saying 'I told you so', as I dived into yet another waist high stream or ditch to take cover in the lowest ground! All the boys became convinced it was a combat indicator that we were going to be contacted if we were patrolling along a nice wet ditch. The only bonus was that it was quite cooling in the 50 degree heat of the day. In all seriousness though the training we received at Brecon was completely applicable to the fighting we encountered. Although it only covers the basics, the old cliches remains that the basics work, or at least it's something to build on or adjust.

The guys have learnt very, very quickly and they have gained masses of experience,

which has really shown when new guys have arrived in the platoon. For some of the guys the learning curve was just too steep and the pace of operations too fast for them to properly administrate themselves and, ultimately, they had to be looked after by more senior members of the platoon. I believe this highlights just how well most of guys were doing in such tough conditions. As the tour developed the section really bonded and it was a shame that the R&R plot meant that we were continually losing people for long periods.

Being a section commander is the best job in the Army without a doubt - especially on an operation like this. You definitely get the sense that you are shaping the outcome of the battle, which is a good feeling as long as it goes well! Being on such high intensity operations you can also get away with growing your hair as long as you like, which is possibly the best bit.

The sense of achievement and relief when we moved to Kajaki was indescribable. It was a much needed change in scenery, as I no longer required a map to navigate around Jusyalay in the Green Zone! Due to the good work C Company had done in Kajaki before us in pushing the enemy front line back, the type of engagements we experienced were over much longer distances than we were used to. Considering the late stage of the tour everyone was more than happy to practice observation and arty target though! Using fast air, which was constantly on station, helped a lot. Having a quick swim in the dam afterwards helped to relieve aching joints after a hard morning's work. It became a totally different kind of tour but everyone welcomed the routine, possibly not the boredom of manning the observation posts on the peaks over-watching Kajaki Olya though. Being in Kajaki also signalled the end of the tour, which no-one took for granted but everyone welcomed.

For me I have had a great time, made all the better by commanding an excellent section. It's been a very memorable experience and I have learned more than many soldiers could ever hope for.

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C (Essex) Company Helmand update

Maj Phil Messenger writes:

C (Essex) Company initially deployed to Combat Out Post (COP) Zeebrugge in Kajaki an isolated outstation some 50km North East of Sangin. The Company mission was to defeat the Taliban in the area and to establish and maintain a security 'buffer' zone around the dam and associated hydroelectric facility. The district of Kajaki is dominated by a turquoise coloured reservoir surrounded by high peaked and steep sided mountains. The hard baked desert ground often being whipped up into sand storms and dirt devils made it an unforgiving environment. The villages comprised of simple but often well constructed mud huts surrounded by very high walled compounds. It may not sound like much but it really is a landscape of incredible beauty damaged by the inevitable scarring of modern war.

The Kajaki hydroelectric facility sat at the North Eastern end of the Sangin valley. This valley is fed by the Helmand River which runs through the province providing the vital water supply for the agricultural 'Green Zone' which ran on both banks for its length. The river eventually leaves Afghanistan and crosses the border into Iran. The 'Green Zone' is used predominantly for the production of poppy, maize and wheat at it is the harvesting of these crops which has dominated the local population's activities during this deployment. The hydroelectric plant provides power to the majority of Helmand and Khandahar provinces as well as controlling the water level for the whole of the Sangin Valley. It is without doubt of strategic importance and maintaining its security was a full time occupation for the Company.

COP Zeebrugge sits on the eastern bank



C Company 1 Royal Anglian soldiers.

of the Helmand River and is dominated by mountains immediately to the South. It was on this high feature that the company manned four OPs which dominated the surrounding area and afforded magnificent views of the company AO. The COP is an old Islamic Relief aid station and meant the Company was housed in modern stone buildings. Kajaki was by far the most comfortable of all the outstations and the Company enjoyed the facilities to the full, particularly swimming in the reservoir.

The daily routine for the Company was dominated by the patrol programme. The company rotation had the rifle platoons manning the OPs for between two to three weeks before returning off the hill for a few weeks of patrolling. All patrols were conducted on foot at company level with intimate support from the Fire Support

Group (FSG) mounted in EWMIK, a Fire Support Team (FST) made up of a FOO, MFC and JTAC as well as an Afghan National Army platoon. The company group exceeded over 200 soldiers from 17 different cap badges. The third rifle platoon manned the series of OPs providing the ground elements with excellent situational awareness, fire support and ultimately they dominated the ground to such an extent that the Taliban learnt very quickly not to move within range. Every patrol was an advance to contact or deliberate fighting patrol with the company being involved in over 50 battles against a fierce and determined enemy whilst deployed in Kajaki. The maintenance of the 'buffer zone' was a constant task, requiring the company to patrol and clear compounds and areas where the Taliban had been identified. This was incredibly professionally rewarding with soldiers often patrolling with bayonets fixed. Apache helicopter or USAF jets overhead and mortars on immediate call. After three months of almost daily engagement in Kajaki the company moved to Patrol Base Inkerman approximately 6km NE of Sangin.

Patrol Base Inkerman was a far more austere environment than Kajaki but as always the company rose to the new challenges of operating in the Green Zone. The routine was very similar to Kajaki although without the swimming! The engagements with the Taliban became more intense than those experienced before. The 'Green Zone' was a very different environment with more opportunity for the enemy to try and out flank the company. We also noticed the difference with not having the OP screen dominating the ground, but as always we adapted to the situation and were able to operate comfortably in the green zone keeping the enemy on the back foot. The patrol base was sited to prevent Taliban interference in Sangin and hence it received the attacks that would have previously been targeted further



C Company TAC HQ on patrol in Kajaki area,

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South. We were subjected at various times to sustained periods of indirect fire attack with a mixture of 82mm mortar, 107mm rocket and recoilless rifle. This focussed our minds and served as a timely reminder that although we have undoubtedly killed a substantial number of Taliban fighters they are a determined and ferocious enemy. Patrolling from Inkerman was conducted in a variety of ways and usually involved the rifle platoons on foot or mounted in either Viking or Mastiff vehicles. The vehicles made a welcome change to our patrolling, although the ever present mine threat meant most of us were more comfortable on foot. During this time the Company also had to detach a platoon to Nowzad where the security of the District Centre was the main effort. This was a welcome respite from the daily patrolling for this platoon, but the inevitable boredom of manning sangars all day meant the platoon was desperate to return to the rest of the company.

This has been a tour characterised by incredible fire power. The company was able to call upon the assistance from our own integral FSG using .50 and the new Grenade Machine Gun (GMG) both of which proved to be battle winning weapon systems. The FSG were mounted in EWMK and provided the over watch and fire support needed whilst the rifle platoons cleared through high walled compound complexes. The integral mortar section was used extensively and the 81mm and 51mm both reasserted themselves as vital weapons systems when trying to fix the enemy to enable manoeuvre. The most impressive asset was without doubt the air support the company enjoyed; we dropped over 100,000lbs of air ordinance from the air craft of 4 different nations (US, UK, Dutch and French) as well as countless strafing runs using 20mm and 30mm cannon. The A10 was particularly impressive and its arrival at an incident always lifted morale.

The intensity of the fighting and the daily hardship of living in this harsh environment have naturally taken their toll within the company. The tragic deaths of Capt David Hicks, LCpl Alex Hawkins (FSG D) and Pte Tony Rawson have had an everlasting impact on the company. They will all be remembered as fine Royal Anglian soldiers, deeply missed but never forgotten.

The company was throughout the tour based in outstations, and spent no time in Camp Bastion, this truly tested everybody's basic soldiering skills and personal administration and took us all back to the real basics of field soldiering. The average age of the company was 21 and these young men have performed the most heroic and brave acts on a daily basis without a second thought. As always ask any infantry soldier why he does it and he will always say 'for my mates'. This could not have been a truer statement in Afghanistan. As a professional army officer this has been an unbelievably rewarding experience. The privilege of commanding such utterly professional soldiers in the harshest of environments is beyond words, it truly has been the pinnacle of my career.



Maj Messenger gives radio orders while on patrol in Kajaki.

Platoon Commanding on Operation Herrick 6

Lt Sam Perrin

OC 10 Platoon, C (Essex) Company

I was very fortunate to have the best part of a year as platoon commander of my platoon to prepare for Operation Herrick 6. I was able to get to know my blokes, establish a working relationship with my NCOs and in general get my platoon operating as I imagined it would need to during what has been an incredibly arduous tour. However, lingering doubts still remained; how would I react personally to heavy contact, how would the blokes react, were we ready? The answer to these questions were wholly answered during our first contact of the tour in the Kajaki village of Olya. We had been told our handover would be on 15 Apr and we were surprised to be patrolling on the 7th. Nevertheless we cracked on and after about five hours we heard what has now become the familiar streaking noise of RPGs and the crack of rounds passing close by overhead. I will freely admit that as soon as I heard the RPG come in about 30 metres away from me I landed very ungracefully indeed in a ditch which happily are always at hand when in contact. What didn't help was LCpl Andy Howe landing firmly on top of me and then with a smirk on his face (probably only the second time I've ever seen him display any emotion other than anger) asking me if I needed a new set of underwear. I assured him I did not and moved to a rooftop to observe for the enemy firing point. This had already been achieved by Cpl 'Bomber' Brown and he gave me a steer. This was not to be the last time my NCOs pulled it out of the bag for me. Having begun to suppress the position, Pte 'STAB' Jeary gets the award for first rounds fired of the tour by the Battlegroup, I worked out the grid for the firing point and about 10 minutes later it had been smashed by two F-16s. We returned to camp happy in the knowledge that everyone had done their job and nobody had let themselves or more importantly anyone else down.

The real coming of age for the platoon and the company was on 4 May when we cleared the village of Mazdurak which up until this date had not been touched by Coalition Forces. Having inserted to an FUP 300 metres from the break in point the platoon went firm and waited for about five minutes before first light. The platoon then doubled over the open ground and achieved its break in and initial objectives with no problem. Little did we know that we had been spotted and a large body of enemy were surging to their pre-prepared positions as little as 10 metres away from where we were. One of the compounds, we would later discover, even had enemy underneath it in an undiscovered tunnel system. The contact started when my signaller Pte Craig 'Lurch' Gordon was moving up to my location and got lost in the maze of alleyways and was engaged by a Talib who had fortified a small outhouse with his firing slits facing perfectly down the alley. Pte Gordon got hit through the abdomen and shoulder and was incapacitated in a small piece of cover from the enemy. The shout of 'man down' is a truly horrendous thing to hear and very quickly the platoon began to be suppressed by approximately 30 enemy in Mazdurak and several other enemy who were firing from the neighbouring villages. CAS and mortars could not engage the enemy as they were too close and so we really did rely on all organic platoon weapons to keep the enemy at bay. As I moved onto a roof with 1 Section under the command of Cpl 'Spud' Ferrand, Pte 'Beaucoup VC' Facal identified to me a group of five enemy trying to outflank us who were so close that he was literally throwing grenades at them to great effect. Pte Facal's bravery on that roof certainly maintained our flanks as we were in real danger of being cut off until 11 platoon arrived to assist. One memorable instance was when Pte Facal pointed out the alleyway where Pte Gordon had been hit and as we peered over the edge an RPG passed between our heads fired from the alleyway itself. A couple of HE sorted him out. While this was

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going on Cpl 'Bomber' Brown's 2 Section had collected Pte Gordon under a base of fire from Pte Jordan Gibbs and Luke Harris, killed an enemy with HE grenades and taken Gordon to the platoon sergeant's group in a neighbouring compound. After this another enemy position had been identified and Sergeant 'Spud' Armon launched 3 Section under the command of LCpl Gareth Thomas to assault this position having personally grenaded a further position and killing the enemy gunman within. It was at this stage that I again heard the chilling scream of 'man down' from LCpl Andy Howe who in his capacity as 3 Section 2IC was desperately trying to get to Gdsm Harrison who had been seriously wounded in the head. Eventually, after several failed attempts due to overwhelming enemy fire Gdsm Harrison extracted himself through the enemy killing area and back to the platoon sergeant. Gdsm Harrison had been shot through the eye and out of the temple yet he drew a model showing the enemy locations in the dust and even got his own stretcher out for his casevac. We had started to get the upper hand by this stage as the troops who had been dominating the rooftops had killed as many as 15 enemy. However the enemy did not quit and in my compound we were still throwing grenades over the walls at enemy just the other side trying to get into our compound.

From a platoon commander's perspective C2 was difficult as since the first contact I had been in command of the two sections in my compound and Sgt Armon had been in command of the two sections in his compound. I was unable to move back to their location to influence the battle at that end and was busy enough where I was. It was, however, very much a section commanders battle and once the ground had been broken down the enemy had no chance of getting round our flanks. The OC gave the word to extract and myself and the troops in my compound moved back to the rest of the platoon under heavy enemy fire and even heavier friendly suppressive fire. Another



C Company 1 Royal Anglian, Operation Palk (courtesy The Sunday Telegraph).

problem presented itself at this stage which was how to cross the open ground back to the FUP while in full view of several enemy firing points. Added to the urgency were two T2/T1 casualties 11 Platoon had sustained while suppressing the enemy to allow my platoon to break contact. They needed to get to the IRT heli which was waiting for them at the HLS. The enemy fire was so heavy that we could not extract them and their condition was deteriorating rapidly. The original plan was to get those of my platoon who were not assisting with casevac back to the FUP in a bit of a dash of death under suppressive fire from the rest of the company. We were ready to launch and I gave Cpl Ferrand the thumbs up. His section broke into the open ground and were immediately engaged from the North. Instead of risking the rest of the platoon I stopped them and organised the provision of fire support to hopefully allow them to get across to safety. I'll never forget watching the section sprinting over that open ground firing from the hip with rounds kicking up dust all around their feet praying that they would not go down. Plan

A had not been all that successful although thankfully 1 Section had got across safely. Sgt Armon then came up with the idea of blowing us out of the southern edge of the compound using the engineers in order to reduce the amount of open ground to cover. This we did and under the blessed fire of AH we extracted the casualties and the rest of the company back to the FUP. I remember thinking, as I carried Cpl Townsend on his stretcher over the open ground, how I now realised why you do so many stretcher and log runs during training and CO's PT.

Overall and despite the casualties we sustained the platoon and company had performed excellently. We certainly killed many enemy and the FLET had been pushed back another kilometre. From my perspective once the sections had been placed out I spent most of my time sending enemy firing point grids to the FST and assisting 1 section in the defence of our compound.

Based upon the experience gained during our first few contacts the platoon became more aggressive and confident in closing with the enemy. We quickly learnt that when the enemy realise you have bayonets fixed and have some HE grenades and determined men well led at section level the enemy will always withdraw rather than stand and fight. Basic drills always have to be enforced by commanders at all levels and as long as battle procedure is followed success is always achieved. Simply put, the basics of infantry soldiering as taught at Catterick, Brecon, and I hate to say it, in the pamphlets, works.

As a whole the tour was everything I ever wanted to do in the. To lead several genuine dismounted platoon attacks I have done what every platoon commander joins the army to do. I and my platoon have been tested in a genuine conventional operational context being involved in over 70 contacts involving all enemy weapons, and have not been found wanting. I have experienced the looks on section commanders faces as I tell them that they are to cross open ground under fire to clear enemy out of firing points and



Pte Stanton C Company covers forward.

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they trust that you have organised the best fire support possible from all assets to see them safely across. I have had superb support from my soldiers and specifically my NCOs who consistently made the platoon look good through their diligence and tactical astuteness. The final point I would make is that as long as all soldiers remember and put into practice their drills from training, and NCOs and platoon commanders use the basics taught at the Infantry Battle School, you will never come unstuck. Even when engaged by superior numbers of aggressive and fanatical Taliban, as long as the basics of infantry soldiering are out into practice by all, we always come out on top.

A Day in the Life of Pte Ed Garner - C Company

I awoke with a shake from one of the other lads, 'Ed, Ed, time to get up mate'

'Piss-off, I'm awake, what time is it?'

'Half three.'

'Great!'

No-one liked getting up at this time, not because it was early, we'd got used to that. It just meant we had to give up some of the valuable cold hours where we could actually get some head down. It was unbearable during the day and not even worth the bother. After a bit of scoff and trying to hydrate myself as much as possible before the patrol I checked my kit one last time, oiling my weapon and making sure I packed my Wine Gums for later. 'Right lads, it's ten past, let's start getting down there,' said my 2IC as we all grabbed our kit and headed for the front gate of the compound we'd been staying in for the last couple of nights half-way up the Upper Sangin Valley near the enemy stronghold of Putay.

As I walked past the Sarge and out the gate I checked my watch, it was 0430 Hrs. After a quick dash across Route 611 we took one of the obvious drainage ditches into the Green Zone. After about 400m we stopped short of some large compounds which were known enemy firing points as we prepared to clear them. As the third man in the section I carried on, squeezing past my Section Commander to join the point man as assault pair one. Once we were good-to-go we set off at a run towards the compounds. It didn't take long to get there and myself and Pte Martin Hyett broke into the compound. 'We're in!' I shouted to no-one in particular as we both moved into what must have been about the thousandth compound to clear of the tour. We moved quickly, working together to clear the rooms so that we were both covered as we did so. 'Compound Clear!' Martin shouted to the remainder waiting outside as soon as the section were done.

After sitting on the floor with my back against the wall for about ten minutes while the LMG and GPMG gunners observed further into the Green Zone from the roof the call, 'prepare to groove' came down the line and we were off again. Having cleared several more compounds and thinking that it



C Company 1 Royal Anglian, Operation Palk (courtesy of *The Sunday Telegraph*).

must be about time to return to base we were told by the Boss we were going into Putay. I can't say any of us were over-the-moon about the idea and Gdsm Foxall helpfully asked me, 'Isn't this where Nicey got hit?' I reminded him that we were about 5km from there but it did little to improve our mood as we moved into an area we knew would contain enemy.

As lead section again we moved across some open ground at a fast pace until we hit a compound wall, following it to the right. As we came to the end of the wall we turned left. I hopped over a small ditch at the corner and just as I looked up an automatic weapon opened up about 20 meters to my half-right as the rounds thudded into the wall between the three of us that had exposed ourselves to the gunman. My world was well and truly in slow-mo as Martin, LCpl Andy Howe the section commander and I fired on automatic into the tree where the fire had come from. I smiled as some geezer half jumped, half fell out of the tree and scrambled around the corner of the compound at the base. 'How did he manage to get away?' I joked to Martin. 'Let's go' said Andy.

With one of the Minimi gunners on the corner as fire support and safe in the knowledge that I'd got 15 units of PAX we made our way round to the left of the firing point using what little cover the foot high wall to our right provided. We moved up until we could get eyes on the irrigation ditch that ran behind the compound where the firer had disappeared. Martin and I covered down the ditch while Andy went back the way we had come to get Gdsm Bangham.

Covered by the rest of us, Andy and Bangham ran across to the firing point and went out of sight to us as they jumped into the ditch. Almost immediately the air erupted with automatic fire. Fearing the worst and with direction from the Boss, Lt Perrin, the rest of us scrambled across to where we'd seen the other two jump in the ditch. As we approached we could hear Andy calling the rest of us in. As I got closer I was pleased to see Andy and Bangham perched behind a small wall returning rounds down the ditch and to a compound on our left. I hit the open doorway of the compound with six or seven UGL as an RPG flew about two feet over my

head. There was a moment when everything went very quiet. As my hearing returned I realised a 66 had been fired just behind my head. 'Cheers for that' I mumbled as I continued to return rounds, I suppose he was just getting his own back for the dozens of times I've done it to them on the tour.

We were far too close to use mortars or air so the boss decided to exploit forward as a platoon and 2 Section pushed through us to follow up the enemy. They got about 10 metres only to be contacted again by the same enemy. The sections then took it in turn to turn the corner of an alleyway and get engaged by AK-47 and RPG at very close range. The RPGs really were bouncing around like pinballs before we chucked a couple of grenades around and continued forward. The enemy were withdrawing around every corner and waiting for us again but we were aggressive and got stuck into them. For the next couple of hours we played cat and mouse with several Taliban through alleyways, trenches and little rat-runs like some speeded up Laurel & Hardy film. I'll never forget when I moved around a corner and an enemy RPG gunner saw me and flapped and fired his RPG from the hip landing about five metres in front of him. I don't know who was more scared, me or him, but he somehow got away with it.

After pushing out the other side of the village with 'Terry Taliban' having well and truly done one we got ourselves into an irrigation ditch that would lead back to the compound we were staying in. With the sound of two A-10s strafing the buildings behind us we headed back in, stopping once as the Mastiffs in over-watch on the high ground were contacted with RPGs. I felt a sudden craving for some sugar and reached for my Wine Gums. They had fallen out of my webbing; Biscuit Fruit it was then. I dropped my kit where I'd be sleeping for the night letting my 2IC know that I'd used three mags, three grenades and 9 UGL. After sticking my boil-in-a-bag Meatballs and Pasta in to cook I went to get a phone. It rang a couple of times before my wife answered.

'Hey baby...'

'Hiya, what you bin up to?' she asked

'Not much,' I lied.

The Vikings

D (Cambridgeshire) Company

Major Charlie Calder writes:

D Company deployed a Fire Support Group (FSG) with each of the rifle coys, whose story is covered under the respective coys that they served with. The mortar sections were initially grouped under rifle coys but through force of circumstances and the need to generate a fourth section there was considerable movement with the sections in the BG AO. Recce Pl and FSG D were retained throughout the tour as 'BG troops' and deployed in a variety of roles working with a wide variety of different groupings.

Mortar Platoon

The Mortar Platoon had an extremely busy tour and fired more than 13,000 Mor rds from 12 barrels spread throughout Northern Helmand. All the skills that were practiced and honed over the training year were used, including multiple fire missions and counter battery fire drills. Overall the battles that have been fought in the warm climbs of Afghanistan have proven that mortaring is an art that is as important today as it ever has been.

Immediately on arrival into theatre the Mortar Platoon had to provide a fourth section from its own integral resources. Cpl Mark Johnson took on the comd of the composite section. Immediately they found themselves in the thick of it, supporting the BG on Op Silicon in the advance to contact along the Upper Gereshk Valley. The fighting the companies experienced was intense with the section firing 150rds in one day in support of them. In addition the section also received incoming 82mm on their position and had to conduct counter battery drills to safeguard both men and equipment. Once the bombardment was over the section popped



Fire Support Group C, Kajaki.

up unscathed and, in combination with an Apache Attack helicopter, destroyed the Taliban mortar by firing 40 HE rounds and one hellfire missile.

Sgt Adie Evans's mortar section in Kajaki were key to any plan in that outstation. As there was no artillery support, the Mortars were the only indirect fire the coy could call on. This continually gave the logistic planners a headache as they could not get it up there fast enough before Sgt Evans had fired it! For example one engagement used 600HE rounds and 80 smoke. Sgt Evans' Section spent the second half of the tour supporting C Company in PB Inkerman. Sgt Andy Tinkler's Section on the other hand found themselves driving through every minefield in the vicinity of Sangin providing a mobile fire support to the Manoeuvre Company. This was a role they were pleased to leave behind and move to Nowzad, before replacing Sgt Evans'

Section in Kajaki. Sgt Ben Duggan's section started off in Nowzad providing excellent support and fires to devastating effect to A Coy who were involved in some significant contacts in the Green Zone. Sgt Duggan then deployed with A Coy to Sangin and then went mobile in support of the Estonian Coy North of Sangin.

In total the Mortar Platoon had four battle injuries medevaced to the UK: LCpl Warwick, who was hit in the leg by shrapnel from an RPG in an assault with B Company, Ptes Tyrell and Wade who were hit by a mine and Pte Dare injured by incoming mortar fire in Nowzad.

FSG D

Meanwhile as the spare Fire Support Group, FSG D never knew what their next job would be or where it would take them, and over the course of the tour they worked to nine different commanders. This meant that they never went stale, and never got bored, but it also demanded the flexibility to change tasks quickly, often with a rapid turnaround between missions.

For the most part the FSG worked as four WMIKs and a Vector. Each WMIK carried either the .50cal Heavy Machine Gun or the new 40mm Grenade Machine Gun, both very effective weapons. In addition each commander had a GPMG, and the FSG would normally carry 2 Javelin CLUs and two SF kits. Other weapon systems included AT4s, 51mm, and the snipers' L96s and L115s. All of these were fired countless times throughout the tour.

As well as direct fires, the mix of skilled D Company trades also allowed a good collection of ISTAR assets. The snipers' Laser Range Finder and Leopold Spotting Scope were well complemented by the CLU, which in turn was used to zoom in on whatever was identified by the new thermal VIPR sights, or the most commonly used ISTAR asset in the FSG, the good old issued binoculars.

The Green Zone in the Upper Sangin



Fire Support Group B on Operation Silicon - Upper Sangin Valley.

The Vikings

Valley, where FSG D did most of its fighting, was a difficult place to provide fire support into. Visibility was limited to several hundred metres, and due to the fact that dismounts on the ground could be heading in any direction, they were considerably hampered in the amount of intimate fire support that they could provide to companies. However, the FSG did identify and destroy a number of Taliban on the flanks during contacts, and provided a constant stream of reporting on what was happening out of view of the ground troops.

Throughout the tour FSG D went all over Northern Helmand, starting with three weeks in Gareshk, a bit of time in Kajaki, Operation Silicon in the Upper Gareshk valley, a couple of operations around Sangin and the Upper Sangin Valley, finishing up with a few weeks in Nowzad. It is fair to say that the FSG had a very varied tour. Unfortunately FSG D lost LCpl Hawkins to a mine in the USV on 25 Jul 07, a day that shall never be forgotten. In addition eight people were CASEVACed: Two from the minestrike, and six from violent clashes with the enemy in the USV.

Recce Platoon

Recce Platoon arrived in Afghanistan in mid March and immediately set about preparing the CVR(T) for deployment. The first tasking for the Platoon was a patrol to the area of the Red Fort in the Upper Gereshk Valley. The Red Fort is a large man made wall which surrounds a number of compounds just on the edge of the green zone. It had been the sight for a fierce battle for 42 Cdo in late 2006. At its highest point the wall or Fort is 13m high and dominates the desert and green zone nearby. This Fort and the area nearby became the focus for the first BG Op which was Op Silicon.

After a quick escort task on a resupply to Nowzad to drop off stores and collect A Company, the Platoon deployed on shaping ops for Operation Silicon. Recce Platoon was to set the conditions for the BG to break into the Green Zone. This included finding and marking a BG assembly area, guiding the Rifle Companies to the Line of



Recce Platoon 1 Royal Anglian - overwatch (courtesy *The Daily Telegraph*).

Departure, securing the Line of Departure and also conducting a recce of the break in points into the Green Zone. All these tasks were conducted over the two days before the BG deployed. Once the Rifle Companies started their part of the operation half of the Platoon were attached to A Company and provided them with fire support and the other half of the Platoon became the CO's reserve. Over the next five days the Platoon were involved in some of the first major contacts the BG was to experience highlighting to many, not least the Taliban, the potency of the 30mm Cannon and the effectiveness of the Battle Group Thermal Imager sight.

After Operation Silicon the Recce Platoon were involved in all of the other BG operations including the shaping and subsequent decisive phases of Operations Lastay Kulang, Ghartse Ghar and Palk Ghar. During these operations Recce Platoon went all over Northern Helmand, from Nowzad to Sangin, Qaleh Ye Gaz to Kajaki Sofle and most of the desert in between. The platoon varied in size and composition throughout. On most operations the Platoon consisted of eight Scimitars, a Spartan, a Sampson,

a Vector with an FST, a Pinz with an EOD team, 2 Pinz with a UAV section and then a CALM with vehicle spares. For example on the move to the Upper Sangin Valley on Operation Ghartse Ghar there were 42 vehicles and 120 troops moving as part of the Recce Group. Recce Platoon also spent time working with the Danish Light Recce Squadron and the Estonian Mechanised Infantry Company as well as the rifle companies. It was interesting to see how other countries operate and the different tactics and techniques they put into practise to achieve the same aims.

The Platoon faced many challenges on the tour, everything from keeping the CVR(T) fleet working to trying to identify the Taliban in the Green Zone, which proved nearly impossible until they open fire. Operation Herrick 6 was the first time that an Armoured Close Recce Platoon has been used in Afghanistan and while there have been problems with vehicle reliability the extra capability in terms of fire support, manoeuvrability and observation that CVR(T) provided proved to be a battle winner.

Summary

D Company trained comprehensively in preparation for the tour. That investment paid dividends on deployment with D Company soldiers providing timely and accurate direct and indirect fires in support of the rifle coys in almost every single engagement with the enemy. The capabilities invested in D (Sp) Company have proven to be battle winners and all ranks in D Company can be justifiably proud of their significant contribution to the success of the operation. The loss of LCpl Alex Hawkins was a bitter blow to the whole Company and served to demonstrate the high regard with which he was held. The Company now looks forward to maintaining and building on the support weapons capability in the Battalion in preparation for what 2008/09 has in store.



GPMG (SF) position in action during a patrol in Kajaki.

The Vikings

Echelon Company - Op Herrick 6 'First In, Last Out'

Captain Tim Jones writes:

The first members of the Battalion, the Advance Party, deployed on Operation Herrick 6 in early March, several weeks before the Main Bodies arrived. The Advance Party, commanded by the QM(T) Capt Blanchfield, then set about preparing Camp 501 for the arrival of the rifle coys, some of whom would only have several hours in camp before deploying to the outstations. This was only the start of a roller coaster of a ride for all the departments within the Coy and the diverse roles that were to come for all of them. As well as the normal duties of running the QM's department, the CIS Pl, the Viking Chefs, the Armourers, the LAD and the MT, the company assisted outside of these duties with some members of the coy spending eight weeks in Forward Operating Bases on Force Protection duties. Needless to say they all came back with interesting stories to tell and some weight loss (Pte Pearson losing three stone).

The tour saw members of the company deploy on all the major operations, namely Silicon, Kulang, Ghartse Ghar and Palk Ghar. These operations saw for the first time in many years the conventional deployment of the A1 Echelon commanded in turn by the MTO and then the QM(T). With an omnipresent 360 degree threat the second deployment of A1 saw it receive two mine strikes. The QM(T) finally admitted to feeling his age when dealing with both incidents. It was also with some trepidation that the MTO informed the Estonians that the vehicle they had very kindly lent us for this particular operation wouldn't be coming back, having been denied using 4 Barmines. All operations have seen the majority of department members deploy, whether that be driving for the Mortar Platoon, Fire Support Groups or the Rifle Companies to manning A1 Echelon or being posted to the Rifle Companies as Riflemen. The CSM, WO2 Freeman, also found himself a job as part of the CO's TAC group 'Living the Dream' roaming around the desert in stripped down land rovers; not bad for somebody who 12 months ago was starting his resettlement!

The Company celebrated Minden Day in time honoured fashion, and for the majority was the most sober they had been on Minden Day for some years. The day was made even more poignant of course with the company having their Minden Roses presented to them on operations. The day ended with some horse racing events organised by the Viking Chefs. This event also raised £400 for the Memorial Fund, notable contributions to this fund coming from LCpl Stevens (MT Pl) not through generosity it may be said, but more through his ability to keep betting on a donkey rather than a horse! All said and done the company through its efforts reinforced all that the day stands for and the



Armourers at work in Camp Bastion.

day was celebrated in fine style.

The company also played its part in the 10km Memorial Fund Fun Run, the brain child of the RQMS(M) WO2 Lee Jay. This event was held on the 18 Aug, and with 170 runners raised £6000 which was a great success. Some notable finishers were the Bn 2IC, who finished first in the company and the MTO, Captain Tim Jones, second (later claiming an age handicap by way of mitigation).

Without doubt, the 'Fighter First' ethos the Company trained for has held Echelon Company in good stead and maintained its standing within the Battle Group. All

members have their stories to tell and undoubtedly these will come out over the forthcoming months.

Rear Party

Maj Dean Stefanetti writes:

The Rear Party for Operation Herrick 6 formed up in Oct 06 to allow the deploying personnel to concentrate on Pre-Deployment Training in preparation for the tour. Initially it consisted of roughly 60 soldiers tasked with all of the day to day security and routine admin tasks that seem to take up so much of our day. This figure, with new recruits and casualties returning, increased to a peak of



Families trip out.

The Vikings



Easter in Pirbright.

158 personnel by early Aug.

As Maj Stefanetti had also been OC Rear for the last Telic tour he had a fair idea of what was required to ensure the Rear Party's success in supporting the Bn forward. This knowledge was built on with the rest of the team to ensure success in our mission. Some statistics for the deployment are show below:

We have moved 572 personnel to and from Brize Norton on R+R, including transporting soldiers to their home towns.

Ninety-three personnel have been placed on OPTAG and sent out to theatre along with the personnel who attended the Battalion OPTAG but were too young to deploy. We have sent a total of 121 personnel to theatre to join the Battalion.

Bearing in mind the forthcoming issue of Bulldog we have trained 14 personnel on Cat B driving courses, 6 on Cat C and 12 on Mini-bus courses.

Our Welfare team headed by WO1 Tony Buff has arranged functions for the families left behind on an almost weekly basis especially during the school holidays. These functions, on the whole, have been very well attended and from comments received have really helped the dependants.

We have also watched the news with pride, watching all that the 1 R ANGLIAN BG has achieved. Comments from people outside of the Regt have always praised the Battalion's achievements, and quite rightly so. We, just like the Battalion forward, have had low points especially when the Battalion has taken casualties. The team have ensured every possible respect and dignity has been paid to all of our casualties mindful of our debt to all concerned.

Now that the tour has ended we will all have time to reflect on the achievements of the deployed personnel and the part each and every member of the Rear Party has played in ensuring this has been a successful tour without worrying about families at home. The Rear Party task will not end until the Battalion returns from their well earned POTL in Jan 08 ensuring that the routine tasks do not impinge on the deployed



Families trip out.



Families trip out.



Wives and partners function, Pirbright.

soldiers' leave.

In summary, the Rear Party members can all hold their heads high. They have completed a task that is not natural to

Infanteers; remaining behind while the Battalion deployed on what has been the most dangerous and arduous tour for a considerable amount of time.

2nd Battalion The Poachers

Lt Col Simon Browne writes:

A lot has changed since I last wrote the introduction to the Poacher's bit in *Castle*, not least our location. The Battalion is now well established in Celle and, with so many people having served in Trenchard Barracks before, it has had the air of something of a homecoming. Celle is, as I am sure many will remember, a fantastic place, and whilst things could always be improved, the barracks are much better than what we were used to in Tern Hill. Much of the success of the move though has been down to the individual Soldiers who have embraced the life-style change with such enthusiasm. Small parties of determined Poachers have already managed to travel as far afield as Hamburg, Berlin, Paris, Amsterdam, Prague and even Bratislava! Why? I am still trying to find out.

Aside from the move, a great deal has happened since the last *Castle*. Bowman conversion was successfully completed, and we are now really learning to embrace the digital age. The equipment has had a lot of bad publicity, and yes we would still change a few things if we could. But much is good about the system, and it is definitely changing, for the better, the way we operate.

We obviously had not had enough of drill following the freedom parades in March, so we managed to fit yet another one into the programme. However, this time it was a first,

as the Battalion had to be presented with the Freedom of Loughborough before we did our stuff. Many who had seen the previous parades said it was our finest performance to date. The fact that it was conducted off the back of only two rehearsals perhaps indicates how we should approach such things in the future, RSM take note!

The main training event prior to the move to Celle was Exercise Poacher's Rat, our CT1&2 validation exercise held in Otterburn in late June and early July. At the height of summer in Northumberland the weather was amazing; it rained every single day, often several times. It made what was an already challenging exercise quite a test as the whole time was spent in the field, so the Soldiers personal administration had to be good. It was also a notable exercise as it saw the first conventional deployment of Javelin, which proved to be a truly outstanding surveillance and fire support asset, and it was the first time the Battalion had really used Bowman in the field. Many lessons were learnt, not least by the RSO and Sgt Correa who learnt that real time situational awareness let the Commanding Officer watch exactly how far over the speed limit they were going as they did their rounds, and all from the relative comfort of Battlegroup Main.

I am glad to say that sport has also featured highly this summer, with inter-company competitions in rugby, football and boxing. All were great Battalion events, with horrific

injuries, close matches and upsets all there to keep the spectators interested. The boxing in particular was very satisfying, squeezed as it was into a busy programme the efforts of the individuals who committed themselves to it were fantastic, and appreciated by all. Sadly events next year mean that the Poachers will not be able to enter the Army Novices, given our past record in this competition that was the aim. However, we now know that the talent is there, and the target is to enter it with a vengeance in 2009.

Following summer leave the pace of life has really picked up. Having been used to life in a Regional Brigade, the demands placed on us to support wider Army training in Germany, and to complete the training programme 7 Brigade has put in place for us has seen activity levels increase markedly. Whilst providing endless PRTs to support other unit's pre-deployment training is very necessary, it is frustrating. This is the downside, but it is more than balanced out by the training opportunities and support that are now open to us. Already the Battalion has been put through its paces in CATT and CAST. CATT, which for those who do not know is an immersive computer simulation on a gigantic scale, was a real revelation. As the first light role Battlegroup to go through CATT in Germany we were concerned about how well it would replicate what we do. There were shortcomings, but it enabled us to conduct three missions, supported



Members of A Company on Ex Uhlan Eagle.

The Poachers

by tanks, armoured infantry, engineers, artillery, attack helicopters and close air support. All three missions went very well, but for me the most satisfying aspect of the training was seeing very junior commanders, many acting several ranks above their normal roles, growing in confidence, working well together and embracing the all-arms aspects of our new role. Reluctance in mission one to call for fire support had changed by mission three to everyone wanting a piece of the action! CAST was, as ever, a real test for the Battlegroup Headquarters. We deployed into the field, and worked from a new headquarters developed by the Signals Platoon, who throughout this period worked so hard to deliver a quite outstanding working environment. With the lessons of CATT firm in our minds CAST also went well, far better than we had dared hope, setting us up for the next big training event Exercise Uhlan Eagle in Poland in late October, early November, where we hope this time the weather will be more kind.

The main aim though remains the operational tour we have programmed in for 2008. Training for it has already started, more about that next time.

A (Lincolnshire) Company Poachers' Return

*WO2(CSM) Donovan,
CSM A Company, writes:*

Well, who would have thought that the Poachers would return to Trenchard Barracks in Celle? This was the home to the Battalion from March 1987 to March 1996 and, to be honest, in the last nearly 12 years very little has changed. We have all moved into the same company accommodation blocks we were in before and although the accommodation is not Grade 1, the soldiers love it.

Most of the platoons now all have one-man rooms with only a few sharing two-man rooms. The Regimental cookhouse has been modernised and is run by NAAFI and, apart from the initial shock of Pay-As-You-Dine, everyone is getting used to it and there are very little complaints. The NAAFI shop and Poachers' Bar has also recently had a re-fit so again that has gone down well with the soldiers. In Tern Hill apart from the Stormy Petrel pub there was nothing for them.

The Battalion has now been in Trenchard Barracks for a month and it definitely looks like our home now thanks to the Provost Sgt, Sgt Batty and his team, who have painted everything that doesn't move!

Celle town hasn't changed much; there are still plenty of places for the soldiers to shop and socialise which is the big advantage of being the only unit in the City. The Germans are still very polite and have welcomed the Battalion back with open arms. It is also good to see that a lot of the older members of the Sergeants' Mess, like CSgt Groom and Sgt Rickman, are still remembered at places like Popcorn and La Flash.



Sgt Hume, 1 Platoon, A Company, as Battalion Orderly Sergeant on flag change day in Celle.

As for myself, having left Celle in 1996 as a LCpl and now returning as CSM A Coy, it's great to be back where I started. I think in general the troops are enjoying it in Germany, being part of an operational brigade and starting to get benefits from this. In a month we have managed to get nine soldiers through their Category B Driving License and four their Category C; also twelve soldiers from A Company went down to Sennelager to do the freefall course, which they all enjoyed.

One thing I have noticed about being back in Germany is that the beer is still strong and the older you get the easier it affects you. But there are still a lot of us old soldiers about who are trying to re-live our youth.....but struggling slightly.

Poachers Punch Clouds

Pte McIlveen, A Company, writes:

So here we are Celle, Germany. We had been here for about four weeks and then the opportunity arose for us to go and throw ourselves out of a perfectly good aircraft. Most of the Company jumped at the chance but there were limited spaces; luckily I was one of the chosen few.

We made our way to Sennelager for what we thought was certain death on 16 September. The next day we started our training, learning the basics like adopting a decent jumping position. Basically you just spread yourself like a starfish and arch your back so that when you exit the aircraft the slipstream can take you and ensure a decent canopy deployment.

Day two arrived and we carried out our

refresher training in the morning hoping to jump in the afternoon. But due to high winds we had no such luck.

On Day three, everyone was eager to get it over and done with, getting that first jump under their belt. After refresher training in the morning the first two details got their chance in the afternoon. They all looked a bit nervous about making that leap out of the plane into the unknown and hoping to be on the ground in one piece some five minutes later. Sadly being in the third detail I had missed out this time.

Day four descended upon us, again refresher training in the morning then I was on the next detail to go up. By this time I was eager to just get up there and jump and get the ordeal over and done with. The afternoon arrived and the word from the met office was good to go. We kitted up and did our safety checks and set our altimeters.

We were ready to go so we got checked over by the jumpmaster and then called forward in reverse order for going out of the plane; I was the second man to jump. We all climbed into the plane and hooked up our static lines; take off came and we ascended to 3200ft and then the door opened. The jumpmaster called the first bloke forward who was in the Artillery I think, but he bottled it - obviously he wasn't a Poacher. So the door shut to do another fly by.

The door opened again and that made me the first bloke to go out of the door. The jumpmaster looked at me and told me to show some leadership, I moved to the door and took up my position in the door, the wind hitting me straight in the face. Then the words came, 'GO' the jumpmaster

The Poachers

yelled, and all that was going through my mind at this point was that I would never live this down if I didn't jump. My brother and father are both ex-Paras so I would get some considerable amount of stick off them both if I didn't go through with it. I pushed away from the aircraft into the slipstream and adopted my position, by the time I knew what happened my canopy had deployed perfectly. I am not going to use the words in this story that were racing through my mind but lets say that I was relieved!

I did my steering checks to make sure my toggles and steering lines were working alright and then began to admire the view from 3000 ft up. I got to my descending altitude which was 1000ft and turned into the down wind where I picked up speed rapidly, then I got to 500ft and made a left turn to come across wind and then finally when I got to 300ft I turned left again into wind, I prepared for landing which I thought was going to be a painful experience.

As I neared the ground I was in position ready to hit the deck, thankfully I had a great landing and landed on my feet. I signalled to the control tower to show I was okay and made my way across the DZ to the hanger to begin packing my chute.

Overall the course was a good experience, I guess the aim of it is to take you out of your comfort zone and into a situation you haven't experienced before and see how you react. I'll definitely jump again someday, the training and equipment we received was of a high standard as well. The only disappointment was that we didn't get the eight jumps we were pencilled in for because of the high winds, but at least I can say I know what clouds smell like.

My time in Celle so far

Pte Wall, A Company, writes:

My time in Celle so far has been a good experience for me. The barracks we are in now are a big improvement over Tern Hill, as we now have better accommodation and more space for the Battalion to expand.

Now that we have become a part of 7th Armoured Brigade, this will also allow us to be put forward for more operational tours and hopefully the place that we all want to go, which is Afghanistan.

Being in Celle has given me the chance to see Germany and to travel around the surrounding countries, as it's only a short car or train journey away to get to them. So I have always got something to do at the weekends.

Celle is just down the road so you don't have to go far for a night out. The pubs in town are good, probably as they sell cheap, strong beer. But there are plenty of places to go out to have a good night.

There are plenty of shops down in the town to get clothes and just to go have a look around so you don't have to go far to find the things you want. Overall I think Germany is a good opportunity for the Battalion again and hopefully will bring us some good jobs when we go on operations next year.

B (Leicestershire) Company Married life in Germany

Cpl Lee Pett, B Company, writes:

My family and I have been living in Celle for four months now. When we arrived, my wife was seven months pregnant with our third baby; so as well as settling into a new flat, new area and new country, we also had to deal with German hospitals, appointments and scans.

Our first 2 children have settled into their schools very quickly. Our six-year-old boy attends Mountbatten Primary School and our three-year-old daughter attends Mountbatten Kindergarten. They both travel there every day by school bus and seem to enjoy it.

The maternity side of things has been excellent. Initially, my wife was worried about giving birth in a different country but now she has given birth, she says that she'd rather give birth here in Germany than the UK. The care she received in Hannover couldn't have been better. The staff spoke excellent English and were very pleasant. The hospital itself was very clean and modern with excellent facilities for both her and also for me when visiting.

Celle itself is a lovely old town, untouched by WWII and with plenty to do for families. There are lots of shops (the wife was very happy about this) and lots of bars (my boy and I were very happy about this). Supermarkets are like the ones in England although I discovered that a phrasebook is essential to start off with - and useful as we haven't had kangaroo meat in a long time now.

There have been several varied festivals throughout the summer. When there weren't

any large festivals on, there was always something to do in the local area. I attended the Techno Festival at the end of August which I particularly enjoyed. As a family, we have also visited the Zoo and Dino-Park in Hannover which are both fantastic for all ages. We have visited the museum at Belsen and the Tank Museum at Munster; these were particularly interesting as they are reminders of how we have come to be in Germany in the first place all those years ago.

Overall, our first few months here in Deutschland have been enjoyable and I would definitely recommend a posting here if anyone gets the chance!

C (Northamptonshire) Company Flame Grilled

The following is an account of Public Order demonstrations for the US Army by 2Lt George Wyndham, 6 Pl Comd.

What do you get when you combine several glass bottles, a gallon of super-unleaded and the soldiers of C Company, 2 RANGLIAN? Well, it turns out that you end up doing a public order demonstration in front of a couple of four star Generals, and a bus load of American politicians!

During our week in Hoenfels, Southern Germany, word had spread that the British were in town and had brought with them 'Molotov Cocktails', and upon analysis, a very effective set of public order drills, which we gradually saw being integrated into American tactics.

'Let me set the scene for you....' the spiel went. We were tasked to provide a platoons worth of soldiers in order to show American reservists, soon to deploy to Kosovo, how the British deal with a rioting crowd. Having



C Company demonstrating the petrol bomb to the US Army.

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explained the various bits of clothing and equipment that the soldiers were wearing, we described the theory behind the baselines and pointed out the various personalities within the platoon. As the counter-terrorist teams on the flanks scrutinised a nervous American crowd, the scene unfolded with a description of a Belfast riot, and how we would deploy vehicles and men down a narrow street.

Although it took a while for the enemy 'gunman' to find the change lever, we eventually gave a description of our reactions to a contact from within a crowd, and how we would deal with sustaining injuries on the baseline, amongst a number of other drills. By now the American soldiers were twitching in anticipation, and we began to realise that it was a mistake to leave a crate of stuffed milk bottles in full view!

'PETROL BOMBER' came the unusually high pitched shout the first time we did the demo. One explosion of highly flammable liquid later and we were delighted to see a perfectly co-ordinated jig, in the time honoured fashion, away from the inferno at the soldiers' feet and out of harms way. It is unlikely the Americans paid much heed to the perfect alignment of toes facing forward, baton arms forming tight seals around the face and a fireman waiting poised in the wings. In fact, the overriding reaction seemed to be that 'the British are crazy, man!' In fairness, the much anticipated build up, the authentic townscape and the blistering midday sun all added to the effect, but we seemed to leave a reasonable impression.

Away from work, matters were a little less intense. However, I am pleased to report that should the Battalion decide to hold a Bowling competition, C Company would unquestionably be victorious, with, no doubt, one particular Platoon Commander being disqualified fairly early on for his over-enthusiastic celebrations (read "ended up halfway down the lane at one point"). But before anyone gets carried away with their sporting prowess, the same could also be said for our Burger King eating efforts!

The soldiers also took it upon themselves to explain the finer nuances of the 'naked bus' concept to a somewhat frightened First Sergeant Tate (and Lewy, the bus driver). Whilst the practice was left unobserved, the wind up was priceless, and so effective that he politely asked that we didn't do a 'naked brewery' when we were kindly taken out for a few beers at the end of the week!

And so, to the thanks. To CSgt Morgan, who was asked to put his petrol bomb qualifications to use at the last minute, and who could always provide a friendly word of advice. To Sgt Knight, without whom, none of this would have been possible, and who smiled at least twice! To the JNCOs - LCpls Davis and Armstrong for organising the soldiers very efficiently thus allowing us to concentrate on satiating the growing American bloodlust; LCpl 'Buttercup' Ward for enduring upwards of twenty petrol bombs in individual demonstrations and for



CSgt Morgan.

telling us bedtime stories; to LCpls Stocks, Stow and Price, a more hilarious group of people I am yet to meet. Or more camp for that matter. And, of course, to the soldiers of C Company, 2 R ANGLIAN, who acquitted themselves and the British Army as a whole with such aplomb.

Inter-Company Boxing

Pte Ficetola, C Company, writes:

When I opted to take part in the boxing training for C Company, I never expected such a gruelling and intense training program which lasted for eight weeks.

Before I joined the Army, I was used to a lot of physical training mainly due to previous training in martial arts. The training for that was far from easy but in comparison to the boxing training which was carried out by Cpl Conroy and Cpl Fox, anything I had done previously in civilian life had never prepared me for this either mentally or physically.

Training began with the basics such as footwork, bodywork, head movement

and punches. Cpl Conroy and Cpl Fox would often vary the training program, for example, one training session would consist of cardiovascular training in the morning, then in the afternoon endurance training. Bodywork and sparring would also take place under the supervision of the medical officer to ensure that injuries were attended to and the training was conducted safely.

The training was tough and everyone's morale suffered from time to time. I knew though, that the training would be worthwhile in the end and the hard work would pay off. Throughout this whole experience, Cpl Conroy and Cpl Fox always gave me and the other boxers great support. Through their encouragement they gave us the best possible chance to do well in our respective weight divisions.

When the semi-finals began I wouldn't say I was nervous, all I was thinking about was that I never wanted to lose. My first fight was against D Company's Pte Patel. On my way to the ring it was fantastic to see the whole Battalion in attendance; it was

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a great feeling hearing the crowd shouting your name.

I won the fight in the second round due to the referee stopping the fight. I thought the contest was going well up to that point. When I gave Pte Patel a flurry of punches the referee decided to give him a standing count of eight and because his hands were at his waist the fight was stopped. I believe that Pte Patel could have gone the distance; however I was pleased with the outcome regardless.

In the final I was up against B Company's Pte Sears. He reminded me of Chris Eubank, a defensive counter boxer. I was very nervous about this bout because Pte Sears came across as being very confident and I knew I would have to give nothing less than 100 per cent if I was to walk away with the win.

The night of the finals was an amazing experience. The effort that everyone put in to the boxing arena made it special for all of us who fought on the night. Over 900 people were in attendance with recruits from Catterick also giving their support.

As I entered the ring, all the shouting and cheering was blocked out in my mind as I focused totally on the fight to come. The whole fight lasted the full three rounds. It was a very close call for the judges, but in the end I was declared the winner. I couldn't believe it, I was over the moon. All the training had paid off. It was great seeing all my mates congratulating me at the end.

Everyone who trained and fought me during the inter-company boxing championships deserves a round of applause. The success of the competition had been the result of the toughest training any of us had been put through in our lives.

At the end of the night when all the fights had finished, it was time for the awards ceremony. There were individual awards including best boxer and overall company winners. When best boxer was announced, I was not expecting to get it, but when I heard my name, I was in shock - I could not believe it.

As I went up to collect my trophy from the Commanding Officer of the Battalion, he told me that he had never seen anyone with a style like me and with as much heart. Going home with not just the featherweight trophy but also best boxer trophy was an experience which I don't think I could ever duplicate again in terms of how rewarding it felt at the time.

I owe a lot to Cpl Conroy and Cpl Fox and to all my team-mates. Without them I never would have been able to have such a success on the night.

Beyond the Horizon - The Competent Crew Course

Pte Coryat, C Company, writes:

Many bad things are said about the Army and about the Infantry in particular...that the job is monotonous, even boring, or that there is no room for activity outside of work. I realised a few weeks ago that this could

not be further from the truth when I got the chance to take part in a Competent Crew Course as part of Adventure Training. I had always been interested in sailing so I thought it would be a good opportunity.

On the first day of the course at Kiel Training Centre we started learning all aspects of sailing and learnt to understand the gibberish that sailors talk. After all of that was out of the way we set sail for Denmark. Since I had never sailed on a yacht before I was not at all accustomed to the way they sail. The skipper sat at the helm seemed so calm while I was clutching on to anything, so that I did not fall out as the boat bounced over the waves. My heart raced as the boat leaned over to an angle that I was convinced the boat was not designed to do, so I held on even tighter. As the days on the water went by we sailed around to various ports around Denmark and I got more accustomed to the feel of the boat and I was no longer made nervous by either the speed or the tilting of the boat.

It was not all work though; whenever we came into port and finished up for the night we often went straight to the nearest pub for the odd pint or three.

Overall it was an extremely good experience for me, and at one point in time just as we were sailing across the Danish border, I could not help but laugh at the fact that we actually get paid to do things like this. At the end of the course one of the instructors asked me if I would like to do a similar course in the future and in half a heartbeat I said 'yes'.

D (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Support Company

Mortar Section Commander's Course

- Cpl Isaacs, D Company, writes:

My name is Cpl Isaacs AKA 'High Tower'. I am currently serving with my Regiment, 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment (The Poachers) in Celle, Germany. I have been part of my unit for just over four and a half years and I have recently returned from my Alpha Mortar Fire Controller (MFC) / Mortars Section Commander course at Support Weapon School Warminster. This is a nine-week long course and at the end, if you pass the course, it qualifies you for promotion to sergeant within the Mortar Platoon.

I passed my course with an outstanding report, and with recommendations to transfer to the Small Arms School Corp (SASC) as an instructor. This could be at the Support Weapons School Warminster, or Infantry Section Commander's Battle School, Brecon. I also received a recommendation to teach as a Regimental Instructor at Support Weapons School; which proves that it is through hard work that true achievement comes.

The Mortar Platoon provides the battalion with 75 per cent of fire power, and this



Cpl Isaacs.

course is designed to teach the Alpha MFC and Mortar Section Commander to remain flexible so that:

a. We can deploy onto the ground on orders from the Mortar Officer and Mortar 2IC, in order to support any operation conducted at battalion or even brigade level, to provide them with the fire power required.

b. To enable us to deploy to any company working directly to the OC, advising him in any operational environment.

This course is very demanding mentally: nine weeks of conducting range work, tactical exercises, both dry and live ranges and numerous live firing exercises, which allow the instructor to assess you in both the role of a Section Commander and as an Alpha MFC.

The course was combined with the Officer 2IC course and the Bravo MFC course, to provide you with a bigger picture of how the Mortar Platoon fits into the battle zone and the importance of mortar fire power. Unluckily for me I had to be stuck with Capt Hawes and CSgt McColm for nine weeks who were on the Officer 2IC course! This proved fruitful and with a bit of rational thinking each of us supported each other.

To conclude, this course provided me with the ability and confidence to come back to The Poachers and conduct my job as an Alpha MFC/ Mortar Section Commander, with the high professionalism that the British Army demands. Further, to support my battalion or even the brigade with indirect fire, and to pass on my knowledge obtained to the remainder of the Mortar Platoon.

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A View of CATT and CAST 2007

Maj James Hart, Bn 2IC, writes:

After only a couple of weeks in Celle the Bn was off to Sennelager to attend the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT) followed by the Combined Arms Staff Trainer (CAST). This was a real challenge as the Bn had not been externally tested in its HQ and Staff procedures since the build up to Operation Telic 8 in 2006.

Prior to CATT & CAST the Battalion arranged a study afternoon with our attached arms. We then invited the presenters, to a belated TALERVERA dinner which was a great success and did the memory of the 48th proud. The Officers' Mess at Celle after 10 years was once again resounding to the ballad of 'The Poacher'.

For both CATT & CAST the Battalion received attachments from 3 RHA, 39 Armd Engr Sqn, 12 Regt RA [Air Defence], D Sqn SCOTS DG and X Company 1 RRF. In addition an AAC LO from 1 Regt AAC and a TACP for certain missions. A HICON was provided by HQ 7 Armd Bde.

CATT tests the execution of BG plans by LOCONs who fight in simulators in a recordable virtual environment. After the battles, detailed After Action Reviews (AARs) map the events and provide feedback to the BGHQ on what actually happened. Training lessons and procedures can then be revised and practised in subsequent missions.

The first few days are spent training to get to know the CATT system. This gave BGHQ a much needed chance to work out procedures and SOPs, lots of dust was blown off and much was learnt from all our attachments, many of whom had done CATT before. Concurrently it also gave the Signals Pl a chance to set up the real tented BGHQ and BOWMAN across the road at the CAST site, to be ready for the following week.



The CO and Maj Alex Harley.

Mission One was an offensive action. Mission Two was a delay operation and Mission Three was an offensive raid, just to finish on a high. Tac HQ deployed and the CO was seen with OC 39 Engrs engaging the enemy with his pintle mounted machine gun in his simulator.

A and C Companies battled to gain bridges over the river Lippe, ably supported by the armour from 39 Sqn RE, D Sqn SCOTS DG and X Company 1 RRF. Many a tale of simulated bravado was recounted in the evenings in the NATO Mess whilst partaking of the local ale from the 'Red Pump of Doom'.

BGHQ had its share of good fortune backed by some sterling efforts in the HQ - not least from all the clerks who had to copy and reproduce all the staff work in double quick time so that it was ready for CO's orders. The BG left CATT having won three battles, learnt much and improved its

drills during the week. All staff left knowing however, that the cameras, clipboards and sharpened pencils of the CAST staff were waiting in eager anticipation for the BGHQ's performance in the following week.

After an all too short weekend in Celle, the BGHQ was back in Sennelager to undertake CAST (Germany). The organisation has changed its emphasis from box ticking criticism, to one of providing best practice and giving training advice. Joining us at CAST were 2 SCOTS BGHQ who had flown over from Edinburgh. We were to fight alongside 2 SCOTS for the rest of the week as part of 7 Armd Bde. This was apparently a military first at CAST(G). Two light role BGHQs under an Armd Bde HICON conducting an Armd Bde CAST.

Mission One was defence and delay, Mission 1.5 was the subsequent rehabilitation and Mission Two was an offensive operation following on from the leading Armd



WO1 (RSM) Bartlett.



The Engine Room - Capt James Inch supervises.

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BGs in the Bde. We were fighting to free HANOVARIA from the bad guys in the area just west of Sennelager and South of Gutersloh.

With BOWMAN fried up and the cries of 'more digital product' from the lips of the CAST staff, all the BGHQ staff laboured to produce coherent and simple orders for the three missions. Despite the difficulties with the issued BOWMAN hardware and the vagaries of the ComBAT software [its kind of like windows for kids!!!] the staff branches wrestled with planning and producing not just orders but CONPLANS and FRAGOs as well.

The battles are fought on a different system to that used at CATT, known as ABACUS. Once the LOCONs had got the measure of this system they then had to fight the battle plans created by the BGHQ. The all seeing eyes of CAST recorded and noted progress at all levels, these were downloaded and used in evidence on the BG AARs. Having been thoroughly tested the Poachers BGHQ was not found wanting - indeed it has 'flair and originality!' Not our words but CAST(G)'s. It was with tired heads but happy hearts that all ranks returned to Celle having completed a job well done. The final mention must go to the Signals Platoon who were the patient, understaffed and long suffering heroes throughout. Roll on Exercise Uhlan Eagle in Poland!

Exercise Uhlan Eagle 2007

Fnu Snu Ank writes:

The Theatre

The Poachers' final performance of 2007 was Exercise Uhlan Eagle 2007. This was to be a three-week Test Ex run by HQ 7 Armd Bde from 22 Oct to 12 Nov 07. The venue was the Drawsko Pomorskie Trg Area (DTA) in NW Poland. This is an area the size of central SPTA, about an hour and a half's drive east from the northern border crossing near Stettin. It has been used as a training area by Germany based units since 1996. It differs markedly from BATUS and Sennelager in that the majority of the area is forested and it has two major rivers running through it. It is most infamous for its lack of ambient light, often less than 1 millilux, and for being an area where live CBRN was used regularly during the times of the Warsaw Pact.

The Scenes

The Exercise was in three parts each building upon its predecessor in terms of complexity. Part One (22 - 28 Oct 07) - consisted of the deployment [it took 24 hrs by green vehicle from Celle] and CT 1 & 2 training at company level. Part Two (28 Oct - 3 Nov 07) saw the familiarisation with the Armour and the other elements of the Battle Group and two BG Missions in the forested environment with real Russian trench systems. Part Three (3 - 10 Nov 07)



Maj Phil Birch.

was the Bde FTX and the recovery back to Germany.

The CAST

The Battalion deployed with A and C Companies reinforced by D (F/Sp) Company as this was to be a blank firing Ex with notional support weapons. B Company were to be OPFOR assisted by D Sqn QRH [T80] and the Recce Tp from QRH [BMP]. The Poachers were assisted by Tac Groups from J Bty 3 RHA, Engrs from 39 Armd Engr Sqn, armour from B Sqn QRH, AI from our old friends X Company 1 RRF, an Armd Med Sect and a sect of RMP from 111 Pro Company RMP. At key stages in the Ex the BG had ferry assistance from the M3 Rigs from 23 Amph Engrs. The conductors were BGHQ in their large, but sustainable, tent complex assisted by observer controllers

from AITAT in Sennelager.

The Prelude

During Part One the companies practised FIWAF, OBUA and trench clearing. They undertook integration with WARRIOR and got used to having heavy metal in close proximity. During Part Two further integration training with armour and engineers was achieved. Poachers swarmed all over CHALLENGER 2, TITAN, TROJAN and WARRIOR and the QRH tank crews got spooked by JAVELIN and NLAW TES fits were issued to the cast and all was set for the main performance.

The Main Event

The Bde FTX started with plans for a defensive mission, which saw the BG dig in and defend one of the major river lines. Sharp

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offensive raids were carried out by the coys during this initial mission, as the enemy just would not keep to the script. Crypto losses, seized chefs, CBRN attacks on the BGHQ, setting up PW cages, citations for a dead CO and hosting a VVIP were all real events played into the first defensive mission. The scene then changed, the focus became rear area security and convoy protection - far more contemporary and saw further attacks by all companies, leading to a final mission to clear an enemy stronghold in the depth of the forest. An early attack without armour noise, achieved 'thunderclap' surprise and before the enemy really knew it, the Poachers BG had won and it was up to Pte Lucas to call on the 'fat lady'.

The Aftermath

Despite the rain and snow, morale remained high in the BG. We won two out of the three missions. The critics moaned about time, the TES and resources; but on an opening night in a Polish winter there was no doubting the talent, warmth and sheer enthusiasm of the Poacher BG players. Sponsored by Hustler energy drinks and 'boil in a bag' rations the cast combined well in an unusual mix of light and heavy elements, synchronised by cunning plans and steadfast efforts, all within the complexity of combined arms battle. A final encore saw the BG remember the dead on 11 Nov 07 and then climb wearily onto coaches and green vehicle convoys to make the long journey home. What a Poacher Performance!

Exercise Uhlan Eagle

Li Matt Lambert writes:

Exercise Uhlan Eagle was a demanding, combined arms test exercise in Poland, involving a cross section of 7 Armoured Brigade's units. The objective was to test 2 Royal Anglian's war fighting capability as a Light Role Battlegroup with armour and armoured infantry sub-unit attached. The exercise was broken down into several phases; first allowing time for Platoon level training, then progressing on to Company led missions. This allowed the sub-units to train on exercise specific elements including Fighting In Woods And Forests (FIWAF) and armoured integration before beginning the Battlegroup exercise in earnest.

For the majority of the Exercise we used Tactical Engagement Simulation (TES) equipment which allowed a much more realistic approach to fighting. This highlighted the importance of basic infantry skills and the effect of casualties on sub-units. What TES meant for the individual soldier was that he could no longer lie on his belt buckle in the open - he would have to work much harder to find cover. 3 Platoon decided a good idea to put the TES effect to the test would be to conduct a sniper stalk. This obviously appealed to most, who fancy themselves as sneaky-beaky hot shots. The truth was we found out quite quickly that although one is extremely vulnerable with TES kit, it has its limitations; its laser cannot



Maj Pete Smith - OC OPFOR.

fire through foliage or smoke. The Platoon-led missions consisted of two attack lanes designed to iron out any problems and for A Company's attachments from D Company to fully integrate. The most striking difference between Poland and our previous exercise in Otterburn was that the answers to problems were not obvious; the land was empty of dominating features like deep valleys and rivers, which meant that decision processes had to be much more thorough. Also the open, rolling countryside in some places was perfect tank country, although the rifle companies came into their own in the woodland.

All in all, the first phase of the exercise was steady going and the weather was extremely kind. We were all mindful of the fact that we had managed to stay dry throughout and had been granted the occasional use of accommodation blocks with hot showers and toilets. Neither of these comforts would last.

The next phase was the armoured integration which was a completely new concept to 2 Royal Anglian. Demonstrations were given by the Queen's Royal Hussars - the Battlegroup's armoured element for this exercise; along with the Warriors of X Company 1st Fusiliers and the armoured engineering assets that would be seen during the exercise. It was quite clear that for this concept to be successful flexibility was the key at all levels. Not only was there the danger of unfamiliarity around heavy machinery but also their tactical employment with dismounted soldiers needed to be worked on.

The final Battlegroup test exercise 'Ex Uhlanise' followed on after a maintenance day, during which the command element

of A Company went away on a recce of defensive positions for the first phase. The recce was extremely helpful but not as entertaining as the creative driving that was endured to get there. It was discovered that although not as big, nor tracked like tanks, a Land Rover and trailer could negotiate most terrain when driven with a bit of aggression. LCpl Johnson was pleased to point out that 'Civvies pay loads of money to do this, and I'm getting it for free.'

For A Company the first phase of the exercise was therefore defensive, protecting a river crossing point and the assets involved for example, the Engineer's M3 Bridge. 2 Platoon were on the far side of the river with 3 Platoon giving all round defence on the home bank. Everyone was encouraged at the thought of digging down four feet by the fact that the ground was almost entirely of sand. Oh, and there was a JCB at hand to scrape out the majority of the earth. For the 'digging in' period all hands were firmly to the pump as our deadline for finishing had been reduced by some 18 hours due to an offensive phase that had been inserted into day one of the exercise ('Expect the Unexpected'). Even with sand and diggers the effort given by every one was not much short of superhuman; 24 hours to dig out some five cubic meters of earth (minus the sides caving in from time to time), insert corrugated iron sheets, wind-lash with 2ft pickets and steel wire, then back fill the gaps and camouflage the trenches. This was achieved with four men per trench inside 18 hours.

Once dug in, the Company adopted routine where everyone got the chance to administrate themselves. At this point the weather changed for the worse; cold wind

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and sideways rain, both night and day. It made standing outside on sentry particularly wet and any kind of work inside the trenches very hard. An enemy attack was launched at our crossing site, which was fended off extremely successfully. Despite the punishing weather the men worked with enthusiasm and aggression, the crossing site was protected and an enemy attempt to cross there was defeated.

After a brief period of re-filling the trenches on end of mission we moved to our next task, deploying to a wood block from which patrols were launched, preparing for a Company level attacks to clear a village of insurgents. The final Battlegroup attack was on the Saturday morning after a night of snow. The preliminary movement was lively with renditions of 'Jingle Bells' and 'Walking in the Air' over the Personal Role Radios (PRR). The attack was swift and well coordinated. It was proof that if nothing else, throughout the exercise the Company had developed in to a well oiled machine. All that was left was the reorganisation and premature calls of "endex", once again over the PRRs.

Two principle element that the rifle companies dealt with during the exercise was matching the speed of advance and dexterity around the battlefield of the armoured sub-units. This were manifested clearly in the FIWAF missions and during a defensive phase respectively; more often than not we would find ourselves chasing the armoured advance up the battle field. However when it came to defending against tanks, dismounted troops had the ability to cut around the cumbersome vehicles and destroy them with Light Anti-Tank Weapons. We certainly proved ourselves as a light infantry unit within an armoured brigade and highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of armour. The exercise was a tough but realistic test for all involved and it provided some valuable lessons for the individual soldier as well as higher up. It provided a sound base of conventional infantry tactical experience but also an insight into working with armour and what next year could hold for the Battalion as it gears towards MASTIFF training and an Operation Telic tour.

Exercise Uhlan Eagle: An MFC's Point of View

Cpl Fawcett writes:

It all started on the 23rd October on a cold morning in Trenchard Barracks in Celle. It was the early hours in the cook house, people collecting their duty meal and luxury haver bags - all the normal sort of admin that needs to be done. Then once all that was out of the way it was on to the coach and waved off by the WRVS lady and off we went. It was about an eight and a half hour journey, but it seemed longer. This might have been something to do with the civvi coach drivers stopping every half hour.

Once over the border you could certainly



LCpl Davison.

tell the difference. It was the quality of the roads that gave it away. Then we rocked up at the location of A1 which at the time was still getting sorted. It was a quick kit check and then straight in to the company harbour, which was interesting being as the mortars actually had the smallest platoon for a change due to the mortar lines going to the rifle company. Just the JFPC and MFCs were in the harbour, so it was not that ideal. Next day was to be the start of company training for myself and the other Alpha MFCs. We were to train our Bravos MFCs because they were not trained, but did a good job. This was just the beginning of it all.

After a day with D (Fire Sp) Company we were dispatched to the other companies

who we spent the rest of the exercise with. I was sent to A (Lincolnshire) Company where it was all platoon drills and the company getting themselves set for the tasks to come, getting the SOPs and basic skills up to scratch. This included training for Fighting In Woods and Forests (FIWAF) and the Defence, that some guys haven't done for a while.

It was then back to Jaworze camp which I was told is actually a hostel that people stay in. Great, don't get me wrong. It was certainly better than a wood line as it gave us a good chance to sort out admin from there.

Then it was back out in to the company tasks, getting things to run how we wanted

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before starting the brigade test exercise: company attacks and getting us all singing off the same song sheet. It was quiet frustrating that the fire marker teams didn't do much. It just meant that there was a lot beeping going on and we had done this for a few days. We had been out here for just under two weeks and the weather had been good, but you could tell that the temp was dropping as I was worried about sticking to the bog seat; but it wasn't that bad yet. It was then back to Jaworze camp so that everyone could then sort themselves out for the next part of the exercise, which was the brigade test ex and would last seven days.

The final part started off with Defence. A Company's mission was to protect a river crossing point that the engineers were using. I forget the name, but it was an amphibious type ferry and it was pretty cool. I went on it with three warriors and manpower. It was quite worrying with all that weight and lots of water, but we made it across.

Then after the boat ride I was on the way to being dropped off to go into an OP. It was almost instantly that it then rained all night and the next day. The temperature was freezing and I feared it wouldn't be long before me or one of the team go down; but we had a message to close down the OP and rejoin our company. We just had to wait for a pick up. Yeah that went right to pot, so we tabbed most of the way to an RV about 4kms away and it was blacker than a witch's hat.

Finally, we got back to the coy and the weather just went mad all of sudden. It was hailing and went on for about half an hour and the wind really dropped the temperature. Some of the younger guys were struggling. It was grim, but the guys knuckled down and got through it. The next day the sun was up so we had a chance to dry out, filling in the trenches that the lads had dug at the beginning of that phase.

We then moved on to an Iraq type phase. Once on to that we were given info and a battle picture that led to the plans for a brigade level FIWAF attack. It was back up to Main HQ to the FPC to see what crazy fire plan they had thought out! No doubt that OC mortars, Captain 'straight ten' Ben Hawes would be sleeping, which he did most of the exercise, getting treated for bed sores. By about 0130hrs when we got back to the company harbour it was cold and raining. I got my head down for about an hour. When I woke up for orders my poncho had stuck to my face from the weight of the snow. It was as if it had been ordered. It was great that the attack went well but it was freezing and wet. Eventually, Endex was called, thank god!

Then we went back to camp to sort out our admin and we had a battalion smoker: a bonfire, two cans and a bit of scoff. It didn't take long for the snow balls to start - most from the padre.

The next day was Remembrance Day and we had a chance to remember all the fallen and injured. Then it was on to the coaches and back to Celle for post exercise admin.

Without trying to sound too much like a military pervert, it was a good exercise and the battalion got to show everyone what we are made of.

Exercise Uhlan Eagle

Pte Morawski writes:

As a Pte in B Company I was a member of OPFOR for the duration of Exercise Uhlan Eagle. My role was as the OPFOR Company signaller and I had never worked in this position on a conventional exercise before. In addition it was also my first time working with armour and armoured infantry. We were given TES kit for this exercise and tended to work force on force which made things very interesting and realistic. At all times we needed to find good cover from fire and observation and this added to the realism when compared to a normal blank exercise. It was very different to have men taken from the battle and to observe how the tactics the commander's were using were working on the ground. Needless to say both sides gained a lot from the TES experience, especially how hard it is to close down and destroy armour such as Challenger 2. The main issue here was that the Challengers could find us easily with their thermal imaging equipment. The light troop's (A, C, and D Companies) had the disadvantage in the FIWAF side of life with massive restrictions to our line of sight. It was also good for me to see recce and snipers working conventionally by getting in behind our positions and causing us some real problems. This was the case even when we had prepared positions and it seemed to me that they found it easy to fix us in place and really hinder our withdrawal on more than one occasion. I now have a lot of confidence in the tactics that we were using as they worked well in the complex terrain of Poland. These included having small positions in depth and proving that light troops can be effective even against heavy armour, especially when a good ambush is set out. These ambushes managed to stop both armoured and light troops at crossing points and bridges. As a signaller the bowman radios we were using worked well for the duration of the exercise at the section and platoon level. The radios also made it easy for us to speak to and find out the progress of our armoured colleagues. We marked our Land Rovers with crosses and we wore desert helmet covers and combat jackets which helped to make the identification of friend from foe that little bit more clear. For me the battle simulator's going off, the use of a new TES RPG and TES claymore was the best bit of the whole exercise. You could see the effect that the TES weapons were having on the troops especially when we were in a defensive position. The weather was good for the best part of the exercise and I did a lot of things that I have not done before, I learned a lot as did the rest of the Company and all in all it was a good enjoyable exercise.

Exercise Chu Chi

Lt McGinley, 2IC C Company, writes:
Back in February when the trawl went out for a JSMEI for an expedition to Vietnam I thought I would not have a hope in Hell's chance of getting on it but to my surprise I was picked and it meant three weeks away in different parts of Vietnam conducting adventure training.

With a busy schedule up until the expedition I was unable to actually meet anyone going on the expedition. The first time I would meet them would be at Heathrow before we flew out. Something in the back of my head said this could still be a big wind up but I was relieved when I met the group at Terminal 3. The expedition was organised out of ATR Lichfield but consisted of instructors from other ATRs and ITC Catterick.

The first stage of the expedition was acclimatisation in Hanoi before we completed the first trek which was a four-day trek through Pu Luong which is a nature reserve in Northern Vietnam. This trek allowed the group to shake out before the main trek up Mount Fansipan later in the expedition. Then it was back to Hanoi with a days rest before we took the train North to Sapa for the climb up Mt Fansipan.

The main reason for the expedition was the climb up Mount Fansipan which stands at 3,143m and is the highest mountain in Indochina. The mountain is in the Sapa region of Vietnam and is right on the border with China. For the climb up Mt Fansipan we would take the rainforest route which would take three days and two nights to reach the top. To help the group up this little known route we would use the local porters as guides and to help set up camp in the night. You have to hand it to these guys as



Lt McGinley on Exercise Chu Chi - The summit of Mt Fansipan.

The Poachers



Example
of loads
carried by
the porters

they carried heavy loads up a mountain in a wicker basket with thin straps that cut into your shoulders. For footwear the majority of them had flip flops or some kind of home made sandal. With all our expensive outdoor gear compared to the porters it was a reality check and it made me realise what kit we really needed. You could see why these tough determined people were able to defeat the Americans.

After three days of climbing through rainforests and never being able to see the view we eventually managed to reach the summit with the entire group intact although a little bit tired. Unfortunately though when we reached the summit it was in cloud and we were unable to get a view of the surrounding area.

The last phase of the expedition was the R and R which consisted of three days on a beach in Nha Trang and three days in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon.) For these days we managed to take in as many of the sights as possible. Perhaps the most interesting of these was the Chu Chi tunnels which are a series of tunnels around Saigon which the Vietnamese used to fight the Americans. Again it highlighted how determined these people were as the tunnels were tiny and were extremely hot to live in.

Ex Chu Chi was one of those things in the Army which you have heard about the Corps doing but you know that the Infantry will never have the time to do due to operational commitments. It emphasised to me how important it was to make an extra effort with an adventure training qualification as it gives you the ability to get on a once in a lifetime opportunity like climbing Mt Fansipan in Vietnam.

The Poachers Football Team

Capt Bredin, Battalion Football

Officer, writes:

After the success of the football match against the Bank of England (covered in the last issue), the Poachers' football squad was formed on the back of the inter-company football competition held in Jun, which was won by C Company. This has the Poachers playing competitive football, for the first time in a few years.

The season started with a number of training sessions before departing Tern Hill for Celle, in preparation for the forthcoming Infantry Sixes, held annually at Pribright. The squad attended the competition held

on 12 September, after a couple of days training. Our thanks goes to the Vikings for providing food and accommodation. The team arrived in good spirits and won all of their group matches which set them up for the quarter final stage, which they breezed into the semis. The Poachers found themselves in the semis alongside the Kings, Dukes and 2 PWRR, all of which have a football reputation second to none in the Infantry. The semi was played against the Dukes (I have used pre-FIS Battalion names, as so many have now changed) which the Poachers won 1-0, but was a hard fought game. So onto the final and an all Queen's Division affair against 2 PWRR, who boast a couple ex-pro football players. After a highly competitive match the Poachers lost 4-1, but showed great character throughout, ending up as runners-up, which was an achievement in itself, with Cpl Rawdon, Pte Ladds and Hughes all being selected to play for the Infantry.

The competition has set the team up nicely for entry into the Army and Infantry cup where the Poachers have drawn 1 RRF and 1 PWRR respectively.

To allow the team to gain valuable match experience a number of friendly matches have been organised to gain that experience, one of which was against TuS Celle, the semi-professional side that plays in the German lower leagues. The team was invited to play a friendly game to welcome the Battalion back to Celle at TuS Celle's 11,500 seater stadium under floodlights. After a period of training the team arrived at the ground with approx 300 supporters' bussed down to the event which was also turned into a charity event for both German and English charities, raising, over 800 Euros for SSAFA and a similar amount going to local German charities, of TuS Celle's choice. The game was played at a very fast pace and the Poachers managed to stay in touch, until around the 25th minute when TuS Celle took the lead. For the remainder of the game the quality of a semi-professional side showed, but the Poachers made TuS, work hard for their victory. The team were then treated to reception, to round off what was a great evening, which enabled all to re-establish links with the local community. A number of the players now regularly turn out for TuS Celle's seconds, with a couple looking like breaking into the first team.

A further game against SC Vorwerk, our neighbours in Trenchard Barracks, has also been played, with Poachers running out 5-2 winners. Now the task starts to progress in both cup competitions, and the juggling act of soldiers availability in what is an already busy programme, being filled rapidly with pre-deployment training.

3rd Battalion

Maj Ian Couch, Training Major, writes:

The months since the last edition of *Castle* have been extremely busy for 3 R ANGLIAN on a number of fronts. Training has continued apace with the focus on offensive operations switching to defensive ops and in particular preparing all personnel to deploy on operations alongside their counterparts in the VIKINGS and POACHERS. The Battalion has continued to grow into its role of maintaining the Regimental footprint and supporting our sister Battalions including the vital role of Casualty Notification and Casualty Visiting Officers and from our perspective the Regimental ties and family bond appear to be continually strengthening.

The Battalion's training has been divided into two blocks dedicated to offensive and defensive ops concentrating on getting the basic core skills to a high standard particularly physical fitness, robustness and weapon handling skills. In conjunction with this the development of the commander has taken priority especially at section commander level. Each training phase starts with a streamed training weekend where the Battalion is divided into Ptes, JNCOs, SNCOs, Young Officers and Field Officers. The intent for these weekends is to deliver training specific to each rank in an environment where individuals feel free to make mistakes and ask questions that they would perhaps feel uncomfortable doing in an audience other than their peers. Following the streamed and intellectual training there are two Company level weekends to enable the Companies and the support weapons Pls

to practice their particular skills and build on lessons from the streamed training. The culmination of the phase is a Battalion FTX. Interspersed among the key weekends are other activities such as range work, field firing and adventure training.

The Battalion's first streamed training weekend took place at Sennybridge in June. Exercise Brecon Leader saw the Battalion deploy into the field and conduct a day of streamed training before working into the night on a demanding navigation exercise. The second day brought the streams together highlighting lessons taught. The exercise was a departure from some of the COIN and camp based training that had been the previous training theme and was a useful return to basic skills which set those that attended in good stead for the months ahead.

Some good Company level training developed the progression towards the Bn FTX - Exercise Hard Knock, again in Sennybridge. The travelling time to the training area in itself was a challenge with the Bn not being complete until 0500 Hrs on the Saturday morning with subsequent battle procedure commencing at 0600 Hrs. The first day saw a long and demanding advance to contact for the Company group, whilst the embryonic battle group headquarters used the same scenario to run detailed 7 questions training. The exercise also provided a training opportunity for the Battalion's Cambrian Patrol Team. Based on information gained by the team the Company deliberate attack went in in the early hours of the Sunday morning with sustained fire support from the MG Pl. Once again the

conventional Warfighting operation scenario and the core skills emphasis saw many of the soldiers flourish.

Beyond training the Battalion to support our sister Battalions on operations 3 R ANGLIAN has maintained its Regimental links with the Cadet Forces in the Regimental area. Exercise Steelback Cadet took place at Beckingham Training Area and involved 46 cadets from across the region. The two day exercise saw the cadets participate in a series of stands including Javelin, mortars, assault pioneers, BOWMAN, platoon weapons and paintballing, all before taking part in a night time patrol task. It was another excellent opportunity for the Battalion to host HRH The Duke of Gloucester accompanied by Lieutenant General McColi. HRH The Duke of Gloucester presented the Poulter's Prize to QPSI A Company, CSgt Keeble, as the Master Poulter had been unavoidably detained.

The main training focus has been annual camp which this year took place in Kazakhstan. Exercise Steppe Eagle 07 was a UK led tri-nation exercise with support from the USA in delivering Peace Support Operations training to the Kazak Air Mobile Brigade (KAZBAT). The planning process had been long and involved with the Initial Planning Conference taking place in Kazakhstan in January (-30 degrees), planning at LWC at Warminster in March, the Main Planning Conference in Kazakhstan in May (20 degrees), Military Decision Making Planning training in Phoenix Arizona in June (28 degrees) and deployment to Kazakhstan in September (40 degrees). The frustrations of dealing with a very rigid, rank conscious



Battalion Memorial Day, Almaty (tomb of the forgotten soldier).

3rd Battalion



FTX3.

Soviet style hierarchy were numerous as were the differing aims given by each of the participating nations: the Kazaks wanted to achieve approval from NATO to deploy on operations, the UK wanted to achieve valuable training for our personnel, the US contingent stated they were to secure American interests in the region in order to ensure access to the Caspian Sea and secure NATO's Eastern Flank!

The Battalion deployed with 150 personnel who were housed in a tented camp on the edge of the steppe and though basic it was by no means the worst we have seen. There was an emphasis of show over substance from the Kazaks which manifested itself in long opening and closing ceremonies but the training delivered to the Kazaks and 3 R ANGLIAN troops was well received. Though covered in detail later in this submission, in outline the first week was progressive training for the 3 R ANGLIAN Company whilst a training team instructed on basic peace support tactics. The second week was a demanding FTX under a scenario which saw two Kazak Companies conducting relatively low-level PSO whilst 3 R ANGLIAN engaged in Warfighting. All this was achieved under the 'control' of a very inexperienced Kazak BGHQ. The exercise was a great experience and despite the frustrations was immensely rewarding and beneficial.

At the time of writing 10 PI have recently returned from their six-month tour in Kabul and we still have a number of individuals serving with the VIKINGS. The Battalion will strive to support both regular Battalions and are currently looking at providing at least a platoon to 2 R ANGLIAN for their forthcoming tour.

The Battalion will continue to train its personnel to a level where they can integrate with the minimum of difficulty into the ORBATs of both the VIKINGS and POACHERS on ops, and we will continue to maintain a Regimental presence across our recruiting area, giving whatever support we can in order to meet the inevitable challenges of the future.

Exercise Steppe Eagle 07

Major Ian Couch, Training Major, writes:

Despite the best efforts of the RAF the Bn deployed on time with most of its freight on 08-09 Sep from RAF Brize Norton. The flight was about eight hours (including a

delay for refuelling in Bucharest) and the 150 R ANGLIAN and attached personnel arrived in Almaty, Kazakhstan by mid morning. After a surprisingly quick customs inspection and check of documentation the Bn was loaded on some dated soviet era trucks and with a madcap police blue light escort, we trundled through the congestion of Almaty and out onto the training area.

The tented camp was on the edge of the steppe and the Battalion soon settled in. The first key timing was the opening ceremony in the presence of the Kazak Deputy Defence Minister and their CGS equivalent. Once this was over training began in earnest. The bulk of the Battalion took part in a progressive build up of training from Section to Company level during the first week, but



Home for the duration.

3rd Battalion**Kazak Hip Helicopter.**

MG PI conducted its own training as did the Cambrian Patrol Team. In addition a training team delivered Peace Support Ops training to two KAZBAT Coys whilst others assisted in the training and development of the Kazak BG HQ staff. This was a broad remit but all personnel stepped up to the mark and delivered a thorough training package.

The Company Group was made up of personnel from across the Battalion and commanded by Maj Mark Scadden of E Company. The purpose of the training during the first week was to make full use of the time available and to enable commanders at all levels to practice battle procedure and conduct training without the time pressure of a normal training weekend. The commanders and those throughout the Company flourished during this week. The extended time in the field allowed rapid training progression and skills were soon polished. The progression from Sect to Platoon and subsequently Company went well and despite the different Company personnel the end result was a tightly knit sub unit who could work to the commander's intent. Of particular note during this week was the performance of the 6 x 1 R ANGLIAN attachments who had been offered places on the exercise. Despite being straight out of ITC they demonstrated skill, determination and were a credit to the Regiment and the Queen's Div Company at ITC.

The mid-camp weekend filled the international relations piece and was a chance for the soldiers of three nations to mix. Friday night was set aside for a full Regimental dinner in the field, wearing Mess Kit with Silver and The Colours.

**Regimental Dinner Night.**

This was a great success and left the US and Kazak reps at a loss for words but very appreciative. Saturday saw a sports competition (with some very questionable rules lost in translation). Events included arm wrestling, kettle bell lifting (a heavy cannon ball with a handle), tug of war and football. For the first time a British team won an event much to our hosts annoyance as we secured a strong victory in the tug of war. The importance of the football match escalated to international proportions, and was attended by various mayors and the press. The Battalion lost a hard fought game

3-2 and the subsequent pitch invasion by an enormous number of Kazak children also ensured we lost our footballs as well.

Following the sports day Sunday was given over to a short remembrance parade in the old capital Almaty and a few hours of seeing the sights. The parade took place in a large park dominated by an enormous Soviet style war memorial and eternal flame and was characterised by the Kazak planning which, as usual, was 'make it up as we go along'. The military band struck up a medley of Abba hits was did not exactly fit the sombre mood before launching into the national

3rd Battalion



Cpl Bartlett receiving an award from Lt Gen Whitcomb ARCENT.



Guard of Honour.



Kazak Guard of Honour March Past.

anthems. Wreaths were laid and many pictures taken before the parade concluded and the 3 R ANGLIAN personnel were split into groups, allocated an interpreter and unleashed on Almaty.

The second week saw the FTX scripted by 3 R ANGLIAN, and intended to meet joint needs, in which two KAZBAT Companies conducted low level Peace Support Ops whilst we conducted higher intensity war-fighting. Simultaneously the KAZBAT BG HQ were being exercised by a joint UK/US HICON and the Kazak self-evaluation team were being evaluated by NATO observers. The UK Company operated from a FOB and then pushed forward onto the steppe to conduct escalating operations against an OPFOR provided by a platoon from the Arizona National Guard. Again a realistic pace of activity was used and a number of valuable lessons learnt.

In addition to the training the exercise saw a number of visits. The Kazaks did often appear more concerned with 'show over substance' and this manifested itself in a demonstration to visiting NATO officers. The Battalion's Cambrian Patrol Team acted as a QRF to a spectacular demonstration of a convoy ambush which resulted in BTRs, a very old HiP helicopter and three nationalities all unleashing themselves amidst enormous demolitions. Of particular note was the visit of Derek Twigg MP, Defence Under Secretary, who wished to speak to the soldiers and get their view of the exercise. He was accompanied by the British Ambassador on what was deemed a successful visit by all. In addition Lt Gen Whitcomb of ARCENT visited and took time to visit the UK contingent and congratulated us on the performance of our troops and the conduct and running of the exercise. Comd 49 (E) Bde, Brigadier JF Richardson MBE spent a number of days with the Bn and this was his first visit since recently taking up his appointment.

The final Friday was set aside for the closing ceremony and admin whilst Saturday was closing down the camp and preparing to recover to the UK. The closing ceremony was a lengthy affair with speeches and



RSM and friend.

3rd Battalion



RSM's new hat.

numerous presentations including 15 to 3 R ANGLIAN personnel from a representative cross section of the Battalion.

The recovery was in the hands of the RAF, so apart from sending the wrong size aircraft and attempting to half the LAND directed cargo allowance it went better than expected! The Battalion did not arrive back in the TACs until 0500 (and in some cases later) on the Monday morning.

The troops who acted as training teams or were being exercised had a good, rewarding and challenging exercise - some even asked to return next year! Those involved in the planning and co-ordination found it to be an education in patience and flexibility! Exercise Steppe Eagle 07 was a great OTX for this Battalion and it enable all personnel to improve their skills and experience a culture they would never otherwise see.

Sports Day

The Battalion were informed very early in the planning process that we as a unit would take part in a Sports Day whilst on Exercise Steppe Eagle 07.

Most normal sports days would be a mixture of football, rugby, tug of war and volleyball perhaps, maybe some potted sports thrown in to allow everybody to take part in the proceedings. This was not to be quite the case in Kazakhstan!

When we arrived we had been given more details about what we were to do on the middle weekend of the exercise. The weekend was to be a 'Cultural Weekend' which would involve a sports competition on the Saturday followed by a parade at the "Forgotten Soldier" Memorial in Almaty coupled with a trip into the city once the parade had been completed. At this stage a full understanding of what sports we would take part in was still not 100%, apart from there would be a football match in a local village on the Saturday afternoon.

As the week progressed we were handed a team list of what sports we were to take part in. It proved to be very amusing trying to work out what sports/activities (because I'm sure some are not classed as actual sporting events outside Kazakhstan) we were doing on the day, they consisted of the following:

- a. Arm wrestling Kazak Style.
- b. Kettle weight lift.
- c. Friendly pull on ropes between two teams (Tug of War to me and you).
- The cherry on the cake was to be the climax of the camp based events and it was a medley of sporting greats such as
 - a. Leg 1 - The one legged race! (hop with your legs tied together).
 - b. Leg 2 - 50 press ups followed by a sprint.
 - c. Leg 3 - Run/Walk with a spoon in your mouth with an egg on the spoon, All time Classic with a twist!
 - d. Leg 4 - Straight sprint to the finish.

Well to cut along story short we failed miserably on both the arm wrestling and the kettle lift and sadly to say the climax medley of sporting greats but I can say we won outright the "friendly pull on ropes between two teams" beating both the Americans and the Kazaks (obviously it was down to the coaching and control from me).

With the flag still flying high we moved en mass to a local village a few miles away to take part in the football match. We ran out onto the pitch, which was similar in my memory to the Olympic stadium in Afghanistan i.e. very poor and covered by glass and other waste products! We played in green and the Kazaks played in the AC Milan strip!

The heat of the afternoon was going to be a factor but I had negotiated with the Kazak Colonel who was the team manager that we could have rolling subs and also that we would referee and provide the linesman, bonus!

The game started well with us scoring the 1st and 2nd goal but by half time the Kazaks had equalised and the game was 2-2.

At this stage the temperature started getting to the lads and a mix up between CSgt Cavedasca and one of the subs allowed the Kazaks to score again. The score was now 3-2 to the Kazak's and the clock was

ticking down.

After some sterling efforts from both the players and Pte Kovacs the referee who must have played about 10 mins of injury time the final whistle went and we had lost 3-2, the consolation was that the unit the year before had lost 8-0 so we did give them a run for their money.

It was a good afternoon; sporting greatness which was appealing to the Kazaks was just not on our agenda. Still if they want to be international egg and spoon champions...

WO1 (RSM) A Penn

Exercise Hard Knock 6- 8 July 2007

WO2 D Curtis writes:

The Offensive Operations cycle culminated with Bn level FTX called Exercise Hard Knock held on Sennybridge Training area over the period of 6-08 Jul 07. The Exercise saw the companies departing their respective TACs for a long drive to X Range car park - the RV point. Battle procedure began at the RV before moving to the Bn Holding Area. Essential administration happened in the holding area - reorganising the Company, Orders and sleep being the priority. The Exercise started at 0700hrs on Sat when the OC of the Company, Major Scadden (OC E Company), received his final briefing, having received his orders previously. Orders delivered, the OC set the Company off en route to start the advance; this alone was a task as it was an immediate climb upwards as it always is on Sennybridge. The Advance started with Lt Little (E Company) leading the Point Pl.

The first attack saw the OC pushing his SF team forward to observe and locate, if possible, the enemy location. This they did by locating the forward enemy positions within the location. Armed with this



QBOs on Exercise Hard Knock.

3rd Battalion



OC E Company, Maj M Scadden.

knowledge the OC called in his platoon commanders and issued QBOs for a quick attack onto this position. Lt Little set out as the lead platoon in the attack to an FUP ready to launch his attack. At this point there was a bit of confusion as to the exact location of the enemy positions and rather than take stock and reassess he launched into the attack. Losing a couple of casualties on the way he managed to break into the enemy position and gain a foot hold to allow the OC to assess and launch his second platoon, led by Lt Wopat (C Company) into the attack. After a hand over of the battle the platoon managed to fight its way through the remainder of the position, culminating in numerous enemy dead with a number of their own casualties.

With no time to spare the OC was hurried onto the advance again and this continued throughout the day, with another two attacks each one getting better as the Company advanced. Lots of outstanding individual work, courage, grit and determination was observed; the OC was then re-tasked to move into a Company Harbour position ready to receive a new set of orders.

Whilst the attacks were happening back at Main Headquarters, the CO and his planning staff were hard at work planning the next

phase with the seven questions process and war gaming. The CO formulated his plan for the next Phase of the Operation which was a Company Deliberate Attack. Once the plan was put together the OC was withdrawn from the harbour area and given his orders. Once the OC had issued his orders to the Company, a Recce Patrol commanded by CSgt Hunter (C Company) and fielded by his Cambrian Patrol team moved off to recce the attack position and find a suitable FUP. This was done in an excellent fashion with the area mapped out and circumnavigated 360 degrees, with a FUP located. The OC left the harbour area with his Company leading them to a supposed FUP point and sending his SF team to a suitable fire support position. With H Hr looming the OC tried to get the Company from single file into extended line in a rolling FUP which is where the confusion started. He found himself launching an attack onto an enemy position without any idea of what he faced. This he did and with the adrenaline of the men high and wanting to get stuck in the Company launched a series of lone attacks into the position and it started to tell when most of the initial platoon were either killed or became casualties. Ultimately the position was destroyed with a lot of casualties within

the Company. Lots of valuable lessons were learnt from this attack.

The Exercise finished with a well deserved breakfast provided by the Quartermaster and the Unit administration team, before we all departed on another long trip back to our TACs.

Ex Brecon Leader

Pte Turner E Company writes:

On the weekend 01-03 June the Battalion headed off to the Brecon Beacons for Ex Brecon Leader. For some it was their first trip to this infamous area of central Wales, the home of Infantry tactics and leadership training. After a long drive to the Bn RV we were met by the advance party and shown to the harbour area.

The training and instruction during the Saturday was excellent - the familiar format of half a dozen lessons separated by a km or two of patrolling between stands. For the junior ranks this took the form of an in-depth revision of the six section battle drills. Essential skills such as target indication and fire control orders were practised, along with reaction to effective enemy fire. Whilst my own fire control order did in fact miss the enemy's location and drew fire to a completely different reference point, it was judged to be impressively clear, loud, and distinctive.

ENDEX was called on the days training at 1700hrs, however, the night-time Navex began at 1730. Five stands were to be located and completed on this occasion, with the additional challenge of darkness and fatigue setting in. Those of us driving minibuses the next day were granted dispensation to only do half the course! The others, particularly those scheduled to move off at 2100hrs, were in for a long night. The stands completed were QBOs and CTR - if you don't know the acronyms just be assured that CTR means crawling on hands and knees up a mountain stream trying to keep one's head down whilst observing as much as possible



LCpl Wainwright and Pte Sullivan.

3rd Battalion**Military Skills Stand.**

without being seen.

The professionals who raced round the course got back in time to get some precious sleep, others were still trailing in after a cooked breakfast began at 0800hrs. Then it was back on the buses for the trip back to civilisation. A challenging and educational weekend for all involved; the name Sennybridge probably puts off as many people as it attracts, but it's really not that far to go, we were blessed with glorious weather and stunning views, and a chance to taste what the legendary Brecon Beacons have to offer.

Capt A Coulson writes:

Having only returned from my MG cadre in Brecon in January where the weather was abysmal, my suspicions were aroused when crossing the bridge into Wales there was no rain. I began to feel even more concerned when on crossing the cattle grid into the training area I was not met with snow, hail or a monsoon. Surely someone was playing a practical joke and we had been driven to another training area other than Sennybridge. On waking up later that morning panic set in when I found myself looking over rolling landscape without a cloud in the sky. This clearly was not right for training in Sennybridge; still, everything else appeared to resemble Wales so I played along with the cunning ruse. It turned out to be a very good exercise as it gave me the opportunity to see the section commanders and potential officers command; it also allowed all ranks to practice their navigation skills over unfamiliar terrain. The Ex was a great success, giving everyone in attendance the opportunity to brush up on their basic skills, on the sunny Brecon Beacons.

Exercise Steelback Cadet

WO1 (RSM) A Penn writes:

Exercise Steelback Cadet was conducted at Beckingham over the weekend 21-22 Jul under the direction of the RSM 3 R ANGLIAN WO1 A Penn. This was an exercise aimed at bringing all of the Army

Cadets in the Regimental area together and making them feel part of the Regimental family. Unfortunately the date clashed with cadet annual camps; appalling weather conspired to reduce the numbers still further although the cadets that did attend had a very worthwhile and fun weekend.

The cadets went through seven stands on Saturday including Mortars, GPMG

**The Colonel-in-Chief views the GPMG SF Stand.**

3rd Battalion

SF, Pl Wpns, BOWMAN, Assault Pioneer, Paintball Close Quarter Battle and Javelin. The intent was to give all participants as much hands on experience as possible and an insight into what awaits if they pursue a military career with either the Regular Army or the TA. Saturday night saw the cadets conduct a patrol with a number of serials including an ambush, recce and casualty evacuation. Sunday gave the cadets the opportunity to conduct a full bore live firing experience with the SA80 A2.

Our Colonel in Chief HRH The Duke of Gloucester visited for three hours on Saturday and had the opportunity to visit the cadets on all the stands. The Duke was escorted by the Colonel of the Regiment.

We look forward to next year when perhaps more of the RANGLIAN cadets within the Battalion AOR can attend.



Maj Scadden and the Deputy Mayor of Bourne.



The Colonel of the Regiment takes the salute from the Drum Major.

Regimental Representative Event - Lincoln

Writes Capt S Devitt:

The Lawn in Lincoln played host to the Battalions Representative Event for 2007. A turnout of over 100 guests included the Lord and Lady Mayor of Lincoln, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, 8 Mayors from the other major towns in the County of Lincolnshire, the City High Sheriff and the High Sheriff of Lincolnshire, as well as numerous other local dignitaries, employers and other affiliated and non affiliated guests of the Regiment. The day began with members of B (Lincolnshire) Coy arriving at the venue early afternoon to prepare for the days activities. The main event was the Beating Retreat performed by the Regimental Band and Corp of Drums of the 3rd Battalion including 8 drummers from the Poachers. The Col of the Regiment arrived and brought



The Band and Drums Beating Retreat.

3rd Battalion**The Drum Major and Drums.**

the good weather with him - as soon as the CO began to brief him the sun burst through the clouds putting any thoughts of the wet weather programme firmly on the back burner. On arrival all guests were met and hosted by officers from the Regiment. The musical performance was excellent and provided a fine spectacle for those in attendance. To add to the event Maj Stuart Nicholson (OC A Coy 2nd Bn) delivered a presentation on one of A Coy's Operations in Iraq. The Poachers also brought along a weapons display stand manned by members of A Coy. In his address to the gathered audience, Gen McColl made reference to how busy the Regiment is on operations and training and thanked our guests for their continued support in the County of Lincolnshire. Our own special thanks go to CSgt Keating and CQMS Osman and members of B Coy for their work behind the scenes and the staff of the Lawns for helping the event run so smoothly.

3rd Battalion Band - Annual Camp 07

*WO2 MJ Ainley R ANGLIAN (NRPS)
writes:*

The Band and Drums set off on yet another mission for this year's Camp. The aim of the 1st two thirds of Camp was to perform on Pinewalk Bandstand in Bournemouth and the final third of Camp was to undertake a Passing Out Parade (POP) at ATR Basingstoke.

This was the Band and Drums 5th year returning to Bournemouth and again it was a huge success. The Band played daily on the Bandstand to audiences in excess of 200 people. The Corps of Drums performed a mini Beating Retreat in the Lower Gardens

**The Band on parade.**

in the middle of each concert. This is a favourite venue for the Band as concerts such as this are few and far between; it is the one time in the yearly calendar that the Bandmaster has his now fully established Band to rehearse and perform on a daily basis, thus allowing all members to maintain the very high musical standards that our audiences have come to expect.

The final stage of Camp was a very different scenario for the Band and Drums this year. The Director of Music of The Minden Band had inquired if the Band could undertake a POP at ATR Basingstoke on Friday 10th August 2007. Slight trepidation ensued, as the Band had never provided musical support for this kind of engagement. Most POPs are during the working week and many members of the Band are fully committed to Full Time employment.

Given that the Directive from the Corps of Army Music is that TA Bands should deputise for Regular Bands where possible/required, it was decided that this would be a great experience for all.

The Band and Drums left Bournemouth on Thursday 9 August and travelled directly to ATR Basingstoke with a reporting time of NLT 1500 Hrs. After the accommodation was taken over it was time for a rehearsal on the Parade Square. This was the first time that the Phase 1 Recruits had marched to the sound of a Military Band, as before this they were used to the dulcet tones of the Drill Instructors or occasionally the luxury of a sole Bass Drum. After an hour or so on the square things started to fall into place and the 'feet and arms' of the troops were in unison.

10th August, the day of the Parade, started

3rd Battalion

with a rehearsal at 0800 Hrs. It was a bright sunny day and there was an element of excitement from both the Troops and indeed The Band and Drums as a whole. As previously stated, this was a new venture for the majority of the Band and Drums, and although many have ex regular service, it had been many years since they had stepped foot on a Parade Square of this nature. The rehearsal went well and it was then time to prepare for the Parade proper at 1125 Hrs.

Exactly on time the Parade Sgt Maj gave the order and we were off. It was a very gratifying sight and sound to see and indeed hear a Band and Drums on parade. The 4 platoons made their way to the centre of the square as the Band and Drums headed for the far right corner. Once the first General Salute had been sounded, and the inspection was underway, the Band and Drums executed a Troop directly in front of the watching families. Upon completion of this they formed up directly behind the Troops ready for the March Past.

After the Prize Giving and Speech from the Inspecting Officer, it was time for the March Off; firstly the troops and then, of course, the Band and Drums. This was the bit I had been waiting for. Could they get the dressing spot on? Would the Music diminish due to the determination of getting it just right? I have to say that all aspects were just perfect. You would not have known that the Band and Drums had not experienced a POP before. Everything, the dressing, the deportment, the



March on.

music and the turnout was excellent.

All members of the Band and Drums came off the square with a great amount of satisfaction and pride, both for themselves and indeed the Regiment.

Minden Day at Bury St Edmunds

HQ (Suffolk & Cambridgeshire) Coy celebrated Minden Day on Sun 29 July at Bury St Edmunds. The day began with HQ Company parading at the TAC to be

presented with their Minden Roses by the OC Maj G French. Prior to presenting the roses Maj French reminded all of the Battle of Minden and the significance of the Minden Rose.

After the presentation the contingent and Bn Colour party made their way to The Keep to join the Old Comrades Parade and March Past, as ever masterfully organised by Stan Bullock. The Colour Party took centre stage on Parade and were led by Lt Olly Hartley, who now owes the Adjt rather a lot of Champagne for being incorrectly dressed



Lt Hartley, CSM Smith, CSgts Bygrave and Street.

3rd Battalion



Maj French and Cpl Fallon.

(although Lt Hartley assures the future Army Dress Board that there is no need for pips). Well done to WO2 Dale Curtis for spotting the error and rectifying it before the Ops Officer paraded the Battalion Colours.

A great day was had by all in attendance, and we look forward to next year.

Exercise Menin Gate - Battlefield Tour

Maj (QM) D Mackness writes:

Exercise Menin Gate took place 2 - 4 May 07 in France and Belgium and was a HQ Coy led Battlefield Tour of a number of major WWI Battlefields, including Vimy, Ypres and Passchendaele, where numerous members of our former regiments served and many gave their lives.

Day One. Eight bleary eyed members of HQ Company departed from Bury St Edmunds at 0500hrs and most were soon fast asleep. Whether this was due to the early start or Charlie Shropshire's detailed brief of the itinerary is hard to say. Coincidentally, upon arrival at the Eurotunnel terminal at Folkestone, we bumped into the previous RQMS, Brian Tunstill, who was with a group on a booze cruise to France. The current RQMS, WO2 Steve Woolcott, made the most of the opportunity to fill in some of the gaps from their handover. After paying the extortionate highway robbery fees demanded by the local Dick Turpins (French toll road cashiers), we visited the site of the battle of Vimy Ridge, where the surrounding woods still show the preserved front line trenches and craters. We then visited a local French war memorial, war cemetery and museum before we settled into our accommodation in Ypres, Belgium. Somehow we managed to find the most expensive restaurant in Belgium where the highlight of the evening was SSgt Steve Alexander getting chatted up by a 90-year old widow. He classed her as A1!

Day Two. Was a Charlie Shropshire inspired blur that included the Menin Gate,

Ypres Museum, Ypres Battlefield, Essex Farm Cemetery, Langemarch German Cemetery, the Brooding Soldier Memorial, Passchendaele Battlefield, Sanctuary Wood Cemetery, the Angry Fox Museum, Hill 62 and Tyne Cot Cemetery, which is the largest British War Cemetery in the world. Even then we hadn't finished - at 2000hrs, along with approximately 1000 other spectators, we attended the poignant and moving Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. Surprisingly enough, we decided on an early night, and SSgt Steve Alexander even stood up his date!

Day Three. Consisted of 'guilty conscience' purchases of Belgian chocolates, tax-free cigarettes and French wines, before the long journey back to Bury St Edmunds. We arrived back in the early evening, tired, dirty, skint and smelly, but with a better knowledge and understanding of what our forbears had experienced all those years ago. Thanks must go to Charlie Shropshire and SSgt Steve Alexander for all their hard work and organisation, to SSgt Tony Smith for allowing us to share the return journey with the smelliest cheese and meat basket ever made and congratulations to the RQMS and LCpl Graham Strong for their "Who can sleep the longest?" Competition, which the RQMS won by a few ZZZZs!....Where to next year?

The Grand Union Canal Race - 26-28 May 07

The Grand Union Canal Race (GUCR) is a 145 mile non stop running race from central Birmingham to Little Venice in London and at the time it seemed like a really good idea. I had run marathons and some longer races but this seemed like a suitable challenge and a great way to raise some money for charity. During the preceding months I clocked up some miles and entered longer distance events like the Jurassic Coast Challenge (a marathon a day for 3 days along the very hilly Dorset coast) so come 0600 on Sat 26 May I felt reasonably prepared. At the start 80 runners assembled (20 had already seen sense and dropped out) waiting for the off. Last year's champion and 8 time finisher was there but not competing due to hip and knee surgery (another hint as to what was ahead). At the start we all rushed off at a pace that was way too fast and settled into our stride. The weather was good, there was a great atmosphere and 145 miles seemed hard but achievable.

Apart from a group who left the rest behind at an amazing pace the bulk of the field trotted along. There was no real urge to overtake or catch people as with 40 or so hours of travelling anything could happen. As it happened most of the fast group dropped out before the finish. Getting out of Birmingham was good and the foot paths were flat and well maintained and I felt like I could run forever and by the end it felt like I had run forever. After 10 hours things started to get worse as the great weather was

replaced by rain and head winds. I was very fortunate to have an excellent support crew of the RQMS WO2 Woolcott, WO2 Jewell and Sgt Watson who made life a lot easier. At each check point they made sure that there was food and drink as required, dry clothes and fresh trainers and encouraging comments like 'only 75 miles to go.' Apart from the admin support WO2 Woolcott also ran a fairly large section of the race with me which was enormously helpful after 35 hours and running into London through some of the grottiest landscape imaginable.

The first problem came at about the 100 mile mark when I sprained my ankle and about 20 miles later when I did the other one. I had been very lucky with blisters and my preparation ensured that I escaped with only one small one on each foot but by 120 miles I was quite sore and the wet had defeated the copious amounts of Vaseline leaving me with what felt like bad chafing (I was not going to check until the end!) A final change of clothes, some brufen and a hot drink at the last check point saw me through to the finish with the encouragement of WO2 Woolcott who made sure I did not stray into the canal. The last 12 miles became a never ending slog with driving rain, strong headwinds and an absence of directions to the finish (I resorted to not-too-calmly calling race HQ and politely asking where the finish was) I eventually crossed the line at number 31 of the 33 finishers out of the 88 starters in 42 hours (45 hours was the cut off). Many had dropped out with some bad foot injuries, exhaustion, sprains and two had been admitted to hospital with hypothermia. The support crew helped me to the vehicle where I was so sore it took about 40 minutes to redress myself and it was at this point that I noticed that both ankles were swollen with bruising extending to the knees and that the chafing had become so bad that my buttocks and groin were bleeding freely with blood running down my thighs! The journey home was lost in sleep and I had to be crowbarred out of the minibus to shuffle into my house.

I was forced to take a day's leave as I was unable to move the next day but was taken to work on the Wed by my wife as I was still unable to drive (or sit).

After a morning at work it seemed sensible to go for an x-ray and I left the hospital with the diagnosis of two bad sprains and a groin that required antibiotics. Perhaps the highlight of the day was the sheer levels of sympathy (hilarity) that my obvious discomfort caused the staff in Bn HQ - even to the extent that Capt Devitt felt it necessary to capture my attempts at walking on camera. Looking back I am extremely glad to have completed the event and I would like to go back and improve on my time but it is a gruelling event and the course is at times pretty dull. The support crew role is absolutely vital and I am sure they would offer me sound advice if I said I wanted to do it again. Next year the Sahara Marathon - at least it will be dry.

3rd Battalion

ABF Clay Pigeon Shooting - 23 June 2007

Lt Ollie Hartley writes:

The Battalion received a request for four volunteers to support the 2007 Army Benevolent Fund, Clay Pigeon Charity Shoot. With good military tradition in mind, we all know that you should not volunteer for anything. However, the day promised an abundance of free clays followed by lunch. And it was for charity after all.

SSgt Carter, LCpl Strong and I put our names forward and set about practising on the Wednesday afternoon before at RAF Lakenheath, in order to hone our skills. SSgt Carter and LCpl Strong, although quite regular Game shooters, rarely practised Clays. I myself being quite handy with an SA80 (Bisley 100 Gold medal winner) had discovered on a previous shoot that this made no meaningful translation to a shotgun. Quite the opposite in fact.

After some respectable scores across the board on our practice run we felt fairly prepared for the Saturday ahead. Saturday came with the weather holding and we arrived at Hinton High Lodge, a relatively short drive from Bury St Edmunds. This was



LCpl Strong, SSgt Carter, Lt Hartley and Pte Brown.

more than could be said for some of the other teams travelling from all over the country as far as Portsmouth and beyond. After some breakfast we were issued 100 cartridges and paired up with other teams (we strangely could not score our own).

The course consisted of 12 stands with every variation, but was obviously picked to separate the pack. I hoped the first one would count as a practice.

A couple of stands later however and we were holding our own. We finished after lunch with our scores totalled up. The Battalion team came in with some respectable results, just above half way, although this was not enough to be bringing the Silver home this year.

The day was incredibly enjoyable and we vow to return to clinch the Suffolk Memorial Trophy next year.

Battalion Headquarters Adventurous Training



Capt Steele, Training Major and LCpl Strong.



WO2 Dale Curtis - man overboard.



The RSM keeps dry.



B Company patrolling the friendly town of Putay.



CO's O Group, Operation Lastay Kulang.



Cpl Kisby ready for close combat on Operation Lastay Kulang.



Convoy on Operation Lastay Kulang - *courtesy Daily Telegraph.*



4 Section Mortars in action during Operation Silicon.



Viking soldier near poppy field on Operation Silicon.



Cpl Roberts and his crew near Qaleh Ye Gaz.



Heli pick up at Sangin DC - *courtesy of Sunday Times.*



Kajaki - Observation Post.



Cpl Thorne and Pte Anderson in contact with B Company in Kajaki.



No point in worrying - OC A Company and Cpl Bell wait for H-Hour.



WO2 Rackham and Sgt Rumsey stag on in the JOC.



Mortars firing in anger - *courtesy Daily Mirror.*



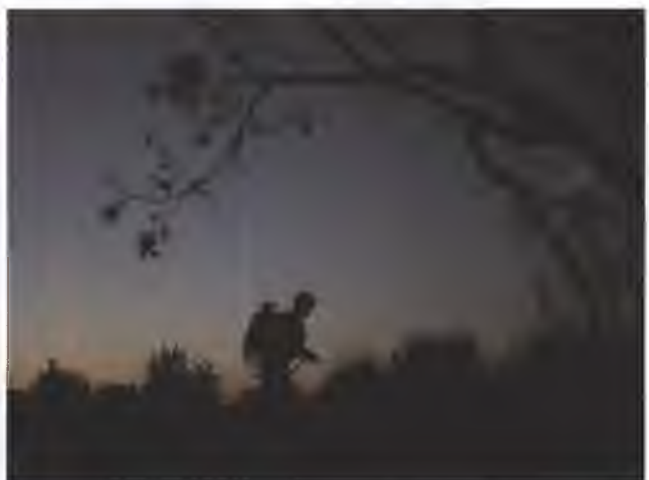
Operation Lastay Kulang, Upper Sangin Valley.



On return to Bastion after Operation Silicon.



OC A Company Gp conducts a shura with locals on Operation Lastay Kulang.



Operation Palk Gar - *courtesy of Sunday Telegraph.*



Operation Ghartse Gar - lower Sangin Valley.



Pte Galliano Royal Gibraltar Regiment provides cover.



Pte Stephens, Pte Whaites and Pte Johnson of Kohima Platoon.



Pte Tower calling for ammunition.



Viking soldiers on overwatch in Nowzad - *courtesy Daily Telegraph.*



Sgt Waters poses for the camera on patrol in Kajaki.



Sangin Bazaar - *courtesy of Sunday Telegraph.*



Tac HQ on Operation Silicon.



Sofla Shura (Pte Wright and Capt Taylor).



Sunset on Operation Lastay Kulang.



Ramp Ceremony - *courtesy Daily Telegraph.*



Kabul Platoon, 3rd Battalion, on their Medal Parade, Imperial War Museum, Duxford.



Mr Martin Bell (ex Suffolk Regiment) presenting medals.



Mr Richard Ashton, Director IWM Duxford, presenting medals.



Lest We Forget.



Wreath laying in the Regimental Museum.



The Vikings march past, 15 November 2007.



1st Battalion Medal Parade, Viking Colour Party.



Ross Kemp and his crew filming the Medal Parade.



The veterans and Royal British Legion honour the Vikings.



Bury St Edmunds.



The Vikings march through the crowded streets



Minden balloons, Regimental ties and the good people of Norwich.



Welcome home lads. Well done!



Youngsters from St Louis Primary School, Newmarket.

Special Features

Cambrian Patrol Competition 2007

Lt Sam Perrin C (Essex Coy) / R ANGLIAN writes:

On 13 October 2007 C (Essex) Company returned from Operation Herrick 6 and seven working days later had earned a gold medal at Cambrian Patrol 2007. When I asked to do the patrol so soon after returning from operations, I had some pretty senior doubters but I felt that it would be the ideal time to do the patrol. All the core skills that were to be tested, less CRBN, were second nature to us and had been tested in a genuine operational context. We were pretty confident that unless we suffered an unforeseen injury we would be in with a chance of giving a good account of ourselves.

So how were we going to cram everything into seven working days? How was I going to keep the team motivated when all their mates were playing *Medal of Honour 4* in their rooms? In fact it didn't prove to be too difficult. The lads were all volunteers and only one man dropped out of the training squad. Physically we were already fit from the relentless patrolling at altitude with 80lb combat loads and to that end all I needed to do was ensure we were injury free, which we did by doing a fast 20km tab. The rest of our training was spent brushing up on CBRN, equipment recognition and kit preparation and we did no revision at all on mine drills or first aid. All of the team had treated a casualty at some point during the tour and a couple of unlucky ones had been involved in the mine strike which took Pte Matt Woollard's leg. In fact it is worth noting that the mine strike and casevac stand was an exact replica of that event. We could all draw on actual combat experience to deal with this stand. The only other skill which would be tested on the patrol which we hadn't encountered in Afghanistan would be the river crossing, which to be honest was our only real worry. Did we go across in fighting order and suffer the associated degradation of ourselves and our kit or did we decide that sustainability was more important and go across in underwear with everything else in our bivvy bag? We went for the sustainability option and it appears to have paid off.

After an initial kit check and the issue of orders we moved off on the recce phase of the patrol. An insertion of about 12km took us to the target which was a wood block about 100m by 100m surrounded by open ground on all sides which, frankly, I had no idea how we would get close to. Having observed the enemy position for about half an hour from some tank tracks in the middle of a field which offered no cover other than that the night afforded us, Pte Davitt and I decided to try and get a bit closer. The enemy at this stage were busy cooking sausages over a fire, so we decided to crawl into the

woodblock they were in with the very complex 'action on' to leg it if spotted. We managed this and identified some shell scrapes, a BTR-50 and T-62. Having written the patrol report and done the CRBN stand we moved off on the second phase of the patrol which led us to the most amusing moment of the patrol. While in a LUP disseminating information down to the blokes we were compromised by two attack dogs which could have had your arm off no problem. We had no 'action on' for this and so Ptes Davitt and Cumberbatch decided to leg it over a river and ditch without bergens while the rest of the patrol ran up a road with bergens on. Pte Cumberbatch's reaction could be best explained by the large scar on the back of his left calf from a run-in as a youngster with a police dog. I quickly realised that it had gone horribly wrong with two unattended bergens (one of which had been mauled by one of the dogs), two soldiers separated from the patrol and the rest of the patrol laughing so hard we could hardly move. So we waited for the dogs to leave and cracked on again.

Having completed the mine strike and casevac stand without dropping a point we did the river crossing at last light and it really paid off to have totally dry kit to tab in afterwards. A quick tab of 6km to the last RV, which one soldier had to complete in his trainers due to his feet being so bad, led us to the mortar fire control and UXO stand which both went well. We were then moved to X-Range for a quick attack with overhead fire guns, a 2km sickener carrying greenies, a pretty emotional crawl through the sewers in Cellini Village and we finally got to the kit check and debrief area. The blokes gave a good account of themselves in the debrief and the fact that I had to say very little was a testament to their excellent grasp of the patrol detail.

There is no doubt that we were lucky with the weather but that doesn't make the distance any less and it was a massive achievement for the team to get round complete and in good order. During my time in Afghanistan I conducted reconnaissance, wrote countless patrol reports, had the incident involved above, patrolled for large distances with heavy combat loads, did mortar fire control and casevacs. These were all tested on the patrol and I have certainly not experienced anything in my time in the Army which provides better training in them. With the undoubted fast pace of operations which awaits us for the foreseeable future it is important that we continue to enter teams.

Exercise Barbary Infanteer

Major Tony Marinos writes:

Exercise Barbary Infanteer was the Infantry Sailing Association overseas sailing exercise for 2007. It comprised a number of legs each of one week and each starting and finishing in Gibraltar. The itinerary was left exclusively to the crew of each leg. HQ Infantry bid for a leg from 7 to 14 May and once confirmed set about planning the exercise and seeking finance. The final crew line-up included Col Jonny Schute (COS HQ Inf), Lt Col Rory Steevenson (Lt Col Queen's Div), Lt Col Joe Walsh (US exchange officer in HQ Infantry), LCpl Pete Fletcher (skipper the infantry yacht *Fusilier*), Pte Ryan Nelson (3 SCOTS) and the author. It was, of course, rather fortunate that with the Queen's Div Lieutenant Colonel on board we were able to smooth our transit through Gibraltar. Many thanks go to Maj Mario Allman (2IC the Gibraltar Regiment) for his kind assistance.

It was therefore in good order that we joined *Fusilier* on the evening of Monday 7 May and set about confirming our itinerary and route. It was our intention that we left Gibraltar as soon as possible and did not return until the last safe moment to catch our flight back to the UK on Monday 14 May. By doing so we intended to make the most of the opportunity to sail in the western Mediterranean. Being a military owned boat and sailing out of Gibraltar, *Fusilier* was not permitted to land in Spain. Therefore based upon reports from previous legs and the prevailing winds we elected to make our first port of call Villamouira in Portugal – about a 24-hour leg which would include a night sail.

Setting sail the next morning in a reasonable breeze we were able



Maj Tony Marinos and Lt Col Joe Walsh (US Army) at the helm of *Fusilier*

Special Features



Sunset on a windless sea somewhere off the Spanish Coast...

to make about 5 or 6 knots before the wind dropped completely. With total reliance on the motor the route was recalculated at about 30 hours. So through the rest of the day and night we motored along the Spanish Coast, accompanied much of the way by playful dolphins, passing Cape Trafalgar and finally arriving in Villamouira late on the ninth. During the night we had discovered that the alternator was unserviceable and so none of the electrical equipment including navigation aids was able to function. Unfortunately this delayed us

for 24 hours longer than we had planned in Villamouira while LCpl Fletcher set about finding and fitting a new alternator without which it would have been unsafe to sail on.

Following much 'on the bus, off the bus' an engineer finally arrived to fit the new alternator and we set sail again on the afternoon of the 11th this time bound for Tangiers in Morocco. This was once again a long leg that would take us through the night. With the wind it was the same story – a good blow for the first five hours or so followed by not much at all. So once again through the night we motored on across open sea this time accompanied not only by dolphins but also thousands of tons of commercial shipping which we took great care to avoid! We arrived in Tangiers late on the 12th. Coming in and tying up was an interesting experience. There were few traffic regulations and not many places to moor. We eventually tied up against a Spanish boat and as instructed began waiting on the boat for the immigration police to arrive. After several fruitless hours we decided to take matters into our own hands and set off to find them. Once found the police could not have been more helpful and allowed us to leave the boat and take a quick walk around the city.

The following morning was an early start as we set off to make our final crossing of the Straits of Gibraltar. Fortunately there was a strong wind and having followed the Moroccan coast for several hours turned north and beat across the Straits reaching our exercise speed record. It was an excellent way to finish what had (despite the lack of wind) been a fantastic week during which we had covered 328 miles visited three countries and finally had some decent sailing.

Fusilier will by now have sailed round to France for Exercise Gallic Infanteer – the equivalent exercise in France. I would strongly recommend to sailors, experienced and novice alike, to take the opportunity to use her if and when the opportunity arises.

Going Dutch (Exercise Hygelac Raider, July 2007)

Pte Robinson, 2 Sect 21C Javelin Platoon, 3 R ANGLIAN writes:

There are many military events and competitions that can only be completed by the truly committed (or mad?). As an Infanteer, Cambrian Patrol is one such event, with over 48hrs spent on patrol. Having already competed and completed this event on a number of occasions, it was time to find a new challenge: the Nijmegen March. Unlike Cambrian, this event, run by the Dutch military, is pure distance with kit. As a military entrant the statutory distance is 40km each day for 4 consecutive days. So I opted for the 50km distances, carrying the 10kg deadweight, plus food and water (as I had no orderly to set up Replens).

On the actual marches the first day started well; an Austrian Infanteer who was billeted in the same accommodation was my marching partner, as we set a decent pace, encouraging each other. At around 0500 hrs we crossed Arnhem bridge, not a bridge too far at that point. By late morning things were getting emotional in a different sense, but fortunately by 1400 the first day of marching was over for myself. After struggling back the one and a half miles to the accommodation it was time for a decent meal, admin of kit and medicals in preparation for the next day. Many thanks to CSM Keating (of 1 R ANGLIAN) for the text of faith!

The second day brought such injuries as 'patrol pack laceration' where the pack chafed until the blood flowed, as did one of my boots, which attempted to cut off an ankle. By the fourth day injuries settled down to two impact injuries on my right leg, which prevented any sleep after the event for 3 days due to the intensity of the pain. In fact I partially expected the left leg to be troublesome after an accident that required a leg op only 12 months previously, but which was fine. One thing that kept me motivated during the 120 miles of the course was the fact that I seemed to be the only Infantry representative of the British Army, indeed maybe the entirety of Her Majesty's world forces.

There was a great atmosphere on the marches with local people coming out in the towns to cheer and offer support, and the marching songs sung by the military teams and marching groups were also encouraging; as one young loggy said to me "it takes your mind off the pain – he wasn't wrong! During the final days I marched with many other military teams, taking advantage of the pace they



At the start - and Pte Robinson already in the dark.

were setting, including the Danes, Norse, Swedes, Finns and even the Germans. There were some comedy moments too, like when a German platoon steamed past a slower Dutch squad, a Dutch soldier joked "look out, ze Germans are coming!"

Friday – the final day: at around 1300 the clouds emptied, but fortunately I was only 4.5km from the finish, so with gore-tex

Special Features

covering a soaked uniform I beasted myself toward the finish, taking the salute from the Dutch Chiefs-of-Staff as I marched by, and then signing off and collecting the participants rewards. Thousands of people failed to finish, many in tears simply because they could go no further. In the evening I decided to treat myself to a drink – it had been a dry week! Although I felt too exhausted I thought it would be rude not to, so after hobbling into town (where fellow walkers could be seen by the fact they were walking very gingerly). After reaching the Irish pub it was time for a beer and a laugh, fortunately neither was in short supply and the Canadians and myself were soon leading a dance off with our Dutch allies! The Saturday was

the beginning of the trip back but fortunately I was able to have a lay in until 8, and our hostess (who in her younger years had been married to a Brit Para) made a cracking fried breakfast, fuel to start the journey home.

In addition to taking part, £550 was raised for the Army Benevolent Fund, from sponsorship. I would like to thank all the people who made it happen, from all three Battalions of The Royal Anglian Regiment who gave their support, lent kit, and even paid sponsorship, and people from my home town. Hopefully my entry in the 2007 marches might lead to a Regimental team - Exercise Hygelac March? - for interested members.

The Athelings British Cadet Rifle Team Canada 2007

Henry Day writes...

My name is Henry Day; I have been a member of Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force for five years and this summer I was fortunate enough to be selected for the Athelings British Cadet rifle team - the first Cambridgeshire ACF cadet ever to go.

For those who have not heard of it, the Athelings are an 18-strong team of British cadets who travel to Canada every August to compete in the Canadian National Cadet Full-bore Championships (the NCFC) and the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association Championships (the DCRA). The trip is part of an exchange programme between British and Canadian cadet forces and has been running since 1910. The team is selected from 100s of members of the CCF, ACF, ATC and SCC who apply each year.

With my parents also being shooters in the civilian world, I have grown up knowing about the Athelings and that they represented the best shooters of their age group in the country. It had always been an ambition of mine to be selected for the team, so I could hardly contain my excitement when I received a letter saying my application had been successful.

This was also a particularly special year to be selected, as the World Championships were being hosted in Canada this year and the Athelings would also be representing Great Britain Under 21s in the Under 21 Individual World Championships and Team World

Championships.

Preparations for the trip began in March with Exercise Maple Taste at Bisley. This was our first opportunity to get together as a team and get to know each other, as well as our Commandant, Adjutant and Armourer who would be accompanying us to Canada. The exercise was a great learning experience, with many experienced shooters on hand to check our equipment and give us advice. It was also an opportunity for our adults to see how well we could perform as a team.

After Maple taste I shot for my county in the Inter Services Cadet Rifle Meeting at Bisley for the fourth year in a row and came 13th in the cadet 100, being selected for the ACF team in the inter-cadet force final for the second year. I stayed on at Bisley during the schools meeting where the CCF cadets competed until we finally met as a team again at the beginning of the NRA's Imperial Meeting in July. All members of the team would be competing in the Imperial Meeting along with Canadian cadets who travel to England to compete against us.

Our first team match was the first stage of the Rex Goddard, a two stage match shot in Britain and in Canada with the host countries cadet rifles. We won the first stage, giving us a healthy 17 point lead for the second stage in Canada! Our next match was the Cadet



Top Cadet Marksman Henry Day with his awards.

Special Features

National match which the Athelings competed in for honours only. We were met by atrocious weather conditions and the match was cancelled after only one distance, but we succeeded in being the only team to finish in the time limit and I was proud to be the only one on the team to manage a highest possible score.

We continued the Imperial Meeting with many successes and my proudest moment was making it into the HM the Queen's Final for the first time and winning the Heygate Goddard trophy for the top British Cadet in the short range aggregate. All this meant the team morale was very high when we travelled to Canada at last.

Before shooting began in mid August we had a ten-day tour of Ontario for rest and relaxation and in order to see many of the tourist sites around Canada. The tour was a welcome break as we had already spent two weeks non stop shooting in the UK and we were all very tired.

Highlights of the tour included an amphibious bus tour of the capital city, Ottawa, a day white water rafting in Quebec, jet boating in Montreal, Wonderland themepark, the CN Tower in Toronto and of course Niagara Falls, along with many other interesting sites, museums and beaches. It is safe to say we all enjoyed the tour and it was an opportunity of a lifetime to see many famous sites. We returned to our base at Connaught ranges well rested and looking forward to three weeks of hard competition.

First we had a practice day where we could get ourselves fitted to and comfortable with the Canadian Cadet Rifles. These are of much better quality than the British cadet rifles and many of the team preferred them to their own rifles which we had also brought with us for the civilian matches. The NCFC lasted three days, with the first two days being individual events and the last day set aside for team matches. I was not able to get completely used to the new rifles and my scores suffered accordingly, but the team did find success, winning the second stage of the Rex Goddard and with one of our team (Tom Wharram of Epsom School) winning the Cadet Grand Aggregate.

There was no time to revel in our success however, because straight after the cadet prize giving we had to put our own civilian rifles together ready to shoot in the first warm up match of the DCRA; a gruellingly windy 2&15 at 900m, a good way to test the sights after they had been stripped off for the flight. The match was tough but the next day I was glad to be back to my own rifle scoring a 50.9 at 500 yards - a personal best for me and the first of six highest possible scores. The DCRA continued in a similar vein over the next week and a half and I was shooting better than I had ever done before.

The DCRA consisted of four warm-up matches and then a grand aggregate of eight matches. As I mentioned earlier I went on to score another five highest possible scores, due to this I found I was leading my class as the grand aggregate drew to a close and with one match left the pressure was on to score well and win the trophy for top in my class. Not only was this, but the Under 21 world championship was at stake as this competition was based on competitor's grand aggregate scores.

The last match was another gruelling 2&15 at 900m. I thought I might have blown it with 71 out of 75 but my closest competitor faired worse and I managed to win the Strachen Challenge Trophy for the top in my class in the grand aggregate and come second in the Under 21 Individual World Championships. Others on the team also scored well with many getting in the top ten of the Under 21 World Championships and also scoring highest possible scores.

Meanwhile, despite all this excitement, we also had team matches to contend. We were met with strong opposition from the Canadian Cadets in the Michael Faraday Match and had to concede our first defeat. Then in the Under 21 Long range match, we lost to the Americans by 10 points. Team spirits were low going into the Under 21 Short Range Match but we pulled it together with our best ever performance to thrash the Americans by 17 points, enough to make up for our defeat at long range, shame there wasn't a trophy for the combined matches. Team morale had been boosted again leading into the Under 21 World Championship Team Match.

This match was our last day of shooting and we wanted to make it our best, but unfortunately it wasn't to be. I shot well and was the top score in the team, but several others who normally shoot extremely well, experienced problems and after three disastrous scores at 600 yards we were never really able to recover. We still managed a bronze though and I for one am proud to be on the third best Under 21 team in the world.

Shooting was over for the summer and it was a huge relief now the pressure was off. Traditionally the Athelings team spends its last few days in Canada on a canoe trip in Algonquin National Park. But due to the World Championships we did not have time for this, it was a shame to miss it, but competing in the World Championships is a rare opportunity that would have been foolish to pass up. So we spent the last few days relaxing. We visited the Museum of Civilization and the War Museum, we went karting and swimming but by now we were all ready to go home.

We arrived back at Bisley on the morning of the 30th, tired but happy to be home. We spent a good deal of time unpacking, and regaling our stories to family and friends who had come to meet us. We were sorry to be parting with each other as we had all become very good friends, but we knew it would not be for long as everyone intended to continue shooting now they are leaving cadets and with many Universities having teams I feel sure we will all see each other around Bisley Common for many years to come.

As for me I have continued some of my success by winning the Churchman, Warner and Maxwell Trophies for top in my Class at the Suffolk Open on Thetford Ranges this September and I am currently fundraising for a trip to South Africa as I hope to be selected for the Great Britain Under 19 team which travels there next April. I owe much of my success to my parents and to the opportunities I have been given in the Army Cadet Force. My coaches, Lt Kevin Pilcher and Lt Rodney Sinclair, have worked very hard over the last five years to help me get where I am and they have become good friends along the way.

Skiing in the Southern Alps of New Zealand

Timothy Graham (Army Scholar sponsored by R ANGLIAN) writes:

In the time between finishing my A Levels and starting my University course I was fortunate enough to be able to go to New Zealand and join a ski instructors course based in the Cardrona ski area. The Cardrona alpine region is in the South Island of New Zealand, between Queenstown and Lake Wanaka. The base elevation is 1,670 metres; the highest point is 1,894 metres. There are 390 hectares of ski area with a vertical rise of 390 metres. The ski season starts at the end of June and ends usually in the first week of October. The average snowfall is three metres.

The 10-week course provided the New Zealand Instructor Stage I qualification which is equivalent to the International Stage II. A typical week consisted of five days training with formal instruction, a free ski session and five gym sessions for personal training directly related to skiing. The training was well organised and pretty intensive. There were additional modules on personal fitness, improving on and off piste technique and avalanche survival. With a pass rate of only

50 per cent the qualification is one of the toughest in the world.

Cardrona is the ski area chosen by several national ski teams to do their summer training. During the summer the Austrian and Italian teams can be spotted doing slalom training, we were even fortunate enough to see Bodi Mill (USA Champion) train.

Although the training takes place in the Cardrona area there is opportunity to visit other nearby resorts. Accommodation is provided in Wanaka with transfer provided to the ski area daily. Apart from skiing there are many other local activities available: free-fall ski diving, bungee jumping, canyon swings; in fact anything for the adventurous.

I found the course very rewarding and my skiing has definitely improved. I now hold a qualification which is recognised in all countries. I would like to thank the Regimental Headquarters for the financial help they gave to me.

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA)*Clare Valentine of the SPVA writes:***How Veterans-UK Can Help You?**

Veterans-UK is the new brand bringing together services to veterans. It's the first stop for veterans who need help and advice.

The first organisation to use this name for its services is the Ministry of Defence's Service Personnel and Veterans' Agency (SPVA). This new agency (formally Veterans' Agency and AFPAA) provides a range of 'through life' support functions direct to around 900,000 serving personnel and the veterans community. These include Pay and HR for the Armed Forces, Pensions Schemes and Compensation Schemes for veterans and those disabled or bereaved through service and a dedicated welfare service providing one to one support, in the home if needed.

Whatever your enquiry, whether it be accessing service records, finding out about entitlement to a War Pension, the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, health concerns or any other issue, the agency is here to help. If we can't help on the spot, we are at the heart of a wide network of support dedicated to helping ex-Servicemen and women and their families. By working in close partnership with ex-Service organisations, War Pensions Committees and other voluntary groups and statutory bodies we can point you in the right direction for sound, practical assistance.

A Home Visit

Wherever you live in the UK, one of our dedicated welfare managers can visit you in your home on request. They can provide face-to-face help on all the above issues as well as statutory benefits, health, training, employment and housing. Call the above number for more information.

The New Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

SPVA administers the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS). Launched on 6 April 2005, it provides a simple and quick means of compensating Service (and ex-Service) personnel for illness or injury sustained as a result of their service. It's a tri-service scheme and also provides income payments to dependants when a person's death is due to service. This can include a tax-free bereavement grant of up to £20,000.

AFCS covers all Regular (including Gurkhas) and Reserve personnel and, for the first time, tax free lump sum awards can be paid to personnel while they are still serving. If personnel have to leave the service as a consequence of injury or illness due to service, they may also be eligible for tax-free income payments, aiming to focus on helping the most severely disabled. AFCS compensation only applies to injury, illness or death caused by service on or after 6 April 2005. It does not affect those already in receipt of a war disablement or war widows pension.

Before 6 April 2005

AFCS supersedes the older war pensions and war widow(ers) pension schemes (applicable to medical conditions caused by service before 6 April 2005), and elements of the Armed Forces Pension scheme but new claims are still being made under all three, all being managed by SPVA.

How AFCS works...

Any condition or symptom suffered can be the subject of a claim as long as it is service-related.

AFCS uses a tariff-based system of compensation payments with a sliding scale of award based on severity of injury. Claiming is straightforward. A claim form is completed; any supporting evidence attached and sent off to SPVA at our Blackpool site. On receipt and review, either more information is requested, usually from Service medical authorities or Commanding Officers, or a decision is made there and then.

AFCS has been designed as a 'no fault' scheme, which means individuals still have the option to sue the Ministry of Defence (MOD) for negligence. Underpinning AFCS is a new IT process, collectively called the Compensation and Pensions System (CAPS), a feature of which is 'statute expert' which enables administrators to reach consistent decisions across a wide range of medical

conditions. They use a complex but simple to use multi-choice question and answer procedure, guiding the user through to a decision. Professional medical advice is always on-hand to resolve more problematic cases.

To further speed up decision making, CAPS is linked to the Joint Personnel Administration System, which holds personal and service details of every Serviceman and woman in HM Armed Forces.

Where do I find a claim form?

To request an AFCS or war pension claim form call 0800 169 2277 or you can download a claim form at www.veterans-uk.info and click onto pensions/compensation.

Contact Information

For further information call 0800 169 2277 or visit www.veterans-uk.info.

AFCS Facts*Who does it cover?*

- Current and former regulars and reserves (including Gurkhas) whose injury, illness or death is caused by Service activity that took place either on or after 6 April 2005.
- AFCS also provides benefits to spouses, civil partners, eligible partners and children.

What does it cover?

- AFCS pays compensation for injuries, illness and death caused by service, including training, accidents and those caused by acts of terrorism and warlike incidents.
- AFCS is a 'no fault' scheme and individuals can still sue the MOD for negligence.
- AFCS does not cover injury, illness or death caused by service activity before 6 April 2005.

What are the scheme's benefits?

- A tax free, lump sum awarded for pain and suffering which varies according to the severity of the injury or illness. The lump sum can be paid in-Service.
- For more serious injury, a tax-free Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP) can be awarded for life. GIP is paid only after discharge.
- On death-in-Service or in retirement, spouses, civil partners, eligible partners and children may also qualify for GIP. A tax-free bereavement grant of up to £20,000.
- GIP takes into account pension but not lump sum, benefits paid from the Armed and Reserve Forces pension schemes.

When should a claim be made?

- Claims can be made while still serving in HM Armed Forces.
- A claim should be made within five years of the date of the event/incident that caused the injury and/or illness.
- On invaliding or following death-in-Service, compensation payments will be considered without the need for Service personnel or their families to claim.

How to make a claim?

- Claims, using the official form and accompanied by any supporting evidence, should be submitted direct to SPVA (see contact details).

Is there help available for completing the claim form?

- Call freephone: 0800 169 2277.

What happens to the claim?

- The claim is reviewed using evidence from Service and civilian medical, Health & Safety and Unit records.
- Where it is considered 'more likely than not' that the injury, illness or death was caused by Service activity, an award will be made.
- A full explanation on the decision will be provided in writing, including any rejection.
- A reconsideration and appeals process is available to review any decision.

Special Features

A Personal View of the Normandy Beaches (Royal Anglian Regiment Association visit 4-6 June 2007)

by Jeremy North (*Ex Suffolk 1954 – Ex Royal Anglian 1961*)

It was quite extraordinary to be standing in the Museum next to Pegasus Bridge, connecting to the vivid memory of myself as a young boy of 11 when I watched, from my back garden in England, all the gliders going over on D-Day. Then the sky was full of them. Now 63 years later I was on the ground where some of them landed, with just a single replica glider and a rusty bridge at which to look.

This opening event of The Royal Anglian Regiment Association's visit to Normandy set the scene for a fascinating and emotional three days, getting a micro view at regimental level. We all know the big picture: the massive build up to the effort to liberate France, the deception plans, the landings (what went right and wrong), the arguments about Caen. But nothing prepares you for the detailed terrain of where ordinary men and women fell, dead or wounded. The mental picture that sticks with me is of the rifle stuck, bayonet first, into the knee high crops or into some ditch to help the stretcher bearers find the casualties.

Travelling with the veterans and their families has been a great privilege. A few could hardly get out of the bus, yet stubbornly they were determined to get to this or that battle site, cemetery or ceremony, not just to those of their own regiment but to those of their brother regiments. There has been much good cheerful humour and banter, so typical of the British soldier, to break up the sadness, the bugle calls and the speeches.

I am so glad we were under The Royal Anglian Regiment banner. I saw the end of national service, the start of the regular army and the early years of the amalgamations. I feel we need to remember Normandy together, mixed up and beside each other, just as our soldiers are, in the cemeteries so beautifully maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Indeed we had with us 15 young soldiers from The Royal Anglian Regiment.... and who will forget them dashing around to find the graves of all our regiments, marking each one with a small wooden cross and poppy, themselves visibly moved?



Col Kerry Woodrow at the Battery at Longues.

We could not cover every cemetery and every action of all the forbear regiments at the D-Day landings, but we did pretty well, with over 10 outdoor ceremonies involving wreath laying, last post and reveille, sometimes with speeches and short services (I as an ex Suffolk had the honour to lay the Association's wreath on the Royal Lincoln Memorial at Herouville); to this add all of the *vin d'honneur* sessions!

And what a wonderful welcome from the French at every stop, from the mayors to the younger citizens! One conversation summed it all up: I approached the old lady, who I know now to be Madame Susan Lenauld, who has given the ground at Hillman to the Suffolk Regiment as a permanent memorial, to tell her what a marvellous



Veterans at the Suffolk Memorial at Hillman.

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Wreath laying for the Royal Norfolk Regiment, Beauville.

gift I thought it.

She looked me straight in the eye and said: 'But of course I did, you gave us our freedom!' I replied: 'But we destroyed so much of your buildings doing it!' She paused and said very quietly: 'Ah yes, but you may not realise what terrible fear we lived in day to day for four years...even if you had knocked down every building in Normandy, it would have been worth it!'

This spirit was typical of all our contacts with our French friends who showed us wonderful hospitality and generosity, in particular of course Les Amis du Suffolk Regiment, who seem to be transforming themselves into Les Amis du Royal Anglian Regiment most effectively!



Service for the Essex Regiment at Tilly-Sur-Seulles.



French support at the Royal Lincoln Regiment Memorial, Herouville.

This friendship and understanding was sensitively returned by Maj Gen John Sutherell and Brig Bill Deller who were careful to stress that our remembrance must cover the French civilian losses too.

May I thank, on behalf of all of us, Col Kerry Woodrow and Brigadier Bill who both did an excellent job explaining the military actions at each stop. We should pay homage to Pat MacDonald too, who did so much to develop these visits to Normandy with Les Amis (his wife, Sue, travelled with us). I think that we should also thank our Drummer, LCpl Paul Rosson (2 Royal Anglian) for the tough task of executing more last posts in three days than he is ever likely to do again, so well!

In closing, I see another vivid memory from my youth, that of standing by my school's memorial gate which had the words of Laurence Binyon inscribed upon it

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

That young schoolboy did not know how these beautiful words would resonate so powerfully and so often during three days in Normandy, some 63 years later.

Please promise me, all of you out there, that you will all take your grandchildren in the future. I shall take mine, if they want to come. They deserve to know about it and understand it. We must make sure that we in The Royal Anglian Regiment continue to honour the veterans of our parent regiments.

The Royal Anglian Regiment Normandy Visit 2008

The third Regimental visit to Normandy is to take place from Wednesday 4 June to Sunday 8 June inclusive. The programme is as follows:

4 June

Travel to Caen with coaches starting from Bury St Edmunds and Warley

5 June

After an overview of the Invasion visit the Mulberry Harbour museum and D-Day cinema at Arromanches; wreath laying at the 2 Herts memorial at Verri-sur-Mer; visit Pegasus Bridge and the Merville Battery.

6 June

In the morning, together with 1 R Norfolk D-Day veterans, visit Sword Beach where 1 R Norfolk and 1 Suffolk came ashore; wreath laying at the 1 R Norfolk memorial on the beach; visit the scene

of 1 Suffolk's action at Hillman strong point and then the scene of 1 R Norfolk's action at Norfolk House; wreath laying at the 1 R Norfolk memorial there and then the 1 Suffolk memorial at Chateau le Londe.

In the afternoon visit a CWGC cemetery, the scene of the 1 Suffolk action at Chateau le Londe and wreath laying with local dignitaries at the Hillman strong point

7 June

Wreath laying at the 2 R Lincoln memorial at Le Bourg; attend a ceremony at the Bayeux CWGC cemetery followed by the joint Essex and Sherwood Rangers service in the town; visit the scene of 2 Essex actions at Verriers Wood and Tilly-sur-Seulles; wreath laying with local dignitaries at the Essex memorial at Verriers Wood and Tilly. In the evening the visit will conclude with a group dinner.

8 June

Return home. The purpose of these visits is twofold. First to enable

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the veterans of our former regiments to revisit the scenes of their actions and to pay homage to their colleagues who died in the Battle for Normandy. Second, to show serving soldiers from the Regiment these places of pilgrimage and to let them hear at first hand from the men who took part in the battles there; and to give them an overall impression of Operation Overlord.

Places on the visit are limited to two coaches. Priority will be given to Veterans, their carers and family; Serving soldiers; The Regimental family at large.

The cost of the trip is £220 per person. Administrative details and an application form are enclosed in this edition of *Castle* or available from Area HQ Warley.

An Historian in Helmand

This article appears by kind permission of Duncan Anderson, War Studies Department, RMAS, to whom we are most grateful. He writes:

Sandhurst academics once lamented the demise of the Junior Staff and Command Course – its replacement, the Military Analysis Modules, could never be as good. And then the MA system took us to remote parts of the United Kingdom – Northern Ireland, Scotland – even Yorkshire – and further afield, to Germany, Cyprus and as the world disorder spread, to Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. Thus it was that in early summer 2007 I flew into Kandahar Air Field (KAF). There is nothing quite like teaching counter-insurgency to captains who have just survived an ambush on the Kabul to Kandahar road, or who have arrived direct from the Helmand Valley. I learned far more from them than they ever could from me. I know it's a cliché, but it's true.

Two decades at Sandhurst meant that as I trudged the dusty streets of KAF I kept running into former students, some of whom now held exalted posts. Whenever I could, notebook and biro at the ready, I pinned them down: 'OK, give me the details of last week's convoy ambush'. 'You're just in from Sangin?' Wait there – don't go away – I'll just get my tape-recorder.' Maj Gen Jonathan 'Jacko' Page, commanding south east Afghanistan, invited me to dinner one evening, during which I elaborated on a favourite topic, the impossibility of military historians understanding an action unless they had walked the ground. I chose Wireless Ridge as my example, at which point the general reminded me, not unkindly, that he too, had walked the ground, on 14 June 1982, commanding 10 Platoon of Maj Phil Neame's D Company. He agreed that the military historians should, if possible, study the scene of the action. Why stop there, I asked. We embodied journalists with units on operations – why not operational military historians? All our coalition partners did this – Americans, Canadians, Australians – what was stopping us? In the face of my pleading, the general was content that if the commander in Helmand, Brig John Lorimer, had no objections, I should fly into Sangin. Brigadier John didn't – in fact, he was hugely supportive. Thanks to the interviews I had conducted in Kandahar, I was sure that a revolution in infantry fighting was taking place in Helmand. Lorimer agreed, and felt it was high time a military historian studied it.

A few days later I was in a Chinook, sweeping low over the Helmand River, sitting in the middle of a row of heavily armed young men, all of whom were leaning forward, pulled by the weight of their Osprey armour. Suddenly the helicopter went into a steep climb, and then an equally steep descent, coming down into a mud walled compound, throwing up clouds of hot, choking dust. Everyone moved quickly to the ramp. I, unencumbered by heavy kit, moved more quickly than most. Indeed, so conscious was I of the dangers inherent in the name Sangin, that I broke into a run, all the way across the compound, up an alleyway, and into a second slightly smaller compound, enclosed on three sides by a 14ft high stone wall, and a large flat roofed house, which looked like a cross between a Palm Beach Hacienda, and an Atlantic Wall gun emplacement. As I rubbed the dust from my eyes, I was reminded irresistibly of the Alamo, as it was just after the final Mexican attack. No, there weren't piles of bodies in the courtyard, but the walls were deeply pitted, and here and there direct fire weapons, probably 120mm rockets fired at very short range, had smashed holes right through the stonework. On the wall of an outpost building the interior of which looked like a cut down version of a famous machine-tractor factory which had once stood on the Volga, former residents had printed in huge black letters *Welcome to Sanginrad 2nd Fusiliers*.

The Fusiliers had left after an epic siege – now A Company of 1 Royal Anglians was in residence. I went down a flight of stairs leading to a basement area under the main building, where the company command post was located. There in the gloom I was greeted warmly by Maj Dominick Biddick, who reminded me that I had taught him as a cadet, and later on the Junior Staff and Command Course. And then his platoon commanders appeared. 'Hello Sir, remember me?' asked Lt Bjorn Rose, 'I was the chap who brought the Jagd Panzer to Sandhurst.' Indeed I did – all the tank spotters in war studies still salivated at the memory of the Jagd Pazer trundling through the gates in the spring of 2006, courtesy of a friend of the then OCdt Rose. And then, through the gloom, Lt Nick Denning: 'Hello Sir, finished marking my CWSP yet?' I was gripped by a spasm of guilt – he was joking wasn't he? I'm sure I did give it back to him. I answered in kind 'Sorry, Mr Denning, I seem to have left it in Kandahar, but I'll see if I can have it air dropped to you.' Not for the first time in my life, I was reminded what a wonderful club Sandhurst actually is. That night we sat down and exchanged stories of RMAS, of fearsome colour sergeants, of memorable lectures and even more memorable lecturers, and of how they had all changed since they marched up the steps of Old College.

I had only intended to stay a few days with the Royal Anglians, but this grew into more than three weeks. They made me feel part of the family – so much so, that after a few days I had gone completely native. The soldiers of the British army are such wonderful individualists; A Company had its full share of characters. Take, for example, Pte Matt Duffy of 3 Platoon, a budding naturalist, who every day would study with scientific curiosity yet another creature he had captured – lizards, frogs, scorpions, spiders. And then there was Pte Ben Roberts, also of 3 Platoon, a large man with tattooed arms, and a gifted tenor. On my first night in Sangin, he enthralled the entire garrison with a rendition of Puccini's *Nessun Dorma*; not a soul stirred, as his voice swelled up until it seemed to fill not just the Sangin DC, but the entire valley, which was bathed in the light of an impossibly large moon. The member of garrison who had the greatest effect on me, however, was Jihad, the most fortunate dog in Afghanistan. Jihad had been adopted and named by the British Army. Never before in her life had she experienced such affection and such food, and Jihad reciprocated loyally. As patrols moved out Jihad would trot along beside them, and when she detected danger she would crouch down and growl softly.

After I'd been in Sangin about a week I was invited along on Operation Ghartse Gar, an offensive sweep of the middle Helmand Valley. The day before Ghartse Gar Gen Page flew in for the final planning session. He surveyed me with a quizzical eye, tooled up as I was, and said 'Duncan, you really are much too old to be doing this sort of thing, you know. A few days later I was beginning to think he was right. When we went off into the Helmand I weighed about 13st 10lb – when I got back to Bastion I found I had lost 25lb, and was now the lightest I'd been for 30 years. But at least I had the weight to lose. Some of the 18 and 19-year-olds were looking like stick insects. I was sure a point would come when they could no longer carry their kit, but it never did. Around the middle of the operation I was able to tell two correspondents from the *Daily Mirror* that no soldiers in history had ever had to carry so much for so long in such high temperatures – not their grandfathers at El Alamein, not even their remote ancestors in Richard the Lionheart's army at Arsouf, who had worn armour in battle, but had taken it off

Special Features

as soon as the fighting was over. Compared to the British soldiers in Helmand, they were wimps.

During the course of the operation, I moved from A to B Company, which was the northern arm of a pincer which was crushing the Taliban. B Company's commander, Maj Mick Aston, a tall bearded Australian, came from Brisbane, which was also my home town. We both wondered about the extraordinary twists of fate which had brought two boys from 'Brizzie' to this remote Central Asian valley, in the service of the British Army. As we passed through villages, it was clear that the Pashtu were in awe of Maj Aston who looked every inch a warrior chief, and they gave equally approving nods to his similarly bearded men, armed to the teeth with a variety of what to them were novel weapons. I, too, had let my beard grow. 'Schpingari!' the Pashtu cried, as they pointed at me. 'What does it mean?' I asked the interpreter. 'White-beard', he replied. 'A term of respect?' I suggested, hopefully. He looked embarrassed, shuffled uneasily, and said, a little hesitantly: 'No...no sir...it means... silly old man.' That evening as I scraped the bristles off my face, I began to think that General Page had been talking to the Pashtu. All this Anglo-Afghan ageism was not doing a lot for my self-image.

The heat and the weight they carried were the least of the soldier's problems. They also faced a formidable enemy. All the Taliban are brave, and they don't mind dying. One day, I saw an RPG round arc some 900ft into the sky about a 1,000 metres to our front, to explode harmlessly about 500ft beneath an Apache gunship. Looking like an angry hornet, the helicopter pivoted around to a firing position, and then a sound like a pneumatic drill rent the air. The Taliban must have known he had no chance of bringing the Apache down, so firing the round was tantamount to suicide. But then something incredible happened. A second round, fired about three metres from the first, rose into the sky, and again exploded harmlessly well short of its target. Once more the Apache pivoted, once more its gun shredded everything near the firing point. Whatever was going on, it wasn't war, as we understand it. Mick Aston felt that their real target was not the helicopter, but their god. They know they were going to die, and they wished to die as martyrs in battle.

Against dismounted British infantry, the combat is more equal. The valley is a maze of irrigation ditches, fields of wheat and opium poppies, interspersed with orchards, with the fields surrounded by high mud-brick walls, which are impenetrable to our direct fire weapons. Every kilometre or so, there is a compound, rather like a medieval fortress, or clusters of compounds, which form villages. Narrow tracks and alleyways run between the fields, connecting the settlements. It was so much like the bocage of Normandy, particularly the dense swampy area at the base of the Cotentin Peninsula. It is not just the physical environment which is like Normandy. The Taliban, at their best, are as skilful as the Waffen SS. One morning as I sat on the sandbagged roof of a FOB overlooking the valley, filming the advance of a platoon of the Afghan National Army (ANA) deeper into the valley, all hell broke loose. I threw myself down on the roof, attempting to dig into the concrete-hard mud with my fingernails, as rounds zinged overhead. The Taliban had been lying in the undergrowth in a ditch only 200 metres to our front. They had remained concealed, allowing the ANA to advance over them, and had then emerged, firing simultaneously at us and the rear of the ANA. I knew from talks with Sydney Jary and other Normandy veterans, that this had been a favourite tactic of the Panzergrenadiers of the Waffen SS. Like the Germans the Taliban had got so close, we couldn't employ our indirect fire weapons. The result was a duel, our machine guns against their AK-47s and RPG-7s. Eventually a reserve platoon of the ANA moved on the Taliban's left flank, and they slipped away, doubtless congratulating themselves on having given us an interesting morning. During the exchange I managed to take one picture, at an angle which indicates that the camera was less than six inches off the roof. I didn't believe I could flatten my body to such an extent, but apparently I did.

The Royal Anglian battlegroup took a number of casualties in Ghartse Gar, but mercifully none were fatalities. In other operations they have been less fortunate – 12 of their soldiers will not be coming home. Less than two years out of Sandhurst, I asked the platoon commanders how they coped when their men were killed.

'It's random,' said Nick Denning. 'And surreal,' added Bjorn Rose. 'Yes, that's about right, random and surreal,' agreed Graham Goody, commander of 3 Platoon. I think I know what they meant. It is that look of surprise on everyone's face, including the soldier who has been hit. Everyone I spoke to had nothing but praise for the RAMC. They all knew if they were hit that the medics in Bastion would have a Chinook with a skilled medical team in the air within minutes, and that if it were humanly possible the Chinook would land and carry them to a first-rate field-hospital.

I had been on final exercises in Cyprus, and seen young officers commanding platoons in simulated battle. In Helmand I saw it for real. What struck me most was how calm everyone remained. The voices were never raised, the orders were clear and precise – I was reminded irresistibly of Sydney Jary's aphorism 'In battle the most important thing that an officer can do is keep a cool head.' I think this coolness is the product of several interlocking factors. The Royal Anglian's company commanders set excellent examples, never letting the mask of command slip, even when things were not going quite to plan. It was hugely encouraging for the platoon commanders to know that the chaps a couple of steps above them were experienced, highly competent, and not about to make silly mistakes. I think it is also a testament to the RCB system of selection, and the education and training they receive at Sandhurst, and at their specialist schools. I'm not sure how it all works, but I know that it does.

I flew out of Sangin in mid July with the Royal Anglian's commanding officer, Lt Col Stuart Carver. Operations in Helmand, he told me, have changed the nature of command at battalion level. At Wireless Ridge Lt Col Chaundler had led an attack which Douglas Haig would have understood, but now things were different. His role was more like that of a brigade commander, with the brigadier much more in the role of a divisional or corps commander. Developments in communications, firepower, and firepower control were now allowing the battalion commander to use his companies as battalions. Fire Support Teams (FSTs) had at last effected the firepower revolution heralded by Hutier and other gunners in the last stages of the First World War. The most difficult thing he had to do was to stand back, and allow his subordinates the freedom of action they required. Like all military historians, I had studied mission command for years, and here was the most perfect example of it in operation I had yet seen.

About two weeks later I had the opportunity to see a FST in action at Garmseer, our position in the south of the Helmand Valley, which blocks the Taliban's most direct infiltration route to the north. Last year the Royal Marines wrested control of the town from the Taliban in a bitter battle. They left behind signs painted on the walls of forward positions 'The Front Line', indicating that it was not sensible to go further. It is now held by A company of the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters (2 Mercians), who on an average day will have several contacts with the enemy. As I stood on J TAC Hill looking south, it seemed so peaceful. 'Just wait until a Chinook lands, sir,' said Cpl Gareth Clements, the Javelin commander. Sure enough, shortly after midday a Chinook did sweep down into FOB Delhi. In the far distance a machine gun opened up, followed by another, and then another, this time much closer – the Taliban were there, all right, watching and waiting. That night they put in a series of probing attacks. Exchanges of automatic fire began shortly after 1900, and went on spasmodically for the next two hours, as Taliban sections probed first one position, and then another.

I WFR's response came at 21.20. Explosions came from an adjoining compound, the sound of 81mm mortar bombs leaving their barrels, and then, a few seconds later, the distant boom of 105s. Their shells were already well on their way to target, as were the 81mm bombs. 'Impact in 37 seconds,' reported an NCO with the FST. I counted. I got to 38 – I must have counted too fast in my excitement – when a sudden deafening crash exploded to our front. Shells and mortar bombs had arrived simultaneously, and were now supplemented by machine guns, grenades, and Javelins. It was exactly like the opening of the El Alamein barrage in *Desert Victory*. For 90 seconds the night sky was light up by the brilliant flashes of explosions, and then there was silence. 'That's enough' said Maj Jamie Newell, A Company commander, 'by now they are

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either dead or they have gone to ground. We'll hit them again if they move.' He added, with a grin, 'it isn't very fair, is it?' 'No,' I agreed, 'and thank God for that.'

The following morning on JTAC Hill, the interpreters, who were monitoring ICOM chatter, told me about the Taliban. 'They are very sad – they have lost many – they are arguing with each other – they are saying don't speak Urdu because the English understand Urdu – but many can't speak Pashtu.' I learned that Taliban burial parties had come out before dawn to collect the dead. The British could have slaughtered them, but because none were carrying long-barrel weapons, they held their fire. The Royal Anglians had behaved in exactly the same way in the middle Helmand, when the firefight was over. The message was simple – we are not here to kill you – if you try to kill us we will kill you, but if you lay down your weapons we will not interfere with you.

The Pashtu in Helmand respect the British. We fight by a code they understand. Some believe that we have come to Afghanistan to avenge our defeat at Maiwand on 27 July 1880, a motivation with which they are quite comfortable. Unfortunately they have less regard for some of the Kabul government's forces. The police, particularly, are singled out for savage criticism. There are honourable exceptions. The police detachment in Sangin, for example, trained and led by Sgt 'Tiger' Gardner, a veteran with 22 years service with the Royal Anglians, has a reputation for honesty and competence. But what will happen when their leader moves on, as inevitably he must, and an Afghan takes command? As by far the oldest member of any patrol, and therefore obviously the headman, I was often accosted by Pashtu, who vented their anger in a very direct manner. 'Grandfather, grandfather, why do you send the police to plague us? They are thieves and brigands.' I had no good answer – the reform of the police is the most pressing problem the Kabul government now faces.

The Afghan National Army is held in higher regard. It is genuinely a national army, with units composed of all of Afghanistan's ethnic and tribal groups. The leadership, too, seems of good quality, at least in that part of the Helmand I got to know. The commander in Sangin, Colonel Rizal, a 51-year-old bear of a man with a magnificent black beard, could have walked straight from the pages of Kipling. 'Old Man', he said on first meeting me, 'are the English so short of soldiers that they must send grandfathers?' By this time I had got used to the Pashtu form of address, reminiscent of the humorous banter employed by the Spartans, and tried to respond in kind. 'Rizal Khan, if I had dye my beard would be as dark as yours. We are both old, but I am wise in the ways of war'. 'Wise in the ways of war?' responded Rizal quizzically, with a half-smile and a twinkle in his eye, 'have you ever fought the Russians?' He had me – I conceded the point. There is something appealing about their warrior culture – I couldn't help liking them.

For the moment, the war is being waged by men like Rizal, and their warrior bands, but a new generation of officers and soldiers

is on the way. In August I was in Kabul to visit the interim Afghan National Army Military Academy, where the British army's Gurkhas are conducting the training. As in Kandahar and Helmand, I kept running into old acquaintances. The OC of Sandhurst's Gurkha demonstration company, Maj Guy Glanville, greeted me with mock surprise and the now familiar comments on my decrepitude. He told me the Gurkhas were in their element – they could make themselves understood in Dari, which most Afghans used as a common language, and the Afghans respected them as a warrior people. That was certainly my impression, as I watched a class of cadets snap to attention at a Gurkha sergeant's word of command. Several of the Gurkhas, who had served at Sandhurst, told me that in basic military skills the Afghan cadets were superior to their British counterparts, at least when they entered the Academy, which was not, I suppose, very surprising. However, there was a tendency for the Afghans to gravitate to their tribal groups, something the Gurkhas discouraged, by forcing them into mixed platoons on exercise. The British commander, Col Charles Newitt, is very aware that an important subsidiary purpose of this training is to foster the development of an Afghan national consciousness. To this end he has named the two cadet companies after two famous victories, Gandamak and Maiwand, in which all Afghans take pride. 'Only a Brit could have done that,' said a visiting American colonel, 'you guys are such good losers.'

Two years from now, a third generation of Afghan officers will begin emerging from the main ANA Academy. Modelled on West Point, the new Academy will run a four-year programme which will give the cadets a thoroughly rounded education. There will also be time for cadets from Kandahar, Herat and Mazar-e Sharif, to develop a common identity. They may, of course, also develop into a praetorian guard, but their American mentors are well aware of this danger. The military history course, developed by a West Point professor, is designed to help produce militarily literate officers, who will also be imbued with an acceptance of civilian primacy. It is the type of course I would love to have produced myself, but it is well beyond the capacity of Sandhurst, given the constraints of time and resources. And there is the rub. It will work, if it is given lots of time and lots of money. The same could be said for the whole of Afghanistan. As I flew out of Kabul, I was sure that our ambassador's estimate of 30 years, which had shocked so many in the political establishment in Britain, was almost certainly an underestimate. Whatever happens, we are going to be there a long time. The great majority of the present generation of Sandhurst cadets will serve in Afghanistan, and will live to see a time when their sons and daughters at the Academy will belong to a Helmand or a Sangin Company. I was very aware that one of the great epics of British military history is being fought out along the Helmand at the moment. I will be forever grateful to the officers and men who made it possible for me to witness it. So too, I trust, will be the cadets of Sandhurst, when we start lecturing on the Helmand campaign in the months ahead.

The Minden Band

A Versatile Engagement - Cpl Adie Starbuck writes:

During the remainder of 2006 and so far this year, the Minden band of the Queen's Division has continued to provide a wide and varied range of musical products in order to entertain our troops and public at home and abroad.

The Queen's Division Soul Band's exposure at major recruiting events such as last year's 'Rhythm Force' and Army Exhibition for Schools, successfully generated interest in Army music. We continued 'spreading the word' at another 'Rhythm Force' style event, this time as part of 'Army in Society'. On home soil at ATR Bassingbourn, the event featured three pop groups and a big band along with a Massed bands display with the Band of the Parachute Regiment.

Our other small ensembles have clocked up many 'motorway miles' with assorted Regimental dinners and cocktail parties up and down the country.

Overall this summer has proved to be busier than usual Beating Retreats, garden parties concerts and parades providing many of the reasons for the numb 'coach legs' and countless packed lunches 'on the hoof'.

The Queen's Division Big Band has attracted sizable audiences at venues in the UK and Germany. One noteworthy performance was at 'Halle Munsterland' 2006 where in a break with tradition our swing band opened the second half of the show. This, not only proved to be a big hit, but also demonstrated the versatility of today's military musician.

Our big band also performed a concert in aid of the Army Benevolent fund in Peterborough. During the show we were televised for an Anglia News broadcast, this included extremely positive comments from the public on our performance. For some of the audience, the afternoon bought back fond memories of the 40s and 50s when the 'Miller sound' was the music of the moment.

Looking back, the Glenn Miller phenomenon was similar to our own approach to troop morale support. Touring the world, these Army Musicians performed music of the day, in order to entertain service personnel and the general public. These bands, while providing valuable service to the Military, also recorded the 'hits' of the era, listened to and enjoyed by millions.

In response to many requests, our own Big Band has just completed a recording of classic swing and more contemporary hits. We have been lucky to share the stage during many of our shows with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra's principal vocalist Sarah Ellen Hughes. Sarah, a long term friend of the band, joined us on our session, performing classics made famous by some of the great female jazz singers. The CD will be available later in the year.

There will always be a place for the marching band, 'Pomp and Ceremony' is our bread and butter and I doubt that will change in the future. In a few short years however, we have started to adapt stylistically in order to keep up with changing musical trends.

In reality, many of our loyal followers are in a certain age group. If we are to entertain their children and grand-children we need to continue to push forward with these capabilities.

Alongside our many musical commitments we were to prepare for a possible deployment to Cyprus. All Bands had been put on standby to guard sovereign bases in order to relieve those units currently on tour in the area. In preparation we began updating our ITD's and cramming in specialist training into an already full calendar. The threat has for now diminished, so it's back to business as usual, but while no two days are alike, what could possibly be usual?

For information on our forthcoming compact disc, or any other matters write to The Minden Band of the Queen's Division, Bassingbourn Barracks, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 5LX.



In full swing.

The Regimental Association

Obituaries



Korea 1951-2 in the CP in Samichon Valley. Frank Fleming, Brian Emsden, 'Whiskas' Wormold KIA, CO John Orlebar, Bob MacDonald and Trevor Hart MO.

Lt Col FR Fleming

Lt Col Francis (Frank) Richard Fleming of Burwash, East Sussex, died on 21 September 2007 aged 79. He served with 1 R Norfolk in Korea 1951-2, then in Hong Kong and latterly with the E Anglian and R Anglian Regiments in the Radfan, Aden, Cyprus, BAOR and Northern Ireland. He is in the photograph taken in Korea 1951-2 in the CP in Samichon Valley, featured in B&C 100 June 2003, extracted above. The Regiment was represented at his funeral by Col Rupert Conder, Maj Tony Towell MC and David Jolley Esq. Below is the funeral address by his daughter Matilda.

'Daddy was not a man who courted attention or who liked fuss, but he was a good, decent, honourable human being, family man and a British Army officer. He was intensely loyal, fair, generous, kind, accepting people's strengths and weaknesses. He made the best of situations and enjoyed making people laugh. He was highly intelligent, and that intelligence and quick wit shone through right until the end of his life. Even when it is a merciful release from a dementia which is a slow loss of the person, the death of a much loved husband, father and grandfather is a harrowing loss and daddy is deeply missed and lovingly remembered by his family. First and foremost he was a family man who, above all, loved, and was devoted to mummy, me, Dennis, to his grandchildren Emma and Andrew and to his brother Peter and his family. Mummy will remember him as someone who made her feel that anything was possible if one put one's mind to it. He said 'never think of the difficulties, only the solutions'. He gave her the courage to do things and face things she never dreamt she was capable of. She travelled to places and saw things throughout their life together which she never dreamt of in her youth, and Frank leaves her with a host of wonderful memories of their life together.

'She tells me that her one sadness is that they never made their 50th wedding anniversary due next year. She remembers him as a strong man, loving and loyal. I shall always remember him from my childhood as a wonderful father who was a companion and soul mate, who laughed and joked with me and with whom I had an understanding. He never failed to write to me every week when I was away at school and when I was at home he was a constant loving companion with whom I shared the love of sport, playing cards, reading, doing puzzles, animals and travelling. In my adult life, he was always to be relied upon for guidance and support and for his generosity. He was overjoyed when his grandchildren were born and he loved occasions when the whole family were gathered together. He was appreciative of efforts made for him and was always polite and gentlemanly in showing his gratitude for meals cooked or presents given. He loved his home and the security, happiness, peace and quiet it offered: this was all the more so given that he had lost his own mother at a very early age and from then on had had a turbulent childhood. Only lately, as his illness took hold, did he tell his family about his feelings of bewilderment surrounding the loss of his mother.

'He bore his illness with typical calmness and stoicism and never

once complained or made a fuss. Even in the last year of his life, when, to the intense pain and distress of all of us in the family, he had to be admitted to Dudwell St Mary Care Home, he brought joy to his family and to the people who cared for him daily with his cheerfulness and gentlemanly politeness. Daddy enjoyed a distinguished 35-year career in the R Norfolk and R Anglian Regiments. He served his country in campaigns in Korea, the Radfan, Cyprus and Northern Ireland. His time in the Army brought him happiness, companionship, camaraderie and security and he and mummy made many lifelong friends. He enjoyed an extremely happy retirement in which he was fortunate to fulfil his lifelong ambition both to ensure the security of his family and to retire to the south of France and we are thankful that he had several years of deserved joy, peace and happiness before his illness began.

'Mummy made his last years as happy as possible and right up to the end of his life enabled him to enjoy his love of the countryside, nature and animals by taking him out, driving, 2-3 times a week. Her devotion to him was valiant and something for which, we know for sure, he was supremely grateful every time he saw her. We miss his smile, we miss his presence and we miss his laughter, wit and companionship. We miss him, but a part of him lives on in all of us, both in his spirit and through his family.'

Below is a reminiscence by Col Rupert Conder:

It was heartening to see some Royal Norfolk ties on display at Frank's funeral. I served with him when he was OC B Company 1st Battalion, 1st E Anglian Regiment 'up country' in the Radfan in 1964 when Jack Dye was Commanding Officer.

After a brief tour in Oman with the Northern Frontier Regiment, I was posted back to the Battalion and appointed as one of Frank's platoon commanders during internal security operations in Aden, when Tim Creasey was Commanding Officer. I shall always remember the many occasions, even during the most pressing operational times, when Frank could be found religiously updating his book of racing results, yet ready to hold his company 'O Group' five minutes later! In 1965 the Bn moved to Celle in Germany, Frank was posted out and Mike Thorne took over from him. In 1968, I was posted to the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion in Oswestry in Shropshire where I again found that I was serving with Frank who was commanding a company there. David Wright, another Royal Anglian officer, was also in the IJLB at the time and it was always an amusement to see if we could ever appear on the daily muster parade in the same items of uniform (I don't think we ever achieved it!).

We held a mini-Minden Day parade for the three of us and a couple of Royal Anglian NCOs. Frank took the salute and, before dismissing the 'parade', ordered us to the Mess for a glass of champagne. In 1969 Frank was short-toured and sent to Northern Ireland to become, I believe, SO1 (Int) in HQNI to help counter the IRA build-up. I was fortunate to be appointed to take over as company commander from him and be made an acting major. In 1970 1 R Anglian was posted to Londonderry where I joined it as IO and received a briefing from Frank. After that we lost touch, but we met up on a couple of occasions at Radfan reunion dinners, held to commemorate the capture of the Jebel Huriyah, the highest peak in the Radfan.

JLR

Capt DC Hicks

Capt David Charles Hicks, aged 27, died during a violent attack on a patrol base by Taliban insurgents in the Upper Sangin Valley, Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

David commissioned from RMAS in December 2002 into the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment. After two years commanding a rifle platoon he went to Bosnia for two months as a Company 2IC with the Grenadier Guards. He then went to ITC Catterick for just over a year where he trained recruits, before going to Iraq as a company 2IC for the 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment - the Poachers. He then returned to the 1st Battalion towards the end of 2006 where he took over again as company 2IC for C (Essex)

Obituaries



Capt DC Hicks.

Company.

Capt Hicks had been deployed on Operation Herrick 6 in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, since March 2007. He had been involved in numerous engagements with enemy forces. At the time he was acting as company commander and had commanded a number of fighting patrols deep into the Taliban territory, always leading from the front and setting the example for the remainder of the company. He died commanding C Company from the front as he co-ordinated the response to a co-ordinated attack on their patrol base.

Capt Hicks was an extremely dedicated, conscientious and professional officer. He planned everything with incredible attention to detail, always ensuring he achieved the best possible result. He had a real passion for soldiering and thrived in the operational environment, where he had the opportunities to practise the profession he so loved. He was a true advocate of the 'work hard – play hard' ethos of the Infantry and was a real character in the Mess.

He was supremely fit, and enjoyed all physical aspects of the Army. His hobbies included skiing, and he was already planning the Battalion skiing trip for early 2008.

He had been with his girlfriend since late 2006, and was planning to buy a house with her in Surrey following the tour.

Cpl DW Bonner



Cpl Darren Bonner was the lead signaller serving with A (Norfolk) Company Group, 1 R Anglian Battle Group, deployed on Operation Herrick 6 in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. On Monday 28 May 2007 he was taking part in an operation aimed at maintaining the pressure on the Taliban – focusing on the Sangin Valley area. At the time of his death Corporal Bonner was moving on a patrol in a 'Viking' armoured vehicle when an explosive incident took place. This device was specifically emplaced by the Taliban

in order to cause indiscriminate death and injury to ISAF troops operating in the area.

Cpl 'Big Daz' Bonner was a larger than life figure who made a positive impact on everyone that he met. At 31 years of age, he was engaged to Becca and looking forward to the prospect of marriage and buying a home in Great Yarmouth after his tour of duty in Afghanistan. Physically impressive, he was a keen weightlifter and night club bouncer in his spare time; but his robust exterior concealed a sensitive compassionate side and a heart of gold. Darren was a devout Christian and had taken the lead in organising a memorial for a recent fatality in A Company. He would regularly give up his time for others, teaching 'football in the community', or mentoring Army cadets near his home town in Gorleston. He was also an avid

Spurs fan and made sure that everyone who met him was appraised of that fact!

Darren exuded energy and charisma; he always had a joke to tell or a story to recount, thus ensuring that he was extremely popular with his wealth of friends. The night before his death he was seen reading the Bible by his friends, drawing strength before facing the known dangers of the operation. He genuinely cared about the people of Afghanistan, and about his comrades that he fought with. It is, therefore, a source of some consolation to those who knew him that he died on operations courageously contributing to a noble cause; one that he cared about and believed in.

LCpl GR Davey



LCpl George Davey died as a result of a tragic firearms accident on the British base at Sangin in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

LCpl Davey joined the British Army in January 2004 and having completed training as an infantry soldier at the Infantry Training Centre Catterick, he joined the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment the same year.

He was born on 8 January 1984 in Great Yarmouth, later moving to

Beccles in Suffolk. Among his many interests, he had a love for motorcycling and he was a keen swimmer.

As a section 2IC in 5 Platoon B (Suffolk) Company, he had been serving in Helmand Province, Afghanistan on Operation Herrick 6 since early April 2007. George was a kind-hearted, loyal and selfless commander who worked tirelessly for the benefit of others. His quiet and unassuming demeanour helped him achieve impressive results. With the more junior soldiers in his section, he had a maturity beyond his years. He sought little praise or recognition for his actions, preferring to get on with the job in hand with the minimum of fuss and the welfare of his men was foremost.

In the face of the enemy, he displayed all the attributes of a first class soldier. On a recent mission in the Sangin Valley, under intense fire from the enemy, he was fearless in the support he provided to his platoon sergeant, as he attempted to suppress the enemy at close quarters. LCpl Davey was a pillar of strength to all those around him and he was a proven combat soldier whose influence will be missed in the company.

LCpl Davey was foremost a completely devoted family man. He doted on his wife, Joanna, and his two young daughters, Millie and Morgan, about whom he would talk animatedly on the joy they brought him. Along with his faith, his family were the foundation on which he drew his own strength.

LCpl A Hawkins

LCpl Alex Hawkins, 22, was killed in action in an explosive incident on 25 July during an operation to the North of Sangin. He was at the time working in a Fire Support Group from D Company 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment but temporarily attached to C Company.

From an early age Alex Hawkins showed a huge interest in the military and joined the cadets in his home town of East Dereham, Norfolk at the first opportunity. Having thoroughly enjoyed his time in the ACF it was no surprise that he decided to join the Army as a career. He chose to forge that career in his county regiment – the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment. He joined up in January 2003 and from the start he was an impressive soldier. His commitment was unquestioned and it was clear that he thoroughly enjoyed the military life.

He was a huge fitness fanatic and also played rugby and loved skiing. He was modest by nature and let his actions speak louder than words. He had all the key attributes of a soldier and showed courage, determination and leadership skills in abundance.

Having completed his first operational tour of duty as a rifleman in Iraq it was no surprise that he volunteered to undertake the demanding

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LCpl Alex Hawkins.

training to qualify as a sniper. Alex relished the challenge and earned his sniper badge in 2006. Having made this significant achievement he went on to complete an NCO's cadre after which he was immediately promoted to lance corporal. He relished the challenge of deploying to Afghanistan and was highly motivated by the opportunity to do his job for real. Many times he had been proven in combat during intense engagements with the Taliban.

Alex was very highly thought of by his fellow soldiers and had a bright future ahead of him. He will be very sorely missed throughout the Battalion.

Pte RG Foster



At approximately 6.30pm on Thursday 23 August 2007, Pte Robert Foster was killed during a fighting patrol to disrupt enemy activity and reassure the local population north west of Kajaki, in northern Helmand Province, southern Afghanistan. Pte Foster's platoon came under accurate fire from a determined Taliban force. During the ensuing firefight air support was requested to engage the enemy positions and it was then that a bomb tragically struck the compound where Pte Foster and his section were

located. An emergency helicopter was tasked to assist, however, sadly Pte Foster was pronounced dead at the scene.

Robert enlisted into the British Army in April 2006 and having completed training as a rifleman at the Infantry Training Centre Catterick, he joined the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment in October the same year. He had recently participated in exercises in the UK and Kenya.

As a rifleman in 7 Platoon B (Suffolk) Company, Pte Foster had been serving in Helmand Province in Afghanistan since March 2007 on his first operational tour. He had seen significant action during his short time with the Battalion being involved in numerous engagements with the Taliban often at close quarters, in the most demanding circumstances. In these situations he fought with a strength and courage that belied his relative inexperience, testament to his unswerving commitment to his fellow soldiers.

Pte Foster was one of the company's real characters. An extrovert by nature, his gregarious approach was a refreshing relief from the stresses of combat; unsurprisingly he was hugely popular within his platoon and the wider company. He had the rare quality to always see the bright side of any situation, irrespective of the severity of

events. His confidence and excellent sense of humour shone through at every stage, lifting the morale of all those around him.

An accomplished rifleman who worked hard for his mates, Pte Foster clearly enjoyed Army life and being among his fellow soldiers. He had a bright future in a career that he loved. His absence will be felt deeply within the Company.

Pte AJ McClure



At approximately 6.30 pm on Thursday 23 August 2007, Pte Aaron McClure was killed during a fighting patrol to disrupt enemy activity and reassure the local population north west of Kajaki, in northern Helmand Province, southern Afghanistan.

Pte McClure's platoon came under accurate fire from a determined Taliban force. During the ensuing firefight air support was requested to engage the enemy positions and it was then that a bomb

tragically struck the compound where Pte McClure and his section were located. An emergency helicopter was tasked to assist, however, sadly Pte McClure was pronounced dead at the scene.

Pte McClure, nicknamed 'Troy', enlisted into the British Army in March 2006 and having completed training as a rifleman at Infantry Training Centre Catterick, he joined the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment in October the same year. He had recently participated in exercises in the UK and Kenya.

As a rifleman in 7 Platoon B (Suffolk) Company Pte McClure had been serving in Helmand Province in Afghanistan since March 2007 on his first operational tour. During this time he had been involved in numerous fierce engagements with the Taliban often at close range. In dangerous situations and the most demanding of environments, 'Troy' quickly established himself as a highly capable, motivated and brave soldier.

His quiet, unassuming nature was founded on an inner confidence that saw him excel at a very early stage in his career; he was a rising star within the Company who had a bright future. Widely regarded as a first-rate soldier, notable for his complete reliability and commitment, it was in contact with the enemy where he displayed his true ability working selflessly to support the remainder of his platoon without complaint; characteristics he will be remembered for. Pte McClure's friendly, modest exterior belied a soldier who was focused, physically and mentally tough, and intent on doing the utmost for his team-mates. His presence will be missed immensely by all within the Company.

Pte TA Rawson



Shortly before 0600 hours on 10 August 2007, a patrol that was en-route to check on a local irrigation project came under heavy fire from Taliban fighters. It was during the ensuing firefight that two soldiers were injured. An emergency helicopter was requested but sadly Pte Tony Rawson was pronounced dead at the scene and flown to the medical facility at Camp Bastion.

Pte Rawson joined the British Army in July 2002 after visiting the Ilford Army Careers Information Office. He attended the Infantry Training Centre at Catterick, and after completing his training, joined the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment in March 2003.

Pte Rawson had taken part in a number of exercises in the UK, Italy and Kenya. He deployed to Iraq on Operation Telic 6 as part of the All Arms Search Team – something he was very proud of and believed to be one of his biggest achievements. His leadership and organisational ability was identified and during 2006 he was selected to attend the Battalion's JNCO cadre. However, due to a knee injury he was unfortunately unable to complete it. His high standard of soldiering and administrative skills were still utilised, and he was

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employed as a section 21C within his platoon.

Pte Rawson had been deployed on Operation Herrick 6 in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, since June 2007. He had been involved in numerous engagements with enemy forces and had always been in the thick of things, using his experience to best effect and demonstrating himself to be a highly professional and capable individual.

Pte Rawson enjoyed the physical aspects of military life and because he thought of himself as 'a small bloke', felt he had a lot to prove, to himself and not to others. He achieved this admirably by representing his company in the inter-company boxing competition, which he won. He always kept fit and believed that to be key in achieving his goals.

Pte Rawson gained the nickname 'Nicey' when he turned up at the Battalion because of his nature, friendliness and willingness to go out of his way to do anything for his fellow soldiers.

Pte Rawson lived with his fiancée, Louise Stevenon, and her daughter, Caitlin, in Dagenham, Essex. He was a devoted family man and was planning to get married in March 2008. He was very excited and proud of the fact that they were expecting their first child.

Pte JS Thrumble



At approximately 6.30 pm on Thursday 23rd August 2007, Private John Thrumble was killed during a fighting patrol to disrupt enemy activity and reassure the local population north west of Kajaki, in northern Helmand Province, southern Afghanistan.

Private Thrumble's platoon came under accurate fire from a determined Taliban force. During the ensuing firefight air support was requested to engage the enemy positions and it was then that a bomb tragically struck the compound where Private Thrumble and

his section were located. An emergency helicopter was tasked to assist, however, sadly Private Thrumble was pronounced dead at the scene.

Private Thrumble enlisted into the British Army in April 2004 and having completed training as a rifleman at the Infantry Training Centre Catterick, he joined the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment in July 2005. In the same year he completed a tour with the Battalion in Iraq, on Operation Telic 6, where he served with distinction. He had recently participated in exercises in the UK, Canada and Kenya.

As a machine gunner in 7 Platoon B (Suffolk) Company Private Thrumble had been serving in Helmand Province in Afghanistan since March 2007. During this time he had been involved in numerous, close quarter engagements with the enemy where he had proven himself to be a brave, tenacious and steadfast soldier who would not yield irrespective of the circumstances - in a fight he was always there for his mates.

Private Thrumble was a unique character, known by all within B (Suffolk) Company for his quirky sense of humour and unshakably high morale. He had the rare ability to 'light up' any situation with a well timed, good humoured remark or gesture that would always raise the morale of his fellow soldiers. A kind-hearted and sincere soldier, he had developed into a highly competent and professional infantryman who loved his job and Army life; he revelled in the operational challenges of service in Afghanistan. He talked enthusiastically of the upcoming promotion course where he aspired to succeed and gain promotion to Lance Corporal. Sadly his significant potential will go unrealised.

Poem from mum Pearl Thrumble:

*Our son the soldier, how great a man he must be.
To be joined in the fight to set another world free.
Our son the soldier, so very proud of you we are.
To all of us who love you, you will always be a shining star.
Our son the soldier so far away from home in a foreign place
Just close your eyes to see a familiar smiling face.
Our son the soldier so very far away
We will be waiting with open arms on your coming home day.*

Pte AJ Borkertas



17-year-old Pte Andrew James Borkertas from Grantham, Lincolnshire enlisted into the Army on 15 December 2006 and commenced recruit training on 8 January 2007 at the Infantry Training Centre Catterick. He was due to join 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment and was being trained in the Queen's Division Company of the 1st Infantry Training Battalion. On Friday 15 June 2007, while completing a routine combat fitness test with his platoon on the local training area, Pte Borkertas died in tragic circumstances.

He was an extremely popular member of the platoon who was hugely enthusiastic in meeting the challenges of recruit training head-on. He was really flourishing in the later stages of the course and was developing into a really capable and reliable young infantry soldier.

He was a dedicated young man who was showing the necessary mix of professional grit and personal spark that is the hallmark of today's young infantry soldier. He was a young man with a bright future and will be sorely missed by all those who knew and worked with him.

Capt DO James

Dougie James of Ipswich died in October 2007 aged 73. A former WO1 Royal Anglian Staff Clerk, he then served for 21 years with Suffolk ACF as County HQ Admin Officer, retiring in 1998 as a captain. Known as 'Dougie' he was born and educated in India. At his funeral, well attended by many serving and retired Royal Anglian and Suffolk ACF adults/officers, the black-draped Suffolk Regiment standards of the Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich Branches were carried by Colin Smith and Taff Gillingham. His Union Flag draped coffin entered to the playing of the song *Blueberry Hill* and was followed by his medals borne on a red velvet cushion. In a moving service we listened to memories of their childhood in India, recalled by his sister Daphne Palesky, and heard the Stevie Wonder song *I just called to say I love you* with the reading of the collects of the Suffolk and Royal Anglian Regiments. Dougie departed to *Speed the Plough*. He is survived by his wife Iris, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Below is the eulogy by Maj Stan Bullock MBE:

'Clerk extraordinaire, Soldier of Talent, Friend and Saviour to many but most of all husband and devoted father. I know very little of Doug's early life apart from knowing he met and fell in love with Iris at a very early age and kept that love and adoration for the whole of his life.

Doug joined 1 Suffolks in Trieste in 1953 and I joined them in Wuppertal in 1955. We did not know each other then but as the years went by we became serving friends which is so very different from an ordinary friendship. It is a friendship for life and has more bonding owing to the various actions and activities that one has gone through. As time went by with amalgamations and many moves around the world, promotions were achieved and marriages and families appeared, the friendship between those families also grew and strengthened. Every member of our group of friends celebrated all the occasions that families celebrated from births and christenings to marriages and anniversaries. Parties were held at homes and in various Messes where each and every one of us joined in and enjoyed the occasions. Doug was always there sitting quietly watching what was happening and making jokes about one and all. Drinks were one of his favourite tricks. He violently refused to buy the first round and we would claim he 'Was a tight git'; but then he would insist on buying his share and always the last round. Our group being Roy and Pat Sharpe, John and Aura Watson, John and Norma Reid and many many others, just to name a few, with Jenny and I being in the group also; a wonderful time to be living and to have such lovely friends.

Doug was very clerically minded and became installed in the Hall

Obituaries

of Fame (the Orderly) room within the Battalion HQ as a clerk and very quickly became a fount of knowledge regarding military law (and customs) to all of us not so intellectually minded. He had a memory bank that was absolutely phenomenal as he could recite regimental number, christian names and enlistment dates from memory of nearly all of the Battalion members, especially mine as he always responded to my phone calls with my regimental number and enlistment date! His promotions through his service were highly deserved as he worked very hard for them.

Doug served in Trieste, BAOR, Cyprus, Berlin, British Guiana, Aden and Northern Ireland, in addition to various UK postings. Doug was awarded the GSM for Cyprus and the 1962 GSM with clasps for South Arabia and the Radfan and various tours of Northern Ireland. On leaving the Regular Forces Doug's military discharge book was recorded with *Military Service Exemplary* - an entry that was so very highly deserved.

The word exemplary was to follow him for the rest of his life as a husband, father, grandfather and to his great joy, a great-grandfather - he doted on his daughters, grandchildren and his great grand-children. We would gather at Regimental gatherings and Doug could be seen in the middle of the groups of colleagues, chatting and retelling stories as good as the rest of them. His memory would outstrip all of the others and roars of laughter could be heard coming from the group. Doug loved attending the reunions as did Iris. They would appear with various members of the family and proudly move around chatting to all of the groups.

On leaving the Regular Forces Doug and Iris took on the Halberd Inn in Ipswich as landlord and landlady and what a fantastic job they made of it. For eight and a half years they ran the place with humour, efficiency, and most of all, a friendship for all and sundry. Needless to say they were sadly missed when they left.

Meanwhile, Doug had become a member of Suffolk ACF. He was commissioned second lieutenant on 8 November 1989 and promoted captain on 22 October 1998. His wealth of knowledge on military matters was a tremendous benefit to the ACF and his requirements for high standards stood the ACF well in all of their various inspections. Doug retired on reaching the age of 65 and again became very involved with his beloved family.

Wherever Doug worked or served he was an asset to not only to his beloved Regiment, but also to his Queen, country and the public and he will be very sorely missed. All who came into contact with him respected him and, in many cases, loved him dearly. Please, after the blessing at the end of the service the Regimental March of the Suffolk Regiment will be played. Normally we would stand for this item but Iris has asked that we bend the rules and clap our hands to the bass drum as we celebrate the life of Dougie.

JLR and HSB

Lt Col (Retd) Dan Baily writes...

I regret I did not know until I saw the notice of his death that Douglas James had served as an admin officer with the TA for many years. But I knew him years before that (can it really be 40?) when he was ORC and then ORS of the 1st Battalion after we had returned from Aden to Celle in 1965-68. At the time I was IO and then Adjutant to Tim Creasey, a staff-training education in itself (partly going back to Creasey's own post-war experience as Adjutant to the legendary and awe-inspiring 'Uncle Bob' Turner-Cain, CO 1 R Norfolk in Schloss Neuhaus).

+CSgt James was a real tower of strength in the key job of Chief Clerk, especially to me in those days before there was a JDSC to teach young officers 'joined-up writing', and before Assistant Adjutants became the fashion. No PCs on every desk either - everything was handwritten, typed onto 'skins' by Lillian (Mrs John/QM Tech)) Bedford on an immense manual Adler typewriter, checked by the Adjutant and then by the Chief Clerk, and run off on the Gestetner duplicator. Ah, those were the days...

I can still remember the reproachful but triumphant look on the Chief's face when he could come back in with an error he had found. Doug took immense pride in the Battalion and in everything he did at its hub. He was immensely conscientious and painstaking but never 'boring' or pompous about his work, and he had a sardonic sense of humour that leavened the weight of the never-ending bumph in the trays. It was always good to see him first thing in the morning (he always seemed to be first in) and I for one will value my memories of him.

Capt M Smith

Mike Smith of Norwich died on 2 August 2007, aged 62, after a stroke. Norwich born and educated he joined 1 R Anglian at the age of 18, serving in Aden, Malta, Cyprus, Northern Ireland and BAOR 1963-1975. In civilian life he worked in the security and transport industry. Mike served for some years with Norfolk Army Cadet Force at All Saints Green in Norwich and joined the Norwich Branch in June 2003. He was a great supporter of the Association, regularly attending branch meetings and events. The Norwich Branch Chairman, Lt Col Paul Garman, was his CSM in Felixstowe. The black-draped Norwich Branch Standard was carried by Ray Segon and a guard of honour was formed from Norwich Branch members. Of military bearing, a modest family man, available to everyone, he was hard working and very fit until suffering a stroke in March 2003. His one fault was a terrible sense of humour! Pre-deceased by his son Mark, he is survived by his partner of 11 years, Sylvia.

JLR

WO2 D Adams

Doug Adams of Lowestoft, died very suddenly, aged 75, on 6 June 2007 after attending the military funeral of LCpl George Davey, 1 R Anglian at Aldeby. Doug served with the Beds and Herts, the 1st and 4th Battalions of the Suffolk Regiment, 1 East Anglian and 1 R Anglian 1956-1965. He died while wearing his beret and medals. An active member of the Beccles OCA Branch, latterly Doug was also Chairman of the Gorleston and Great Yarmouth Branch of the Regimental Association. Seven black-draped Standards were present at his Lowestoft funeral, conducted by the Rev Mark McCaughy. The service commenced with the hearty singing of the Beds and Herts hymn, *He who would valiant be*. Maj (QM) DJ Stefanetti, 1 R Anglian, read the Suffolk Collect. Many serving 1 R Anglian soldiers and Old Comrades were present. Further majestic singing of *O Lord My God* and *Onward Christian Soldiers* preceded the playing of *Last Post* and *Reveille* by a 1 R Anglian bugler, Cpl Paul Smith. Doug departed to the playing of *Speed the Plough*. He is survived by his widow Ruby.

JLR



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

The Association

There has been a sad but inevitable decline in the overall membership but encouraging support for the major events and on other occasions when support has been called for. This has been demonstrated this summer when the Old Comrades have turned out in considerable numbers to pay their respects at the funerals of 1st Battalion soldiers killed on operations in Afghanistan.

The Association Dinner

We were again extremely grateful to Capt Tam Steele, CSgt Glen Keeble and their teams from A (Norfolk) Company of the 3rd Battalion who helped with the preparations for the dinner. With the 1st Battalion in Afghanistan and Norwich City playing at home on the night of the dinner, the organisers feared that numbers would be well down on the previous years. In the event 130 sat down to eat, only slightly down on last year. Analysis of the returns confirmed the inevitable drop in attendance by World War Two Veterans but it also showed an increased presence of National Servicemen, particularly from the Cyprus tour in 1956, are attending each year. Among those attending were Maj Tom Eaton, 4th Battalion and a FEPOW, and Mr George Osborne, Mr Leslie Dobbs and Mr Dick Fiddament who all took part in that epic battle at Kohima which halted the advance of the Japanese in SE Asia.

Gen Sutherell presided and in his address read out a letter he had received from Maj Dominick Biddick OC A (Norfolk) Company of the 1st Battalion and written during a break in operations in Afghanistan. In it he described the intensity of the fighting and outlined the ways in which his company is drawing inspiration from the deeds of their forebears - the men of the Norfolk Regiment.

The Royal Norfolk Show

Despite the dreadful summer, the sun shone on the Royal Norfolk Show which took place at the end of June. There was a steady trickle of Old Comrades to the Regimental tent during the two days but not as many as we would like to see. The tent is open to all those who served in the former regiments of The Royal Anglian Regiment. It is closed for an official reception between noon and 2pm on the first day when the Colonel of the Regiment entertains people from the region who help the Regiment... otherwise it is open to all ranks, past and present. In 2008 why not have a day out at the show and visit the Regimental tent where you should be able to get a cold beer?

Armistice Day 2007

There were concerns that as Armistice Day fell on Remembrance Sunday, this year's attendance at the traditional Memorial Cottages service would be reduced because many of our regulars would attend



Col Tony Taylor, the Lord Mayor of Norwich, Maj John Child and Maj Tony Ferrier.

Regimental Association



Maj Ian Couch, The Earl of Romney High Sheriff of Norfolk and Capt Andy Wolstenholme at the Regimental Tent, Royal Norfolk Show.

services at their local village war memorials. In the event, well over 100 attended – the most for some years.

Canon William Sayer took the service as usual, and Maj Tony Ferrier read the lesson but this year, for the first time a younger generation laid the wreaths: The Royal Norfolk wreath and that of Haig Homes by cadets from Langley School CCF and the Royal Anglian one by Capt Matt Sumners from A (Norfolk) Company of the 3rd Battalion. Having young people involved in the Service was appreciated by the World War Two generation so hopefully Langley School and the TA Company will be available in future years.

Britannia House Update

Mr Simon Hatch left in October 2006 and Mr Andrew Wolvin followed in February 2007 leaving the Area Secretary who is due to retire in mid-2008, and Mrs Liz Reeve who expects to be made

redundant in that year. Thereafter the Area Secretary's successor, who will be based in Bury St Edmunds, will travel to Norwich weekly to conduct his Norfolk business.

The Museum

A major upgrading project is now underway in the museum. A link has been made to the Shire Hall Study Centre next door which allows access to disabled toilets, cloakrooms and a study area, and the reception area is being remodelled to make it more welcoming for the visitor and in particular to make access better for the many school groups who use the museum as part of their national curriculum studies. Work is expected to be completed in time for next year's summer holidays when the museum receives the greatest number of visitors. Kate Thaxton continues as the curator and she is overseeing the project.



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

Minden Reunion

The Minden Reunion is the focus for the Association's year, and each year there are concerns that access to the area will be denied because of the rapid development of the West Suffolk College and that we will not have a band etc.

This year was no exception, and there was in fact mild panic when Col Taylor received a call from the Director of Music of the Minden Band, Capt How, to say that because of a shortage of troops for operations, his band had been taken off musical duties in order to undergo military training. Fortunately the REME Corps

Band came to the rescue. They did us proud providing the music for the Old Comrades parade and an excellent Beating of Retreat as the finale to the day.

Elsewhere the Rev Ken Reeve delivered his usual stirring and heartfelt address at the church service and during the day the Reydon Corps of Drums, the Ely Military Band, the Bury Town Band the Combined Corps of Drums of the Royal British Legion entertained the crowds. We were blessed with excellent weather, the Flying Fortress bar did a good trade and Old Comrades from the various campaigns came together to remember old times and renew

Regimental Association



Ron Rogers, Georges Dudignac and Ken Mahew enjoy Les Amis reception.

acquaintances. It is a great occasion and its future seems assured because the numbers of Royal Anglians attending goes up each year and they will wish to ensure that it continues to prosper. Planning for next year is already underway.

Normandy 2007

Although the Suffolk Regiment Group (Hillman) no longer runs a pilgrimage to Normandy each year, a combined group of Royal Anglians, Suffolks and Essex Regiment members continue the tradition maintaining their links with the citizens of the area and ensuring that our memorials are not neglected.

The 2007 trip led by Col Kerry Woodrow, was voted a great success. Next year's trip is planned for 4-8 June. The trips will include visits to sites special to the Royal Norfolks, the Suffolks and the Essex Regiment.

The Museum

Mr Gwyn Thomas, who until his retirement early in 2007 was archivist for the Suffolk Regiment records in the County Record Office, has now taken over as honorary curator of the museum. Improvements are ongoing and from March 2008 the museum will be open more often, on the first and third Wednesdays of every month and on the first Sunday of every month.

Minden Day 2007

Maj Stan Bullock writes:

What another fantastic day, not only for the many who attended but also for the weather as well, not too hot, not too cold, just right for the young, old and indifferent.

The start of course is the booking for bands and various other static displays, more details of those to follow. Hoping to get in early, Col Tony Taylor, our Regimental Area Secretary, made a booking for the Minden Band and was successful. The other displays and bands were booked and we were sitting back looking forward to another fine display of music and marching. But oh nothe Minden Band was warned for service as infantry and was sent for the UN Troop cover in Cyprus. Who said our bandsmen aren't soldiers? Col Taylor made calls to those on high and we were very pleased to be able to book The REME Staff Band for our day. What a relief that was.

The Saturday morning, being our prep day, found a goodly gathering of Old Comrades, all dressed up, to work turning an area

of overgrown grass and bush land into a mown area with the road swept neat and tidy ready for the day. Various comments about a certain person sitting on his butt most of the morning, officers have that tendency even when they bring in their own sit on mower to cut the grass!! You just can't win.

Sunday morning started dry and fair and within an hour from 0900hrs there were many wandering, signing in and chatting and as the morning progressed they were turning up by the dozens. The Regimental Shop was in great demand as the roses were pinned on followed by the question "Is this the right way?" The shop is now combined and the Royal Anglian and Suffolk items are on sale together and they were well under pressure which was very good to see. Many thanks to all those who manned the tent, especially Queenie and Keith Martin who came out of retirement to help the cause.

Our Padre, Fr Ken Reeves, took the service and in his usual inimitable way entranced one and all for the whole service. Music for the service was once again provided by the Suffolk Concert Band which very kindly attends our day every year. Brig Bill Deller, our President, gave his speech and enlightened us all on the various activities taking place locally and within the Regiment. It was very pleasing to see our Lady Mayor at the service and she remained with us for the day. We are always delighted to welcome members of our local county and borough councils as we know they are very supportive of our traditions.

After the service the march past. Every year I am told 'I can't march this year' and my reply is 'Just for you to be here is enough'. We had many on parade and the sight of some very elderly members suddenly appearing upright stepping out and in step really does make the effort worth while. Standards from all branches were on parade although sadly this year the Royal Anglian Standard was missing - we hope they will be able to parade next year. The REME Staff Band marched us on and the Colour Party from the 3rd Battalion came on parade with us and we are very grateful to the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Mike Googe TD, for their attendance, also the detachment under command of Maj Glynn French was a pleasure to see.

The salute was taken by Brig Bill Deller assisted by the Lady Mayor. Immediately after 'the dismiss' a very attractive young lady reporter insisted on taking a group photograph of those on parade! A very very difficult task that was eventually completed with much laughter and comments. We look forward to seeing some of these pictures. For all those who took part in the march past many thanks it does make a very good spectacle for the spectators and to those who feel too shy/idle to march please buck up and 'fall in'.

The day continued with marching displays and various static stands plus our very regular attendees World War Two Military Vehicle Club which have supported us for many years and we do appreciate their generosity very much. Many thanks to all members who gave their time and efforts once again for the Regiment.

The raffle was again a great success although lacking somewhat in the number of prizes. This, I feel sure, is due to the fact the Mrs Madge Johnson, who has been unwell for the period prior to Minden Day was unable to approach local store and suppliers with her very special manner to obtain prizes for the day. Madge we wish you well and many many thanks for yours and Derrick's help over the years.

The finale was a very pleasing, very professional, Beating of Retreat played by The REME Staff Band who excelled themselves and gave a great thrill to everyone attending. All Branch Standards were on parade and it is very pleasing to see young members of branches carrying Standards.

Finally to all of my stalwarts who helped in all the tasks my sincere thanks and to my very special secretary Jenny my deepest gratitude for keeping me on the move.

Rest assured one and all who attend and enjoy Minden Day there are a very few who actually do the 'doings' but without them you would not have the day.

Regimental Association



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

Cambridge Branch

The AGM was held on 12 September when the officers were re-elected. Much discussion took place regarding the name of the Association to encourage ex-members of The Royal Anglian Regiment to join. It was agreed to recommend the new title to be The Cambridgeshire Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Cambridgeshire).

It was reported that a successful meeting with ex-Royal Anglians was held earlier in the year at the Baron of Beef when 41 showed an interest but so far none had attended a meeting.

A letter had been received from The Royal Anglian Regiment requesting donations for a memorial for those who have died and it was agreed to donate £50.

It was agreed to hold the annual New Year party on a date in late January or early February.

The next AGM will be held on 10 September at the Joint Services Club at 7.30pm.

March Branch

We have again enjoyed a successful year. Although we have 23 members, unfortunately due to ill health, some of our members are no longer able to attend meetings but we continue to support them. In March we held our annual sausage and mash supper and we very much appreciate the support of other branches in making this a successful and enjoyable evening.

In August our annual church service was well supported and at our AGM 12 members paid their subscriptions. On behalf of the March Branch we would like to extend our thanks to March Army Cadets for their support and for carrying our Standard on various occasions during the year and for the continued support of the county officers and the friendship from other branches.

Whittlesey and Peterborough Branch

Since the last AGM the Branch has enjoyed many social functions, first the Annual Regimental Dinner in October, then a sausage and mash attended by 87 people in December at the Lion Hotel, Ramsey St Mary's.

In April we had another sausage and mash plus a dance which was our biggest function yet. We changed the venue to the Ivy Leaf Club in Whittlesey and 150 people attended.

June saw us having a pig roast at John Blench's farm, another well attended social. All the raffle money was given to the St John Ambulance which was over £300. John Blench does not charge us for the premises or for cooking the pig, as St John's is his favourite charity.

Many of the Branch attended the Remembrance Day Service in November and our wreath was laid by our Chairman. Sadly in November we lost our last member of the Cambridgeshire Regiment, Mr Jim Carter. He was a founder member of the Cambs OCA in Whittlesey and will be missed very much.

In December the Branch gave £15 each to the widows of our members who have passed away, 11 in total. Many of the Branch attended the Ely Service and on 27 June Branch members attended the Lord Mayor's Veterans Day in Peterborough. On 1 July the Branch and the Royal British Legion of Whittlesey put on a Veterans Day at the Manor Leisure Centre in Whittlesey. We had marching bands

and displays by different bands and had the Last Post Ceremony. Numerous guests were in attendance.

The Branch Church Service was on 9 September, many guests attended, it was conducted by the new Reverend of the United Reform Church, the Rev Janet Tate.

The Annual Remembrance Service and Parade at Ely

The service this year was held on 10 June and was well attended. The Dean of Ely, the VRev Michael Chandler, conducted the service assisted by our Chaplain, the Rev Alan Jesson TD. Several civic dignitaries were in attendance and the City of Ely Military Band played during the service and march past. Afterwards refreshments were enjoyed in the Haywards Theatre.

The service in 2008 will be held on 8 June and will be combined with celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Territorial Service. Our Colonel-in-Chief, HRH The Duke of Gloucester, has agreed to be in attendance and it is expected that a large number of other organisations will be present together with their standards. The Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire and many civic dignitaries will also be present and there will be several static displays. In view of the large numbers expected to attend, it will not be possible to have refreshments in the Haywards Theatre and a large marquee is being organised for tea and refreshments.

The Teverson Medals

The bravery of a Cambridgeshire soldier was immortalised at Duxford Imperial Museum on 28 June 2007. Cpl Harry Teverson, who fought in the First World War, was awarded several medals for bravery; possibly the only set in existence to include three Military Crosses and a Military Medal. Now his daughter-in-law Elizabeth Teverson and grandson Stephen have presented the collection to the Imperial War Museum for safe keeping.

Stephen said: 'My grandfather never spoke about the war and never mentioned that his medals were rare and valuable. When I was young I was told that one day the medals would come to me but I think it is appropriate they be on display with other memorabilia of the Cambridgeshire Regiment. They are now in the right place'.

Mr Teverson's Military Medal was won at the battle for Schaben Redoubt in 1916, one of 42 gallantry medals awarded to the Cambridgeshire Regiment in a single day, a military record. Later he was commissioned into the Suffolk Regiment, where his bravery during 1918 earned him a Military Cross and two bars.

It was with great sadness that the Chairman, Capt JH Youles, accompanied by his wife and council member MG Chapman represented the Association at the funeral of Pte Tony ('Nicey') Rawson - C (Essex) Company, 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment at Dagenham Parish Church on Tuesday 28 August. It has become policy of this Association to include the names of those from The Royal Anglian Regiment who have given their lives in service of their country on active service in our newsletter - 'Lest we forget'.

As this report is being prepared the Association is looking forward to its Members Reunion Dinner to be held at the end of October and to its AGM and pre-Christmas social. Our thoughts are with all those of The Royal Anglian Regiment who are overseas on active service and we wish them a successful tour and a safe return home.



Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association

Return to Assaye Barracks

Mr George Owen wrote to the Commanding Officer of the Royal Horse Artillery regarding a visit to Assaye Barracks, Tidworth, where the 1st Battalion Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment was stationed in 1955. He was contacted by the RSM who said it must be mid-May as they were embarking for Iraq. The trip was arranged and Branch Secretaries contacted for numbers.

Early on 3 May a coach left Dunstable for St Albans and other pickups and then on to Salisbury Plain. Arriving at Tidworth they looked around the town for places that were once so familiar to them. At around 11am the Provost Sergeant came into town and escorted them back to the barracks. On arriving they were greeted by the RSM and members of the Sergeants' Mess and divided in small groups and escorted round the camp. Those members who were stationed at Tidworth at the time were able to remember various landmarks including one barrack block still in use from those days. The only administration block still standing was the guard room and orderly room. Opposite the orderly room was the Square, now a building site, our old RSM Bill Moody would have liked to see the hallowed ground as it is today. Despite having to prepare for their posting to Iraq the RSM and other member of the Sergeants' Mess made them really welcome. Everybody enjoyed the day and were impressed by the professionalism and morale of all the young soldiers.

The Association Dinner and Dance

The Association Dinner and Dance was held at the Castle Hall at Hertford, on 12 May and was well attended with 150 members and their friends present. The Essex Yeomanry Band again provided their usual high standard of music. The evening started with our Branch Standards being marched on to our old Regimental March.

This year we were pleased to welcome the Colour Party from the 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment with their Regimental Colour carried by 2Lt George Wyndham and also a drummer carrying the Mons Drum and we greatly appreciated this gesture by the 2nd Battalion. After the excellent dinner, Brig Angus Robertson in his speech welcomed the Mayor of Hertford, Col Morgan of the Essex Regiment Association and Maj Birch of the 2nd Battalion, and following a report on the Association he concluded with a joke. This was followed by a very interesting report by Maj Birch on the Battalion. Mr Stan Mansfield thanked the Brigadier on behalf of all members for the terrific amount of work that he continues to do for the Association.

The dancing started and continued to 11pm when we finished with almost everyone on the floor singing *Land of Hope and Glory* and then followed our Standards marching round the hall - a great night!

Because it will be the 50th anniversary of the amalgamation of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment and the Essex Regiment becoming the 3rd East Anglian Regiment, this will be a joint event next year with the Essex Regiment Association and will be at the Castle Hall, Hertford on Saturday 3 May 2008.

The 16th Foot Officers' Luncheon

As usual a very enjoyable lunch was held at the Lion Hotel, Buckden on 28 June. This annual get together of former 16th Foot officers and their wives has been held regularly now for over 15 consecutive years, proof surely of its popularity. This year we missed the regular attendance of Maj Geoff Dean who had sadly passed away since our previous meeting. However, we were delighted that his wife Ute and daughter Susan joined us. We were pleased to see our President, Simon Whitbread, attending and among the ladies were Brenda Haygarth and Barbara Tewksbury both of whom have not missed a



Maj and Mrs Robin Medley at Buckingham Palace after the Queen had presented him with the MBE in the New Year's Honours List. It was also their diamond wedding on 20 September 2007. Maj Medley is the Vice-President of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association.

lunch for many years. Hopefully next year, with the 50th anniversary of the amalgamation with the 44th Foot, we will see some new faces as well as the regulars. It will probably be the same venue and the date, Thursday 26 June 2008.

The Canal Zone Dinner

Suez veterans and their wives met up once again to celebrate the 12th reunion dinner at the Sun Hotel, Hitchin on Saturday 4 August. Brigadier Angus Robertson and his wife Gillian and Major Horace Parker were in attendance. The evening got off to a fantastic start with a splendid menu prepared by the hotel staff for the guests to choose from.

Sadly this year's reunion is to be the last one, we are down in numbers compared to previous years, illness and members finding it difficult to attend because of the travelling involved. I think time is beginning to catch up with all of us and with this in mind it is time to call it a day.

The Royal Anglian Regiment Day at Duxford

It was a bright and sunny morning that greeted the arrival of members of all the Associations; not too hot like the previous reunion, just pleasant for members and their families to picnic on the tables provided, although it clouded up late afternoon. The members took their seats for the Drumhead Service which started with the Branch Standards being marched on Parade and received by the Chaplain. The Service then began with the Minden Band playing the hymns, then *Last Post* with a minute's silence before *Reveille*. After the service

Regimental Association

the Standards were collected from the Chaplain and the National Anthem was played and the Standards marched off.

The Colonel of the Regiment then addressed the congregation. There then followed a march past with the four detachments representing the four old battalions at the formation of the Regiment on 1 September 1964. The parade dismissed and it was time for meeting old friends and there were stalls around the picnic area where you had lunch and a bar where you could have a beer or two. There was also the Land Warfare Hall one could visit which contains The Royal Anglian Regiment Museum. At 1500hrs there was the Beating Retreat by the Bands. First to give a fine performance was the Corps of Drums of King Edward Grammar School, Chelmsford, followed by a marching display by the Minden Band. Finally The Royal Anglian Regiment TA Band marched in and the combined Bands played together. A good performance and much appreciated by the members. A good day was had by all.

Afternote: The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Trust are hosting an exhibition on The Royal Anglian Regiment at their Museum in Luton on Saturday 12 April 2008 11am to 4.30pm. The museum is co-located with the Luton Museum in the grounds of Wardown Park, Old Bedford Road, Luton. The objective of the exhibition is to raise the profile of the Regiment by illustrating their history and in particular show their important recent operational tours of Iraq and Afghanistan. A number of serving soldiers will support the event including the Poachers Mobile Recruiting Team.



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

The two main events that took place in the last period were the visit to Normandy and the Reunion.

This year The Royal Anglian Regiment carried out the arrangements and overall the trip was deemed a success. As usual services were held at all Essex Regiment memorial sites.

The Regimental Reunion took place on the last Saturday but for once the weather was showery and a lot of the events had to take place inside. However, the chapel was full, as usual, and this year the Mayors of Boroughs throughout the area attended. The salute was taken by Lt Col CC Norbury MBE MC *Legion D'Honneur*, and the service conducted by the Rt Rev Ian Brackley, the Bishop of Dorking, assisted by the Rev Tony Rose.

We are looking forward to the visit to Chelsea on 14 October and the Salamanca Lunch, to be held at the County Hotel in Chelmsford, on 6 November.

Thurrock Branch

Writing this article for *Castle* does not seem to alter much from year to year, I suppose that means we older generation are stuck in our ways. Still we do have memories.

Our Regimental Chapel Services take place on the first Sunday in every month, except January when it is the second Sunday, and services are fairly well attended. However attendance is falling as we old regulars, as the song states, are fading away. So come on you Royal Anglians, the Chapel is yours as well as the Essex Regiment.

March was our AGM, no changes in office or committee. April 23, St Georges Day, several members accepted the Mayor's invitation to a service in our Parish Church in Grays. A reception was held afterwards in the RBL Club.

In June the 2nd Battalion the Essex Regiment, the Pompadours, again visited Normandy. This is a must. This year The Royal Anglian Regiment did most of the arrangements. This was a good idea as it got most of the original County Regiments who served in

An invitation to attend has been extended to the Army Cadet Forces of both Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and this invitation is cordially extended to anyone interested in what promises to be a very worthwhile and interesting display. Further details if required can be obtained from trustee Mr David Kalabza on tel 01707 322082.

The Hertfordshire Regiment Association

All the normal activities of the Association have taken place as usual including the successful spring and autumn fish and chip suppers, our annual general meeting and a visit to the ABF Musical Tattoo at Haileybury.

The Hertfordshire Regiment Exhibition arranged by the Hertford Museum closed on 19 May 2007. This had been a very successful venture in conjunction with the Museum and was visited by many people during the three months it had been open.

The local community had been particularly interested and complimentary comments were received. At the launch of the exhibition in February 2007 we were pleased to welcome relatives of our two VCs - Lt Young and Cpl Burt.

Normandy, together. Services were held at all Regimental Memorials visited and wreaths placed. Poppy crosses were placed on graves at several cemeteries.

Our Regimental Reunion was held in June, again a good turnout and great to meet old comrades. The weather was not kind to us this year but that did not spoil the enjoyment of the day. The parade was led by the KEGS Corps of Drums who also carried out a fine display of marching drill. They are a credit to the Essex Regiment badge they wear. Most Mayors from the Freedom towns attended.

There was a good turnout of our branch personnel at the Burma Star (Thurrock Branch) service at their Rose Garden Memorial in the village of Orsett in August, and for the Battle of Britain service at Grays War Memorial in September. The Essex Regiment wreath was placed on both memorials.

4th Battalion(TA) Essex Regiment Comrades' Association

The beginning of this period saw several members of the Association, representative of World War Two veterans, and those who saw post war TA service with 4th and 4/5th Battalions of the Essex Regiment, visit E Company (Essex and Hertfordshire) 3rd Battalion of The Royal Anglian Regiment at the TAC at Chelmsford on 11 April. This was at the invitation of the OC, Maj Scadden, to commemorate the instigation of a Bond of Friendship, and to formally recognise the lineage of successor and predecessor as current and former Territorial infantry battalions in the county of Essex.

The group was briefed in the Officers' Mess by 2IC Lt Brazier as to the role of the TA today, its integrated role in the Orbat and the One Army concept that ensures that the TA soldier has, by rigorous training, the capability to operate seamlessly as part of the Regular Forces in an operational role. The group was then taken to the drill hall to observe a section of the MG Platoon undertaking an exercise in target registration for fire in an indirect role. Officers and senior NCOs were on hand to answer any questions.

Regimental Association



Maj Mark Scadden receives the Regimentsal plaque from Capt JH Youles to commemorate the inauguration of the Bond of Friendship.

On completion of the training, the group was invited to observe the dismissal parade, where the OC, Maj Scadden, introduced us to the assembled troops and explained the Bond of Friendship that had been instigated between E (Essex and Hertfordshire) Company 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment and the 4th Battalion (TA) Essex Regiment Comrades Association. He stated that The Royal Anglian Regiment is proud of its heritage in its former constituent County Regiments, and of their history and traditions.

E Company in particular is honoured to be formally recognised as successors to the 4/5th Battalion of the Essex Regiment. Our chairman, Capt JH Youles, then said a few words about the history of the 4th Battalion and the line of succession and then presented a Regimentsal plaque, suitably annotated, to Maj Scadden to formally commemorate the inauguration of the Bond of Friendship and recognition of the line of succession. He then wished the company every success in its training and future operations.

On dismissal of the parade, all repaired to the ORs' Mess where light refreshments had been laid on and there was ample time to have a drink and talk to members of E Company. The Association had been made most welcome and we left with a greater understanding of the role of the Reserve Forces in today's Army.

On the weekend of 27/28 May, the Chairman, Capt JH Youles, took the opportunity to visit the Army display stands at the Southend Air Show. Due to operational commitments by the Regular Forces these were manned by representatives of our three supporting Territorial units - E Company, 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, 36 (E) Signal Regiment and 124 (Petroleum) Squadron, Royal Logistics



Visit to E Company, 3rd Battalion. From left: George Skinner, Jane Carter, Lt Mark Brazier, Capt JH Youles, Sid Roser, Pat Mulhall and Dave Bonnick.



Lt Mark Brazier explains the differences between GPMG and the Vickers machine gun to World War Two veteran George Skinner.

Corps. He introduced himself and chatted to those manning the stands, among whom were some of our members.

Capt Youles, accompanied by his wife, represented the Association as guests of the London Borough of Redbridge to commemorate Veterans Day on 23 June. Veterans Day coincided with the 80th anniversary of the opening of the Memorial Hall and the Children's Wing of the former King George V Hospital. The land for the Ilford War Memorial at Newbury Park was purchased from the proceeds of a public appeal in the early 1920s, and following a referendum local people decided that most of the money collected should be used to build a children's ward at the Ilford Emergency Hospital, together with a memorial garden, a monument and a memorial hall to record the names of the war dead. Although the hospital was replaced with the new Newbury Central East Residential Development in the late 1990s, the memorial hall remains situated in the northeast corner



Sid Roser, John Coombes and Capt JH Youles, Veterans Day celebrations, Ilford, June 2007.

Regimental Association



The Ilford War Memorial Hall. The names of Ilford's 1,159 men killed in the Great War are inscribed inside.

of the gardens and the memorial is the focus of the official civic service of Remembrance for Redbridge each year.

Ilford is the spiritual home of the 4th Battalion – its HQ Company

was based at the TAC at Gordon Fields from its opening in 1910 and men from the borough served there until its reduction to a cadre 59 years later. Members of the Association still return to St Mary's Church and to the TAC by invitation of its successor 36 (E) Signal Regiment and 3 Group NE London ACF on Remembrance Sunday thus maintaining a Royal Anglian footprint, through this Association, in the London Borough of Redbridge.

Members of the Association also attended the Major General's Review in May and there had been a limited attendance by members at the Essex Regiment Association, apart from those who were working in support of the event, on 24 June, despite encouragement to attend. Members also attended in support of The Royal Anglian Regiment Day at Duxford on 2 September.

As part of their training syllabus, serving members of 124 (Petroleum) Squadron, 151 (London) Transport Regiment RLC visited Monte Cassino as part of a 'battlefield walk through' exercise earlier in the year. The Association had provided some pertinent background information on the 4th Battalion's part in the 3rd Battle during March 1944. They took with them a poppy wreath that was laid at the memorial in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cassino Cemetery on behalf of both Essex Regiment Associations.



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

Two of our members, Wally Hibbard and Harry Bellamy, had a miraculous escape when a coach that was being towed broke away from its tow chain and ran backwards down a hill and collided with their car completely writing it off. Both men suffered severe shock, whiplash and bruising. An eye-witness said it was amazing they were not killed.

Visits to the Royal Hospital Chelsea, Scarborough, Eden Camp and the Regimental Day at Duxford have all been well supported,

as was the Freedom March by the 2nd Battalion.

Monthly meetings continue to be well attended and 'bangers and mash' nights are being held after meetings. These prove to be very popular.

The Standard Bearer has been very busy attending not only our functions but also those of other ex-service associations.

Unfortunately we have to record the deaths of former Chairman Harold Marshall and Geoff Simpson, a former Band Sergeant.



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

Royal Tigers' Weekend

The dedication of a memorial plaque in Leicester Cathedral to Lt Col JH Marriott MC in the presence of members of his family was one of the highlights of Royal Tigers' Weekend on 23-24 June this year.

The Saturday evening activities were held at Devonshire Place in London Road, Leicester, starting with the AGM attended by 43 members. This was followed by the annual dinner presided over by Col RG Wilkes CB ETD DL, Chairman of the Regimental Trustees, standing in for the president of the Association. There was a good attendance with 181 people sitting down, including in-pensioner Myles Foster from the Royal Hospital, and we enjoyed a first class dinner.

On Sunday, the weather was kind for the annual service which was held in Leicester Cathedral. Our guests included the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, the Lord Mayor of Leicester and the Chairman

of Leicestershire County Council. The Dean of Leicester took the service and the Rev Tom Hiney MC, a former officer in the Regiment and a life member of the Association, gave a splendid and uplifting sermon. The Standard of the Association was carried by Mr Dennis Foran and was laid on the altar during the service.

After the service, everyone returned to Devonshire Place for drinks and a delicious lunch, concluding another successful weekend made possible by the hard work of the General Committee of the Association.

Royal Anglian Regimental Day

There was a good turnout of Tigers among over 3,600 people present at the Royal Anglian Regimental Day held at Duxford on 2 September, reflecting our concern, admiration and collective pride in the exploits of our successors. This Regimental Day is fast

Regimental Association



The Royal Tigers Association Standard leading the march past through Leicester on Royal Tigers Weekend 2007.

becoming a very special event in our calendar and we hope that next year we shall have even more Tigers to enjoy themselves and meet old friends.

The proceedings will be well covered elsewhere, so suffice to say the Drumhead service, including prayers for the nine members of the 1st Battalion who lost their lives on active service, and the Colonel of the Regiment's address left us proud of the way in which modern soldiers perform their duty in such arduous and dangerous conditions.

In our ranks for the march past were in-pensioners Miles Foster and Clifford Castle, who came to the event with his brother-in-law Dixie Dean. Mr Dennis Foran carried the Royal Tigers' Association Standard. The march past was followed as usual by lunch and beer. Many war stories were recounted and memories exchanged.

We send our sincere thanks to all the staff at the Regimental Headquarters for another excellent and most enjoyable day, especially to Assistant Regimental Secretary Maj Dick Gould, who was responsible for most of the planning and organisation.

Regimental Museum

Following the 'soft' opening of the Royal Leicestershire Regimental Museum by the Lord Mayor of Leicester on 23 June 2007, the official opening took place on Tuesday 13 November, by General the Lord Walker of Aldringham GCB CMG CBE, a former Colonel of The Royal Anglian Regiment.

All major donors to the museum appeal were invited, together with a wide representation from the Regiment, Leicester City Council and the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland. The ceremony included speeches, the unveiling of a plaque by Lord Walker and the sounding of a fanfare by the trumpeters of the Minden Band of the Queen's Division. The tune played was composed especially for the occasion and incorporates at the end the Hunting Call from the Regimental March. The fanfare was followed by a moment of silence and a prayer for Remembrance by the Bishop of Leicester. A champagne reception followed the ceremony before the guests moved to Devonshire Place for luncheon.

Since the June opening of the Museum there have been over 30,000 visitors and it is gratifying that most people have expressed

high satisfaction with the exhibition. There have been several return visits. A team of Regimental guides help visitors and answer their questions about the exhibits and the history of the Regiment in general. We are very grateful to them for their major contribution to the Museum.

Royal Tigers' Wood

The wonderful living memorial to the Royal Leicestershire Regiment at Bagworth continues to flourish. This autumn we have replanted some of the special trees in the arboretum which represent the major battle honours won by the Royal Leicestershire Regiment.

This year for the first time we were able to see thousands of wild flowers, which were planted in the open spaces as part of a 'Forest of Flowers' pilot scheme involving the National Forest and the charity Landlife. The effect was beautiful and should get better every year as the wild flowers germinate and spread further. We are very grateful to both organisations for arranging this excellent improvement to the woodland biodiversity.



The Deputy Lord Mayor of Leicester, Lord Walker and Maj Gen Pollard after the unveiling of the plaque.

Regimental Association



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

Annual Reunion 2007

The Annual Reunion Dinner was held in the Freemason's Hall, Northampton on Saturday 28 July. The management committee meeting and AGM were held, as usual, prior to the dinner, and were chaired by the Chairman, Maj Tom Dormer.

152 members and guests enjoyed the excellent dinner at the new venue, with the President, Col Peter Worthy, presiding.

After the dinner Col Worthy read out messages to and from Her Majesty The Queen and our Colonel-in-Chief, HRH The Duke of Gloucester and proposed the loyal toasts. He then addressed the comrades, paying tribute to General Sir John Akehurst KCB CBE and then proposed the toast to 'The Regiment'. Entertainment during and after the dinner was provided by the Daventry Silver Band and Mr Geoff White on the post horn. Comrades were very impressed with the new venue; it has been booked again for 2008.

On Sunday 29 July there was a static inspection of comrades by the President, Col Peter Worthy, outside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, followed by a service conducted by the Rev Michael Hills and the Rev Simon Tebbutt. During the service Col Worthy gave a eulogy to Gen Sir John Akehurst KCB CBE, and the new Northampton Branch Standard was dedicated by the Rev Hills. After the service a buffet lunch was enjoyed by comrades in Northampton Working Men's Club.

Peterborough Branch

The Peterborough Branch had a very good attendance at its AGM, with representation from 158 (Royal Anglian) Regiment, the Royal Logistics Corps (V), giving the members a breakdown of what the

unit was doing and how the men deployed overseas were coping with being on active service.

The members had a good afternoon at the annual pig roast arranged by the Cambridgeshire Old Comrades and our very own Alec Francis had the honour of carving the pig.

Members attended the Royal Anglian Day at Duxford, which turned out to be a good day with the weather holding out, and free access to the rest of Duxford.

Terry Edge and Noel Muncey attended the 1940s Day in Ramsey, with Terry displaying his badge collection and Noel having a large selection of merchandise for sale from The Royal Anglian Regiment Association, raising £86, for which they were very grateful. They were also publicising the local branches and trying to recruit new members. The branch was also represented with the two Standards on parade at two memorial services during the year.

The Branch Dinner at the RBL Club at Yaxley on 20 October had a record attendance of 120. The City of Peterborough Band played during the dinner, for the loyal toasts and for a short time afterwards. After the formalities a convivial evening ensued with dancing and comradeship.

Finedon Branch

The branch has attended all the usual annual events throughout the year and thought that the venue for the annual reunion in Northampton was the best yet. The Chairman and his wife hosted their annual fundraising garden party to boost branch funds. This event is always popular and attracts many members.

The committee would like to record their thanks to the ladies of the



Battleaxe Lunch, 6 May 2007. From left: Gordon Webb, Ken Marchant, Ken Mordin and Tom Smith.

Regimental Association

branch for all their support and hard work throughout the year.

The Branch website has changed to: www.royalanglianfinedon.co.uk

Northampton Branch

The Branch Standard was dedicated at the Reunion Church Service in July. On the same day it was paraded at the 90th anniversary of the death of Lt Col Edgar Mobbs at the Mobbs Memorial in Northampton, where his great nephew, also named Edgar, laid a wreath.

The branch was well represented at the Royal Anglian Day at Duxford. Thanks must go to the ladies who laid on the excellent buffet lunch.

Membership of the branch is growing slowly and new members including spouses are welcome to attend the meetings on the last Friday of the month at 19.30hrs in the Royal Navy and Marines Club, Lorne Road, Northampton.

5th Battalion (Battleaxe) Reunion

The annual reunion lunch was held again at Barnsdale Lodge Hotel, Rutland Water, on 6 May 2007, hosted by Maj Richard Hill. Although numbers were down on previous years, those who attended enjoyed the occasion.

Everyone was served a delicious lunch in the usual splendid setting by very friendly and attentive staff. Afterwards Maj Richard Hill read out apologies and a message from the new Association President, Col Peter Worthy, and members took time to remember comrades no longer with them but not forgotten.

Following the loyal toast, the toast was raised to the Regiment, reflecting on the courage and steadfastness of the Steelback predecessors – Wellington said of the 48th in the aftermath of Talavera in 1809: 'The battle was certainly saved by the advance position and steady conduct of the 48th Regiment'. Maj Hill reminded members of the successor units now in Peterborough - 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment with its infantry and Band, and 158 Transport Regiment (Royal Anglian) RLC who proudly continue the Steelback traditions, and our regular C (Northamptonshire) Company of 2 Royal Anglian.



Northampton Branch Standard Bearer Joe Heffernan at the Mobbs Memorial.

Eagle and Garter Gathering



Eagle and Garter Gathering on 14 July 2007. Lt Col Graham Duthoit cannot believe his luck....Brig Colin Groves cannot believe it at all!

Regimental Association

The Royal Anglian Regiment Golfing Society



Prizegiving at the Summer Golf Meeting at Ely.

2007 was another good year for the Regimental Golf Society with an increase in membership and interest.

This year the society played at two new courses, Charnwood Forest in Leicester and Burghley Park in Stamford; however we stuck with the firm favourite Ely City Golf Club for the summer meeting. Congratulations go to Capt Mick Abbs on becoming the Infantry Champion golfer for 2007.

CJC Property Development has continued to provide prizes throughout the year, so a special thanks for their continued support and sponsorship.

Thank you also to all the golfers who turned out for the various competitions throughout the year - 47 different players, including some guests, have played in one or more meetings. The team that were selected for the Queen's Division Triangular Match held at Canterbury GC on 18 May 2007 managed a creditable second place against strong opposition.

The Colonel of the Regiment, Gen McColl, played in the autumn meeting at Burghley Park and very kindly presented the prizes.

The Golf Society is always on the lookout for new members; anyone who is interested in playing should contact Maj O'Driscoll on 01223 359162.

Spring Meeting

Charnwood Forest Golf Club, 26 April 2007

9 hole S/B	M Scott, P Woodcock and B Welton (46)
1st Gross	M Abbs (81)
1st Net	P Howlett (64)
1st B/B	C Tate and P Howlett (46)

Summer Meeting

City of Ely Golf Club, 22 June 2007

1st Gross	P Woodcock (77)
1st Net	M Jethwa (70)
1st S/B	S Horton (37)
1st B/B	N Benner and S Horton (44)

Autumn Meeting

Burghley Park Golf Club, 6 September 2007

1st G/S	H Foster and K Threadgold
1st S/B	R Davies (38)
2nd S/B	C Tate (36)
1st B/B	W O'Driscoll and J Hale (44)

Regimental Association Branches

Norfolk

HQ The Royal Norfolk Regiment Association and the Norfolk Branch The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Norfolk)
 Britannia House,
 TA Centre, 325 Aylsham Road,
 Norwich, Norfolk NR3 2AB
 Tel: (01603) 400290
President: Maj Gen JCB Sutherland CB CBE DL

Gorleston and Great Yarmouth Branch
 Mr S King,
 76 Edinburgh Avenue,
 Gorleston,
 Great Yarmouth NR31 7HA

Norwich Branch
 Lt Col P F Garman,
 7 Minion Close,
 Norwich NR7 OTX

Suffolk

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

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

Ipswich Branch
 Mr D Gillingham,
 218 Colchester Road,
 Ipswich,
 Suffolk IP4 4QZ

Hemel Hempstead Branch
 Mr M Gilbert (Secretary)
 84 Westfield Road,
 Berkhamsted,
 Hertfordshire HP4 3PN

Beccles Branch
 Mr ME Reed,
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Felixstowe Branch
 Mr B Grunnell,
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 Felixstowe,
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Stowmarket Branch

Mr D King,
 110 Bury Street,
 Stowmarket,
 Suffolk IP14 1HT

Leiston Branch

Mr AJ Watson,
 57 St Margaret's Crescent,
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Lowestoft Branch

Mr G Wood,
 28 Summerfield Gardens,
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 Suffolk NR33 9BS

Cambridgeshire

HQ The Cambridgeshire Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Cambridgeshire)
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 Waterbeach, Cambridge CB5 9PB
President: Mr FJ Grounds DL
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Cambridge Branch

Col D E Latchford,
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March and District Branch

Mrs T Fenn,
 157 Wisbech Road,
 March,
 Cambs PE15 8EY
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 Cambs PE17 1XE

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire

HQ The Royal Anglian Regiment Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Association
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 Tel: Brentwood (01277) 213051
President: SC Whitbread JP
Chairman: Brig AFFH Robertson CBE

Hertford Branch

Mr SR Mansfield,
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Hertford Branch of The Royal Anglian Regiment Association:
 Mr C Butts,
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Mr R Wareham,
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Maj PJ Burgess,
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 Herts SG14 3AF
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Regimental Association Branches

Watford and Hemel Hempstead Branch

Mr EG Owen,
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Luton and Dunstable Branch

Mr S Chapman,
86 St Margarets Avenue,
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Essex

HQ The Royal Anglian Regiment

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President: Col GCP Morgan OBE DL

4th Battalion Comrades Association:

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Essex SS1 2UZ
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7th Eagle and Gun Regimental Association

Mr V Foulsham,
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Colchester Branch

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Thurrock and District Branch

Mr K Hay MBE JP,
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Lincolnshire

HQ The Royal Lincolnshire and Royal Anglian Regiment Association

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President: Lt Col S J Bacon

Lincoln Branch

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Grimsby Branch

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Spalding Branch

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Midland Branch

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Stamford Branch

Mr W Flynn,
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Scunthorpe Branch

Mr D Pearson,
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Northamptonshire

HQ The Northamptonshire Regiment Association and

The Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Northampton)

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President: Col P Worthy
Chairman: Maj T Dormer TD

Finedon Branch

Mr RH Ogle,
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www.poachers.net

Peterborough Branch

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Northampton Branch

Mr Colin Burrridge (Chairman),
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Bishops Itchington,
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Leicestershire

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

TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road,
Leicester LE4 6BY
Tel: (0116) 2622749

President: Maj Gen AJG Pollard CB CBE DL

Affiliated ACF and CCF

Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force



The winning team. Back: Jodi Page, 14, from Ely and Anna Fox, 17, from Huntingdon. Front: Abigail Durrant, 17, from Burwell and Abbi Bowen, 14, from Ely.

The Life Savers

Ten teams of teenagers aged between 13 and 18 from all around the East Anglia region demonstrated keen first aid skills at the cadets Eastern Region first aid competition held over 22 and 23 June at Waterbeach Army Cadet Headquarters near Cambridge.

The 40 youngsters took part in demanding individual and group tasks aimed at testing their first aid knowledge to the full under the watchful eye of a team of five local St John Ambulance assessors who scrutinised the activities for fairness and correct procedure.

The two all-girl Cambridgeshire Army Cadet teams finished first and second overall with the A team winning convincingly with 252 points over the nearest rival the B team with 199 points. The best individual cadet for the second year running was LCpl Abbi Bowen

(14) from Ely.

Prizes were presented by the County Commandant for Cambridgeshire ACF, Col Roger Burgess OBE, in the presence of Col John Watson, Commandant of Bedfordshire ACF.

Speaking after the event, Col Burgess said: 'Cambridgeshire instructors have worked long and hard over recent years to establish a team of young first aiders trained to high standards. We are very proud of their achievements and particularly the young people who have learned the art of saving life as a result of their efforts'.

Their success will now take the cadets forward to the National First Aid Championships to be held in October. Also going through to the finals will be the Norfolk Army Cadet team and the Air Training Corps team from 51 (Orton) Squadron, Peterborough.

Affiliated ACF and CCF

Cambridgeshire ACF At the Sharp End Again!

Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force is this year's winner of the Wilkinson Sword of Excellence for Army Cadet Force public relations - for the second time in three years.

To mark the event county public relations officer Capt Tony Ansell was invited to a meeting of the Reserve Forces and Cadets Forum for East Anglia held at Royal Air Force Brampton on 10 October to receive the award personally from the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Hugh Duberly CBE.

The sword was donated by Wilkinson Sword Ltd in 1998 for annual award to the cadet formation in the UK which has pursued the most active public relations effort during the previous 12 months. Each year ACF public relations officers are invited to compete for the prestigious trophy and submissions are judged by a specialist team



Capt Tony Ansell receives the Sword from the Lord Lieutenant.

of professional public relations officers working with the Army Cadet Force.

Speaking after the award former Cadet Commandant for Cambridgeshire and Chairman of the forum Col Derek Bristow OBE DL said, 'National awards such as this are never easily come by and it is fitting that representatives of the reserve and cadet forces from across the county were present to recognise this outstanding achievement.'

Tony added: 'It is a great honour to receive the sword on behalf of Cambridgeshire ACF and to be directly involved in work which promotes the good work that the army cadet force does for young people across the UK.'



Lord Lieutenant's Cadets Marc Burgess and Amy Neale.

Affiliated ACF and CCF**City and North East London Army Cadet Force**

Members of 3 Group and 1 R ANGLIAN.

**Visit of R ANGLIAN Recruiting Team to affiliated Detachments of 3 Group, City and North East London Army Cadet Force
Thursday 22 November 2007**

This visit took place on the evening of 22nd November at the Cadet Detachment in Woodford with the Recruiting Sergeant based at the Ilford Careers Office and two soldiers of the 1st Battalion who had recently returned from operations in Afghanistan.

The evening was well attended with Cadets from two Royal Anglian affiliated detachments present (about 30 in total). The presentation in form of a DVD film of the recent 6 month tour of the 1st Battalion in Helmand Province was well received and the cadets posed several pertinent questions in open discussion afterwards, both to the Recruiter and the soldiers recently returned. The presence of the Royal Anglian team was much appreciated and the impression obtained was that some cadets were considering a career in the military.

Also present were Major Nick Williams, OC 3 Group, Capt Norman

Hayman and adult staff of 33 Detachment (Royal Anglian Regiment) City and North East London Army Cadet Force. Also present were Capt John Youles (Chairman), Mr Sid Roser and Mr Mick Chapman of the 4th Battalion Essex Regiment Association.

3 Group, City and North East London Army Cadet Force is based at the Gordon Fields TA Centre in Ilford which was the Headquarters of the 4th Battalion Essex Regiment (TA) from 1910 to 1969 when the Battalion was reduced to a Cadre.

3 Group, and its predecessors, were sponsored by the 4th Battalion and latterly the 4/5th Battalion and after the 4/5th Battalion had ceased to exist, 3 Group maintained links with 4th Battalion Association, supplying a strong marching contingent for the Association's Remembrance Parade service.

The 4th Battalion Essex Regiment Association has continued to maintain the links with 3 Group, to help maintain the Royal Anglian footprint in East London, historically the 4th Battalion recruited from that area with Drill halls at Ilford, Dagenham, Manor Park and Epping – all now in the Greater London area.

Affiliated ACF and CCF

Hertfordshire ACF



The High Sherriff of Hertfordshire, Mr Howard Guard, with the award recipients.

Presentation evening continues to reward the best

June saw the newly appointed High Sheriff, Mr Howard Guard, attend Hertford to hand out awards to the highest number of adults and cadets since the presentation evenings began. It was a bumper night for Royal Anglian cadets and adult instructors. Maj Groom, acting OC 2 Company, was presented with his clasp to the Cadet Forces medal. Lt Taverner was presented with their framed Commission parchment. CSM Jones from St George's School was made the Lord Lieutenant's cadet, Sgt Orral received his Master Cadet Certificate, Cpl Foley, Sgt Everett, Cdt Freeman, Cdt Rogers, Cpl Springett, Cpl Tuck all received their 4-Star certificates.

Annual Camp 2007

Three hundred members of the Hertfordshire Army Cadet Force spent two weeks annual camp on the military Training Area at Folkestone where they were based in the St Martin's Plain Training Camp between the end of July and middle of August.

The cadets had a very active time putting to use all the skills they had learned in the previous 12 months. They were involved in fieldcraft training, shooting skills, map and compass, drill and obstacle training culminating in a three-day exercise which was

enjoyed by all.

There was plenty of time for adventurous training at nearby Lydd Ranges which included rock climbing, rafting, canoeing, mountain biking, and archery among others.

On the final day after the drumhead service the county marched past with the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Col Faure Walker, taking the salute accompanied by the Cadet Commandant, Col Ian Macleod, Col Mike Whyman DL, Chair of the County RFCA Committee and Cllr Nigel Brooks, Chairman of the Hertfordshire County Council.

Sport was not forgotten and there were a number of competitions, tug-of-war, five-a-side football, swimming and volleyball. 1 Company won the boys' tug-of-war and volleyball, 2 Company won the boys' and girls' football - both predominantly Royal Anglian Badged Companies.

Everyone returned home tired but content that they had all achieved in some way.

New Detachment Hut for Stevenage

Saturday 13 October saw the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, The Countess of Verulam, open the refurbished cadet training centre for



The County ACF prepares to march past at annual camp.

Affiliated ACF and CCF



2 Company cadets get that sinking feeling at annual camp in Folkestone.

the Royal Anglian Army cadets and Air Training Corps off Valley Road in Stevenage. As Lady Verulam arrived she was greeted by the Commandant, Col Ian Macleod and she inspected a joint guard of honour, commanded by Plt Off Baker. There then followed a tour of various stands showing skill at arms, first aid and signals by the Army cadets and a series of stands relevant to the air cadets.

There were numerous local dignitaries also present at the event including Barbara Follett MP for Stevenage and Minister for the Eastern Region, and the Mayor of Stevenage, Cllr G Clark.

The whole event ended with a splendid buffet arranged by the ATC civilian committee.

Col Ian Macleod said: 'We are very grateful for the funding secured by the local Reserve Forces and Cadets Association to allow us to build this facility which will give local youth in the area excellent facilities for their training.'

Royal Anglian Cadets come through cadet leadership course with flying colours

Congratulations to Cdt Cpl Foley and Cdt Cpl Tuck on successful completion of the Cadet Leadership Course carried out at Cadet

Training Centre Frimley Park in July 2007.

The one-week courses are held at CTC each July for the highest calibre cadets, of the CCF, Sea Cadet Corps, ACF and Air Training Corps.

Each course has 120 places and focuses on leadership training and assessment. The course is physically very demanding and the cadets are on the go from the break of day and into the night. They are organised in sections and are a mixture of Army, air, sea and Marine cadets led by platoon commanders from the Regular Army. There is a fierce competitive spirit throughout the course with competitions every day.

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.

Alex to the Arctic

Former Hertfordshire Cadet RSM Alex Perry will be testing skills and knowledge acquired throughout his cadet years in the Arctic next summer.

Now 19 and studying international relations at Exeter University, Alex has been accepted for the British Schools' Exploring Society Leadership Development Programme. He is one of only 24 youngsters chosen from across the UK to participate in the expedition to Arctic Norway next July. In total, it is a six-month project which consists of three training weekends, interim project work, plus spending five weeks in the Arctic region with its prehistoric glaciers, high terrain, severe climate and midnight sun.

BSES, at the Royal Geographical Society, said it selected the young men and women to go based on their enthusiasm, commonsense, tolerance, fitness, sense of humour and a willingness to work with others as a team in potentially very uncomfortable conditions.



The Lord Lieutenant inspects the guard of honour at the opening of the new Stevenage detachment accompanied by the County Commandant.

Affiliated ACF and CCF

Alex, whose home is in Hertford and who was at Hertfordshire's ACF No 1 Company from the age of 13 to 18, intends to apply to RMA Sandhurst and his burgeoning Army career is being closely followed by The Royal Anglian Regiment, which will sponsor him once he passes the Main Board. In fact, the regiment has kick-started the £3,000 fundraising campaign Alex is now embarked on with a donation.

Alex will complete an NVQ Level 3 in leadership and management with the project work prior to the expedition. Alex said: 'I chose this expedition because it sounded ideal development for my planned career as an Army officer. I've already passed the initial selection

stage of the RCB Briefing and will take the Main Board after the expedition. After completion of the Main Board and university, I plan to enter RMA Sandhurst in September 2009.'

The first challenge is, in fact, raising the money towards travel, logistics, insurance and other vital commodities. Alex is embarking on a variety of money-making ventures. These range from writing to charities and foundations which give donations for young people's development, as well as more physical activities. These include doing a tandem skydive, entering marathons and endurance events such as Tough Guy and enrolling the help of his team-mates at Exeter University Rugby League Club, of which he is club vice-captain.

Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland ACF

The Adam Morris Trophy



Cdt SSgt Aaron Mahoney with Mr and Mrs Morris.

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

To mark Adam's bravery the Commandant, Col RS Hurwood, of Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Army Cadet Force Commissioned the Adam Morris Memorial Trophy. The Trophy will be awarded annually at annual camp to two cadets from the three counties who most impress the Commandant at camp.

Annual camp 2006 was held at Penhale, Cornwall and the first

two recipients to receive the Adam Morris Memorial Trophy were Cdt SSgt Aaron Mahoney from C Company (Leicester) and Cdt Cpl Susan Moss from E Company (Northampton). Both Cadets were very proud to receive the prestigious trophy.

As a special tribute bronze replicas 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 it is a great honour to their son and the family, also Adam would be very proud that his name is to live on.

Affiliated ACF and CCF

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme: 300 Passes!



The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2006. To mark this anniversary the Commandant, Col RS Hurwood, of Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Army Cadet Force, decided that his Cadet Force would get wholly involved with the scheme. He therefore set a target to all six areas within the county to achieve 50 passes within the year, giving a total of 300 passes; this would double what was the norm.

All of the activities included massive involvement from all areas and this produced the results shown in the table (right). This gave a total overall of passes... Bronze 225 – Silver 83 – Gold 5 – Grand Total 313.

An excellent result and a useful exercise which has laid down a firm foundation from which to build. Aim achieved!

Bronze	Silver	Gold	Total	
A Company	39	13	0	52
B Squadron	36	14	0	50
C Company	29	5	0	34
D Company	45	25	0	70
E Company	36	15	5	56
F Squadron	40	11	0	51

LincolnshireACF

Sea Bank Marathon

3 Company produced a strong team of 57 cadets and adults who attempted to complete the Skegness to Boston Sea Bank Marathon on Saturday 10 June with 49 finishing the course.

The ground is very rough on the sea bank and three cadets had to withdraw with knee or ankle sprains and other cadets failed to finish as they had run out of steam.

The fastest finisher was CA Sam Fowler from Holbeach who ran the whole thing and finished 10th overall in 3hrs 59 minutes. The fastest cadet was Cdt CSM Alan Woods from Skegness in 5hrs 24 minutes.

The following adults entered and finished the course and deserve special praise: Capt Tim Bird, CSM Jamie Nisbet, SSI Terry Glynn, PI Nigel Lee, SI Matthew Green, SI Robert Featherstone, PI Ian Watson and CA Charles Du Preez. Initial estimates are that the company raised just under £4,000 if all the money is collected and paid in. Each entrant was charged a £5 entry fee and the rest of the money was split as follows: Peter Pan Sports Centre, Boston – 25 per cent, Marie Curie Cancer Appeal – 25 per cent, 3 Company Climbing Wall Appeal – 50 per cent.

National Sports - Tug-of-War

A very forceful team from Lincolnshire represented Eastern Region in the national Tug-of-War competition at Imphal Barracks, York held on 7 July.

Maj Chris Wilkinson, the team captain, said: 'Their success was a real example of outstanding teamwork and achieved against some exceptionally fine competition. Bearing in mind their ages there is no reason why the team cannot retain the title for at least two years. Finally, I would just like to say that they were a credit to Lincolnshire ACF and a real pleasure to work with'.

All the team members were selected from 2 Squadron and trained by Lt P Green and SI Peasgood.

In the final Lincolnshire ACF 2 team were against a team from Leicester/Northampton/Rutland and won the event two ends to nil gaining their National Colours.

Annual Camp

Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall, York, was the venue for annual camp 2007 from 18 to 30 August for the officers and instructors, apart from the coach escorts, and for practically everybody it was

Affiliated ACF and CCF

completely new surroundings as the county has never camped there before.

On the Sunday and Monday mornings there were various training tests for the officers and instructors to undertake, time to acclimatise to their surroundings and carry out recesses of training areas to allow the planning of the Commandant's exercise.

In past years we had used the excellent ranges at the back of the camp when we had had the pleasure of attending camp at what was Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, with the beach just a short way away over the back fence. The camp is there no more.

As the coach journey was not so long we were to see the arrival of the first group of cadets in the early afternoon of Monday and the dispersal of cadets to accommodation was quickly achieved by the waiting company/squadron staff as the rest of the cadets descended on the camp.

After checking the nominal rolls the county training team of Lt Col I Sackree, Maj M Burrows and Maj L Oram could now get their heads down and allocate cadets to cadres in their different star qualifications and verify the cadre commanders and staff.

Day 1 was a hive of activity as four cadres drew kit for their exercises, the senior cadets dispersing for Catterick training area to spend the week in more advanced fieldcraft, harbour drills and platoon and section manoeuvres. The senior 1 Star cadres, 4 and 5, also left camp to train on the areas of the ranges for two days as they were not in use for the period.

Shooting was to take place on the air rifle, DCCT and 25m ranges where all the cadets had the opportunity to put into practise their skill at arms and gain their shooting qualifications at the required star level.

The junior 1 Star cadres undertook revision in most subjects on their first day in preparation for the build up for the activities being enjoyed by the more senior cadets which was to also include the adventure training.

A community sports leadership course began on Tuesday which was to last the week dealing with the organisation and rules of various sports that the students put to use in the evenings for the benefit of the other cadets.

In rotation all cadres enjoyed the sequence of military training, adventure training and all the outdoor activities that were available, and, for a change good British summer weather.

Rock climbing was carried out at Brimham Rocks and kayaking

at Allerthorpe Lake Pleasure complex where the cadets tried out a new sport of paddling a kata kanu, a conveyance of two kayaks that have been harnessed together side by side. A smaller version of a Viking longboat, it needed much more organisation from the crews to move forward instead of round in circles.

Peace descended on the camp on the Saturday as the cadets were transported for a day out to the Leeds Armouries and Flamingo Land Theme Park where they had a complete day of relaxation and many had an adrenalin rush on the rides on offer.

Some evenings the cadets had the pleasure of scrambling over an inflatable assault course provided and operated by members of the 5th Training Regiment Royal Logistic Corps from Grantham for which we offer our thanks. And thanks also to 13 Cadet Training Team for help on the water activities and other adventurous pursuits.

From Sunday onward training continued for the next two days with the culmination of extensive training and testing as required at all star levels on Tuesday. Wednesday of the second week had been designated visitors' day although some arrived the evening before as guests of the Officer's Mess for their Annual Mess Dinner Night.

We were pleased to welcome the Vice Lord Lieutenant, Mr T Worth, Mr N Brown, Brig W Hurrell, Col J Ludlam, Sqn Ldr E Bratton, Mr and Mrs J Ware, Col M Underhill, Col T Richmond, Mr H Spratt, Mr D Grice and Maj K Deakin.

The visitors were invited to watch many aspects of the cadet training although they turned down the offers of taking part in the more physical aspects of the assault course and were very impressed with the commandant's final parade in the afternoon.

Presentations were made of the Army Cadet Force Medal or Clasp, trophies for the competitions and individual awards to recipients by the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, Mr T Worth, Mayor of Lincoln, Mr Hilton Spratt and the County Cadet Commandant, Col Trevor Richmond. Other presentations of BTEC certificates and Star Qualification certificates were made during company/squadron morning muster parades.

On the final day we had a visit from the Parachute Regiment Recruiting Information Team and the Queen's Royal Lancers who demonstrated the manoeuvrability of a Scorpion Tank. For the evening entertainment there were feature films, competitive sports, county military competitions, visits to the Naafi canteen and a disco on the last evening.

Affiliated ACF and CCF

Bancroft's School CCF

This has been a most successful year for the contingent. Remembrance Sunday went extremely well with a record attendance, the Biennial Review was a considerable success; we enjoyed a dry sunny week on adventurous training (remarkable when one thinks of June and July); a challenging Army Camp and a successful RAF Camp. All this on top of the regular routine Tuesday parades where the main training takes place. It all points to the fact that the contingent is in good heart.

For this many are to be thanked. Firstly I would like to thank our excellent team of officers, we are very fortunate here to have such a dedicated group willing to give up their time to ensure that activities take place and are successful. I would especially like to thank WO2 Pascal, our SSI, whose willingness and enthusiasm to support contingent activities, to see they are well resourced and above all to see that they succeed is a significant factor behind the current strength of the contingent and its activities. Above all else I wish to thank the cadets for making the contingent all that it is. Unlike several CCF contingents, Bancroft's is entirely voluntary and to have a contingent strength in excess of 165 is very healthy indeed. One of the skills developed in the contingent is leadership and cadets are given many opportunities to lead. Much of this year's success has been due to the considerable skill of the senior NCOs in both the Army and RAF section. Here I would like to single out for praise the senior NCO, RSM Rob Parson, who has enjoyed a quite exceptional year and whose leadership has rightly earned him praise from many quarters.

For me this has also been a special year, my last as contingent commander. I was commissioned into the cadet forces in February 1974 which is a long time ago and with the contingent in such good heart I have decided the time is right to hand over command and take a back seat. I know that in Capt Robert Hitching I have a very worthy successor to whom I wish every success in the years ahead. I would like to thank all who have supported me over the years because it is a team effort, especially I would like to thank generations of cadets who have helped make my time in the contingent so enjoyable. I sign off by saying what I have said on several occasions before - not only has it been enjoyable but that it has been a privilege to command such a lively and successful contingent.



Cadet RSM Robert Parson and Lt Col Jeremy Bromfield.

Felsted School CCF - Review of The Year

The CCF is now over 145-strong from Year 10 upwards and the CCF sponsored Year 9 Junior Leaders' Programme is now in its third successful year. A representative sample of Year 9 paraded for the Biennial Review and did themselves great credit. The aim of this two term programme, which takes place during school hours on Monday afternoon, is threefold: to foster pupil confidence in practical situations, while developing both teamwork and also leadership skills. The CCF does this, but in greater depth over a pupil's four-year service: first as a recruit, then as a cadet, then as a junior NCO and finally leading the contingent in the upper sixth.

One real highlight of the year was Exercise Combat Cadet on STANTA in April when the team came second overall out of approximately 22 teams with a score of 126 out of a possible total 132 marks. The team won the night navigation phase and came second in the march and shoot, as well as the assault course phases. Luke Jones, the team captain, came second overall as the best section commander. This was a tremendous achievement, not only for the team consisting of Luke Jones, David Hiett, Toby Shadarevian, Nathaniel Browning,

Rupert Bulgin, Oliver Sills, Andrew Htun, Matthew Savill, William Riggs, Alexander Prior and Robert Jarvis, but also for the two expert trainers: Maj Bill Eke and Mr Kevin Pilgrim.

Perhaps the most significant event of the last two years has been the biennial review on 3 May 2007 conducted by Air Chief Marshal Sir Brian Burridge KCB CBE ADC. Sir Brian had commanded the UK Joint Armed Forces Contingent of 43,000 personnel in the 2003 Iraq War; based in Qatar, his headquarters was located alongside US Central Command. He was subsequently knighted in the Iraq Operational Honours List and was promoted to Air Chief Marshal in 2003 and became Commander-in-Chief Strike Command where he was responsible for the readiness and capability of the RAF's entire front-line. Our inspection day started with a full Honour Guard, followed by lunch and then a comprehensive review of training. The Inspecting Officer then spoke to the whole contingent and presented two prestigious awards. The Bartlett Blade - for service to the CCF in memory of the late Maj Paul Bartlett - was deservedly awarded to the senior cadet, WO1 (RSM) Sarah Poyntz, while The

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Felstead School CCF prizewinners.

Skill Stick – in recognition of at least three generations of the Skill Family at Felsted – was presented to WO2 (CSM) Jonathan Player for his overall contribution to cadet training.

In his final report to the Ministry of Defence, the Air Chief Marshal wrote of the 'enthusiasm and engagement of the cadets, the competence and professionalism of the officers, as well as the degree of support and encouragement that the school provides'. He concluded by stating that he saw the Contingent as 'a pivotal aspect of school life which adds to the aims and ethos of the school in terms of developing leadership and good citizenship'. It was wonderful to be visited once again by Col (Retired) Geoffrey Morgan OBE DL, the President of the Essex Regiment Association, and by Capt Andy Wolstenholme, representing The Royal Anglian Regiment. Both are regular and welcome guests.

Two other projects have been of great importance this year. Most critically with the departure of Flt Lt Hoult and some difficulty in recruiting, the future of the RAF Section had reached a critical stage. I am most grateful to Lt Steve Winter for acting as a temporary OC RAF Section and keeping the section alive, as I am to those lower sixth RAF NCOs who stayed loyal. Thankfully the headmaster appointed Miss Nicola Smith to teach mathematics from September 2007. Sqn Ldr Smith was the first female RAF officer both to fly a helicopter and then also to command an operational squadron. Not surprisingly, the RAF Section found a most welcome new lease of life this year under her command, ably assisted by Plt Off Sanderson with his gliding expertise.

Among a large number of visits to RAF stations, as well as gliding and flying, the RAF Section also entered the Assegai Shooting Competition for the first time for many a year and came a most creditable tenth out of over 40 entries. It was a blow to discover that Sqn Ldr Smith would be leaving Felsted at the end of this academic year, but she has very kindly agreed to support the RAF until Christmas. Thankfully, 21st Jasmine Rendell is going to move from the Army Section to take over command of the RAF Section, supported by Plt Offr Sanderson, so the future of the RAF Section is secure.

The second project is most dear to the heart of the contingent

commander and to that of Old Felstedian Reg Davis (Gepp's 1952-1956): the re-establishment of the Corps of Drums since it became dormant in the 1970s. After a relaunch last academic year, this current year has seen the re-formed Corps of Drums busy readying itself for a first performance at the Biennial Review. With the combined enthusiasm of the contingent commander and Reg Davies, the musical drive of new assistant director of music, Ryan Hepburn, as well as the support of many experts from the Corps of Drums Society, the cadets have really gelled as unit, playing drums and flutes. Their performance at the Biennial Review was much commented upon. Both The Essex Regimental Association and the trustees of the Philipps Old Felstedian Fund have given large scale financial support for which we are extremely grateful. The old drums are now being fully restored, while new drums, flutes, No 2 dress uniforms and equipment have been purchased. The wonderful silver Drum Major's staff has been fully restored and a new sash professionally made. It will be a wonderful site to see them lead the Felsted Village parade on Remembrance Sunday 2007, fittingly on 11 November itself.

In addition to all their regular Thursday afternoon training, both the Army and the RAF Sections enjoyed 24-hour exercises in October and March. In March, the Army Section went to Colchester and as well as 'bashing out' on one of the coldest nights for a long time, practised night orienteering at speed, as well as enjoying a full day's full bore shooting package, Exercise Essex Sniper, at distances up to 300m. Many cadets achieved shooting badges. The RAF Section visited RAF Brize Norton in March and, as well as abseiling and testing their courage on high ropes, the cadets were hosted by JATEU. This unit gave the cadets practical experience of loading Chinooks, C17s and Hercules aircraft with military vehicles, such as Land Rovers; this is not something which the average cadet gets to do very often! In addition, the Army Section has flown in a Gazelle helicopter, while the RAF Section has flown in a Sea King. June saw all the CCF in Year 10 visit 33 (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) Regiment of the Royal Engineers at Carver Barracks for hands-on experience of the role of Britain's EOD capability as guests of 58 Squadron.

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Over 90 cadets paraded on Remembrance Sunday in November 2006, while record numbers are attending annual summer camp at Barry Buddon this July. Sixteen year 10 cadets undertook adventurous training and an expedition for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award on Dartmoor in April. The mutual co-operation between CCF and DoE has continued to grow and the CCF was able to purchase a large amount of equipment such as tents which can be used by both CCF and DoE. More and more pupils are choosing both to be active in the CCF and work towards their bronze, silver and gold awards, a trend which will continue next academic year.

The CCF has had another busy year which was highlighted at a superb officers' and NCOs' dinner at which two officers were dined out by over 80 members of the contingent. 2Lt George Devereese (Gepp's 1997-2002) has been assisting in the CCF while a member of the University of London OTC and since graduating, George is about to start his training at Dartmouth as an officer in the Royal Navy and the Navy's gain is the CCF's loss! The contingent commander, Maj Matthew Christmas, who has run the CCF for four years, is going to work in Kenya; he was presented with a beautiful inscribed silver salver which had been purchased through donations from all members of the CCF. He was (almost) lost for words!

It has been a year, once again, of farewells. The upper sixth has been a force to be reckoned with and were instrumental as Year 10s in the revival of the CCF. Sarah Poyntz has been a tower of strength and a real leader as Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM), while James Watson has run the stores and equipped us all as Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant (RQMS). David Hiatt, Luke Jones, Jonathan Player and Chris Willetts have led as the Company Sergeant Majors (CSMs) as has Travis Hussain as the RAF Flight Sergeant. He stays next year as a warrant officer. Ben Atterton has shot with a vengeance and we all wish him well as he seeks selection for the London 2012 Olympics. James Beaven, Nathaniel Browning, Fraser Daisley, Laura Feldman, Edward Knox, Baingana Sabiti, Toby Shadarevian, James Wall, and even James Dewar have given their support in the Army Section as have Nathan Arnold, David Bizley, Francesca Seal, Theo

Tibbitts, Henry Walton, Edward Marsden and Alexandra Wieland in the RAF.

The officers give enormously of their time and they are all, without exception, very busy people. Thanks must go to them all: Sqn Ldr Smith (2IC and OC RAF Section), Capt Eglin (OC Army Section), Capt Lee (OC Shooting), Lt Winter (OC Junior Leaders), 2Lt Rendell and Plt Off Sanderson. Above all, we would all want to record our thanks to Maj Bill Eke MBE - Adjutant, Training Major and SSI all rolled into one. Without him, the CCF would grind to a halt and fewer pupils would become cadets. Next year, the CCF is fortunate to have another first rate set of senior NCOs who will be led by Victoria Cole. The future under her leadership will be an exciting one.

Felsted School's Combined Cadet Force is one of the six oldest CCFs in the country. Alongside Eton, Harrow, Rugby, Rossall and Hurstpierpoint, Felsted School raised a Cadet Corps in 1860. However, Felsted claims the primary place in this list of original units as military training started at the school on an unofficial basis under the headmaster's direction before the War Office letter of 12 May 1859 inviting schools and universities to raise Volunteer Corps. Whatever is the case, in the academic year 2008-9, the CCF will be about to be 150 years old and just starting to celebrate its sesquicentenary.

The Biennial Review of 2009 headed up by the current Year 11 will be an occasion of great importance. Gordon Brown MP has stated that more state schools need CCFs and there are six pilot projects about to start as a result. The value of CCFs is thus not in question. However, without the enthusiasm of our officers, NCOs and cadets, as well as the support of outside military units, our CCF would not thrive as it does. With Maj Eglin, as he will become in September, as the new contingent commander, supported by Maj Eke and the other officers, there is no doubt that the Combined Cadet Force will enter its second 150 years as fit for its purpose as it was when it was founded all those many years ago.

Gresham's School CCF

The summer training season was a busy one, with RN, Army and RAF section annual camps at Portsmouth, Crowborough and Wittering respectively. Mountain Activities Camp took place in North Wales, the shooters went to Bisley, and there were various RN courses. In addition, a group carried out adventure training and mountain walking

in the Swiss and French Alps. The summer field days experienced the torrential rain that was typical of the past summer, but all activities continued regardless, including parachuting, field training, self-reliance exercises and the annual RN schools regatta, in which our naval cadets performed very creditably on their first visit.



Gresham's parachutist about to land.

East Midlands University Officer Training Corps

OCdt Adam Thorpe writes...

Exercise Sajama Emu

East Midlands Officers' Training Corps (EMUOTC) in Nottingham is a hotbed of potential R Anglians. Over July and August 2007, three of them, OCdts Andrew Miller, Simon Phillips and I all participated in Exercise Sajama Emu, a challenging mountaineering expedition to Bolivia.

The Commanding Officer, Lt Col Frank de Planta, insists that adventurous training expeditions are as 'student-led' as possible: from the concept and planning of the expedition to its final execution. Our expedition aimed to reach the summit of the Sajama volcano which, at 6,542m, is the highest point in Bolivia and the highest an OTC would ever have climbed. In addition, we planned to summit four other peaks ranging between 5-6,000m.

Challenges began from the start with difficulties finding instructors and the airline going bankrupt. However, despite these small setbacks, the expedition deployed from Nottingham on 17 July, confident that everything was in place and that we would succeed. After a stopover in La Paz, we moved into our first acclimatisation phase, which involved a visit to Copacabamba, the important pilgrimage site. It also involved a trip to RamJam, the top club in La Paz, where it was universally agreed OCdt Phillips missed an 'open goal'.

After three days in country, we moved into Condorriri Base Camp. Our intent was to practise our technique and get accustomed to the thinner air. We achieved Pyramida Blanca and Pico Austria, both 5,250m in atrocious weather conditions and under the iron regime of our local Bolivian guides. However, while they ran to the summit, we set a more leisurely pace commensurate with our ability to cope with the different climate.

We then attempted Huayana Potosi at 6,088m and bagged it in a quick two-day climb. This was tougher as the air got even thinner and the team suffered from altitude and stomach problems. Having returned to our £2 a night hostel in La Paz, with showers that gave electric shocks, we then moved out to the Sajama National Park. The park is a six-hour journey south west of La Paz.

After an aborted attempt on Parinacota at 6,300m, we finally moved onto attempt Sajama. This was a three day climb, moving up through base and high camps. On summit day, we left high camp at 0400hrs with ten officer cadets. Within hours, two were forced to



The EMUOTC Sajama summit team.

turn back through illness and exhaustion. The remaining eight pushed on including two who had not ascended Huayana Potosi and really felt the altitude. The team reached Sajama summit at noon although all plans to stay and celebrate were cancelled as it was realised that very high winds and the bitter cold would make remaining lethal. The descent was an experience with some expedition members becoming hypoxic, making the process slow. The team managed to return to base camp by nightfall, feeling thoroughly rough but elated at our achievement.

On our return to La Paz, we had a few days' R and R. Some shamelessly bolted for a day spa, whereas others mountain hiked down the most dangerous road in the world – the La Paz to Coroico Highway and thoroughly recommended as a testosterone fuelled day out. We left Bolivia on 8 August, very satisfied with what we had achieved. Bolivia is a fantastic country with friendly people and is ideal for adventurous training. After Sandhurst and time with my Battalion, I'll be itching to get back out there with some of my soldiers...

Orbats

1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment as at October 2007

Battalion Headquarters

Lt Col SW Carver SW
Maj HR Bell PWRR
Maj RC Barrett AGC(SPS)
Maj FR Landrigin AGC(ETS)
Maj IL Hall
Maj MA Nicholas
Capt MJ Bevin
Capt DN Broomfield
Capt AJ Buxton
Capt AM Firmin AGC(ETS)
Capt K Fisher R SIGS
Capt DJ Glover
Capt PC Moxey
Ch4 AE Strachan RACHD
Capt RA Smit
Capt RA Wicks COLDM GDS
Lt GR Cromie R IRISH
Lt AK Luff RLC
WO1 Robinson IJ
WO2 Coleing DF R GIB REGT
WO2 Self JE
Sgt Hodgson J AGC(SPS)
Cpl Durdle BA AGC (SPS)
Cpl McGowan Griffin VC AGC(SPS)
LCpl Oaks GD AGC (SPS)
Pte Fairclough LM
Pte Harris Barnett WR AGC(SPS)

Echelon Company

Capt PN Blanchfield
WO2 Freeman MA
CSgt Collins IL
Cpl Jackson S
Cpl McDonald RDG
LCpl Bale O

QM Department

WO2 Jay L
WO2 Granfield D
CSgt Holly D PWRR
Sgt Hardy A
Sgt Magee K
Sgt Richardson I
Cpl Brown N
Cpl Borgnevic
Cpl Gomer W
LCpl Bale O
Pte Tuttle C

Rover Group

Sgt Waddell SM APTC
Cpl Buff DL
Cpl Heal MJ
Cpl Rayfield I
LCpl Mayer B
LCpl Murton T
LCpl Warner GJ
Pte Mavin CR

RAP

Maj AD Tredget RAMC
Cpl Clarke DA RAMC
Cpl Peyton IJ
Cpl McLaughlin RB
Cpl Horn SC

Cpl Lewis S RMAC
LCpl Boyle M
LCpl Linsley S RMAC
Pte O'Reilly L
Pte Quick TQ

Int Cell

Capt TGBP Coleman
2Lt HJ Briscoe INT CORP
CSgt Neal S
Sgt Gardner S
Sgt Wallis C
Cpl Guy A
Cpl Wood RL
Pte Long T
Pte Himfen J
Pte Hood M

CIS Platoon

Capt AI Maclay
WO2 Rackham MR
CSgt Stringer G
Sgt Mitchell DJ
Sgt Rumsey SJ
Sgt Scott GP R SIGS
Cpl Bell D
Cpl Cartwright G
Cpl Cole W
Cpl Haley NP R SIGS
Cpl Heal MJ
Cpl Overton C LD
LCpl Elgumaty HI R Sigs
LCpl Ellis L
LCpl Freebairn C
LCpl Reilly L
LCpl Warner GW
Pte Bowyer MA
Sig Callaghan A R Sigs
Pte Garcia RL
Pte Hughes M
Sig Kane J R SIGS
Pte Kerner S
Pte Mavin CR
Pte Patmore R
Pte Turner DB

MT Department

Capt T Jones
CSgt Neal T
Sgt Penny C
Cpl Chandler DW
Cpl Goodchild S
Cpl Griffiths J
Cpl Lomas GJ
LCpl Jones TW
LCpl Murton T
LCpl Stevens SD
Pte Andrews L
Pte Cartwright G
Pte Donner TID
Pte Howard S
Pte Kenny E
Pte Lawrence B
Pte Pearson M
Pte Sayce NA
Pte Wymark TCG

Pte Roberts B

LAD (REME)

Capt DJ Fallowfield
WO2 Southall JJ
SSgt Shorthouse G
Sgt Horrocks A
Sgt Roberts GP
Cpl Camp SE
Cpl Tshuma ZW
LCpl Armstrong MW
LCpl Brown AD
LCpl Evans D
LCpl Keen RA
LCpl Henson RJ
Cfn Madams A
LCpl Masiwini D
LCpl Weatherall TC
Cfn Bird S
Cfn Cadd BM
Cfn Curtis LJ
Cfn Healey C
Cfn Tate G
Cfn Watson MDN
Cfn Wilkes B

Catering Platoon (RLC)

WO2 (RCWO) Beal DP
SSgt Oldfield RM
Sgt Swinney TT
Cpl Freeman MJ
Cpl Jordan S
Cpl Langdon MR
Cpl Standen DS
LCpl Powell SA
LCpl Sawyer C
LCpl Watkinson D
Pte Boila L
Pte Daniels AGI
Pte Gurung I
Pte Gurung D
Pte Mall J
Pte Mensa F
Pte Owen-Bridge L
Pte Qutakira SN

A (Norfolk) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj DSJ Biddick MBE
Capt PR Steel
Capt GDR Hudson
Lt D Pozo R GIB REGT
WO2 Main K
WO2 Smith S
Sgt Manning AE PWRR
Cpl Bell C
Cpl Bonner DW Deceased
Cpl Thompson AT Aust Army
Cpl Hannam TRD R Sigs
Cpl Walker M
LCpl Morfitt DJ
LCpl Duckett JM
Pte Dodds O
Pte Holt T
Pte Graves A

Orbats

Pte Ranns RS
Pte Simons
Pte Sivewright C
Pte Theobald G
Pte Turner BN

1 Platoon

Lt NGV Denning
Sgt Holmes CJ
Cpl Field SR
Cpl Davies JR
Cpl Brooks CA
LCpl Chatfield SPM
LCpl Coleby PJ
LCpl Murray DP
Pte Broom C
Pte Brown AJ
Pte Burgess DA
Pte Chapman GJ
Pte Charlesworth M
Pte Ellis BE
Pte Gillasbey ALP GIB REGT
Pte Hardy SH
Pte Harrison CA
Pte Hill CA
Pte Holden L GIB REGT
Pte Hornigold KH
Pte Hicks SD
Pte Mathieson S
Pte Meighan KJ
Pte Oliverio F
Pte Pozo NP R GIB REGT
Pte Redford S
Pte Richardson RM
Pte Rolph IJ
Pte Slater M
Pte Taylor AR
Pte Williams JD
Pte Wills SJ

2 Platoon

Lt GJ Goodey
2Lt HJ Willies
Sgt Butcher MJ
Cpl Alexander RC
Cpl Hazell CG
Cpl Sawasdee N RRF
LCpl Johnson T
LCpl Mercer NA GREN GDS
LCpl Penwright OP GREN GDS
LCpl Van Der Mere WJ
Pte Bigmore MS
Pte Bowman JA
Pte Brace TD
Pte Carter C
Pte Chumbley LA
Gdsm Crook DK GREN GDS
Pte Fisher CL
Pte Flegg DF
Pte Glover AR
Gdsm Harrison CA GREN GDS
Pte Hassell NF
Gdsm Hastings L GREN GDS
Pte Illsley SE
Pte Johnson AJ
Gdsm Keeley KJ GREN GDS
Gdsm Lee OT GREN GDS
Pte Marano J
Pte Nicholls SM
Pte Ndego MN
Pte Njie ML

Pte Okotie OT
Pte Smith KAG
Pte Smits SPD
Pte Stephens MTC
Gdsm Tipping B GREN GDS
Pte Ward ALW
Pte Whaites N

3 Platoon

Lt BES Rose
Sgt Panter SI
Cpl Moore RW
LCpl Findley T
LCpl Fish TA
LCpl Garner DA
LCpl Green PJ
LCpl Kisby CS YORKS
LCpl Marley NA
Pte Appleton M
Pte Bridges MJ
Pte Burkard AET
Pte Casey PJ
Pte Clarke AS
Pte Cowley TR
Pte Copperwheat AJ
Pte Croft T
Pte Duffy NJT
Pte Feltham B
Pte Flanagan DA
Pte Giles CS
Pte Goodwin C
Pte Gray C Deceased
Pte Hammond MP
Pte Jarrad DK
Pte Johnson GP
Pte Jones RC
Pte Leonardi MP
Pte McLeod JAA
Pte Osborn TJ
Pte Roberts BL
Pte Ryan TJP
Pte Scrivener BD
Pte Stringer M
Pte Symonds LA
Pte Ward AJ

FSG A

CSgt Faupel A
Cpl Meadows LG
Cpl Smith PA
Cpl Watts G
LCpl Evans AM
LCpl Flight MC
LCpl Magee B
LCpl Silvey RW
LCpl Terry AJ
LCpl Willan M
Pte Bailey OJ
Pte Burmell CM
Dmr Deigan RA
Pte Donnachie CJ
Pte Long JL
Pte Mason DAK
Dmr Pegrum RN
Dmr Railton JB
Pte Wallace DW

B (Suffolk) Company

Company Headquarters
Maj Maj Aston M

Capt Robinson DJ
WO2 Newton TR
CSgt Shand CS
Sgt Hartland C
Cpl Dickenson MJ R SIGS
Cpl Naylor JMH
LCpl Cooledge AD
LCpl Jackson N
LCpl Stuczynski D GREN GDS
Pte Coram CEJ
Pte Haldenby J
Pte Handley R
Pte O Dell CM
Pte McIlroy IS
Pte McCluskey PJ
Pte Whatley TS

5 Platoon

Lt BJ Howes
CSgt Nieves-y-Gordo
Sgt Canepa C GIB REGT
Cpl Mason TB
Cpl Thorne SJ
LCpl Blewett BW
LCpl Davey G Deceased
LCpl McCall R
LCpl Swindells SJ 3 YORKS
LCpl Tower J
Pte Anderson MD
Pte Arnott RT
Pte Corless SA
Pte Cox TA
Pte Galliano M R GIB REGT
Pte George CJ
Pte Heirsher J
Pte Hill JP
Pte Humphrey BJ
Pte Lingley
Pte Lizzi SM
Pte McKendrick C
Pte Monks C
Pte Nadriva LC
Pte Rix J
Pte Rogers SM
Pte Rushen-Smith P
Pte Scott JS
Pte Shea
Pte Sheppard AJ
Pte Smith 70 D
Pte Waghorne GA
Pte White GA

6 Platoon

Capt Broomfield DN
2Lt Driver MO
Sgt Browning BB
Sgt Owen JE
Cpl Adlington JW
Cpl George G
Cpl Murphy J
LCpl Ashby LD
LCpl Hunt KJ
LCpl Kennedy PMG
LCpl Murphy J
Pte Archer AF
Pte Battison PM R GIB REGT
Pte Bradbury M
Pte Bramman SC
Pte Day MS
Pte Dickerson PJ
Pte Drane AP

Orbats

Pte Geater LJ
 Pte Green RC
 Pte Greenland DR
 Pte Hare OH
 Pte Harper Reservist
 Pte Harrison RF
 Pte Hastings RF GIB REGT
 Pte Hill DJ
 Pte Hlubi Y
 Pte Kushinga S
 Pte Lee NA
 Pte Lowe GJ
 Pte Muley N
 Pte Perry J
 Pte Purcell T
 Pte Pryke KJ
 Pte Rogers AJ
 Pte Down CL
 Pte Shea DE
 Pte Thompson J
 Pte Wanjau E
 Pte Watson L
 Pte White B

7 Platoon

Lt GEB Seal Coon
 Lt Luff AK
 Sgt Woodrow ML
 Sgt Martin S
 Cpl Parker SW
 LCpl Knowles DAH
 LCpl Lockley JA GREN GDS
 LCpl Mann GS GREN GDS
 LCpl Veal SP
 Pte Barke RW
 Pte Barker AJ
 Pte Booth JL
 Pte Cress JDC
 Gdsm Davison M GREN GDS
 Pte Doherty RJ
 Pte Dowd SL
 Pte Ensinger MI
 Pte Foster R Deceased
 Gdsm Freiss GREN GDS
 Pte Gillmore P
 Gdsm Heavens GREN GDS
 Gdsm Hogg ST GREN GDS
 Pte Hughes JWH
 Pte Lee JO
 Pte Lewis J
 Pte Mclean AJ
 Pte McClure A Deceased
 Pte Medlock JC
 Pte Merlo AL
 Pte Nurse GA
 Pte Perkins KD
 Pte Pearson MA
 Pte Porter D
 Gdsm Shotunde O GREN GDS
 Pte Sloan ARR
 Pte Smith 14 MJ
 Gdsm Thomas BD GREN GDS
 Gdsm Thomas ME GREN GDS
 Pte Thumble J Deceased

FSG B

WO2 Snow IJ
 Cpl Toynton PM
 LCpl Auckland MP
 LCpl Bailey D
 LCpl Carter JC

LCpl Dowles AJ
 LCpl Farrar A
 LCpl Lambell JS
 LCpl Owusu GO
 LCpl Ruecker OS
 Pte Carruthers MC
 Dmr Curtis KP
 Pte Davis JP
 Pte Fryer SC
 Pte McKelvie A
 Pte Read G
 Pte Strike IK
 Pte Tanner Tremaine JJ
 Pte Turner BK

C (Essex) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj PJ Messenger
 Capt DC Hicks Deceased
 Capt DJ Haggard
 Lt J Titchener PWRR
 WO2 Ramm PA
 CSgt Culshaw P
 Sgt Duffy JG
 Cpl Fosker S
 Cpl Seager DJ R SIGS
 LCpl Baxter NS
 LCpl Ehret KH
 LCpl James BL
 LCpl Stuczynski PA GREN GDS
 LCpl Walker LE
 LCpl Wilson R
 Pte Athorn LD
 Pte Cobb SD
 Pte Emmett BJ
 Pte Ford TM
 Pte Langton A
 Pte Juby SP
 Pte Trussler SJL

9 Platoon

Lt TA Clark
 Sgt Hassan JR
 Cpl Everitt MP
 Cpl Johnson RRF
 Cpl Milam PWRR
 LCpl Aldridge RV
 LCpl Kerrin ARP
 LCpl Kirby AK
 Pte Dexter MS
 Pte Dunster JJ
 Pte Gamadze AS
 Pte Ghazalli SJ
 Pte Harman A
 Pte Hill JF
 Pte Hines DG
 Pte Jacks MA
 Pte Johnson MW
 Pte Khan MTS
 Pte Hilton B
 Pte Holland RJW
 Pte Howard SL
 Pte Tomlin S
 Pte Wells W

10 Platoon

Lt SED Perrin
 Sgt Armon S
 Cpl Brown A
 Cpl Ferrand TL

Cpl Pindar AN
 LCpl Thomas GD GREN GDS
 LCpl Smith NAJ GREN GDS
 LCpl Drinkwater WG
 LCpl Howe AJ
 Pte Alden W
 Gdsm Bangham CJ GREN GDS
 Pte Bayley CA
 Pte Becala MS
 Pte Brace NB
 Pte Brown DB
 Pte Cooper LB
 Gdsm Emery CR GREN GDS
 Pte Facal KJF
 Gdsm Foxall LA GREN GDS
 Pte Garner EW
 Pte Gibbs J
 Pte Gordon CR
 Pte Gough BAA
 Pte Harris SL
 Pte Harris L
 Gdsm Harrison AEB GREN GDS
 Pte Hyett ML
 Pte Jeary RP
 Gdsm Jones DA GREN GDS
 Pte Kent PM
 Pte Langridge G
 Gdsm Matai JB GREN GDS
 Pte McDermott S
 Pte Murray SE
 Pte Pritchard JM
 Pte Spanton BR
 Pte Stevenson IJ
 Pte Thompson J
 Pte Wright CD
 Pte Wright P

11 Platoon

Lt HJJ Olivier R SIGS
 2Lt C Powell
 Sgt Waters M
 Cpl Farrugia DJ
 Cpl Thomson KR SCOTS
 Cpl Townsend NG RIFLES
 LCpl Lake B
 LCpl Watson DW
 Pte Bates D
 Pte Blowes DDJ
 Pte Bonnell JJ
 Pte Budd JD
 Pte Cain M
 Pte Cumberbatch CWD
 Pte Davitt CA
 Pte Garrett SM
 Pte Jones RA
 Pte Joseph D
 Pte Kemp JAK
 Pte O'Connor LK
 Pte Olen LM
 Pte Palmer A
 Pte Peacock SM
 Pte Rawson TA Deceased
 Pte Sellers MN
 Pte Snow J
 Pte Thorpe CS
 Pte Todd RM
 Pte Vaughan TDC
 Pte Walker SD
 Pte Webb CS
 Pte Woollard MD

Orbats

FSG C
 Capt MOG Taylor
 Sgt Head ST
 Cpl Eastwood M
 Cpl Gayler LD
 LCpl Chadwick DW
 LCpl Corner E
 LCpl Henty SR
 LCpl Highton KJ
 LCpl Mann TM
 LCpl McPhee SM
 LCpl Mercer S
 LCpl Robinson ML
 Dmr Armstrong FS
 Pte Casburn A
 Dmr Gent DT
 Dmr Meiring D
 Pte Moore SP
 Dmr Prior DA
 Dmr Seymour D
 Dmr Wright RJ

D (Cambridgeshire) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj CS Calder
 WO2 Taylor T
 CSgt Hopkin C
 Cpl Groves LL
 Cpl Moore MJ
 Cpl Nicholls MB
 Pte Pudwell AJ

Recce Platoon

Capt APT Wilde
 Sgt Thurston AL A
 Sgt Hill JJ
 Cpl Hill AR
 Cpl Kearney PM
 Cpl Eggleton JS
 Cpl Ling DW
 Cpl Vickery R
 Cpl Roberts WJ
 LCpl Cadman DP
 LCpl Eggleton PMG
 LCpl Green JM
 LCpl Pimm
 LCpl Ryan J
 Pte Boyle
 Pte Brown
 Pte Cook N
 Pte Cooper WP
 Pte Freeman ADA
 Pte Greenfield WJ
 Pte Hancock GM
 Pte Hautfleisch GUR
 Pte Mazariel SC
 Pte Prior WM
 Pte Rowley JA
 Pte Sawyer MJ
 Pte Webster PA
 Pte Worsley CD

Mortar Platoon

Capt PMJ Kelly
 CSgt Grice JA
 Sgt Booth DS
 Sgt Duggan B
 Sgt Evans AM

Sgt Tinkler AP
 Cpl Baker BJ
 Cpl Duncan AN
 Cpl Fay DJ
 Cpl Mataceva A
 Cpl Johnson D
 Cpl Smith BI
 Cpl Wilsher MI
 LCpl Jackson NJ
 LCpl Kingsey MJ
 LCpl Warwick T
 LCpl Owens
 Pte Ablett GA
 Pte Alford D
 Pte Brooks JC
 Pte Browne SR
 Pte Carruthers MC
 Pte Dowsett DJ
 Pte Dare RA
 Pte Dean B
 Pte Edwards DL
 Pte Fox TC
 Pte Frampton TS
 LCpl Grange Cook D
 Pte Griffiths MS
 Pte Gould WJ
 Pte Green JM
 Pte Johnson JG PWRR
 Pte Jakes M
 Pte Kneller C
 Pte Lappage JS
 Pte Malembe KV
 Pte McLaughlin RH
 Pte Penny S
 Pte Perridge M PWRR
 Pte Reynolds KL
 Pte Rogers WV
 Pte Saumi S
 Pte Sessions N
 Pte Sianakevi R
 Pte Smith ATH
 Pty Taylor RI
 Pte Tyrell ML
 Pte Wade B
 Pte Van Hinsberg
 Gdsm Bulivou TDN GREN GDS
 Gdsm Goggin JD GREN GDS
 Gdsm Mulholland R GREN GDS
 Gdsm Mann AJ GREN GDS
 Gdsm Mati ET GREN GDS
 Gdsm Pendlebury GM GREN GDS

FSG D

Capt OB Ormiston
 Sgt Love NJ
 Cpl Metcalf SH
 Cpl Morris MJ
 LCpl Goodship IW
 LCpl Hawkins A Deceased
 LCpl King
 LCpl Proctor AM
 LCpl Rouse
 Dmr Cucciniello MJ
 Pte Henning PL
 Pte Howell PJ
 Pte McCabe HR
 Pte Prinns RL
 Pte Saunders-Jones DC
 Pte Smith MJ
 Dmr Stephens WN
 Pte Ward DF

Dmr Williamson MN

Rear Party

Company Headquarters

Major DJ Stefanetti
 Ch3 P Aldred RACHD
 Capt G Leek
 WO1 Buff AL
 WO2 Clark S
 Sgt Day MR
 Cpl Filipo KT
 Cpl Hogston DJ
 Cpl Marshall MH
 Cpl Williams RIJ
 LCpl Owen DD
 LCpl Phoenix SA
 LCpl Skyers NC
 Pte Bryant MPB
 Pte Findley SD
 Pte Flounders C
 Pte McRoberts M
 Pte Sullivan DJ
 Pte Townsley JS
 Pte Watkinson F

Families Office

CSgt Woods M
 Cpl Franklin A
 Pte Dindal ADS
 Pte Pemberton
 Pte Toublic GK

RCMO's Office

CSgt Garvie A
 Cpl Jones R
 Pte Emmett SP
 Pte Jones LC

MT

Cpl McKenna JK
 Cpl Pratt JI
 LCpl Dennis SWJ
 Pte Down C
 Pte Firmin R
 Pte Hubbard B
 Pte James TD
 Pte Lawrence B
 Pte Neil AR
 Pte Pearce JA
 Pte Small A
 Pte Sones MT
 Pte Webster

Training Wing

CSgt Wright K
 Sgt Johnson SM

Quartermaster's Dept

Sgt Lovett L
 Cpl Codling P

LAD (REME)

Cpl Poxon MPJ

Catering Platoon (RLC)

Sgt Hay A
 Sgt Seal BA
 LCpl Powell SA
 Pte Webb CM

Guard Force

Cpl Cartwright GM
Cpl Debuc RP
LCpl Cornish PMG
LCpl Ferrand JWC
LCpl Jarvis NC
Pte Barritt DMT
Pte Carter C
Pte Coruchen MAGR
Pte Dodds O

Pte Fenn
Pte Fisher C
Pte Fletcher J
Pte Gilchrist T
Pte Graves A
Pte Green RC
Pte Johnson GP
Pte Jones DR
Pte Kent NPL
Pte Pearce

Pte Price GRW
Pte Pryke KJ
Pte Rayner SJ
Pte Roberts SDL
Pte Shirley CB
Pte Tennyson K
Pte Thurlow BC
Pte Tilbury NR
Pte Wallis

2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment as at October 2007

Battalion Headquarters

Lt Col SJR Browne MBE
Maj JJW Hart
Capt J D Inch
Capt C W Swallow MBE
Capt J M Ding
Ch4 RJ Richardson RACHD
WO1 Bartlett AJ

QM Department

Maj PG Martin
Capt MJ Abbs
WO2 Lewis BP
WO2 Waghorn AL
Sgt Herron C
Sgt Rickman DJ
Cpl Blanchard D
Cpl Elliot KAG
Cpl Franklin SP
Cpl Green RJ
Cpl Hart C
Cpl Parsons A
Cpl Selby RJ
LCpl Crozier DF
Pte Connolly SJ
Pte Harrison AL

Signals Platoon

Capt MR Cook
WO2 Singleton S
Sgt Correa J
Sgt Francis C
Sgt Lyles G
Cpl Cook SW
Cpl Latter AA
Cpl Rae SJ
Cpl Turner CJ
LCpl Rodgers A
LCpl Wara SV
Pte Alldis C
Pte Batchelor
Pte Bowen RH
Pte Carey D
Pte Hewitt DM
Pte Johnson D
Pte Patel RS
Pte Robinson M
Pte Rowe CG
Pte Vout RJ

MT Platoon

Capt RJ Bredin
Sgt Bradley S
Cpl Atkins RA

Cpl Brownsword JR
Cpl Burdass JC
Cpl Cooley J
Cpl O'Leary S
LCpl Hughes GO
Pte Barrow S
Pte Clarke R
Pte Cowling LMJ
Pte Inkson C
Pte Mitchell PA
Pte Pratt NK
Pte Sharman SJ
Pte Slater SL
Pte Smith SD
Pte Stephens CM

AGC Detachment

Capt RA Shipman
Lt A Gill
WO2 Mitchell K
SSgt Roberts K
Sgt Audas GPJ
Sgt Pope E
Sgt Tyler-Creed AT
LCpl Serevi VKS

Dental Department

Capt R Price
LCpl Ravuai M
Pte Langstone

Medical Centre

Maj LM Patil RAMC
Sgt Pultrey SR RAMC
Cpl Murdoch A
Cpl Brown A
LCpl Sarsar-De-Sain K RAMC
LCpl Woodward CR RAMC
Pte Mackenzie
Pte Jubbs PL

LAD

Sgt Burke J
Cpl Caplis M
Cpl Christie J
Cfn Scott
Cfn Young

RLC

WO2 Thornton D
SSgt Warren L
Sgt Scaife D
Sgt Sullivan I
Cpl Betteridge K

Cpl Harris J
Cpl Lorrimer P
Cpl Trevor M
LCpl Beeston R
LCpl Colville R
LCpl Gaskarth
LCpl Tabalakia V
LCpl Turnbull S
LCpl Volaikisuvu V
LCpl Wileman L
Pte Asante E
Pte Brewer A
Pte Gurung G
Pte Gurung T
Pte Hastie L
Pte Jones K
Pte Zungu P

HQ Company

Maj J Hancock
Capt TP Dunlop
WO2 Gray MJ MBE
CSgt King S
CSgt Mahoney M
CSgt Percival DC
CSgt Richards GC
Sgt Batty SK
Sgt Eaton D
Sgt Headland C
Sgt McQuilkin C APTC
Cpl Farrow-Kidd A
Cpl Oliver JR
Cpl Pett LMJ
Cpl Saunders SJ
Cpl Siney DP
Cpl Stubbs NJ
Cpl Welsh N
LCpl Birkin DE
LCpl Burgwin DS
LCpl Holvey DL
LCpl Jackson CT
LCpl Lawson SP
LCpl Peart S
LCpl Somuah A AGC/SPS
Pte Austin JD
Pte Bradley AJ
Pte Couldstone SM
Pte Dawson NL
Pte Jennings L
Pte Lucas SM
Pte Quinn C
Pte Simmons MP
Pte Watling T
Pte Weetman AS

Orbats

Pte Wheatley GW
Pte Wilson NP

A (Lincolnshire) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj PM Birch
Capt AW Hopper
WO2 Donovan K
CSgt Hills SP
LCpl Freeman FG
LCpl Johnson LD
Pte Docherty RJ
Pte Holland
Pte Ogden SL
Pte Takala AB
Pte Williams PJ

1 Platoon

2Lt Wildridge WD
Sgt Hume SA
Cpl Langston KR
LCpl Bobsin LF
LCpl King T
LCpl Thompson DT
LCpl Wilkinson MA QGM
Pte Almond CT
Pte Bah ABA
Pte Dawe J
Pte Garrett RJ
Pte Goulding DP
Pte Lines RD
Pte Parkin MA
Pte Maling RL
Pte Parkin MA
Pte Rodgers MP
Pte Shaw G
Pte Stamp DMJ
Pte Thompson RL
Pte Tonks PHM
Pte Tully GT
Pte Walker AP
Pte Wall C
Pte Wills AS

2 Platoon

CSgt Morgan DR
Sgt Palmas MT
Cpl Jones AI
LCpl Davidson SM
LCpl Thompson DS AGC/SPS
LCpl Wareham D
LCpl Williams CL
Pte Baker JE
Pte Burchett WD
Pte Carey CD
Pte Davidson SM
Pte Frodsham AR
Pte Gibbs LPG
Pte Goodman BJ
Pte Graham L
Pte Hansen DA
Pte Ladds L
Pte Lea AC
Pte Oxby DJP
Pte Partridge GC
Pte Pochetty LP
Pte Staines LP
Pte Stainton JL

3 Platoon

Lt MJ Lambert
2Lt WAF Rackham
Sgt Steel TJ
Cpl Taylor AA
Cpl Young DJ
LCpl beard M
LCpl pett TM
LCpl Riley JE
LCpl Vincent SJ
Pte Burn R
Pte Cutter LB
Pte Glover DO
Pte graham W
Pte Grenier DAW
Pte Kay M
Pte Knight KJ
Pte Linden ZZ
Pte Longden CH
Pte Manning RM
Pte McIlveen LT
Pte Oldfield ZW
Pte Parker LKP
Pte Price SS
Pte Routledge AL
Pte Ruscoe CR
Pte Young SA

A Company Detachments

2Lt BES Rose
Pte McDermott S
Pte Nurse GA
Pte Quick TQ
Pte Roberts SDL

B (Leicester) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj PG Smith
Lt A Bennett Madge
WO2 Marshallsay JR
CSgt Groom P
Cpl Cheetham A AGC/SPS
Cpl Morgan JMD
LCpl Haupt G
LCpl McPherson NT AGC/SPS
Pte Inchley KT
Pte Oxley LD
Pte Shand TJ

4 Platoon

2Lt JR Garside
Sgt Potter ND
Cpl Antoni PL
Cpl Shiels AR
LCpl Illife DT
LCpl Thompson DJ
LCpl Waite JP
Pte Boyall RJW
Pte Chambers KR
Pte Chatten B
Pte Drake SD
Pte Ellis TW
Pte Ferguson A
Pte Fowler DL
Pte Govier LCJ
Pte Hatch TH
Pte Heraghty MI
Pte Humphrey CM
Pte Markanycz B

Pte Marshalleck AG
Pte McIntyre JR
Pte Price KJ
Pte Potter KJM
Pte Russell T

5 Platoon

2Lt OJ Child
Sgt Kirk A
Cpl Thomas SP
LCpl Byron PL
LCpl Green ARP
LCpl Smith LMJ
Pte Bates R
Pte Boxall-Robinson J
Pte Compton L
Pte Cunningham JC
Pte Davies TE
Pte Foley L
Pte Harlow JB
Pte Hinchcliffe DM
Pte Hitchin S
Pte Johnson GWJ
Pte Leet WRL
Pte Morawski SD
Pte Parker AC
Pte Roffe CM
Pte Rushin L
Pte Sears A
Pte Tofton D
Pte Warmsley MGW

6 Platoon

2Lt GEJ Wyndham
Sgt Waters T
Cpl Squibb M
LCpl Cox MFC
LCpl King D
Pte Barton JW
Pte Brown MNT
Pte Chapman MEK
Pte Hutchinson DS
Pte Kearny SK
Pte Mugridge SJ
Pte Partridge RA
Pte Presland SA
Pte Salter RW
Pte Uzokwe OO
Pte Watts DW
Pte Wedgie EH
Pte Wright VW

B Company Detachments

Cpl Davies JR
Pte Cumberbatch CWD

C (Northamptonshire) Company

Company Headquarters

Maj SC Worthy
Capt E Bland
WO2 Dyson RJ
CSgt Oldenburg F
LCpl Almond PK
LCpl Hamlet N
LCpl Stocks PE
Pte Batley RB
Pte Marshall PM
Pte O'Conner L

Pte Parker EG
Pte Ralph SA
Pte Wharton NJ

7 Platoon

Lt NJP McGinley
Sgt Vendyback I.D
Cpl Johnson NJ
LCpl Djemal O
LCpl Miller A
LCpl Price IR
LCpl Rawdon EE
Pte Brooks RL
Pte Bukavesi PTS
Pte Childs AC
Pte Coley P
Pte Davies C
Pte Evans AB
Pte Ficetola MF
Pte Good MD
Pte Harding AE
Pte Hogg PD
Pte Moffatt SE
Pte Price S
Pte Reeve JLR
Pte Rothery AJR
Pte Stocking G

8 Platoon

2Lt A Simmonds
Sgt Knight DB
Cpl Newark DA
Cpl Rawdon J
LCpl Armstrong CJ
LCpl Brown JD
LCpl Metcalf RM
LCpl Stow LAH
Pte Briggs DHP
Pte Coryat RB
Pte Croft BC
Pte Denison CRG
Pte Dorrill CD
Pte Fairbrother J
Pte Hancox LHR
Pte Heffernan MTH
Pte Johnston M
Pte Jones MJ
Pte Marsh JE
Pte Porter SP
Pte Reeve DS
Pte Sauntson CJ
Pte Seeley GM
Pte Towns DT
Pte Vanbeck JD
Pte Walters LJ
Pte Worster PA

9 Platoon

2Lt Quince
Cpl Fox M
Cpl James K
LCpl Alderman PK
LCpl Cusick RJ
LCpl Davies J
LCpl Ward AE
Pte Adams MD
Pte Donnelly DJ
Pte Donavan KMJ
Pte Frazer A
Pte Gautery JL
Pte Green J

Pte Hooper BJ
Pte Leahy LL
Pte Moore C
Pte Power TJ
Pte Simpson S
Pte Tanner J
Pte Tidwell NPA

C Company Detachments

Pte Snow J

D (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) Company

Maj A Hawley
WO2 David MJ
CSgt George A
Cpl Faversham JP
Cpl Garton SJ
Cpl Somerton CR
LCpl Hack K
LCpl Knight PD
LCpl West OM
Pte Borrill MJ
Pte Dreczewicz MJ
Pte Shadbolt ZL

Mortar Platoon

Capt PD Connolly
Capt B Hawes
CSgt McColm PA
Sgt Booth DS
Sgt Waqairoba P
Cpl Fawcett TR
Cpl Green LJ
Cpl Isaacs DK
LCpl Finnerty SJ
LCpl Powell RB
LCpl Wood MA
Pte Aldridge J
Pte Bagwell S
Pte Bates AJ
Pte Bluer MS
Pte Carter SFC
Pte Clarke DE
Pte Conlon JP
Pte Coskun KH
Pte Cousin SA
Pte Deane JD
Pte Handyside CJ
Pte Henderson URJ
Pte Homcastle L
Pte Huggins RR
Pte Hughes P
Pte Ireland AJ
Pte Ireland JA
Pte Irvine WJ
Pte Jakeman B
Pte Joy GC
Pte Keable LD
Pte Ocquaye J
Pte Oram PA
Pte Patel R
Pte Sasardesain AJ
Pte Saunders CJ
Pte Shortte AS
Pte Smit SR
Pte Smith MA
Pte Stevens MA
Pte Walker AD

Pte Walton JK
Pte Webster A
Pte Woad DA

Recce Platoon

Capt SR Poulter
CSgt Graham S
Cpl Cripps CJ
Cpl Martin DJ
Cpl Sutcliffe MS
Cpl Tremain M
LCpl Abbott ST
LCpl Bates MJ
LCpl Brown K
LCpl Jackson CS
LCpl O'Grady L
LCpl Pegg ST
LCpl Silva UM
LCpl Straw RP
LCpl Underwood P
Pte Abbs SP
Pte Chapman JA
Pte Denton TM
Pte Fields KA
Pte McRae WP
Pte Peacher NJ
Pte Seaton-Norton D
Pte Whitwell J

Anti Tanks Platoon

Capt OI Faruque
CSgt Brown C
Sgt Knowles DP
Cpl Crafer RD
Cpl Lang CL
Cpl Sheerin PL
LCpl McGrath RA
LCpl Norton N
LCpl Taylor AD
Pte Adamson SM
Pte Alder RL
Pte Bellamy AJ
Pte Blanchard LA
Pte Camilleri M
Pte Daly AJ
Pte Gilbert R
Pte Griffin BJ
Pte Hackett CSA
Pte Harrison J
Pte Heydon CP
Pte King AV
Pte Koroibulileka S
Pte Koryczan MJ
Pte Lewis TR
Pte Park R
Pte Rice GS
Pte Ridgewell MP
Pte Sawbridge P
Pte Smiter DAJ
Pte Smith CL
Pte Thompson SA
Pte Thomson R
Pte Tokai RPV
Pte Uzelac M
Pte Walker LA
Pte Wallis KD
Pte Wandless PG

Sniper Platoon

CSgt Taylor S
Sgt Whiteley J

Orbats

LCpl Asbridge AL
 LCpl Keightley DJ
 LCpl Newitt CM
 Pte Bonner WP
 Pte Brightmore DJ
 Pte Burgess GA
 Pte Davey JJ
 Pte Evans-Jones RD
 Pte Ferguson SP
 Pte Gutteridge ELP
 Pte Johnson R
 Pte Mander MS
 Pte Martin J
 Pte Munden JI
 Pte Rowe MN
 Pte Walton DJW

Pte Woods DR

Drums/MG Platoon

CSgt Asker AI
 D/Maj Towe SW
 LCpl Eglin DC
 LCpl Haines D
 LCpl Rosson P
 LCpl Whittle MA
 Pte Alinejad Y
 Pte Bellamy JH
 Pte Birkin CP
 Pte Blowers PJ
 Pte Cakau JMC
 Pte Grantham S
 Pte Harrison JCB

Pte Henderson ID
 Pte leavesly C
 Pte Murphy GJ
 Pte Qalica SR
 Pte Read MP
 Pte Sims AJ
 Pte Swales CR
 Pte Townsend BL
 Pte Watson I
 Pte Williams D
 Pte Wilson JF

D Company Detachments

Sgt Booth DS
 Pte Walker MS

3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment as at October 2007

Battalion Headquarters

Lt Col Google
 Maj Couch
 Maj Watson
 Maj Whitehead
 Maj Woodeson
 Capt Devitt
 Capt Pope
 Lt Hartley
 WO1 Penn
 WO2 Coleman
 WO2 Curtis
 WO2 Russell
 Sgt Perkins
 LCpl Strong
 Mrs Halls
 Mrs Wiseman

HQ Company

Company Headquarters

Maj French
 Capt Brazier
 WO2 Smith
 Sgt Dunn
 Cpl Seeley

QM Department

Maj Mackness
 WO2 Woolcott
 Csgt Street
 SSgt Lock
 Sgt Taylor
 Cpl Rogers
 LCpl Wainwright
 Mrs Miles
 Mr Mason
 Mr Shropshire

RAP

WMaj Sommerville
 Capt Green
 Sgt Cooke

CIS Platoon

Lt Rushmere
 CSgt Beard
 CSgt Welsford

Cpl Lanaway
 LCpl Catchpole
 LCpl Heffer
 Pte Allsop
 Pte Bray
 Pte Brookes
 Pte Canfer
 Pte Doolan
 Pte Lees
 Pte McFarlane
 Pte McLaren
 Pte Missin
 Pte Redwood
 Pte Woolcott

MT Department

WO2 Lappin
 Sgt Hunt
 LCpl Westley
 Pte Pusey
 WPte Scales

REME

SSgt Alexander
 SSgt Carter
 Cpl Power
 LCpl Bunn
 LCpl Clark
 LCpl Spence

Psyops

Lt Greenwood
 Csgt Bygrave
 Sgt Clark
 Cpl Fallon
 LCpl Cheetham
 LCpl Howe
 Dmr Bottomley
 Dmr Britchford
 Dmr Dring
 Dmr Eames
 Dmr Jones
 Dmr Nixon
 Dmr O'Sullivan
 Dmr Reed
 Dmr Richardson
 Dmr Wells
 Pte Thorogood

Band

WO1 Hudson
 WO2 Ainley
 WO2 Temple
 WSSgt Fraser
 SSgt Gardner
 Sgt Fraser
 Sgt Hall
 Sgt Taylor
 Sgt Thompson
 Cpl Auffrett
 Cpl Carey
 WCpl Evans
 LCpl Thompson
 WLCpl Allen
 WLCpl Auffrett
 LCpl Andrews
 LCpl Ainley
 LCpl Blackman
 LCpl Lock
 LCpl Sharp
 Bdsm Barrett
 Bdsm Dimond
 Bdsm Fairhall
 Bdsm Glover
 Bdsm Hobson
 Bdsm Hobson
 Bdsm Hughes
 WBdsm Marsland
 Bdsm McKenzie
 Bdsm McKeown
 Bdsm Mills
 WDsm Proudfoot
 Bdsm Radford
 Bdsm Whiting

A Company

Company Headquarters

Capt Steele
 WO2 Fuller
 WO2 Jewell
 CSgt Keeble
 CSgt Stone
 WLCpl Harnett
 Mrs Meyrick
 Recruiting
 WO2 Butler
 Sgt Casey

Orbats

Cpl Rolph
Cpl Nash
LCpl Sanders

Med Det
Cpl Hall

MT Det
Cpl Feaks
WCpl Stone
Mr Green

RLC Det
Cpl Baldwin
Pte Sullivan

Mortar Platoon
Capt Sumners
Sgt Dkretzer
Sgt Hatch
Sgt Watson
Cpl Adams
Cpl Chambres
Cpl Jones
LCpl Beavis
LCpl Walker
LCpl Webb
Pte Botwood
Pte Canning
Pte Coman
Pte Fielding
Pte Haworth
Pte Knott
Pte McMurty
Pte Savino
Pte Steward

Rifle Platoon Lowestoft
Capt Robinson
Sgt Brown
Sgt Sherlock
Cpl Baker
Cpl Pollard
LCpl Allen
LCpl Crossman
LCpl Sutor
OCdt Sadd
Pte Harvey
Pte Locke
Pte Meek
Pte Pickess
Pte Porter
Pte Potts
Pte Reeve
Pte Stokes
Pte Smith
Pte Warburton

B Company

Company Headquarters
Major Bailey
Capt Garner
Capt saunderson
WO2 Weatherall
CSgt Craven
CSgt Osman
CSgt Taylor
Cpl Cook
WCpl Massingham
WLcpl Browning

WPte Thomas
Mrs Y Smith

Recruiting
WO2 Redhead
Sgt Day
Sgt Finlay
Cpl Davidson

Med Det
Pte Delvin

MT Det
Cpl Blakeman
LCpl Henderson
LCpl Long
Mr Finlay

REME Det
Cfn Cranfield
Mr Clarke

RLC Det
Cpl Willey
Pte Hilton

Javelin Platoon
Lt White
WO2 Keating
CSgt Thompson
Sgt Gardner
Sgt Shaw
Cpl Prescott
LCpl Marley
LCpl Wayne
Pte Bramman
Pte Coleman
Pte Cowie
Pte Edgar
Pte James
Pte Robinson
Pte Slater
Pte Smith
Pte Tyler
Pte Vamplew

Rifle Platoon Lincoln
Sgt Dolby
Cpl Walker
Pte Dennis
Pte Heeney
Pte Ivens
Pte Kane
Pte Marshall
Pte Osman
Pte Redhead
Pte Robinson

Rifle Platoon Grimsby
Sgt Shiels
Cpl Hardy
LCpl Grant
LCpl Wilson
Pte Bycroft
Pte Collins
Pte Foley
Pte Fyfe
Pte Marks
Pte Ramsden
Pte Spencer
Pte Swanson

Recruits

Pte Byes-Walker
Pte Bottomley
Pte Carter
Pte Cockrell
Pte Dean
Pte Dean G
Pte Dunn
Pte Fletcher
Pte Frost
Pte Garner-Jones
Pte Garrod
Pte Gilbert
Pte Gore
Pte Goy
Pte Grant
Pte Green
Pte Lambert
Pte Lee-Grant
Pte Lomax
Pte Lowe
Pte MacGurin
Pte MacLachlan
Pte Maw
Pte Morton
Pte Odling
Pte Palmer
Pte Pearce
Pte Shotten
Pte Sidsaph
Pte Simpson
Pte Smith
Pte Smith A
Pte Swain
Pte Thorp
Pte Warren
Pte Watts
Pte Wheatley
Pte Whiteman
Pte Woodthorpe
Pte Wright

C Company**Company Headquarters**

Maj Sutherland
Capt Bevin
Capt Smith
WO2 Coupe
WO2 Nagra
CSgt Nagra
CSgt Upsall
Cpl Holmes
LCpl Clay
LCpl Lucas
Pte Spriggs
Mr Cockran

Recruiting
Lt Jacobs
WO2 Kelly
Sgt Marriott

Med Det
Cpl Mattley
Pte Moore

MT Det
Mr McGloughlin
Mr Nagra

Orbats

REME Det

Cpl Ellis
RLC Det
Mr Howitt

Assault Pioneer Platoon

Lt Swift
CSgt Hunter
Sgt Ball
Sgt Gadsdan
Cpl Roach
LCpl West 37
LCpl West 52
Pte Allen
Pte Anderson
Pte Bates
Pte Clarke
Pte Jeary
Pte Kimpton
Pte Lambell
Pte Latham
Pte McLeod
Pte Mistry
Pte O'Dell
Pte Poultney
Pte Ruutel
Pte Wilson

Rifle Platoon Northhampton

Lt Wopat
Sgt Hambridge
LCpl Newitt
LCpl Parker
LCpl Tew
Pte Bond
Pte Brittain
Pte Carter
PteClark
Pte Croft
Pte Cullinan
Pte Gough
Pte Harnwell
WPte Jolley
Pte Mason
Pte Moore
Pte Newitt
Pte Parker
Pte Smith

PO Speechley
Pte Waller

E Company

Company Headquarters

Maj Scadden
Capt Coulson
Capt Thurston
WO2 King
WO2 Head
CSgt Anderson
CSgt Chapman
Mrs Argrave

Recruiting

Sgt Low
Sgt Pugh
Cpl Lawrence

Med Det
WLCpl Ellerbeck

MT Det

Sgt Swann
Cpl Cain
Pte Hacker
Pte Turner
Mr Barlow
Mr Lelliott

REME Det

Cfn Trew

RLC Det

WLCpl Bartlett
Pte Stevens

GPMG (SF) Platoon

Lt Horner
WO2 Cavedasca
Sgt Jeffree
Cpl Gayler
LCpl Breeze
LCpl Cox
LCpl Davies
LCpl Field
LCpl Johnson 75

LCpl Johnson 64

Pte Baars
Pte Bardwell
Pte Battle
Pte Bedwell
Pte Chaffe
Pte Frisbee
Pte Greenan
Pte Hornsey
Pte Iwasaki
Pte Jones
Pte King
Pte Nichols
Pte Partridge
Pte Plair
Pte Riley
Pte Robins
Pte Smith
Pte Trueman
Pte Wilkinson

Rifle Platoon Hertford

2Lt Little
Sgt Duffy
Cpl Kelson
LCpl Brown
LCpl Cockerell
LCpl Mills
LCpl Templton
Pte Chalk
Pte Chambers
Pte Chapman
Pte Clark-Tuncliffe
Pte Clarke
Pte Dixon
Pte Evans
Pte Gosden
Pte Hutchings
Pte Joyes
Pte Knight-Kirby
Pte Kovacs
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Pte Wenham

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Brian Tough Q.G.M

A former bodyguard to Director Special Forces Sheikh Yamani | Princess Caroline of Monaco | King Hussein of Jordan | Specialist Security Advisor to Newcastle United Football Club for over ten years. A former Special Forces Instructor in Close Quarter Battle (CQB), Surveillance, Advanced Pistol Shooting, Close Protection Training and Survival Techniques.

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The Old Brewery, Castle Eden
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4 - 24th February 2008
10 - 30th March 2008
7 - 27th April 2008
5 - 25th May 2008
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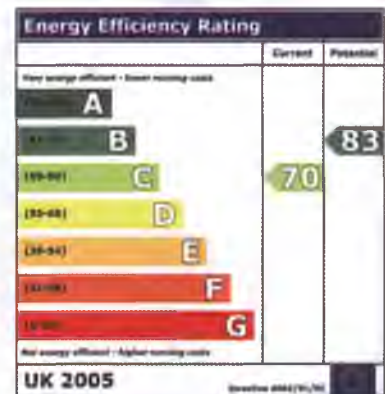
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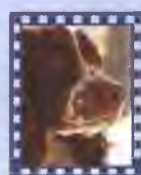
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