

THE POACHER



REGIMENTAL JOURNAL OF
THE 2nd EAST ANGLIAN REGIMENT
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Vol. 3. No. 14. - December, 1963

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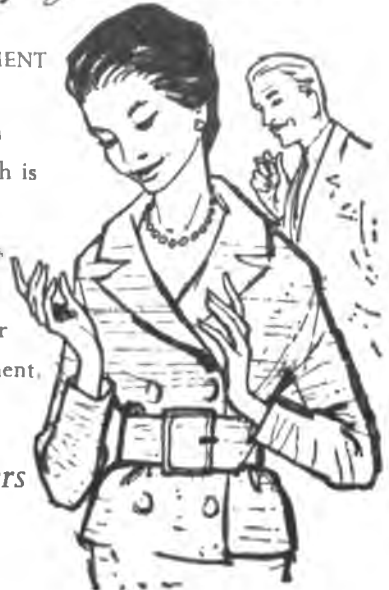


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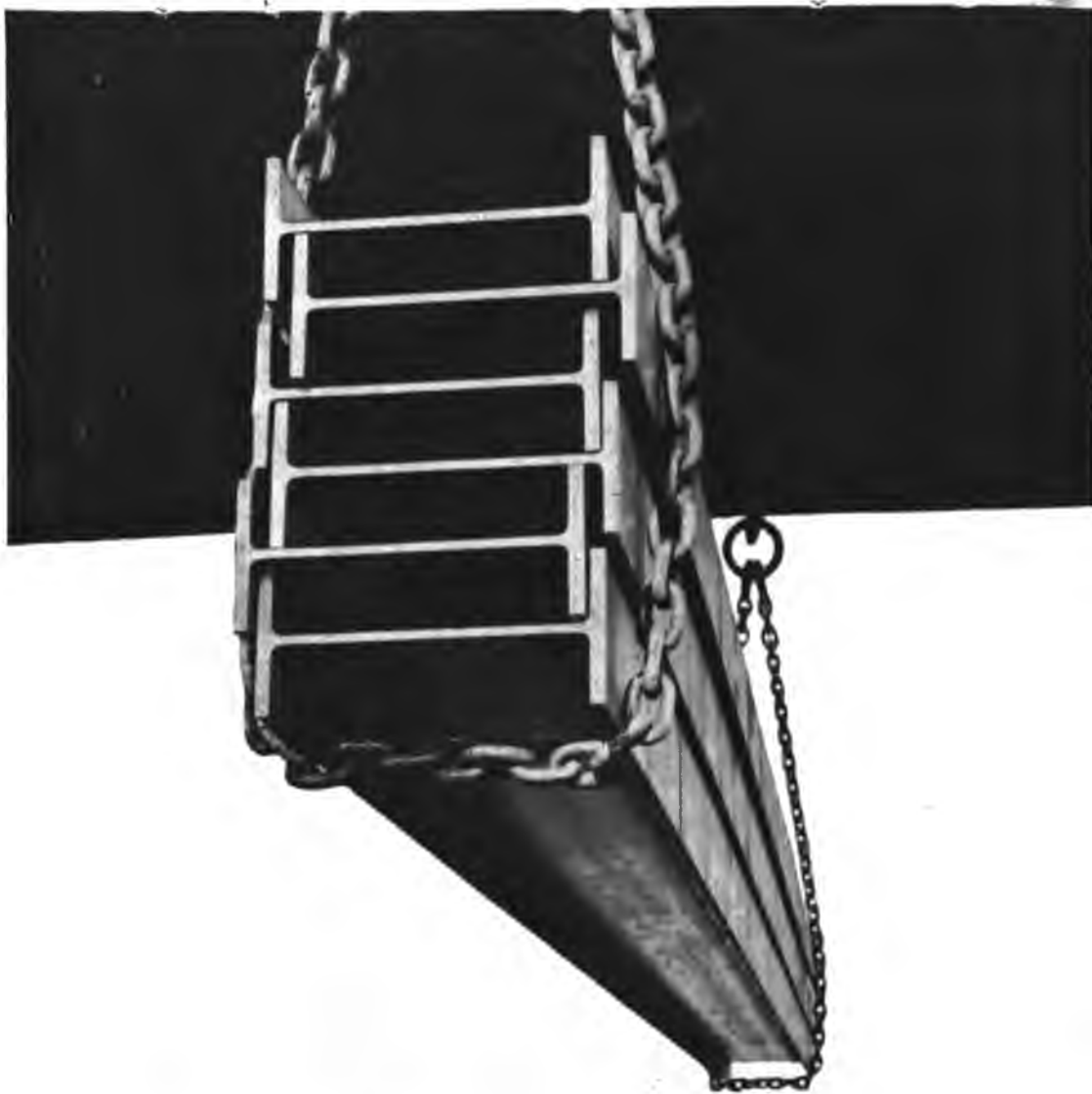
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The POACHER

The JOURNAL of

The 2nd East Anglian Regiment

(Duchess of Gloucester's Own Royal Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire)

No. 14

DECEMBER, 1963

Vol. 3

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2nd East Anglian Regiment

(Duchess of Gloucester's Own Royal Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire)

[10, 48 and 58]

Below a sprig of three maple leaves each charged with a fleur-de-lys, the Sphinx upon a plinth inscribed "Egypt"

The Cypher of H.R.H. The Duchess of Gloucester.

The Castle and Key superscribed "Gibraltar, 1779-83" and with the motto "Montis Insignia Calpe" on a scroll below

"Blenheim," "Ramillies," "Oudenarde," "Malplaquet," "Louisburg," "Quebec, 1759," "Martinique, 1762," "Havannah," "Martinique, 1794," "Maida," "Douro," "Talavera," "Albubera," "Badsjoz," "Salamanca," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivella," "Orthes," "Toulouse," "Peninsula," "Sobraon," "New Zealand," "Mooltan," "Goojerat," "Punjaub," "Sevastopol," "Lucknow," "South Africa, 1879," "Tirah," "Atbara," "Khartoum," "Modder River," "Paardeberg," "South Africa, 1899-1902."

The Great War—32 Battalions.—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914, '18," "Le Bassee, 1914," "Messines, 1914, '17, '18," "Armentieres, 1914," "Ypres, 1914, '15, '17," "Langemark, 1914, '17," "Ghelvelt," "Nonne Bosschen," "Givenchy, 1914," "Nauve Chapelle," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julian," "Frezenberg," "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," "Loos," "Somme, 1916, '18," "Albert, 1916, '18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Flers-Courcelette," "Morval," "Theipval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916, '18," "Bapaume, 1917, '18," "Arras, 1917, '18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917, '18," "Arleux," "Messines, 1917," "Pilckem," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917, '18," "St. Quentin," "Rosieres," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Bailleul," "Kemmel," "Amiens," "Drocourt-Queant," "Hindenburg Line," "Epehy," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Beaurevoir," "Selle," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Suva," "Landing at Suva," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Nebi Samwil," "Jerusalem," "Jaffa," "Tell Asur," "Megiddo," "Sharon," "Palastine, 1917-18."

The Second World War.—"Vist," "Norway, 1940," "Defence of Escaut," "Defence of Arras," "Ypres-Comines Canal," "Dunkirk, 1940," "Normandy Landing," "Cambes," "Fontenay le Peanil," "Defence of Rauray," "Caen," "Orne," "Bourguebus Ridge," "Troarn," "Nederrijn," "Le Havre," "Antwerp-Turnhout Canal," "Veurai," "Venlo Pocket," "Rhineband," "Hochwald," "Lingen," "Bremen," "Arnhem, 1945," "North-West Europe, 1940, '44, '45," "Djedeida," "Djebel Djaffa," "Sedjenane I," "Mine of Sedjenane," "Oued Zarga," "Djebel Tannoucha," "Argoub Sellah," "Sidi Ahmed," "North Africa, 1942-43," "Landing in Sicily," "Adrano," "Sicily, 1943," "Sangro," "Salerno," "Vetri Pass," "Capture of Naples," "Cava di Tirreni," "Volturno Crossing," "Garigliano Crossing," "Monte Tuga," "Anzio," "Cassino II," "Monte Gabbione," "Trasimene Line," "Gothic Line," "Monte Gridolfo," "Gemmano Ridge," "Lsmone Crossing," "San Marino," "Monte La Pieve," "Argenta Gap," "Italy, 1943-45," "Madagascar," "Donbaik," "Point 201," "Yu," "North Arakan," "Buthidaung," "Ngakyedauk Pass," "Imphal," "Tamu Road," "Bishenpur," "Monywa, 1945," "Myinmu Bridgehead," "Irrawaddy," "Ramree," "Burma, 1943-45."

Agents—Lloyds Bank Limited, Cox's & King's Branch.

Regimental Headquarters—Gibraltar Barracks, Northampton.

Regimental Journal—"THE POACHER", Regimental Headquarters, Gibraltar Barracks, Northampton.

Regimental Association—The Duchess of Gloucester's Own Royal Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Regimental Association, Gibraltar Barracks, Northampton.

Record Office—Higher Barracks, Exeter

Regimental Pay Office—Canterbury.

Uniform—Blue. Piping—Scarlet. Facing Colour—Blue.

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The Lake Superior Regiment (Scottish).

Allied Regiment of New Zealand Military Forces
The Northland Regiment.

Colonel

Brigadier R. H. L. Oulton, C.B.E., 1/6/60

Allied Regiment of Bermuda Volunteer Force
The Bermuda Rifles.

Allied Battalion of the Federation of Malaya Forces
1st Battalion, The Royal Malay Regiment.

EDITORIAL

National Service. Was it a good thing?

The call up of National Servicemen ceased four years ago, and there are today, no National Servicemen in the Army. Was National Service a good thing? It undoubtedly kept up the manpower in the Army in the difficult years after the last War, when the memory of the war was still green, and it was difficult to induce men to enlist on regular engagements. In undoubtedly did a great deal of good to a large number of young men and gave them a wider view of life and a chance to see the world. Many of these men had never left home before, and though it was strange for them at first, life in barracks with others must have had a beneficial effect on them. There were, of course, a number of disgruntled men who felt they were wasting their time when they might have been learning a trade, and much publicity was given to the time spent on fatigues and what came to be known as "bull". But by and large most men made the best of it, and a great many liked the Army, and we are convinced that it had a beneficial effect on the average young man called up.

One of the disadvantages of National Service popularly believed to be true, was the idea that whilst National Service was in force, young men would not enlist as regulars. But they never really had the necessary encouragement. It was only when National Service ceased that recruiting was really considered to be important. Previously the average Recruiting officer was a man with long service in the Army, and who had held his job for many years. It was considered a suitable post for a man who had achieved his Army pension, and who wanted a quiet life without too much work, and a salary to augment his pension and carry him on till 65. He was given little encouragement to go out and get recruits, and he was probably content to sit back and wait for men to enlist. His staff was small, and most of them were elderly retired warrant officers or N.C.O.s brought up in the harsh discipline and atmosphere of "bull" prevailing in the 1930's. Any man wanting to know what National Service was like, and who dared to ask the Recruiting staff, likely as not, received the answer "You'll soon know". It was only when National Service was about to end that the Army Recruiting Organisation was seriously looked at by the War Office. It was only then that the vital need to get regular recruits was realised, and it was only then that money in any quantity became available to the Recruiting service.

In the past five years the original concept of the elderly Recruiting officer has disappeared. No longer do fat Recruiting Sergeants wander round the local pubs telling stories of life in India in

the 1920's. Today the Army Recruiting Officer is a young, alert, and energetic individual. His staff are the same. They go out to get recruits, to talk to young men and to tell them what the Army is like today. The Recruiting Office is no longer the dismal inhospitable place it used to be. The very name has changed—now it is the "Army Information Office"; in its waiting room you will find comfortable chairs, magazines, pictures, posters and you are made to feel welcome, and the staff will readily answer your questions, without patronising you or bullying you.

The result of the change is easy to see. Regular recruitments have almost but not quite, filled the gap left by the ending of National Service. Had the present set up in the recruiting services come into being ten years ago, the regular strength of the Army might well be much higher today.

We always seem to mistime things. It was announced that the call up would cease in two years time, and then it was realised that there was a vast number of youths about to leave school, with small prospect of jobs. Many of these youths would have benefited vastly from a spell of National Service. It would at least have helped them to earn good money when jobs for their age groups were scarce, and many of them might well have decided to make the Army their career. Then, in the winter of 1962 it was announced that regular recruiting was going so well that many units would be restricted in the number of men they could enlist. This, combined with bad and muddled propaganda about whether a married man would be accepted or not, caused a big drop in recruiting, and a further recruiting campaign had hastily to be organised.

We began by asking "Was National Service a good thing?" We firmly believe that it was good for the youth of the country and good for the security of the country. The Army has a job to do in peace time as in war, and there are limits to the amount of reduction in strength that can be accepted. Lack of manpower has caused one set of amalgamations to take place. It is quite on the cards that unless the strength of the Army increases, further amalgamations will be necessary, which will reduce the number of Infantry battalions, possibly to the point where we are unable to fulfil our commitments in Europe and the Middle East. It may be that the only possible way to increase the strength of the Army will be to reintroduce some form of compulsory service. If this is the case then National Service in our opinion will not only have been a good thing in the past, but it will again prove beneficial in the future.

Museum of the Northamptonshire Regiment

Recent Acquisitions

The Royal United Services Institution has presented to the Museum the Ceremonial Sword and Scabbard presented by the Officers of the 48th to Lt.-Col. Sir James Wilson, K.C.B., in 1814 when he was placed on half pay following the disbandment of the 2nd/48th, "as a small mark of the sense they entertain of his zealous and meritorious conduct in the field and his gentlemanlike and conciliatory manners when in command of the Regiment in the Peninsula. This gallant officer was in nearly every action in which the Regiment was engaged, generally in command, and though very severely wounded twice (actually he was wounded at Albuera, Badajoz and Pyrenees and received a Salamanca medal) the ardour of his mind, superior to all selfish considerations, never suffered him to quit the Peninsula for the benefit of his health, though at the imminent risk of his life, that the moment of his recovery might be that of rejoining his Regiment. Through the reduction of the 2nd/48th the corps has lost a friend and the Service (it is hoped for a short time only) the efforts of one of its most promising officers."

The sword is beautifully chased and has the inscription and battle honours engraved in gold inlay. A number of cross-belt plates and badges have also been presented by the R.U.S.I.

Mr. A. G. Cletheroe who attended the last reunion has presented his medals.

The Earl Spencer has presented an officer's helmet of 1st Northamptonshire Rifle Volunteers, worn by his father.

To all these donors we are most grateful and offer our sincere thanks.

"Friends of the Museum"

The Northamptonshire Regt.

The following have joined the Society of "Friends of the Museum" since 1st September, 1963:

Mr. R. Ratledge, Lt. E. P. Kelly, D.C.M., Capt. A. Hamilton, Maj.-Gen. G. St. G. Robinson, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Brig. N. J. Dickson, D.S.O., G.M., and Major P. Worthy. The Trustees are most grateful to them, and hope that others will follow their example and enrol as "Friends".

The Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover

GENERAL

The Duke of York's Royal Military School is a boarding school for the sons of soldiers. While it is intended primarily for boys who aim to make the Army their career and whose parents or guardians desire them to do so, it affords every opportunity for boys to proceed to the University or to follow other careers.

The School was founded by Royal Charter in 1801, chiefly through the instrumentality of Frederick, Duke of York, son of George III, and was established at Chelsea in 1803.

In 1909 it moved to Dover, where a school was built on up-to-date lines, with separate boarding houses, school chapel, sanatorium, classrooms, library, workshops, gymnasium, swimming bath and playing fields within 150 acres.

The School is regularly inspected by H.M.I. of Schools.

REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES AND

AGES OF ADMISSION

Any boy is eligible for registration as a candidate for admission to the School who is the legitimate

(or lawful) son of a warrant officer, non-commissioned officer or a man who is serving or has served in the Army or of an officer who, prior to being Commissioned, enlisted on a normal engagement in the Regular Army (for a minimum of four years' service).

A boy may be registered as a candidate between the ages of 8 and 11, and early registration is advisable, but apart from certain entries between 9 and 11 years all entries are made annually (in September) at the age of 11. To be considered for admission in any particular year a boy must be registered before 1st November of the previous year.

SELECTION FOR ADMISSION

Selection for admission is made by Her Majesty's Commissioners who administer the School. Preference is given to the sons of soldiers who have been killed in action or have died whilst serving, and other family circumstances are taken into account. In making their selections the career and the service of the father are considered as a principal recommendation.

Continued on page 41

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Personalia

Capt. R. E. BARTHORP is farming in Kenya. His address is Kamwaki Farm, P.M.B. Nanyuki, Kenya.

Col. F. C. L. Bell, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., has been appointed Hon. Colonel 4th/6th Bn. The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment (T.A.), in succession to Col. Sir Hugh CHOLMELEY, Bt., C.B., D.S.O., D.L., J.P., whose tenure has expired.

We congratulate Major P. R. CHESTON on being selected to represent the Army at lawn tennis against the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force which was played at Wimbledon on 12th and 13th August.

Maj.-Gen. S. A. COOKE, C.B., O.B.E., is now living at The Wilderness, 62 Grove Lane, Holt, Norfolk.

We welcome to the Regiment, 2/Lts. T. H. ENGLISH, G. W. M. HIPKIN and P. R. E. WELBY-EVERARD, on first commissioning from R.M.A. Sandhurst. They are all serving with the 1st Bn.

Ex-Private Walter GATES, late The Northamptonshire Regiment, has become an in-Pensioner at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

We congratulate Capt. and Mrs. J. P. GROWSE on the birth of a son on 25th September, 1963.

We congratulate Lt. H. M. P. HALCROW and Miss Anne BRYSON on the announcement of their engagement

We congratulate Lt.-Col. and Mrs. D. K. HAYMAN on their marriage. Lt.-Col. HAYMAN is employed as a R.O. III with 25 Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire. His home address is Highmoor, Darnholme, Goathland, Yorkshire.

Lt. R. H. JACQUES has completed his short service engagement and has returned to civilian life.

We congratulate Major R. C. JEFFERY, T.D., on the award of the Territorial Efficiency Decoration.

Capt. C. W. T. Lumby has joined the 1st Bn. and has succeeded Capt. M.A. ARIS as Adjutant.

We congratulate Major B. C. THOMAS on his substantive promotion.

His many friends will be pleased to know that Lt.-Col. A. H. WENHAM is progressing favourably and is now able to walk a little.

Congratulations to Capt. T. SARL-WILLIAMS on becoming Lord Mayor of Chester. Lt.-Col. C. J. M. WATTS, met him at the Annual Conference of the Magistrates' Association, held last September at Chester.

Lt. J. B. WINCKLEY is now serving with the East Anglian Brigade Depot.

We congratulate R.S.M. and Mrs. J. W. DENNY on the birth of a second son.

Brigadier P. W. P. GREEN, C.B.E., D.S.O., has been appointed Chief of Staff Northern Ireland Command.

A telegram of congratulations and good wishes was sent to General Sir HARRY KNOX, K.C.B., D.S.O., on 5th November, his 90th birthday. He replied: "Thank you and all my comrades of the Northamptonshire Regimental Association for their very welcome good wishes on my 90th birthday. I value your remembrances very highly."

We should like to say to Sir Harry, "Congratulations on 90 not out—we hope you get your century."

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Deaths

BURDITT

On 22nd August, 1963, at Kettering General Hospital, Col. Howard Burditt, M.C., T.D., late The Northamptonshire Regiment.

HILL

On 28th August, 1963, Capt. T. W. Hill, M.B.E., J.P., late The Lincolnshire Regiment.

DICKERSON

On 5th September, 1963, at Colchester, Mr. F. Dickerson, aged 91, late The Northamptonshire Regiment, who served in the 2nd Battalion in the Boer War, and with the 1st Battalion at the Tower of London when new Colours were presented to the Battalion.

SPRING

On 24th September, 1963, at his home in Fleet, Brig.-Gen. F. G. Spring, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., late The Lincolnshire Regiment.

BOYDEN

In St. John's Hospital, Kettering, F. C. Boyden, late The Lincolnshire Regiment.

Obituary

BRIGADIER-GENERAL F. G. SPRING, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

General Spring died suddenly at the age of 85 at his home in Fleet, Hampshire, on the evening of 24th September, 1963.

A true friend, with a heart full of understanding and commonsense, who could always be depended upon for sound advice and help when needed, he was the most senior and the most distinguished of the officers of the former Lincolnshire Regiment.

Some of the details of his service have been already published in *The Times* but these could give no indication of the tremendous regard and esteem with which he was held by all members of the Regiment.

To emphasise a few details of his career. He joined The Lincolnshire Regiment from the R.M.C. Sandhurst in May, 1898, and was on service with the Mounted Infantry unit of the Regiment in the South African War. He never tired of speaking of the "splendid men" of this unit and frequently referred to an occasion when he was saved from capture by his men after his horse had been shot under him.

At the outbreak of the First World War, he was a student of the Staff College, Camberley. He was soon on active service and rose to the command of an Infantry Brigade, holding temporary rank

of Brigadier-General for nearly two years. He was promoted to Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel and appointed C.M.G. and D.S.O. for his services during the War.

At the end of the war he reverted to his substantive rank and had to wait a further four years before getting command of the 1st Battalion The Lincolnshire Regiment. To those who were privileged to serve under him in Northern Ireland and at Aldershot during his period of command, he was the ideal of a soldier and a commander, and if they felt they could be like him, that was the standard to which they would strive to attain.

The respect and affection with which he was regarded went back, of course, much further than to his time as Commanding Officer. This was most evident at regimental gatherings of all kinds, from officers' dinners to the reunions of old comrades of the Regimental Association. He regularly attended such functions and there were always so many anxious to have a word with him. He had a splendid memory for names and incidents of the past and often was able to relate some appropriate anecdote of those days which he and his hearers could recall and enjoy. At a Regimental gathering joy was brought to many to hear him say "Of course I remember you well". His absence at any time from a Regimental occasion was always a source of disappointment to many and there would invariably be enquiries about him and the reason for his absence.

Round the walls of his study at his home in Fleet were photographs of military groups, taken over many years. He had some story, always kindly and applicable, relating to each individual.

He maintained his pride and his interest to his old Regiment and continued to be a great supporter of its successor, the present 2nd East Anglian Regiment, right up to the time of his death.

His passing is a great loss to both his old Regiment and his many other friends. He will be remembered with great affection by all who knew him. We offer our deepest sympathy to his widow in her great loss.

COLONEL H. BURDITT, M.C., T.D.

Colonel Howard Burditt had an outstanding record as a Territorial soldier and was one of the few remaining officers who served with the Volunteer Battalion of The Northamptonshire Regiment. Thirty-two years in the same battalion and having held every rank from Private to Lieutenant-Colonel is an enviable record.

In 1901 he enlisted into the 1st Volunteer Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment and was serving with them in 1908 when they became the 4th Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment (Territorial Force). In 1915 he was commissioned and saw service at Suvla Bay on the Gallipoli Peninsula and later in Palestine where he won the M.C. in 1917 at the second battle of Gaza. After the war he was a member of the reconstructed 4th Bn. from 1920 until his transfer to the Reserve of officers in 1933 as a Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel.

In the last war he played his part as a member of the Home Guard and at the outset he was appointed L.D.V. Division Commander at Kettering. He went about the organisation of Home Defence with his usual enthusiasm and efficiency and eventually was promoted as Sector Commander with four battalions under command.

He took an immense interest in the well being and efficiency of the battalion throughout the whole of his service and, indeed, throughout his retirement, and was a staunch member of the Regimental Comrades' Association. He seldom missed a reunion dinner when his health permitted, and on several occasions he was accompanied by three sons, all of whom served in the Regiment. The Regiment has lost a loyal, devoted and most generous friend.

CAPTAIN T. W. HILL, M.B.E., J.P.

Capt. Hill died after a short illness in a nursing home on Wednesday, 28th August, at the age of 91 years. He was a most remarkable person, having enlisted into the Lincolnshire Regiment on the 5th August, 1891, and had a long and distinguished record of service in the Regiment, which gained for him the award of the Meritorious Service Medal.

He decided on leaving the Army that he would devote his life in the service of his fellow men. He was for many years County Honorary Secretary of S.S.A.F.A., for the whole of Lancashire, in addition up to one week before he died, he held the office of Honorary Secretary of the Bolton Guild of Help, he was also for many years a Justice of the Peace.

A man who was very proud indeed of his Regiment, looking extraordinary fit and young in spite of his age, he journeyed from Bolton to Lincoln to

be present in Lincoln Cathedral when the Colours of the former 1st Battalion 10th Foot were Laid Up therein.

We regret the passing of a man who served the Regiment and his fellow men with loyalty and devotion.

F. C. BOYDEN

Frank Cecil Boyden of Belvedere Road, Kettering, died at the age of 65 years, in St. John's Hospital, Kettering.

Born in Stamford, Lincolnshire, in 1898, and residing there at the outbreak of World War I, he, with a number of youths between the ages of 15 and 16 years gave false declaration of their age in order to join the services and fight for their country.

He joined and saw service in France with the 4th Lincolnshire Regiment, being discharged from the Army a few days before the Armistice with gas poisoning. On leaving the Army he was employed with a firm of builders, but in 1919 had the misfortune of losing his left hand following an accident. Subsequently he opened up as a news-agent, later moved to Devonshire where in Okehampton he kept a hotel, eventually he moved to Corby where he worked as a clerk.

At the outbreak of World War II, in spite of the loss of his left hand, he served as Quartermaster of the Home Guard.

After the war he obtained employment in a factory at Burton Latimer, near Kettering, and retired early this year.

He leaves a widow and two sons to whom we extend condolences.

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Reconnaissance to Talavera

***A journey to Talavera in 1963 made by the Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Battalion
2nd East Anglian Regiment***

We were on the way to Talavera. "We" were Capt. R. F. Kitchin, Cpls. D. Starling, G. Vinson, L/Cpl. M. Jones, and Ptes. L. Short, P. Sharp, A. Simpson, J. Fletcher, L. Glynn, and C. Sharpe. Our intention was to celebrate the anniversary of the battle of Talavera at Talavera itself. To this end we were travelling south towards Spain in the Regimental mini-bus.

We left Osnabruck after lunch on Monday, 22nd July, and we soon joined the autobahn and made good time to the Swiss border at Basle. We were equipped for camping and, although our intention was to use official camping sites, the first night, like several others, was spent on the roadside.

After a hot drive across Switzerland and a frustrating tour of Geneva we eventually found a very crowded camp site beside Lac Lemman. We had hoped to arrive there in time to spend an evening in Geneva, but by the time we had eaten most of the party only wanted to get cleaned up and go to bed. Despite the picturesque Swiss countryside, for the men crowded into the mini-bus the day had been long and tedious. As it was often necessary to spend ten or more hours travelling in order to cover the daily mileage we henceforth adopted the routine of setting out at five or six in the morning after a brew-up, and then stopping somewhere pleasant for a meal during the heat of the day.

On Wednesday we followed the River Rhone for a long time and eventually encamped a few feet from the Mediterranean near Sete. It rained as we approached the sea, but it soon cleared up and we were able to enjoy a delightful swim. That



night tiredness was forgotten and everybody made for the restaurants and bars that abounded along the beach. Some of the party were fortunate enough to fall in with an English tourist who was celebrating something or other with champagne. They gave him every assistance!

Next morning the party was in a sorry state. However there was still one fit driver so the bodies were thrown into the bus and we were on the road



The
Mediterranean

to Perpignon by five-o'clock. From Perpignon the route led up into the Pyrenees. This was the bus' first introduction to real mountaineering but, despite our doubts, she crossed the Col de la Perche (5,660 feet) without too much fuss. The Spanish border was crossed at Bourg Madame. This was uneventful except that a nosey policeman with a huge pistol started to pull out numerous packets of cigarettes from beneath the seats. It took a mass of signs and odd-sounding words to convince him that we were all very heavy smokers. From the frontier we wound our way down through the mountains to Lerida. Then we pushed on across the stark countryside of Northern Spain until it was quite dark when we pitched our bivouacs beside the road just east of Zaragoza.

By mid-day on Friday we were making a brief halt in Madrid. I had to visit the Embassy and so everybody took the opportunity to do some shopping.

Then another 72 miles and we were at Talavera-de-la-Reina. As we turned on to the beach beside the River Tagus the vehicle bogged in the sand. Immediately three odd-looking Spaniards dashed over and took the recovery operation completely out of our hands. One of them became quite cab-happy and would not get out of the driver's seat until he had got us to a suitable camping site.

The spot that he chose was a grassy bank a hundred yards from the river and only a few hundred yards from the town. This was ideal as we were to be there for two nights and we wanted to relax after the somewhat hectic pace of the journey down. Swimming and siestas became the order of the day.

Talavera is a very old town but is expanding and keeping up with modern times. It is dominated by a large church which must have caught the eyes of Wellesley's men just as it attracted ours. Around the church ran a maze of narrow streets but away from these one comes across new factories, shops and showrooms. In fact Talavera was much more impressive than we had been led to believe.

We devoted the morning of Saturday, 27th July, the anniversary of the battle, to a look at the battlefield. This stretched from the town for some 5,000 yards to the north. There was no sign of the battle remaining except for two stone monument-type objects on two hills. There was no inscription on these and they could well have been very large "trig" points. However with the help of a large scale map it was easy to pick out the various positions. The scene must have changed very little except for the forming of a small lake between the two commanding hills by the recent erection of a dam. As we stood on the hill where the 48th formed up for the battle we tried to imagine the 90,000 men, in their bright uniforms, all drawn up within sight. Rather different to the war we were trained for! We imagined the comments of the soldiers, dressed in their heavy clothing and equipment, as they charged up the slopes in the heat of



The return to Osnabruck

a Spanish July. Our own were bad enough and we were only in shirts and slacks!

Next morning, Sunday, we did the short journey back to Madrid. After settling into a camp-site, and a siesta, we went in search of the bull-ring for what was probably the most lasting memory of the trip—a bull-fight. There were enough bulls killed and men injured by bulls to satisfy even the most blood-thirsty amongst us.

On Monday we set off for home in earnest. The route was the same as for the journey down except for two diversions. Firstly we made a tour through Andorra. Most of the party had never heard of this little Republic situated on top of the Pyrenees. We spent the night there wedged into a narrow part of the Vales del Andorra and eventually had to do a long climb in bottom gear to get out of the country.

Our second diversion took us through the French Alps and around the western side of Mount Blanc. We obtained some magnificent views of this, the highest mountain in Europe, which was draped in snow and sunshine. This stretch of the route with its rock, mountains and glaciers was one of the most impressive that we passed through. We spent a lot of time in bottom gear chugging through one pass after another until we eventually seemed to drop vertically down into Switzerland at the eastern end of Loc Leman.

Switzerland was our last camping place. From there we did a long drive back to Osnabruck.

We covered 3,161 miles in the nine-and-a-half-days. We saw a lot that was new to us, in particular we saw some of the most magnificent scenery in Western Europe. Most important, we got to Talavera and now that battle honour on our badges will mean a lot more to us.

The Pacific Islands Regiment

By COLONEL R. P. BAILEY, O.B.E.

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Recently I was lucky enough to pay a short visit to Papua and New Guinea, and to see a little of the Pacific Islands Regiment (P.I.R.). Probably few British Army officers are even aware of the existence of this colourful unit. Certainly during the past two years none of the many who have visited Australia has been to see it. Early this year, however, a subaltern of the 7th Gurkha Rifles (with whom the Regiment is affiliated) has gone to New Guinea for a tour of duty with the P.I.R. I can think of no better training or more interesting and rewarding work than that which awaits this fortunate young officer.

A brief word of explanation about the Territory of Papua and New Guinea may be helpful. It consists of the part of the main island of New Guinea east of the former Dutch New Guinea border, and of the other islands stretching from Manus island to Bougainville which lies some 250 miles east of New Britain. Politically the territory is subdivided into the Australian possession of Papua and the Australian administered Trust Territory of New Guinea and the Islands. Generally the indigenous inhabitants are very backward, and this applies to P.I.R. recruits on first enlistment.

HISTORY, ORGANISATION AND CHARTER OF THE REGIMENT

The origins of the Regiment date back to 1940, when a Papuan infantry battalion was raised. By 1944 this had expanded to four battalions and the name was changed to the Pacific Islands Regiment. Two of these four battalions fought against the Japanese in a number of actions in the New Guinea Campaign, and proved themselves brave, tough and well-disciplined soldiers. After the war came retrenchment, and the Regiment was disbanded in 1946. Happily this decision was reversed in 1950, and one battalion of the P.I.R. was re-raised and is flourishing today. It still has some soldiers in its ranks who saw active service in World War II.

The P.I.R. is part of the Australian Regular Army, and the regular infantry battalion and the recruit training company are run on similar lines to those adopted by the British Army with their present and former colonial units. The officers, warrant officers and a few senior N.C.O.s are Australians, the soldiers being all natives of Papua or New Guinea. So far the highest rank that the latter have reached is "top sergeant", but it is hoped that two cadets will soon go to the Officer Cadet School at Portsea (near Melbourne) to be trained to become the first two Pacific Islander officers of the Regiment.



Typical Soldiers

The Australian Army wisely sends some of its best officers to the P.I.R. The pick of the junior officers who graduate from Duntroon go there. The older officers are dedicated men. The policy is that, in the interests of continuity, most of the young officers will do another tour in a few years time as company commanders, and one or two of them will return a third time as commanding officer or second-in-command.

The uniform consists of a simple juniper green bush jacket and shorts. The soldiers wear sandals or go bare-foot. The P.I.R. have not made the mistake that (in the writer's opinion) the British Army made with the Royal West African Frontier Force by destroying a natural asset in the shape of tough feet by making the native soldier wear army boots.

The Regiment's Charter in peacetime is:

- (a) to carry out garrison duties and patrolling in selected areas in Papua and New Guinea;
- (b) to form a nucleus for expansion.

In additional service in the P.I.R. teaches the soldier leadership and discipline and gives him an

education—qualities that will make him a useful citizen when he leaves the Army. Thus military service is complementary to the big economic and educational efforts that Australia is putting into the Territory to bring the people forward to the day when they are capable of governing and administering themselves.

TRAINING

The battalion headquarters and administrative company, two rifle companies and a recruit training company are stationed at Port Moresby. A third rifle company is at Vanimo, on the north coast near the border, and a fourth has recently moved from Manus Island to Wewak. Here a splendid new barracks, in which the native accommodation is well up to European standard, was opened by the Minister for the Army in April, 1962. Companies rotate in the normal way and spend six months at a time, without families, in the out-stations.

Patrolling is the principal role of the P.I.R. New Guinea territory is a country of thick jungle, wide crocodile-infested rivers, almost impassable mountain ranges, and, in the interior, local inhabitants of doubtful friendliness. There are few roads and movement is mostly limited to walking or light aircraft. The climate, except in the highlands, is hot and humid. Malaria and other tropical diseases are common. Large areas of the country are still unmaped. Patrolling is probably even tougher than in Malaya at the height of the anti-terrorist operations.

The average long patrol is out for about six weeks and covers 300 to 500 miles on foot. All patrols must be self-contained, and this means that each man must carry approximately 70 pounds of rations and equipment. In very rugged country it is necessary for seven days ration to be carried on the man, and for this purpose the P.I.R. has its own special daily patrol pack, which weighs two pounds. Re-supply is effected by native carriers, special patrols, coastal shipping, air landing or air drops. The Regiment carries out an average of 15 long patrols a year, and in 1962 crossed the island three times.

Communication problems, however, are considerable. Patrols are often over 200 miles from their company base and 600 miles from battalion H.Q. Pacific Islander operators are all trained in morse and, using the A510 radio set, continuous communications are provided on all patrols even over these great ranges.

It is in the bush that the native soldier comes into his own. Patrols, in going so far into unknown territory to "show the flag" and assist the civil administration with their reports on terrain and local inhabitants, contribute to the development of the territory. At the same time valuable training is gained to fit the P.I.R. for its war-time role of medium and deep reconnaissance, e.g., to gain information, to disrupt enemy rear areas, to destroy supply dumps and to undertake coast watching from seemingly inaccessible points.

The border between the former Netherlands New Guinea and the Australian Administered Territory is undemarcated by natural features, and patrolling of this border could become an important duty.

The emphasis placed on patrolling is stressed in the Regiment's motto, which is "To find a Path"—an apt double entente.

Like all native soldiers, the Pacific Islander enjoys ceremonial. The Regiment possesses a drum and fife band under an Australian bandmaster, and it is in great demand throughout the territory for ceremonial occasions. The Regimental March is "Bonnie Dundee". The men are first-class at drill, and a glance at their kits laid out in a barrack room would gladden the heart of a Guards sergeant-major. In the words of the Commanding Officer, "We have only one standard—the best".

It must not be imagined that the Regiment has reached its present high standard easily. In fact there probably have been, and still are, more problems to solve than the British Army ever encountered with their local forces.

Many recruits arrive from literally a Stone Age existence in remote villages where superstitions are rife and strange rituals practised. They do not speak the same language as recruits from other tribal areas. Few speak English. Some have never seen a motor car, a city shop or a rifle. They are not used to money. It must be very confusing being uplifted from this primitive life to a strange new one under military discipline.

These difficulties can only be overcome gradually. Hence recruits spend a full 12 months undergoing basic training and settling down to army life. During this period their problems are ironed out with the help of their officers and warrant officers, Australian N.C.O.s and experienced native N.C.O.s.

Already proven in war, the Regiment is living up to its motto, in both senses, in time of peace. Australia may well be proud of her Pacific Islands Regiment.

* * *

NOTE—Since this article was written the Australian Prime Minister has announced that the Pacific Islands Regiment is to be doubled in size.

STOP PRESS

Information has been received that 1st Bn. 2nd East Anglian Regiment will return to England in June 1964, preparatory to going to Cyprus in October.

In England they will be stationed at Fellxstowe.



1st Bn. 2nd East Anglian Regt.

(Duchess of Gloucester's Own Royal Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire)

BATTALION REVIEW

The merry-go-round of soldiering in Germany goes on at the same hectic pace—indeed some would say that it is going faster than ever. No sooner did we return (and dry out from) our period of autumn training on 12th October than we were thrown into the preparations for the annual administrative inspection on 31st October. After this is over we look forward to a somewhat quieter spell before the rigours of the German winter are upon us.

Undoubtedly the highlights of events since our last notes was the return visit of the Danish Queen's Life Regiment to Osnabruck in August. There can be no doubt that this was an unqualified success in every way and the friendship between the two Regiments has now been firmly cemented.

A bare fortnight after saying farewell to the Danes, we were off again on our own travels. This time our destination was a training camp in Schleswig Holstein just south of Kiel. We arrived on the 22nd September to find very pleasant looking company camps sited by the advance party under Major J. A. Garnett in some delightful green fields. This idyllic scene was not to last. On the second day the heaven's opened and the picture became more reminiscent of Passchendale. As so often happens, Battalion H.Q. fared best of all as it was accommodated in an old hunting lodge by the kindness of the local landowner, the Graf Reventlow. The companies were by no means so fortunate, as will be seen from their own accounts.

In spite of the weather all companies carried out some hard training and were out on platoon and company exercises, day and night, for the first week. This was followed by a battalion exercise—again in appalling weather conditions—to prepare us for our test exercise set by 12 Brigade H.Q. The test exercise was held from 6th-8th October, and began with the preparation and occupation of a defensive position on the Kiel canal. This phase of the battle involved a demolition guard, much patrolling and counter attacks by each company in turn, including the mopping-up by "A" Company of a helicopter-borne landing in our rear. Finally, we were obliged to conduct a night withdrawal, which, as we had been deprived of our A.P.C.s,

involved a cross-country march of some 14 miles. Altogether, it was a most interesting and exacting exercise and we were well satisfied with our performance and the Brigade Commander's comments.

Other events worthy of note during the period include the revival of "B" Company as an active rifle company and the split of that perennial mammoth, H.Q. Company. This has now become H.Q. (Ops.) Company, with a strength of 180 and H.Q. (Admin.), strength 190. It is probably too early to say if the experiment works or not but there is no doubt that the old H.Q. Company was getting far too big.

We have been very pleased to act as hosts to a number of distinguished visitors, including the Colonel of the Regiment, Brig. R. H. L. Oulton, C.B.E., who visited us in October and the East Anglian Brigade Colonel, Col. J. C. Denny, O.B.E., M.C., who came in September. Whilst we were at Schleswig Holstein, we received a visit from Mr. Joseph Godber, the M.P. for Grantham, during his brief tenure of office as the Secretary of State for War. In August we also entertained a party of A.C.F. Cadets from Lincolnshire under Lt. J. Law and a party of T.A. volunteers arrived on 27th September. The group from 4/6 Royal Lincolns was led by Lt. N. G. D. Bury and that from 4/5 Northhamptons by Lt. H. N. Hargreaves. They spent most of their time with us on training at Schleswig Holstein and seemed to enjoy themselves in spite of the weather.

Social activities have been going on apace. In particular we have started a junior ranks social club which is primarily intended for the private soldiers of the battalion and their wives and girl friends. So far we have held two events, including a successful "Tramps' Ball", and we have high hopes that the idea will "catch on". The club is being run by a small committee and has received invaluable help from Pte. and Mrs. King. We have also formed a battalion instrumental "group" which is growing extremely popular—although is probably causing the Bandmaster no loss of sleep as a potential rival. A smoking concert in September was much enjoyed by all who attended. It was ably compered by C/Sgt. Smith and the talent competition was won by Cpl. Dalton.

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Mr. J. Godber, M.P. for Grantham, and the then Secretary of State for War, visited the Battalion whilst it was training in Schleswig Holstein. He is seen here with (from right to left): Cpl. Kettle, Pte. Exton, "C" Coy, Pte. Arnold, "A" Coy, Pte. Green, "A" Coy, Pte. Parkinson, "A" Coy, Pte. Dumford, "A" Coy.

As we go to press we have just learnt that we are to be on the move next year. We go to England in June and then to Cyprus in October. No details are yet known of where we shall be staying in the U.K. but our new barracks in Cyprus are believed to be excellent, situated right on the sea shore. With this to look forward to we are now settling down to doing well in our remaining months in Germany.

"A" COMPANY

The company has not been much in Osnabruck this summer. June and July were spent at Haltern and Sennelager. Despite the low strength of the company much useful training was carried out, a highlight being infantry tank co-operation with "A" Sqn. 16/5 Lancers. A large proportion of the company appeared to spend their time swanning with the Prix le Clerc team.

On our return from Sennelager, C.S.M. Veitch left us for H.Q. (Ops.) having been with the company for the last two years. We wish him luck in that new company.

Visit of the battalion of the Queen's Life Regiment to Osnabruck was our next concern. No. 1 Company was billeted with "A" Company and we managed to accommodate four times our usual

strength in our normal accommodation. Such crowded conditions produced close liaison and the visit passed off very smoothly. We won the shooting competition against them, making amends for our defeat in Denmark. We also took part in two exercises against Danish Companies, which were good training for the inter-battalion exercise.

Immediately after the departure of the Danes, a large number of men left the company on the formation of "B" Company. We thank them for their service to "A" Company and wish them good fortune in the future.

On the 23 September, the Company set off for Schleswig Holstein. We had good weather for the trip and for the overnight stop at Rheinslagen. The company camp near Ronne looked very attractive in the sunlight but unfortunately this was the last sun until the last five days of our stay in Schleswig Holstein. The camp site became a quagmire and we had to evacuate to the woods where we remained until our return to Osnabruck. The main casualty of the period was the company flag which was eaten by mice.

Change is upon us. Major Hughes is leaving for Bn. H.Q., Capt. Rogers goes to H.Q. (Admin.). Lt. Taylor is off to the Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion at Oswestry. C.S.M. Dixon has returned

from Pirbright covered with glory—clean, bright and highly polished.

Major Garnett is about to take over the company—Capt. White has taken over the Support Platoon—the annual inspection is upon us. Best of luck to all.

No. 1 platoon has been joined by 2/Lt. English and by Sgt. Knight. Its four drivers—Ptes. Middleton, Evans, Lenton and Leyman—excelled themselves on the autumn training period. In the field of sport the platoon can claim its share of success with Cpl. Blanchard and Pte. Lenton in the battalion soccer eleven and Pte. Fratel in the battalion boxing team.

No. 2 Platoon's cricket team was quite unbeatable under the captaincy of Sgt. Ashworth, helped by Ptes. Blood (the Cap'n.), Dexter and Murphy. On autumn training the platoon commander, Lt. Young just failed to set himself alight with a No. 3 burner; Rufus (our dog) enjoyed the mobile bath unit; driver Dowland when bogged down failed to persuade his fellow cows to accept a drink of tea; Pte. McLean knocked out a German S.P.Z. with his rocket launcher still in two halves. No. 4 Support Platoon has had a successful season. At Haltern they wiped the board in the inter-section China Cup. Live firing took place at Sennelager in July. Cpl. Brown's detachment with Pte. Peplow (37) and Pte. Lawless did well in the anti-tank shooting. At Schleswig Holstein as completely new crew—Ptes. Nicholls, Hillery and Lack—won an anti-tank manhandling competition. The mortar section did well at Sennelager with 94 Locating Regiment and later at Munsterlager with the same Regiment.

"B" COMPANY

On the 12th September "D" Company went into suspended animation and "B" Company was reformed. The members of the old "D" Company were the nucleus and to this nucleus came a platoon from "A" and from "C" Company with elements of their support platoons, and a new draft of 13 straight from Brigade Depot.

It was not long before a new company spirit was built up and each man worked and talked as "B" Company. This was mainly due to the fact that the Schleswig Holstein training period followed closely on the company's formation. Undaunted by the conditions there, the moral was high and a reasonably good standard of training was achieved. The company went straight through from the battalion exercise without a break, seemed little the worse for it, and in the battalion test exercise acquitted itself well.

During these three weeks credit must be given to our company drivers and to the two three-ton drivers, Stanley and Evans, who not once had their vehicles off the road nor were the recovery called for, with the exception of the company 2 i/c. who had a little trouble and arrived back some 8-9 hours after the remainder of the company.

On our return to civilisation an easier time was

expected but alas with only one week left to the company's pre admin. inspection and only two to the actual day, 31st October, this was not possible. Much hard work and burning of the midnight oil has shown that results can be achieved, well may it last.

We look forward after the admin. inspection to further training, including our inter-platoon championship, and sporting fixtures.

Although a new company, we have already lost our C.S.M., C.S.M. Duke, whose sights are set high at the Brigade Depot as R.Q.M.S. In due course C.S.M. Pond, ex-R.Q.M.S. Brigade Depot is due to join us.

"C" COMPANY

At the moment of writing, "C" Company needs a haircut and a bath for we have just come down from Schleswig Holstein where even the cows wear mackintoshes.

The company has run through almost a complete change of command; Major Miller handing over to a caretaker government until Major Turnill arrives. Lts. Houchin and Winckley have gone and 2/Lt. Welby-Everard and C.S.M. Russell have arrived. The latter is puzzled by the instance of the company office staff that "they have never seen it" or "don't know anything about it," an answer which in turn is as complete as it is unanswerable.

Among the highlights of the company activities was the 11 platoon adventure training excursion to the Saar Valley, in the form of a mass escape of prisoners (11 platoon) to contact the French Resistance (Lt. Winckley). The escape journey included a trip by various assault boats which proved to be a tiring business paddling in the calm water and completely unmanageable in the rapids—they would have us believe that the waves were 50 feet high—some sailors! It seemed that group Warby won, followed by group L/Cpl. Clarke and Cpl. Atkins in the race to the R.V. Three days of rock climbing, cycling and canoeing finished the exercise. Ptes. Atkin and Wood can canoe 29 miles in 3 hours 35 minutes—can this be a record?

The three-inch mortar section seems to have had the lion's share of the training, going to Munsterlager for a few days, and helping with the R.N. Staff College demonstration. L/Cpl. Price is to be congratulated on promotion and Cahill and Waite have joined the section. But Sgt. Barker, Ptes. Cahill and Gray are now lost to the boxing world, for some time we hope.

Sgt. Everitt has been commanding 9 platoon which must have been a shock after the comfortable nights in the Sergeants' Mess, but we are glad to report that 9 platoon remains its undestructible self. Not so 10 platoon which has gone to "B" Company. In general we were sorry but not so the C/Sgt. who sighed a very loud sigh of relief—even so barrack damages remain fairly high!

Jackson and Rigby are to be congratulated on their recent marriages.

We enjoyed the Danes visit although filling 270 palliasses made the block smell like a stable.

*1st Battalion
in
Schleswig Holstein*



1—Battalion Headquarters

2—On the Battalion Exercise. Pte. Dodds and Cpl. Chambers, "B" Coy.

3—Recovery Problems

4—Part of "B" Company's Camp at Schleswig Holstein

And so to Schleswig Holstein where it rained and our feet were wet. The indefatigable Colour-Sergeant and Cpl. Phillips kept our stomachs well lined in spite of what the boxers might say. The heroes of the time were probably the drivers who did their fair share of marching (on request) and in some cases having to make continual efforts to extract armoureds from impossible ditches—no names to be mentioned. The company really must do some river crossing training for their efforts over a 5 ft. stream in the dark at the end of the Brigade exercise was indescribably chaotic not to mention a platoon commander who, taking a 25-yard run, landed smack in the middle and submerged crying, "I have still got my rifle"; there is devotion to duty for you.

The company won the novices' boxing by a handsome margin and almost everyone must be congratulated on their very spirited performance. It is difficult to single out any one personality but Cpl. Watkins' bout was probably one of the hardest-fought. Well done the volunteers!

H.Q. (OPS.) COMPANY

In order to make the Headquarters element of the Battalion a more manageable proportion, H.Q. Company split into two separate companies on the 12th August, 1963.

Major J. A. Garnett, H.Q. Company Commander, left the comforts of block 60 and set out to pioneer the beginnings of H.Q. (Admin.) Company, together with C.S.M. Groves, and Sgt. Richardson as C.Q.M.S. He left his 2 i/c., Capt. J. Tadman, to command the new H.Q. (Ops.) Company with W.O.2 Veitch coming in from "A" Company as C.S.M., and C/Sgt. Millhouse remaining as C.Q.M.S.

The company now consists of the signal platoon, recon platoon, the assault pioneers, together with battalion H.Q. and the regimental police, and our biggest department (in fact half the company strength), the M.T. section. Teething troubles were few, for the new company, and soon even battalion H.Q. will get to know that there are two H.Q. companies in the battalion and who is in each.

We work closely with H.Q. (Admin.) Company particularly on exercises, when each company commander finds himself commanding as much of the "other half" as his own company, but so far the system has been accepted with good grace by all concerned.

M.T. SECTION

Over the period under review we have seen a big change and reduction in our organisation. Rifle companies and the recon platoon have assumed full charge of and responsibility for their vehicles. We retain all the administrative and battalion H.Q. vehicles and responsibility for central inspection and servicing.

The section is well settled and enjoying greater continuity in the all-regular Army. The result is greater road experience, fewer accidents and fewer cadres. In three weeks on the recent exercises, the

unit's vehicles covered some 112,000 miles with only one minor, blameworthy accident. This is a record of which we can be proud.

News comes to us that, at least the first six of the new Land-Rovers are on the way to replace these rebelling Champs.

We congratulate Cpls. Buck and Chambers on their recent promotion.

SIGNAL PLATOON

This summer's training has, to say the least, been hectic. As soon as the cadre, an annual event these days, was over an intensive course of radio exercises was embarked upon. The first of these were V.H.F. and practiced the battalion command net. This was prior to the Denmark visit in May, and timed at giving the new signallers some idea of the job they would be doing on battalion exercises.

Denmark was tremendous fun especially exercise "Golden Lion" when the R.S.O. was put in the bag, followed pretty quickly by his radio sergeant (then Cpl. English).

In June a series of H.F. radio (SR. 62) exercises was embarked upon, starting with a cut length antenna exercise in the Osnabruck area. The platoon then spent ten days up at Bad Segberg near Kiel, where they had a very instructive and enjoyable time. All aspects of signal platoon work was practiced from line laying to V.H.F. radios, but an attempt to contact the companies at Haltern by skywave unfortunately failed.

In July the platoon went on two skywave exercises, the second one linking up with the very successful skywave link between the rifle companies at Sennelager and Osnabruck. This link was provided by L/Cpl. Newbitt. Both exercises were very successful and, as they involved small detachments being away on their own, were most enjoyable. Ranges of 250-300 miles were obtained on the SR. 62, from the German North Sea coast to south of Kassel.

August was taken up by exercise "Mountain Poacher", an adventure training exercise in the Black Forest mountains, and with preparation for the return visit of the Danes. The final flings of the Danes' visit and the Schleswig Holstein training have been fully exploited elsewhere in this Journal. It remains only to say that the very close liaison between the signal platoon and the drums in line laying ought to be fostered. They would make a very useful addition to the signal platoon.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON

The platoon has now re-organised on a Champ basis ready for when the new Land-Rovers come along. In addition the drivers have become members of the platoon. This is all to the good except that to our many skills we now have to add M.T. accounting.

We were sad to lose Sgt. Keal in August when he was posted to the Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion. Sgt. Keal had been platoon sergeant since the platoon's formation in 1961. At the same time

we are glad to welcome Sgt. Gooch from the Depot.

The highlight of the summer as far as we were concerned was the trip to Talavera. However this will be covered elsewhere so we will just chalk it up as another battle honour.

L/Cpls. Boothby and Goodman rejoined the platoon from the Prix le Clerc team in time to enjoy the rigours of open Champs in Schleswig Holstein. In fact the platoon was complete for this training session for the first time this year. At Schleswig Holstein the platoon spent a lot of time doing enemy to companies and the battalion. However once we got on the right side for exercise "Bakers Dozen II" we seemed to have the right idea and pleased the right people—even the rifle companies.

Now back at Osnabruck again we are busy cleaning "our" vehicles ready for the annual inspection. Also, situation normal, we are producing another battalion quarter guard.

ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

The assault pioneers have at last found an answer to the enemy. We now have an armoured one-ton truck of our own and this with a be-goggled, bearded Sgt. Platt sticking out of the top is enough to terrify anyone. Pte. Northern has learnt to drive the thing and he terrifies everybody inside it.

In July the platoon spent three days at Munsterlager making bangs to practice the locating batteries. It was good fun and of great value as it involved setting off charges at 40 different places within 24 hours.

At the beginning of August a week was spent at the ski hut at Garmisch. Here our time was spent restoring the hut for the winter and helping the local civilian engineer to repair the ski-lift which had been damaged by an avalanche. Sgt. Platt got a foretaste of winter when dismantling piers in a lake when the structure collapsed and deposited him in the icy water.

In preparation for the Brigade autumn exercise the platoon with the help of our affiliated Sapper troop laid on a demonstration of field defences. This went well except for Ptes. Lindo and Copland who bivouaced at Achmer for the week guarding the stores and running out of rations.

The mud of Schleswig Holstein tested our ingenuity as to how to keep dry and we were not very successful. Pte. Grocock is said to have gone sick with webbed feet and now finds it difficult to get about on dry ground. However we survived to load and unload vast quantities of defence stores and even to use some of it.

Finally our congratulations to Cpl. Kettle on gaining his second stripe.

H.Q. (ADMIN.) COMPANY

The Colonel said: "It's far too big". Looked at the 2 i/c. and company commander and said "Cut it in two". By such command H.Q. (Admin.) and H.Q. (Ops.) were born.

The split was carried out with comparative

smoothness, though at times the operation was painful, for it meant the parting of friends. The company commander, Major Garnett became head of Admin., and the 2 i/c., Capt. Tadman, took over the Ops. C.S.M. Groves and Sgt. Richardson joined the Admin. side with Cpl. Alison, L/Cpl. Hall (when he comes out of hospital), Birch, Rush and Holmes. Pte. Maddison and Pte. Morris have since joined to complete the team. It is now said that the best filing system goes under the title: "Company Football Pool Syndicate", the brain-child of Pte. Maddison.

The company is now made up of the Band and Drums, the Q.M. staff, M.I. room staff, P.T. staff, the cooks, the Officers' and Sergeants' Mess staff, the P.R.I. staff and the regimentally employed. It is already becoming a company in its own right, and a very good one too. We welcome Capt. Rogers as our new Company Commander, and wish Major Garnett success with "A" Company.

Quartermaster's Department

During the past months the Quartermaster's department have suffered a change or two both in faces and systems. R.Q.M.S. Eyeions has left us to return to his old kingdom in the orderly room, and has gone to the Depot at Bury-St. Edmunds. His place has been taken by R.Q.M.S. Franks who has joined us from the 3rd.

Systems have changed in that the clothing store in particular now actually issues clothing instead of just storing it! Purchases can now be made from the "Clothing Shop" by individuals on any afternoon.

The department was the envy of all at Schleswig Holstein. Water supply was from the only house in the near vicinity, and by pure coincidence this was found to be a guest house. Unusual in its remoteness, it was explored my many. Tales of late night happenings were numerous, the most popular being that of seeing a witch complete with broomstick.

Back in Osnabruck now we are attempting to meet all demands upon us for the annual admin. inspection. Even that can be amusing and we leave you with this thought:—

Socks and gaiters, beans, potatoes to mention just a few,

Are among the things, the Q.M. brings, from here to there for you.

REGIMENTAL BAND

Our engagements this summer have been many and varied, including two weeks in Berlin, playing at the Radio and Television Exhibition and the Police Show, a visit to Belgium, and participation in the Second Division Massed Bands Display at Minden. We also gave concerts in aid of German charities, to civilian audiences in Osnabruck, and broadcast twice over the British Forces Network, in addition to our quota of duty engagements. The dance band has also been very much in demand in and around the Garrison. In all, a very full but interesting period.

We have had a very good liaison with the band of 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers during the last two-and-a-half-years, and before they left Osnabruck recently we held a farewell social for them. A most successful evening was the result of a lot of hard work and enthusiasm by L/Cpl. Ivey and his committee.

L/Cpl. Gash, Bdsmn. Luck, Moore and Pilkington have left us for civilian life, we wish them success and welcome to the band, Bdsmn. Cragg, Collin, Saville and Quickfall from the Brigade School.

BATTALION SPORT

The battalion football team got off to a very good start and by mid-October had won seven matches in a row, scoring a total of 28 goals against 12. Of these Pte. Gooday, a strong centre-forward with a powerful shot, had scored eight. The team was shaping well and showing lots of dash. In addition to Gooday, Pte. Elms and Crfmn. Cramer were playing extremely well.

However, our defence had always been somewhat suspect. In particular, we have not yet found a completely reliable goalkeeper. Our fears were confirmed when we crashed to a Danish Army team 19-1. In our defence it should be said that our opponents boasted one full Danish international and six others who played in Danish professional football—such are the benefits of a National Service Army. This defeat shook us considerably and in consequence we lost our next two games, one to a German Air Force team and one to the Lancashire Fusiliers, whom we had already beaten twice this season. However we have now defeated the newly-arrived 9/12 Lancers and hope we have sufficiently regained our composure to put up a good show in the Army Cup.

The rugby team has been training hard, whenever military duties permit and to date has played three matches, defeating the 16/5 Lancers and the Royal Fusiliers and losing to 25 Corps Engineer Regiment. We cannot claim to have a strong side but we hope to make up for our shortcomings by our enthusiasm. We are looking forward to a full fixture list with over 30 matches. We were pleased to welcome Lt. H. M. P. Halcrow from the Depot and have no doubt that he will be a great asset to the forwards. Unfortunately, we are losing the valuable services of Lt. M. S. Wright, who goes to Bury-St.-Edmunds soon. Capt. Parker has been in excellent form at full back and other useful performances have been seen from 2/Lt. Hipkin (centre), Capt. Drummond (lock) and two members of the battalion pay office, Sgt. Prime (hooker) and Cpl. Galpin (wing three-quarters).

Boxing is just getting under way. In the face of a host of difficulties we finally completed the annual novices' boxing competition for the Scissors Cup, which was won this year by "C" Company. This was only fitting as the boxing officer, Capt. J. P. Growse, was commanding "C" Company and went to great lengths to obtain a large number of "volun-

teers" from the men under his command. Individual winners of the novices' competition were:

Pte. Carritt (H.Q. Ops.)—feather.
Pte. Gray ("C" Company)—light.
Pte. Smith, 42 ("C" Company)—light-welter.
Pte. Slater ("C" Company)—welter.
Pte. Green ("A" Company)—light-middle.
Pte. Atkin ("B" Company)—middle.
Cpl. Warrington ("C" Company)—heavy.

The battalion team has now been training for a number of weeks under the ministrations of S.S.I. Edwards, himself an experienced amateur boxer. We were particularly pleased to welcome 2/Lt. English, who comes to us from Sandhurst where he was captain of boxing. He is to fight at bantam weight. At present our team is something of an unknown quantity but is training hard. We are due to meet the Cheshires in a friendly on 1st November before we are launched into the struggles of the Army Cup competition.

Our cross-country team is also looking forward to a full and successful season. Unfortunately two of our opponents have had to cry off and our only match so far has been against the Cameronians, which we won convincingly. Our first three places went to:

Pte. Gray ("C" Company), Pte. Patrick (H.Q. Ops.), Pte. Ray ("C" Company).

Hockey is yet to begin on a battalion level, although a number of company games have been played. We retain most of the stalwarts of last year's successful team, notably C/Sgt. Hammond, C.S.M. Groves, B.S.M. Adams, Sgt. Ashworth and Sgt. Knight. We should also be strengthened by the addition of Major Knox and S.S.I. Edwards.

OFFICERS' MESS

With every copy of the POACHER comes a list of changes in the Officers' Mess, and this one is no exception. We have been joined by Major Teddy Turnill, Capt. Charles Lumby, Capt. (Zombie) White, Lt. Harry Halcrow, Lt. Nial Mayhew, 2/Lts. Peter Welby-Everard, Guy Hipkin and Terry English.

The following have left us for the time being: Capt. John Weatherall to Berlin, Major Norman Miller to War Office, Capt. Mike Aris to 7 Armd. Brigade and Lt. Jeremy Winkley to the Brigade Depot; we wish them all good luck in their new appointments.

The very full social life in B.A.O.R. throws a great deal of extra work on the Officers' Mess and it is to their credit that Sgt. Towers and his staff cope so well.

When the Queen's Life Regiment of Denmark spent two weeks with us, we were able to repay some of the hospitality we received in Aalborg; though not to be outdone they in turn gave us an excellent party in our Mess. We feel their visit was a great success and much of the credit must go to the wives who coped so well and graciously with the numerous supper and "come home for a snack" evenings.

Our dinner nights have been numerous and amongst our guests have been the Colonel of the Regiment, the Brigade Colonel, and our Brigade Commander. We had ten of the 16/5th Lancers in for a farewell dinner and have dined in the new battalion of the Brigade, The Royal Fusiliers. On Sunday, 20th October, we held a curry lunch which was attended by the Colonel of the Regiment.

Major Norman Miller handed over the reins of P.M.C. to Major John Garnett in September, and we go forward to the last quarter in 1963 in the knowledge that it can be no more hectic than last year—or can it?

SERGEANTS' MESS

Cancellation of the Beating Retreat ceremony planned for Wednesday, 21st August, because of inclement weather did nothing to deter members and their friends and all had a most enjoyable evening in the Mess.

In August we were able to return hospitality to the Sgts.' Mess of 1st Bn. Dronningen Livregiment. A pleasant evening with our guests and the ladies was had on 24th August and during the following week a "Stag" games night. The Danes reintroduced us to their regimental beer and akavit when we were invited to their Mess. We went in to bat again with a farewell social to speed them on their way—a most enjoyable spell.

September-October saw us in training in Schleswig Holstein with a Mess of sorts established at Battalion H.Q. where occasionally we were visited by mud-covered members from the sharp end. A notable event on 2nd October was the coming of age of R.E.M.E. Buzz Ambler and Sgt. Sylvester were reported to have shocked "A" echelon by appearing for breakfast and "Tiffany" Greenstreet surfaced from "B" echelon. Outside commitments accounted for the rare visits of "Pip" Sutton and "Spam" Platt. Our financial wizards, S/Sgt. Smith and Sgt. Prime arrived for a flying visit and departed swiftly to fill out 1771's. Sgt. "Cushy" Ashworth, who had achieved a feat of construction to keep us above the mud was, to his chagrin, rushed to the sharp-end to lend his support to "A" Company. "Spam" distinguished himself at navigation.

We have welcomed to the Mess "Drummy" Franks from 3 E. Anglian, as R.Q.M.S., Sgt. Gooch from the Depot, Sgt. Hornsby, ex-T.A., Sgt. Kirk from F.A.R.E.L.F. via U.K., Sgt. Snell from H.Q. 1 (B.R.) Corps and W.O.2 Smith from Winter Trg. Centre at Silberhutte. W.O.2 Coates belongs to us on paper but remains in the U.K. as a recruiter.

Farewells for Jack Eyeions to the Depot on promotion, C.S.M. Duke to the Depot as R.Q.M.S., Mick McCarthy to 4/6 R. Lincolns, T.A., and Sgt. Keal to Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion at Oswestry.

W.O.2 Dixon has returned with a purposeful gleam in his eye from Pirbright.

Congratulations on the birth of a son to R.S.M. and Mrs. Denny, Sgt. and Mrs. Platts, and the

birth of a daughter to Sgt. and Mrs. Graves, C/Sgt. and Mrs. McColgan, and Sgt. and Mrs. Barker.

CORPORALS' MESS

The activities of the Corporals' Club have been somewhat restricted by field training, this time, in Schleswig Holstein.

Despite the cancellation of the Beating of Retreat Ceremony owing to inclement weather on the 21st August, all members had a very enjoyable evening in the Club. Guests present also appeared to enjoy themselves.

A dance held on the 30th August proved to be a great success. The buffet produced by Cpl. Roberts of the Army Catering Corps, deserved all the praise given. Responsibility for other arrangements was undertaken by Cpl. Bradtke and L/Cpl. Wells. L/Cpl. Wells is being released from the Services in November and it is certain that his presence in the Club will be greatly missed. We wish him all success in civilian life.

At the time of going to press the Club is preparing for the forthcoming "Tramps' Ball" which is to be held on the 25th October. This occasion always proves to be a great success as no doubt some members remember from the last one held. At this "Tramps' Ball" we are taking the opportunity of welcoming our new next door neighbours, the 9th/12th Lancers, who are replacing the 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers in their role as the Armoured Regiment of 12 Infantry Brigade Group.

On promotion we welcome L/Cpls. Price, Holmes, Jones, Earl, Buttery, Jannings, Lonsdale and Westman. New arrivals to the battalion are Cpls. Vines, Knowles and Ziska. We wish them much enjoyment during the coming club activities.

In closing we wish Cpl. Hutchins and L/Cpl. Flowers every success on their return to civilian life.

WIVES' CLUB

On 10th September the Wives' Club entertained the Wives' Club of the 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers to a farewell party. This was an extremely successful evening, only made possible by the very hard work of the wives of H.Q. Company who, encouraged by their committee of Mrs. Garnett, Mrs. Whitney, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Blackburn, Mrs. Greenstreet, Mrs. Groves and Mrs. Scotney, not only organised some very amusing games and competitions, but also provided an excellent buffet supper. Mrs. Greenstreet made an excellent M.C. An unusual "cricket match" completed the evening's entertainment! This was played on the floor, with a knitting needle for a bat, a match box for the wickets and a ping-pong ball. Mrs. Golbey should be congratulated on some very crafty bowling and Mrs. Baylis on her wicket keeping. It was a very close battle which our guests won by one run and so they were presented with "The Ashes"!

At our October meeting we had a record turnout of 62 wives and it was very pleasing to see several new faces. Most of the evening was taken up with

Continued on page 32



The Duke of Edinburgh comes to lunch in the Depot East Anglian Brigade Officers' Mess 'In the Field' on 30th May, 1963

East Anglian Brigade Depot

Maj.-Gen. R. A. Fyffe, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., the new Commander of East Anglian Division/District paid his first visit to the Depot in August. He was most friendly and spent most of his visit in talking privately to individual recruits. They all seem to have given him satisfactory answers. He is due to take one of our next Passing Out Parades and in this connection we have recently had a cut in the money granted for expences connected with them and parents' days. This has resulted in our now giving parents and friends lunch and tea from the cookhouse instead of in the N.A.A.F.I. That the standard is improved says much for the cooks.

Some seven Passing Out Parades have taken place since April and amongst those who have taken the salute were the following: The Mayor of Bury-St.-Edmunds; The Mayor of Wisbech; The Mayor of Bedford; Lt.-Col. J. B. Dye, M.C., C.O. 1st East Anglian Regt.; Lt.-Col. R. J. Randall, C.O. 4/5 Essex Regt. (T.A.); Lt.-Col. A. J. Robertson, C.O., Royal Norfolk (T.A.); Brig. N. St. G. Gribbon, O.B.E., Comd. 161 Inf. Bde. (T.A.).

R.S.M. Baldry, 3 East Anglian, has left the Depot and will join the 1st East Anglian Regt. as a Q.M. in November. R.S.M. Jenks, M.M., 1 Royal Leicesters, has replaced him.

On the social side the Brigade Weekend took place on 19th, 20th and 21st, July. This year's activities were similar to last year; a large cocktail party for officers and sergeants with the Beating of Retreat by the Band and Drums of the 1st East Anglian Regiment and Junior Soldier's Wing and the Drums of the 3rd East Anglian Regiment. The Brigade ball again took place at the Athenaeum, Bury-St.-Edmunds. Cricket matches versus Amp-ton, and Bury and West Suffolk were held on Saturday and Sunday; the Brigade golf meeting was on Friday and Saturday at our local course of Flempton.

In sport we had quite a successful cricket season largely due to the keenness and ability of the captain, Lt. Lewis, who made quite a lot of runs and took many wickets. Fourteen matches were won and no less than eight were decided in the last over. In athletics we were not quite so successful as last year, but we again won the District Minor Unit's competition but were only third in the Eastern Command competition owing to the fact that several of our runners had to be posted away, two of them competed in the 3rd East Anglian team which went through to the Major Unit's finals at Aldershot.

Our Depot .22 shooting team won the Infantry Brigade Depot match and were runners-up in the Company match. We sent a team to Bisley for the first time and did not disgrace ourselves particularly as Q.M.S.I. Knox won the Thirty Cup (S.M.G.) and the S.M.G. Victory Cup.

The number of recruits joining has continued to be well below last year's record figures. August, however, has shown an improvement which we hope will continue. Most squads have been in the twenties but the last (CORUNNA) reached 40. Though this is still below the number we ought to enlist it is an encouraging increase which must continue if the Brigade is to reach its manpower target in the next year.

The Junior Soldier's Wing has been 120 strong for most of the summer and has had a satisfactory and rewarding term, culminating in a fortnight's camp in Wales where despite the rain, all heights in the vicinity were climbed and a number of Gold Awards for the Duke of Edinburgh's scheme were attained. The Duke himself visited our area during the summer and spoke to some of the Junior Soldiers, he was also given lunch by the Depot "in the field" and remarked that the arrangements were almost too elaborate.

When the Vikings Came Again

REPRODUCED FROM "KEYNOTES" THE MAGAZINE OF 2 DIVISION IN B.A.O.R.

Once again the Vikings were pouring into the English camp in their hundreds, the British were heavily outnumbered—history was repeating itself.

But with a difference. For this invasion was of the friendliest kind and the invaders, the Danish 1st Bn. The Dronningens Livregiment, were warmly welcomed by all members of the 1st Bn. 2nd East Anglian Regiment to their barracks in Dodesheide, on the outskirts of Osnabruck. Earlier in the year the East Anglians had visited the Danish Regiment in its permanent barracks in Aalborg, where they had enjoyed splendid hospitality and made many friendships.

The East Anglians were determined to repay, and even outdo, this hospitality and so great efforts went into the preparations for the reception of the visitors. The problems were, to say the least, imposing. The battalion normally considers that the accommodation in Mercer Barracks, Osnabruck, is only just adequate but now room had to be made for the 850 officers and men of the Dronningens Livregiment. All living-in soldiers "squeezed up" into about half their normal number of barrack rooms and 250 three-tier beds were moved into the rooms they vacated. These beds were then fitted with palliases, which required no less than 7,200 lbs. of straw to fill them. Marquees sprang up all over the barracks to accommodate those Danish soldiers and stores which could not be fitted into the permanent buildings. A mobile bath unit was installed and the M.T. shed was given over to a cookhouse and dining hall. The Battalion Pioneers set to work and produced a magnificent reproduction of Dronningens Livregiment's badge which

took its place at the main gate to the barracks alongside the East Anglian's own sign.

So, after the flurry of preparations, all was ready and on the morning of Sunday, 25th August, the battalion was ready to greet its guests. The first group arrived at about 0930 and before very long the drill square was covered with the vehicles of the Danish Regiment, drawn up in immaculate formation. The Officers, W.O.s and N.C.O.s of the East Anglian Companies stood by to welcome and assist their Danish counterparts. The Danish soldiers, who had come directly from a long exercise with the German army, impressed all with their discipline, alertness and efficiency. Reception arrangements went smoothly and soon all the visitors were sitting down to a well-prepared meal in the improvised dining hall.

The next day the programme of joint training, demonstrations and visits began. Lt.-Col. Chambers' opening address of welcome was followed by a special drill display by 40 men of the 2nd East Anglian Regiment under R.S.M. J. W. Denny. When in Denmark, the Danes had been impressed by the drill of the English soldiers and this demonstration was therefore given at their special request.

This was followed the next day by a series of demonstrations intended to show the visitors something of the fighting capability of a British infantry battalion. This included displays by rifle, support and reconnaissance platoons and a layout of the wireless equipment now available in the British Army. In addition, something was told of the past of the 2nd East Anglian Regiment (Royal Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire) with a display of the



The Danish Dronningens Livregiment on parade on the Square at Osnabruck



Cpl. Drewery of the Regimental Police with his Danish counterpart. The sign, made by the Bn. Pioneers, greeted the Danish Regiment on its arrival at Mercer Barracks, Osnabruck, and was much appreciated

Colours, silver and other trophies in the Officers' Mess. This proved to be of great interest to the Danes, as the history of their own Regiment dates back to 1657—18 years before the rising of the Lincolnshire Regiment.

For the next three days the Dronningens Livregiment split into three groups to fire on the ranges, exercise on the local training area and to visit the town and surrounding area of Osnabruck with the companies of the 2nd East Anglian. During the visits to the ranges falling plate and China cup (section weapons shoot) competitions were held between many teams from the two Regiments. The East Anglians were successful in all the contests—as befitted a Regiment which represented B.A.O.R. in the Prix le Clerc competition this year.

However, the boot was very much on the other foot when it came to football. Despite the crowded programme, time was found for a number of Company games between the visitors and hosts, and in these the honours went to the Danes. There was a considerable variety of other sporting contact as well, from darts in the N.A.A.F.I. to a tennis match between the officers of the regiments. All the games were played with the greatest goodwill which further cemented the bonds of friendship.

The weekend was spent rather more restfully and many of the visitors took the opportunity offered to visit the Osnabruck horseshow and hunter trials. Many of the Danish soldiers are farmers accustomed to handling horses and were very glad of the chance to see the high standard of British and German horsemanship which the show offered.

On Monday the two Regiments set off for the Gutersloh area to conduct a three-day exercise against each other. This exercise, named "Poacher's Moon", proved to be an interesting and fast-moving "battle" which was of good training value to all who took part. After two days of fighting the Dronningens Livregiment managed to force a bridgehead over the north bank of the Ems, only to have it pushed back just as the exercise was brought to an end on the morning of the third day.

And so back to barracks, to clean up, to get ready for the departure and for the farewell parties. For in spite of all the military activity, the social side had been far from neglected. The Officers', Sgts.' and Cpls.' Messes had all entertained and been entertained by the opposite numbers in the other Regiment. In the N.A.A.F.I. many Anglo-Danish friendships had been formed—although with the numbers of the Danish soldiers (800)—it had not been possible to give them a party, simply because there was nowhere big enough to house them all at once.

On Friday, 6th September, the Dronningens Livregiment set out on their journey back to Denmark. They took with them not only the good wishes of the English soldiers but also many more tangible items—such as a silver statuette of an infantryman presented by the East Anglian Regiment and a shoal of Regimental cap badges. In return, the Dronningens Livregiment left behind a magnificent silver halbard, many of their own collar badges—and a great fund of goodwill.

THE 4th BATTALION THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE REGIMENT

Gallipoli and Salonika, 1915

Information has been received that a pilgrimage to Gallipoli and Salonika is being undertaken in the spring of 1965.

If anyone is interested they are asked to contact R. Palmer, Esq., 288 Earls Court Road, London,

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Prix Le Clerc—2nd August 1963

A description of this competition appeared in the last issue of "The Poacher"

The competition was fired on the hottest day of summer, before a large crowd of spectators from all the N.A.T.O. countries with troops stationed in Germany.

The match was declared open by Gen. Speidel, Commander of the N.A.T.O. Land Forces, and was witnessed by a large number of high ranking officers from all countries. It was rumoured that 129 officers over the rank of brigadier were present. Among the senior officers present were Gen. Lemnitzer the Supreme Allied Commander and Gen. Sir William Stirling, C-in-C., B.A.O.R.

Our team did not do as well as had been hoped. This was mostly due to the hot weather and nerves. All, however, did their best and we improved on last year's score by some 200 points. In all fairness it must be said that all teams fired a lot below their capability. The Netherlands team is to be congratulated on a good all round performance. The final results were published in the last issue.

The 1st Bn. The Cheshire Regt. provided the range staff and they are to be congratulated for running the competition smoothly and in a very friendly spirit. To our own butt marking team, led by Sgt. Symth and Cpl. Henson, must go our thanks for marking so well for a very long period. Without their efforts we could not have done nearly so well.

What have we got out of our long period of training from March to August? A large number of men have had their first experience of competition shooting and this is to be the battalion's advantage. The team had the opportunity of visiting other teams in their own locations, seeing their living conditions and meeting their soldiers and discovering that there is not much difference between soldiers of different nationalities. We also made many friends. These experiences must help our understanding of and our relationships with our Allies.

Those who fired in the team were:

Rifle—C.S.M.s. Duke and Dixon, Sgt. Rogers, L/Cpls. Boothby, Saunders and Norton, Ptes. Boothright, Cross, Gooday, Larham and Wright. Reserves: L/Cpl. Gomersall, Ptes. Bolsover and Morries.

L.M.G. (pairs)—C/Sgt. McColgan and Pte. Scarratt, Sgt. Knight and Pte. Lock, Sgt. Evans and Pte. Sparrow, L/Cpl. Barnes and Pte. Close, L/Cpl. Warrington and Pte. Wall. Reserves: L/Cpl. Simpson and Pte. Stewart, L/Cpls. Goodman and Platts.

Pistol—Major Hughes, Capt. Drummond. Reserve: Capt. Tadman.

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PRIZE GIVING

Capt. J. P. Wetherall receives the team Award from General Speidel



RIFLE TEAM

Back row: L/Cpl. Norton, L/Cpl. Saunders, Sgt. Rogers, Pte. Morris, Pte. Larham, L/Cpl. Gomersall, Pte. Bolsover, C.S.M. Duke, C.S.M. Dixon
Front row: Pte. Boothright, Pte. Gooday, Pte. Dumford, Pte. Wright, Pte. Cross, L/Cpl. Boothby

Regimental Association

The Duchess of Gloucester's Own Royal Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Regimental Association.

Northamptonshire Wing

LONDON BRANCH

The London Branch, having tried the Victory Club and not liking it, have moved south of the river, to the Borough of Bermondsey. We are meeting on the third Saturday of each month commencing on 16th November, at the Drill Hall, Jamaica Road, Bermondsey, S.E. 16. We should be settled here, and should meet members of the Queens who were in Burma with the 1st Bn. during the war.

We are hoping to put on a most elaborate dance early in the New Year and the date and details will be sent to all branches in time for them to arrange for parties to attend. By the time these notes are published we shall have attended at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey. The Regiment is usually well represented and wreaths are laid by the President and Vice-President of the London Branch and small crosses by the members present, and there are usually quite a number already planted by the time we get there. This has been an annual ceremony since the War and I would like all members living away from London to know that we, the London Branch, will continue to carry on until we are past it. We also have a representative at the opening ceremony when the crosses from the East Anglian Regiment are planted by the Colonel of the Regiment. If any members of the Comrades' Association are passing through London

on our meeting nights will they, if it is possible, come and see us.

The secretaries address is still the same, i.e., 15 Micawber House, Llewellyn Street, Bermondsey, S.E. 16. Don't forget the new meeting place from the 16th November.

Best wishes from the London Branch for Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to all members of the Association.

G. H. TINDELL, *Hon. Sec.*

NORTHAMPTON BRANCH

MEMBER'S OUTING

On Sunday, 25th August, members' wives and children to the number of 65, took part in the annual outing. The first run was to Burnham Beeches where we stayed for an hour for refreshment (from bottle and barrel). Luckily the weather was fine for this session, so that the nature-lovers could ramble in the woods while the beer-lovers stayed close to the coaches.

The party then proceeded to Windsor where a chicken lunch had been arranged, and then on to Hampton Court. The weather had now deteriorated, but most of the party visited the Palace and gardens, the remainder staying in the coaches with the beer-barrel.

On the return journey the party visited the Stony Stratford W.M.C. returning home in good order just before midnight and, in spite of the weather, a good time had been had by all.



Northamptonshire Branch Outing

RECENT VISITORS

The following have visited us recently: ex-Band Boy Keech, now a P.D.S.A. Inspector at Church Stretton; ex-Sergeant Hazell, from London, who will be remembered as Provost Sergeant at Gibraltar Barracks; E. Franklin (5885913), A. Houghton (5889299), B. Dale (5885630).

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

The officers and committee would be very pleased if ex-members of the Regiment living in Northampton would visit the Club with the object of becoming members. With a bigger membership many more social events could be arranged, and the Club become even more successful.

PETERBOROUGH BRANCH

As these notes go to press the annual reunion dinner of the 4th/5th Bn. and Regimental Comrades is upon us, and we look forward to a happy gathering of former comrades.

A successful social evening was held at the T.A. Centre, London Road, on 5th October. It is hoped to hold the annual *Guy Fawkes' celebration* for the benefit of member's children.

Prize-winners in the Branch St. Leger draw were: A. Briggs of Oundle, C. Hayes of Wisbech, W. Simpson of Peterborough, Cpl. Sutton of Corby and Pte. Jabbar of Peterborough.

Mr. W. Houseman has recently reached retiring age. We wish him a happy spell of retirement.

Mr. Joe Landin is now again on the road to recovery after a further operation relating to his former accident. Best wishes "Joe".

We visit Ramsey for our next meeting in the hopes of recruiting further members.

Best wishes to all Branches and members.

H. G. TOMPKINS, *Secretary*.

4th BN. THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
REGIMENT (1936-1946)

The All Ranks' Annual Reunion Dinner was held at Gibraltar Barracks, Northampton, on Friday, 11th October, 1963.

There was a very good gathering of former members of the Battalion, some of whom came from as far afield as Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Derbyshire and Wiltshire. The Chairman, Major F. R. Carrington, M.B.E., M.M., welcomed the guests and a total of 117 sat down for the meal. The senior officer present was Brigadier N. J. Dickson, D.S.O., G.M.

Naturally we all missed the presence of our President, Colonel W. C. Furminger, O.B.E., M.C., but a very enjoyable evening was spent and many pleasant memories were recalled.

We are grateful to the Commanding Officer of the Regimental Pay Office for allowing us to use the barracks.

In 1964 the Reunion is at Rushden, so we hope we shall have a good muster. Make it your duty to attend if circumstances permit.

Lincolnshire Wing

ANNUAL REUNION, SKEGNESS

"Skegness is so bracing", so much so, members of the Lincoln Branch decided to arrive at the Holiday Centre on the evening of the day prior to that fixed for the reunion. Was this to get "braced up" acclimatised, or simply their intention to get installed into their chalets and to ensure "mine host" of the Holiday Centre could produce "just what the doctor ordered" in the way of food and drink. Whatever their reason suffice it to say we were delighted to see them leisurely strolling around the area next day ready to greet the arrival of other branches. Well done Lincoln, better too early than too late, or worse still, not at all.

Having digested what has been mentioned above, it is possible someone next year may propose our annual reunion covering a period at Skegness of longer duration—who knows?

The general consensus of opinion was that our 1963 Reunion was the best in every respect, firstly, the weather was excellent, also the well attended meetings held in the afternoon were most satisfactory. The business conducted by the General Committee afforded all branches to contribute much which was of considerable interest and of benefit to the Association.

The President, Brig. R. H. L. Oulton, who presided and the Hon. Treasurer appeared to be well satisfied by what transpired, the latter in particular, for his main interest always appears to be how can we get more money into the Benevolent Fund. Boston Branch a few weeks prior to the meeting wrote saying "a surprise awaits you in Skegness." It came in the nature of a self-help cheque for £40, quietly handed over by the Branch Secretary with the remark "Here's the surprise from the Boston Branch" as promised. Surprises of this nature are well received and as the interim report on the Association funds show "faithfully applied" when one examines the extent of financial help given to those genuinely in need.

A proposal at the General Committee meeting to raise the minimum subscription of ordinary members by two shillings was not accepted. It was felt better the minimum subscription remains as at present and resulted in all branches guaranteeing to contribute not less per annum than the total amount which their branch members now subscribe. Branches preferred to contribute money by "self-help", as in the case of Boston this year and by some branches the previous year.

The subject of Regimental Pensioners was discussed at great length.

Everyone wholeheartedly agreed that the idea to assist former members of the Regiment, mostly the aged in receipt of an old age pension, by the making to them of a weekly pension was admirable. A proposal that rather than increase the size of the pension, it would be preferable to increase the number of those to receive a pension was unanimously agreed upon, and as a result of this decision

the number of those to receive a pension would in due course increase.

The Committee received with pleasure news of what the President reported of the benefit our Association has received from the Army Benevolent Fund in the nature of a grant, and by the future payment every year on our behalf, the payment to various charities to which our Association had contributed annually.

The Association is indeed grateful for the help it receives from the Army Benevolent Fund, but as was expressed, we must continue our own efforts to make ourselves self-supporting, and this we will endeavour to do.

The Honorary Secretary reported the sums received into the Benevolent Fund as a result of the Christmas draw of 1962 and summer draw 1963, and advised branches of having promoted another summer draw for 1964, soliciting support for the sale by members of even more tickets than usual.

It was decided the next reunion should again be held at Skegness, and will take place on Saturday, 3rd October, 1964, Spalding Branch volunteering to make the necessary arrangements for the occasion.

The General Meeting which followed that of the Committee Meeting was well attended, and prior to the commencement of business, all present stood in silence and the "Ode to the Fallen" recited after our President had read the names of those of the Regiment who had died since the last reunion. Their passing we mourn. The list contained the names of two who had gained the award of the Victoria Cross, Brig.-Gen. Evans and Sgt. "Shadder" Sharpe, and also that of a very distinguished and respected officer, whose service will long be remembered, Brig.-Gen. F. G. Spring.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read, accepted and approved, and the financial position of the Association funds notified, the President gave a resume of the business conducted by the General Committee that day, and requested all present to note the date and place of our next reunion, 3rd October, 1964.

THE DINNER

"Let the Evening's Enjoyment bear the Morning's Reflection", well meaning words to put into print, and to reflect upon.

If prior to the dinner one visits the cocktail bars or the draught beer bar of the Holiday Centre for liquid refreshments, one is sure to meet an old friend of former days, but the number wishing to imbibe makes it difficult to converse to get around to meet them all. Those of the '98 period are likely to be discussing the rigours of the South Africa War, whilst others whose Army number is not so dry, relate incidents of World Wars I or II, considering those wars in which they played no part as a "piece of cake".

It is rather expensive to print the names of all who attended the reunion dinner, and the last thing our readers would want is for the Editor to ask that a larger subscription be paid for the POACHER. He will permit just a few names of those

we are happy to know attended, Harry Pierrpont (with his guide dog), Jos Keightley who remarked, "He was getting a bit long in the tooth", A. Bullamore, who served not only with the 10th Foot, but with the 48/58th Foot and finally with the Egyptian Army. His is a very proud record of service, 22½ years in the Lincolnshire Regiment, one year and three months in the Northamptonshire Regiment and three-and-a-half years with Egyptian Army. He can show that Army life can keep men young and active, for his physical fitness today belies his age—to look at him it seems incredible such a youngster is entitled to wear a row of medals comprising the British Soudan Medal, Khedive Soudan Medal, the Queen's and King's South Africa with Bar, the Mons Star, General Service and Victory Medals of World War I and his proud possession, the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. His hobby nowadays is photography and on behalf of those whose photographs were taken by him whilst at Skegness and sent to them thanks are tendered.

Albert Brooks, due to ill-health and age, has had to resign the office of Assistant General Secretary of the Association, and we regret he was in hospital and unable to attend the reunion, the only one he has missed since 1904. We wish him speedy recovery to health and appreciate everything he has done for the Association since its inception.

"Take your seats for dinner, please!" And this is just what 348 persons did. Grace was said, and a nice hot and well cooked meal served. The procedure was the same as on previous occasions, our President presiding, with civic guests at his side, this year T. Senior, Esquire, Chairman of the Skegness Urban District Council and Mrs. Senior, also at the top table many familiar faces, among them Maj.-Gen. and Mrs. C. E. Welby-Everard, home on leave from Nigeria.

The provision beforehand of additional beers at table with which to drink the toasts proved to be a problem solved, except for teetotallers if there were any.

Silence, and our President reads the message of Loyal Greetings he had sent to Her Majesty the Queen, and the gracious message received from Her Majesty in reply, the toast is honoured, and conversations continue, until we do honour to our next toast—The Regiment.

Our President conveys the very latest news of all the recent happenings of the 1st Battalion, the 4th/6th Battalion Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, T.A., the 5th Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment (T.A.), and the Army Cadets. He directs attention only to additional items of interest, he will not mention them in detail, he preferably stresses that everyone should by a copy of THE POACHER, and advising to whom their subscriptions should be sent. (Order your copy *now*.)

To the music of the Regimental March, played by the Regimental Band recorded on tape, we honour the toast of the Regiment, appreciating the message of good wishes received from the Battalion. Later, the President announced that after dinner




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could be seen a coloured film taken at Osnabruck on the occasion when Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester, our Colonel-in-Chief, on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, presented new Colours to her Regiment.

Among the messages received was that from Col. Lloyd, whom many members would have liked to have seen present at Skegness, and who expressed the hope that they may have this pleasure next year.

Speeches concluded and an excellent dinner also, a visit is paid to the palatial cinema, where the operator was found to be busy putting a fitting to the machine borrowed for the occasion to take the 16 m.m. film that is to be shown. Unfortunately, the musical recording combined with that of the words of command given, and the speeches made on the memorable occasion of presenting new Colours to the Regiment at Osnabruck, was not available. It is hoped that it may be soon.

When at last all was ready the film was shown and narrated by Major Segon, who, lucky for him, had been an interested spectator at the ceremony, and "in the know" of what to expect as the film progressed. He was himself seeing the film for the first time and found much of what was presented in the film of considerable interest.

Having read in *THE POACHER* what had actually taken place, and to actually see the event on film gave considerable pleasure to those viewing, the drill and precision of the movements of those on parade that day amplify words often expressed that the traditions of the former Regiments whose Colours were carried off parade that day to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne" are in safe hands, and our new Regiment founded on these traditions is today "Second to None".

Instead of ice-cream, soft drinks, etc., being on sale in the cinema during the period of waiting, members of the Stamford Branch sold raffle tickets for gifts donated for the purpose of raising money for the Benevolent Fund, their effort being well rewarded of just over £24.

A question put to a former member of the band of rather diminutive stature seen in the cinema holding an unlit cigar of huge dimension was "Do you intend to smoke that?" The reply came, as quick as a flash, not from the ex-Boy holding the "offensive weapon", but the donor of the cigar, formerly of the Band as follows: "That's not to smoke, it's a crutch to help him get back to Lincoln!" Query: (1) Who put the question? (2) Who was holding the cigar? (3) Who donated the cigar and gave the quick reply? (No prize awarded for the answer—it's here). (1) Segon, (2) McCall and (3) Corby. It is worth mentioning Mr. McCall is back in Lincoln, looking quite well.

The evening is fully occupied by reminiscing over a glass of something, endeavouring to do the "twist" in the ballroom, or relating some story heard over and over again such as "The Pioneer Sergeant who built the pigsty for a suckling pig, won in a raffle, that grew so large they had to pull the sty down to let it breathe?" We know the

answer, for the gentleman who built the sty still has the nickname of P.P.

The recipients tender their sincere thanks for the dinner tickets, donated by Lt.-Col. F. W. Allbones, O.B.E., and Major S. G. Stevens, who were unable to attend the reunion.

Finally all who had the pleasure of attending the reunion desire to join our President in thanking the members of the Stamford Branch for a successful reunion. Members would think it most ungrateful not to mention the special efforts of Messrs. Sylvester, Gibson and Cottrell who worked like trojans and saw the results of their labours materialise.

SUNDAY, 6TH OCTOBER

After assembling in Lumley Avenue, Skegness, the parade of Old Comrades, headed by the Band of the 4th/6th Battalion The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment (T.A.), and with Branch Standards carried before them, under the command of Lt.-Col. F. W. Young, M.B.E., marched to the Parish Church of St. Matthews to attend a service of matins.

The duration of the march enabled our oldest members to participate, resulting in a larger number in the marching ranks.

The Association desire to thank the Vicar and his wardens for having afforded its members the opportunity of joining the parishioners in what happened to be their annual Harvest Festival service, also for the allocation of special seating in the the south centre and south aisle of the church which were just sufficient for our need.

Branch Standards were carried in slow time, in procession to the sanctuary during the singing of the first hymn, and were received by the Revd. P. Gray who conducted the service, and after the singing of the National Anthem, were returned to the Standard Bearers and carried from the sanctuary by them, and out of the church.

The service was most impressive, the hymns familiar and sung whole-heartedly.

The Reverend J. H. Jacques, Vicar of Spilsby, preached an excellent sermon, in parts amusing, and it was with considerable pleasure we heard him announce from the pulpit prior to the commencements of his sermon, that he was the father of Lt. R. H. Jacques who had served in the "Duchess of Gloucester's Own", and from his son had learned what a wonderful Regiment it was; in fact through his son he had gleaned considerable knowledge about the Battalion, and its doings.

The Association were joined at this service by T. Senior, Esquire, Chairman of Skegness Urban District Council who, after the service, accompanied our President who took the salute in Scarborough Avenue at the March Past which followed.

After passing the saluting base to the tune of the "Poacher" (which many on parade had marched to on many occasions during their service without exaggeration "hundreds of times") the march continued to the Grand Parade where it was halted, the Standards then leaving the ranks, and the

parade dismissed. The final words of the parade commander on behalf of our President being "Good Show, Good Luck, and see you again next year"—everyone hopes to attend more of these happy reunions.

LINCOLN BRANCH

Autumn time again with the barracks looking very sombre, after such a long time of standing empty. Readers might be interested to know that it has been reported in the local press that the two main barrack blocks are not being demolished after all, but are to be converted into offices for one of the Ministries, so it will still retain some of the old surroundings to remind us of our young soldier days.

This time of the year is also Annual General Meeting time for the Branch, held on 26th August, 1963, in the Branch Club Room at Sobraon Barracks. This year for some reason or other not quite so well attended, but shortage of numbers did not in any way prevent the meeting getting down to business.

There was only one change in the Executive Committee, Mr. Ray Woodthorpe nominated Vice-Chairman in place of Mr. Paddy Hughes, who unfortunately had to retire from the office owing to other pressing commitments, but who is still a very regular attender at all the Branch activities. We welcome Ray as Vice-Chairman, and wish him every success in his term of office.

A big vote of thanks goes to our Secretary and Treasurer, Capt. W. H. Lewin (Retd.), for all the good work he had done during the past year in keeping the Branch going on such an even keel.

The Chair of the Entertainment Committee has been taken over by Mr. Reg Kennedy and judging by the programme of social events for the coming winter, it seems that he has plenty in store for us, aided by a very lively Committee.

SOCIAL EVENTS

On the 25th September, 1963, the Branch received an invitation to visit the Ivy Club at Wragby, which had been arranged by Tim Holland, the outing was well attended, and all members enjoyed the evening, and it is hoped that their members will be our guests in the near future.

With the winter evenings coming upon us, we have many social events planned and we are already well into "knock-out" competitions of darts, dominoes, cards, etc., with the finals taking place during our Christmas activities, so we do appeal to all our friends and old comrades to come and join us and help to keep alive the comradeship.

THE 4TH BATTALION

THE "UNOFFICIAL" REUNION

It has been the custom for survivors of the 4th Battalion Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, who can do so, who served together during World War II, to meet annually on a special night at Skegness to entertain and honour one of their number, Cpl.

Harry Pierrepont of Boston, Lincolnshire, who is blind.

On the 21st September, the 17th reunion was held, and the Secretary of the Boston Branch has sent for publication the following article in the Regimental Journal. Will former members of the 4th Battalion please note the last paragraph.

"Harry Pierrepont's Seventeenth Annual Reunion, sometimes known as the Unofficial 4th Battalion Reunion, was held at the County Hotel, Skegness, on Saturday, 21st September. Publicans from Boston to Bradford, Grimsby to Grantham and other far flung outposts of the British Empire went quietly into their beer as their most hard drinking customers took a night off to attend this annual binge. All except the host at the County Hotel, who we understand, is planning an extra week in Burmuda, or wherever it is he goes to spend our hard earned money.

"Although the takings over the bar were an all-time record we cannot say the same for the attendance, though the maximum count was 104. This, of course, cannot be guaranteed to be correct as yours truly, who was delegated to do the counting, is not very good at arithmetic and 207 divided by two doesn't seem to be quite right.

"A very pleasant evening was spent by all and it was very pleasing to see some 'new' old faces.

"After the party came the annual inspection. The The Orderly Officer(?) in the guise of Mr. Dick Newsum (Major R. A. Newsum, M.B.E., T.D.), complimented the men on their insobriety and wished to see them all again, but not until next year, on which happy note the parade dismissed.

"We would like to see more of our old friends the 4th Battalion next year at the same place at 8 p.m., on the Saturday after the "St. Leger". If there is any alteration in the date it will be passed along the grapevine, the only method we use to advertise this event."

The sub-editor wishes it to be known that Harry, with the aid of his guide dog, is in regular employment, which carries with it considerable responsibility. He is a stalwart of the Boston Branch, attends its meetings regularly and is a tower of strength both for the Regiment and Regimental Association. Like many of his associates as depicted in the above article, he possesses not only a wonderful sense of humour, but in addition has plenty of commonsense, and is above average intelligence. He particularly likes to be in the company of those who have served in the 10th Foot, and they are indeed honoured to be in his company, for as has often been said: "With Harry in the party, there is never a dull moment."

Long may the 4th Battalion Reunions continue.

THE 5TH BATTALION

VETERAN'S REUNION

"Veterans" of the 5th Battalion The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment (T.A.), who in World War I in 1915, took part in the Battle of the Hohenzollern Redoubt in which they gained distinction

for their gallantry in action, together with members of the unit which superseded it, the 46th (5th Lincolnshire) Searchlight Battalion, R.E. (T.A.), held their annual reunion and dinner at the Angel Hotel, Brigg, on Saturday, 12th October, 1963.

The date for these reunions is fixed nearest to that of the anniversary of the battle mentioned above.

From the distinguishing divisional sign badge (in enamel) worn by the survivors on these occasions, it is easy to see who are the "Veterans". Only those not in robust health absent themselves from these gatherings. As the years pass their number diminishes owing to deaths of their former comrades which occur. It is the intention that as long as there are veterans they will meet in some part of the County of Lincolnshire in which the 5th Battalion in peace time had its companies, and Battalion H.Q. locations. Next year they are set to meet in Louth on the 10th October, please note the date.

Brig. H. W. Clarke, M.C., their Chairman, presided at their annual meeting when business affairs were conducted, also at the excellent dinner party which followed.

Guests included Councillor F. G. Atton, J.P., Chairman of the Brigg Urban District Council, Brig. R. H. L. Oulton, C.B.E., Colonel of the Regiment and Major P. H. Segon, M.B.E.

After honouring the Loyal Toast, the Chairman mentioned to the assembled company of having received a letter from the Commanding Officer of the 4th/6th Battalion Royal Lincolnshire Regiment (T.A.), advising him vacancies existed in the Battalion for subalterns, and if he (the Chairman) was aware of any likely officers of the right type, he would be pleased to have news of them.

Emphasis was placed by the Chairman of what was meant by the "right" type. The Regiment only requires "the best", and that goes for both the Regular and the T.A. Battalions of the Regiment, adding "You know, chaps just like us."

After reading the list of those of the 5th Battalion who had died during the past year, silent tribute was paid to Fallen Comrades.

Col. N. B. Hart, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., who served with the 5th Lincolns from 1933-37 and from 1937-38 with the 46th S/L. Bn. R.E. (T.A.), ably proposed the toast of the Regiment, to which Brig. Oulton responded. The Colonel of the Regiment mentioned how planning had been carried out prior to the amalgamation of two famous Regiments, which were to become an entirely new Regiment belonging to two counties, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire respectively. Its complete title portrays it is a "Royal" Regiment, honoured to have its "Royal" Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester, and to be related to two counties, whose city and boroughs are closely associated with their County Regiment. He mentioned that Freedom Privileges conferred upon the former Regiments having been officially transferred to the "Duchess of Gloucester's Own", and of new "Freedoms" having been conferred upon the Regi-

ment and those to be conferred when the exigencies of the service permits.

He was quite certain those now serving and who will serve hereafter in the Regiment will ensure the traditions handed down to them will be maintained and enhanced. The 1st Battalion was in a high state of efficiency and in good heart, they had recently been called upon to carry out the testing of a new weapon intended for use in the modern Army of today.

He mentioned the strong link forged between the 4th/6th Battalion with their opposite number the 5th Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment (T.A.), which as everyone knew were affiliated to the Regular Battalion.

Major R. Snell proposed the final toast, that of "Our Guests", to which Major P. H. Segon, M.B.E., in suitable vein, responded.

All former members of the 5th Bn. Veterans not already members of the 10th Foot Royal Lincolnshire Regimental Association were invited to join the Association, the reason was obvious, to meet and make friends of the 10th Foot, and keep uppermost in their minds the need to assist financially former comrades when circumstances made it desirable.

Sgt. A. H. Stothard, the Veteran's Secretary, who has succeeded Capt. G. C. Miller, and all members of the Committee who had been responsible for the arrangements for the reunion and dinner were thanked for their successful efforts, and were rewarded by much applause in appreciation from the assembled company. The evening continued in a manner usual at all Reunions, and then home to bed pleased with having spent a wonderful evening.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE LINCOLN CATHEDRAL

The customary Service of Remembrance in the Cathedral was attended by the Mayor, the City Sheriff and the Corporation of the City of Lincoln, service units, service and other organisations and a large gathering of citizens of Lincoln.

The Colonel of the Regiment, the 4th/6th Battalion Royal Lincolnshire Regiment (T.A.), the Army Cadet Force and members of the Lincolnshire Wing of the Regimental Association were among the congregation.

The Band of the 4th/6th Battalion played a programme of music in the Cathedral whilst the congregation was assembling, and for the March Past which followed the conclusion of the service. The salute for the March Past being taken by the Worshipful The Mayor of Lincoln (Councillor G. W. Colls, J.P.).

Prior to the commencement of the service Branch Standards of service organisations, the unit Colour of the Sea Scouts, Standards of the Royal Air Force, Waddington, and the Regimental Colour of the 4th/6th Battalion The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment (T.A.), were ceremonially carried into the Cathedral, down the nave centre to the nave altar, all being received by the Cathedral clergy.

The Standards of the Royal Air Force being deposited within the nave altar sanctuary and the Regimental Colour of the 4th/6th Battalion deposited upon the altar. At the conclusion of the service the Standards and Colours were returned to the various representatives, and were moved from the nave altar area down the nave centre and out of the Cathedral, in the reverse order of procession to that of entry.

The period of the "two minutes" silence which commenced at the conclusion of the chimes of the Cathedral at 11 o'clock in this wonderful Church of God, brings to one's mind not only the remembrance of our former comrades and the sacrifice they made, but our thankfulness also, for mercies received.

The sermon was preached by the Lord Bishop of Lincoln and Right Reverend Kenneth Riches, D.D.

During the singing of the processional hymn, the Colonel of the Regiment and Lt.-Col. A. J. Bennett, M.B.E., C.O., of the 4th/6th Battalion with other service representatives, carrying poppy wreaths, moved in procession, following the choir and clergy and the Mayor and City Sheriff, down the nave centre, along the south aisle, across the organ screen to the north transept, where the clergy and the service representatives entered their respective chapels. The wreaths were handed to the clergy who placed them before the altar. Prayers were offered and the final act of Remembrance carried out by the sounding of "Reveille" and the "Last Post" by buglers of the 4th/6th Battalion, their notes reverberating throughout the Cathedral.

R.S.M. R. A. Blood of the 4th/6th Bn. Royal Lincolnshire Regiment (T.A.), carried out the duties of parade marshal for the March Past, in which a strong contingent of the Battalion took part. Bandmaster J. E. Ingall and members of the Regimental Band carried out successfully their duties on what is always a moving occasion, and their presence attracted many of the general public.

THE 6TH BATTALION

The 18th Annual General Meeting of the 6th Battalion (1939-45) The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment Welfare and Benevolent Fund was held at The Corn Exchange, Spalding, on Saturday, 21st September, 1963. Lt.-Col. F. C. L. Bell, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., presided over a gathering of 150 Old Comrades of the Battalion.

Col. Bell opened the proceedings by referring to the great loss the Fund had sustained by the death of the Founder and President of the Fund, Brig. E. J. Grinling, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., and by that of Col. S. B. Harrison, D.S.O., T.D., D.L., the next Senior Trustee and the first C.O. of the Battalion.

Col. Bell was unanimously elected President and Lt.-Col. J. E. Fletcher, T.D., and Major P. Whitton were elected as Trustees.

Col. Bell presented and explained the accounts for the year ended 30th June, 1963, copies of which were in the hands of the members.

Lt.-Col. Fletcher, Chairman of the Executive

Committee gave his report on the work of his Committee and paid tribute to Claims Committee under Major Whitton for all they had done in the past year. He also thanked Capt. Woods and his band of helpers for the good result of the November Handicap sweep, which added nearly £75 to the funds. He called to mind the great service rendered by the zone representatives who were largely responsible for getting together such a large gathering that afternoon, and also for keeping in contact with the members of the Battalion throughout the year, besides helping those in need by investigating claims and bringing them to the notice of Major Whitton's Committee.

Referring to the election of the Hon. Secretary, Col. Fletcher said he had received a letter from Lt.-Col. Raymond who wrote that he felt the time had come for him to make way for a younger man as Hon. Secretary.

Col. Fletcher thanked Lt.-Col. Raymond for his services as Hon. Secretary and remarked that he had held that post since the inception of the fund 19 years ago. Capt. F. Woods of Grantham, was elected Hon. Secretary, and R. G. Hodge, Esq., of the Midland Bank, Grantham, was re-elected Hon. Treasurer. Leonard E. Parr, Esq., Accountant of Grantham, was re-elected Auditor.

About 200 members were present at the dinner which followed the meeting.

The next Annual General Meeting will be held at the Guildhall, Grantham, on Saturday, 26th September, 1964.

1st Bn 2nd East Anglian Regt. Continued from page 19

business and discussions for future activities. A "Bring & Buy Sale" was organised by the wives of "A" Company under the guidance of Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Smith. This was so popular that everything was sold before everyone had had a chance to buy! The evening ended with two rounds of tombola, and our thanks are due to Mrs. Lemmon who seems now to be our official "caller out of numbers".

During these last two months we were sorry to say goodbye to Mrs. Eveions, Mrs. McCarthy and Mrs. Duke, all staunch supporters of the Club and we wish them the best of luck. We have also been pleased to welcome back Mrs. "Ushie" Smith and to see new faces, such as Mrs. Royce, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Simmons, Mrs. Peel and Mrs. Jackson. We hope in the future that all wives in the battalion will come along to see how we spend our one evening a month and to enjoy it with us.

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Territorial Army



4th/5th Battalion

The Northamptonshire Regt. (T.A.)

"A" COMPANY

Since the last issue of THE POACHER training has been devoted to weapon training, and prior to the Annual Battalion Rifle Meeting several week-ends were spent at Brington. We were hoping to retain the Recruits' Rifle Cup once again, but just failed to do this. However, we were able to gain 2nd and 3rd place due to the efforts of two new recruits from the A.C.F., Ptes. Felkins and Turner. L/Cpl. Parker gained 2nd place in the Young Soldiers' Cup.

With the recent influx of recruits, the training programme had to be modified to include basic training and more recently a separate cadre has been commenced for senior cadets of the 1st Bn., A.C.F. This is a new venture and has proved successful to date. We are very grateful to Major K. Adams, A.C.F., for encouraging his senior cadets to transfer to this Company. These ex-cadets are keen and should prove good material for the future. They certainly fared well in the Brigade Recruits Completion as part of the Bn. Platoon. Although we were not the eventual winners, this was a most enjoyable exercise and well worthwhile the trip to Proteus.

C.S.M. George, P.S.I., had the misfortune of breaking his ankle in a vehicle accident. He is progressing satisfactorily and we all hope he will soon be back in full harness.

We congratulate the following on their promotion: C.S.M. Sye, C/Sgt. Gibbs, L/Cpl. Sharpe, L/Cpl. Parker.

"B" COMPANY

The past three months, both from the training and social side, have been comparatively quiet for Corby. This quiet period has been forced upon us by the reconstruction work taking place. Unfortunately this peace has not extended to Coy. H.Q. Staff. Keeping apace with building operations, getting minor snags ironed out, trying to create space for training amid the seeming chaos, and above all, the overriding problem of security has brought on many premature grey hairs. However, there are compensations—the shape of things to come is rapidly unfolding, and by the time these notes appear in print we will be enjoying the train-

ing facilities and amenities which have been awaited for so long.

In spite of the inconvenience, lack of space, holidays and a spate of long working hours in the local steel industry, attendance on drill evenings has been maintained at a reasonable level. The increased allocation of the self-loading rifles has proved a godsend during this period, enabling large numbers of men to carry out training in the minimum amount of space.

The strength of the Company is keeping pretty constant around the 165 mark, enlistments keeping pace with discharges. Enlistments are fairly evenly balanced between men with previous service and those with none. By November it is hoped that we shall be back into full swing with our various cadre programmes.

Another consequence of the reconstruction work has been the transfer of the Club to the miniature range—the only portion of the building unaffected. One noticeable result of this enforced move has been that the increased space has brought more wives and lady friends along. This augurs well for the future.

"C" COMPANY

Looking back over the last three months we find a pattern emerging, building up to camp in 1964. The post-camp period is always a difficult time trying to sustain interest, but this year despite summer holidays, attendance has been good, at long last our training has moved over in bias to the S.L.R. We have had a further issue of these, and our training has been concentrated on getting to know this weapon as thoroughly as the No. 4 Rifle.

A most interesting evening was spent on the last Thursday in August when the Company visited the Regimental Museum at Gibraltar Barracks, Barrack Road, Northampton. Appreciation and thanks are due to Mr. Lane for opening up the Museum specially for us and for his interesting remarks and observations. We felt that many members of the Northamptonshire Regiment would find much of interest in the Museum and a visit would be worthwhile. The Museum is within the walls of Gibraltar Barracks but nevertheless open to the public during the day.

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The highlight of the quarter has been our visit to the Support Weapons Wing of the School of Infantry at Netheravon. We shared a week-end on the Range with The Honourable Artillery Company, firing the B.A.T. After the initial shock of the loud explosion this gun makes when fired, our anti-tank gunners settled down well and obtained good hits on the targets. Apart from the firing we received valuable instruction from the Staff at the School to whom our thanks are due for their co-operation in providing us with a very useful and interesting week-end.

We congratulate Major and Mrs. D. F. Hooton on the birth of their son Paul on the 14th of September, and we echo our C.O.'s welcome to a future "Steelback".

RUSHDEN DETACHMENT

The 154th Anniversary of the Battle of Talavera was celebrated on the 26th of July with our annual social and dance, and once again this proved a very successful evening. Our thanks go to all those who helped in the arrangements.

Recruiting has been stimulated by our display of Support Weapons in the Rushden and Irthlingborough Carnival Parades which created widespread interest.

We extend our congratulations to Cpl. Foy on his winning the Company .22 Shooting Match.

H.Q. COMPANY

The past months after Camp have been full of action, and plenty of hard work has been put into the drill nights. The Coy. was represented in the Bde. Recruits' Competition by Ptes. Todd, Jabbar, Pattel, Smith, Bose, and Pte. Bull, C.A., and from all accounts they did very well, thanks to Sgt. Wilkinson, who took them on drill and weapon training each drill night. Sgt. Watts of the "I" Section has been let loose with his hammer and saw, and the pride of the Coy. Office, *i.e.* the Bandmaster's table, has found its way into the "I" Section Office. The Bandmaster did not know about it, and still wanted it back. "Hard luck, Sir!"

The Signal Platoon at Oundle have been hard at it getting the Signal Equipment ready for the Annual Inspection and, as usual, have maintained their high standard. Thanks are due to C.S.M. Moloney, Sgts. Fletcher and Twelves, also S/Sgt. Swinton from "B" Coy.

We would like to welcome to the Company 2/Lt. B. W. Emery (R.A.P.C.), Ptes. Jenkins and Bandy to the Regimental Band; Ptes. Johnson and Smith to the Corps of Drums; and Ptes. Shar, Desborough and Winston to the M.T. Section.

Pte. Bull, C.A., has left us in the rank of Officer Cadet and joined "D" Coy.; we wish him the best of luck in his new appointment. We should also like to take the opportunity to say good-bye and the best of luck to C.S.M. F. Parkinson, D.C.M., B.E.M., the longest serving member of the Battalion (41 years!). Don't forget Parky you are always welcome to come and see us any time you like.

INTELLIGENCE SECTION

Training continues, although with a much depleted Section. Recently our diminished strength had another blow, with the upgrading of one of our newer recruits, Pte. C. A. Bull, to the appointment of Officer Cadet, and his subsequent posting to "D" Coy. Congratulations and every success in your new rank O/Cdt. Bull.

The surviving regular members of the Section carry on. Lt. Pearce nearly had the distinction of his wife being the only member of the Pearce family to carry away a prize for the recent Battalion Rifle Meeting, a matter which he would not have been allowed to live down lightly. However, a late run by the H.Q. Coy. team in the China Cup event gave Lt. Pearce another "gong" for his already overcrowded sideboard.

Cpl. Dunmore, who has not been with us much throughout the "summer" months owing to work commitments, is shortly going to Germany for a spell with the Regular Army. He has been selected with five other members of the Battalion to represent us in the K.A.P.E. scheme. We are hoping that when he rejoins us he will be brimming over with new ideas gleaned from his trip. Cpl. Dunmore is no stranger to the Army, having completed National Service in the C.R.M.P.

One of our newer recruits, Pte. Bose, hails from India, and we are pleased to say that he is enjoying life in the T.A. He too had his experience with the Regular Army, having been attached to the Brigade Depot in lieu of camp training. His comments on Army life: "Just the job".

Sgt. Watts and Pte. McElroy spent camp as one of the smallest "I" Sections on record, although we were joined by a new attached member, Pte. Bailey from "B" Coy., whom we welcome to the Section, and hope he will be able to join us in future "I" Section activities.

W.O.s' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Since our last notes the most outstanding event on the calendar, from the Mess point of view, was the Battalion Rifle Meeting held at Grafham Range on 7th-8th September, 1963. Although the day started wet, the rain stopped after lunch and the shooting was concluded in bright sunshine. The weather didn't, however, upset the "serious" side of the day inside the Sergeants' Mess tent; there the liquid flowed, full bodied and freely *all day*. C/Sgt. Fordham was insistent on firing in the first detail of the day, from which he retired, with great *haste*, to the Mess to assist the R.Q.M.S. in entertaining our guests and visiting teams.

Again, naturally, the Sergeants' Mess "walked" away with the Falling Plate Match against the Officers, but through some oversight the usual side bet of "one crate" had not been made, so a rather "dry" team staggered back to the Mess. This omission has been noted for next year's meeting when the bet will be "double or nothing".

A first-class lunch and tea had been organised by R.Q.M.S. Tompkins and, all round, the Mess had

a good day, apart from the bore of having to dash away to fire in the odd detail or two.

The Bn. Champion at Arms Cup rests in the Officers' Mess this year, won by Capt. P. W. Bryant; next year we hope to see it back and filled in the Sergeants' Mess. Sgt. Chapman won the cup in the Sergeants' Class closely followed by Sgts. Grantham and Hill. We hope to display this very nice piece of silver in the new Mess once it has been suitably engraved.

The work on the new Mess at London Road T.A. Centre is progressing rapidly and thoughts have now turned to its furnishing and stocking. We hope to have our "opening night" in late October and plans for a "house-warmer" are being laid. We look forward in the next few months to make up for the loss of social life that the rebuilding has cost us and to being "at home" to all our old friends once again.

Before closing we offer our congratulations to C.S.M. Sambrook on his promotion, and make a note that he has still to wet it once the bar opens.

"D" COMPANY

The highlight of the quarter was, of course, the official opening of the Drill Hall by Lord de Ramsey, The Lord Lieutenant of Huntingdonshire. In true Army style, everything went according to plan, even the weather stayed fine. In the evening a social was enjoyed by all, though one or two characters found that Messrs Saunders and

Watney-Mann had combined to make the highly polished floor of the Drill Hall even more slippery.

A little earlier in the month we were proud to play a small part in the Huntingdon and District Round Table Gala at Great Stukeley in aid of Papworth Village Settlement. Here we had on display the Regimental Colours and Silver, various Support Weapons, Assault Pioneer Equipment, Signals Equipment and the B.A.T. Anti-Tank Gun from Wellingborough. The following day being "Talavera Day" our *piece de resistance* was a display describing the Battle Honour. Needless to say, we were strategically placed next to the beer tent:

The weather was a distinct contrast for the Battalion Rifle Meeting, but it in no way affected our shooting. Capt. Bryant won the Champion at Arms, C.S.M. Kelly was 2nd, Sgt. Kilty 3rd. These three also won the Bisley Competition in that order. We took 2nd place in the Inter-Coy. Championship, beaten by H.Q. Coy. by only two points. Pte. E. Harris was 3rd in the Young Soldiers' Match and Sgt. Hill 3rd in the Sergeants' Mess Match. There are several who feel that the Company Commander should have a medal for his sterling work on the firing point under atrocious weather conditions.

Finally we welcome Office Cadet Bull, who has joined us from the Intelligence Section, and wish him every success in the future.

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Territorial Army



4th/6th Battalion **The Royal Lincolnshire Regt. (T.A).**

It was announced in the *London Gazette* on 27th September that Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of Lt.-Col. F. C. L. Bell, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., as Honorary Colonel of this Battalion. We congratulate Colonel Bell on his appointment and extend to him our very best wishes for the future.

After spending a great deal of their spare time in the early summer on training and after being away for a fortnight's camp, most members of this Battalion spent the late summer placating their wives and families or sweethearts, and also their employers. The T.A. has to take second place and so attendances are normally fairly low until the autumn. Few activities are planned and the permanent staff take the opportunity of a few weeks' well-earned leave. This year Brigade did not allow us to hibernate completely, for there were two competitions which demanded our attention.

The first was shooting. Getting people together for practices in August proved difficult as so many were away on holiday, but in the end Lt. G. H. Dawson, the officer i/c shooting, managed to produce a team. This year the Divisional Rifle Meeting was run in two stages, an elimination round on 31st August to find two teams to represent the Brigade, and the Divisional Meeting itself on 22nd September. The following represented the Battalion: Capt. P. M. Merrikin, Lt. D. O. Batten, Lt. G. H. Dawson (capt.), W.O.2 R. E. Ingall, Sgt. M. Graves, L/Cpl. J. Kirton, Pte. D. F. Coulam and Pte. M. McKenzie. The results of the Brigade Meeting were:—

1st 4/6 R. Lincolns	...	...	666
2nd 5/6 Foresters	...	...	628
3rd 4/5 R. Leicesters	...	...	555
4th 4/5 Northampton	...	...	540

Our congratulations to all concerned on this excellent result. The 22nd September didn't seem to be our day and our scores were not as good as they had been previously, with the result that we came fourth. However, Pte. M. Towriss, who replaced Pte. D. F. Coulam, was runner-up of the Young Soldiers with a fine score.

Also in September, on the 15th, we had the 148 Bde. Inter-Battalion Recruit Competition. Practice for this had taken place on several preceding week-

ends under R.S.M. Blood, C.S.M. Ventress and Sgt. Hewitt. We had to field a platoon of 30 recruits led by officers and N.C.O.s with limited services. They were tested on turnout, drill, weapon training, fieldcraft and elementary tactics. The platoon commander was 2/Lt. M. G. Gregory, and Sgt. K. Rainforth was platoon sergeant. All concerned put in a lot of hard work and a good standard was reached, particularly in turnout and drill. There was a spirit of very friendly rivalry, and although we could not hope to compete with the Leicesters, who had a far larger number of recruits to choose from, we were neck and neck with the Northamptons, who just managed to beat us into 2nd place.

On the 12th and 13th October we had a Battalion exercise, "Autumn Poacher". We were able to persuade Major Peter Walter to bring up "B" Company of 3rd Bn., The Parachute Regiment, to come up as enemy. He also brought a troop of 7 R.H.A., a troop of 21 S.A.S. and elements of the Parachute Brigade Recce Flight. The exercise was designed to test officers and N.C.O.s in making quick decisions and giving out rapid orders. It took place at Cranwell, Beckingham and Burton Park, and certain small areas in between, and included a withdrawal, a dawn attack, an advance including a river crossing, and a final battalion attack on Burton Park. The weather was extremely kind and the exercise proved both enjoyable and valuable. In addition there were several memorable and amusing incidents, mention of some of which is made elsewhere in this issue. We are most grateful to Peter Walter for producing such a lively enemy.

2/Lt. N. G. D. Bury, L/Cpl. H. Wright, Ptes. D. P. Halliday, L. R. McGarry and M. D. Armstrong have just returned from a fortnight's attachment with the 1st Battalion in Schleswig Holstein. They spent nearly all of the time on exercises and thoroughly enjoyed it, besides gaining much valuable experience.

Finally the Band has been very much preoccupied with the Annual Band Competition, in addition to several engagements. Their success is a direct reflection of the hard work that they have put into the practices. Our congratulations are due to

W.O.1 J. E. Ingall and all members of the Band on their most excellent performance.

OFFICERS' MESS

Whereas most of the Battalion has enjoyed a quieter period during the past quarter, this is not true of our Mess life. We have held two Mess Gatherings, which have been quite well attended, and also a Dinner for past and present officers of the Battalion, which was a new venture. We were delighted to see back with us at our Mess Gathering Colonel Pip Wenham after his long illness, and hope that he will be with us for many more of our functions. Also Jim Ellis paid his first visit to a Mess Gathering.

On Friday, 27th September, we held a most successful Dinner at the White Hart Hotel. The main purpose of the evening was to dine out Sir Hugh Cholmeley and dine in Colonel Bell as our new Honorary Colonel, but it also presented an opportunity for us to invite all former Officers, and Regular Officers who have served with the 4th/6th Bn. to a social occasion. We were further honoured by the fact that amongst our guests were The Rt. Hon. J. B. Godber, P.C., M.P., H.M. Secretary of State for War, and Brigadier Oulton, the Colonel of the Regiment. We dined in the new Bailgate Suite which made a fitting background for such an occasion. On the tables we had a selection of regimental silver. After dinner the C.O. presented Sir Hugh with a set of ivory dice in a silver casket, the gift of former and serving officers of the Battalion. Later we adjourned to the Mess to allow Sir Hugh to practice with his new dice. The following officers attended the Dinner: Lt.-Col. Bennett, Majors Flint, Kime, Marshall, Newsum, Rushton, Staples, Spratt, Turnbull, Foster, Gamage, Barstow, Clarke, the Rev. Armstrong, Capts. Hart, Harness, Beard, Dixon, Farrant, Graham, Merrikin, Stanton, Rushby, Lts. Batten, Dawson, Gleadell, Mundy, Wiles, 2/Lt. Gregory.

"A" COMPANY

Since our last issue we are pleased to welcome our new P.S.I., Sgt.-Maj. Thompson, who has had a considerable amount of experience in the recruiting field over the last few years, and we hope this will prove valuable to the Company. We are also pleased to welcome three new recruits, Ptes. Kirlaw, Woods and Bailey.

In September the Company enjoyed an Escape and Evasion exercise ably organised by C.S.M. Barsby, and although everyone got wet, three rather bedraggled escapers were eventually run to ground on Sunday morning!

Exercise "Autumn Poacher" was again thoroughly enjoyed by most members of the Company. Many of us certainly managed to lose a little weight operating against the somewhat energetic Major Walter's Coy., and the Company Commander is open to any offers for a new hat, after having had his burnt out at the sharp end of a somewhat hurried withdrawal!

"B" COMPANY

We welcome to the Company Ptes. Elston, Shaw, Tracey and R. Ward, and hope that their stay will be a very happy one.

In the period since Annual Camp we have been very busy carrying out week-end training and improving on our weapon and signal training on drill nights.

On the retirement of C.S.M. G. Johnson from the Territorial Army, the whole Company gave him a farewell Social and Dance at the Main Ridge T.A. Centre, on Saturday, 27th July. A number of our friends from other Companies, guests, and many of the Old Comrades' Association attended. We were very pleased to welcome the Commanding Officer and Mrs. Bennett, and the Second-in-Command, Major Foster, and Mrs. Foster, the latter having attended the T.A. Centre for the first time in his new appointment since leaving as Company Commander. Our hall was very well decorated and great pains were taken by all to make it the enjoyable event that it was. After a bout of dancing to our own Company Band, including a session of "twist", the Company Commander made a short speech of welcome to all and paid tribute to C.S.M. Johnson, and conveyed the heartfelt thanks of all the Company for his efforts over so many years. The Company Commander then presented on behalf of the whole assembled Company a coffee table and electric toaster to C.S.M. Johnson. After a very large and varied supper laid on by Cpl. Bell and his cooks, including a very excellent curry, the Company got down to a large session of dancing, and the evening ended with several spot and figure waltzes. Great credit should go to all members of the Company, too numerous to mention, for their hard work in making the evening such a success.

During the month of August, usually a slack month, the Company held a training week-end at Theddlethorpe on the 17th-18th involving camping out in tents and firing weapons, as well as carrying out platoon and section tactics. Unfortunately the weather was against us and it rained continuously on both Saturday and Sunday, but despite being nearly soaked to the skin we all enjoyed it and to everyone's relief no one had to report sick afterwards! Pte. "Golliwog" Davy complained that his tent flaps were pulled back during the night and his blankets got wet, and that his false teeth got pinched, but no one seemed to own up and one person was heard to remark: "Must be the Fantasians again." During the coming months we will be settling down to winter training and taking part in various Battalion exercises and Company training week-ends leading up to Christmas.

"C" COMPANY

The period since the Battalion Rifle Meeting has been comparatively quiet, but there have been a few highlights worthy of mention.

We have been fortunate enough to secure the use of the 30-yard range at a nearby R.A.F. station, and

4th/6th Bn. ROYAL LINCOLNSHIRE REGIMENT (T.A.)



Photograph by permission of the 'Lincolnshire Echo

Officers' Dinner at the White Hart Hotel, Lincoln, 27th September, 1963

Left to right: Lt.-Col. F. C. L. Bell, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., The Rt. Hon. J. B. Godber, P.C., M.P., Sir Hugh Cholmeley, Bt., C.B., D.S.O., D.L., J.P., Lt.-Col. A. J. Bennett, M.B.E., and Brigadier R. H. L. Oulton, C.B.E.



The Battalion Shooting Team, 31st August, 1963

Photo: A. E. Cox, Lincoln

held a close-quarter shooting practice there to start off our Autumn programme. Apart from Sten practice, we were able to try our hands with the 9 mm. automatic pistol borrowed from our good friends the 16th (Lincoln) Independent Parachute Company (T.A.), and this was greatly enjoyed by our younger members, who quite clearly fancy their chances as Western gunfighters!

On two occasions during this period we have been able to secure a couple of assault boats and have practiced river crossing, etc., with some excellent boat racing in between.

A feature of our programme has always been the use of the film for training, and our good friend C.S.M. Coates of the Army Recruiting Office has shown "Kenya Patrol", "Mountain Road", "Road to Karandi" and other films during the past three months. We have been able to make many training points from the incidents shown in these films, which otherwise have an "adventure interest" basis.

Thursday evenings have seen the introduction of N.C.O. and Officer Cadet training on a regular basis. Subjects studied have included Nuclear Survival, Advanced Map Reading, Principles of Warfare, Voice Procedure and Patrol Planning. Alongside this, cadres have been operated for Trained Soldiers, Recruits and Specialist Personnel.

We always include some physical activity in our programme, and with the last light night played a most enjoyable cricket match with the local A.T.C. unit. This has been followed indoors by periods of physical recreation, including vaulting box work and team games. Cpl. Hardy has done sterling work in this connection.

The week-ends and evening training proved to be excellent preparation for the Battalion exercise "Autumn Poacher" held on 12th-13th October in the Lincoln/Sleaford/Newark triangle. The Company acquitted itself satisfactorily in all phases of the action, although some of our older and/or plumper members are clearly not quite as fit as we would wish. Credit is particularly due to our recruits, who stood the test of a strenuous week-end (and new boots!) very well.

Sgt. H. Hill, our P.S.I., continues to act as our "sheet-anchor" and "administrative king". We are continually grateful for his efforts, and trust that the house now being built for him near the T.A. Centre will soon be completed and allow him to feel even more "at home" with us.

"D" COMPANY

On the 26th of September our P.S.I., C.S.M. Ventress, left us to take up a new post in N. Ireland. He has been with us over four years and during this time he has done a tremendous amount of work for the Company and has gained great popularity. We will miss him, and his wife, who was ever willing to assist her husband in all aspects of his work. Our thanks and best wishes go with them to Ireland.

At the same time we welcome C.S.M. McCarthy as our new P.S.I. Although we don't expect him to stay four years, we hope that he will enjoy being

with us as much as we believe his predecessor enjoyed his stay.

During September we organised a Company dinner and dance in Gainsborough and were very pleased to welcome Colonel and Mrs. Bennett, who joined us for the evening. We enjoyed a very good meal, after which a presentation of a canteen of cutlery was made to C.S.M. Ventress. Dancing of various types followed and a twist competition was won by Pte. Thrower and his partner. Mr. Gleadell collected a prize for the older type of dancing. Our thanks to C.S.M. Ingall and his wife for organising such a splendid evening.

On the training side, following a quiet spell, we are now preparing for our winter activities. To this end we organised a Company training week-end in September and this was followed by the Battalion exercise in early October.

On the 12th October we made our way to Cranwell College for the start of exercise "Autumn Poacher". The weather was perfect, shirt sleeves the order of the day, and the opposition was formidable, so a good exercise seemed inevitable. Our Company established a position guarding the airfield, where a para. drop seemed likely. We moved into position under the surveillance of enemy aircraft and soon the enemy attacked in force. "A" Company withdrew through our positions with the enemy hard on their heels. We in turn were forced to withdraw by vehicle to Beckingham, where we established a strong night position. Heavy and successful patrolling followed throughout the night which in turn enabled us to launch a successful first light attack. This was followed by many skirmishes, a river crossing and a final assault on the main enemy position in Burton Park. During this assault Mr. Gleadell was well in the van and we feel sure that he would have won an M.C. We feel equally sure that it would have been posthumous.

It was at this stage that we discovered that Ptes. Towriss and Moore had been up to their thighs in a particularly unpleasant bog. They were duly ostracised for the remainder of the day. A most worthwhile exercise with plenty of action and splendid food. We thank 3rd Para. and our own cooks respectively.

H.Q. COMPANY

We welcome to the Company Ptes. Dawson, Green and Nadin, and hope they will have a long and happy stay with us.

We have had a much quieter few weeks because of the holiday season, therefore our week-end activities have been less frequent. However, the Band has been quite busy. They carried out two engagements in the north of the county, at Binbrook at a Garden Fête, and Scunthorpe in connection with the film "The Longest Day". In addition they attended the O.C.A. Reunion at Skegness where they played for the Annual Church Parade and March Past. Finally they took part in the Lincolnshire and East Riding T.A. Band Competition at Hull on 20th October. A lot of hard work

went into the practices and a good standard was reached by the day. The competition consisted of an inspection of turnout and instruments, marching and counter-marching in slow and quick time to tunes of the Band's own choice, marching off to the Regimental March and playing a set piece. The Regimental March was particularly well played and was much appreciated by the audience, judging by the applause. The set piece, "Three Dale Dances" by Wood was a difficult piece of music for any military band, and ours had only a limited time for practice as there had been difficulty in obtaining the music, which is out of print. However, under the expert guidance of Mr. Ingall they put up a very good performance. Excitement mounted at the end of the competition when it was announced that there would be a slight delay in announcing the result as the first two contestants were very close and the judges needed extra time for consideration of their verdict. In the end they gave the contest to The Queen's Own Yorkshire Yeomanry by one point. We were runners-up.

We are pleased to report that Cpls. Barratt, Cox, Bdm. Hutchinson are now recovered after their accident at Grantham and are now back in the fold.

Lt. Bury and Pte. Armstrong were the representatives from the Company to visit the 1st Bn. in B.A.O.R., and have just returned, greatly impressed by what they saw in the way of new equipment, etc. They thoroughly enjoyed their stay. We congratulate L/Cpls. Hill and Pearson on promotion.

SIGNAL PLATOON

We are sorry to lose a very popular P.S.I., Sgt. Hornsby, and wish him the very best of luck on his posting to the 1st Bn., 2nd East Anglian Regt. We welcome our new P.S.I., Sgt. Hobson, and look forward to the next two years of instruction from him.

We spent a very instructional week-end at Matlock, in Derbyshire, and are eagerly looking forward to our next, which we hope will take place in the Lake District.

Starting in January, 1964, we hope to run a Signals Cadre for all men of the platoon, and have accepted the hospitality of our friends from 16 Indep. Para. Coy., at Newport, with whom we shall be joining in this training.

MORTAR PLATOON

Apart from our normal drill night training at Grantham, our main activities have been a night exercise at Ancaster and a social evening for potential recruits. Both were equally enjoyable. The

latter is a new venture, the first of several, which we hope will be successful in obtaining some recruits.

RECCE PLATOON

We have concentrated on map reading and compass work in the last two months. On 18th and 19th October our knowledge was put to the test in an exercise held in the Louth area. This included cross-country map reading and compass marching by day and night and was a most useful little exercise.

ASSAULT PIONEERS

We have carried out a demolition task and are now practising mine-laying. On exercise "Autumn Poacher", apart from operating as an infantry platoon in the opening stages, we were employed on battle simulation and watermanship.

ANTI-TANK PLATOON

We have now got our complete B.A.T. equipment and have been able to get down to training in earnest. In September we carried out training on our own, and during October we have spent two week-ends at Beckingham, where we had the benefit of an instructor from the School of Infantry. Everyone learnt a lot and we now have the makings of a good anti-tank section.

The Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover

Continued from page 4

Before being considered for admission candidates are required to undergo educational, general and medical tests.

EXPENSES

Education and essential clothing at the School are provided free. Parents who can afford to do so are required to provide certain items of games clothing and of school civilian dress. It is also desirable that boys should be provided by their parents or guardians with some pocket money (including contingencies) but this should not exceed 5s. per week.

For the normal school holidays (Christmas, Easter and Summer) boys return to their parents or guardians who are required to pay their fares from and to school, except in the case of certain pensionable boys, whose fares are paid for them.

EDITORIAL NOTES

THE POACHER is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. Annual subscription is 10s. per year.

THE POACHER can be obtained from Regimental Headquarters, Gibraltar Barracks, Northampton, or Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln.

Unit notes, articles and other contributions for the Regimental Journal should reach the Editor by 23rd January, for the March issue, 24th April for the June issue, 24th July for the September issue and by 23rd October for the December issue.

Army Cadet Force

Northamptonshire

NO. 2 CADET BATTALION

Bodies lying everywhere, some bandaged, some groaning, first aid parties all over the place; that was the scene when the C.O. arrived at the Irthlingborough Civil Defence Training Centre on the afternoon of 29th September. No, it was not that cadets had been practising Judo, it was Hertfordshire Civil Defence Exercise 44B, but let the Battalion's official observer tell the story in his own words:—

The Battalion was asked to supply a party of 50 cadets to act as casualties for the Hertfordshire C.D. in an exercise at Irthlingborough.

The party reported as arranged at 11.30 hours in a luxury coach, suitably clad in denims and old clothes and full of high spirits. After an excellent hot meal provided by the ladies of the C.D. Welfare Section, the lads were divided into small groups and issued with numbered tags and labelled with all the terrible injuries likely to be found in the aftermath of an atomic attack.

The casualties having been placed in the most awkward positions that the D.S. could find, rescue operations began in earnest. Contrary to all expectations and certainly all military exercises, the "casualties" were completely silent apart from an occasional authentic-sounding groan, thus making the Rescue Sections really search out the victims.

When found and given immediate first aid the casualties were evacuated to a simulated Forward Clearing Post at Wellingborough T.A. Centre by a fleet of ambulances driven mainly by a bevy of "Florence Nightingales" complete with steel helmets.

A further light meal and, of course, a "cuppa" was forthcoming at Wellingborough before dispersing to our individual homes.

A highly enjoyable and instructive day out and many lessons were learnt by all concerned.

We appreciate being asked to help in this venture and sincerely hope that we may be able to help again in the future.

3RD/4TH CADET BATTALION

During the past three months the battalion has completed no less than four Weapon Training Week-ends with both .22 and .303 open range firing included on each occasion. It is significant that our competition results have considerably improved, and we are happy to report a number of successes.

In the County Shoot, held at Brington on Saturday, 31st August, and Sunday, 1st September,

the battalion team comprising Sgt. L. Lloyd, Buckden; Sgt. H. Robinson, Huntingdon; Sgt. J. Toulson, Fletton; and L/Cpl. D. French, Peterborough, won the competition, and Sgt. Toulson and Sgt. Lloyd were first and second respectively in the individual shot event.

On Sunday, 8th September, the same team, apart from the inclusion of L/Cpl. D. Allen in place of L/Cpl. French, competed in the 4th/5th Battalion T.A. Invitation Shoot, and were again successful in winning the trophy. A rather more ambitious event in the annals of the battalion's shooting transpired when the five aforementioned cadets travelled to Beckingham Range on Sunday, 15th September, to participate in the North Midland District Shoot. Sixteen teams fired, and the battalion representatives are to be congratulated on finishing fourth in a very close match. Having fired as the County Team, they are privileged to wear Regimental stable belts when the occasion permits.

No. 3rd/4th write-up would be incomplete without reference to the Corps of Drums, and on Saturday, 6th July, they headed the parade for the British Legion at Kings Cliffe Summer Fête.

It is with no small measure of regret that we have to say farewell to seven of our stalwarts, but it is gratifying to know that they have transferred their loyalties to the Territorial Army, for they have all joined 566 Company, R.A.S.C., at London Road Drill Hall.

Annual Camp, held at Warcop, Westmorland, was highly successful in spite of inclement weather. The high terrain, so vastly different from their own locality, was in itself an experience and a challenge to most of the cadets. A highlight of the week was a live firing demonstration by tanks, the accuracy of which left everyone spellbound. Senior cadets carried out their expedition task as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, and considering the atrocious weather, they did extremely well and are to be complimented on their stamina. During the week we were honoured by visits from General Sir Montague Stopford, Vice-President A.C.F.A., Colonel R. D. Sherbrooke Walker, Acting Chairman A.C.F.A., Brigadier D. E. Taunton, Colonel B. P. Tyrwhitt-Drake, and Miss F. Bonas, Regional Services Welfare Officer W.V.S.

On Saturday, 10th August, a Drumhead Service was arranged by the County Chaplain, Capt. the Rev. W. A. Jones, following which, a presentation of Lord Lieutenant's Certificates was made by the County Commandant, Colonel E. M. Goodale, D.S.O. Battalion recipients were Major R. M. Hobbs, Lts. M. Clements, J. T. Setchfield, A. E. Booth, R.S.M.s Greig, Bacon and S.M.I. Eirth.

2nd CADET BATTALION, THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE REGIMENT



1—Sgt. Culpin of Corby "as found" 2—Sgt. Culpin being rescued (?) 3—Sgt. Whitney of Rusden being rescued 4—Cadet Neill of Wellingborough, with a crushed foot going to the ambulance

It is interesting to note that the combined service of these Battalion Officers and A/W.O.s exceeds 102 years. Following the presentations, the three battalions paraded for the March Past, the salute being taken by the Colonel Commandant. As a final event, the cadets were taken during the afternoon on a tour of the Lake District, which included a trip on one of the steamers.

Back to routine after camp, there is little to report except that on Saturday, 19th September, three cadets, Sgt. Chapman, L/Cpl. Griffin and L/Cpl. Allen undertook an endurance march of 36 miles. The scheme was arranged by S.M.I. J. Hunter in collaboration with the Manager of the Odeon Cinema, Peterborough, to assist publicity for the film epic, "The Great Escape". L/Cpl. Griffin completed the task in the best time, and on arrival at the Cinema was met by the Mayor and Mayoress of Peterborough, Councillor and Mrs. Carl Hall, and presented with a handsome cup provided by the Odeon Management.

A Winter Training Programme has been formulated, and we look forward to an interesting and varied period of activity.

Lincolnshire

PROMOTIONS—OFFICERS

2/Lt. E. J. H. Baker was promoted to substantive rank of Lieutenant with effect from 19th May, 1963.

TRANSFERS—OFFICERS

Lt. R. C. Reid transferred to 463 (D.L.I.) Regt., R.A. (T.A.) in Durham. This was due to him moving to that part of the country.

COURSES—OFFICERS

The following officers attended a Course at Frimley Park Training Centre since the last issue of THE POACHER: 2/Lt. R. W. Johnson (471432); 2/Lt. A. H. Britton (O.C., Grantham Det.). Attended A.C.F. K.G. VI Memorial Course Officers, 29th September-5th October, 1963.

ADULT INSTRUCTORS

Mr. P. G. Hammond has been appointed S.I. to the Sutton Bridge Det. with effect from 1st September, 1963.

LINCOLNSHIRE A.C.F. VISIT TO B.A.O.R.

Lt. E. L. Law and 24 chosen cadets of the Lincolnshire A.C.F. left their homes on the 12th August for a visit to the 2nd East Anglian Regt. at Osnabruck, West Germany. This was for most the first trip on the sea, and thanks to a good crossing there were no ill effects.

The training programme whilst with the East Anglian Regiment was planned with the emphasis on modern weapons, and whilst a good deal was learnt from this, conventional exercises undertaken with the troops taught us very little. This was

*When in Lincoln
Come and See*

THE MUSEUM

OF

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IN

THE KEEP

SOBRAON BARRACKS

confirmed by the Commanding Officer's remarks "That they were all surprised at the efficiency of the cadets."

The cadets were disappointed that they could not take part in the helicopter exercises as they had no parents' consent to fly. This will be taken care of in the future. During this exercise the cadets manned defence positions with efficiency and enthusiasm.

Shooting up to 200 yards—Bren and S.L.R.—conventional and plate targets provided one of the biggest surprises for our hosts.

One of our sections of four cadets "put down" 10 plates in an average of 16 seconds with the S.L.R.

The social programme was well arranged—shopping in Osnabruck, swimming at a German Lido at Bad Essen, and a glorious party given by the Regiment.

Special mention should be made of the untiring efforts made by the W.V.S. on behalf of our cadets. The controller, Mrs. I. Goby, was presented with a bouquet of flowers from our cadets as a mark of appreciation for all that had been done for them.

The Commanding Officer of the 2nd East Anglian Regiment, on a voluntary Church Parade, noted the splendid turnout and smartness of our cadets, and made special mention of this before the cadets left the Regiment.

In his closing address, the Commanding Officer confirmed that it was his opinion that our cadets were amongst the best he had met, and thanked them for the enthusiastic way they had undertaken their duties, and in the gentlemanly manner in which they conducted themselves.

The Conducting Officer of the visit, Lt. E. L. Law, had this to report on his return to Lincoln: "No cadet gave me any cause to complain, and not a moment's anxiety. On the train, boat and coach, including an hour's stay in Arnhem, they conducted themselves in a manner of which our County Cadet Commandant and the Units' O.C.s would be extremely proud."

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