

THE POACHER



BATTALION JOURNAL OF THE
2nd (DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER'S OWN LINCOLNSHIRE
AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE) BATTALION
THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT

Vol. 4. No. 18. - December 1964

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The POACHER

The JOURNAL of

**2nd (Duchess of Gloucester's Own Lincolnshire and
Northamptonshire) Battalion**

The Royal Anglian Regiment

No. 18

DECEMBER, 1964

Vol. 4

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LOCATION LIST, 2nd Bn. THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT OFFICERS

Lieutenant-Colonels

Chambers, W. R., psc 2nd Battalion
Lieutenant-Colonels (Employed List (1))
 Cary-Elwes, O. A. J., psc Min. of Defence, Army Dept.
 Chamberlain, M. A., M.B.E., psc Air H.Q., Malta
 Cole, G. D., M.C., jssc Joint Services Staff College

Majors

Girdwood, J. A. A.A.T.C., Warcop
 Drew, G. S., psc H.Q., Min. of Defence, Malaya

Sergeant, R., psc Leave
 Lee, B. S., psc H.Q., Ox. & Bucks

Power, A. A. G. Sub-District
 Greener, R. C. C., psc, psc (a) Joint Air Recce Int. Centre
 H.Q., Eastern Command

Willdridge, A. L. Army School of Recruiting
 Clark, H. W., psc (T/Lt.-Col.)

Shipley, G. E., psc O.C. Regimental Depot
 G.S. Secretariat, Min. of Defence
 Moore, H. H. 4th/5th Bn. Northamptonshire Regt. (T.A.)

Barstow, J. M. 2 i/c 2nd Battalion
 Francis, A. D., psc 2nd Battalion
 Dymoke, J. L. M., M.B.E., psc (L/Lt.-Col.) Armed Forces Staff College, U.S.A.

Knox, T. C. S., psc 2nd Battalion
 Yates, G. R. Infantry Junior Leaders' Bn.
 Hughes, J. A., psc 2 i/c 1st Battalion
 Gardiner, C. J., psc G.II School of Infantry
 Garnett, J. A., psc D.A.A.G., Aden Garrison
 Turnill, E., psc 2nd Battalion
 Barthorp, M. J., psc 2nd Battalion
 Gerrard-Wright, R. E. J., psc

Akehurst, J. B., psc H.Q., Kenya Army
 Worthy, P., psc H.Q., 12 Inf. Bde. Group
 Miller, N., psc Trucial Oman Scouts
 Evans-Evans, A. G. P. S.D.2 Min. of Defence
 Annear, W. J. B. Infantry Junior Leaders' Bn.
 H.Q., 24 Inf. Bde. Group

Captains

Thomas, B. C. 11 Signals Regt.
 Paul, L. C. J. M., psc (T/Major) H.Q., 54 (E.A.) Div.
 Wetherall, J. P. H.Q., Berlin
 Pool, W. K., psc (T/Major) D.A.A.G. Regimental H.Q.
 Dale, C. J. P. Staff College,
 Growse, J. P. 2nd Battalion
 Tadman, J. Staff College
 Surtees, F. H., M.C. Provost Course, U.K.
 Wilford, D. 2nd Battalion
 Taylor, E. M. C. D., M.C. 1 Bn., Jamaica Regt.
 Wooddisse, J. R. S.A.F. Muscat
 Aris, M. A. 7 Armoured Bde.
 Parker, J. K. Regimental Depot
 Robinette, J. Regimental Depot
 Taunton, P. D. Adjutant, 2nd Battalion
 Edwards, P. W. Regimental Depot
 Lumby, C. W. T. Staff Attachment, Cyprus
 Kitchin, R. F. 2nd Battalion
 Malpas, E. A. Regimental Depot
 Ford, K. G. Bermuda Local Forces
 Drummond, R. J. M. Sarawak Regiment
 Spacie, I. 2nd Battalion
 White, J. G. P. 2nd Battalion
 Dollery, C. P. Leave

Lieutenants

Hastie, R. C. 2nd Battalion
 Winckley, J. B. Regimental Depot

Lieutenants

Taylor, T. T. Infantry Junior Leaders' Bn.
 Halcrow, H. M. P. 2nd Battalion
 Wright, M. S. Regimental Depot
 Everitt, J. A. G. Army Air Corps Centre
 Houchin, J. S. All Arms Jnr. Ldrs.' Regt.
 Young, P. J. T. 2nd Battalion
 Goodale, D. M. F. Army Youth Team,
 Northampton

Mayhew, N. T. P. 2nd Battalion
 Goulson, R. F. 2nd Battalion

Second-Lieutenants

Welby-Everard, P. R. E. 2nd Battalion
 English, T. H. 2nd Battalion
 Hipkin, G. W. M. 2nd Battalion
 Boardman, J. S. 2nd Battalion
 Brett, G. I. G. 2nd Battalion
 Waller, R. C. B. 2nd Battalion

QUARTERMASTERS**Majors**

Leeson, J. H. F. 4th/5th Bn., R. Leicestershire
 Regt. (T.A.)
 Macklam, C. H., M.B.E. Army School of Civil Defence
 Jeasup, E. H.Q., North-West District
 Gascoyne, F. W. 4th/5th Bn. Northamptonshire
 Regt. (T.A.)

Captains

Culbert, C. P. 4 Signal Regt.
 Morgan, J. Suffolk and Cambridgeshire
 Regt. (T.A.)
 Beard, T. W. 4th/6th Bn. Royal Lincoln-
 shire Regt. (T.A.)
 Edwards, J. E. 2nd Battalion

Lieutenants

Russell, A. H.Q., 3 Div.
 Bayliss, R. 2nd Battalion
 Kelly, E. P., D.C.M. 4th Battalion

SHORT SERVICE AND EXTENDED SERVICE OFFICERS**Major**

Davies, M. A. W., M.B.E., M.C., esc Int. Staff, Hong Kong

Captain

Bailey, E. B., esc R.A.P.C. Trg. Centre

Second-Lieutenants

Armstrong, G. K., ssc 3rd Battalion
 Costin, D. W., ssc 2nd Battalion
 Marshall, R., ssc 2nd Battalion

FORMER REGIMENTAL OFFICERS ON THE ACTIVE LIST

Brigadier P. W. P. Green, C.B.E., D.S.O., jssc, psc, psc (a)
 Northern Ireland Command
 Brigadier G. C. A. Gilbert, M.C., psc, Para. Brigade
 Colonel J. C. Denny, O.B.E., M.C., psc,
 Regimental Colonel, Royal Anglian Regiment
 Colonel A. W. Innes, O.B.E., M.C., psc, psc (a) (local Brig.)
 M.A. Moscow
 Colonel R. P. S. Erskine-Tulloch, jssc, psc
 Ministry of Defence Joint Planning Staff
 Major D. R. F. Houlton-Hart, M.C., E.R.D. C.R.M.P.
 Major H. R. Johnston R.A.P.C. 2nd Battalion
 Major P. F. Walter, M.B.E., M.C. 3rd Para. Regiment
 Capt. K. Spacie 16 Ind. Para. Company (T.A.)
 Capt. I. Porter-Wright Para. Regiment
 Capt. L. T. Henwood C.R.M.P.

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.

===== EDITORIAL =====

The 2nd Battalion moved to Cyprus by air between the 3rd and 12th October, 1964. For its Cyprus stay the Battalion will be stationed in the Sovereign Base Area of Dhekelia which is situated on the Island's south coast some ten miles from the seaside dormitory town of Larnaca where the married families, 100 of them, will be accommodated until such time as quarters become available.

Battalion Headquarters is at Alexander Barracks where the single soldiers' blocks are just a stone's throw from the sea. The climate is appealing and the Commanding Officer reports that they are liking it very much and the Battalion is in good heart.

We wish them a happy and successful tour.

* * *

On Monday, 26th October, 1964, the Regiment was visited by four officers of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment of Canada. The formation of the Large Regiment has not altered the alliance and we are pleased to say it continues and their Regiment is now affiliated to the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Lt.-Col. L. E. Clarke, E.D., the Commanding Officer, accompanied by Lt.-Col. E. W. Tyrrell, Major W. L. Kearsy and Lieut. D. M. Boddam were visiting Bergen-op-Zoom in Holland to represent their Regimental Association at the 20th Anniversary of the liberation of that town by their Regiment and they were travelling back to Canada via the U.K. so they arranged the visit.

They stayed for the one night at Bury St. Edmunds and were guests at a cocktail party at which they met the officers and their wives of the Headquarters and Depot of The Royal Anglian Regiment. At this party Lt.-Col. L. E. Clarke very kindly presented a handsome silver cigarette box to the Regiment.

On Tuesday, 27th October, they stopped at Northampton on their way to Cardiff and spent a short time visiting the Museum of the Northamptonshire Regiment.

It was most pleasant to meet them and we are most grateful for the presentation. Let us hope there will be another reason for them to visit the United Kingdom before long.

===== Museums =====

ROYAL LINCOLNSHIRE REGIMENT

The Trustees gratefully acknowledge the following gifts to the Regimental Museum of the 10th Foot:—

From J. S. Allen, Esq., 17 Redthorne Drive, Huntingdon, York, the General Service and Victory Medals of the late 35651, Pte. R. Thornton, and from Capt. George F. Devalient, M.C., aged 82 years, who served during World War I with the 6th Service Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment, the gift of a photograph album covering the period of his active service in France.

This album is of considerable interest and a most welcome gift, as it contains photographs not only of sectors in which the Battalion fought, but of former officers of the 10th Foot, still alive, who served with the 6th Battalion, among them Major L. C. Crick, M.C., and Major D. A. Jones, D.S.O., M.C.

Capt. Devalient resides at 11 St. Lucia Road, Wallasey, Cheshire, and would no doubt appreciate having news of his old friends and comrades of the Great War.

From H. C. Marshall, Esq., of 175 Clarendon Road, Whalley Range, Manchester, formerly 8068, Pte. H. C. Marshall, who enlisted in the 10th Foot on 3rd July, 1907, the gift of a photograph album containing photographs taken at Wanowrie, Poona, 1909-10.

From Mrs. B. G. Thackeray (widow of the late

Brigadier-General F. S. Thackeray, D.S.O., M.C., late 10th Foot), the gift of two records of the visit of the 1st Battalion to London in 1929 on public duties, also a copy of the 250th Anniversary Album of the 10th Foot.

The Trustees were pleased to acquire in excellent condition from a local antique dealer at reasonable cost, a shako of the 1st Lincolnshire Volunteers, formerly belonging to Major G. C. Uppley, whose nameplate in brass is affixed to the lid of the box.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM OF THE JAMAICA REGIMENT

The Trustees have had much pleasure in sending to the Regimental Museum of the Jamaica Regiment a copy of Volume I of the History of the Tenth Foot, which contains details relating to the Regiment's service in Jamaica from 1786 to 1796. Brigadier P. E. Crook, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.A., at H.Q., Jamaica Defence Force, has gratefully acknowledged receipt.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE REGIMENT

Much interest is being shown in the Museum and the Trustees are most grateful for the items that are presented.

Continued on page 31

Personalia

Major J. B. AKEHURST completes his tour with 12 Infantry Brigade Group next month and is joining the 2nd Battalion after leave.

* * *

Major W. J. B. ANNEAR was promoted substantive Major on 3rd August, 1964.

* * *

Congratulations to Lt.-Col. A. J. BENNET, M.B.E., T.D., on the award of the Territorial Efficiency Decoration.

* * *

We welcome 2/Lts. J. S. BOARDMAN, G. I. G. BRETT and R. C. B. WALLER to the Regiment on first commissioning from R.M.A.S. They are serving with the 2nd Bn.

* * *

Capt. C. J. DALE has been appointed G.II (Instructor) at the School of Military Intelligence. He takes up the appointment on completion of his Staff College Course.

* * *

Colonel J. C. DENNY, O.B.E., M.C., assumed the appointment of Regimental Colonel, The Royal Anglian Regiment, on 1st September, 1964.

* * *

Capt. C. P. DOLLERY has returned from Sierra Leone and is now on leave. He becomes a Staff Captain in February, 1965.

* * *

Lt.-Col. J. L. M. DYMOKE, M.B.E., is now at the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk 11, Virginia, U.S.A. We congratulate him on his promotion.

* * *

Congratulations to Lt.-Col. E. C. EASTER, M.B.E., on winning the Army Golfing Society Scratch Medal at Sunningdale with a gross score of 73.

* * *

Capt. P. W. EDWARDS is now with the Regimental Depot as Recruiting Officer.

* * *

Major A. G. P. EVANS-EVANS was promoted substantive Major on 3rd August, 1964.

* * *

Congratulations to Capt. and Mrs. K. G. FORD on the birth of a daughter on 2nd October, 1964.

* * *

Major A. D. FRANCIS rejoined the 2nd Bn. last month.

* * *

Major C. J. GARDINER has taken up a staff appointment at H.Q. School of Infantry, Warminster. Congratulations to him and Mrs. GARDINER on the birth of a daughter on 25th September, 1964.

* * *

Congratulations to Lieut. John GLEADELL on the announcement of his engagement to Miss Penelope PARKER.

Lieut. and Mrs. H. M. P. HALCROW wish to thank all officers of the Regiment who subscribed to their beautiful wedding present, which they will always treasure.

* * *

Lieut. R. K. HILL has joined the Regiment and is serving with 4th/5th Bn., The Northamptonshire Regiment (T.A.).

* * *

Capt. R. H. LEACH who formerly served in the 10th Foot now resides at 91 Station Road, Finchley Central, London, N.3, and sends best wishes to all those who might remember him.

* * *

Lieut. N. T. P. MAYHEW was promoted Lieutenant on 28th July, 1964.

* * *

Capt. J. MORGAN has been appointed Q.M. of the Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Regiment (T.A.).

* * *

A. G. C. PARKER, late 10th Foot, has moved from Aberdeen. His address is now Little Dungate, Reigate Heath, Surrey.

* * *

Capt. J. K. PARKER assumes the appointment of Officer i/c Junior Soldiers' Wing at the Regimental Depot this month on the completion of his staff attachment. Congratulations to him and Mrs. PARKER on the birth of a son on 28th August, 1964.

* * *

G. F. REYNOLDS, a former member of 10th Foot, resides at 426 Idle Road, Bradford, and recently visited Lincoln. He became a Life Member of the Association and wishes to be remembered to his old friends with whom he served in World War II. He is in business on his own account as a shop fitter.

* * *

Capt. J. ROBINETTE is now serving at the Regimental Depot.

* * *

We welcome Lieut. F. STREEK to the Regiment. He is now serving with 4th/5th Bn., The Northamptonshire Regiment (T.A.).

* * *

Major T. H. STYLES assumed the appointment of Training Major, 4th/6th Royal Lincolns (T.A.) on 10th August, 1964.

* * *

Capt. P. H. SURTEES, M.C., is now in U.K. attending a Provost Course.

* * *

Capt. P. D. TAUNTON has succeeded Capt. C. W. T. LUMBY as Adjutant of the 2nd Battalion. Capt. C. W. T. LUMBY is now undertaking a staff attachment in Cyprus.

Congratulations to Thomas VAN I AUN and Miss R. I. de BUNSEN on the announcement of their engagement.

* * *

Congratulations to 2/I.t. R. C. B. WALLER on the announcement of his engagement to Miss D. I. SCRIBBANS.

* * *

Major R. W. WHITNEY was promoted to his substantive rank on 3rd August, 1964. He has now retired and has been appointed a First Secretary at the Foreign Office. His address is now 20 Christchurch Road, East Sheen, London, S.W.14.

* * *

Congratulations to Lieut. J. B. WINCKLEY on the announcement of his engagement to Miss P. A. Ivor JONES.

He became Second-in-Command when the Battalion mobilised, and took over Command during operations in the Arakan in 1943.

His Command of the 1st Battalion, The Lincolnshire Regiment, covered the operations in Burma and the Arakan, which culminated in the capture of Rangoon, and during which the Battalion achieved a very high reputation, Colonel Sinker himself being awarded the D.S.O.

Cecil Sinker was always devoted to the Regiment and shortly before his death was contemplating a Reunion of the officers who served with the Regiment during his Command.

He was a loyal friend and a gallant officer, whose death will be deeply mourned by all who served with him.

P.H.G.

Of him, Colonel H. A. Hughes writes:—

Cecil Sinker joined the 1st Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment in Aldershot in 1925. He had been a boxing "blue" at the R.M.C., Sandhurst, and immediately led the Battalion team to win the Novices Boxing Competition in the Command. Although two rounds down on points he came out in the final round like a whirlwind and hammered his bewildered opponent relentlessly round the ring to win the fight.

This was characteristic of Cecil—he would have a go at anything, be it cross-country running or rugby, and he never gave in. Although small in stature he made up for it in pure "guts".

He was a fine type of Regimental Officer and gained vast experience with the R.W.A.F.F. in Sierra Leone both before and after the last war.

During the war he commanded the 1st Battalion in Burma where it gained a reputation second to none and deservedly he was awarded the D.S.O. Those of us who knew him will feel his death deeply, and our sympathy goes out to his widow, and to his two brothers, Leonard and Philip—old friends of the days when his father and mother kept open house to the members of the Regiment when living at Hoe Place, Old Woking.

H.A.H.

Before his death Colonel Sinker expressed a wish that, if possible, when he died he be given a Military funeral. His wish was met by our cousins, 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire Regiment, who provided a bearer party and a bugler and were represented by Capt. A. N. Nisbet, Lieut. R. G. Silk, Sgt. Cooper, Sgt. Unwin, Cpl. Baylis, Cpl. Stephenson, Pte. Cleaver and Pte. Wolfindale.

CAPTAIN R. SOPER-DYER

Captain R. Soper-Dyer joined the 2nd Bn., The Northamptonshire Regiment, as a Corporal in 1923 when he transferred from the King's Royal Rifle Corps. He served with the 58th continuously until the outbreak of War in 1939, being appointed Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant on 1st March, 1933, and promoted Regimental Sergeant-Major on 9th May, 1938.

Deaths

SOPER-DYER

On 14th September, 1964, at Northampton General Hospital, Capt. R. Soper-Dyer, late The Northamptonshire Regiment.

SINKER

On 8th October, 1964, in Ashford Hospital, Middlesex, Lt.-Col. Cecil Arthur Chisholm Sinker, D.S.O., late Royal Lincolnshire Regiment.

ROWSON

On 9th October, 1964, at Northampton General Hospital, Rev. G. P. H. Rowson, Vicar of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Northampton, and Chaplain to The Northamptonshire Regiment from 1933.

Obituary

LT.-COL. C. A. C. SINKER, D.S.O.

The early death of Lt.-Col. C. A. C. Sinker has come as a shock and a sad blow to his many friends, though we knew he had resigned from his last work owing to ill-health.

He joined the 1st Battalion, The Lincolnshire Regiment, at Aldershot nearly forty years ago, and made there a considerable reputation as a boxer. He was a gallant fighter then as he was later in Palestine and Burma.

After service in West Africa he rejoined the 2nd Battalion at Catterick and served with them in the 1935 emergency in Malta and later in the Palestine troubles.

In 1938 he came out to India to the 1st Battalion and served with that Battalion throughout the war.

On the declaration of war he was immediately commissioned and proceeded to France to join the British Expeditionary Force where he was Quartermaster of a Base Camp. He returned to the United Kingdom on the fall of France but then his health began to fail him and eventually he was invalided from the service with rheumatoid arthritis.

He was completely disabled from 1954 and died on 14th September, 1964.

He leaves a widow and seven children to whom we extend our deepest sympathy in their sad loss.

REV. G. P. H. ROWSON

Padre Rowson (he was known to his parishioners as Philip, but always to the Regiment as "Padre") was an interesting personality. His death, after a longish illness, was due in my opinion principally to over-work. He never appeared to do this, but to carry out the duties of a Parish Priest, which he did, and to combine it with whole time duties as Chaplain to the General Hospital for six months in the year, and to devote two or three mornings each week to "Padre's Hour" at the Barracks, would tax any man.

I have known him on and off from 1933, when he was appointed to St. Sepulchre's, but I knew him best from 1946 onwards when, having finished his period of War Service as Chaplain to the Forces, he returned to St. Sepulchre's and became Chaplain to 48 P.T.C. and later to the Depot Northamptonshire Regiment. Three mornings a week, after the Padre's Hour, he joined us in the Mess at Quebec for his game of snooker. He was a good player, and I think this was his great relaxation, when he could unwind. He seldom drank, though he did like to win his glass of beer at snooker, he was not a heavy smoker, but he was a good Mess member, and we were always delighted to see him when he came in.

He was a very human man and also a very humble one. Brought up in the High Church tradition of Kelham Theological College, he was also "all things to all men". During the time when the village in which I was living had no Rector, I asked him on several occasions to come and take Holy Communion in our Church. Though this meant a great rush and extra work, he always came when asked. On the first occasion that I asked him, he said: "How do they like it?" I replied: "We are used to vestments but we haven't got any." "Right," he said, and he took the trouble to pack his own vestments into a suit-case and bring them out. At another Church, when told they were Evangelical, he appeared in surplice and stole, and the congregation of both Churches were equally impressed by his conduct of the service and his devoutness.

As a preacher, he was not everyone's cup of tea—he always said that he never prepared his sermon, he just spoke as he felt. He sometimes made a joke in the pulpit—sometimes he used odd phrases—once at a Reunion Service he called us "old sweats". Some people took exception to such terms and laughter in the congregation, but everyone who had heard him on a number of occasions soon realised that the odd phrases, and the laughter, were always

followed by a few words which made everyone think—and think hard. These phrases and jokes were made with a purpose—to get the attention of everyone—then, when he had our attention, he said something which really mattered.

We shall miss the Padre. He was a devout Christian, a good man, a real friend to his parishioners, devoted to the Regiment, and to all a lovable, loyal, ordinary man who lived up to his own very high ideals. He was not afraid of death, but I am sure that he kept himself alive by will power so that he could say a few words of good-bye to his many friends on 24th September, 1964. I feel that for him, 24th September was the culmination of his life's work. Though very weak and ill and sitting in a wheel chair, he spoke to us in the Church Hall (with the aid of a microphone) for twenty minutes, and though these were all poignant and difficult minutes for us, as they must necessarily be in the presence of a dying man, we all went away uplifted, and thanking God for the courage and example of a good man. C.J.M.W.

4th Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment 1939-1946

The 18th Annual All Ranks' Reunion Dinner was held at the T.A. Centre, Rusden, on 9th October, 1964, and there was a record attendance of over 120.

R. D. Hector was in the chair with A. C. Webb (Secretary), and D. P. Scopes (Treasurer), also present. Also amongst the rest of the Committee at the dinner were A. H. Attley and L. Smith, the two latest recruits.

The Chairman welcomed Colonel W. C. Furminger, O.B.E., M.C., and Brigadier J. Lingham, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., former Commanding Officers of the Battalion.

There were also six members who were present for the first time. Amongst these was Sgt.-Maj. H. Casey whom, we understand, has a very pleasant job looking after the bars, and/or girls, at the London Palladium.

A suggestion has been made that in 1966 our 20th Reunion, in addition to the usual dinner, we make a week-end visit to Germany. If any member is interested would he please contact D. P. Scopes, Allerton House, Isham, Kettering, Northants.

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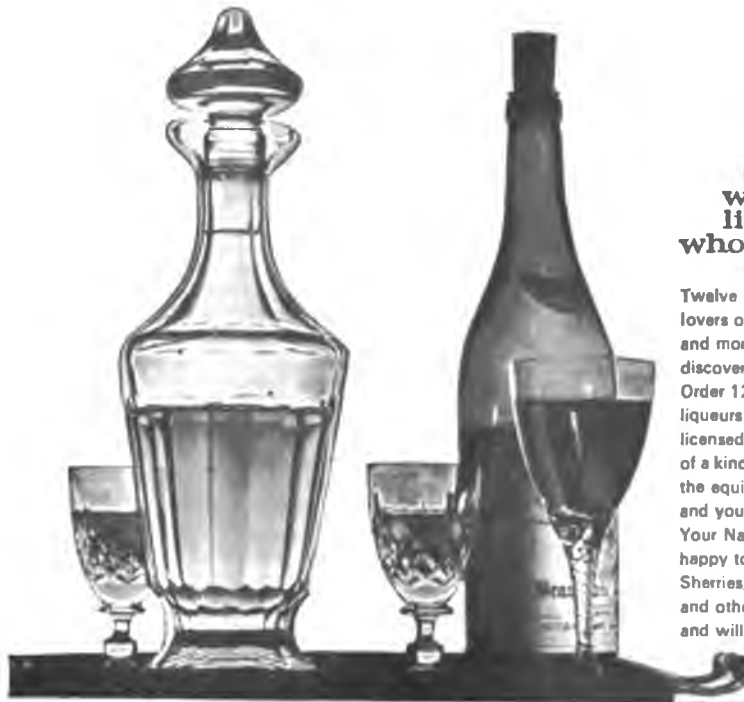
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2nd (Duchess of Gloucester's Own Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire) Battalion

The Royal Anglian Regiment

BATTALION REVIEW

The past quarter has been a momentous one in the history of the Regiment, and there is so much to record that lack of space does not allow us to cover all the events as fully as they deserve.

From the historical point of view the most important was the formation of the Royal Anglian Regiment and the renaming of the Battalion. Although officially this took place on 1st September, that was not a suitable date for the Battalion to hold a formal parade marking the occasion as almost everyone was on embarkation leave, so this took place on 22nd September. Brigadier R. H. L. Oulton, C.B.E., now Deputy Colonel of the Royal Anglian Regiment, inspected the parade, after which the four Guards marched past. Brigadier Oulton then read out a telegram from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, our new Colonel-in-Chief, and a special Order of the Day by Lt.-Gen. Sir Reginald Denning, K.B.E., C.B., D.L., the Colonel of the new Regiment. In the evening the Officers' Mess held a Guest Night.

In late August we were able to supply a contingent from the Battalion for a K.A.P.E. (Keeping the Army in the Public Eye) tour of Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire. It gave us great pleasure to renew acquaintances with the towns in our two counties and to meet again all those who have given us such splendid support in the past. We hope that they will continue to do so in the future.

The event which remains uppermost in our minds, not only because it has been the most recent, but also because it has meant a profound change in our lives, is the move to Cyprus. Detailed planning started in late August after the Second-in-Command returned from a recon. At the same time it became known that a hundred families would be allowed to accompany the Battalion, which had a very beneficial effect on the morale of the "marrieds".

A small housing party of Capt. R. F. Kitchin, S/Sgt. Selwood and Sgt. Chapman left Gatwick

on 4th September faced with the unenviable task of finding homes for the lucky hundred. At the present time, in order to keep the number of families in Cyprus to manageable proportions, they are not normally allowed to join husbands until the latter have been on the island for six months. As ours was a unit move we were permitted to take a proportion of our families with us, but in order to make it fairer for those already out here who have not been allowed to bring theirs, we are not able to have any quarters, except tied ones, for six months. In the event some hirings became available, but most families had to be found private accommodation in Larnaca.

The advance party, consisting of 7 officers and 41 soldiers, flew from Stanstead on 17th September and immediately began planning the take-over from the Rifle Brigade and learning all about future operational tasks. The situation at that time appeared very uncertain as the United Nations Mandate was due for renewal on 27th September and there was some doubt as to whether, for financial reasons, it would be renewed. In the event it was, and we were able to carry out our so-called "relief in the line" undisturbed.

The plan was to fly in one Company a day for the first four days, then twenty families a day accompanied by the balance of H.Q. Company over five days. However, two of the aircraft were delayed 24 hours for various reasons, so the move wasn't quite as planned, although it did proceed reasonably smoothly. Most flights were by British United Airways although some were R.A.F. Transport Command. The aircraft used were Britannias, and in all cases they left U.K. in the late evening, arriving in Cyprus in the early hours of the morning after a flight of some 5½-6 hours. Then followed a bus journey of about two hours to reach Dhakelia.

Our barracks is a very fine modern one. The Officers' and Sergeants' Messes are excellent, and the soldiers are housed in very good three-storey



Alexander Barracks, Dhekelia, Cyprus. The Company blocks are in the foreground, and the Sergeants' and Officers' Messes beyond the Square. The sea is just out of sight on the left of the picture.

Company blocks, eight to a room. Office, stores and M.T. accommodation are of a similar standard. There are sports fields just across the road and two open ranges only 500 yards away. Dhekelia is quite a large garrison with all the usual amenities—Clubs, shops, churches, cinemas, etc. There are facilities for almost every form of sport here and we hope that everyone will be able to take part in something. Possibly one of our greatest assets is the sea, which is just below the barracks. For some of us the early morning swim is a normal part of our daily routine.

Cyprus is at the moment rather a brown dusty island. The harvest was gathered in several months ago and the countryside looks parched and bare. At present the weather is excellent, the days being like really hot summer days at home and the nights reasonably cool. This is an ideal time to arrive and get acclimatised. The rainy season is due to start in about a fortnight, when it will get cooler and the earth will become much greener. We shall be changing into European clothing in a month's time. Outwardly things appear to be reasonably peaceful, and in fact ours is one of the least troubled

parts of the island. We look forward to the future with interest and with confidence.

OFFICERS' MESS

The dining out of Wake Clark marked the beginning of the move to Cyprus. He has left us for the Depot and in his place we welcome back John Barstow. Immediately thereafter the silver and pictures disappeared into their boxes from where they have yet to reappear. Though at present stark inside, our Mediterranean Mess has a delightful garden. This should become even more civilized with the introduction of the Johnston sector-allotment scheme for living-in members.

We welcome David Smith from the 1st Battalion, who is our pilot, and Rodney Waller and Gordon Brett from Sandhurst. We gather it will not be long before the familiar figure of Jack Bickford is once again seen in the Mess, on a flying visit from Malta.

Finally, we would like to thank Robert Goulson for his very fine silver teapot which will be put into immediate use when it arrives with the Mess baggage from Felixstowe.



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Parents quite frequently introduce their friends to Student Funds Limited so that they too can benefit from the savings in money to be made out of fees payable.

Some parents have from time to time referred the company's recommended plans to their own professional advisers and in one instance a solicitor completed for his own three daughters ahead of his client. This is what some have said:—

A Trustee Department Manager of one of the Big Five Banks:

"I have studied it very carefully and I consider it a most ingenious scheme and well worth taking up . . ."

A Parent:

"I have passed all this to my Uncle, a Scottish C.A. who actually deals with most of my income tax position. He incidentally is also very pleased with your scheme. I've passed on your brochure to two other members of my company . . ."

Another parent:

" . . . I think it is an extremely good scheme as do the Bank Managers with whom I have discussed it."

A Major in the Royal Signals:

"Thank you very much for your two letters and the illustration drawn up for me. I found your answers to all my questions complete and very helpful and am now convinced that this is just what I need to help me with the cost of education for my younger boy . . . I now regret that we had not been introduced when I was planning for my other son!"

And, a senior General in the Army said he was told by his Bank Manager that the plan we sent to him was a "must."

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THE
OFFICERS'
MESS

SERGEANTS' MESS

Our stay in Felixstowe was enjoyable but socially very quiet. Our last notes were submitted before the visit of H.R.H. The Duchess of Gloucester on 10th August, but although that memorable day was covered in the last issue of *THE POACHER*, we feel we should mention the Mess side again.

After the parade for our Colonel-in-Chief we entertained our guests to a buffet luncheon under canvas. S.Q.M.S. Royce and Sgt. Hodgson and their staff really went to town and the buffet was a splendid sight. Sgt. Prime organised the bar with his usual cheerful efficiency. In the afternoon Her Royal Highness came to tea in the Mess and met members and their wives. The Officers' and Sergeants' Messes together held a Ball in the Officers' Mess in the evening after the departure of Her Royal Highness. Sgt. Prime and Sgt. Ashworth ran the bars. Guests were too numerous for us to list them all, but amongst them we were delighted to have R.S.M. Jenks, R.S.M. and Mrs. Pond, R.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Duke, C.S.M. and Mrs. Thompson, C.S.M. Coates, ex-C.S.M. and Mrs. Guest, ex-C.S.M. and Mrs. Wolfe, Sgt. D/M. Perris, Sgt. Leatherland and S/Sgt. Greenfield, and we were delighted to see some of our friends from the Petty Officers' Mess, H.M.S. *Ganges*, and the Royal Air Force, Bawdsey.

We welcome W.O.2 Sprason and Sgt. Robinson from 4/5th Bn., Royal Leicesters (T.A.), and Sgt. Hill (Harry) from 4/6th Royal Lincolns (T.A.), and say farewell and good luck to Sgt. Barker on his Parachute Qualifying Course. Welcome and congratulations on their promotion to Sgts. Clements, Worley and Neal, and congratulations to Sgt. and Mrs. Watkins on the birth of their son, Bernard Ralph, on the 8th September.

CORPORALS' MESS

Having left Felixstowe after our short stay we are once more awaiting to unpack the Mess property in Alexander Barracks, Cyprus.

Our new Mess is now run by the N.A.A.F.I., so Jim Moore is once more looking out for an easy

number. The only easy number left, he thought, was "C" Company, so Jim's there.

We have now got a new P.M.C., Cpl. Starling, and a new Entertainments Committee, which is in process of arranging a Grand Christmas Draw. We are looking forward to the get-together (except for Sam Kettle; he's dying of Keo Ulcers).

Since our departure from Felixstowe we have lost Cpls. Clements, Worley, Neal and Keenan (R.A.P.C.), and congratulate them on their promotion to Sergeant. We say *au revoir* to Cpls. Atkins, Holmes and Roberts, A.C.C., who are still in U.K., and Cpls. Golby, Parlett, Benner, Chambers, L/Cpls. Bottoms and Jolley who have taken up E.R.E. postings here in Cyprus. To counteract these losses we have gained L/Cpls. Diaper, Melligan, Wood, Ray, Masterman, Lenton, Sparrow, Price, McHale, Jack, Brown, Crammer, Boothwright and McCormack, and congratulate them on their promotion.

We would like also to welcome the N.C.O.s of the Air Platoon, Cpls. Reading, Turner, Owen, Holloway, Patter, Dillingham, Venner, Odell and L/Cpl. Drake, also Rawes and Cunningham of the Royal Signals.

H.Q. (OPS.) COMPANY

The majority of H.Q. (Ops.) personnel spent Friday morning looking forward to a quick, comfortable journey to Cyprus by B.U.A., with thoughts of sunning themselves on the shores of the Mediterranean the following morning. But we had not left Felixstowe before we were informed that our flight was delayed 24 hours and that we were to proceed to R.A.F. Station Hendon for the night. So we awoke to another beautiful English summer's day in October and watched the gliders operating from the now disused airfield.

After tea we made a second attempt to fly from Gatwick. This time we made the airport and were processed, but a technical hitch prevented our taking off. Eventually all our baggage was extracted from the aircraft and some buses procured from Victoria Station. We returned to Hendon at about

1 a.m. on Sunday morning to spend a short second night at the R.A.F. Station—for the plan was that we should take off from Gatwick at 8 a.m. the same morning. So at 5.30 a.m. we retraced our steps across London by bus—a two-hour ride early on a Sunday morning—and arrived there in thick fog. By this time we were tired of loading and unloading our baggage, we had exhausted the few delights of Hendon, and were thoroughly sick of the bus ride from Gatwick to Hendon and back. So B.U.A. kindly took us to spend the day at the Grand Hotel in Brighton, where we were well looked after by two air hostesses and the hotel staff. The final journey to Gatwick was made in two Brighton Corporation double-decker buses after a three-course dinner. This time we made it, beating "A" Company into the air by a short head. We flew straight into an electrical storm which was little short of terrifying. When we emerged from the plane one would have thought we had landed by mistake on the Arabian Peninsular or the moon!

We welcome the addition of the Air Platoon to the Company and hope that in the event of any of us wanting a lift by air again, they will be able to get us airborne quicker than B.U.A.!

ORDERLY ROOM

The pen is mightier than the sword. Leading in the battle of the "bumph" has been the Orderly Room.

A fond farewell to our leader in the fight, C/Sgt. Harrold whom, after sterling service, left for what were (when we left) warmer climes. He has been succeeded by Sgt. Simmons, who has been promoted to C/Sgt.; our congratulations!

The air at Warminster seems congenial. Pte. Gary Donaldson did very well on his B.II Course, and great things are expected of L/Cpl. Colin Briggs on his B.I Course.

Our ranks have been swelled with the arrival from "B" Company of L/Cpl. Mally Dodds who has already been hard at work with the advance party under Cpl. Fred Willoughby.

It should be noted that Cpl. Willoughby has already lost 16 pounds. "Alterations," he says, "are my problem at the moment."

Of our future plans we can say little; it's all "secret", you know.

SIGNALS PLATOON

"Excuse me, is this Cyprus?" panted the be-draggled figure as it emerged from the water of Dhekelia-on-Sea. Only one of our members chose this way and he was probably the wisest. Amy Johnson might well have been proud to reach these shores only three days flying time from a general election. However, it is doubted that she would have selected a route via Brighton—and for some even nostalgic visit to Gatwick.

Because some of our readers might have a more military mind than ours we ought to continue from where our last jottings ended. The sojourn in Felixstowe was rather like a battery, it had both a negative side and a positive one. Negative because we had neither the facilities nor the time to ask even for signals; positive because two managed to

"pad" themselves off (short-lived albeit) and two others reached the "faithful" stage. Generally speaking we enjoyed ourselves but we reckon we got out just in time. The summer season was ending and our old ladies supporters club was fast dwindling—each dawn they bade us an astonished "good morning" as we heaved our sweaty way along the promenade on fitness training. Actually it's not too different here except that our audience is now a collection of goats, sheep and wild dogs. (At least they acknowledge our presence with a few bleats and barks.)

But now we are at it again. We happily join the mêlée of purposeful activity and bluff our associates with the science of signals.

Tailpiece—Grey-haired "Molar" (a bit long in the tooth) to battery storeman: "Are you happy in your work?" "Well, Sir, I really find it quite revolting."

M.T. SECTION

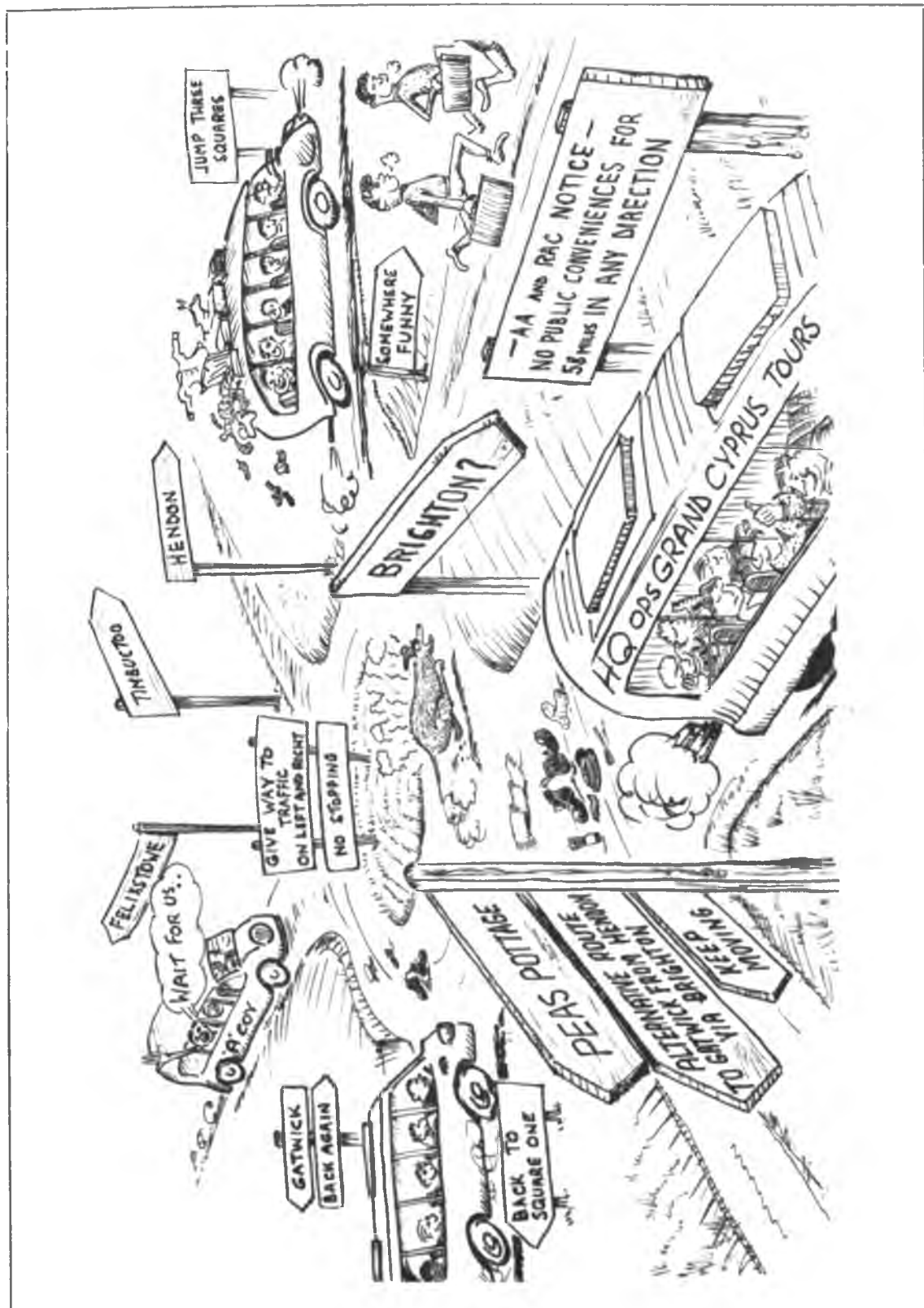
A great deal has been happening in the past three months which unfortunately doesn't necessarily make for interesting reading. It has been mainly connected with taking over fresh vehicles in U.K. to meet our requirements for the three-month stage and then handing them over to 3 Green Jackets on our departure. In addition to the normal Battalion demands, the M.T. provided the transport for the larger part of the K.A.P.E. tour of both counties.

Once again the second XI of the M.T. Section took the field for the advance party to U.K. under S/Sgt. Peacock, supported by a handful of drivers and the N.C.O.s specialist in their own field, namely Cpl. Whitelock and L/Cpl. Baker (Tech. Stores and Vehicle kits), Cpl. White (Details and Clerk), Cpl. Newell (P.O.L. and Sec. N.C.O.). These N.C.O.s did very well and have since cleared their names in the shape of a successfully cleared and closed account.

In addition to the activities mentioned, we were able to get in the allotment of leave based upon a highly detailed leave chart which enabled us to fulfil our demands, and ensure leave was taken. On the whole it is thought that our sojourn at Felixstowe was generally enjoyed by all and it gave the lads plenty of opportunity to study the local bird life.

We assume the following were ambushed and hit by arrows from Cupid's bow, as now they are proudly married men with additional responsibilities heading their way, if all we hear is not idle boasting! We pause here to mention their names with due respect—Dvrs. Brocklebank, Fletcher, Maddox, Jones, Taylor, Stamps. (The pace appears to be hotting up in the marriage stakes—certain members should take care.)

Came the 17th September and saw the departure for Cyprus of the M.T. first XI with "Moto" leading the strong team of N.C.O.s—Sgt. Dunn (Tech.), Sgt. Dickets (R.E.M.E.), Cpl. Fisher (U.S.P.), Cpl. Winterbottom (Veh. kits), Cpl. Robins (Details and Clerk), plus a few drivers. The task of taking over was not an easy one for various reasons which need not be gone into here; but,



despite everything, this was achieved in time and we now look forward to a busy two or three months in which to put our house in order.

Conditions, we find, are quite reasonable, with blocks of good airy rooms complete with fans and heating. The M.T. Compound is good hardstanding, being completely enclosed within a high wire mesh fence. A central block contains offices and stores and elsewhere in the compound is an excellent P.O.L. point of two pumps and office, with oil store. A H.P. water point is being constructed using impure water from a nearby bore-hole, which will give us a restriction-free supply even in the dry season. Cpls. Fisher and Birch are smartening up the U.S.P., which consists of two large ramps—partly under cover—with grease pumps and compressors close to hand. Sgt. Dicketts, R.E.M.E., has established himself in the adjoining shed which offers him four working bays for his V.M.s and is straining at the leash to set his team to work.

Some 10 members of the Section have their families at nearby Larnaca in a mixture of hirings/private accommodation and, on the whole, we think most wives were pleasantly surprised to find their quarters more acceptable than expected.

Finally, our congratulations to M.T. N.C.O.s who have recently attended Courses and obtained the following results:—

- Cpl. Mitchell (a) M.C. Instructor "B"
- (b) Driving Instructor "B"
- L/Cpl. Piper (a) Driving Instructor "B"

H.Q. (ADMIN.) COMPANY

The sub-editor urges that fantasy can hold a mirror up to nature. Well, listen:—

There is a group of adventurous, itinerant men who come from East Anglia who have been divided into four tribes from which women have been excluded. Each of the four tribes are divided into four or five sub-tribes. One of these sub-tribes is responsible for the needs of the rest of the natives and in order that each one knows what they should be doing, this sub-tribe is divided into Departments or Kraals each presided over by a head man, wise and experienced beyond his years.

One Kraal is kept for the amusement of the natives; they make loud noises on brass and wooden instruments and sometimes walk up and down making intricate patterns while everyone else looks solemnly on. Their head man is a great orator who is able to talk the third leg off a stewpot.

Another Kraal is for feeding the natives. their head man is extremely tall and a little thin which means he doesn't eat what he cooks. Yet another Kraal is for the hoarding of all sorts of things in the manner of a jackdaw. These natives seldom see the light of day because they jealously sit and guard what they have and refuse to give any of their things to anyone else unless they have lots of paper in exchange.

There is also a medicine man who is specially skilled in soothing corns and charming warts; like

all medicine men he is old, wizened and much respected.

Meanwhile the rest of the other sub-tribes run about shouting and screaming, sometimes curiously painting their faces.

The tribe has now moved to another land to seek adventure; the indigenous population of East Anglia breathed sighs of relief saying: "Let them go prey on others, for we have truly seen enough."

Fact or fantasy? Anyway, to fact:—

REGIMENTAL BAND

The last quarter has been a time of intense activity to the Band. Our engagements have included:—

Taking part in the Colchester Tattoo; the Brigade Week-end at Bury St. Edmunds; Horncastle and Peterborough Agricultural Shows; Felixstowe Carnival; a Garden Party and Official Reception at Bury St. Edmunds; and a marching display for the Army Benevolent Fund at Butlin's Holiday Camp, Clacton.

We had a full programme during the visit of H.R.H. The Duchess of Gloucester; this was followed the next evening by a very successful All Ranks' Dance.

During the latter part of August we accompanied the Battalion K.A.P.E. team on their tour of Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire, giving concerts in Peterborough, Corby, Kettering and Northampton, and Beating Retreat in Northampton, Stamford and Lincoln. One of the most pleasant aspects of this tour was seeing several ex-members of the Band again; they seem to be determined to impoverish the hairdressers of the two counties!

Our congratulations and best wishes for the future go to Bds. Templeman on his marriage to Miss Olive Irvine of Fillingham, and to L/Cpl. Bray and Bds. Steeples who married sisters, the Misses Vivien and Christine Ovrington of Goole.

DRUMS

Since returning to England from Germany we have been kept busy with parades and tattoos. We spent a very enjoyable week at the Brigade Depot where we had the honour of playing at the Brigade Week-end. After the Brigade Week-end came the Colchester Tattoo and Peterborough Show, which were most enjoyable.

We would like to congratulate L/Cpls. Jubb and Wilcox and Dms. Rouget, Button and Cheetham on their recent promotions, and also Cpl. Wilcox and L/Cpl. Cheetham on their recent marriages and hope they will be very happy. It is with deep regret that we say farewell to Cpl. Brown and Cpl. Daniel who are returning to civilian life, and wish them all the very best of luck.

COMPANY H.Q.

There will be general regret that the Company is losing W.O.2 Smith to "C" Company. His uncanny knowledge of what goes on in the Departments, although extremely valuable to the Company Commander, sometimes proves disconcerting to

others. We will welcome W.O.2 Russell fittingly.

Five C.Q.M.S.s have been through the treadmill: C/Sgt. Smith, Sgt. Shailes, Sgt. Poole, L/Cpl. Fagon and Sgt. Platts.

We shall all be relieved if we are able to hand over the right number of dustbin lids and buildings.

"A" COMPANY

A point that is always impressed on the writers of POACHER notes is the need to include the names of as many men as possible. This is a problem which appears to cause many authors of such notes undue anxiety. Either they do not know the names of their men or else their memories are so inadequate that they find it impossible to recall who did what, if anything, beyond yesterday's breakfast. If the writers fall into the latter category they are then faced with a further problem: how to pad their notes with sufficient hot air to render them acceptable to the Editor. The problem, then, is clear, to produce notes of a reasonable length which should include the names of as many interesting personalities as possible.

If this is agreed, it is difficult to see why it should cause such dismay to those invited to contribute to this worthy journal. Like most problems in the Army, this problem is quite a simple one and is only made complicated by sinister forebodings in the author's mind that anything that appears simple must in fact be of extreme complexity. As far as Company notes are concerned the solution that appears best suited to conform to the need for length and names is that followed by a well known lady journalist (?), who contributes to one of our better known "glossies" in a fortnightly column of singular dullness and futility. Applying her well used technique to THE POACHER we have the following:—

"Visiting Cyprus on the 11th October I was delighted to see the following well known personalities of the military world basking on the sun-drenched beaches of Dhekelia: C.S.M. Dixon, C/Sgt. Wingell, Sgts. Shailes, Knowles, Thompson, Alan, Pte. Boulter, L/Cpl. McCormack (whom I congratulated warmly on his promotion), Cpl. Jackson, L/Cpl. Boothwright (looking so well after his recent course of physical jerks), Pte. Murphy (beautifully tanned), Ptes. Jack, McHale, Lenton, McLean, Pryke, Sparrow, C.S.M. Dixon, Ptes. Scarratt, Alliss, Burton, Fratel, Pryce, C.S.M. Dixon, Ptes. Waters, Blood, C.S.M. Dixon, Ptes. Cox, Easy, etc., and many others too numerous to mention."

SUPPORT PLATOON

"Poacher notes," he said, "no, I just haven't got time to write them, I'm far too busy."

Yes, here in Cyprus things are buzzing, not because the situation deteriorated further since our arrival, but as always when taking over an operational area from another Battalion there is much to do.

It is not easy therefore to cast one's mind back over the past two months, although in fact some events of interest have taken place.

During the latter half of August and early September members of the platoon were dispatched on various K.A.P.E. teams, visiting Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire in an effort to recruit men of those two counties into the Regiment by explaining the characteristics of the Mobat, Wobat and Vickers Vigilant, all anti-tank weapons.

After K.A.P.E. we started our embarkation leave from which we returned for the formation of the Royal Anglian Regiment parade on 22nd September.

Finally we must congratulate L/Cpl. Lawless on his recent marriage, finish these notes and attend to the matter in hand—Cyprus.

1 PLATOON

A lot has happened since the last issue of THE POACHER. We have had several new arrivals since then, all of whom have been welcomed by the platoon. L/Cpl. Cook is on a weapons course in Hythe and we hope that he will rejoin us after Christmas. Pte. Dumford is at the School of Preliminary Education and will not be seen for another six months.

In August we took part in the K.A.P.E. tour of Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire. 1 Platoon again represented the Battalion on K.A.P.E. Stand No. 1 and featured in the marching contingent. We were delighted to see Pte. Boulter who was on leave when we visited Grimsby, but came along to see the parade. After that Cpl. Bradtke and Pte. Wade joined Lieut. Mayhew on a fortnight's follow-up tour in Northamptonshire.

At the time of writing we are at Alexander Barracks getting to know our new and important role of maintaining the security of the Sovereign Base areas here in Cyprus. We are having to work very hard at the moment, but the heat is not too oppressive and the cool season is not too far away. We are very restricted when off duty, but, by saving in a platoon fund, we hope to be able to take advantage of the Island in the fullest possible way.

2 PLATOON

Soon after arriving back from Germany No. 2 Platoon underwent some re-arrangement. 2/Lt. D. W. Costin and Sgt. Shailes took over from Lieut. F. J. T. Young and Sgt. Ashworth.

Felixstowe proved to be by no means the worst possible place in which to spend our time in England. We made use of the beach, and we made friends and contacts all over Eastern England. Indeed our stay proved fateful for Pte. Sanders, whom we congratulate on his marriage.

Events showed less fortunate for Pte. McLean who broke his ankle whilst wearing Cuban-heeled boots. However, he is now well and truly plastered and making a good recovery.

We welcome Ptes. Barber, Blears, Harris, Walker and Wilson, part of a new draft. They have settled down well and we are pleased to have them.

While in Felixstowe our time was filled with parades, kapering around Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire, and, of course, leave. These diverse activities meant that the platoon was rarely together:

until shortly before the move to Cyprus. Pte. Murphy expressed himself as delighted to be going to an island in the sun and, having arrived here, we agree it has great possibilities.

"B" COMPANY

"You are coming to Zyyi?"

"No, sorry, but I have POACHER notes to do."

"Again?"

"By the 15th."

"You're joking?"

"Tim? HELLO, Hello Tim, you've those blanking POACHER notes to do again. . . ."

"By the 15th."

"Of December?"

"No, tomorrow!"

"You're joking?"

"No! . . ."

"Oh give them something about Stalag Franks . . . that's Ormidhia, and the desert outposts of Kalopsidha, etc."

"No, no! Describe the view."

"Dress it up a bit. The ancient chapels giving dignity to a harsh land, where the desert white dusts the drab fingers of the olive trees!"

"Are you serious?"

"Yes. Nothing like a touch of the best of Turnill."

"I see. What about rose-coloured skies and clamorous crowds at Akrotiri?"

"But you weren't there!"

"Well? . . ."

"No, give them the truth, larded with some Robert Frost and Rupert Brook and you'll manage some deathless stuff. Original plagiarism."

"Tomorrow then? . . ."

"Tomorrow."

"I suppose I should knock off a few lines tho' it's early days yet. It's all quite a change after Germany and Felixstowe by the sea. No birds, no nothing. The boys are sitting out on those towers and choking in the dust in the fields. It'll be winter at home."

"Dear Ma, we are wintering in Cyprus. The recruiting posters sometimes tell the truth. Right now the smell of a damp coat and the nearness of you between ice-cream and "Look at Life" wouldn't be amiss."

"I wonder if they will try anything? Feel a bit lonely up here."

"How many rungs in the ladder. Twenty-two? Twenty-four? . . ."

"Bert, how many rungs in the ladder up this tower?"

"Are you alright?"

"Course I'm alright."

"Twenty-four."

"Thinks I'm a bit touched that signaller. It is lonely, too. See those sheep? Bet I could knock them off from here. Ponk! Pow!"

Two more hours.

Sally, Sally, pride of our alley. I wonder who's chatting her up, now I've gone. It's a gold band or nothing there. I wonder if I'd break my neck if I jumped off here. Self-inflicted wounds, that's

two years in the nick. We'll be training again next week, up and down those hills again. "Through these doors go the finest soldiers in the world".

'Up the paratroopers. Right up I say. . . .'

"Hello Tim. You've finished. Good boy. You've what? About a soldier up a tower?"

"They'll never publish that!"

RECCE PLATOON

The above is now under new management. Lieut. Young and Sgt. Sutton run this exclusive Club, suitable for field cavalrymen and amateur tankies. Since arriving in Cyprus the platoon has been busy—we have 7 Ferret Mk. IIs and each member of the platoon must be able to drive, fire the armament (.30 Browning) and operate the radios. Cpl. Starling is our Browning expert, Cpl. Vinson our M.T. specialist and L/Cpl. Mathews our man from G.P.O. 2. Ferrets are at 15 minutes to move day and night and so far we have never taken longer than 10 minutes.

Cpl. Butters has joined us after three years at A.A.S. Arborfield and Pte. Bracey has transferred so that he can keep the Platoon Commander looking his immaculate self.

"C" COMPANY

There are two British Sovereign Base Areas on the island of Cyprus. Dhekelia and Episkopi, the latter containing the air base of Akrotiri. We live at Dhekelia, an area with its own vivid yet austere charm. The blue of the October sea making the combined palette of Messrs. Disney, Agfa and Eastmancolour a faint monochrome memory, collides sharply with the white rock and the red of the soil, a daily contest refereed by a sun whose power and sharpness this autumn are a recurrent source of wonder. The treeless shore rises gently inland to the sudden green of cultivation and the shade of olives, figs and cypresses, the trees softening the illustrated-bible box-shape of the dwellings beyond. Sheep huddle in the shadow and the donkey shakes his friendly grotesque head against some unseen flying enemy.

All this is a comfort for the eye, but there is a quite decisive Dhekelian disadvantage—the S.B.A. is, in the social sense, staggering, stupefyingly sterile. There are just no girls. It is rumoured that the Chief Clerk at Nicosia has a daughter and somebody in Famagusta has a nanny who gets Friday off, and that there is a nurse at B.M.H. who will hold your hand, but you have to be on the D.I list. Apart from these, there is the blue of sea and the white of rock, etc.

"Tiny" Underwood has been reduced to hanging about outside the "Waggoners' Arms" hoping to be arrested by a W.R.A.C. police corporal. No luck so far, but he is thinking of typing out wanted notices, with a description of himself, and having them published on Provost Company Detail. "But now Labour's in," he said complacently, "we shall be all right." Funny, we never thought of Transport House quite like that.

We know exactly how the sailors felt in "South

Pacific": "We got sunlight on the water and lots of dandy games. But what aint we got? . . .

You tell us.

The ancient Greeks claimed that Venus rose from the waves off Paphos, not all that far from here; but so far as we are concerned, having emerged briefly from the briny, she sank back and disappeared permanently without trace.

And so we sit patiently on the ammo. guard, or on the pipeline, or on standby, or in the block, and drink Sam the Char wallah's traditional olde Englishe Neskwick brew and think in the language of letters and separation:—

SWALK
BOLTOP
BURMA
ITALY

Dear John,

Got any good books? What about a few of the best of "B", the gems of the Wilford Foundation? I'm a bit jarred with the old white of the rock and the blue of the sea, etc.

9 PLATOON

Written lazing in the sun.

After several weeks under Sgt. Edwards while the platoon commander was missing (presumed lost) among the M.F.O. boxes arriving from Germany, the platoon at last did have a new officer, and life went on much the same as before. Range work, P.T. and area cleaning competing for first place in the "popularity" stakes.

In the small shooting competition, held just before we left sunny Felixstowe, we did well to win four of the six prizes available. Pte. Twohig won the combined competition with Smith 95 a close runner-up. Twohig was the runner-up in the S.L.R. run down and Relph was runner-up with the S.M.G. (perhaps the weapon suits his size).

During the move to Cyprus we lost Cpl. Warrington, off to Hythe for a few months, and Ptes. Willison, Carvell and Williams who stayed at the Regimental Depot for various reasons.

Now in Cyprus, we have gained Cpl. Shirley from the Gym, with arms and knees still bending and stretching, and Pte. Irons. Cpl. Benner leaves after a short visit to do duties elsewhere in the garrison, while Pte. Coulson is trying hard to separate the Company and its commander by driving him to Nicosia. Did he really nearly succeed?

11 PLATOON

Although the platoon on paper was stationed at Felixstowe seldom was it all there, for much of the time was spent on K.A.P.E. tours in Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire. Still more time was spent on that most favoured pastime, leave. However, time was not wasted and much of it was spent on the 300 range situated within the barracks. Finally, by the end of September, it was time to start packing up for the move to Cyprus.

While at Felixstowe Mr. Welby-Everard left the platoon to go on courses at Hythe and Warminster and Mr. Waller from R.M.A., Sandhurst, took his



Ptes. Scaife, Close, Garside, Gendle, Gray and Larkin, of 12 Platoon, "C" Company.

place. Sgt. Crawshaw has left to join the Northamptonshire T.A. and was replaced by Sgt. Gooch, who arrived from training recruits at Bury St. Edmunds. Congratulations also to Sgt. Gooch on his marriage. The platoon wish him every success and happiness in the future. Well done, L/Cpls. Wood and Melligan on gaining promotion!

12 PLATOON

Our mortars and us, respectively deep bronze green and white in Felixstowe, are now yellow and various shades of red in Cyprus. The October weather here far surpasses even the 1964 English summer. We have been so far guaranteed burning sun and glass-like sea till 11 o'clock every morning. After this the sea breeze gets up to make the afternoons just bearable, but never a cloud. Gatwick was a bore, but we got off lightly with only a few hours delay. Fortunately for us and B.U.A. we were given an excellent meal before being told for the second time that our flight was to be delayed. In the end we got off without a hitch. The weighing-in girls were very nice. Larkin weighed his kit about eight times.

Congratulations go to Sgt. Worley and L/Cpl. Waite on their promotion. The platoon has no wives out here so we swim a lot. This is easy here as the water is more salty than is usual. We have been kept pretty busy so far and have not yet organised other activities. Gray has started running despite Felixstowe; we have come at the right time of the year for him as the season is just beginning.

The barrack block is right on the sea and is equipped with many fans and a char wallah. At present we are operating more like a rifle platoon than a mortar platoon. Some members of the platoon are learning to become dog-handlers and we wish them luck—as would anyone who has seen the dogs!

Territorial Army



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

OFFICERS' MESS

This is traditionally a quiet period after the bustle of Camp. However, despite the fact that we are Messless, our property is as far as one can assess divided between the Old Mess, Q.M.'s Stores, Depot Guard Room, and Major Segon's Office, in various packing cases. We did find the essential items to hold a Mess gathering on Saturday, 22nd August, when we were permitted to christen the 16th Independent Parachute Company's Mess, which is situated on the first floor of the old Depot Admin. block. Our gatherings coincided with the visit to the County of the 2nd East Anglian Regt., and we welcomed Colonel Chambers and the officers who were in the touring party.

The Battalion Weapons Meeting was held at Beckingham on the last week-end in August and in glorious weather. We had a marquee on the range in which a buffet luncheon was served to over forty officers and guests.

The second Dinner for the Battalion was held on the 2nd October in the White Hart Hotel, Lincoln. Our guests were Brigadier R. H. L. Oulton, C.B.E., Colonel F. C. L. Bell, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., Major P. H. Segon, M.B.E., and Capt. F. Seiling. The following officers attended: Colonel G. M. Sanders, T.D., D.L., Lt.-Col. A. J. Bennett, M.B.E., T.D., Majors Flint, Marshall, Kime, Jessop, Macklam, Newsum, Turnbull, Spratt, Staples, Styles, Foster, Clarke, Farrant, Graham, Armstrong, White, Capt. Stanton, Rushby, Hart, Dickinson, Dawson, Batten, Beard, Lieuts. Mundy, Potter, Williams, Gleadell, 2/Lts. Phillips and Gregory.

The new T.A. Centre is now no longer a shell and the details are being actively discussed. The sub-committee under Brian Foster meets almost weekly to discuss the furnishing and fitting, while the items we have retained from the old Mess are now in the hands of experts for renovation.

We have said farewell to John and Marjorie Barstow, and thank them for the tremendous efforts they made for us, and welcome Tom and Audrey Styles into our midst and hope they will enjoy their tour with us.

We congratulate John Gleadell on his engagement to Miss Penelope Parker.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Our notes are written with somewhat mixed feelings of our Annual Camp held earlier this year at Otterburn, but all agree that one feels much fitter physically, and that our knowledge of certain military training matters has improved. We were delighted to see and welcome to our Mess the following officers: Brigadier R. H. L. Oulton, C.B.E., Colonel F. C. L. Bell, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., The Lord Worsley, D.L., and Air Commodore E. D. McK. Nelson, C.B., and in addition, of course, our C.O. and the officers of the Battalion whom we entertained following our Mess Dinner which was again a success.

For the past two Camps we have held an entirely new venture socially, in that the Corporals and Lance-Corporals of the Battalion are invited to the Mess for one evening during Camp, and we feel it is worth our efforts considering how popular this is amongst the junior N.C.O.s and how much they seem to enjoy them. After all, most are future members of the Mess, and what better "grooming" toward this?

S/Sgt. "Harry" Hill, P.S.I. of "C" Company, has rejoined the 2nd Bn., and we are pleased that his replacement is Sgt. B. Graves. A warm welcome is extended by all to him and his family, wishing them a happy stay at Grimsby.

Sgts. "Spud" Taylor (Grantham Det.), "Harry" Bellamy (A/Pnr. Sgt.) and "John" Toyne (A/Tk. Sgt.) have all left on discharge and we wish to thank them for all their hard work, and hope to see them when they can visit our new Mess in the future.

All our P.S.I.s and the H.Q. Company W.O.s' and Sgts.' Committee are to be congratulated on organising "Regimental Day" held at Sobraon Barracks. Although the attendance was not quite up to expectations owing to various other functions in the City, our efforts were rewarded with a substantial profit which we welcome. The day took the form of a Bring and Buy Sale, Bowling for a pig kindly given by Capt. Dawson, and other items and sideshows normally seen at local Garden Fêtes. Special mention must be made of Sgt. Cyril Spencer

who produced on loan these sideshows, and to our C.O., who kindly opened the Day. The Sports programme included races for the children, the ladies, the Band, and the Old Soldiers, into all of which much enthusiasm was put. Following the tea interval a cricket match took place, C.O.'s XI versus Sgt. Grocock's XI, the latter team consisting of Staff-Sergeants and below. This was a most exciting game with runs galore, the C.O.'s XI winning comfortably. It was interesting to see the children so well entertained during the match in the form of a Treasure Hunt. This proved an excellent idea in keeping the cricket boundaries clear for so many dangerous hard-hit shots, or may we say "strokes". The day concluded with the ceremony of Beating Retreat by our Band and Drums, and it was generally felt that such a Regimental function be held annually.

H.Q. COMPANY

We have enjoyed a reasonably busy and successful period since Camp—despite the holidays which make any organised training difficult. We had a success at the Battalion Rifle Meeting by winning the S.M.G. Cup, also in the Inter-Battalion Motor Rally we had teams placed 1st and 3rd, the winning team being Cpl. Beale, Ptes. A. K. Creasey and S. Garner Jones, while in third place the team was Ptes. Holloway, G. Garner-Jones and M. R. Taylor.

We had a Company Week-end at Theddlethorpe in September when we were joined by "B" Company for a night patrolling exercise.

The Band and Drums have had a very strenuous time, either practising or playing at some event. In addition to the Rifle Meeting they have played at a St. John Ambulance Brigade Review at Scunthorpe, in the Arboretum in Lincoln, at a Church Service in Grimsby, a Harvest Festival at South Ormsby, also at Leicester with the combined Bands of 148 Brigade, and in the T.A. Band Competition at Scunthorpe, where we were rather disappointingly last.

We welcome to the Company Ptes. Baldwin, Fenn, Everatt, Hobson, Hutchinson, Love, Key and Ryder, and have said farewell to Sgts. Bellamy, Taylor, Toyne, L/Cpls. Barr, Barrowcliffe and Helgeson.

We congratulate L/Cpl. Proctor on his promotion.

In order to add variety at Grantham, the anti-tank platoon have moved from Lincoln, where it will be now permanently based. We hope with this added attraction our Detachment will continue to increase in strength under 2/Lt. Rhodes, who has already done well. Cpls. Winter, Goodband and L/Cpl. Thorpe attended the A.C.F. Camp and gave valuable help.

2/Lt. Rhodes has had a week's detachment to the Royal Leicestershire Regt. at Watchet, while Lieut. Williams has recently returned from a course at the School of Chemical Warfare.

"A" COMPANY

Once again the Grinling Cup has been filled from the well known Red Barrel and passed round in



Photo by the "Stamjura Mercury"

"A" Company water-borne detachment, coxed by Sgt. Edgeley about to shoot Market Deeping Bridge.

celebration of retaining the cup for the second year in succession. The mainstay of our success this year was our continued good recruiting figures, our small bore shooting, and our well-earned second place at the Battalion Rifle Meeting.

On 19th and 20th of September the Company took part in a water-borne exercise on the Welland, organised by C.S.M.s Barsby and Thompson. Assault boats were paddled from West Deeping to Spalding, and the whole exercise was well covered by the local press. The fact that the Company still remains at the same strength speaks for itself (and the life jackets), and we have heard of no bodies being dragged from the river.

Another successful event has been the organising of a highly successful triangular .22 Competition between "B" Company, 4/5 Northamptons, and a team from R.A.F. Wittering. The whole evening was organised on a fairly "social" basis, and we took care to be good hosts by losing to the R.A.F. by a substantial margin.

We welcome one new recruit in Pte. Dixon, and another newcomer from the Welch Regiment, Pte. Davies. Finally, our hearty congratulations to Sgt. Bannister on his recent promotion.

"B" COMPANY

A great deal has gone on since we came back from Annual Camp in June involving both training week-ends and the Battalion Rifle Meeting in late August. On the 18th-19th July the representatives of the Company took part in adventure training on the River Witham, involving the travelling by assault boat to an area near Lincoln and marching across country to a selected rendezvous. Members

acquitted themselves very well indeed and gained the praise of the C.O. for their efforts.

On a number of Tuesday evening drill nights members of the Company rifle team went to Horn-castle Range to practice the various matches for the Battalion Rifle Meeting as well as attending on several week-ends there to gain proficiency.

The whole Company went over to Beckingham on the week-end of the 29th-30th August to attend the Battalion Rifle Meeting. We were extremely lucky in the brilliant weather we had, especially on the Sunday, when we ran a bus to bring families of members and old members to the Range. The Company team consisting of Capt. G. Dawson, Sgt. M. Graves, Cpl. C. Bailey, L/Cpl. F. Wright and Ptes. R. Andrew, J. Kenny and F. Vines did well, retaining the Spalding Detachment Cup for the best team in the Falling Plates, as well as Pte. R. Andrew winning the tankard for the best Class "B" shot. The Company was again represented in the Battalion team taking part in the Divisional Rifle Meeting in the middle of August.

On the 19th-20th September the Company spent the week-end at Theddlethorpe camping out on the sand dunes and doing individual cooking in the field, as well as practising patrolling against H.Q. Company, on the Saturday night. We were very lucky to have good and dry weather for it, and everyone who attended enjoyed themselves a great deal. On the Sunday we saw a demonstration of support weapons being fired and several of the Company were given a chance of firing the weapons themselves.

On the 25th September we held our Company Dinner at the Peacock Hotel at Kirton, at which 60 of our members and their families attended. The evening was a very successful one, the first that the Company has had lately, finishing up with going back to the T.A. Centre at Boston and having a social evening there. We were very pleased to welcome ex-C.S.M. George Johnson looking very fit and well and full of interest of all our doings. We were also pleased to welcome to the Company Lieut. R. H. Jacques and Ptes. D. C. M. Cooke, P. M. Tebbs and T. L. Williams, and hope that their stay will be a long and successful one.

As we go to press we are looking forward to attending a training week-end at Beckingham towards the end of October, and taking part in the Remembrance Sunday parade when the Battalion and the Band will be coming to Boston this year. After that we shall be getting ready for the Annual Administrative Inspection and the Children's Christmas Party in December.

"C" COMPANY

The autumnal quarter started nostalgically if somewhat appropriately with an informal dinner and social evening to wish our P.S.I., S/Sgt. Hill, and Mrs. Hill, farewell.

The social was attended by some 60 members of the Company and their wives, and although some may not be too clear of the ultimate outcome of the evening, congratulations are due to C/Sgt.

Platt, Cpls. Brett and Hardy, and other members of the Social Committee for a well-arranged and enjoyable evening.

At almost the same time we learned of our Company Commander's decision to retire from an active roll in the T.A. The Company has achieved much under Bernard Dixon's leadership and we wish him good luck in his ever-increasing business commitments.

The Company shooting team did not unfortunately find bulls easy to come by at the Battalion Rifle Meeting and finished down the field, but we have to congratulate Sgt. Couldstone on winning the individual rifle championship for the second time and P.S.I. Sgt. Graves on winning the Permanent Staff Competition.

Our Company Week-end at Donna Nook proved quite a success, the enemy, who looked very much like C.S.M. Cressey, Sgt. Graves, Sgt. Cross and L/Cpl. Waller, were very active and elusive throughout the week-end, finally disappearing in a cloud of smoke that for a while threatened to end the Wild Fowling season much earlier than usual. All agreed it made a change to have smoked bacon and sausage for breakfast, and Sgt.-Maj. Reeves and C/Sgt. Flett once again produced excellent fare for the week-end.

Finally we welcome new recruits Ptes. A. J. T. Smith, P. M. Smith, and O. P. Caldecott to the Company, and hope their association with us will be a long and enjoyable one.

"D" COMPANY

This has been a most encouraging quarter for us. We have been most encouraged by recruiting. We welcome 2/Lt. Gregory on transfer from Lincoln and, because the age limit has been lowered to 17, we have been able to enlist the following soldiers: Ptes. Slack, Stocks, Rowley, Cooper, Nicholas and Lawrence. We hope their stay will be long and profitable.

Our biggest success has been in winning the Battalion Rifle Meeting. The team was: C.S.M. R. Ingram, Sgt. R. Hiles, Cpls. J. Walmsley and S. Walkeden, L/Cpl. J. Kirton, Ptes. R. Cowen, H. Lindo, R. Stanton, M. Wilson and K. Towriss.

Other success has come in the Battalion Vehicle Rally. After two hard days' driving, Sgt. Hiles, Sgt. Rainsforth and Cpl. Young ended second and Ptes. McKinnon, Morton and Towriss ended seventh out of fourteen entrants. A very good effort all round.

Training has continued steadily with an emphasis on our new recruits. An enjoyable Company Week-end took place at Theddlethorpe, sleeping rough on the sea shore. Energa firing, map reading exercises and physical training formed the syllabus.

We end these notes with the thought that the Admin. parade is not far away. W.O.2 McCarthy is talking of painting tables black, filing cabinets grey and safes green, which should brighten the Company office.

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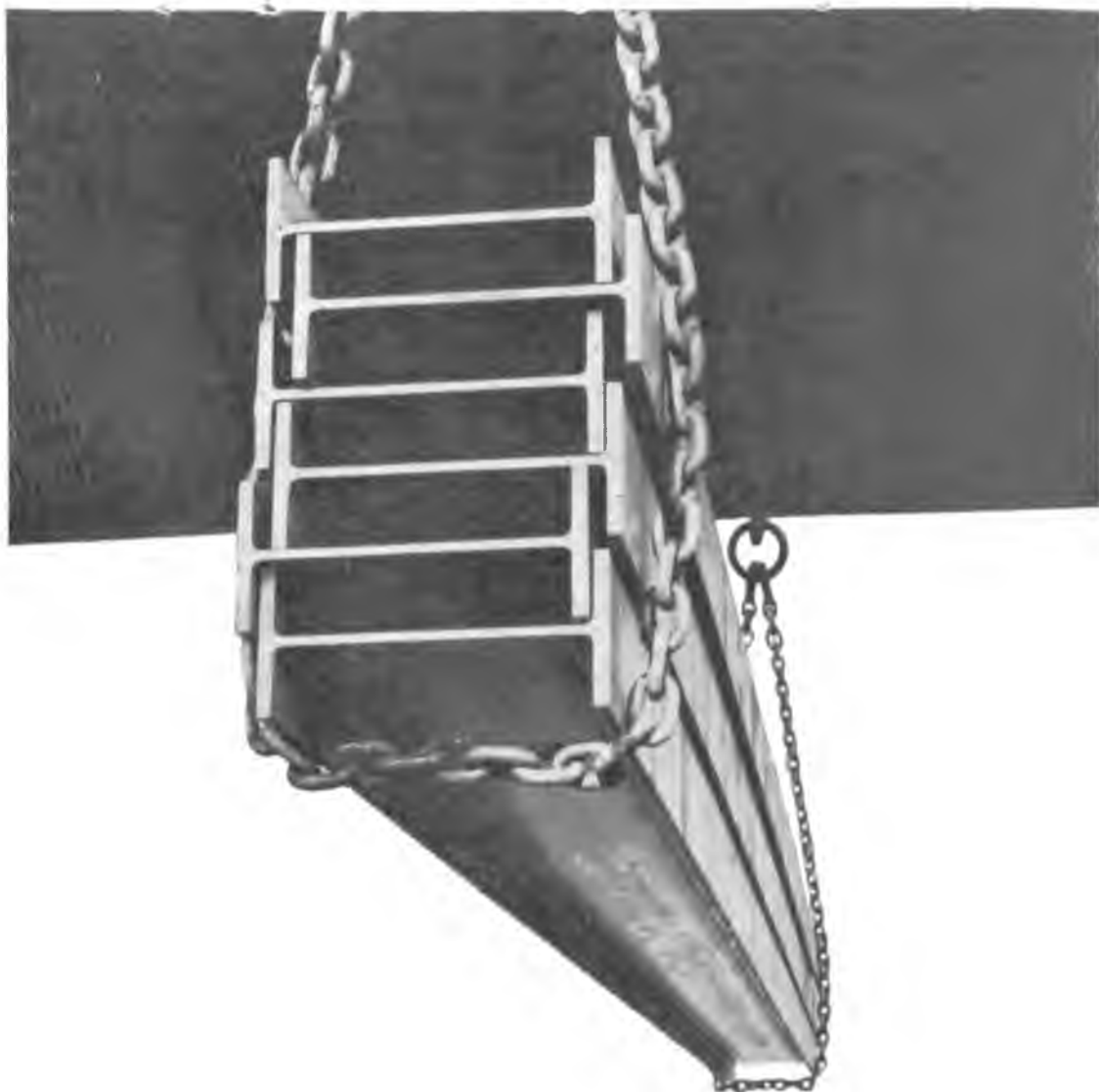
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4th/5th Battalion

The Northamptonshire Regt. (T.A.)

RIFLE MEETING

Fine weather blessed our successful Rifle Meeting held at Brington Ranges, Northampton, on 29th-30th August, 1964. Over 500 competitors and guests attended. The premier award of the Meeting, "Champion at Arms", went to Sgt. J. Evans (H.Q.) P.S.I., second was Sgt. J. Capstaff ("D") Company. Before the presentation of prizes, the Battalion Second-in-Command thanked the visiting civic officials for giving up several hours of their time to attend. He also paid tribute to the Battalion Band and the work of the Permanent Staff. The prizes were presented by Colonel The Earl Spencer, T.D.

RESULTS

Band and Drums Match

Winners—Band. Sgt. J. Stallerbrass, Sgt. A. Lane, Sgt. K. Parker, Sgt. J. Jarvis.

Comrades Match

1st (Equal)—Major D. Baxter and Lieut. P. Kelly.

3rd—Mr. A. Snape.

Cadet Match

Winners—2nd Bn. Northamptonshire A.C.F. (Kettering).

Ladies' Match

1st—Mrs. T. Gulson.

2nd (equal)—Miss E. Pugh and Mrs. T. Kennedy.

Invitation Falling Plate

Winners—U.S.A.F. Alconbury.

Runners-up—U.S.A.F. Mildenhall.

Officers and Sergeants Falling Plate

Winners—Officers. Major R. C. Jeffery, Capt. W. H. Baxter, Capt. R. Pearce, Capt. N. R. Ayrton, 2/Lt. C. A. Bull and O/Cadet C. A. Nutt.

Young Soldiers' Class

1st—Pte. T. Wilgucki ("D" Company).

2nd—Pte. G. A. Tew ("C" Company).

3rd—Pte. B. K. Green ("C" Company).

Private Soldiers' Class

1st—Pte. J. A. Dick ("B" Company).

2nd—Pte. R. Menzies ("B" Company).

3rd—Pte. T. F. Turner ("A" Company).

Corporals' and Lance-Corporals' Class

1st—Cpl. M. Foy ("C" Company).

2nd—Cpl. P. Feely ("B" Company).

3rd—Cpl. N. Freeman (H.Q. Company).

W.O.s' and Sergeants' Class

1st—Sgt. J. Evans (H.Q. Company).

2nd—C.S.M. D. G. Brett ("B" Company)

3rd—Sgt. D. Knight ("D" Company).

Officers' Class

1st—Major D. G. M. Anstee (Battalion H.Q.).

2nd—Capt. N. R. Ayrton ("A" Company).

3rd—O/Cadet C. A. Day ("B" Company).

Bisley Class

1st—Sgt. J. Capstaff ("D" Company).

2nd—Sgt. J. Clinton ("B" Company).

3rd—C.S.M. J. Kelly ("D" Company).

Inter-Company Championship

Winners—H.Q. Company.

Capt. R. Pearce, Sgt. J. Evans, Sgt. M. Kavanagh, Cpl. N. Freeman, Cpl. J. Afford, C.S.M. F. Beales, Cpl. T. Gulson, Cpl. M. Smith.

Champion at Arms

1st—Sgt. J. Evans (H.Q.).

2nd—Sgt. J. Capstaff ("D" Company).

3rd—Cpl. M. Foy ("C" Company).

(Sgt. Evans received the Kingsmith Cup and a large engraved replica).

Pool Bull

Winner—Cpl. R. Coatsworth.

SERGEANTS' MESS

At the time of writing we are just at the end of the summer holiday period, during which time of course Mess functions are held in abeyance. We did however have a successful curry lunch just prior to the August period, and again we must thank our cooks for their magnificent work. For the future we are planning social evenings and, of course, by the time this goes to press we shall be preparing for the Christmas Festivities.

Congratulations are extended to Sgt. Billingham, our newest arrival, who together with "Buckle" will be able to give the Mess more of a nautical roll. Military-wise Sgts. Segasby and Winkle represented the Mess on the Nijmegen March with the "B" Company and Oundle School C.C.F. teams respectively. In the shooting field Sgt. "Joe" Evans became the Champion at Arms, 1964, at the Battalion Rifle Meeting, and four Sergeants of our Band—Sgts. Stallerbrass, Lane, Parker and Jarvis formed the team that won the Band v. Drums match. At the Divisional Rifle Meeting Sgt. "Slim



Photograph by kind permission of "E. Telegraph", Kettering

Bn. Rifle Meeting, 30th August, 1964. Left to right: Colonel A. Allebone, T.D., Brigadier R. H. L. Oulton, C.B.E., Major D. F. Hooton, T.D., Lieut.-Colonel J. H. Johnson, T.D., Colonel J. T. Lewis, T.D., D.L.

Capstaff took 5th place in the Individual Championship.

We regret to say that this year the Officers v. Sergeants' Mess Falling Plate competition was won by the Officers, but to balance matters the Sergeants (Sgts. Bailey, Clinton, Mason and Westley) beat the Officers on the Annual Assault Course Competition. We await a suitable trophy!

H.Q. COMPANY

The Battalion Rifle Meeting at Brington was made particularly enjoyable for us by the weather, which was near perfect for the occasion, and by the performance of the Company's team, which triumphed in the China Cup Competition. A noteworthy individual performance was that of Sgt. Evans who emerged as Champion at Arms, and also won the P.S.I. prize. Reflected glory falls on Cpl. Gulson, whose instruction was so good as to enable his wife to win the Ladies' Individual Competition. Cpl. Gulson is reported to have been seen later on the Sunday evening taking instructions from Capt. Pearce on the care and cleaning of silver spoons.

The M.T. Platoon have been contributing to the Battalion team marksmen, with Cpls. Cox and Davies newly joining.

In addition M.T. Platoon have been busy during these summer training periods combining driving with navigation by map reading exercises. During the training week-end held at Tiffield, our knowledge of Northamptonshire road and waterways was increased by Cfn. Simpson's discovery that the

water in the ditch parallel to the Northampton/Towcester Road, although waist deep, is not navigable.

A combined exercise with the Recce Platoon was successful in providing not only most useful training but also enough information for Lieut. Bailey to write a book which would do for drinking what the "Good Food" guide does for eating!

The forces of I. and Recce combined on a map reading exercise during a training week-end held near the Norfolk coast. To everyone's regret the coastguard service advised against the use of boats. In spite of this, some use was made of the opportunity offered for sea bathing, and this, together with Sgt. Wilkinson's cooking, helped to make the week-end as enjoyable as it was instructive.

The Company's training programmes are now arranged so that the first drill night of the month is devoted to drill and weapon training. The first of these, in October, was well attended although since it was also the pay night motives may have been mixed.

This night was also the occasion when we bade "God speed" to Lieut. P. Johnson, whose work takes him again to Italy. We wish him success in this new venture, and look forward to his return next year.

"A" COMPANY

Having returned from a successful Camp, training settled down and an effort was made to increase our prowess on the rifle range and in particular with the S.L.R. and L.M.G. Encouraged by our

efforts in the Battalion Skill-at-Arms competition, in which "A" Company were the leaders until the last event, we spent several week-ends at Brington, and our standard of shooting improved. With the increase in numbers of S.L.R. we were, for the first time, able to allocate a rifle to each man—although it was surprising how quickly certain volunteers forget their number—A.12 seemed to be a much favoured weapon!

Although we did not win an individual event at the Battalion Rifle Meeting, we obtained several places and we were very pleased to tie with H.Q. Company in the Inter-Company China Cup Competition—with a total of 268 points each. The highest rifle score decided the winners but only again by one point. This was a particularly pleasing result for us. The Company team was C.S.M. Sye, Cpl. Robinson (L.M.G. pair); L/Cpl. Felkins, Pte. Turner, Pte. Wright, Pte. Burrige, L/Cpl. Parker and Major Jeffery.

A strenuous week-end was spent in Derbyshire on 22nd-23rd August. This was another of the adventure week-ends and Lieut. J. Ford was promoted to Company Commander for this exercise. Accompanied by "C" Company we arrived at the Company rendezvous at about 1700 hours on the 22nd August and immediately formed up in patrols and swept across country toward Company H.Q.; on the way two enemy patrols were captured and, under pressure, revealed certain important information relating to the next stage of the exercise. After a very good meal prepared by C.S.M. Sye and C/Sgt. Jellis, the Company took over one of the local taverns for a couple of hours. The next stage, which consisted of a night patrol over some very difficult countryside, proved perhaps to be a little too adventurous although one C.S.M. and his patrol did achieve the objective (or did they?). Arriving back about 0330 hours a truce was declared for two hours, and at 0600 hours the last and most ambitious phase started. The enemy was disturbed at a road junction and were literally chased down a lane and finally captured at the entrance of Dove Dale. Again under pressure they revealed the hide-out of their leader. Led now by the Second-in-Command, Major J. W. H. Green, who in spite of the early hour apparently gave an unrehearsed but most informative running commentary on the beauties of Dove Dale, the various sections converged on the final objective, Thorpe Cloud, now heavily guarded by the umpires and Company Commanders. After a certain amount of persuasion and driving, everyone managed to climb this. After a strenuous night this last objective was, without doubt, a severe test on endurance and perhaps explained the reason for the complete exercise, which was to prove that in spite of being apparently dead-beat and all in, it is possible to break through this barrier and to go on—and on. It was obvious to quite a few that, at the foot of this rather imposing and awe-inspiring height, they were convinced they just could not go on. In fact everyone climbed it—some even claim to have climbed it twice! This was a very strenuous but worthwhile week-end. We were very well served by our temporary

cooks, topped off with a most excellent breakfast. A cine film was taken by O/Cadet P. Nutt.

Perhaps the next notable achievement this session was our success in the Assault Course Competition. Having been narrowly pipped at the post in the last two Battalion Competitions, we carefully selected our team for the assault course. The last time we saw this was some two years ago at Stanford—no doubt O/Cadet Meredith still has painful memories of this. Success at last! We won the competition and brought the shield back to Northampton. Our team consisted of L/Cpl. Felkins (capt.), L/Cpl. Shortland, Pte. Fowkes, Pte. Eason, Pte. Richardson, Pte. Wright, Pte. Burrige, and congratulations to them all.

Capt. N. Ayrton won the Company .22 Rifle Competition held at Clare Street. The fact that he also ran and judged this is a pure coincidence.

We are very grateful to our Hon. Colonel, The Earl Spencer, for allowing us to use his land for training. This opens up new avenues of training and, of course, this vast area contains a great variety of different terrain. To date Capt. Ayrton has run one night exercise and what appears to be comparatively straightforward going in daylight is quite different at night. This lesson has been adequately demonstrated before but perhaps never so effectively as one night in October.

Congratulations to Sgt. Billingham and L/Cpl. Turner on their promotions, and we are sorry to report that, amongst several others, Cpl. T. J. Robinson has now joined the Regular Services—the Royal Navy! We wish them all success in their new life.

"B" COMPANY

The first big event in which this Company was involved since the last edition of these notes was participation in the International four-day marches in Nijmegen, the last four days in July. We are pleased to report that our efforts were successful, each member gaining his appropriate medal, and a further team medal was obtained. This was not achieved, however, without a considerable expenditure of "blood, toil, tears and sweat". It is not advisable to use the term "week-end soldier" to a certain member of the "I" section!

Next came the Battalion Rifle Meeting at the end of August. It is pleasing to record that although we did not hit the heights in the Inter-Company match, nevertheless we were represented in the award winners in every class (including the ladies).

During the week-end 5th-6th September, in conjunction with "D" Company (and with members of other Companies and the A.C.F. also participating) we took part in Exercise "Cromwell III". This was based on different methods of crossing a river. The exercise was carried out with great enthusiasm and many lessons were learnt (including the unpredictable behaviour of cows!). It was unfortunate that after weeks of glorious weather the heavens opened on the Saturday evening. Fortunately this occurred during a tactical lull in the



Group of teams waiting for the start of the Assault Course Competition — 19th September, 1964.

proceedings, and on the whole we were able to avoid the worst.

Finally, on 19th-20th September we had a good turnout for the weapons week-end at Stanford P.T.A. Recruits and T.A.E.R. personnel had the opportunity of firing the Energa, 2-in. mortar, and throwing grenades. From their side all went well. With the 3-in. mortars however it was one of *those* week-ends. Apart from the actual firing, everything went sadly astray. Mention of the words "base plate" to any mortar man (or the officer commanding) is liable to bring on an apoplectic fit!

During this period most of our employed men have been busy. The cooks especially have had a very busy time, catering for all the events mentioned, and certain others. Our Mess staff and regimental police have also been heavily committed.

Two main social events have taken place during this period. On 23rd August the Band and Drums Beat Retreat on the Market Place before an audience of about 600. After which we entertained the Chairman of Corby U.D.C. and several Councillors in the Club.

On 12th September a full-scale Club social was held. Our R.E.M.E. colleagues provided many props and assisted greatly in the preparation of the hall. The event was voted a great success—only complaint, the usual, shortage of space.

In general, since the holidays, the numbers attending drill evenings have begun to show an upward trend, and we are now more or less settled into our cadre training in earnest.

We are getting a steady flow of new recruits coming along. With the advent of the dark nights most of our training will be carried out in the drill hall. Training will be concentrated on learning, practising and improving the basic skills.

On the social side we have Christmas and Hogmanay to look forward to and prepare for. That takes us to 1965—and the wheel is still turning—thoughts of camp, Nijmegen, etc. A Territorial soldier, like a gardener, always has something to look forward to, whatever the time of year.

"C" COMPANY

Surely it couldn't be time again for Journal Notes, it seems only a very short time since I put down my pen from writing the last lot. However, it is commonly accepted that when one is busy and active the time does fly, and those of us in "C" Company lead an extremely active life with two drill nights a week and a T.A. activity of some sort or other nearly every week-end in addition to our normal employment—never a dull moment.

On 4th July before going to the Regimental Reunion at Northampton "C" Company organised an interesting Recruiting Stand in Bassett's Close, Wellingborough, at the Annual Charities Fête, and we were delighted to welcome two new recruits, Pte. Purnell and Pte. Green as a result. We also welcome Ptes. Morby, Patel and Simcoe—all of whom have joined us since Camp.

We had our usual August Holiday fortnight break and started back just in time to give a bumper farewell party and send-off to C.S.M. Wolfe and C/Sgt. Chapman. We are indeed indebted to C.S.M. Wolfe for his understanding and general approach to T.A. problems. He was a very popular Sgt.-Maj. with the men and a tower of strength to his Company Commander, and we shall indeed miss him greatly—that is of course if we can't persuade Mrs. Wolfe to let him join the T.A. In his retirement from the Army C.S.M. Wolfe is now living in Northampton and we are delighted that he hasn't forgotten us and we still see him in the Club.

C/Sgt. Chapman has worked hard at Rushden and we thank him also for all his efforts during his stay with us. He was a most popular member of the unit and the Club and we wish him well and good luck in his new posting to Cyprus. We welcome Sgt. Crawshaw as his replacement and hope that he and his family enjoy their stay with us.

On 22nd August we held a combined Military Training Exercise with "A" Company—"Grendon Gallop", so named after that delightful piece of

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countryside north of Ashbourne in the Dove Dale area. The exercise was most successful and O/Cadet Nutt has produced an interesting and indeed amusing cine film of various aspects of the exercise. The final assault up Thorpe Cloud proved quite a strain, only the fittest amongst us reaching the summit. Pte. Loasby is to be congratulated on being first up at the top.

On 17th September we held a party in the Club to help L/Cpl. Warr spend some of his £150 Ever Ready Bounty.

This year Sgt. Crawshaw put considerable effort into training our team for the Battalion Assault Course and both he and C.S.M. Cheshire religiously checked all of the kit—very few points were lost either on the kit check or the actual over-coming of the obstacle course—our main downfall being on the time taken on magazine filling. However, the team are to be congratulated on being runners-up and we will make sure that magazine filling does not let us down another year.

Behind the bar in the Club at Wellingborough in a prominent position we proudly display the Brigade Inter-Battalion "Tug-of-War" Shield. This we are sharing with "B" Company as it was a combined team of "C" and "B" Companies who won it for the Battalion.

Finally, we congratulate Cpl. Foy on winning the Corporals' Cup at the Battalion Rifle Meeting, and Pte. Green for being runner-up in the Recruits' Cup.

Congratulations to Pte. Howell on his promotion to L/Cpl. Incidentally before going to Press we have said farewell to Major Denis Anstee, our Battalion Training Major, and "C" Company held a party in his honour on the occasion of his last official visit to Wellingborough. Looking to the future on the social side the Company Commander, Major D. F. Hooton, has daringly decided to hold a bonfire and fireworks display on 5th November for all of the children of "C" Company, and we expect there will be some pretty "old" children there as well.

We congratulate Capt. and Mrs. W. H. Baxter on the addition to their family of a daughter, Rosamund.

"D" COMPANY

Exercise "Cromwell III", Roundheads, Royalists, Red paper, Blue paper, such was the nomenclature for our latest operation which involved various methods of opposed crossing over the River Ouse at Huntingdon, in the main by night. Recce boats, assault boats and an aerial ropeway were all utilised and thanks to sterling support from the remainder of the Battalion plus whole-hearted co-operation by adults and cadets of the 2nd ("C") Bn., The Northamptonshire Regiment led by Capt. John Lawman, a satisfactory week-end was had by all. There were those who wondered why, after writing and planning the exercise the Company Commander was nowhere to be seen, but suffice to say that he was not hiding in any of the local oak trees—licensed or otherwise. Of course, living by the

river as we do we have a strong bias towards it and more so as we provide the Assault Pioneer Section for the Battalion so that no one will be surprised to read that "Cromwell II", which took place in July, also involved a 12-mile journey along the Ouse in assault boats fitted with outboard motors. However, lest some reader feels at this stage that he is reading a follow-on to the account of the Battle of Jutland, let me hasten to add that this was preceded by a 12-mile march of half-sections in pouring rain, having been dropped from vehicles in the dark at unknown points.

In July we also had a very successful .22 shoot against the U.S.A.A.F. at Mildenhall where it was generally conceded that we were the winners, but revenge was not far away for at the Battalion Rifle Meeting in August the visiting team's falling plate match was won, out of a strong field, by U.S.A.A.F. Alconbury with Mildenhall finishing a very close second. For the Company Pte. Wilgucki, a recruit of but a few months' standing, did extremely well to win the Young Soldiers' Competition whilst in the Bisley Class we congratulate Sgt. Jim Capstaff and C.S.M. Jim Kelly on being placed 1st and 3rd respectively.

During the summer months we have been able to put in some very useful outdoor training both tactically and with our weapons, and most members of the Company are now becoming reasonably proficient with the S.L.R. Map reading and compass work has also been well to the fore.

On the Recruiting Front we are lining up for an all-out attack on St. Neots where we hope to obtain some form of accommodation in the very near future, and in the meantime our three musketeers, Chris Bull, Sgt. Lumsden and Pte. Jordan are doing some excellent spadework for us. At Huntingdon, too, we are at last beginning to see more recruits although we have suffered the loss of Pte. Kirton to the Regular Battalion where we are sure he will do very well indeed.

History of the Royal West African Frontier Force

This History was published on 30th September by Messrs. Gale & Polden of Aldershot and covers the whole record of the R.W.A.F.F. from its inception to the independence of the four former British West African Colonies. It has been written in two parts by Colonel A. Haywood, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., and Brigadier F. A. S. Clarke, D.S.O., both distinguished and experienced former officers of the Frontier Force.

The price to the general public is £2 2s. 0d. and the book can be obtained either direct from Gale & Polden or from any bookseller. If ordering by post please add 2s. 6d. for postage.

Members of the R.W.A.F.F. Dinner Club can obtain copies for 32s. 6d. post free if they send their remittance to Lt.-Col. G. A. C. Napier, Upper Flat, 15 Magdala Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham.

The Depot Royal Anglian Regiment

We celebrated the formation of the new Regiment on 1st September by holding a parade taken by Colonel Denny, the Regimental Colonel, in the morning and in the afternoon a fete was organised at very short notice but which was much enjoyed by everyone, especially the children, every platoon and department producing a stall which proved to everyone's amazement a great success.

The same day General Sir Roderick McLeod visited us to say good-bye on giving up his appointment of G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command.

Many changes have taken place, the most noteworthy being the departure of Lt.-Col. Palmer. He will be very much missed by all ranks for what he has been and what he has done whilst he has been here. We all know of the great personal interest which he took in all aspects of Depot life; his cheerful manner and wise counsel will always be remembered. Both to him and Mrs. Palmer we say good-bye with much regret.

We welcome Lt.-Col. H. W. Clark, who comes to us from being 2 i/c to the 2nd Bn. of the Regiment.

Major Styles has left to become the Training Major of 4/6th Bn., Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, his place being taken by Major Cobbold, 1st Bn.

The recruiting rate has been very good lately and there is now a platoon over 30-strong awaiting training. Generally one platoon starts every two weeks.

The Junior Soldiers' Wing Summer Camp this year took place in the Lake District. Out of 40 Juniors at Camp 34 joined the Silver Stage Expedition of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

In the Sergeants' Mess there have been, as is normal, many changes but still the Mess flourishes. Q.M.S.I.s Knox and Fell have left and will be much missed. S/Sgts. Wright and Wood have

taken their place, whom we welcome.

The Brigade Week-end was held as usual this year in the middle of July and there were more people attending than on previous occasions. The Beating of Retreat which for the first time included four Bands, the 2nd, 3rd, 4th Bns. and Depot Bands, was nearly wrecked by a heavy thunderstorm, but it was thankfully delayed until most people were inside the marquee. The numbers attending the Ball had to be curtailed as the Atheneum was not available, so the Ball was held in the Angel Hotel and everyone enjoyed it very much.

Passing out parades continue to be held regularly, and among those to take the salute were the Mayors of Great Yarmouth, Thetford, St. Albans, the Lord Mayor of Leicester, and the last one by Lt.-Col. B. J. Palmer, just before he left.

Our cricket season was on the whole a quite successful one, though what we should have done without our captain, Capt. Arnott, it is hard to say. His batting average was more than four times that of anyone else. Our wicket played reasonably well but the outfield was not up to standard. The athletic team again won the District Minor Unit and was 2nd in the Eastern Command Championships. We came up against some very strong opposition; nevertheless the team did very well and are to be congratulated on their keenness and efforts.

At long last a decision has been made about our future location which is to be the old R.A.F. Stores Depot at Barnham which is close to Thetford. The people of Bury St. Edmunds are sad that they are losing the status of a garrison town which they have been for 87 years, although no move from Blenheim Camp is likely for three or four years while the Barnham Camp is extended to meet our requirements.

Dates to Remember

21st May, 1965	Annual Regimental Dinner and Luncheon of Officers' Dinner Club in London.
3rd and 4th July, 1965	Annual Reunion, Northamptonshire Wing, at Northampton.
16th, 17th and 18th July, 1965 ..	Royal Anglian Regimental Week-end at Bury St. Edmunds.
2nd and 3rd October, 1965 ..	Annual Reunion, Lincolnshire Wing, at Skegness.



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Lincolnshire Wing

ANNUAL REUNION, SKEGNESS

Members from all parts of the country made the journey to Skegness for the Annual "get together". The weather was perfect and the bracing air of this "Jolly Sailor" seaside resort brushed the cobwebs from many former members of the 10th Foot.

One member of 92 years, Lieut. Bullimore, whose appearance belies his age, was one of the fittest, and in spite of a late night looked as spritely as ever on Church Parade, prior to which he was particularly busy with his camera.

It was a real pleasure to have the company of Lt.-Col. Wenham and Mrs. Segon, both of them are invalids and it must have been a tremendous effort for them to attend, a fact stressed by our President at the Dinner.

Brigadier R. H. L. Oulton, C.B.E., our President, presided at the General Committee Meeting, the General Meeting and at the Dinner. The business side covered a good many matters relating to finance, and it is heartening to record the generous "self-help" donations from Branches to the Benevolent Fund, and to have the news of the many less fortunate who have derived benefit therefrom.

The Association is indebted to the Regimental Trustees for their generous grant made to our Association from Regimental Funds. The Hon. Secretary was instructed to convey to the Trustees the grateful thanks of all members.

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

At 3.30 p.m. the Annual General Committee Meeting took place, and after a welcome by our President a tribute in silence was paid to those of our former comrades who had died since our last meeting, their names being: Capt. T. W. Hill, Rev. C. I. Lee, Cpl. A. E. Johnson, Sgt. H. Clayton, Lt.-Col. W. E. Tolley, Maj.-Gen. J. H. T. Priestman, Sgt. J. H. Trollope, Sgt. J. J. Carrigan, Cpl. J. Grainger and Sgt. H. Hollingshead.

The "Ode to the Fallen" was recited by the Secretary.

Following the confirmation of the minutes of the 1963 General Committee Meeting, the finances of the Association were dealt with. The accounts were explained in detail by the Treasurer who also combines the duty of Secretary, and were approved.

It is heartening to know that the chief subject for which, in 1904 the Regimental Association was first formed, has been achieved—that of benevolence.

In addition to the presentation of the audited accounts for the past year, the Hon. Treasurer also submitted a detailed statement of the current year's working up to the date of our meeting, and this is of particular interest in that it shows how both we, and others, have benefited by the staunch support our funds receive from all sources. The Army Benevolent Fund continues its annual grant, and Ruston and Hornsby Ltd. its annual donation. It was felt other firms employing large numbers of former members of the 10th Foot may wish to donate to our funds, and it is hoped by contacting them the Benevolent Fund can enlarge upon the grants of the needy.

G. Kelk, a former N.C.O., who served with the 4th Battalion in Iceland and, as a result of severe frostbite necessitating the amputation of his left leg, the possibility of having his right leg amputated also, was at the meeting made a Regimental Pensioner. The Hon. Secretary reported the approach being made to the Ministry of Pensions to obtain for Mr. Kelk a disability pension—and with help being received from the Pensions Department of the British Legion, whose co-operation is appreciated, we may be successful in our joint efforts to obtain for him the pension to which he feels he is justly entitled.

It was decided at this meeting the 1965 Annual Reunion be again held at Skegness with our Grimsby Branch volunteering to make the necessary arrangements.

Notable absentees due to ill-health were Albert Brooks and Percy Acres, and to them letters of good wishes were sent.

The General Meeting followed that of the Committee Meeting and was well attended. The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and confirmed, and a resumé of the business transacted at the Committee Meeting was given and well received.

At the conclusion of this meeting everyone before preparing themselves for the Reunion Dinner was able to enjoy a good "cuppa" at the Holiday Centre Café, and a leisurely stroll, if they so desired, along the promenade.

For those who found themselves very busy, as were our Spalding Branch members organising the Reunion, it is doubtful whether they even saw the sea. Never mind, their efforts are rewarded by the pleasure they give to others.

THE REUNION DINNER

The attendance at the Reunion Dinner, in the

words of our President, was "excellent"—he adding in an aside—"the ladies looking even more beautiful." He really was pleased to have such a large attendance, and so say all those who were present to enjoy a very good dinner in the company of old friends.

Among those not seen for some time but present at the Reunion was Colonel B. Middleton, whose excuse has usually been: "I have such a long distance to travel." We were delighted to see him, also Maj.-Gen. Cooke, Colonel Impson, R.S.M. Jos Keightley, Lieut. Bullimore, Bandmaster Chas. Trowt and his many bandmen of yesterday, including "Boy" Corby with his cigars. It is seldom the latter is without an after dinner cigar for Lt.-Col. Young; presume the leaf must be grown in Sheffield.

(One could enlarge upon the list of those present, but our Editor deems we have just our allotted space).

Following the loyal toast to Her Majesty the Queen and to Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester, there is the news items concerning the Regiment, of which Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester is now a Deputy Colonel-in-Chief and our President a Deputy Colonel.

The "Large Regiment" seems rather strange when we consider the famous Regiments of the British Army which have now become Battalions of this new Regiment. There is much to be said "for and against" the formation of the Large Regiment, but all can take heart with the knowledge that County links remain and continue to do so, and the family of old comrades enlarged without interference. So we digest the 2nd Bn., Royal Anglian Regiment which remains our link and our concern, we will watch with pride and considerable interest their service in the island of Cyprus, and remember all of them in our toast of "The Regiment", to the strains of the Regimental March of "The Poacher" (played and recorded on tape by our own Regimental Band). Although it is now rather belated to record in print, it is felt the Battalion should know how much their K.A.P.E. visit to the Counties of Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire was appreciated by the "old sweats" of the former 10th and 48/58th Foot, who honestly say: "We could not have done better, and this is the best tribute that can be paid to those serving in Our Regiment."

We never tire of listening to what our President has to tell us about the Regiment, but he does draw the line on the length of his speeches—and rightly reminds us: "You can read all about it if you buy a copy of *THE POACHER*."

The Secretary, as is his wont, winds up the Dinner at the coffee stage, advising us we are to parade and attend divine Service at the Parish Church next morning and to hear the Sermon that is to be preached by our old friend and Padre Canon John Porter, who was with us at dinner and appeared to be enjoying himself immensely.

After dinner we did, if not too old, enjoy some dancing or, better still, a chat over a beer with old friends who, in some cases, can take one's mind

back over half a century if you are old enough to have a "chota" Army number, in other cases a shorter period if your Army number resembled in length that displayed on a railway goods wagon and never had long enough time to get dry.

It is always gratifying to know there is always a cordial welcome in the Wings of our Regimental Association for the old and not so old.

DIVINE SERVICE

Members under the command of Lt.-Col. F. W. Young, M.B.E., paraded not too far away from the Church. Inspection was dispensed with as there were no "Beatle" hair styles to be seen, and those carrying them had their umbrellas neatly rolled.

Ex-B.M. Trowt (the unsung hero, according to him of Hongku Park, Shanghai) was as usual right marker; with the passing years he can set the pace suitable for the parade. With Standard Bearers leading, the march to Church was carried out with customary smartness in spite of having no band on parade. Unfortunately the services of the 4th/6th Battalion Royal Lincolnshire Regiment (T.A.) were not available as they were busily engaged with rehearsal for a T.A. Band Competition taking place the following week.

We were again pleased to join with the normal congregation in their Service of Mattins at the Parish Church of St. Matthew's, which was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. H. B. Pruen who, prior to the commencement of the Service, received the Branch Standards of the Association at the altar. Hymns chosen were those in which all could lustily sing, except perhaps that for the children, "Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep, Keep Thy lamb in safety keep". This hymn brought some amusing comment from our Padre who, during his sermon (when casting an eye on, we think, our General Secretary) thought the word "lamb" for some old comrades was not really appropriate.

From the Padre in all his sermons we receive the spiritual tonic we need to remind us of the debt we owe to our Maker, and of our duty toward our fellow men, and may we say: "Thank you Canon John, and please God you may give us a tonic for many years to come!"

At the conclusion of the Service we were pleased and honoured to march past our President who took the salute, and following dismissal everyone remarked—a jolly good Reunion, hope to see you again at the next Reunion in Skegness next year (Saturday, 2nd October, 1965).

LINCOLN BRANCH O.C.A.

Since our last report, the change-over to the new Club premises has been carried out, and is in the final stages of being completed. The whole operation was performed by members who gave up their spare time, and at very short notice, to effect the move. As reported earlier, the official opening of the Club will take the form of a social evening, the entertainment being provided by our friends from the Green Room Club, mentioned from time to time in this report. They are in point of fact members of the Lincoln Operatic Society, and we

have been informed they have been rehearsing a special programme for this event.

BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Annual General Meeting was held in the Club Room at The Keep, Sobraon Barracks, in August, and was very well attended. It was proposed and seconded that the out-going committee be asked to serve for another year, they all agreed, and were elected *en-bloc*, so we still have Fred Lovesey at the helm as Chairman, Ray Woodthorpe Vice-Chairman, and Wilf Lewin as Secretary.

The half-yearly accounts for the period January to June, 1964, were presented and explained in detail by the Treasurer, and show a marked improvement since the opening of the Branch some four or more years ago, the average bar takings have been increased fourfold and members' subscriptions too are on the increase.

The question was raised by a member whether an ex-Home Guard member was entitled to become a full member of the Branch. The Chairman, who had previously sought the ruling of higher authority on this matter, said that the term "having worn the badge" contained in the Association Rules referred only to ex-regulars and members of the T.A. and not in fact to the Home Guard. This may be of interest to other Branches who have the same question raised.

SOCIAL EVENTS

The Angling Section of the Branch held a match at Tattershall, which was very well attended but rather spoilt by high winds. The first prize was won by our Vice-Chairman, Ray Woodthorpe, with a weight of 1½ lbs. The highlight of this event was the social evening that followed, when the trophy—a handsomely carved wood fish carved by one of the members, Mr. Horace James—was presented. This trophy will be competed for annually and the Angling Competition promises to be one of the main events of the year.

The Games League Competitions are at the moment in full swing, and it is hoped that the finals will be played off just before Christmas.

The Annual Regimental Association Reunion held at Skegness this year was fairly well attended by Branch members. The week-end was very much enjoyed, the weather was perfect and the Sunday morning Church Parade was held in almost summer-like conditions.

MEMBERSHIP

We again appeal to all ex-members of the Regiment residing in or near Lincoln to come and join us. By swelling our numbers we will be able to contribute more to the Regimental Association Funds and help those of our comrades who are not so fortunate. Those desirous of joining are asked to write to the Secretary, Capt. W. H. Lewin, 129a Burton Road, Lincoln. We also extend a welcome to any former member of the East Anglian Regiment, serving members of the Royal Anglian

Regiment, and to those serving or have served in the 4th/6th Battalion Royal Lincolnshire Regiment (T.A.).

All members of the Lincoln Branch send Christmas Greetings and best wishes for a very happy New Year to serving members of the Royal Anglian Regiment and to old comrades of the Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Wings.

BOSTON BRANCH

To those of our readers who have avidly read this magazine from the first page to this point I would crave their indulgence a little longer as there is bound to be something more interesting a little later on, even if it is only advertisements. The more discerning and knowledgeable readers will have noticed that the 4th/6th Battalion, Royal Lincolnshire Regiment (T.A.) held a Rifle Meeting.

Again we were fortunate in having the blessings of the weather man, the sun once more getting the blame for the unaccustomed (?) redness of our features. The beer tents did a roaring trade as far as we were able and a good time was had by all, until we got down to the business of shooting.

Some eight or nine ex-members of the Regiment presented themselves at the firing point for their match complete with rifle (one of those things that any good soldier ensures spends the better part of its life in the armourer's shop awaiting some minor repair or modification) and ammunition. The butts party, having been forewarned, had obviously washed their flags for the occasion, and when firing commenced gave us a demonstration of semaphore which would have gladdened the heart of any signals instructor. If they had concentrated on signalling the shots our scores would have been much better, but who are we to argue if the Army decides to run a signals course in the middle of a rifle meeting? The eventual outcome of the match was that two of our members, Messrs. K. F. Atkinson and W. Grant took first and second place respectively, Major U. G. Spratt, T.D., J.P., being a gallant third.

Perhaps the best entertainment for spectators at an event of this description is the falling plate competition, the effect of a well-aimed round is demonstrated by the plates falling over and can be likened to some mouth-happy dentist removing teeth with the aid of a hammer and chisel, at least that is the impression I get when I watch the experts having a go. It is somewhat different however when you get the novices at it as the case in the "Invitation Falling Plate Competition". Boston Branch entered a team as usual and the effect they produced was somewhat akin to a sandstorm in the Sahara. More by luck than judgement we fought our way through to the semi-final and then thankfully lost. Had we got to the final I doubt if we could have left the starting gate. We shall definitely have to go into training for next year's event and have already ruled that we stop after the first gallon of the day, thus ensuring that we are fit for all the running about.

I would like to thank those who served in the

butts, the men without whom we could go home and say that every shot was a bull, the men without whom it would be hard work walking down the range every time you fired to see where your shot had hit.

The words "Harry Pierrepont's Do" will, to those who have ever attended one, be sufficient for this report, but as there are amongst our readers some who have never attended, or didn't take THE POACHER last year, we will have to supply a little detail.

This occasion is for the benefit of those members of the 4th Battalion who, much against their better judgement, served between 1939 and 1945. Still suckers for punishment they turn up regularly at the County Hotel, Skegness, to indulge in an evening of beer, baccy and badinage.

This year's event was held on 12th September, a week earlier than usual in order to give us more time to recover for the Annual Reunion, and though no accurate count was taken, the kitty indicated that around about 110 attended, which is enough to gladden the heart of any publican intent on taking his belated holiday in warmer climes. True to form the barrels were running dangerously low before time was called and certain brews were no longer available, the many empty kegs providing mute proof that talking is thirsty work.

In addition to the many regular attenders, every year brings a crop of new "old" faces, this year being no exception. It is very pleasing to see an old friend for the first time in twenty years or so and we hope to meet a few more in the future.

GRIMSBY AND DISTRICT BRANCH O.C.A.

Attendance at the regular monthly meetings held at Westward Ho Barracks on the first Wednesday of each month has been increasing and the Branch is grateful for the facilities provided.

The mystery tour of the Wolds in July was a great success. An excellent tea was provided at a café en route and the evening was rounded off by a social gathering at the Marquis of Granby at Binbrook with mine host "Chirpy" Day.

On Sunday, 6th September, members and their friends were entertained at Binbrook Manor by Brigadier and Mrs. Henry Clarke. After a most enjoyable tea, games of "French" and "Rag" cricket were played on the lawn, much to the amusement of the ladies, who could not be induced to take part.

The Branch was well represented at the Annual Reunion at Skegness on 3rd October and has volunteered to organise this event next year.

The Veterans of the 5th Battalion held their Annual Dinner at Louth on 10th October when there was a very fine attendance to meet Brigadier Oulton once more.

Another jumble sale is to be held shortly and various social events are proposed during the winter.

Following the success of this year's Annual Branch Dinner, the membership of the Branch

has increased, and much interest is being taken in its benevolent activities.

We are grateful to the *Grimsby Evening Telegraph* for much appreciated publicity.

The 1965 Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday, 6th March, again at the Winter Gardens, Cleethorpes, and it is hoped to beat this year's record attendance.

All his friends would like to congratulate our Vice-Chairman, Major Jack Otlely on his discharge from hospital, where he has been for some weeks, and on his good progress towards a complete recovery.

5th BATTALION VETERANS' REUNION

As is their custom, veterans of the former 5th Battalion, The Lincolnshire Regiment, and 46th (Lincolnshire) Searchlight Battalion, R.E., held their annual dinner on the day nearest to the anniversary date of the Battle in World War I known as the Hohenzollern Redoubt, in which battle the Battalion fought with distinction and suffered many casualties.

The new Drill Hall, Victoria Road, Louth, was the meeting place at Saturday, 10th October, where veterans and their guests enjoyed an excellent dinner and the speeches which followed. Brigadier H. W. Clarke, M.C., presided, and it was good to see Capt. G. C. Miller had remembered to wear on this occasion his triangular emblem of the Veterans.

Guests included Brigadier R. H. L. Oulton, C.B.E., Sir Cyril Osborne, J.P. (who attended in spite of being in the midst of his Parliamentary Election Campaign), Lt.-Col. A. J. Bennett, M.B.E., T.D., Major P. H. Segon, M.B.E.

Brigadier Oulton was particularly pleased to meet on this occasion one of his former batmen (G. Neall of Brigg), who cast a critical eye at his shoes to see whether they were polished to Neall's satisfaction.

Following the reciting of the "Ode to the Fallen", Brigadier Clarke read the names of former veterans who had died since the last Reunion, and these, together with fallen comrades, were remembered in the short silence which followed.

It is always with a feeling of great pleasure these veterans from all parts gather together on one night of the year, only the very aged and in ill-health are absentees—one of their number present was a South Africa War veteran, who received an ovation.

The veterans, proficient in the use of their weapons in war time, were also very proficient in the use of the "weapons" to enjoy (as also did their guests) an excellent dinner with of course accompanying liquid refreshment.

The loyal toast to Her Majesty The Queen was drunk and added to the words "God Bless Her", one heard from the lips of many, "And keep her safe", for at that very moment the thoughts of all present were with her during her Canadian tour, admiring her for her shining example of courage, patience and calmness.

The toast of "The Veterans" was proposed by Major Segon, who drew attention to the humorous

side of trench warfare of World War I, in addition to its tragedies, and conveyed to the veterans the details of steps taken by Trustees of the Regiment to beautify the Soldiers' Chapel of St. George in Lincoln Cathedral, and to preserve the King's Colour of the 5th Battalion which hangs therein.

Lt.-Col. S. C. W. Disney, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., who responded, thanked the proposer, and then released a veritable store of memories relative to service in the 5th Battalion. The toast to "Our Guests" followed and ably proposed by Sqn.-Ldr. G. W. Holderness, D.F.C. (who before becoming a pilot in the R.A.F. had served with the 5th Battalion), he, like Colonel Disney, recalled events of the past.

Sir Cyril Osborne, J.P., now the Member of Parliament for Louth, responded, and thanked the veterans on behalf of the guests for their generous hospitality. He recalled his own experiences whilst serving as a "Gunner", and since as a member of Parliamentary Delegations to Russia and Peiping, relating some amusing incidents which occur at social gatherings during these visits.

Speeches ended, the rest of the evening was spent "over a noggin", recalling old times in the 10th Foot, and with hopes to meet again next year at Gainsborough, on 9th October, 1965.

Northamptonshire Wing

LONDON BRANCH

The London Branch are now meeting regularly at the following address:—

THE DRILL HALL—"QUEENS"
2 JAMAICA ROAD,
BERMONDSEY,
S.E.16.

We are very happy here and would wish all those members who feel they have stayed away too long for some reason or other to return to the fold. They will be most welcome and, as I stated in my last circular to members, our faithful band of regulars would be happy to renew old friendships which were made in both happy and trying times at home and abroad. I would like to point out that unlike the Victory Club, there is no objection to children so you have no excuses on that point. Also there is a first-class Telly for those who cannot tear themselves away on a Saturday night.

We meet on the Third Saturday of each month at 7.30 p.m. without fail; the beer is good and the atmosphere is most friendly, so what more can I say except once again urge you to come and pay us a visit.

Future events include our parade at the *Field of Remembrance*. I don't think members realise that at this ceremony it is not the London Branch that is represented but the Regiment, and although our attendance has been good in the past, why not make a big effort to attend this year.

A dinner and dance is being arranged for February and I would like any member who is interested to contact me at the following address:—

15 Micawber House,
Llewellyn Street,
Bermondsey,
S.E.16.

My phone number is BER 2815.

I would be very pleased to hear from any member who is interested in a comeback; sounds like a boxing match doesn't it. I think I have put the case of the London Branch fairly to you and if there are any young members who would like to come and pay us a visit, try it, and I can assure you that you won't be disappointed.

G. H. TINDALL, *Secretary*.

NORTHAMPTON BRANCH

MEMBERS' OUTING

On a fine Sunday morning in September two coach-loads left the Club for a tour of the Wye Valley. The first stop was at Symonds Yat, where some took a boat trip and others stayed behind to open the beer. Then on to Northwich where the 58th was stationed for a time during the early part of the War, and then to Monmouth for lunch.

On the way to Gloucester a stop was made to climb a hill which gave a marvellous view of the meeting point of the Severn and the Wye rivers. All the party made this arduous climb regardless of age and condition, and on returning to the coach the beer stocks went down quickly.

Tea was taken at Gloucester, then a fast journey to Wolverton, where our hosts at the W.M.C. made us very welcome.

Good weather, good food, and good company combined to make this one of our most successful outings.

4TH/5TH BATTALION REUNION

About twenty-five members visited Peterborough on 17th October and enjoyed meeting old friends and fighting old battles. The members who travelled by coach would like to express their thanks to the Northampton Company of the 4th/5th Battalion, who made this facility available.

SOCIAL

The Club has entered a team in the N.B.C. Skittles League, and this has proved a popular move. Results to date—played 3, won 1, lost 2, but there is confidence that these figures will be improved on in the future.

J. MATTHEWS, *Secretary*.

PETERBOROUGH BRANCH

As these notes go to press we say farewell to Major D. G. M. Anstee, Training Major of 4th/5th Bn., The Northamptonshire Regiment (T.A.) who is shortly leaving for overseas. We thank him for

the support he has given to the Branch on all occasions and we wish both him and Mrs. Anstee good luck for the future.

* * *

The best of luck to the 2nd Bn., The Royal Anglian Regiment, who will by now be overseas.

* * *

Best wishes are sent to Lt.-Col. C. J. M. Watts, J.P., on his retirement and many thanks for his kind support over the past years.

May we take this opportunity of thanking the Editor of THE POACHER for the interesting items published and for keeping us up to date with news from all quarters.

* * *

Ron Darby is still indisposed. We wish him a speedy recovery.

H. G. TOMPKINS, *Secretary.*

3rd Bn. The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (Auckland (CRO)/Northland).

Brigadier R. H. L. Oulton, C.B.E., recently received the following Newsletter from Lt.-Col. J. H. Garland, formerly Colonel, The Northland Regiment. It is published as being of particular interest and we are pleased to say that the affiliation is to continue.

WHANGAREI.

24th August, 1964.

Much has happened in military affairs in New Zealand since our last newsletter. Just over two years ago we in this part of the world were sympathising with you over your amalgamations of regiments and brigades. Much the same thing has happened to us. The old Infantry Regiments as we knew them are no more and in their stead ONE REGIMENT, The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, has been formed and in it are seven battalions, one Regular and six Territorial. Some of the old Regiments have maintained their identity as battalions in the new Regiment but others have not been so fortunate and have been amalgamated.

The Northland Regiment (or the North Auckland Regiment as members of your older generation knew it) has been combined with the former Auckland Regiment to form the 3rd Battalion. The full title is Third Battalion, the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (Auckland (C.R.O.)/Northland), the short title is 3 R.N.Z.I.R. (The ways of Government and Military planners are sometimes beyond understanding of ordinary men.) Following on this reorganisation some difficult and at times unpalatable decisions had to be faced, and the fall of the dice or circumstances did not seem to favour the Norths.

Headquarters is now in Auckland with the Commanding Officer and Second-in-Command from that area. Only one Band was allowed and the North's Pipe Band is no longer with the Battalion though it will continue as a civilian Band. Last year it won the New Zealand Open "B" Grade Championships. Major Marinkovic, who was the North's Depot Commander, has moved out of the area for the time and is no longer on the effective list, but he may return and, if so, we hope to a senior appointment. There could not be two

Hon. Colonels and Brigadier Connolly has been appointed to that position though Lt.-Col. Garland is acting in a liaison capacity, especially so as the new city of Whangarei has expressed the desire to confer the "Freedom of the City" on the new Battalion.

Out of the wreck one bright star remains, the "Alliances" will remain and in this it is fortunate that the Auckland Regiment has an Alliance with the Suffolk Regiment, so in view of the changes and amalgamations that have taken place in your Regiments, the new 3 R.N.Z.I.R. continues an unbroken alliance with your new Regiment. I am sure that as long as there is any member of the old Northland Regiment taking an interest in Army matters there will continue a spirit of alliance with the old Northamptonshires, and I am equally sure that the members of the new Battalion will warmly welcome the renewal of the alliance anew with the Royal Anglian Regiment being the successor to the Northamptonshire and Suffolk and in turn the 1st and 2nd East Anglians.

The Colours of the Norths still fly and will be paraded at the Freedom of the City of Whangarei ceremony. New Colours are being produced for the new Battalion and then, of course, the old Colours of the Norths and likewise those of the Auckland Regiment will be fittingly laid up in their respective areas.

The new battalion draws its Headquarters and Headquarters Company personnel from the Auckland area while, I am proud to say this, the Rifle Companies are drawn from Northland.

This farewell message from the Northland Regiment cannot end without thanking the 1st Battalion, the 2nd East Anglian Regiment, for their hospitality to our Mr. Harry Field on his visit to Germany last year and similarly to the Northampton Depot and particularly Lt.-Col. C. J. M. Watts for making Mr. Field's visit to the Old Comrades' Reunion such a highlight of his European holiday.

Finally, as the last Hon. Colonel of the Northland Regiment, Colonel Garland extends his good wishes and salutations to all with the utmost confidence that the traditions of the past will be maintained in the future.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE REGIMENT MUSEUM

(Continued from page 3)

The Museum was visited by Colonel Mrs. de la Rey Morkel, the Hon. Colonel of the Regiment de la Rey of South Africa, on 31st August, 1964, and she was able to see the special show-case containing the pictures and badges that she had previously presented.

Recent acquisitions have been the medals of the late Sgt. W. Beasley, M.M., and C.S.M. W. Eustace, D.C.M. They were given by their respective widows and we are grateful to them for allowing us to have them.

The Drum-Major's Sash of the 48th/58th, which was worn on ceremonial parades until the time of the amalgamation in 1960, has now been placed in the Museum.

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

Our thanks are extended to the regular subscribers and we are pleased to have enrolled the following "Friends" recently: Brigadier J. A. W. Ballard, C.B.E., D.S.O., Capt. R. A. Barthorp, Major S. P. Briggs, Brigadier G. V. Britten, C.B.E., Capt. J. K. Parker.

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