

THE POACHER



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

Vol. 4. No. 19. - March 1965

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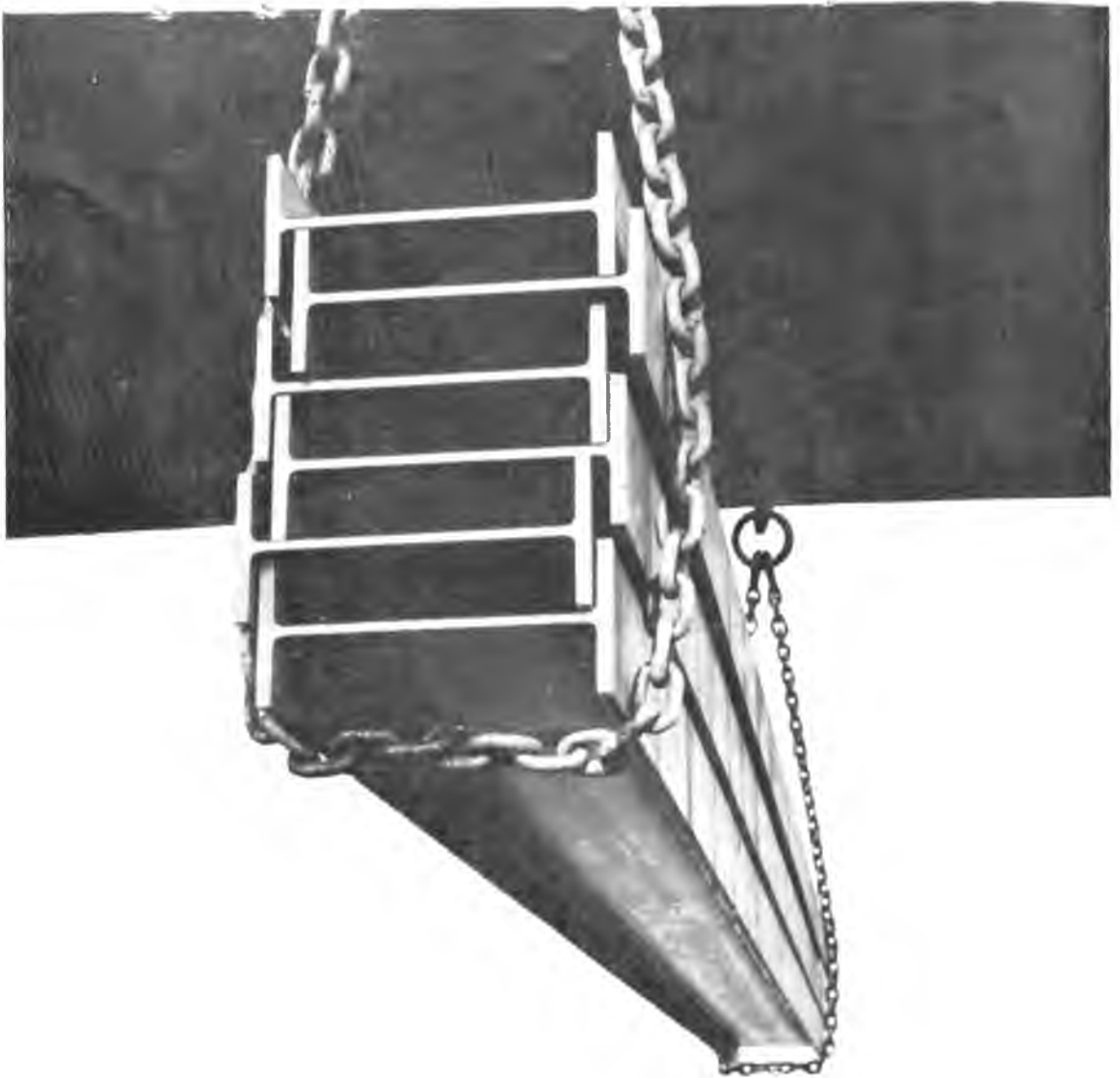


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The POACHER

The JOURNAL of

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

The Royal Anglian Regiment

No. 19

MARCH, 1965

Vol. 4

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

Lieutenant-Colonels		Everitt, J. A. G.	2nd Battalion
Chambers, W. R., psc	2nd Battalion	Houchin, I. S.	All Arms Junior Leaders' Regt.
Clark, H. W., psc	O.C. Regimental Depot		
Lieutenant-Colonels (Employed List (1))		Young, F. J. T.	2nd Battalion
Gary-Elwes, O. A. J., psc	Min. of Defence, Army Dept.	Goodale, D. M. F.	2nd Battalion
Chamberlain, M. A., M.B.E.	Air H.Q., Malta	Mayhew, N. T. P.	2nd Battalion
Cole, G. D., M.C., jssc	Joint Services Staff College	Goulson, R. F.	2nd Battalion
		Welby-Everard, P. R. E.	2nd Battalion
		English, T. H.	Regimental Depot
Majors		Second-Lieutenants	
Girdwood, J. A.	A.A.T.C., Warcop	Hipkin, G. W. M.	2nd Battalion
Drew, G. S., psc	H.Q., Min. of Defence, Malaya	Boardman, J. S.	2nd Battalion
Sergeant, R., psc	School of Infantry	Brett, G. I. G.	2nd Battalion
Lee, B. S., psc	H.Q., Oxf. & Bucks Sub-District	Waller, R. C. B.	2nd Battalion
Power, A. A. G.	Joint Air Recce Int. Centre	QUARTERMASTERS	
Greener, R. C. C., psc, psc (a)	H.Q., Eastern Command	Majors	
Willdridge, A. I.	Army School of Recruiting	Leeson, J. H. F.	4th/5th Bn., R. Leicestershire Regt. (T.A.)
Shipley, G. E., psc	H.Q. Northern Army Gp.	Macklam, C. H., M.B.E.	Army School of Civil Defence
Moore, H. H.	4th/5th Bn. Northamptonshire Regt. (T.A.)	Jessup, E.	H.Q., North-West District
Barstow, J. M.	2 1/c 2nd Battalion	Gascoyne, F. W.	4th/5th Bn., Northamptonshire Regt. (T.A.)
Francis, A. D., psc	2nd Battalion	Captains	
Dymoke, J. I. M., M.B.E.	Min. of Defence, Army Dept.	Culbert, C. P.	4 Signal Regt.
Knox, T. C. S., psc	2nd Battalion	Morgan, J.	Suffolk & Cambridgeshire Regt. (T.A.)
Yates, G. R.	Inf. Junior Leaders' Bn.	Beard, T. W.	4th/6th Bn., R. Lincolnshire Regt. (T.A.)
Hughes, J. A., psc	2 1/c 1st Battalion	Edwards, J. E.	2nd Battalion
Gardiner, C. J., psc	G.I.I School of Infantry	Lieutenants	
Garnett, J. A., psc	D.A.A.G., Aden Garrison	Russell, A.	H.Q., 3. Div.
Turnill, E., psc	2nd Battalion	Bayliss, R.	2nd Battalion
Barthorp, M. J., psc	2nd Battalion	Kelly, E. P., D.C.M.	4th Battalion
Gerrard-Wright, R. E. J., psc	H.Q., Kenya Army	SHORT SERVICE AND EXTENDED SERVICE OFFICERS	
Akehurst, J. B., psc	2nd Battalion	Major	
Worthy, P., psc	Trucial Oman Scouts	Davies, M. A. W., M.B.E., M.C., esc	Int. Staff, Hong Kong
Miller, N.	S.D.2 Min. of Defence	Captain	
Evans-Evans, A. G. P.	Inf. Junior Leaders' Bn	Bailey, E. B., esc	R.A.P.C. Trg. Centre
Annear, W. J. B.	H.Q., 24 Inf. Bde. Group	Second-Lieutenants	
Paul, L. C. J. M., psc	H.Q., 54 (F.A.) Div.	Armstrong, G. K., ssc	3rd Battalion
Wetherall, J. P.	H.Q., Berlin	Costin, D. W., ssc	Army Youth Team, Northampton
Pool, W. K., psc	D.A.A.G. Regimental H.Q.	Marshall, R., ssc	2nd Battalion
Dale, C. J.	School of Mil. Int.	FORMER REGIMENTAL OFFICERS ON THE ACTIVE LIST	
Growse, J. P.	2nd Battalion	Brigadier P. W. P. Green, C.B.E., D.S.O., jssc, psc, psc (a)	
Captains		Northern Ireland Command	
Thomas, B. C.	B.A.O.R.	Brigadier G. C. A. Gilbert, M.C., psc, Para. Brigade	
Tadman, J.	Staff College	Colonel J. C. Denny, O.B.E., M.C., psc,	
Surtees, P. H., M.C.	Provost Course, U.K.	Regimental Colonel, Royal Anglian Regiment	
Wilford, D.	2nd Battalion	Colonel A. W. Innes, O.B.E., M.C., psc (a) (local Brig.)	
Taylor, E. M. C. D., M.C.	1st Bn. Jamaica Regt.	Colonel R. P. S. Erskine-Fulloch, jssc, psc	
Wooddisse, J. R. (T/Major)	S.A.F. Muscat	Ministry of Defence Joint Planning Staff	
Aris, M. A.	7 Armoured Bde.	Major D. R. F. Houlton-Hart, M.C., F.R.D., C.R.M.P.	
Parker, J. K.	Regimental Depot	Major H. R. Johnston, R.A.P.C. 2nd Battalion	
Robinette, J.	Regimental Depot	Major P. F. Walter, M.B.E., M.C., 3rd Para. Regiment	
Taunton, P. D.	Adjutant, 2nd Battalion	Capt. K. Spacie, 16 Ind. Para. Company (T.A.)	
Edwards, P. W.	Regimental Depot	Capt. J. Porter-Wright, Para. Regiment	
Lumby, C. W. T.	Regimental Depot	Capt. I. T. Henwood, C.R.M.P.	
Kitchin, R. F.	G.I.II (Int.) Cyprus		
Malpas, E. A.	Episkopi Area		
Ford, K. G.	School of Infantry		
Drummond, R. J. M.	Bermuda Local Forces		
Spacie, I.	Sarawak Regiment		
White, J. G. P.	2nd Battalion		
Dollery, C. P.	2nd Battalion		
Lieutenants			
Haste, R. C.	2nd Battalion		
Winckley, J. B.	Regimental Depot		
Taylor, T. T.	Inf. Junior Leaders' Bn.		
Halcrow, H. M. P.	2nd Battalion		
Wright, M. S.	Regimental Depot		

EDITORIAL NOTES

THE CASTLE succeeds THE POACHER as the Regimental Journal. It is being published three times a year commencing in April, 1965. Annual subscription is 10s. per year.

THE CASTLE can be obtained from Duchess of Gloucester's Own Lincolnshire & Northamptonshire H.Q., The Royal Anglian Regiment, Gibraltar

Barracks, Northampton or Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln.

Unit notes, articles, and other contributions for the Journal should reach the Sub-Editor at Gibraltar Barracks, Northampton, by 20th February for the April issue, 19th June for the August issue, and 23rd October for the December issue.

EDITORIAL

This is the last issue of *THE POACHER*. It will be succeeded by *THE CASTLE*, the Journal of The Royal Anglian Regiment which comes out in April.

After thirty-six years it is the end of a Regimental Journal edited in Northampton. In January, 1929, in Volume I, No. I, the Editor wrote: "We hope to lay down a foundation of a magazine that will be a permanent feature in the lives of all members, both past and present, of the Regiment." That has been achieved and much more. The Regiment became larger in 1960, and consequently the Journal became a feature in Lincolnshire and wherever members of the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment were, in addition to being read by those with their connections with The Northamptonshire Regiment. It is, though, only the end of a chapter. As in 1960, when the Journal of The Northamptonshire Regiment was succeeded by *THE POACHER* was the end of Chapter I, now is the end of Chapter II. *THE CASTLE*, a larger publication with a larger circulation, will contain the present contents of *THE POACHER* to which will be added the news of all the other Battalions and Regimental Associations now forming the first Large Regiment, The Royal Anglian Regiment and begins Chapter III.

The Journal of The Northamptonshire Regiment started in 1929, being published quarterly and cost 3s. 6d. per annum. It continued until July, 1939, when it was replaced for the duration of the war with a Regimental News Letter. In 1946 it was possible to begin publication again and now was published twice yearly in February and August to be changed to March and September in 1950. This continued until 1960 when *THE POACHER* was born and was published quarterly. Now it leaves Northampton and will be edited in Bury St. Edmunds.

To have a Journal is not possible without subscribers, to have a Journal is not possible without advertisers. We offer our most sincere thanks to both subscribers and advertisers for their most loyal and whole-hearted support in the past. The Editor would also like to thank our Printers and our Advertising Agents for all their help.

The next Journal will require as much support as this one has had. If it is given the support we have had its future is assured for very many more years.

Details of *THE CASTLE* appear elsewhere in the Journal.

* * *

Heartiest congratulations are extended to Cpl. K. Stokes, R.E.M.E., attached to the Bn. and to Ptes. A. W. Stamp and H. West of the Bn. for having received an expression of Commendation for their Brave Conduct from Her Majesty The Queen for their prompt and courageous action in extinguishing a fire at the mouth of a two-thousand gallon underground petrol tank.

Sobraon Barracks

With the exception of the Keep, the area running south along the Burton Road has at the time of writing this article the appearance of having been bombed. The entrance archway, the guardroom verandah and guardroom have been razed to the ground. Much effort by the bulldozers has been required to remove those areas which, since 1880, have been covered by the footsteps of former members of the 10th Foot.

The steps leading into the guardroom upon which many soldiers trod to report their arrival either as new recruits, trained soldiers from leave, or soldiers returning from the wars, soon vanished having been reduced to rubble in a very short space of time. It is gratifying to record that the rubble of the demolished walls and buildings will partly be used to make the foundation for the garages and hardstandings which are shortly to be constructed.

"Progress"—that is the term frequently heard from the "youngsters" when the "old hands" are expressing regret on seeing the demolition in process—so be it. However, it will be of some consolation to those no longer serving in the 10th Foot to know the frontage of the Keep externally remains unchanged, long may it do so to be the landmark it always has been for so many years.

Dates to Remember

1st MAY, 1965:

48th Regiment (1939-1945) Officers' Dinner at Northampton.

7th MAY, 1965:

Northampton Branch, The Northamptonshire Regiment Comrades Association, Annual Dinner and Dance in Northampton.

8th MAY, 1965:

4th Battalion (1939-1945) The Northamptonshire Regiment Officers' Dinner at Northampton.

21st MAY, 1965:

Annual Regimental Luncheon and Dinner of Officers' Dinner Club in London.

3rd and 4th JULY, 1965:

Annual Reunion, The Northamptonshire Regiment Comrades Association in Northampton.

16th, 17th and 18th JULY, 1965:

Royal Anglian Regimental Weekend at Bury St. Edmunds.

2nd and 3rd October, 1965:

Annual Reunion, The 10th Foot, Royal Lincolnshire Regimental Association at Skegness.

16th October, 1965:

4th 5th Battalion, The Northamptonshire Regiment (T.A.), Annual Reunion and Dinner at Peterborough.

The Castle

In April, 1965, a new Regimental Journal known as THE CASTLE will see the light of day for the first time.

It will embody all the news of the Royal Anglian Regiment and will supersede the following Regimental Journals:—

The Britannia & Castle ...	...	...	...	...
The Poacher ...	...	...	...	...
The Wasp & The Eagle ...	...	...	...	...
The Green Tiger ...	...	...	...	...

THE CASTLE will have three issues each year. To make the Journal as attractive and informative as possible it is essential that all component parts of the Royal Anglian Regiment should play their full part in giving interesting accounts of their activities during the preceding months to their respective Regimental Secretaries.

Photographs will be welcome, news of any personnel who are serving or who have served in any of the Battalions which now form part of the

Royal Anglian Regiment will add to the value of the Journal by bringing together by means of news members of the Regimental Association.

Many of the Regiment are serving in Staff and E.R.F. appointments, which should provide a basis

1st Bn., The East Anglian Regiment	
2nd Bn., The East Anglian Regiment	
3rd Bn., The East Anglian Regiment	
The Royal Leicestershire Regiment	

for interesting and indeed sometimes amusing accounts to their life responsibilities. To them, the Editors make a special appeal that they should offer contributions to the Journal.

The cost of the Journal will be:—

Officers ...	...	...	10s. per year
Other Ranks ...	...	...	2s. 6d. per copy

Any suggestions for the improvement of the Journal, after the first issue, will be given every consideration by the Editorial Staff.

Personalia

Major E. B. BAILEY has returned from Malaysia and is now attached to the R.A.P.C. Training Centre.

* * *

Lt.-Col. F. G. BARBER'S tenure of command of 4th/5th Bn., The Northamptonshire Regiment (T.A.) has been extended to August, 1966.

* * *

Mrs. B. M. BARKER, widow of the late Lieut.-General M. G. H. BARKER, C.B., D.S.O., has moved from Colchester and her address is now: c/o Mrs. Strover, Mistley Wood, Manningtree, Essex. Tel. No.: Manningtree 136.

* * *

Congratulations to Major J. M. BARSTOW on being selected to command the 4th/5th Bn., The Essex Regiment (T.A.). He takes up the appointment in November.

* * *

Congratulations to Lt.-Col. J. BROWNLOW TUCKER, O.B.E., E.D., M.C.P., on the award of the O.B.E. in the New Year's Honours.

* * *

Lt.-Col. H. W. CLARK was promoted to substantive rank on 12th September, 1964.

* * *

It was with regret that we learnt of the death of Mr. W. COWPER BARRONS, M.B.E., on 27th January, 1965, after a short illness. He was a very good friend of the Regiment. He had much to do

with the organisation of the fund-raising efforts of the *Chronicle and Echo* that enabled thousands of parcels to be sent to Northamptonshire soldiers serving overseas during the Second World War, and in particular in the publicity given to the Korean Comforts Fund for the 1st Bn., The Northamptonshire Regiment when serving out there. He travelled many miles to visit the Regiment. In 1956 he flew to Hong Kong and in 1959 he visited Aden twice to get first-hand information on the Regiment in order to report their well-being in the County Press.

We offer our sympathy to his widow and to his son, John, whom many will remember serving in the Regiment, on their very sad loss.

* * *

2/Lt. D. W. COSTIN succeeds Lieut. D. M. F. GOODALE with the Army Youth Team in Northampton this month. David GOODALE is rejoining the 2nd Bn. in Cyprus.

* * *

Mr. J. W. DENSHAM is now the Secretary of the London and Home Counties Branch of the 10th Foot, Royal Lincolnshire Regimental Association, and resides at 32 Brampton Road, East Croydon, Surrey. Tel. No.: Addiscombe 3128.

* * *

Capt. C. P. DOLLERY is Staff Captain "Q", H.Q., 3 Division.

Major J. L. M. DYMOKE, M.B.E., has completed his course at the United States Armed Forces Staff College. He has now taken up an appointment at the Ministry of Defence, Army Department, as a G.II in the Directorate of Army Training.

Lieut. T. H. ENGLISH is posted to the Regimental Depot and takes up the appointment this month.

Lieut. J. A. G. EVERITT has completed an attachment to the Army Air Corps Centre and is now a qualified pilot. He has rejoined the 2nd Bn. He wishes to thank all the officers who subscribed to his silver salver which he received as a Regimental Wedding Present.

Major R. E. J. GERRARD-WRIGHT joins the 4th Bn. in May.

Congratulations to Major J. W. H. GREEN, T.D., on the award of the 1st Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration.

Major I. A. HAYCROFT succeeds Lt.-Col. W. R. CHAMBERS as Commanding Officer of the 2nd Bn. in December.

Brian HENDERSON had a very successful match for Scotland against France in Paris. We congratulate him on again being selected to play against Wales at Murrayfield.

Lieut. J. S. HOUCHIN is now serving with the All Arms Junior Leaders' Battalion.

Congratulations to Lieut. (Q.M.) E. P. KELLY, D.C.M., on being granted a Regular Commission.

Capt. R. F. KITCHIN is on detachment as Staff Officer to the Commander, Episkopi Area.

Capt. C. W. T. LUMBY is G.III (Intelligence) at H.Q., Cyprus District.

Capt. E. A. MALPAS is now an Instructor at the Small Arms Wing of the School of Infantry, Hythe, Kent.

Congratulations to Major H. H. MOORE on being selected to command the 4th/6th Bn., The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment (T.A.). He takes up the appointment in September.

Brigadier R. H. I. OULTON, C.B.E., has changed his address and with effect from 15th February, 1965, it is: Dunmow House, Dunmow Hill, Fleet, Hampshire. Tel. No.: Fleet 701.

Major L. C. J. M. PAUL was promoted to substantive rank on 14th November, 1964.

Major R. SARGEANT has returned to the U.K.

He is now Adjutant of the Small Arms Wing of the School of Infantry at Hythe, Kent.

Major G. E. SHIPLEY has been posted to H.Q., Northern Army Group, B.F.P.O. 40.

Major H. E. SIMMONS, M.B.E., retired from his appointment as Staff Captain in the Ministry of Defence (Army) on 31st December. He has gone to live in Ipswich and his address is 20 Hershams Avenue, Ipswich.

Capt. Ian SPACIE is delighted with his wedding present and wishes to thank all the officers who subscribed to his silver salver.

Capt. B. C. THOMAS takes up the appointment of Range Officer, Sennelager, this month.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas VAN LAUN on their marriage.

Congratulations to Maj.-Gen. Sir Christopher WELBY-EVERARD, K.B.E., C.B., on the award of the K.B.E. in the New Year's Honours.

Major J. P. WETHERALL was promoted substantive Major on 25th November, 1964.

Major P. WORTHY returns from his tour with the Trucial Oman Scouts next month and after leave attends a course at the Joint Services Staff College, commencing in June and terminating on 17th December, 1965. He then joins the 4th Bn.

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Deaths

ACRES

On 4th November, 1964, at his home, ex-Band Sergeant Percy Acres, late The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment.

ATKIN

On 24th December, 1964, Pte. Kenneth Atkins, 2nd Bn., The Royal Anglian Regiment, as a result of a traffic accident in Cyprus.

Obituary

EX-BAND SERGEANT P. C. ACRES

It is with regret we record the death of Percy Acres, which took place suddenly at Sevenoaks, Kent, on Wednesday, 4th November, 1964.

He had been in ill-health and in hospital but appeared to have recovered to health and returned to his home. Unfortunately, he was again taken ill and passed away at his residence.

A founder member of the London and Home Counties Branch and an untiring worker for the Regimental Association, which in his passing has lost one of its staunchest members. For many years he had served as a member of the London Branch Committee of Management, and in recent years had been its Secretary, following in the steps of Albert Brooks, his life-long friend.

His death means the passing of yet another member of the 10th Foot, who took part in the South Africa War. He was a French Horn player of repute, and on leaving the Regiment his services as a musician were much in demand, as also in his leisure were his services as a cricket umpire. Short in stature, but big in heart and a wonderful chap to have known is a fitting tribute to Percy. To his wife and the members of his family we extend sincere condolences.

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

Readers may like to have this appreciation of Colonel Sinker, which was included in an Address given at his funeral service in Lydd Parish Church on 13th October, 1964, by the Rev. A. J. Pearson, M.C.

... Twenty-one years ago it fell to my lot to be posted as Chaplain to the 1st Bn., The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment. The fame of that battalion was well known throughout the Arakan Campaign and, as so often, the quality of the battalion stems from its commanding officer, I counted it a great privilege to know Cecil Sinker. Indeed, our friendship commenced from that date.

In action he was resolute and brave, kind and considerate. He would never ask his officers to

perform any task which he himself was not prepared to follow. If there was any particular job to be done, when enemy opposition seemed strongest, he was in it. It wasn't that he was conceited and imagined himself indispensable. It was just that he was so keen that his men should do their best and act worthily of the battalion. He knew that fellows would be inclined to grouse and shirk so he thought it was up to him to go and show them that he thought it was a job worth doing. And the fact that he was there put a new complexion on the matter altogether. No one would shirk if he were there. No one would grumble, either. He knew, too, how trying to the nerves it is to be shelled. He knew the temptation to bunch together. He knew the folly of it and that it was not the thing to do—not done in the best regiments. So he went along to see that it did not happen, to see that the men stuck to their posts and conquered their nerves. And as soon as they saw him they forgot their own anxiety.

In his dealings with his men he became something of a father-figure. I cannot forget the impression left on him when some of his friends and his batman were killed on Point 315. He seemed to carry the weight of that loss for many days.

It wasn't long before he was appointed to the Distinguished Service Order because of his courage and his inspiring leadership.

The news of that sent a thrill through the battalion. The Regiment was now certainly second to none.

Cecil Sinker always made a great impression on people. Two years ago at a luncheon in Southampton, speaking to Lord Mountbatten, I told him we had met once before in the Arakan, that I had served with the Lincolns. Immediately his face lit up and he spoke of Sinker and his Lincolns. He had even remembered the Colonel's name.

He was a good man. Kind, sympathetic and just. He had a wonderful personality. He overcame, with great fortitude, a disability that hampered his latter years. His memory is blessed.

Today we commend his soul to the mercies of God. Today we commend his loved one to the grace and love of God. God may not take away the anguish of this sudden parting, but He will assuredly share the burden.

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Happy birthday to me

Trust Bill to do something about it. I like a glass of beer with a sandwich to be going on with. Next year I'm giving up birthdays. But I'm enjoying this one.

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

The Royal Anglian Regiment

QUEEN'S COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

For prompt and courageous action in extinguishing a fire at the mouth of an underground petrol tank, three members of the Battalion have been awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct.

They are Cpl. K. Stokes, R.E.M.E. attached, Ptes. A. Stamps and H. West.

They were nearby at the time of the fire and acting with great promptness and with complete

disregard for their own personal safety brought into action a large foam fire extinguisher. Despite the knowledge that the tanks might explode they continued standing over them manning the extinguisher until the fire was out.

BATTALION REVIEW

During the last quarter events have crowded so quickly on top of each other that the writer finds it difficult to decide where to start when giving a summary of the main events.

One feels that priority must be given to our operational commitments, guarding vital installations in the Base. Each week since our arrival here one Rifle Company has been committed, which means that the soldiers in platoons do one week in three on duty, usually in a fairly remote place, at no more than section strength. Normally the work is pretty routine, but all have to be constantly on the alert in case of trouble. With a little "self help" we have been able to improve the conditions in these posts considerably and all are now reasonably comfortable. Morale remains high and the visitor is struck by the cheerfulness and sense of duty of the soldiers.

In addition "A" and "B" Companies have each been to Episkopi and Nicosia respectively for a fortnight to relieve other units. In return we have had in our Barracks a Company of 1 Glosters who relieved us to enable us to go on Battalion training, a squadron of 14/20th Hussars, who flew over from Libya for an exercise, and a School of Infantry touring team who came to teach us about the general purpose machine gun and the Carl Gustav anti-tank gun.

Training has continued between duties. A number of W.O.s and N.C.O.s were let into the mysteries of the new weapons. All of us have been learning about airportability and internal security operations as well as keeping up the normal skills such as shooting, map reading, weapon training and first aid.

An inter-platoon competition was held from



From right to left: Cpl. K. Stokes R.E.M.E., Pte. A. Stamps and Pte. H. West, who have been awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct.



Pte. Bridger receives his prize from Mrs. Chambers after the Donkey Derby

29th-31st December. This consisted of ten different tests, mainly based on an internal security role. It involved defending a V.P., being ambushed in M.T., a forced march, platoon attack, night march, laying an ambush, as well as shooting, drill, map reading and first aid. All the rifle platoons took part and most of the remainder of the Battalion were involved as judges, control staff, enemy, or providing administrative support. Competition was extremely keen and the results were close. Congratulations are due to Sgt. Hewitt and 5 Pl. "B" Company on winning the championship.

From 7th-10th January the Battalion took part in a combined air portability and internal security exercise named "China Pot". In the event no aircraft were available but we carried out a simulated move in 3-tonners, having completed all load tables, manifests and other documents required to get us airborne. Special mention must be made of Capt. J. P. Growse, the Unit Emplaning Officer, who put much hard work into the preparations for the exercise. We flew to the Episkopi Sovereign Base Area and there spent three days chasing Carlos Marcos and his fellow rebels before we managed to locate their base camp, surround and attack it. A noteworthy aspect of the exercise was the unorthodox use of transport. As we were only allowed to take a small number of landrovers on airportable scales, these had to be used for all purposes, and it was not unusual to see Companies being ferried in landrovers and trailers.

Fifteen men of the Battalion have just completed training as dog handlers and are now, with their dogs, able to relieve some of our soldiers of their guard commitments.

We have been pleased to receive a number of visitors during the quarter, including the D.C.G.S.,

Lt.-Gen. Sir John W. Hackett, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.; the former G.O.C., Maj.-Gen. P. G. F. Young, C.B.E.; the new G.O.C., Maj.-Gen. R. L. T. Burges, C.B.E., D.S.O.; and the Deputy Commander, Brigadier J. A. Marchant. Also we were delighted to have Mr. Unsworth of the *Peterborough Citizen*, and Mr. Mayes of the *Northampton Chronicle and Echo* to stay with us for a few days. We hope that their visits were interesting and enjoyable.

Sport has flourished despite the difficulties due to operational duties of getting teams together. The football team is doing well in the major units league, the basketball team is also doing very well, and the hockey and cross-country teams have also had some excellent matches. A number of soldiers regularly go climbing in the Kyrenia Range and others are enjoying riding. The Battalion forms the backbone of the Dhekelia Saddle Club and the Dhekelia Draghounds, of which Capt. P. D. Taunton is the master and Capt. J. G. P. White the Whipper-in. We have just had a most enjoyable inter-Company Sports Day, in which leagues were organised for most of the current sports. No one was allowed to compete in more than one sport and each Company had to produce 73 competitors. A very keen spirit was shown throughout. H.Q. (Admin) Company put up a very fine performance and won by quite a large margin.

Finally, it is with the deepest regret that we have to record the tragic death in a traffic accident on 24th December of Pte. Kenneth Atkin of H.Q. (Ops.) Company. To his parents we offer our heartfelt sympathy.

"A" COMPANY

1 PLATOON

Since the last publication of *THE POACHER* the platoon has had a number of changes, including changes in its Commander. Sgt. Platts and Cpl. Bradtke have both been in command. Cpl. Bradtke commanded the platoon in the inter-platoon competition, in which they did well, coming second in the Company and taking fifth place overall.

On the sports fields and in the Gymnasium the platoon has been well represented. Cpl. Blanchard and I./Cpl. Lenton and Ptes. Shoot and Rush all play football for the Battalion. I./Cpl. Prvce and Pte. Fratel both gave an interesting and entertaining afternoon in the boxing ring and our congratulations go to Pte. Fratel on winning his fight.

The platoon has lost one of its members and we say good-bye to Pte. Booth and give him our best wishes for the future. To the two new members of our platoon, Ptes. Sampson and Birchall, we wish the best of luck. We hope they will enjoy their service with the Regiment.

2 PLATOON

Platoon Commander's View

In the first three months of the Battalion's tour in Cyprus, 2 Platoon has made great progress in getting to know the Island. To date there is not

one of the principal towns we have not visited. As a change from the round of pipeline, A.S.D. guard duties, the platoon formed part of the detachment at Episkopi in November. We used this opportunity to visit the Keo Factory at Limassol: a very enlightening occasion. We soon followed this up with a day visit to Nicosia and Kyrenia.

Personnel of the platoon continue to turn over at high rate. Pte. Murphy has gone to the dogs—as a handler. Pte. Hefford left us to become a storeman and returned as rapidly as he left. Pte. Burgess is in the stores and Pte. Walker has joined the Anti-Tank Platoon. We welcome in their places Ptes. Mills, Bills and Huckle.

Section Commander's View

Since we have been in Cyprus we have been to Episkopi to do guards; and Famagusta to do guards; and to the Troodos mountains to do guards; and we have been doing guards here in Dhekelia.

Also we do Stand-bys (or not) and fatigues.

Since we have been in Cyprus, Goodhand, Hick, Bills, Peckett, Miller and McHale have joined us.

Since we have been in Cyprus, Murphy and Walker have left us.

Since we have been in Cyprus, one Corporal has had a hole in his head; and one Corporal collects things; and one Corporal has a listening cat (he wanted a talking cat but couldn't get one, so he had to be satisfied with this and he does the talking). The Lance-Corporals have not done much and the Privates sometimes moan and sometimes get unsober. Also we have one Officer and two Sergeants, and Or Not has been invented. Sir!

3 PLATOON

On arriving in Cyprus the platoon was obliged to split up to strengthen 1 and 2 Platoons in order to meet our operational commitments. However, in December our commitments were reduced and the platoon was re-formed. We then spent a quiet



The G.O.C. and Commanding Officer inspect the Guard, found by "A" Company, during a routine visit.

Christmas, highlighted by a visit to Kyrenia just after Boxing Day.

After Christmas we became involved in the inter-platoon competition and after many hazards, including a night with bed and breakfast in a R.A.F. holiday resort, we finally finished second.

Our next venture was Exercise "China Pot", during which we spent much time rushing up and down the slopes of Bongoland, and 3 Section even managed to practice some new forms of interrogation much to the dismay of the Bongomen, who protested in their glummish English.

The platoon has now returned to its true state and the anti-tank weapons are now back with us, we hope, for good.

INTER-PLATOON COMPETITION

Extracts of conversation that took place before and during the Inter-Platoon Competition in December, 1964:—

1. C.S.M. (an optimist): "There are 9 platoons taking part and I expect you to come 1st, 2nd and 3rd."
2. Coy. Comd. (a pessimist): "There are 9 platoons taking part and I would prefer you not to come 7th, 8th and 9th."
3. 2 i/c (to Pl. Comds): "I've got to run the First Aid and Map Reading Test. Of course I know absolutely nothing about either of them, but if any of the platoons know any good questions on either of these subjects, I'd be more than grateful if they could be put on my desk."
4. Pte., 1 Platoon: "We've got no — officer and no — sergeants, so at least we won't make too big a — cock-up."
5. Pte. (during lengthy and detailed briefing on competition): "Wot the 'ells 'e on about?"
6. Coy. Comd (to 2 Pl.): "What's that ape doing in your platoon? I purposely put him in Coy. H.Q. for these three days."
7. Umpire (to soldier who has taken up position with a field of fire of precisely 2 ft. 6 in.): "What exactly do you think you're doing?" Soldier: "Inter-Platoon Competition, Sir."
8. Cpl., 3 Pl.: "Chop, chop."
9. Pte. (any platoon): "I'm going sick."

"B" COMPANY

Well, here we are again, yet another quarter gone. Much has happened since last time. The rifle platoons have done many guards at the V.P.'s, the Recce Platoon has done a lot of stand-bys. We have settled into the routine—guards, standby, training. Now the B.M.H. Valley and Grenade Valley is as familiar to us as Kloster Rille or Kleiner Icker.

A very enjoyable patrol exercise in Grenade Valley in which all platoons took part was followed closely by "B" Company Stakes, a 3-mile obstacle race won by 6 Platoon.

In December we went to R.A.F. Nicosia to do the chores of the R.A.F. Regiment for a fortnight. The trip was much enjoyed by all.

THE POACHER

Christmas came and went but as the Company is on duty nobody noticed it. Success crowned our efforts in the Inter-Platoon Competition, 5 Platoon winning it. Then came "China Pot", an exciting exercise which our soldiers enjoyed very much as it was their first Company exercise in Cyprus.

We welcome to the Company Ptes. Hall, McCaffrey, Minns, Nolan, Motley, Cummins and Neill.

We say good-bye to Capt. Kitchin, I./Cpls. Warren and Emerson, all of whom have responded to a higher call. Good-bye and good luck to them.

PLATOON

Since the last issue of THE POACHER life in the platoon has continued without much change. However, we have been up at R.A.F. Nicosia for two weeks with the rest of the Company which is responsible for the ground defence of the station in the absence of the R.A.F. Regiment. We also have done our two weeks Battalion training period.

The detachment at R.A.F. Nicosia was a pleasant change from Dhekelia and was enjoyed by all. One item of note was the visit to St. Hilarian Castle. We were the first British troops to enter the castle for a year. The castle is at present garrisoned by the Turkish Cypriots and our guide was a very silent Turkish batman. The Turks must believe in an early age to soldiering since the entry on the gate was 15 years old. Unfortunately it was not a very nice day and so we could not see much of the spectacular view. We are very grateful to the 1st Canadian Guards contingent of I.N.F.I.C.Y.P. who brewed our tea for us and also swapped our compositions for theirs.

It was due in no small way to the enthusiasm of the whole platoon that we managed to win the Platoon Competition, and we congratulate Sgt. Lewitt who was commanding the platoon at the time. We have now the distinction of being Champion Platoon with a flag and enormous shield to prove it. We will see to it that we are still champion platoon after the next competition.

Members of the platoon have been very active in the sporting line. Cpls. Missen and Downing and Pte. Goodday have done much to contribute to the success of the Battalion and Company teams. It is nice to see Cpl. Missen back after reaking his arm and being on leave in England. We also hope that L./Cpl. Beeby enjoyed his home leave.

We now look forward to the warm months ahead since it is now cold and wet. We congratulate L./Cpl. Jolley on his promotion and wish him luck on the N.C.O.s' cadre with Ptes. Diggins and Goodday. Good luck also to Pte. Savage on the Signals Cadre and Pte. Hill on the M.T. Cadre.

PLATOON

The beginning of December found us on detachment with the rest of the Company at R.A.F. Nicosia. We were to take over the duties of the

R.A.F. Regiment for two weeks. Rumour had it we were going to have to man the airfield's A.A. guns as well, but nothing came of it.

Our move to Nicosia was the signal for the winter rains to start and it rained every day we were there. However, we did manage to get out and the platoons went to St. Hilarian Castle for a visit. The castle is the Turkish H.Q. in the Kyrenia Mountains and the scene of much bitter fighting early in 1964. We spent an interesting hour looking around.

The duties at Nicosia were very similar to the ones in Dhekelia and after a few days we were all familiar with the routine. After two weeks we were glad to get back home.

We arrived back in Alexander Barracks in time for Christmas only to find we would be out of camp and on V.P. guards. However, we had a few days to spare before we went.

Since Felixstowe the platoon fund has been swelling and we decided to have a platoon party before we went out. Charlie's Casino, a local Greek restaurant, was hired and the Company Commander and C.S.M. invited as guests. After a good meal we got down to the serious business of the evening—drinking. It was obvious some had been getting plenty of practice during the previous months, and they lasted the pace more than others. Fortunately the next day we had off and we all needed it.

Christmas day for most of us was spent under canvas, ensuring the rest of the garrison had plenty of water, and just about everybody in the garrison came out to visit us. On Boxing Day we returned again to barracks to enjoy what was left of the festivities.

Once Christmas and the New Year were over, we got down to preparing for the Battalion Training fortnight. We started with an Inter-Platoon Competition and our congratulations to 5 Platoon for their fine performance in winning. We then set off for the other end of the island on a four-day Battalion scheme.

Although throughout the exercise we never saw the terrorists we always managed to do a lot of walking, always uphill and with large packs. However, at the end we were assured that they had all been captured and the country was once again in safe hands.

We are now back on normal Garrison duties and looking back on our first four months on the island we can say we have achieved a lot. We have changed our thinking from total war in Germany to I.S. duties in Cyprus and through our training we can now deal effectively with any situation which might develop here on the island or elsewhere in the Middle East.

Looking forward, we have a week in the Troodos Mountains on a winter warfare course and after that the really warm weather and summer.

7 PLATOON

Originally a training platoon for the Battalion, such were the commitments on arrival in Cyprus

that we found ourselves, just fresh from the Depot, called operational and numbered "seven".

Our Platoon Commander, with greying hair and cynical eye, obviously not prepared to respect our tender age, immediately flung us into a vigorous training programme designed at teaching us the facts of life as quickly as possible with minimum casualties.

Exercise "Pigs Ear 7" (we speculate as to what happened to the other six) was our first exhausting introduction to Cyprus soldiering, and others with intriguing names and curious passwords followed. Daily road runs hated by management and staff alike bridged the gap between schemes, guards and Christmas.

The "Magnificent Seven", as we then called ourselves, were back from an interesting and eventful fortnight at R.A.F. Nicosia just to guard the A.S.D. for the Christmas period. Before going, however, we found time to have a "small" party at the George Club to celebrate the festive season. We will draw a line over the riotous evening and merely say how delighted we were to welcome the Company Commander and the Commanding Officer, both of whom came to say hello and sing us a song!

Christmas was marked by a visit from the Commanding Officer and the Brigade Commander who brought us a cake and who climbed every tower to visit the sentries.

Many more things were worth recalling, the Merry Christmas drink at 0300 hours on Christmas morning and the Inter-Platoon Competition (we wuz robbed!).

We say good-bye to Marshall and L./Cpl. Burton and wish them well; we say hello to L./Cpl. Cocks, an old acquaintance of some of us.

RECCE PLATOON

We have now settled down to our new role. Nearly everyone has grown accustomed to trying to read a map, operate two radios, speak to (or kick) the driver and fire the Browning all at once. Berets are getting that oil change look and are being turned into the right shape after careful instructions from 14/20 Hussars.

In sport we are supreme. Pte. Garforth and L./Cpl. Emerson are regular members of the Battalion soccer team and our basketball team is second to the Band.

We shall shortly be losing two N.C.O.s, Cpl. Starling, who goes as a Platoon Sergeant to Army Apprentice School, Carlisle, and L./Cpl. Emerson on Regular Release. Cpl. Starling has been with the Recce Platoon since it was formed and we shall lose a wealth of experience when he goes.

Congratulations to L./Cpl. Ivan Goodman on the birth of a daughter; we just hope she looks like her mum.

Who was the first Ferret to get bogged down? Yes, the Platoon Commander, and he nearly paid for his stupidity with his life with one of the local kids switching on the electrification gear.



The G.O.C., Major-General R. L. T. Burges, chats with Sergeant Hill and Private Arnold of "C" Company, on stag on "Station 6 Sahara."

"C" COMPANY

COMPANY H.Q.

Finally, after three months at the grind-stone, things are beginning to look up, but there is still a lot of work to be done.

Company H.Q. has almost changed completely regarding its members. For a start we lost C.S.M. (Nobby) Russell, who has gone to H.Q. (Admin.) Company, but we welcome C.S.M. (Smudge) Smith who was formerly Admin. We are soon to lose our Company Commander, Major (Teddy) Turnill, who is taking the post of Battalion Training Major. He is taking with him one of the Company clerks, Pte. (Blinker) Crowston, who is going, we think, just to see that the Major does not step out of line. Also Pte. Mathew Bill, the Major's Batman, is going with him. After batting for the Major for over a year, we think he has some pride in the kit he has looked after for so long. The C.S.M. is rather disappointed though; he will have to "bull" his own kit now. Keep bulling, Sir.

Major A. D. Francis is coming to us very shortly as Company Commander.

We have lost our Arms Storeman, Pte. Larry Glynn, who is away on a S.A.S. course; best of luck, Larry. But we gain a new member from 12 Platoon, Pte. Mick Galloway, who is going to try to fill Larry's old post. Our C.Q.M.S. is away at the moment trying to better his education; best of luck to him. Sgt. (Harry) Hill, who is normally chasing 11 Platoon up hill and down dale, has taken to the more administrative side of soldiering, in the Company Stores, acting as C.Q.M.S. We lose Pte. Mick Coulson, the Company Commander's driver, who is going to Northampton as recruiting team driver early in February, 1965. Potential soldiers watch out.

9 PLATOON

Since the last platoon notes life has carried on at the same hectic pace. Guards throughout the Base, stand-by duties, and camp guards have kept everyone busy.

In all this rush we have still managed to fit in a few interesting items. We went to Akrotiri with the rest of the Company, despite Sgt. Edwards' idea that Nicosia was a nicer place to go. Exercise "Fell Swoop II", during which the continued rain was the dominating factor, was summed up by Pte. Irons: "Well, I put my groundsheet down to sit on, but when I sat down it had floated away." The Inter-Platoon Competition we pass by quickly, but mention in passing that we had the highest score in the platoon attack. Everybody was exhausted after the trip to Episkopi and the exercises that went with it. The Platoon Commander returned with frayed nerves as well as frayed feet due to the engine failure of the helicopter in which he was travelling.

During the period attachments have been many and the detachments few. Sgt. Gooch took over from Sgt. Edwards but we did not lose the latter's cheerful face from the platoon. Pte. Jones spent a long time in B.M.H. Dhekelia with cartilage trouble and the nurses, before going home on sick leave. The addition of Cpl. Jackson from the Regimental Police had all worried at first, before we saw that he was easy to get on with. The policeman comes through in healthy bellows occasionally, but then, old habits die hard. The others who have joined us are too numerous to mention individually, but we welcome them all and hope that they enjoy themselves in the platoon.

11 PLATOON

Since arriving in Cyprus the number of men in the platoon has risen from 22 to 32. There are too many to list, but they include Sgt. Robinson, who



Ptes. Larkin, Gray and Hampton of 12 Pl. being relieved of their duties over Christmas.



Ptes. Smith (Signals Pl.), Larkin and Stanton (Mortar Pl.) at "Station Six Sahara."

was originally with the Battalion Signals Platoon and Cpl. Graham, who was training recruits at the Depot.

Guard duties are still with us and the platoon spends one week in three on the Ammunition Sub Depot or reservoir. Fortunately this allows us time for some training, which is mostly to do with internal security. There have been two interesting exercises of this type; the first a Company exercise, "Fell Swoop", which was enjoyed by all despite an extremely bitter night on the rocky shore of Dhekelia. The second was a Battalion exercise in Akrotiri, which included a lift in helicopters. For some it was not new, for they had done a similar task in Germany, but for others it was of great interest and an experience that will not be forgotten. The exercise, however, also included marching over some high hills which I am glad to say the platoon tackled well.

The platoon is now at the highest point of the island, Troodos, where everyone is enjoying a week's ski-ing. Many have not had this opportunity before and are learning with enthusiasm. For those who have skied before it is a good opportunity to improve for there are many instructors on the slopes only too ready to give advice. At the end of the week, however, we will be leaving to carry on with our guard duties.

12 PLATOON

During the last quarter the Mortar Platoon has had a frustrating time as far as its purpose in life is concerned, as ninety-five per cent of its time has had to be devoted to the chores of a rifle platoon. Such events as the Platoon Competition, Exercise "Something Pot" and guarding the pipeline, have dominated, broken, thank goodness, by the occasional opportunity to lob sand-filled bombs in the direction of the Officers' Mess beach. "Days-to-do" Price has at last done his days, but apart from a few temporary losses this has been the only one. In exchange at least five new faces from the Depot have arrived and it is hoped their stay will be a long and happy one. At the time of writing the

EXERCISE "CHINA POI "



Army P.R. photographs

Above: Men of "C" Company, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, leave a Royal Air Force helicopter and take up a defensive position.

Below: A 40-foot Bailey Bridge built at night in six hours by 2 Troop, 33 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers is brought into use.

platoon is about to provide the Company with a boxing team under the encouragement of Sgt. Worley. We congratulate them in advance and wish them the best of luck. Other events in the immediate future consist of visits to the well known resorts of the A.S.D. and Reservoir, the latter out of season since the rain started on 17th November, but if Sparrow is cooking, who cares? To sum up, roll on summer.

H.Q. (OPS.) COMPANY

There have been no changes to report and the Company settled down well to life in Cyprus. I forgot, of course, the dog handlers, sixteen specially trained and selected men from Rifle Companies, who have joined the Company less war dogs, and are employed permanently on garrison guard duties. It is colder than expected, the Cypriots more friendly than expected, and the pace hotter than in B.A.O.R., whatever the stories to the contrary.

The Company played its full part in the Christmas festivities and every effort was made to make the Barrack Rooms (with overhead bedside lights at last!) as much like home as possible. The Company block supports two televisions, a washing machine, pot plants, dark room, night club, a budgerigar (who made his escape and has been replaced by a library), and numerous dogs. Our jockeys, Capt. Smith (with some embarrassment), Sgt. Platt and Pte. Tompkin won three of the six races at the Donkey Derby held on Boxing Day, and the Air Platoon tug-of-war team were unbeaten in a single pull in the Inter-Company Sports.

We held a Company Christmas Party shortly before Christmas and were entertained after by Pte. Strachen and the Group with the latest pop, and cartoons drawn by Cpl. Stratford, which were projected onto a screen with a commentary by I./Cpl. Allen of the Intelligence Section. The Signal Platoon produced three old women for the Battalion Concert Party; it would be unfair to print their names. We congratulate all these

artistes who were brave enough to come forward and provide entertainment for the rest of us. It is to be hoped that others will follow their example.

All ranks in the Company offer their sympathy to the parents and relatives of Pte. Ken Atkin who was killed in a traffic accident while performing his duties as duty driver. Pte. Atkin had only recently joined the Company but had soon made his mark as a cheerful and popular personality and a good games player. He will be sadly missed by his many friends.

AIR PLATOON

The platoon, previously known as Army Air Corps Section, Cyprus, and Air Platoon, 3rd Green Jackets, is situated approximately two miles from Alexander Barracks at the Dhekelia Airstrip, where the Regiment's four Auster A.O.P. Mk. 9s are housed along with the Air Platoon's Workshops, Stores and Administration Offices.

Unlike other integrated Air Platoons and Air Troops at present being formed within the Army, and due to the fact that the Battalion aircraft are only light aircraft within the Base Areas of Cyprus, the Platoon's primary task lies in providing communication and liaison flights between the Cantonnements and Nicosia as directed by H.Q. Cyprus District. But this in no way blocks any request the Battalion may make upon their own aircraft for support to Platoon, Company and Battalion training and exercises. This support can take various forms from small supply drops, reconnaissance and spotting, to casualty evacuations. Opportunities to take part in Battalion training are never missed and to date include numerous air experience flights, recce sortie with the Recce Platoon, supply drops of 24-hour compo rations to "B" Company, and continual recces on the very recent Battalion I.S. exercise "China Pot", during which there was a total of fourteen hours' flying over a three-day period by one aircraft maintained by a Regimental Team of Pilot, 4-ton F.F.R. driver and two Platoon Signallers. When training permits, the Platoon is fully capable of maintaining and operating from advanced landing grounds behind and within easy reach of Battalion H.Q., but alas the chance to put this into actual practice while exercising within the restricted areas available in Cyprus, is very nearly impossible.

This small sub-unit is in the unique position of being at the centre of a three-line directive which in point of fact works remarkably well. Our allegiance and loyalty to the Battalion to whom we belong, our primary flying details given to us direct by H.Q. Cyprus District, and all directions regarding pilot training, flying discipline and aircraft technical instructions received direct from H.Q. 2 Wing, Army Air Corps, at Netheravon.

Yet, when all parade, the Air Platoon has only a strength of eighteen. This number made up of three pilots, one regimental and two Army Air Corps, a S/Sgt. and Sgt. R.E.M.E., along with six R.E.M.E. Corporal Air Mechanics, a R.E.M.E.





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Lance-Corporal Clerk and Storeman, a Corporal R.A.O.C., a Corporal R.A.M.C., and Regimental Administrative Sergeant with two Regimental Signallers. A compact little group each with a very responsible task all of whom work extremely well.

INTELLIGENCE SECTION

The last quarter of 1964 saw many changes in the Intelligence Section. Lieut. Goulson and C/Sgt. Richardson took over the empty places left by the departure of Lieut. Everitt and Sgt. Sutton. Cpl. Bembrose gave notice of actually leaving the Army in June, 1965; Cpl. Stratford is in a permanent state of change between Intelligence Section and Post Corporal; L/Cpl. Allen and Pte. Hardy are to go on an N.C.O.s' Cadre in January, from which it is hoped that they will both emerge one stripe to the good; Pte. Burrows has become dedicated to riding and hopes to fill the vacant position of a groom; Pte. Cross has followed Lieut. Goulson from "C" Company into the Intelligence Section.

Most important of all, however, is the pleasantly sunny office which we acquired on arrival has been requisitioned for the Training Major designate, and we have had to change our habitat to the church! If you're looking for us, just listen for the bells.

Oh, training . . . well, we're starting next week on our fourth training attempt to get a training programme under way!

Nostalgically we bade farewell to the Old Year and eagerly welcomed the New Year; so we leave THE POACHER and look forward to the first edition of THE CASTLE—007.

H.Q. ADMIN. COMPANY

Headquarter Admin. is smaller than it was—by twelve soldiers. I don't suppose this indicates anything more than the Company Commander's failure to overcome a deeply entrenched and intricate defensive system, planned and carefully co-ordinated by the heads of departments, whose apparent object is to increase the numbers of men in each department, thereby disguising their real intent of maintaining the status quo.

The argument follows a well-worn path:—

Company Commander: Are you able to justify your strength?

Head of Department: Yes.

Company Commander: Well?

Head of Department: Surely YOU know what they do?

Company Commander: Of course, but . . .

Head of Department: Well, there you are.

Company Commander: I see, but it strikes me. . . .

Head of Department: And there's another thing, you know so and so, well he's going soon and he is worth at least two men. . . .

Notwithstanding the Company is in good heart, quietly laughing over our win on the Battalion Sports Day and made particularly pleasant by the "A" football team victory. Our football history was not distinguished until then, defeat followed

defeat, in some cases scores were nearly up to test match standard. The Company is perhaps fitter than it was, with its compulsory P.T. periods and inter-department league (currently hit hard by Battalion goings on), but there are many not looking forward to P.E. tests which now have been changed and seem somewhat vulgarly practical.

Numerous marriages to report: I./Cpl. Bray, Bdsm. Gilbert, Steeples and Templeman, 1/mr. Bannister, Ptes. Morris and Coulson, and L/Cpls. Day, Cheetham and Rouget. Congratulations to you all and it is hoped you won't be separated too long.

The Drums have had a varied time, acting as Stand-by Platoon, mountaineering in Akrotiri by dusk and sometimes finding time to play their bugles. But we have formed yet another secret and powerful weapon—Sgt. McKenzie's Own—which will doubtless compete with anything the Drums can do and certainly scare the daylights out of anyone foolhardy enough to argue the toss with them—that is if they remember to bring their kit.

The Quartermaster's staff have built an extremely fine rest room with a bar; naturally comment such as "feathering your own nest" or "now that you have finished perhaps we can ask for some work" was made, but the result is excellent and their opening party was good.

S.Q.M.S. Royce and his cooks have been having a busy time what with Christmas and all, and it has been made no easier by the difference in cooking facilities. The rigours of Cyprus compare ill with the luxuries of Germany. When things have got a bit difficult the cooks have developed a perfect safety valve—just take a plate and break it over the head of the man who is complaining; result: effective silencing of complainant. They also have a television set which they like to kick.

We have to welcome three newcomers to the Company, Sgt.-Maj. Bedford (Wings) Sprason, S/Sgt. Jones (A.P.T.C.), and that chip off the blarney Capt. Courtney (R.A.M.C.).

The long lazy days of summer will soon be here. . . .

BAND

The first three months of our tour have passed very quickly, and due probably to our being the only Band in the Dhekelia Sovereign Base Area, and have not really had time to sit down and decide whether we like it here or not. Our instruments arrived just a few days before our first engagement, so there was a hurried scatter of kit to get "lips in", etc., and we have not stopped since then. We are, however, fortunate in having a Practice Room, etc., in a building originally built for the purpose, it is a little on the small size for our band but very convenient.

Sgt. Bill Parkinson is most anxious to contact former members of Bands of the Royal Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Regiments. This is with a view to keeping us all in touch with each other, circulating a quarterly Band News Letter,

and looking ahead to arranging a reunion on our return to U.K. Names and addresses please to Bill, c/o 2nd Battalion.

One of our three Dawson brothers, Ronald, is now living in Minhead, Somerset. He has exchanged his flute for a distemper brush and is in partnership with his father-in-law as an interior decorator; we wish him well. Bds. Hanlon left us just before our move to Cyprus and is now principal oboist with H.M. Scots Guards. I./Cpl. Ivey is serving with the 4th Battalion in Watchet; we wish him a quick return to his former good health and look forward to seeing him again. Bds. Witles, Gray and Reed have returned to the Band on completion of their Pupils' Course at Kneller Hall and are putting to good use the knowledge gained during the last twelve months.

M.T. SECTION

And so after shivering for four nights on Exercise "China Pot" we return to Barracks in high spirits at the thought of there being a few hours' respite at least, only to find the Editor's reminder that POACHER notes were due! So much for the author who thinks ahead and has his notes to hand in readiness for submission day. Who can that be we wonder? Certainly not this writer!

The Exercise from which we have just returned gave us all the opportunity to leave Barracks and static guards, and to give our legs a much needed stretch. Being based on air portability scales it brought home to us in no uncertain way the amount of home comforts which accompany the 3-ton or A.P.C. vehicles in a normal Battalion role. Based on some 24 Landrovers we fought and lived with great enthusiasm, and it was satisfying to see the drivers rise to the occasion when urgent moves were required and we found that a load of twelve men with kit was quite a practical venture on a 4-ton and trailer. As the Rifle Companies only had two 4-tons each, the M.T.O. was found to be juggling with "pooled" ammo and stores vehicles in "A" Echelon and endeavouring to meet the priorities of Op. requirements, Rations, P.O.L., Stores and Water and to keep in the favour of those who matter. One thing that can be said though and it is this—that as a result of recent signal training afternoons, our "Moto" now recognises the odd piece of Voice Procedure to be heard coming from the Signals ironmongery in the rear of his vehicle—unlike some other well-loved character (not in "A" Echelon) who, when dragged to the set in hour of darkness, ranted and raved something terrible because they couldn't hear him at the other end. (Why are "I amps Hand/Electric" made the same shape as a C42 Microphonehand anyway?)

The drivers are rapidly becoming acquainted with the island and local conditions but sadly miss the opportunity of undertaking journeys of a longer distance. It is a rare thing to have a detail which covers more than 100 miles and our monthly average of 46,500 is made up largely of repeated



Corporal Jack Mitchell, of the M.T., and his wife Evelyn, supervise the unpacking of presents on Christmas morning by Susan (4 years) and Bruce (18 months).

local runs connected with the Op. commitment. At the time of writing we have just received warning of the Annual R.E.M.E. Inspection of vehicles 8th-20th March, which is prior to the Admin. Inspection. In many respects we are pleased that this is on us fairly soon and will enable us to set out a repair and respray programme which is badly needed.

A number of the married men of the section are anxiously counting the days now to when their families are due to join them in January/February, 1965. These represent the first to come out since the arrival of the main body in October and their arrival has been long awaited, and we are certain will result in smiling faces in the Section.

After the hot, dry and waterless two months which followed our arrival, we have now seen ample rain, flooding, and temperatures as low as 54 F. to last us our stay—snow can be seen on the mountain tops, too. Christmas was a hectic period for all with the full Regiment in station. Plenty of activities were laid on for those in Barracks and much must be said for those families on the M.T. who opened their doors so hospitably to the less fortunate and lonely men of the Section during that period. The M.T. party was postponed until 4th January so as to ensure our maximum number were available to attend. We missed the previous enjoyments of putting it on in a local German Gasthaus, but at least we had two cutlets and kertofel salad. The greatest shock for the evening was when, unknown to any of us, four of our wives burst in on us, said good evening, and joined the tables for a drink. One should have seen the shocked amazement of the faces of certain husbands. However, the wives behaved themselves very well and they had a busy hour meeting the

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requirements of the twisting fans of our Section. We even persuaded one of them to do a solo turn—that was really “evil”. (They left after an hour or so, to enable us to discuss more advanced M.T. skills and tactics.)

Finally, a brief word of farewell to Pte. Adcock, who has returned to the dangers of Civvy Street and is after a P.S.V. licence—fares, please, ting-ting.

For those who know A.S.M. Ambler, our W.O. i/c L.A.D. at Osnabruck, they will be pleased to know that at time of writing he is progressing well in B.M.H. Munster after an accident in which he has lost his lower left leg. Much correspondence has passed between B.M.H. and his old friends in this Regiment, and he still has great hopes of gaining his Commission (which was to happen last November) later this year. He reckons that the Q.M. Stores must have some wooden legs lying around and he is quite prepared to accept it on his A.F.H. 1157. Good luck, Buzz.

We offer our congratulations to Sgt. Fisher on his well-earned promotion and wish him the best of luck on his posting to U.K. to relieve Sgt. Ancliffe.

Sharing, too, in congratulations are our 4- x 4-ton vehicles that went in for a Rally organised by 9 Signal Regiment one Sunday recently. They obtained 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th places with the first vehicle crewed by Sgt. Fisher and Dvr. Brocklebank.

We welcome back to the fold after his holiday in “C” Company one, Cpl. Mitchell—returned to the ranks of the professionals once again.

OFFICERS' MESS

The worst winter that Cyprus has seen for fifteen years struck us late in November and has been striking us lustily ever since. The Officers appear to be stricken in two ways—those recently stationed in England or Germany are amazed at the complaints of the natives, and revel in the frost-free Mediterranean breezes, while those recently in Malaysia or the Congo daily resemble more closely the Betjeman tennis ball—old, bald and green.

In keeping with the season of Epiphany we have had three visitors—the Garrison, the Ladies and the Sergeants. The garrison descended on us, we must confess, at our invitation, in strength on 12th December for cocktails, and appeared to enjoy the experience immoderately. This party will be remembered for the splendour of the flowers arranged with such artistry by Marjorie Barstow, Louise White and Pam Kitchin; they were fabulous—both, that is.

The Ladies dined in on 22nd December and brought charm to what otherwise might have been an austere gathering. The atmosphere of the gay evening was perfectly set by the décor, which was designed by Zombie and Louise White and executed (well, punished) by the Subalterns.

The Warrant Officers and Sergeants visited the Officers' Mess on 2nd January for Dew Near Yinks, or rather Yew Dear Ninks—New Year Drinks. You know what these parties are.

The opening Meet of the Dhekalia Drag took place at the Mess on 22nd November and provided one of the more bizarre sights to be seen in the Near or Middle East. It was pleasant to see so many keen soldiers taking part in a sport not hitherto notable for its democracy.

All of the officer movements have been concentrated about the ample person of Dan Francis. He arrived, threatened to take over “C” Company, thought better of it, did an audit and departed on leave. He is expected back soon.

SERGEANTS' MESS

We welcome C.S.M. Ron) and Mrs. Sprason from the 4th Battalion who have settled down and been accepted by all; Sgt. and Mrs. Hill from P.S.I. duties at Lincoln; Sgt. (Shack) and Mrs. Shailes from recruiting; Sgt. (Ray) Chapman, who has now opened his own estate agency; Sgt. Robinson (ex-Signal Pl.) from 4/6 Bn. Leicestershire (T.A.). We have also changed all of our attached “clan” in so far as S/Sgt. and Mrs. Sutton (R.E.M.E. Armourer), S/Sgt. and Mrs. Selwood (R.A.P.C.), S/Sgt. and Mrs. Rix (R.E.M.E. Air Platoon), Sgt. and Mrs. Roberts (R.E.M.E. Air Platoon), Sgt. and Mrs. Speight (R. Signals) and Sgt. Musson (R.E. Pilot). Sgt. Musson was formerly a member of the Battalion, a Lance-Corporal in the Intelligence Section. The newly promoted members being Sgts. Clements, Worley, Neal and Eisher have all proved their capabilities in our social life.

We have now settled down once again to our new role in Cyprus. Our Mess building is quite nice, although once again we have hit the usual problem of there being no room large enough in which to hold our dances. We are very fortunate however in being very near to the sea and have our own beach, the only Mess with this “luxury” in the Garrison.

Our main entertainment shortly after arrival took the form of “curry and picnic” lunches at Sunday lunch time, when coaches were hired to bring the families in from Larnaca; these were always a great success and we look forward to a repetition when the weather gets warmer.

We have already had some extremely good social occasions. It was suggested that a “cheese and wine” night would go well, which it did; no dancing took place after 10 p.m. as no one was able to recognise the tempo so we joined tables and sang. At one frightful stage John Dixon got up to sing and had us all worried, but fortunately he did know different words. The ladies all enjoyed it to the extent that husbands were waiting in cars and the mini-bus to take them home; plenty of heavy howls followed.

We entertained the officers before serving lunch to the soldiers on Christmas Day, and to round off the Christmas festivities we had the New Year's

Eve Ball, C.S.M. (Knobby) Russell, S/Sgt. (Tiffany) Sutton and Sgt. (Sparks) Neal are to be congratulated for the wonderful way the Mess had been decorated and the "patio" covered for this function. We had the C.S.E. Show, the star being Wee Willie Harris, as entertainment and the whole evening was a great success.

WIVES' CLUB

We have had no notes in the last two issues of THE POACHER owing to the fact that while the Battalion were staging at Felixstowe the Wives' Club closed down.

However, soon after our arrival in Cyprus in October a meeting was held and a new Committee formed consisting of Mrs. Barstow as Secretary, Mrs. Franks as Treasurer, Mrs. Sprason, Mrs. Selwood, Mrs. Naylor and Mrs. Rowlands, and meetings are now being held fortnightly in Larnaca.

Our first outing was on 26th October (the children's half term) when a bus was hired to bring families from Larnaca to the beach in Dhekelia. This was very popular and some very "snazzy" swim suits appeared. Since then the weather has not been good enough for such outings but we hope to have more of these in the spring and summer.

A most successful meeting was held in November when we had a wine tasting evening. This was given by the local wine firm and a great deal of local wine was consumed and some extraordinary "home truths" came out—everyone agreed we should have another of these in the not too distant future.

A shopping trip to Nicosia at the beginning of December was enjoyed by a small number of wives. On our return journey a stop was made outside the palace of Archbishop Makarios and at that moment the Archbishop himself appeared and everyone had a good view of him.

A "Bring and Buy" Sale was held just before Christmas and this helped to boost our funds, which have been pretty low since our Farewell Dance at Osnabruck.

Soon after our arrival in Cyprus Mrs. Kitchin, helped by Mrs. Taunton and Mrs. Barthorp, opened a Battalion Nursery School in her house. Unfortunately a few weeks after opening, the school had to close for three weeks owing to Measles, but reopened again for a short spell before Christmas. Mrs. Kitchin has now left and we do thank her for all she has done. Mrs. Taunton, helped by some of the Garrison wives, has now opened a Garrison Nursery School in Larnaca.

The Committee worked extremely hard when they wrapped some 200-odd parcels for the Children's Party and many wives helped in producing some excellent food for the party which was held on the 22nd December.

BATTALION SPORT

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy". You may imagine that we have had little time to devote to sport in view of our Op. commitments, but this has not precluded our full participation in an imposing list of sports available to us here on the island.

Football tops the popularity poll. The Battalion 1st XI now heads the Island-wide Major Units League, with Pte. Gooday as the main architect of our success. All the Company football teams have been taking part in a Minor Units League. "B" Company have just won the Minor Knockout Cup by defeating King Richards School 2-1 in a very exciting final.

There has been no dearth of talent for the Battalion Hockey XI, but in the main we have to thank H.Q. (Admin.) Company for their strong support. Here again we are taking part in a league with moderate success.

Capt. "Speedy" Spacie and Sgt. Hammerton (he's over 30, you know) have been leading the Cross-Country eight all over the island in search of glory. These enthusiasts—could they be anything else—brought the Battalion a creditable 3rd place in the Army Championships over a very rough 7-mile course here in Dhekelia recently.

The weather at the moment has been difficult for sailing, although we have done a little, but it has brought snow to Troodos and snow has meant ski-ing. Fifty members of the Battalion are going on advanced and novices' courses. We also have a platoon, changing weekly, on duty at the leave centre, the members of which are encouraged to ski. With our background of ski experience in Germany and the amount of present participation we have, dare I say it, high hopes for the championship at the end of February. It won't be for want of trying, anyway.

There has been a very gratifying response to the call for new riding club members. A number of soldiers have taken advantage of the excellent facilities offered and are to be seen "taking the air" of an afternoon. A number of very enjoyable hunt meets have been held.

Those with a yen (excuse the Chinese) to do something different and possessing a good head for heights will have found a niche in the Battalion Climbing Club, which runs expeditions to the Kyrenia Range every Sunday. It has an enthusiastic following. "Because it is there" is not, however, a good enough reason for all of us to join.

The Zebras (Garrison Rugger Side) have been improved, we like to think, although some of the final scores are at variance with this view, by the injection of Battalion talent into the team. Our aim is, of course, to run a side of our own again when Op. commitments allow.

Our man at the Club House has just put down his gin and tonic to report that there is another nasty water hazard just short of the 9th green, sorry, brown! Curse the rain!

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The Battalion basketball team had a very useful win just before Christmas against a hitherto undefeated U.N. side (we are not prepared to disclose its quality by 33-22. A number of wins have also been chalked up against local sides. The court in the Gym has been taken over for Battalion boxing which has received a big boost with the Annual Novices Competition. This met with the usual enthusiastic response from the Companies. Many plucky and hard-fought bouts were seen. Some reputations were lost and some gained.

The annual tech. inspection has put paid to the M.T.O.'s private badminton court in the spray bay. The game has the usual small but enthusiastic following drawn in the main from the Sergeants' Mess, M.T. and Band.

Jack hasn't much chance of having a dull time, I think you'll agree. We may not always have won but we have tried, acquitted ourselves creditably and, above all, enjoyed ourselves. We intend to continue in this vein.

Regimental Association

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

Lincolnshire Wing

LINCOLN BRANCH

Our new branch premises were officially opened on the 20th November, 1964, the opening ceremony was performed by the Chairman, Mr. F. C. Lovesey, who said that it had been a twelve-year struggle to get a good permanent home for the Lincoln Branch, and now this had been achieved he hoped that more former members of the 10th Foot, and also those of the Royal Anglian Regiment, would give the Branch their full support. He then declared the Branch officially opened.

The social evening was very well attended; we were pleased to welcome many old friends as new members, who cheerfully paid their subscriptions to do so. Since the opening of the new premises



Lincoln Branch, Club Room
The Keep, Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln, 1964.



New Bar, Lincoln Branch, 1964.

I am pleased to report that our roll of full members has grown considerably. Of these, one I should like to name is Frank Abbott, whom many will remember during his Army service as a Regimental Policeman, and who since joining the Branch has become one of the Branch Committee. Welcome to you Frank, and to all new members.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The indoor games competition league was won this year by Mrs. Eastmead, wife of a member, the first time a lady has been the winner. The trophy, a silver cup, was presented by the Branch

Chairman for the competition which had been supported by over 50 members.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

The Christmas Draw this year was tremendously popular, over 2,000 tickets were sold and more than 100 prizes won. The Branch was open during periods of the Christmas holiday, the highlight being Boxing Day morning when the Burton Hunt held their traditional Meet at Sobraon Barracks, following which many members and their guests assembled at the Club for drinks and a most enjoyable time was had by all.

The Children's Christmas Party was held on the 16th January, 1965, and we were able to provide tea, entertainment, and gifts for the children of 60 members, in addition there were prizes for games, and music for dancing provided by a very young "beat group" which delighted the children.

COMMENT

Members at our last monthly meeting expressed regret that the next edition of *THE POACHER* would be its last, and felt that we were losing another link with the Old Corps. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Editor, and wish him good luck in the future, and express the hope that we may be allowed to contribute to *THE CASTLE*.

The Chairman again appeals to all former members of the Regiment residing in the Lincoln area to come and join us at our new premises in the Keep at Sobraon Barracks and become Full Branch Members, thus helping us to donate more to the Benevolent Fund of the Regimental Association.

GRIMSBY AND DISTRICT BRANCH

The regular monthly meetings of the Branch have been held as usual at Westward Ho Barracks with fair attendances.

Major Latimer, to the regret of his fellow members, has left the District and moved to a new appointment in Norfolk. We shall miss his cheerful personality.

A very enjoyable social evening was held on 19th December, when numerous attractive prizes were won, including a fine jack hare, while a fine leveret went at the bargain price of 1s. 6d.! The wife of the Chairman received a beautiful surprise bouquet from the members present as it was her birthday.

The Branch was well represented at the Service at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday, when the wreath was deposited by Major Latimer and the Exhortation was read by the Chairman.

Preparations are well forward for the Branch Annual Dinner at the Winter Gardens, Cleethorpes, when Brigadier Oulton will be with us again and we shall be glad to welcome all our friends. The date—6th March, 1965.

The Branch is organising a sweepstake on the Lincolnshire Handicap and tickets are now available. Application should be made to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. B. Brittain, 176 Convamore Road, Grimsby.

STAMFORD BRANCH

The Annual Dinner of the Stamford Branch was held in the Drill Hall, and among the guests present were Brigadier R. H. I. Oulton, Deputy Colonel, Councillor G. W. Gray (Worshipful Mayor of Stamford), Mr. Jack Short, Managing Director of T. Gibson (Engineers) Ltd., of Broad Street, Stamford, two of his co-directors and six employees of that firm.

Mr. S. R. Seamer, Branch Chairman, presided.

At the conclusion of an excellent dinner, Mr. Short presented to the Branch a magnificent brass base made by his workmen, in which will be placed the old Standard of the Branch dedicated in 1952, which has been laid up in St. Michael's Church, which in 1963 was closed, the Standard being transferred by kind permission of Canon E. F. Wright to All Saints Church for safe keeping. The gift of the base was the outcome of a conversation Mr. Sylvester had with Mr. Short, and when presented and seen for the first time, the outcome of his chat came as a great surprise.

Thanks were conveyed by the Chairman to Mr. Short and his workmen, who had executed the work. The Standard was unveiled by Mr. Sylvester and placed in the base by Mr. N. Busby, the Branch Standard Bearer.

As is customary, Brigadier Oulton replied to the toast of "The Regiment", and gave first-hand news of the Battalion and families in Cyprus, and took the opportunity of thanking the people of both Counties and in particular those of Stamford, for the wonderful reception accorded to the Regiment on its farewell tour before going to Cyprus.

Major H. I. Simpson, who proposed the toast of the visitors, made special mention of the Chairman and Secretary of the Northamptonshire Regimental Old Comrades' Association, who were present.

Mr. Mayor (Councillor Gray) who replied to the toast, also referred to the visit of the 2nd East Anglian Regiment to Stamford, and said that the Beating of Retreat would be something to remember for a long time. "Stamford is a happy place, and the gesture of Mr. Short and his friends is so typical of the people here."

Stamford Amateur Operatic Society provided a Concert Party to entertain after dinner. The programme compered by Mr. Grahame Sorfleet was much appreciated and rounded off what had been a splendid evening.

Before a large congregation the Old Standard referred to above was carried to All Saints Church in December by Mr. N. Busby, escorted by Mr. J. F. Green and Mr. D. H. Trowell, received by the Vicar and placed in its new base in the chancel. Thirty members of the Branch were present at the Service, with those of the usual congregation. Details relating to the Dinner and Service at All Saints Church were published in the *Stamford Mercury*, which carried a photograph, B.1283, of the Old Standard and the presentation of the new base.

At the Annual Meeting of the Branch the Officers

and Committee of the Branch for the ensuing year were elected.

The Officers of the Branch were all re-elected as were the majority of the Committee.

Northamptonshire Wing

HUNTINGDON BRANCH

It is with pleasure we report the formation of a new Branch of the Wing at Huntingdon.

The Peterborough Branch with their visits to surrounding districts sowed the seed, and on 16th December, 1964, a meeting was held in Huntingdon at which it was unanimously resolved "That a Branch of the Regimental Comrades' Association should be formed in Huntingdon." Application was then made to the Wing Committee for their formal approval.

Capt. R. Copley was elected as Branch Chairman and Major H. H. Pallash, T.D., as the Branch Secretary.

The first meeting of the Branch was held on 22nd January, 1965, at which the Wing Secretary addressed the company and outlined the objects and aims of the Association. Much business was carried out and the enthusiasm shown by the members attending augurs well for the future of the Branch. Good luck to you, there is much you can do.

NORTHAMPTON BRANCH

SOCIAL

In November some thirty members and wives were entertained by Phipps Northampton Brewery, a very interesting film and tour of the Brewery being followed by refreshments including a thorough sampling of the firm's products.

The Club was very busy over the Christmas period—Christmas Draw Nights, Skittles and Crib Knockouts, Parties on Christmas Eve and Boxing Night, with excellent buffet suppers organised by Mr. and Mrs. Roberts. New Year's Eve was celebrated with another party. All these functions were very much enjoyed by all present.

The Children's Party on 2nd January was a great success, over seventy children (including ten from one of the local Children's Homes) being entertained with tea, games, dancing and presents.

The dates for the A.G.M. and the Annual Dinner and Dance have not yet been fixed, but will probably be held in March and April respectively, and both will be advertised in the local press.

WELFARE

All aged members received a gift of money at Christmas, and several sick members have been helped during the quarter. Various sums from collecting boxes and a raffle have been passed to the Association.



Northampton Branch

Left to right: W. McGurk, P. Todd and J. O. Roberts at work planning the Christmas festivities.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership has increased slightly over the past year and it is hoped that this trend will continue. May I remind members that subs for 1965 were due in January and that some members are still in arrears for 1964.

J. R. MATTHEWS, *Secretary*.

PETERBOROUGH BRANCH

Belated Happy New Year and best wishes to all branches and members. Undoubtedly the most rewarding efforts since the last publication is the formation of a new branch, namely Huntingdon. This is the outcome of our Branch visits to surrounding districts, and in only two visits to Huntingdon the Branch was formed and set off to a good start both in membership and finance.

The inaugural meeting was held at the T.A. Centre, Huntingdon, on 22nd January; we wish them every success.

A "get together" was held at the T.A. Centre, London Road, on 20th December last. This was quite an enjoyable lunch hour with a sing-song, including carols, around the piano.

Financial assistance was afforded to several members at Christmas. Our next social event has been arranged for March, to which we hope to have the pleasure of visits from other Branches.

Capt. Tom Agutter is shortly leaving the 4/5th Bn. We wish him well and hope to see him around at any future function.

The following members are indisposed, we wish them a speedy recovery to normal health: N. Hutchings, R. Darby, W. Simpson and C. Burgess.

Many thanks to the Editor for all the interesting items and news published to date in THE POACHER. We look forward to the new publication, THE CASTLE. Our General Meeting takes place in February (more news later).

Best wishes to all Branches.

H. G. TOMPRINS, *Secretary*.

Territorial Army



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

OFFICERS' MESS

As we reported in the last edition of *THE POACHER* we are without a home, so that we were unable to have the usual Christmas Party. However, the contractors just completed the building in time for us to entertain the Burton Hunt on Boxing Day. As there was no furniture in the building we used the Junior Ranks' Canteen, Bill Munday and Michael Gregory, together with some civilian volunteers, mixed the "jollop", which was appreciated by approximately 150 friends and members of the Hunt. As usual we were delighted to see many who spend Christmas in Lincoln, including Brigadier and Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Wenham, Colonel Riggall, Mr. Pritchett, Major and Mrs. Segon, Alex Greenwood and family, Eric and Gwen Jessop, Dick and Margaret Newsum and Henry.

As these notes are written the process of occupying the Mess rooms is in full swing, and we now find whether our choice of colours for curtains, etc., has proved to be right—and what happened to the rest of the carpet? However, after hurried consultation all is well, and we look forward to holding the next Mess Gathering in early February.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Our last edition concluded in the midst of the handing and taking over of our Training Officers, so it is now that we extend a warm welcome to Major and Mrs. T. H. Styles, 1 Royal Anglian, and trust their tour with us will be a happy one. Major and Mrs. J. M. Barstow we learn are now settled in Cyprus. We wish to thank Major Barstow for all his work here in the Battalion.

With the Christmas approach, life socially has been remarkably quiet, although training has continued with various N.C.O.s' Cadres and Recruit Training, and in preparation for Annual Camp, 1965, certain selected N.C.O.s have attended the two weeks' course at the Army Home Defence Centre at Devizes, Wilts, and to date results have been encouraging, almost all of our P.S.I.s will be attending shortly, and with the New Year we look forward to Home Defence Training and trust

these W.O.s/N.C.O.s will put across to us any new methods for this type of Defence training. The four-year cycle seems to have quickly rotated since our last Camp at Millom, Cumberland.

"D" Company at Gainsborough were again the hosts for the Mess Christmas Draw, it was felt that the administration and organisation was up to the usual high standard, and we thank the following who made the evening possible: Major J. C. Graham, C.S.M. R. Ingall and his members, W.O.2 A. M. McCarthy (P.S.I.), Mrs. R. Ingall and the ladies, and the T.A. volunteers who acted as waiters in a most efficient and cheerful manner. The C.O., the Officers and their Ladies kindly accepted the invitation to attend this year; we were delighted to see them and trust they had an enjoyable evening. The Draw Committee consisting of S/Sgt. E. Sharpe and Sgt. G. Street, are to be congratulated on the prize selection and in keeping the expenditure to a minimum.

As we write this edition Sgt. C. I. Parkin, our M.T. (P.S.I.) appears to be busily collecting tools and other M.T. items in preparation for his hand-over to Sgt. O. Taylor, due to join us from the Depot. Sgt. Parkin has successfully applied for Discharge by Purchase and will be leaving shortly; we wish him, Mrs. Parkin and family the very best of luck in Civvy Street.

It is with much regret that this will be the last issue of *THE POACHER*; we would like to thank all those who worked to develop the Magazine into the efficient Regimental Magazine it has been, we look forward to our next contribution to *THE CASTLE* which will contain our own item of history, with news of our first ever W.O.s' and Sgts.' Mess which will be situated in the new T.A. Centre, Sobraon Barracks.

"A" COMPANY

As usual during the winter months social events make most of the headlines for this issue of *THE POACHER* notes, though it should be noted that we have survived yet another Annual Administrative Inspection with little to tarnish our reputation

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Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association



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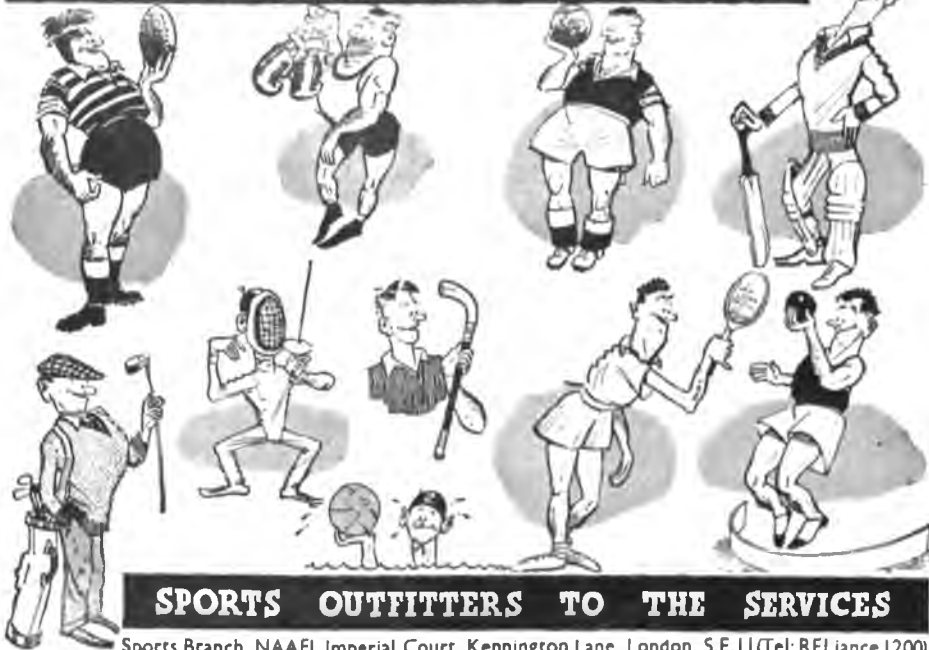
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other than the wrong number of oil bottles in the Stamford Armoury!

On 19th November we held another very successful social and .22 shoot at Stamford, and on this occasion we welcomed as our guests and opponents teams from the Police and the Stamford Rifle Club. There is no doubt that these evenings prove very popular, even if the crack shots from the visiting teams do show us up at times, and it is intended to make them a regular feature at both Stamford and Spalding during the winter.

As usual during the pre-Christmas period at Stamford the Drill Hall was loaned to the G.P.O. for the sorting of the Christmas mail. The annual T.A. Club Dinner was put back on account of this and was held on Saturday, 2nd January. This year we had about 80 people sitting down to an excellent meal, and the guests included the Mayor of Stamford, the Commanding Officer and Training Major, and representatives from R.A.F. Wittering, The Old Comrades' Association, and the *Stamford Mercury*, as well as representatives from other Companies within the Battalion. The Band played strongly and a most enjoyable party continued until the early hours of the morning. Our thanks go to Sgt. Edgeley and his Dinner Committee for a most successful evening.

Perhaps it was the very success of the party the night before which was the reason for a rather lower attendance than usual at the traditional .22 shoot on the Sunday morning after the Dinner. Nevertheless, those who came along and managed to keep one bloodshot eye open long enough to see the target were rewarded with some worthwhile prizes.

"B" COMPANY

We have had a full social calendar through the Christmas period. We had a very well-attended social evening at the Drill Hall on 24th November, to say good-bye and good luck to Major M. H. L. Farrant, T.D., who had won a lot of respect and affection in the short time that he had been with the Company. We are sorry to see him go and wish him well in his new appointment in Birmingham. Pte. Peacock made the presentation of a desk pen and combined ash tray, and Major Farrant expressed his regret at leaving the Company, and welcomed Capt. G. H. Dawson as his successor. Cpl. G. Bell provided a very excellent and a very hot curry, which considerably helped the trade over the bar.

The Annual Christmas Party was held in the Drill Hall on 12th December, when the Drill Hall was filled to capacity with delighted children and harassed parents. L/Cpl. Knight and the Committee members, Sgt. Thompson, Cpl. Teesdale, L/Cpl. Hatfield, Ptes. Holmes and Dodd, all worked very hard behind the scenes to provide an excellent meal, and also acted as Support Company to the two O.C.A. members, Mr. F. Pepperdy and Mr. E. Malone, who acted very ably as M.C. and Father Christmas respectively. Altogether a very

enjoyable and full *filling* time was had by one and all.

A reunion dinner held by ex-C.S.M. G. Johnson on 11th December was well attended by serving members and Boston Old Comrades.

The Sergeants' Mess Draw was favourable to us in that Major Farrant, Capt. Dawson, C/Sgt. Woolerton and Cpl. Bell all received prizes.

All ranks look forward to getting out and about in more clement weather during the coming quarter. A Battalion Week-end at Beckingham on 30th-31st January is followed very closely by a Range day on Sunday, 7th February. It is hoped that by 20th-21st March we shall be acclimatised for the Escape and Evasion Exercise covering ground in the wilds of the Louth area. We hope to be joined by members of "C" Company, and we also will welcome the company of the Louth Grammar School Cadets.

"C" COMPANY

Since our last contribution to THE POACHER, "C" Company has enjoyed the usual seasonal period of calm.

We have, however, not been entirely dormant, and on 13th December there was a Company Day on Hallington Range where we were usefully employed zeroing our weapons in preparation for Annual Classification. The day was a miserable one but we managed to fulfil our intentions before being finally rained off.

The next event on our calendar was the Annual Admin inspection, and the overall results of this we were led to believe was not unfavourable. The Company M.T. Section being especially commended on their vehicles.

The Company's yearly party for the children was very efficiently organised by C.S.M. Reeves, C/Sgt. Flett and Cpls. Brett and Hardy, also a lot of hard work was put in by their wives, and the obvious enjoyment of the event by the children was a pleasure to behold.

We welcome our newest recruit to the Company, Pte. Storey, J. G., and trust his stay with us will be a happy one.

Finally we look forward to the New Year and all the interest and hard work it will doubtless bring.

"D" COMPANY

These notes are being written at a time when it is apparent that the effects of Christmas have not fully worn off. Festivities commenced with the Children's Christmas Party, when we entertained approximately 40 prospective recruits. "D" Company again acted as hosts for the Sergeants' Mess Draw, which again was highly successful.

The traditional Christmas Shoot was well attended by both this Company and our colleagues of 3 Troop of 863 Movement Light Squadron, R.E. (T.A.) plus a particularly strong and thirsty Officer contingent from Lincoln. We are as always indebted to the trades people of Gainsborough who so generously donated approximately 70 prizes.

The Gabbitas Cup was won by Pte. B. J. P. Cooper of our Scunthorpe detachment, a very worthy achievement considering this is his first year in the T.A.

Major H. D. Marshall, M.B.E., T.D., D.I., again made the New Year's Eve Ball a great success and our thanks must go to him for the enormous help he has given us this year.

In addition to the above social activities we again had our Annual Admin Inspection, during which

the Brigade Commander produced a pair of disreputable musty boots out of thin air. These must have belonged to a previous Company Commander.

We must congratulate Cpls. Walkeden and Holman on obtaining a "C" grading on their Civil Defence Course at Devizes. Well done!

The recruiting during the first fortnight of the New Year has been most encouraging. We are pleased to welcome some old faces back to the fold, also J/Pte. Cooper, A. H.

Territorial Army



4th/5th Battalion

The Northamptonshire Regt. (T.A.)

"FLY BY NIGHT"

We again entered a team for the annual Bedfs and Herts Exercise "Fly By Night". The distance was less than the two previous years, being about 8,000 yards as the crow flies but nearer 16,000 yards as the P.B.I. runs, walks and crawls!

By a late publishing of the area involved we were unable to indent for maps and made do with civilian 1/25,000 versions bought with only hours to spare. No time for previous map study of the countryside.

We arrived in Bishop's Stortford an hour before our given time, and cooked our meal in the station car park in leisurely fashion, 20.00 hours. Now the briefing—it starts to snow—we are parachutists and are in hostile country—a R.V. to make and arrival within a given 15 minutes, 8 hours after dropping.

On with the camouflage cream and civilian headgear, our team leader dons his woolly ski hat a sure sign that battle is about to commence (overheard comment by an unknown soldier: "My god, the Northamptons have signed up Noddy!"), jump up and down, no rattles; thank goodness for "commando" soles.

Hushed and expectant into the darkened truck, warmer than the hail now falling. Canopy down and we're off, stopping, starting, weaving, turning, for half an hour.

D.Z.—First stick jump—move quickly, enemy scout car will be on to us in three minutes. Run like the devil, up a 10-foot bank, into a clump of

trees—just in time—enemy vehicles go by; two hundred yards too far—shouting for a few minutes—start up—drive away. Good, now where are we? Quick fix—approximate position, let's go as fast as we can 1,000 yards due south. Stopped hailing and snowing now—bright and crisp. Across ploughed fields where the furrows are a good yard deep and always across, never with, our path.

"That's the thousand yards, Sir." "Right, into that hen house. Mind the wire, pass it back." "Mind the wire, pass it back." "Mind the—blast! Clumsy idiot." Dammit, he's dropped his compass, Court of Enquiry, feel for it on hands and knees—get it, lucky this time. "Tie the b—y thing round your neck!" In the hen house, gentle light, check the map; phew! hen manure. On we go. Carefully, quietly—walk, stop, listen, and repeat; voices, radio mush; go left and avoid them. Over the road in a bunch, no trouble at all.

We've been working on the compass; now a quiet village green (aren't they all at 3 a.m.?) and a phone box. "Off you go, Cpl. Turner, and check where it is." "Yes, Sir, are we lost?" "No (or am I?). Come on the rest of you, in the ditch." "Wow! Look at those lights—it's a Champ—they'll see him." It's stopping. Crikey, an enemy check post and only 20 yards away. They don't see him.

"It says Farnham 494, Sir." "Yes, but where is it?" "Don't know, Sir." Tell him where to look and send him back; asking for trouble this is. He makes it. "Farnham Green, Sir." "Good, hardly

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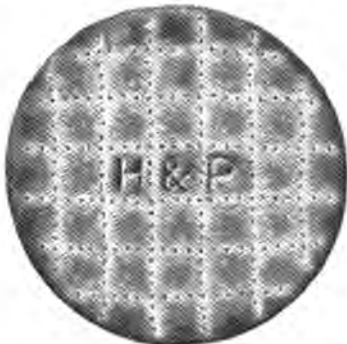
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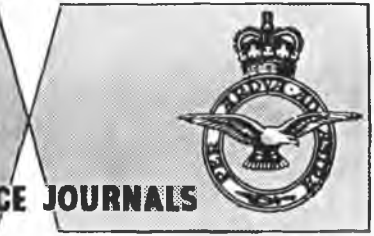
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thought we'd got that far, that's why I wanted it checking."

Smartly along the verge—lights—dive into those bushes—they're reeds and now we're wet up to the knees. Over the road into the yard round the farm into the field. Suddenly "Sir" is on his own looking down at the compass—the other four are running like mad—they've seen the charging herd. "Sir" coldly and bravely stands fast—they're only cows (or are they, how can you tell when it's that dark?). They wheel away, and "Sir" joins the rest calmly in the hedge.

"Ouch" from Fowkes and the poor devil who hadn't seen him and had trodden on his hand jumps a mile—fortunately he was wearing civvy headgear and we told him to scram (other teams must be near us).

We must be within the last 1,000 yards by now—down the track across this field—"Drop!"—turn and crawl like ruddy greyhounds. We've walked slap into the middle of the enemy command area. Detour 600 yards—snow again. Through the trees into the field; lie in the furrow ten minutes. Get up and find you're frost-stuck to mother earth. Another twenty minutes slow-slow-quick-quick-slow and we're there. The village chimes say we're bang on time but *they* weren't at O Group and we wait three minutes. Our hearts drop as we hear a team report in—a man short, that's good for us. Now we go in, first full team home.

Walk a mile along a road, noisy as we like. "You know, Sir, I can't think how Cpl. Loveday can spend the night in that stuffy 3-tonner cab. WE ought to do this sort of thing more often." "Yes, Cpl. Felkins, I'm sure YOU should."

NODDY.

BATTALION FOOTBALL

Yet again the Battalion football team acquitted itself well against opponents of well established reputations and we reached the semi-final of the Command T.A. Challenge Cup for the fifth year running. Unfortunately this year saw us losing in that round. We met our good friends, The Foresters, in the round before the semi-final and after rather a scrappy game we managed to win by the odd goal, Cpl. Deacon of Headquarter Company scoring the all important winning goal on the C.O.D. Ground at Chilwell.

Having to travel yet again in the semi-final, this time as guests of 64 Signal Regiment at Sheffield, we came up against a very good footballing side indeed, their side contained several players with football league experience. With a team weakened by shift work and injuries, we strove gallantly for most of the first half against our more polished opponents until finally they took the lead through an unfortunate penalty award. Down to ten men by half time and shortly after the restart down to nine men we were forced to concede further goals and eventually lost by nine goals.

The team was: Cpl. Kennedy ("B"), S/Sgt. Jackson (H.Q.), Cpl. Wilson ("B"), S/Sgt. Woods

(H.Q.), Capt. Hogg (H.Q.), Cpl. Rooney ("B"), Pte. Mason ("B"), Sgt. Westley ("A"), Cpl. Deacon (H.Q.), Dmr. Roberts (H.Q.), Cpl. Shortland ("A").

BATTALION BOXING

We entered boxers for the Northern Command Novices Boxing Championships at York this year and the event was well supported by all units. Our entry consisted of four individuals who boxed at different weights and three of the Battalion entries got through to the finals, which was a very good effort indeed.

Special mention must go to Pte. Griffin of H.Q. Company who boxed very courageously and was eventually beaten by the boxer who gained the award for the best boxer of the tournament. Some idea of the closeness and the excellence of this bout can be gathered from the fact that Pte. Griffin was awarded the prize for the best loser in the competition. Well done, and congratulations from all to Pte. Griffin.

RESULTS

Lightweight

Pte. Griffin (H.Q.) lost in the semi-final. Best loser's prize.

Light Middleweight

Pte. Cator (H.Q.) lost in final.

Welterweight

Pte. Gillet ("C") lost in the final.

Heavyweight

Pte. Waltham ("C") lost in the final.

We would like to thank Colonel Barber for the help he so kindly gave to all the competitors and for making the hazardous trip to York after attending the Officers' Ball the night before. Thanks are also due to Sgt. Crawshaw who helped enormously with the training and the administration beforehand.

H.Q. COMPANY

We have to note with regret the official retirement from the Battalion in December, 1964, of Capt. T. Agutter, T.D., lately our M.T.O. One of our longest serving members, he has a record of long association with the Regiment. To mark our appreciation of this, a presentation was made to him at the H.Q. Company Christmas Party, of a 35 mm. camera. Typically his reply was a model of its kind, humorous, sincere and to the point. We hope that he will enjoy the use of his camera in his well-earned retirement. We are pleased to say that his official retirement has not meant a complete severance from the Battalion (indeed we have already had his assistance at a cadet week-end in January) and we look forward to seeing him whenever he can visit us.

Mention has been made above of the H.Q. Christmas Party. This was held at the T.A. Centre on 19th December. Music was provided and was enjoyed by everyone. It was a particular pleasure for us to see for the first time certain members of the Q.M. staff twisting in public.

In November the Battalion exercise "Tally Ho" got the I and Recce Platoon working hard, and it must have been a welcome relief for the latter when towards the end of the exercise they were umpired out of action. Unexpectedly the M.T. Platoon had the chance of practising light recovery of vehicles in the early hours of Sunday morning, and found new words for the old song, "Mud, glorious mud".

Shooting on the miniature range has aroused a great deal of popular interest and the competition is keen. With the last few cards to be shot before the end of January the position is very close and is not likely to be settled much before the last round is fired.

L/Cpl. Davis claims to have discovered that his accuracy is reduced if shooting is preceded by intense physical activity, and is considering giving up indoor football—among other things.

The M.T. Platoon spent the month of November largely preparing the vehicles for the annual R.E.M.E. inspection, but the work done was far from in vain as is obvious from the fact that the Battalion obtained a report that was an improvement on last year's. Congratulations are due not merely to the M.T. Platoon but to everyone else who was concerned in making such a fine effort.

The Recce Platoon showed that they have recovered from the exercise "Tally Ho" when they engaged in a night compass march in the Huntingdon area in January. They all missed a light snowfall by about several hours, but fortunately none of them missed the final check point, which was as well since one of the teams was accompanied by a representative from the local paper. He seemed to have enjoyed it and we look forward to his account appearing.

The "I" Platoon have been engaged part of the time with their construction of a sand table model, L/Cpl. McElroy was, to say the least, disappointed when told it had to be destroyed. Might we ask if he has a bucket and spade for sale?

We are now approaching the end of winter when much of our training is necessary indoors. We are all of us looking forward to the opportunity of getting out and carrying out much more of our training in the open.

BAND NOTES

Over the winter months we have been hard at it practising for concerts and dances. Our attendance at practice has been very good—28 to 32 each practice night, which is a great improvement on past years.

The strength of the Band is now 35, the best since the war. We welcome to the Band Bdsms. Peters, Drury and Warrington, all cornet players, and hope they will enjoy their stay with us. We have lost Bill Woods; also Boy Hadman, who has decided to be a policeman; we wish them lots of luck in the future.

Since our last notes we have played concerts at Spalding and Wellingborough, a dance at Franklins Gardens for the Officers' Ball, Fanfares for Hotpoint Works, and cocktail party for the Mayor

of Peterborough. We have managed to put up a first-class show on all occasions.

The Corps of Drums are still holding their own. They put up a fine show on Remembrance Sunday, 8th November, marching to Church on their own. They sounded good and looked good. It is not often they have the chance of playing on their own, but the Band were playing in the Cathedral. The Drums has lost Dmr. Smith who has joined the Grenadier Guards.

In the past three years we have lost to the Regular Army four boys. Two to the Guards, one Royal Marines, and one to the Police Force. Quite a good record, hence no young blood coming along.

We are looking forward to 1965 with interest, knowing full well we have a lot of work to do.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Sound-barrier noises begin to be heard as the period of Administrative Inspections and Audit Boards approaches, but within the confines of the Mess all (we hope) remains serene.

An excellent social evening was held in October, when we satisfied young and old alike with Tom-bola, dancing and games, including that old favourite "horse racing". Everyone voted "Lofty" Knight's strip dance a huge success—if only a photographer could have captured the moment!

The Christmas Social Evening and Draw was also thoroughly enjoyed. About 120 members, their ladies and guests attended, and with the dancing intervals being taken up by the Draw, it took Uncle Harry and his assistants until midnight to draw the 70 prizes. Our own Chief Chefs arranged a first-class curry buffet, and our old friends of Ken Pollard's band provided the music. Sgt. Featherstonehaugh almost had to engage a porterage service, due to the number of prizes he won. Roars of laughter when Jim Kelly won a powder compact and Mick Kavanagh won a manicure set!

We congratulate Sgt. Foy on his promotion to the Mess (which was just in time to bring Mrs. Foy to the Christmas Social), and Sgt. Ward (who was just in time to serve us our Christmas drinks as Caterer). Sgt. Boyer has left us to take charge of a more lucrative business—"The Merry Miller" at Wellingborough, whilst Sgt. "Vic" Winkle is off to the 2nd Battalion in February. Our best wishes go with him and Mrs. Winkle.

Finally a word of appreciation to those members and Officers who have kindly presented the Mess with plaques of their former Regiments. We are certainly well on the way to an impressive display.

OUR ADVERTISERS

When communicating with advertisers whose firms appear in this issue, would readers very kindly mention "THE POACHER"

The Depot ***Royal Anglian Regiment***

RECRUITING NOTES

1964 was a good year for recruiting into the Regiment, and in particular for the recruiting staffs in Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire. Of the 605 adult enlistments into the Regiment throughout the year, 176 came from the 2nd Battalion area. This is an increase of over 60 on the previous year: a rise in the recruiting rate in the two counties of 50 per cent. No other Battalion area produced so many. Other figures were: 1st Battalion 117; 3rd Battalion 158; 4th Battalion 154. It is hoped that in 1965 the prospect of serving in sunny Cyprus will improve still further the flow of men from Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire. The target for the Regiment in 1965 has been set by the Regimental Colonel at 800 recruits

OFFICERS' MESS

The formation of the new Regiment has greatly quickened the tempo of Mess life.

The Mess gave a Cocktail Party for the Commanding Officer and three Officers of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment of Canada on 26th October. Colonel Tyrell very generously presented an excellent silver cigarette box to the Mess from himself and the Officers of the Regiment.

During the last year we said good-bye to Lt.-Col. Ben Palmer who has handed over his putter (but not his handicap) to Lt.-Col. Wake Clark. We wish them both the best of luck for the future.

TRAINING COMPANY

After a very high-pressure training year the recruiting rate has slackened over Christmas and the training staff get a chance to relax between platoons. We have all had a most enjoyable Christmas period, one of the highlights being the pantomime "Aladdin", for which some of the star material was drawn from members of the 2nd Battalion. As Widow Twankey Lieut. M. Wright excelled himself. As the Genie Sgt. Leatherland brought the house down whenever he appeared from an apparent flash of smoke and his basso profundo voice roared out. Cpl. Groom was well in character cast as a Chinese-type spiv.

We must also congratulate Sgt. and Mrs. Leatherland on the birth of a daughter. Our deepest sympathies are extended to Cpl. and Mrs. Holmes on the death of their baby son just after Christmas.

In the Weapon Training Wing the honour of the 2nd Battalion is being upheld by sterling work by Cpls. O'Hara, Taylor, Holmes and Middleton.

L/Cpl. Doyle is about to go off to Aldershot for an advanced P.T. course.

FOOTBALL

1964 has been quite a good year for football in the Depot.

January to May saw us losing only one match in the Ipswich and District Wednesday League to finish the season third on goal average.

The 1963-64 season also saw the Junior Soldiers' Wing reaching the semi-final of their Army Cup, losing to the Yorks Brigade after a very good run which included a win over the Junior Guards Company, the previous season's winners of the Cup.

The current season, so far, has been very good for the Depot in the Ipswich and District Wednesday League, the record to date being: Played 7; won 7; drawn nil; lost nil. Goals for 79, against 14. Points 14. In the Army Cup we lost 5-4 to the Grenadier Guards at Windsor. In the Minor Units Cup we lost 7-4 to 209 Signal Squadron after extra time. Both matches were very closely fought with the result being in doubt until the end. So far the Depot, in 14 matches, have scored 124 goals. The leading scorers being:—

S.I. Stoves	...	...	43
Pte. Hargreaves	...	...	14
L/Cpl. Hindmarsh	...	...	8
Pte. Farr	...	...	18

with almost every other member of the team scoring at least one goal.

BASKETBALL

The season started off none too well as many "stars" of last year's team have departed. In the Colchester Garrison League we have played 8, won 4, lost 4, scored 266 against 244, not impressive but better than expected.

Players included Capt. A. Moore, Lieut. H. Hutley, R.S.M. N. Jenks, M.M., Sgt. Stoves (A.P.T.C.), Sgt. Hazelwood, Cpl. Graham, Cpl. Maskell, L/Cpl. Stocker, Pte. Boughton.

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Lincolnshire

VISIT TO SANDHURST AND ROYAL TOURNAMENT

Two Officers, one S.M.I. and thirty-eight Cadets visited Frimley Park Training Centre, Sandhurst College, and the Royal Tournament.

They were met on arrival at Frimley Park by Maj.-Gen. Lucas and his staff.

Tents were allotted and each Cadet had a camp bed on which to sleep. They were served with a marvellous supper followed by a film show in the Lecture Room. After a good breakfast and a clean-up the next morning, all stores were handed in, lines cleaned up and vacated.

The party was then conveyed by road transport to Sandhurst where the Cadets had front seats on the prepared grandstand to witness the full rehearsals of the Sovereign's Parade by the Sandhurst Cadets. Everyone voted this an excellent show.

Immediately following the Parade, the party was conducted by Lt.-Col. Ricketts to the Indian Army Museum and the National Army Museum.

The Cadets returned to Frimley Park for lunch and at 1330 hours boarded a special coach to Earls Court and the Royal Tournament. The booked seats were excellent and gave a perfect view to every Cadet. They enjoyed every minute of it.

After the show the party was conveyed by coach to King's Cross where they arrived in ample time to obtain tea. The journey home by train went according to plan.

It is believed that this Lincolnshire Contingent was the first to experience such a visit and it is felt that it was well worthwhile and should be repeated at a later date if possible.

49 (W.R. & N.M.) DIV/DIST. A.C.F. RIFLE MEETING, 1964

Having lost our good shots during the year on age limit, we were more or less starting from scratch with our teams and, therefore, did not expect to do too well. However, one of our teams won the 148 Brigade Challenge Shield by beating Nottinghamshire by a fair margin.

The winning team was:—

- Sgt. S. Johnson (Spalding).
- Sgt. G. McCall (Grimsby).
- Sgt. J. Wright (Metheringham).
- Cdt. S. Ferrier (Grimsby).

One or two of the individuals came very close to winning and should do well in 1965.

All those taking part are to be congratulated on putting up such a good effort.

BISLEY, 1964

We were only allowed to send one team of four to Bisley this year and as it was a new team the

most we could expect was for them to shoot as well as possible.

Although no prizes were won, the scoring of our team was most encouraging. The Cadets obtained practice in shooting in a National Competition where conditions are a little overpowering during the first visit. There is no doubt that the team will improve during the year and it is hoped that in 1965 we shall be in the prize list.

The team was made up as follows:—

- Sgt. J. Wright (Metheringham).
- Sgt. G. McCall (Grimsby).
- Sgt. S. Johnson (Spalding).
- Cdt. G. Munday (Grimsby).

In the "Canada" Challenge Trophy (which is the main event of the Competitions at Bisley) our team were 17th, which was most encouraging.

All are to be congratulated.

NATIONAL ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD AT THE DUKE OF YORK'S HEADQUARTERS, LONDON, ON THE 18TH JULY, 1964

Only nine of the original twelve selected to compete in the above Championships were able to attend.

This unfortunately meant rearranging the team, which left us with the Relay Team which we knew from the start stood no chance.

Although we had only one final winner (Ferne of Scunthorpe, who won the under 16 Putting the Shot with a throw of 34 feet 8½ inches) our Cadets were 9th overall in the Championships.

Four of our Cadets were awarded Certificates for achieving standard performances:—

- Sgt. Barnes of Sleaford in the 880 yards, which he ran in 2 minutes 13.6 seconds.
- Cdt. Wilson, who was 4th in the Open Shot with 36 feet 4½ inches.
- Cpl. Gardner of Boston in the Javelin, with a throw of 128 feet 11 inches.

Cdt. Fernie of Scunthorpe—Winner under 16 Putting the Shot, with a Put of 34 feet 8½ inches.

Hird of Metheringham was very unfortunate in falling backwards into the pit after doing the record jump.

The County Cadet Commandant and the Army Cadet Committee wish to congratulate all those taking part and in particular Fernie of Scunthorpe who, apart from winning Putting the Shot, was awarded with the others—Barnes, Wilson and Gardner—Certificates for standard performances.

NORTHERN COMMAND FOOTBALL FINALS

In the Northern Command Football Finals, Lincolnshire were beaten by Durham. Most of our players are youngsters and with another 12 months'

training they should be in a position to give a much better account of themselves.

BOXING—NORTHERN COMMAND

Twelve cadets of the Scunthorpe Detachment entered for the Northern Command Boxing Championships held on the 9th January, 1965. Of these we had three winners in the finals:—

- Cadet Fletcher, K. Class "J"—8 stone.
- Sgt. McKay, I. Class "A"—8 stone 7 lbs.
- L/Bdr. McKay, D. Class "A"—7 stone.

Sgt. and L/Bdr. McKay both go forward into the National Finals, but Cadet Fletcher cannot go any further owing to being under age for the National Finals.

- The following lost in the semi-finals:—
- Cadet Holmes, P. Class "A"—9 stone.
 - Cadet Fairburn, P. M. Class "A"—10 stone.
 - Cadet Moran, S. Class "A"—10 stone 7 lbs.
 - Cadet Dorrell, R. Class "A"—9 stone 7 lbs.

All boxers came from one sub-unit of the 4th Battalion (Scunthorpe). Capt. McKay, the O.C., and his boxers are all to be congratulated. This was a great achievement and it is hoped that other units will follow their example.

WINTER TROPHY COMPETITION

At Sobraon Barracks on Sunday, 15th November, 1964, the Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force held their Annual Winter Trophy Competition which included four items:—

- Cross-Country Run*
Teams of 10 per Battalion.
- Obstacle Course*
Teams of 8 per Battalion.
- .22 Shooting with Harmonised Sights*
Teams of 7 per Battalion.
- Football*
Teams of 10 per Battalion.

A great deal of competition was shown throughout and the final results were as follows:—

- Cross-Country Run*
- 1st 4th Battalion.
- 2nd 2nd Battalion.
- 3rd 1st Battalion.

- Obstacle Course*
- 1st 4th Battalion.
- 2nd 1st Battalion.
- 3rd 2nd Battalion.

- .22 Shooting with Harmonised Sights*
- 1st 4th Battalion.
- 2nd 1st Battalion.
- 3rd 2nd Battalion.

- Football*
- 1st 2nd Battalion.
- 2nd 4th Battalion.
- 3rd 1st Battalion.

Overall Winter Trophy

- 1st 4th Battalion—38 points.
- 2nd 2nd Battalion—30 points.
- 3rd 1st Battalion—28 points.

The "Riggall" Cup Football Competition was run in conjunction with the Winter Trophy and the 2nd Cadet Battalion were the winners.

At the close of the competitions Colonel G. M. Sanders, T.D., D.L., presented the prizes and congratulated all on the way in which they had tackled the various competitions, and although all could not be winners, it had been very pleasing to see the way in which everyone had entered into the various events.

The Commandant also presented two Cadet Force Medals, one to Major G. F. Addison and one to S.M.I. J. H. Canty for 12 years' conscientious service to the Army Cadet Force.

R.S.M. D. V. Parker on behalf of Lincoln No. 1 Det. received the "Riggall" Efficiency Cup for 1964-65, Capt. R. E. McKay on behalf of the Scunthorpe Det. received the "Lucas Tooth" Efficiency Shield, and Major R. Snell, 4th Cadet Battalion Commander, received the "Lincoln" Efficiency Shield which is a runner-up to the "Lucas Tooth" Shield on behalf of Horncastle and Immingham Dets. who tied for second place.

The Museum of the 10th Foot

The Regimental Museum of the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment has during the building of the new T.A. Centre been closed to the public as at its north wall there have been placed the pipes carrying the heating system to the Keep, including the Duchess of Gloucester's Own Lincolnshire & Northamptonshire H.Q. of the Royal Anglian Regiment, located on the ground floor and from thence into the new T.A. Centre.

The redecoration of the Museum as a result became a necessity, and work is now in progress to reinstate the Museum exhibits as quickly as possible and make the Museum available to visitors from many places.

Access to the Regimental H.Q., the Regimental Museum and the Club of the Lincoln Branch of the 10th Foot, Royal Lincolnshire Regimental Association, is via the south door entrance of the Keep, and visitors are most welcome.

The Trustees gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the following gifts to the Museum.

From:—

Brigadier G. V. Britten, C.B.E., who sent from Nigeria, photostat copies of the records of graves of former soldiers of the Lincolnshire Regiment, who died and were buried in Kaduna Cemetery.

Lt.-Col. D. V. W. Wakely, M.C., of the Dorset Military Museum, the gift of a Helmet Plate and a Snako Plate of the 10th Regiment.

Maj.-Gen. J. C. T. Willis, C.B., C.B.E., on behalf of Mrs. Heathman, widow of the late Sgt. J. H. Heathman, the framed gift of embroidered colours of the Lincolnshire Regiment.

Miss M. Stout of Oxford, the gift of a Distinguished Conduct Medal and Bar awarded to her cousin, No. 10642, Pte. J. Stout, of the 6th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment, for conspicuous

gallantry as a stretcher bearer during the Dardanelles Campaign.

The Trustees also desire to record their appreciation for the help given by the Secretary of the Lincolnshire T. and A.F. Association and representatives of the Ministry of Works and Buildings in the work of restoring the Museum, following recent alterations made therein.

The Soldiers' Chapel of St. George, Lincoln Cathedral

In 1913 this Chapel of the Lincolnshire Regiment came into existence when the Chapel of St. George in the north transept was re-dedicated as the Soldiers' Chapel.

The genesis of this Chapel was the work of the late Major S. Fitz G. Cox, the late Major H. Lancelot-Edwards and the late Brig.-Gen. F. G. Spring.

From the campaigns of 1845-46 onwards memorials to the Glory of God and in memory of those who served in the 10th Foot had been dedicated and placed in the Cathedral on the walls in the north-west entrance.

It has been the privilege of a later generation to see these memorials together with those of their younger brethren more suitably arranged and cared for in the present chapel, wherein have been laid up the Colours of the Regiment including those of the 10th Foot, the Lincolnshire and subsequently Royal Lincolnshire Regiment.

The Regiment for the past 50 years, with permission of the Dean and Chapter, have been honoured to beautify and adorn the chapel. Its care has been in the capable hands of the wives of officers resident in or near Lincoln, whose husbands have served or are serving in the Regiment, and this labour of love continues. Each lady in turn carries out a weekly tour of duty visiting the chapel, seeing to its cleanliness and adorning it with flowers.

Mrs. Richards, wife of Brigadier E. F. O. Richards, has for many years been the Chairman of the Chapel "Housekeepers" as they are known, but recently has had to relinquish the office, although still continuing as a housekeeper. To her and to all those ladies who have tenderly cared for the Soldiers' Chapel we are extremely grateful and feel they are worthy of the highest praise.

The Trustees of the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment Trust Funds have made recommendations to the Dean and Chapter to further beautify and adorn the chapel, among their proposals which have been approved by the Dean and Chapter are:—

- (i) the renovation of the old Colours;
- (ii) the illumination of the double arcading behind the altar;

(iii) wood grounding of the brass memorial tablets;

(iv) improvement to the screen lighting;

(v) the installation of a memorial tablet to the memory of the late Brig.-Gen. F. G. Spring, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

Work on the illumination of the Arcading has been completed, and it is with pleasure we record with grateful thanks the generosity of Brigadier and Mrs. E. F. O. Richards, who (without having been approached), desire to pay the cost of the electricity consumed for this lighting as it is their express wish that the rear of the altar be continuously illuminated during the hours which the Cathedral is open to the public.

The majority of the Colours have been sent to London for restoration, and it is anticipated all work on them will be completed by the New Year.

Major P. H. Segon, who is Secretary and Treasurer of the St. George's Chapel Fund, desires to thank those who have sent money to provide flowers for the Chapel on the anniversary dates in memory of their loved ones who died whilst serving in the Regiment.

The fund derives its income by the receipt of one-third of the contributions collected in the Services Chapel boxes, grants from Regimental Trust Funds, and contributions of those who, as mentioned above, donate money to provide flowers.

Contributions are always welcome.

In the "Ode to the Fallen" are mentioned these words: "We will remember them," and to those who visit the Soldiers' Chapel in which the Rolls of Honour and Memorials are placed for all time, is a reminder of those who have died in the service of their Sovereign whom we wish to remember. Furthermore to beautify that part of our magnificent Cathedral which is God's House of Prayer and our Shrine of Remembrance.

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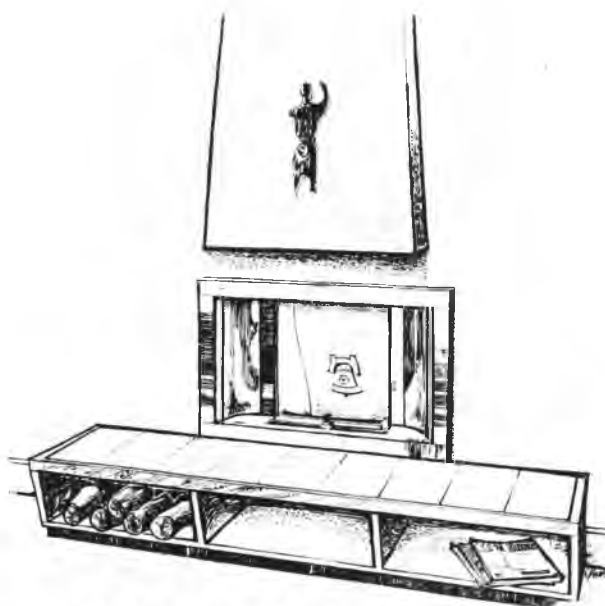
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