

NOVEMBER 1982



CASTLE

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT

Royal Anglian battalions on the move

FROM Belize to Ballykelly, from Celle to Crossmaglen, men from all battalions of The Royal Anglian Regiment are on the move.

The First Battalion brought its Fermanagh tour to a successful end in January before returning to Celle for retraining and preparing for the handover to 3rd

Royal Greenjackets and the move to Oakington, where they arrived in May with a new Commanding Officer, Second-in-Command and Company Commanders.

Intensive training for their tour in Belize was interrupted in June and July when the Battalion was called upon to provide the guard at Windsor Castle, each rifle company taking its turn to guard the castle for eleven days. Under drill instructors from the Brigade of Guards they acquitted themselves with distinction in the ceremonies of Guard Mounting and posting of sentries.

After a comparatively quiet beginning to the year, the Poachers soon found themselves again busily engaged in the tragic events in Northern Ireland, culminating in Operation Ragwort in August. Efforts by search teams were well rewarded by finds of guns, ammunition and explosives and A and B Companies also had the bleak experience of

rural operations in South Armagh.

While in Londonderry the Poachers have found the time and energy to raise more than £2,000 for charity.

The Pompadours moved at short notice to Belize, where they spent five months, mostly in the wet season. Four combat team camps were set up in the northern and southern sections of the country and at one, in Salamanca, the river rose 15ft. in a few hours, burst its banks and flooded the camp, which took several weeks to restore.

Later, they were to encounter temperatures of more than 100 deg. during battle group exercises in which they were joined by Scorpion and Scimitar armoured vehicles of the 16/5th Queens Own Royal Lancers.

After handing over to the First Battalion, who are only the second Royal Anglian battalion to have served in Belize, the Pompadours returned to duty in Colchester on 1st November.



Lt. Richard Clements of the Pompadours, takes in the breathtaking view from the summit of Mount Popocatepetl. Story and picture Page 8.

Maj Gen Dye hands over Tabloid or magazine?



The Colonel of the Regiment, Maj. Gen. Jack Dye left, hands over on 6th November to Gen. Sir Timothy Creasey right.



interest in all our activities, be they military or personal, and they will both be sadly missed.

General Sir Timothy Creasey, having commanded the 1st Battalion and the Sultan's Armed Forces became Director of Infantry, GOC Northern Ireland and C in C UKLF, as well as being a past Colonel Commandant of The Queen's Division. He is currently Chief of Defence Staff and Chief of Operations in the Sultanate of Oman.

This issue is a trial to see how a newspaper compares with our more traditional Castle and has been brought about by rising costs and because the time lag between Castles made much of the content history by the time it reached you.

But, although the more frequent publication of a newspaper would be cheaper and more up to date, there are other considerations.

What do you think? Would you prefer the traditional magazine once a year or more frequent issues of a Castle newspaper?

Whatever the format, a good journal depends on the quality of the input and we need articles of interest supported by clear, Press type photographs. Please start now to collect good photographs for our next edition.



Falklands News

Maj. Gen. David Thorne is now commanding in the Islands and, with his ADC, Capt. Robin Dalglish, is our only regimental representative.

* However, Lt. Col. David James, CO of the 6th Battalion, has become involved by being the driving force behind the recent London auction which raised a considerable amount for the South Atlantic Fund.

* Congratulations go to Maj. Chris Keeble, late of the Royal Leicesters and the Regiment, for the award of a DSO for the part he played with 2 Para in the Falklands campaign.



Lt. Col. Alan Thompson hands over operational command in Belize, together with the Mess parrots, Premium Bond and Hercules, to Lt. Col. Tony Calder.

Inside your Castle

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Note the Date

10th May 83 — Regimental Reunion, Colchester.
11th Nov 83 — Officers Dinner, London.

Snippets of News . . . Honours for the Regiment

Cols. **Mike Thorne**, **Tony Pollard** and **John Heath** have been promoted Brigadier and Maj. **Colin Groves** is on the 1983 list for Lt. Col.

Capt. **Brian Upson** and WO1(BM) **Stuart Waits** and **Gordon Leask** have been granted Regular (QM) Commissions, while 2Lts. **Shane Rimmer** and **Duncan Venn** join the Regiment with Regular Commissions and 2Lts. **Duncan Gregory**, **Adam Turner** and **David Willis**, together with WO1 **John Ross** all join with Short Service Commissions.

Col. **Geoffrey Morgan**, Lt. Cols. **John Jones** and **Ron Baylis**, Maj. **John Denny**, Capt. **Philip Crook**, **Archie Parker**, **Howard Gill**, **James Dalgleish**, Lts. **Michael Scragg**, **Aidan Beck** and **Stephen Harlow** have all retired.

Maj. **Pat King** and WO1 **Dave Coe** are in the Sinai as part of the 37 strong UK contingent in the multi national force which includes battalions from the USA, Fiji and Columbia. They wear orange berets with a dove of peace badge and are based



Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, presents Sgt. David Goude with a certificate for his Mention in Despatches.

just inside Egypt, although they can enter Israel. As Garrison Sergeant Major, Mr. Coe has to exert all his diplomacy.

Maj. **John Salazar** writes from Blanquet-Fumel, Lot et Garonne, 47500 France, to say he would be delighted to see any friends passing through the

southern Dordogne on holiday.

Colin Scott has recently taken charge of Lancaster Prison. The fact that John McCarthy is in charge of Wormwood Scrubs and John Simmonds is attached to HM Inspectorate of Prisons makes Colin wonder if John Bunyan's influence on the 16th Foot runs stronger than anyone expected!

Maj **Alastair Veitch** was able to see the Pompadoours on their way to Belize and periodically sees **Jonathan and Joy Hall-Flipping** and Lt. Col. **Pat and Vicki Shervington**. He would be delighted to meet anyone passing through Washington.

Pat and Vicki are back from America where they covered 26 states in their journeys including a visit to **John and Esther Miseroy** in Florida. They are now touring the Fusilier empire prior to joining 1 RRF in November.

The Regiment have been well represented in service sporting terms with **L.Cpl. Bird** playing cricket for the Combined Services and the army, **2Lt. Alasdair Wilde** playing hockey for the Combined Service and

joining **2Lt. Rolland Ladley** in the army team, while **L.Cpl. James** ran for the army at cross country. **L.Cpl. Hurd** retained his army welter-weight title while **Pte. Groves (RAPC)** won a silver medal in the army individual judo championships.

Sir Paul Hawkins TD MP who was created a Knight Bachelor in the birthday honours for political and public services, was a member of the Royal Norfolk Regiment.

Brian Parsons writes from Australia where he has been living since 1968 and working in personnel management. He last visited Warley in 1980 and hopes to come over again in 1983 to meet old friends. His memories include closing the gates for the last time at Warley Barracks with the late **Tom Stead** and **John Kitto**. **Brian** hopes that any friends will contact him if they visit Australia.

After four years **Maj. Ray Pond** had decided to leave Saudi Arabia and set up house again in the UK. He is now an RO at Marchwood Military Post, Southampton. **Col. Bill Dodd** writes that the family are well and thriving in the idyllic setting of Cyprus while **Capt. Alan Deed** writes from the Indian Staff College at Wellington to say that he was just off on a three week tour of India!

Congratulations to Maj. **John Sutherland** and **Mike Shaw** on the award of an MBE and **Drum Maj. Fidler** and **Sgt. Harrod** of a BEM. Lt. Col. **John Hart**, **Capt. Rupert Lucas**, **WO2 R. Travis** and **Cpl. Brown** have all been Mentioned in Despatches for services in Northern Ireland.

TERRITORIALS

The Territorial Decoration has been awarded to Lt. Col. **Roland Wreford (1st Clasp)** and **Maj. John Metcalfe** and the Territorial Efficiency Medal to **WO2 Lacey**, **CSgts. Edwards** and **Hilton**, **Sgt. Smith** and **Cpls. Chown** and **Kernaghan**.



Drum Maj. Fidler

Plucky Percy gives attacker the chop



Mr. Percy Gillett

We hear so many distressing cases of old people being beaten up and robbed that it is refreshing to hear of an instance in which cowardly attackers did not have things all their way.

When three young thugs tried to snatch the medals of 76-year-old Chelsea Pensioner **Percy Gillett**, he reacted with a hearty karate chop to the wrist of the leading attacker. This was so effective that the youth ran away howling and his companions, impressed by this aggression and Mr. Gillett's obvious willingness to repeat the exercise, followed suit!

The Regiment have been well represented in service sporting terms with L.Cpl. Bird playing cricket for the Combined Services and the army, 2Lt. Alasdair Wilde playing hockey for the Combined Service and



Blind skiers' bravery

The Regiment maintains a close link with **St. Dunstan's**. **Ray Hazan**, himself a former member of the Regiment, is the PRO and organises annually a trip for a party of **St. Dunstaners** to go skiing in Bavaria. This year, 94 **Locating Regiment** took over from the 1st Battalion, but **Capt. Jim Badger** went along as the sighted member. **Ray** was blinded while on duty with the 3rd Battalion in Northern Ireland.

Above: Jenny Hazan, with two of the blind skiers. **Inset: Capt. Ray Hazan**.

Brigadier's farewell

Brig. Charles Millman leaves the army this month, having been our Divisional Brigadier for the last four years, during which time he has become known to all ranks as being a real friend of the Regiment. We will miss him, but our contact will continue as he is joining the Army Benevolent Fund with whom we work very closely.

Brig. Mike Thorne who has been appointed his successor is well known as a member of the Regiment and as a former CO of The Poachers.

Sultan's victory over guerrillas

Maj. Gen. John Akehurst has just published a book giving the first detailed account of the operations leading to victory for **Sultan Qaboos** of Oman and his forces in their ten-year war against Communist guerrillas powerfully supported by Russian arms, money and training.

At the time it largely escaped the focus of world attention, yet nothing less than freedom of passage for most of the West's oil was at stake, and soldiers of many countries fought and died.

As **Field Marshal Lord Carver** writes in his

foreword: "Only those who have been to **Dhofar** can fully appreciate the severity of the conditions in which the polyglot force fought and flew." No-one could be better qualified to tell the story than **Maj. Gen. Akehurst**, who, during the concluding part of the campaign, commanded with outstanding success the land, sea and air forces of the **Dhofar Brigade**, which bore the brunt of the fighting.

We Won A War is available from **Michael Russell (Publishing) Ltd., The Chantry, Wilton, Salisbury at £7.95, plus £1 postage (50p for any extra copy).**

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News from the 1st Battalion

Bronze medal is Major's parting shot after 35 years

Maj. Bob Day, OC HQ Coy, has retired after some 35 years' service. One of his last achievements was to win, with other members of his company, the bronze medal for the Match 94 .22 Shoot. The photograph below shows the Colonel of the Regiment presenting Maj. Day with his medal.

He will be greatly missed in the Battalion by all who had the privilege of serving with him.

Maj. Gen. Jack Dye visited the Battalion on 7th September for the last time as Colonel of the Regiment. Although essentially a sad occasion, spirits were high as Gen. Dye was specifically re-united with those current members of the Battalion who had served under him when he was Commanding Officer in Aden and the Radfan.

The most notable old soldier, other than Gen. Dye himself, was the present CO who was then 2Lt. Calder.

The Battalion was sorry to see Gen. Jack for the last time in his official capacity but look forward to seeing him in future in a personal capacity.



Maj. Gen. Jack Dye presents Maj. Bob Day with his Match 94 medal.



Cpl. Soames posting reliefs during A Coy's tour as Windsor Castle Guard Company.

The Battalion had the honour to provide the Windsor Castle Guard during June and July, each rifle company in turn guarding the castle for 11 days. It was a great experience for all concerned, not least for the Guards' drill instructors who prepared companies for the ceremonies of Guard Mounting and posting of sentries.

This was the height of the tourist season and many a Viking's photograph is now being passed around in Tokyo, New York, Bonn and Paris. Even those tourists who clearly did not understand the English language responded smartly to the cry of "Make way for the Queen's Guard" as the reliefs were posted.

The luckiest soldier was Pte. Lawrence of B Coy who met the Queen, although his boots had the misfortune to meet the Queen's corgis at the same time. However, a little bit of work with a lot of polish soon

restored them to their former glory.

Windsor was followed by four weeks' leave, including pre-embarkation leave for the forthcoming Belize tour. After leave, the Battalion went straight on to Salisbury Plain for the Platoon Test Exercise which showed up even more basic skills which needed brushing up. The Battalion then reshuffled to its Belize Orbat and began training specifically for the forthcoming tour. Exercise Viking Jute (a jungle exercise without trees) at Stanford was followed by cadres to train signallers, medical assistants, helicopter marshalls and watermen. The pre-Belize training was rounded off by Exercise Viking ISAAC which was held on Fingringhoe Ranges and was followed by the Battalion SAAM which was won (albeit narrowly) by A Combat Team, with C Combat Team runners-up.

No chance for a quiet life

The successful conclusion of the 1st Battalion's Fermanagh tour in January and the return to BAOR heralded a period of intense activity as they set about regaining their high standards in the mechanised role and, at the same time, preparing for their return to UK.

Rifle companies were committed to recurring site guards and helping the Gunners with their Nuclear Surety Inspections. Heavy Weapons Company, reformed after the Northern Ireland tour, began a period of cadre training leading up to the Fourth Armoured Division mortar concentration and Milan live firing at Hohne.

In April, while in the final throes of preparation for hand-over to 3rd Royal Green-jackets, time was round to get on the ranges at Sennelager to fire the APWT. The actual handover, which was a direct

exchange of role and location between the Battalions, took place in early May. At the same time, command changed with Lt-Col. John Hart handing over to Lt-Col. Tony Calder. By the time the Battalion reached Oakington, it had a new Commanding Officer, Second-in-Command (Major Ingleby Jefferson handed over to Major Mike Goldschmidt) and company commanders.

Any hopes of a quiet life in rural East Anglia were quickly dispelled. Heavy Weapons Company became Support Company again and immediately started training with their new technological breakthrough, the Combat. Meanwhile, the rifle companies, after some initial training in Oakington and Stanford aimed at recovering the skills least used in four years of mechanised soldiering, began to prepare for ceremonial duties.

More pictures on Page 4.

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News from the 1st Battalion



The three faces of man

Pte. Nigel Brookbanks illustrates the varied life of a soldier. Left, during Platoon Test Exercise on Salisbury Plain, above, in action at the Battalion athletics meeting and right, on No. 1 Post, Windsor Castle.



Calling all drummers

The Corps of Drums Society promotes the concept and traditions of drums and would like to hear from any serving or retired drummers willing to lend the society photographs, music or other records of their

service or who would be prepared to pass on their knowledge to a new generation of drummers. The contact address of the secretary is: 50 Station Road, Halstead, Sevenoaks, Kent.

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Above: Pte. Hales of A CT receives the Champion CT Cup from Col. Pike. Right: Pte. Rolph of C CT receives the prize for Champion SLR Shot.





News from The Poachers

Operation Ragwort nets 37 suspects

'H' Block prisoners having abandoned their hunger strike in early October, the final weeks of 1981 were generally quiet and peaceful. Duties and operational commitments aside, everyone managed to enjoy something of Christmas in Londonderry and many managed to get back to England for a few days.

The war of attrition against the terrorist continued with a fair amount of success throughout the year, culminating on 24th August with Operation Ragwort. In a joint operation, 70 Royal Ulster Constabulary arrest teams, in 140 vehicles, were led by Poacher guides from Ballykelly to their targets in Londonderry.

Of the 47 on the RUC wanted list, 32 were arrested and a further five were picked up later. They were all wanted in connection with serious terrorist offences. Several have been charged with a wide range of offences ranging from membership to conspiracy to murder.

Search teams have been well rewarded for their efforts and the PIRA and INLA Quartermasters have had their resupply systems well tested again this year when we found a total of 43 weapons, 2308 rounds of ammunition, 4047 lbs of explosive and 50 detonators.

More news on Pages 6, 7.



A Coy on the move, courtesy of the RAF, in South Armagh.



Cpl. Lander discovers that perhaps urban operations are easier after all.



Having had the best find of 1981 — three-quarters-of-a-ton of explosives — B Coy lead the 1982 table with an M60 and three Armalites (above).

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News from The Poachers



Lt. Napier and 1 Platoon hand over the Hump PVCP to the QDG. 3 Platoon who spent seven weeks at the Hump in 1981 claim the record for the longest stay.

Handover at the Hump

The Battalion was very pleased to hand over the commitment of manning the 'Hump' PVCP at Strabane in May. The task of supplying a QRF in support of 176 Pro Coy RMP who man the PVCP went to the QDG. They could now give the

Waterside area and in particular the Gobnascale Estate their full and undivided attention.

Despite its calendar the Poachers had a regular flow of visitors this year. Pride of place must go to the visit of

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester on 22nd June. The Deputy Colonel, Maj-Gen. John Akehurst accompanied the Deputy Colonel-in-Chief throughout her visit.

On 2nd March another former

Poacher's CO, Maj. Gen. Dick Gerrard-Wright, Colonel Commandant The Queen's Division, arrived in Ebrington Barracks and during his stay presented six long-serving Poachers with their Good Conduct Medals.

Other visitors included the Commander Northern Ireland, Lt. Gen. Sir Robert Richardson, the C.L.F., Maj. Gen. Peter Chiswell, a total of seven MPs, the Lord Mayor of Leicester and the Mayor of Grantham. Finally, on 11th October they said farewell to the Colonel of the Regiment who paid a last visit in that capacity. Gen. 'Jack' visited companies and was dined out by the officers of the Battalion.

A and B Coys managed to get out of Londonderry for a few days to explore the wilds of South Armagh. They were given the task of securing the area while resupply convoys moved into Crossmaglen and Forkhill. A Coy were the first to go and they discovered that South Armagh was wet and cold in October. B Coy went in March — nothing had changed.



Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, inspects the Guard of Honour.



Maj. Robin Greenham serves the pud as B Coy celebrate Christmas in the city.



Commander Northern Ireland, Gen. Sir Robert Richardson and Pte. Chick at the Masonic base front gate.

Ulster visitors



Col. Comdt. Maj. Gen. Gerrard-Wright meets old friend Cpl. Black at the Masonic base.



Mr. Anthony Buck Q.C. (left), and M.P. Mr. Winston Churchill chat to WO2 Ken Taylor during the visit of the Conservative back bench committee for defence.



Cllr. Arch Berridge, Lord Mayor of Leicester, with Ptes. Smith, Goodger and Glover at Fort George.

News from The Poachers



A Coy — inter-company champions for the second year running.

A Coy on target to retain shield

A Coy retained the inter-company shield at the Battalion Skill-at-arms meeting at Magilligan Ranges on 31st March/1st April. HQ Coy emptied their offices and stores to produce an experienced team which shot so well that, much to the embarrassment of three rifle company teams, they took the runners-up prize.

1 Platoon were once again the inter-platoon champions with 3 Platoon second and 8 Platoon third. Pte. Scarboro was Champion-at-Arms for the second consecutive year with a first in the SLR match and second in both the SMG and pistol events.

In the Falling Plate competition, the Corporals' Mess team completely mis-read the situation and beat the CO's team in the final.



Pte. Scarboro — Champion at Arms.



Congratulations to the Poachers for raising over £2000 for charity! On 9th May their team for the London Marathon raised over £1000 in sponsorship. First Poacher home was the

Chief Clerk, CSgt. Ted Dexter, in 3 hrs 16 mins, closely followed by the Adjutant Capt. Mike Beard. All 10 runners, including the CO, covered the 26 miles within five hours. In April

an eight man team of WOs and Sgts presented £1000 to SSAFA raised at a 24 hour Darts Marathon, sponsored by 36 units, in which they scored 688,400 with their darts. Can your mess team beat that?



Our GPMG teams won the NI Championships by beating IRGJ in the final at Ballykinler. Picture shows Sgt. Lawson and two of the teams in training.



News from The Pompadours

Caribbean interruption

The introduction to the Commanding Officer's last Training Directive read: "In 1982 we should, without any major distractions, be able to concentrate on our Primary 1 Role."

All went well with planned individual, platoon and company training and the trial of the infantry battalion Type A establishment until, on 4th April

warning came at short notice to move to Belize for a five-month unaccompanied tour. A "major distraction" indeed!

By the first week of May, deployment was completed in four Combat Team camps with Battalion HQ co-located with D Coy in Rideau, A Coy in Salamanca, B Coy in Airport and C Coy in Holdfast Camps.

Belize is split into two parts by the thickly jungle-covered Mayan mountains which rise to more than 4,000 ft. The Bat-

talion had two Battle Groups, each with two combat teams, one in the north and one in the south. Each Group contained artillery equipped with 105 light guns (including our own 38 Seringapatem Battery) and Engineers. The Northern Battle Group contained Scorpions and Scimitars of the 16th/5th Queen's Own Royal Lancers.

During the first month, tactical exercises without troops (TEWTs) were held both in the north and south followed by a battle group

north exercise in the border area near Benque Viejo del Carmen, Hill 107 and San Ignacio involving Cayo and Airport Camp combat teams and a company of the Belizean Defence Force. The four-day exercise took place in temperatures well over 100 deg. with little or no shade and it was small wonder that there were nine causes of heat exhaustion.

During the seven-day Battle Group South exercise in June it rained solidly, turning roads and tracks into muddy streams. The exercise involved Rideau and Salamanca combat teams, with the Airport Camp combat team acting as enemy and included sea landings by the "enemy" near Punta Gorda and the setting and springing of platoon-sized ambushes, delaying and destroying the enemy as they attempted to infiltrate through the jungle on tracks from the Guatemalan border to the coast.

Both exercises showed how to fight and survive in aggressive terrain. Soon, however, the combat teams settled into the routine of long and short-range foot patrols many of which were inserted by Puma, river patrols by rigid raider and assault craft, the manning of the three permanent overt OPs at Cadenas and Ireetops in the south and Cayo OP in the north and the inevitable guards and duties. Resupply from the airhead at Airport Camp to the south was done by Puma helicopter and by sea for the heavier items by means of the RCTs ramp-powered lighter.

The Battalion's tour in Belize coincided with the wet season. In the south, 180 inches of rainfall is expected; in the north, 80 inches, most of it between July and November. In August and September the heavens opened, the rivers became swollen and roads and tracks became rivers making patrolling difficult and sometimes dangerous.

The river through Salamanca Camp rose 15 ft in a

few hours, burst its banks and flooded accommodation huts, stores, offices and transport. The bridge outside the camp on the road to Rideau and Punta Gorda was swept away and it took several weeks to restore the camp to its original condition.

In July, the mortars concentrated at Cooma Cairn Camp for one week's live firing 3,000 ft up on Mountain Pine Ridge. This was followed by three weeks of field firing by each of the rifle platoons in turn on a training area strongly resembling Sennybride in both terrain and climate! Being wet and cold in the Caribbean was a novel experience.

In August, one of two assault boats on patrol on the Moho River overturned after hitting a wire hawser stretched from bank to bank, depositing the four occupants, rucksacks and weapons into the water before sinking to the muddy bottom of the river. Happily all members of the patrol reached the bank safely.

When the Royal Navy guardship called, the Orlikon gun crews from Rideau fired live on board ship and returned confident that, if necessary, they would be able to give a good account of themselves with their own guns at Cattle Landing and Rideau Camp.

In return, officers and men from the guardship joined short range foot patrols into the jungle: the sailors returned to their ships badly bitten by insects, but cheerful and armed with yarns about snakes, alligators, scorpions and tarantulas.

The combat teams coped well with the hazards of patrolling in the jungle and there were no serious injuries. Some soldiers had been evacuated by helicopter with illness, broken bones, snake bites and, in the case of Salamanca combat team, Kukri bites, but happily all have survived. It was reassuring to know that RAF and AAC helicopter crews were

To Page 9.

Victoria climbers faced a tough start

It was no easy task when 2Lt. Richard Clements with seven members of 5 Platoon decided to climb Mount Victoria.

First they walked eight kilometres up a river, then battled through almost impenetrable secondary jungle while living on reduced rations so they had less weight to carry. They also had several close encounters with snakes before climbing the mountain, which at 4,000 ft is the highest peak in the Cockscomb Range of the Mayan Mountains.

Others had climbed the peak but only after being lifted in by helicopter.

On the first day the party waded up river and en route found cat prints larger than a man's hand, but fortunately never met the owner. The next day half the group left the river and hacked a path through the jungle finding one of the spurs which led up the Mountain and encountering a Fer de Lance which had to be despatched by Pte. Doherty using his AR 15.

After a night out, the group returned to base camp and a fresh party set out the following day along the already prepared path to make a bid for the summit. Cpl. Thomas and Pte. Farrer made the final push, hoping to keep a rendezvous with a helicopter, scheduled to photograph them on the summit, but thunderclouds intervened and the party had to return to base.

Popocatepetl success



2Lt. Jones, Sig. Smith (19 Bde), Pte. Wiltshire and L. Cpl. Mecklenburgh rest just below the snowline.

Nine Pompadours led by 2Lt. Richard Clements conquered Mount Popocatepetl, a volcano 17,778 ft high 100 miles south west of Mexico City, after a challenging snow and ice covered climb.

Although the effects of altitude are not particularly severe at 12,000 ft, after Belize it was necessary to do everything in slow time and spend time

acclimatising.

After two days at 14,000 ft the party decided to make the summit bid, starting with a rock scramble to the snow line at around 15,000 ft.

Here life became much more exciting. As well as having to cope with the altitude, crevasses had to be crossed using rather thin snow bridges, a little too thin for both Ptes. Wiltshire and Pattison, who

fell through! Luckily both were recovered, none the worse for their experience.

At the summit the smell of sulphur wafted up from the crater, which is unpleasant when oxygen is at a premium. After the obligatory summit photograph (one only as the camera had frozen) the climbers descended into the fast approaching darkness and the shelter of an extremely dilapidated hut.

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A highlight of the Battalion's tour and a great morale booster was the visit and two week tour of the band. A series of concerts were given, many in small villages, where Bandmaster

WO1 Byrne discovered that clapping to show appreciation is a European habit unknown to the Mayan Indian and he had to spend several minutes showing them how to do it (above).

News from The Pompadours

Down-river on a bamboo raft

In August, 13 members of B Coy and eight Sappers from 53 Fd. Sqn. rafted 170 miles down the Belize river from Bullet Tree Falls on the Guatemalan border to the sea near Belize City. The dugout canoe is fairly common along the river, but there is no record of a bamboo raft having ever before navigated the entire length of the river.

Four rafts were built, three Pompadour and one Engineer. The remainder of the party were to travel in two safety boats with the stores and rations.

The trip took seven days at an average of 3-4 knots with many a stretch of rapid water exceeding 6-7 knots. At one such rapid one crew had to

"abandon ship"!

Wildlife was abundant. Iguanas dropped from trees while monkeys, snakes, toucans and parrots were often seen. There was little sign of human life apart from the odd Belizian paddling a canoe. One old man was so fascinated at meeting three rafts travelling in the opposite direction that he donated his entire cargo of wild bananas.

Camp sites were fairly difficult to find because of the thick tangle of vines, roots and foliage and even the hardened jungle patrollers of B Coy complained at "never having been bitten so damned much."

The trip finished at Haulover Bridge only 100 metres from the open sea with the rafts as buoyant as when they were launched.



The three rafts that made it all the way came paddling in, crewed by, (from left), Cpl. Clarke, Pte. Van den Brock, Pte. Warren, Capt. Weigold, Pte. Cannon and Pte. Simpkin.



It's not all plain sailing — to launch it you have to carry your raft to the river.

Caribbean interruption

From Page 8
available and prepared to take considerable risks to evacuate a casualty by day or night.

Belize was certainly a major distraction from our training for our Primary 1 Role but, as the Commanding Officer says in his new Training Directive: "There have been positive advantages. Our Junior Commanders are much more confident and mature as a result of being given more responsibility and having to contend with some of the hazards of operating in the jungle."

The Battalion has now handed over to the 1st Battalion, who will be only the second Royal Anglian Battalion to have served in Belize. They restarted work at Colchester on 1st November after three weeks' well-earned leave.



Pompadour GPMG teams won the UKLF Fire Control Cup (a trophy presented to the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment in 1925) and the Cheshire Shield, to become the Infantry (SF) Machine Gun Champions. This was very much a team achievement, but special

mention must be made of Cpl. Massell (receiving the shield above) and Pte. Surry who scored 225 out of a possible 260. The teams

were coached by Capt. Crook, Brehaut and Keel.



Maj. Gen. Peter Sibbald, Director of Infantry presents the UKLF Fire Control Cup to Pl. Rees of B Coy.

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Pompador



● Above: Pte. Bricklebank, of A Coy, leaves the water after a patrol crossing of the Rio Grande.



● Right: An A Coy patrol led by Sgt. Cooper (left) share their compo biscuits with a group of Mayan children.

Pte. McClellan, of A Coy, shows Air Vice Marshal Sutton a boa constrictor at the Treetops OP camp.



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Cpl. Farey and L.Cpls. Reeve and Yeomans cross the Rio Bravo close to the Guatemalan border in the north of Belize.



Raymondo, B Coy's Spanish Indian tracker, teaches L.Cpls. Yeomans and Reeve, and Cpls. Farey and Ritchie of B Coy, the finer points of tracking the enemy in primary jungle.



News from the 5th Battalion

New role is a challenge

Cambrian March Patrol Victory

The Cambrian March Patrol Competition, one of the hardest section competitions within NATO, where competitors in full fighting order, plus survival kit, march 45 km over the Black Mountains, has been won by 3 Coy.

A 7 km night navigation march with an NBC test at the end was followed by an 18 km march across mountainous ridges ending with a first aid test. The next leg was 7 km across extremely boggy ground to a house-clearing exercise, anti-ambush drills were tested en route to an ETR shoot and further navigation, and shooting tests.

The final test was an 8½ km speed march and assault course, culminating in a falling plate competition.

Against stiff opposition 3 Coy team were 100 points ahead of their nearest rivals. 3 Coy are understandably proud of Lt. John Smith, Sgt. Fred Custen, LCpl. Willis, LCpl. Vincent and Ptes. Shaw, Flsk G., Flsk P., Atherton and Smith J.V., together with the remainder of 7 Platoon, who provided back-up.



Pte. Miller, representing all ranks of the battalion, makes a farewell presentation to Lt. Col. Roland Wreford after a church parade held during Exercise Keystone.



2 (Northamptonshire) Coy under the critical eye of Brig. Howard, Commander 49 Bde. during his ARU inspections.

Sadness over leaving 7 Field Force and doubts about a changed role have been dispelled by two weeks spent in Germany training and exercising with the newly formed 49 Bde which proved that our new role is interesting, challenging and thoroughly worthwhile.

Our new Commander, Brig. Howard, and his staff have been regular visitors during the past few months and the excellent rapport which has resulted has paid dividends when we all came under the pressures of Exercise Keystone.

A report written by an Officer Cadet on the return flight from BAOR said that 1 Coy started

camp with high spirits and continued in good humour for the whole period in Germany.

The first week concentrated on company level training, with TEWTs on fighting in villages and demolition guards, culminating in short exercises. Section Commanders adapted well to the new role in 49 Bde, although tactics did not adapt so well to fighting in towns and villages when 1 Coy "moles" tried to find patches of green to dig in!

The highlight of the first week was the Company "Smoker", where hidden talents surfaced under the influence of coercion and beer, including songs from the team that successfully completed the Nijmegen march, individual talent spots, and inter-platoon singing encouraged by WO2 Lou Gorbould and Sgt. Colin Makin.

The second week was tiring but enjoyable, starting with digging in within the first 12 hours, bridge and town patrols and withdrawing to hide positions leaving Lt. John Burgess and 2 Platoon stranded on the wrong side at a "blown" bridge! We then established OPS, standing patrols and vehicle ambushes.

Throughout, tremendous hospitality was shown by the local inhabitants who kept us well supplied with goodies — beer, coffee, biscuits, sandwiches and schnapps and showed almost constant friendliness and patience. Keystone was a memorable exercise, and we look forward to returning to Germany the year after next.

4 Coy forms Milan Platoon

A MILAN Platoon has been formed from 4 Coy Anti-tanks based at Hemel Hempstead, although delay over delivery meant Wombat training continuing until four weeks before Exercise Keystone.

While not as heavy to move around as the Wombat, Milan is certainly more delicate. Gone are the days of a wipe with an oily rag and a tin of tuck-up paint!

Camp in Germany allowed one week of intense training and Sgt. Alan Batchelor, Cpl. Williams and LCpl. Hanafan undertook the daunting task under the guidance of Sgt. Sean McAnally whose good humour and ready wit only faltered occasionally.

The "big" exercise during the second week went well, although half the platoon saw all the action and the remainder absolutely nothing and CSgt. King is still waiting for his area trace to be collected! We now look forward to our very first live shoot this month.

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WO2 Ken Lacey and Cpl. John Erne are shown receiving prizes from Gen. Dye at the Battalion SAAM at Colchester. With the remainder of the winning 4 Coy Team they were much in evidence at the prizegiving. This was followed by the district meeting when the Battalion swept the board.



News from the 6th Battalion

TO the eternal credit of the Royal Air Force, two Hercules C 130 aircraft were retained by the Ministry of Defence to transport a composite company of the Battalion to Gibraltar in May for Exercise Marble Tor.

The Company, trained by Maj. Denis Haslam, was sent there initially to maintain force levels on the peninsula so that 1st Staffords could release a company to the United Kingdom.

Events in the South Atlantic and along the Spanish border ensured that the company was kept busy. Although the scheduled opening of the border crossing never took place, much interesting and worthwhile training was achieved.

The 1st Staffords were particularly helpful in providing training assistance and adventure training stores and to repay some of their help the company gave a cocktail party at Lathbury Barracks.



South Georgia girls visit annual camp

Cindy Buxton and Annie Price headed a number of distinguished visitors to our annual camp at Stanford this year.

The two girls, who were stranded on South Georgia at the beginning of the Falklands crisis, spent an

enjoyable day with the WRAC detachment on the assault course and pistol training.

On the same day, five MPs also came to visit each company on training and to talk to constituents. The MPs were Eldon Griffiths,

Graham Bright, David Madel, John MacGregor and Paul Howell.

The visitors were shown a wide range of training aspects, including a spectacular FIBUA demonstration.

Nine local mayors also visited the Battalion and were given a demonstration on the 84mm by C Coy. All were interested in visiting soldiers from their areas and after a formal lunch, were entertained by individual companies.

The Lords Lieutenant of Norfolk, Suffolk and Bedfordshire headed the guest list for the dinner night for which the Poachers' Band provided the music.

The GOC Eastern District, Maj. Gen. Jack Dye, highlighted the end of a busy and enjoyable camp by taking the salute at the recruits' cadre and also presenting Maj. Metcalfe with his Territorial Decoration.

● Having been given the task of setting up the local company of the Home Service Force, the Battalion is pleased to announce that it is up to establishment, with platoons recruited in Norwich, Bedford and Cambridge.

Sharpshooters shine at Bisley



The Battalion's Bisley team, achieved tenth place in the Bisley TASAM this year. This is by far the best performance by a team entered by the Battalion and reflects great credit on all involved.

Under the guidance of WO2 Uppington, the WTWO training was selective and controlled and the results spoke for themselves. The highlight was a first place in the IMG pairs by

CSgt. Budd and Cpl. Porter who won the Volongdis Cup (pictured with the team above).

Other notable achievements included a second place by Cpl. Potter in the Highland Volunteer Qualeh, sixth place for Cpl. Neill in the Standing Rifle match and a team place of eighth in the China Cup.

It was an outstanding Bisley and the Battalion looks forward to more successes next year.

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News from the 7th Battalion

Exercise Keystone is year's highlight

The highlight of the year was annual camp, with the Battalion going to Germany on Exercise Keystone to practice its new operational role for the first time.

In every sense it was a tremendous success. The area in which the Battalion was working was magnificent — very different from the flat plains of Lincolnshire. The hospitality of the local population was overwhelming, the camp sites provided all mod cons (well, nearly all) and the sun shone!

After a long, slow journey by convoy, or a rather faster one by TriStar, the Battalion arrived in its exercise area near Hameln and the week's work-up training started with a vengeance. The rifle companies concentrated on collective training at section, platoon and company level, while a number of specialist cadres got under way.

The Anti-Tank Platoon converted from guns to missiles, having taken delivery of its Milan firing posts only days before camp. Work up training finished with a Battalion exercise which had the rifle companies scurrying across the countryside, while Battalion HQ and the Mortar Platoon were each attacked four times.

Exercise Keystone itself saw the Battalion deployed in defence of a number of key positions with companies constantly being redeployed to meet new threats. Speed of reaction was all important and companies soon learnt to dread the 0200 hrs call — "move out".

The exercise finished with LDY Coy having been 'wiped out' gallantly defending the Hessisch Oldendorf bridge, while the remainder of the Battalion, supported by much of 5LI, strove to recapture it. A fitting climax to an exciting, active and busy nexercise was reached with the bridge being recaptured intact.

A rush followed to get packed and paid before the return to UK on Friday morning, but everyone made it on time, although it was a close run thing for the CO who, courtesy of the RAF, disappeared for a cup of tea at the critical moment.



The Mortar Platoon — attacked four times during Exercise Keystone.

Tiger settles to new life with 49 Bde

Although the strength of the Battalion has not dramatically increased, the large numbers of likely lads coming forward has enabled us to be more selective and increase the effective strength. We have run two recruit initial selection courses to show would-be recruits what they are letting themselves in for while allowing us to assess potential before acceptance.

The shape of the Battalion has undergone changes as specialist platoons have been centralised. The mortar platoon is now established in Leicester with numbers building up again while the anti-tank platoon is at Loughborough and well

over establishment. More changes are in the wind, including the raising of a surveillance platoon at Leicester.

The transfer of the Battalion from 7 Field Force was sad as we lost contact with a number of good friends and allies, but we are now happily at home in 49 Bde. The new headquarters, command structure and operational role combined to make the year exciting and interesting, and the 7 R. Anglian tiger manages to work very nicely with 49 Bde's polar bear, although many animal lovers would look upon them as an unlikely couple!

Training has been hectic and it has become an accepted part of TA life that companies train on alternate weekends. Whilst many prefer such a pattern, it causes pressure at management level where numerous additional commitments exist. Nevertheless, standards are improving as the quality of recruit improves and there is more stability in turnover.

In March a centralised NBC and first-aid test weekend was held at Stanford, which proved more challenging than expected and identified shortfalls in training. A first visit to a TA Unit by Gen. Sir John Stanier added zest to the weekend. There's nothing like an aggregate of seven stars to keep people on their toes! (Gen. Sir John Stanier was accompanied by Maj. Gen. Gerrard-Wright and Brig. Plummer.)

In May, the hierarchy departed for Germany and Exercise Queen's Crown. This inaugural briefing on our future role in 2nd Infantry Division was followed by a most successful 49 Bde. study day prior to camp.



Everyone pays attention during an Exercise Keystone briefing.

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Milan Platoon getting used to their new equipment.

Depot Queen's Division and allied regiments



GOC Eastern District presents the SAA Eastern District trophy to Sgt. Nunn and Cpls. Kilby, Tune and Chapman.

Depot victory at SAAM

Maj. Gen. J.R.A. MacMillan presented the Eastern District SAA trophy to Sgt. Nunn and Cpls. Kilby, Tune and Chapman.

The team's expertise in competition shooting is being passed on to junior soldiers and into training the battle shot. The summer months have seen the restarting of adult recruit training at the Depot and the first platoon, Quebec, passed out to join their battalions in

September.

Since the intake rate has been about half of capacity, instructors have joined most of the eighteen battalions the Division supports and have been to such exotic spots as Bermuda, Germany and Northern Ireland!

This pattern continues until April next year, when the effects of the establishment cuts bite and we will only have enough instructors to train adult recruits and junior soldiers.



Brig. Bill Deller and Lt. Col. Mahbrab Ali of the 5th Frontier Force exchange regimental plaques at Lahore.

Brigadier visits 5FF

Brig. Bill Deller recently visited our affiliated Regiment, the 5th Frontier Force, stationed at Lahore, following a tour in Baluchistan.

5FF was raised as the 3rd Regiment of Sikh Local Infantry in 1847 and became in turn the 3rd Regiment of Sikh Infantry as part of the Punjab Irregular Force — the "Piffers" — the 3rd Sikh Infantry, the 53rd Sikh Frontier Force and the 3rd Battalion 12th Frontier Force Regiment (Sikh).

In 1935, at the same time as the Royal Norfolk Regiment became "Royal", they became the 3rd Royal Battalion 12th Frontier Force and finally, in 1956, the 5th Battalion the Frontier Force.

The Regiment was originally affiliated to the Royal Leicesters, next to whom they had fought in Mesopotamia and Palestine for three years in 1914-18.

Brig. Deller spent a day with the Battalion on typical in-barracks training, meeting many members of the Battalion, and he exchanged Regimental plaques with Lt. Col. Mahbrab Ali. The 5FF plaque now hangs in Regimental Headquarters at Bury St. Edmunds.

Brig. Deller also visited Bannu, where he saw the graves of the seven members of the 1st Bn. the Leicestershire Regiment killed in action at Razmuk in 1939 — a photograph is now held at HQ Leicester.

Canadian Colonel welcomed

The Colonel of the Regiment was delighted to welcome Lt. Col. and Mrs. Wilson to RHQ in August while they were on holiday in England.

Col. Barry Wilson commands the Lake Superior Scottish, based on The Armoury at Thunder Bay, Ontario and which has long been affiliated with the Northamptonshire Regiment and the Royal Anglian Regiment.

The Regiment was formed in 1887 as the 96th Battalion District of Algonia Rifles and in 1905 became the Lake Superior Regiment. The 48th and 58th Foot both fought at Quebec and the Northamptonshire fought alongside the Lake Superior Regiment in the Great War, hence the affiliation which was approved in 1933.

In 1934 the Northamptonshire Regiment was given permission for the centre device of its colours to be a "sprig of three maple leaves each charged with a fleur de lys", the badge being taken from the arms of Quebec, although in the event this did not happen.

Battling Xth can claim to be real Poachers

Poachers will know that the Xth was one of the 2nd Bn's forbears, becoming the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment before the recent amalgamations.

His Majesty's Xth Regiment of Foot in America was formed by Anglophile Americans living in the Boston, Massachusetts, area of the USA in the early 70s who, following painstaking research, have faithfully re-created the regiment in its uniform, drill, weapons and customs.

Why the Xth? Simply because at the time of the American Revolution (1775-83) the original Xth of Foot was stationed in Boston, Massachusetts, and took part in the battles of Lexington, Concord and Bunker's Hill.

Today, the Regiment re-enacts these battles and can justly claim to be the real Poachers! Strong links exist between the old and the new Poachers and plans are in hand for a visit to Colchester next year.



The real Poachers? The Xth Regiment of Foot in America, dazzling in their faithfully-recreated uniforms.



The Xth of Foot enacting one of the battles of the American Revolution.



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Family news



Young Poachers enjoy an afternoon on the River Roe, organised by L.Cpl. Lynn, the Battalion youth leader.



Ten-year-old Esher Hannigan abseils down the 80 feet high tower at Magilligan.



How do you keep children of all ages happy and out of mischief throughout the long summer holiday? Well, we do not have all the answers but thanks to their combined efforts, the Poachers and 8 Inf. Bde. HQ Sig. Sqn managed to keep some of the children happy for some of the time.

A wide range of activities were provided for the youngsters from 5th July to 25th August including football, shooting, water sports, rock climbing, go-karting and even trips to the beach for the toddlers.

The events were well supported.



● Above: Mrs. Parris leads carol singing at the Poachers' wives' Christmas party.

● Left: Mrs. Harrington and the Brownies meet Princess Alice during her visit to the Poachers.

● Below: Poachers' wives enjoy a cookery demonstration.



While the Pompadours were in Belize, their families organised their own Salamanca Day, including shooting, children's sports, pony rides, fancy dress, disco, "Noddy" train rides and a band concert but perhaps the highlight was the inter-company ladies tug-o-war! The ladies of HQ Coy won a tough competition and had clearly put in many hours of practice. The battalion chefs produced a fine barbeque and the day was voted a great success.

● Above: Tug-o-war champs Liz Taylor, Jan Graham, Jean McDonald, Sylvia Spencer, Marie Spooner, Terri Deranery, Diane Wilkinson and Mauricia Staples.

● Below: Pte William Worrall waits on Mrs. Sue Atkins, Mrs. Lesley Snoud and Mrs. Sue Burford.



News from the branches



NORFOLK

Brig. Peter Barclay presided at the Annual Reunion Dinner of The Royal Norfolk Regiment and The Royal Anglian Regiment (Norfolk) Association on 25th September when 166 members attended, including some serving soldiers of the Royal Anglian Regiment. The Rev. Colin Wood, Padre of the 2nd Battalion at the Battle of Kohima, was among the guests.

Brig. Barclay conveyed good wishes from Gen. Sir Timothy Creasey in Muscat and Maj. Gen. David Thorne in the Falklands and expressed pleasure that Gen. Creasey was to succeed Maj. Gen. Jack Dye as Colonel of the Royal Anglian Regiment in November.

He thanked members for their benevolent support which had

enabled some 75 former members of the Regiment and their families to be assisted financially. Central heating had been installed in the 22 War Memorial cottages and bungalows at Norwich and King's Lynn through the generous support of the Army Benevolent Fund, the Royal Anglian Regiment Benevolent Fund and Local Authorities in Norfolk.

The Brigadier also mentioned the achievements of the 1st and 6th Battalions of The Royal Anglian Regiment and, on behalf of the Association, wishes Lt. Col. Tony Calder and all members of the 1st Battalion good fortune for their tour in Belize. He looked forward to meeting members at the next Reunion Dinner on 24th September, 1983.

Colours rehung

The annual Regimental Association Church Service was conducted in the Regimental Chapel at Norwich Cathedral on 26th September by Canon Wynter Blathwayt and the address was given by the Rev. Colin Wood, formerly of the 2nd Battalion the Royal Norfolk Regiment. The large congregation were able to admire the beauty of the Chapel and the Old Colours

which have been recently cleaned and rehung. The Remembrance Service was conducted at the 1939-45 War Memorial Bungalows on 12th November by the Association Chaplain, Canon Blathwayt. A plaque to commemorate the "Britannia" weather vane erected over the bungalows in memory of the late Lt. Col. F.R. Marshall was unveiled by his widow.

Outstation changes

Following the reorganisation of the Regimental Outstation on 1st March, the management of the Suffolk Regiment Association affairs has continued to function satisfactorily. The absence of a permanent Secretary at the Keep has been overcome by the commendable efforts of Mr. Jack Eastlea, aided by Mr. David Woodhouse and the Chairmen and Secretaries of the various Association Committees.

At the second meeting of the Regimental Council on 21st April, the President, Lt. Gen. Sir Richard Goodwin, noted with satisfaction the good attendance which reflected strong support for the aims of the Council from former members of the Regiment. He emphasised the importance of maintaining the Regimental office at The Keep at Gibraltar Barracks as the traditional home of the Regiment and the focal point for the co-ordination of Association affairs.

The President expressed his appreciation for the co-operation received during the reorganisation from the Regimental Secretary and Staff of RHQ, the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Over 1090 people attended the Old Comrades' Association Reunion on 1st August, the 223rd anniversary of Minden Day, at Gibraltar Barracks. A drumhead service was conducted by the Ven. Canon W.M. Lummis, in the attractive gardens of the former Gibraltar Barracks and music was provided by the Suffolk Military Band, resplendent in their scarlet tunics, under the leadership of Sgt. Ray "Hockey" Walker.

After the service, Lt. Gen. Sir Richard Goodwin reported on Regimental affairs during the year. His message to the Old Comrades dispelled any apprehension about the closing of the Suffolk Regiment Outstation at The Keep and assured them of "business is as usual".

The morning culminated in a march past of the Old Comrades resplendent in medals and the red and yellow roses of Minden to the strains of "Speed the Plough" and the

From the Dinner Clubs

London Branch dinner-dance was held at the Geoffrey Chaucer Hotel, Westminster on 29th May, the 4th Battalion dinner at the Lamb Inn, Norwich on 17th April and the King's Lynn Branch dinner at Gaywood, King's Lynn on 29th October.

The 2nd Battalion "Kohima" Dinner Club held its 35th annual dinner at the Norfolk Club, Norwich on 7th May when Col. Henry Conder presided over 14 former officers. This was the first time the dinner had been held in Norfolk and it was possible for the diners to enjoy the spectacle of the Colours, regimental silver and flowers.

The Royal Norfolk Regiment Officers' Dinner Club held its annual dinner at the Norfolk Club on 4th June when Brig. Peter Barclay presided over 36 Officers, including the Colonel of the Royal Anglian Regiment, Maj. Gen. Jack Dye, followed on Sunday by a luncheon enjoyed by 47 members and their wives.

The 1st Battalion "DV" Club Dinner was held at the TA Centre, Norwich on 30th October. Notices for the 1983 dinners will be published in the January edition of the Britannia and Castle Newsletter.

climax of the day was the "Beating of the Retreat" by the Band and Drums of the 1st Battalion. The "Regulars" gave a most accomplished performance and provided a fitting finale to a memorable day as they marched off the old Regimental Square of Gibraltar Barracks to the Regimental March, "Speed the Plough".

A successful social evening was organised by the Old Comrades' Association at the Melton Grange Hotel, Woodbridge on 19th May. Nearly 200 enjoyed the Suffolk Military Band and a successful draw was organised by the ladies, thanks to the valuable prizes donated by our generous benefactors. The evening resulted in 50 names being added to the Regimental OCA central register.

The OCA held another successful social evening on 25th September at the TA Centre, Lowestoft which was attended by 100 Old Comrades and their wives.



CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Membership increase

There are now active branches at Cambridge, Ely, March and Wisbech and the possibility of another opening at Whittlesey. Great credit is due to branch officers who work with such enthusiasm to maintain the Cambridgeshire spirit.

Wisbech Branch, reconstituted in September 1981, has grown from 12 to 75. With the aid of local donors a new Standard has been purchased and will be dedicated in memory of the late Major F.E. Fernie. The first social event was a sausage supper, at which guests were entertained from the Cambridge, Ely and March branches, followed on the Sunday by a 'shoot out' with the local ACF unit. The OCA won, despite many handicaps, and Mr. Nigel Benn was the best shot.

Cambridge branch has a membership of 67. A new branch Standard has been

ordered and Cambridgeshire badges for the standard bearer and two escorts are being sought. Anyone able to help should contact Major D.E. Hutt, "Homelands", 5 Bradfords Close, Bottisham. Evening meetings are now on the last Friday of each month.

The Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Regiment TA Officers Club — Forty-three members and guests sat down to the annual dinner at the University Arms Hotel on 17th April. In the unavoidable absence of Padre Ted Simpson, Col. Peter Storie Pugh said grace. Col. Stanley Aston presided in the absence through illness of Col. Barber and proposed the toast to the Regiment to which Major Dennis Haslam replied in his usual confident and amusing way. Finally, thanks for all the help he has given to the Club were expressed to Lt. Col. Wally Badcock who is retiring this year.

The Old Comrades' Association Annual Reunion at Ely on 20th June centred around a Service of Commemoration. Some 60 members marched from King's School to the Cathedral, where the service was conducted by the Dean, the Very Rev. M.S. Carey, and Canon M.S. MacDonald, who received the three standards.

No less than 500 were present, including men of the 1st and 5th Battalions, Cadet Battalions, the Royal Artillery Association and visiting members of the Suffolk Regiment OCA. The Lord Lieutenant, Sir Peter Proby, Lady Proby the Major and Mayoress of Ely were among the guests.

The Band of the 5th Battalion played for the service and wreaths were laid in the Regimental Chapel.

After the Service the parade marched to The Maltings, the salute being taken by the Lord Lieutenant accompanied by the Major and Mayoress of Ely and our President, Lt. Col. Victor Mapey. Tea was followed by a musical display which was also enjoyed by townspeople, holiday makers and friends. Mr. Herbert Taylor had organised a delightful collection of regimental silver.



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News from the branches



LINCOLNSHIRE

The highlight of the Royal Lincolnshire Regimental Association's year was as usual the annual reunion at the Beacholme, Cleethorpes on the 18th/19th September when over 210 former members of the Regiment attended. Among those present were Maj. Gen. Dick Gerrard-Wright, our three Chelsea In-Pensioners Messrs. Grice, Millhouse and Winter, ex-ORQMS Frank North who at 98 is our oldest active member and Capt. Chay Rousseuw, our 84-year-old Frenchman.

Chay served with our 4th Battalion in France, Belgium and Holland, and considers himself a true Poacher. He has recently had a book published which gives a good insight to

life in France during the German occupation and also details of his service with the 4th Battalion which is available from Lincoln (£2.95 plus 20p p & p).

The 1983 Reunion will take place on 17th/18th or 24th/25th September at the usual place, the date to be confirmed as soon as possible.

This year the Officers' Dinner was held on a Saturday followed by a Regimental cocktail party and curry lunch on the Sunday so as to draw wives into the event. Thirty-nine officers attended the dinner and over 70 the Sunday function, with food and service being provided by B Coy the 7th Battalion.



The 4th Bn Colours were presented in June 1908 and have been in continual use ever since. On 13th June, in conjunction with the Regimental cocktail party, Col. G.M. Sanders TD DL, on behalf of the

TA Trustees, handed over the Colours to Major Peter Moseling of B Coy, 7th Battalion. The Colours are to be framed and will be cared for by B Coy.



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Reunion Dinner

The reunion dinner was attended in the Regimental Club on 26th June by 140 Comrades and the buzz of conversation soon showed that they were reminiscing over the years spent in the Regiment. Major Gen. J.B. Akehurst,

Deputy Colonel, presided and proposed three toasts: "The Loyal Toast", "Our Deputy Colonel-in-Chief" and "The Regiment".

Replies were received to messages of loyalty and good wishes sent to The Queen and Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, and Gen. Akehurst reminded Comrades of Her Royal Highness's long association with the Regiment. Forty-five years ago, on 11th

May 1937 she had honoured the Regiment by becoming its Colonel-in-Chief, and by being present at the Comrades Church Parade on 4th July of that year. This year she again graced the occasion.

The General also mentioned that 1982 was the 50th anniversary of the airmove of the 48th from Moascar to Iraq, the first ever airmove of an infantry battalion.

"Lt. Col. Britten then a second lieutenant, who was present on that occasion is present tonight. How many others here tonight flew into Iraq with the 48th in 1932?"

Seven Comrades, including George Dodd, immediately sprang to attention.



ROYAL TIGERS

Royal Tigers' Weekend was held on 26th and 27th June. At the Annual Meeting of the Association, the Chair was taken by the President, Col. M. St. G. Pallot and 47 members were present. Col. Pallot particularly thanked all those who had so willingly supported money raising efforts: the annual sweep on the Grand National made a profit of £1,076. Col. A.J.G. Pollard and Lt. Col. F.A.H. Swallow were appointed Vice-presidents of the Association.

The meeting was followed by the annual dinner and reunion. It was pleasing to see so many Old Comrades, in particular a large contingent of the Grimsby Branch with their ladies who came for the weekend.

At the Sunday Parade Service in the Regimental Chapel members were honoured by the presence of the Lord Lieutenant for Leicestershire and Mrs. Martin, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leicester and many other distinguished guests. During the service a plaque giving the history of the Regimental Chapel was dedicated by the Very Rev. Alen Warren, Provost of Leicester Cathedral.

A luncheon party was held at the TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, for Old Comrades and their guests. Again this was well attended and proved to be a fitting climax to the weekend. The next Royal Tigers' Weekend will be held on 18th and 19th June 1983.



Sad day ahead

It will be a sad day on 1st March 1983 as it will mark the amalgamation of the Regimental Outstations at Bedford and Warley into one, with the new Outstation being located at Warley. It also marks the retirement after seven years as Area Secretary of Major "Donald" Girdwood who will be sadly missed for his infectious enthusiasm and loyalty to the Association.

Major Dougie Riches will take over as joint secretary for Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex.

The Bedford office will close from 1st February 1983 after which all letters should be addressed to HQ, The Royal Anglian Regiment (Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire & Essex), Eagle Way, Warley, Brentwood, Essex. However, an office will be maintained in Bedford which, starting on 1st February, Major Riches will visit every Tuesday. Initially the office will be as at present



BEDFORDSHIRE & HERTFORDSHIRE

but in the longer term it will be in the new TA Centre.

The Annual Association Dinner was held on 1st May in Hertford, ably organised by Mr. Stanley Mansfield. Some 250 members and their families attended, among them 24 members of the newly formed Luton-Dunstable Branch. Presentations were made to Brig. Dick Randall, the retired Deputy Colonel, the Royal Anglian Regiment to Mr. Harold Harper, who for many years has so ably audited the Association Accounts, and to Major "Donald" Girdwood.

The 11th Luton Musical Pageant was held on 11th September in aid of the Royal British Legion and the Army Benevolent Fund, under the presidency of Major William Powers JP, who is also President of the Luton-

Dunstable OCA. Among the many Army Bands taking part were the Massed Bands of The Queen's Division.

Official guests included Brig. David Carter, Chairman of the Regimental Association and Major Girdwood. Many British Legion and other Standards were displayed, among them the London Branch (Mr. W.G. Aldridge), Bedford Branch (Mr. A.E. Harvey), Luton-Dunstable Branch (Mr. D.H. Sharpe) and the Union Jack Standard, ex-London Branch (Mr. V.L. White), Bedford.

Dates for your diary are: 7th May 1983. Association Dinner and Dance at Sele School, Hertford. 20th November 1983. Wreath Laying Ceremony, Regimental Memorial, Kempston.

Church Parade

After a week of monsoon-like weather, the sun shone brilliantly on 27th June as nearly 100 Comrades paraded under Brig. N.J. Dickson and, headed by the Band & Drums of the 5th Battalion, marched to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

The arrival of Princess Alice was greeted with a Royal Salute and she then inspected the Comrades who afterwards marched into St. Sepulchre's, the Regimental Church built for the Crusaders in 1100 by the Normal Earl, Simon de Senlis.

The ancient walls and the old Colours hanging in the

Chancel, gave silent testimony to the glories and spirit of the past.

After the service, the parade marched past the Deputy Colonel-in-Chief to the strains of the Regimental Marches and then returned to barracks where guests were entertained in the Regimental Club and the officers and their guests went on to Simpson Barracks for the traditional sherry party and buffet luncheon.

The visit of Princess Alice was a memorable one and gave untold pleasure to those Comrades who had the good fortune and privilege to be present.

Do you need anything from the regimental shop?

If so, a list, including prices, of items available is enclosed in this Journal, alternatively contact RHQ at Bury St. Edmunds.

News from the branches



ESSEX



Mr. Harold Finney cutting the cake assisted by one of his daughters and Mrs. R. Haddon, House Sister.

It would not be possible to make this contribution until the 21st Century, to be precise the year 2064, if the subject was a soldier, aged 18 years, now serving with the Regiment. Why? Because this article is about two of the very "Old and Bold", both of whom celebrated their 100th birthdays this year.

Harry Doe, born on 7th January, 1882, enlisted into the Essex Militia in 1890 because "I was attracted by the high rate of pay of 6d per day." In 1901 he became a Regular and served in the Boer War and India with the 1st Battalion

The Essex Regiment. On leaving the Army in 1906 he worked for British Rail at Crewe until his retirement. He lives at Lightley Court, Sandbach, Cheshire and for the past nine years has been an external student studying art and music and movement. He keeps fit by walking five miles every day. The Association sent him a Regimental tie and a contribution to his birthday party.

Harold Finney was born on 22nd March, 1882. He left school at 12 and went to work in an iron foundry in his home town Gateshead. When he was



Mr. Harry Doe with the Mayor of Congleton, one of the many guests at his 100th birthday party.

17 he enlisted in the Essex Regiment to serve in the Boer War and subsequently in India with the 1st Battalion. After eight years' service he left the Army.

In the first World War he re-enlisted and, although he had never been to Canada, served in the Canadian Army having been claimed by his brother. He was commissioned into the Tank Corps in 1918 and was wounded three weeks before Armistice Day. He worked as a cashier in London and enlisted into the Home Guard in the 1939-45 War. On his birthday he was resident in Galanos

House, a Royal British Legion Residential Home at Long Itchington, Rugby.

The ACC staff of the 3rd Battalion made a magnificent cake with the Essex Regimental Cap Badge as the main motif and Royal Anglian Cap Badges around the side which was presented by Major Dougie Riches. Harold Finney entertained his guests with a song. Harold died on the 18th April, having lived, in his words "a long and happy life with no regrets."

Ogilby Trust needs your donations

The Army Museums Ogilby Trust (AMOT) was founded to "promote and foster regimental and military tradition primarily by the encouragement, equipment, care and maintenance of existing regimental and army museums and by the establishment of other regimental and army museums."

The Trust has given more than £400,000 during the last 28 years towards regimental and corps museums, and £12,000 towards the foundation of the National Army Museum.

Largely due to AMOT there are now 140 Corps/Regimental museums in the UK which

attract more than four-and-a-half million visitors each year.

Regrettably in inflationary times Trust funds need a continuing stream of donations, even though the Government has considerably increased the ability of charities to profit from gifts by covenants and other means.

The Ogilby Trustees would welcome any gifts to help them continue their aid to the Regimental and Corps museums of the Army.

The address to send your donations to is: Army Museums Ogilby Trust, Connaught Barracks, Aldershot, Hants.

'Past and Present' dinner

On 23rd October 230 members of the WOs and Sgts Past and Present Dinner Club dined at the Depot under the chairmanship of the Colonel of the Regiment, Maj. Gen. J.B. Dy.

An excellent meal was provided thanks to the catering staff and the Junior Soldiers who, as always, were willing and cheerful helpers. Thanks go to Lt. Col. Baillie and RSM Donaldson for their kindness and hospitality.

Why not visit the Regimental Museums at:

- Britannia Barracks, Norwich.
- The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St. Edmunds.
- Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln.
- Abingdon Park, Northampton.
- The Magazine, Leicester.
- The Bedford Borough Museum, The Embankment, Bedford.
- Oaklands Park, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford.

Poachers on top of the world



An adventure training exercise was held in the Cullin mountains on the Isle of Skye and three Poachers successfully completed the main ridge traverse in a single day, starting and finishing from the base camp site in Glen Brittle. The 15-mile traverse involved more than 13,000 feet of ascent and descent and took 22 hours to complete.

During the week, in which not a drop of rain was seen, the party of eight Poachers climbed and hiked in and around the Cullins preparing for the one-day attempt. Here, the party is taking advantage of the exceptional weather conditions from the summit of Sgurr Alsaideir, at 3,257 feet, the highest mountain on the island.

Sport on camera



Battalion team in the UKLF final: *Poachers* 5 - 1 *Queens* 4. Standing (l. to r.) L.Cpl. Andrews, Pte. Cooper, Cpl. Minns, Capt.(QM) Thornton, S.Sgt. McGonigle, Pte. Neale, Cpl. Taylor. (front) Pte. Clark, L.Cpl. Cousins, Pte. Noone, L.Cpl. Albans and Pte. Hagon.



Sgt. Scott, of B Coy, 6th Battalion in the Eastern District Cross Country Championships, held at Colchester, over a tough seven-mile course.



The Poachers squash team, runners-up in the N. Ireland major units competition for the second year running. Left to right: Maj. Hopkins, Cpl. Townsend, Maj. Rawlins, C.Sgt. Varney and Maj. Davenport.



A determined break by Capt. Willdridge sets up an attack against 1 D and D in the semi-final of the NI Rugby Cup.



Capt. Hall makes a great save to keep the Poachers in the game against 1 Cheshire in the Infantry Cup.



Poachers 640 kilo team working hard during the Army Championships at Aldershot.

Sport on camera



WO2 Burton hands the baton to Cpl. Taylor in the Northern Ireland Relay Championships.



LCpl. Bird of the Pompadours (above) has played in 20 matches for his local village team in his spare time! In his military matches he amassed a total of 757 runs for an average of 27.46. We look forward to hearing of him at Lords next year.



Pte. Ruddock shows off the Foster Shield as C Coy win the Inter-Company Athletics.

Lack of training time has been the 1st Battalion's biggest enemy. After a rapid start to the season at a Standards Meeting, the athletics team won the Eastern District competition, but were narrowly beaten in the Army

Semi Finals. The team now look forward to developing its considerable potential during the next two years and regaining their former position as Army Champions. Maj. Mike Willdridge is particularly keen to develop new talent.



● Maj. Gen. Tillotson presents LCpl. Paul, the scorer of many tries during the force seven-a-side rugby competition, with his runners-up prize.

● Left, Cpl. Taylor leads the Poachers' attack during the play-off for the N. Ireland KO Cup Final against the QDG.

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Year of success for Pompadours

The sudden move to Belize disrupted Pompadour sporting activities but nevertheless the hockey XI, under Lt. Mike Scragg, were runners-up in the Eastern District Championships and reached the semi-final of the Infantry Cup before losing to the eventual winners 2 Para.

The team has been strengthened for next season by the arrival from Sandhurst of 2Lt. Rowland Ladley, an army under 21 player, and 2Lt. Alastair Wild who has played for the army and Combined Services.

The novice boxing squad, under the direction of RQMS Eke, was very successful. After determined wins in the Eastern

District Championships over 40 Fd. Regt. TA and 2 Queens the team beat 2 Scots Gds. in the eastern zone finals when Cpl. "Chalky" White brought victory in the ninth and final bout of the evening by easily outpointing his opponent. Sadly they lost in the UK semi-finals to 1 Queens.

The cross country team captained by Sgt. Spencer won the eastern district and zone meetings, qualifying for the first time for the UK army finals at Aldershot where, although placed 7th overall, there were excellent individual performances by Sgt. Spencer and LCpl. James who was subsequently selected for the army team.

The rugby XV had undergone many changes in personnel since last season and took some time to settle, nevertheless they went on to reach the final of the Eastern District Cup. Although losing the final they won the plate in the district seven-a-side competition.



Pte. Mitchell of HQ Company receives the Team Winners Cup at the Eastern District Athletics Meeting.

Mixed fortunes for regimental cricket

This year saw the formation of a Regimental Cricket Club and a most enjoyable season of eight regimental matches, regrettably the ninth against Haileybury was cancelled due to bad weather.

We lost to Oundle, West Norfolk Cricket Club, Felsted and Framlingham, drew with Bancrofts and Woodbridge and beat The Gentlemen of Suffolk and Edward Lombe's XI.

The success of the season was, as always, due to the enthusiasm of the players and also to the support and hard work of the chairman, Maj. Gen. David Thorne and Maj. Julian Browne, Michael Goldschmidt and Guy Hipkin.

An interesting fixture list is being drawn up for 1983 which it is hoped will include matches with the Gentlemen of Essex and Leicestershire and some Cambridge Colleges.

Golf cup victory for Poachers

The Regimental Golfing Society have held three successful meetings, played their annual match against Flempton Golf Club and were beaten in the first round of the Army Officer's Golfing Societies Argyl and Sutherland Band by the eventual winners! 24 members played at the annual meeting at the Royal Worlington and Newmarket on one of the hottest days of the year, with The Poachers once again winning the Inter Battalion Cup.

Isham Salver — Scratch: WO2 Clive Mallett, Maj. Roy Jents, Lt. Col. Harold Moore.

Pompadour Cup — Handicap Medal: Lt. Col. Harold Moore, Col. Peter Badger, Maj. George Jasper.

Suffolk Cup — Stableford: Maj. John Growse, WO2 Clive Mallett, WO2 Ken Taylor. Ponsonby Cup — Stableford foursomes: Lt. Cols. Leon Paul and Harold Moore, Col. Peter Badger and Lt. Col. Jack Britten, Lt. Col. Tony Noble and Maj. Julian Browne.

The annual Flempton match was hosted in fine style by the club and provided a most enjoyable and keenly contested competition with a Flempton 6½ to 5½ victory.

With our regular battalions at home in 1983 we hope to see some new faces at next year's meetings: Spring — Flempton 8th April. Annual — Worlington 3rd June. Autumn — Flempton 9th September. Match v Flempton — Flempton 10th September.

Other results...

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