

DECEMBER 1985



# CASTLE

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT

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Blenheim Day Parade — Guests of honour, the Colonel of the Regiment and Mr Norman Fowler, MP.

# Trooping the Colour



The Poachers march past at Colchester before Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Princess Alice.

BEFORE moving to Londonderry, the 1st Battalion Trooped The Colour in the presence of Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Princess Margaret.

This year it was the turn of 2nd and 3rd Battalions in Colchester and Minden, and full reports of these parades may be found in battalion notes.

The Poachers were honoured that Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Princess Alice was present on 28 Jul, while Secretary of State Norman Fowler, who was with 1 Essex during National Service, joined The Pompadours in Minden on 17 Aug. The three parades and the accompanying festivities were great Regimental occasions attended by many former members of the battalions and their founder Regiments, and made fitting climaxes to battalion tercentenary celebrations.

## Well done to the Poachers

CONGRATULATIONS to The Poachers on coming 2nd in the Cambrian March Patrol Competition. To win in 1984 and come 2nd in 1985 is a fine achievement by Capt Dick Kemp and his team. The results were: 1st 1 Staffords; 2nd 2 R Anglian; 3rd 2/2 GR.

On 14 Sep, Maj Ken Laight and his team won the Infantry Cricket Cup beating IWER in an exciting final at the Tidworth Oval. The team replied to IWER's 156-7 by scoring 162-6 at close of play. Maj Guy Hipkin made 51 and Capt David Napier 55 not out with Pte Harrison's bowling figures as 1-22.

In reaching the final, the Poachers had beaten Depot The Queens Division in the quarter-finals and 1PW0 in the semi-finals.

## Royal Anglian Freedoms

The highest civic honour that can be bestowed is that of the Freedom of the City or Borough. The Regiment is proud to hold the Freedoms of 27 civic authorities and, when regular battalions are stationed at home, we take the opportunity to strengthen our links by exercising the privilege of marching through these cities and towns with Colours flying, Drums beating and Bayonets fixed.

Tercentenary year has seen nine such ceremonies, including the grant of the Freedom of Wellingborough reported in the last issue of Castle.

Since then the Vikings have exer-

cised the Freedoms of Ely and Bury St Edmunds and received the Freedom of Norwich, while the Poachers and the 7th Battalion marched through the Lincolnshire towns of Boston, Cleethorpes, Grantham, Grimsby and Lincoln. Freedoms granted to The Regiment — Bedford, Boston, Bury St. Edmunds, Cambridge, Chelmsford, Cleethorpes, Colchester, Dunstable, Ely, Grantham, Grimsby, Hertford, Hinkley, Ilford, Ipswich, King's Lynn, Lincoln, Lowestoft, Northampton, Norwich, Peterborough, Romford, Southend, Watford, Wellingborough, Wicheb, Yarmouth.

## Regimental events 1986

IN 1986 the 1st Bn will be in Londonderry, the 2nd Bn will leave Colchester for Omagh from Apr — Sep, and the 3rd Bn in Minden will start a short Northern Ireland tour in November.

A forecast of Regimental events is on page 2. There will be no reunion at Bassingbourn in 1986, but plans are being made for a 1987 midday reunion with activities to interest

comrades, serving members and families which we hope will set the pattern for the future. Details will be published next year. The Officers' Club are planning a reception at the Duke of Yorks, as well as the Regimental Dinner, while the popular WO's and Sgts' Past and Present Dinner will again be held at Bassingbourn, provisionally on 18 Oct.

## Remembrance in Thailand



Lt Gen Sir John Akehurst, Deputy Colonel, photographed after the Memorial Service at Kanchanaburi Cemetery, Thailand, on 8 Nov at which he laid a wreath as representative of the three Services. The General is photographed with those veterans and widows of soldiers who served with the Royal Anglians parent regiments. From left: Mr Arthur Brown (Royal Leicesters), Mr Bill Palmer (Suffolk), Mrs Nancy Blumson (Harlow), Mrs Elsie French (Cambridge), Mrs Betty Ottowell (Swindon), Mrs Phyllis Spencer-Tindall (Nuneaton), Mrs Phyllis Clarke (Kingsbridge, South Devon), Mrs Margaret Pickard (Cambridge), Mr Jack Catlin and Mr Evan Jasper (Cambridgeshire).

## Inside your Castle

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## Diary Dates

June 15, Golf annual meeting  
 Frempton,  
 November 7, Regimental Dinner,  
 See Page 2.

## OBITUARIES

### Pte M Patten

It is with great sorrow that we record the death of Pte Martin Patten while serving in Londonderry with the 1st Battalion. Martin was killed by terrorists on the Limavady Road outside Clooney Base during the early hours of Sun. 22 Sep.

Martin was born on 28 Jun 67 in Cambridge, the second son of a family of 2 brothers and 3 sisters. He always wanted to join the Army and was an enthusiastic cadet at school; indeed his headmaster strongly recommended him for a military career.

In Nov 83 Martin was selected to be a Junior Leader at Shorncliffe. During his training his bright enthusiasm and hard work earned him the friendship of his contemporaries and the praise of his instructors. He did particularly well at his theoretical studies and was always a welcome and sought-after member of the sporting teams.

With an excellent report, and showing great promise, Martin Patten joined the 1st Battalion in Jun. His life and short military career were brought tragically to an end in what must be one of the most cold-blooded murders of the terrorist campaign in Northern Ireland.

He was buried in his home town with full military honours on 30 Sep 85; it was a very moving ceremony. The deepest sympathies of the battalion and the Regiment go to his father and mother, his brother serving with the battalion and his sisters.

### Lt Col M Shaw

Lt Col Mike Shaw MBE TD, a serving TA member of the Regiment died suddenly at Cleethorpes on 12 Aug.

Mike Shaw left the 7th Battalion, where he was second-in-command, to run the Eastern District Training Team. In civilian life he worked for Grimsby Council and at the time of his death was closely involved in the planning for the 2nd Battalion Freedom marches in Grimsby and Cleethorpes.

The sympathy of his many friends in the Regiment goes to his family.



Brig Peter Barclay presents a framed Regimantal Commendation to Jim Wright. Picture by Eastern Daily Press.

## Malayan exploits recognised

In 1942 Pte Jim Wright of the 6th Battalion The Royal Norfolk Regiment was posted missing believed killed when his battalion withdrew from Malaya to Singapore. In fact, he became the only member of the ill-fated 18th East Anglian Division to successfully evade capture and return home in 1945. This fact was not discovered by his Regiment until Maj Robert Hamond recently published his book "A Fearful Freedom". Pte Wright was left on the Malayan mainland having been wounded in

the foot. He struggled alone until, helped by Chinese villagers, he joined a group of 26 British and Australian stragglers. Only two of the 26 were to escape the clutches of the Japanese and he was one of them. Despite the dangers of disease and the horror of watching his friends die one by one, Jim Wright never gave up hope of his own survival and fought on for three years. Today he is rather taken aback to have his exploits recognised after 40 years and claims that he was not

brave — "you're frightened sometimes, but when you join the army you are told to try and escape, and that is what I tried to do. I had lots of luck and the help of the Chinese. When his exploits became known to the UO, Lt Col Alin Cubitt, put his name forward for a Regimantal Commendation and on 28 Sep ex Pte Jim Wright received belated recognition for his "exceptional conduct" when Brig Peter Barclay presented him with a framed Commendation.

## MSM presented to a Pompadour

Brig Duchesne, Chief of Staff UNFICYP, presents the Meritorious Service Medal to WO2 Barry Sutcliffe BEM at a ceremony in Nicosia on 11 Sep. WO2 Sutcliffe is assistant manager of the HQ UNFICYP Officers Mess.



### Dinner club chairman retires

THE WO and Sgts Mess Past and Present Dinner Club held its annual dinner at Bassingbourn on 19 Oct when 233 members attended. Brig M E Thorne presided and once again our thanks go to the Depot staff for the excellent meal and first class organisation. Maj Tommy Warren retired as the

club chairman and was presented with an inscribed crystal decanter and six matching glasses. The secretary of the club thanks RSMs and their Messes of all six battalions for their kind donations towards this present. Capt Tommy Bullock has succeeded Maj Warren as chairman.

## DIARY DATES

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 7 April           | 4/5 Essex dinner                                 |
| 5 April           | Hertford dinner                                  |
| 11 April          | Golf Spring meeting Flemspton                    |
| 23 April          | Suffolk Council meeting                          |
| 25 April          | 3rd Bn Dinner Club cocktail party                |
| 17 May            | Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire dinner              |
| 6 - 7 Jun         | Norfolk Officers' Club dinner lunch              |
| 13 June           | Golf annual meeting Flemspton                    |
| 15 June           | Golf v Queens and RRF Gog Magog                  |
| 20 June           | Royal Tigers weekend                             |
| 21 - 22 June      | Essex Reunion and Service of Remembrance         |
| 5 - 6 July        | Northamptonshire reunion                         |
| 1 August          | 1st Bn Minden Ball                               |
| 2 - 3 August      | Suffolk dinner and Minden reunion                |
| 29 August         | Golf Autumn meeting Flemspton                    |
| 30 August         | Golf v Flemspton                                 |
| 20 September      | 4 Essex dinner                                   |
| 21 - 22 September | Lincolnshire reunion                             |
| 27 September      | R Norfolk dinner dinner                          |
| 18 October        | Past & Present Dinner (TBC)                      |
| 6 November        | Field of Remembrance                             |
| 7 November        | Regimantal Dinner                                |
| 16 November       | Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Remembrance Service |

AT the time of going to press, the Colonel of The Regiment, General Sir Timothy Creesey, is at home recovering from a serious operation. We wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him on parade again soon.

Also in hospital is Lt Col Alan Parry, late Essex and 3 E Anglian, who we hope will soon be out of the King Edward VII Hospital following the amputation of a leg.

Congratulations to the following on being selected for command in 1986: 6th Bn Maj A C Taylor Apr 86; 3rd Bn Maj A Behag MBE Jun 86; Depot Lt Col MK Goldschmidt Jul 86.

Congratulations also to Lt Richard Clements on being awarded an Admiralty Board Commendation for the outstanding part he played in the rescue of Lt Cmd Waghorn while taking part in the Joint Services Expedition to the Antarctic. We welcome 2Lt Simon Andrews who joined The Poachers from Sandhurst in Aug 85 and congratulate Lts Colin Hill and George Taylor on their commissions.

Maj Gen Sir David Thorne has handed over command of 1Armd Div and is living at home pending his appointment as Director of Infantry in Feb. 86.

We wish Maj 'MAPS' Amberton, Capt Steven Langley and Lt Duncan Gregory well on their retirement and hope to continue to see them at Regimantal functions.

We were pleased to see Lt Col Bernard Nehring who commands the Lincoln and Welland Regiment when he visited England this year for the tercentenary. He was present at both the 2nd Battalion Trooping the Colour and the 1st Battalion march in Ely.

Col Richard Abbott, who transferred to the Army Air Corps in 1970, is now Commandant of the Army Corps Centre at Middle Wallop. Congratulations to Pte Caesar, The Vikings on his success in the Army individual athletics championships. Sgt Bodger of The Vikings represented the Army against Hampshire and the Army/Navy UK.

The Pompadours came fourth in the Army swimming finals for the second year running, with Ptes Coyne and Tahram being selected to represent the Army. LCpls Paul and Maynard of The Pompadours also represented the Army in athletics, while LCpl Paul broke the BAOR 200m record and went on to become Combined Services 100m champion.

Maj Mike Gunton who retired in Oct has taken on the running of Lydd Ranges.

Maj Tony Downs now runs the Priory Lodge Hotel in Gorleston and writes that running a business is worse than being a QM! Nevertheless Sylvia and Tony are enjoying the experience and hope to see their friends.

Congratulations to Lt Col(SQM) Mike Kinson on his promotion. Col Geoffrey Morgan has been appointed a DL for Essex. Lt Peter Hogg has now left the Intelligence Corps and is working for London/Stockbrokers Philips and Drew.

Maj Mike Jones is Director of Administration for the International Immigration Institute, Kandy, Sri Lanka and has written sending his regards to all his friends.

2Lt Felicity Bowden of the 6th Bn who is on Op Raleigh writes from Chile that life is busy building an outlook over the glacier on Lake San Safael, giving community aid to locals and adventure training climbing a volcano and a glacier, abseiling and being the signaller for her team.

Maj Dougie Riches has handed over as area secretary for Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire & Essex to Maj David Thorogood. Our thanks go to Dougie Riches for returning from retirement to do a splendid job filling a gap at Warley together with our best wishes for a happy second retirement.

Maj Thorogood retired early to take up the appointment and will be warmly welcomed by his many old friends from The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, 3rd East Anglian and Royal Anglian Regiments.

Horse Guards Parade 85 raised a magnificent £12,000 for service charities. £5,000 went to the Army Benevolent Fund, £2,000 to the Queens, RRF and Royal Anglian Benevolent Funds. £1,000 to the UDR and £500 to Prince Philip's Appeal for Commonwealth Veterans.

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## News from the Vikings

### Ulster activity on the increase

THE 1st Battalion approaches half time in their Londonderry tour with an increase in activity since the last edition, and the tragic murder of Pte Martin Patten. (Obituary Page 2)

The end of July saw 'A' Coy, commanded by Maj David Phipps, and the Band and Drums departing for Thorpe Camp, Thetford for three Freedom parades to commemorate the tercentenary.

On 30 Jul the party marched through Ely. The salute was taken by the mayor, councillor A. Pope and Maj Gen Sir David Thorne. The Vikings were made extremely welcome and the day, which ended with Beating Retreat and a reception in the Maltings, proved a re-sounding success.

The following day we arrived at Norwich City Park, ready to exercise the Freedom. The weather was fine and everyone felt good and overconfident, being veterans of the day before.

However, it is not possible to prepare yourself for an emotional shock and the approach to the City Hall and the response of the crowds were brilliant. The salute was taken by the Lord Mayor, Councillor B. E. E. Stevenson, accompanied again by the Deputy Colonel.

In the evening there was an official reception after Beating Retreat and then the long road home as there was no march on the 1 Aug, the senior members of the Band and Drums took the opportunity to visit the Woodpack under the command of ex Sgt Mitch Mitchell and, at the stroke of midnight, a well-controlled, peaceful and impromptu re-union slipped gracefully into Minden Day. Unfortunately no photos are available. Minden Day 1885, for operational reasons, will not be remembered as one of the special occasions of the past, and once again the brunt was borne by A Coy.



Vikings' Band heads the march through Bury St Edmunds.

A parade was held at Thorpe Camp and Mrs Joan Fowler, widow of Maj (QM) Mick Fowler, presented A Coy with their Northern Ireland GSM's. At the end of the parade Mrs Fowler presented her husband's service medals to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Maj Fowler was RSM of the battalion from 1965 - 67 and went on to QM. He is remembered with great admiration and respect by all battalion's of the Regiment.

The final Freedom march took place on 3 Aug and was a carbon copy of Norwich. The experience of marching through the home towns must compare with the

Mayor of Bury St Edmunds, Councillor N. R. Whitwell, again accompanied by Maj Gen Sir David Thorne.

Meanwhile, back in Londonderry, having observed the response from the Freedom marches, 16,000 protesters attended the annual Apprentice Boys March through the city centre. Sp Coy were kindly invited to attend the following disturbances and riots.

All efforts are made to live as normal a life as possible and during September two teams under the watchful eye of (Sgt) 'Chico' Duncan found themselves adventure training in the Mallaig area of Scotland. They enjoyed themselves and the quote of the trip goes to Pte 'Kid' Curry when he claimed "CSgt my little legs just won't go up-hill anymore" and was proved wrong.

At the same time two further teams under Lt Dennis Vincent and CSgt Bob Grenfell were attacking the Glencoe area.

At the beginning of September the captain of HMS Yarmouth, Commander Robert Turner, visited the battalion for two days and we hope to strengthen ties even more during our Gibraltar tour.

At the end of September the perimeter fence and a large number of buildings were destroyed when a 400 lb bomb was placed in a van next to the perimeter. Fortunately there were no R Anglian casualties.

response from the Rifle Companies, and it is difficult to keep ones head up during the Northern Ireland tour. However, the hockey XI are through to the semi-final of the N. Ireland branch of the Army Cup and if we can ever get the complete team together we hope for great things.

The orienteering team under Capt John Ross produced a tremendous result in coming second in the inaugural Major Unit Infantry Orienteering Championships. The team was Capt Ross, Capt Lucas, Lt Thorne, CSgt Shrubvall, Cpl Dawkins and Cpl Martin. We hope Capt Ross and Cpl Dawkins will be selected for the Army Team. By the next edition of the Cavle the battalion will have celebrated the joys of their 5th Christmas on Irish soil.



Colour Party march past the Lord Mayor of Norwich.



No. 1 Guard march past the Mayor of Ely.

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# News from the Vikings



Mrs Joan Fowler presenting medals to A Company at Thorpe Camp.



Above: Yet another milestone in the history of Northern Ireland the arrival of the APVs.

Right: Drummers Lenton and Wildney practice the art of 'breaking and entering'.



WO2 K C Jones receives the late Major Mick Fowler's medals on behalf of the Warrant Officer's and Serjeant's Mess.



Pte Lemon, Support Company, proving that in Northern Ireland it pays to be backward.

2nd Lt Frank de Planta Willdenberg hanging the newly commissioned painting of the Colonel of the Regiment. 2Lt de Planta born on the day the General Cressay completed his tour at the S College, Camberley. The painting is excellent and well worth 44 years plus service to Queen and Country.

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# News from The Poachers

## Regimental Day Success

### Poachers on target

The Poachers were selected by the Army Rifle Association as the unit team to be part of the British Army Rifle Team (BART) representing the British Army in the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association Championships. The Poachers set off on Ex Sharp Shooter on 19 Jul with Maj Domeisen and were based in Kingston, Ontario for five days. The Canadians fire a large number of matches on each weapon and therefore tend to concentrate on one or two weapons, whilst BART members fired up to five but at least three of the SLR, SMG, GPMG, Pistol and Sniper Rifle. Training was followed by two weeks of competition in Ottawa. The team set a new record, winning twelve major trophies, the International Match and 83 Individual/Team Gold Medals. Poacher results were: Rifle Individual Events: Match 8 - Pte Melville 1st; Sir Arthur Currie Aggregate Plate - Maj Domeisen 1st; Individual Championship (HM Canadian Forces Queens Medal), Maj Domeisen - 1st (Not eligible to win the HM Canadian Forces Queens Medal), Pte Tee - 10th, Cpl Scarboro - 14th. Rifle Team Events, BART A, Maj Domeisen, Bordon Trophy, Sgt Anderson Arthur Currie Team Aggregate, Cpl Scarboro, Wood Trophy, Pte Melville, Gascoigne Trophy, SMG Individual Events, Match 10 - Pte Melville 1st, GPMG, Events, Lt Cpl Havercroft Winner of Match 44 and the University Cup, Pte Wright, Machine Gun Aggregate, International Match Rifle, Winners of the Challenge Shield were BART No. 1 Team which included Maj Domeisen, Pte Tee and Cpl Scarboro. Life was not all work and no play. The RAF played a blinder by delaying the return flight by five days. Poachers who represented the Army in Canada were: Maj A P Domeisen, Sgt V Anderson, Cpl N K Scarboro, Lt Cpl M Havercroft, Ptes A Melville, P A Tee, P Wright, A Athroll, R Warrenner.



On behalf of the Cpl's Mess the CO presents the Drum Major with his new sash.

1985 was another successful shooting year with the team coming seventh overall at Bisley, the second best result achieved by the Poachers or any Royal Anglian battalion. Cpl Scarboro came sixth in the Army 100 and the team won the 14/20 Kings Hussars Cup, an SMO Cup, in north of the range, never to be won by the Poachers.

Seven out of eight men in the Queens Division team, who came third in the Methuen cup, were Poachers. The Poachers also shot well in the Nationals the following week, in preparation for representing the Army in Canada where they set a record by winning 12 major trophies, the International Match and 83 individual and team Gold Medals. (Separate report).

In July Gen Sir John Stanier paid his last visit to an Infantry Battalion as CGS and was much amused by a gift of a snare from the QM's Department to the "Head

Gamekeeper of the Poachers". The highlight of the Tercentenary Year was the Regimental Day on 28 Jul. Apart from the drill practices for Trooping the Colour, stands had to be put up and the Battalion Fair organised. On Fri 26 Jul the dress rehearsal was given by the

evening of 27 Jul, the Officers Mess held a reunion dinner in the Garrison Officers Club, which unfortunately coincided with the Colchester carnival and the entire got stuck in the procession! It was a close-run thing but the food made it in time! It was good to see many familiar faces together again.

The day itself consisted of Trooping the Regimental Colour before our Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, HRH Princess Alice, followed by a Battalion Fair. Her Royal Highness lunched in the Officers Mess, talked to families at the Fair and took tea in the WOs, and Sgts Mess before leaving by helicopter.



The Deputy Colonel-in-Chief with her tercentenary gift of a porcelain Poacher presented by Lt Gen Sir John Akehurst.

The crucial factor was the weather and as the battalion woke to grey overcast skies we contemplated the down pour in May 85 when the Regiment paraded before their Colonel-in-Chief.

The rain held off as 2,000 people assembled at Hyderabad Barracks but, just after the helicopter from the Queens flight landed, it started to rain; some attributed this to the battalion not having a resident padre! Nevertheless the ceremony went very smoothly. On her arrival, Princess Alice was presented with a bouquet by Jessica Lynn, daughter of Cpl and Mrs Lynn and, later in the ceremony, received the battalion's tercentenary gift to their Deputy Colonel-in-Chief - a porcelain Poacher.

The rain eased for the Fair, but promptly descended again in the middle of the "walkabout". This failed to dampen spirits and Princess Alice met many families and visited the stalls which varied from highly dangerous "dunking" machines to exhibitions of WWII memorabilia and the popular company tents. We were sad to see the Princess depart, but grateful that she had made the day so memorable.

The celebrations over, the battalion turned to the 19 Inf Bde Inter Section Competition in the last week before summer block leave. This incorporated a march of 25 kms with various military skills stands, culminating in an assault course and shoot. The battalion took 11 out of the first 14 places and recovered its breath during the

three weeks well-earned leave that followed.

After leave we exercised the Freedoms of Boston and Grantham on 6 Sep, Lincoln on 7 Sep and Grimsby and Cleethorpes on 8 Sep, thus emphasising our ties with Lincolnshire in the tercentenary of 20 Jun 1685 when Maj Gen John Granville, Earl of Bath and Governor of Plymouth, was commissioned by Royal Warrant to raise a Regiment of "eleven companies of foot, each containing 100 private men". This Regiment subsequently became the 10th of Foot and the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment.

For the parades the weather was fine and the turnout by the public good and appreciative. The battalion

Continued Page 6



The British Army team in Canada with their trophies.

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# News from The Poachers



The Feu-de-Joie on Regimental Day.



A Coy protect the helicopter landing zone.



2L1 Steve Taylor with 5PI on Ex Autumn Circuit.



Members of the 10th of Foot in America with the Adjt and Sgt Brazier on Regimental Day.

## From Page 5

ion was well entertained and all the civic authorities made extremely generous presentations. Grantham gave a cheque for £1,000 for the refurbishment of the Lincoln silver drums, the Borough of Boston presented new banners for the fanfare trumpets, the Boroughs of Great Grimsby and Cleethorpes presented new Colour Belts and while the battalion was in Cyprus, Lincoln presented £1,000 towards Band Banners. The ceremonies in Grimsby and Cleethorpes were part of the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment Association's Tercentenary celebrations and were attended by HRH Princess Alice.

A mobile display team accompanied the battalion to show off to the public the more modern aspects of the Poachers life. In all the battalion enjoyed a most successful and enjoyable tour. Ex Brave Defender in the following week introduced a new and un-acustomed role. Our TAOR included our own recruiting area as well as Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. The battalion split for the first day between Derwent reservoir and Proteus, to be deployed on the second day to RAF North Luffenham. The novel part of the exercise was that transportation was by Kennings minibus!

The end of September saw the battalion deployed on Ex Autumn Circuit, the 19 Inf Bde three-week concentration. The first week was a Bde exercise, the second was at Wathgill with a range package and FIBUA, while the final week consisted of various concentrations

and an inter-platoon competition. October brought the Cambrian March Patrol Competition when Capt Dick Kemp and his team pulled off an extremely fine feat in coming second on one of the toughest courses and in the worst weather on record. The team covered 130 kms incorporating many military skills tests, with a particu-

larly testing march and shoot at the end which became survival of the fittest.

On Remembrance Day the battalion paraded in Lincoln Cathedral in the presence of HRH Princess Alice, the Deputy Colonel-in-Chief: a fitting and memorable conclusion to our Tercentenary celebrations.



Looking cheerful on Ex Autumn Circuit.



The Cambrian March Patrol Competition team 1985.

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## News from The Pompadours

# Training periods in Canada and Germany



Blowing the bridge — B Coy at Batus.



EX Quarter Final — WO2 Peter Lund-Conlon commanding A Coy during the "Death" of Maj Tim Otter. His steel helmet is reversed as a mark of respect for the dead.



On your marks — CPL Eddie Croft and Pte Roy Holohan sprint into action on Ex Quarter Final.



CSgt Tommy Carr and his crew taking on emergency provisions during Ex Quarter Final.

IN the earlier part of the year, B Coy became almost 'detached' to all intents and purposes to the 17/21 Lancers Battle Group in preparation for Ex Medicine Man 3 (1985), thus stealing a march on the rest of us by about a year.

After cramming in their SAA Camp, they attended the Battle Group Trainer with 17/21 Lancers and shortly afterwards went to Soltau with them.

B Coy and D Sqn 17/21 L acted as a Sqn/Coy Group for the whole working and training period, and the two sub units got to know one another extremely well, and from the top down. Lancer met Pompadour and got to understand each others problems, equipment, and what each could do for the other. They flew to Canada in mid June, and by the 23rd the Company Group was installed in Camp Crowsfoot, a well used collection of wooden huts, each capable of housing 100 men.

During the arrival period, the pre-advanced and advance parties, together with the early arrivals of the main body were able to pay fleeting visits to the local sights — Medicine Hat — small town, a taxi ride away

from Camp Crowsfoot and Ralston, a village which contains the "Cannex" — equivalent of NAAFI.

After a weekend of sampling Canadian food and drink, the entire Battle Group departed from Camp Crowsfoot with all their kit for the Suffield Prairie.

The first week of work was special to arms training, and B Coy, having check-zeroed their weapons, spent the week graduating from section tactics through platoon operations to company group operations in all phases of war.

After this, and following a maintenance day to allow the company to pay some attention to their vehicles, weapons and equipment, they again met up with D Sqn and continued training as a Sqn/Coy Gp. The company then took its place in the Battle Group Orbat for the final two exercises, including bridge demolitions, minefield breaching, battle group attacks, hasty defence, withdrawal, and a long advance to contact, culminating with the recapture of the bridge that had been blown at the beginning of the exercise.

The final push began with the whole battle group formed up on a long black ridge, waiting to attack the final objective. It was taken, in a cacophony of live firing from weapons of all calibres. The exercise ended at that point, among the burning grass.

The training period was now complete, and all that remained was putting out of the fire caused in the final attacks, the filling-in of all the trenches, and the repair and replacement of the many bullet-riddled targets.

The next four days were spent ensuring that all the vehicles and equipment were in a fit state for Ex Medicine Man 4, and having done that, B Coy enjoyed several days R & R, many attending the annual Calgary Stampede, others visiting the nearby (nearby being a relative term!) towns of Banff, Elkwater and Medicine Hat, and some being content merely to visit the rugged scenery of the Rockies. The company returned to Minden in mid July, to meet the rest of the battalion returning from Sennelager having completed three weeks field firing.

While the remainder of the battalion were engaged on Ex Treaty with the Americans and French in Sennelager this September, a Coy spent a successful and enjoyable fortnight with the 2nd Danish Life Regiment based on the Island of Zealand in the town of Vordingborg which, although small, made up for the lack of bright lights by the generous hospitality the inhabitants extended to all ranks.

The Danish Life Regiment differs in several ways from a British Army unit, not least in the fact that they actually have female members of rifle sections and female tank crew members. The Regiment is organised on a two mech company, two tank squadron Orbat, and is equipped with Centurion tanks and M113 APC's.

A Coy spent the first few days familiarising themselves with Danish procedures and equipment. Early misgivings about the ability of the company to operate on the Danish Regimental voice net turned out to be unfounded thanks to an excellent liaison officer, and the Danish educational system that ensures that most Danes speak excellent English.

Continued Page 8



Pte Holohan about to refuel LCpl Flack's motorbike — the three despatch riders from the provost staff averaged 9,500 km/a over the five weeks of Exercise Quarter Final.



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# News from The Pompadours



From Page 7

Towards the end of the first week, the Life Regiment organised a sports day consisting of a cross-country race, and assault course competition and grenade throwing. A Coy won overall, sweeping the board in the cross-country and coming second and third in the assault course race.

The day ended with a barbeque, considered to be a great success judging by the number of British and Danish officers who took an unscheduled swim in the nearby lake.

The second week was taken up with a major FTX, concentrating on mobile operations. Despite the age of our Mk1432's and their lack of pace compared with the M113's, the Danish commander was pleasantly surprised at how quickly A Coy was able to react to changing situations, often beating the Danes to the start line.

At the end of the exercise, the company (drawing on their experience of the Blenheim Day parade) fired a Feu de Joie for the Danes as a token of appreciation for the hospitality extended to them.

At that point, it was considered that the visit was all over bar the journey back to Minden, but the weather took a hand, with winds approaching 80 mph. All bridges and ferries connecting Zeeland with the mainland were closed, and A Coy was stranded for an extra two days. Finally, after a 50 hour train journey, the company arrived back in Minden thoroughly tired, but well pleased with the fortnights work, both military and social.

1985 is tercentenary year for the Regiment, and although the senior Pompadour Regiment, the Bedfordshire Regiment, was not raised until 1688, the 3rd Battalion celebrated the Regiment's three hundredth anniversary by Trooping the Regimental Colour on 17 Aug. Having returned from three weeks field firing at Sennelager, or in the case of B Coy from EX Medicine Man in Canada, the battalion adopted Pompadour Summer Time (PST) while we prepared for

**Running replen.** In this way, A1 Echelon refuelled the entire battlegroup in less than an hour during battlegroup training at Soltau.



**Battlegroup Training at Soltau** — CSgt Keith Smith acting as enemy chief of staff explains how he intends to surround the battalion.

the day. We came in to work at 0645 hrs and stood down — where the workload allowed — at 1400 hrs.

The first milestone to pass was the inter company drill competition, held to decide which company would have the honour of providing the Escort to the Colour for the trooping. The APC's were removed from the square, and it was swept daily.

CSM's spent hours perfecting the difficult forms, marching in line and the Feu de Joie. The competition was held on 2 Aug and was won, by a length, by B Coy, trained and led by CSM Ollie Dent.

Having decided the Escort to the Colour, the battalion began training for the event. Peripheral to all the drill, Maj Roland Thompson and his Blenheim Day committee, headed by CSM Wally Cook, were busy organising tentage, food, beer, pop-groups and speciality acts and other sundry details for the all ranks dance and other Blenheim Day celebrations. The all ranks dance was held on 11

Aug and began with a Beating of Retreat by the Band and Drums. After the dance, tentage continued to be erected until the playing fields resembled a MASH. On the parade square rehearsals continued, officer's being allowed to take part, and blank ammunition was issued for the Feu de Joie, hitherto mainly practiced with 'clicks' instead of 'bangs'.

The CO finally declared himself satisfied with the standard of drill on the dress rehearsal on 14 Aug but guards could still be seen practicing on the square all hours of the day.

The day itself was a resounding success. The weather was perfect, and at 1100 hrs the Pompadours marched on. Acting as a backdrop to the parade were two Chieftain tanks, kindly loaned by our supporting Gunners 47 Fd Regt, and two of our own APC's and two Scimitars.

After Trooping the Colour, the parade marched past in line in slow and quick time, demonstrating drill that would have graced Horse

Guards, then, following on impressive Advance in Review Order, the Guards fired a Feu de Joie with the precision of ripping silk.

The guests of honour were Norman Fowler MP, late of the Essex Regiment, and the Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir Timothy Creasey.

Festivities continued for the rest of the afternoon, and in the evening the officers held their Summer Ball at the Schloss Petershagen, a perfect setting 10km north of Minden. After assembling at the Mess, the officers and their guests were taken to Petershagen in a luxury pleasure steamer down the River Weser.

One of the attractions held over from the afternoon's fete was the mechanical rodeo bull, which was transported to the schloss for the edification of officers. The ball finally ended at 7am with the last of the revellers leaving the schloss at the same time as the gallant ADC's. Captain's Alistair Wild and Kerrin Tansley who were on their way to escort the guests of honour to Hannover airport.



**A craftsman at work.** Cpl 'FID' Timms the metalsmith welding a frame to an APC's rear bins.



**The CO tells the 2IC, Maj Julian Lacey to lead off on the left foot in future.**

*It's got to be Gordon's.*



**During EX Quarter final, Capt Peter Morling prepares his scimitar for the Hannover motor show.**



# News from The Pompadours

## Snow and sun on alpine expedition

EXERCISE Purple Quadrant had ended the last year when 2Lt R Hoskins took a party of soldiers on a long and arduous walk on part of the Alpine Pass Route in Switzerland.

The APR is more than 200 miles long and starts in north east Switzerland near the Swiss/Liechtenstein border and finished at Montreux on Lake Geneva.

This year it was decided that Exercise Purple Quadrant 1985 would cover the entire route with Lt Andrew Wadman leading the expedition. After much hard work Lt Wadman and Tosh (AAC) Ptes Jolly, Thornton, Winkle, Oxby, Catterson and Strudwick set off for Sargens on the Liechtenstein/Swiss border where the expedition was to start.

The first three days were relatively easy and a useful warm up. By day four the expedition was pushing deep into the Bernese Oberland, which means "lots of high mountains" and could expect to climb at least 7,000 — 10,000 ft a day.

To make things more difficult the weather turned nasty with almost continual rain and some snow on the passes.

As the expedition progressed so the weather became worse, with dense fog and blizzards causing almost nil visibility; this made navigation difficult and many stretches had to be done on compass bearings.

By day six after crossing the Surenpass (9,700ft) in knee deep snow, the party reached Engelberg with clothing and equipment wet through.

At this stage the party returned to Minden for Blenheim day and Lt Andrew Wadman handed the leadership of the second stage to Lt John Tosh AAC. With him would go many notable battalion adventurers including 2Lt Blakeney Edwards, Ptes Strudwick, Cooper, Howe, Tarrant, Mitchel, LCpl Robinson and the admin backup team of LCpl Moore (REME) and Pte Salmon.

The second phase saw a welcome change in the weather and everybody donned T-shirts and shorts. The alpine scenery became quite breath-taking with one of the most memorable sights being the village of Grindelwald at the foot of the north face of the Eiger.

At the time there was talk of an assault on the north face but, de-



From Left: Pte Strudwick, 2Lt Blakeney-Edwards, Pte Howe, LCpl Robinson, Pte Mitchell and Pte Tarrant.



With Pte Cooper added to the picture the party stands in the shadow of the north face of the Eiger.

spite our confidence, it was decided there would have been too little time in which to get to Montreux.

The sun continued to shine and the mountain passes became steeper and longer. However, at no time were there any complaints (well maybe one or two) despite assaults on our feet by armies of blisters or being passed by dozens of Japanese tourists making their way to the top by cable car or mountain railway. Nevertheless, the feeling of self-satisfaction was tremendous when on reaching the top we were re-

warded with the most splendid alpine views, or in some cases, an ice cold bottle of beer.

The weather stayed magnificent until four days from Montreux when the rains and snows returned, but this had little effect on team spirit as we knew that our final destination was near when we crossed from German-Switzerland into French-Switzerland.

This border is not marked on any maps but is regarded by all Swiss as the Gös Table just outside Gstaad. Once you have crossed the pass there is a dramatic change in

the language spoken by the locals and on the sign posts.

Finally, after three days of rain, the sun shone again on the start of our final days walk to Montreux. By this time the mountains had become lower and less majestic and the climb to the final pass was somewhat of an anti-climax. But this was soon forgotten when on reaching the summit we were rewarded with a superb view of Lake Geneva and Montreux.

Everyone agreed it was a fitting place to finish the expedition.

## Five weeks in the field — but very little rain

FOR the five weeks from 27 Sept to 1 Nov the Pompadours were in the field. This year, the period allocated to us for battle group training at Soltau was from 27 Sep. to 11 Oct.

We deployed by road and rail straight into the field and began company work-up training including working with field engineers, armoured engineers, tanks and support helicopters. Although initially constrained to the 'Red Areas' only, as the week progressed greater distances began to be travelled, and daily replenishments of 3,500 litres of combat gas, for each company became the norm instead of the exception.

Apart from some cobwebs that had to be dusted off, the companies were soon ready for the CO's exercise. The old APC's also, with a few exceptions, responded well to the call, and the vast majority of the fleet behaved perfectly.

Having practiced the more obvious phases of war during the CO's exercise, we were all rather looking forward to the challenge of running a bridge crossing. Thanks to a good deal of research and foresight, the battalion are now expert at providing assault groups, bank groups, bridge security and traffic control. With the exception of the formal orders, now in the form of an SOL, the whole operation can be executed with a maximum of 5 BATCO messages, or when things are really going our way, nothing at all!

Once again, having "crossed the bridge", we were only limited in our operations by the size of the training area, and the many and varied constraints imposed on us by the demands of the local inhabitants — it will soon be easier to exercise in Hyde Park than on Soltau training area!

We wound up the battalion training on 9 Oct, and recovered to Rheinsleben Camp. That night and during the early hours of the next morning the APC's and Stalwarts were loaded onto trains for Stadtdensdorf.

Those in the road party set off the next morning to arrive at our staging area, where we were to stay for the weekend waiting for the Brigade work-up exercise to start.

Heavy Weapons Coy were kept amused by providing a hunter force for 3 RTR's escape and evasion

exercise which was held over the same period, but the remainder were free to carry out reces and check out the local hostilities for the next three days.

At 2300 hrs on 13 Oct we deployed 50 km southwest to defensive positions for the Brigade work-up exercise 'Ex Sharp Blade'. Three days into the exercise we got our chance to demonstrate how well we had learned our river crossing drills, when the battalion provided the organisation for a Brigade river crossing over an M2 Bridge.

We had been joined for the Exercise by the two Danish Regiments, the 2nd Zealand Life Regiment and the 1st Guard Hussars. Both being organised on a two mech coy, two tank sqn Orbat, which greatly enhanced both the infantry and tank strength of the Brigade, hitherto consisting of only ourselves and 3 RTR.

After crossing the Weser at Olle at the site of a car ferry, the battalion advanced at the head of the Brigade on a two day advance to contact, culminating in several battlegroup sized deliberate attacks.

That weekend we again recovered to the area we had originally defended and prepared for the Divisional FTX, Ex Quarter Final. We had been given the map coverage of the exercise, which was extensive to say the least (47 sheets) and we had been given a briefing by GOC 4 Armd Div which stated 'World War Three has started' — other than that we had no idea what to expect, so that weekend we conducted reces for several operations.

As it turned out, we deployed 90km south to a defensive area, and for once played a guard force battle in front of another Brigade. Other than to say that for the rest of the exercise we were continually kept guessing as to what would happen next, and nearly all of us were "killed off" at some stage during the next 11 days, we will not go into the details further.

It must, however go on record that for the five weeks that we were living out, it only rained three times — we really were extremely lucky. On our return from Quarter Final, it was calculated that those single soldiers who enjoyed the full period would receive some £104 in food and accommodation charges refunds!



Blenheim Day parade — the Pompadours prepare to advance in review order.



Blenheim Day Fete — Pte Hazlewood encourages the youngsters to shoot up the officers Mess tent.



# Free Para

The Vikings and Poachers exercising the Freedom  
Cleethorpes, Grimsby, Boston, Ely, Norwich and Gr





# dom ades



of (clockwise from top left): Bury St. Edmunds, Lincoln,  
ham.





# News from the 5th Battalion

Ptes Lenthall and Draice on Milan Pl exercise on the Rock overlooking Europa Point.

## Border duties and training on the Rock

CONTINUAL rain during camp at Barry Buddon and the hill walking near Balmoral proved to be ideal practice for members of 7 Pl from Chelmsford who found Pen-Y-Fan little different with thick mists they went there at the height of summer - June.

Lt Neil Darlington found himself dropped in a stream during a stretcher race but it was difficult to tell if he was wetter than the rest of the team. Meanwhile, 8 Pl has been taking part in some glider training.

In September, CSM Mick Broyd and Cpl David Croucher were presented with their TEMs. This was also the occasion when CSM Broyd said goodbye to 3(Essex) Coy and handed over to CSM Alcock.

While the rest of the battalion was recovering from camp, 4(Hertford) Coy were preparing for Gibraltar, leaving on 27 Jul, thus conveniently missing a battalion FTX. This is the third time the battalion has been to Gibraltar, although arrangements were slightly different with the Spanish border open.

Alongside border duties some very useful training and range work was undertaken while a potential NCOs cadre included some members from other Coys. The Milan Pl from Hemel Hempstead carried out their own training on the Rock in preparation for the 2 Div Milan Concentration, including manning the Milan up the gentle southern slopes.

They also achieved some integrated training with 1 Queens', the

resident battalion Milan platoon, which gave them all a confidence boost.

Mid October saw the Milan Pl in Otterburn for the 2 Div Concentration and their previous training was tested to the full during a live firing exercise. The platoon also took part in its first night shoot which was exhilarating for those firing and very dramatic for those watching. They also had a chance to use MIRA.

The mortar platoon from Essex did their camp by attending the UKLF Mortar Concentration at Otterburn which, apart from giving realistic training, gave them the chance to compare themselves with other platoons taking part.

The end of July gave the CO his first opportunity to see the battalion deploy on a FTX at Stafford on a defensive exercise.

Mid October saw a military skills weekend at Colchester. For the first time this was run as a training rather than a testing weekend and numerous small cadres were excellently organised and everyone felt that the event had been well worthwhile.

We were ably assisted by 73 Engr Regt who had helped us at camp with our Assault Pioneer Pl, proving that co-operating is working well in 49 Bde.

We were pleased to welcome Brig Greenway, Comd 49 Bde, on the Saturday and on Sunday GOC Eastern District, Maj Gen Ramsay. On the Saturday evening we were able to borrow the Poachers' Mess for a dinner at which our



Adj. Capt Simon Bacon, was dined out. Before the meal, Brig Taylor gave an interesting talk about his time as a battalion commander during the Second World War.

2(Northamptonshire) Coy held an open day in August to reactivate the platoon at Rushden. This was successful and the platoon is now well established with 20 members under the command of CSgt Wilcox.

On 10 Sep a successful open evening for employers was held and the Support Weapons Pl attended. Many of the visitors were amazed by the complexity of the equipment and it proved to be a worthwhile public relations exercise. The evening concluded with the Band and Drums Beating Retreat under floodlights.

Early September saw the newly formed 5 and 6 HSF Coys on their

first major exercise as part of Brave Defender.

Following the Freedom of Wellingborough celebrations in April, the Band and Drums returned at the end of September to perform Beating Retreat, after which the council hosted a reception.

After some hard practice at camp, our GPMG (S.F.), under the direction of WO1 Alcock, came a very creditable third in the UKLF Match 83 competition. This proved to be a good omen for our Bisley team, mainly from 4 Coy, whose training by WO1 Turner brought its usual share of success, especially for WO1 Binley from Peterborough.

Finally, September saw Maj Alan Chissel take over command of 1 (Essex) Coy, after some years away from the battalion, from Maj Douglas Inch who has moved over to the HSF.



The Drums Pl at Wellingborough.



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Capt Grant Peakall in Gibraltar.



CSgt Batchelor and his wife on honeymoon in Gibraltar.

# News from the 5th Battalion



Col Sharvington, Deputy Honorary Colonel, Cambridgeshire and WO1 Smith.



The battalion team for the Braintree half marathon.

## Regimental shop

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Above: The battalion's recruiting team at Expo 85. Picture by Peterborough Evening Telegraph.



Left: WO1 Broyd presenting Maj Thomas with a bugle on his retirement.

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# News from the 6th Battalion

## Time of changing faces

WITH Ex Brave Defender all but a distant memory of bad dreams and lengthy post exercise reports, the battalion is settling down to individual training, the autumn circuit of range weekends, recruit selection and training.

Battalion headquarters are currently engaged in a contest to see who can attend the most postings conferences, TAVRA meetings and annual meetings in one month. In the past six months the following changes have taken place in the orbit. The Adjutant is now Capt Roger Antolik vice Capt Ian Hall who has gone to 49 Inf Bde.

At Norwich, A (Norfolk) Coy, we have said farewell and good luck to WO2 Bill Vessey who has returned to the 1st Bn. In his stead we received C Sgt Mick Neve who is with us until Jun 86 when he goes to RMAS. In HQ (Suffolk) Coy at Bury St. Edmunds there has been a change of Mortar Platoon and Sgt Andy Thomas has returned to the Poachers with C Sgt Eric Morris coming in from the Pimpouidous.

There have been changes in Bedford, where C Sgt John Bean comes in as Plt at B (Bedfordshire) Coy in place of C Sgt Bob George who moves, on retirement, as the NRP5 CSgt of D (Cambridgeshire) Coy at Cambridge. Congratulations to our Padre, the



D Coy near the end of the Gaza Cup with their casualty LCpl Simmons.

Rev (CE3) David Lower on his award of the Territorial Decoration.

Within the battalion there have been too many promotions to mention them all but congratulations to 2Lis Bob Keron (A Coy) and Nick Snaith (B Coy) on being commissioned.

Recruiting has increased quite dramatically as a result of the national advertising campaign and most of the companies are now near to full strength. More are still needed though, especially young officers and experienced NCOs leaving the Regular Army or with Regular experience. On behalf of all three TA Battalions may we wish that you please get in touch.

In the EDIST stage of the TA Soccer Cup our results were: 1st Rd, C Coy beat 70 Signals Regt 7-1; B Coy beat 202 Bty 101 Fd Regt RA 4-2.

2nd Rd, HQ Coy beat A Coy 6 10-0; C Coy beat B Coy 6 4-3.

The third round matches (semi-final stage), were due to be played on 17 Nov. Battalion interest is in the match C Coy v HQ Coy which will guarantee a 6R Anglian place in the final at Colchester on 8 Dec.

The battalion shooting record continues to be well maintained with our notable Bisley result being Cpl Sinclair HQ (Suffolk) Coy who was individual winner of the Moving

Target Match at TASAAM with a score of 49/50. Sgt Brunton-Douglas A (Norfolk) Coy finished in the top 50 of the Rifle Championship. Overall, the battalion finished FASAAM in 15th place out of 84 teams. Following their marvellous indoor season last year when they won first and second team places in the WRAC 22 Pistol Shooting Match the WRAC platoon have started their defence of their title with the teams little changed from last year.

Following the TA Rugby Team trial and first representative game on 23 Oct the following 6 R Anglian players have been selected to represent the TA in Northern Ireland in early December: Capt. I R Antolik, Cpl Branch, Ptes Eade, Stainer, Newman.

W Pte Stephanie O'Malley B (Bedfordshire) Coy is currently training with the Great Britain Nordic Ski Team somewhere in Norway and

is still on course to represent Great Britain at the World Championships in early 1986. The battalion extends best wishes to her and is looking forward to seeing her on the "telly" after Christmas.

2 Lt Felicity Bowden is presently away in Chile on Operation Raleigh and is due back in January when we will be able to publish a full report on what must be arguably one of the best "swans" left in the Army.



The RSM, WO Mick Flynn, counting sheep.



Guess who? Answers on a postcard to: 6 R Anglian, Blenheim Camp, Bury St. Edmunds, (Suffolk) IP33 3SW. (Open to all members/ex-members of the Regiment, except C Sgt Isom and TT Photographics).

## Employment assistance

AS a member of the Regular armed forces you know the value and satisfaction of doing a job well. At the end of your engagement you will be seeking the best employment available to meet your qualifications and ambitions. The RFEA exists to help you find that employment and to settle in civil life. You may use our services as often as you wish thereafter.

If you have served with good character in the non-commissioned ranks of the Forces for a minimum of three years, or less if you are being discharged on medical grounds, the association is at your service. Our employment officers, all ex-Regulars, are situated at branches throughout the United Kingdom and are in close contact with local employers and Jobcentres. Branch addresses and telephone numbers can be found from unit resettlement officers; Regimental, Corps and Service associations; Jobcentres and local telephone directories. The association provides all its services free.

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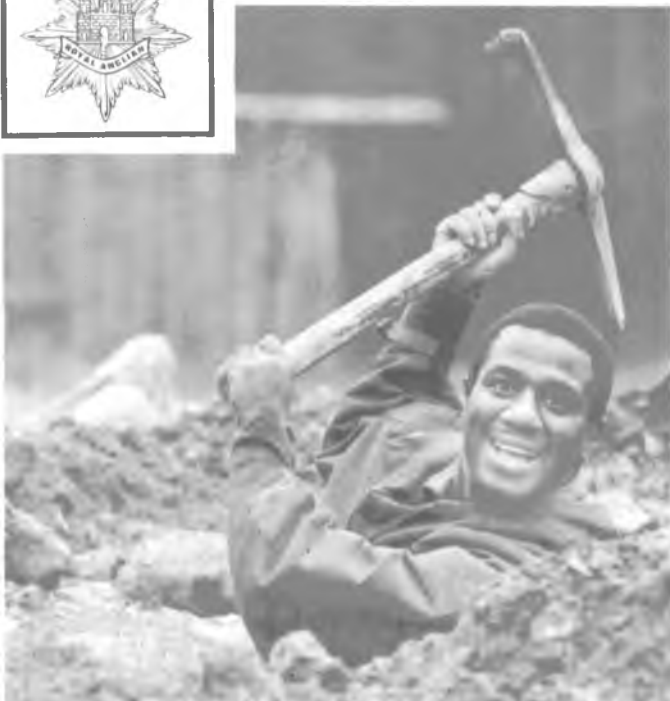
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**Why not visit the Regimental Museums at:** Britannia Barracks, Norwich. The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds. Abingdon Park, Northampton. The Magazine, Leicester. Luton Museum, Wardown Park, Old Bedford Road, Luton. Oaklands Park, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford. Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln.



# News from the 7th Battalion



Hey guys look what I just dug up — Cpl M P Hibbert of D (Northamptonshire) Coy finds something to laugh about on the defence exercise at Garelochhead.



Lt K Slatter during the assault landing at Garelochhead.

## Variety of training in rugged Scotland

If variety is the spice of life then the battalion is certainly experiencing a tasty existence.

The focal point of 1984, Exercise Lionheart, demanded that maximum attention be directed to-

however, the wheel turned and individual skills became the order of the day. Inevitably, therefore, the character of this year's Camp would show many differences from Germany.

Scotland's rugged terrain was the setting for July, with the welcome promise of a more relaxed and personalised camp training programme. The long road journey north to the three allied areas at Barry Budden, Garelochhead and Kinlochleven, took our most southern Coys as much as 11 weary hours to reach.

The three areas certainly offered a variety of training with a mixture of basic infantry skills, field firing, adventure training and fun. The

ranges at Barry Budden in the east were first class and the quality of training helped everyone to forget the bleakness of the geography and climate.

On the other hand, a hundred miles away the other camps nestled in the grandeur of some of the most picturesque countryside in the U.K. Garelochhead situated close to the submarine base at Faslane provided the venue for practising defensive skills and for the rare opportunity of launching platoon attacks from assault boats. Kinlochleven was unashamedly adventure training. Not surprisingly its closeness to Ben Nevis meant that rock climbing and expeditions were a must. Canoeing was also thrown in for good measure.

How do you allocate the different elements of the battalion to such widespread and diverse areas? Obviously travelling must be minimised, equally, however, everyone would benefit from the full tour. After many hours of de-

liberation Training Maj Peter Williamson came up with an ingenious and satisfactory cocktail that gave everyone a fair share of everything. The officers and the WO's and Sgts Messes upheld tradition by each holding their annual Regimental dinners on the middle Friday. Both Messes took the opportunity to entertain a number of visitors and to say thank you to the local range staff for helping to make the camp a success.

Considering the distance from home base the list of visitors was surprisingly long and the battalion was very grateful that so many friends were able to join us.

Sadly, long-serving Maj Ed Marshall (OC HQ Coy), has decided to take a sabbatical as the foot which he injured on exercise nearly two years ago has forced him to temporarily hang up his webbing. Maj Ed has been with the battalion since its formation, and is one of its most colourful characters, and

Continued Page 16



Pte Bob Burrows on a rock face near Ben Nevis.



Cpl Matwiczuk 6 (Lincoln) PI B Coy demonstrates that it was not all a hard climb at Kinloch Leven.



Cook Cpl Newland and Sgt Checkland drum up another masterpiece on an improvised (oil drum) barbecue for the Officers Mess at Barry Budden.

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# News from the 7th Battalion

From Page 15

he will be missed by officers and soldiers alike. We all hope he will be back in action soon.

Also leaving the battalion is Maj Bev Smalley who on 7 Oct relinquishes command of B (Lincolnshire) Coy having been promoted in his civilian occupation and moved out of the battalion area.

From 7 Oct HQ (Leicestershire) Coy will be Commanded by Maj Lawrence Chell, previously the RSO. The new OC B Coy will be Maj Geoff Newmarch whom we congratulate on his promotion.

Congratulations also to the following NCO's who received Territorial Efficiency Medals or Bars to TEM's already held from the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire and Rutland, Col St G Martin, at a ceremony in Leicester: WO1 EW Freshwater (TEM), CSgt S Harrigate (Bar to TEM), Sgt ER Welbourne (2nd Bar to TEM), Cpl W Clarke (Bar to TEM).

During September the battalion was pleased and honoured to be invited by the 2nd Battalion to play a part in their Freedom parades in Grantham, Boston, Lincoln, Cleethorpes and Grimsby.

A guard of 66 and a Colour Party were provided by A and B Coys, whose detachments are located throughout the appropriate areas. The Battalion formed E (HSF) Coy, on 2 Jan. The new Coy has HQ and 2 PIs in Leicester sharing accommodation with BHO, and a third in Lincoln.

Company Commander Maj A J J Pryce-Howells and PSAO Maj J Ashton launched a vigorous recruiting campaign early in the year and set the company the target of being prepared to take part in Exercise Brave Defender in September. Both recruiting and training progressed well culminating in a final work out at the divided range at Ashfordby near Melton Mowbray.

The task for E Coy on Brave Defender was to relieve 2 Queens in the defence of a keypoint in Leicestershire. With the help of Pl Commands Lts Tony Wood, Harry Cockburn and Mike Taylor, Maj Pryce-Howells deployed his men around the 1½ km long perimeter fence.

Saturday and the early hours of Sunday saw the action steadily building. The enemy patrols developed from small crowds shouting abuse to larger than section strength fighting patrols. Throughout the exercise the new company performed above expectations and were rewarded in the final stages when they managed to arrest three members of the special forces who were using the distraction of a diversionary attack to try to gain access to the KP.

E Coy were pleased to receive visits from 54 Bde Comd Brig Davey and GOC EDIST.



CSgt Benner brushes up E Coys knowledge on trip flares in preparation for their first major exercise Brave Defender. Other E Coy soldiers look on.



## Visitors from US

TRAINING in the United States is always an attractive proposition for the TA Soldier and the lucky members of a composite company from the battalion who were due to spend camp in Ohio were no exception. Under the command of Maj David Williams the company had only begun its preparation for this exchange visit with the Ohio Army National Guard when the whole idea was abandoned.

Unusually, it was the US exchequer exercising the sharp knife and, since the National Guard Company were not to experience the splendour of the Scottish Highlands, Maj Williams had to unpack his stetson.

All was not completely lost, however, since the battalion was very pleased to be able to host four soldiers from the Washington Army National Guard. The men, Sgts Ron H Beck, Scott E Ferguson, Harvey J Oyster and Steven D Rois, with great enthusiasm and their American humour quickly made themselves at home in the battalion.

It was most pleasing when at the end of camp Sgt Rois kindly expressed his first thoughts on the visit in the following short article. "After a quick poll of our experiences on this exercise with the 7th Royal Anglians, we have agreed that the "Royal" treatment afforded us by the officers, NCO's and men has been our most rewarding experience. The acceptance and friendship extended to us has been remarkable and will be remembered a lifetime. For this the former of us give you - three cheers. "On the lighter side, we were very impressed with the training and the geographical sites of its location. This trip has allowed us the opportunity to see areas of Scotland that any tourist would envy. The professionalism of the NCO's was also very apparent. Their dedication to proper training of their men showed through with increased morale and enthusiasm.

"I know that I speak for all of us in saying that someday hopefully we can return the favour and hospitality that has been shown to us."

Left: Incognito in Germany from left: Capi Richard Hunt (Ops/Trg Offr), Maj Martin Mee (OC LDY Coy), Maj Fred Honnor (Bn 2IC), Maj David Williams (OC D Coy), Maj Alistair Scott (BC 201 Bty) and Maj Peter Williamson (Trg Maj)

Above left: 7th Battalion Colour Party for the Freedom Parade in Lincoln, from left CSgt Vann, Lt Szabo, WO1 (RSM) Halewood, WO2 Freeman, Lt Stanley, Sgt Martin.

Leicester Mercury THE ARMY'S LINK WITH HOME

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## Depot and JIB

### End of an era at Bassingbourn

THE Depot at Bassingbourn will cease to be a Junior Soldier training establishment on 19 Dec when the present Drums platoon passes out, and the Junior School of Music moves to Bovington. In future junior soldiers for the Queen's Division will spend their first 20 weeks of training at the Junior Infantrymen's Battalion, Shorncliffe then move to the Depot for a further 12 weeks before joining their battalions. These changes have necessitated a fairly major reorganisation of the Depot but are now complete and we are looking forward to receiving

our first batch of junior soldiers from Shorncliffe. The loss of our band is a sad blow. They have been an important part of the Depot's life and provided music for numerous parades and social functions. This year the Regiment has instituted a shooting prize for the best Royal Anglian shot in each recruit intake. Competition for the handsome prize, a pewter statuette, will be fierce and this will foster interest in fullbore shooting amongst the new recruits to the Regiment and help to identify talent for the Bisley squads of the future.



Pte Nunley, Falaiae PI, receives the Regimental prize for the best shot in his intake from the Divisional Brigadier. WO2 Ellingsford is his platoon commander.

### School of Music on the move

ALL those interested in military bands will be saddened by the closure of The Junior School of Music in its own right and its incorporation in the new Army Junior School of Music at Bovington, Dorset from Jan 86.

Over the years the Junior School of Music has served the Regiment, the Division and the Depot extremely well performing on many engagements and prestigious events and, more importantly, by constantly producing young men of excellent quality for our Regimental bands.

The final prize and open day was held on 27 Sep when the guest of honour was Maj T A J Kenny ARCM, psm RCT. Maj Kenny was the first Queen's Division Director of Music and was in no small way responsible for laying the foundations of the consistent high quality ever since. It was therefore fitting that he should be the last guest of honour.

All who were lucky enough to attend were treated to an informative and enjoyable concert and a marching display, stunning in its precision and quality. The new Army Junior School of Music has a lot to live up to and we will all be watching its progress with great interest and a critical eye (and ear).

### JIB forms up at Shorncliffe

THE Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion is dead, long live the Junior Infantry Battalion Shorncliffe. The change is rather more than cosmetic and in September Cassino Coy (Queen's Division Junior Soldiers) formed up with its first two platoons, a total of 80 junior soldiers. They will spend 20 weeks in training at Shorncliffe and then move to the Depot for a further 12 weeks. Salamanca Coy is the biggest company in the battalion with 181 Junior Leaders under training, of whom 54 are Royal Anglian. Once Cassino Coy has built up to full strength well over half of the Junior Infantry Battalion will be from the Division with the Regiment well

nances allowing, a skiing trip to Andorra as part of the winter adventure training package is planned. Situated close to the ferry ports a lot of Royal Anglians must pass close to JIB. A quick telephone call and perhaps more people will come and find out for themselves how the juniors of our Regiment are trained. One or other of the companies should be able to provide a cup of coffee and the time to explain what we do here.



JLdr Robson tackling a Grade IV double 'stopper'.



Cpl Dickinson with a friend during Ex Brave Defender.

### Oundle wins cadet SAAM



OUNDLE won the Eastern District SAAM on 6 Oct, with COMS Postings becoming the individual champion. The Falling Plate went to Wymondham while Cpl Burton from Kimbolton won the SMG. The results of our affiliated schools were: 1st Oundle 287, 2nd Bedford

Modern 230, 3rd Kimbolton 225, 6th Brentwood 209, 7th Oakham 206, 8th Kings Ely 197, 9th Ratcliffe 190, 10th Haileybury 184, 12th Perse 181, 16th Wymondham 171, 20th St Edmunds Ware 157, 21st Berkhamsted 155, 26th Langley 132.

Cdt Sgt Postings of Oundle School CCF receives the Eastern District Shield awarded to the winners of the CCF/ACF Open Team Match. CSgt Postings also received the medal for the winner of the Open individual competition.

staff both with the training and HQ Coys. Maj Perry fights off our requests for kit from the QMs department while Drum Major Hilton, CSgt Kennedy and Cpl Clayton all keep HQ Coy in business. Salamanca Coy have Lt Fell, WO2 Thurston, Sgts Pascovitch and Dowling, Cpls Ralph, Hawkes, Sinar, Coleman, Gant, Wells and LCpl Day. Cassino Coy have Maj Borthwick, Sgt Allen, Cpl Ibrahim and Cpl Dunthorne looking after the first two junior soldier platoons. The excellent facilities at Shorncliffe have been well used throughout the autumn. Sub aqua, sea canoeing, rock climbing, abseiling and parachuting have all proved popular diversions. Fi-



Junior Leaders prepare for parachuting.

# News from the branches



## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Ex RSM Joe Woodhouse decided at the age of 84 years to see what life was like at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea and on 2 Sep Joe was admitted and taken on strength as an In-Pensioner.

Joe is a very fit "old soldier" whose carriage and bearing would do credit to any sentry and he will clearly enhance the reputation of Chelsea. Shortly after being admitted Joe visited Northampton where he received many admiring glances and compliments.

He joins Ernie Denton and Shandy Pell at Chelsea and takes with him our very best wishes for his future happiness. The 39th annual reunion dinner was held at the Town Band Club, Kettering on 4 Oct. Maj Peter Scopes presided and 91 comrades sat down to the excellent dinner provided by Ex Sgt Joe Cox.

Our guests for the evening were Maj Donald Baxter and ex CSM "Darkie" Goode. The President thanked all those whose combined efforts had made this reunion so successful.

Next year's reunion is to be held at Clare Street, Northampton. Comrades are asked to note the date — Friday 3 Oct. — and make every effort to attend. Comrades were reminded that time is not on our side and the committee are unable to pass on their duties to younger men!!

Comrades assembled at the TA Centre, Peterborough, on 19 Oct for the annual dinner of the Peterborough branch. A popular event, this reunion at-

tracts former members of the 48th and 58th in addition to those of the old 5th Battalion. We were honoured by the presence of our Deputy Colonel, Lt Gen Sir John Akehurst and Maj Iain McKee, a wartime IO and Adjutant of the old 5th Bn, whose writings figure largely in the history of the 78th (Battleaxe) Division, "Algiers to Austria". Maj Richard Hill presided and 130 comrades attended.

After reading the messages of good wishes Major Hill proposed the toasts and introduced Lt Gen Sir John Akehurst who said it was a quarter of a century since he had arrived in Peterborough to become the Adjutant of the old 5th Battalion — "in a little office just down the corridor". He had thoroughly enjoyed his two years as a TA Adjutant and had come to understand and appreciate what it is that motivates young men to give up so much of their spare time to serve in the TA.

The Regimental Band of the 5th (V) Bn played during the dinner and Bandmaster, WO1 A R Crossman, is congratulated on his excellent selection of music.

After dinner the Corps of Drums gave an impeccable display of marching. The comrades then got down to the serious business of the reunion: old experiences were resurrected; old battles re-fought and the time passed all too quickly.

This had been an absolutely first class reunion and how good it was to see all those Regimental and 78th Division ties worn so proudly.

OUR 300th Anniversary celebrations occupied all the summer months culminating in a wet Minden Day which presaged rice as a cash crop in Suffolk had the rain endured.

The marking of our tercentenary was launched on 12 Apr with the Ipswich branch's dance. On 12 Jun the Mayor of Felixstowe held a reception for Suffolk Regiment veterans living in the area. The interest which this has re-aroused in Felixstowe is most gratifying.

The Mayor of Sudbury hosted a well-attended dinner dance in the town hall on 28 Jun. The next mayor to do us proud was Lowestoft's — on 26 Jul and on the same day we were also honoured in Ipswich, with the Suffolk Military Band playing as the guests arrived.

Minden Day fell on Thursday this year: it was marked by two events. Southwold presented a brief regimental history with a "fashion" show of uniforms down the years followed by Beating Retreat and a reception in the town hall.

On the same evening, Great Cornard and its neighbouring villages gave a dance, attended by a goodly number of members from west Suffolk.

To all the councils who marked this anniversary for us with such generous and warm-hearted hospitality we offer our sincerest thanks.

Our OCA area representatives and branches made sure that the support was well placed. To them, too, we owe a debt of thanks.

The Minden Weekend — for this year it had to be a whole weekend — was a memorable one. Saturday, 3 Aug was perhaps the 1st Battalion's day in Bury, exercising their Freedom, but the former Regiments, Suffolk in particular, took a full opportunity to bask in the reflected glory of this festive day.

Our part began, appropriately with a commemorative service in the Regimental Chapel. So well was this attended that we over-flowed into and half-filled the rest of St. Mary's Church. As we gathered for Retreat to be beaten on Angel Hill afterwards, we were treated to one of those spring evenings so normal in this year's summer! The clouds cleared and, with only an occasional drop of rain, we applauded a masterly perfor-



Mr C. Wilkinson presenting a Japanese flag to the chairman of the Suffolk Regiment Museum Trustees, Lt Gen Sir Richard Goodwin. The flag was captured from the Japanese by members of 2 Suffolk in Burma during the Second World War.



## SUFFOLK

mance by the Vikings' Band and Drums.

The Athenaeum reception which followed was crowded with members of the Regiment past and present and many of their friends and well-wishers. We were honoured to have the Duke of Norfolk with us for the evening — and for Sunday's celebrations too.

Saturday's festivities were rounded off handsomely by a Bury branch dinner/dance at the TA Centre in Blenheim Camp and an Officers' Dinner Club buffet at the Athenaeum. All these events were faultlessly organised by our Committee members: we are grateful to them for their hard work and for the largely unnoticed

labours of their willing volunteer workers in the background.

Sunday 4 Aug dawned doubtfully. For much of the morning the weather was undecided but most of the record gathering in the ruined Gibraltar Barracks precincts were assembled before the rain began. Indeed, several hundred were able to enjoy the Drumhead Service — and the now-traditional PA system breakdown to welcome General Dick Goodwin's address — before the dreaded patter on the leaves overhead began.

Although it was a considerable nuisance, a simple downpour lasting all afternoon could not ruin the day. Space prevents

more detail but Mrs. Olga Ironside-Wood's pageant of the Regiment's history must be recorded. It was a triumph of artistic flair and hard work. Lessons were learned for the 400th Anniversary's organisers but, perhaps it would be better for them to work it out for themselves, as we did. We wish them well.

Space will not allow a list of all those who did so much to make the weekend a success, but Maj Tommy Warren, Mrs. Anstice Gilson-Taylor and ex-RSM Jack Gingell were key people in the smooth arrangements of the event.

"Our God and Soldiers we alike adore  
When at the brink of ruin — not before.

After deliverance: both alike required.

Our God forgotten and our soldiers slighted"

Francie Quailes (d.1645)  
Quoted by Padre Tim Lawrence in his Minden Day address.

We were very fortunate to have our battalion stationed in Britain during this tercentenary year and they were able to show the flag in the county as part of the celebration of the raising of the 10th Foot in 1685. The Marches went off well and the residents of our Freedom towns, Boston, Grantham, Lincoln, Grimsby and Cleethorpes were impressed with the smartness of those on parade. When the Poacher was played during the march past at the saluting bases, you could see the straightening of the backs of those who served in the old regiment.

Nearly 400 people attended the reunion and enjoyed an excel-



## LINCOLNSHIRE

lent dinner. We had planned for the Band and Drums of the 2nd Battalion to Beat Retreat before dinner but this was cancelled due to the weather. The Band therefore started our evening off with a most enjoyable concert. This, and the excellent display given by the Corps of Drums, set the pattern for the rest of the evening. We were delighted to have among our guests Lt General

Sir John Akehurst, Col Blyth, Lt Col Rawlins and Lt Col Harris, for all of them it was a first time and we all hope they will come and dine with us again.

Our Divine Service was held in St. Peter's Church, Cleethorpes, on Sun 8 Sep. Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, attended the service and a civic luncheon which followed.

Our main functions next year

are: Officers weekend 26/27 Apr. Reunion weekend 20/21 Sep.

It appears that some of our retired officers names have been deleted from our mailing list, either inadvertently or by those concerned moving home and failing to notify the Lincoln office of the change of address.

We now ask the help of those concerned to rectify this by writing to the secretary at Lincoln if they would like to be kept in the picture. Since the last notes the following have passed on:- Maj Gen C. L. Firbank, Mr. H. Brealey, Mr. H. Brealey, (Brothers) Inspector S. Edwards and ex CSM N. Nichols.

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# News from the branches



Maj B D Chapman and Mr B R Fitt holding the Korean plaques which were presented by Mr W Gilchrist to the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum.

ON Sat 28 Sep about 200 members of the Regimental Association including some former East Anglian and Royal Anglian soldiers, attended a reunion dinner at the TA Centre, Aylsham Road, Norwich.

Brig Peter Barclay, president of the association, in his after dinner speech referred to the activities of the association and commended the Regimental Benevolent Committee which had provided timely assistance for 71 former members of the Regiment who were in need. He also said so far £37,000 had been received towards the Royal Norfolk Military Heritage Appeal target of £150,000. At the end of his speech, he presented a special Regimental



## NORFOLK

Commendation to ex Pte Jim Wright, formerly of the 6th Battalion The Royal Norfolk Regiment, who came back from the "dead" to receive a unique bravery award. Then Brig Barclay accepted, on behalf of the Regimental Museum a plaque in the shape of the Korean peninsula from Maj Ben Chapman and ex RSM Bert Fitt. The plaque embossed with the City Medal of Seoul, was the gift in our Tercentenary Year

of ex RSM Bill Gilchrist, of Queensland, Australia. The president of South Korea, Chum Doo Hwan, and marked the services of the 1st Battalion Royal Norfolk Regiment in the Korean war. Bill Gilchrist waged on a one-man campaign to salute his regiment's fighting record in the Korean war, spending months in research and enlisting the support of South Korea's president.

TWENTY-one members and friends spent an eight day holiday in Gibraltar where the 1st Battalion was one of the garrison units during 1943.

Our visit coincided with the No. 4 Coy. (Hertfordshire) 5th Bn, undertaking border duties for two weeks and we were pleased to meet Maj Albany and other officers, WO's, and NCO's several times, with a long session in the bar on our last evening.

In groups and separately, the rock sights were visited including St. Michael's Cave. This was certainly different to when I last visited it. Unfortunately, the musical pageant was to be held a week later.

A visit to the tunnels and galleries where we laboured during 1943 was made. Only organised parties are allowed — with some areas still out of bounds. I entered near the Rock Hotel and walked approximately three miles, emerging to the sunshine near Catalan Bay. During the Second World War, 30 miles of tunnels were added to the Rock.

Moorish Castle still stands but the Barracks used by us have been demolished and replaced by multi-storey flats. Every spare piece of ground has been built on, mainly high rise flats. Our old hallowed Barracks Square at Casemates is now a car park and the barrack rooms are occupied by Moroccan workers brought over to work when the border was closed by Spain.

The old NAAFI has gone and is now a bank and parade of shops. Main Street has hardly changed, still being an Aladdin's cave of gift shops. Following several postponements by Spain, the border was opened again on 4 Feb. The R N Dockyard closed in Dec. 84, although the naval base is operational. The dockyard has been converted into a commer-

cial ship repair yard. Land along the waterfront has been released by the MOD, and the Gibraltar government intends to use these sites for tourist development.

Government House guard was being undertaken by the Queen's Regiment, and very smart they were. I note that K.D. shorts are no longer worn! The ceremony of the keys is carried out four times a year — April, May, September and October, so we missed this well-remembered parade.

I visited the cemetery adjacent to the airfield and found Pte. Jenner's grave but was unable to find Pte. Webb's. The military graves are scattered over the whole of the cemetery and although very tidy, do not compare with those in Italy.



## ESSEX

A PARTY of old soldiers from the Thurrock branch, including members of the 4th Battalion Comrades Association, visited the 3rd Battalion in Minden, from 18 to 11 Mar.

The party was met by 2Lt Etherington and WO1 Danny Bryant, together with Provost Sgt John Leaman, and taken to our respective Messes. Our programme started after lunch and we were welcomed in the Officers' Mess by Lt Col Groves. After the welcome Cpl Spencer presented him with a statuette of a Chelsea Pensioner, and a wall plaque.

An interesting lecture was then given by 2 Lt Etherington, on the Regiment's activities over the last 20 years. The Regimental silver, together with a talk on its history, was displayed for us. This came from the Essex, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiments, also the silver drums and Regimental Colours.

In the evening drinks were served in the Sergeants' Mess, organised by RSM Shaun Sweeney, and the PMC, WO1 Danny Bryant. In attendance were Maj OM Stan Bullock and Maj Howard Esgate. A statuette was presented to the RSM.

The next day we visited with Maj Graham Duthoit and WO1 Ollie Dent.

The modern barrack room certainly set the old soldiers back on their heels. Gone are the days of folded blankets in a neat square, equipment blanketed, cupboards open for inspection and the floors highly polished. Instead there was a two man room which had wall to wall carpeting, a television set, video, music centre, all purchased at the PR1, with pictures of the soldiers choice all round the walls, easy chairs, a coffee, electric kettle for tea or

tea and a cooking ring

should they want something hot.

The rooms were kept neat and tidy but gone are the days of standing by your beds for morning inspection. Men were put on their honour to keep their rooms clean and tidy and beds made up, but there were, however, periodic inspections by the CO and RSM to satisfy themselves that the rooms were being kept clean.

The men not on duty wore various modes of dress, but most changed into track suits.

And yet for all the absence of spit and polish, morale was high and discipline good and men on duty walked about in a smart and soldier-like manner. The thing which struck us most was when a soldier saluted an officer, he, in return, saluted back calling him by name and passing the time of day.

Capt Simon Porter showed us the mortars and the Milan, after which we fired the SLR, a snipers rifle, the general purpose belt fed machine gun and a Patchett type machine gun. This was followed by a lecture on booby traps and anti-personnel mines being used in Northern Ireland and on the operational role of a signal platoon in the field.

In the afternoon the Band, under the direction of WO1 Pat Byrne, entertained us in the Sergeants' Mess with a selection of marches and popular music followed by a look through the Band's scrap book.

On the 20th we were taken to Belsen by 2Lt Etherington where we saw 15 mounds with stone headstones showing the number of dead bodies shovelled into mass graves, ranging from 2,500 down to 1,000, totalling 35,000 from 1943 to 1945.

There was a monument, an obelisk, a huge cross and a wall

of letters engraved in German and Hebrew to the memory of all those who perished in the notorious camp.

The most noticeable thing about the place was the lack of wildlife, in fact no one ever saw or heard a bird fly or sing over the entire area, and it soon as you walked into the camp itself, it turned bitter cold.

Outside the cemetery there was a building which showed posters and photographs of the atrocities committed by the Nazis and the bodies being buried after the British Army had liberated the camp. It showed flame throwers burning down the buildings to stop the spread of typhoid.

On returning to the barrack we were invited to the Corporals' Mess and here again Cpl Spencer presented a statuette to the oldest member of the Mess, LCpl Lou Gardiner.

On the 21st we visited the German border escorted by Tony Miles, and around the border areas by Tom Jones, a BGS Representative. What I saw brought stark reality to conditions that East Germans have to live under — at least we enjoy our freedom while we take for granted today.

On our return we enjoyed lunch at the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeant NAAFI at Helmsted. The walls in that restaurant were covered with plaques from Regiments that have stopped there. In the evening we went to the BAOR boxing final novice's grade 2, which was held in the gymnasium between the 3rd Battalion and 4th Regt.

The RA won by 5 bouts and became the BAC champions. The Pompadour were not disgraced, they put a good show taking their defeat as true sportsmen but vow they would be back.

The final day was spent with Capt Alasdair Wild, who gave us a talk on chemical warfare. If he set out to scare the right out of us, he certainly that.

More Branch News Page 20

The brewery was founded in 1827 by Peter McMullen. Great-great Grandfather of the McMullens who work in the company today.

The first McMullen pub was opened in 1836. From then on, numbers grew rapidly and today there are some 160 McMullen pubs in Hertfordshire, Essex and London. In 1891 the original buildings of the present Brewery

in Hartman Lane, Hertford, were built. Here beers are still brewed by the same traditional methods McMullens have always used.

And today McMullens are still an independent family business who are very proud of their traditions, still using the valued skills and know-how that have been carefully handed down from one generation to the next.

## McMULLEN THE HERTFORD BREWERY



INDEPENDENT AND PROUD OF IT

## Sport on camera



C Coy — winners of the Poachers' inter-Coy football competition.



The Viking team which came second in the Army Major Units competition.



7th Bn D Coy triathlon team, medals and all. From left: Lt Slatter, Pte Monroe, WO2 Harvey, Pte Oelrich and Cpl Innes.

## Shooting improves steadily

THE 7th Battalion shooting team continues to show a steady improvement and the first year under Lt Clive Mallett's leadership ended with some credible performances at Bisley. Particularly notable were the achievements of Sgt K Large who won the 'Stephens' match in the NRA meeting and Lt Mallett who finished 22nd in the 'Mullens' trophy.

It is difficult to see how the packed weekends of the TA soldier's life can provide room for marathon training but the battalion now has a long list of regular competitors. One centre of talent is A Coy (Headquarters at Scunthorpe) where once more a contingent

tackled the Humber marathon under the leadership of Maj Alan Hemmings.

D (Northampton) Coy also boasts its share of athletes with Cpl Innes and WO2 Stamps competing in events as far apart as Strathclyde and Paris and from Berlin to Northampton, and of course Aldershot.

The Coy also has a triathlon team of some note. Its members are Lt Slatter, WO2 Harvey, Pte Oelrich, Pte Monroe and Pte Monroe. The team has competed, this year, in events at Milton Keynes, Barry, Peterborough and Mansfield. Through sponsorship these D Coy

athletes have raised £250 for the Ethiopian appeal.

Orienteering is another sport that is growing in popularity with S Sgt Bonnett. PSI with LDY (Loughborough and Melton) Coy leading the way. S Sgt Bonnett is a top class orienteer whose most recent achievement was second in the inaugural Infantry Orienteering Championship. He is now working hard at building a battalion team to follow in his footsteps — as closely as possible.

Perhaps slightly less energetic but equally notable was QM Maj. D Edwards achievement in representing the Army in a fishing competition at Rutland Water — his trout are to be recommended.

## News from the branches



held their annual dinner in Leicester on 12 Oct. There was an excellent turnout and the evening a long and pleasant one.

The annual reunion of the old 1st (formerly 8th) Battalion was held at the TA Centre on 26 Oct. The numbers were up on previous years, probably

due to the fact that Harry Sibson and John Dean had a slot on Radio Leicester and as well as talking about the battalion also gave some publicity for the reunion.

We are most grateful to the 7th Battalion for their continued support in allowing this reunion to take place in the Drill Hall.

There has been considerable comment locally regarding a royal visit to a unit in Berlin who rejoice in the nickname of The Tigers. All can be assured that the original Tigers are still very much alive and well, as September 1988 will prove.



Pompadorou boxing competition — Pte Andy Weir (HW Coy) on his way to winning the welterweight bout.

## Sport on camera



Above: The experienced Vikings hockey team.

Below: The Vikings cross country team.





# CASTLE

SPORT  
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SPORT

## Poachers triumph in Infantry Cup



LCpl Lawrence of the Vikings racing in Ballymena in the Inter Unit Cross Country Leagues.

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The Poachers' victorious Infantry Cup cricket team.

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## Pompadours' swimmers cut Sappers' winning margin

HAVING won the 4 Armoured Division swimming championships, the Pompadour swimming team departed to Berlin, hoping to improve on last season's second place.

Our main rivals were once again 21 Engineer Regiment, who this year had to do without the services of their last year's star, Sapper Bark. Moreover, this year the Pompadour team was rated better than last year.

After what proved to be an absorbing and exciting afternoon's swimming, the highlight of which was Private "Tab" Tabram of B Coy shattering the BAOR 100 metre freestyle record. Although at one time it looked as though we could win the BAOR championships, eventually we emerged runners-up, as last year, but with a smaller points margin.

As the BAOR runners-up, we qualified for the Army finals, and CSgt Clive Baldwin, the team coach and chief torturer intensified his training programme, introducing new schedules and extra starts and turn practice to compensate for the strange dimensions of the Sandhurst Pool.

It was reported that this year's final was the highest standard for 15 years. This was borne out by the number of army records that were broken. In one event all six finalists beat the previous record!

At the end of the day, the Pompadours were fourth, as last year, but improved the points tally yet again. Congratulations must go to Signaller Oldcroft and Cpl Brain, our Corps attached swimmers, who both produced a "swim of the season" exceeding their personal best times. Mention must also be made



BAOR runners up - Pompadour swimming team coach CSgt Clive Baldwin receives the trophy in Berlin.

of LCpl Wally Watkins, now a veteran, when most swimmers peak between 19 and 20 years of age. Wal is 30 and still going strong, producing a personal best time in the 100 metres backstroke. In the BAOR and Army individual championships Pte's Tabram and Coyne were our stars. At Berlin,

Tabram won the 100 metres freestyle and butterfly, and Coyne the 100 metres backstroke. In the Army finals Coyne was runner-up in the backstroke and Tabram, third in the 200 metres free-style. Both went on to represent the Army in the tri-service championships.